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The Best Wine Last.

So Cana said: But still the first was good,
For skillful nature wrought her very best:
Turning the sunshine into hues of blood,
Bringing the ripened clusters to be pressed.

But this the Master brings: His silent eye
Flashes the sunshine of a later year;
He still, O guests, for heaven is passing by!
Bow down, O Nature, for your God is here!

And it is always so. Earth's joys grow dim,
Like waning moons they slowly disappear;
Our heavenly joys fill up the widening brim,
Ever more deep and full, more sweet and clear.

Sweet were His words, when o'er the moun-
tain slope
He breathed His benedictions on the air:
Waking the sleeping anæ's, Faith and Hope,
Bidding them sing away the grief and care.

And yet, methinks, He speaks in sweeter
tones,
Out of the shadow of the nearing cross:
Telling of mansions and the heavenly throngs
Which soon shall recompense for earthly
loss.

The good, the better, and the last the best,
This is the order of the Master's wine;
More than the yesterdays to-days are best,
And life's to-morrow may be more divine.

And what beyond? Ah! eye hath never seen,
Ear hath not heard the wonders that await;
Earth's lights are paling shadows to the
sheen
Of untold glories just within the gate!

We "bid" Thee, Master, come and be our
guest!
Life's common things Thou turnest into
wine;
Our cares, our woes, our bitter tears are blest,
If only Thou dost "cause Thy face to
shine!"

-Good Words.

A Primitive Postal Service.

The commonest type of Indian post-
runner, or "Tappal wallah," wears a
long white coat, very tight trousers in-
close his lean legs, and his headdress is
a huge light blue turban. His letter-
bag is slung on his side, and it is neces-
sary that he should be a good linguist,
and be able to read a great variety of
strange, crabbed characters, for several
of the multitudinous languages of
Hindustan are written in quite distinct
characters, all of which are alike in-
comprehensible to our untutored eyes.
The rural letter-carrier of Hindostan
carries a long stick with a sharp iron
point, which can be used as a weapon
in case of need. The stick is adorned
with six little brass bells, which serve
to frighten away reptiles and dangerous
animals, and also to give notice of the
approach of the post. The danger
from wild beasts is, in some districts, a
very real one, the "tappal" runners
through the forest districts in the south
of Ceylon having occasionally had very
narrow escapes from the attacks of
"rogue" elephants and other wild
beasts.

Of all varieties of Indian letter-car-
riers, clothed or unclothed, none are so
picturesque as the camel express mes-
sengers. The men wear a serviceable
red uniform, and large green turban
embroidered with gold thread. From
their girdle hangs a curved saber in a
red sheath. The camels are adorned
with trappings of gay cloth and tassels,
ornamented with blue beads and cowrie
shells, and small brass bells round the
neck to give notice of their swift ap-
proach. It is said that their rough and
rapid trotting, sometimes at the rate of
eighty miles a day, is so trying to the
riders as to shorten their days. Two
heavy mail-bags hang to right and left
on each side of the camel, and the sad-
dle is so arranged that a passenger can
take a seat behind the postman.

In no country of the world is the
postal organization more wonderful
than in Japan; the chief marvel being
that, till about a dozen years ago, there
was no regular government institutions
of posts in the country. In 1871, when
Japan awakened like a giant from her
long sleep of exclusiveness, and set to
work to accomplish changes of every
sort, she resolved to establish the Eu-
ropean postal system; and with such
astonishing zeal has she done her work
that within ten years the British,
American, and French postoffices, which
had been established at all the open
ports, were closed, foreign nations be-
ing satisfied with the thoroughness of
the Japanese postal service. In that
short period mail routes had been or-
ganized over 36,000 miles; mail trains
and steamers, post-vans, and runners
were all enlisted; 3,927 postoffices and
7,439 letter-boxes had been established;
money-order offices and postoffice sav-
ings banks were in full operation; 7,-
500 persons were employed on the reg-
ular staff; stamps, stamped envelopes,
post-cards, and newspaper wrappers
were issued at the same rate as our
own; letter postage to any part of the
empire being at the rate of 1 pence,
and post cards 1/2 pence; while within
the limits of the city of Tokio these
postages are respectively only half
price.

Where the postoffice had thus been
started at full swing it is needless to
say that the telegraph was not forgot-
ten; and by 1880 it was in full working
order over a distance of about 10,000
miles, and giving employment to about
15,000 persons.—Miss Gordon Cumming
in Cassell's Family Magazine for Au-
gust.

Mr. Shillaber, the "Mrs. Partington,"
is over 70 and a cripple. For thirty
years rheumatism has tortured him,
and he has completely lost the use of
his lower limbs. Locomotion, save in a
wheeled chair, is impossible with
him. He can neither stand nor walk,
but while in these respects he is as
helpless as a babe, his general health is
sound, his appetite generous, and his
spirits are unclouded. Some of the
funniest or his sayings have been writ-
ten when he was in acute pain.

Christian Rauch was employed ten
years upon the bronze equestrian
statue of Frederick the Great, which
was erected in the Unter den Linden,
Berlin, in 1851. The statue is seven-
teen feet high, and stands upon a pe-
destal twenty-five feet high.

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R. C. LEAVITT, Secretary.

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our stock over before doing any business
in our line, and you will find us ready
to sell honest goods for honest
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