











The Poet's Corner.

"Mother's Fool." "It's plain to me," said a farmer's wife, "Those boys will make their mark in life; They never were made to handle a hoe; And at once to college ought to go. There's Fred—his little better'n a fool; But John and Henry must go to school."

"Well, really, wife," quoth Farmer Brown, "As he does his mow of elder down, Than both his brothers do in three. Book learning will never plant one's corn. Nor hoe potatoes, sure's you're born. Nor mend a rod of broken fence. For my part, give me common sense."

But his wife was bound the rooster to rule. And John and Henry were sent to school; While Fred, of course, was left behind. For his mother said he had no mind. Five years at school the students spent. Then into business each one went. John learned to play the flute and fiddle. And parted his hair, of course, in the middle; While his brother looked rather higher than he.

And hung out a sign, "H. E. Brown, M. D." Meanwhile, at home their brother Fred Had taken a notion into his head: But he quietly trimmed his apple trees, And weeded his onions, and planted peas. While, somehow, either by hook or by crook, He managed to read full many a book; Until at last his father said "He was getting 'book learning' into his head 'But for all that,'" said Farmer Brown, "His 'th'ram'—est boy, these is in town."

Now common sense was very rare. And the State House needed a portion there. So the "Family Dunces" moved into town; And the people called him Governor Brown. And his brothers, who went to the city school, Came home to live with Mother's Fool.

Remember though box in the plural makes boxes. The plural of ox should be oxen not axes. And remember though fence the plural is fences. That the plural of goose isn't geese nor geesess; And remember though house in the plural is houses. The plural of mouse should be mice, not mouses. Mice, it is true, in the plural is mice. But the plural of house should be houses, not hices. And foot, it is true, in the plural is feet. But the plural of root should be roots, not root.

The man who is perpetually hesitating which of two things he will do first, will do neither. The man who resolves, but suffers his resolution to be changed by the first counter suggestion of a friend, who fluctuates from opinion to opinion, from plan to plan, and veers like a weathercock, to every point of the compass, with every breath of caprice that blows, can never accomplish anything great or useful. Instead of being progressive in anything, he will be at best stationary, and more probably retrograde in all. It is only the man who first consults wisely, then resolves firmly, and then executes his purpose with inflexible perseverance, undismayed by those difficulties which daunt a weaker spirit, that can advance to eminence in any line. Let us take, by way of illustration, the case of a student. He commences the study of the dead languages; but presently a friend comes, and tells him that he is wasting his time, and that, instead of obsolete words, he had much better employ himself in acquiring new ideas. He changes his plan, and sets to work at mathematics. Then comes another friend, who asks him, with a grave and sapient face, whether he intends to become a professor in a college; because, if he does not he is misemploying his time; and that, for the business of life, common mathematics is quite enough of mathematical science. He throws up his Euclid, and addresses himself to some other study, which, in its turn, is again relinquished on some equally wise suggestion; and thus is life spent in changing his plans. You cannot but perceive the folly of this course; and the worst effect of it is the fixing on your mind a habit of indecision, sufficient of itself to blast the fairest prospects. No take your course wisely, but firmly; and, having taken it, hold upon it with heroic resolution, and the Alps and Pyrenees will sink before you—the whole empire of learning will lie at your feet, while those who set out with you, but stopped to change their plans, are yet employed in the very unprofitable business of changing their plans. Let your motto be perseverance. Practice upon it, and you will be convinced of its value by the distinguished eminence to which it will conduct you.

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Hamburgs and Leghorns.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman says: There are six different species of the Hamburg fowls. Of the Leghorns there are the White and Brown, although there are other species recognized by the poultry fraternity. Of the two Leghorn varieties the latter is more prolific, smaller in body, producing medium eggs of good quality and in remarkable numbers. To say that the Browns are good layers is not sufficient; they are extraordinary. Both are beautiful fowls, and both are valuable. The White Leghorn is nearly as large as the Black Spanish in size, with very clean, snowy plumage when purely bred. They have plump bodies, round, full breasts, with a bold, upright, haughty carriage that at once challenges admiration. They lay large white eggs, quite as large as the Spanish, to which class they belong. They are not quite so prolific as either the Brown variety or Black Spanish, but still are much superior to what are termed common layers. They are shy birds, and cannot be handled to advantage. It is becoming a little difficult to find them in purity.

The Hamburgs are also an old breed. The Black variety has the most popularity and is universally known, although of late it has been superseded by the Spangled sort. A solid, or self-colored fowl is the parent, whatever the color. Union of the two produces the mottling in color. Hamburgs and Leghorns are both termed non-sitters. The Hamburgs lay rather round, medium, white eggs, and are prolific. It is a noteworthy fact that all the non-sitters are rather more delicate than the sitters. The treatment, feeding and care are precisely the same for any variety of continuous layers, difference in size considered. There may however, be one or two exceptions named in regard to the Dorkings and Dominiques. The former are quite delicate, and, although sitters, they are also fine layers, while their large bodies are superior for the table. The Hamburgs are not quite as large as the White Leghorns, but have full, round, plump bodies; rose, double or branching combs, and slate or lead-colored legs. The skin is white, which with some is an objection; still the fineness and sweetness of flesh cannot be impaired thereby, and this quality is especially prominent when served on the table. They are generally quiet, busy fowls about the yard, and when well fed and cared for are ornamental. The Silver-Spangled variety is the most frequently met with, but for some cause they are seldom found in the farming districts. In fact, among farmers, none of our fine continuous laying breeds are found in perfection; and yet none other are, in the long run, so profitable for farmers' use. It can safely be claimed that, one year with another, pure-bred fowls are the most profitable. Mongrels may answer for a short time, but they do not hold out for eggs and flesh like the pure-bred, either in quality, quantity or uniformity.

Good Rules for Cooking Vegetables. A French cook gives the following general rules for the proper cooking of all kinds of vegetables: Green vegetables should be thoroughly washed in cold water and then dropped into water which has been salted and is beginning to boil. There should be a tablespoonful of salt for each two quarts of water. If the water boils long before the vegetables are put in, it has lost all its gas, and the mineral ingredients are deposited on the bottom and the sides of the kettle, so that the water is flat and tasteless, then the vegetables will not look or have a fine flavor. The time for boiling green vegetables depends much upon the age and time they have been gathered. The younger and more freshly gathered, the more quickly they are cooked. Below is a very good time table for cooking vegetables: Potatoes boiled, 30 minutes. Potatoes baked, 45 minutes. Squash boiled, 25 minutes. Green peas boiled, 20 to 40 minutes. Shelled beans boiled, 60 minutes. String beans boiled, one or two hours. Green corn, 30 to 60 minutes. Asparagus, 15 to 30 minutes. Spinach, one or two hours. Tomatoes, canned 30 minutes. Cabbage, 55 minutes to two hours. Cauliflower, one or two hours. Dandelions, two or three hours. Beet greens, one hour. Onions, one or two hours. Beets, one to five hours. Turnips, white, 45 to 60 minutes. Turnips, yellow, one and a half to two hours. Parsnips, one or two hours. Carrots, one or two hours.

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