NOVEMBER 23, 1911

THE SPICE OF LIFE.

THE HIGHWAY COW.

Some time ago Peter McArthur, in his "Donald Ban" series of correspondence, quoted a few lines from an old poem, entitled, "The Highway Cow," at the same time hinting, if we are not mistaken, that he would like to be favored with a copy of the verses complete. Half a dozen willing readers came forward with the information, which, however, was not acknowledged in print ; and still they come. The last to hand is from a correspondent in Simcao County, Ont., whose version we have concluded to quote, seeing the stanzas appear to be so popular.

- The hue of her hide was a dusky brown, Her body was lean and her neck was slim,
- One horn turned up and the other turned down,
- She was keen of vision and long of limb,
- With a Roman nose and a short-stump tail,
- And ribs like the hoops of a homemade pail.

Many a mark did her body bear, She had been a target for all things known;

On many a scar the dusky hair Would grow no more where it once had grown;

Many a parting sporting shot Had left on her a lasting spot.

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Many and many a well-aimed stone, Many a brick-bat of goodly size, Many a cudgel swiftly thrown

- Had brought the tears to her lovely eves,
- Or had bounded off from her bony back With a noise like the sound of a rifle crack.
- Many a day she had passed in the pound For helping herself to her neighbor's corn,

Many a cowardly cur and hound Had been transfixed on her crumpled

horn, Many a teapot and old tin pail Had the boys tied to her time-worn tail.

Old Deacon Gray was a good old man, Though sometimes tempted to be pro-

fane, When many a weary mile he ran

To drive her out of his growing grain. Sharp were the pranks she used to play To get her fill and to get away.

She knew when the Deacon went to town.

She watched him wisely as he went by, He never passed her without a frown,

And an angry gleam in each angry eye. He would crack his whip in a surly way And would drive along in his one-hoss shay.

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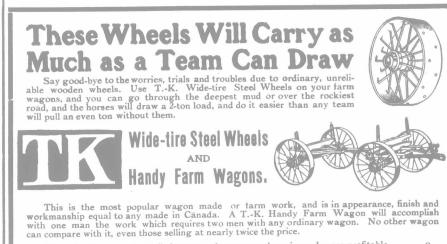


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