

FIRESIDE READING.

The height of politeness is passing round upon the opposite side of a lady, while walking with her, in order not to step upon her shadow.

A physician finding a lady reading "Twelfth Night," asked "When Shakespeare wrote about patience, on a monument, did he mean doctor's patients?" "No," she answered; "you don't find them on monuments but under them."

A peculiar way of discharging printers exists in Dayton offices. Each compositor has a nail to hang his coat on, and when the foreman concludes to dispense with the services of one of the hands he takes a hammer and drives the nail into the head.

A celebrated composer wrote to a friend requesting the pleasure of his company to luncheon; key of G. His friend, a thorough musician, interpreted the invitation rightly, and came to the composer's house for luncheon at one sharp.

"The sentence of the court is," said Mr. Porter, a popular Irish magistrate, to a notorious drunkard, "that you be confined in jail for the longest period the law allows; and I hope you will spend your time in condemning whiskey." "I will, sir; and Porter too."

The planet Mercury may be inhabited, but probably not. If they were lively chaps up there they couldn't refrain from throwing tomatoes down at the white plug hats worn on this earth.

An Indianapolis barber who abandoned his business and went into the ministry, was suddenly called upon one Sunday to baptize three candidates. He got along very well, but after baptizing the first he astonished his congregation by lustily shouting, "Next!"

BRITISH CLONES.—"Do you call that clothes?" said sternly a British customs official to the woman who had sworn that there was nothing in her trunk but clothes for herself and husband, and as he spoke he pointed to six bottles of brandy. "Yes," said she, softly, "those are his night-caps."

FASHION NOTES.

Waistcoats for the ladies will be sold separate from the suit.

Square trains bid fair to be more fashionable than round ones.

Striped moires are coming into vogue, under the name of moire Francais.

Corduroy velvet will be largely used, for the underskirts of winter costumes.

The taste for black silk toilets and black millinery prevails as much as ever.

Short costumes take only eighteen yards of medium width stuff for a full dress.

The new hostery is hair-lined horizontally in bright colors on neutral and cream white grounds.

Fancy buttons and flat gilt buttons are used profusely on the clan tartan and fancy plaid suits so fashionable at the moment.

A new freak of fashion shows the dolman with a double skirt. It is not nearly as pretty as the graceful single-skirted dolman.

The panier has resolved itself into very small dimensions, and consists in the slight looping or draping of the back breadths of the overdress.

The tight-fitting coat-sleeve remains in favor, and is now made with a slight gathering at the elbow, which makes it much more comfortable to wear.—Condensed from New York papers.

Many red velvet bonnets edged with garnet beads and gold cords, and trimmed with shaded red plumes and red roses, are seen among the novelties in millinery.

If the present fashion of waistcoat, jacket, skirt and tunic or overskirt continue to find favor, it will produce the much desired result of rendering it as easy for women to purchase their clothing ready-made as men.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

1. That fish may be sealed much easier by dipping into boiling water about a minute.

2. That fish may be sealed, if desired, before packing down in salt; though, in that case do not seal them.

3. That salt is the quickest and best freshener by soaking in sour milk.

4. That milk which is turned or changed may be sweetened, and rendered fit for use again, by stirring in a little soda.

5. That salt will curdle new milk; hence, in preparing milk-porridge, gravies, etc., the salt should not be added until the dish is prepared.

6. That fresh meat, after beginning to sour, will sweeten if placed out of doors in the cool over night.

7. That clear boiling water will remove stains and many fruit stains. Pour the water through the stain, and thus prevent its spreading over the fabric.

ALL ROUND THE WORLD.

—Dean Stanley is slightly indisposed.

—Europe is on the eve of a great war.

—Bismarck thinks England is about to invade India.

—O'Leary gained \$5,000 by his walking match.

—The population of Ireland is slowly increasing.

—Peter's pence, during 1878 amount to \$100,000.

—The Princess of Wales and her brother are partially deaf.

—Mr. Talmage is preaching at the rate of \$12,000 a year.

—Sir John A. Macdonald wants protection from office seekers.

—The Toronto Tribune is an anti-Irish weekly newspaper.

—The fight between Tammany and Anti-Tammany grows fiercer.

—Pico-Pico, the last Spanish Governor of California, is still alive.

—Lord Salisbury is quiet in his manners, Beaconsfield is dramatic.

—Flies have altogether disappeared from the yellow fever districts.

—Julius Simon has a work on the Government of Thiers in the press.

—There is likely to be a big split among the European Freemasons.

—Michael Davitt says the Home Rule party is an organized hypocrisy.

—Even a hog knows the use of a pen and is well versed in litter-ature.

—A gang of New Mexican outlaws numbering 70 are raiding in Texas.

—London Truth thinks M. Labouchere, the author, is an ass, and says so.

—A movement for the abolition of divorce is progressing in England.

—What remains of the Turkish Empire is plunged in the wildest anarchy.

—The largest balloon ever made is in Paris. It is 120 feet in height.

—Perfect accord exists between the Vatican and the German Government.

—Mr. Michael Doyle, barrister, of Toronto, has returned from his European trip.

—The Star is the name of a new weekly journal issued in Fredericton, N. B.

—It is calculated that dogs kill \$1,000,000 worth of sheep annually in the U. S.

—New York City buys and sells more cut-flowers than any other city on the globe.

—The opinion is gaining ground that Edison's electric light will not be successful.

—Lord Beaconsfield thinks that Calcutta should be the capital of the British Empire.

—L'Economist says the Speakership lies between Mr. Costigan and Mr. Blanchet.

MISCELLANEOUS.

—The dog season is fast approaching.

—The manufacture of all papers and pen wipers grows brisk.

—The rector of Athy, in the county of Kildare, has this year done his harvesting by the aid of the electric light.

—Mr. Wiley Tannal, of Hale county, Ala. has ordered 1,000 English sparrows, which he hopes will prove an effectual cotton-worm destroyer.

—Neither Indian corn nor potatoes, nor squashes, nor carrots, nor cabbages, nor turnips, were known in England until the sixteenth century.

—Turkeys are natives of America, and were consequently unknown to the ancients. They were first brought to England about 1523, and to France about 1570.

—Of the four Russian Grand Dukes, Constantinovich is the handsomest.—N. Y. Herald.

—We don't want to appear contradictory, but vich is the ugliest.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

—It would almost take a witch to tell.

—We learn from a Milwaukee paper that a boy named Dickson, of Montreal, while proceeding with his mother to Manitoba, walked out of the train while in a state of somnambulism, and was found uninjured. The train was going at the rate of 30 miles an hour.

—An American lawyer, who was defending a man on trial for wife murder, sought for some euphonious and innocent phrase with which to describe his client's crime, and finally said, "He winnowed her into paradise with a fence rail."

—A member of the colored church was the other evening conversing earnestly with an acquaintance, and seeking to have him change into better paths, but the friend said he was too often tempted to permit him to become a Christian.

—It is a lamentable fact that a piece of pasteboard with a verse on it, given as a reward of merit in a Sabbath School, has not half the charm for a boy as the same size piece of pasteboard with the simple talismanic words "Admit one."

—A young student of divinity in Fulton, N. Y., while acting as Post Office clerk, stole stamps and money amounting to more than \$500. His plea that he wanted the cash to help him finish his studies that he might the sooner go to preaching did not avail with the Justice, and the youth was sent to the county jail.

—There is one impertinence which Washington society will no longer tolerate. We do not refer to the unseemly habit of asking a mature single lady her age. This is insolent, but may be forgiven. But to ask a society "colone!" the number of his regiment or the scene of his services—that sort of scene has gone quite far enough.

—The latest plaything for French children is a mechanical Newfoundland dog, destined for the saving of dolls that fall into the water. He takes them in his mouth and paddles across a tank or very considerable pond, keeping his head and his precious weight above water until he has reached the shore, his nuptial tail being used as a rudder.

—The inventive genius of man is excelsior. A German has brought out a coffin torpedo to discourage grave robbing. It is fastened by small chains to the arms of the corpse, and as soon as anyone undertakes to embezzle the body, the torpedo explodes, scattering bullets and buckshot in alarming profusion, giving the robber the impression that the next war has commenced.

—As a Kansas City lawyer was going to his office the other day he noticed a red suspender lying on the top of some freshly caved earth. He stooped to pick the suspender up, but it stretched and refused to come. Digging down with his hand, he found the dead body of a boy. Much alarmed, he began to dig with a spade, and to his horror unearthed the bodies of two more, who had been buried alive by the caving in of an embankment on which they had been playing the night before.

—A tramp was pulled off the trucks of a passenger car the other day, and after smilingly submitting to the accustomed kick, turned to the conductor and said—"Old man, you can belt away at me with that mule's head that you carry on the end of yer leg till you kick me so full of holes that my hide won't hold together, but you can't knock the glory out of me or keep me from snoutin' over the thought that I'm jist 315 miles ahead of this grindin' monopoly. I froze to this train at Reno. Whoop!"

—A system of loading heavy guns by means of compressed air has been invented by R. C. Smith, of Edinburgh, Scotland. The rammer consists of a series of telescopic tubes, into which the air is admitted so that the tubes are extended one after the other, and when the charge is thus thrust home communication as established between the rear most tube and a series of internal tubes (which are extended along with the others) permitting the air to escape. Sponging is effected in the same way. The whole process is said to be very expeditious.

—Rattlesnake Jack is the euphonious title of a long-haired scout who appeared on the streets clad in buck skin. After getting outside of a half dozen "straights," he opened in this style: "I'm a man from the mountain; I'm a hyena from the tropics and a nephew of old Kit Carson; I've got a string of scalps that a mule can't pack. Gen. Crook and me used to sleep in the same blankets. I'm a poker player from Arizona, and my mother rode on the first steamboat that ever navigated the Columbia; I'm a buzzard from the 'Rockies; I can shoot a mule's eye out at 900 yards, and make a jackass rabbit ashamed of himself for a hundred."

—ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED IRISH ACTRESS.—Miss Emille Gavin, the young lady who some months since created a favorable impression in New York, upon the occasion of her debut in that city, is now playing an engagement in Chicago, Ill. She made a decided hit at that city in Katherine, in Shakespeare's play of Henry VIII. The scene between Katherine and the two Cardinals is generally omitted in presenting the play, for the reason that it is difficult to procure a Katherine who can do justice to the scene; Miss Gavin, however, not only went through the scene in a manner highly creditable to herself, but was called before the curtain in response to the enthusiastic plaudits of her admirers.—Boston Pilot.

—At a part of the road between Kildare and Rathcoole, O'Connell pointed out the place where Leonard McNally, son to the barrister of the same name, alleged he had been robbed of a large sum. To indemnify himself for his alleged loss, he tried to levy the money off the county. "A pair of greater rogues than father and son never lived," said O'Connell; and the father was busily endeavoring to impress upon every person he knew a belief that his son had been really robbed. Among others, he accosted Parsons, then M. P. for the King's County, in the hall of the Four Courts. "Parsons! Parsons, my dear fellow!" said old Leonard, "did you hear of my son's robbery?" "No" answered Parsons quietly, "I did not. Whom did he rob?"

AGRICULTURAL.

THE WASTE OF A FARM.

In every business it is a matter of great importance to prevent waste. It cannot be done completely. Spite of rigid economy and care, there will be some leakages. But there should be constant effort to stop the leaks. "A penny saved is a penny gained." Farming is no exception to this rule. There is much waste on all farms. It is not altogether avoidable, but there are various directions in which it can and ought to be lessened.

The piece of wood is often the scene of waste. Much good timber is allowed to lie on the ground and rot. Perhaps it is rough and knotty, but for all that it will make the best of fire-wood. There should be a big fireplace or large-mouthed stove to take in the knots that cannot be split. It ought to be a rule to keep the woods free of fallen trees, brush and sticks.

By gathering whatever will burn to the woodpile, there is not only economy of fuel, but the woods have a neat appearance, and wherever the standing timber is a little thinned out, grass will spring up and afford pasturage.

The fence corners are generally waste places. In them the grain grows, ripens, and decays year after year, the soil becomes rich, and when the fields bear but a meagre crop, the fence corners make a luxuriant show. Somehow all this growth should be turned to account. The best way, doubtless, would be to have no fence corners. As land gets more valuable and timber scarce we shall come to a method of farming without fences. Meantime let us get what we can out of these many waste corners. They are too often nurseries of weeds.

This we can stop. We can also avoid the bad practice of throwing the stones picked off the newly plowed land into the adjacent fence corners. Those interfere with the free use of the scythe, and prevent the grass and clover being mowed as they might be, and ought to be. The land wasted in fence corners on a single farm would make a nice little field if thrown altogether. If it were in one plot we should make use of it, and why not when it is in the shape of numerous little plots.

Weeds entail great waste. What will grow a weed will grow a useful plant. All our crops are, more or less, crowded and jostled by weeds. In some grain fields it is hard to say whether the grain or the weeds have the ascendancy. The Port Perry Observer says: "Many of the farmers along the railway track between Prince Albert and Whitty are succeeding admirably in raising magnificent crops of mustard, but it is becoming less and less every year, and it will soon be that the mustard won't be bothered with any more grain amongst it; it will then have full possession of the fields, and will speedily extend its yellow influence all around." We fear this bad weed is gaining ground in other places besides the neighborhood of Port Perry. So is the Canada thistle. So are other four leaved. We must wage a war of extermination against them. One of the best methods of doing this is to grow root crops. A well-kept turnip field is a slaughter house of weeds. The gang plough is a good weed killer. It is questionable, however, if the British plan of weeding grain crops will not have to be adopted, in order to make thorough destruction of weeds. But whatever methods are devised, let "down with the weeds," be every farmer's motto.

The premises about the house and barn usually show many signs of waste. Slope are thrown out at the back door. Here is a pile of rotten chips, and there an ash heap. A little farther on is the privy, a mere sink-hole of waste, and a reeking hole of filth. Beyond this is the barn-yard, where valuable manure lies promiscuously scattered, to be wasted by sun and rain. A "manure court" as it is called by British farmers, is needed, into which all fertilizing material may be gathered. It should be a sort of pit or cellar with some kind of roof overhead. A cheap, rough structure will do. The object is to prevent rain washing the goodness out of the manure, and to shield it from the sun. Such a place, made the general receptacle of whatever will decay and make manure, will be very useful. Manure thus made and kept is far stronger than the sundried, rain-washed stuff usually scraped up from the barnyard.

Waste of fodder is another topic that suggests itself. The common practice of scattering hay and other feed in the barn is a bad one. Much good food is trampled into the dirt. The animals quarrel and have no comfort at their meals. They would eat less, waste none, and enjoy their provender more if housed, and fed in separate stalls and mangers.

We have mentioned several sources of waste and it would be easy to specify others. It is a large and important subject. Too many do not give it a thought. We are apt to despise small economies, forgetting that "many a little makes a muckle." Put that and that together, consider well how many leaks there are about a farm, and you will not be long in concluding that it is high time to stop the waste, so far as it can be done.

PROCESS TO REMOVE TREE-STUMPS.—A very simple process is employed in America for felling woodland newly brought into cultivation from the stumps of trees. A hole about two inches in depth is bored in the stump about autumn, filled with a concentrated solution of saltpetre, and closed with a plug. In the following spring a pint or so of petroleum is poured into the same hole and set on fire. During the course of the winter the saltpetre solution has penetrated every portion of the stump, so that not only this, but also the roots are thoroughly burnt out. The ash is left in situ and forms a valuable manure.

THE HOME DOCTOR.

The Dental Cosmos says that the best treatment in regard to offensive breath is the use of pulverized charcoal, two or three table-spoonfuls per week, taken in a glass of water before retiring for the night.

The Lancet warns parents and others against boxing children's ears. A blow on the ear has not only ruptured the drum, but caused inflammation of the internal cavity of the ear, which, years after, terminated in abscess of the brain.

A NICE FEVER DRINK.—Boil one and a half ounces of tamarinds with two ounces stoned raisins and three ounces cranberries, all in three pints of water, until two pints remain. Strain, and add a small piece of fresh lemon peel, which should be removed in thirty minutes.

A VAPOR BATH.—A vapor bath may easily be prepared at home. Place a pail of hot water under a cane-bottomed chair, or, if you have not one, put a narrow piece of board across the pail; on this the patient should sit for half an hour, covered by a blanket reaching to the floor, so as to keep in the steam.

The women of the country should have the following extract from the Memphis Avalanche printed in letters of gold, and hung up in every home.—"Parents have deserted children and children parents, husbands their wives, but not one wife a husband." This tribute to woman's devotion is found in a column descriptive of the plague horrors in Memphis.

NATURALIST'S PORTFOLIO.

ACCLIMATING THE BEAVER.—The Marquis of Bute has up to the present been successful in acclimating the beaver in Scotland, and has now sixteen animals colonised.

LOCUSTS.—These fearful pests were regarded by the ancients; both New and Pagan, and are still by the Arabs, as the avenging armies of Heaven, and the scourge of mankind. The modern Arabs, in fact, declare that the locust bears a statement to this effect in good Arabic in the markings of its wings. But this does not prevent the same Arabs from frying the locusts for their dinner.

A NEW MATERIAL FOR FABRICS.—A new material called vegetable wool and described as being found on the top of grass in the immense sheep runs of Western Australia, especially in and around the district of Perth, is receiving much attention. It is about half an inch in length and is as soft as silk. A special commissioner is already in Australia investigating the value of the new material, and the extent of the districts wherein it may be obtained.

FOLK-LORE.—There is a curious superstition in Cheshire that if a marten's nest is destroyed on a farm the cows will give milk tainted with blood. A farmer stated the other day that this was the case with one of his cows, and accounted for it by saying that in removing the wooden covering of a haystack two of the marten's nests had been accidentally knocked down. In Yorkshire if a robin is killed it is supposed that one of the cows belonging to the person or family of the person who killed it will give a "bloody milk." Formerly, at Walton-le-dale, if a farmer killed a swallow it was believed that his cows would yield blood instead of milk. This superstition is prevalent in the greater part of Switzerland.

DEAD FISH IN INDIAN RIVERS.—Indian fishermen have lately been much puzzled by the shoals of dead fish that have been seen floating down the Ganges and Jumna, and various opinions are entertained as to the cause of this unusual spectacle. It has been suggested that the swarms of locusts which crossed the North-Western Provinces some time ago may be answerable for the destruction of the fish. In 1863 a flight of locusts fell upon the Lake Naini Tal, and the fish in that water gorged themselves with these creatures to such an extent that they died in large numbers, and floated to the surface. On the other hand, this theory, it is pointed out by the Pioneer, would scarcely apply to the Ganges and Jumna, in which the destruction has taken place this year, as it is clearly established that the fish at first tried to steep out of the water and were apparently endeavouring to escape from some danger directly pursuing them. Large and small alike died, and those who have seen the enormous bodies of fish floating down the Jumna are quite at a loss to account for the phenomenon.

ANTS SEE.—A contributor sends us an account of a recent incident of ant life which came under his observation. He is apparently under a somewhat erroneous impression regarding the visual powers of ants, for we believe it is only a certain species that are said to be without eyes. "I was sitting," he says, "on a point of land which projected into the waters of a fresh-water pond. A slight breeze was blowing, and floating substances drifted slowly past the point under its influence. I presently became aware of two large black ants drifting on a patch of floating water weed, which had become detached from the farther shore. Its course carried it about three feet from the point, and the ants were in a state of great excitement, running about on the shore-ward end of their raft. Presently they simultaneously took headers, after a forceman fashion, and struck out for shore with much floundering and great energy. The black ant is not a good nautical model, he sags frightfully amidships, but these two struggled bravely towards their haven of safety, climbing occasionally upon bits of drift that came in their way but scrambling across and continuing their efforts to gain the shore. This they at last effected in a somewhat exhausted condition, and at points several inches apart. The margin was wet and to them swampy. Each apparently thought he had met a foe, for there was an instant fight of the most rough and tumble character, ending, however, in mutual recognition and apology. They went off amicably together, and may perhaps have found their way back to the ancestral hill."

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, during his stay in San Francisco, was presented by a lady with a box of delicious grapes and two bottles of wine, which was stated to have been made by "a good Presbyterian elder," and "for medicinal or communion purposes." Mr. Beecher in a characteristic note acknowledging the present, says—"As to the wine, I have taken temperance sips of it and find it rather too enticing for 'communion use.' It might lead people to too free and open communion! However, if made by 'a good Presbyterian elder,' the Calvinism may save it."

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