

Recreations of the Young.

FIRST LECTURE—ACCIDENTS FROM FIRE-ARMS

In commencing a department for the recreations of the young in the Canadian Illustrated News, the Editor promises a short, very short introductory lecture, which will be renewed as frequently as space will admit. For clearness of statement he prefers writing in the first person singular.

I have been a soldier, and was in seven battles besides many skirmishes, which, to those engaged in them, were as hard work and as dangerous as greater battles. What do you think the first thing taught to me was, when as a recruit I joined one of the crack cavalry regiments of the British army? It was, that whenever I laid hold of the pistol, or the carbine (a short gun which the cavalry then used) after it had been out of my sight, I was to assume that it might be loaded, and was to try with the ramrod whether it was or not.

What do you think the first great crime is, for which the Articles of War prescribe the punishment of death? It is, in relation to the cavalry soldier's sword: 'He who shall draw, or offer to draw his sword upon any officer or non-commissioned officer, shall suffer—death.' The Articles of War prohibit in like manner the threatening of those in command with fire-arms. The lessons of recruits teach that it is a crime to point any fire-arm at any person whatsoever, even in sport.

Boys have the aspiration of men; they imitate men, and it being the law of their nature implanted in them by the Creator it must be right. The wrong of imitation is in doing that which is wrong for grown men to do. And men are careless in handling fire-arms. Young fellows think it 'manly,' poor foo's; to carry a gun carelessly. They carry it heedlessly and often dangerously for themselves as well as for others, thinking it a fine thing to show that they are not afraid. Not afraid of what? of killing or wounding a companion, a friend, a sister, a mother.—It might be painful to living persons were I to recount the names of dearly beloved friends, of good and highly esteemed public men whose lives have been lost within a very short time from this date, by the incautious use of fire-arms. The Mayor of a town in Lancashire, England, shot his companion dead, an eminent manufacturing engineer, who was out with him shooting grouse on the moors. They were passing through a hedge. Had the Mayor held his fowling piece in his right hand, the lock at about the level of his shoulder, the butt down, the muzzle to the sky and slanting forward, while with his left hand he pushed the bush aside to get through, there would have been no cause for the gun to go off, and if it had the charge would not have struck his friend nor any one else.

Never point gun or pistol at a person.—A part from the danger, it is distinctive of a coward to do so. The boy or man who points pistol or gun at another person for amusement, is at heart a coward. He seeks sport by making others afraid. The truly brave are always careful of the feelings and safety of their companions. When the gun is in wicked carelessness, pointed at some timid companion, or as has happened in several instances in Canada, at little girls, lately at a sister, and more horrible still at a mother, and it was snapped and went off, and shot the helpless, the beloved, the dearly beloved relations, or companions, the cry of the perpetrator was instantly 'I did not think it was loaded; I was sure it was empty.'

Just so. And you, with very little knowledge, set yourself higher than the whole British army; for their experience leads them, as I have just said, to teach the recruit from the commencement, that every fire-arm which has been out of his sight for any time, for the space of a step to the window even, is to be treated as probably loaded. He must not trust to the word of a comrade, but spring his ramrod and satisfy himself.

You should not snap the lock without a cap lest you break the nipple. You should not snap with a cap unless after proof, not supposition, but certain proof that the barrel is empty. Nor under any circumstances whatever, should you point the fire-arm at another person, or at yourself, and snap it. Nor should it be pointed at any one though not snapped, and though known to be empty. However frolicsome, boastful, full of bravado the boy or man may be who finds sport in pointing a gun at another, he is at heart a coward. All my experience of boys and of men, whether in military service or civil life affirms that conclusion.

I shall revert to the handling of fire-arms again, and tell how they should be handled under different conditions of position and circumstance. Let us now to some of the

puzzles and enigmas. Here is one which I knew when a boy, and have not seen in print though possibly it has often been printed. I had it from an old sailor. Let it be called

THE SAILOR'S PUZZLE.

We had thirty people aboard our ship; half Greeks half Turks. Our captain was a Greek, but spoke English very well. He hated the Turks; so that when it became necessary that half of thirty persons should be thrown overboard to save the lives of the rest, and it was agreed that the whole should be ranged in a circle on deck, and every ninth man thrown over, how do you think he ranged them so that every ninth man should be a Turk, yet mixing them to avoid suspicious appearances? He began with a doggerel rhyme:

"From numbers, aid, and art,
Never will fame depart;

meaning by fame that he would not lose his good reputation. The way he went to work was to count what place the vowels in those two lines occupy in the English alphabet. The letter O in the word 'From' being the fourth vowel, he placed four Greeks in a row. The letter U in the word numbers being the fifth vowel, he took five Turks and placed them next to the four Greeks. The letter E in numbers being the second vowel he took two Greeks and placed them next to the five Turks, and so on with all the vowels contained in those two lines, and with the thirty people Greeks and Turks alternately. Try it on a slate making a mark, as G and T, to indicate the persons; you will see that every T goes out plump; and you can amuse others without disclosing all at once how it is done. Only tell what the captain said.

'Will of Brampton,' patient, persevering, good-natured, sends another enigma.—Here it is. Next week the first one will be inserted. It was not refused on its merits, but because we could only then give it a hurried glance:

ENIGMA.

I am composed of twenty-nine letters:
My 8, 11, 27, 7, 13, is a boy's name.
My 25, 3, 18 is a beverage.
My 20, 7, 4, 16 is a practice the Americans are very much accustomed to.
My 29, 8, 3, 22, 25, is a kind of grain.
My 28, 12, 6, 29, 10 is the name of a coin.
My 25, 26, 21, 6, 10, 25, 6, is a city in Canada.
My 14, 19, 22, 27, 1, is a county in Canada West.
My 17, 9, 6, 19, 17, 3, is the name of my brother.
My 5, 18, 23, 24, is very disagreeable weather.
My 29, 2, 15, 25, 11, is a color.

My whole is the address of a young gentleman who wishes the correspondence of some amiable and accomplished young lady, tending to matrimony.

Brampton, May 18, 1863. WILL.

Will, and every one else should write, when sending anything for publication, only on one side of the paper, and such words as are not to be printed the same week with the enigma should be written on a separate piece of paper, or on the same to be easily detached.

THE WAITER'S PUZZLE.

Here is one which looks like the sailor's puzzle, but there is no key sent with it:

Twenty-one persons sat down to dinner at an inn, with the landlord at the head of the table. When dinner was finished it was resolved that one of the number should pay the whole score, to be decided as follows: A person should commence counting the company, and every seventh man was to rise from his seat, until all were counted out but one, who was to be the individual who should pay the whole bill. One of the waiters was selected to count the company who, owing his master a grudge, resolved to make him the person who should have to pay. How must he proceed to accomplish this? F. O. C.

A PUZZLE FOR ANYBODY.

A man riding on a donkey came to a toll-gate, where, to his dismay, a penny toll was demanded. He had not so much as a penny in his possession; he did not borrow a penny, no one gave him a penny, nor did he find a penny; but go through he must; so he paid a penny and went on his way. Can any one tell how he obtained the needed penny?

CHARADE.—Can any one solve the following charade? It has been stated by the Principal of Cambridge College:

'A headless man had a letter to write,
'Twas read by one who lost his sight,
The Dumb repeated it word for word,
And he was Deaf who listen'd and heard.'

And now, happy, mirthful, youthful young ones, as we have much to do for the present

paper with the Queen's birth-day festivals, Flower shows, Regattas, Military reviews, and words of hope to write to the unemployed Factory people of England Scotland and Ireland, I quit you for a week, and conclude with this cheerful song. If you would be healthy and happy, get up early:

Get up early! Time is precious;
Waste it not in bed.
Get up early! while the dew-drops
O'er the fields are spread;
Get up early! when the red sun
First begins to rise;
Get up early! when the darkness
Fades from the earth and skies.

Get up early! It is sinful
To be wasting time.
Get up early! when the dear birds
Sing their morning chime;
Get up early! while the flowers
Blush upon the sod;
Get up early! while all nature
Blesses nature's God.

Agricultural.

GARDEN AND DOMESTIC.

First, we congratulate the Farmers of this Province on the superb weather; Never within the range of the white man's memory did Canada bear such promise of abundance as this year. Unlike the last season when there was almost no grass for want of rain, grass and everything else is rushing into growth with a rapidity almost marvellous.

We have to thank the publisher of the Lower Canada Agriculturist for that journal. Will the publisher of the official Agriculturist for Upper Canada, be so good as oblige us with that paper? Also the publishers of the Genesee Farmer, and Rural New Yorker with theirs?

The first five items were crowded out from 'Garden Memoranda' last week.

Sow RED PEPPERS in open ground in a seed bed. When three inches high, transplant to eighteen inches apart each way; hoe frequently.

PARSNIPS require a deep rich soil. Sow in drills, one inch deep, and the drills 15 inches apart. Cultivate the same as directed for Carrots.

RADISHES.—They require a deep, sandy soil that has been well cultivated and manured the previous year.

RHUBARB.—Sow in drills an inch deep. Thin out to six inches apart. In the fall, trench a piece of ground and manure it well, then transplant the young plants into it, three feet apart each way. Cover with leaves or litter the first winter, and a dressing of coarse manure should be given every fall.

SPINACH is a useful vegetable, and very hardy. Seed sown in the month of September will stand over the winter, and come in for early greens in the spring. For summer use, seed of the round Spinach may be sown from May to July. It requires a rich soil. Sow in drills one foot apart.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

We have seen the tobacco plant growing as luxuriantly at the town of Dundas, at the west end of Lake Ontario as it grows anywhere, but extensive experiment is required to prove if its culture can be relied on in all seasons. We quote from an account of its cultivation in Connecticut:—

PREPARATION OF THE SEED BED.—We have generally prepared the seed bed in the fall, by heavy manuring, ploughing in deep, and leaving the bed in a rough state till the following spring. As soon as the frost is out of the ground, spade the bed over, for the purpose of bringing the manure to the surface and thoroughly mixing with the soil at the same time clearing out all roots of weeds and grass.

After levelling the bed we make the soil as compact as possible, either by rolling with a heavy roller or tramping with the feet. We then rake the surface lightly with a fine tooth garden rake, and sow the seed, raking lightly to cover it, and then roll or tramp it again.

The seed is so very small, being smaller than mustard seed, that it is better to mix it with dry muck or ashes before sowing, as it is more evenly distributed on the bed. We sow about as thickly as in sowing cabbage seed in the garden. The bed is treated precisely as a bed in the garden, in weeding, &c.

When the plants have three or four leaves, which should be about the middle of May, on a rainy day we sow on about two quarts of fine guano per square rod, being particular to sow on the guano while it rains, for if the sun comes out soon after it is sown, there is danger of burning the leaves.

PREPARATION OF THE GROUND.—In preparing the ground for setting out the plants,

we think it best to harrow in the manure, which should be fine compost. We use from forty to sixty ox-cart loads per acre—(the ox-cart load is about thirty-five bushels.)

We use Shears' Coulter harrow for the purpose of thoroughly incorporating the manure with the soil.

The land being manured and well harrowed, we set the teeth of our marker three and a-half feet apart, and mark it out one way. We then raise a ridge about six inches high, by turning two furrows together with a one horse plough. The ridges being made, we mark across them making the marks two and a-half feet apart.

We generally have used some special manure for the purpose of giving the plant a start. We have tried Peruvian guano, about 300 to 600 pounds per acre; castor pomace, from 300 to 2,000 pounds per acre and the Lodi Companies pourette two to four barrels per acre.

The guano and castor pomace it is necessary to sow on the marks, or in a furrow made for the purpose, before making the ridges, (thus being directly over the guano or pomace) as so large a quantity placed in the hills would destroy the plant.

We like the pourette best, as we can place that in the hills without injury to the plant.

We also think that the pourette gives the best tobacco.

We make the hills at each intersection of the marks, with a hoe, spitting them lightly, thus making the hills three and a-half by two and a-half feet.

We set the plants from the 5th to the 15th of June, choosing, if possible, a rainy or damp day for the purpose though I have seen very handsome crops raised set as late as July.

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO THE CROP.—Some years we have been greatly troubled by cut worms, for which reason we have been in the habit of ploughing in a green crop, either hay or clover, which feeds the worms, and consequently they do not eat the tobacco so badly.

The cut worm usually finishes its work of destruction by July 1st, up to which time, when a rainy day comes all hands turn and set over the plants missing.

The green, or tobacco worm proper, commences operating about July first. We often find the eggs (of the miller, which produces the worm) on the under side of the leaf; they are about the size of a large pin's head, and a light pea color. The miller flies by night, and is rarely seen. I have never seen but two in the years we have raised tobacco. The head looks very much like an owl's; the body is grey in color, about 1½ inches long and the wings, when spread, extended about 3 inches from tip to tip. The green worm is a constant source of annoyance from its first appearance until the tobacco is cut. We sometimes have to go over the ground every day for worms, though in some seasons once a week will suffice.

The manner of harvesting and preparing tobacco for market, we will return to at the proper time.

Hay is selling at from \$20 to \$23 per ton in Toronto.

HOW TO CALCULATE A LOAD OF HAY.—I send you a method, says a correspondent, by which, with but little time and trouble, any one can tell what their load of hay or straw amounts to, by simply taking the weight multiplied by half the price per ton—for example, say 3,300 lbs. hay at \$18 per ton—3,300 lbs. multiplied by half of 18, which is 9, gives the amount—so too with fractions. You may know this, but I can find any number of men that never heard of it.

PEAS WITH POTATOES.—In a letter in the Agricultural Gazette, an English paper, a cultivator states that a single pea inserted into each piece of potatoe that is planted, will produce a large crop of peas, and tend to check disease in the potato.

The following is not agricultural information, and we trust it may never be needed as domestic or medical by any reader of the C. I. N., but we insert it:

REMEDY FOR THE BITE OF A MAD DOG.—A Saxon forester, named Gastell, now of the venerable age of eighty-two, unwilling to take to the grave with him a secret of so much importance, has made public, in the Leipzig Journal, the means which he has used for fifty years, and wherewith he affirms he has rescued many human beings and cattle from the fearful death of hydrophobia. Take immediately warm vinegar, or tepid water, wash the wound clean therewith, and then dry it, pour then upon the wound a few drops of muriatic acid, because mineral acids destroy the poison of the saliva, by which means the latter is neutralized.