

AGRICULTURAL.

After Harvest.

The days of harvest are past again ;
We have cut the corn, and bound the
sheaves,
And gathered the apples green and gold,
Mid the brown and crimson orchard
leaves,
With a flowery promise the Springtime came,
With the building birds and blossoms
sweet ;
But, oh ! the honey, the fruit and wine ;
And oh ! the joy of the corn and wheat !
What was the bloom to the apple's gold,
And what the flower to the honeycomb ?
What was the song that sped the plow
To the joyful song of harvest home ?
So sweet, so fair, are the days of youth ;
So full of promise, so gay with song ;
To the lilt of joy and the dream of love
Right merrily go the hours along.
But yet in the harvest time of life
We never wish for its Spring again.
We have tried our strength, and proved our
heart ;
Our hands have gathered the golden
grain ;
We have eaten with sorrow her bitter
bread,
And love has fed us with honeycomb ;
Sweet youth, we can never weep for thee
When life has come to its harvest home.
When the apples are red on the topmost
bough,
We do not think of their blossoming
hour ;
When the vine hangs low with its purple
fruit,
We do not long for its pale green flower.
So then, when hopes of our Spring at last
Are found in fruit of the busy brain,
In the heart's sweet love, in the hand's brave
toil,
We shall not wish for our youth again,
Ah, no ! we shall say, with a glad content ;
"After the years of our hard earnest
Thank God for our ripened hopes and toil !
Thank God, the Harvest of life is best !"

The Ideal in Farming.

Nearly every one who owns or improves a farm has an idea of how he would like to have that particular farm look, and of the magnificent crops he would like to raise, of the bountiful supply of choice fruits and vegetables for his family and a thousand other things of like character, and he plans accordingly for big crops, plenty of money, good living, and an improved appearance of his farm and buildings. Well there is nothing bad about planning for something better than we now possess, for sometimes we get it and sometimes we do not. It is the ones who never plan, who have no ideal in their farming, that are continually and steadily going down hill.
It is true that the farmer has to contend against innumerable objects that come between him and his ideal. He matures a certain piece of ground heavily, gets it in excellent condition, puts in his seed, hoping that his ideal crop will be a reality. But, alas ! the seed fails to germinate. The frosts nip the young plants. The cut-worms put in their work. The drouth comes, later on the potato beetle gets there, then comes blight and rot, and at the end of the season he finds that instead of his ideal crop he has one of the poorest crops he ever grew. This was just my experience with a field of corn the past season. But, notwithstanding all this, farmers must not get "down in the mouth" as the saying goes, but stick to the ideal, even if we never reach it we shall be the better for it.
It is an old saying that if a man aims at the sun, although he will not hit it, his arrow will fly higher than if he aimed on a level with himself. Therefore I say again stick to the ideal, and do the best you can to make it a reality. This applies to the general appearance of the farm and farm buildings as well as to the growing of crops. Form your ideal of just how you want your place to look, and then as you have means and opportunity work according to the plan you have mapped out. It may be a slow process, unless you have plenty of ready money with which to hire laborers, but never mind, do a little this fall, more next spring, and so on until your ideal is realized.
As farmers we need to think more and plan more, both in regard to crop raising, and in the appearance of our homes, and so I say form your ideal and then work to carry it out, trusting in Providence for results.

Winter Care of Potatoes.

Do you want your potatoes to sprout in the bins, and lose their vitality, or do you want to keep them hard and fresh and sound till planting time? Potatoes form one of our most important articles of food, and unlike grain they are of perishable composition, a duration of about nine months' time from digging, constituting their edible life. A mealy, wholesome potato, properly cooked is the delight of an epicure, and a watery, bad-flavored one disgusts the palate of the poorest laborer. Yet the board of the poorest laborer is as often blessed with tubers of a kindly quality, as his more fastidious employer. The truth is, good potatoes are within the reach of all, and especially of him who has an acre of ground to plow, or a rod of garden to spade up.
After we learn how to raise potatoes of good quality, we want to learn how to preserve that quality, so that the tubers will make as fine eating in April as they did in October. But few farm house cellars have a winter temperature equable enough for the preservation of quality in potatoes. They are generally too hot, or too hot at times, so that the tubers early in spring send out a mass of sprouts, which prematurely shrivel and soften the seed. Potatoes stored in cellars should have a low temperature with a dry air. The cellar is generally located under the farm house kitchen, which is proverbially the hottest room in the building. It is difficult or next to impossible to maintain a low cellar temperature under such conditions.
"I am a great friend of the 'out door cellar,' so popular in many of the Western States. When properly constructed, one of these 'care,' store houses is the best thing out in which to keep roots in a natural state. The secret is, you can here govern temperature. The best ones I ever saw were only partly underground. Just imagine a one-story out building, say 14x20, settled half its height into the ground, the sides above the earth being double and filled with sawdust, and the roof made doubly warm. I have seen such a building as this preserve, pruning."

Pruning For Fruit.

Joseph Mehan gives the Practical Farmer some hints on pruning for fruit. Many are so pertinent and sensible that we give them here. "It is never wise to let trees bear fruit while still young, and should they flower and fruit, then the fruit should be taken off before it gains any size. But it sometimes happens that the reverse of this is the case, and trees which are well grown and should bear fruit do not do so. It is then that he who uses his art and prunes for fruit. Pruning may be done to produce fruit. It must be understood that when a tree is growing fast it will not fruit. To check the growth is a step towards fruiting, and this is what pruning is for. A tree in rich ground will grow larger and be longer coming into bearing than one in poor soil. This is why with the same variety of tree one man may have fruit from his tree long before his neighbor does—the soil differs in richness. There is no use in waiting long after time for a tree to bear any more than there is to that a too fast growing tree must be checked in its growth to make it fruitful, root pruning is the thing to do to accomplish it. The earth should be dug away until some of the larger roots are exposed and these should be chopped away.
"There is no need to check it too severely, as a loss of a large portion of its roots would do. A cutting away of one-fourth will probably be ample. This process rarely fails to cause flower buds to form. If done in spring or summer buds will form for the next season. Sometimes summer pruning of the branches will have the same effect. The done while the sap is still active and where cut flower buds will often form. This way will do where some fruit is looked for to test the shape of the tree, and it is not to be recommended as so good a way as that of root pruning."

vegetables and roots through the severest winter weather, and yet be cool enough when the warm weather of spring came, to keep potatoes from sprouting badly.

Potatoes cannot be expected to be kept into early summer without sprouting, in fact such a thing would not be desirable if they were destined for seed ; but we protest against their being allowed to sprout in March, and even February, and having the sprouts removed, sprout again repeatedly till planting time, when the seed have shriveled up and have lost half their vitality. Many farmers little realize how much crop success depends on seed vitality. You may prepare a rich seed bed, fertilize it in a scientific manner, plant potatoes thereon whose vitality has passed out through the eyes by continuous sprouting and you will not realize over half the crop that you would by the use of vigorous seed. The writer knows what he is talking about, because he has tried it in a famed potato region, and with reliable varieties. I have found that almost half depended on seed, and I have taken great pains with its preservation. By maintaining a low temperature in the storing room, I would keep the life of the potato dormant, as late into the spring as possible, and would try to so time it that the first sprouts would be on the seed at planting time. The sprouts then should not be more than half an inch long, and as the potato is sound and firm, they will be vigorous, and ready prepared to continue their development uninterruptedly in the soil. The seed should not be rudely shaken together so as to knock off these sprouts before planting.

If the seed potatoes are freshly cut, and the ground is dry at planting time, which frequently happens on sandy soils, the seed should not come in contact with dry earth. I have seen freshly cut seed put into dry ground, and not one hill in a hundred of them came up, while seed that had been cut a few days and had the cut sides dried over, when placed in the same soil, came up finely as soon as it rained. Farmers are beginning to discover that it is not so much the space that they plant in potatoes, as it is the pains taken to cultivate the crop. Potatoes are very easy of degeneration, therefore in selecting seed, "survival of the fittest" should always rule. Do not use out of your potato bin all winter, and then plant the scraps that are left. Many farmers do it and then they buy phosphate and put on the crop, and blame the phosphate dealer because they get no bigger returns. Fertilizing a crop may cover a multitude of sins of soil depletion, but it cannot hide seed inferiority. I wish that those who have been delinquent in the past would please think the matter over, and hereafter aim to look to seed superiority, as well as fertilization.

Butter as a Food.

In the selection of food, something more must be considered than that it is rich in nutritive qualities. For instance, in consulting a table of food values, butter is shown to be almost all nutriment, but it is not the kind of nutriment most needed. More probably it may be considered as a food element, the same as starch, for one cannot live on either alone. Another objection to butter is that it is a food element not easy of digestion. By the process of churning, the little globules of fat in the cream are driven together, but the digestive fluids must undo the work of the dairymaid and emulsify the fat before it can be of service. Cream is already an emulsion, mixes rapidly with fluids, therefore it is much better to take our butter in the form of cream and save the double labor of the dairymaid and the stomach.

Again, it is next to impossible to secure butter which is perfectly sweet ; it is as difficult to keep as either milk or meat. In well managed creameries churning is done twice a day, the butter being made from nice sweet cream, but in ordinary country dairies, the cream is allowed to become very sour, being churned when a sufficient quantity is accumulated. Meantime the germs are busy with their work of increasing the acidity—lactic acid fermentation taking place at the very least. Consequently, butter made from it contains myriads of germs, ready when favorable conditions of warmth and moisture are added, to grow with great rapidity. When taken into the stomach they begin their mischievous work immediately. Butter made from cream which has been boiled before churning will keep much the best. That is the method pursued in France and no salt is added. Cream contains more of the germs present in milk, being lighter than the milk they thus rise to the top with the rising of the cream.
—Dr. J. H. Kellogg.

The Great Australian Strike.

A telegram from Mr. Chaplain, of Melbourne, the well-known labor agitator, to Mr. John Burns, of London, announces the fact that the great Australasian strike which has for many weeks convulsed the labor world of the island continent is over, and that the strikers have failed. To appreciate the struggle, which was fought with so much determination on both sides, it is necessary to consider the nature of the demands made by the strikers and the strength of the opposing parties. The strike was precipitated by the demands of the labor unions that no non-union men should receive employment, and that every member of a union should be secured against dismissal. In case of refusal the employers were told that their commodities would be boycotted, and that the railway servants would strike sooner than handle boycotted goods. Regarding this as an unjust interference with their rights and liberties, and an act of tyranny on the part of men to whom the most liberal concessions had already been made, the employers positively refused to accede to the demand. Hereupon the trade unions ordered the seamen, firemen, dockers, miners, and employees in several other trades to cease work. For weeks they lay idle at the wharves because they were not to be manned nor loaded nor supplied with coal. For three nights there was not a glimmer of gas light in the city of Melbourne. The programme of coercion, however, proved a failure. This was, no doubt, a great surprise to the unionists who had already succeeded in carrying out so large a portion of their programme of reform in the principal Australasian colonies. For they had not only placed an eight-hour law on the statute book, but had enforced it in all trades, and had even managed in some branches of skilled labor to cut down the working hours to forty-five per week. They had caused all railways to be owned and operated by the Government and to be administered with a view, not to the payment of dividends, but to providing the utmost possible accommodation to the masses of the people at the cheapest rates. In New South Wales the railways have to carry school children gratuitously. In Victoria the tramways running in the cities and towns become the property of the municipalities after a certain term of years. In truth, so many and so great were the points gained that Australia, and the colony of Victoria in particular, was beginning to be celebrated as a workman's paradise.

From this it will be inferred that labor in the southern Continent is thoroughly organized. And this is true. In no other country is the organization more complete and more comprehensive. In striking contrast was the condition of capital, which at the beginning of the strike had scarcely the semblance of organization. But the struggle thrust upon them taught the employers the necessity of union. Consequently, after colonial unions had been formed in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide, measures were taken to bring about inter-colonial action, and on Sep. 9th, a conference of capitalists, representing the industries of all the colonies was held in Sydney. Here they decided to hold out to the bitter end. The result has been that not a single point has been conceded to the trades unions. Under the protection of the police and the militia, non-union workmen have everywhere been put in the places of the strikers, and gas works, dockyards, foundries, factories, and mines have one after the other resumed operation. Queensland was the first of the Australasian colonies to break the deadlock in business, for there the merchants and shopkeepers discharged and loaded steamers with their own hands. Then in South Australia the union men themselves rebelled against the orders of the trades unions and insisted on going back to work. And now we learn that even in Victoria, where the labor agitator is most powerful, the strike has collapsed. Thus the attempt at coercion has failed, and no fair-minded person will regret it. The demands were manifestly unjust and had they been allowed, the door would thereby have been opened for further and more intolerable interference. But not only has the strike failed in accomplishing its immediate purpose, it has brought into existence an organization, which, created in the first instance for defence may yet be found to play the part of the aggressor. In such an event it is conceivable that some of the ground gained by labor and to which it is justly entitled may be wrested from it. That those who have been so greatly injured in their property by the unjust demands should be tempted to adopt the *lex talionis* and render "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" is perfectly natural and human. It is to be hoped however that wiser counsels will prevail, and that employers, believing in the almightiness of the eternal principle of justice, will keep in view that higher law which enjoins kindness for unkindness, good for evil. Thus will they hasten the day when the experiences of the past few months will be a moral impossibility.

Recently a story has been going the round of the press to the effect that two men out in Kansas while excavating for a building came upon a pot of gold containing about \$5000, which was supposed to have been hidden before the war and that the owner had been killed. Concerning this lucky find the *New York Tribune* wisely remarks: "Probably 500 newspapers recently chronicled the story that two Kansas men a few weeks ago found \$5,000 in gold in an iron pot in a gully near a certain town. Now, the papers, of course, acted in good faith in printing the story, but as a matter of fact they were fooled by an unprincipled liar. There were no such men, no such gully, no such town, no iron pot and no \$5,000. Stories about the finding of buried treasure, and about live snakes in people's stomachs, as a rule, need not be believed."

During his recent visit to Toronto, Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture, took occasion to refer to the British import trade and to point out the part which Canada and the United States, respectively, take in supplying the British demand. He quoted a vast array of figures to show the unlimited extent of Britain's wants, and the particular points in which Canada might easily and profitably enlarge her trade with the Mother Country. He expressed the opinion that if our farmers will set themselves to the task of the British market, there can be no reasonable doubt that in many things a much larger and more profitable trade could be established. Much depends, however, upon the quality of the products offered for sale. Let the quality be made satisfactory and, like as in the case of Canadian cheese, the goods will find ready purchasers and at paying prices.

The Ingenuity of Women.

Man has been accredited with greater powers of intellect and will than woman ; but in no sense is he so fertile in expedient as a member of the weaker sex.
"Where there's a will, there's a way," and "When she will, she will, you may depend on't, and when she won't, she won't" written by those who understood the ingenuity and tact of woman.

So sublime is my faith in this characteristic of woman that I dare to assert that man will never compete with her. Whenever she wills to do a thing, her fertile brain is not long in finding the means to accomplish the end. I might refer to the managing mother who marries her daughter to a millionaire, despite his thorough understanding of her plans and intended resistance to them ; but I prefer to consider the ingenuity of the good women who make the homes of our land.

When I drive through a certain section of country occupied almost entirely by working-men and their families, I note with pride their neat, comfortable cottages and the happy children playing about. These signs of thrift speak of women who so wisely spend their husband's scanty incomes as to make their dwellings homes indeed.
No one but a woman can make one dollar do the work of two ; indeed, I know of one case where a young and pretty country girl made one dollar do the work of five. She had been invited to a wedding—a full-dress affair. A new dress was needed, but her purse contained only five dollars. As at that time dresses of cream-white wool were my friend's choice, but it could not be thought of while her financial condition was so low. After a desperate struggle she decided to remain at home rather than attend the wedding shabbily dressed.

A week before the momentous affair, she was coming out of a dry goods store in company with a friend who was making purchases for the finishing touches of a dress, when a bright idea flashed through her brain. There was displayed in full glare of the light a piece of cream-colored goods (veiling, she supposed), marked "twelve cents per yard." In twinkling her path brightened, and she saw clearly her way to the wedding. On examination, the goods proved to be a superior quality of cheese-cloth, so delicate could distinguish it in the evening from veiling. My young friend bought twelve yards on the spot, also paper-muslin for a lining and to give it the effect of having more body. She also bought Spanish lace to trim waist and sleeves, and went home with a light heart.

The next day this ingenious girl, who was accustomed to make her own dresses with taste and skill, set to work upon the cheese-cloth, and devoting all the time that could be spared from other duties, in a few days evolved a stylish dress.
The skirt was tasteful in its arrangement and drapery, and the waist was a marvel of skill. The square neck was filled in with Spanish lace, and from the elbow-sleeves depended frills of the same. There was enough left of the five-dollar bill to buy a pair of nice gloves. My young friend went to the wedding with a light heart and bright face. The consciousness of being well-dressed always makes a woman comfortable and happy.

Now did her dress suffer by comparison with a friend's nun's veiling which cost five times as much.
Nearly all of us know of brave women who have fed, clothed and educated families of children with so little money that it would seem almost insufficient to supply them with bread.

There are women who can concoct a delicious breakfast of material that the modern servant would throw away ; and there are women who can fashion a tasteful dress out of material cast by their fortune-favored sisters.
In the matter of house-furnishing, an ingenious woman, by twisting and turning a carpet will make it last twice as long as it might otherwise. By varnishing the woodwork, and upholstering the furniture, she will give her sitting-room the appearance of having been newly-furnished. I have seen women whose ingenious minds and deft fingers seemed capable of transforming and beautifying everything round them.
LILLIAN MAYNE.

The Prince of Wales and Gen. Booth.

Referring to the sympathy which the Prince of Wales is said to have expressed for General Booth's scheme for the regeneration and salvation of "Darkest England," the *New York Sun* remarks: "The Prince of Wales has now, like the Kaiser of Germany, become a social reformer, and he himself has announced the fact in a letter to Brother Booth, the Salvationist. The Prince is to become a co-worker with Brother Booth, whose project for the reformation of 'Darkest England' he approves of, and perhaps, after paying in the subscription which he has promised to the salvation fund, he may take up the practical part of his life, and it will be interesting to hear of his spending the rest of his time as a reformer." The surprise of the *Sun* would have been less had it called to mind that it is the unexpected that generally happens. But as to the Prince giving himself up to the work of social reform, he might easily do worse than follow the example of his energetic and daring nephew.

A Clever Young Australian Lady.

Miss Julian Rappiport has been enrolling, in the Antipodes, the intellectual successes of her sex in England. Three years ago, when only sixteen, she passed the matriculation examination at the Melbourne University with honors in Greek and French. At the last examination for the clerical division of the Victorian Civil Service, when 167 candidates presented themselves for 25 vacancies, Miss Rappiport took the highest marks ever achieved in arithmetic, securing 492 out of a possible 500. She now holds a Government appointment in the Melbourne Central Telegraph Office. The clever young lady is anxious to take the M. A. degree. It is thought that she may eventually become a doctor, or emulate the young Roumanian lady, Sarmisa Bilcesco, and become the first woman barrister of her country.

Daughter—"Why is it, ma, that a honey-moon is supposed to last only three months?"
Ma—"At the end of three months the quarterly bills come in."

The Congo Free State.

Had the European rulers, who signed the treaty in 1885 by which the Congo basin was erected into a Free State, foreseen the mighty changes that would be effected during the next five years, and the wonderful progress that would be made in opening up the Dark Continent, it is doubtful whether they would have incorporated into that document certain provisions whose observance at present is threatening the State with a serious crisis. So much has been accomplished in the way of discovery, and so rapidly have the European nations that have colonies in that country been introducing the methods and appliances of civilization, that in order to keep her place in the line of march the Congo Free State has been obliged to make great outlays. Hitherto the expense has been principally borne by King Leopold of Belgium and his Government. Out of his own private fortune he spent \$1,750,000 in founding the State, and for nearly six years he has personally borne the expense of maintaining it, minus about \$100,000 a year from export dues. The cost of maintaining the State has never been less than \$400,000 in one year, and the building of new stations and new roads and the extension of the police system have swelled the sum now to \$850,000. To meet this the King of the Belgians can give only \$200,000 and the Belgian Government \$400,000. If we add to these sums \$125,000 export dues, there is still left a deficit of \$125,000. Nor is this all. The recent Anti-Slavery Congress at Brussels imposed upon the State the duty of making greatly extended efforts to suppress the slave trade, to do which, will, of course, cost much money. Where is the money to come from?

This is the question that is being considered by the Technical Commission now in session in Brussels. Some are in favor of allowing the State to levy import duties so as to raise the money necessary for governmental functions. This it objected to by others who propose a subsidy, to be subscribed by the signatory powers. As a reason for their opposition they claim that the treaty agreed upon five years ago forbids the levying of duties on imports for a space of twenty years. Other than this no good reason is assigned why the Congo Free State should not be allowed to fall in line with the great chartered companies whose territories surround her—British German, French and Portuguese. All these colonies enjoy a sustaining revenue from customs on imports. But whatever may be the outcome of the Commission's deliberations, this at least seems certain, that unless the Congo State be promptly provided with an adequate revenue, its interests will be impaired, its progress checked, its good fame tarnished, and the cause of civilization in Central Africa incalculably injured.

New Light on the Story of Joseph in Egypt.

It is a singular fact that while the strongest doubt on the historical character of the earlier Biblical records finds its champions in theologians, such as Kuenen, Wellhausen, and Robertson Smith, some of the most pronounced declarations in favour of their historic accuracy come from Orientalists and historians who do not belong to the theological ranks. Most of the new discoveries in Egypt which have shed a flood of light on old problems have been the work of non-theologians. The latest illustration of this fact is furnished by an article on "Joseph in Egypt" which the master pen of Brugsch-Bey has contributed to a German periodical. In this essay, with new arguments, details, and data, he reiterates his conviction of the perfect historical correctness of the account given in Genesis. The occasion of the present article was the discovery made a year ago by Mr. Wilbour of a stone at Luxor, in which mention is made of the seven years of want and of the attempt of a sorcerer, Chait-het, to banish the calamity. Brugsch calls attention to many points of contact between the story of Joseph given in the Bible and the statements of the Egyptian monuments, especially in regard to the names of persons and places. Even to the one hundred and ten years which, according to Genesis, were the length of Joseph's life, he finds an Egyptian testimony in the Papyrus Prisse now in the Bibliotheque Nationale of Paris. With respect to the Luxor stone itself, though it is probably of late date, the inscription doubtless consists of the remnants and reminiscences of the story of Joseph. This much is certain, that the stone is a valuable extra-Biblical evidence for the existence of the seven years of famine in the days of Joseph.

My Girl's Mother.

I know I ought to talk only to the girls, but it does seem as if I wanted to say a word to their mothers. When we get to be thirty or thirty-five we are apt to forget the days when we were eighteen, and judge them a bit harshly. Now, don't do this ; temper your justice with mercy and think over your girl. Remember that if she has your ingenuousness she has an impulsive temper not inherited from you ; and that if she is not musical like you are, she has a gift for painting that comes a direct gift from her father. In your own girl you have two temperaments to contend with beside your own. The one is your own, the other that given her by her father, and the other her individual self. She has the right to have this respected, and it is your duty to teach her this.

Then, dear mother of girls, won't you keep yourselves young for them? Won't you keep an interest in what the girls are doing and saying? Won't you make them know that nobody is as glad to help them in their fun, to urge on their innocent merriment as "mother"? Believe me, the best chaplains for girls are mothers. They are God-given ones, and certainly each one will look carefully after her own lamb.
Then for the girls ; make mother the glad companion everywhere ; she is heartily welcomed, for though she may have wrinkles on her forehead there are none on her heart.

A low, receding brow marks mental destitution.

A full, high forehead denotes intellectual superiority.

Bibbs—"I wonder why my tailor failed?"
Fibbs—"Pure politeness. His customers wouldn't come down, so he went up."

A monument has just been finished which is to be erected on Helvellyn to the memory of Charles Gough, who, in the year 1805 was killed while mountaineering, and of the faithful dog who for three months watched over his master's remains. Sir Walter Scott describes the event in the poem "I climbed the dark brow of the mighty Helvellyn," and Wordsworth records it in his lines on "Fidelity." The cost of the monument has been borne by Miss Frances Power Cobbe and the H. D. Rawnsley, vicar of Crosthwaite.