

Warning as to Fire.

We do not often care to record sad events in the "Farmer's Advocate," there is so much need of cheer and brightness in the short lives of men and women. Yet, when reading the following despatch from the Globe last week, we felt that we must comment upon it by way of warning:

"Whitevale, Nov. 21.—This afternoon Mrs. John Larkin was nearly burned to death. While putting chips into the stove, her apron caught fire. She immediately tore it from her, throwing it to the floor, but her skirts caught, and immediately she was a mass of flames, and rushed outside screaming. Her husband and the hired man, who were plowing, rushed to her assistance, only to find the unfortunate woman lying on the ground with her clothing burnt off. As soon as possible doctors arrived; after consultation, they left her sleeping. No hope is entertained for her recovery. Death is looked for at any moment."

Over and over again during the past year accounts of frightful tragedies, such as this, have appeared in Canadian and U. S. papers. At one time it is a girl, whose clothes catch fire while she is drying gasoline-washed gloves over a lamp. At another, a child gets a fire while playing near a burning rubbish heap in a yard; and yet again the story is told of men and women being burned to death in the dead of night, the fire which consumed their homes being attributable, in almost every case, to old and defective chimneys.

Surely a word of warning is necessary. People grow so accustomed to fire in stoves, on chip-yards, etc., that its terrible possibilities are unregarded until perhaps too late. People cannot be too careful while working about burning material of any description. Fire is a useful slave, but a terrible master, and the sooner people learn to keep proper watch upon it, the better for the safety of life and property.

"Tales of Olden Times."

Probably the old shepherd is once more telling some of the legends which surround, as an atmosphere, the ancient castle on the hilltop. The sheep are resting amongst the hillocks; the children out from school have scrambled up from the valley to hear another of the oft-told tales which have fired their young imaginations, and which may, whether true or purely imaginary, not be without an influence on their lives. Let us listen: "Yonder castle was built by the old lords of Avenel, men as much beloved in peace as they were respected in war. They were the bulwark of the frontiers against foreigners, and the protectors of the natives from domestic oppression. . . . He who usurped their inheritance no more resembled them than the night-prowling owl resembles a falcon because she builds on the same rock. . . . He was more than once outlawed, both by England and Scotland, his lands were declared forfeited, and upon his head was set a price." And from these historic contrasts we may be assured that the wise old shepherd would draw a moral, which told amidst such surroundings would be more likely to be remembered by his little audience than any lesson conned upon the bench at school and repeated by rote at the motion of the teacher's wand o' office.

H. A. B.

Humorous.

Jester—"The diagnosis of the attending physician was a great comfort to our deceased friend, the prohibitionist." Quester—"What was the nature of that diagnosis?" Jester—"Water on the brain."

Mrs. A.—Now, Mrs. B., will you come and see our apiary?

Mrs. B. (who has been putting it off the afternoon)—Well, Mrs. A., the truth is, you know, I—I'm rather afraid of monkeys!

I think the "Farmer's Advocate" is a first-class publication in every respect. The women think very highly of the Home Magazine, as it contains many useful hints. Enclosed find \$1.50 for a new subscribe. As a premium, please send me the A1 farmer's knife.

D. P. L. CAMPBELL.

Prescott, Ont.



The Primrose.

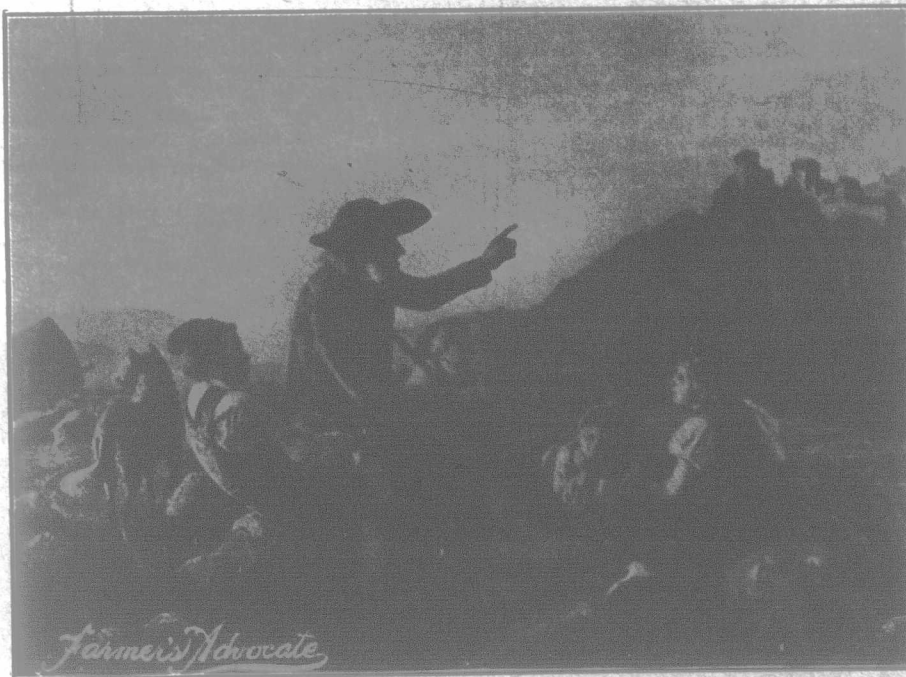
One of the most satisfactory plants for winter blooming is the Primrose, whose handsome downy leaves and clusters of bright-faced little blossoms, showing bravely from November until spring, make the plant a well-deserved favorite in every house in which it has been grown. Possibly the largest and handsomest variety suitable for the house is the Chinese Primrose. The flowers of this species range in color from pure white to deep crimson, often showing an "eye" of deeper tint in the center, with fringing or fluting along the outer edge of the petals, and, as the leaves of a full-grown plant droop prettily about the edge of the pot, the variety is especially adapted for a hanging basket or flower-shelf. At this season of the year, fine specimens already in bloom may be procured from any reliable florist; but, if one chooses, one may raise the plants from seed. Florists, in fact, raise their plants from seed each year, although good ones are sometimes carried over a second year. When the seedlings are large enough they should be transplanted into small pots—never directly into large ones—and shifted into larger ones when necessary, care being taken each time that the crown of the plant, from which the leaves start, stands well above the soil, otherwise rot is likely to set in. The final potting should be into pots six inches in diameter, these being quite large enough for plants in bloom. A good potting compost to be used while the plants are young is composed of leaf-mould and loam, with a little sand mixed in. For later shiftings well-rotted manure may be added to the mixture, although many prefer putting on diluted manure water once a week after the flowers come in bud. Good drainage is very essential. The plants should be watered thoroughly whenever the soil be-

comes dry, but the leaves should never be showered, nor water allowed to fall upon the crown, as the Chinese Primrose strongly resents having its face washed. Primula obconica is a species which meets with much favor because of its perpetual blooming qualities. If intended for the winter window-garden, however, it should not be permitted to bloom exhaustively during summer. The flowers of P. obconica are much smaller than those of the Chinese variety, but they grow on much larger stems, and the whole plant has a very graceful, attractive appearance. This species requires plenty of water, and strict watching for fear of mealy bugs. If these appear touch each one with a small paint

brush dipped in alcohol. . . . Mexican Primrose, yet another variety, with rosy-pink blossoms, is much liked. It may be grown in the garden during summer and lifted in the fall to bloom in the house during winter. In regard to the Primrose family, it may be said that a great deal of confusion has existed among botanists. Finally a division was made, and two families specified, the Primulaceae or regular Primrose family, which is most largely represented among Canadian wild flowers by the Loosestrifes of the swamps, and the Onagraceae, or Evening Primrose family, which numbers among its children the so-called "False" Loosestrife of the river borders, the yellow Evening Primrose, with its sulphur-colored blossoms and sweet perfume, and the Great Willow Herb, whose showy pinkish-purple racemes make gay the "new" lands and swamp borders of southern Canada. Different, very different, appear these species, but the botanist speedily recognizes the relationship between them, and proclaims them all as very near cousins in the great plant world.

SHIFTING.

Some people seem to think that any plant that needs shifting, must of necessity, be a very troublesome member of a household. This, however, is not so, provided one knows how to "shift." In doing so, turn the pot sidewise, and give it a sharp rap on something to loosen the soil about the edges. Now place your hand over the top to hold the soil, and turn the whole bottom upward, lifting off the pot. The soil should remain in a solid mass, which may be set, without further trouble, into a larger pot, and the space around the edge filled in with fresh soil. Shifting, by the way, is only necessary when the rootlets show around the outside of the mass of soil. When repotting is necessary, as sometimes, in the fall, the soil should be very



"Tales of Olden Times."

(From a painting by Heddeman.)

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FLORA FERNLEAF.

"Farmer's Advocate" office, London, Ont.

The Holy Ghost Flower.

Dear Flora Fernleaf,—I feel I must write and tell you what pleasure an article of yours has given me. I read, not long ago, an article in the "Farmer's Advocate" on "Some Curious Plants," which was very interesting, but I thought no more about it until last week, when I was at the flower show in Toronto. Walking around, I came up to

an old gentleman who was telling some ladies about a rare flower that was there. He said it came from South America, and told the legend that the Spaniards had about it, and gave their name for it, but said the English for it was the "Holy Ghost Flower." Then I remembered what you had written about it. I asked him where it was. He said he had not seen it, but he heard it was there. I was very much interested and wanted to see it; so I asked a young lady, whose father had an exhibit there, if she knew where it was. She did not—had not heard of it. She asked her brother; he knew nothing about it, but went and asked his father, and he took us to it. It was with a collection of Orchids. There it was, just as you described it: the dove, with its wings outspread over what looked like a tiny cradle. I looked around to find the old gentleman, but he had gone away. I met some ladies from a Western town and took them and other friends to see it. So I write and thank you for the pleasure you gave us, for if I had not read your article, I should not have known anything about the rare flower.

Yours very truly,
(MRS.) J. RUSH.

Humber Bay, Ontario.

Domestic Economy.

CORN CAKES.

One quart of sifted meal, one teaspoonful each of salt and soda, and buttermilk to make a thin batter; bake or fry on very hot griddle.

BUTTERMILK BISCUIT.

Three cupfuls of buttermilk, one of butter, half a teaspoonful of soda, a teaspoonful of salt, and flour enough to admit of being rolled out into biscuit.

BAKED EGGS.

Grease well a dish or pan, with butter, break into as many eggs as you wish to cook, sprinkle over a little salt and pepper, and place them in the oven a few moments. They are very good, if well cooked.

HAM TOAST.

Mix with one tablespoonful of finely-chopped ham, the beaten-up yolk of an egg, and a little cream and pepper, heat over the fire, and then spread the mixture either on hot-buttered toast, or on slices of bread fried quite crisp in butter; serve very hot.

FRIED BREAKFAST BACON.

Remove the rind, and cut up several slices of bacon, scatter in the frying-pan and fry gently. Beat up six eggs, add to them salt and pepper, pour over the bacon, let it set nicely, and turn. Have ready slices of toast, on which lay the bacon and eggs.

PANCAKES.

The folks of two eggs, beat them up lightly, add a pint of milk and a little salt, and flour enough to make a thin, smooth batter. Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth, and stir them as lightly as possible into the batter just before baking; they are very nice, and made without baking powder or soda. As fast as fried flap over or cover with a pan, till ready for the table.

BREAKFAST FRITTERS.

Two eggs, beat well, two cupfuls of buttermilk or sour milk, a little salt, a half teaspoonful of soda, and flour to make a batter stiff enough to drop from the spoon. Have a skillet of hot lard and drop in small spoonfuls and fry a light brown. They are nice and light. For a change you can put in some chopped meat or oyster for each fritter, for those that like oysters.

EGG TOAST.

Cut some small slices of bread, brown and butter. Take the yolks of hard-boiled eggs, put in a bowl with salt and pepper, melted butter, rub together and spread on the toast. Set where it will keep warm. Put a teaspoonful of milk in a saucepan with salt, butter and a little cornstarch. Have the whites of the eggs chopped, and dropped in the saucepan, let boil and pour over the toast.

Many Thanks.

Dear Sir,—Received your premium wrist-bag. Many thanks for same.
Stimco Co. JAS. GODDARD.