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Little Ones' Column.

Our thanks are due to little Alberta Oldfield, aged six, for the first spring flowers. Now I give you a story about a little boy and his pig:-

The Kink.

A boy had a pig with a kinky tail—
A pig the size of a small tin pail;
The boy took a notion, don't you think,
One day he'd straighten out that kink.
Well, at it he went; his will was good;
He splintered it up with bits of wood;
He greased it and soaped long and hard,
With tallow and oil and soap and lard.
The rags he gathered that kink to dress
Would make a junk shop a success.
The cellar got full of old roap ends
He'd borrowed and begged of all his friends,
He held up the pig by the tail a week,
Till he got too feeble himself to speak;
He tied the tail to a lilac bush
To coax him out of his skin with mush,
And straighten the skin this way; but that
Was a waste of temper and time and fat.
The boys, his neighbors, took sides and fought
About the matter, for some boys thought
He never could straighten that kink, and some
Were "sure he could," and "he would by gum!"
So the tale of the pig through the city flew,
Not the pig's own tail, for that merely grew
Where it ought to grow, in the people's view;
But the tale of the tail, and the strange employ
That sorely puzzled this lively boy,
And wise old people would chuckle and wink
And much consider this famous kink.
Ministers learned and lawyers profound,
For much more sense than a horse renowned,
Mayors and merchants and aldermen,
Hotel clerks and railroad men,
They came by dozens, they came pell mell,
To see if the job was working well;
But the pig went mad with his tail unbent,
He wouldn't unkink it worth a cent.

—Eugene Field.

Gretchen's Birthday.

Gretchen is a little German girl. She has hair as soft as silk, and eyes as blue as the sky and as round as saucers. She has a fat little nose, and a tiny red mouth, which has such an odd way of opening to say "Yes, yes," when you ask her a question, it makes you laugh to see it.
Hans is Gretchen's brother. He is two years older than she, and is quite a little man. His face looks like the round moon. When he laughs, which he does very often, up go his fat little cheeks so that you can scarcely see his eyes.
Hans loves Gretchen dearly. He would do anything in the world to please her. One day, just a week before Gretchen was six years old, Hans asked his mother for money.
"What do you want it for, my son?" said she.
"I want to buy a present for Gretchen's birthday."
"You are a good brother! I am sorry I cannot give it to you. I work hard all day to earn food and clothing for my dear children, and have no money to spare for presents."
Hans felt badly, and wished he could earn something. But he was only a little boy, and did not know how to go to work.
Gretchen's birthday came at last. Hans had not a penny in his pocket. When he started for school in the morning, and bent his fat face to kiss his sister good-by, he felt sad to think she must go without a present.
Gretchen put her chubby arms about her brother's neck and laughed as merrily as ever. Had she not Hans, and the good mother, and the sky, and the grass, and the flowers? She had all these things to make her glad. What matter if she had no gifts.
On his way home from school Hans was in luck. A man asked him to hold his horse. Hans did hold him, good and strong, for more than half an hour. When the man came back he put a bright piece of silver into the boy's hand. Such a doll as that silver bought! It was a beauty.
Gretchen was so glad when she saw the doll! Hans was so happy when he gave it! The good mother was so pleased to see her children love each other so dearly! I think there never was a happier birthday.

Commercial.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE OFFICE,
London, Ont., June 1st, 1883.

Another cold month has just passed. The month of May has been one of the coldest for years, and, in this neighborhood, one of the wettest. In fact, seeding and planting have been much delayed, and there remains a great portion of the planting yet to be done. The markets have been quiet, and the tendency is lower prices in almost all products. The

WHEAT

prices have not altered much. The upward tendency of last month's prices has been generally sustained, though that which is being offered at the present is picked up for home consumption, millers needing all that is being offered to keep them employed. The winter wheat has not gained much in growth during the month, and many fields are left standing which would have been better plowed up and other grains sown. We do not look for much change in its price in the meantime. The European markets have somewhat declined, but Canadian prices are generally sustained. A report of the Russian crops, dated May 7th, says: The official reports on the state of the crops in the Governments of Samara, Simbrisk and Astrakan, which are sometimes collectively called the granary of Russia, report that the winter sowings have all been lost and the crops a total failure.

BARLEY

continues dull, there being neither supply nor demand, prices being purely nominal.

OATS AND PEAS

are steady, prices remaining firm, with an upward tendency for oats, and with an easier feeling for peas.

CHEESE

is easier with prices still downward, the local demand being much more than supplied. Factory-men, in looking for buyers, have to accept the lower offer or keep cheese on the shelf, though the season's make is very short, many factories not making much over half they were this time last year; but in the cheese trade, like other articles, it is best to sell as soon as ready to ship.

BUTTER

also is lower, the local demands being more than supplied; sellers have to accept lower prices. Though it may be hard for some farmers to acknowledge that the butter made in the country is not first-class, yet it is a fact, and if some of them were at the selling of some of it in European markets, they would soon acknowledge it. The fact is, the sooner our farmers go in for creameries the better it will be for the country in this respect. What is asked for and what sells is a choice article.

FARMERS' MARKET.

LONDON, ONT., June 1st, 1883.

Per 100 lbs			
Red wheat..	\$1 85 to \$1 90	Eggs, small lots	14 to 15
Deihl	1 80 to 1 85	Potatoes, bag	65 to 70
Treadwell ..	1 80 to 1 85	Apples.....	1 00 to 2 00
Clawson.....	1 60 to 1 75	Roll butter....	15 to 16
Corn.....	1 25 to 1 30	Tub ".....	14 to 18
Oats.....	1 35 to 1 36	Crock ".....	16 to 18
Barley.....	1 05 to 1 20	Cheese, lb....	12 to 13
Peas.....	1 15 to 1 25	Onions, bush..	60 to 0 80
Poultry (Dressed)—		Tallow, clear..	7 to 8
Chickens, pair	0 70 to 1 00	" rough.....	5 to 6
Ducks, pair..	0 75 to 1 00	Lard, per lb....	14 to 16
Turkeys, each	0 75 to 1 50	Wool.....	18 to 20
Poultry (Undressed)—		Clover seed..	0 00 to 0 00
Chickens, pair	0 60 to 0 75	Timothy seed..	0 00 to 0 00
Live Stock—		Hay, per ton	9 00 to 10 00
Milch cows... 40	00 to 60 00	Beans per bush	1 25 to 1 50

TORONTO, ONT., June 1st			
Wheat, fall No. 1	\$1 07 to \$1 08	Apples, bri....	3 00 to 4 50
Wheat, spring	1 09 to 1 11	Potatoes, bu..	0 00 to 0 00
Barley.....	0 50 to 0 70	Beans, bu.....	1 25 to 1 50
Oats.....	0 45 to 0 47	Onions, bag... 0	50 to 0 60
Peas.....	0 80 to 0 00	Chickens, pair..	0 80 to 0 90
Flour.....	4 70 to 5 00	Fowls, pair....	0 60 to 0 80
Rye.....	0 67 to 0 68	Ducks, brace... 0	80 to 0 80
Beef, hind qrs.	8 00 to 9 00	Geese.....	0 00 to 0 00
Beef, fore qrs.	6 00 to 7 00	Turkeys, roll... 0	17 to 0 20
Mutton.....	9 00 to 10 00	Butter, dairy..	0 17 to 0 20
Lamb.....	10 00 to 12 00	Eggs, fresh....	0 14 to 0 15
Veal.....	9 00 to 10 00	Wool, per lb... 0	18 to 0 20
Hogs, per 100 lb	9 00 to 9 00	Hay.....	18 50 to 17 00
Potatoes, bag..	0 75 to 0 80	Straw.....	9 00 to 10 00

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

MONTREAL, May 31.

Wheat—		Ont Oatmeal..	4 50 to 4 75
Can spring, \$1 14 to \$1 15		Cornmeal.....	3 75 to 4 00
Red winter 1 18 to 1 19		Butter—	
White.....	1 11 to 1 12	East'n Tp's.	23 to 24
Corn.....	67 to 80	Morrisburg...	22 to 24
Oats.....	40 to 40	Brockville...	22 to 24
Peas.....	95 to 97	Western....	22 to 24
Flour—		Mess pork.....	22 00 to 23 00
Superior ex	4 90 to 4 95	Lard.....	14 to 15
Superfine...	4 55 to 4 60	Hams.....	14 to 15
Strong bak	5 15 to 5 25	Bacon.....	13 to 14
Pollards....	3 50 to 3 60	Cheese.....	11 to 12

LIVE-STOCK MARKETS

BRITISH MARKETS, PER CABLE.

Cattle Very Weak—Sheep Lower.

CATTLE.

The cattle market has been very weak and slow under excessive supplies. Prices, however, are not quotably different from last week.

	Cents @ lb
Choice steers.....	15
Good steers.....	14
Medium steers.....	13
Inferior and bulls.....	12
[These prices are for estimated dead weight; offal is not reckoned.]	

SHEEP.

With large supplies and a weaker demand, the market for sheep has been weak and prices have declined 1c. per lb. since last week.

	Cents @ lb
Best long woolled.....	@19
Seconds.....	17 @18
Merinos.....	16 @17
Inferior and rams.....	12 @14
[These prices are for estimated dead weight; offal is not reckoned.]	

Montreal, May 28, 1883.

The supply of cattle at the market here to-day was 200 head, all of good quality; prime beef sold at \$4.50; second class from \$4.00 to \$4.50, and \$rd do., 4c. to 5c. per lb. live weight. Calves were numerous, the best sold from \$5 to \$6, and inferior from \$2.50 to \$3.50 each. Sheep brought from \$5 to \$6, and lambs from \$3 to \$6 per extra quality.

AMERICAN.

East Buffalo, N. Y., May 30.

The cattle market was steady at last week's prices. The quality of offerings is good and the highest prices paid were \$6.00 to \$6.50 for choice to extra good shippers; \$5.25 to \$5.50 for fair to medium; steers, \$5.75 to \$6; light butchers' \$5 to \$5.75; mixed butchers' stock, \$3.75 to \$4.65. Milch cows and springers steady at \$35 to \$50 per head. Sheep and lambs—supply moderate, about 48 cars on sales market steady and strong at last week's closing prices. All offerings sold. The best on sale brought \$5.50 to \$6.25; ordinary fair to good, \$5 to \$5.75; common, \$4.50 to \$4.75. There were no heavy lambs on sale. Spring lambs, \$9 to \$10 per cwt. The hog market was steady at Saturday's prices. The bulk of the offerings changed hands.

CHEESE AND BUTTER.

LONDON CHEESE MARKET.

Two thousand one hundred and thirty-five boxes of cheese, the make of 18 factories, were boarded at the market on Saturday last—mostly last half of May make. No sales.

Little Falls, May 31, 1883.

Farm Dairies—There were 838 boxes cheese sold upon the morning market, consisting largely of farm cheese, though there were several lots of factory cheese as usual sold to the home trade. Prices ranged at 10@12c., the bulk of the sales being at 11½c. Several of the fancy farm lots brought 12c., and also several of the factory lots to the home trade—in all 10 or 12 lots.

Butter—Sixty-two packages of butter sold at 20@22c., bulk at the latter price. Nine packages of creamery sold at 23c.

Utica, N. Y., May 31, 1883.

Transactions were as follows: Thirteen lots, 690 boxes, at 11½c.; 87 lots, 4,810 boxes, at 11½c.; 7 lots, 542 boxes, at 11½c.; 3 lots, small cheese, 305 boxes, at 11½c.; 7 lots, also small, 155 boxes, at 11½c.; and 2 lots, 202 boxes, at private terms. Sales, 6,704 boxes; commissions, 1,106 boxes; total, 7,810 boxes. A year ago the transactions were 6,849 boxes; two years ago, when the market opened a week earlier, they were 7,450 boxes. The ruling price last year was 10½c.; the year before it was 9½c. Dairymen have reason to be well satisfied with the course of the market this year.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

AULTSVILLE STOCK FARM.
HOLSTEIN CATTLE.

Having just arrived from quarantine with the first herd of this celebrated stock ever imported direct into Canada from Holland, we are now prepared to exhibit and dispose of a few choice Bull Calves, as well as several grades.

MICHAEL COOK & SON,
210-e Aultsville, P. O. Ont.

WANTED—A tract of timber 50 to 100 acres. Will buy land and timber or timber alone. Must be in reasonable distance from Buffalo. Preferred, so could boat timber; must be good and cheap.
N. B. BATTERSON,
210-a Buffalo, N. Y., U. S. A.