

my frame was strained to the utmost tension.

The trees along the shore seemed to dance in the uncertain light, and my brain turned with my own breathless speed, but still they seemed to hiss forth a sound horrible, when an involuntary stumble on my part, turned me out of my course. The wolves close behind, unable to stop and as unable to turn, slipped, fell, still going far ahead, their tongues were lolling out, their white tusks glaring from their bloody mouths, their dark shaggy breasts were fleeced with foam, and as they passed me their eyes glared, and they howled with fury. The thought flashed on my mind that by this means I could avoid them, viz: by turning aside when they came too near for they, by the formation of their feet, are unable to turn on ice except in a straight line.

I immediately acted upon this plan. The wolves having regained their feet sprang directly towards me. The race was renewed for twenty yards up the stream; they were already close on my track, when I glided around and dashed directly past my pursuers. A fierce yell greeted my evolution, and the wolves slipping upon their haunches sailed onward, presenting a picture of helplessness and baffled rage. Thus I gained nearly a hundred yards at each turning. This was repeated two or three times, every moment the wolves getting more excited and baffled until coming opposite the house a couple of staghounds, roused by the noise, bayed furiously from their kennels. The wolves taking the hint, stopped in their mad career, and after a few moments' consideration, turned and fled. I watched them until their dusky forms disappeared over a neighbouring hill.—Then taking off my skates, wended my way to the house, with feelings better to be imagined than described.

PRESENT AND FUTURE.

The men who place their hopes exclusively in the future, confess, by the very act, that they are incapable of enjoying the present (and by enjoyment much more is meant than the mere taking of pleasure), but not wishing to make this humiliating admission, they flatter themselves that something else than what they possess is essential to peace and comfort. This is nothing less than an excuse for want of contentment; because, when the object of search is attained, they are as far from what they really need as ever. He who does not begin by placing contentment as the basis of external good, heaps up in vain, and might as well try to fill a sieve with water, as to construct a building of happiness upon a shadowy foundation. Besides, a constant restlessness is the greatest possible hindrance to sound education of the mind. The feverish gaze of the fortune-seeker cannot look aright upon the beautiful creation which is around him, if it ever looks upon it all. There are many men surrounded by the comforts of life, who, if you told them to divert their eyes awhile from future prospects, to cease envying their associates, to admire the wonders of nature and the beautiful world we live in, to be rejoiced at the remembrance of their daily blessings, and to be fully satisfied with their numerous advantages, would put you down for a madman or a fool. It is quite as easy to cultivate such a state of mind as to be constantly pining after what you have not got, or distressing yourself because you are not so well off as other people! and while every man of active mind must desire to go through his daily duties with energy and skill, and to fulfil his vocation with diligence, yet when he has done all this, calm contentment is one great means to make him happy, and keep him so.—The poet Horace when a young man, saw these important truths, and in his first satire lashes the folly of mankind in a very just and lively manner. That satire is not directed merely against avarice, as many critics have supposed, but against the deeper spirit of disquiet, which is at the root of all.

PREVENTION OF INFECTION FROM TYPHUS FEVER.—Dr. J. C. Smith obtained £5000 from Parliament for the following receipt:—Take six drachms of powdered nitre, (salt petre) and six drachms of sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol); mix them in a teacup. By adding one drachm of the oil at a time, a copious discharge of nitric acid gas will take place. The cup is to be placed during the preparation on a hot hearth or a plate of heated iron; and the mixture stirred with a tobacco pipe. The quantity of gas may be regulated by lessening or increasing the quantity of ingredients. The above is for a moderate sized room, half the quantity would be sufficient for a small room. Avoid as much as possible breathing the gas when it first rises from the vessel. No injury to the lungs will happen when the air is impregnated with the gas, which is called nitrous acid gas; and it cannot be too widely known that it possesses the property of preventing the spread of fever.

WOUNDS.—"Wounds break no bones," says an old proverb; true, they do not; it would be well if their power were limited to such fractures;

they do infinitely worse—break hopes which may have been the life and nourishment of a young heart—they throw a deadening chill over the high aspirations of many a bright and noble spirit—they sever the mystic woven threads of affection that were fondly deemed all enduring and immortal, and they break (perhaps, irremediably), many a tender and trusting heart, for hearts can break "yet broken live on;" and thus they inflict bruises and wounds that the balm of Gilead alone can heal.

Scientific.

CATECHISM OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY.

II.—Of the Soil on which Plants Grow.

- Q. What does the soil consist of?
 

A. The soil consists of an organic or combustible, and of an inorganic or incombustible, part.
- Q. How do you show this?
 

A. By heating a portion of soil to redness on a bit of sheet iron, or on the end of a knife, either in the fire or over a lamp. The soil will first turn black, showing the presence of carbonaceous matter, and will afterwards assume a grey brown or reddish colour as this black organic matter burns away.
- Q. Whence is the organic part of the soil derived?
 

A. It is derived from the roots and stems of decayed plants, and from the dung and remains of animals and insects of various kinds.
- Q. Does this organic part form a large proportion of the soil?
 

A. Of peaty soils it forms sometimes three-fourths of the whole weight; but of rich and fertile soils it does not usually form more than from a twentieth to a tenth of the whole weight.
- Q. Can soil bear good crops which does not contain a considerable portion of organic matter?
 

A. Not in our climate. A rich soil generally contains at least one-twentieth of its weight (5 per cent) of organic matter.
- Q. Does the organic matter increase or diminish in the soil, according to the way in which it is cultivated?
 

A. Yes, it diminishes when the land is frequently ploughed and cropped, or badly manured; and it increases when the land is planted, when it is laid down to permanent pasture, or when large doses of farm-yard manure or of peat compost are given to it.
- Q. What purpose does this organic matter serve in the soil?
 

A. It supplies the organic food which plants draw from the soil through their roots.
- Q. Do plants draw much of their organic food from the soil?
 

A. The quantity they draw from the soil varies with the kind of plant, with the kind of soil, and with the season; but it is always considerable, and is necessary to the healthy growth of the plant.
- Q. If plants always draw this organic matter from the soil, will not the soil become gradually poorer and less productive?
 

A. It will if badly managed and constantly cropped.
- Q. Then how can you keep up the supply?
 

A. By ploughing in green crops,—by growing clovers and other plants which have long roots in the soil,—by restoring all the hay and straw to the land in the form of manure,—or by laying down to pasture.

[As the principles here laid down are so easily proved, and are now established beyond all question, how ruinously foolish is the practice of those farmers who sell hay, straw, and every thing they can carry off without taking any means to supply the soil with those essential elements of which it is thus deprived. Every load of manure, arising from the produce of a farm, which is not returned to it, is so much taken from its fertility, and to that extent diminishes its power of bearing crops. Hereafter let the farmer reflect upon this.—Ed. Canada Farmer.]
- Q. Whence is the inorganic part of the soil derived?
 

A. The inorganic part of the soil is derived from the crumbling down of the solid rocks.
- Q. Of what do these rocks principally consist?
 

A. They consist of more or less hardened sandstones, limestones and clays.
- Q. Do soils consist principally of the same substances?
 

A. Yes, soils principally consist of sand, clay and lime.
- Q. How would you name a soil which contained one of these substances in large quantities?
 

A. If it contained very much sand, I would call it a sandy soil; if much clay, a more or less stiff clay soil; if much lime a calcareous soil.

- Q. But if the soil contained two or more of them in large proportions how would you name it?
 

A. A mixture of sand and clay with a little lime, I would call a loam; if much lime was present, I would call it a calcareous loam; and if it were a clay with much lime, I would call it a calcareous clay.
- Q. What do you understand by light and heavy lands?
 

A. Light lands are such as contain a large proportion of sand or gravel, heavy lands, such as contain much clay.
- Q. Which of these two kinds of land is most easily and cheaply cultivated?
 

A. The light lands, called often also barley or turnip soils.
- Q. Why are these lands called barley or turnip soils?
 

A. Because they have been found to be peculiarly fitted for the growth of barley and of turnip, and other green crops.
- Q. Do heavy or light lands usually stand most in need of draining?
 

A. The heavy clay lands retain water most, and should therefore generally be drained first.
- Q. Do light lands not require draining?
 

A. Yes, though dry at the surface, such soils are often wet beneath, and would pay well for draining.
- Q. To what depth would you drain your lands?
 

A. If I could get a full I would never have my drains shallower than 30 inches.
- Q. Why would you put them so deep?
 

A. Because the deeper the dry soil is made, the deeper the roots can go in search of food.
- Q. Can you give me any other reason?
 

A. Yes when my drains are so deep I can go down 20 or 22 inches with my subsoil plough, without any risk of injuring them.
- Q. Does draining serve any other purpose besides that of carrying off the water from the land?
 

A. Yes, it lets in the air to the subsoil, and allows the run water to sink down and wash out of it any thing which may be hurtful to the roots of the plants.
- Q. Do such substances often collect in the subsoil?
 

A. Yes, very often, and crops which look well at first, often droop or fail altogether when their roots get down to the hurtful matter.

[This may be illustrated by referring to the layers of iron-ochre, or *pan*, which in many districts are met with in the subsoil,—and to such curious facts as that observed in the East of Fife, where the beans and oats, which look well up to April or May, often blacken and fall in June or July, when the roots get down to the ochre subsoil. It is the local saying when this happens,—that the beans or oats have gone to Auchtermuchty—a fair being held there about that time when the beans usually fail.]
- Q. Why are many of the heaviest clays in the country laid down to permanent pasture?
 

A. Because the expense of ploughing and working these soils is so great, that the value of the grain reaped from them is not fit to pay the farmer for his trouble.
- Q. How could these heavy clay lands be rendered lighter and more cheap to work?
 

A. By draining, subsoil ploughing, or by the addition of lime or marl when it is required.
- Q. Would the land after this treatment, also give greater crops of grain?
 

A. Yes, not only would it be more cheaply worked, but it would yield a greater number of bushels of wheat per acre than before.
- Q. Would this increase be sufficient to pay the cost of draining?
 

A. Yes, the cost of draining clay lands is generally paid back in three, or at the utmost, in five years, and the crops still continue greater than before.

For the Ladies.

Park Benjamin thus gracefully addresses the Daguerreotype presentment of a pretty woman:—

Oh, I would labour many an hour,  
And journey many a mile,  
To catch the tender sweetness  
Of that delicious smile!  
There never was a lovelier  
From lips of woman won,  
And truly could be copied by  
No artist save the Sun.

WEAR A SMILE.—Which will you do—smile, and make others happy, or be crabbed, and make every one around you miserable? The amount of happiness you can produce is

incalculable, if you show a smiling face—a kind heart—and speak pleasant words.—Wear a smiling countenance—let joy beam in your eyes, and love grow on your forehead. There is no joy like that which springs from a kind act or a pleasant deed—and you may feel it at night when you rest, at morning when you rise, and through all day, when about your business.

"A smile; who will refuse a smile,  
The sorrowing breast to cheer?  
And turn to love the heart of guide,  
And check the falling tear!

A pleasant smile for every face,  
O, 'tis a blessed thing!  
It will the lines of care erase,  
And spots of beauty bring.

DOMESTIC FAULTS.

It has been the fashion, may we not say it to a nauseating excess to direct counsel on the domestic virtues to women only. Dean Swift complains that young ladies make nets instead of cages; and the whole phalanx of writers on such subjects have ever treated women as if she alone of the whole creation was not to live for her own happiness, but for the happiness of others—as if she was a sort of moral moon, to shine only by reflected light, and have only a reversionary interest in the grand estate of universal good. But the time is coming when it will be demanded of all to be workers, so will it be not uncommon. We will not enquire on which side the amount of idleness is heaviest; let us rather see the readiest mode of retrieving the past, and giving security for the future. Homes are more often darkened by the continual recurrence of small faults, than by the actual presence of any decided vice. These evils are apparently of very dissimilar magnitude; yet it is easier to grapple with the one than the other. The Eastern traveller can combine his forces, and hunt down the tiger that prowls upon his path, but he finds it scarcely possible to escape the mosquitoes that infest the air he breathes, or the fleas that swarm in the sand he treads. The drunkard has been known to renounce his darling vice—the slave to dress and extravagance her besetting sin; but the waspish temper, the irritating tone, the rude dogmatic manner, and the hundred nameless negligences, that spoil the beauty of association, have rarely done other than proceed till the action of disgust and gradual alienation has turned all the currents of affection from their course, leaving nothing but a barren track, over which the mere skeleton of companionship stalks alone.

THE FEMALE DRESS OF THE PRESENT DAY.

We are inclined to think that the female attire of the present day is upon the whole in as favourable a state as the most vehement advocates for what is called nature, and simplicity could desire. It is a costume in which they can dress quickly, walk nimbly, eat plentifully, stoop easily, loll gracefully, and, in short, perform all the duties of life without let or hindrance. The head is left to its natural size—the skin to its native purity—the waist at its proper region—the heels at their real level. The dress is calculated to bring out the natural beauties of the person, and each of them has, as far as can be seen, fair play. Flounces are a nice question. We like them when they wave and flow, as in a very light material—muslin, gauze, or barege; when a lady has no outline and no map, but looks like a receding angel or a dissolving view; but they are certainly objectionable in a rich material where they flop, or in a stiff one, where they bristle, and where they break the flowing lines of the petticoat, and throw light and shade where you don't expect it. In short, we like the gown that can do without flounces, as Josephine liked the face that could do without whiskers; but in either cases it must be a good one.

Scraps.

THE PRAIRIES.—A poetical contributor to the Burlington, (Vt.) Free Press, thus apostrophizes the prairies:—

Great western waste of bottom land  
Flat as a pancake, rich as grease!  
Where gnats are full as big as toads,  
And skeeters are as big as geese!  
O, lonesome, windy, grassy place,  
Where buffaloes and snakes prevail!  
The first with dreadful looking face,  
The last with dreadful sounding tail!  
I'd rather live on camel's rump,  
And be a yankee doodle beggar,  
Than where they never see a stump,  
And shake to death with fever w'ager!

"Mien Got?" says a Dutchman in the market house at Monterey, a short time ago who was searching in vain for some cabbages, "dosh Mexigans is no better than Hottentots—dey ish'nt got no kale, no kront, no notten. Dunder and blizen no wonder dey can't fight."

"Mr. Green," said a tolerably dressed female the other day, entered a grocery in which were several customers, "have you any fresh corned pork?" "Yes, ma'am." "How much is this sugar a pound?" "One shilling, ma'am." "Let me have," she continued, lowering her voice, "half a pint of gin, and charge it as sugar on the book."

Mrs. Butler, in her 'Year of Consolation,' describes how poor a rival of Nature, art in its highest perfection is; and does it too with a single stroke of the pen. She is painting a moon-light night at Rome:—"The full moon hung over