

the market in Manitoba. I find no trouble in making and marketing a first-class article, and always get a good price for it.

If some of our good sisters can give me some hints on the care and training of girls they will have my grateful thanks. I find such a diversity of dispositions in my family, and what does for one will not do for another. One is so willing to help; then, again, another wants to do nothing but read all the time, and if asked to do a little chore will grumble and fret until one wishes one never need ask her to help. I have tried to shame her and to punish her, by taking her books and putting them all away for a time, and in different other ways, but have failed so far to do her any good.

A. M. J.

Have you tried giving her a stated time each day in which she may read undisturbed? Love of reading, you know, is a rather good "fault."

A Farm Lover.

Dear Dame Durden,—Your interesting letter has met with deep sympathy from one of nature's lovers, a young country lassie. I feel quite indignant towards those who in the least degree speak slightly of farm life, yet I pity them, and console myself with the assurance that they know practically nothing of the superior advantages we country girls have. I wonder why "work" stands as a barrier or a dark object in any one's views of our life. I can truly say that work is a pleasure to me, or I at least make it one.

We who can spend our lives hand in hand with nature, thoroughly appreciate the various lessons so dimly presented in books. We see things as they are—not remodelled by imagination. Our knowledge of nature is not artificial, but founded on a true basis. We see, hear and know. Who can enjoy a poet's song to a fuller extent than we? We know what it means to walk on a velvety carpet of soft green grass, with the dear blue sky above us, while the sun seems to open before our eyes numerous flowers of wondrous beauty, and all about nature's choirs sing their praises.

But farm life is not all beauty and pleasure. It has its practical side, of course, which can be better presented by a farmer's wife than by his daughter.

Illinois writer has my deepest sympathy, but I feel sure she must glean some pleasure in her life, if it is spent on a farm.

I hope there are many others who will give their views on farm life, for the benefit of Ingle Nook readers.

NAOMI.

SOME RECIPES.

I am well pleased with your paper, especially Ingle Nook Chats and Domestic Economy. I have a few recipes that may be of use to some person.

Cream Cabbage.—One small head of white cabbage sliced fine. Put in a dish and sprinkle a little salt through it, and let it stand half an hour. Then take $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vinegar and 4 tablespoonfuls of sugar and pour over cabbage. Whip a cup of sweet cream and mix.

Jam-Jams.—Three eggs, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar, 1 cup lard, 2 teaspoons baking powder, and 4 tablespoonfuls sweet milk; add flour to make into light dough. Beat lightly together, and roll out like tea-cake. Roll quite thin, and place two together, with jelly spread between while warm.

White Cake.—Whites of 3 eggs, 1 cup sweet milk, 2-3 cup butter, 4 cups flour, 3 teaspoons baking powder, 2 scant cups white sugar. Cream butter and sugar together, then add whites of eggs and the milk, and lastly the flour, in which the baking powder has been mixed.

Frankford. MRS. D. F.

An Irishman asked a Scotchman one day why a railway engine was called "she." Sandy replied: "Perhaps it's on account of the horrible noise it makes when it tries to whistle."

Short—Hello, Long! Where are you going? **Long—**I'm on my way over to the post office to register a kick against the miserable delivery service. **Short—**What's the trouble? **Long—**Why, that cheque you promised to mail me ten days ago hasn't reached me yet!



A Few Hints for Early Spring.

Do not uncover protected plants or shrubs until the weather becomes settled. The alternating freezings and thawings of early spring are very injurious to all plants, except the hardiest, and by leaving the covering, the temperature close to the stems and roots is kept to some degree uniform. The mulch should be left on bulb beds until the leaves begin to appear, then but a part of it should be taken off, the rest being removed when the weather becomes mild.

Make flower beds as soon as possible, and work in the manure, which should be old, not fresh. The rains and frosts of spring will then have a chance to make an admirable seed-bed before it is time to plant the seed or set out the plants.

Sow seeds of flowers wanted for early blooming at once, if you have not already done so. The following varieties may, with advantage, be started in the house: Aster, Antirrhinum, Ageratum, Balsam, Candytuft, Coleus, Castor Bean, Dahlia, Dusty Miller, Nasturtium, Phlox Drummondii, Salvia, Sweet Alyssum, Verbena, Abutilon, Brachycome, Early Cosmos, Stocks. Later sowings of Ageratum, Candytuft, Sweet Alyssum and Phlox Drummondii may be made out of doors, in order to keep up a succession of bloom.

The following contribution, which was sent to the Ingle Nook, has been appropriated by the flower department. Many thanks, R. S.

A USEFUL WRINKLE.

Here is a "wrinkle" that may be useful to some of your readers who are interested in gardening, or rather in starting flower seeds early. Take old empty baker's cocoa or large-sized mustard tins; remove the lid, and with a pair of strong scissors or "snips" cut out one side. Replace the lid and tie around with a piece of string, and you have a neat little box, just the right depth. When filled with earth, and the seeds planted, they can be set on the upper ledge of a sunny window, out of the reach of baby's fingers, or the family cat. After the seedlings are up two or three inches, they can easily be taken out by removing the string and the lid and the end of box. The cake of earth, with the plants, slips out without any loss or trouble, and the plants can be picked off without injuring the delicate roots. These tins may seem too small, but I have grown as many as five dozen Daisy seedlings and as many Asters, Wallflowers, etc., as I wanted that way, keeping each variety in a different tin. Hoping I have not made this too long, I am, yours sincerely,

Morden, Man. R. L.

Another "wrinkle" of a somewhat similar nature is made as follows: Throw old tomato or salmon cans into the stove until the solder melts. Take them out and knock off the bottom of each. There will, of course, be an opening up the side, also where the tin has come apart. Tie each tin about with a string, and place all in a box close together. Now, fill up with earth, and when pricking out plants from the seed-boxes, put one in each can and let grow there until it is time to transplant to the garden. The lumps of clay may then be set out in holes made for them without the slightest disturbance to the roots inside. Tomatoes may be induced to ripen much earlier by this plan.

FLORA FERNLEAF.

Tuberous Begonias.

A correspondent asks information regarding the culture of tuberous begonias. Ans.—Tuberous begonias grow best in soil composed wholly of leaf mould. Pot them in March, setting the tubers in the soil with the top of each tuber level with the surface of the soil. The side showing the depression is the top of the tuber. If this does not appear, as is sometimes the case, the tuber must be very lightly covered, and kept moist until growth begins, when it may be planted

right side up. Six-inch pots are quite large enough for these plants, and one must see to it that the drainage is good. Do not put the plants in too warm a situation, a temperature of 60 degrees being quite high enough. Partial shade is best, say in an east window, or beneath the shade of trees when planted out. Water very moderately at first, until the plants are developing well, then give more water; a thorough soaking once a day, or twice a day if in a dry situation, will not be too much. When danger of frost is past the plants may be set out in the garden if preferred. In fall, when frosty nights begin, repot and bring in the house to ripen off, then store away in a warm, dry closet until spring.

The Last to Cuddle Doon.

By Alexander Anderson ("O. Surface-man"). Reprinted in answer to a request from Mrs. H. Tocher, Sunderland.

I sit afore a half-oot fire
An' I am a' my lane,
Nae frien' or fremit dauners in,
For a' my fowk are gane,
An' John, that was my ain guid man,
He sleeps the mools amang—
An' auld frail body like mysel'—
It's time that I should gang.

The win' moans roun' the auld house en',
An' shakes the ae fir tree,
An' as it sighs, it wakens up
Auld things fu' dear to me,
If I could only greet my heart,
It wadna' be sae sair;
But tears are gane, an' bairns are gane,
An' baith come back nae mair.

Ay; Tam, pair Tam, sae fu' o' fun,
He faun' this world a' fecht,
Au' sair, sair he was hadden doon,
Wi' mony a weary wecht.
He bore it a' until the en',
But when we laid him doon,
The gray hairs there afore their time
Were thick amang the broon.

An' Jamie, wi' the curly heid,
Sae buirdly, big, an' braw,
Was cut doon in the pride o' youth,
The first amang them a'.
If I had tears for thae auld een,
Then could I greet fu' weel,
To think o' Jamie-lynn' deid
Anath the engine wheel.

Wee Rab—what can I say o' him?
He's waur than deid to me,
Nae word frae him the weary years
Has come across the sea.
Could I but ken that he was weel,
As I sit here this nicht,
This world wi' a' its fraucht an' care
Wad look a wee thing richt.

I sit afore a half-oot fire,
An' I am a' my lane,
Nae frien' hae I to dauner in,
For a' my fowk are gane.
I wuss that He who rules us a'
Frae where He dwells aboon
Wad touch my auld gray heid, an' say,
"It's time to cuddle doon."

Some Good Riddles.

Q. What is the difference between Noah's Ark and Joan of Arc?
A. One was made of wood and the other was Maid of Orleans.

Q. When has a man a right to scold his wife about his coffee?
A. When he has sufficient grounds.

Q. Why is Westminster Abbey like a fireplace?
A. Because it contains the ashes of the great.

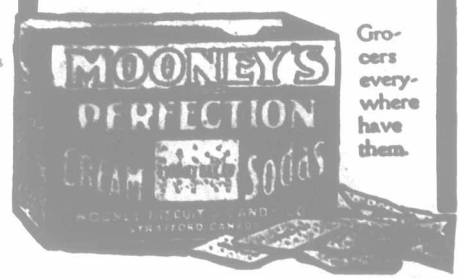
Q. Take away my first letter, take away my second letter, then take away my third; in fact, take away all my letters, yet I remain still the same. What am I?
A. The postman.

Q. What carpenter's tool do we require at an afternoon tea-party?
A. A sawcer (saw, sir).

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