

shocked about it. To be sure I like to be nicely dressed, and think it dutiful to be tidy and tasty if I cannot dress elegantly. But would you have us put on our best dress to do rough work in, and I believe a farmer's wife does more rough work than she ought to do. Think of a writer suggesting the idea that a young man would sooner find us tidy and making biscuits, than finely dressed. That is all stuff and nonsense. Show me the man that don't like to see a lady well dressed, and I will prove him to be a tither or something worse.

We dress tidy, and can make biscuits and cakes too, and more than that, if our beaux stay long enough after tea, or come early in the evening, they see us shoulder our pails and show how butter's won.

The milking must always be done before we can take that moonlight walk in the dewy eve, that novelists write so often about, but which we found not so pleasant, for we in this way get our skirts dragged with dew and our feet quite damp. But the summer is not here yet. The spring work absorbs our attention at present.

I really would be pleased if some Canadian sister would take up her pen and deliver our proper position; surely, we would be benefited by a little discussion, and then on to be busy in our household to win the pen for so worthy a theme, and I hope you will be gallant enough to allow a chance in the column. I do mean that we should be able to "write anything of the kind, we wish it." In eight or ten pages devoted to a letter, a tank paper ought not to look so surprised when he heard his girls commotion in the Government, or even those wonderful "fifties books." A few columns for ourselves would be very interesting and edifying in our evening circle. Will not some one come to our aid, and come speedily?

VINA BELL.

Household Hints.

Punch gives some "minor morals for married people," which are worthy to be preserved and studied:

"The last word" is the most dangerous of infernal machines. Husband and wife should no more strive to get it than they would struggle to get possession of a bombshell.

"Married people should study each other's weak points, as skaters look out for weak parts of the ice, in order to keep off them.

"The wife is the sun of the social system. Unless she attracts, there is nothing to keep heavy bodies—like husbands—from flying off into space.

"The wife who would properly discharge her duties must never have a soul 'above buttons.'"

NEW OAK MADE OLD.—An exchange says that the appearance of old oak may be obtained by exposing any article of new oak to the vapours of ammonia. Every variety of tint may be procured according to the duration and temperature of the volatile compounds. A new oak carved chair exposed to the vapours of ammonia will, in about twelve hours, have all the appearance of having been made two hundred years before.

Light in Darkness.

The Paris *Figaro* gives the following method of obtaining light instantaneously, without the use of matches and without the danger of setting things on fire:—

Take an oblong vial of the whitest and clearest glass, put in it a piece of phosphorus about the size of a pea, upon which pour some olive oil, heated to the boiling point, filling the vial about one-third full, and then seal the vial hermetically. To use it, remove the cork and allow the air to enter the vial, and then re-cork it. The whole empty space in the bottle will then become luminous, and the light obtained will be equal to that of a lamp. As soon as the light grows weak, its power can be increased by opening the vial and allowing a fresh supply of air to enter. In winter, it is sometimes necessary to heat the vial between the hands to increase the fluidity of the oil. Thus prepared, the vial may be used for six months. This contrivance is now used by the watchmen of Paris in all magazines where explosive or inflammable materials are stored.

Doctry.

Earth's Angels.

Why come not spirits from the realms of glory,
To visit earth as in the days of old—
The thunders of ancient wars and of an ancient story;
Is heaven more distant, or has earth grown so old?

Oh have I gazed when sunset clouds reveal'd
Waved blue rich banners of a host gone by,
To catch the gleam of some white plume speeding
Along the confines of the glowing sky?

And oft when midnight stars in dim soft effulgence,
Were calmly burning, lighted late and long,
But nature's pulchre light in so calm stillness,
Bearing a echo of the seraph's song.

To Bethlehem's air was their last anthem given,
When other stars before the One grew dim;
Was their last prayer known in Peter's prison,
O' where ev'ning martyrs raised their hymn?

And are they all within the veil departed?
There gleams a wing along the empyrean low,
And many a tear from human eye has started
Since angel touch has caused a mortal bow.

Yet earth has angels, though their forms are moulded
But of such clay as fashions all below,
Though harps are wanting and bright plumes folded,
We know them by the love light on their brow.

I have seen angels by the sick one's pillow
Where the soft to ceaseless soulless tread;
Where smitten hearts were drooping like the willow
They stood between the living and the dead.

And if my sight, by earthly dimness hindered,
He'd no how rid a cherub in air,
I doubted not for spirits know that hindered
They smiled upon the will gleam watchers there.

I have seen angels in a gloomy prison
In crowded halls, by the lone widow's hearth
And when they pass'd the fallen have uplifted
The glad pause'd the murderer's hand had blith

Oh many a spirit walks the world unheeded,
That, when the veil of sadness is laid down,
Shed afar aloft with plumes undimmed,
And bear its glory like a starry crown.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Hamilton Township Farmers' Club.

BARLEY AND ITS CULTIVATION.

A meeting of the Township of Hamilton Farmers' Club was held at Cobourg on March 16th, Mr. Edward Bellerby in the chair.

Mr. Peter Sidey, President, in introducing the subject for discussion, said that he would follow the order suggested, and make a few remarks first on barley, and then on its cultivation. We find early mention of this cereal in Scripture history, and it was probably indigenous in Egypt. How it found its way to Britain he could not say, but it has long been cultivated there to a great extent, and for the last ten or twelve years the extent of ground over which barley has been sown in Canada, especially in the Province of Ontario, has so increased that it has become one of our staple crops, the six-rowed being the principal variety cultivated in this country. In regard to the different varieties of barley, Proctor or Low divided it into two sorts,—the two-rowed and six-rowed varieties. Lawson describes twenty varieties, while the Museum of the Highland Agricultural Society contains thirty or more varieties. The classification of barley by the ear is of three kinds,—the four-rowed, termed in Britain Bere or Bigg; the six-rowed, and the two-rowed. Of these, the Bere or Bigg was that which was mostly cultivated about a century ago, but more recently the two-rowed has almost entirely supplanted it, and is now the most commonly cultivated variety in Britain, the six-rowed being rather an object of curiosity than culture. In classifying barley by the grain there are only two kinds—Bere or Bigg, and barley. In the Bere the median line of the blossom is so traced as to give the grain a twisted form, one of its sides appearing larger than the other. In the barley the line passes straight, and divides the grain into two equal sides, whose shortness and plumpness give it a character of superiority. The Bigg has long been recognized in Scotland, and a two-rowed variety, under the name of Scotch barley, was a long time cultivated; but several of the English sorts have been naturalized, and show a brighter and fairer colour, plumper and shorter grain, malt quicker, but are less hardy and prolific than the common barley. The great bulk of barley is used for malting purposes, but it is excellent food (when chopped) for fattening cattle and pigs, and also, especially when boiled, for horses. It is, besides, more economical considering the present prices of peas and oats. Its fattening properties are ten per cent. more than that of peas, taking equal weights, while the nutritive properties of the two grains are the same.