

GOLDEN GRAINS.

KNOWLEDGE may increase sin if the heart be not educated as well as the head. To deal frankly, honestly, and firmly with all men turns out best in the long run.

An old Spanish writer says: "To return evil for good is divilish; to return good for good is human; but to return good for evil is godlike."

If a man be gracious to strangers it shows he is a citizen of the world; and his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins them.

HARKNESS mirth is the best cordial against the consumption of the spirits; wherefore jesting is not unwise, if it trespasseth not in quantity, quality, or season.

In any adversity that happens to us in the world we ought to consider that misery and affliction are not less natural than snow and hail, storm and tempest, and that it is as reasonable to hope for a year without winter as for a life without trouble.

It is not among the number of things that are good, it is not poverty that causes sorrow, but covetous desires. Dollyer yourself from appetite, and you will be free. He who is discontented with things present and allotted is unskilled in life.

Speak kindly in the morning; it lightens the cares of the day, and makes the household and all its affairs move along more smoothly. Speak kindly at night; for it may be that, before the dawn, some loved one may snatch his or her space of life for this world, and it will be too late to ask forgiveness.

Be loyal to the nature you bear; consecrate your lives to every good and noble work faithfully labor for the elevation and perfection of our common humanity, and the angel will sweetly smile upon you, and you will be happy, both in this life and that which is beyond the grave. If you will be happy, you must do all within your power to bless others. By making others happy, you fill your own life with sunshine and happiness.

The banes of domestic life are littleness, falsity, vulgarity, harshness, scolding, profligation, an incessant issuing of superfluous prohibitions and orders, which are regarded as impertinent interferences with the general liberty and repose, and are provocative of rankling or exploding resentments. The blessed antidotes that sweeten and enrich domestic life are refinement, high aims, great interests, soft voices, quiet and gentle manners, magnanimous tempers, forbearance from all unnecessary commands of dictation, and generous allowances of mutual freedom. Love makes obedience lighter than liberty. Man wears a noble allegiance, not as a collar, but as a garland. The graces are never so lovely as when seen waiting on the virtues, and, where they thus dwell together they make a heavenly home.

A good wife is to a man wisdom, strength, and courage; a bad one is confusion, weakness, and despair. No condition is hopeless to a man where the wife possesses firmness, decision, and economy. There is no outward propriety which can counteract indolence, extravagance, and folly at home. No spirit can long endure bad influence. Man is strong, but his heart is not adamant. He needs a tranquil mind, and especially if he is an intelligent man, with a whole head, he needs his moral force in the conflict of life. To recover his composure, home must be a place of peace and comfort. There his soul renews its strength, and goes forth with fresh vigor to encounter the labor and troubles of life. But if at home he finds no rest, and is there met with bad temper, jealousy, and gloom, or assailed with complaints and censure, hope vanishes, and he sinks in despair.

It was stated by a member, at a Farmers' Club in Pennsylvania, that his cows increased in flesh and in flow of milk when fed three-fourths of a bushel of apples per day. Another finds one-half a bushel equal to two daily feeds of two quarts of meal and two quarts of bran mixed; and it was said in answer to another who turned his cows in his orchard and found them falling off in milk, that this was not the fault of the apples but the overfeed, and that the same result would follow the too free consumption of any kind of food.

ANIMALS.—Next to himself and his family, a farmer's thought and attention should be turned to his animals. If we look upon them as machines for the conversion of straw, stalks, roots, hay and grain into beef, mutton, wool, milk, pork, eggs, etc., we should never forget that they differ very materially from ordinary machines, that we can start and stop when we please, and stop them away when not in use. The animal machine is always running, winter and summer, night and day, and a farmer's first care should be to see that it is always running to some good purpose.

A WRITER in The Journal of the Farm says: I have a youngster five years old who began for a garden patch this year. I gave him a spot 10 feet square. Or he planted a few hills—beans, potatoes, popcorn, and peas. After planting, every morning he went out to see his garden till ripe. It has been a source of more enjoyment and real instruction than anything else that could have been furnished him. I think nothing is so interesting to a boy as to give him something he can call his own, and watch its growth and development. Next year I will increase his field, and he can plant from the seed he raised this year.

SEWER.—The best way to feed hay to sheep is to cut it into chaff by horse-power. It is little trouble to feed, and there is little or no waste. And we are not sure that it is not better to cut up straw and stalks also, and feed them with a little meal as we do cattle. The first point in the management of sheep is to provide dry quarters; 2d, To avoid overcrowding; 3d, To litter lightly and regularly every day; and 4th, To guard against any fermentation of the manure under the sheep. Give fresh water every day, and salt regularly. Feed liberally before sundown. Let there be straw or other food in the racks for the sheep to eat during the night.

To KILL MOSSES FROM TREES.—There is nothing better than carbolic soap and lye. We have used it on apple, pear, peach and cherry trees with manifest advantage. It will kill every particle of moss or parasitic growth of any kind that it touches. Apply it at any time. Lye alone will answer, but we prefer to add carbolic soap to it. The lye need not be so strong. The poorest soft wood shaves will answer for making the lye. We use the lye simply as we would water to dissolve the carbolic soap—say half a pound of soap to a three-gallon pail of boiling lye. It may be applied to the trunks of old trees while boiling hot. Use a scrub or large paint-brush. Go over the trunk and all the large branches. It will kill the eggs and larvae of insects as well as the moss, and will greatly improve the appearance of the trees. Try it.

CHANGING NESTS.—It is often desirable that a hen should sit on some other nest than the one she has chosen. To effect this a change at night is also the safest. In addition, it may be necessary sometimes to confine her to the new nest awhile, and still further, to restrict her range when she comes off for food and drink that this new nest is the only one she can have access to when her wants are supplied. Of course, her food and drink should be placed in full sight. In nearly all cases it is best to have sitting hens by themselves. There may be occasional quarrels and changes of nests, but never half as many difficulties as are sure to follow where the whole flock of non-sitters and cocks have free access to the sitting nests. Give them separate quarters, where they can have access to food, drink and dust baths, and they will do very well indeed.

TRAINING HORSES HOW TO WALK FAST.—A fast walk in a horse is the most valuable gait that training can acquire. It is valuable in a plow horse, in a team horse, and particularly so in a driving horse. Some horses will trot along very well until you come to ascending ground, when you wish to relieve him a little by letting him walk up grade; he then falls into a slow, easy walk that is very trying to the driver's patience; but a well-trained walker will step off briskly at the rate of four miles an hour, and the driver feels that he has been detained but very little by letting his horse walk up the hill as he starts off at his usual trotting speed, being relieved by the change of walking up the hill. Cattle should be trained to walk fast before there is an attempt made to improve them in any other way. This may be accomplished by commencing very young, and leading at a walk by your side, raising additional speed little by little, without letting it break into a trot; but this must not be continued long at a time so as to worry or tire. One of two short lessons a day will soon show a wonderful improvement; but after-lessons will be required to prevent a relapse.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

PLATING WITH ZINC.—According to Boitger, copper and brass may be given a firmly adherent coating of zinc. First divided zinc is placed in a non-metallic vessel and covered with a concentrated solution of sal ammoniac. This is heated to boiling, and the articles of copper or brass, previously cleaned, are then introduced. A few minutes suffice to produce a firm and brilliant coating. The powdered zinc is prepared by first melting the zinc and then pouring the molten metal into a mortar and triturating it until it solidifies.

Is modern maritime warfare it is frequently very desirable to conceal from the enemy an approaching steam-vessel, the difficulty of doing which is often enhanced by the smoke from the funnel, which generally can be seen over a great distance. A device for discharging the smoke under water, by means of a blowing machine, has been tried in the Austrian navy with most satisfactory results. Of course this dispenses with the smoke-stack entirely. It is said to secure a more uniform consumption of fuel, and greatly to lessen the liability to fire.

The victualing department of the French navy has been experimenting on what it calls "artificially made butter," by which is meant a preparation extracted from meat, and intended as a substitute for ordinary butter. Sliced beef suet, fresh sheep's tallow, shredded, and carbonate of potash. A quantity of fatty matter separates and floats on the surface. This is first subjected to hydraulic pressure, and then mixed with a little milk and water and churned. The new butter is the result. It is pronounced excellent.

PAINTING WITH CORALLINE OF WOOL.—Coralline has not hitherto been employed for printing on wool, this colored matter becoming yellow under the influence of acids. The author remedies this inconvenience by the intervention of magnesia. The color which he thus obtains is a very bright and very stable Turkey red. His recipe is as follows:—Coralline, 50 grammes; glycerine, 1-16th of a litre; water, 1-4th of a litre (the solution of these two is made by heating); calcined magnesia, 150 grammes; water 1-4th of a litre (the magnesia and the water must be mixed together); gum water (500 grammes per litre), 2-4ths of a litre. Printing, steaming and washing to be conducted in the ordinary way.

EFFECT OF GASES ON TREES.—Some experiments were recently made at Berlin to ascertain the effect which gas has on trees, the roots of which are exposed to its influence. Three trees were chosen for this purpose—two limes and a maple. The gas was conveyed in subterranean tubes to within two or three feet of each tree, and was dispersed into the soil by holes furnished by brass gratings, to obviate the obstruction of the pipes. At the end of some months the roots were uncovered, and all the small fibres were found to be dead. The bark of the strongest roots was rotten, and even the body part changed. After two months and ten days the gas was cut off to see if the trees would recover. The maple showed no signs of life, but one of the limes again became covered with leaves, but bore evidence of ill-health. The poison manifested itself more rapidly in that part of the

earth which remained compact. These experiments, followed up during a year, leave no doubt as to the danger to which trees are subjected when exposed to the infiltration of gas near their roots.

TRANSPARENT PENCIL DRAWING.—Any kind of reasonably fine paper, either thick or thin, serves to receive the copy. Simply lay it upon the drawing board, then upon the face of the drawing paper lay the transfer paper, and upon the top of the lot lay the drawing, pencil marks upward, fasten the whole three sheets together and to the board by three drawing pins, one at each corner, then proceed to run over the pencil marks with a fine but dull pointed instrument. Use for the purpose a stocking drawing-needle with a handle, and the point ground off; and run over the marks in the same way as with a transparent slate. If the drawing is not too thick, and the carbon paper is good, a good copy may be obtained with care and practice. Copies are also taken by first perforating the picture with small holes along the marked lines with a needle, then, afterwards, laying it on the face of another sheet of paper, and rubbing it over with powdered black lead; the black-lead goes through the holes and leaves a dotted outline beneath. A pencil is afterwards run over the marks and a fair copy is produced which can be easily multiplied.

TO CLEANSE OIL PAINT.—Whiting is better than soap. Use warm water and a piece of soft flannel. Afterwards wash clean and rub dry with charcoal.

TO REPAIR CORNS OR STIFFNESS AIR-TIGHT.—This can be accomplished by covering with a cement of decomposed red lead or finely powdered litharge mixed with undiluted glycerine.

TO DRY PUMPKINS.—Peel and cut out as for cooking, then slice them very thin, spread on tin or other driers, and expose to a moderate heat in the stove oven. Thus dried, the pumpkin will retain its natural flavor. To prepare it for cooking, soak it in water a few hours.

SODA CAKES.—Take one quart of flour, one teaspoonful of soda, and one of cream of tartar, dissolved in hot water; one tablespoonful of lard and one of butter, rubbed into the flour, a little salt, mix soft with sour or buttermilk, and cut with tin in round cakes, bake in a quick oven. These are very nice for tea.

APPLE FLOAT.—One pint stewed and well-mashed apples, whites of three eggs, and four large spoonfuls of sugar beaten until stiff; then add the apple, and beat all together till stiff enough to stand alone. Fill a deep dish with rich cream or boiled soft custard, and pile the float on top. This is excellent with other fruits, in place of the apple.

FLOATING ISLAND.—Beat four yolks of eggs with two tablespoonfuls of sugar; one teaspoonful of flour, then stir it into one quart of milk and bring it to a boil, stirring it all the time; have the whites beat nicely and slip it on top of the milk, dipping a little of it on to cook the egg; then grate nutmeg over the top; let it cool, and it is ready for the table.

LEMON PIE.—2 lemons, 4 eggs, 9 tablespoonfuls of white sugar; grate the peel and chop the lemon fine, and stir it into the yolks and sugar, put it into your puff paste and bake it. While it is baking, beat the whites of the eggs till they are stiff, and then add three tablespoonfuls of sugar. When the pie is done, spread the hot cream whites smoothly over the top and warm it lightly in the oven.

TO CLEANSE WOODEN FLOORS.—The dirtiest of floors may be rendered beautifully clean by the following process: First scrub with sand, then rub with aye of caustic soda, using a stiff brush, and rinse off with warm water. Just before the floor is dry, moisten with dilute hydrochloric acid, and then with a thin paste of bleaching powder (hypochloride of lime); let this remain over night and wash in the morning.

ELASTIC AND CLEAN VARNISH FOR THE LEATHER OF LADIES' SHOES.—Three pounds of rain-water are placed in a pot over fire, and when well boiling there are added four ounces white pulverized wax, one ounce clear, transparent glue in small pieces; two ounces pulverized gum Senegal; two ounces white soap, scraped fine; two ounces brown, pulverized sugar; the ingredients are placed in, one by one, and every time, stirred up. It is well to take the pot from the fire every time a substance is added, to prevent boiling over; when all is added, the pot is removed from the fire; when sufficiently cooled, three ounces alcohol are added, and finally, three ounces fine Frankfort black, well incorporated by continuing stirring. This varnish is put on the leather with a brush, and is very valuable for boots and shoes, as it can be afterward polished with a large brush, like an ordinary shoe-black, showing a high polish, and does not soil the clothing.

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FAMILY MATTERS.

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APPLE FLOAT.—One pint stewed and well-mashed apples, whites of three eggs, and four large spoonfuls of sugar beaten until stiff; then add the apple, and beat all together till stiff enough to stand alone. Fill a deep dish with rich cream or boiled soft custard, and pile the float on top. This is excellent with other fruits, in place of the apple.

FLOATING ISLAND.—Beat four yolks of eggs with two tablespoonfuls of sugar; one teaspoonful of flour, then stir it into one quart of milk and bring it to a boil, stirring it all the time; have the whites beat nicely and slip it on top of the milk, dipping a little of it on to cook the egg; then grate nutmeg over the top; let it cool, and it is ready for the table.

LEMON PIE.—2 lemons, 4 eggs, 9 tablespoonfuls of white sugar; grate the peel and chop the lemon fine, and stir it into the yolks and sugar, put it into your puff paste and bake it. While it is baking, beat the whites of the eggs till they are stiff, and then add three tablespoonfuls of sugar. When the pie is done, spread the hot cream whites smoothly over the top and warm it lightly in the oven.

TO CLEANSE WOODEN FLOORS.—The dirtiest of floors may be rendered beautifully clean by the following process: First scrub with sand, then rub with aye of caustic soda, using a stiff brush, and rinse off with warm water. Just before the floor is dry, moisten with dilute hydrochloric acid, and then with a thin paste of bleaching powder (hypochloride of lime); let this remain over night and wash in the morning.

ELASTIC AND CLEAN VARNISH FOR THE LEATHER OF LADIES' SHOES.—Three pounds of rain-water are placed in a pot over fire, and when well boiling there are added four ounces white pulverized wax, one ounce clear, transparent glue in small pieces; two ounces pulverized gum Senegal; two ounces white soap, scraped fine; two ounces brown, pulverized sugar; the ingredients are placed in, one by one, and every time, stirred up. It is well to take the pot from the fire every time a substance is added, to prevent boiling over; when all is added, the pot is removed from the fire; when sufficiently cooled, three ounces alcohol are added, and finally, three ounces fine Frankfort black, well incorporated by continuing stirring. This varnish is put on the leather with a brush, and is very valuable for boots and shoes, as it can be afterward polished with a large brush, like an ordinary shoe-black, showing a high polish, and does not soil the clothing.

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