

Wives and Mothers on the Farm.

By Dolly Merrill.

Most mothers and wives on the farm, when thinking of "duty," scarcely ever couple it with "self"; it is almost invariably "others" that they are trying to do their "duty" by, and self is neglected, sometimes sadly. But would not the family be benefited in many ways if the wife and mother would just observe some of the duties to herself? For instance, she should have as good clothes, and as neatly made and as modern in style as the daughters; she should do some of the going as well as the girls; she ought to take time to improve herself by reading and keeping up with the times; she ought always to take time to write to, and to visit, her parents in their old age. This last is a duty she owes herself as well as her parents. It is a duty she owes to herself and her posterity that she does not work so hard, that she has no life, no strength, but is worn and weary of life. This world of ours might be much happier if we had mothers who could devote more time to the training and teaching the children the right way, instead of so much time put upon fine cooking and fine clothes, thereby making them tired and nervous, and not competent to do their duties to those entrusted to their care.

How Tripler Bewitched the Beef-steak.

Charles E. Tripler, the famous experimenter in liquid air, recently went to Boston to visit his friend, Elihu Thompson, the electrical expert. He took with him a can of liquefied air. It was a simple looking can and might have held baked beans or cold coffee so far as its outward appearance went. But it contained a fluid so cold that a cake of ice acts on it like fire on water. It makes it boil. It is so cold that it freezes alcohol stiff, and turns mercury into a substance hard enough to drive nails with. It was a quart of the coldest thing on earth that Mr. Tripler had in his tin can, and he took it with him to luncheon, where he put in on the floor by his chair. They lunched in a hotel cafe, and ordered a steak. After it had been brought in, and while the waiter's back was turned, Mr. Tripler lifted it from the platter, opened the can and exposed the meat to the liquid air. When he put it back on the platter it was as hard as a rock.

"Waiter," called Mr. Tripler. "Come here." The waiter obeyed.

"What's the matter with this steak?" he asked anxiously.

And he lifted it from the plate by two fingers and struck it with his knife. The frozen meat rang like a bell.

"I d—d—on't k—n—now, sir," he

faltered, and he started for the head waiter on the run.

Mr. Tripler, by the way, is one of the fiercest looking men in the inventing business. His mustache is of the pirate cut, and his eyebrows bristle and meet in the middle. Therefore the head waiter approached him with almost timidity.

"Do you serve your steaks like this as a rule?" asked Mr. Tripler, as he struck the time of day on it.

"It's that fool chef," explained the head waiter as he started for the kitchen.

A few minutes later the chef appeared with the head waiter. He recognized the steak by sight at once. Then Mr. Tripler took it up and made it ring again.

"Mercy! Gracious!" ejaculated the chef, piously crossing himself. "I didn't do it, sure!"

Then Mr. Tripler smiled, and Mr. Thompson laughed. A new steak was ordered, and the frozen one was carried below to fool the rest of the kitchen.—*The Saturday Evening Post.*

Those juicy pies that mother makes,
With light and flaky crust,
Will bid defiance bold for aye,
To any pastry trust.
—*Philadelphia North American.*

Some Curious Facts.

The director of the United States mint has nearly completed his estimate of the world's gold production for the year 1898. The data at hand seems to warrant conclusion that production will amount to at least \$294,000,000, and possibly \$295,000,000. Africa leads all other countries with \$80,300,000, Australia second with \$67,500,000, and United States third with \$64,163,000. Canada, including the Klondike, \$14,000,000. In 1897 Africa produced \$58,306,000, with United States second with \$55,363,000, and Australia third with \$55,684,000. Canada, including the Klondike, \$6,027,000. The total for that year was \$267,505,000. In the estimate of the production of the United States during the last year \$3,524,000 came from Alaska. In 1896, and for nearly fifty years previously, the United States occupied the first place in the world's production of gold. In that year the output of the world was estimated at \$202,682,000.

In the King of Saxony's museum at Dresden there is a cherry stone upon which, by the aid of a microscope, more than one hundred faces can be distinguished.

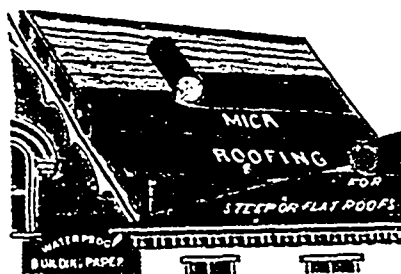
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