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AT THE GREAT CENTRAL SHOW HELD IN PARIS, JUNE 13—17, 1906

our Percheron Stallions won as follows:

- 4 year olds—First, FAISAN
- 3 year olds—First, VALORY
- 2 year olds—First, GUERIDON



AT THE PERCHERON SHOW HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SOCIETE HIPPIQUE PERCHERONNE DE FRANCE

our Horses won as follows:

- 4 year olds—First, BIBI
- 3 year olds—First, DIMITRI
- 2 year olds—First, GUERIDON

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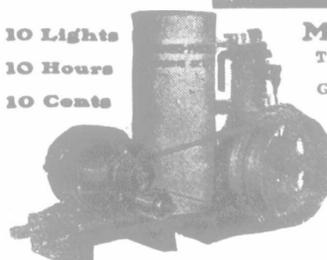
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a place to keep books and magazines. Besides, if you ducked under the first roost and seated yourself at this table, it made a very convenient desk. In the attic I found a very pretty chromo of three newly hatched ducklings. This I hung up on my terra-cotta wall.

About this time Eleanor began to take a languid interest. She used to sit on the door-sill, or lean against the apple-tree just outside, and make suggestions. She said I ought to have cribs, or a divan on which the chickens could take their naps; that if I wasn't going to have rugs, I ought at least to put down matting, for the cement would be too cold for their feet,—and other suggestions equally irrelevant; but I continued to maintain an air of indifference. My sister has dark hair and dark blue eyes—the kind that are called "dreamy" or "soulful." She plays Chopin, and looks melancholy and artistic, and only people who live with her know how truly wearing she can be. Tom McDonald thinks her lovely, and told me once he would take her off my hands, but I like Tom too much to wish him to endure what I have endured. So we still have Eleanor.

Besides washing the windows and decorating the interior while waiting for my chickens, I devised a letter-head. When you are in business you must have a letter-head, so I made this one:

CONSOLIDATED CHICKEN AND
EGG FURNISHING CO.

"How interesting!" said Eleanor, when she caught sight of it on my desk. "An egg is a consolidated chicken, certainly; and your chickens are as yet so consolidated. But what are 'egg furnishings,' Betty? There are 'men's furnishings' and 'house furnishings'; are 'egg furnishings'—?"

But Tom McDonald came just then and took her off, which was very kind of him. I suppose Eleanor bothers him as much as she does me.

After a while I discontinued using the letter-head; it took a good deal of time to stop and draw it every time I wanted to write a letter.

School began before the chickens were hatched, and then I had to save every minute. There really was not much more to do; but I mended the wire-netting of the chicken run, and raked the yard, and the place really looked very nice. When any of the girls came home with me, they were crazy to see my chicken-yard and thought it just lovely. Once I made some chocolate for them out there; father didn't like that, though. Two or three days after, just as I was going upstairs to bed, I heard him ask Eleanor if she had seen his alcohol heating-thing—he said he had been looking all over for it. Suddenly I remembered. I slipped out and ran to the hen-house, and found it on the floor in the corner. I had to stop in the kitchen and wash it, and I hoped father would not ask any questions; there are times when questions seem out of place; but father had looked for it so long he was curious to know where I had found it.

"Chicken-house, I suppose," said Eleanor; "that's where mother found her scissors."

"Nonsense, Eleanor!" said father "Where was it, Betty?"

"I had it in the chicken-house," I answered, without looking at Eleanor. Father sank back in his chair with a kind of resigned expression.

"I couldn't find the hammer to-day, nor my two-foot rule. Are they there, too?"

"I was using them a little while this morning," I said pleasantly; one should always speak pleasantly, I think.

"Did you bring them back?" insisted father.

"I—I believe not," I admitted. "The door of that chicken-house, father," put in Eleanor, "is like the gate of the Inferno; if anything once passes it, there's not much hope of return."

"Elizabeth," said father, still with an air of resignation, "there is such a thing as a business being too comprehensive. That alcohol heating-thing belongs in my room, and you know it. Now the first thing in the morning, go out to that emporium of yours, and bring in everything that doesn't belong there, and put it back where you found it."

"Yes, of course, father," I said; and then I went and kissed mother good night, for the conversation was altogether pleasant.

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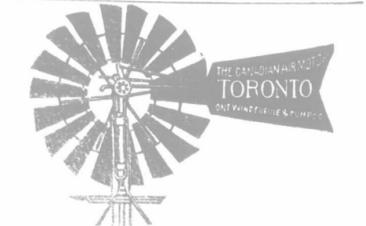
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