

companions: "See me kill that turkey," though he had no intention of doing so. Picking up a twig about ten inches long, and as thick as a carpenter's pencil, he gave it a flip. It went end over end, and struck the turkey on top of the head, killing it instantly. As the turkey fell, Mrs. Bates came out the gate, but, as the minister had arrived, the boys went inside, and service began. In the middle of the first reading the people were horrified to hear a perfect shower of stones against the door. Upon the deacon going out to find out what was wrong, he found Mrs. Bates, with her apron full of stones, in this way trying to avenge the death of her gobble. She left after a wordy war, and the service proceeded peacefully, until the text was announced, when suddenly the door burst open, and Mr. Bates, with the dead turkey on his shoulder, strode up the aisle, much to the delight of the boys and the horror of the older people. The minister stopped, and asked him to take the turkey outside, but, ignoring him, Mr. Bates turned to the congregation, and in a deep, angry voice, asked, "Who killed this animal?" Of course, no one claimed the honor, and, after some heated remarks, he left. It cost him twenty dollars in the courts next day.

NELLY PLUNKIT.

PRIZE ESSAY.

The Most Amusing Thing I Ever Heard.

A number of years ago, there lived on a farm in the county of S—, near the town of A—, an old man who was always playing jokes on someone, especially when he chanced to have a "drap," which was often. For convenience, we will call him Smith. Well, Smith claimed to be a Baptist, although he was never seen at church. Now, the Baptists of A— were thinking of building a new church, and the minister (a fine old gentleman, of whom it was said, "His long white beard was his only pride.") called upon Smith for the purpose of soliciting financial aid.

He was received very graciously, although he plainly saw that Smith had been drinking. After a few words, Smith left the room, but returned immediately with a basin of water, towel, razor strap, razor and soap. Depositing his burden on the table, he locked the door, and, with a very savage expression on his face, began shrapening his razor, looking up once in a while at the minister, who watched his manœuvres in silent terror. Having sharpened the razor to his own satisfaction (if not to the minister's), he approached him, and, putting the towel about his neck, he lathered his face and applied his razor with such vigor that, in a short time, the minister's dearest friend would not have known him, for his beautiful beard was all shaved off. Having finished the job, Smith surveyed his victim with pride, and, placing ten dollars in his hand, bade him "Begone." He now unlocked the door, and the minister lost no time in obeying, soon arriving at A—, where no one recognized him.

THELMA.

AN ENCOURAGING LETTER.

The following is Miss Thelma's accompanying letter, which contains some suggestions for Ingle Nook correspondents:

Dear Dame Durden,—May I come in? Your Ingle Nook looks so cosy, and I have long been an outsider, but this weather drives me to some cosy spot. I will try not to take up more than my share of room. I enjoy your chats so much, also the essays, and hope you may long be spared to the "Ingle Nook." I pity "New Ontario Boy," and all other boys who have to bake their own bread, and when I am removing the bread from the oven, I sometimes try to imagine how many burns they would get when doing the same thing. I am very much interested in life in New Ontario and the West. Can't some of our members send us some interesting items from those places? I am sure we would all enjoy reading about such enterprising portions of the Dominion. How I should enjoy roughing it for a time! I almost envy the boys who can get out to see the world, but we girls must just stay at home, for the "wild and woolly West" is no place for us. Well, I must close, or this will be consigned to the waste

basket. Enclosed find my trial for your prize competition. The story has never, to my knowledge, appeared in print, although it is true.

Wishing you every success in your work, I remain, Your well-wisher,
"THELMA."

OUR NEW COMPETITION.

The topic for our new competition is: "How I am going to have my flower-garden." If you haven't planned your garden already, do it now. Get out your seed catalogues, write out your lists, and decide where you are going to put this flower or that. Then, when you have thought it all out, write down all about it, and send us your letter. Even if your plan doesn't materialize for you, it may help someone else, so think out the very nicest one you can imagine, provided you are sure it is quite practicable, such as may be accomplished by any girl or woman, with just a little outside help. This time there will be no division into classes. Prizes will simply be given for the three best essays. All competitors must be over fourteen years of age. As stated before, you will remember, Cousin Dorothy has kindly consented to take all the juniors into her department. Last of all, all essays must be in by May 1st, upon which date the competition will close. As before, address all letters to

DAME DURDEN.

"Farmer's Advocate" office, London, Ont.

GOSSIP.

Mr. W. D. Platt, Hamilton, Ont., writes: "As we have purchased Prince Sunbeam for use in our herd of Shorthorns along with Royal Diamond, we can now offer Imp. Pride of Windsor, bred by His Majesty the King, and Imp. Gold Cup, bred by W. Duthie, Esq. These young bulls are in lean condition, but are very promising. We had intended to establish an annual sale of the produce from our herd this coming fall, but find we will not be in shape for it, and will delay this until 1905; so, for the present year, will offer what calves we have by private treaty, which we think superior to any that have been bred at Trout Creek farm."

IMPORTED CLYDESDALE FILLIES.

An important, unreserved auction sale of first-class imported registered Clydesdale fillies will be held at the Repository, Toronto, by Walter Harland Smith, on Wednesday, March 30th. This is a move in the right direction, and should be a successful venture. Mr. David White, of Liverpool, who is the consignee, is an experienced Clydesdale man and sailed with the stock, per S.S. Lavania, on the 8th inst.

TRADE TOPICS.

SPECIAL OFFERS this week by Gourlay, Winter & Leeming. See their list of musical instruments that are to be cleared out by auction.

PAINT—Nothing improves the appearance of farm buildings and preserves the wood like paint. Modern methods of spraying have made it possible to apply this preservative with comparative ease, and the Monarch Paint Co., of Toronto, furnish the ready mixed article. Make an effort to get on a coat during the warm spring days before seeding begins. Remember the brand, Monarch.

Col. Cody, or "Buffalo Bill" as he is better known, tells this story:

"A new railroad was built through my section of the country, and a young cowpuncher saw a train for the first time in his life. When the locomotive whistle was blown the cowpuncher was evidently distressed, but did not want to show the white feather. He rose in his stirrups almost scared to death when the train went by, covering him with dust. The engineer leaned far out of his cab and shouted at the cowboy: 'Get out of the way you blankety blank, low-browed, long-haired, ornery cowpuncher, I'm going to turn you round!'"

"The cowpuncher struck spurs to his pony and in an instant disappeared over a hill."

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GOSSIP.

LAST CALL FOR COLIN CAMPBELL'S SALE.

Attention is again called to the dispersion sale, on March 25th, of the Shorthorn herd of Mr. Colin Campbell, Crosshill, Waterloo Co., Ont., Newton Station, G. T. R., on Port Dover & Wiarton branch. The offering comprises 30 head—26 females and 4 bulls. A number of the females are in calf to the imported Scotch bull, Nonpareil Archer, sold last spring for \$700, and are due to calve before the sale. A number are sired by a richly-bred Missie bull, and high-class sires have been used in the herd for many years, so that the cattle should be up to a good standard in type. Conveyances are promised to meet the morning trains at Newton Station on day of sale.

Messrs. John Miller & Sons, Brougham, Ont., breeders of Shorthorns and Clydesdales, write: "We have sold to W. W. Knapp, Howell, Mich., the young bull, Alexander. He has for dam the Marr cow, Alexandrina 28th, and was sired by Imp. Royal Prince. This is the third bull we have sold Mr. Knapp to head his herd, and if good breeding counts for anything, this calf should do him a lot of good. We have four good calves, all Scotch bred, left yet for sale, all sired by Imp. Royal Prince. Our stallions are doing well, and at the prices we are offering them at, they should find ready customers."

In answering any advertisement on this page, kindly mention the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.