

## MISCELLANY

## THE CALF-PATH.

One day through the primeval wood  
 A calf walked home, as good calves should;  
 But made a trail all bent askew,  
 A crooked trail, as all calves do.  
 Since then two hundred years have fled,  
 And, I infer, the calf is dead.  
 But still he left behind his trail,  
 And thereby harks my moral tale.  
 The trail was taken up next day  
 By a lone dog that passed that way;  
 And then a wise bell-wether sheep  
 Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep,  
 And drew the flock behind him, too,  
 As good bell-wethers always do.  
 And from that day, o'er hill and glade,  
 Through those old woods a path was made,  
 And many men wound in and out,  
 And dodged and turned and bent about,  
 And uttered words of righteous wrath,  
 Because 'twas such a crooked path;  
 But still they followed—do not laugh—  
 The first migrations of that calf,  
 And through this winding woodway stalked  
 Because he wobbled when he walked.  
 This forest path became a lane,  
 That bent and turned and turned again;  
 This crooked lane became a road,  
 Where many a poor horse, with his load,  
 Tolled on beneath the burning sun,  
 And traveled some three miles in one.  
 And thus a century and a half  
 They trod the footsteps of that calf.  
 The years passed on in swift feet,  
 The road became a village street,  
 And this, before men were aware,  
 A city's crowded thoroughfare,  
 And soon the central street was this  
 Of a renowned metropolis.  
 And men two centuries and a half  
 Trod in the footsteps of that calf.  
 Each day a hundred thousand rout  
 Followed the zigzag calf about;  
 And o'er his crooked journey went  
 The traffic of a continent.  
 A hundred thousand men were led  
 By one calf near three centuries dead.  
 They followed still his crooked way,  
 And lost one hundred years a day;  
 For thus such reverence is lent  
 To well established precedent.  
 A moral lesson this might teach,  
 Were I ordained and called to preach.  
 For men are prone to go it blind  
 Along the calf-paths of the mind,  
 And work away from sun to sun  
 To do what other men have done.  
 They follow in the beaten track,  
 And out and in, and forth and back,  
 And still their devious course pursue,  
 To keep the path that others do.  
 But how the wise old wood-gods laugh,  
 Who saw the first primeval calf!  
 Ah! many things this tale might teach—  
 But I am not ordained to preach.

—Sam Walter Foss.

## A MODERN MOTHER'S DIARY.

To-night Clifford has said: "Mamma, are the stars holes in the sky to let the rain through?"

I cannot sleep, such is my agitation.

Clifford is scarcely five years old, whereas, according to the best pedagogical authorities, Martin Luther did not ask this question until he was seven, and Alexander the Great, in all probability, not until he was nine.

I know not what to think.

One moment I feel assured that Clifford is evincing an unaffected humor, only in the next moment to be overwhelmed by the suspicion that he is bidding for newspaper notoriety merely.—Detroit Journal.

## THE BLACKEST CHAPTER IN HISTORY.

As for the butchery, the slaughter and the still darker infamies with which the history of the allied occupation reeks, who will dream of questioning, still less contradicting, the unutterable catalogue? Waldersee's latest expedition showed a result of 250 Chinese killed and one German wounded! But that is only a drop in the bucket of the horrors that civilization has perpetrated on the pagans. No chapter taken from the darkest of the dark ages of the past—no exploit of brutal savagery in any period of human ignorance and degradation—is more appalling than the notorious facts in this frightful case.—The Washington Post.

## WHO ARE THE DEBTORS?

In 1878 it was reported by the Pennsylvania municipal commission, "as a remarkable but notorious fact, that the accumulations of debt in Philadelphia and other cities of the state have been due not to a non-property holding, irresponsible element among the electors, but to the desire for speculation among the property owners themselves. Large tracts of land outside the built-up portion of the city have been purchased, combinations made among men of wealth, and councils besieged until they have been driven into making appropriations to open and improve streets and avenues, largely in advance of the real necessities of the city. Extraordinary as the statement may seem at first, the experience of the past shows clearly that frequently property-owners need more protection against themselves than against the non-property-holding class." This is a statement of profound significance, and should be

duly pondered by advocates of a restricted suffrage.—John Fiske's "Civil Government in the United States," page 134.

## A MUSICAL VILLAGE.

There is a little village in the north of Hampshire, England, containing less than 1,000 inhabitants which is now styled the musical village. It is called Burghclere. The hamlet has a chorus of 100 voices capable of doing ample justice to the oratorios of Handel. The repertoire of the Burghclere chorus includes Purcell's "King Arthur," Handel's "Theodore," "Jephtha," "L'Allegro," "Belshazzar," and many other works. The presiding genius of the spot is Walter Awkwright, a brother of the well-known musical antiquary, whose zeal and industry have converted his native village into a nest of singing birds. The traveler wandering over the downs of Hampshire hears the shepherd beguiling his lonely watch with "Venus Laughing from the Skies" and similar classic songs.—The Chicago Chronicle.

## WHAT THE STEEL TRUST MAY DO.

The charter granted to the combination is of the most sweeping character. In terms it permits any kind of manufacture, mining, and method of transportation to the corporation. There is little doubt that the combination will have its own ships and railways, just as it has its ore beds and coal mines, in order to carry its own products to every market, domestic and foreign. One might think that New Jersey was granting the United States steel corporation the right to become "guardian of the world." Following is a condensed statement of the grants made:

This corporation may manufacture iron, steel, manganese, coke, copper, lumber and other materials, and all articles consisting or partly consisting of iron, steel, copper, wood, or other materials, and all products thereof.

It has the right to acquire and develop any lands yielding these materials, and to extract coal, ores, stone, oil, etc., from any lands which it may own or acquire. It may buy and sell these materials and any of their products, and it may construct bridges, buildings, machinery, ships, boats, engines, cars and other equipment; railroads, docks, slips, elevators, water-works, gas works and electric works; viaducts, aqueducts, canals and other waterways and other means of transportation. These agencies may be bought or sold, maintained or operated, but the corporation may not maintain a railroad or canal in New Jersey.

This corporation may engage in any other manufacturing, mining, construction or transportation business of any kind or character whatsoever, but it may not