FINETTE AND HER PET.

Giddy Finette, Grave Finette,
I saw Finette one morning,
And pretty Finette she was nursing her pet,
With airs of rebuke and warning;
She carried her pet in her gathered gown,
And scolded at puss with finger and frown—
"Ah, would you, pussy? Lie down, lie down!"
How pretty she looked that morning!

How pretty she looked, the young Finette,
Her well-set limbs how lissome!
The arm and hand that nursed the pet,
What would one give to kiss 'em?
But Finette looked cross, and this was the cause:
Puss, the pet, was airing her claws—
And then I thought of some old men's saws—
How lucky I did not miss 'em!

I looked at Finette, soft, smooth Finette,
As soft as down of eider,
And I saw that Finette had claws like her pet;
And yet, could I ever chide her?
To a creature as soft as the eider down,
I never could bear, with finger and frown,
To say, "Ah, would you? Lie down, lie down!"
Or watch her about like a spider.

But if I married the plump Finette,
That soon would be my duty;
For pretty Finette can sulk and fret,
And then what comes of beauty?
"Ah! beauty is only skin deep, you know,
And does not last long (never mind L'Enclos)—
Remember Dalilah, Xantippe, and, oh,

CODA.

These saws are wise, these saws are pat,
But he went and married the girl for all that;
And she very soon aired her claws, the cat!
And he grew thin as Finette grew fat—
Don't marry a girl for her beauty.

AGRICULTURE.

HOW TO CURE THE LONG MOSS.

Our green moss (Tillandsia usneoides) is best and most quickly prepared by being simply boiled for a short while, then dried and beaten to get rid of the vegetable outer coating. Prepared in this way, it is much cleaner than when prepared by the common process of rotting in mud or in a hog pen.

INSECTIVOROUS PLANTS.

It will not diminish the interest in these plants to know that one family of them, the Sarracenia, is probably our best remedy for indigestion. If the root be chewed, or if they be put in a bottle (as much as can be conveniently got in) and then the bottle be filled with whisky, or other spirits, and a tablespoonful of this tincture taken in a little water, it will immediately relieve a fit of indigestion, without causing any apparent action of any kind beyond the relief.

TANYAH ROOTS VS. TANYAH TOPS.

From the disappointment of your Orangeburg correspondent "B," I suppose that he must have planted his crop on dry, sandy land. I raised plenty of them on a cleared cypress pond, about five miles below the village, during the war. If he wishes to grow them successfully, let him try them in a rich, damp soil, say in his neighborhood, in a part of a cypress pond, where the black gum grows freely, and not dig until after the tops have been killed by the frost. I am very sorry that I have none to send him, as I have here no land suitable for their growth.

HORTICULTURAL HINTS FOR MARCH.

Beets, carrots and parsnips may be put in for the main crop (in this latitude) from the middle to the last of this month (next month in the middle and upper country), also salsify. Swiss chard, cress, mustard, kohlrabi, etc. Lettuce, radishes, and turnips, for a succession, may be put in any time during the month. Sugar corn may be tried here toward the last of the month, but the main crop should be deferred till March. Cabbage plants should be set out at various times during the month; and, as they begin to grow, the soil should be frequently stirred. Tomatoes and other tender plants may be started in a hot-bed or a cold frame. If one is disposed to take the trouble to protect them, a few hills of cucumbers, squashes and melons may be planted. Bottomless boxes, fifteen inches square, and six or seven inches high, covered with oiled cotton cloth, serve admirably for this purpose and cost little. After the plants come up, the boxes must be lifted off, or raised at one side in pleasant weather, to admit the air.

In the latitude of Charleston garden peas are planted with the best results from the 20th of December to the middle of January, but they may be put in any time during the present month to keep up a succession. A little further north this is a good time to plant the main crop. Hoe frequently those that are advanced and set sticks for their support. Even the dwarfest kinds do better in that way. We have recommended to plant pretty thickly, but there may be a question what is to be considered thick planting. Well, for the dwarf kinds one pint of seed to from fifty to sixty feet of double row. Of the large growing kinds a pint of seed should plant from eighty to one hundred feet of double row. Let the distance apart of the rows be about equal to the height the peas are expected to grow, whether it be one, two, three or four feet.

Irish potatoes are, doubtless, already planted, in most cases, but they are still in season, and if put in at once may make as good crops as those planted earlier. Choose, if possible, a good, black, moist, but not wet soil, and manure liberally, avoiding, however, too much crude stable manure if you desire tubers of the best quality. Wood ashes, chip manure, rotten sawdust and the scrapings of the house-yard are excellent for this crop. The Early Rose is the best variety, so far as our experience goes; in fact, it is so much better than any other, that we would not accept as a gift, for planting, any of the older kinds, good as some of them are. The Peerless is said to be an excellent and very productive variety, and to be suited to our climate, but we have not tried it.

In the flower garden there is plenty of work to be done; lily and gladiolus bulbs should be planted, and, toward the last of the month, the seeds of hardy perennials and annuals. Half-hardy and tender annuals may be sown under glass, to be transplanted when the weather becomes warm. Perennial plants of last season's growth may now be transplanted, dividing them in such cases as permit this mode of multiplying specimens. Many of the early flowering bulbous plants will now be in bloom, and they should be carefully attended to and tied up to neat stakes when necessary. Always cut off the lower stems as soon as the flowers have withered, and in many cases a second stalk will spring up and bloom.

This is a good time to strike cutting of barbaceous plants, such as geraniums, heliotropes, salvias, and coleus. Of these, young or unripened wood should always be taken; but it must not be too soft. When a shoot will break on the upper part, on being bent, it will not be far from the proper stage of growth. The cuttings may be from two to three inches in length and the leaves must be removed (cutting them close to the stem) from the part to be inserted in the soil. Use a pointed stick for inserting them, and if set in pots place them near the sides.

If insects of any kind trouble you in the garden, orchard, or elsewhere, send specimens to our entomologist, Mr. Chas. R. Dodge, Washington, D. C., with notes of inquiry or information. A wooden match box is one of the best things to send them in. Do not send them to us in Charleston, as some have heretofore done, but directly to Mr. Dodge, as that will save trouble and expense.

ONE CAUSE OF SOUTHERN POVERTY.

First, then, I assign as one of the reasons of our continued poverty and want of progress the fact, that we do not produce enough of what we eat or drink, and buy too much on credit. To present an elaborate argument in defense of this position would require a volume. One or two practical facts will suffice to prove my assertion true, and the answer that every farmer will give when applying the idea to his own case will corroborate these facts.

In 1859 the south produced over 5,000,000 bales of cotton of 400 pounds each, which sold at an average of eleven cents per pound, realizing less than $250,000,000.

In 1869 the cotton crop of the south was less than three and a half millions of bales, four hundred pounds each, and sold for an average of twenty-two cents per pound, realizing over $300,000,000.

The cotton crop of 1873 reached considerably beyond four millions of bales, and sold for less than $275,000,000. And this has been the history of our crop annually in the past; have we any reason to anticipate that similar effects will not follow the same course in the future? Then if the all cotton policy, or a large cotton crop has actually tended to impoverish us as a people, who will assert that the same policy will not have similar effects upon individuals?

On paper it can be easily proven that cotton, as a crop, will pay better than any or all other products. But these figures are far more unreliable than the oft-abused labor of the country. There is no qustion but that individual farmers, having lands peculiarly adapted to the growth of cotton, can net more money growing cotton and buying their breadstuffs and provender than by cultivating a diversity of crops. But it is an egregious error to think, that A, B, or C, can do so, therefore every southern farmer can pursue the same course, anticipating the same result.

Through a series of years, regardless of the price of cotton (I reiterate here what I have often asserted before in these pages), on ninety-nine out of every hundred southern farms, it is cheaper to grow oats for plow animals than to haul corn from the nearest depot, because oats will follow corn with no cost but the seed and harvesting, both of which can be paid for every winter in the mutton that can be fatted on the growing crops; it is cheaper to raise all the pork the farmer's family can consume annually than to buy bacon at ten cents per pound; it is cheaper to grow a pound of wool, up to a certain number of pounds, than the same number of pounds of cotton; and it is cheaper to grow anything that can possbly be grown upon the farm than to buy it on a credit.

Few farmers understand properly what is meant by "buying on a credit." They know they get the article and pay more for it than if they paid the cash; but they never once calculate the premium and percentage they are paying for this privilege of getting time or credit. Let me illustrate. The average farmer may raise meat enough to do him till the 1st of April. By that time he has to buy; but having no cash, though good credit, he goes to the store and buys bacon at 15 cents per pound, payable 1st of November following. He learns the cash price is 12½ cents per pound, but necessity compels him to buy on credit. He thus pays 2½ cents per pound for the privilege of buying on a credit, or one-sixth the price to be paid, which is simply 16⅔ per cent. per annum for the use of money. But he buys in April, and has to pay first November, only eight months' credit, and thus pays twenty-five per cent. per annum for the use of money. What farmer can afford to do this and live? What is applicable to bacon is equally so to corn, hay, flour, implements, mules, and every article the farmer buys on a credit.

It is estimated that the average increase of the agricultural wealth of the United States is about four per cent. per annum. The average increase of agricultural wealth in any southern state annually since the war has not been one per cent. Indeed, some of the states have traveled the other road, and are now lost in the wilderness of debt; and there is no more potent cause for this condition of things than that of buying on a credit the necessaries of life to enable them to grow cotton, and this, too, very frequently at a cost that exceeds its market value. There is an infatuation about this cultivation of cotton that amounts to an hallucination. Can there be nothing invented to so far dispel it as to induce the southern farmer to live more within himself and less at the mercy of the Shylocks of the land?—*Cor. Rural Carolinian.*

The official report of the Austrian government respecting musical instruments at the Vienna exposition, declares the Mason & Hamlin Cabinet Organs to be "the most distinguished and praiseworthy instruments" of their class; praising in detail their power and resonance of tone, variety of combination and solo effects; fine power of expression; smooth, even and sympathetic tones, and thorough workmanship. They were awarded the first and highest medal. Other American organs in competition were declared to be far less meritorious, the tones and workmanship being both inferior. In comparison, it was said: "Judged leniently, they do not rise above a respectable mediocrity." This was undoubtedly the most expensive, thorough and competent comparison such instruments ever made. *

Encke's Comet—Its Twenty-third Visit Near at Hand.

Encke's comet is soon to make its twenty-first recorded visit. Dr. Van Asten has published his ephemeris of the comet for the forthcoming return, and it will reach its perihelion on the 18th of April. It will be nearest the earth about the 4th of May, approaching us within a distance of about 50,000,000 miles. The larger telescopes will be able pretty soon to detect the presence of the celestial visitor.

Encke's comet is not a remarkable one. It is a telescopic comet, and consists of a circular patch of nebulus light somewhat condensed toward the center. Though usually only visible through the telescope, it is sometimes seen with the naked eye, as, for instance, on its appearance in 1828, when it shone like a star of the fifth magnitude. It is one of the tailless comets, although on rare occasions a tail has been discerned extending like a faint brush toward the sun, and also a similar appendage branching out in an opposite direction. This little comet is invested with a special interest for terrestrial observers, from the fact that its period is the shortest among those whose time of revolution have been ascertained, for it is only three years and a quarter in completing its course. It performs its revolution within the boundaries of the solar system, its perihelion being between the sun and Mercury, and its perihelion between Jupiter and the Asteroids.

Encke's comet, insignificant as it is, has been of use to astronomers. When at its nearest approach to Jupiter the mass of the huge planet was more accurately determined by means of its "excessive perturbation." In the same way when it was nearest Mercury, it was the means of detecting an error in the computation of the mass of that fiery little orb. Therefore, there will be a warm welcome for this erratic member of the system on its next approach to the earth. If we cannot follow its course among the stars with the unaided eye, we shall be glad to trace its steps under the guidance of those practical observers who are ever on the watch to imprison these flying visitants within telescopic range, and always ready to enlighten the world with the result of their scientific skill.

A Hero of Balaklava.

Scarcely the next thing in order, but one of curious interest, is the hero of Balaklava, one of the immortal Six Hundred who was in that fatal charge of the Light Brigade, of which Tennyson sings in such strains as to keep it forever in our memories. This hero who has lived to tell the tale was a mere lad, a private in the regiment, and, resident now for some time in this country, yields to the desire of those who had heard him in private conversation, to give a public lecture, or, properly speaking, an account of his experience. A simple, uncultivated fellow, though by no means rude in language or manner, his description of the battle-field, and the illustrations by diagram upon the black-board, were both spirited and impressive. It didn't need much oratory to tell that story when the speaker had had such personal experience and subsequent contact with all that was left of the noble Six Hundred. A cavalry saber, used to further the illustration, gave fierce suggestion and dramatic effect to the whole. In the course of the account, Mr. Edgar—for this is the hero's name—read a correct copy, which he had obtained from England, of the order from Lord Raglan to the Earl of Lucan which was so strangely misunderstood. He says that the Light Brigade numbered 673 men "when it went down into the Valley of Death." Of this number 195 answered at the next roll-call, though, including those taken by the Russians, 235 escaped the fearful carnage—443 being lost in the brief fight over the Russian field-pieces.

AMERICAN WOMEN.—It is a melancholy fact, that American women have degenerated in point of health and physique, until they have become literally a race of invalids. How sad it is to look around us and compare the frail and effeminate looking lady of to-day with the hale, hearty and buxom ladies of days gone by. To all such the late discovery of Dr. Walker, of California, which is known as Vinegar Bitters, is a priceless boon indeed. For this class of diseases it is certain and safe, and any lady, old or young, can take it with entire confidence in the result, and thus avoid what to thousands is a stumbling block never overcome, viz.—a consultation with a family physician. 'Tis true there may be cases of years standing, that will necessitate more powerful treatment, but in nine cases out of ten this remedy will reach the disease, and after a little time effect a cure. The number of ladies cured by it are numbered by thousands, and are scattered through every state in the union.

A Few Words to Feeble and Delicate Women.

By R. V. PIERCE, M. D., of the World's Dispensary, Buffalo, New York

Knowing that you are subject to a great amount of suffering, that delicacy on your part has a strong tendency to prolong, and the longer it is neglected the more you have to endure and the more difficult of cure your case becomes, I, as a physician, who is daily consulted by scores of your sex, desire to say to you that I am constantly meeting with those who have been treated for their ailments for months without being benefited in the least, until they have become perfectly discouraged and have almost made up their minds never to take another dose of medicine, nor be tortured by any further treatment. They had rather die and have their sufferings ended than to live and suffer as they have. They say they are worn out by suffering and are only made worse by treatment. Of anything more discouraging, we certainly cannot conceive, and were there no more successful mode of treating such difficulties than that, the principles of which teach the reducing and depleting of the vital forces of the system, when the indications dictate a treatment directly the reverse of the one adopted for them, their cases would be deplorable indeed. But, lady sufferers, there is a better and far more successful plan of treatment for you; one more in harmony with the laws and requirements of your system. A harsh irritating caustic treatment and strong medicines will never cure you. If you would use rational means, such as common-sense should dictate to every intelligent lady, take such medicines as embody the very best invigorating tonics and nervines, compounded with special reference to your delicate system. Such a happy combination you will find in my Favorite Prescription which has received the loudest praise from thousands of your sex. Those languid tiresome sensations causing you to feel scarcely able to be on your feet or ascend a flight of stairs; that continual drain that is sapping from your systems all your former elasticity, and driving the bloom from your cheeks; that continual strain upon your vital forces that renders you irritable and fretful, may all be overcome and subdued by a persevering use of that marvelous remedy. Irregularities and obstructions to the proper workings of your systems are relieved by this mild and safe means, while periodical pains, the existence of which is a sure indication of serious disease that should not be neglected, readily yield to it, and if its use is kept up for a reasonable length of time the special cause of these pains is permanently removed. Further light on these subjects may be obtained from my pamphlet on diseases peculiar to your sex, sent on receipt of two stamps. My Favorite Prescription is sold by druggists.

THE AMERICAN ORGANS, advertised in another column, have the guaranty which comes from twenty-five years of successful experiment, and from the well-known high character of the manufacturers. They now offer entirely new styles, unsurpassed in quality and beauty. **

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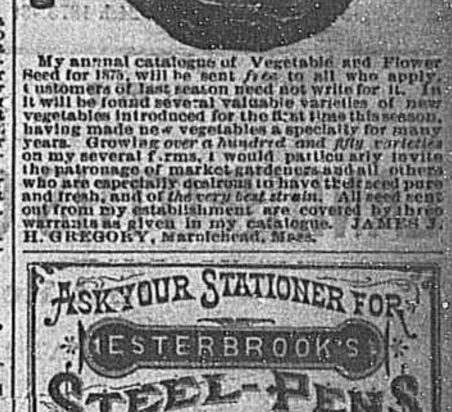

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