

TWO OPTIMISTS.

In honor to Joseph Jefferson, acknowledging a copy of Helen Keller's essay on "Optimism."

Isn't proper for me to be engaged in conversation with a total stranger?

SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

While in Chicago recently Dr. Lasker, the world's champion chess player, nominally in consultation with two of the weaker players of the Chess and Checker club, of that city, decisively defeated Phillips, the correspondence champion, in consultation with two other players in an exhibition performance.

Phillips and his partners were given the move, and they elected to play a queen's pawn attack. A favorite variation of Phillips was brought about, but Dr. Lasker skillfully stopped it, and obtained a strong counter attack.

She hastily turned the paper the other side up. "Too late. You are Miss Gloriana Govvius. I am delighted to meet you to this informal, unpremeditated way, and become so close an acquaintance in so short a time.

"I don't believe you are trying to separate us!" "Paisied be the hand that would do such a thing! Still," he continued, tugging at the refractory fastening, "I am doing the best I can. Suppose you see if you can't help me."

"Well, my hands are so—so numb from this cold breeze that I shall have to give it up. I suggest that we go into the cabin, seat ourselves in some secluded corner, and—"

"Yes! Yes! Let us go at once!" "But we shall have to move with caution, and you will have to walk exceedingly close to me, in order not to—"

"I see." "There anybody so densely ignorant as not to understand that it was absolutely necessary for Orlando to put his arm protectively around her lovely form as they proceeded cautiously toward the cabin? Think how the boat was pitching!"

"An hour passed away. They were still occupying a double seat in a corner of the cabin. By a joint effort, which took considerable time, they had succeeded in extracting the stickpin, but they seemed to have forgotten it, and were sitting close together—"

"Hand in hand. A jar shook the boat. "Here we are, sweetheart!" whispered the young man, "at old St. Joe!"

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

INCREASING THE CURRANTS Successful Way of Handling the Cuttings So as to Produce New Growth.

I was about to order a couple of hundred currant bushes when, in arranging for the annual spring ridding up of the row I had, I noticed that some branches had got buried and the twigs had taken root, and so I waited a few days. The ground each side was in cabbage in 1903 and in tomatoes last year, and in plowing and cultivating, soil had been thrown upon a branch here and there and resulted in making layers. I finally dug more than 150 plants, and the prospect of developing others so easily this summer led me



PROMISING MODERATE-SIZED BRANCH.

to defer planting more than one row until next year, when I could have plants without paying out money or running the risk of nursery substitution, or delays in shipment.

Our illustration shows a moderate-sized branch about the size of a man's little finger which had seven smaller branches. Six of them got partly covered and became rooted as seen, only I did not sketch in all the many roots, some much larger than shown. My bushes are mostly Victoria, which is of the Red Dutch type, and I believe it would be possible by burying all the branches of a single ten-year-old bush to root 300 or more plants. The plants I dug would grade as first and second one-year plants, and if planted out one year would make such plants as are generally sold at one dollar per dozen. Currants of the Fay or Cherry type grow less spreading than the Red Dutch and fewer layers could be made in a year, but those rooted would be very fine and could be made equal in one year to the average two-year plant grown from cuttings.

To grow currants from cuttings it is best to take cuttings in September, says the Ohio Farmer, bury until spring, and then plant out. Most of them will grow, but this way is much more complicated for a busy farmer than the simple bending down of branches and covering with earth. By the same simple process gooseberries may be multiplied and almost all kinds of roses and flowering bushes, and grapes, of course.

I might add that the land where I am to plant my currants has been heavily manured for Wakefield cabbage, and I shall plant the cabbage to grow in the average two-year distance in rows so that I can put a currant root between every other plant, making the currants four feet. The cabbages will scarcely meet at two feet and then only for a period of about ten days before cutting. The cabbages mature in July, when the stumps may be removed and a thrifty row of currants take their places.

While visiting a friend in Van Wert county I noticed a lot of hexagonal tiles, to the number of 200 or more, in a pile in a corner of the garden. They were of six-inch size and five or six inches long. I found that the tiles had been specially ordered cut to length to the average two-year distance in rows so that I can put a currant root between every other plant, making the currants four feet.

Since the middle of the last century the term "hen fever" has been in use. It originated at the time a great interest in poultry raising was created by the introduction of fancy fowls from Europe and Asia. Ever since that time when a man in the city takes a notion into his head that he can make a fortune out of hens he is said to have the hen fever. There is no ailment that is more catching, and few that prove more costly to a man with a lot of money. We heard recently of a manufacturer that had made a fortune at his business going into the raising of poultry on an immense scale. He had the hen fever so badly that he invested about \$100,000 in extensive works and then failed with his project.

SHEEP WITH DAIRY.

How One Successful Farmer Feels About a Combination of the Two.

I have always been a lover of sheep, and have owned a flock ever since I was 12 years old. Years ago the amount of wool was the object sought for, and when it brought from 75 cents to \$1 per pound the Merinos were strictly in it, shearing from seven to ten pounds per head, and small flocks often reaching 12 pounds; but of later years mutton has been more of an object than wool, and especially lambs, of that reason we look to the large type of coarse woolled breeds. After looking over the different breeds, I saw none that I thought was any better for wool and lambs than the Shropshires. They are excellent mothers, very prolific, and, when fed and cared for, give lots of milk. My flock average about eight pounds of wool per head and I seldom have less than three lambs to turn out for two ewes and often every ewe will have twin lambs. Two years ago all had twin lambs but two, and they had triplets. I lost only one lamb, and that got killed. They are a quiet breed, that is, mine are; are easy to handle for large sheep, and the lambs are always tame. It makes a great difference about sheep being afraid of the one in charge of the flock.

Now, as to the profits of keeping sheep with a dairy, I do not expect all will agree with me, writes a correspondent of the Rural New Yorker. Profits depend on the man and the management to a great extent. My flock average about \$8 per head from wool and lambs. Two years ago they averaged \$11 per head. When we were all making butter instead of selling milk, I made as much butter per cow as those that did not keep sheep around here; our make averaging 300 pounds per cow for the year. For that reason I came to the conclusion that the flock was not a detriment to the pasture for the cows.

The sheep will take care of themselves, for they are up at daylight and feeding. They will pick their living, four weeks earlier in the spring than cows will. If you keep your cows built up, and with a good flow of milk, you can begin to feed them in August, while the sheep will care for themselves until the middle of November. I never house my sheep until about lambing time. They have a shed that is always open for them, and I see that they are in, if a cold storm comes on, but otherwise they are always out in the open. Oats always give me satisfaction when fed to them in the winter. I generally save a load or two of sheaves for the sheep, as they are fond of grinding their own feed. Once in awhile I give a feed of corn, just for a change, and I feed beets as long as they last, then a mess of potatoes once a week.

Since feeding in the above manner and with plenty of outdoor exercise, I have had no weak lambs to bother with. The last of February and first of March suits me for the lambs to begin to come. When they are about two weeks old they begin to eat a little grain. They have all their care to eat until they go out to grass; and they get very tame by being with them so much. When I go to the barn and sit down in about five minutes I have a row of lambs around me.

THE FARM COW. A Very Large Factor in the Butter-Making Industry of the Country.

The real butter maker of the country is the farm cow whose milk never goes to the creamery. This cow is least often heard from, because she is less in the light of public observation than the cow that is producing milk for the creamery. Yet, the total amount of butter made on farms in the United States is far greater than the amount made in creameries.

So our greatest hope still lies in the cow that gives milk for the making of farm butter. The spirit of improvement is abroad and there are multitudes of farms on which good cows are taking the place of poor ones. It is impossible to estimate how great this improvement is. A farmer that has 30 cows said to the correspondent of the Farmers' Review: "My cows made 600 pounds of butter in March, and I think I am doing pretty well, as only 22 of them are giving milk that can be used for butter making. That is about a pound per day of the cows giving milk, and we have the by-products to help swell the profits."

That man's herd six years ago was doing only half as well as the above statement would indicate, but the man has been selling his poorest cows and replacing them with good ones right along. Up to the present time the good farm cow has not been appreciated, and for this reason her price has not been much above that of the poor farm cow. But a change is going on, and the time is not far distant when so many farmers will be looking for profitable cows that the extra milk will bring a fancy price at any time of year.

NEARER THAN NEAREST.

For Meanness the Man Here Mentioned Was Entitled to the Wraith.

Congressman Morrell, of Philadelphia, in a discussion of the Delaware river appropriations, mentioned a mean man, relates the Louisville Courier-Journal. "There are many mean men," he said, "but the man, surely, was the meanest of them all. Besides being mean he was also rich."

"To a poor young couple living near him a son was born, and they decided to name their son after the mean man, and to ask him to stand as its godfather. "He consented. He was flattered. "Thereupon the joy of this poor young couple was great. They wondered what gift the rich godfather would give to his little godson. Perhaps a house and lot? Perhaps a half interest in government bonds? Perhaps a herd of cattle?"

Senator Morrell passed and smiled. "What do you suppose," he said, "the mean man sent the youngster? He sent it, sir, a cup that one of his Cochis China hens had won at a poultry show."

Thought She Couldn't Live. Moravia, N. Y., June 5.—Mr. Benjamin Wilson, a highly respected resident of this place, came very near losing his wife and now that she is cured and restored to good health his gratitude knows no bounds. He says: "My wife has suffered everything with Sugar Diabetes. She has been sick four years. She doctored with two good doctors, but kept growing worse. The doctors said she could not live. She failed from 200 pounds down to 130 pounds. This was her weight when she began to use Dodd's Kidney Pills, and now she weighs 190, is well and feeling stronger every day. "She used to have Rheumatism so bad that it would raise great bumps all over her body and this is all gone, too. "Dodd's Kidney Pills are a God-send to those who suffer as my wife did. They are all that saved her. We can't praise them enough."

"Nothing makes a man feel so downhearted," observed the cigar store philosopher, "as to come home from paying the last coal bill of the winter and find his wife looking over a pile of summer-resort literature."—Chicago Sun.

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MISS MARIA DUCHARME. Every Woman in America is Interested in This Young Girl's Experience.

Reduced Rates to Buffalo, N. Y., Acct. Annual Meeting B. P. O. Elks, July 11th to 13th. The Nickel Plate Road offers low rates with long Limit and Stop-over at Chautauque Lake, N. Y. Full information of Agent, or address J. Y. Cahalan, General Agent, 111 Adams St., Chicago, Ill.

HER WEAKNESS GONE

HOT FLASHES AND BINKING SPELLS CONQUERED AT LAST.

Mrs. Murphy Tells Her Fellow-Sufferers How She Got Rid of Her Troubles by Simple Home Treatment. "I had been bothered for several years," said Mrs. Murphy, "by stomach disorder, and finally I became very weak and nervous. Flashes of heat would pass over me, and I would feel as if I was sinking down. At such times I could not do any household work, but would have to lie down, and afterwards I would have very trying nervous spells. "Didn't you have a doctor?" she was asked. "Yes, I consulted several doctors but my health did not improve. One day a friend asked me why I did not try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. She assured me that they had proved of the greatest benefit in the case of her daughter. In fact, she praised them so enthusiastically that my husband got me a box. "And what was the result?" "Before I had taken half of the first box my condition was greatly improved. The quickness with which they reached and relieved all my troubles was really surprising. After I had used only three boxes I had no more heat-flashes or weak spells. Thanks to them, I have become a well woman."

Mrs. Mary D. Murphy lives at No. 1908 Force street, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, the remedy which she found so satisfactory, furnish directly to the blood the elements that give vigor to every tissue of the body. They can be depended on to revive failing strength, and to banish nervousness. Their tonic properties are absolutely unsurpassed. As soon as there is drag, or dizziness, or pallor, or poor circulation, or disordered digestion, or restlessness, or pains, or irregularities of any kind these famous pills should be used. They have cured the most obstinate cases of anemia, dyspepsia, rheumatism, neuralgia, nervous prostration and even partial paralysis.

If you desire information specially suited to your own case write directly to the Dr. Williams Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y. Every woman should have a copy of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to Women. It will be mailed free to any address on request. Any druggist can supply the pills.

Appropriated It. Her—They say there is only one person in 15 who has perfect eyes. Him (with uncommon fervor)—In 15? There's only one in a million!—Brooklyn Eagle.

Agricultural and Horticultural Colonies on the Kansas City Southern Railway. Locksburg Colony in Sevier County, Arkansas, containing about 30,000 acres, and Loring Colony in Saline Parish, Louisiana, containing about 24,000 acres, are now open for settlement. Lands range in price from \$7.00 to \$15.00 per acre, and are sold on easy terms to actual settlers. Locksburg Colony is well suited for General Farming, stock raising and commercial fruit growing. Loring Colony lies in a splendid fruit and tobacco region, and is good for corn and cotton also. Both are situated in a beautiful country, with a healthy climate and excellent water. Write for books concerning Locksburg and Loring Colonies and "Current Events" Magazine to S. G. Warner, G. P. & T. A., C. K. S. Ry., Kansas City, Mo.; F. E. Roessler, Immigration Agent, C. K. S. Ry., Kansas City, Mo.

Perhaps the man who boasts that he wears no man's collar tells the truth," remarked the Observer of Events and Things; "he may wear a woman's."—Yonkers Statesman.

Judge thyself with the judgment of sincerity, and thou wilt judge others with the judgment of charity.—Mason.

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RAPID FIRE ROMANCE

MERRILY the little steamer bobbed up and down for a stiff easterly wind was blowing across the lake. Most of the passengers had sought the refuge and seclusion of the cabin, and seemed to be engaged despairingly in praying for death. But two still remained on deck.

They were Orlando G. Spoonamore, capitalist and young man of leisure, party of the first part, and a handsome young woman with fluffy brown hair, party of the second part, and they appeared to be sitting side by side.

She was absorbed in a copy of the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Stake, and he was reading the automobile news in a daily paper—when he wasn't glancing at his fair companion out of the corner of his starboard eye.

The wind freshened, and he proceeded to button his light overcoat. But the top button was unaccountably missing. To the best of his recollection it was there when he boarded the boat. The breeze, or something, must have torn it off.

Mechanically he detached the stickpin from his necktie and planned the two flaps securely together. Then he resumed his reading.

And his glancing. Presently, having finished the story, the young woman raised her head, looked around her with sudden surprise, and started to rise.

PROVINCES OF VAST EXTENT

Alberta and Saskatchewan About to Be Organized by the Dominion of Canada.

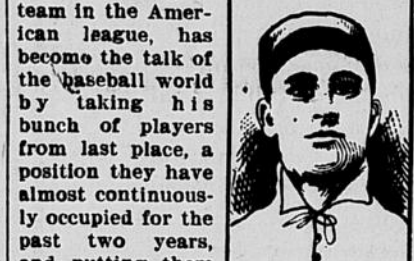
F. A. Lawrence said in a recent speech in the dominion house of commons: "We are informed that each of these provinces will comprise no less an area than 275,000 square miles. The mind of man almost fails to grasp the significance, the vastness, the greatness of the figures. We can only faintly do so by comparison, and I may be permitted to say that each of these provinces will be nearly six times as large as the great state of New York, with its population of 7,250,000; each of them will be five times as great in point of area as the large state of Illinois, with its population of 5,000,000; each will be six times as large as the large state of Pennsylvania, with a population of 6,500,000; each of them will be seven times as large as the state of Indiana, with its population of 2,500,000.

"In point of fact, each of them is larger in area than the states of Massachusetts, New York, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Delaware and New Jersey all combined together. Each of them is twice as large as England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, with their immense population of 42,000,000 people; each of them is much greater than the German empire in Europe, with its population of 55,750,000; each of them is much greater than the republic of France in Europe, with its population of 39,000,000.

"By a simple comparison of that kind we are enabled to realize the immensity of the heritage which we as Canadians have in our great northwest."

"Whoa" Is International. An investigation in philology was undertaken recently by a well-known Kentucky horseman who was on a trip around the world. He bought himself a neat little note book, intending to enter in it the equivalent of the English "whoa" in every country he visited. There was just one entry. He found that the Russian, the Persian, the Turk, the Greek, the Chinese, and the inhabitant of every European country stopped his horse with the same word, "whoa," and that the word was equally intelligible to horses of every nationality.—N. Y. Times.

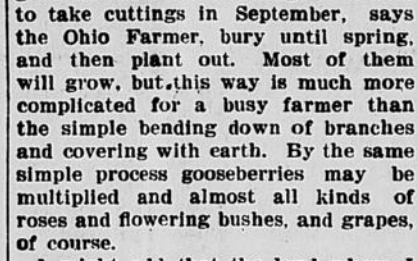
Did He Catch the Hint? "The papers say that a big lobster-trust has been formed recently, Mr. Southgate." "But I can't see how that interests me, Miss Sharp." "Why, I thought perhaps you'd want to come out and say you were not in the trust."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.



Garland Stahl, better known to baseball fans as "Jake" Stahl, manager of the Washington team in the American League, has become the talk of the baseball world by taking his bunch of players from last place, a position they have almost continuously occupied for the past two years, and putting them among the leaders when they are now hailed as a pennant possibility. When Stahl was placed at the head of the Senators by President Johnson, at the beginning of the season, the "wise" ones uttered a soft chuckle, for it was thought that this youth, hardly out of college, could never bring out a winning team, but he has fooled the most pessimistic. Following is a story of how he came within an ace of buying the club last winter and it was only through failure to get into communication with President Johnson, who was in the east at the time, spoiled one of the greatest opportunities for the young player to break into the role of a magnate known in the history of the game. Since the opening of the season the Senators have played to over 50,000 on their home grounds in ten games and to over 80,000 in 12 games on foreign fields, a grand total of 135,000 admissions in 22 games. He and Robert B. McCoy, private secretary to President Johnson, talked the matter over one day while President Johnson was in the east trying to interest capitalists in investing their money in the club. It was a hard proposition, but finally some one took an option on the stock held by the league. Stahl and McCoy determined not to say anything until this option expired. Instead of permitting it to go the parties took it up and bought the stock. That apparently ended the prospect of this pair to break in as magnates, even though each had secured sufficient backing to have gone into the game right. Recently, in talking to President Johnson relative to the success of Stahl as manager of the Senators, McCoy said: "We came pretty near putting one over on you down there that you never heard of." "What was that?" queried the interested president. "Stahl and I got the funds and thought of buying the stock held by the league if that option had expired." "Well, well," said Johnson, "I never thought of that combination. If you had spoken of it to me I could have put you in right, even after that option was taken up. Several of the minority stockholders wanted to sell out, too, and you could have bought their shares for about two dollars apiece. Now the team is going so good you couldn't get them for \$20."

Alfred de Oro, of St. Louis, is once more the pool champion of the world. De Oro defeated Jerome Keough for the title in their 600-ball match for the championship at Buffalo recently. The score at the end was De Oro, 600; Keough, 564.

Conscientious. Wife—If I thought a thing was wicked I'd die before I'd do it. Husband—So would I. Wife—Huh! I think smoking cigars is a wicked waste; an impious delinquent, in fact. Husband—Then you should not to come out and say you were not in the trust."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.



THE HEN FEVER. It Is Costly Malady, But It Does Not Prove That There Is Not Money in Poultry.

Since the middle of the last century the term "hen fever" has been in use. It originated at the time a great interest in poultry raising was created by the introduction of fancy fowls from Europe and Asia. Ever since that time when a man in the city takes a notion into his head that he can make a fortune out of hens he is said to have the hen fever. There is no ailment that is more catching, and few that prove more costly to a man with a lot of money. We heard recently of a manufacturer that had made a fortune at his business going into the raising of poultry on an immense scale. He had the hen fever so badly that he invested about \$100,000 in extensive works and then failed with his project.

On the other hand, the hen fever has started many a man on the road to prosperity. Not all men are plungers, even in the poultry business, says the Farmers' Review. With carefulness, any man can put money into the raising of poultry and get not only his money back, but a good interest on his investment.

This is true most of all on the farm, where all conditions are favorable for making money out of the raising of poultry. The farmer that gets the hen fever is careful in the expenditure of money can build up a little plant that will pay him a larger interest than almost any other thing on the farm. The man who has the hen fever can with their small stock of money make more money by judiciously using it in the raising of poultry.

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