

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD

Feather.

The farming community cannot afford to abandon raising poultry, says the Iowa Register. Its profits and outputs are too great to yield the question without a struggle.

What a singular spot is Benares, the sacred city of the Hindus! writes a traveler. From all parts of India young Hindus come to spend their last days and die, sure of thus obtaining their peculiar form of salvation.

While the bathers stand up to their waists in water, devoutly folding their hands in prayer, or shedding offerings of leaves into the running stream from large baskets, the priests are squatting on the shores by scores, each under an enormous umbrella of plaited bamboo some ten or twelve feet in diameter, and each with a continually-increasing heap of small coin presented by the bathers.

One of the ghats is called the "burning ghat," where are stacked great piles of wood, and where the boats that you see coming down the river with enormous stacks of wood upon them are loaded their burdens. Here, in the midst of the bathers, the dead are burnt by their sorrowing friends.

When about to poach eggs, grease the vessel before putting in water, and they will not stick. Put a bit of butter in a dish in which milk is to be cooked, and it will be less liable to burn.

Boiled starch is much improved by the addition of a little sperm, or a little gum arabic dissolved. Cayenne pepper, sprinkled around the shelves and other places where ants congregate, will drive them away.

Put a heavy chalk laid a finger's distance from your sugar-box and all around (there must be no space not covered), will surely prevent ants from troubling.

To prevent being annoyed by fleas at night, put two undersheets on the bed, and lay fresh towels between. This will not stain, and is not as unpleasant as the companionship of the wee tormentors.

Sights in the Sacred City.

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If those interested in blacking stoves will try greasing them with fresh grease before blacking, they will find that it prevents them from rusting. Add a pinch of brown sugar to blacking just before applying. This causes it to stick, and it polishes much easier, and with half the usual rubbing.

The Romance of the News.

There are startling things in "Hamlet." There are wonderful things in "The Mysteries of Udolpho." There are hair-raising things in "The Tale of Two Cities," or "Les Miserables."

But neither in Shakespeare nor in Mrs. Radcliffe, or in Dickens nor in Hugo, is there anything more out of the common than what is at intervals occurring under our eyes and noses. The actual is the most dramatic of all.

It is an extraordinary sight to sit in a boat and quietly drift with the stream alongside the whole length of this great city, and watch the bathers who fill up almost the entire line. Men and women are thus piously engaged, and the usual plan is to bring down a plain robe which they deposit on the stone steps, while they descend into the water in their other robe, and there perform the necessary amount of ablution.

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A Survivor of Seventeen Duels.

Paul de Cassagnac, the well-known French editor, has fought in all seventeen duels, not one of which, however, has been fatal.

On the occasion of his meeting with Aurelien Scholl, the high road of St. Denis was the spot selected, two o'clock in the afternoon the time. A crowd quickly assembled, and the combatants were about to commence, when a gendarme made his appearance.

However, instead of making an arrest, the executive officer drew his sword, and addressing himself to the spectators, cried, "Hats off, gentlemen! When there is fighting in France one never dies."

Poor Scholl received a terrible wound, but he is still alive and well, on excellent terms with his old adversary, and editor of the Voltaire. Paul de Cassagnac then fought his own cousin, Isaacsgary, who did all he could to kill the imperialist champion.

After having been touched three times in the face, Isaacsgary lost his head, and flung himself on the sword of his adversary. He had hardly recovered when he again challenged M. Paul de Cassagnac, who refused a second meeting in the following terms: "Since I fought with you and left you ridiculed like a strainer in the garden at Vesinet, I have reflected that it is sufficient for me to be your adversary, and that it is useless to become your character (pork butcher)." Victor Noir, who was afterward shot down by Prince Pierre Bonaparte, challenged M. Paul de Cassagnac, who, having the choice of weapons, selected orthography, in which his opponent was deficient.

The only case in which he really backed out of a duel was when defied by Dr. Clemenceau, one of the members for Paris. But this gentleman is left-handed, and one of the most expert swordmen in France; so that M. de Cassagnac affected to treat his career as an "attempt at assassination."

"If you will fight with your right hand," said he, "I will fight with my left, and we shall meet on equal terms; but I am not going to stand up against a man who has gone into training to kill me."

A Problem Long Since Solved. How to remedy those profligate causes of disease, an impoverished circulation and an indolent introduction of food into the system, which had often baffled medical skill, but which was solved over a quarter of a century ago by the introduction of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters to public and professional notice.

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