

May 2

The master which this page contains is carefully selected from various sources; and we guarantee that, to any intelligent farmer or housewife, the contents of this single page, worth several times the subscription price of the paper.

THE FIRST SKYLARK OF SPRING.

BY WILLIAM WATSON.

Two worlds hast thou to dwell in, Sweet,— The virgin, untroubled sky, And this vix region at my feet. Alas, but one have I!

To all my songs there clings the shade, The dulling shade, of mundane care. They amid mortal mists are made,— Thine, in immortal air!

My heart is dashed with griefs and fears; My song comes fluttering, and is gone. O high above the home of tears, Eternal Joy, sing on!

Not loftiest bard, of mightiest mind, Shall ever chant a note so pure, Till he can cast this earth behind And breathe in heaven's serene.

We sing of Life, with stormy breath That shakes the lute's disempowered string; We sing of Love, and loveless Death Takes up the song we sing.

And born in toils of Fate's control, Insubstantial from the womb, we strive With proud, unsubmitted soul To burst the golden gyve.

Thy spirit knows no bonds nor bars; On thee no shroud of bradion hangs; Not more enlarged, the morning stars Their great Te Deum sang.

But I am fettered to the sod, And but forget my bonds an hour; In amplitude of dreams a god, A slave in death of power.

And fruitless knowledge clouds my soul, And fruitless knowledge irks it more; Thou sing'st as if thou knew'st the whole, And lightly held'st thy lore!

Sing, for with rapturous throes of birth, And arroy labyrinthine string, There riots in the veins of Earth The lute of the Spring!

Sing, for the beak of Night is fled, And Morn the bride is wreathed and crowned; Sing, while her revelling lord o'erleas'd Leads the wild dance of day!

The serpent Winter sleeps uncour'd; Sing, till I know not if there be Aught else in the deceiving world But melody and thine!

Sing, as thou drink'st of heaven thy fill, All home, all wonder, all desire— Creation's ancient conflict; To which the worlds conspire!

Some what as thou, Man once could sing, In patches of the lucid morn, Ere he had met his iron bound, Or cursed his iron bound.

The springtime babbled in his throat, The sweet sky seemed not far above, And young and lovable came the note, Ab, thine is Youth and Love!

Thou sing'st of what he knew of old, And dreamlike from afar recalls, In flashes of forgotten gold An orient glory falls.

And as he listens, one by one, Life's utmost splendors blaze more nigh; Less inaccessible the sun, Less alien goes the sky.

For thou art native to the spheres, And of the courts of heaven art free, And carried to his temporal ears News from eternity;

And lead'st him to the dizzy verge, And lur'st him o'er the dazzling line, Where mortal and immortal merge, And human dies divine.

—The Spectator.

THE HOME.

Mark Twain on Child Government.

For whippings are not given in our house for vengeance; they are not given for spite, nor even in anger; they are given partly for punishment, but mainly by way of impressive reminder, and a protector against a repetition of the offense. The interval between the promise of a whipping and its infliction is usually an hour or two. By that time both parties are calm, and the theme is judicial, the other receptive. The child never goes from the scene of punishment until it has been loved back into happy-heartedness and a joyful spirit. The spanking is never a cruel act, but it is always an honest one. It hurts. If it hurts the child, imagine how it must hurt the mother. Her spirit is serene, tranquil. She has not the support which is afforded by anger. Every blow she strikes the child bruises her own heart. The mother of my children adores them—there is no milder term for it; and they worship her, they even worship anything which the touch of her hand has made sacred. They know her for the best and truest friend they have ever had, or ever shall have; they know her for one who has never died them a wrong, and cannot do them a wrong, who never told them a lie, nor the shadow of one; who never deceived them, by even an unreasonable command, nor ever contented herself with anything short of a perfect obedience; who has always treated them as politely and considerately as she would the best and oldest friend in the land, and has always required of them gentle speech and courteous conduct toward all, of whatsoever degree, with whom they chanced to come in contact; they know her for one whose promise, whether of reward or punishment, is gold, and always worth its face, to the uttermost farthing. In a word, they know her, and I know her, for the best and dearest mother that lives—and by a long, long way the wisest.

You perceive that I have never got down to where the mother in the tale really asks her question. For the reason that I cannot realize the situation. The spectacle of that treschere-

reared boy, and that wordy, namby-pamby father, and that weak, namby-pamby mother, is enough to make one ashamed of his species. And, if I could cry, I would cry for the fate of that poor little boy—fate which has cruelly placed him in the hands and at the mercy of a pair of grown-up children to have his disposition ruined, to come up unengaged, and be a nuisance to himself and everybody about him, in the process, instead of being the so-lacer of care, the disseminator of happiness, the glory and honor and joy of the house, the welcome face in all the world to them that gave him being—as he ought to be, was sent to be, and would be, but for the hard fortune that flung him into the clutches of these pattering incapables.

In all my life I have never made a single reference to my wife in print before, as far as I can remember, except in the dedication of a book; and, after these fifteen years of silence, perhaps I may unseat my lips this one time without impropriety or indelicacy. I will institute one other novelty: I will send a manuscript to the press without her knowledge, and without asking her to edit it. This will save it from being edited into the stove.

THE FARM.

Clean Culture.

Many make the mistake of supposing that clean culture of land improves it, while leaving weeds on it tends to deteriorate it. Just the contrary is true, however. Clean culture of land, when a crop is taken off, leaves the soil in a clean bare soil in the middle of the summer or one covered with weeds, the latter is preferable. Neither one is desirable. In Europe farmers who adopt intensive methods of farming, and where every square foot of soil is cultivated, recognize the danger to the soil of clean culture, and they have what they call "robber crops" to sow when the land happens to be left without anything on it. These robber crops are generally sown with the main crop before harvest time, and they spring up immediately after harvesting and retain the fertility in the soil. We are adopting similar methods in this country by sowing grass or clover seed with the oats, so that when the oats are harvested in the summer time the grass plants will immediately cover the land and prevent the loss of fertility. The worst thing that we can do to our soils is to harvest the crops in the summer or early fall, and then leave the land idle for the rest of the season. In many parts of our country, where the soil is rich and young grass springs up naturally right after harvesting a crop, there is no danger of the soil being impoverished for any length of time. This is nature's method of protecting the land and keeping the nitrogen in the soil. But take it on an old farm, where the soil has been cultivated for years, conditions are different. Here the fertility has been supplied artificially by the application of manures or fertilizers, and by an improved system of rotation in which grass plays an important part. Grass does not readily spring up on it, especially in the fall, and if any length of time is taken off in the summer time, and no other to succeed it, grass seed should be sown over the land early in the spring. These seeds will germinate and push up before hot weather comes, and will cover the soil for soon after room and light.—American Outlander.

Nitrate of Soda on Grass.

The charm of a lawn consists largely in its dark green color, luxuriant growth and freedom from weeds. Many try to secure this result by covering their lawns with a heavy coat of manure in early winter. A much pleasanter method is to sow a mixture of 150 pounds of nitra of soda, 200 pounds of powdered phosphate of lime and 100 pounds of soda ash. Apply the above mixture to an acre in the spring, and broadcast as evenly as possible. The cost will be according to the quantity purchased, from \$5.25 to \$6.75 per acre. The above application will not only greatly improve the lawn, but will also give the lawn more resistance to weeds, shrubs, and flowers that may be on the lawn. For pasture lands there is a profit as well as a pleasure in using it, as it not only increases the quantity, but improves the quality of the grasses, making them more nourishing to the cattle.—Andrew H. Ward.

Oats and Peas for Feed.

It is an excellent plan to sow one or two acres of mixed oats and peas to be cut and fed green to milch cows. Two sowings can be made, and each will be out of the way before the first corn crop is ready to be cut. Peas usually dry up in July, and if only corn fodder has been drilled there is strong temptation to begin cutting it even before it gets into tassel. The oat and pea feed is better for cows than corn fodder until it begins to ear. We are not sure that it is not better than corn even then. Besides, the oats and peas are not an exhaustive crop, as the oats would be alone. The pea vines shade the ground and by the time they are ready to cut their roots have begun their work of decomposing the air and using its nitrogen. The corn crop only gets carbon from the air, and that through its leaves. A field of oats and peas cut early and ploughed or once after cutting is in excellent condition for sowing with winter wheat or rye.

Variety for Stock.

The chief purpose in growing roots for stock feed is to furnish a succulent feed and to give greater variety. We doubt whether in our dry summer a ton of roots of any kind can be grown as cheaply as a ton of green succulent corn. But a diet of corn stalks and grain with no other feed soon becomes monotonous and clogs the appetite. Corn is carbonaceous. It is like white flour in this respect. The story is told of a doctor who, for experiment, fed some dogs on bread made from white flour. They were finally or nearly or quite starved, though they had all the bread they could eat. So

long as the silo is devoted mainly to keeping corn fodder this feed will need to be supplemented with some more nitrogenous feed. There is also a question of taste to be satisfied. The same thing does after day kills the appetite, though its chemical analysis may show it to be what is needed. There are a number of kinds of roots, and it pays to grow some of each kind and alternate in feeding them.

"Many Minds."

A young man raised on a farm remarked in his hearing that a radish plant covered with pods was "some sort of beans." A young woman, a farmer's daughter, wishing to eat a radish in my garden, started to pull up some young holly-hocks. And a man who has farmed all his life was perfectly sure there was no sorrel on his place, when perhaps not a rod was free from it. He had been thinking of other things and hadn't seen it. The gardener, of course, holds that such people are fools, but perhaps they think the same of him. To one who runs to big teams, drills, rollers, binders and steam threshers, you, on all farms trying to see onion rows, look rather silly. You are not likely to coax the employees of the Cunard steamers to catch and cure fish as the ship racks back and forth, but you might as well, as to attempt to persuade all farmers to make gardens. I can enforce a decree that no one shall own a farm more than ten acres and all farming will be gardening.—E. S. Gilbert.

Heavy Hogs.

There is nothing extraordinary in a hog weighing 1,100 pounds, as this weight has been reached by many animals. But it is a greater curiosity than it is an advantage to the feeder, for such heavy pork is made at the expense of excessive feeding, and the pork is not so salable or useful, having too much in it. The most profitable pig is one that weighs, dressed, from 200 to 250 pounds at the age of six or eight months. The big hogs are generally five or six years old.

Sulphate of Potash for a Fertilizer.

There are several grades of sulphate of potash used for fertilizing crops. The common kainite is a sulphate, and has about 12 per cent. of potash in it, along with sulphate of magnesia, soda and salt. The next grade has 25 per cent. of potash in it. This is the cheapest kind of potash that can be obtained, counting its effects on the crops. The ordinary price of all the potash contained in these fertilizers is six cents a pound for the actual pure potash in them.

Treatment of Light, Sandy Soil.

Light, sandy soil, is quickly improved in condition by the use of swamp mud, composted with lime and as much manure as can be procured. This will improve the texture of the soil and make it more retentive of moisture and fertilizer. The best of the best, as soon as clover can be made to grow, the work is done, as by turning this under the soil will be well fertilized.

Feed for a Team of Horses.

A pair of horses weighing 1,200 each will consume about 120 pounds of good oats and twenty pounds of hay, but with sixteen pounds of four fallons of oats, twelve pounds of hay will be sufficient. This is for light work; for heavy work one-fourth more of each food should be added. By grinding the grain and cutting the hay into small pieces of each will be equivalent to the whole food.

The New York Witness, writing about prohibition in Maine, says:

"The fact is the deliberate judgment pronounced by the people of Maine upon the results of the prohibition law by the vote to incorporate that law into their State constitution. After the law had been in force 33 years the people adopted a constitutional amendment prohibiting forever the sale of liquors in the State by a vote of 70,785 to 23,811, the majority in favor of prohibition being larger than had ever been given to any candidate for any office. To affirm in the face of this vote that the Maine law is a failure is equal to declaring that the people of Maine are idiots."

The leading physicians of the Maritime Provinces have repeatedly endorsed Putnam's Emulsion, and constantly prescribed it. No other popular remedy is regarded so favorably by sound medical men.

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.

Avoid drastic medicines and harsh purgatives, and use Burdock Bitters, which cures constipation, dyspepsia, bad blood and all stomach troubles.

Paul's command, "Having done by all to stand," has not been obeyed by the one who has done nothing but stand.

Baldness is often preceded or accompanied by grayness of the hair. To prevent both baldness and grayness, use Hall's Hair Renewer, an honest remedy.

The largest room in the world unbroken by pillars is a drill hall in St. Petersburg, 620 by 150 feet.

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150 words a minute written in Simple Shorthand (taught by mail) by Mr. G. J. White, now a stenographer for T. C. Allen & Co., Halifax, in a little over 3 months.

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Nearly in Despair,

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