

**Old Age and What of It.**

Where is the line that marks youth from middle age, the prime of life from creeping old age? Some of us frankly admit we are "getting along in years," or "losing our faculties," and have reached the "ahady side of life," yet we hardly believe the facts we affirm.

We grow old so imperceptibly, pass from one stage to another so quietly we hardly know when we began to be "middle-aged people," or can date when we ceased to be called "young folks."

Somewhere, I once read of a lady who, in a crowded street, was rudely jostled by the crowd and some one, roughly but not unkindly, said to her, "come, old woman, pass on a little faster." The new title startled her. She had never thought of herself in that light, but soon catching a glimpse of her face in a shop's mirror, was constrained to admit she had reached the guide board of life, and her features bore witness of the weight of years, which authorized any passer-by to call her "an old woman."

**A Lesson in Spelling.**

The following short sentence was dictated by the late Lord Palmerston to eleven British Cabinet Ministers, not one of whom, it is said, spelled it correctly:—

"It is disagreeable to witness the embarrassment of a harassed peddler, gauging the symmetry of a peeled potato."

And Lord R. Cecil, in the House of Commons some time ago, quoted the following lines which he said were given as a dictation exercise by an assistant commissioner to the children of a school in Ipswich:—

"While hewing yew, Hugh lost his ewe,  
And put it in the *Hue and Cry*,  
To name its face's dusky hues  
Was all the efforts he could use,  
You brought the ewe back, by-and-by,  
And only begged the hewer's ewer,  
Your hands to wash in water pure,  
Lest nice-nosed ladies, not a few,  
Should cry, on coming near you, 'Uh!'"

W. W.—What is good to rid canary birds of lice and keep them off? Ans.—Take fine flowers of sulphur, and dust it into the birds' feathers with the fingers, and hold it a few minutes in a silk handkerchief in the warm hand. In the meantime, let another person wrap the cage up closely in paper, leaving the bottom open, put a quantity of sand on the floor of the cage, and a piece of hot iron on that, and sprinkle sulphur on to it, leaving it to burn for five minutes. Keep the paper close for the fumes to penetrate the crevices, then air it, and return the bird. Once a week sprinkle sulphur on the bird as long as lice or fleas are seen.

**A Christmas Speech.**

BY A LITTLE GIRL.

"A merry, merry Christmas!  
A merry Christmas, oh!"  
So sang a little maiden  
Whose face was all aglow,  
"I am so very happy  
This bright and joyous morn,  
The dearest and the gayest  
I've seen since I was born."

"The holidays are many,  
But this one is the best,  
Because—I think—yes, Christmas  
Is better than the rest.  
Why is it so, I wonder?  
Just let me think a bit,  
And see if on the reason  
My fancy cannot hit."

"I sometimes think my birthday  
The dearest holiday,  
Because I have such presents,  
That make life seem so gay;  
But it would seem too selfish,  
And make life all conceit,  
To settle on one's birthday  
As best of all to greet."

"The holiday for soldiers  
Is Decoration Day,  
That comes in such sad beauty  
In sweet and flowery May.  
I think the splendid soldiers  
Deserve all words of praise;  
And, though 'tis patriotic,  
'Tis not the best of days."

"And then that day in summer—  
That dreadful holiday—  
The First, when wild confusion  
Holds everywhere its sway—  
When fun is tame and silly  
Unless it's only noise;  
For me it wouldn't answer,  
Although it might for boys."

"Thanksgiving Day is nicer,  
For that seems half and half,  
With not enough of Sunday  
To make it hard to laugh.  
It seems a day too serious  
To let my joy flow free,  
And so I ask the seasons  
A happier day for me."

"The next—and that is Christmas—  
Yes, that's the holiday  
That's better than all others,  
Whatever you may say.  
My pleasures all are sweeter,  
And brighter all my plays,  
Upon dear merry Christmas,  
The best of holidays."

"And so, although I'm happy  
On every holiday,  
The evergreen and holly,  
The faces bright and gay,  
Make all my play seem nicer,  
And all my thoughts more blest;  
So Christmas is the fairest  
Of all the days, and best."

**Notices.**

We have just received from John Hope, Esq., manager of the Bow Park Herd of Brantford, Ont., his catalogue of this celebrated Herd of Pure-bred Shorthorn Bulls. He informs us they are the finest lot ever bred at Bow Park; 10th Duchess of Hillhurst has given them a fine red roan calf by 3rd Duke of Whittlebury.

The attention of Carriage Builders and users is directed to the advertisement, in another column, of the Adjustable Sand-Box and Improved Concord Axle. These Axles are far superior to any hitherto placed on the market, and are so acknowledged by all practical carriage builders who have given them a trial. The increasing demand for them proves their superiority over all others. Anyone addressing A. F. MILES, Stanstead, Que., will receive a cut showing the adaptability of the Sand-Box, and the preference for the Axle.

HOW TO GROW STRAWBERRIES.—We are in receipt of an illustrated work on the above subject by Geo. R. Knapp, published by H. D. Watson & Co, Greenfield, Mass.: 60 pages, price 25 cents.

We are in receipt of a well written and well illustrated treatise, entitled "Field Notes on Apple Culture," 90 pages, published by O. Judd Co., New York. The author is Mr. L. Bailey, jr.

**Commercial.**

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE OFFICE,  
London, Ont., Dec. 1, 1886.

The past month on the whole has been cold and stormy, and farmers who did not have their roots up by the 9th or 10th will have had some trouble in getting them cared for as they should, besides making it very unpleasant and tedious work. In our experience all root crops should be out of the ground and pitted before the 10th of November; some farmers make a point to have them up by the 5th.

**WHEAT.**

The wheat trade remains much the same as it has been for the past six months, practically in a rut, and not much machination on the part of dealers to get it out. Cables come strong with the tendency of values upward. There is a much stronger feeling in wheat in Liverpool, and the market tends upward, with a good demand. Stocks of wheat in Great Britain are light and millers are buying from hand to mouth.

The London, Eng., Shipping Gazette says:—At all the Provincial markets held during the week, short supplies of home grown wheat are reported which are firmly held by farmers. In some markets a good demand was experienced at full prices, while in others an advance of 6d@1s has been obtained on all samples. The fact is, country millers find it difficult to keep themselves supplied, and as there is some demand for their flour so as to freshen up the American by mixture, they have to be careful not to get over sold. For foreign descriptions the trade also has been very firm, but not so active as in the middle of last week. All qualities of good dry wheat, especially Indian, have improved in value, and are 6d to 1s dearer on the week; and as the consumption since harvest has mainly fallen on foreign descriptions, stocks in granary have somewhat diminished since that period.

The Montreal markets are quoted as follows: The grain market has gone wholly into winter quarters and is without animation, values being greatly nominal. No. 1 hard Manitoba is quoted at 84c@86c and the nominal value of red, white and spring is about 82c. In New York Canada rye is quoted at 56c@57c, No. 1 Canada barley at 75c@76c, and No. 2 do. at 71c@72c. We quote: Canada red winter wheat, 81c@82c; white winter, 80c@82c; Canada spring, 80c@82c; peas, 57½c@58c per 60 lbs; oats, 27c@28c per 32 lbs.; rye, 45c bid; barley, 55c@60c; corn, 54c@55c, duty paid, and 47c in bond.

The flour market has remained without essential change, but a fair local business has been done at about quotations. Sales mentioned include 250 brls. patent at \$4 50, one car choice superior at \$4, 100 brls. spring extra at \$3.45, two cars Manitoba strong bakers' at \$4 30, and seven cars bran at \$1.13.

In reviewing the wheat trade, the London Miller says: "Opinion in England has perceptibly advanced during October, in the belief of a higher level of values being about to manifest itself. We do not believe that the year will close without American opinion displaying a similar progress in appreciation of what are the plain facts of this campaign, namely, that all grain grown will be wanted,