He claimed the pet-A little fondling thing that to my breast Clung always, either in quiet and unrest, I thought of all my lambs I loved him best, And vet-and yet-

I laid him down In those white, shrouded arms, with bitter tear For some voice told that, in after years. He should know naught of passion, grief, or fear As I had known.

That Elder Shepheard came. My heart gre He claimed another lamb, with sadder plaint, Another! She who, gentle as a saint, Ne'er gave me pain.

And yet again

Aghast I turned away There sat she, levely as an angel's dream, Her golden locks with sunlight all agleam, Her holy eyes with heaven in their beam,

I knelt to pray. " Is it Thy will? My father, say, must this pet lamb be given? Oh! Thou hast many such, dear Lord, in heaven And a soft voice said : " Nobly hast thou striven But-peace, be still."

Oh, how I wept, And clasped her to my bosom, with a wild And yearning love-my lamb-my pleasant chil-Her, too, I gave. The little angel smiled, And slept.

"Go, go," I cried; For once again that Shepherd laid His hand Upon the Noblest of our household band Like a pale spectre, there he took his stand, Close to his side.

And yet how wonderous sweet The look with which he heard my passionate or "Touch not my lamb; for him oh! let me die 'A little while," He said with smile and sigh; "Again to meet."

Hopless I fell; And when I rose the light had burned so low, So faint, I could not see my darling go; He had not bidden me farewell, but oh! I felt farewell.

More deeply, far, Than if my arms had compassed that slight form Though could I but have heard him call my

Dear mother!"-but in heaven t'will be the

He will not take Another lamb, I thought, for only one Of the dear fold is spared, to be my sun, My guide, my mourner when this life is done, My heart would break.

Oh! with what thrill I heard Him enter: but I did not know (For it was dark) that he had robbed me so. The idol of my soul-he could not go-O Heart ! be still !

Came morning. Can I tell, How this poor frame its sorrowful tenant kept ! For walking tears were mine; I, sleeping, wept, And days, months, years, that weary virgil kept, Alas! Farewell."

I sit and think, and wonder too, some time, How it will seem, when, in that happier clime It never will ring out like funeral chime,

No tears! no tears! Will there a day come that I shall not weep? For I bedew my pillow in my sleep, Yes, yes; thank God! no grief that clime shall

Over the dead.

Ay! it is well: Well with my lambs and well with their earthly There pleasant rivers wander they beside,

Or strike sweet harps upon their silver tide-

Through the dreary day, They often come from glorious light to me cannot feel their touch, their faces see, Yet my soul whispers, they do come to me; Heaven is not far away.

Frank's Conundrum

BY CATHERINE M. TROWBRIDGE. The house of Mr. Ellis was very quiet one pleasant afternoon in November. Mrs. Ellis was sewing by the side of her sleeping babe, and Mr. Ellis was preparing his sermon for the next

Suddenly the quiet was interupted. There was bustle in the hall, three children-one boy and two girls-having just entered; and the outer door was shut with a great bang. The little sleeper in the cradle followed the time-honored usages of babes on such occasions. In other words, it woke up and began to cry.

There, Frank Ellis, see what you have done!" exclaimed Hettie, the elder of the two girls. "I don't see the use of slamming the door and waking the babe if George Baker did

say something to vex you." I wish you would attend to your own bus ness and leave me to attend to mine," was the angry rejoinder of the irritated boy.

" What an ill-natured fellow you are !" claimed Hettie. " Any boy would be who had two girls at home

and half a dozen boys at school to bother him," was the very ungracious response. Hettie had no time to reply; for at this mo ment a door opened. It was the study-door. "This way, Frank," said Mr. Ellis. "I wish

to speak with you." Frank at that moment would certainly have preferred to go any other way, but there was no swered: help for it, so he passed through the door which

his father held open for him. Frank took a seat on the ottoman by the side

talk together.

"It's none of your business," when a sudden to the surly reply.

" Can't you tell me?" said Harriet, after waiting a moment for an answer. " I am thinking out a puzzle for you," said

" A puzzle ?" "Yes, a puzzle or a conundrum, or whatever you choose to call it."

" What is it?" said Harriet, now all animation. " Do let us have it." "Well, let me see; it is this: What soft thing is very hard ?"

have to give up."

Frank. " I know it," said Hettie : " but I am sure

night," said Frank. "Was it when he called you into the study?" asked Bessie, the younger of the two girls.

"Yes," said Frank not crossly, yet with a ter. slight accent of annovance. "It is something the Bible tells us about." he added.

first verse."

sie, all curiosity.

ous!words stir up anger." read the verse.

"Don't you understand?" said Frank; " if t is not a hard thing for a fellow to give a soft cessible. Semi-fluid eggs cannot be made out answer when he is right down vexed, then I of dry grain. don't know where you will find anything that is 3. Hens are not gluttons. Let them have

"Oh, I understand now," said Hettie; "I they need.

phasized, and he was about to say something materials as they require. Give them two or very ill-natured, when he suddenly checked him- three times a week, if not a daily, a moderate, self and said frankly, " Yes, Hettie, I own that supply of fresh meat, never any sait. Nothing it would be very hard for me to do it."

a source of vexation. The following morning, at the recitation

own failure was irritating to Frank. He knew turned to account. that the feeling was wrong, and tried to over- The above simple directions, if rightly followtoward George.

As Frank and George were returning from school that night, they fell into a dispute, which was not by any meaus an unusual occurrence When he found that he could not convince Frank exclaimed, "You are a fool, Frank Ellis."

but invite them.

problem this morning."

What an instant change there was in George! this substance. How quickly the soft answer turned away all the

"You are a good fellow, Frank," he said and I am a brute to call you hard names. right to your opinions as I have to mine."

drew near to her brother's side. "You got out the soft answer that time," she said: " was it very hard?" " Pretty hard," said Frank. "I know no

him so much." "But now you are glad you said it."

sides. It presents the hard side to you before floor than hard naked plank. you get it out ; but after you have said it. everything is made smooth and easy, and one feels as if he was treading on a bed of roses." " Roses without thorns you mean," said Het-

tie, archly. Frank laughed, but Hettie's merry face all at thoughtful that Frank asked what she was think-

was the way with all the Bible precepts. They only seem hard when we hesitate about obeying; but when we do obey, it makes us very happy. I think that must be what it means when it save that wisdom's ways are ways of pleas

and all her paths are peace." " I think so too," said Frank, quite thought

The Storm, the Wolves, and the Bird.

The author of "Scenes in the West" relate

out for any purpose; our supplies were running during very hard frost and snow there are noof his father, and they had a long and earnest low. Save a neighbor in the cabin at the ex-Early in the evening Frank and his sisters that we knew were a pack of wolves that swept and "saucy-like," let the cold be ever so severe. were together in the sitting-room. They were by a on one occasion there was not less than its sole occupants. Frank sat in one corner of thirty of them; and one stormy day, when the the fire-place, very silent and thoughtful. The air was full of snow, and the winds were sigh-

" If that wee hit of a thing can ring, much ellection held him back from giving utterance more can I,' and I struck up a just of praise to God, to which his bass voice mede an excellent accompaniment. We felt better, and that was the last of our blues."

Agriculture.

Fresh Eggs all Winter. Hens will lay about as well in winter as in summer if circumstances permit. To produce eggs well fouls must be comfortable, and must have animal food. When the ground is open, "What soft thing is very hard?" repeated and worms and insects abound, they get their own Hettie, slowly. "I am sure I don't know. I material. They must have gravel to keep their don't see how a soft thing can be hard. I shall grist-mills in good working order, and lime to make the shells. Sometimes a hen drops a shell "You give it up in a great hurry," said less egg, but she is ashamed of the skinney, unprotected thing, and seldom does it twice. Sometimes she will drop an egg where his life I shall never be able to think of a soft thing that is sure to be frozen out, but her instinct teaches is very hard, if I try ever so long. I should her better, and she stops doing so, if possible. like to know where such a thing could be found." Here is the whole secret of having plenty of "It is something father told me about to- eggs all winter-we have tried it long, and so have others, with good success always; and as eggs will sell well this year, owing to the high price of meats, we advise attention to the mat-

1. Give the lowls some warm, ithoroughly sheltered place of retreat, and keep it clean. "Where does it tell about it?" inquired Bes- Take out all the droppings at least once a week they are excellent guano, worth half the cost of "In the fifteenth chapter of Proverbs, the the food. We have a nice, plastered, warm room in the sunny southeast corner of the sec-"Here's a Bible," said Hettie; "let us find ond story of the barn, provided with the roosts and laying boxes, having the entrances turned The place was soon found, and Hettie read : so as to be out of sight of the rest of the poul-A soft answer turneth away wrath, but griev- try. Hens are modest animals, always seeking hidden places for nests. A narrow enclosed Hettie looked a little puzzled after she had stairs leading up from the barnyard is freely used.

2. Let them have unfrozen water always ac-

grain in abundance, and they will est only what

dare say it would be hard enough for you to do 4. Provide a wide box of gravel, earth, sand ashes, and oil plaster, or finely-broken oyster Frank was vexed at the way that you was em- shells, for them to roll in and to pick but such comes amiss-bits of cartilage, intestines, an Sharp words often passed between Frank waste scraps. They will pick bones very clean Ellis and George Baker, for both were passion- We depend upon a cake of scraps from the bon ate, though on the whole they were very good or glue-boiler's. The hard scrap cakes, of fifty friends. There was also much rivalry between to one hundred pounds each, which are sold at them in their studies, and this was sometimes three quarters to one and a half cents a pound are just the thing. The material does not decay, in and the hens amuse and feed themselves by arithemetic, their teacher gave the class an expicking off little bits from time to time. The ample to work out not belonging to the regular waste vegetables, chippings from cabbages, porecitation. Only George Baker was able to tato skins, cold potatoes left over (if not cook solve this problem. George's success and his ed in salt water) are relished by the poultry and

come it, but with partial success. For some ed, seldom, if ever fail to secure a full and prohours after, he was not able to feel quite amiable stable supply of eggs all winter.—American Agriculturist.

Keeping Potatoes.

To ensure the perfection of good qualities that he was right on the disputed point, he be- when kept through the winter, and late in the place for storage. We have often turned then "Not half so much of a fool as you are," was the answer which most readily suggested itself to the mind of Frank; but he did not say it.

He had gone to school that morning with a firm of the ones wintered in the cellar. Doubtless determination to try the effect of soft answers, the best method of wintering this vegetable is in This certainly was not a soft answer, and Frank bins, in a cool cellar, mixed intimately with sufremembered his resolution just in time to prevent its utterance. But what should he say?

The suppression of the sharp answer was not better than open bins in a light airy cellar. giving a soft one. The soft answer came quickly They should be removed, however, on the first at his call. Right thoughts would come to us approach of warm weather in the spring. Light much more frequently than they do if we would and sunshine injure potatoes rapidly where they are fully exposed. At all events keep them "Well," said Frank, good-naturedly, after a dark and preserve their natural moisture as very brief struggle, " you certainly proved that much as possible. It is said that a sprinkling you were not a fool when you solved that hard of air slacked lime will keep from rotting those potatoes that were grown in soils deficient of

Bed your Stables.

A horse will get tired standing and treading will never do it again. You have just as good a on a hard floor; so will a cow, a sheep, a man. A soft bed feels easy-gives rest. And yet we It chanced that Hettie was near enough to neglect the bedding of our stables to a great verhear the amicable settlement of the dispute, extent. Injured limbs and other ailments, es-After George had passed on to his home, she pecialy of the hoof, are the result often of a neglect here, and has been clearly enough shown, and as any man can clearly enough see, if he gives the subject a moment's thought. Bed with straw, which is plenty, or saw-dust, or tan-bark, thing would please George better than to speak or shavings. The drier these materials are of his triumph this morning : but I was so yex- the better. Every day remove the moistened ed with him that I did not at first want to please | bedding and replace with new. Such a floor, well bedded, adds greatly the warmth of a stable, and thus becomes a fodder saver. The small "Oh, yes, very glad; George is a good fellow holes and crevices in a floor with a good bedafter all, and when I am not vexed I like to ding upon them, will let little or no cold through, please him. You see the soft answer has two and will drain the stable. Rather have a ground

The Best Provender. Timothy for horses: clover for cows; and straw well cured and cut, for either. It is excellent to mix with meal, or feed carrots and beats with. We would, when thus fed, make once grew thoughtful in its expression, so but little difference between good barley or even oat straw, when early and properly cured, and "I was thinking of what you just said," was the reply, "I am sure mother would tell us that so reckless in feeding, we feed promiscuosly; we feed what we have to feed without taking much pains to get a proper selection, or to prepare well; for instance, we feed few corn storks for fodder, when yet this is one of the cheapes and one of the best hays that can be fed; and in summer,in a draught, it is of the greatest advantage fed out green .- Rural World.

Best Variety of Fowls. The Scottish Farmer gives the following estimate as to the value of several varieties of fowls For chickens for the table, nothing like the Dorhow he met an old acquaintance, a cultivated kins. For size of eggs, nothing equal to the lady, in a wild region, who, to his question, Spanish, but they do not lay very regularly. For "Were you not homesick and gloomy?" an- number of eggs, nothing like the Hamburgs, but the size of the egg is small compared to the Spanish. The Hamburgs lay about eleven succession of snew storms. We could not get months in the year, and never sit. For eggs tremity of the woods, the only living creature seem to affect them, and they always look well

KNITTING OVERSHOES .- Set up the socks the the fire-place, very silent and thoughtful. The girls were busy looking over a roll of pieces of ailks and ribbons which a friend had given them that morning. At first they were too busy to motice Frank, but his quietness at last attracted the attention of Hettie.

"Why Frank how still you are?" she said; it thrilled and cheered me. I looked from the window, and these, right on the corner of our dwelling, sat the tiniest creature, carolling just as if it was June. This gave us both fresh courged him a little, and he was fabout to say, same as you would a stocking. Seam two stitch

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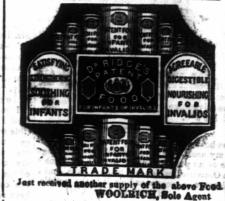
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