## "Mr. Spens."

[illegible]

"Yes, Miss Meriel, dear?"

"Can you let us have some eggs?"

"Only a few, Miss Meriel. We've got a gentleman come here for the fishing, and I'll be wanting them for him. He's a real gentleman."

Sir Spenthorne smiled in his long grey moustache at this description of himself. "Who was that?" he asked of Mrs. Bartlett, after the departure of the young lady.

"That is Miss Meriel Ray, the daughter of the rector."

"A great favorite in the village, I suppose?"

"Miss Meriel, sir—we call her the Ray of Sunshine, bless her."

The good woman enlarged for some time on Miss Meriel's perfections, and was perhaps surprised at the extraordinary patience with which her guest listened to her long story.

"I wonder that this charming young lady has not married," said Sir Spenthorne.

"Well, now," said Mrs. Bartlett, confidentially, "there is a young man—no he a bit undersized, to be sure—but Mr. Ray would be glad to see one of his daughters married—he has seven children, you must know, and gals are not so easy to settle nowadays. . . . And it is said in the village that Miss Meriel she's doing it to please her pa, and make room for her younger sisters. But here's your dinner, sir."

Sir Spenthorne walked up and down before the door of the inn smoking and reflecting on Rupert and his love affairs. It certainly was astonishing to see the sort of men and women who will marry—astonishing! On the other side of the road there presently appeared the tall figure of a clergyman. Sir Spenthorne walked across, and taking off his hat, inquired if the rector could advise him as to the best sort of fly to use on the river, as he was a stranger in Systed.

The Rev. Thomas Ray, himself a devotee of the gentle sport, took in with a single glance the tall, upright figure, the deep blue eyes and the well cut, powerful face of his interlocutor.

"What a handsome fellow," he thought, "and now"—for the age of the stranger could not be less than fifty. "I should be delighted to tell you anything in my power," he said aloud. And the two men walked amicably down the road together between the sweet June hedges.

This walk was the beginning of a lasting friendship. Meriel showed the way to the best pools. Sir Spenthorne invented the most wonderful pleasure fly at fresco teas for the child. [illegible] he wasn't by the river he was at the rector's house and perpetually in the company of Meriel. Sir Spenthorne had married, because years and years ago a girl had jilted him, and yet his heart was as full of reverence for women as Mary's. Never had he come across a life fulfilled his whole ideal of woman until he met Meriel. He hardly knew which way things were drifting with Meriel engaged to Rupert, and [illegible] he, Sir Spenthorne, the rich, [illegible] celibate, who had come to make all smooth for them?

[illegible] returned to his inn one evening from a delightful expedition in the woods with Meriel and half a dozen young men and sisters he found a telegram waiting for him:

"Are coming down to-morrow—getting tired. RUPERT."

Sir Spenthorne felt his heart suddenly sink. "Good heavens! What folly this! Why should he mind his nephew coming down? he asked himself, indeed—but in his heart of hearts Sir Spenthorne knew the reason why.

[illegible] the telegram in his pocket and [illegible] across the road to the rector's [illegible]

[illegible] Rupert was very much bored and only the fear of his uncle kept him in Systed. Sir Spenthorne rather avoided his nephew, and was, besides, too desperately anxious to care for anybody's society. The terrible illness dragged its weary length along, but at last a day came when the doctors pronounced Meriel to be out of danger, and said that she might see Rupert.

When the young man was admitted into the darkened room and caught sight of the swollen face and blurred features dimly seen in the uncertain light, he tried in vain to conceal his feelings.

"It's horrible, isn't it?" she asked, wistfully. "No one could love me now."

Rupert was silent from embarrassment.

"You know you are quite free, Rupert." Meriel raised herself on her elbow and looked into her lover's face. The change which illness had wrought in hers appalled him.

"You are free, Rupert," she repeated.

"No, no," said Rupert, weakly.

"Yes, yes," said Meriel, cheerfully. "Take your freedom, Rupert. You know you are thankful in your heart."

Rupert stood looking awkwardly down at her.

"Uncle Spen will be furious," he said at last. "He thinks the world and all of you."

"Uncle Spen?"

"Yes, my uncle. Sir Spenthorne Carnac. You only know him as 'Mr. Spen.' The fact is, he had heard of our engagement, and wanted to take stock of you without letting you guess who he really was. I'm afraid he'll pitch into me about this."

A slow smile broke over Meriel's face.

"I think I can make your peace with him," she said.

. . . . . .

"Is it true, Meriel, is it true that all is at an end between you and Rupert? Tell me, my darling, is there—is there a chance for me?"

Sir Spenthorne Carnac was kneeling beside Meriel's sofa, her thin wasted hand in his. The girl looked up.

"You want to marry me, now my looks are all gone?"

"I love you—I want you—and I don't care about anything else."

But a few months after, when, thanks to a clever German specialist, young Lady Carnac had lost all traces of her illness, and Sir Spenthorne was inordinately proud of his beautiful wife, Rupert declared that he had been abominably treated, and that Lady Carnac was the most mercenary and deceitful of women.

## THE BENEFITS OF PUNCTUALITY.

Method is the very hinge of business, and there should be no method without and there is no method without punctuality. Punctuality is important, because it subserves the peace and good temper of the family. The want of it not only infringes on necessary duty, but sometimes excludes this duty. Punctuality is important because it gains time. It is like packing things into a box; a good packer will get in twice as much as a bad one.

The calmness of mind which it produces is another advantage of punctuality. A disorderly man is always in a hurry; he has no time to speak with you, because he is going somewhere, and when he gets there he is too late for his business, or he must hurry away to another place before he can finish it. It was a wise maxim of a former Duke of Newcastle: "I do one thing at a time."

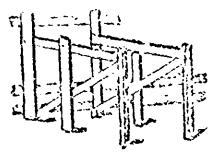
Punctuality gives weight to character. "Such a man has made an appointment, then I know he will keep it."

The average Dane farm house is a low stone building, with corrugated iron roof, with a "stoop" along the front that takes the place of our porch. It, too, is built of stones and covered with clay packed and worn hard and smooth.

## MODEL CATTLE STALL.

### He Does Not Like the Stalls Of Butler Has Scribbled for the Farmer.

[illegible]



CATTLE STALL.

wide enough to allow the animal to turn around. This stall should be from six to eight feet long. In one of the posts staple the end of a chain long enough to reach across the stall. This chain should have a hook at the other end. A ring is bolted into the other post to correspond to the stapled end of the chain. After the animal has been driven into the stall, hook the end of the chain into the ring and it is as secure as though stanchioned. The advantage of this mode is that it is easier to operate. One does not have to drive the animal in and then go around to its head. Then it is inexpensive. Besides this, the hair is not rubbed off the neck as with a stanchion, which means much to a man who takes pride in his stock or is raising show animals.—Ohio Farmer.

## PLANTING CHESTNUTS.

### An Eastern Horticulturist's Success After a Number of Failures.

Three years ago I came into possession of practically an abandoned farm, 150 acres in chestnut and pine and 100 in tillage, with many hillsides and places which could not be cultivated I wished to get trees growing on these places, how to make them grow from the seed I did not know, nor could I find anyone who did! so I went to work planting chestnuts in different ways, to see which would succeed, writes a contributor to Country Gentleman.

I first took a six-tined fork, forced it into the turf two inches deep and say four inches forward, threw a chestnut under and drew out my fork. I saw that one man was working at a disadvantage, so calling a man, I did the lifting of the turf and he threw the chestnuts. The result was that every chestnut grew, and they are now two feet high. I then plowed a half-acre, dropped a chestnut every two steps and stepped upon it. Not one of the chestnuts grew. I plowed a furrow on another piece, every four feet, dropped a chestnut every four feet on the edge of furrow, and back-furrowed against this. Not 20 trees started on the whole piece; those which did start were where they were covered lightly and nature's conditions were complied with. It is so simple and quick to plant a seed with man and fork, that I shall do more of it in the future.

### Raising the Dairy Calf.

To make a good cow from a good calf two things must be guarded against, and they are, a lack of food to make a proper growth, and the use of such food as will fatten instead of building up the frame and muscular system. The skim milk fed calf will usually make a better dairy cow than one that is allowed to suckle the old cow, if sufficient pains is taken to give the skim milk at the right time and of proper temperature, for two reasons; it does not put on so much fat while young, and it does not feel the change so much when the milk is taken away, and it is made to live upon grass or hay. The latter is, however, in part due to the fact that, as the skim milk is thought of little value for other purposes, its use is generally continued until the calf is three or four months old, when it is well able to eat and digest other food, while those who let the calf continue sucking its mother, feel that it is costing too much, and want to wean it at six weeks old, or sooner.

If the calf lays on fat while young, it seems to acquire in some way the peculiarity of the digestive organs changing all the food to fat, and when it becomes a cow it cannot be fed liberally for the purpose of increasing the milk without fattening up at once and giving less milk than before. In this respect at least the overfed calf is likely not to make as good a cow for milk as the one that has been underfed. But the latter is likely to be undersized, and with digestive powers weakened by the course of starvation, and it is only by a long course of judicious and careful feeding that it can be brought to the form it should have had.

### Powerful Road Engines.

Mr. John G. Thornycroft, an English authority on steam engines, recently maintained before the British Association that road steam engines, by a slight alteration of the laws, can be so constructed as to be of the highest value to trade. He affirmed they could be made to carry loads of 12 tons at four miles an hour, and that with tires of 18 inches width they would not injure the roads more than horses do, as they would act as steam rollers. Mr. Thornycroft expressed no doubt of the practicability of his plan and claimed that it would work a revolution in agriculture, as it would allow of the free transmission of lime, manure and heavy timber to points where they might be needed. The only unsettled point in the problem is the substitution of some other material for rubber in the tires, as rubber costs too much. It is believed, however, that this can be done by some different treatment of wood.

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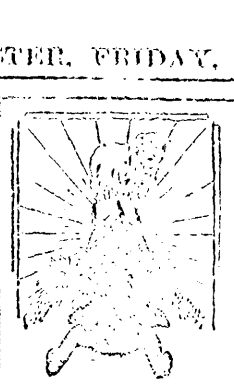
Springfield, Mass., is building its first 17-storey apartment house, to cost $1,000,000.



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