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5-7-14

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Please mention "The Farmer's Advocate"

party to the crimes that were being daily committed under his very eyes.

His uncle was in the library, having just bowed out his last guest, when the boy strode in. About him were squatty little tables holding the remnants of the aftermath of the feast—siphons and decanters and the sample box of cigars—full to the lid when Parkins first passed them (why fresh cigars out of a full box should have a better flavor than the same cigars from a half-empty one has always been a mystery to the Scribe).

That the dinner had been a success gastronomically, socially and financially, was apparent from the beatific boozy smile that prevailed Breen's face as he lay back in his easy-chair. To disturb a reverie of this kind was as bad as riding rough-shod over some good father digesting his first meal after Lent, but the boy's purpose was too lofty to be blunted by any such considerations. Into the arena went his glove and out rang his challenge.

"What I have got to say to you, Uncle Arthur, breaks my heart, but you have got to listen to me! I have waited until they were all gone to tell you."

Breen laid his glass on the table and straightened himself in his chair. His brain was reeling from the wine he had taken and his hand was unsteady, but he still had control of his arms and legs.

"Well, out with it! What's it all about, Jack?"

"I heard this afternoon that my friend Gilbert was ruined in our office. The presence of these men to-night makes me believe it to be true. If it is true, I want to tell you that I'll never enter the office again as long as I live!"

Breen's eyes flashed:
"You'll never enter! . . . What the devil is the matter with you, Jack!—are you drunk or crazy?"

"Neither! And I want to tell you, sir, too, that I won't be pointed out as having anything to do with such a swindling concern as the Mukton Lode Company. You've stopped the work on Gilbert's house—Mr. Morris told me so—you've—"

The older man sprang from his seat and lunged toward the boy.

"Stop it!" he cried. "Now—quick!"

"Yes—and you've just given a dinner to the very men who helped steal his money, and they sat here and laughed about it! I heard them as I came in!" The boy's tears were choking him now.

"Didn't I tell you to stop, you idiot!" His fist was within an inch of Jack's nose: "Do you want me to knock your head off? What business is it of yours who I invite to dinner—and what do you know about Mukton Lode? Now you go to bed, and go quick, too! Parkins, put out the lights!"

And so ended the great crusade with our knight unhorsed and floundering in the dust. Routed by the powers of darkness, like many another gallant youth in the old chivalric days, his ideals laughed at, his reforms flouted, his protests ignored—and this, too, before he could fairly draw his sword or couch his lance.

(To be continued.)

Gossip.

One can scarcely realize that the war which is now in progress is being participated in by over nine hundred million people, or at least this is the population of the warring countries and their possessions. Of this number, Great Britain, including her colonies and India, musters about one-half.

A very attractive booklet has just been issued by the American Aberdeen-Angus Association entitled, "The Supremacy of Aberdeen-Angus Cattle." This illustrated book gives the results of the leading fat-stock shows of Great Britain and America, and shows the Angus to be a consistent winner. The illustrations include the championship winners at the Chicago International Exhibition, and at the leading fat-stock shows in Great Britain. A list of the names of the Aberdeen-Angus cattle shown with the American Aberdeen Angus Association in 1914 is given. Exchange Aves., Chicago, for a copy.

Questions and Answers

1st—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

3rd—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

4th—When a reply by mail is required to urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

Cow Cockle.

A specimen of cow cockle, introduced in sage seed.

H. M.

Ans.—This European weed is easily recognized by its pink flowers, but otherwise general resemblance to bladder campion. It is a smooth, branching, annual plant, with opposite leaves which almost meet at the base. Its seeds, to the naked eye, are hardly distinguishable from those of sage, and of some of the vetches. It is said to have become very troublesome in some localities in Western Canada. Summer-fallowing, or meadow and pasturing eradicates it. Scattered plants here and there, being quite noticeable when in flower and easily pulled, will not obtain a hold in the fields of an observant farmer.

J. D.

Comfrey.

Can you tell me the name and nature of the enclosed weed, and how to get rid of it?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—The developed flowers and seeds, as well as the leaves and root, are useful in distinguishing the species of the comfries and buglosses. They have harsh, bristly, hairy—hairy leaves, and whitish or bluish flowers developing from curved, one-sided racemes. The specimen sent seems most like common comfrey, although that is not usually regarded as a weed. If left undisturbed, it makes large, close patches along roadsides and in neglected gardens. Its basal leaves are very large, with long petioles; the margins of the upper leaves run down along the stems. The flowers are pinkish-purple, sometimes tinged with yellow. Some people retain a patch of common comfrey in the garden for the sake of the medicinal qualities of its thick roots. These are mucilaginous, and like slippery-elm bark are used for cough remedies and poultices.

J. D.

Gossip.

A table published in the Scottish Farmer of August 22nd, indicates that the results of high prize winnings at the eight principal shows in 1914, by progeny of Clydesdale sires are in order as follows: Baron of Buchlyvie, 69; Dunure Footprint, 39; Apukwa, 36; Bonnie Buchlyvie, 35; Hiawatha, 15; Baron's Pride, 14; Revelanta, 13; Royal Favorite, 9. The shows on which the figures are based are the two Glasgow events, Kilmarnock, Ayr, Edinburgh, the Royal Northern Summer Show, the Royal Agricultural Society's Show at Shrewsbury, England, and the H. & A. S. Society's Show at Hawick.

A. G. SMILLIE'S SHORTHORN SALE.

There never was a time in the history of this country when the prospects for beef-raising were so bright, nor the future so certain as now. Looking into the horoscope of the future, nothing appears for very many years to come to indicate the slightest reaction against a continuation of an active demand and high prices for breeding animals of the beef breeds, and their progeny, for breeding purposes and the block. The investment for pure-bred breeding animals of these breeds today is as safe as a deposit in the Bank of England, and a hundred times more profitable. One of the great opportunities likely to occur this year for such an investment will be presented at the dispersal sale of the big, thick herd of Shorthorns owned by A. G. Smillie, of Hensall, Ont., on Friday, Sept. 18th. These are the kind of cattle that speedily lift the mortgage, easy to feed, rapid growers, and the kind that can feed their own calves. Arrange to attend this sale if at all interested in Shorthorn cattle.

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SCARE-CROW DRESS.

Brown—"I hear Herbert is a gentleman farmer now."

Jones—"Yes, rather; right up to the hilt, too. Puts evening dress on all his scare-crows at dusk."