

## HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsworthy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

Mr. Thompson, a New Glasgow business man, sets a good example. He resides on a fine estate near the town six acres of which are under cultivation. He has planted two thousand gooseberry bushes and three thousand strawberry plants, and has raised this year thirty tons of feed corn—the average height of each stalk being ten feet. On two acres he raised green fodder. Mr. Thompson has a fine herd of thoroughbred A. J. C. C. cows, headed by the famous Jersey bull, Mulberry Pogis, of the A. J. C. C. In too many instances those who have accumulated a little means leave the farm for the city, instead of remaining to encourage others by their industry and example. Mr. Thompson does the reverse.

Most of the cattle in this section—Allegany County, N. Y.—live in winter under the barns, which are set upon walls six or eight feet high, with earth graded up to the sill on the north or west, boarded at the ends and open to the east or south. There is no shivering in cold yards, the shelter is always open, and if my cows, as often happens, choose to stand outside till the snow is four inches deep on their backs, it is their own affair. There are no stable emanations, the cows are clean and dry as in summer. If the feeding places are all inside, not five per cent of the manure will be scattered outside, and treading it flat before it freezes, there will be no hard knobs to lie upon. In spring you have a bed of manure, solid and liquid altogether, perfectly secure from leaching or heating; if you wish to leave a part of it until autumn it is safe from waste, and out of sight beneath its cover of dry straw. Suppose this automatic stable calls for a little more hygienic than the sweat-box variety; the saving of labor and manure is ample compensation, and no ties or stanchions are so easy as perfect liberty. When the codlers have built and operated all their gimcracks for a term of years, and Nature has recorded her opinion of their practices upon the bodies of the cattle, they will find that, counting first cost, running expenses and disease all together, they are not so far ahead as they supposed.—E. S. Gilbert, in *N. Y. Tribune*.

**AN INTELLIGENT MARE.**—Farmer Wm. H. Ellis, of Bloomingburg, N. Y., owns a little mare called Whitefoot, that is remarkably intelligent and kind. Every school-day morning Whitefoot hauls Mr. Ellis' two little girls in a wagon to the school-house, a mile from home, and after leaving the children there the little mare turns around and trots back to her master's house without any driver. When the school-closing hour approaches, Mr. Ellis hitches Whitefoot up and starts her off alone for the school-house, and in due time she comes back with the little girls. She is so careful and expert in passing vehicles on the road that she never has a collision or damages any of her horse gear. On a recent Sunday night, Mr. Ellis' hired man drove Whitefoot over to Middletown on his way to New York. Before embarking on the cars here he tacked a piece of paper to the wagon seat containing this notice:—"Don't stop this mare. She belongs to Wm. H. Ellis, Bloomingburg, and will go home all right." And then turning the mare's head homeward, he let her go. Sure enough, she covered the distance, a long nine miles, in safety, and at a pace that brought her home in about an hour.—*New York Sun*.

It is evident that such a culture could only have resulted from kindly treatment.—ED. CRITIC.

**MILKED BY A BLACK SNAKE.**—A cow belonging to Robert Knox, a farmer residing near Boston, Ohio, strayed from her owner's premises about two weeks ago and was found ten days after. The animal was discovered in a dense wood two miles from the Knox farm by her owner, and was lying down near a ledge of rocks. Upon approaching the animal a huge black snake was discovered very complacently taking his lacteal meal from the cow's udder. On the nearer approach of the owner the snake relinquished its meal and escaped under the rocks. At the disappearance of the snake the cow manifested the greatest uneasiness, and ran after it, bawling lustily. Mr. Knox had great difficulty in driving his cow from the place, and since being home she has been utterly inconsolable, giving vent continuously to such bawls as cows usually do when deprived of their young, and making repeated efforts to escape from her confinement.

It is probable that the cow had formed an attachment to the snake, and that the latter had reciprocated its affection to the extent of regularly drawing its rations from the cow's udder.

For a farmer's use, a horse is worth more at seven than at any other age. He has nearly as many years of service before him as at a less age, and at seven is past the danger of being strained or injured by over-work. How old he must be before becoming superannuated depends upon circumstances. A horse overworked becomes played out at an age when one well treated is still able to do good service.

**THE EARLY ROSE.**—The early rose and its family relatives have worked a revolution in the potato crop of the world. It has given us a variety that will generally mature, if fairly treated, before the season of greatest danger from rot, and with so short a period of growth as to materially interfere with the domestic arrangements of the beetle pest. Since the introduction of the early rose the *New England Farmer* has advocated the

adoption of the early varieties for the main crop. Two or three hundred bushels per acre was a good crop years ago, and it is as easy—barring the beetles—to get that yield now from such early varieties as the early rose, as it was to get it from the varieties usually planted a half century ago, and the exceptional yields of from four to six hundred bushels can be obtained in exceptional cases now from the early varieties. Last year the drought and heat of late June and early July was unusually severe, cutting off the early potatoes or greatly reducing the yield, the result naturally being to influence planters to try later varieties this season. The experiment has been anything but satisfactory, and it seems a fitting time to remind our readers again of the general rule that, all things being considered, the early potato of to-day is the more desirable for obtaining the main crop. The requisites are good, sound seed, kept dormant by cool storage till the season for planting, and well fertilized, well pulverized soil that will feed the plants and push the crop along without stint during its early stages of growth.

## OUR COSY CORNER.

A full-dress fan is called the Mary Anderson, and consists of three long ostrich plumes springing from a bed of tightly curled tips, and a bird, with outstretched wings of a darker hue. The handle may be of pearl, shell, or malachite, with or without a bow of ribbon.

Boxes and baskets of twisted rushes are used for fine confectionery, and tied round with ribbons, holding a bouquet of grasses on the top.

A menu for a wedding breakfast is shaped like a tiny slipper, and for dinners we find life-like crabs and lobsters.

Handsome clocks are fancied of Wedgwood china, ivory, fancy enamel and electrotype, which resembles oxidized silver.

The "carvers' friend" is a servicable carving-knife, provided on one side with a spear powerful enough to cut through any joint.

A new handbag has a straight handle tipped with metal, which unscrews, and proves to be the stopper of a scent bottle.

A shield hung around with eight bells is to answer for a dinner-bell, when struck by the hammer a musical sound issues, reminding one of the days of the famous Swiss bell-ringers.

A yoke of light-weight steel chain armor is worn over a gray silk basque with startling effect.

Lively little boxes with ornamental covers contain correspondence cards and envelopes, each with a flower beautifully colored, or a wise owl, in brown plumage, on a gray crescent moon, or a gray one on a silver moon. The boxes have the same design on the lid.

New stationery has a miniature champagne cork, with Chiquot branded on it, on both paper and envelopes, a life-like prawn, coin, single flower, etc.

A handsome piece of embroidery is now fancied down the centre of a piano in place of the usual cover. It is made after the design of a table-scarf of satin or plush, lined with a contrasting color, the edges finished with ornaments, and the design run the full length.

Some of the handsomest ornaments seen are the beaded and embroidered cups which hold heavy tassels. They are intended for the sash-ends gathered to a point that are now greatly worn of the dress fabric.

Not only are metallic beads fashionable, but metallic threads that do not tarnish have been introduced into passementeries. The colors are gray, blue, green, garnet and pink, the glitter of the material lending the required brilliancy to the delicate shades.

The latest dress handkerchiefs are ornamented with hemstitched hems, borders and corners of tiny squares with the surrounding threads drawn out, a narrow or wide frill of Val lace finishes the edge, the depth depending upon the dressiness of the occasion.

A novel paper box is represented by three library-looking volumes seen in different colored bindings, and bearing such inscriptions as "Leaves from my Journal," "Half-hours with the Best Authors," etc.

**ABOUT THE HOUSE.**—To clean nickel on stoves, wet soda with ammonia, apply with an old tooth brush and rub off with a woollen cloth.

Once a year, even the most frugal housewife should replenish her linen closet, and add to her store at least the furnishing of one bed and a dozen towels.

To remove kerosene from a carpet, lay blotters or soft brown paper over the spot and press with a warm iron. Repeat with fresh papers till the spot is removed.

Try one of the smallest coal oil lamps. It looks like a toy, but for a hand lamp it will make as much light as a good tallow candle, and will not drop sparks.

Two ounces of soda dissolved in a quart of hot water will make a ready and useful solution for cleaning old painted work preparatory to repainting. This mixture, in the above proportion, should be applied when warm, and the woodwork afterward washed with water to remove all traces of soda.

One of the most servicable kind of washstand splashers, and also one of the cheapest, is made from a yard of fancy matting bound with a wide band or a piece of silk or merino, matching the prevailing color in the room and fastened up with four tacks, each tack covered with a colored ribbon. Where the room is small and there is no dressing case, pockets of the matting may be fastened each side of the splasher to hold the comb and brush.