

COUNTRY LIFE AND WORK.

MY COTTAGE HOME.

Homely and humble these my cottage rooms—
No fine upholstery or gilded walls;
No woven threads of Persia's famed looms;
No fair-arched entrance into stately halls.
No marble Cypria, with its frosted veins
All bloodless, wandering over snowy breast;
But one sweet Cupid, touched with richer strains
Of rosy life on lip, and cheek, and crest—
Of golden curls, whose spirals catch the glow
Of every sunbeam; this my kindly boy,
And my one window, wisely made for show—
Of greenest foliage—these insure me joy.

My cottage window, framed with sturdiest vine,
Whose gladness laughs in every lustrous leaf—
Where fashions hang their bells, and pantries shine
Like violet eyes, touched with some childish grief.
Here blooms the rose, and there the spicy pink;
Here lifts the calla, grandly, pure and fair;
And here sit I, to read, or work, or think,
And twine bright flowers in baby's golden hair.

Call me not poor, for wondrous wealth is mine—
The wealth of boundless love and sweet content;
One human blossom, heaven shall make divine,
And God's dear flowers in loving likeness blent.

—Mrs. HARRY DOW.

INTELLECTUAL TRAINING

The idea has generally prevailed in the past, and possibly more by farmers than others, that for the business of farming but little intellectual training was necessary. A willingness to work on in the old routine, that has been transmitted from the practices of the past, was all that could be safely relied on for success. This narrow view, born and kept alive by ignorance only, is a mistaken fallacy of the past, fast dying out, rather than the sentiment of intelligent, present thought. The agriculture of to-day is not based on manual labor alone. The education of the mental faculties, as well as the training of the hand to work skillfully, is recognized as an essential in fitting for the life work of the farm. Upon these, intelligence and labor combined, rest the hope of progress in agriculture. And yet it may be questioned if farmers fully appreciate the value to their children of a home training and education in the work and in the business of the farm. Each year there go out from the farms young men and women to assume the work of managing farms for themselves. Are these young men and women as well educated and trained in the work and business affairs of the farm as they, the sons and daughters of farmers ought, with their opportunities, to be? We fear there is yet too much of indifference in parents in teaching their children the business of farming, not only as a trade, but as a profession. It ought to be kept constantly in view that the training and education needed by the farmer can largely be learned at home, and that the practical knowledge thus gained will be of inestimable value—so much capital with which to begin the business of farming.

EYE IN WHEAT.

Owing to the low price of wheat farmers are becoming less careful to keep it free from rye. The two grains vary little in value by weight, and there are many farmers who think that they produce better crops when grown together than either would separately. It looks slovenly to see wheat and rye growing together; but if rye gets in the farm, more or less will appear in the wheat field every season. Years ago farmers used to cut out the rye just as its tall stalks peered above the wheat; but little of that is done now. This scattering rye does not detract enough from the price to make it worth while to remove it. But rye is much harder than wheat, and in bad seasons will rapidly increase in proportion to the finer grain. It is worth while to get pure seed wheat. This is the only way to prevent rye from coming in.

TEA DRINKING.

Up to the time of Maria Theresa we find the court physician attributing the increase of new diseases to the delibilation of constitution, induced by constant tea drinking. In 1678 its use had become so popular among the wealthy that it was freely indulged in after dinner—a custom much deplored in some quarters, apparently, as Mr. Henry Saville, in a letter to his Uncle Coventry, speaks disparagingly of some friends who have fallen into "the base, unworthy Indian practice" of quaffing "tcha" after dining.

The opponents of the new fashion not only attacked it on the ground of its injurious properties, but railed against tea drinking and tea parties generally as the promoters of many undesirable practices carried on under the seemingly innocent pretext of mild conviviality. Scandal certainly seems to have been a too frequent adjunct of the Chinese drink but it is open to discussion whether the fair ladies of other generations would not have made any assemblage an excuse for gossip.

Perhaps the stimulating properties assigned to tea may have unduly excited the imagination, and encouraged a certain freedom of tongue; though Dr. Johnson, an inveterate tea drinker, while acknowledging it as an incentive to gossip, denies its stimulating effects. "Tea," he says, "neither exhilarates the heart nor stimulates the palate; it is

commonly an entertainment merely nominal, a pretense for assembling to prattle, for interrupting business or diverting idleness. On the other hand the couplet:

Still as their ebbing malice it supplies
Some victim falls, some reputation dies
decidedly favors the opinion set forth above.

FOOD FOR DYSPEPTICS.

In cases of chronic dyspepsia, when there is an accumulation of gases in the stomach and bowels, sugar and starches should be almost entirely excluded from the diet; potatoes, rice, corn, farinaceous puddings, beets, sugar and pastry of all kinds should be avoided, while meats, fish, oysters, eggs and milk should constitute the principal diet. In gout and rheumatism meat diet by increasing the acids prevents the cure. For consumptives starches, sugars, fats and alcohol are recommended.—Medical Reference Manual.

CHILDREN AND SCHOOL.

That the early learning to read is harmful I do not believe. Children taught the alphabet as soon as they were learning to talk distinctly, learn reading as a pastime, and their books add to their means of enjoyment. Their health does not suffer in consequence, and their adolescence is not characterized by any unusual mental or bodily infirmity. I have observed this repeatedly. I learned my letters myself at 3, spelling directly afterward, and began the usual common-school branches at 6. I have yet to have the first illness or impairment of stamina to set down to the account of cramming, excessive study, or any brain-forcing. The trouble, I am convinced, does not lie there, but in other conditions, such as badly ventilated schoolrooms and inattention to the laws of hygiene.—Dr. A. Wilder, in Home Knowledge.

GOOD RULES TO FOLLOW.

Be regular in your habits.
If possible, go to bed at the same hour every night.
Rise in the morning soon after you are awake.
A sponge bath of cold or tepid water should be followed by friction of towel or hand.
Eat plain food.
Begin your morning meal with fruit.
Don't go to work immediately after eating.
Be moderate in the use of all liquids at all seasons.
It is safer to filter and boil drinking water.
Exercise in the open air whenever the weather permits.
In malarious districts walk in the middle of the day.
Keep the feet comfortable and well protected.
Wear woolen clothing the year around.
See that your sleeping rooms and living rooms are well ventilated, and that sewer gas does not enter them.
Brush your teeth twice a day, night and morning.
Don't worry. It interferes with the healthful action of the stomach.
You must have interesting occupation in vigorous old age. Continue to keep the brain active. Rest means rust.—Herald of Health.

SCRAP BOOK.

Hog products have stiffened in price with a declining supply of hogs and a better demand.

Florida claims to have extensive phosphate beds, equaling if not surpassing those of South Carolina.

A New York farmer says he failed to get a crop of turnips until he used unleached ashes to fertilize the ground. Ashes will raise a crop on any kind of land.

Plants growing too thickly together cannot thrive. Some of them are as weeds to the others. Thin them out if too thick, and a larger yield will be the result.

Sweden exports \$4,000,000 worth of butter a year. The government takes an interest in the industry, and has dairy schools where pupils are taught how to make good butter.

By feeding the oats unthreshed, we save the labor of threshing, and also get the straw and grain together in the stomach, getting a better digestion of both than when they are fed separate.

The introduction of labor-saving machinery has disarranged the old methods of farming, and in nothing more than in the changes it has necessitated in the employment of hired help.

Any agricultural society can save money by restricting the number of prizes in each of the classes. Two premiums are enough to offer for anything, as no exhibitor cares for a third or fourth prize.

Waldo F. Brown says in the National Stockman: One mistake which is made by many breeders of Jerseys is to allow them to breed too young, and I think this has done much to reduce their size.

Save all the manure. A quarter of a century ago many Western farmers dumped their manure into rivers, not supposing that manure or fertilizers would ever be required, but the question of fertilizers is now being discussed as well as the best methods of restoring fertility.

LAUGHERS OLIO.

THE BOSS BOOK.

An interesting paper in a current periodical is called "Books That Have Helped Me." Strangely enough, the author does not mention pocket-book.

THE TEXAS HUB.

"Is there much interest taken here in literary matters?" asked a newly arrived stranger of Col. Percy Yerger.

"I should say. Why, sir, Austin is the Athens of Texas."

"Indeed?"

"Well, I should smicker to say so was. Hardly a day passes that some citizen of Austin is not fined for chasing a book agent out of his yard with a shotgun or a coon dog."—Texas Siftings.

JUVENILE THOUGHTFULNESS.

Some boys were playing in an alley off Congress street the other day when a woman came out of her back gate and said:

"Boys, I want you to go away from here with your noise. My husband is very ill."

"Yes'm," replied the leader of the crowd. "Is your husband's life insured?"

"No, sir."

"O, then, you don't want him to die, of course? Come, boys, let's go."

TOLD IN IOWA.

Mary Jenkins, living near Farmington, Iowa, has had a rather remarkable experience. She is about 13 years of age, quite pretty and the picture of health as all English girls are supposed to be. Her parents came to America from Chelsea about eight years ago. Shortly after her arrival in this country, while embroidering her mother's initials on a handkerchief, she inadvertently swallowed the needle, red thread and all, having placed the former in her mouth while she pinned the kerchief to her knee in another position. No especial inconvenience was felt after the needle was swallowed, and after a few months the family almost forgot about the circumstances. Recently, while dressing, she felt something pricking her left arm near the elbow. She examined the place and found the needle sticking through the skin, while her initials were handsomely worked in the red silk at almost the same place.

PARALLEL BARS.

Omaha Drinker—Eh! got two bars now, one on each side of the room. I see.

Head Barkeeper—Yes, trade's mighty lively.

"Well, I'll have to do all my drinking in this place, now. It's just what I've been lookin' for."

"Glad this suits you."

"Just the place. You see, the doctors said I ought to spend some time every day at the parallel bars, and I guess this is the place he meant."

VERY SAD.

Nubbs—Dubbs called me a liar this morning.

Bubbs—Well, what did you do?

N.—I haven't done anything yet.

B.—Well, what are you going to do?

N.—That's just the question. You see I have been up at the lakes for a couple of weeks and while I was there I sent several letters to Dubbs, telling him how many trout I had caught. The party I was with came home this morning and Dubbs had a talk with them, see?

B.—Of course I see? It's a mighty hard case, but under the circumstances I think you had better let the matter drop.

N. (with a deep sigh)—I guess I will have to—Boston Courier.

THE THATS.

Here is the longest correct sentence of "thats" which we have seen: "I assert that that, that that 'that,' that that that person told me contained, implied, has been misunderstood." It is a string of nine "thats" which may be easily "parsed" by a bright pupil.—Journal of Education.

GOOD ADVICE.

"I think," said the minister, who was visiting a parishioner, "that it is easier to coax children than to drive them. Gentle words are more effective than harsh ones."

"I think so, too," said the lady. Then she raised the window and shouted to her boy:

"Johnnie, if you don't come in out of that mud puddle I will break your back."

THE BOY HAD A QUESTION.

"Now, children," said the Sunday-school teacher, who had been impressing upon the minds of her pupils the terrors of future punishment, "if any of you have anything on your minds, any trouble that you would like to ask me about, I will gladly tell you all I can."

There was no response for some time. At length a little fellow on the other end of the bench raised his hand and said:

"Teacher, I've got a question."

"Well, what is it?"

"If you was me, an' had a stubbed toe, would ye tie it up in a rag with arniker onto it or would ye jes let it go?"—Merchant Travellers.

THE BASE BALL CURVE.

The pitcher had a little ball, and it was white as snow, and where the striker thought it was, that ball it wouldn't go. He had a sudden inshoot curve, it had a fearful drop, and when

the striker wholly struck, that ball it didn't stop. "Why does the ball fool strikers so?" the children all did cry. "The pitcher twirls the ball, you know." the teacher did reply:

THE THUNDER HAD NO SHOW.

"Terrible storm that, last evening, George."

"Didn't hear it, old man."

"Didn't hear it? Man alive, it thundered fit to wake the dead!"

"Ha, I thought I saw lightning, but I didn't hear any thunder. An old schoolmate of my wife's is visiting her, and they haven't seen each other for 10 years."

TOOK A HINT FROM THE TEXT.

"Did you go to church yesterday?" inquired the father of his affectionate son yesterday.

"Yes, sir."

"Did you pay close attention to the sermon?"

"Well, no, not exactly. I went to sleep as soon as the text was given out."

"O, that's bad. Sleeping in church is little short of a sin."

"Well, the minister ought to select better texts."

"What was his text?"

"He Giveth His Beloved Sleep." Lincoln Journal.

THE WOMAN DID IT.

"Did you get licked?" inquired one of his matter-of-fact companions the next day.

"Well, yes, I did," admitted the young philosopher, "but I should have got off all right if there had been anything for supper father liked."—Rehoboth Sunday Herald.

A HIGH TRIBUTE.

A Texas gentleman traveling in a Pullman palace car in Pennsylvania happened to say that he was from the Lone Star State.

"Do you live in the western portion of the State?" asked a man opposite.

"I do."

"In Tom Green County?"

"That's my county."

"Live near Carson?"

"That's my town."

"Perhaps you know my brother William Henry Jones?"

"Know him? Gimme your hand, stranger. I helped hang William Henry the night before I left. He was a horse-thief, but a good one."—Texas Siftings.

ENFORCING THE LAW.

"Did you hear the sad news about Jinks?" asked Gus Snobblerly of Charlie Knickerbocker.

"No, what is it?"

"He was drowned while rowing a boat in Central Park."

"Couldn't he swim?"

"That wouldn't have made any difference. Swimming in Central Park is strictly prohibited, and the park police enforce the law, you know. If he had tried to swim he would have been clubbed to death."

AND SHE DIDN'T SAY.

Mrs. Wayup was telling her guests the other evening how she was being persuaded by her husband to have her hair cut short.

"But," she concluded, "I do so hate to part with my hair."

Just then five-year-old demon entered.

"What do you want, Johnnie?"

"Why, Nell is up-stairs, and she wants to know which hair you will wear tonight, for she wants the dark shade if you don't."

ENERGY IN TEXAS.

Texas man—You must not expect the same amount of energy in Texas as you have in Nebraska. Remember that Texas is a very warm climate and people are obliged to move slowly.

Omaha man—I have been there and I have seen Texas men move across a room faster than they ever do in Nebraska.

"Eh! Was there an earthquake going on?"

"No; the crowd had been invited up to drink."

A Wise Man.

A Boston capitalist, who is a leading merchant as well as a large owner of real estate, is noted for the interest he takes in young men in clerical positions. Once a frightened bank cashier waited upon him to say that, by the mistake of one of the clerks, a check of the merchant's had got into the pigeon-hole marked "protested." As Mr. Millions might have heard a rumor that his check had been protested, the bank cashier hastened to explain, and said that he would discharge promptly the young man who made the mistake.

"And why discharge him, sir?" mildly asked Mr. Millions. "Because he put your check in the 'protested' box."

"It is a good many years," said Mr. Millions, as he tilted back in his office chair and, after his fashion, harpooned his blotting-pad with his pen, "since I was a young man, but my memory is that I sometimes made mistakes. If I had been discharged for every mistake I made I should not have made my fortune. The young man whose mistake is pointed out to him and forgiven is the most careful man in the office ever afterward. I think my business relations with your bank are likely to be prolonged if the young man is not discharged." And the young man was not discharged.—Boston Transcript.

Wild Ride of a Female Tramp.

One night last week the crew of a freight-train found that they had picked up one passenger they had not counted on, and whose presence was not suspected until a good many miles had been covered. One of the brakemen thought he saw some one standing on top of the cars at one point, but it was raining and blowing terribly, and he came to the conclusion that his eyes had deceived him. A half an hour after he again saw a figure on the top of the train, and this time went to investigate, but found no one and returned to the cab of the engine to escape the storm. At the first tank where they stop to take water a search was made for tramps, but in vain, and the brakeman concluded that his eyesight must be failing. As the train pulled into Medicine Bow, however, some one in the yards saw a woman sitting on one of the heavy pieces of wood just above the coupler, holding on to the brake-rod that goes up the end of the car to the wheel at the top, and there she was found by the conductor and his crew, half drowned by the rain that had been falling in torrents and chilled nearly to death by the awful wind that had been blowing so hard as to delay the train an hour behind its usual time. The poor creature had got on at one of the small stations west of Laramie and being afraid to ride under the cars on the trucks, had selected a place equally as dangerous, from which she crept out occasionally during the heavier periods of the storm to rest herself, when she was seen by the brakeman. Whenever she thought anyone was coming she returned to her perilous place over the coupler, and in this way managed to get along until she was discovered at the station.

She was a woman of not over 30 years of age and beyond a doubt respectable. She said she was going to Washington Territory and had no other way of getting there, but had always been able to hide in more comfortable and safer quarters until she struck this division. A generous stockman, who heard her story and found that she was stranded and penniless, paid her way to Rawlins, and furnished means to secure her passage and something to eat from there to her destination.—Laramie Boomerang.

How One Wealthy Man Lives.

There is a lodger at one of the up-town hotels, a venerable bachelor, who has occupied a small hall on the top floor for the last twenty years without being absent a night. He is worth between \$10,000,000 and \$12,000,000, chiefly in inherited real estate, and probably never spends a tenth of his princely income, the only extravagance he permits himself being a fine pair of horses, which he drives every afternoon on the road in solitary and melancholy style. He is an encyclopedia of local genealogy and data, and in early life, made a prolonged tour of the globe, and his reminiscences of foreign localities are as extensive as his city reminiscences. He devotes himself to attending to his vast interests and steadily increasing his accumulations. He owns three continuous blocks of unimproved property in the upper part of the city. While living in such an economical manner in one of the cheapest and plainest rooms in the hotel, he owns by inheritance from a bachelor brother a handsome residence on Fifth avenue and a magnificent country seat on Staten Island, which he keeps open with the retinue of servants employed by the late master, but which he enters but once a month to pay the wages. Asked why he never occupied one of these residences, he replied that he felt more at home in his room, and stated that he kept the two places the same as in his brother's lifetime, although the expense is great and needless under the circumstances, out of respect to his brother's memory, as he always took great pride in the estates.—New York Times.

Paupers in England and Wales.

The number of paupers in England and Wales steadily declined during the five weeks ended in April, from 742,957 to 729,098. Indeed, since the fourth week in January, when the number was 783,403, there has been a continuous decline, uninterrupted, save in the third week of March, when there was a slight increase of the preceding week. The number 729,098 represents a proportion of 26.2 in 1,000 in a total estimated population of 27,870,586. This figure is equal to that of the same period in 1884, and slightly larger than that for 1885 (25.9), but is smaller than any year since 1857. In London, with an estimated population of 4,149,533, the number at the end of April was 95,654, the five weeks in April showing a constant decrease. This shows a proportion of 23.1 in 1,000, which is a trifle higher than that of any of the previous three years—for instance, 1885, the lowest known, shows a proportion of 22, and neither 1884 nor 1886 reached 23 in 1,000. Of the total number of paupers, 180,716 were indoor and 648,382 outdoor; while in London the numbers were 56,033 and 39,621 indoor and outdoor, respectively.—London Times.