

HOME READING.

Fire-side Sparks.

From Judy.

An anxious inquirer wishes to know whether a Jack Tar at the Derby may be described as an Epsom salt.

Enigma.—The play was at its height in the card-room of a well-known club, and from a distant corner was heard, "We are two, to two!" "By Jove, we are two to two too!" responded a player at an adjoining table. No wonder that a German there at present looked our language to a French horn.

(From Fun.)

First Costermonger.—"Suppose you'll go to-morrow, Bill?" "Second ditto." "Well, I don't think so. You see, what with the increased income tax and the price of champagne I don't think it'll run to this year."

To the Point.—Mrs. O'Braghan, "Shure an it's truth I've bin tallin' ye, Mrs. Muggins; you never caught a lie a-comin out of my mouth." Mrs. M., "No, indeed, Mrs. O'Braghan, they comes out so fast nobody couldn't catch 'em."

Snocking.—A contemporary has the following advertisement:—Wanted, a general servant, capable of plain cooking, and able to dress a little boy four years old. "We should have thought that a little girl of one or two years would have been more delicate and tender. But what an awful cannibal the advertiser must be! We beg to call the attention of the home secretary to this."

Isn't every policeman an arrest-ocrat?

Patient waiters.—Physicians without practice.

A flourishing man.—The professor of penmanship.

The sky, unlike man, is most cheerful when the bluest.

What sort of meat is never cheap?—Venison; it is always dear.

The new Connaught Rangers.—The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.

The present motto of the Peace Society.—Peace upon a Frencher.

An advertisement in a country paper says;—"Two sisters want washing. Apply."

Why are balloons in the air like vagrants? Because they have no visible means of support.

The beauty of the man parting his hair in the middle appears to be that it gives both ears an equal chance to flap.

Brave Woman.

Some Iroquois, in the year 1690, attacked the fort de Vercheres, in Canada, which belonged to the French, and approached silently, hoping to scale the walls, when some musket-shot forced them to retire; on their advancing a second time they were again repulsed, in wonder and amazement that they could perceive no person, excepting a woman who was seen everywhere. This was Madame de Vercheres, who conducted herself with as much resolution and courage as if supported by a numerous garrison. The idea of storming a place wholly undefended, except by women, occasioned the Iroquois to attack the fortress repeatedly, but, after two days' siege, they found it necessary to retire, lest they should be intercepted in their retreat. Two years afterwards a party of the same nation so unexpectedly made their appearance before the same fort that a girl of fourteen, the daughter of the proprietor, had but just time to shut the gate. With this young woman there was no person whatever except one soldier, but not at all intimidated by her situation, she showed herself sometimes in one place, sometimes in another, frequently changing her dress, in order to give some appearance of the garrison, and always fired opportunely. Thus the fort was twice saved by the presence of mind and the courage of a woman.

Sir Patrick Colquhoun.

Sir Patrick Colquhoun, an English Queen's counsel, has delivered a lecture before the Royal Society of Literature to prove that William Shakespeare did not write the plays which bear his name, but that he was an impostor who cozened men more gifted than he, as Greene and Peele, out of their plays, pocketed the proceeds, and retired to live on the gains, leaving the playwrights whom he robbed to live in penury.

"The"

Although the new member from Clarendon calls himself "The O'Gorman Mahon," his claims to chieftaincy are not recognized by a very considerable class of his countrymen. None, however, disputes the right of the Knight of Kerry, the O'Connor Don, the Knight of Glen, the Magilluddy of the Reeks, and the O'Donoghue to those ancient titles. The Knight of Kerry owns nearly all Valentia, where the Atlantic cable lands on the other side, and the condition of the island reflects great credit upon him. He is a constant resident.

Music in the Schools.

The question of music in the schools is one that recurs at intervals, and we suppose will continue to form a periodical subject of dispute. Looked at from a financial point of view the question is so unimportant that there can be little argument about it. The total cost divided among all the ratepayers would form so inconsiderable a sum as to be unworthy of mention, while on the other hand the compensating advantages are many. Few will deny the refining influences of music, and at this time of day, no elaborate argument is necessary on such a point. A love of music once acquired is never lost, and in after years the pupils of the London schools will have cause for gratitude in the fact that music formed a branch of their studies. It is not alone in the home circle that the advantages will be felt. A general diffusion of a knowledge of music will tend to raise the character of church singing and so add much to the attractiveness of church services. A wealthy man, who can afford to provide his children with a music-master, may find little need of musical instruction in public schools. Such a class of persons might object to the employment of a school music-teacher, but we do not believe that they do so.—London Advertiser.

Words of Wisdom.

The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart.

No one is more profoundly sad than he who laughs too much.

To be dumb for the remainder of life is better than to speak falsely.

It is a fool who praises himself, and a madman who speaks ill of himself.

A liver is the most sensitive of things—it runs away from even its own source.

Nature has sown in man seeds of knowledge, but they must be cultivated to produce fruit.

All is hollow, where the heart bears not a part, and all is in peril where principle is not the guide.

Secret kindnesses done to mankind are as beautiful as injuries are detestable. To be invisibly good is God-like, as to be invisibly evil is diabolical.

If a man be gracious to strangers it shows he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins them.

If a man will let things take their course he will live smoothly and quietly enough, but if he will sit things to the bottom he must account himself a man of strife.

How to Cure Stammering.

Stammering is the result of a functional disorder of that part of the brain which presides over the faculty of speech, according to an article by Dr. Hammond in The Voice. This is proved, he says, by the fact that all stammerers can at times speak as well as other persons. "There is no defect with the organs of speech, no paralysis of the tongue or lips; but there is a condition present, which, at times, especially when the subject is excited or interested, or specially tries to do his best, prevents the normal systematic articulation of certain syllables. And this appears to be due to an impossibility of coordinating the muscles by which speech is effected—of bringing them into harmonious and systematic action." Dr. Hammond was a stammerer at nineteen, but entirely cured himself, namely, by the performance of some slight muscular action synchronously with articulation of the difficult syllables. "With each troublesome word," he explains, "especially with one beginning a sentence, I made some slight motion with the hand or foot, or even with the finger, and I found that this plan enabled me to get the word out without stammering. In this procedure the attention is diverted from the effort to speak to the performance of the muscular action mentioned, and hence the speech becomes more automatic than it is with stammerers generally. And this is the whole system of cure. It consists in efforts to render the speech automatic." He occupied two years in curing himself.

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A Chinese Woman's Foot.

A French woman has written an entertaining book of travels, in which she tells how she obtained sight of a Chinese woman's foot. Few ever see, not even the husband, the bare foot of a lady; but the authoress, after great effort succeeded, amid the lamentations of the family. The husband gave his permission and retired. It had to be unrolled like a mummy. Under the gold embroidered stocking there were three folds of calico, and the foot itself was a deformed mass, the toes growing into the soles of the feet, producing suppuration.

Domestic Reading.

Who was the most ungrateful guest of ancient times?—Pharaoh, because he caused his host to be drowned in the Red Sea.

There are beautiful warm soda-springs in Colorado, and people who go bathing in them at once exclaim, "Oh, but this is sodalicious!"

When is it dangerous to go to church? When the organist is drowning the choir, and a great gun in the pulpit is firing away at the congregation.

Why are trees among the best-mannered productions of the globe? Because they almost always leave in time, and never leave without a bow.

An advocate for compulsory abstinence from spirituous liquor may find an argument upon the fact that the three first letters of ignorance are convertible into gin.

The politest man of the time lives in New Orleans. He went into a tobacconist's store, bought two cigars and said courteously to the proprietor, "If you do not object to the smell of tobacco, I will not smoke one of these cigars here."

One of our most learned men has worn his head nearly bald trying to invent a machine that would calculate the difference between the weight of a fish when it is first taken out of the water and when it gets into the newspapers.

"You have played the duce with my heart," said a gentleman to a lady partner during a game of whist. "Well," replied the lady with an arch smile, "it was simply because you played the knave." He had broken off his engagement.

A Selkirk sexton used to preface the dram, usually given to him at funerals with a general nod to all the company, in quite a serious way, unconsciously of the solemn meaning the compliment contained. "My services to you all gentlemen."

"You politicians are queer people," said an old business man to an impetuous partisan. "Why so?" asked the politician. "Why, because you trouble yourselves more about the payment of the debts of the State than you do about your own."

A short time ago a Danbury man had forty dollars stolen from him. The thief was subsequently struck with remorse and sent back twenty dollars, with a note to the effect that as soon as he received more remorse he would send back the rest.

A Parisian father-in-law was complaining that his daughter's husband knew nothing about gambling, when a friend interrupted him, saying, "Why, that's not a fault. It is a virtue." "But you see," said the father-in-law, "he gambles all the same."

A Household Perfume. Every family able to appreciate and enjoy the pleasure afforded by a really healthful and delicious perfume, should supply themselves with the genuine MURRAY & LANMAN'S FLORIDA WATER. It is the most delightful and most lasting of all fragrant waters.

A Reliable Medicine is like a true friend, when needed it is always on hand, and when tried it is never found wanting. Such is the character of FRISSELL'S SERRAVALLO'S AND FINE'S, they never desert, they do exactly what is claimed for them, and they cure disease where doctors' prescriptions and all other medicines fail.

AGRICULTURAL.

Notes from the Field and Garden.

The books have generally taught us that horse manure is richer than that of cows. The fact is that feed makes the manure, and because horses are usually fed in large pastures with grain their manure is richer than that of animals not so well fed. But if we feed cows as well as horses, the difference in the value of the manure is reversed, and remains in favor of the former. This is reasonable, because the more an animal eats the more nitrogenous portion of the food to repair the waste. Horses, which work constantly, thus exhaust the food of its nutriment to a greater extent than cows, which live peacefully and ruminate, and turning opportunity to do their best at this, their special business. So that when a cow gets a daily allowance of three quarts of feed, consisting largely of bran, rich in phosphoric acid, and two quarts of cotton-seed-meal rich in nitrogen, or perhaps nearly double this allowance, besides clover and other nutritious green food, the manure cannot fail to be very rich, nor to tell its story when used in the field. Having thus fed my cows, and so continuing even through the summer, by soiling them in the yard and stable, I find the manure to show its effects very conspicuously in the field, and to offer a very favourable contrast when compared with horse-stable manure. For light soils there can be nothing better than the manure from well fed cows and there can be no better method of improving land than that of carrying on a dairy under a system of feeding by green crops cut and carried to the stable yards. At the market rates for manure, I find the cost of the feed is fully returned in the value of the manure, so that an actual profit is afforded of the truth of the chemist's estimate that a ton of bran or cotton-seed-meal worth \$12 or \$25 respectively returns in the manure a value actually in excess of its cost price. This seems to be a paradox, but it also seems to be abundantly proved.

Unshod Horses.

A writer in the London Times says:—"When my pony's shoes were worn out I had them removed, and gave him a month's rest at grass, with an occasional drive of a mile or two on the highroad, while his hoofs were hardening. The result at first seemed doubtful. The hoof was a thin shelled, and kept chipping away until it had worked down beyond the holes of the nails by which the shoes had been fastened. After this the hoof grew thick and hard, quite unlike what it had been before. I now put the pony to full work, and he stands it well. He is more sure-footed; his tread is almost noiseless; his hoofs are in no danger from the rough hand of the farrier; and the change altogether has been a clear gain without any thing to set off against it. My pony, I may add, was between four and five years old—rising four, I fancy, is the correct phrase. He has been regularly shod up to the present year."

The British Grain Trade.

The Mark Lane Express, in its weekly report published a few days ago, says:—"The weather during the past week was unsettled and wheat discolored. The grain trade has little changed; the deliveries of English wheat at the different country markets falling off, while at Mark Lane the offerings were light, trade flat, and lower prices would have been necessary to effect sales of any but the choicest parcels. But growers were firm in spite of the improvement in the appearance of the home crop, and there has been a little pressure to sell. Foreign imports have been considerable, Friday's return showing the arrival of 41,180 qrs., which weighed upon trade and rendered sales difficult, except in such quantities as present needs justified. The requirements of country millers kept sellers occupied and prevented any depreciation of value. Barley was quiet, but malting and grinding sorts. Oats receded slightly under a pressure of supplies, but the temporary scarcity of maize on the spot enabled sellers to obtain very full prices for both round and flat corn. The arrivals of wheat and maize at the ports of call were more liberal during the past week. What met with a dragging sale off coast at unaltered prices, while maize was dull. Forward wheat and maize have been offered daily in moderate quantities. The prices are unchanged, the demand for both being quiet, and there is no speculative enquiry. The sales of English wheat last week amount to 44,546 qrs. at 41s 4d against 22,994 qrs. at 47s 10d at the corresponding period of the previous year. The imports into the United Kingdom during the week ending June 7th were 925,054 cwt. of wheat, and 138,368 cwt. of flour.

New Varieties.

Last season I planted several varieties as an experiment. The present year I find some of them to be very successful. Duchesse stands first in order of excellence; forest rose comes next, equal in quality of fruit and prolific bearing, but not so hardy in foliage under winter exposure. Champion in its second year fully sustains its character as the best and most profitable berry I have grown. Monarch of the West is a magnificent berry, and if it were not for a hard green tip which it has, I would place it first for home consumption, having a peculiarly sweet and agreeable flavor, and growing evenly to an enormous size. Crescent Seedling and Sharpless Seedling, under good culture, are remarkable berries, but if neglected will not pay for keeping. The four first mentioned may be safely grown in a farmer's garden, where only ordinary care can be given, and will repay whatever labor is devoted to them in exact proportion, but will pay something under any circumstances. For a late berry, Kentucky Seedling is well worth a place in the garden.

The Horse—Treatment After Work.

After work the horse requires to be treated according to its nature and the extent to which it has been carried. Thus the hunter may demand remedies for exhaustion, blows on the legs, thorns in the legs, overreaches, cuts, &c.; but the hack and carriage-horse only need the ordinary grooming, that is to say, provided the feet are not in pain from ill-fitting shoes.

Exhaustion is sometimes so great that before any food can be taken cordial must be given, in the shape either of a warm ball, or a quart of warm spiced ale. Generally, however, some good and other comforts which are afforded by the groom, including dressing, clothing, bandaging, &c.

Blows on the legs are reduced by hot fomentations, continued for half an hour at a time, and repeated at intervals of one, two, or three hours, in proportion to the severity of the mischief. Cold applications are too apt to relieve the skin and cellular membrane beneath it at the expense of the joints, and I have never seen them of much service. Nothing, I believe, is so valuable in all blows received in the hunting-field as hot fomentation, but it should be thoroughly carried out, and not done by halves, as it too often is by careless grooms. It no doubt has a tendency to increase the swelling for a time, but in doing this the blood is drawn to the surface, and internal mischief is often prevented. I have had young horses come home with their knees and shins terribly bruised over timber and stone walls, but though the fomentation with hot water has enlarged the knees to a frightful size, there has been no lameness on the next day, and the swelling has gradually disappeared, leaving the joints as free as ever at the expiration of forty-eight hours. On the other hand, I have tried cold wet bandages for similar injuries, but I have invariably found that they gave present relief to a slight extent, but left the limbs stiff and rheumatic often for the next two or three weeks. The addition of a little tincture of opium to the water for fomentation is a great improvement when it is at hand, and I should always advise the hunting groom to keep a stock of it by him during the season. A wineglassful is enough for half a bucket of hot water.

Thorns are most troublesome to the groom, and it is often a question of great doubt whether to persevere in the endeavor to remove them, or to leave them alone until they manifest themselves by the inflammation they produce. When the hunter comes home, his legs should be carefully examined while they are wet [that is, to say, if his exhausted condition does not forbid the loss of time]; and if the hand clearly detects any projection, search should at once be made with a view to the removal of the foreign body. Usually, however, the thorn has buried itself, and it is only when it has produced some considerable degree of inflammation that attention is drawn to the spot. When lameness is shown in any of the limbs on coming home from hunting, the groom always is inclined to suspect a thorn as the cause of mischief, and I have known the penknife used in half-a-dozen different places to cut down upon what was supposed to be a buried thorn, which was never discovered, for the plain reason that no such matter was present in the leg.

Overreaches must be dried up as quickly as possible, and should not be treated like common wounds, for the reason that the horny substance of the foot, when it becomes softened and decomposed by the matter flowing from a wound near it, acts like a poison upon the ulcerated surface. It is better, therefore, to apply a little friar's balsam, or some other astringent, such as sugar of lead, rather than to use wet bandages or bran poultices, which I have sometimes known to be applied.

Simple as well as contused cuts are far better treated in the horse with hot fomentations than by any attempt to heal them at once. Unless they are very extensive or deep, the only point in which they may leave. Sometimes the edges gape so wide, that a stitch or two must be inserted, but in such a case it is better to intrust the operation to a competent veterinary surgeon.

Beerbohm's London Corn Trade List estimates the requirements of different countries for wheat during June, July and August, 1879, and also the probable supplies that may be expected from the wheat exporting countries, as follows.

Table showing wheat requirements and supplies for various countries from June to August 1879. Includes quarters and cwt. for countries like UK, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, West Indies, China, Brazil, etc.

Ice in Lake Michigan.

Captain Sargisson, of the schooner Bertha Barnes, was astonished to find his vessel running through ice one-eighth of an inch thick, which formed on Lake Michigan during the night of the 6th of June. The "oldest inhabitant" shakes his head with wonder, and the Chicago papers seek in vain for a more striking instance of the "general unexpectedness" of things. We are not surprised at Captain Sargisson's tale. A remarkable "cold wave" was felt by Tories all over Ontario on the night of the 5th of June, and perhaps this same "area of low temperature" passed over to Lake Michigan on the night of the 6th.

Long Wool.

"It is greatly to be regretted," says the Galt Reporter, "that we have no mill in Canada with machinery to use our long wools. To export year after year the long wools and then import the merino goods into which these long wools are manufactured seems scarcely in consonance with the objects of the policy we have just inaugurated." Are there not capitalists enough in our country to form a joint stock company to fit up a mill? The consumption of such a mill as Randall, Farr & Co.'s, now of Holyoke, but once of Hesper, would materially aid in disposing of our long wools. To export all our long wools to other countries to fix the price.

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Simple as well as contused cuts are far better treated in the horse with hot fomentations than by any attempt to heal them at once. Unless they are very extensive or deep, the only point in which they may leave. Sometimes the edges gape so wide, that a stitch or two must be inserted, but in such a case it is better to intrust the operation to a competent veterinary surgeon.

Unshod Horses.

A writer in the London Times says:—"When my pony's shoes were worn out I had them removed, and gave him a month's rest at grass, with an occasional drive of a mile or two on the highroad, while his hoofs were hardening. The result at first seemed doubtful. The hoof was a thin shelled, and kept chipping away until it had worked down beyond the holes of the nails by which the shoes had been fastened. After this the hoof grew thick and hard, quite unlike what it had been before. I now put the pony to full work, and he stands it well. He is more sure-footed; his tread is almost noiseless; his hoofs are in no danger from the rough hand of the farrier; and the change altogether has been a clear gain without any thing to set off against it. My pony, I may add, was between four and five years old—rising four, I fancy, is the correct phrase. He has been regularly shod up to the present year."

The British Grain Trade.

The Mark Lane Express, in its weekly report published a few days ago, says:—"The weather during the past week was unsettled and wheat discolored. The grain trade has little changed; the deliveries of English wheat at the different country markets falling off, while at Mark Lane the offerings were light, trade flat, and lower prices would have been necessary to effect sales of any but the choicest parcels. But growers were firm in spite of the improvement in the appearance of the home crop, and there has been a little pressure to sell. Foreign imports have been considerable, Friday's return showing the arrival of 41,180 qrs., which weighed upon trade and rendered sales difficult, except in such quantities as present needs justified. The requirements of country millers kept sellers occupied and prevented any depreciation of value. Barley was quiet, but malting and grinding sorts. Oats receded slightly under a pressure of supplies, but the temporary scarcity of maize on the spot enabled sellers to obtain very full prices for both round and flat corn. The arrivals of wheat and maize at the ports of call were more liberal during the past week. What met with a dragging sale off coast at unaltered prices, while maize was dull. Forward wheat and maize have been offered daily in moderate quantities. The prices are unchanged, the demand for both being quiet, and there is no speculative enquiry. The sales of English wheat last week amount to 44,546 qrs. at 41s 4d against 22,994 qrs. at 47s 10d at the corresponding period of the previous year. The imports into the United Kingdom during the week ending June 7th were 925,054 cwt. of wheat, and 138,368 cwt. of flour.

New Varieties.

Last season I planted several varieties as an experiment. The present year I find some of them to be very successful. Duchesse stands first in order of excellence; forest rose comes next, equal in quality of fruit and prolific bearing, but not so hardy in foliage under winter exposure. Champion in its second year fully sustains its character as the best and most profitable berry I have grown. Monarch of the West is a magnificent berry, and if it were not for a hard green tip which it has, I would place it first for home consumption, having a peculiarly sweet and agreeable flavor, and growing evenly to an enormous size. Crescent Seedling and Sharpless Seedling, under good culture, are remarkable berries, but if neglected will not pay for keeping. The four first mentioned may be safely grown in a farmer's garden, where only ordinary care can be given, and will repay whatever labor is devoted to them in exact proportion, but will pay something under any circumstances. For a late berry, Kentucky Seedling is well worth a place in the garden.

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