

Fireside Selections.

A Farmer's Wife I'll be.

I am a wild and laughing girl, just turned of sweet sixteen,
As full of fun and mischief as any you have seen;
And when I am a woman grown, no city beaux for me,
If e'er I marry in my life, a farmer's wife I'll be.

I love a country life; I love a joyous breeze;
I love to hear the singing birds among the lofty trees.
The lowing herds, the bleating flocks make music sweet for me,
If e'er I marry in my life, a farmer's wife I'll be.

I love to feed the chickens, I love to feed the cow;
I love to hear the farmer's boy whistling at his plow,
And fields of corn and waving grain are pleasing sights for me;
If e'er I marry in my life, a farmer's wife I'll be.

I love to see the orchards where the golden apples grow;
I love to walk in meadows where sparkling streamlets flow.
The flowery banks and shady nooks have many charms for me—
If e'er I marry in my life, a farmer's wife I'll be.

Let other girls who love it best, enjoy the gloomy town,
And dusty streets and dirty walks, to ramble up and down;
But flowery fields and shady woods, and starry skies for me,
If e'er I marry in my life, a farmer's wife I'll be.

Prairie Farmer.

Hints.

TO BE READ AND REMEMBERED BY AS MANY YOUNG
ONES AS POSSIBLE.

Do not waste valuable time by waiting to see what turns up, but turn up every available stone yourself to see what chances lay under it.

If you wish to progress in life, take every opportunity of improvement which comes within your reach. The best means to attain success is to qualify yourselves for superior duties. Depend upon it, that young man is more likely to secure a good position in life who becomes proficient in two or three continental languages before he is twenty-one, than the youth who is an expert at billiards or cards.

Never take the advice of those persons who are always finding fault with everybody and everything. When put upon their mettle, these universal fault-finders generally represent the genus "duffer" in every possible way.

It is of no use finding fault with a trade while you are obliged to stick to it to get your living. While you are at it make the best of it. Leave it as soon as you can get a better, but never give it a bad name while you are in connection with it.

Do not spell the word difficulty with the right letters which form the word, and pronounce it as impossibility. Too many persons put the meaning of the latter word to the former, which accounts for so many difficulties in life never being overcome.

The nearest way to wealth is often the farthest from honesty.

The man who turns his back on his work of a Monday, often has to pull a long face at his necessities on a Saturday.

Never expect others to do that for you which you ought to do for yourself. Interest is very useful to help a man on in life, but if you cannot get that help try to do without it. The man who sat still and expected his friends to make his fortune for him, came to the workhouse at last.

Christmas comes but once a year, when it is good to be merry and wise. But if you are merry at Christmas without being wise, you may have cause to be sad all the year round.

Many authors who write very pleasant stories are very unpleasant men themselves, when you come to know them. Actions speak louder than words. You cannot tell a man's disposition by the cut of his coat.

Emigration is not a cure for every ill which befalls a working man. He may go further and fare worse. Though he may have friends in a new country, they may be very distant to him even when he is near to them. It is a mistake to presume that competency or position can be attained in other countries without great sacrifices any more than in Canada. Never go to a country without seeking the advice of some one who has been there before. Strong arms and robust health are of more use than gentility and deportment in a rising country. In many places a blacksmith can sport his pony and trap, while a dancing-master is glad to sweep a crossing.

Never borrow if you can possibly help it; but if you do, pay to the hour promised. Many a young

man loses a friend through making him a permanent trustee and creditor.

When you marry, never let money be love's substitute, because the former soon disappears, while the latter lasts a lifetime.

In your journey through life try to make as many friends as possible, for they are sure to be useful even in after years. Friendship is like bread cast upon the waters, and often turns up when least expected. For every enemy you make yourself you may safely count a score, because he will do his best to convert everybody who knows you into an enemy besides himself.

Labor Conducive to Long Life.

In view of the short duration of life entailed by some occupations, it must be regarded as a consoling, yea, a sublime fact, that labor in general does not tend to shorten life; but, on the contrary, by strengthening health, lengthens life; while on the other hand, idleness and luxury are productive of the same results as the most unhealthy occupations. Dr. Guy, an Englishman, in calculating the average duration of life in the wealthy classes, arrived at the very surprising result, with regard to adults, that the higher the position in the social scale, the more unlimited their means, the less the probability of a long life.

We have so long been accustomed to consider the possession of riches as the best guarantee for physical welfare, that many will be surprised to hear that "the probability of the duration of life lessens, with regard to adults in each class of the population, in the same degree as the beneficial impulse for occupation is lacking. If a person who for a long time has lived an active life, retires from business, it may be taken for granted, with a probability of ten to one, that he had seized the most effective means to shorten his life. Of all conditions of life, idleness is hardest for nature to combat; and this is especially true of persons who have accustomed themselves to a busy life."

Earth Eating.

It is well known that in different parts of the world there are people who eat earth; among them are some of the natives of Java, who eat a red kind of earth as a luxury. This earth, which is soft and smooth to the touch, has been analyzed by a German chemist, who finds it very rich in iron, with a small quantity of potassa and soda.

Some tribes eat earth to stay the pangs of hunger by filling their stomachs, and because at times they can get nothing better; but the people of Java eat their earth, baked in thin cakes, as an agreeable variety in their general diet. The cakes when slightly moistened, are rich and unctuous, and the enjoyment in eating is supposed to consist in the sensation produced by a fatty substance. It is a curious fact in the history of human habits.

Saying "Hateful" Things.

What a strange disposition is that which leads people to say "hateful" things for the mere pleasure of saying them; you are never safe with such a person. When you have done your best to please, and are feeling very kindly and pleasantly, out will pop some underhand stab, which you alone can comprehend—a sneer which is masked, but which is too well aimed to be misunderstood. It may be at your person, your mental feeling, your foolish habits of thought, or some little secret opinions confessed in a moment of genuine confidence. It matters not how sacred it may be to you, he will have his fling at it; and since the wish is to make you suffer, he is all the happier the nearer he touches your heart. Just half a dozen words, only for the pleasure of seeing a cheek flush and an eye lose its brightness, only spoken because he is afraid you are too happy or too conceited. Yet they are worse than so many blows. How many sleepless nights have such mean attacks caused tender-hearted men! How, after them, one awakes with aching eyes and head, to remember that speech before everything—that bright, sharp, well aimed needle of a speech that probed the very centre of the soul! *Houshold.*

Curious Things About Ice.

Besides the fact that ice is lighter than water, there is another curious thing about it which many persons do not know, namely, its purity.

A lump of ice melted will always become pure distilled water. When the early navigators of the Arctic seas got out of water, they melted frag-

ments of those vast mountains of ice called ice-burys, and were astonished to find that they yielded only fresh water. They thought that they were frozen salt water, not knowing that they were formed on the land, and in some way launched into the sea. But if they had been right the result would have been all the same.

The fact is, the water in freezing turns out of it all that is not water, salt, air, coloring matter, and all impurities. Frozen sea water makes fresh water ice. If you freeze a basin of indigo water it will make it as pure as that made of pure rain water.

When the cold is very sudden these foreign matters have no time to escape, either by rising or sinking, and are thus entangled with the ice, but do not form any part of it.

Laughing Plant.

In Arabia there grows a plant, the seeds of which produce effects very much like "laughing gas." It grows to the height of three or four feet, bears yellow flowers, and has black seeds very much like beans in size and shape. These have a sweetish taste, and a flavor something like opium. These seeds, when ground and eaten, operate in an astonishing way. The person begins to laugh boisterously, then dances, sings, cuts capers, and is uproariously funny for about an hour, when he falls into a deep sleep, from which he awakes totally unconscious of what has happened. But like a man who has been intoxicated, we suspect, he feels the more tired and stupid for it.

Varieties.

The greatest height at which visible clouds ever existed does not exceed ten miles.

Curses always recoil on the head of him who imprecates them. If you put a chain round the neck of a slave, the other end fastens itself around your own.

The drying of grapes, for making raisins, is becoming a large industry in California, the highly saccharated juice of the American grapes peculiarly fitting them for the purpose.

The man is rich who has a good disposition—who is naturally kind, patient, cheerful, hopeful, and who has a flavor of wit and fun in his composition. The hardest thing to get along with in this world, is one's own self. A cross, selfish fellow, a desponding and complaining fellow—a timid, care-burdened man—these are all born deformed on the inside. Their feet do not limp but their thoughts do.

The Shaster, or Hindoo bible, forbids a woman to see dancing, hear music, wear jewels, blacken her eyebrows, eat dainty food, sit at a window, or view herself in a mirror, during the absence of her husband; and it allows him to divorce her if she has no sons, injures his property, scolds him, quarrels with another woman, or presumes to eat before he has finished his meal.

Sunflowers were recommended by a commission of European servants called by Bismarck to rid the air of the taint occasioned by the heaps of dead near Paris. They called the sunflower a precious plant for that purpose, as having a great power of absorbing the nitrogenous matters in which the soil would be so rich, as yielding an excellent oil from its seed, good forage from its leaves and having a combustible stalk which can be used in the domestic fireplace.

A strange incident was witnessed in England lately. In the afternoon, when the Park was crowded, a Mahomedan excited great astonishment by unrolling his praying mat on the green-sward, kneeling down, and with his face turned towards Mecca, gravely performing a long act of devotion. A considerable crowd assembled to contemplate the Mussulman, whose nationality was unmistakably that of an Indian subject of the Queen, and who appeared to be wholly unconscious of the curiosity he excited.

THE GERM OF GREATNESS.—He that can understand and delight in greatness was created to partake of it; the germ is in him; and sometimes this admiration, in what we deem inferior minds, discovers a noble spirit that belongs to the great man who awakens it; for sometimes the great man is so absorbed in his own greatness as to admire no other; and I should not hesitate to say that a common mind, which is yet capable of a generous admiration, is destined to rise higher than the man of eminent capacities, who can enjoy no power or excellence but his own.—*Channing.*

Uncle

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