

FARM AND HOME.

Bench and Tools.

An exchange says that on every farm there should be a shop room, with a work bench and set of tools, suitable for repairing houses and mending all kinds of farm implements. Having them, learn to use them, and permit your boys to use them. If they do destroy a little lumber, or spoil a tool, you are preparing the boys for the business of life. And many jobs can be repaired at home in less time than it would take to go to a mechanic, and frequently much better, and money will be saved. With a few bolts of different lengths, plows, harrows, corn-planter, reaper, or wagon, can frequently be repaired. With a small roll of harness leather, and copper rivets, the harness or halter can be mended. With a soldering iron and a little solder a tin pail or milk pan can be repaired, or a can of fruit be sealed. With a saw and plane, at leisure time in winter, nice ornamental chicken coops can be made, which will not look so much like a nuisance about your premises. With tools, your stable doors can be repaired and fastened with a good wooden latch, and thereby relieve that rail that leans against your door. The same implements will be useful in repairing that gate that is leaning over, hanging by one hinge. Tools are also convenient in making a suitable frame for that nice rose bush your wife has been nursing with so much care, in your front yard. If the farmer had a few tools he could make a new roller for his sled, and thereby have no excuse for neglecting to haul up his summer wood. Farmers should never go to a mechanic to buy a doubletree, neck-yoke, or ox yoke, ax handle, hoe handle, rake or any of the simple wooden implements on the farm. But in order to be thus independent, he must have tools, and learn their use. A bench and set of tools always pay for themselves in one year.

Sheep Eating their Wool.

Instances of sheep eating their wool are quite common, especially during the latter part of winter and the early part of spring. Some have thought the cause resulted from the presence of small parasites—as minute as the red spider of some flowering plants—which produce an irritation, and to allay this, the sheep acquires the habit of biting its own skin, and thereby eating its own wool. It is generally believed, however, that the habit is analogous to that of hens eating their own feathers, and of the abnormal appetite of cows for old bones, woolen rags, etc.; and is caused by an exhaustion of the phosphate in the soil. Old pastures and fields, that have been long cropped, are deficient in these elements, and there is a want of them by the animals. As a preventive, mix a small quantity of bone meal with corn meal, and give them an occasional feed. Sulphur also has been found to be a preventive of the habit, and many farmers keep their stock constantly supplied with it. It no doubt assists in giving a healthy tone to the system.

Hens or Dogs, Which

There is hardly a family which does not throw away enough table scraps to feed at least half a dozen hens; and many that keep a nuisance in the shape of a dog, that does no good, but costs more than a dozen good hens, complain that they cannot afford to keep hens. One dog in the neighborhood is generally a great trouble to the neighbors than a flock of hens would be; for if hens are well fed at home they will rarely go away. But whoever saw a dog that was not a pest, running across the newly made garden and sticking his nose into everything? Kill off the curs and give the food to the hens, and you will find pleasure as well as profit in so doing. We wish there was a tax of \$100 on every dog in the country. Those that are of value as watch dogs should be retained, while the host of snarling, dirty curs should give place to some more useful and less troublesome pet.—*Country Standard*.

A Good Farmer.

One of our best and most accurate farmers informs us, says the *Country Gentleman*, that when a boy, as soon as he had learned book-keeping at school, his father employed him to keep the farm accounts—the cost of labor, amount of work expended on each field, time of performing operations, plowing, sowing, cultivating and harvesting, amount of crops, prices at which sales were made, etc. He soon became much interested in farm operations, and thoroughly acquainted with all the details of work, in a more complete manner than he ever could have been in any other way, and was early placed on the track of farming regularly and systematically. Let other farmers follow this example with their sons, and we should have less

of random, hit-and-miss husbandry, and more of order and success.

Greasing Horses' Feet.

A writer in the *Canadian Farmer* says: I had an excellent opportunity of observing the effect of greasing the feet whilst working in a shop where horses were shod for a large undertaking establishment. The treatment of the horses by the horse-shoer was the same as that of other horses shod at the same shop, but the feet of the funeral horses were greased every time they went out, to make them nice and black; and, as the fruit of this practice, the hoof almost ceased growing. The sole was not hard and glossy, as after paring, but of a dry nature, and in many cases could be crumbled by the fingers.

Food for Chickens.

Thomas Heathwood, a successful breeder of game fowls, gives the following as the proper food for young chickens: One egg, with the shell, beaten into a quart of raw oatmeal, and wet up with new milk. Feed them from four to six times a day, according to age. Lettuce, onion tops, fresh grass, chopped fine, should be given them at least once a day.

A BEAUTIFUL EXPERIMENT.

The following beautiful chemical experiment may be easily performed by a lady to the great astonishment of a circle at her tea party: Take two or three leaves of red cabbage, cut them into small bits, put them into a basin, and pour a pint of boiling water on them; let it stand an hour; then pour it off into a decanter. It will be a fine blue color. Then take four wine glasses; into one put six drops of strong vinegar; into another six drops of solution of soda; into the third a strong solution of alum, and let the fourth remain empty. The glasses may be prepared some time before, and the few drops of colorless liquid that has been placed in them will not be noticed. Fill up the glasses from the decanter, and the liquid poured into the glass containing the acid will become a beautiful red; the glass containing the soda will become a fine green; that poured into the empty one will remain unchanged. By adding a little vinegar to the green it will immediately change to red, and on adding a little solution of soda to the red it will assume a fine green, thus showing the action of acids and alkalies on vegetable blues.

A SHORT ROAD.

To make yourself thoroughly miserable, begin by fancying that no one cares for you, that you are not of use to anybody—a sort of nonentity in the household, where your place would not be missed, but could be very easily supplied. Reflect on your want of beauty, and lead yourself to believe that no one can love a plain face, or think you agreeable because there are others more charming. Fancy that every one who looks upon you makes a mental comparison which militates against you in favor of some one else. Imagine that every word said in jest is only meant to cover a deeper and more painful meaning—that every article of wearing apparel you don on is criticized and ridiculed. Do all this, and your tendency to morbidity of feeling will so increase that in a very short time you will become one of the most miserable of human beings.

ST. PETERSBURG.

St. Petersburg, the splendid modern metropolis of the modern empire of the czars, is the youngest among the great cities of Europe. So late as the beginning of the last century, the ground on which the city now stands was only a vast morass, occupied by a few fishermen's huts. Peter the Great, whose natural inclinations drew him toward the sea, founded the city in 1703, by the erection of a fortress on the site of the present citadel. Seven years afterward the Count Golovkin, to please his imperial master, built the first brick house; and the next year the Emperor, with his own hand, laid the foundation of a house of the same material. From these small beginnings rose the imperial city of St. Petersburg, which is now one of the handsomest in Europe, and contains a population of about eight hundred thousand persons.

The *Fat Contributor's Saturday Night* has been compelled to apologize to the Ohio Senate for an alleged unintentional reflection on the members of that body. The editor wrote, "The Ohio State Senate is proven to be wholly destitute of the sense of humor," and a villainous compositor made it read "destitute of the sense of honor."

A BATTLE CREEK, Mich., letter says there is great excitement there over the course of Mrs. Brinkerhoff, the well-known woman's rights woman, who has left her husband and gone to live with another man named Squires.

THE AFRICAN WAY OF RATIFYING A TREATY.

A shocking story comes from Africa. A treaty having recently been concluded between the King of Bonny and the King of Opobo it was, in accordance with the ancient custom, ratified by sacrificing a slave in a very peculiar manner. From the crown of the head down over the trunk an incision, as if for halving, was made; then several stout men seized hold of the victim, while some others hacked the body into two parts along the line indicated through the incision. One half of the body the representative of King Bonny, and the other half the ambassador of King Opobo flung into the sea, by which the contract was considered irrevocably sealed. King Bonny tried very earnestly to void this useless and cruel part of the ceremony, but the Africans were not to be dissuaded from abandoning a time-honored usage. The victim himself did not appear much disturbed by the fate in store for him. His consolation was that his butchers would be repaid with the same coin in the next world.

THE "MEDICATED TOWEL."

The Patent Office has recently issued papers to a California lady, the invention consisting in rather a novel method of applying medicine externally, for the benefit of a certain class of patients, by means of a specially adapted towel. This towel is used in drying the person after bathing, and, it is claimed, is medicated with such substances and by such a process that it will arrest cutaneous diseases, paralysis, and local affections, while it imparts at the same time a healthful action and glow to the skin, and frees it from bad humors. A towel prepared in the manner specified in the patent will, it is said, retain its medical virtues effectively during two months' use, when the process of medication has to be repeated.

GLASS SPINNING.—After manifold trials, a composition of glass has been discovered which may be made at any time into curled or frizzled yarn. The frizzled threads surpass in fineness not only the finest cotton but even a single cocoon thread, and they appear at the time almost as soft and elastic as silk lint. The woven glass flock wool has recently been used as a substitute for ordinary wool wrappings for patients suffering from gout, and its use for this purpose has been, it is stated, successful. Chemists and apothecaries have found it useful for filtering. The smooth threads are now woven into textile fabrics, which are made into cushions, carpets, table-cloths, shawls, neckties, cuffs, collars and garments.

THE amounts actually realized by the United States in civil suits bear a small proportion to the judgments recovered. Thus in 1871 the judgments amounted to \$3,775,644, while the sum actually going into the treasury was only \$1,306,399, showing a difference of \$2,470,245. In 1872 the balance was less favorable, as out of judgments for \$3,394,163 only \$786,212 were realized; leaving a balance of \$2,607,961. The expenses of the Department of Justice for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, were \$3,076,334, of which \$2,607,961 were paid to the United States Marshals and for court expenses, including the pay of jurors and witnesses. The salaries of the United States District Attorneys and their assistants amounted to \$229,465.

THE President never draws his salary himself, but receives it through the First National Bank of Washington, to which he has given a power of attorney, and the money is always drawn from the Treasury by the cashier, and placed to the credit of the President in the bank. The warrants for the salaries of the President and Vice-President are made out in the Treasury every month, the former, under the new law, receiving \$4,163.63 per month, and the latter, \$833.33. Members of the Cabinet are paid from the rolls of their respective departments, and receipt for the same as all other officers and workmen. The President and Vice-President do not sign any pay-roll.

THE books of the New York steamship offices show 21,300 persons entered for a visit to Europe this summer. Allowing the very small average of \$1,000 a head for traveling expenses, and we arrive at the interesting sum of \$21,500,000 of gold and gold exchange carried out of the country in a summer. No wonder the balance is against us.

WE read that Mr. Clement Bates has run the town bell in Plymouth, Mass., four times a day for forty-two years. This is probably the longest time any man was ever connected with a "ring" and still maintained a good character.

A PRINTER remarks that he has never been able to give a proof of the pudding till it was locked up in the form.

THE LONDON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The immunity of London from great fires has long been a marvel to us Americans, who are accustomed to big conflagrations which, apparently, no human agency could stay. The densely-settled population, the square miles of narrow, crooked streets and closely-wedged houses and shanties, the character and habits of the denizens of these overflowing, poverty-stricken quarters, the unparalleled opportunities, in short, for fire to get a good start, and, getting a good start, to have its own will and way indefinitely, make it a wonderful fact that London has not suffered a great conflagration since that which took place in the reign of Charles II., and is commemorated by the monument which stands on the spot where it began, just by London Bridge. The Londoners do not hesitate to attribute their safety, in the main, to the composition and management of their fire-brigade; and a recent report shows wherein the chief officer of that body thinks the efficiency of his subordinates lies. He says that the brigade's strength consists in its "skilled officers and well-trained and disciplined men, with a full knowledge of the machinery and appliances with which they have to work," the result being "a steadiness and utter absence of even the smallest appearance of excitement." Trial is sometimes made of the fire-brigade by purposely causing an alarm of fire to be raised. The whole telegraphic and steam machinery is set to work; and the brigade, by company after company, comes dashing on to the ground, to find that their chief has been simply testing their good discipline.

DETROIT, Mich., claims to have a family, composed of father, mother and three children, all of whose birthday anniversaries fall on the 15th of April. The East river bridge, in Brooklyn, will require 70,000 tons of masonry in the construction of the towers, and 30,000 tons of masonry, 4,200,000 feet of timber, and 380 tons of iron in sheathing and bolts in the caissons, forming a total weight of 43,000 tons, and a grand total of 113,000 tons in the entire structure. The populations to the square mile in several of the largest cities of the world is as follows: London, 26,000; Paris, 28,000; Pekin, 28,500; New York, 43,000. Pekin has generally been regarded as surpassing all others in the density of its population, but New York exceeds Pekin by 14,500, or more than 30 per cent. to the square mile.

AN attempt is shortly to be made to cross the Pacific, from San Francisco to Japan, in a small sloop, thirty feet long. She is named the *Dolphin*, and will carry a crew of three men, in addition to her captain. The object is to hunt sea otter, which are stated to be very plentiful on the Japanese coast.

A YOUNG man advertised for correspondence with ladies in Cleveland a short time ago. Some fellow answered, and appointed an interview one night on Euclid avenue. One of their number dressed in woman's clothes and met the advertiser, and then another, pretending to be her brother, belabored the romantic youth with a stuffed club, purposely prepared. He ran away crying loudly for the police.

THE transportation of coals to Newcastle, according to the *New York Herald*, is, from being a proverbial expression, in a fair way to become a fact. That paper learns that the Great Eastern, after laying the new Atlantic cable, is to take a cargo from Cow Bay to Europe, on her return trip, of 15,000 tons of coal, and that one of the principal shippers in Cape Breton has contracted to load the monster steamer in fifteen days.

THE New York *World* estimates that there are 125,000 women in that city earning their living in other than domestic employments. Of these, 1,800 are milliners, 12,000 artificial flower makers, 20,000 in the hoop-skirt manufactory, 12,000 in the hatting trade, 9,000 tailoresses, while several thousand work in book-binderies, and large numbers are employed making parasols and umbrellas and in other minor trades.

IT WASN'T HER HUSBAND, AFTER ALL.

A story has gone the rounds of literary gossip about an attached pair of names not unknown to fame, who went to board where people also went, who were literary and of good taste. The lady, thinking that as she and her husband were all in all to each other, it was as well they should remain so, desired of the hostess that there might be no introductions to other boarders, which was observed. Various tender passages between the amiable pair on their way to and from the dining-room edified the family during the season. In time a Boston man came to board, and on his way to the basement at dinner, going down late, he heard a light laugh behind him, and a figure not so light as the laugh sprang on his shoulders and claimed a ride down stairs. The Boston man took things coolly, carried his burden down stairs into the dining-room, and shot her into a vacant seat at the table. The lady looked up to find her husband already there before her, and every eye was turned to watch these extraordinary proceedings. There was nothing to be done but to burst into tears, which she did.—*New York Tribune*.

MAY.

May, with its treasures of birds and flowers, The balmy month of the year— May, with its mingling of sunshine and showers, Glorious May is here!

May, with its velvet-like carpet of green, And its streams unfettered and free, That gaily reflect back the glittering sheen Of moonlight and flower and tree.

May, with its burden of verdure and bloom, And its zephyrs, delicious and soft, bear on their breath the sweet flow'ret's perfume, And the warbler's rich melody waft.

Yes, May, in its glory and beauty again, Smiling and balmy is here; We hail thee, bright May! we rejoice in thy reign Thou beautiful queen of the year!

—*New Orleans Times*.

CURRENT ITEMS.

THE tunnel under the city of Baltimore, built at a cost of \$2,000,000, will be completed in two months.

GOV. HENDRICKS will visit California in a short time, where he has a large interest in an extensive gold mine.

GEORGE ELIOT's husband is said to be the ugliest man in England; and Hans Christian Andersen is reputed to be the homeliest in all Europe.

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