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Vol. I. No. 3.

Toronto, Thursday, December 29th, 1881.

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RURAL NOTES.

THE craze over Jersey cows in the United States continues unabated. At a sale in Philadelphia, on the 8th ult., "the handsome and finely-marked cow Reita" brought \$1,150. Her heifer calf sold for \$400. Syren 2nd was knocked down at \$1,030; Blossom brought \$900; and Thrush \$800. Thirty-two cows averaged \$458.60 each; and twelve calves \$190 each.

CONTINENTAL EUROPE, as well as England, is suffering from land depression. A recent London paper states that grazing land in Friesland, "the garden of Holland," has fallen in value nearly 50 per cent. within a few years. Farms that formerly rented at from £6 to £8 per acre, have been recently let at from £2 to £3 per acre. American produce, put on the market at prices which defy competition, is assigned as the reason for this great depreciation.

GREAT BRITAIN largely imports potatoes, in addition to foreign breadstuffs and meats. From an official statement recently issued, it appears that the quantity imported in 1879 was "the astounding figure of 9,357,179 cwt.," which cost considerably more than twelve million and a half dollars. As with other food products purchased abroad by Great Britain, the expansion has been very great within a few years, having increased from an annual average of 378,000 bushels to 1,343,000 bushels.

AS BEE-KEEPING becomes more general, there is reason to believe that it will have to be pursued as a branch of farming, and large apiaries will be banished to the country districts. An American paper says: "The rainy fall made the bees very troublesome at West Fairview, Pa. Two citizens keep some 130 hives, and as bad weather made other food scarce, the bees invaded the stores and houses in quest of sweets. In one man's kitchen they remained sole tenants for a week. All fruit-canning and preserving had to be done at night. Numbers of people were stung while passing along the streets, and such a reign of terror was established that recourse has been had to the courts for a prevention of its recurrence."

THE recent assemblage at Aberdeen, Scotland, representing no less than 40,000 tenant farmers, who demand lower rents, is a most significant sign of the times, and shows that land reform in Britain is a foregone conclusion and an inevitable necessity. It confirms the views recently presented in this journal as to the future of British agriculture. Landlordism will resist while it can, and slowly yield to the pressure of circumstances. This lawful agitation is in striking contrast to the unbridled and outrageous proceedings of the same class in

Ireland. Educated and law-abiding, these Scotch farmers are content with the weapons of fact and argument, and with these are sure, sooner or later, to win.

SAYS the *Montreal Witness*: "A Frog-canning Company has been formed in Winnipeg for the purpose of supplying eastern cities, where they are in much demand; and large canning-houses will be built early in the spring in the vicinity of the town of Whittemouth, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, a locality much affected by froggy, we suppose. The frog comes from a highly respectable and ancient, not to say historic family, and has even inspired poets, as witness Aristophanes and his "Frogs," but nowadays he chiefly attracts epicures and bad boys. His flesh is alleged to be exceedingly tender, somewhat resembling that of chicken which has been fed on an excessively watery diet. If the Winnipeg industry should prove profitable, it might encourage some of our Quebec capitalists to enter upon the business, while boys who delight to torture these innocent though uncouth creatures would find it more to their interest to protect and cultivate them."

THE Journal of the American Agricultural Association, Vol. I., Nos. 3 and 4, forming a goodly volume of 264 pages, is on our table, and we hope to cull some valuable extracts from it for future numbers of the RURAL CANADIAN. This publication is issued by the Association whose name it bears, and supplied to all members. The annual membership fee is two dollars, and the Journal is more than worth the money. It seems intended to imitate, if not rival, the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and certainly a most creditable beginning has been made in that direction. The articles in the double number just to hand are of great interest and value, especially two on "The Railroad and the Farmer," giving the *pro* and *con.* of the controversy now going on between agriculture and the great monied corporations that control the iron roads of this continent. Parties desiring membership in the Association, or copies of the Journal, will address J. H. Real, Secretary, 127 Water Street, New York.

HON. M. H. COCHRANE has shown a wise appreciation of the Hereford cattle, by importing eighty-six bulls of that breed for his ranch in Manitoba. An English correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* writes as follows in regard to this large importation: "These bulls are described as a grand lot, and have been selected principally from some of the best herds, as the sons of high-class sires, several of the sires being among the most famous bulls of the day. They are just the animals to bring into notice the claims of the Herefords as beef-making cattle. Among the names of

the most eminent breeders are Messrs. J. Hill, T. Fenn, Price Court House; T. Cauvendone, Stocktonbury; Hazwood, Goode, Ivingtonbury, and six or seven others. This enterprising purchase by Messrs. Cochrane, of so large a number of the best young bulis they could procure, must permanently and greatly strengthen the position in Canada of the plain farming robust and ponderous Hereford."

THERE are thousands of good farms in every Province in the Dominion whose market value is greatly detracted from by easily-removed and really inexcusable blemishes which are allowed to mar their appearance. They seem like little things, and yet they invariably strike the eye of the discriminating buyer. There is no need of particularizing in this connection, further than to illustrate our meaning. For the lack of a day or two spent in repairs, what might, without additional cost for material, be an excellent fence, is allowed to stand for years a tumble-down ruin. For the lack of a little ditching, a valuable spring makes a swamp and a breeder of malaria. For the lack of a few nails or a hinge, gates are sagging at every field entrance on the farm. Stones are scattered over the fields which, gathered together, would make good walks all over the place. But these are only a few things. Many other things will suggest themselves to the reader, which labour alone would radically change.

It is believed by many persons that posts set in the ground in a position the reverse of that in which they stood while growing in the tree, will last much longer than when set "top end up." Professor Beal, of the Michigan Agricultural College, has been experimenting on this point, and states the result as follows:—"In the spring of 1879 I selected seasoned sticks three feet long. These were cut in two, and cut in two, making four pieces of each. One set was placed in well-drained sand, the other in clay soil. In every case, two pieces were set side by side, with earth between; one as it stood in the tree, the other reversed. I tried thirteen kinds of timber. Some of these were young wood with bark on. All contained some heart wood. Those growing in sandy land have just been examined. In case of the beech, sugar maple, ironwood, black ash, and black cherry, the piece reversed or placed 'top end down' was somewhat most decayed. In case of red maple, American elm, butternut and red elm, the reverse piece was a trifle the soundest. In case of basswood, white ash, white oak and blue ash, there was no perceptible difference. I infer that were one piece decayed more than the other, it was caused by some trifling difference in the sticks. The freshly sawed ends in each case were placed uppermost, and came an inch or two above the ground."

FARM AND FIELD.

EXHAUSTED LANDS.

So long as farmers have fields that need restoring they will be interested in the above topic. Dr. Kedyil, professor of chemistry in the Michigan Agricultural College, in a recent lecture on restoring lost fertility, said: I believe the cheapest and easiest way to bring up a run-down farm—one that any and every man can use—is by green manuring. Suppose your farm is too poor for clover, and grass makes only a feeble growth; put on it a manurial crop that will grow, such as rye or Japan clover, turn this under with your plough, and then you can raise something better; keep feeding your soil with everything your shovel and your team can command—ashes, leached ashes if you can get them by drawing them within five miles—muck, marl, anything that will bring a green mantle over your fields. Soon you can set the clover or pea pump to work pumping up to the surface the inexhaustible resources of your subsoil. If an animal dies, don't stop to bewail your luck and exclaim, "Everything goes to the dogs on my farm!" Don't send it to the dogs at all, but compost it with muck, or even soil, and thus secure a most valuable manure. Pick up all the bones you can find, put them under cover and mix with them two or three times their bulk of ashes from your kitchen; moisten them with enough water so that the potash may act on the gelatine of the bones, stir them over once a week, and in a month or two you will find the bones so tender that you can cut and crush them with a blow of your shovel; beat the whole into a powdery mass, and you will have a manure better than the average of the superphosphates which you feel too poor to buy. Give a handful of this to each hill of corn, and see how it will wave its banner of green and pour into your basket the golden ears of corn.

GETTING LAND IN GOOD ORDER.

The great value of clover to land has been so often shown by practice, that it is known to everyone. Clover roots deeply, and withstanding drouth tolerably well, is very valuable as forage. But above all this is its use in bringing poor land into good condition when ploughed under. Many and many an acre of land thought to be good for nothing at one time has been made fertile by the process. We can readily believe one who says "he has corn that is a foot taller than he can reach with his cane, in which a horse would be hid at two rods distance, on land where five years ago his son said the corn would not pay for cultivation. Cause—a good clover and timothy sod turned under last fall. We can get this sod on any of our prairie soil. Of course a little manure will help it along, and when we have a good sod, who does not know we can raise anything we choose?" We look on clover as of great use to the farmer. With some planning in its use, a farm can be worked with much less manure than without its use.

LIME IN AGRICULTURE.

All writers on agricultural subjects seem to agree that the use of lime on clayey soil is of great benefit, crops thus treated showing the advantage of its mixture with the soil. A correspondent of the *Farmer's Review* writes from France that the European farmers coincide with our agriculturists in this respect, and concludes as follows: "The extending use of lime is excellent for clay soils. Argil augments in volume when moist—diminishes when dry. Carbonate of lime possesses neither of these properties; applied then to cold, clay soil, it enables the air

and heat to penetrate more readily, thus making the land friable. On light soils the action of lime is weak, and on those very light the use of lime is misplaced. But as the action of lime rapidly transforms the nutritive capital of the land, its success cannot be permanent unless rationally supplemented by direct fertilizers, as farm-yard manure, etc. Hence the adage, 'Lime enriches the father, but ruins the children.' If the soil has an excess of acids, lime 'sweetens' by neutralizing them; 'all cultivated soils are slightly acid, such being necessary for vegetation. Too much, however, acts directly on plants, and indirectly by the formation of soluble and noxious salts of lime.'

HOW TO DISTRIBUTE MANURE.

Farmers are often at a loss to know how to distribute the manure on a field properly. An example may help them. For instance, suppose a field of $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres, on which 82 loads of manure are to be drawn. Dividing 82 by $5\frac{1}{2}$ gives 15 loads per acre. By making 4 heaps of each load and placing the heaps 9 yards apart, the manure will be evenly distributed. Or, if he makes 9 heaps of each load, placing them 6 yards apart, the result will be the same. A cubic foot of half rotten manure weighs about 56 lbs.; coarse, dry manure, about 48 lbs. A load of manure is about 86 cubic feet, hence a load of half rotten manure will weigh a little over a ton (2,016 lbs.); if coarse and dry, it will weigh 1,728 lbs. There are 49,560 square feet in an acre; if you multiply this by the number of pounds you want to spend on each square foot, and divide the product by 2,016, the quotient will give the number of the loads required of half rotten manure.

RE-SEEDING WORN-OUT PASTURES.

The advice of that venerable agricultural sage, the Hon. George Geddes, was lately asked in regard to the treatment of "a field of thin, dark, mucky soil, formerly seeded with timothy. The present crop consists of Canada thistles, timothy, June grass and white clover—mostly thistles." This description will apply to a great many Canadian fields. It was desirable to keep the land in pasture, and the question was how to improve it without ploughing it up. Mr. Geddes advised first to cut the thistles and all the clumps of grass close to the ground this fall. A mowing machine will do this work better than the scythe. The object of this preliminary operation is to fit the ground for harrowing next spring. As soon as the land is fit to work in the spring, it is to be thoroughly harrowed, then sown with grass seed liberally on the raw surface. Cover the grass seed lightly. Just how much the surface is to be harrowed must depend on circumstances. If cattle can be kept off for a time, more harrowing may be done than if it is to be at once pastured. The best plan would be to keep them off until midsummer, and cut a crop of hay. In this case the old sod may be a good deal cut up with the harrow. It will stand a great amount of ripping and tearing, without killing the grass roots already in the ground. In regard to the kind of seeds to be sown, Mr. Geddes recommends a liberal proportion of red clover seed, say six quarts to the acre. The object of this is to eradicate the thistles. As often urged in this department of the *Witness*, there is no thistle-killer to equal red clover sown thickly. It beats even the thistle in rapidity of growth, and, after one mowing, will completely smother them down. How strange it is that farmers are so slow to learn, believe and practise this. They go on toiling at their summer fallows, losing their labour and the use of the land, when, if they would only put plenty

of red clover into the ground, they might destroy the thistles, and have a crop into the bargain. Nor is this all. Clover, when done as a crop, becomes a most valuable manure. Mr. Geddes also recommends a bushel of orchard grass to be sown with the clover. Orchard grass is slow in taking possession of the ground. But, as the clover dies out, the orchard grass will spread itself and take the place of the clover. For a permanent pasture, a little Kentucky blue grass and Timothy should be sown with the rest. A bushel of the blue grass and four quarts of Timothy to the acre will not be too much. Gypsum or plaster of Paris is not an advisable fertilizer for land such as described, but on upland it may be sown at the rate of a bushel per acre, and even this small quantity will greatly help the clover. There are thousands of acres of old pasture, yielding but little feed, that might be renovated in this way at far less cost of money and labour than the usual methods of procedure. Even harrowing an old pasture for the purpose of getting some clover into it will do some good, because the clover during its lifetime will store considerable fertilizing material at the surface, the benefit of which will continue when the clover has disappeared. In this country grass lands are broken up too often. With judicious management, we may have permanent grass lands just as well as the British farmer. The trouble is that we expect grass land to get along without any attention. It should be top-dressed now and then, occasionally, harrowed and re-seeded. Such attentions will be well repaid by an increased yield of pasture and hay.—*Lindenbank, in Montreal Witness.*

DORMANT SEEDS.

Many people cannot be brought to believe that the seeds of chess will remain for a long time dormant in the soil, and then grow when the conditions are favourable. An Iowa correspondent of the *American Naturalist* relates a curious incident of clover seed lying dormant on the ground two winters and one summer, and then "germinating by millions" the following spring. If this may take place in so small and delicate a seed as that of the clover, which one would think might soon lose its vitality, is it not far more likely to happen with a stronger and hardier seed like that of chess? The dormancy of seeds is one of the curiosities and mysteries of nature.

FERTILIZING MATERIAL.

Nearly every farmer goes to the nearest village to trade, visit a mechanic, or obtain his letters and papers, at least once a week. He often takes a load to market, but he rarely brings one home. He can, with very little trouble, haul a load of material that may be obtained for nothing, and which will be of great benefit to his land. Most village people make no use of the ashes produced in their stoves, or of the bones taken from the meat they consume. Scarcely any brewer has any use for the hops that have been boiled in his vats, and the blacksmith hardly ever saves the clippings he takes from the feet of horses. All these materials make excellent manure. A barrel of shavings cut from the hoofs of horses contains more ammonia than is contained in a load of stable manure. Applied to land without preparation, they might give no immediate results, but they would become decomposed in time, and crops of all kinds would derive benefit from them. They may be so treated that they would produce immediate results. By covering them with fresh horse manure they will decompose very rapidly. They may also be leached in a barrel, and the water that covered them drawn

off and applied to plants. Water in which pieces of horns and hoofs have been soaked is an excellent manure for plants that require forcing. It stimulates the growth of tomatoes, rose bushes and house plants very rapidly, and emits no offensive odours. A vast amount of fertilizing material is wasted in towns that farmers could obtain the benefit of with very little trouble.—*Chicago Times.*

OVERSTOCKING LAND.

The overstocking of land is one of the surest and quickest ways of ruining pastures. It is an every-day thing with many farmers, who cannot be made to believe that they are getting the full benefit of a pasture unless the grass is eaten off a little faster than it has time to grow; consequently, all who put this method in practice always have bare pastures and poor cattle.

MILK-PRODUCING FOOD.

Millet and Hungarian Grass, as they are severally called, though all of one species of forage, are rapidly coming into favour as a milk-producing food, most timely in their application. They may be sowed at any time, from early spring to July, as wanted for either soiling or hay. Cut in their *early bloom*, mind you, for if left to full seeding, the stalks are woody, and lose half their succulence and virtue. Within the last day or two, in driving along the outskirts of our city, where several herds of milch cows are kept, I find that their owners are cutting it daily to feed their cows upon. As cows or other animals are not allowed to run at large, they are confined to small paddocks and stables, and it is the best green forage to give them. Three weeks or a month ago the millet was just visible on the ground, and now, so rapid has been its growth, a full crop covers the surface. Three pecks to a bushel of seed are given to the acre in sowing. Aside from a soiling crop, seasonably cut and cured for hay, no better milk-producing grass can be used; but being an annual, the plough and harrow must come in play to make it. On good land it yields a heavy growth, equal to either of the other grasses mentioned.—*L. F. Allen, in Country Gentleman.*

CLOVER PREACHING.

For nearly a third of a century we have been preaching to farmers the importance of the clover crop, of its advantages for pasture, resisting the drouth better than the grasses, making the most nutritive hay, producing a good paying crop in the seed, being the second crop for the same year, and yet, with all its value for all these purposes, "the half has not yet been told," for its value in enriching the soil upon which it has been sown transcends in importance its value for any other purpose. Seeding a field to clover will do more good than a covering of manure. To restore worn-out land nothing equals clover. This is the universal experience of farmers. Hence we say to farmers, sow all the land you can to clover. Nothing will pay you better. Nothing will so well keep your farm in heart, in vigour, in productiveness. Nothing will give you better pasturage in the hot summer, and nothing will give you more fattening hay. The mainstay of the farm is the clover field, and every field on the farm should be seeded to clover in a proper system of rotation.—*Coleman's Rural World.*

MR. DONALD, of Kingsport, New York, raised nine hundred bushels of turnips this year from seven-eighths of an acre of land. Mr. Donald is an enterprising farmer, and evidently understands turnip growing.

THE DAIRY.

DON'T LET THE COWS GO DRY.

A long, even season of milk is absolutely necessary to be a profitable one. There is nothing that the dairyman needs more exhortation upon than that of giving a full ration to his herd at all times during the milking season. There is less excuse for feeding a good milch cow stingily than any other farm animal. She does not ask any credit; she makes prompt daily payment; and her product is a cash article. If he has not the food at hand, prudence and good judgment, as well as humanity, require him to furnish her full rations at all times, without regard to a favourable or unfavourable season. We always counsel dairymen to make an earnest effort to produce all the food for their herds upon their own farms, but the first principle of profitable dairying requires that they give abundant food to keep up an even flow of milk, whether they produce or purchase the food.—*Live Stock Journal.*

THE GUERNSEY COW.

We are glad to see the increasing interest taken in Guernsey cattle in this country. The usefulness and the popularity of the Jerseys are assured. The more general introduction of the Guernsey will not harm the Jerseys, and the former, we fully believe, will give good satisfaction. The average size is greater, probably from 20 to 25 per cent. greater; and this will be in favour of the breed with many dairy farmers. A good many Guernsey cows, as seen on their native island, have sufficient size and such form as make them very fair animals for the butcher when well fattened. The two breeds are so nearly allied in characteristics that, were it not for herd book restrictions, good results might come in many cases by crosses between them. We can commend the Guernsey to those who, while liking the Jerseys, have looked for greater size and a somewhat larger flow of milk. The general verdict is that the milk of the Guernsey is at least equally rich with that of the Jersey. The butter is even more highly coloured.

We count it fortunate that, as yet, it has not been insisted on that Guernseys shall be solid coloured, or even that the nose shall be black; and we hope American breeders will look more to dairy qualities than to such unimportant points.—*The Breeder's Gazette.*

BUTTER COWS.

We have been very much interested in perusing the Appendix to a Catalogue of the Crystal Spring Herd of Jerseys, recently issued by J. H. Walker, Esq., Worcester, Mass., in which the comparative value of good and poor butter cows is exhaustively discussed, and many facts hitherto overlooked are brought prominently into notice. Mr. Walker states that his own herd, "taking every animal in it then in milk—28 in number—at a fair average of their performance (their average being six months after calving), made 804 lbs. of butter the week ending August 26th, 1881. Of every cow then in milk, 23 had grass only, and had had nothing but grass for months previously; the other five each had three quarts of corn meal a day." This butter question is one that interests everybody. The transformation of grain and grass into beef is not the only purpose of the bovine race. Which are the best butter makers, which the best beef producers, and which the best, under all circumstances, for both purposes combined, are questions of vital importance to farmers; and whether it is best to breed for a combination of both qualities in the same animal,

or to seek for especial excellence in the one to the neglect of the other, are points that may be discussed. For the general farmer there can be but one answer to this latter question: the combined machine is the one best adapted to his circumstances, but this is not, by any means, all that is involved in the question.—*The Breeder's Gazette.*

THE ART OF BUTTER MAKING.

In a recent lecture on the art of butter-making, the noted Dr. Voelcker remarked:—"It has been said, with a good deal of truth, that by overmanuring pasture land we reduce the fine quality of the butter made from the milk of cows fed upon such pasture. My belief is, that the finest quality of butter is produced from pasture which contains a great variety of herbs, some of which might even be ranked as weeds. . . .

"The question is, can ordinary pasture produce first-quality butter? and to that question I answer, 'Decidedly, if you take proper precautions to prevent the cream turning sour before it is churned.' This sourness, let me repeat, is the great hindrance in making high-class butter. Many persons deem this a small matter, and unconsciously allow the cream to get somewhat sour before making butter; but if you desire to produce good, sweet, keeping butter, you must churn cream as sweet as possible. This, you will be inclined to say, is an extremely simple matter; and I am almost ashamed to speak of such simple matters in the presence of so many experienced persons; but my experience is that simple things are the most difficult to make people learn. With most of us there is a peculiar tendency to aim after some big thing and to neglect the little thing, notwithstanding that it is on the latter that so much of our daily comfort depends. . . .

"If you pour off the butter-milk as soon as the butter comes, you will have butter much more free from the cheesy or curdy envelope which originally encased it in the creamy globule. And you will never make first-rate butter unless you preserve a regular temperature in churning. The temperature should never rise above 60 degrees—it should be rather below than otherwise. I am no advocate of all these beautiful air churns and complicated contrivances. You do not want them. In a good churn you simply require an implement which enables you to churn sufficiently without over-doing it."

HOW TO TELL GOOD BUTTER.

When butter is properly churned, both as to the time and temperature, it becomes firm with very little working, and it is tenacious; but its most desirable state is waxy, when it is easily moulded into any shape, and may be drawn out a considerable length without breaking. It is then styled gilt-edged. It is only in this state that butter possesses that rich nutty flavour and smell, and shows up a rich, golden yellow colour, which imparts so high a degree of pleasure in eating it, and which increases its value manifold. It is not always necessary, when it smells sweet, to taste butter in judging it. The smooth, unctuous feeling in rubbing a little between the finger and thumb expresses at once its rich quality; the nutty smell and rich aroma indicates a similar taste; and the bright, golden, glistening, cream-coloured surface shows its height of cleanliness. It may be necessary at times to use the trier, or even use it until you become an expert in testing by taste, smell, and rubbing.—*Exchange.*

By running back through a few volumes of our agricultural exchanges we might fill columns with accounts of death or hair-breadth escapes from vicious bulls.—*N. E. Farmer.*

HORSES AND CATTLE.

DEVON CATTLE.

If the Devons were to be judged solely by appearance, their comeliness and beauty would secure them a very high place. They are favourites with all, and have many commendable qualities, some of which are not to be lost sight of in estimating their value to the Canadian farmer.

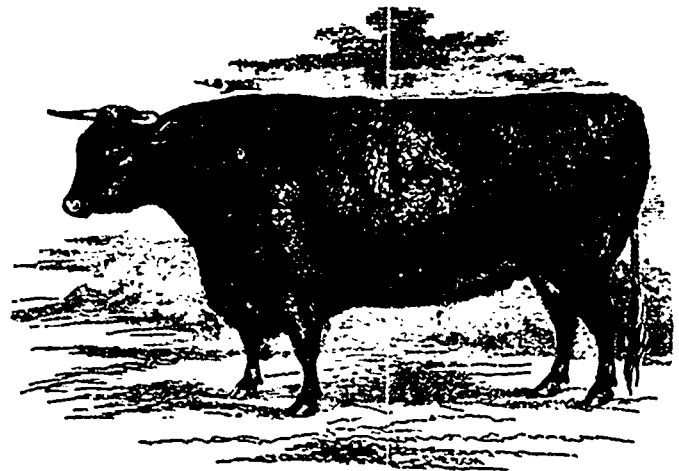
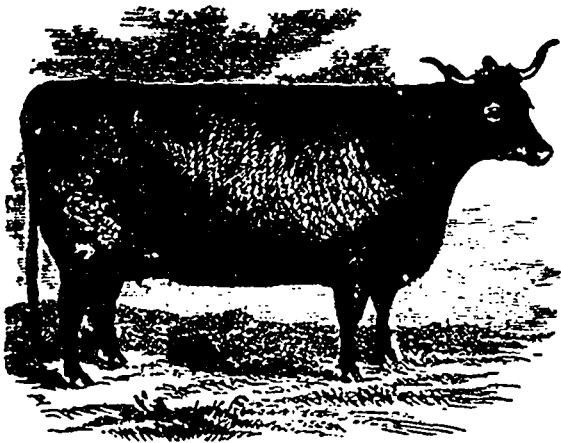
Mr. George Rudd, of Eramosa, and who also farms in the township of Puslinch, is a breeder and enthusiastic admirer of the Devons. There are two breeds, the North and South Devons—the former rather the larger and finer of the two. It is these Mr. Rudd refers to in his evidence, and probably other witnesses also. Mr. Rudd claims—and his allegations so far will hardly be questioned—that the Devon is a docile, tractable, and at the same time very active animal. As working oxen the Devons probably take the first place. Mr. Rudd says on that point:—

"As working oxen I consider the Devons superior to all other breeds, as they are very quiet and tractable. . . . The Devons are very sharp cattle, and smart on their feet."

Of their quality as breeding cattle, Mr. Rudd says:—

"They are very good nurses, and do remarkably well with their calves. . . . They are uncommonly good mothers, and keep their calves very fat."

Mr. Rudd as a breeder does not pretend to much experience in feeding for shipment, but says:—



DEVON CATTLE.

"During the last three years I have had a great many bulls—more than I wanted; and this spring I sold two two-year-old bulls, weighing 3,350 pounds, for \$5.25 a hundred—delivered the same day for shipment. The same day I saw other good steers sold at \$5 a hundred—to be delivered two months later. So the Devons must be considered better for shipment. With the same quantity of feed they seem to take on flesh better than the Durhams. I had a bull at the Centennial at Philadelphia, that weighed between 2,300 and 2,400 pounds; he was nine years old."

Mr. Courtice, who has some pure Devons, says:—

"I have some pure Devon cattle, but my milch cows are grades of various kinds. The Devon cattle fatten very easily, and make a large amount of beef on small feeding. They are also good butter cows, giving an extra quality of very rich milk. I send the milk to the factory. I have not given much attention to stall-feeding. There is a difficulty now in getting pure Devon bulls for crossing. I imported pure-bred Devons at first."

"Devon calves require to be well attended to, so that they get a good start. There is not much demand for Devons now, either in the United States or Canada. The Devons make a very good cross on large, roomy cows, which have two or three crosses of the Durham in them; but I would not recommend them for crossing on the common stock of the country. I think they give better milk, but not so much as Durhams of a good milking family."

The candid admissions of this witness, that he would not recommend the Devons for crossing on the common stock of the country, must be the conclusion of everyone who reads the evidence without prejudice. Professor Brown evidently takes that view when he says:—

"The Devon cattle I cannot recommend as equal to the other beefers named, unless it be for rich milk in moderate quantities. The Devon is slower for our purpose of raising beef rapidly for the British market. As workers, with

strength and endurance, the Devons are first-class animals, and they are found of large value in clearing our back townships."

For quality of milk, firmness of flesh, and liveliness on their feet, the Devons may be duly honoured, but for quantity of milk, size, and shipping qualities, it is idle to pretend they can compete with either the Durham or Hereford, as the breed which is to improve the common stock of the country.—*Condensed from the Report of the Ontario Agricultural Commission.*

ENSILAGE AND SILOS.

The above terms will need explanation in the case of some readers. Ensilage is green fodder, cut fine and tightly pressed in an air-tight receptacle. A silo is such a receptacle, and may be built of stone, brick or wood. Part or all of a hay-mow may be utilized for a silo at no great expense. It must be frost-proof as well as air-tight. Green corn is considered the best fodder for ensilaging, but clover, Hungarian grass, and, in fact, any green crop may be thus treated. Our American neighbours, with their usual impetuosity, are going into this "new departure" with a rush. Several books have been published on the subject, and it is being very fully discussed in United States agricultural journals. One of the best works on the subject is "H. R. Stevens on

A YOUNG LADY AND A MOTHERLESS CALF.

The Raton (N. M.) *News and Press* recently contained the following item:—"Fifty head of Mr. Young's cattle belong to Miss Lou Young, his accomplished daughter. He was one of the first settlers in the Park, and soon after the arrival of his family from Missouri to make their home in that romantic region, six or eight years ago, Mr. Young laughingly pointed out to Miss Lou a weak calf, and told her that she might have it and all its increase, for her attention to it. She cared for the calf, and now has fifty head of as fine cattle as any one—her reward for a little painstaking—that being the natural increase from so small a beginning. This illustrates what a good range, careful attention and patience will accomplish in stock-raising."

A good showing certainly. We have known young ladies undertake the care of biped motherless calves, with very different results, and it is a question for the sex to consider whether a calf of the genus *bos* is not a more valuable piece of property than one of the genus *homo*.

CARE OF HORSES.

Horses that have had good care will come out in the spring in good trim for the season's work.

Ensilage and Silos," published by the author, Echo Dale Farm, Dover, Mass. While many are excited to fever heat, and may be said to have ensilage on the brain, some of the wiser heads are urging their brethren to "go slow," lest disappointment should bring about a reaction as complete as the present enthusiasm. That the new method has advantages it appears tolerably certain, but that it will supersede hay-making and the use of dry fodder, is more than doubtful. Dry fodder, properly preserved, is as wholesome and nutritious as the same fodder in a green state. Moreover, in the ensilaging process there is a loss of food material through fermentation. The probability is that it will be found advantageous to employ ensilage along with meal and other dry feed, but it is questionable if it can be depended on as the sole food of any kind of stock. Some, indeed, in their zealous advocacy of the new process, predict its substitution for grass as well as hay, and propose to ensilage "all the year round." So far it has generally been used as an adjunct to other food. In one case, in which it only was fed to some Jersey cows, the milk soon reached a state in which it would throw up no cream. This might naturally be expected. Sour food is well known to deteriorate the quality of milk. Further trial and experiment are needed to determine the real value of ensilage, and there are now so many practical farmers investigating the matter that it is probable the "bottom truth" will be reached before very long.

As the coat begins to loosen, the skin is irritated; an ounce of equal parts of sulphur and cream of tartar, given with the food for a few days, will correct this. Good grooming with a soft brush should not be neglected. Ground feed, mixed with cut hay, is an excellent food in the spring for working horses. Three quarts of equal parts of corn and rye (or oats), mixed with a pailful of moist cut hay, is enough for a meal. An occasional feed of cut beets or potatoes is useful. With many experienced horsemen an occasional feed of half a peck of potatoes is regarded as a remedy for worms in horses. However this may be, they improve the general condition of the animal in a most positive manner. The main point is to keep the horses in good health and strength, for upon them devolves a great part of the spring work. As foaling time approaches, good mares should be turned loose in a box-stall and receive the most gentle treatment, as the temper and disposition of the colt is thought to depend much upon this.

For breachy animals do not use barbed fences. To see the lacerations that these fences have produced upon the innocent animals should be sufficient testimony against them. Many use pokes and blinders on cattle and goats, but as a rule such things fail. The better way is to separate breachy animals from the lot, as others will imitate their habits sooner or later, and then, if not curable, sell them.

SHEEP AND SWINE.**THE CARE OF SHEEP.**

The man who seeks to become a flock-owner, because he expects to escape the care and work to which he has been subjected in looking after the details of some other business, will certainly meet with disappointment in one of two ways. He will either find that negligence here, as everywhere else, will bring disappointment and disaster, or he will meet the requirements of the situation, and put in all the time and labour necessary to success. The merit of sheep husbandry is, not that it can be successfully prosecuted without hard work and liberal expenditure, but that it will pay for these with so much certainty, and in such liberal returns, as to give it merited prominence among the industries. The man who seeks to demonstrate to himself and others the minimum requirements of the flock, may succeed until mistaken economy becomes manifest cruelty, and even then may "gather where he has not sown;" but the highest capabilities of the flock will be left to the demonstration of the man who supplements the well-filled trough and teeming pasture with a careful scrutiny and foresight into the comfort and convenience of every animal. He will have provision against inclemencies of cold and heat, wet and drouth; will have winter and summer food convenient and plentiful; will carefully guard against danger and disturbance from every source—knowing from experience that these will insure a compound return for the time and money required for their consummation. Parsimony never pays the sheep husbandman. In proportion to his liberality "such will the harvest be."

A WORD FOR THE SHEEP.

The sheep is the cosmopolite among domestic animals. With a habitat extending from Nova Zembla to New Zealand, and following the lines of latitude around the world, it accommodates itself to every surrounding; here sweltering in the heated atmosphere of the tropic pampas, and there shivering before the crisp blasts that fan the mountain's brow; whether in glebe or glen, in field or forest, feeding on grain or grass, it is found fitted to its surrounding conditions, and to unfailingly mete to its owner in the measure from which it has been supplied.

This conspicuous pliability of the sheep has enabled breeders possessed of skill and enterprise to produce varieties suited not alone to the purposes of the pastoral herdsman, but to the average farmer as well. For the latter, whatever his condition and locality, some variety may be found from which he may confidently anticipate the maximum profit for such judicious care and reasonable sustenance as he may accord them.

The crying need of American agriculture to-day is a more general incorporation of the sheep into the farming economy. More prolific than horses or cattle, as well as more tractable, subsisting on scantier herbage, and requiring less supervision, it claims the additional advantage of "paying for its raising" in annual instalments of marketable fleece pending its growth to maturity. It is more readily transferred from one enclosure to another, and is easily restrained by fences which would prove no barrier against the encroachments of other farm stock. Its light tread and love of repose warrant its access to fields and pastures where the tramping of cattle and the tearing of hogs would not be tolerated. It wastes less food in proportion to the quantity consumed, and will hunt out and utilize much that would otherwise be lost to the farmer. Yielding a return in both fleece and flesh, it furnishes its owner the double advantage of catching a good market for his

product, requiring less water, and disposed to work for its feed; it is without a peer when summer's drought taxes the farmer's resources for enabling his live stock to maintain an average of thrift and flesh.

All that can be said in behalf of feeding live stock on the farm, as distinguished from the soil-improving policy of placing the raw grain and grass on the market, will be found to apply with double emphasis to the farm that carries as part of its outfit one or more sheep per acre. No animal returns more fertility to the soil in proportion to the amount exacted for its support, while none equals it in the evenness with which the droppings are distributed.

Notwithstanding the evident advantages an increase in sheep culture brings to the agriculture of a country generally, and especially inuring to the benefit of such farmers as incorporate it into their system, the fact is apparent that sheep are not so numerous or so evenly distributed as they should be.—*The Breeder's Gazette.*

DARK SWINE PREFERRED.

Some forty odd years ago, when I first began to execute orders given me by the Southern planters, they required, with rare exceptions, white swine. I told them the dark-coloured would prove the most hardy and thrifty for their hot climate, the same as negroes over white men. But I could at first persuade only a few to adopt my opinion and take Berkshire, Essex or Neapolitan, in preference to Suffolk, Prince Albert, Yorkshire, Irish Grazer and Chester County—these last five being the popular white pigs of that day. But my Southern friends soon found that all of these five were subject to scurf, mange, and other disagreeable cutaneous diseases, which the black or dark-spotted pigs escaped entirely, and always wore a healthy, clean, glossy hide. The planters then began to change their orders, and in course of a few years would scarcely accept white pigs from the North, or even the finest breeds, as a gift. In most other parts of the United States a deep prejudice prevailed against black and dark-spotted swine, and few would breed them. Pork packers were especially opposed to them, because, they said, the skin was dark, and yet this would generally scrape to white when they came to dress it. However, time went on, and as breeders gradually found out, North, East and West, the same objections to white swine which had taken place at the South, they began rapidly to change the colour of their stock, and now few white hogs are found in the Chicago or other great markets of the West, the general run being on the Berkshire, the Poland China, and Essex. Indeed, so much more favourably are dark-coloured swine now considered there, that they have been gradually breeding out the white spots of the first two sorts above, and now they are almost entirely black or very dark brown, like the Essex and Neapolitan. All these swine are very thrifty, and mature early. The Berkshire and Poland China are especially hardy—can endure any extreme of climate, from the coldest to the hottest. The Berkshire is famous for its larger proportion of tender, lean, juicy meat, and is consequently greatly preferred for smoked hams, shoulders and bacon. The three other sorts out up choice, clear, fat pork, which is most desirable to salt and barrel.—*A. B. Allen, in New York Tribune.*

WORTH TRYING.—It will soon be time to give a trial to the following practice, recommended by the *Scientific American*, for the removal of stumps: In the autumn or early winter bore a hole one or two inches in diameter, according to the girth of the stump, and about eight inches deep. Put into

it one or two ounces of saltpetre; fill the hole with water and plug it close. In the ensuing spring take out the peg and pour in a gill of kerosene oil and ignite it. The stump will smoulder away without blazing, to the very extremity of the roots, leaving nothing but ashes.

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GARDEN AND ORCHARD.**WOMEN IN THE GARDEN.**

Much in these days is said about the sphere of women. Of the vexed question we have nothing new to say. The culture of the soil, the body and the soul, are our themes. Rich soils, healthy bodies, pure, cultivated souls, these are what we are aiming at. And to this end we recommend that every country woman have a garden that she keep and dress with her own hands, or that she supervise and manage. The culture of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants and garden vegetables, is as delightful and profitable as anything in which a woman can engage. She may sprinkle her garden well with flowers. All the better for that. A snowball in this corner, a rose in that, a dahlia bed there and a moss border here, will not be out of place. Only let the substantial and useful constitute the chief part. A touch of the ornate, like a ribbon on a new bonnet, is not in the least objectionable. In all the schools the girls study botany. It is healthful, pleasing and useful. The principles of horticulture are the principles of botany put into practice. Farmers study agriculture, why should not their wives and daughters study horticulture? If any employment is feminine, it would seem that this is. If any is healthy, this must be. If any be pleasurable, none can be more so than this. A rich bed of strawberries, a bush of blackberries or currants, a border of flowers produced by one's own hand,—what can well afford more rational satisfaction? We say to all our country sisters, have a garden, if only a small one, and do your best with it. Plant it with whatever pleases you best, with a good variety, and see what you can do with it. What woman cannot raise beets, tomatoes, melons, onions, lettuce, and furnish her own table with them? What woman cannot plant a raspberry bush, or currant, or gooseberry, and tend it well? Come, good woman, study your health, your usefulness and happiness, and your children also.

HOW TO RAISE PEACHES.

The Secretary of the Washtenaw County (Mich.) Pomological Society, in a paper on the Cultivation of Fruit Trees, gives the following in relation to the peach: The fruit requires two different systems of culture,—that is, the bearing trees must be differently treated from those that are too young for bearing. It is the nature of the young peach tree to keep on growing late in the fall. This must not be permitted. It can be prevented by stopping to stir the soil in mid-summer. The rest of the season is required to harden up the young wood for winter. To properly control the growth, skill and experience are required. In the month of August cultivating for the young peach tree should stop. Should the ground be very rich and the trees show a determination to keep on growing, the leading branches may be pinched in. After pinching a new growth will often start; but then we must pinch again. Ripening up thoroughly the new growth of the young tree should be the aim of the peach grower. Where the soil is poor, less care is required in ripening the new wood. The bearing peach tree cannot be cultivated too often. The soil must at all times be kept loose. Cultivation can be kept up until the fruit is ripe. The new growth of wood in a bearing tree ceases to grow early in the season, and there is no danger of stimulating a late growth, for the fruit consumes all the extra sap caused by cultivation. Stirring the soil should be thoroughly kept up, so that any time between the setting of the fruit and its being picked, you can run your hand right

into the soil and fill it with loose earth. But in order to grow large peaches, and all of a large, uniform style, the trees must have either its bearing branches shortened in or the fruit must be thinned out. Shortening in is probably the least expensive operation of the two. As long as you slip more than one-tenth of second or medium-sized peaches you are not master of your occupation. I have grown the Early Crawford so as to run from two to three and a half inches in diameter, and after all were picked there were no more than one-twentieth below the size.

THE PIG AS A FLORIST.

We clip the following paragraph from a late issue of Bell's *Messenger*, London: A well-known American writer on live stock, Mr. Joseph Harris, has just issued his annual catalogue of Berkshire [Essex] pigs, and in his preface gives what all must admit to be a very original test for purity of breed. He tells that "a large well-filled bed of choice annual flowers is the delight and admiration of all beholders. Even an Essex pig, should he find his way accidentally into the garden, must lack that refinement for which the breed is so pre-eminently distinguished, if he does not, while cracking the cherry stones under the trees, stop to admire a beautiful bed of phlox, verbenas, petunias. Should he disturb them, there would be just grounds for distrusting the purity of his breeding. The roughest man in a village must feel the refining influence of a beautiful flower garden." Paddy's "gentleman" evidently has a great admirer in Mr. Joseph Harris, but what would the gardener say, after two or three pigs had proved their breed to be doubtful?

SEED AND QUALITY.

Dr. E. I. Sturtevant says: "In 1879 I was strongly impressed with the apparent relation between the abundance of seed and the quality of the fruit in the case of the Christiana melon. Of the crop of this year I tasted many hundred melons, keeping the seed only of those which were of very superior flavour and quality. Where the quality was very superior, the quantity of seed was small; where the quality was not up to standard, the seeds were in greater abundance; where the quality was very inferior, the seeds were very numerous. I have not as yet collected sufficient material for the thorough discussion of the relation between quality and seeding, but such observations as I have thus far obtained seem to indicate that such a relation exists; and as our fruits and vegetables gain in certain respects, this gain is counterbalanced by a loss elsewhere.

FEEDING PEAR TREES.

In an address at a pomological meeting at Rochester, Mr. Barry said that he had in the corner of his grounds a little group of half a dozen pear trees standing in grass. They had been neglected until they were nearly starved to death. The annual growth was nothing, the leaves small, and no fruit. In this condition they were treated with a top dressing of barnyard manure, and the following season they made stout shoots twelve to eighteen inches long, with large, dark green foliage, and some fine fruit. He added that trees standing in grass would not pay. They must be kept vigorous and healthy by tillage, fertilizers and judicious pruning. These involve labour and expense, but, he remarked, we cannot grow fruit without them. In his pear garden he slackened both cultivation and manure to lessen the chances of blight, but the result was that in two years and a half his crops were culls.

NUTS.

F. D. Curtiss, of Kirby Homestead, reports in the *New York Tribune* that a filbert bush produced this year four quarts of nuts as large as any of the imported ones. He adds: "They are the round variety, and are perfectly hardy." Since these are described as round, they are probably hazel nuts, which grow wild in England, and gathering which is the well-known sport called "going a-nutting." The filbert proper is not round, but long, and contains a large and richer kernel than the hazel nut. There seems to be no good reason why both varieties should not be grown in this country. Mr. Curtiss' bushes were raised from nuts bought at a New York fruit stand, and said to be imported from England.

THE CUTHBERT RASPBERRY.

Mr. P. T. Quinn, a noted horticulturist, writes rather disparagingly of this new and much-praised raspberry in the *Philadelphia Press*. He says it is too soft to bear transportation, even short distances, to market. His observations were made day by day through the past season on Cuthberts raised two miles from Newark, N. J., and sold by dealers in that city, and he reports that, even under these favourable circumstances, "the berries do not stand up," and when left over from afternoon till next morning, "settled from a quarter to a third" in the pint or half-pint baskets. And whereas he contemplated setting a couple of acres to this variety, he now regrets that he has any of the plants outside of his experimental bed.

COVERING STRAWBERRIES.

Often there is much said, and especially at this season of the year, about covering strawberries; and many persons are induced by what they read to act so as to heartily regret it when the spring comes round. We have known people to act on this suggestion, and cover their strawberry beds with manure, and find the whole completely rotten in the spring. And yet a little covering with the right kind of material is not a bad thing. If the plants are entirely unprotected the leaves are browned and often destroyed; while it must have been noted by every observant gardener that the best fruit comes from plants that have managed to keep their leaves bright and green till their spring flowers appear. And this is why a covering of snow the whole winter is so good for the strawberry crop. As we have remarked, when the leaves are browned the crop is small; but when the snow covers the plants all the winter long, they come out in the spring in the best possible condition.

But we cannot always depend on the snow. It does not always come, or continue in a regular way. So if some light material can be put over the plants, that will not smother and rot them, and yet will be just enough to make a shade from the winter sun and a screen from frosty winds, it will be doing a good turn to the strawberry plant. Manure is bad. There is salt in it, especially when fresh, which is destructive to foliage; but clean straw, or swamp or marsh hay that is free from weeds, answers the purpose very well. But it must not be put on very thick. The idea is, just enough to make a thin screen, and yet not enough to hold the moisture long. Shade without damp is the idea. Such light protection is good for the strawberry plant.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

Cows command good prices all over the country, and this condition in the stock market will continue for years yet to come.

Scientific and Useful.

HELLBORE rubbed over with molasses and put around places that roaches and water bugs frequent, is a very effectual poison for them.

If a lamp chimney be cut with a diamond on the convex side, it will never crack with heat, as the incision affords room for the expansion, and the glass, after cooling, returns to its original shape with only a scratch visible where the cut was made.

FOR watering house plants, take carbonate of ammonia four parts; nitrate of potash (saltpetre) two parts; pulverize and mix well. Put one drachm (one-eighth of an ounce) of this powder into a gallon of rain water. Use this for watering plants. Give them a good sunlight and not too much heat, and plants will keep green and fresh.

A SURE cure for ringworm is found in the use of a wash, prepared by soaking a bit of chewing tobacco, the size of a raisin, with the same quantity of saleratus, in a spoonful of vinegar. Apply the wash, faithfully, for several days, until the skin is restored to its natural state. This remedy never fails, even in cases of open sores, of enormous proportions.

ANTS.—A subscriber sends the following: "Ants were so numerous in my yard that they destroyed my flowers. I poured coal oil in the entrance to their nest, which completely destroyed them. In the winter they came through the hearth and disturbed my cream-jar. I poured coal oil in the cracks of the hearth, and have not seen one since. This was several years ago."

THE wicks of kerosene lamps should be changed frequently, or if not too short, washed in strong, hot soapsuds, with some ammonia in the rinsing water. The trouble with poor light from kerosene lamps probably arises from the wicks being full of the sediment of refuse matter which comes from the oil, and that impedes the free passage of the kerosene through the wicks.

DR. DIO LEWIS says cold baths of the skin are good, but it is doubtful if flooding the stomach on going to bed and on rising is not, on the whole, the most profitable form of cold bathing. Costiveness, piles and indigestion are uniformly relieved by this morning and evening cold douche. The quantity must be determined by each one for himself. Two or three swallows will do to begin with, but the quantity will soon grow to a tumbler full; and I have known persons to use much more with marked benefit. If advisably managed, every dyspeptic will be greatly improved by this cold stomach bath.

At this season of the year there are many days when but little work can be done in the field, yet an inclement day can well be utilized in looking after the farm tools, carts, waggons, and the various implements required upon the farm. A coat of paint applied to the wood-work would preserve them for a great many years, and the paint applied to the iron-work would greatly preserve it, but in this case the bearings should not be painted. A coating of lard oil would, however, be found of good service; the bearings would be preserved from rust, and when the machine was brought into use in spring or summer it would run much easier than if allowed to rust all winter. In case paint is thought to be too expensive, petroleum is as good a preservative, though appearance is sacrificed in its use. On a clear day in winter the shingles of buildings might have a coat of whitewash, which would preserve them many years, and though it would not render them fireproof, yet it makes them less liable to take fire.

WARMTH AND CLOTHING.—If we consider how much less closely the round threads of wool or silk can lie together than the flat fibres of flax or cotton, we can readily understand why the absorptive powers of the latter are so much inferior to those of wool, the matted threads of which can take up and retain by capillary attraction a wonderfully large amount of water. But in addition to these many excellencies, the value of wool, especially for underclothing, is still further enhanced by the healthy friction which it exercises on the skin, helping to remove or brush away excreted matter, which might otherwise accumulate and seriously obstruct the pores, and this it does doubtless in virtue of these scales or imbrications, microscopic though they be. There is thus every reason for urging that woollen garments, thick or thin according to the season, should constantly be worn next to the skin, for although silk is no doubt almost as suitable for underclothing, owing to its much greater cost it can never come into general use for such purposes.—From Article by a Government Analyst, in Cassell's Family Magazine.

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DO YOU KNOW the difference between Premium and Discount? and
DO YOU KNOW that Merchants have been ruined by not understanding this one simple thing?
DO YOU KNOW the force of Comp. and Interest?

DO YOU KNOW how to ascertain the rate of Exchange, having sterling or foreign currency given and its equivalent in dollars and cents?
DO YOU KNOW the meaning of the term "General Average"?
DO YOU KNOW how to keep books so as to show your gain or loss?
DO YOU KNOW how to change your books from Single to Double Entry?
DO YOU KNOW the responsibilities of partnership?

If you cannot fully answer these questions in the affirmative, do not enter into business, for without such knowledge you cannot transact business intelligently and with that well-grounded confidence which every business man should have in the conduct of his affairs. Enter, therefore, on a course of instruction at

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Publisher.

LETTERS on business should always be addressed to the PUBLISHER; while communications intended for insertion in the paper, or relating to the Editorial department, to ensure prompt attention, must be addressed to EDITOR RURAL CANADIAN.

Mr. J. A. McLEAN, Manager Advertising Department of this paper, is authorized to make contracts at our regular rates.

The Rural Canadian.

EDITED BY W. F. CLARKE.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 1881.

LIFE ON THE FARM.

To the question which is now being discussed by certain modern philosophers, "Is life worth living?" some would reply, "Not on a farm." Many a discontented youth is pining amid the pursuits of husbandry, and pathetically sighing and singing, "I'd be a butterfly," or

"A life on the ocean wave,
A home on the stormy deep."

But here is one, a man every inch of him, who has another song to sing. "Mr. Francis B. Sanford, after long and varied and rugged experience on the high seas, returned to his native island of Nantucket, and on his dairy farm there has led, as he freely admits, 'twenty-one years of the most splendid life a man need enjoy.'" Life is, after all, very much what we make it.

CULTURE OF THE MAN AND THE FARM.

"To improve the soil and the mind" was for many years the motto of one of the oldest and best agricultural journals in the United States. The idea is a good one, but it can be improved by transposition. "To improve the mind and the soil" is a better statement of the motto. In most occupations a proper exercise of the mental faculties is necessary to success, and farming is no exception to this rule. Too many people, and especially farmers, do not sufficiently appreciate the importance and utility of mental culture.

"Survey the world through every zone,
From Lima to Japan,
The lineaments of light 'tis shown
That culture makes the man.
All that man has, had, hopes, can have,
Past, promised, or possessed,
Are fruits which culture gives, or gave,
At industry's behest."

As there must be implements for the cultivation of the soil, so there must be means of culture for the man. These, in our favoured age, are abundant and cheap. The best books and periodicals are within reach of all. In no period of the world's history has literature been so universally accessible. Any thoughtful, diligent person can unlock the stores of universal knowledge, and help himself freely. Yet how scarce are good books and papers in the majority of farm-houses. Families that have spent, it may be \$150 on a nice carriage, or \$100 on a musical instrument, have hardly invested a ten-dollar bill in useful literature. Yet it has been demonstrated, time and again, that an agricultural paper costing \$1 a year has yielded from 10 to 100 per cent. on the outlay. A single suggestion has, before now, brought in a profit of many dollars.

The time when ignorance guiding the plough could extract wealth from a virgin soil is well-nigh past. Our older lands are impoverished; any fool can spend, but it requires wisdom to earn and save. The call now is for farmers who can re-stock the soil with plant-food, who can manage land that it shall not run down, who can actually improve upon nature, and put their fields

into a better condition than they were when the first crop was taken off them. Old land is not necessarily poor. Some of the oldest soils on the face of the earth are the richest. Good husbandry has made them so. It can convert the barren wilderness into a garden. We do not need to go a thousand miles westward to obtain fertile land. We can make it around our own homesteads. All that is needed is the "know how." This may readily be acquired by culture of the man. Hordes of immigrant farmers have gone to the Far West only to leave poverty and desolation in their track, for they will repeat the folly of land impoverishment which has driven them from their homes in the older districts of this continent. The only cure for this evil is to educate the tiller of the soil. Then he will make any spot of earth that he touches a blooming garden. An American paper says:

"Many a farmer accomplishes far more by head than hand work. Not long ago we read some account of one of the most extensive and successful wheat growers in Dakota and the whole West—that he was on the start, and still is, an invalid and unable to perform manual labor, but remarkable for calculating or planning and figuring; in short, his excellent brain-work inaugurated such superior management in all his farm operations as to secure most profitable results. And this is not an isolated instance. Many farmers, stock raisers, and fruit growers, in various parts of the country, accomplish more by mental than by physical labour."

Of course, physical labour is necessary, but it must be skilled labour. The head must guide the hand. There is a vast amount of muscular effort wasted for want of intelligent direction. A notable example of this is found in the custom of summer fallowing. Every year there is work enough thrown away in a useless fight with nature, which might be better expended in getting a crop from land absurdly condemned to idleness. In the coming age of general intelligence among farmers, the fair face of nature will never be disfigured by an unsightly summer fallow.

The annual school term for farmers and their families is now in session. Winter, with its partial rest from pressing work, and its long quiet evenings, invites to reading and study. Let the season be improved. How much might be acquired by a single winter of steady devotion to the pursuit of useful knowledge! Not only in the seclusion of home, but in social gatherings of farmers, may valuable information be gathered. In every neighbourhood there should be a Farmers' Club, or Grange meeting, where the knowledge gained by each may be thrown into one general stock, and made the common property of all.

WEATHER PROPHECIES FOR 1882:

Vennor is not the only man who is trying to predict what weather we are to have. Illinois has its weather prophet also, in the person of Mr. R. Mansill. Like our Canadian Vennor, the Illinoisan has a scientific theory on which to base his prophecies. He has a philosophy of storms, earthquakes, cold, heat, and all other influences that control the weather. He is a diligent student of nature, and right or wrong, seeks only to interpret her signals. The *Prairie Farmer*, in noticing Mansill's Almanac for 1882, remarks:—

Planetary meteorology is a domain of science that has been very little explored, and very little has been definitely settled in regard to it. Mr. Mansill has long been studying it, and thinks he has made progress in establishing the correctness of his theories. We are not prepared to say that he has not, but still our faith in them is of that nature which was once likened to a grain of mustard seed. However, as many of our readers would like to see them, we give Mr. Mansill's predictions of the seasons in 1882. He says:

The seasons of the year 1882 appear to be marked out by the positions of the planets as follows:
The temperature should average above the mean of the

season during January and February, both in Europe and the United States.

The temperature will probably average above the mean of the season during March, or more so than January and February, both in Europe and the United States—this giving us a moderately early spring—up to say about April the 5th or 10th, after which time the temperature will likely average below the mean of the season during the balance of the month of April, also below throughout the month of May.

May will be a cool, stormy month, for the season, in Europe and the United States, with the greatest rainfall on sea-bordering countries. All efforts should be made to take advantage of the weather during March and April by the agriculturists, to forward their work, as the month of May will probably retard the progress of vegetable growth and farming to some extent.

The temperature of June is not likely to be much better, as it is as likely to go a little below the mean of the season as it is to go above. The last ten days may be warmer than the mean.

The temperature for both July and August will likely average a little below the mean of the season, both in Europe and the United States.

The temperature of September may come up to the mean of the season in Europe and the United States.

The temperature will probably average above the mean in October; it will likely go higher in November, and still get warmer and more stormy in December—for the season, both in Europe and the United States.

May is the cool stormy month, and December the warm stormy month for their seasons.

The crop-producing season of 1882 should commence very early in the Southern States. Advantage should be taken of this in the southern districts, also in Europe, and likewise to some extent in the Middle States of the Union, as there will likely occur a general retardation of vegetable growth and farming work for the season during May and perhaps the first half of June, with the principal rainfalls on sea-bordering countries. These rains are not expected to be in great excess of water-fall over the mean for the season.

Though not excessive in the general aggregate, the rains are likely to be in excess on sea-bordering countries, and deficient in the north and far inland districts.

PROFESSOR BROWN "TALKS CATTLE" AT MARKHAM.

Markham has a "live" Farmers' Club, and at its meeting on the 6th ult. was addressed by a "live" lecturer in the person of Prof. Brown, of the Ontario Agricultural College. The *Markham Economist* of the 15th ult. contained a full report of the Professor's address and the discussion thereon, which was a spirited one. We should like to transfer the whole bodily to these columns, but it would take too many of them, so we must be content with a brief synopsis and a few comments.

The Professor sets out with the announcement, that if a cost value—not even a market value—be placed upon any kind of food usually given in the stall to fattening cattle, so as to obtain rapid production, there is no profit whatever from the extra weight got by the use of that food. The gain is all in the manure. But that pays, for we cannot keep up the fertility of the soil without good manure and plenty of it.

Professor Brown is a strong believer in the early maturing of beef cattle. He contends that a two-year-old, properly handled all along, will always return more money for its time and weight than a three-year-old can possibly do. On the subject of proper handling from calfhood, he was very explicit, fortifying his statements with facts and figures, and rounding out his argument with a challenge which ought to attract public attention. He said:—

"With reference to the question of greater profit to be obtained by getting rid of beef when two years old, I wish to make an important public announcement to the province, through your agency. All assertions are comparatively valueless and untelling, unless brought home by practical demonstration. If it is a fact, as I do now and have elsewhere publicly stated, that the loss or gain to the province annually on this one practice alone is not less than \$1,000,000, it is surely worth while to prove it thoroughly. We have several times given practical proof by the actual cost of producing two and three-year-old steers at our farm; but, in order to face the country and drive the lesson home as hard as possible, I am prepared, on having Government consent, to exhibit, say three or four steers, two-year-old Short-horn grades, at any or all our principal shows next year, against a similar number of three-year-olds of the same kind, on condition that the exhibitors submit a statement of the exact amounts and kinds of food given twelve months previous to date of exhibition, with the weights of cattle at same date. The judge, or judges, would then be asked to do five things:

1. Value the animals as they stood by age and weight twelve months previous to exhibition.
2. Value the foods eaten for twelve months.
3. Allow twelve months' interest on value of three-year-olds, as they stood when two years old.
4. Value them at date of exhibition according to weight and quality.
5. To prove ego.

This would be simple enough, and I give fair warning that I would show animals that will make the beam kick at 1,600 pounds, not pampered, nor in any way prepared for the occasion, but getting plenty of corn meal, or pea meal, or crushed oats, as the case may be, with turnips, hay, straw and bran—no condiments, nor linseed meal, nor oil cake, but straight, liberal feeding, as an ordinary and profitable investment for the export trade.

In order to draw the public on this subject, I shall be glad to give \$25, if the Provincial Association or the Toronto Industrial give \$25 also, so as to make a \$50 prize."

For stall-feeding the Professor would select, first, the Shorthorn and its grades; next, the Aberdeen Poll and its grades; third, the Herefords; assigning the Galloway a fourth place, "except for permanency of character, and quality of flesh, in which respects he bows to none."

The Professor is of opinion that most of our stall cattle managers are extravagant in their feeding, for the one prominent reason that they look upon straw as only fit for bedding, or at the most, that only a small quantity should be allowed with hay. He says:—

"I am not prepared to show that singly, or as a mixture, wheat, oat and barley straw is equal in feeding properties to hay of timothy and clover; but I do assert, without fear of disproof, that when properly managed by being changed in form when associated with other things, our common straws are just doubled in value for cattle food, and therefore anyone is not only extravagant, but wasteful and very improvident, who treats straw largely only as bedding. When we think of the fact that we must continue extensive grain growers, and must produce, on an average, as much straw per acre as hay, it is plain that even though only one-third equal to hay as a feeder, the mismanagement of straw stands as a serious national loss."

That there is great waste of straw perpetrated from ignorance of its feeding value is most true, and it is questionable if even the Professor has not underrated it in the foregoing remarks. It is certainly "more than one-third equal to hay as a feeder." The statement has been made that 2,500 lbs. of good oat straw is equivalent in feeding value to 2,000 lbs. of ordinary hay. Perhaps, however, the straw was not very cleanly threshed. If the Professor could devise some substitute for straw as bedding, of no feeding value, but yet fitted to make manure, he would confer a great benefit on that class of farmers who are, or think they are, obliged to use up the most of their straw for bedding. Dry muck has been suggested, but it makes a dirty stable; sawdust has been tried, but unless it be made from hardwood, its manurial value is almost nil, while for light soils it has too loosening an effect; and Mechi's "sparred floors" lack the humane element, not to speak of other objections.

The Professor's remarks on the grazing of cattle are eminently wise and practical. While not considering Ontario a grazing country, in the sense of having large natural or artificial runs for cattle and sheep, where a feast of fat things can be relied on from May to October, he still contends that we are quite able to provide good pasturage, were we only convinced of the importance and practicability of so doing. Too many are contented with turning out the yearling to the bush, the aftermath, and the timothy field,—he might have added, the grain stubble. These sources of supply are too precarious to keep the young animal constantly improving, so as only to need "topping-off" for the butcher. He makes the startling assertion, that were every farm in Ontario possessed of a properly managed five-acre permanent pasture plot, the gain to the whole country would be \$5,000,000, annually. Yes, we pay too little attention to the cultivation of grass for permanent pasture.

The latter part of this address deals with the great North-West as a cattle-ranching region, and

is highly interesting. It is estimated that three young men having \$5,000 each might enter into partnership to carry on this business, with a reasonable prospect of clearing about \$0,000 in two and a half years. This is a tempting prospect certainly. The details in regard to realizing it are minutely given, and involve cost of land, stock, building, and equipments generally. Of course, the partners must be working stockmen. They must choose their location wisely. Certain facilities must be afforded by the Government land system. The stock must be suited to the location. The Professor recommends for cows, natives or grades, having such qualities of roominess, form, and disposition as are likely to produce desirable beefing progeny, when crossed with a thoroughbred bull. For bulls, he advises, firstly, Herefords, and secondly, Aberdeen Polls. While the Shorthorn is unrivalled for an old and well-settled country, he thinks the breeds named better suited to the North-West.

Trios of young men can be easily found to go into this promising business, but the difficulty is that but few can muster \$5,000 apiece. With such a capital, industrious young fellows can do well in Ontario. The great inducement to taking Horace Greeley's advice, "Go West, young man," is that a start can be made there with such an amount of capital as would be wholly insufficient in Ontario. Whether with \$5,000 in hand it would be better, all things considered, to settle on a farm in Ontario, or take one-third interest in a Manitoban cattle-ranch, is a question concerning which much may be said on both sides.

GAMBLING AT THE FAIRS.

The *New York Tribune* has done good service to the cause of public morality by publishing an article on the above subject, at the suggestion of a lady correspondent. We gladly insert it, and hope it will be carefully read by all into whose hands this number of THE RURAL CANADIAN may come:

"I noticed some time ago that you invited people to write to you, saying that communications received by you often contained food for thought and sometimes furnished a theme for remarks. Perhaps what I have to say may serve as a text. Shall we have the sermon?"

"Every year, as the agricultural fairs come round, I am impressed to write to some paper and free my mind, but lose my courage before I begin; but at last have hit upon the plan of writing to you, and trust that you will write something for the 'Home Interests' department upon Gambling at the Fairs. The papers call upon farmers to go to the fairs and take with them their wives and children, and any articles of merit which they may have for exhibition also. The trustees are so anxious to raise money with which to pay premiums (mostly for horse-racing) that they allow men upon their grounds with games of chance who urge boys to step up and try their luck. The boy pays a few cents for a chance, and if he wins he is given a cigar. Thus boys at the fairs are not only given their first lessons in gambling, but taught to smoke also; for what would a boy be likely to do with a cigar when one is given him but do as others around him do, smoke it? Is not this a fitting subject for HOME INTERESTS? Shall we not see it brought face to face with the people through *The Tribune*?"

This letter comes from a lady in Maine, but it might with as much reason come from any other State in the Union, for the evil it deprecates is common, we might say universal. Gambling in some one of its forms is as common almost as tobacco-smoking, and in every way as pernicious in its effects on the intellectual and moral nature of the gambler as smoking is in its effects upon the smoker, or liquor upon the drinker. There are some men on whom tobacco and liquor make but little impression; they are moderate users of these enemies to mankind. There are others who cannot stop when once they begin till their nervous systems are ruined by one or both these insidious but mighty foes. So there are men who can dabble in speculation and stay on the outer edge of the maelstrom that draws so many gallant craft to ruin. Men of lethargic temperament, of indurated nerves, may venture and make, may withdraw at a favourable time and save themselves; but the overwhelming majority sooner or later meet their fate, and are swallowed up in some unexpected financial gulf. The alcohol drunkard would be in no danger if it were not for his appetite; so of the opium eater, the tobacco drunkard, and so of the gambler. The excitement, the hope, the exultation over gain, the anxiety to make up losses—these become a necessary part of his existence. The capacity for steady remunerative labour is entirely destroyed by the passion for gambling. Said a young man to a friend of ours: "Ten years ago I was a salesman in one of our large dry goods stores at a salary of \$1,600 a year. Having several hundred dollars laid by I ventured a

portion in Wall street and doubled it; then I ventured again, and in a short time I had doubled my entire capital. Of course I couldn't go on drudging at \$1,600 a year when by a lucky turn I might make that in a day. I gave up my clerkship and went into the street. I have had various success. True, I am all cleaned out now, but I may have better luck next time." Another of whom we have knowledge after successful speculations in Wall street gave up a valuation and legitimate business and became a broker. Prosperity followed him for awhile, and then, as it invariably does, turned against him. He was utterly "cleaned out," and now will take small sums that should go for bread for his family and invest them in policies, raffles, chances, lottery tickets, so inveterate has the appetite for gambling become to him. Though able-bodied he cannot work, because he will not, the capacity for honest labour has been killed by the passion for gambling. He is but one of thousands who have been ruined in the same way. The first steps in this downward path are frequently taken at country fairs, at church festivals, where cake or something else is "raffled" for. The principle running through these "innocent" speculations is the same throughout the whole range of them, whether a cake or a fortune be the object. It is getting something for nothing—it is risking a little for a great deal. It is a notable fact that great fortunes made in Wall street rarely stay by their makers. The great fortunes in this country were made by legitimate industries and combinations, and though the owners of some of these fortunes may have increased them by successful speculation, the risks they have taken have been such as would not bankrupt them had they lost. This is not said in apology, but only to state a fact.

If country women who attend country fairs and patronize them will set their faces steadfastly against gambling in all its forms at the fairs, their voices will be heard, and they will to a greater or less extent suppress the evil. If those who would not be seen in the stock market will see to it that their money is not put in there, they will aid in checking gambling. If parents will teach their children that a fair equivalent for services rendered or money invested is all that in equity they should desire, this will help to keep them in a healthy state of mind financially, and make them content with the safe results of honest industry. "Money that comes easy goes easy." Large estates built up by honest and gradual accretion remain in the same family generation after generation, while those quickly accumulated are generally as quickly cast to the winds and banished from sight.

PINK EYE.

The first symptom of this disease is a running of the eyes or a swelling about the nose. Then the legs swell, a high fever sets in, the horses become very depressed and refuse food. As soon as the fever is broken the equine patients recover rapidly. With proper care and treatment the disease is readily controlled. Dr. E. S. Brown, Veterinary Surgeon of the Chicago fire department, has had a large number of cases in charge and has not lost a single animal. He uses aconite, belladonna and arsenicum, and sweats the horses about the head and throat to draw out the inflammation. He encourages them to eat, giving them bran, oats, or, if they do not tempt the appetite, ears of corn. He also administers cold water freely and frequently. He does not advise giving them warm food of any kind. The disease lasts from three to ten days.

Mr. J. R. GRANT, of Brussels, brought with him from Manitoba a very large pair of Rocky Mountain elk's horns. They measure 48 inches from tip to base, and with the twelve branches to the antlers aggregate 28½ feet.

STRANGE BUT TRUE.—An exchange says: A bachelor friend has a rooster of the Brahma variety that has taken charge of a brood of twelve chickens, about three weeks old. Having doubts upon the matter, your correspondent investigated the case, and one evening went over and saw the male bird with the brood nestling under his wings. Upon our making an attempt to take up one of the fledglings, the rooster made a dash for us with all the fury of a sitting hen.

Dr. Fox, of Hornby, bought land in Manitoba last year for \$1,800, and has been offered \$9,000 for it. Mr. James Barber, of Milton, bought four lots in Winnipeg about a month ago, paying \$750 each for them. Last week he received a letter saying that the four could be sold for \$1,000 each. Mr. John Leslie, formerly of Milton, bought a lot in Winnipeg on Oct. 20th for \$1,000 and sold it inside of a week for \$1,200. We hear, says the *Milton Champion*, that other speculators who bought land in Manitoba from Toronto agents have not been so fortunate.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND ARTS
ASSOCIATION.

II.—ITS EXISTENCE.

MR. EDITOR,—Having in my last considered at some length the question of the financial management of the Association, I now pass on to the second mooted—that of its existence. From present circumstances the two have been thrown into close connection. It is asserted that the financial management has been bad; that “the whole thing costs more than it is worth;” that it is needless applying a remedy, for “the usefulness of the Association is gone;” other agencies are doing its work more efficiently; and as the easiest way to a speedy dissolution, the recommendation is made that the Legislature should withhold the yearly grant of \$10,000.

The reasons given for thus placing the Association under the guillotine may be summed up in two:—

1. The financial reason.
2. Its usefulness is gone.

1. *The financial reason.*

The first part of this was fully considered in my last, and the remedies for any defects pointed out. The question is not at all new, and the interested public have become periodically virtuous regarding it regularly every few years for the last quarter of a century. The Association has lived under some four different legislative enactments, marking four different eras in its existence. These are from 1846 to 1858, from 1859 to 1868, from 1869 to 1876, and from 1877 to the present year of grace. The following tables show its financial record for the last two eras, covering a period of twelve years:—

Year.	Receipts.	Place.
1869.....	\$18,327.93	at London.
1870.....	20,800.03	“ Toronto.
1871.....	7,593.51	“ Kingston.
1872.....	16,261.77	“ Hamilton.
1873.....	19,346.36	“ London.
1874.....	22,613.83	“ Toronto.
1875.....	12,603.98	“ Ottawa.
1876.....	13,687.93	“ Hamilton.
1877.....	21,734.75	“ London.
1878.....	23,493.89	“ Toronto.
1879.....	11,656.96	“ Ottawa.
1880.....	13,960.16	“ Hamilton.

TABLE II.

Year.	Expenses other than Prizes.	Money paid in Prizes.
1869.....	\$15,923.25	\$12,441.70
1870.....	15,800.14	12,249.50
1871.....	11,237.02	13,008.00
1872.....	15,167.07	12,935.00
1873.....	15,378.81	14,935.00
1874.....	15,905.68	14,574.00
1875.....	16,678.37	15,243.00
1876.....	—	15,631.50
1877.....	15,918.31	14,943.50
1878.....	16,073.51	15,419.00
1879.....	15,455.47	12,909.00
1880.....	15,917.09	13,476.50

The basis of calculation adopted is that of my previous letter—that of any district exhibition,—and the receipts and expenditures are those of the exhibition alone. It will be seen that the expenses have always, with one exception, been greater than the amount of prizes, and that the annual average loss of the exhibition, as an exhibition, has been about \$11,000. In my last the financial management of one of these years was chosen for consideration, and the remedy for this state of affairs pointed out.

But it is said, even suppose that to be remedied, the Association “costs more than it is worth.” The consideration of what it is worth brings us at once to the second reason adduced for dissolution, viz:—

2. *Its usefulness is gone.*

But what is the use of the Association? This inquiry can only be met by stating what the Association is, and what the objects of its existence

are. It is, in the first place, then, a society composed of the following members:—

1. The Council of the Association, both elective and *ex-officio*.
2. The Presidents and Vice-Presidents of all Electoral District Agricultural Societies.
3. The Presidents and Vice-Presidents of all Horticultural Societies.
4. The Presidents and Vice-Presidents of all Mechanics' Institutes.
5. Life Members.
6. Ordinary Members, of whom about 1,600 join annually.

In the second place, the primary object of the Association is “the encouragement of agriculture, horticulture, arts and manufactures,” and the more detailed and specific objects are:—

1. Holding an annual exhibition.
2. Importation of new and improved breeds of animals.
3. Importation of new varieties of grain, seeds, etc.
4. Importation of new and improved implements of husbandry.
5. Testing all new varieties of grain, seeds, etc., and all improved implements invented or imported.
6. Holding Provincial ploughing matches.
7. Nominal supervision of a veterinary college.

And practically the work done for the last twenty years by the Association has been:—

1. Holding an annual exhibition.
2. Holding Provincial ploughing matches.
3. Nominally supervising a veterinary college.
4. Managing a herd-book.
5. Examining farms and essays for prizes.

And this work is carried on by the active exertions, co-operation and subscriptions of the members of the Association, and an annual grant from the Province of \$10,000. Such is the Association, such is its work, and such are its means for carrying on that work.

Now, surely those “uses” will remain even if the Association is gone, and the mere statement of its aims and objects is sufficient to show that none of the District Exhibition Societies pretend to undertake one-half of the duties prescribed for the Provincial; and whether even in the one matter of holding annual exhibitions, they are to be permanent successes, remains yet to be proved. That the Association has done good work in the past no one denies; that it has performed all its prescribed duties, or performed those it has undertaken always economically, few will assert. But as the aims and objects of the Association are, in an agricultural province like ours, so important—as it is capable, if rightly handled, of carrying out those aims, surely it would be the part of wise men to point out new or untrodden old paths of usefulness, rather than join in any hasty cry of destruction—to act the part of reformers rather than that of radicals. But in what way, it may be asked, should reform begin? What definite proposals would you make? Allow me, then, Mr. Editor, with all deference and brevity, to submit the following:

1. Let the Association at this juncture give its undivided attention to non-exhibition matters—to those, in the first place, specified but not previously undertaken. At the last meeting of the Association the list of specified duties was increased by others taken from those of the Royal of England and the Highland and Agricultural of Scotland. So far it is on the right track. Let the Secretary now place himself in communication with the Boards of Agriculture in the various States of the Union; with the Agricultural Departments at Washington, at Paris, and at Vicana; and with

different European Agricultural Societies—such, for instance, as the Royal Danish, that of Prussia, of Saxony, of Wurtemberg, and of Belgium—and the Council will find many features of work which, if undertaken by their Association here, would be of lasting benefit to agriculture in Ontario.

2. In the meantime, allow the District Societies to do the exhibition business, and let them do it alone. I very much doubt if the Toronto Industrial—the largest of them all—continue successful for half a dozen years more, and in less than that time the popular cry will be for another Provincial Exhibition, undertaken by the Provincial Association.

3. Let the Council of the Association be decreased to nine elected members alone, three retiring annually as now; those members elected by a wider constituency than at present, and by a more perfect exercise of the franchise within that constituency.

But even when this is done the root of the whole matter is not reached. There must be a more complete affiliation of all the agencies assisted by the Province for the encouragement of agriculture, etc. Leaving out of view—as representing the mechanical side of the industrial classes—the Mechanics' Institutes, the Government now gives grants to the following, having this main object in view:—

1. Township Agricultural Societies.
2. Electoral District Agricultural Societies.
3. Horticultural Societies.
4. The Agricultural and Arts Association.
5. Dairymen's Associations (2).
6. The Fruit Growers' Association.
7. The Entomological Society.
8. The Poultry Association.

And under its own sole control, working for the attainment of the same end of encouraging agriculture, it handles:—

9. A Bureau of Agriculture.
10. A Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (lately created).
11. An Agricultural College and an Experimental Farm.

Now, all those agencies except the first two are at present assisted independently. They should all be affiliated to the Agricultural and Arts Association, or, as I should prefer to call it, the Board of Agriculture, and that should be, as it were, the right hand of the Minister of Agriculture. In order to accomplish any change, amendment must be sought to the Agriculture and Arts Act of 1877, and instead of amending I would rewrite it.

But the encouragement by a grant of public money of any industry in a country is decidedly outside the direct sphere of governmental action; and surely any Government has a right to ask that the class of the community that is to be benefited shall have agreed amongst themselves on the manner in which the benefit is to be conferred. If these two papers of mine will have any influence in bringing about that unanimity of opinion and action, they will have served the purpose for which they were written, and the wanton appropriation of your space, Mr. Editor, may in that case, I hope, be condoned.

I have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

WM. JOHNSTON.

Toronto, Dec. 27th, 1881.

Our Angus cattle thrive beautifully in their new homes. Nothing on the farm has so far done so well as our doddies; and no breed that we have ever had upon the College farm has received so much attention and favourable notice from visitors as our Angus beauties.—*Kansas Agricultural College Industrialist.*

BEEES AND POULTRY.

SUCCESSFUL BEE-KEEPING.

L. C. Root & Co., of Mohawk, N. Y., have issued their annual report for 1881, from which it appears that they commenced the season with 160 stocks, most of them in good condition. They were located in four places, forty in each. These apiaries were run for honey, and swarming was repressed. By the 1st of June white clover and raspberries yielded honey bountifully. The first extracting to any extent was done on June 28. Following is the result obtained at the best apiary:

June 28.....	1,500 lbs.
July 6.....	2,575 "
July 16.....	2,000 "
July 25, 26.....	3,140 "
Late honey.....	512 "
Total.....	9,727 "

From one stock of best Italian bees at the home apiary there were taken:

June 25.....	96 lbs.
July 4.....	62½ "
July 8.....	114 "
July 12.....	66 "
July 19.....	40½ "
July 22.....	36 "
August 5.....	42 "
August 27.....	27 "
Total.....	484 "

The entire yield from the four apiaries was 32,809 pounds, worth, at ten cents per pound, over \$3,000. With one machine, 2,760 pounds were taken in a single day. This is probably the largest yield of honey obtained in a day with one extractor. The fall yield of honey was almost wholly cut off by the extreme drought. Yet the yield for the year is a most encouraging one, showing that there is money in bee-keeping when properly carried on. The whole art and mystery, by which this degree of success was reached, are fully explained in "Quinby's New Bee-Keeping," a book which has practically been re-written by L. C. Root, the late Mr. Quinby's son-in-law. Those who intend to commence bee-keeping cannot do better than to study the subject thoroughly with the help of this or some other similar book. Let them not, however, expect all at once to attain the success above detailed. An average of 200 pounds of honey to the hive cannot be reached by a novice. Yet, with due care, bee-keeping may be made to pay from the start. There is no industry in which a beginning may be made with so small an investment of capital, and so sure a remuneration. A bee-keeper in Woodstock, Ont., began in 1876 with four hives, and from the natural increase of that number, this year had 200 stocks, and netted fully \$1,500. But such results can only be attained by a thorough mastery of the science and art of bee-keeping. They who go into it on the old-fashioned methods, and with the idea that bees will take care of themselves, need count on nothing but certain disappointment.

MARKET FOWLS.

There seems to be a disposition on the part of many beginners to commence raising poultry for sale at fancy prices. Few of the hundreds who yearly embark in the business make the marketing of fowls and eggs a specialty.

Raising fowls for market pays well where the facilities, location, and other matters are favourable, and the business properly managed. Hundreds are making a good living by raising poultry for market, and we know of no domestic stock that gives quicker or better returns for the outlay expended. To be sure the profits are greatly lessened or increased, according to the skill or care with which the business is conducted. One branch in which much improvement may be made by

most poulterers is that of fattening the fowls for market. Although the mode of fattening may seem easy, there is a right and a wrong way; a long and a short manner of accomplishing the object desired.

Fowls can be fattened readily and without much trouble, provided a little care is taken in the start. Our advice is to keep them constantly in high feed from the beginning until they become fit for the table. With but very little extra attention their flesh will be juicier and richer in flavour than those fattened from a low and emaciated state, and always commanding quick sales at the highest price in the market. There is nothing gained by keeping any kind of live stock in a poor condition. Feeding well is positive economy, as every observant stock-breeder knows. When an animal is in a high state of flesh and condition, he consumes less food than if kept in a half-starved state. It is the same with poultry—judicious feeding, of the proper amount and quality of food for the production of eggs and flesh wherein lies the breeder's success.—*Poultry Monthly.*

HOW BEES BUILD.

When a swarm of bees is about to leave its old home and seek another, each bee fills itself with honey. After entering their new home, the gorged bees suspend themselves in festoons, hanging from the top of the hive. They hang motionless for twenty-four hours. During this time the honey has been digested and converted into a peculiar animal oil, which collects itself in scales or laminae beneath the abdominal rings. This is the wax. One of the workers, called the founder, then draws from its own body, by means of its clawed feet, a scale of wax. This it breaks down and crumbles, and works with its mouth and mandibles till it becomes pliable, and it then issues from the mouth in the form of a long narrow ribbon, made white and soft by an admixture of saliva from the tongue. Meanwhile, the other bees are making ready their material the same way. On the ceiling of the hive an inverted, solid arch of wax is built, and now from this time the first foundation cells are excavated, all the subsequent ones being built up and around these, which are usually three in number. The size and shape of the cell is determined by its future use; but all comb is formed of two sheets always alternating with one another. If the comb is intended for brood, twenty-five cells of worker-brood, and sixteen of drone, go to the square inch.—*The Farm.*

EVERGREENS AND POULTRY.

The *Ohio Farmer* asks: "Do evergreens growing about poultry premises help to keep poultry in healthy condition?" It then proceeds to answer its own question as follows: "We have been taking observations for some time, and feel convinced 'there is something in it.' Fowls certainly have a decided liking for these trees, will hop about the branches and peck at the woody fibres for hours at a time, and will choose the trees for a roosting-place in lieu of warmer quarters. We have also noticed those fowls that have access to the evergreens seem unusually healthy and free from vermin, are hearty, and keep in good condition without extra amount of care in their behalf." There can be little doubt that evergreens are promotive of healthfulness in fowls, but it is not so certain that fowls are beneficial to evergreens. As above stated, they will hop about the branches, roost in them, and peck at the woody fibres for hours at a time. Where fowls are plentiful and evergreens few, the evergreens are apt to be transformed into that species of poultry known as scarecrows.

CURRENT NEWS ITEMS.

ONTARIO FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.—The winter meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association will be held in Hamilton on Wednesday and Thursday, January 24th and 25th, 1882.

MEDICINES will not cure colds. Opening the skin is important, but the principal means is a reduction of food. You have eaten meat twice a day. Eat none for two or three days, if the cold lasts so long.—*Golden Rule.*

THE lead-pipe scare, in connection with drinking water, has good enough reason, but in the provision can there not only is lead, but generally an acid to take it up far more rapidly than water could do.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean.*

ALL the swill from the house was hauled away to the pen in a barrel hung on pivots, and emptied into a tank, opening directly into the trough, and by raising a two-inch gate, the slop, which had been mixed with meal and stuff, so that it "soured," had free access to the "boarders" in the pen.—*Oskaloosa Herald.*

I VISITED Mr. Cleveland's garden, and just over the hill where the orchard is protected the trees were all right, while in more exposed situations the trees were killed. Mr. Butler has an orchard protected by a wood on the West, and there the trees are all right, while on the flats, where they were exposed, many of the trees have been killed.—*Utica Herald.*

DR. McGOWAN, the well-known manager of the Rysdyk Stock Farm, has sold his trotting stallion, Walter Jones, by Conkling's American Star, dam by Long Island Black Hawk, to Louis Aure, of Alpine, Michigan, for \$1,200. He has also disposed of General Wayne, by Strathmore, to Joseph Martin, of Picton, Ont., and the black mare Barbara Allen to Rev. A. D. Traveller, of Morrisburgh.

THE "polled" breeds could be used with great advantage on the Western plains to put symmetry and quality into the present style of Texan or Western cattle. It would shorten up their horns, make them better feeders, and their meat would be far superior to what it is at present. It would also enable feeders to put their stock into market in ripe condition fully six months earlier.—*Michigan Farmer.*

A HORSE that was always restive at mounting and dismounting was completely cured in a few lessons by strapping, first the near, and then the off fore-leg, and mounting and dismounting continually for an hour or so in a fold-yard. The theory of Rarefying is to so bind the horse that he cannot resist, and then prove that neither "the flag, nor the drum, nor the explosion of musketry will hurt him."—*London Live Stock Journal.*

THE farmers in the neighbourhood of Kirkton, Perth Co., Ont., formed themselves early in the year into a company for the manufacture of butter, and their first season's operations have just drawn to a close. In the beginning of the season, it is said, they were quite prosperous; they succeeded in making one shipment of excellent butter to England, and everything seemed to be in the ascendant. But prosperity injures some institutions and certain people; some of the patrons became too grasping, and it is alleged that certain of them were guilty of some questionable acts in connection with the cream which they supplied, and the result was that what at one time promised to be a fine institution, and a pride to the locality in which it was situated, turned out in such a manner that people hesitate about discussing its merits. It is hoped that the Kirkton butter factory will renew operations next spring, and take proper precautions against a recurrence of the evil which crept into the enterprise so early.—*Journal of Commerce.*

HOME CIRCLE.

A DROVER'S STORY.

My name is Anthony Hunt. I am a drover; and I live miles and miles away, upon the Western prairie. There wasn't a house within sight when we moved there, my wife and I; and now we have not many neighbours, though those we have are good ones.

One day, about ten years ago, I went away from home to sell some fifty head of cattle,—fine creatures as ever I saw. I was to buy some groceries and dry goods before I came back, and, above all, a doll for our youngest Dolly. She never had a shop doll of her own, only the rag babies her mother had made her. Dolly could talk of nothing else, and went down to the very gate to call after me "Buy a big one." Nobody but a parent can understand how my mind was on that toy, and how, when the cattle were sold, the first thing I hurried off to buy was Dolly's doll. I found a large one with eyes that would open and shut when you pulled a wire, and had it wrapped in paper and tucked it under my arm, while I had the parcels of calico and delaine, and tea and sugar, put up. It might have been more prudent to stay until morning; but I felt anxious to get back, and eager to hear Dolly's prattle about the doll she was so eagerly expecting.

I mounted on a steady-going old horse of mine, and pretty well loaded. Night set in before I was a mile from town, and settled down dark as pitch while I was in the middle of the wildest bit of road I know of. I could have felt my way through, I remembered it so well; and it was almost that, when the storm that had been brewing broke, and pelted the rain in torrents, five miles, or maybe six miles from home, too. I rode on as fast as I could; but suddenly I heard a little cry, like a child's voice. I stopped short and listened. I heard it again. I called, and it answered me. I couldn't see a thing. All was dark as I got down and felt about in the grass, called again, and again I was answered. Then I began to wonder. I'm not timid; but I was known to be a drover, and to have money about me. I am not superstitious,—not very; but how could a real child be out on the prairie in such a night at such an hour? It might be more than human. The bit of a coward that hides itself in most men showed itself to me then, and I was half-inclined to run away; but once more I heard that piteous cry, and said I, "If any man's child is hereabouts, Anthony Hunt is not the man to let it lie here to die." I searched again. At last, I bethought me of a hollow under the hill, and groped that way. Sure enough, I found a little dripping thing that moaned and sobbed as I took it in my arms. I called my horse, and the beast came to me; and I mounted and tucked the little soaked thing under my coat as well as I could, promising to take it home to mammy. It seemed tired to death, and pretty soon cried itself to sleep against my bosom. It had slept there over an hour, when I saw my own windows. There were lights in them, and I supposed my wife had lit them for my sake; but when I got into the yard, I saw that something was the matter, and stood still with dead fear of heart five minutes, before I could lift the latch. At last, I did it, and saw the room full of neighbours, and my wife amid them weeping. When she saw me, she hid her face.

"Oh, don't tell him!" she cried. "It will kill him."

"What is it, neighbours?" I cried.

And one said: "Nothing now, I hope. What's that in your arm?"

"A poor lost child," said I: "I found it on the road. Take it, will you? I've turned faint." And I lifted the sleeping thing, and saw the face of my own child, my little Dolly.

It was my darling and no other, that I had picked up upon the drenched road. My little child had wandered out to meet "daddy" and the doll, while her mother was at work, and whom they were lamenting as one dead. I thanked God on my knees before them all. It is not much of a story, neighbours; but I think of it often in the night, and wonder how I could bear to live if I had not stopped when I heard the cry for help upon the road,—the little baby-cry hardly louder than a squirrel's chirp.

Ah, friends, the blessings of our work often come nearer to our homes than we ever dare to hope.—Selected.

CONDITION OF THE GERMAN PEASANTS.

In many German villages, where the common land has been gradually parcelled in small bits, the farms of the peasants are composed of minute strips of land, scattered over the whole parish. I have seen farms which contained two hundred such strips. Baring-Gould, in his "Germany, Past and Present," writes: "In some places the owner of twenty hectares (about fifty acres) will have some one thousand bits of land distributed over the whole surface of the parish. Such is the case on the Main and the Middle Rhine." The lots of land are too small for pasturage; universal tillage drives the price of grain so low that farming is not profitable; while the extra labour necessitated by having land in so many small lots places the peasants at a great disadvantage. Legal difficulties and conservatism prevent the exchange of lots and the concentration of farms. A poor year commonly forces the peasants into the hands of the Jews. In each village there are Jews, who are continually watching the distresses of the farmer; they induce him in every way to borrow money; and when they once have a hold upon him he seldom escapes. Two successive hard years, combined with ruinous rates of interest, are often sufficient to overwhelm him. The Jews seize his land, and sell it out in small parcels at high prices, as contiguous owners are anxious to enlarge their plots. Some of the meanest specimens of mankind are found among these village Jews, and their severity often causes outbreaks against them. The landed classes sympathize with the peasants in their difficulties; and this explains in a measure the present agitation against the Jews in Germany. Even Bismarck is said to be bitterly opposed to the Jews; his sympathies are with the landed aristocracy, and he dislikes the rise to power of the

mercantile and money-lending classes, of which the Jews are the most conspicuous examples. C. was once so deeply involved in a serious outrage committed on the property of an obnoxious Jew that he was forced to leave the village. He confessed that his acts were foolish, but pleaded in excuse the loss of land and home by the peasant with whom he was staying. The Jew had induced the peasant to enlarge his farm by buying lands on loans at excessive interest. A bad year followed, and the peasant was obliged to borrow more money. The Jew, in lending, forced the peasant to take one-third of the loan in spirits. The natural consequences followed: the peasant drank too much; his crops were poor; his interest was not paid; and his land was seized by the Jew. The Jews are a harsh but effectual instrument for destroying the system of "small-lot-farming;" they bring the owners of "lot farms" into their power, and then sell the lands to those whose farms are in larger lots, and who are therefore prosperous. Historical reasons have caused the small-lot system to exist only among the rich lands of Germany; and it has consequently never been in vogue in Northern Germany. Nevertheless, the poverty of the soil has made the condition of the peasants in the north worse than that of those in the south of Germany.—December Atlantic.

THE TWO GATES.

A pilgrim once (so runs an ancient tale),
Old, worn, and spent, crept down a shadowed vale;
On either hand rose mountains bleak and high;
Chill was the gusty air, and dark the sky;
The path was rugged, and his feet were bare;
His faded cheek was seamed by pain and care;
His heavy eyes upon the ground were cast,
And every step seemed feebler than the last.

The valley ended where a naked rock
Rose sheer from earth to heaven, as if to mock
The pilgrim who had crept that toilsome way;
But while his dim and weary eyes essay
To find an outlet, in the mountain side
A ponderous sculptured brazen door he spied,
And tottering toward it with fast-failing breath,
Above the portal read, "THE GATE OF DEATH."

He could not stay his feet, that led thereto;
It yielded to his touch, and passing through,
He came into a world all bright and fair:
Blue were the heavens, and balmy was the air;
And, lo! the blood of youth was in his veins,
And he was clad in robes that held no stains
Of his long pilgrimage. Amazed, he turned:
Behold! a golden door behind him burned
In that fair sunlight, and his wondering eyes,
Now lustreful and clear as those new skies,
Free from the mists of age, of care, and strife,
Above the portal read, "THE GATE OF LIFE."

—Harper's Magazine for December.

RESTORING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.

Reuf Pasha, the Turkish Governor of Jerusalem, has recently received imperative orders from Sultan Abdul Hamid to resume the work of restoration of Solomon's Temple, commenced under the reign of Abdul Aziz, but discontinued some five years ago. The Pasha has also been instructed to clear the great square fronting the Temple of all the rubbish and rank vegetation with which it is at present incumbered. In this square stands the famous Mosque of Omar, which derives a revenue of some £15,000 a year from pilgrim contributions and other sources. Hitherto the greater portion of this sum found its way annually to Stamboul. The Sultan, however, has decreed that henceforth it shall be applied to defraying the expenses of the works above alluded to, the present resumption of which, as well as their original inception, is due in reality to suggestions made at different times to the Ottoman authorities by members of the Austrian imperial family. The restoration of the temple ruins was begun at the instance of Francis Joseph during his visit to the Holy Land, shortly after the accession of Abdul Aziz to the throne; and it was the recent pilgrimage of the Archduke Rudolph to Judea that imparted a fresh impulse to the interrupted enterprise. Not only has the Commander of the Faithful signified it to be his sovereign will that the works should be carried out without further delay, but two officials of the Sublime Porte, Serid and Raif Effendi, have already left Constantinople for Jerusalem with instructions to take measures, on their arrival, for insuring the literal fulfilment of his Majesty's decree. The gratitude of Christians and Jews alike is due to Abdul Hamid for lending his high authority to so generous and enlightened an undertaking.—London Telegraph.

INTELLECT IN BRUTES.

Mr. A. Petrie writes: "In my own family we had a tabby cat, who, when turned out, would let herself in at another door by climbing up some list nailed around it, then pushing up the click-latch, pushing the door, with herself hanging on it, away from the post, so as to prevent the latch falling back into its place, and then dropping down and walking back to the fire. I knew a Skye terrier, who being told to carry a fishing rod, carefully experimented along its length to find its centre of gravity, then carried it on till his master came to a narrow path through a wood. Here Skye considered, dropped the rod, took it by the end, and dragged it under him lengthwise till the open road was gained, when he took the rod by the centre of gravity again, and went on. This could not be a copy of human actions, but the result of original reasoning."

Mr. Henry Cecil gives the following on the authority of the late Mr. Dawes, the astronomer: "Being busy in his garden, and having a large bunch of keys in his hand, he gave it to a retriever to hold for him till he was at liberty. Going into the house soon after, he forgot to reclaim the

keys. The remembrance of what he had done with them only returned to him when he required to use them in the evening. He then recalled that he had given them to the dog, and forgotten to take them again. Calling him, and looking him impressively in his face, he said, 'My keys! fetch me my keys!' The dog looked wistful and puzzled for a moment, and then bounded off to the garden, his master following. He went straight to the root of an apple-tree, scratched up the keys, and brought them. May we not fairly put into words the dog's train of reasoning thus: 'My master has given me these keys to hold; he has forgotten them; I cannot carry them all day; but I must put them in safety where I can find them again?'"

Mr. R. Howson sends us the story of a terrier-like dog of no particular breed, named Uglymug, who had a poodle for a companion. Whenever Uglymug saw signs of a family meal being laid out, he inveigled the poodle into a labyrinthine shrubbery under pretence of looking for rats, and when the latter was fairly intent on his game, Uglymug sneaked back to enjoy, all by himself, what he could get from the family table.—N. Y. Evangelist.

THE HIGHLAND SHEPHERD.

The shepherds of Ross-shire and Sutherland are physically a fine race. Many people have a fixed idea that all Highlanders are tall, strong men; others, judging probably from the fishermen they have seen on the east coast, or from the western islands, imagine them small, stunted, and red-haired. Of course, there are some small, poor-looking men, but as a rule they will compare favourably with any race in these islands, and it would be a strange thing if they did not. Their life is eminently calculated to make them do so. Their food, though simple, is abundant; the oatmeal which, with milk and a little mutton and bacon, forms their diet, is well known for its properties of bone-making. They breathe air than which there is no purer in the world, and their hard out-of-door life insures them sound and healthy sleep. If to most men the life of a shepherd would appear strange and almost appalling in its utter loneliness, to some few it has, for this very reason, a peculiar fascination. (We are speaking here of the genuine hillman, not of one who is connected with a coast arable farm.) Some of the straths and glens are well populated—well populated, that is to say, for that country. There may be on twenty miles of road two or three shooting lodges, with their attendant collection of keepers' houses, a few small crofts, perhaps an inn, and possibly a kirk, though these two latter are unfrequent, and the average distance between inns in Sutherland—always excepting a narrow strip on the east coast—may be set down at from fifteen to thirty miles. Many of the shepherds' houses, however, are a long distance off the main road, and a man, after walking from the nearest railway station twenty or thirty miles, and often much further, may have to turn across the heather for five or six more before he gets home, though there is often a peat track to help him. His most probable neighbour will be a keeper, and keepers and shepherds do not always pull well together, there being knotty questions about heather-burning, and sheep straying over marshes—the latter being especially frequent when the adjoining land is under deer—which have to be settled afresh every year, and which cause no little amount of jealousy and ill-feeling between the two. Sometimes, however, they are great friends; and as a rule they get on pretty well together, partly, no doubt, for the sake of companionship, and partly, on the keeper's side at least, from motives of policy, for he knows well, if he is worth anything, how essential it is for the welfare of his game that he and the shepherd should be on good terms, and how great the power is which the latter has over it.—Macmillan.

A SENSIBLE MOTHER.

It is really pitiful to see a good, conscientious little mother resolutely shutting herself away from so much that is best and sweetest in her children's lives, for the sake of tucking their dresses and ruffling their petticoats. How surprised and grieved she will be to find that her boys and girls, at sixteen, regard "mother" chiefly as a most excellent person to keep shirts in order and to make new dresses, and not as one to whom they care to go for social companionship.

Yet, before they are snubbed out of it, by repeated rebuffs, such as "Run away, I'm too busy to listen to your nonsense," children naturally go to their mothers with all their sorrows and pleasures; and if "mother" can only enter into all their little plans, how pleased they are! Such a shout of delight as I heard last summer from Mrs. Friendly's croquet ground, where her two little girls were playing. "Oh, goody, goody, mamma is coming to play with us!" She was a busy mother, too, and I know would have much preferred to use what few moments of recreation she could snatch, for something more interesting than playing croquet with little children, not much taller than their mallets. She has often said to me: "I cannot let my children grow away from me; I must keep right along with them all the time; and whether it is croquet with the little ones, or Latin grammar and baseball with the boys, or French dictation and sash ribbons with the girls, I must be 'in it,' as far as I can."

BREAD-MAKING AND CIVILIZATION.

Each stage of society's advance, from lowest to highest, may be broadly characterized by the prevailing manner of handling the staff of life; that is, by the methods pursued in making bread. Whether pre-historic races made bread or not is more than can be certainly determined, but we know that existing tribes of cave-dwellers and burrowers made no bread. They are differentiated from the brutes by ability to light a fire, by the practice of cooking, and by that of wearing clothing, but their diet consists for the most part of reptiles and roots. A striking advance occurs when the seeds of the field come into use as food. Grain bruised on a flat stone with a billet of wood is wet into dough and cast on the embers; bread makes its appearance in the world, and progress begins. Several tribes of the Shoshone family of

Indians make bread in this way. The mortar and pestle succeed the billet and stone, and a baking plate of clay or stone is added to the household outfit. The mortar and the pestle are the utensils of the earlier nomadic period, and most tribes of American Indians use them until contact with the whites modifies their habits. The hand mill, probably the first, and certainly the most important machine used in the peaceful arts, marks the transition from the barbarous to the patriarchal state. This admirable contrivance, with which two women ground corn in the early dawn of history, and with which two women still grind corn wherever patriarchal institutions prevail, has rendered more service to man, it may almost be said, than all other machines together. It is the type of the patriarchal state, out its use was not abandoned till the advent of the existing form of society. The use of leaven probably originated in the patriarchal period, while the oven—that is, what is now known as the baker's oven—belongs to the era of village communities. The grist mill is the type of existing civilization; being the first experiment in removing domestic industries from the household, the first attempt to set up machinery for doing the work of several households at once.—*Atlantic Monthly*.

A TOUCHING INCIDENT.

"I'll never forgive him—never!"

"Never is a hard word, John," said the sweet-faced wife of John Locke, as she looked up from her sewing.

"He is a mean, dastardly coward, and upon this Holy Bible I—"

"Stop, husband! John, remember he is my brother, and by the love you bear me, forbear to curse him. He has done you wrong, I allow; but O, John, he is so very young and so very sorry. The momentary shame you felt yesterday will hardly be wiped out with a curse. It will only injure yourself, John. O, please don't say anything dreadful."

The sweet-faced woman prevailed; the curse that hung upon the lips of the angry man was not spoken, but he still said:

"I will never forgive him; he has done me a deadly wrong."

The young man who had provoked this bitterness, humbled and repentant, sought in vain for forgiveness from him whom, in a moment of passion, he had injured almost beyond reparation. John Locke steeled his heart against him.

In his store sat the young village merchant one pleasant morning, contentedly reading the morning paper. A sound of hurried footsteps approached, but he took no notice until a hatless boy burst into the store, screaming at the top of his voice:

"Mr. Locke, Johnny is in the river—little Johnny Locke!"

To dash down the paper and spring for the street was the first impulse of the agonized father. On, on, like a maniac he flew till he reached the bank of the river, pallid and crazed with anguish. The first sight that met his eyes was little Johnny lying in the arms of his mother, who, with her hair hanging dishevelled around, bent wildly over her child. The boy was just saved; he breathed and, opening his eyes, smiled faintly in his mother's face, while she, with a choking voice, thanked God. Another form lay insensible, stretched near the child. From his head the dark blood flowed from a ghastly wound. The man against whom John Locke had sworn eternal hatred, had, at the risk of his own life, been the saviour of the child. He had struck a floating piece of driftwood as he came to the surface with the boy, and death seemed inevitable.

John Locke flung himself down on the green sward, and bent over the senseless form.

"Save him," he cried huskily to the doctor who had been summoned. "Restore him to consciousness, if it be for only one little moment; I have something important to say to him."

"He is reviving," replied the doctor.

The wounded man opened his eyes; they met the anxious glance of his brother-in-law, and the pale lips trembled forth:

"Do you forgive me?"

"Yes, yes, God is witness, as I hope for mercy hereafter, I freely forgive you; and in turn ask your forgiveness for my unchristian conduct."

A feeble pressure of the hand and a beaming smile was all his answer.

Many days the brave young man hung upon a slender thread of life, and never were there more devoted friends than those who hovered over his sick-bed. But a vigorous constitution triumphed, and, pale and changed, he walked forth once more among the living.

"O! if he had died with my unkindness clouding his soul, never should I have dared to hope for mercy from my Father in heaven," said John Locke to his wife, as they sat talking over the solemn event that had threatened their lives with a living trouble. "Never, now that I have tasted the sweetness of forgiveness, never again will I cherish revenge or unkindness toward the erring. For there is a new meaning in my soul to the words of our daily prayer, and I see that I have only been calling judgments upon myself, while I have impiously asked, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'"
—*Examiner*.

HOW TO SHAKE HANDS.

There are only two or three people now living who can successfully shake hands. There is a good deal of hand-shaking done through the country, especially at this season of the year, but only a very small per cent. of the shakers and shakers know how to do it so as to get the entire amount of exhilaration out of it. Some grab the hand of an adversary in a quick nervous manner that scares the victim nearly to death, while others slide the cold and clammy paw at you so that you feel the same as when you drop a cold raw oyster with vinegar on it down your back. If you are shaking hands with a lady, incline the head forward with a soft and graceful yet half-timid movement, like a boy climbing a

barbed-wire fence with a fifty-pound watermelon. Look gently in her eyes with a kind of pleading smile, beam on her features a bright and winsome beam, say something that you have heard some one else say on similar occasions, and in the meantime shake her hand in a subdued yet vigorous way, not as though you were trying to make a mash by pulverizing her fingers, nor yet in too conservative a manner, allowing her hand to fall with a sickening thud when you let go. Care should be taken also not to hang on to the hand more than half an hour in public, as bystanders might make remarks. This is now considered quite *outré* and mandamus.—*Bill Nye's Boomerang*.

A JUDICIOUS WIFE.

A judicious wife is always nipping off from her husband's moral nature little twigs that are growing in wrong directions. She keeps him in shape by continual pruning. If you say anything silly, she will affectionately tell you so; if you declare that you will do some absurd thing, she will find some means of preventing you from doing it. And by far the chief part of all the common sense there is in the world belongs unquestionably to women. The wisest things a man commonly does are those which his wife counsels him to do. A wife is a grand wielder of the moral pruning-knife. If Johnson's wife had lived, there would have been no hoarding up of orange-peel, no touching of all the posts in walking along the street, no eating or drinking with a disgusting voracity. If Oliver Goldsmith had been married, he never would have worn that ridiculous coat. Whenever you find a man who you know little about, oddly dressed, or talking absurdly, or exhibiting eccentricity of manner, you may be sure that he is not a married man; for the corners are rounded off, the little shoots pared away, in married men. Wives have generally much more sense than their husbands, even though they may be clever men. The wife's advice is like the ballast that keeps the ship steady.

OUR RURAL HOME.

In this dear home our little ones
With life's first hour were blest;
'Tis here we watch and care for them,
Like birdlings in a nest;
Here mother Earth has ne'er denied
To us a bounteous store,
A full supply for needful wants,
Nor should we covet more.

The Spring birds' notes are sweetest here,
The Summer flowers more fair,
And Autumn with her golden crown
Of harvests rich and rare;
And when rude Winter's icy blasts
Rage fiercely far and wide,
Oh what a blessing to enjoy
A home and home's fireside.

Let others boast of mansions bright,
Of power, or wealth, or fame,
Or seek ambition's giddy height
To win an honoured name;
Let all who choose take foreign tours,
And all who wish to roam:
But leave to me the sacred walls
Of our own dear Rural Home.

A TIDY HOME.

As a general rule for living neatly and saving time, it is better to keep clean than make clean. If you are careful not to drop crumbs of bread and cake on the carpet, and take similar precautions, you will escape an untidy room and the trouble of cleaning it. In working, if you make a practice of putting all the ends of your thread into a division of the work-box made for the purpose, and never let one fall on the floor, the room will look very different at the end of a morning, from what it does when not attended to. A house is kept far cleaner when all the members of the family are taught to wipe their feet thoroughly on coming from out of doors, than it can be where this is neglected. There are a thousand ways of keeping clean and saving labour and time which it is well worth while to learn and practise.

THE LOWER CLASSES.

Who are they? The toiling millions, the labouring man and woman, the farmer, the mechanic, the artisan, the inventor, the producer? Far from it. These are nature's nobility. No matter if they are high or low in station, rich or poor in pelf, conspicuous or humble in position, they are surely upper circles in the order of nature, whatever factitious distinctions of society, fashionable or unfashionable, decree. It is not low, it is the highest duty, privilege and pleasure for the great man and the high-souled woman to earn what they possess, to work their own way through life, to be the architects of their own fortunes. Some may rank the classes we have alluded to as only relatively low, and, in fact, the middling classes. We insist they are absolutely the very highest. If there be a class of human beings on earth who may be properly denominated low, it is that class who spend without earning, who consume without producing, who dissipate on the earnings of their relatives, without being anything in themselves.

TRIFERAN has been lighted with gas. A platform was erected for the Shah in the principal square, that he might witness the operation; cannons were fired, and the national hymn was played.

HINTS FOR LADY READERS.

DRAB canton-flannel makes pretty school bags. Bind them with braid and make an initial on one side.

ACCORDING to the laws of hygiene, the floor of a bedroom should be without a carpet. Rugs, after the Oriental custom, are preferable, as they can be readily moved and shaken, thereby securing cleanliness as well as health.

LINEN collars and cuffs are hardly ever seen now, but there is a great preference for black lace and ruchings as tuckers and cuffs, a useful and economical fashion at this season. Large collars are also worn, made of killed lace and fastened at the back.

IF POSSIBLE, buy an oilcloth that has been made for several years, as the longer it has lain unwashed the better it will wear, the paint being harder. Never scrub. Sweep with a soft hair brush, and wash with a soft cloth dipped in milk and water. Don't use soap. Rub dry with a cloth.

TO LOOK well while about housework is worth while. A neat calico dress, short enough to clear the floor, smoothly brushed hair, a clean collar and a plentiful supply of aprons, are all within the reach of any woman, and I maintain that she will do her work better, and feel more like doing it, if so prepared for it.

LADIES can make their own velvet frames for plaques or pictures, by getting from a carpenter a turned wooden frame of the desired size. Over this, stretch the velvet or plush, cutting the centre so as to leave an ample margin. Fasten this tightly with furniture tacks on the back, taking care not to pull it away; and then glue the back, keeping the tacks in until the glue is perfectly dry.

EVERY woman who has been obliged to spend half a day several times during the winter cleaning the mica in her coal stove, usually by taking them out and washing in soap-suds, will rejoice to know that there is a much easier way to clean them, and that there is no need to take them out or to let the fire burn very low in order to do it successfully. Take a little vinegar and water and wash the mica carefully with a soft cloth; the acid removes all stains, and if a little pains is taken to thoroughly clean the corners and to wipe them dry, the mica will look as good as new. If the stove is very hot, tie the cloth to a stick, and so escape the danger of burning your hand.

SWISS belts are pretty additions to a dress, and are generally made in black silk and embroidered with beads, having a satchel bag attached, trimmed to match. They require to be well cut, well made, and well whaleboned, or they are failures. Plush collarettes brighten up a winter dress, but charming little additions are the French mends or bows, which can be had in any colour, and are pinned on to the side of the bodice. They look natty, and enliven the most sombre costume. Artificial flowers are worn, where real are not obtainable, on the left side just below the ear, and sometimes a necklet of tiny flowers is added to the lace ruche that encircles the throat.

BUTTERICK'S "Delineator" says: "Fashion seems to demand the wearing of loose gloves, and, second, that they should be tan colour. Happily, tan colour combines well with the costume colours, and in cases where it does not, fashion allows of black. Gloves are very long; eight and ten-button lengths being chosen for street wear, and longer ones for evening use. But the latter do not have so many buttons. Novelties for driving and walking are kid gloves made of the heavy kid usually dedicated to gentlemen and finished in exactly the same manner, with very heavy stitching on the back, either matching or contrasting in hue. The gloves are short-wristed, most of them displaying three or four buttons, which close in the usual way. The tan and *cuise* shades are most popular in this variety, as, indeed, they are in all others. Mittens, to keep warm the cold fingers, are quite expensive, being knit of Angora wool, which displays the furry element with such good results. Dark grays are developed in these, while in less expensive but quite as comfortable mittens of ordinary worsted, scarlet, blue and brown, are cheerful and warm-looking. The intense cold of last winter taught the gloves, as well as other tradesmen, to prepare articles that will keep out the breath of Jack Frost, and yet look bright and pretty. Wristlets are in silk, with colours commingled in Roman stripes, as well as in the plain shades of cardinal, blue and brown."

OCEAN CURRENTS.

But the currents of the ocean influence something besides the weather. Upon them depends to a considerable extent whether a certain part of the coast shall have one or another kind of animals dwelling in the salt water. This is not so much true of the fishes as it is of the mollusks or "shell-fish," the worms that live in the mud of the tide-flats, the anemones, sea-urchins, starfish and little clinging people of the wet rocks, and the jelly-fishes, great and small, that swim about in the open sea.

Nothing would injure most of these "small fry" more than a change in the water, making it a few degrees colder or warmer than they have been accustomed to. Since the constant circulation of the currents keeps the ocean water in all its parts almost precisely of the same density, and food seems about as likely to abound in one district as another, naturalists have concluded that it is temperature which decides the extent of coast or of sea-area where any one kind of invertebrate animals will be found; for beyond the too great heat, or else the chill of the water, sets a wall as impassable as if of rock. It thus happens that the small life of the hot Cuban waters is different from that of our Carolina coast; and that, again, largely separate from what you will see off New York; while Cape Cod seems to run out as a partition between the shore-life south of it and a very different set of shells, sand-worms, and so forth to the northward. This is not strictly defined: many species lap over, and a few are to be found the whole length of our coast; yet Cape Hatteras ends the northern range of many half-tropical species, and Cape Cod will not let pass it dozens of kinds of animals abundant from Massachusetts Bay northward.—*December Wide Awake*.

YOUNG CANADA.

MEDICAL ADVICE.

Take the open air,
The more you take the better;
Follow nature's laws
To the very letter.

Let the physic go
To the Bay of Biscay;
Let alone the gin,
The brandy and the whiskey.

Freely exercise,
Keep your spirits cheerful;
Let no dream of sickness
Make you ever fearful.

Eat the simplest food,
Drink the pure, cold water;
Then you will be well,
Or at least you ought to.

THE TWO PEACHES.

SOME evenings ago I went to the house where my young friend Lydia lives. She is eight years old. I sat for some time with this little girl and her parents. Her little brother Oliver was in the garden drawing about his cart. The mother brought in some peaches, a few of which were large red-checked ones—the rest were small ordinary peaches. The father handed me one of the best, gave one to the mother, and then one to his little daughter. He then took one of the smaller ones and gave it to Lydia, and told her to go and give it to her brother. He was four years old. Lydia went out, and was gone about ten minutes, and then came in.

"Did you give your brother the peach I sent him?" asked the father.

Lydia blushed, turned away, and did not answer.

"Did you give your brother the peach I sent him?" asked the father again, a little more sharply.

"No, father," she said, "I did not give him that."

"What did you do with it?" he asked.

"I ate it," said Lydia.

"What! did you not give your brother any?" asked the father.

"Yes, I did, father," she said; "I gave him mine."

"Why did you not give him the one I told you to give?" asked the father.

"Because, father," said Lydia, "I thought he would like mine better."

"But you ought not to disobey me," said he.

"I did not mean to disobey you, father," and her bosom began to heave.

"But you did, my daughter," said he.

"I thought you would not be angry with me, father," said Lydia, "if I did give brother the biggest peach," and the tears began to fall down her cheek.

"But I wanted you to have the biggest," said the father; "you are older than he is."

"I should like you to give the best things to brother," said the little girl.

"Why?" asked the father.

"Because," answered the generous, unselfish sister, "I love him so. I always feel glad when he gets the best things."

"You are right, my dear child," said the father, as he folded her in his arms; "you are right, and you may be certain your father can never be angry with you for wishing to give up the best of everything to your little brother. He is a dear child, and I am glad you love

him so. Do you think he loves you as well as you do him?"

"Yes, father," said Lydia, "I think he does; for, when I offered him the largest peach, he would not take it, and wanted me to keep it; and it was a good while before I could get him to take it."

Children, this is as it should be, especially in the family; and be assured that they who are the most kind will be the most happy.

THE PEA-NUT.

THE pea-nut is the fruit of a plant common in warm countries. It is sometimes called the ground-pea and ground or earth-nut, and in the Southern States the goober or goober-nut. Still another name for it is pindal or pindar, and in western Africa it is called mandubi. The plant is a trailing vine, with small yellow flowers. After the flowers fall the flower stem grows longer, bends downward, and the pod on the end forces itself into the ground, where it ripens.

Pea-nuts are raised in immense quantities on the west coast of Africa, in South America, and in the Southern United States. The vines are dug with pronged hoes or forks, dried for a few days, and then stacked for two weeks to cure. The pods are picked by hand from the vines, cleaned in a fanning mill, and sometimes bleached with sulphur, and packed in bags for market. Pea-nuts are sometimes eaten raw, but usually roasted or baked. In Africa and South America they form one of the chief articles of food. Large quantities of them are made into an oil much like olive oil, and which is used in the same way. It is also used in the manufacture of soap. A bushel of pea-nuts, when pressed cold, will make a gallon of oil. If heat is used, more oil is made, but it is not so good. In Spain pea-nuts are ground and mixed with chocolate. Pea-nut vines make good food for cattle.

The pea-nut gets its name from the shape of its pod, which is like that of the pea.

OUTWITTED.

ONE fine summer day a very hungry fox sailed out in search of his dinner. After a while his eye rested on a young rooster, which he thought would make a very good meal; so he lay down under a wall and hid himself in the high grass, intending to wait till the rooster got near enough and then spring on him, and carry him off. Suddenly, however, the rooster saw him and flew in a great fright to the top of the wall.

The fox could not get up there, and he knew it; so he came out from his hiding place and addressed the rooster thus:

"Dear me!" he cried, "how handsomely you are dressed! I came to invite your magnificence to a grand christening feast. The duck and the goose have promised to come, and the turkey, though slightly ill, will try to come also. You see that only those of rank are bidden to this feast, and we beg you to adorn it with your splendid talent for music. We are to have the most delicate little cock-chafers served up on toast, a delicious salad of earth-worms—in fact all manner of good things. Will you not return then with me to my house?"

"Oh, oh!" said the rooster, "how kind you are! What fine stories you tell! Still, I

think it safest to decline your kind invitation. I am sorry not to go to that splendid feast, but I cannot leave my wife, for she is sitting on seven new eggs. Good-bye! I hope you will relish those earth-worms. Don't come too near me, or I will crow for the dogs. Good-bye!"

HOW SLEIGH-BELLS ARE MADE.

HOW many boys and girls know how the jingling sleigh-bells are made? How do you think the little iron ball gets inside of the bell? It is too big to be put in through the holes in the bell, and yet it is inside. How did it get there?

This little iron ball is called "the jinglet." When you shake the sleigh-bell it jingles. When the horse trots the bells jingle, jingle, jingle. In making the bell, this jinglet is put inside a little ball of mud, just the shape of the outside of a bell. Then a mould is made just the shape of the outside of the bell. This mud ball, with the jinglet inside, is placed in the mould of the outside and the melted metal is poured in, which fills up the space between the mud ball and the mould.

When the mould is taken off you see a sleigh-bell, but it would not ring, as it is full of dirt. The hot metal dries the dirt that the ball is made of, so it can all be shaken out. After the dirt is all shaken out of holes in the bell, the little iron jinglet will still be in the bell, and it will ring all right.

It took a great many years to think out how to make a sleigh-bell.

THE ECHO.

A LITTLE boy once went home to his mother and said: "Mother, sister and I went out into the garden, and we were calling about, and there was some boy mocking us."

"How do you mean, Johnny?" said his mother.

"Why," said the child, "I was calling out 'Ho!' and this boy said 'Ho!' So I said to him, 'Who are you?' and he answered, 'Who are you?' I said, 'What is your name?' and he said, 'What is your name?' And I said, 'Why don't you show yourself?' He said, 'Show yourself.' And I jumped over the ditch, and I went into the wood, and I could not find him, and I came back and said, 'If you don't come out I'll strike you.'"

So his mother said, "Ah, Johnny, if you had said, 'I love you,' he would have said, 'I love you.' If you had said, 'Your voice is sweet,' he would have said, 'Your voice is sweet.' Whatever you said to him he would have said back to you." And the mother said: "Now, Johnny, when you grow and get to be a man, whatever you will say to others they will by-and-by say back to you;" and his mother took him to that old text in the Scriptures, "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

A MORE glorious victory cannot be gained over another than this—that when the injury begins on his part the kindness should begin on ours.

A LITTLE boy weeping most piteously was interrupted by some unusual occurrence. He hushed his cries for a moment; the thought was broken. "Ma," said he, "what was I crying about just now?"

Household Hints.

THE yolk of a hard-boiled egg cut in bits with a sharp knife makes a pleasing addition to the sauce made of butter, flour and water for baked and boiled fish.

TAKE a cupful of cream off the pan of milk in the morning, and put it to your bread when you are about moulding it, and it will cause the crust to be very soft and delicate.

SCOUR pieces of zinc with kerosene oil and polish off with whiting, or, what is better, give them a coat of paint. They can then be cleaned at any time by simply washing them.

LEMONS will keep better and fresher in water than under any other conditions. Put in a crock and covered with water, they can be preserved in winter for two or three months.

BAKED OMELETTE.—Boil a pint of milk, a teaspoonful of butter and one of salt, and stir in a tablespoonful of flour, rub smooth in cold water, and pour upon it seven or eight well-beaten eggs. Bake in a quick oven.

OIL-CLOTHS should be washed well to free them from dirt, and then have two coats of copal varnish given them. If this is done once a year, it would insure the lasting of the cloth as long again as it otherwise would.

THE secret in having a good roast turkey is to stuff it palatably, to baste it often, and to cook it long enough. A small turkey of seven or eight pounds should be roasted or baked three hours at least. A very large turkey should be cooked an hour longer.

ROYAL MUFFINS.—One quart flour, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, half tablespoonful of salt, two teaspoonfuls Royal baking powder, one tablespoonful of lard, two eggs, one and a quarter pints of milk. Sift together flour, sugar, salt and powder, rub in the lard cold; add the beaten eggs and milk. Mix to the consistency of a cake batter. Fill cold muffin rings, well greased, two-thirds full. Bake in a good hot oven twenty minutes.

Few housewives feel that they have done the correct thing when they bring fresh boiled potatoes to the breakfast table, and for some unknown reason they are unwelcome there, but sometimes one miscalculates in regard to the number needed for dinner and breakfast both, and is obliged to boil them for the latter meal. They may be prepared in a way to be enjoyed even then, by draining off all the water in which they were boiled, and then putting in a lump of butter and a little cream; as you stir the butter and cream in cut the potatoes in quarters, and season with pepper and salt. Small potatoes are best cooked in this way.

To have good, wholesome, light buckwheat cakes, you must get the very cleanest and nicest buckwheat—that free from all grit and dirt. Take one-fourth of granulated wheat flour, and one-fourth of oatmeal flour, to three-fourths of buckwheat. Make a batter of these with tepid water and a little salt, using any good, lively yeast. Just before baking, add one spoonful or more, according to the quantity made, of molasses, and a small even spoonful of soda or baking powder. The half of a yellow turnip is an excellent thing. Rub your griddle with, instead of a piece of pork or any other fat; obviating all the disagreeable odour of the griddle.

HOW TO PREPARE A STEAK.—We hear a great deal about "that abomination called fried steak." I will tell you how to make tough steak tender, and how to fry it so that it will be juicy. Do not pound it, either with a rolling-pin, or a potato-masher, or even with that jagged piece of metal or crockery ware which house furnishing dealers will try to delude you into buying. If you do pound it you will only batter its fibres and let out all its juices. Pour into the bottom of a dish three tablespoonfuls each of vinegar and salad oil, sprinkle on them half a saltspoonful of pepper (and a tablespoonful of chopped parsley, if you have it.) Do not use any salt. The action of the oil and vinegar will be to soften and disintegrate the tough fibres of the meat without drawing out its juices. The salt would do that most effectually, and harden the fibres besides. You may add a teaspoonful of chopped onion if you like its flavour. Lay the steak on the oil and vinegar for three hours, turning it over every half-hour, and then sauté, or half-fry it quickly; season it with salt after it is cooked, and serve it with a very little fresh butter, or with the gravy from the frying-pan. If you follow these directions and do not try to improve upon them you can have tender steaks hereafter at will.

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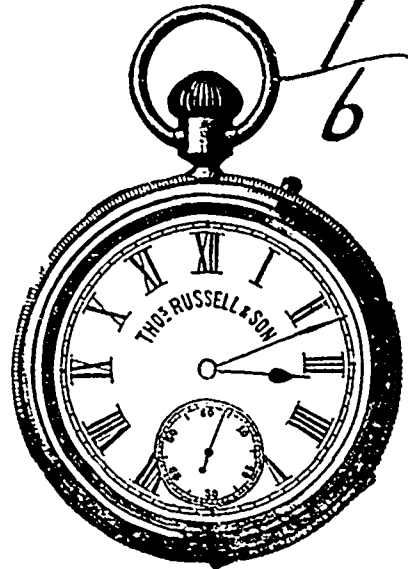
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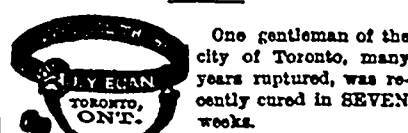
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TORONTO WHOLESALE MARKETS.

OFFICE RURAL CANADIAN,
Toronto, 27th Dec., 1891.

LIVE STOCK.—There is no demand for shipping cattle, and farmers will probably find it more profitable to feed for the spring trade than offer cattle in their present condition. *Sheep* are in small demand and unchanged in price at 4c to 4½c per lb. *Lambs* are steady at \$1 to \$1.50 for the best, and \$3.50 to \$3.75 for ordinary. *Cattle* are for the most part nominal, there being but an occasional one offering, prices from \$6 to \$12. *Hogs* are quiet and easier at 5½c to 5¾c per lb.

PROVISIONS.—*Butter* continues quiet, with little demand except for the finest qualities, which bring 18c to 20c in a jobbing way. The supply held in the country of inferior lots is altogether greater than the demand, and prices are easy at 14c to 17c for boxed lots of medium to good rolls, and 10c to 12 for culls. *Bacon* is very quiet and prices nominal at 10½c for long clear and 9½c for Cumberland cut. *Ham* is also quiet and nominal at 13½c to 14c per lb. *Lard* is offering more freely, and the feeling is somewhat easier at 14½c for Canadian and 15c for American refined.

COUNTRY PRODUCTS.—*Apples.*—There has been little demand this week, and the trade is quieter than dealers expected; choice barrel lots are held at \$3. *Beans* are inactive and unchanged in value; car lots nominal at \$2.40 to \$2.50, and jobbing lots at \$2.60 to \$2.70. *Eggs* are in moderate demand, and fresh lots bring 22c per dozen; packed are lower, at 18c to 20c. *Hops* are offering a little more freely, but prices are maintained; car lots sold yesterday at \$7.55 and \$7.60 laid down here. *Hops* are quiet, with but a restricted sale; stocks are small and holders firm at 23c to 25c for choice and 17c to 20c for mediums. *Onions* are quiet and unchanged at \$2.25 for quantities and \$2.50 to \$2.75 for barrel lots. *Potatoes* are in good demand and higher, with sales of car lots to dealers at 90c per bag; they are being shipped westward. *Poultry* are in fair demand and firmer; fresh killed geese bring 6c to 7c per lb., and turkeys 8c to 9c; chickens are quoted at 35c to 40c per pair.

COARSE GRAINS.—*Barley.*—Prices have continued firm. Sales of No. 1 were made the latter part of last week at 90c and 90½c. No. 2 sold at 85c on Saturday, and a few cars of out-down No. 2 on Tuesday at 83½c. Two cars by sample sold at 76c on track. The market to-day was quiet, with sales of No. 1 at 90c and No. 3 Extra at 80c. Barley to-day unchanged with no sales. The stock in store is 241,331 bushels, against 284,456 bushels last week and 416,835 bushels the corresponding week of 1890. *Oats* are quiet and steady; sales of Western were made the latter part of last week, and yesterday at 43c on track, and a car of light sold on Monday at 42½c. The stock in store is 3,623 bushels, against 4,887 bushels last week and none the corresponding week of 1890. *Fer* are altogether nominal, in absence of offerings; No. 1 are worth about 80c, and No. 2 77c to 78c. The stock in store is 5,964 bushels, against 41,913 bushels the corresponding week of 1890. *Rye* is quiet and unchanged, at 85c for car lots; stock in store 12,030 bushels, against 9,625 bushels the corresponding period of 1890. *Corn* dull and nominal at 78c to 80c.

WHEAT.—Trade has been quiet the past week, and prices show more easiness. Transactions are confined to car lots for local requirements. Shippers do not feel warranted in paying the prices asked by holders, and the consequence is that no large lots change hands. No. 1 Spring sold the latter part of last week at \$1.35, but it would not bring over \$1.33 to-day; No. 2 Spring sold on Saturday at \$1.33 and on Monday at \$1.31 on track. No. 2 Fall brought \$1.23 on Friday, but \$1.25 is now the best bid. Wheat market closed to-day dull and nominal. The stock in store is now 176,355 bushels, against 195,127 bushels last week and 110,871 bushels the corresponding week of last year.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—The trade in Flour is apparently gone. Holders seem to hang on, and ask the prices of two weeks ago. Superior Extra is held at \$5.70 on spot, but it is doubtful whether over \$5.60 would be paid. Extra is nominal, at \$5.50 to \$5.55, and no other grades offer on this market. The stock in store is 3,045 barrels, against 3,475 barrels last week and 5,634 barrels the corresponding week of 1890. *Bran* is steady, with rollers asking \$14 on spot; lots for shipment have been bought outside at equal to \$13.50 here. *Oatmeal* easier, with a sale of a car of choice on Wednesday at \$1.85. *Cornmeal* is dull and nominal at \$3.75 to \$3.80 in car lots; small job lots at \$4 to \$4.10.

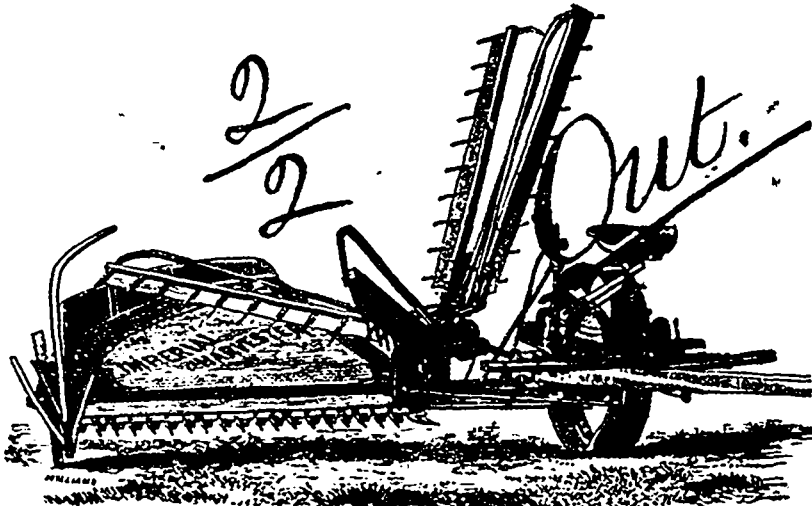
PROCLAMATION!

Whereas we have decided to commence this day a Grand Closing Sale of the whole of our immense stock of Silks, Velvets, Dress Goods, Hosiery, Gloves, Millinery, Mantles, Shawls, Blankets, Trimmings, Cloths, Tweeds and Gents' Furnishings. We will also offer for sale at the same time our large stock of Ready-made Clothing, which is the most complete and best stock of the kind in Canada, being cut and made on the premises by first-class competent workmen, and quite equal to ordered clothing.

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THIS IS NO HUMBUG, BUT A GENUINE CLEARING SALE.

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