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NO. 8

Poetry.

Unfinished Skill.

A baby's foot, and a sliver of wool,
Faded, and soiled, and soft;
Old things, you say, and so do I, you're right,
Round a seamstress' neck this stormy night,
Up in the yard aloft.

Most like it's folly, but mate, look here:
When first I went to sea,
A woman stood on the far-off strand,
With a wedding-ring on the small, soft hand,
Which clung so close to me.

My wife, God bless her! the day before
She sat beside my foot;
And the sunlight kissed her yellow hair,
And the dainty fingers, deft and fair,
Knitted a baby's boot.

The voyage was over; I came ashore;
What, think you, found I there?
A grave the daisies had sprinkled white;
A cottage empty, and dark as night,
And this beside the chair.

The little boot, 'twas unfinished still;
But the knitter had gone away to rest,
With the babe asleep on her quiet breast,
Down in the churchyard near.
—Cassell's Magazine.

HOME INTERESTS.

Needlework as a part of Education.

We consider it of the utmost importance that girls should be taught to sew at an early age. No one will doubt the fact that to be a good needlewoman is, if not an accomplishment, a very necessary art and if the foundation of instruction in good plain sewing is not laid in childhood it is very rarely attained in after years. A great many persons will say, "what is the need of teaching children to sew in these days of sewing machines, when you will find one in almost every house, and who will take time to work with their fingers when it can be done quite, if not much more satisfactorily in so much less time?" This may be very true, but in every garment made with the assistance of the sewing machine there are always certain finishings that must be done by hand, and which, if not neatly done will destroy the appearance of the article, no matter how beautifully the mechanical part may be executed. It is not our purpose to make light of the advantages gained by the use of the machine, for we think one should form a part of the furniture of every household where the family sewing is done at home, and without doubt the invention has proved a god-send to many a poor, weary, overworked woman who was living, yet as surely dying, by the needle. But it is of the importance that instruction in sewing should form a part of the education of every little girl that we wish particularly to call the attention of our readers. How many cases have come under our own experience of girls who were earning their living at domestic service, but could not sew a stitch, so were obliged to pay quite a sum out of their few dollars a month for work which they could easily have accomplished in their spare hours had they only been competent, thereby saving a good part of their wages and undoubtedly adding to the neatness of their outward appearance. We think the best way is to begin with the old-fashioned square of patchwork and not to allow any piece to be laid aside as finished until each stitch is neatly and evenly placed—of course this will entail numerous "pickings out," and the teacher must be provided with a large stock of patience, but in time, almost every child will become interested in their work if not kept employed too long at a time and instead of considering it a task, it will become an amusement and help to keep a great many little ones out of that mischief which in our own childhood we were practically taught to believe would surely be found for "idle hands to do." Before the time of public schools, plain sewing and fancy work formed one of the branches taught in ladies' schools, and many will remember the different stages, how after they had gained a certain proficiency in top sewing they were initiated into the mysteries of hemming, felling, backstitching, and buttonhole making, until that crowning glory of all was accomplished—the making of a fine shirt—and she, who had arrived at that stage of needlework, was looked upon by her schoolmates with feelings of the most unbounded admiration. To make a buttonhole skillfully is an art of itself and we can still remember our first attempt. Provided with a strip of cotton doubled, the buttonhole nicely out and stayed by the kind old mistress who watched every stitch, no wonder we thought it an important undertaking; and yet, when done it proved to be a sorry affair; still we went on working fresh ones until the fabric was literally covered with button holes in all degrees of fineness; at last we reached the happy moment when we were pronounced able to make one in a garment. Those lessons can never be forgotten, and we feel convinced it is a great loss to the children now being educated, that

Agriculture.

The Dairy Season of 1879.

The dairy season which is nearing its close, has been one of much discouragement to our farmers. Dairy products have not sold so low in our markets for the last twenty years, scarcely paying the cost of handling the milk. Until recently the best article of butter would not sell for more than 12 cents per pound, while much was disposed of from 10 to 12 cents; with slow sales even at these ruinous prices. Cheese appeared to be a drag upon the market, and sold slowly at from 7 to 8 cents for dairy, and about 1 1/2 cents per lb. more for factory make. With these prices the dairy paid but little more than working expenses, and farmers who support their families from the products of their farms feel, and often very severely, the effects of such low prices and sluggish sales. As a rule our dairy farmers feed the greater portion of the hay, grain and roots, and consequently little to dispose of, except their butter and cheese, and when prices for these articles are low, their profits are correspondingly small. However, we are not of those who believe that grumbling will do much good; nor do we write in that spirit, but with a desire to state the facts as they exist, and if possible point out a course that will to some extent better the present condition; or, more properly speaking, the prospects of our dairy farmers, and to do this, we recommend that they keep no poor cows, and take extra care of what they have. Expenses of the dairy must be cut down by sending all inferior milkers to the butcher, and feeding for dairy purposes none but those which may be properly classed as good milkers. It costs quite as much to feed a poor cow as a good one. The poor milkers do nothing more than pay expenses, perhaps, hardly that; while the good milkers will have a margin of profits left, after paying expenses, even at low prices for the products.

The low prices of this year have taught another important lesson, that is, that it will not pay to make a poor article either of butter or cheese. The highest prices received during the season have been secured by those who, by their care and skill, have been able to produce a first class article, while those who have sent an inferior article to market and received the lowest prices, have no one to blame but themselves. Dairy men will be glad to learn that there has been an advance in prices. Two weeks ago purchases were sought for their cheese at from 7 to 8 cents per lb.; to-day it is worth from 8 1/2 to 11 cents. Butter has also advanced from 11 to 13, to 15 and 16 cents per lb. The rise in dairy products, although sudden and unexpected, is from present appearances, likely to remain permanent. This is good news to our farmers and will be hailed with pleasure. In view of the extreme exportations of dairy products to European markets which are now being made, and will in all probability continue, we think it would be well to extend the system of associated dairying, so as to include the manufacture of butter as well as cheese. By adopting this course, any of our dairying districts that can number from 150 to 200 cows can secure the manufacture of a first class article of butter with great certainty and in large quantities and with a uniformity in the quality not attainable in a number of small dairies. In this way whole districts may secure the benefits of the advantages of the highest price in our home market, and should prices rise higher abroad, they are in a position to take advantage of it by having a first class article to dispose of. This system has been in operation for some time in Ontario and in the United States, where so far as we have been able to learn, it has worked well. Butter and cheese manufactured at these creameries and cheese factories are being shipped in large quantities to European markets and commands paying prices. We make these suggestions with a view to set our farmers thinking over the matter and shall return to it again. In the meantime, will not some of our dairymen give us their views on the matter through our columns.

Sugar Beets.

We shall be glad to hear from those of our farmers who have cultivated the sugar beet this season. Please state the kind of soil on which you grow them; the kind of manure used and quantity applied per acre, and how applied; system of cultivation, and yield per acre, in bushels or by weight as is most convenient. Do not be afraid in expressing your opinions of the sugar beet as a root crop, so far as you feel warranted in giving them. It will be noticed in a late issue that our correspondent from Maudslow, N. B., "G. A. S." gives the yield in his locality as 750 bushels per acre, placing them ahead of either turnips or carrots in this seasons growth. Let us hear from other districts.

Stanley Ploughing Match.

The ploughing match under the auspices of the Stanley Agricultural Society was held on the farm of Mr. Edward Speer, Secretary of the Society, on Thursday last. There was a large attendance of farmers and quite a number from Fredericton, including H. Cheestnut Esq., who remained over especially to witness this interesting event. To our mind there ought to be as much interest manifested in such trials as in anything connected with our local societies for good ploughing is the basis of good farming; in England such matches are watched with the keenest interest and in every way encouraged.

The special match between former prize winners was competed for by Wm. Currie, Thos. Harvey, H. Thomas and Gilbert Fringle; the first named won.

The All-Comers match had the following competitors: David Douglas, Thos. Douglas, Josiah Foreman, Wm. Wilkinson and three others. The prizes were awarded these ploughmen in the order named.

The ploughs used in the first match were all manufactured by Frost & Wood; those in the other by Joseph Fleury, Frost & Wood; McFarlane, Thompson & Anderson, and George Todd. The Fleury plow No. 10 was used by the first and second prize winners.

Kingsclear Exhibition.

The Kingsclear Agricultural Society held its annual show on the Society's grounds on Saturday last. The weather was fine, although cloudy and cool. The number of people present was quite as large as on any previous occasion and all seemed in excellent spirits. The visitors from the city were more numerous than usual, and we observed some from Sanbury County. The officers of the Society were, as usual, indefatigable in their exertions to manage the exhibition in a creditable manner, and did all in their power to add to the pleasure and enjoyment of the large gathering.

Everything was in order about eleven o'clock, when the judges commenced work and for two or three hours they had quite enough to employ their attention. When their reports were handed in, Mr. John A. Campbell invited the Judges' committee and many visitors to dinner at his hospitable home where ample justice was done to the bountiful repast provided by Mrs. Campbell. A good dinner is not to be despised at any time, but it is doubly appreciated after wandering about for a whole forenoon at a cattle show.

In the meantime the Treasurer was hard at work making up the prize list from the reports. This was ready about 3 o'clock, when the President announced the names of the successful competitors and the articles for which they were awarded the premiums, and invited the winners to step forward and get their money at once. We believe the whole of the prizes were paid within an hour. This is quite an improvement on the usual practice of societies and avoids the trouble and inconvenience of meeting again to pay the amounts awarded. We believe this society generally adopts this plan, which speaks well for the committee.

In forming an estimate of this show with that of former years, we are inclined to think there was not that improvement that we have a right to expect. It was as good as the other shows of the Society, but we think that the last should always be the best, and we were disappointed that there were so few well bred animals on the ground. Those that were shown were in excellent condition and good of their kind, but it seems unaccountable, with clear have had of procuring stock, that there were no pure bred cattle in the yard. We hope some of the large farmers of this fine parish will not allow this charge to stand against them much longer, and that we will see a good representation of Ayrshires and Shorthorns at the next show. We are aware that most of the cattle are on the islands at this season, and it is troublesome to bring them off, but we think a few of the best might be brought forward. The horses were only ordinary; there were none shown calling for particular notice. The same may be said of the sheep, while some were very good we saw none that were deserving special notice. Some of the swine were fine and showed good breeding. The poultry was very good, and quite an improvement on some former shows.

In the building quite a display of fancy work and domestic manufactures was made, keeping up the well earned reputation of the ladies, who deserve much credit for doing their part so well.

The grain and roots were good, quite equal to any we have seen this year and much better than most shown elsewhere. Fruit was good, but confined to too few exhibitors. Where so much good fruit is raised, we think a larger number should bring it forward, and not allow a few to win the prizes so easy.

This society has been in existence about ten years and has held a show every year but one. It has a fine show yard, with a roomy, useful building for exhibition purposes, and a comfortable dwelling house; all of which is paid for. The Society is entirely clear of debt and has some money on hand. It is probable that attention will be given to the improvement of stock in the future.

We refer to the prize list which will be found on the inside for particulars, although many fine articles were exhibited which did not take a prize.

Letter from Isaac C. Burpee Esq., Upper Gasperaux, Chipman.

To the Editor of the Maritime Farmer:

Sir,—Having seen first in the Daily Telegraph an account of potatoes that weighed one pound, and also one and a half pounds each, and soon after in your weekly of a candidate for Governor of Ohio raising potatoes that weighed two pounds, induced me to write to say that I have raised potatoes, Early Rose, this year that weighed about three pounds. I can produce bushels that will weigh two pounds each. I planted in the spring 12 barrels out seed and raised 1122 bush. from the same, or rather 433 barrels which would measure more than 2 1/2 bushels to the barrel. I would like to get information from some persons who have experience in using lime on land the best way to apply it and at what season of the year.

I am, yours truly, I. C. BURPEE.

Oct. 13, 1879.

[We will be happy to publish any communications in reply to Mr. Burpee's question.—Ed.]

[New England Farmer.]
A Novel Potato Contest.

A novel contest, in the culture of the potato, has been going on the past summer among a few members of the Kingsclear Agricultural Society, which may prove of interest to others outside the association. The contest was started by Monroe Morse, a successful cultivator of this crop, who challenged any or all the members of the Club to compete with him for the largest and best crop of potatoes grown upon a single square rod of ground—the competitor who should show the best yield being entitled to the product of all the other competing rods—also, and smoothness both to be considered. Competitors were required to plant from the same lot of seed, a barrel of Early Rose purchased in Boston being the seed used. The contest was to be held on the 1st of September, and the lines must extend only to the middle of the adjoining spaces between the rows.

Competitors accepted the challenge, making the number of competing rods—also, and smoothness both to be considered. Competitors were required to plant from the same lot of seed, a barrel of Early Rose purchased in Boston being the seed used. The contest was to be held on the 1st of September, and the lines must extend only to the middle of the adjoining spaces between the rows.

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The former and 400 of the latter per acre. Mr. Morse used 800 pounds of guano and 200 pounds of potash per acre. Mr. Clark applied stable manure freely and watered the ground occasionally after the potatoes were growing, with a solution of hog manure and poultry droppings. Mr. Hood used a spoonful of Bradley's superphosphate in the hill. Messrs. Hancock, Hood and Adams had each 125 hills, while Mr. Clark had 125 double rows or drills, the seed being just twelve inches apart each way with room for horse cultivation between.

Mr. Morse practiced horse cultivation exclusively, never using a hand hoe at all, either in covering or tending the crop, while Messrs. Clark, Hood and Cheever cultivated by hand exclusively. Mr. Squire cut his seed in halves, planting one piece in a place. Mr. Mann used pieces with two eyes, while most of the others were cut to single eyes. Mr. Hood cut his seed two weeks before planting, and found it much dried, but only one hill failed. The lots were planted from May 6th to June 8th, and were dug at three different periods, several competitors being in each case present and taking in the measuring of the land, and weighing the crop.

By mutual agreement the competitors were required to set also as judges, and after inspecting the several yields, they unanimously decided that the 183-pound lot, though not quite equal in quality to two or three of the smaller lots, was nevertheless, on account of both quality and quantity, entitled to the first place on the list. The 1013 pounds, or 1653-60 bushels of potatoes, grown on ten square rods by ten competitors, was therefore, awarded to A. W. Cheever, who in response to the announcement stated that, although, at the urgent solicitation of his friend, Mr. Morse, the challenger, he had joined in the competition, and had done his best to give some one a handsome yield of potatoes, yet, with his well known views concerning the injurious tendency of all forms of games of chance in which one man's luck is another man's loss, he could accept only those grown upon his own plot; and as parties had expressed a desire to secure seed for planting from these trial lots, he would direct that they be sold at auction, the proceeds to be placed in the treasury of the Club, to be used toward paying for a lecture during the coming winter. The other competitors agreeing to the same arrangement, the whole lot was sold, netting to the Club the sum of \$11.47, thus closing a competitive trial in which valuable experience had been gained by all and without loss to any. The following is the

STATEMENT OF A. W. CHEEVER.

The land on which I grew the trial rod of potatoes has been under cultivation several years, producing chiefly forage crops. Last year it produced a crop of rye fodder and a crop of oat fodder, and these were followed by a crop of barley, each crop being manured either with stable manure or commercial fertilizers. The soil is a heavy loam exposed to the East, quite moist early in the season, so that an early ploughing caused it to remain unprepared during the season. It was ploughed but once this year, a light coat of stable manure being turned in about seven inches deep. This was somewhat mixed with the soil by deep cultivation after ploughing. The rows were marked out with a large outcutter tooth about eighteen inches apart, run quite shallow, so that the potato sets, when planted, were scarcely below the surface of the ground.

Before planting, about 800 pounds of guano, and 400 pounds sulphate of potash, per acre, were spread broadcast over the furrows. The seed was prepared by exposure several days to a strong light, to start the sprouts into a short healthy growth. When ready to plant, single eyes were cut from the seed, selecting only those which were well started and of good strong appearance. Most of the eyes were cut from the stem end or middle of the potato, where considerable potato could be taken out with each eye. As they were cut, they were laid in a basket, with plaster dust over them in sufficient quantity to cover the cut surface, and to partially protect the sprouts from bruising while being handled. The pieces were dropped singly, and about fourteen inches apart, the whole amount of ground planted in this way being from two to three rods.

The sets were covered by hand not over an inch deep. Just as the shoots were breaking ground, the plot was dusted over with guano, at the rate of 200 pounds per acre, and then raked into the soil with a garden rake, killing, at the same time, all the small weeds which had started. As the potatoes were so near the surface, and so thickly planted, it was found impracticable to hill them in the ordinary way, so the ground was mulched with chopped straw for a protection, not only against weeds, but to keep the new potatoes from being sunburnt as they showed themselves above the surface. The mulch also, in a measure, secured a cool, moist soil during the hot, dry weather of midsummer. The straw was put on some three inches deep, but soon settled to an inch, and was then covered with a second coat of mulch which remained undisturbed till digging time.

To keep the bngs in check, a sprinkling of dry plaster was used three or four times, with just enough to give a slight greenish tinge. A very few weeds were pulled by hand during the season of growth, but it was the aim to travel over the patch just as little as possible, as the plants covered nearly the whole surface.

The rod of land was measured off from near the centre of the patch, at digging time, by Horace Morse and S. W. Squire, and the potatoes weighed by Mr. Morse, who certifies that there were 183 pounds; a yield per acre equal to 488 bushels. The most important lesson I have learned by the experiment is that potatoes must have room to grow under ground, or the yield will be diminished and the quality impaired. I would never plant so near the surface again, and with an equally favorable season should expect to do better another year.

Editorial Notes, taken at the Cambridge Agricultural Society's Fourth Annual Exhibition.

GOOD SHOW OF STOCK, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES.

We had the pleasure on Thursday, the 16th inst., of attending the Fourth Annual Show of this Society, on their grounds, Mouth of Jemseg. The day was exceedingly fine and pleasant. At an early hour crowds of people could be seen approaching the grounds from different points. The roads were in splendid condition, and as carriages and wagons speed along at a lively pace with their loads of smiling humanity one could not help but conclude that the occasion was one of enjoyment and pleasure, to those who were participating in it. The location of the Society's Hall is convenient and central for the Parish of Cambridge, and is situated in a beautiful spot near the Parish Church, and also quite near the spot on which the Fort of Miam De La Tour was situated, which is so famed in the heroic defence by Madame La Tour. The view from the hall is very fine and gives one an idea of the fertility and richness of the St. John's. Looking to the south and east one gets a nice view of the southern portion of the Parish of Cambridge, with its fine farms and comfortable homesteads. Immediately south lies the fertile alluvial lands of big and little Musquash Islands, Scoville Point, and looking further on one gets a glimpse of the farms in Lower Gasperaux and Upper Hamstead. To the westward lies Gagetown the shiretown of the county, situated on a gentle slope of land, and shaded by its magnificent trees which now appear in their beautiful autumnal tints. Here too and within easy distance is one of nature's curiosities, known as the mount, a rocky eminence in the centre of an extensive tract of alluvial land, and is the common picnic grounds for the villagers in their summer festivities. To the northward lies the Jemseg with its fertile lands dotted with comfortable homesteads taking its name from the beautiful stream of water which connects the Grand Lake with the River St. John, and as we write we see in the distance the steamer "Fawn" approaching, ploughing the waters of this narrow stream in beautiful style, on her downward trip to the city.

But we cannot follow our description of the scene farther, as we purpose giving our readers the benefit of our observations of the show yard. It is now 10 o'clock, the articles are all arranged in the building. The horses, cattle, sheep, and swine are in the show yard. The judges who are sent here their places supplied and the President, G. L. Colwell, Esq., informs the public that the exhibition is open, and that the judges in the several classes will proceed to make the awards. The Secretary, J. McD. Belyea, Esq., places the books in the Judge's hands, and there is a general stampede for the stock department, whither we follow the throng to see the sights, and to record the awards for the benefit of our readers.

Stallions for general purposes, 3 years old and upwards, are the first called. Six enter the ring, owned by John McAlpine, J. F. & G. W. Fox, Chas. Oakley, Edmond Buzze, Manzer Dykeman, and F. J. Perley. The judges who are Messrs. Bates, Titus of Cambridge and H. W. Hatheway, of Hillside Farm, St. John, after discussing their merits and demerits awarded E. Buzze, 1st; J. F. & G. W. Fox, 2nd, and F. J. Perley, 3rd. Stallions 2 years and under 3 years, James Dykeman, 1st. In broad mare the competition was quite lively, Messrs. G. L. Colwell, Messrs. Dykeman, J. F. & G. W. Fox, J. McD. Belyea, Slipp Bros., Manzer Dykeman, Benj. Titus, and John McAlpine, exhibiting. The judges awarded Messrs. Fox, 1st; Belyea, 2nd; Colwell, 3rd. Sucking cows were shown by Slipp Bros., who received 1st; G. L. Colwell, who took 2nd; J. McD. Belyea, 3rd, and by Manzer Dykeman.

For general purposes were shown by Edmond Buzze, Charles Colwell, J. G. Titus, and John Holder, Holder receiving 1st prize, Titus 2nd, and Buzze 3rd. The teams were all good and made a fine show. A filly and gelding 3 years old, were shown by G. L. Colwell, James McAlpine and Alfred McAlpine, and carried prizes in the order named. Frost Colwell's

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1879.

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THOS. LOGAN.

Fredricton, Sept. 27, 1879.