MILK COWS AND OTHER CATTLE.

Prices of Milk Cows—Extension of Cattle Growing—The Outlook.

From 1879 to 1884 the annual estimates of prices of milk cows and other cattle advanced yearly, and the decline has since been uninterrupted, without exception for either class of stock. The fall in milk cows has been over 5 per cent., and in oxen and other cattle a decline of 10 per cent. in the last year.

The extension of cattle growing, according to Statistician Dodge's recent report, has been normal, corresponding very nearly with increase of population. Though prices have been low and heavy losses have occurred in some of the ranch districts, there is an abiding faith in the future of the business, grass being the cheapest and most abundant source of beef, yielding perhaps nine-tenths of all that is produced in the country. Corn has a relatively small share in the beef making in any country. The northwestern states are giving more and more prominence to cattle, the wheat interest relatively declining in the older settlements.

Milk cows are receiving rather more attention than in recent years in the eastern and middle states, and are increasing everywhere with the advance of population. There is some recuperation from the depression felt in cheese making districts, New York especially, where prices of their products ruled so low.

The belief is expressed, in the report quoted from, that the stock interests of the United States are in a comparatively prosperous condition, with a prospect of advance in prices, especially those of cattle.

Black Minorcas.

Numbered with Spanish varieties of fowls that have come to the front of late, are the black Minorcas, the best layers of all the so called Spanish breeds. The Minorcas are handsome birds, with lustrous, green black plumage, large red combs and white ear lobes. The large comb stands erect in the cocks and lopping in the hens. The general carriage of these fowls is an important feature. The cock, especially if true bred, carries himself in a stately manner, the breast well projecting and the tail standing well up.

MINORCA COCK AND HEN.

The Minorcas are hardy and little subject to disease. They are persistent layers of large white eggs, which find a ready sale. Like most egg laying breeds, their flesh is not of excellent quality; on the contrary, in old fowls, it is decidedly unfit for the table. The Minorcas are non-sitters and great foragers. In good condition a hen will weigh from six to seven pounds, and the cock from eight to nine pounds.

Brine Salting Butter.

A practical advocate of brine salting for butter recommends the proportion of one-half pint of salt to a gallon of water in making the weak brine that is used to wash the butter, a little more or less salt being immaterial. Churning is stopped while the butter is in the form of granules about as large as a pinhead; the buttermilk is drawn off, and at least enough of this weak brine is put in to coat the butter, and the buttermilk is washed out, the brine being drawn off and the process repeated till the brine runs clear. The strong brine to be next used is a saturated solution—as much salt as the water will dissolve. The washing brine is thoroughly drained from the butter, and enough strong brine is poured on to cover it. In this strong brine the butter stands till every single atom is covered with a film of brine. Great difference of opinion prevails in regard to the advisability of brine salting. As good authority as T. D. Curtis falls to see either its utility or economy as compared to applying the salt direct.

Common Sense in House Building.

In planning a house do not think of the exterior at first, but agree on the size of each needed room, and arrange those of the main floor on a sheet of paper, drawn to a scale, so that they are most conveniently clustered. Shift them about as you do the castles on a chess board until they group well. Put the porch with the main door on the east or south side, also the living room. Place the dining room to the north or west and the parlor facing the road. Add the kitchen on the north or west if possible, and next to the dining room. Put the stairs where you can reach them conveniently from the living room. Then consider the position of the needed chimneys. Not until all this has been well laid out do you consider the exterior. The fact is you build a house to live in it. If the interior is well planned the outside will take care of itself. In architecture, as well as elsewhere, the natural is the beautiful.

Discussing the Food Question.

The relative value of various vegetables as an article of food was once under discussion among a party of East End villagers, when one of the number imparted this valuable piece of information "I don't think much of turnips. There isn't much sustenance in 'em, as they're more'n seven-fifths water." Another one of the number freely, if not intelligently, expressed his opinion regarding the adulteration of food. He said: "It's awful to think of the fearful extent to which our food products are being adulterated. Nothing seems to be free from the wicked practice. Here are all the stores selling what they call genuine New Orleans molasses, and yet I have been told by a custom house official of my acquaintance that there hasn't any of the stuff come through the custom house in years. It's a burnin' shame the way we are continually cheated in this way."—New York Sun.

A woman teacher in the New York Normal college declares that she can feel already the influence of the appointment of two women as commissioners of the board of education, in the greater respect shown to women.

The New York Mail's Mrs. Grundy declares that girls who are dullest and stupidest at school are now the reigning belles in fashionable society.

Flo's Complaint.

Little Flo Sanburn, upon being censured by her mother for some small mischief she had been engaged in, sat "thinking it over" for some time and finally said, in a complaining tone, "Everything I do is laid to me."—Exchange.

Farmer and Lawyer.

A New Jersey farmer makes it a practice to thrash his lawyer every time he loses a case for him, and the way that attorney gets up and melts court and jury with his wiles calls in a crowd from all over the country.—Detroit Free Press.

"WALKING EGYPT."

A Singular New Year Custom Among the Negroes of the South.

For the old slave customs of the southern states, now that the negroes have been free for nearly a quarter of a century, many are obsolete. The "old sperretuals," as the aged colored Christians call their peculiar hymns, are either given up entirely or modernized and refined till they are barely recognizable. But as the old goes and the new takes its place, we can still see—and it is a "persistence of type" worth the attention of philosophers—that the genius of the original African is still there. The song may be an adaptation from Watts' Hymns; but all the same it is an Africanized Watts.

When a traveler or man of science attends a "colored revival" in the back districts of the gulf states and hears this roaring chorus from one thousand throats—

I see St. Petah a standin' in the do',
Dip in the Golden Sea!
An' all my frien's what went befo',
Dip in the Golden Sea!
O, dip me, bathe me, sistahs, you!
O, brothers, won't you help me through?
We'll all ride behind the milk white steeds—
An' dip in the Golden Sea.

he perceives at once that this is African, not Saxon, imagery. And by the eye of scientific faith he can look back 300 years to the time when the ancestors of these people, under the palm or on the sandy shore, sang and rioted in praise of Bennamucka or Mumbo Jumbo.

The negroes have also had one experience common to all freed people. At first there was a violent reaction against everything that belonged to slave times; they carefully discarded the most trifling customs which might serve to imply a slave origin. By and by, when their freedom was an assured thing and taken as a matter of course, there was a counter reaction; they took up the old songs and customs, but gave them a tone that implied a sense of deliverance. Thus, "Roll, Jordan, roll," became an emancipation song, and "Old Nicodemus" was completely transformed. And by a similar evolution one phase of the old "Juba dance" became "Walking Egypt." This is, in plain English, only a mildly religionized form of the walking dance or dancing walk which the Africans, like all heathen people, have always had. The Indians' "corn dance" and "sun dance" are but variations of the same thing.

But "Walking Egypt," as it now is, dates from emancipation, and is performed on New Year's eve—that is, when they "watch the old year out and the new year in." One description, by a white lady who saw it from the gallery of a Georgia church, is as follows:

"The leader took his place on the floor and began the wild, half barbaric chant; then one by one, as the excitement grew, the others followed. Soon the whole line was in a tremor of excitement, and shouts and improvised lines like these:

Who's dat yondah dressed in black?
Oh, it's an angel dressed in black.

"The walk is by a slight forward jerk of the foot. As the walkers warmed to their work and grew wilder in their movements it was easy to see why the better educated colored people are opposed to the walk; for the men and women took most abandoned attitudes. The scene recalled pictures of the orgies of 'hashish' maddened fanatics. The walk went on for hours, up one aisle and down the other, new ones taking the place of those

"WALKING EGYPT."

who dropped out exhausted; and at daylight several of the participators were down on their knees, still crawling around the church."

The "Egypt" part of it is an evident reference to the "Walk" of the Israelites out of bondage, for that is a parallel case in the mind of every freedman. But in prosaic fact the "walk" is only one of the thousand ways in which undeveloped people mingle the religious manifestations with the social, the musical and finally the voluptuous. And, of course, as the excitement increases the first element yields to the second and both to the last. In short, the walk is but the survival of some old African fetich worship, and is therefore possible only among the undiluted blacks of the most ignorant class. It is simple matter of truth and justice to add that no freed people in history have ever progressed faster than the negroes; and if they maintain their present rate of development, another generation will see the last of "Walking Egypt."

The Untutored Savage.

Boring an Artesian Well.

The mechanical operation of boring a well is exceedingly difficult, and many of the failures to obtain artesian water in tested districts are undoubtedly due to the carelessness or ignorance of the well borers, or to the inefficiency of their tools. The American apparatus, most of it patented and manufactured by various firms, seems to combine strength and utility to a greater degree than the European machinery described in text books. A complete well boring outfit can be had for from $400 to $600; and sometimes farmers club together, buy an outfit, and work it themselves, though it is always best to employ a trained well borer. The danger of breaking tools, of dropping something in the bore, or of checking the descent of the pipe, so that a smaller bore must be adopted, are dangers that only great skill can avoid. Wells that start out bravely with a bore of fifteen inches in diameter, often fail to strike water with more than a six or eight inch bore. The flow at the top is of course diminished correspondingly. A well of uniform size throughout, piped with a tight casing, so that the ascending water does not escape into the surface strata, will deliver the maximum amount possible.—Charles H. Shinn in Overland Monthly.

—Life.

Fashion Notes.

A silver bracelet of ball links, hand chased and oxidized, is a novelty.

Hugo eastern palms in ornamental pots seem to be the favorite plants decoration for country houses.

Velvet, faille Francaise, moire and gros grain are materials that will figure in autumn millinery.

Among the newest ornaments for the hair are large butterflies and dragon flies made of feathers.

ON LIFE'S THRESHOLD.

A Simile Which Forcibly Conveyed a Great Truth.

A little boy laid his stick of candy on the mantel while he buttoned his shoes. His sister, seeing it, waltzed around the room, reaching the candy as she passed, and hastily ate it. When her brother had finished buttoning his shoes and reached for it, lo! it was gone. "You have my candy, miss; give it to me," he cried. "Brother," she answered, "if you ever eat that candy you will have to be the whale and I'll have to be Jonah."—Babyhood.

A Pathetic Story.

There is almost as much pathos as humor in the story of an Albany boy of tender years: Shortly after his mother's death with his father he visited her grave, being carried there by a horse which had recently been bought by the father. The husband, standing apart, was naturally in a contemplative frame of mind, and the boy, when unable to stand the oppressive silence longer, lifted his childish voice in an interrogative tone and said: "Ma, we've got a new horse."—Albany Journal.

Must Be So.

Some one told little Jimmy that when it was day with us it was night in China; he thought that was very improbable and sat thinking about it some time. Suddenly his face beamed as he exclaimed:

"Now I know, for one day you took me up town and we passed a Chinese laundry, and the Chinamen were ironing with their nightgowns on."—New York World.

The Difference.

Scene—Dictation class at school. Teacher—Now, Johnny, look at this. Is that the way to spell window—W-i-d-o-w?

Johnny—No, sir.

Teacher—What is the difference between window and widow?

Johnny—You can see through the one, but not through the other.—Modern Society.

Satiety.

A little girl, 9 years old, having attended a soiree, being asked by her mother on returning how she enjoyed herself, answered: "I am full of happiness; I couldn't be any happier unless I could grow."—Troy Times.

Bovine Refinement.

Little 3-year-old Jamie was with his father in the barn. Seeing a large pitchfork, he said: "Papa, is that what the horses eat hay with?"—Youth's Companion.

Of Interest to Amateur Milliners.

It may be interesting to the amateur milliner to know that to make loops of ribbon set well the two ends of each loop should be plaited separately in several tiny folds, and fastened firmly together with threads or fine wire. Long loops for a hat trimming should have a piece of wire the color of the ribbon fixed straight up the middle of one side of the loop.

A Quaint Wedding Present.

A quaint design in match safes likely to have a big run is the one that copies in silver an old shoe with turned down top, the nails in the sole being represented by diamonds or other gems. This novelty furnishes a pretty and convenient gift to a friend on the eve of a voyage, also a graceful offering from ushers on the occasion of a wedding. In a word, this buckle affords an elegant substitute for the literal throwing of an old shoe after departing guests and brides for good luck.

Illiteracy in Massachusetts.

It has been asserted that there is an alarming amount of illiteracy in Massachusetts. Statistical inquiry shows that by far the greater number of these illiterates are of foreign birth, so that the fault lies not with the public school system, but namely, immigration. Again, it has been freely asserted that in the United States women of native birth do not have as many children as women of foreign birth, and that hereby the real American population is losing ground. The census of Massachusetts will show that although American women do have a less number of children on the average yet a larger number survives, so that the alarm is needless. Common observation would never have shown these things, or would not have shown them accurately.—Boston Budget.

Snappy.

Jekyll (who is trying to make the one course of sherbet and raspberry shrub spin itself out)—By the way, what are you reading now, girls?

Miss Hardhill—About this time in the day, bills of fare.—Time.

The Age of Aluminum.

Experiments have been under way at Cleveland for some months which promise to provide a process that will produce aluminum at a cost that will finally bring that wonderful metal into all the arts. When this is done the next century will be as emphatically the age of aluminum as this is the age of steel. Ships, locomotives, railroads, great guns, flying machines, houses, churches, steeples, knives, forks, razors, sewing machines, type, printing presses, and every other sort of structure or tool in which iron or steel is now used will be made of aluminum as soon as that substance is produced cheaply and plentifully.

It is only a question of time now when that result will be reached. It is the most plentiful metal in the world, as it occurs in common clay, and the trouble has been, and is, to isolate it cheaply. It is light, tough and strong, easily worked, and better adapted to the needs of civilization than any other similar material. When it can be made for the same price as iron you will see all the iron foundries close up or go to working it—and within a decade that result will be reached. You may be certain that the skeleton of coming civilization will be made of aluminum.—Chicago News.

Not So Very Good.

Mother—Johnny, you mustn't play with Willie Hill any more.

Johnny—Why not, mamma?

Mother—Because he is a bad little boy.

Johnny—Well, mamma, I ain't so doggone good myself that you ought to be kickin'.—Washington Critic.

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE.

Minor Manners Sometimes Neglected by Gentlemen.

The word gentleman is so often vulgarized by improper use that Mrs. Sherwood, who is excellent authority, has called attention as follows to the ways in which this frequently happens in our country, as well as to some of the neglected minor manners of mankind: When Tom on the ball field says to his generous antagonist, "Horatio, you are a gentleman," he uses it correctly. When a driver says to his fare, "If you are the man who is going to ride, I am the gentleman as is to drive you," he uses it incorrectly. When a servant announces a plumber as a "Gentleman to fix the pipes," she uses it incorrectly.

The word "gentleman," one of the noblest, sweetest, grandest words in the language, should not be used too much. Put in the better word man, remembering that gentleman implies much breeding, much culture, a certain refinement of occupation, and a moral tone of the very highest.

And to descend to the lowest thing about a gentleman, we should remember that his minor manners must be attended to; he does not swear in the presence of women; he does not eat his dinner in a hurry; he does not crumble his bread about, making it into pills; he does not eat his soup with a hissing sound, or tip the plate to get the last drop; he mends his table manners if they are bad; he dresses himself well if his means will allow; he is ever so poor he must be clean. If he commits any little error at the dinner table he must learn to be composed; he must be deaf and blind to the errors of others in society. But etiquette never means stiffness; the best bred people are the unconscious. So sudden are the rises in American society that many a man has been invited to a dinner party to eat his dinner off the plate which he lately wasted.

Solving the Cheap Food Problem.

Five cent meals have been often dreamed of, but one that could be eaten has never been known, in this country at least. Everybody knows that there is enough good meat wasted in Chicago every year to feed all the people that so often go hungry, but the trouble is to use it. When we called attention to the high prices prevailing the butchers at once replied that the trouble was everybody wanted porterhouse steaks and none would use the other pieces that were perfectly good, but not so easily cooked.

But H. M. Kinsley, the well known restaurant man, thinks he sees a way in which he can benefit himself and some poor people at the same time. Such beef as he uses in his restaurant costs 22 cents a pound. An entire carcass costs 8½ cents a pound all through. Buying by the carcass instead of by the loin he figures that he can save the steaks and roasts for the restaurants, and then, with good cooking, make the rest of the meat palatable, and thus sell wholesome food to the poor at a nominal cost.

His scheme is to establish a large kitchen in the poorer district of the city, and he says he can furnish good soup and bread enough for four for 20 cents, and can feed a family of six for half a dollar. Nothing but the best of material is to be used, nothing that is left over from other meals, but simply meat that is not served in the restaurant. "The scheme is not a charitable one," said Mr. Kinsley; "it is wholly and purely a business proposition, but if at the same time I can furnish good, cheap food to poor people, food that is fit for their children to eat, such as much that they now use is not, I think I will be doing a good thing at the same time. Such a place I will have running by winter."—Chicago Herald.

Hints for the Uninitiated.

Remove the spoon from the coffee or tea cup and let it lie in the saucer.

When you are a guest for one meal do not fold your napkin, but leave it lying loosely on the table.

Always break your bread. Do not cut it with the knife, nor butter a large piece and bite into it.

Put bones or bits of fruit on the side of the plate, not on the table cloth. At some tables small bone plates are provided.

Do not, while waiting to be served, rub your fingers on the edge of the plate in front of you or feel around on the inside of the tumbler. If your plate should be exchanged for that of another, the person receiving it would feel unpleasantly. Besides, such manners are childish as well as inelegant.

A Common Cold

Is often the beginning of serious affections of the Throat, Bronchial Tubes, and Lungs. Therefore, the importance of early and effective treatment cannot be overestimated. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral may always be relied upon for the speedy cure of a Cold or Cough.

Last January I was attacked with a severe Cold, which, by neglect and frequent exposures, became worse, finally settling on my lungs. A terrible cough soon followed, accompanied by pains in the chest, from which I suffered intensely. After trying various remedies, without obtaining relief, I commenced taking Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and was

Speedily Cured.

I am satisfied that this remedy saved my life.—Jno. Webster, Pawtucket, R. I.

I contracted a severe cold, which suddenly developed into Pneumonia, presenting dangerous and obstinate symptoms. My physician at once ordered the use of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. His instructions were followed, and the result was a rapid and permanent cure.—H. E. Simpson, Rogers Prairie, Texas.

Two years ago I suffered from a severe Cold which settled on my Lungs. I consulted various physicians, and took the medicine they prescribed, but received only temporary relief. A friend induced me to try Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. After taking two bottles of this medicine I was cured. Since then I have given the Pectoral to my children, and consider it

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for Colds, Coughs, and all Throat and Lung diseases, ever used in my family.—Robert Vanderpool, Meadville, Pa.

Some time ago I took a slight Cold, which, being neglected, grew worse, and settled on my lungs. I had a hacking cough, and was very weak. Those who knew me best considered my life to be in great danger. I continued to suffer until I commenced using Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Less than one bottle of this valuable medicine cured me, and I feel that I owe the preservation of my life to its curative powers.—Mrs. Ann Lockwood, Akron, New York.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is considered, here, the one great remedy for all diseases of the throat and lungs, and is more in demand than any other medicine of its class.—J. F. Roberts, Magnolia, Ark.

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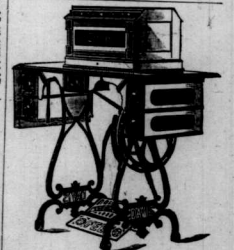

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