

THE HOME.

"The matter 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, from week to week during the year, will be worth several times the subscription price of the paper.

A WOMAN'S SONG TO WOMAN.

Pull the needle, swing the broom, Tidy up the littered room, Patch the trousers, darn the shirt, Fight the daily dust and dirt; All around you trust your skill, Confident of kindness still.

Stir the gruel, knead the bread, Tax your hands, and heart, and head; Children sick and household hungry; (Though some thoughtless words have stung you).

All are waiting on your will, Confident of kindness still. Never mind the glance oblique, Never cause of coldness seek, Never notice slight or frown, By your conduct live them down; All at last will seek your skill, Confident of kindness still.

Lift your heart and lift your eyes, Let continual prayer arise; Think of all the Saviour's woes When He walked with man below, How poor sinners sought His skill, Confident of kindness still.

Sing the song and tell the story, Of the Saviour's coming here; To the children whom He blesses With your guidance and caresses, Who for all things wait your will, Confident of kindness still.

Feed the hungry and the weak, Words of cheer and comfort speak, Be the angel of the poor, Teach them bravely to endure, Show them this, the Father's will, Confident of kindness still.

Gratitude may be your lot, Then be thankful; but, if not, Are you better than your Lord, Who endured the cross and sword From those very hands whose skill Waited ever on His will?

Noble is a life of care If a holy zeal be there; All your little deeds of love Heavenward helps at last may prove If you seek your Father's will, Trusting in His kindness still.

THE HOME.

June.

June by universal acclamation is the month of roses, the leafy month, and in all her characteristics deserves the high eulogiums which poets have ever lavished upon her. Without the fickleness of April or May or the scorching heats of July and August, she is truly the month of nature's most lavish exuberance of color and fragrance. In all ages since old Roman times June has been considered the most auspicious month for weddings and betrothals, although her immediate predecessor, May, was considered the most unlucky month in all the year in which to contract marriage. "The bridal of May," says an old adage, "is the bridal of death," and no reason can be assigned for this dismal idea, except that the Romans 2,000 years ago celebrated their festival in honor of the dead in this month, and singularly enough our only festival in honor of the dead is held in the same month. The rush of weddings that occur in the beginning of June and the scarcity of weddings that occur in May go far to prove the power that old superstitions still exert.

There are many other superstitions that are recalled by the month. It used to be always considered unlucky for a bride couple on the way to church to meet a monk, a priest, a dog, cat or serpent, and these were singled out as obnoxious on very reasonable grounds, as all being in some way inimical to the richest bliss of the married state—monks and priests not accepting it for themselves, though with enough joining others, dogs and cats being symbolical of the most unhappy union possible and the serpent having broken up the original happy home. But to meet a wolf, a toad or an spider was an auspicious omen indeed, but upon what grounds it was considered as not so auspicious, the Charivari or horning party, which is now quite common in some of our villages, especially on the occasion of an ill-assorted marriage, was a custom away back in the early centuries, and was the subject of a special order from the church. The fee now given to the minister was formerly purchase money for the bride given to herself to "bind the bargain," and the ring was originally merely a part of this purchase money, the system of wedding presents which has now become so formidable probably arose from the "penny weddings" of Queen Bess's time, when it was a custom for all the guests to contribute something to the couple at the wedding feast.

To the city resident, June also represents the time for the annual exodus to green fields, seashore, lake and mountain, and for this is welcome enough to make it a favorite month with its traditions or its beauty.—N. Y. Tribune.

The Laundry. The first June days are welcome to the good laundry woman. No artificial bleachers do such work as the green grass and sunshine. Winter clothes are quite likely to have acquired something of a yellow hue. They may now be bleached to a snowy whiteness and acquire the fragrance of clover.

Household linen, which no housekeeper allows to be frozen, will bleach in a few days if spread on the green grass in the bright sun and sprinkled three or four times a day. No bleaching but this is strictly safe, though the market abounds with bleaching fluids and bleaching powders. No prudent housekeeper uses a soap or fluid of such strength that it dyes the dirt out of the clothes without rubbing. The rubbing-board remains to-day as much of a necessity as it was the day before washing machines were invented.

One great labor-saving machine has been given to the laundry which actually does its work better than it can possibly be done by hand, and that is the wringer. There appears so far no possible way of inventing a machine to take the place of hand-rubbing, one that will select out the spots that need rubbing

and will soap and rub them especially, giving the remainder of the garment merely a general washing. It is true that a washing machine does the work quite as intelligently as the unskilled washerwoman who does her work with no regard to the necessities of the case, but this is no recommendation.

There is a great deal to be said about soaking clothes over night. If they are merely plunged in cold water it is better to leave them unsoaked, but if each garment is carefully looked over, the fruit and coffee stains removed with boiling water and all the other stains treated as they should be, and the clothes then soaked in cold water over night, a little soap being rubbed on the wrists and other parts of the garments which are especially soiled, it will prove a success. The careful laundress puts her clothes in one tub and her finer clothes in another, and she begins by washing her finer clothes.

Where the water is hard, as it is in certain parts of the country where the water supply comes from mountain springs, it will be necessary to add a certain amount of ammonia or borax to soften it. Two tablespoonfuls of ammonia to a gallon of water or a half-pound of borax to five gallons of water is fully sufficient. This should be used in the rubbing water and again in the rinsing water. There should be an amount of melted soap put in the boiler and this will probably soften the water sufficiently for boiling. It is a great mistake to allow clothes to boil any great length of time. As soon as they are fairly boiling they should be removed to the rinsing water. Too much cannot be said in regard to the necessity of thorough rinsing. If the clothes are thoroughly rinsed they may be slightly blued and, though this is not a necessity, it gives a pleasing tint when properly done which is very desirable. Some good laundresses blue their clothes every other time they are washed. This is by far the best plan as it forestalls any attempt of the laundress to cover up the stains by the use of bluing. In order to treat the different sets of clothes washed in alternate weeks let the first two weeks' washing be blued and then omit the bluing during the next two washings. With plenty of fresh air and good light, especially if you have even washing day may not be always so sorry a day as it is usually pictured.—N. Y. Tribune.

Remarkable Roadwork. In 1871 a piece of well-made dirt road in the small village of Gilbert, one and a half miles east of the city of Davenport, Iowa, was selected for a little experiment. The road was 60 ft. wide, with sidewalks and gutters, the latter occupying about 16 ft. leaving 44 ft. for the highway proper. Five feet from the centre line of this 44 ft., on both sides of it, were staked boards, end to end, 1 ft. wide. Between these boards was dumped broken limestone, broken fine enough to pass through a 2-in. ring. When the space between the boards was two thirds full the first boards filled were moved forward and staked as before. When the boards were removed the upper edges of the rock rolled down, thus widening the rock track from 1 to 2 ft., leaving on each side of the stone a good dirt road 16 ft. wide.

When the dirt surface became muddy the travel went over the stone center, which soon became solid and smooth. This experiment, completed in 1873, was made on one of the thoroughfares to Davenport. The travel over it was probably five times as much as upon the average country road. For sixteen years it remained in perfect condition. Within the last two years about \$8 has been expended upon it in repairs. It is in perfect condition still. Its original cost was 90 cents for each 25 cubic feet of stone. Had the same policy continued every rod of highway in the district would have been macadamized at this time, and no separate collectors, except the ordinary highway tax, and from one-half to two thirds that tax might now be relinquished.—E. S. Gilbert.

About Nubbins. It was the regular evening session of the Post-office Club, and incidentally corn-growing came up. Richard Baxter had been bothered to get his man to huck the corn, and he had called them all right, but in the course of a month the rats ate them all out, and he lost them. John Wesley said he got a little belated about his planting. The boys went fishing the day he expected to plant, and a big rain coming that night had the ground all to his again, and it delayed them two weeks. He thought he would build a silo, and then he wouldn't have to have the corn ripen or nibbled. Isaac Newton said he and his boys hucked the corn, and he had to make sure it was all hucked. His ground was a little wet, and he planted late. Having caught them before they got all worked, and he had lots of small corn. Roger Williams said small nubbins are mighty good to feed to dry cows if you have any, and if your ground is poor, and he was going to get some manure, but it was wet and he got belated, and so it laid in the barnyard. He allowed to get it on to the wheat ground, but he and his wife went just talking about hucking corn. How do you get your men to huck the nubbins when you hire hucking by the bushel? "Easy enough. I don't raise nubbins," and John filled his numerous pockets with mail and went into the darkness.—L. B. Pierce.

Household Hints. In an emergency, we half stumbled upon, half invented a pudding, that proved as very acceptable a delicacy as that it is now one of our stand-bys. First beat smoothly together, one coffee-cupful of powdered sugar, and a cupful of butter, make this a smooth cream, then gradually stir in three cups of milk; when smooth pour this slowly upon two cups of flour. Put in the egg beater and beat for five minutes and then beat in the frothed whites of six eggs, beat five minutes more, and pour into a well-buttered pudding dish. Bake one hour in a moderate oven. It is quite a thin batter. It is a beautiful pudding in appearance, and in taste delicate and delicious. We want a good sauce for it. Take two of the yolks of the eggs, beat to a cream with half a cupful of more of butter and one cupful of sugar. Set in a pan of hot water, and stir till it thickens. Add a pinch of salt and half a cupful of any fruit syrup. The pudding should be served as soon as it comes from the oven. The experiment met with such success the pudding was at once patented the "Nonpareil."

Stock and Crop Nutrition. It is true but truthful to liken an animal to a machine. But there is a fitness in the comparison that might be constantly remembered and made use of. In regard to manure, for instance, how simply it is explained that as one may put chaff into a mill and get nothing but chaff out of it, so when straw is fed the manure is nothing more than the poor remains of the same worthless stuff. And so, too, when an animal is the purchaser of a product, he gets the most nutritious food, the manure is much more valuable as retaining the larger part of the value of the food. It is the food ever and always, and not the animal, to which the value of the manure is due. Thus the manure made in feed-

THE FARM.

Smothered Plant Roots.

As our fields grow older, the soil shows more and more tendency to crust after rain. Heavy manuring with clover and barnyard fertilizer furnishes humus in sufficient quantity to prevent this in some degree, but most farms have fields that crust badly. It takes corn about eight days from planting to get through the ground, although some hills show in six days, when weather is favorable, and a few may be ten days in the peering. It is too common a custom to leave the fields untouched from time of planting until the plants are three inches high and sturdy enough to withstand a little soil from the plough. Rain, following the planting, breaks the surface, and the sun causes it to bake. This covering excludes air from the germinating seed, or, in case the plant has reached the surface, it starves the young roots. The roots of plants require air as truly as do human beings.

The harrow or weeder should be used as soon after every rain as the condition of the soil allows. Any delay permits the crust to harden and weeds to start. After setting out sweet potatoes, strawberries or other plants a rain from the surface, following the planting, breaks the surface, and the sun causes it to bake. This covering excludes air from the germinating seed, or, in case the plant has reached the surface, it starves the young roots. The roots of plants require air as truly as do human beings.

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ing a ton of straw is worth only \$2, while that made in feeding a ton cottonseed meal is worth \$28. In fact, it is one of the most important matters for farmers' thought that the feeding of animals is really the feeding of the land, and as the former is liberal and rich, so is the latter. This very fact must have been present to the mind of the great Cicerone when he wrote that "the feeding of animals is the most important part of husbandry."

In all farm practice the feeding of the crops has hitherto been dependent on the feeding of animals. And it would be so now, were it not that a substitute for yard manure has been found in the fertilizers so bountifully and seasonably provided by nature for the exigency in which we find ourselves, as the result of the advance of cattle-feeding over the broad, beautiful plains of the West. The farmer has been unable to compete with these cheap pastures, and feeding stock has become unprofitable, except under specially favorable circumstances. So it has been found necessary to study the feeding of crops in a scientific way. And we are in this study by the very means general principles involved that control the feeding of animals. Every element of plant-growth is to be provided, and the residue not consumed remains mostly in the soil for use of succeeding crops. Never before has intelligence and thorough study of principles as necessary for success in the work of the farm. Happily our farmers are rising to the level of this requirement, and educating themselves for their higher position in the world.—Tribune.

TEMPERANCE.

The liquor traffic is no friend to the workman so far as employment is concerned. It gives occupation to fewer men than any other business in proportion to its capital. For example, the annual output of a brewery estimated at \$5,000,000 employs but 600 men, while an iron ore works of the same capital requires 4,800 laborers.

The Mohammedans are by their religion forbidden the use of wine, but as brandy and cognac are new inventions since their holy books were written they are consequently not forbidden, and while the poorer class of Turks are very temperate, the higher classes (with some noble exceptions) are getting to use a great deal of strong drink.

Reports from Alaska indicate that the natives are becoming demoralized by the liquor forced upon them by law-breaking traders. Government officers wink at infractions of the law. The teachers in the government mission school, however, have just petitioned the Secretary of the Interior for authority to act as justices of the peace.

The Lewiston Journal thus comments on the action of the Maine Hotel-keepers' Association against prohibition: "When the era of prohibition first set in a year ago, we were informed that in hotels could not be successfully run by water power. Since prohibition was inaugurated, Maine hotels have deteriorated from a most limited and primitive condition into great and fashionable places of entertainment, especially in response to the demand of summer leisure. Elimination of the bar has made healthy family life possible at Maine hotels."

The United Kingdom Alliance has, according to its annual custom, published a statement of the amount of wines, spirituous liquors and beer consumed in Great Britain and Ireland during the year 1891, and it shows the bill for intoxicants to be a pretty stiff one. The total spent in intoxicating drinks during the twelve months was considerably over two million, 000,000—an average of \$18 for every man, woman and child in the country, or \$90 for every family in the course of the year. The bill for 1891 was nearly \$8,000,000 greater than the bill for 1890, but this increase was not more than what would naturally arise from the increase of population.

The Christian Union of young people at Abokuti, West Africa, has addressed a letter to the committee upon the liquor traffic with the natives, in which is set forth, as follows, the evils resulting from the spirituous liquors of Europe: "The country is inundated with rum and gin; the inhabitants are dying; there is no longer any order; anarchy reigns everywhere; kings and officers abuse their position; parents and children do not acknowledge their mutual duties, and what is more deplorable, infants are brought up on these poisonous drinks." The committee on the decisions of the Brussels Conference, the Imperial Niger Company has resolved absolutely to prohibit the importation and the trade in alcoholic liquors in the region which it is opening.

For Scrofula

"After suffering for about twenty-five years from scrofulous sores on the legs and arms, trying various medical courses without benefit, I began to use Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and a wonderful cure was the result. Five bottles sufficed to restore me to health."—Bonifacio Lopez, 30 E. Commerce st., San Antonio, Texas.

Catarrh

"My daughter was afflicted for nearly a year with catarrh. The physician being unable to help her, my pastor recommended Ayer's Sarsaparilla, following his advice, three months of regular treatment with Ayer's Sarsaparilla and Ayer's Pills completely cured my daughter. I can testify to the efficacy of this medicine."—R. H. Little, Little Canada, Ware, Mass.

Rheumatism

"For several years, I was troubled with inflammatory rheumatism, being so bad at times as to be entirely helpless. For the last two years, when the pain was at its height, I began to use Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and have not had a spell for a long time."—E. T. Hamsburg, Elk Run, Va.

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