

stated that he had read Mr. Weld's paper for three years, and could heartily endorse the resolution as true in every particular. He asserted, without contradiction from Mr. Weld, that a letter written by him (Mr. Rennie) in reference to the case of the death of the spring lambs already referred to, was refused insertion in the *Farmers' Advocate* on one pretext and another, even insinuating that he had been induced to write the letter by the college authorities, which statement he characterized as utterly false. Another ex-student condemned the coarse and scurrilous attacks of the *Advocate*, and wished Mr. Weld to instance a case in which he had offered any suggestion for its improvement. The scene was of a lively character, Mr. Weld being given every opportunity of defending himself. Prof. Brown and Principal Mills suggested the withdrawal of the resolution, which was acceded to, the mover expressing himself to the effect that unless the College got fair play from the *Advocate* the resolution could be brought up again that year and passed.

It matters little what course the *Advocate* decides to take in the premises. The College has succeeded in the past in spite of adverse criticisms in its columns and in the speeches of Opposition members of the Assembly. It will continue to succeed, and prove itself an increasing power for good, even should these malicious attacks be continued.

#### RURAL TOPICS AT McHENRY'S.—II.

BY JEAN BAPTISTE.

It was a spring rain-storm that crowded McHenry's store, when the conversation of which I took notes took place, and the men were all sitting on the counter looking over a thin book that the store-keeper had thrown at Paul Quesnel.

"Golly!" said that worthy Canadian, trying to imitate the English sound in this expletive, but making a dismal failure, "three hundred and fifty varieties of potatoes this book says, how can a fellow tell which to plant?"

"I stick to the old 'Chilli,'" said Pete Duffy. "Garden Chillis are most bulk on the ground of any of yer new-fangled sorts."

The store-keeper was measuring out some molasses, and as he wiped his fingers on a canvas bag he said with slow deliberation, "Wal, I tried some of the new sorts last spring. There's 'Rosy Morn.' It didn't turn out much, but the 'White Star' is a tearer. Early? N-no, but it keeps well, and stands drouth in a dry season. It's as dry an' floury as meal, and pure white in flesh, and then the leaves don't attract them potato bugs. Somehow they can't manage to eat 'em all. I guess they grow too fast and are too strong in the vine."

Several of the men spoke in favour of the "Mammoth Pearl," which was selected from over 2,500 seedlings, and gives big crops in spite of the bugs, is free from rot and never hollow.

Francois Laberge thought there was nothing like new land for soil, and wood ashes for fertilizers for the potato, and he said that scab was caused by putting on too much fresh manure, though you couldn't feed a potato too much of the right sort.

The store-keeper said he had sprouted some tubers in damp sand, with a little moss over it, beside the kitchen stove, and allowed they would be a good fortnight earlier than if only planted out of doors. It was the new early kind, "Sunrise."

Pete Duffy said he could beat that all hollow by putting single eyes in three-inch pots, then a little earth, and plunge them in the hot-bed.

Paul Quesnel said he believed in clover sod turned under in the fall for his potato crop; and he knew from experience that ashes prevented the rot in bad years.

So they talked and smoked till the fire burned low and McHenry put up the shutters and then stretched himself with a loud yawn that gave us the hint to trudge home, and by this time the frogs were piping, and the stars out.

#### A BED OF LILIES.

BY ANNIE L. JACK.

In laying out our gardens in early spring it would be well to consider if we could not have permanent flower beds of such plants as will not need yearly renewal. There is nothing finer after roses than a bed of lilies of various kinds, and a succession of bloom can be obtained from June until frost comes. Of course the Japan lilies *L. Anraturum* comes first, the showiest and most perfect. It varies greatly in the time of flowering, being altogether uncertain—plants that bloom in July one year may wait until September the next.

To my taste the loveliest lily of all is the *L. Longiflorum*, and *Candidum*. In rich moist land it grows with very little care and is hardy in Canada, if slightly covered with coarse litter. They are propagated by division of the bulbs, and the small bulblets on the stem flower in three years. The perfume of these lilies is overpowering, it is often called the "virgin's lily," and is a type of purity. The *L. Lancifolium* is very beautiful, as is the *L. Chalcedonicum*. A bed of lilies should be a little removed from the house, in a somewhat shaded situation and with a thick border of Lily of the Valley, a group of *Anraturums* in the centre, and a row of the *Funkia* or Day Lily nearer the edge with *Longiflorums* and other choice kinds to fill spaces, it can be made a bed of great beauty all through the season. And it is a pleasant recreation to a weary heart, to see the developments of the different species, to help in the cultivation of these beautiful creations, and to "Consider the lilies how they grow."

#### APPEARANCES.

Appearances may often deceive, but the world judges things by them. The outward show and semblance are generally taken as a token of the intrinsic value. This is characteristic of men, who for the greater part take no trouble to think for themselves, but take their opinions as they do their clothes, ready-made. But it is foolish to strive against a swift current when one can reach the desired end so much more easily by going with it, and therefore it is best to accommodate one's self to the popular habits and make a show of virtue, whether we have it or not. In regard to this popular habit, however, it is very often a true index to the character of the man whose surroundings are noted; and a slovenly front yard, a toppling fence, a dislocated gate, a reeking, filthy barnyard, and general looseness and untidiness about the homestead, are pretty certain to indicate a careless, unthrifty farmer. On the contrary, a homestead about which neatness and order everywhere prevail, where the stock is well kept, the buildings and yards clean, the fences in good order, the

gates substantially hung, and always closed and fastened; the orchards neatly trimmed and pruned, the lawn green and closely mowed, the shrubs, trees, and flower borders well kept; all these necessarily proclaim the owner an orderly, industrious, thrifty farmer, whose prosperity may be measured by the prevailing appearance of his surroundings.

Thus one may travel along the roads and note down as he goes, with a good deal of accuracy, the character of the inhabitants. He may get a deeper and still more accurate test if he goes behind the scenes and views the back yards, the rear fences, and the distant fields. If the hindsight is similar to the front view, the owner may be put down very safely as an upright, honest, consistent man, in whom there is no deceit or guile, and who does not put on a show for the sake of appearances and to get a reputation which is not wholly deserved; so that appearances really do not deceive when they are tested thoroughly, but only when the outward show is partial, superficial, and but thinly disguised.

Every farmer should be jealous of the appearance of his home for his own credit. He will stand well with his neighbours and be respected by strangers in proportion to his deserts in this respect. It is his duty to himself, as well as to his neighbours, to thus enhance the reputation and value of his locality. It is a virtue, too, to be encouraged for its results upon the man himself. It is disciplinary. It is a part of a man's training which does not end until he dies, for it has a great effect upon his general habits and character. Still more important is the fact that it is a training for his children, and helps to form their character and strengthen their self-respect, which is a very important factor in the problem of the young person's moral life. For all these reasons this timely subject should receive careful attention and should be put in practice forthwith. One need not say he has not the means to make a show and to expend money upon the adornment of his home. This is not what is meant. It is putting the best appearance upon what we have and not striving for something we cannot reach. A farmer in homespun, if his dress is scrupulously clean and neat, is quite as respectable as another in broadcloth. It is the manner and not the material which counts. A plain board fence, if neatly and strongly put up, and a rough gate evenly hung and provided with a good latch, which should be used, and a smooth plot in front of the house, if nothing more than grass, with tidy footpaths and a clean, well fenced barn-yard in the rear, will serve to mark the man as well as the ornamental scroll-work fence of his richer neighbour. In fact, plainness, if it is neat and substantial, is better than the greater pretense of the more elaborate show, brilliant in all fashionable colored paints and the gaudy flowers chosen chiefly for their conspicuous colours.—*N. Y. Times*.

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