

a son who had pleased him. He had heard with delight the boy's defence of his friend and he had read the boy's mind as he sang the words of the hymn, his face grave, his whole attitude one of devotion. "You'd think he was in his father's pew at home," Peter had whispered to me with a smile. It was the latter outburst though—the one that came with a sigh—that stirred him most.

"And you would really have liked a ring yourself, my lad?"

"Would I like it! Why, Mr. Grayson, I'd rather have had Mr. Morris give me a thing like that and deserved it, than have all the money you could pile on this table."

One of those sudden smiles which his friends loved so well irradiated Peter's face.

"Keep on the way you are going, my son," he said, seizing the boy's hand, a slight tremble in his voice, "and you'll get a dozen of them."

"How?" The boy's eyes were wide in wonderment.

"By being yourself. Don't let go of your ideals no matter what Minott or anybody else says. Let him go his way and do you keep on in yours. Don't . . . but I can't talk here. Come and see me. I mean it."

Breen's eyes glistened. "When?"

"To-morrow night, at my rooms. Here's my card. And you, too Mr. Minott—glad to see both of you." Garry had just joined them.

"Thanks awfully," answered Minott. "I'm very sorry, Mr. Grayson, but I'm booked for a supper at the Magnolia. Lots of the fellows want to whoop up this—" and he held the finger bearing the ring within an inch of Peter's nose. "And they want you, too, Jack."

"No, please let me have him," Peter urged. Minott, I could see, he did not want; Breen he was determined to have.

"I would love to come, sir, and it's very kind of you to ask me. There's to be a dance at my uncle's to-morrow night, though I reckon I can be excused. Would you—would you come to see me instead. I want you to see my father's portrait. It's not you, and yet it's like you when you turn your head; and there some other things. I'd like—" Here the boy stopped.

Peter considered for a moment. Calling at the house of a man he did not know, even to continue the acquaintance of so charming a young fellow as his nephew, was not one of the things punctilious Mr. Grayson—punctilious as to forms of etiquette—was accustomed to do. The young man read his thoughts and added quickly:

"Of course I'll do just as you say, but if you only would come we will be entirely alone and won't see anybody else in the house."

"But couldn't you possibly come to me?" Peter urged. The fact that young Breen had a suite of rooms so sequestered as to be beyond the reach even of a dance, altered the situation to some extent, but he was still undecided. "I live all alone when my sister is not with me, and I, too, have many things I am sure would interest you. Say you'll come now—I shall expect you, shall I not?"

The boy hesitated. "You may not know exactly what I mean," he said slowly. "Maybe you can't understand, for everybody about here seems to love you, and you must have lots of friends. The fact is, I feel out of everything. I get pretty lonely sometimes. Garry, here, never stays five minutes when he comes to see me, so many people are after him all the time. Please say you'll come!"

There was a note in the boy's voice that swept away all the older man's scruples.

"Come, my son! Of course I'll come," burst out Peter. "I'll be there at nine o'clock."

As Morris and the others passed between the table and the wall on their way to the cloak-room, Minott, who had listened to the whole conversation, waited until he thought Peter had gone ahead, and then, with an impatient gesture, said:

"What the devil, Jack, do you want to waste your time over an old fellow like that for?"

"Oh, Garry, don't—"

"Don't! A bald-headed old pill who ought to have—"

Then the two passed out of hearing.

(To be continued.)

Questions and Answers

1st—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

3rd—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

4th—When a reply by mail is required to urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

Hens Die.

We have been troubled with hens dying. Hens do not appear to be sick until they become lame. This lameness comes in both feet, and gradually becomes worse until hen cannot walk. In two or three weeks' time she dies. The hens affected are chiefly Black Minorcas. Kindly explain the disease and cause. T. M.

Ans.—From such a meagre statement of symptoms, we cannot say definitely what ailed the hens. Lameness is very often present in tuberculosis, and, of course, is the main symptom of rheumatism. Give the hens a dry, clean, well-ventilated place in which to roost. Keep them out of long, wet grass, but give free range on dry days. Feed liberally. Perform a post-mortem examination on the next bird affected, and if you find raised white spots on the liver, or tubercles in the mesenteries, you may safely conclude that the disease is tuberculosis, and all ailing birds should be isolated or destroyed, and the premises thoroughly cleaned up.

Cinquefoil—Toad Flax

Enclosed please find two weeds. Kindly give their names, and say whether they are noxious weeds. J. J. R.

Ans.—The two enclosed weeds are toad flax or butter and eggs, and cinquefoil. The plant with the bell-shaped, yellow flower, is toad flax. It is rather persistent when it once obtains a foothold, and is usually seen in small patches in fence corners, roadsides, or pasture fields. It does not persist to any extent in cultivated fields, and a rotation of crops will eradicate it in a very short time. When the ground is wet it can be pulled easily, and this is about the only treatment which will apply in uncultivated land. In cultivated fields there is seldom much trouble arises from its presence. Cinquefoil is of secondary importance. It also frequents uncultivated fields, and is noticed principally along roadsides and in fence corners. In a field rotated frequently, it seldom causes any inconvenience.

Cow Chewing Bones—Fall Crop on Sod.

1. What is the cause of a cow chewing bones and such things? She seems a little dull and dry in the hair, but milks fairly well. What will cure her?

2. Would it be advisable to sow anything on sod, to be plowed after haying, which would make growth enough to plow down in the fall for green manure? The soil is sandy loam. What would be best to sow? How would buckwheat be? A. F.

Ans.—1. This is primarily due to some craving of the animal system, but it eventually becomes a chronic habit, which is very difficult to overcome. In preventing or curing such a habit, it is well to feed a balanced ration made up of foods rich in mineral substances. For this purpose, wheat bran, alfalfa, and clover hay, answers very well. Allow them access to salt at all times, and feed them small quantities of sifted wood ashes. In addition to this, give one ounce of phosphate of lime in some water night and morning, or it may be fed in their grain. This is all one can do in any attempt to break up this habit.

2. This is a commendable practice indeed to sow something on the land to conserve nitrates that might otherwise leach away, and at the same time add green manure as is suggested in this query. The land should be rolled after plowing, and, of course, harrowed, to make a proper seedbed. Buckwheat will answer very well, and make a very good crop to plow down in the fall. We know of no better crop to be used under such conditions.

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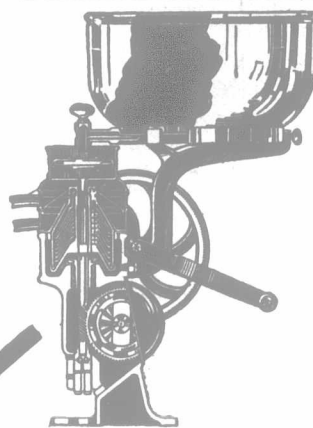
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