

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Following are the current and comparative prices for the various grades of live stock:

CATTLE.	Range of Prices.	Top prices	
		Present	Two weeks ago.
1500 lbs. up.....	\$4 50 to 5 25	\$5 40	\$4 25
1200 @ 1500.....	4 30 to 5 30	5 25	4 40
1200 @ 1200.....	4 10 to 5 25	5 20	4 40
1050 @ 1200.....	3 95 to 4 30	4 30	4 25
800 @ 1050.....	3 85 to 4 20	4 20	4 15
Sticks and F.....	4 10 to 4 85	4 90	4 00
Sticks and F.....	3 00 to 4 60	4 50	3 80
Fat cows and heifers.....	3 40 to 4 45	4 50	3 85
Canning cows.....	1 65 to 2 60	2 50	2 30
Bulls.....	2 00 to 4 00	4 05	3 40
Calves.....	3 00 to 6 15	5 30	5 00
Texas steers.....	3 00 to 4 35	4 30	3 90
Texas O. & H.....	2 25 to 3 50	3 85	3 35
HOGS.			
Mixed.....	3 65 to 3 85	4 05	3 50
Heavy.....	3 35 to 3 85	4 02	3 47
Light.....	3 60 to 3 90	4 05	3 55
Pigs.....	2 00 to 3 80	4 00	3 40
SHEEP.			
Natives.....	2 00 to 4 90	5 00	4 00
Western.....	3 50 to 4 40	5 10	3 65
Texas.....	2 85 to 4 50	4 25	3 60
Lambs.....	3 00 to 5 60	5 50	5 15

It will be seen that cattle are about \$1 per 100 lbs. higher than a year ago; hogs about 35c. higher, and sheep about 80c. to 90c. higher. According to these figures the poor stock farmer is not getting very much the worst of it. Indeed, the stockmen are doing very well, and with them "actions speak louder than words." They are not saying much—they are gathering up breeding and feeding cattle, young and old, and of all conditions, sizes, colors and sexes wherever they can get them. There is an active movement among cattle-men in almost every State in the Union, and a general expression of confidence in the future. Some of the weatherwise people are suggesting that the thing has been overdone, and may be again, but there has not been a time in fifteen years when there were so few cattle in the country and such a good general demand for them.

The exporters of cattle have been going a little slowly of late, but they seem to want about all the good fat cattle they can get. English prices are about 15c. per lb. higher than a year ago.

The crop of fed Texas cattle is about exhausted. Supplies of grass Texans will not be as large as last year.

Some practical Nebraska cattle feeders arrange their feeding operations so as to have no cattle on hand during fly time.

There is still a good demand for young Canadian bulls. Veal calves are comparatively scarce, owing to the growing tendency on the part of the farmers to increase their supply of cattle, and during the week there were a number of bunches of so-called veal calves taken by countrymen. This demand caused an unsettled and an uneven market for veal calves, but the general situation is strong and the prospect is favorable, especially for good ones. Bulk of the good to choice veal calves are selling from \$5.50 to \$6.50.

The Utah Slaughterhouse Co., of Salt Lake City, sold three carloads of 1,134-lb. "sugar-coated" Utah steers in Denver at \$4.24. They were fed at the sugar-beet factory at American Falls, Utah. Ora Haley sold five cars of 1,184-lb. to 1,258-lb. Wyoming steers at \$4.17.

A New York slaughtering and exporting company has just bought 4,500 distillery cattle at Peoria, Pekin, Milwaukee and Lawrenceburg, at \$3.35 for 1,350-lb. to 1,400-lb. stock.

The Standard Cattle Co., at Ames, kept an exact account of expenses for raising 2,462 acres of corn last year, and found that it was 11.7 cents per bushel of the crop. That included all labor at regular wages, rent of land, manure used, etc. The crop averaged 63.6 bushels per acre.

Receipts at Omaha from Jan. 1, 1897, up to and including May 18, compare with the same period last year as follows:

	1897.	1896.	Inc.
Cattle.....	233,597	169,074	63,523
Hogs.....	527,444	397,707	129,737
Sheep.....	273,243	100,813	172,430

The formation of the Agriculturists' National Protective Association is a recent organization among farmers, contemplating an arrangement for marketing their produce through the hands of State and national agents, acting under directions as to prices, etc.

The live stock shippers are trying to organize an association with headquarters at Chicago.

Some of the big banks are feeling the loss of business occasioned by the stagnation of Board of Trade and Stock Exchange speculation, and are disposed to be more accommodating to cattle and sheep feeders. Hog growers generally do not ask for financial help in their business.

A reliable hog-man says: "Recent reports to us regarding the spring pig crop show some improvement in the number and condition, with the general tendency to increase the supply as much as possible during the summer and fall months."

Speaking of the probable hog supplies for the next few months, an authority says: "When we remember that the receipts of hogs at Chicago last year averaged over 600,000 per month from May until November, and the fact that hogs were closely marketed right along, we do not consider it good judgment to expect much increase in the supply this summer; and with a continuation of the increased demand for hogs and their product, we do not believe in much sharp or permanent decline in prices. We should have liberal receipts for the next four or five weeks, and with so little speculation prices may work off a little."

Canadian Live Stock Export.

The following are the live stock reports for the weeks ending Wednesday, May 18th and 26th, as prepared by R. Bickerdike, the Live Stock Exchange, Montreal:

May 12.—Ormidale.....	London.....	283 cattle.
" 15.—Cervona.....	".....	400 "
" 18.—Devona.....	".....	475 "
" 19.—Montevideo.....	".....	380 "
" 14.—Rossmore.....	Liverpool.....	721 "
" 15.—Lake Winnipeg.....	".....	625 "
" 19.—Lake Ontario.....	".....	504 "
" 13.—Lycia.....	Bristol.....	406 "
" 13.—Peruvian.....	Glasgow.....	411 "
" 14.—Keemun.....	".....	407 "
" 18.—Sarmatian.....	".....	449 "
Total.....		5,061 cattle.
May 21.—Hurona.....	London.....	520 cattle.
" 21.—Carlisle City.....	".....	382 "
" 22.—Carthiginian.....	Liverpool.....	772 "
" 25.—Baltimore.....	".....	674 "
" 20.—Memnon.....	Bristol.....	410 "
" 20.—Concordia.....	Glasgow.....	400 "
" 26.—Amarynthia.....	".....	427 "
" 20.—Gauges.....	Newcastle.....	215 "
" 22.—Hankow.....	".....	202 "
" 26.—Baltimore City.....	Manchester.....	324 "
Total.....		4,326 cattle.



MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—

In this winsome month, when earth, figuratively speaking, lies nestled in a bed of roses and the air is still redolent of the delicious fragrance of the apple-blossoms, you'd expect Uncle Tom to be in a playful mood, wouldn't you? He is, nevertheless, serious, and just in the humor for a talk with his boys, so many of whom are on the point of taking the all-important step from youth to manhood, and particularly with those who contemplate leaving the sheltering shade of the home-tree.

"Boys again!" I hear the girls exclaim. Well, well, you need not listen unless you like, but indeed in this wonderful nineteenth century, when men and women work side by side in nearly every line of life, my remarks, though addressed to boys, are almost equally applicable to both. Wiser men than your old uncle have attested the value of the advice here given—men who have made life a success (as you too may do) by following these maxims.

First of all, be punctual, for it is aptly said, "Punctuality is the very hinge of business." If employed by another, punctuality is essential to honesty, and I certainly suppose all my boys to be honest. Not one of you would put into his pocket a dime that belonged rightfully to his employer. Your time and work are money to him, give him his own. Be punctual when you make an appointment, whether on business, to pay a visit, or merely to take part in a game. You have no right to entail upon others the never-failing inconvenience that follows the neglect of this virtue. While I strongly advise all to "aim high" I would warn you against trying to begin at the top, for it being natural to youth to desire to move about, feet not trained by patient climbing may prove unsteady and in an unguarded moment topple their owner over. If you are earning an honorable living at your present occupation do not be in a hurry to make an exchange. Always do your work as well as you can, and do not try to measure the worth of your wages. The faithful execution of present tasks is the best preparation for the promotion examinations that are going on every day outside of school and college; earn your certificate, and when gained be sure not to lose it.

Do not grumble if you are obliged to live a life of comparative obscurity. The gold that now helps to move the great wheels of commerce once lay buried deep in earth; but it has been found, and if you have real merit sooner or later you will of necessity be recognized—the world will be glad to dig down and bring you to light, for, like gold, merit is not a drug. But you must not suppose that fame or worldly success is all that is worth striving for. True, the gold shines more brilliantly now than when taken from the rock, but consider the furnace through which it passed! Think if you can endure a similar ordeal.

Be courteous, but dignified; he who respects himself will be respected by others, while obsequiousness is not only unnecessary but is despised by those who accept it.

Gauge your manner of living by the amount of your own income, and not by that of your associates, and never go beyond it. There is no slavery more degrading than that of indebtedness. On the other hand, Washington Irving says, "Have the courage to appear poor and you rob poverty of its sharpest sting."

In conclusion, when out of employment financially remunerative, lend a helping hand to another struggler, and aid in building up the temple of true humanity; nay, do not wait till you've nothing to do—that time never comes to people of the better mould—but be ever on the alert to do a kind deed; do not suppose that such seemingly unnoticed acts go for nothing; they are "bread cast upon the waters," and will return a hundred fold, and in a manner wholly unexpected.

I am requested to remind contributors to the Puzzle Corner that all work should reach Pakenham office not later than the 5th when intended for publication in issue of 15th, and not later than the 15th when intended for first issue of the next month.

Ever your loving—UNCLE TOM.

THE QUIET HOUR.

The Cost and Worth of Sympathy

(MILLER.)

The true nature of sympathy is not always understood. It is more than tears, which often lie near the surface, and flow easily at another's grief. Some natures are wonderfully sensitive to the expressions of joy or sorrow in other lives. They are like a cliff which echoes back a song or a terror-stricken cry with equal readiness. They respond to every note of joy or sorrow that strikes their chords. But only from the surface do they reflect the tones of other lives. No depths are stirred. They know nothing of sympathy. Sympathy is

more than an echo; its background is individual experience. Strength is not enough for this ministry of sympathy, it must have passed through the fires of suffering, or of struggle, to get the fineness and delicacy required for this sacred work. Moral uprightness and purity are not enough: unchastened, even these qualities are too cold to render the service that sad and weary hearts need in their loneliness and weakness. Even the purest holiness must be swept through by the thrills of pain before it can understand and feel for others in pain and sorrow. The holy angels can pity the sons of men, but they cannot sympathize. If "even the Captain of our salvation was made perfect by suffering"; if even He could not enter the lowest depths of a human heart without passing through this school of pain, surely His disciples cannot expect to do so. In His omniscience He saw into every nook and cranny of every human heart, and yet, in order that He might truly sympathize, He must become man. No matter what the phase of trial or struggle on which He looks down, He can say, "I understand that."

The young man brought up in a sequestered home cannot fully understand the struggles of another who is wrestling with the sore temptations of a great city. The young woman who has never scarcely had a wish ungratified is not fit to sit down beside a sister woman in sore agony and really enter into actual sympathy with her.

Some fruits only ripen when the frost comes. Disappointments, bereavements, the deep plowing of the heart by afflictions—how they enrich the heart that is held all the while close to Christ under the warm sunshine of His wise love! No ministry in the world is finer than that of those who have learned life's secrets in the school of experience, and then go about inspiring, strengthening, and guiding younger souls who come after them. Sympathy is a wonderful thing, it has a strange and mighty power of inspiration in it. How it encourages us in our work to know that others care for us, and are interested in us. There is something in the touch of a friendly hand or the look of a kindly eye that sends a quickening thrill through our souls.

"A clasp of hands will oft reveal
A sympathy that makes us feel
Ourselves again; we lose our care:
And in our heart's first glad rebound
At tender sympathy new found,
The world once more seems bright and fair."

If we would, then, be fitted for this blessed ministry we must be content to learn in the school of experience. Even Christ learned by the things He suffered. Angels are not fitted for sympathy, for they know nothing about human life. In a picture by Domenichino there is an angel standing by the empty cross, touching with his finger one of the sharp points in the crown of thorns. On his face there is the strangest bewilderment. He is trying to make out the mystery of sorrow. He knows nothing of suffering, for he has never suffered. The same is, in a measure, true of untold human life. If we would be sons of consolation our natures must be enriched by experience.

"Measure thy life by loss instead of gain:
Not by the wine drunk, but the wine poured forth!
For Love's strength standeth in Love's sacrifice;
And whose suffers most has most to give."

Human uprightness, undisciplined, is apt to be stern and severe, even uncharitable, towards weakness. We are apt to be heedless of the feelings of others. We are not gentle towards sorrow, because our own hearts have never been plowed. We give constant pain to sensitive spirits, by word and act, because we have not learned that gentle delicacy and thoughtful tenderness which can be learned only through the careless wounding of our own feelings by others. And this grace does not come to anyone all at once. Like other things, it can only be acquired by patient practice. A habit to be gained by daily painstaking effort is the valuable one of "looking not every one on his own things, but every one also on the things of others."

"Seldom can the heart be lonely,
If it seek a lonelier still—
Self-forgetting, seeking only
Empty cups with love to fill."

Bearing Another's Burdens.

Learn that each duty makes its claim
Upon one soul—not each on all;
How, if God speak thy brother's name,
Dare thou make answer to the call?
The greater peril in the strife,
The less this evil should be done;
For as in battle, so in life,
Danger and honor still are one.
Arouse him, then!—this is thy part!
Show him the claim! point out the need!
And nerve his arm, and cheer his heart,
Then stand aside, and say, "Godspeed!"
Smooth thou his path ere it is trod;
Burnish the arms that he must wield;
And pray with all thy strength, that God
May crown him victor in the field!
And then, I think, thy soul shall feel
A nobler thrill of true content
Than if presumptuous, eager zeal
Had seized a crown for others meant.

—A. Procter.

Sweet little Meg came into her Sunday-school class one morning, her eyes filled with tears, and looking up into her teacher's face, said: "Our dog's dead, and I guess the angels were scared when they saw him coming up the path, for he's awfully cross to strangers."