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## BRIDEGROOMS WHO FAIL.

They Run Away, Hide Themselves or Become Speechless.

Possibly every man about to marry experiences a novel inward flutter when the critical hour arrives and brings the altar into sight, but it is not often that one hears of a prospective husband whose nerve deserts him to the extent that he fights shy of the ceremony at the last moment and allows the bride to leave the church without having changed her name. Hitches of this startling kind do, however, now and then occur. The bridegroom has not the courage to face the public ordeal, and the situation becomes both humorous and dramatic.

A most amusing attack of "nerves" of this order was witnessed by a large crowd at a country church not long since. The bridegroom was late in arriving. When at length he came abreast of the church gates, heated and flurried, the sight of his white-robed life partner in the midst of an imposing party fairly scattered what courage he had chanced for the occasion. He turned and made off across country as fast as his shaking legs would carry him. The crowd and a number of his indignant friends pursuing him, he took refuge up a tree, and no remonstrances would induce him to descend and go through with the ceremony. He paid rather dearly for his cowardice, however, for the bride promptly jilted him and walked to the same church with a bolder man a few months later.

At another church in the neighborhood, a member of people who had fled to see a popular local comic made one who was curiously disappointed. When it came to the turn of the bridegroom to give utterance to his vows, he was found to be tongue-tied by sheer nervousness. The longer they waited for him to recover the worse he became, and finally, white as a ghost, he wheeled about and ran out of the building. As no amount of jeers or encouragement served to induce him to attempt the ordeal a second time, he perforce remained in single misery. Plenty of humorous instances have been recorded where the intended husband, brave enough in his wooing, has found himself unable to stand and be publicly married. One gentleman became so unnerved at sight of the swelling assembly and the preparations that he slipped into the vestry and locked himself in until the registrar lost patience and the ceremony had to be abandoned.

In another case a missing bridegroom was discovered locked in his bedroom at home, and sheer force had to be used by his friends before he could be induced to walk to the church. As it turned out, he was too late. The bride felt herself justified in declining to fulfill her part of the contract with so diffident a partner.

But perhaps as unique an example of what may be termed "altar fright" as any known was one which caused quite a sensation in a midland town some years ago. The circumstances were peculiar enough to bear repetition. A young man, standing at the altar with the future participant of his joys and sorrows, suddenly fainted when asked to declare his willingness to take a wife and had to be carried home in a cab. Later he essayed to enter the lists of matrimony with more success; but, strange to say, his nervousness again reared such a pitch that he swooned at precisely the same part of the proceedings. When on a third occasion the same weakness overcame him as soon as he entered the church, it became evident that his physical courage was not equal to the ordeal. Whether the bride declined to look foolish for a fourth time, or whether the ceremony was subsequently performed in private, did not transpire.

Brides, it is interesting to note, do not appear to suffer from any such backwardness. Their nervousness seems to be of a different order, and it is seldom or never that one hears of a case where the lady has failed to come up to the "line" through mere dread of publicity.—Happy Thoughts.

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The best medicine for children.  
The best medicine for women.  
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## GOOD ROADS; GOOD TIMES.

When the Mud No Longer Enforces Idleness, the Farmer Will Prosper.

At the good roads congress held at Albany last winter General Roy Stone cautioned the wheelmen not to antagonize the farmers if they wished to secure the best results. Among other things he said:

"That good roads will bring prosperity is no idle dream. Through all the panic and depression of the last three years the farmers in the few good roads districts of the country have gone on making money and improving their farms, and they have not troubled themselves much about politics or finances.

It is enforced idleness that makes farmers poor, and the farmer need be idle a day on account of bad weather or wet fields if only his roads are good. On a good road there is always paying work of some kind, and wet weather is just the time to go on the road. The French farmer never loses a good day in his fields, for he can do all his marketing and hauling of fertilizers in rainy times.

What prosperity would burst upon this country if every farmer and farmer's boy not at school, and every farmer and team could earn a full day's wages every day in the year, rain or shine.

When you have convinced your neighbors in the cities, and especially those of them who are candidates for public life, that the interests of the city population demand that they shall come to the relief of the farmers, you can go to the farmers with this assurance of help and ask them to take into careful consideration the practical measures by which this relief can be brought about, and especially the measures for providing state aid and for the use of convict labor. It is only through state and county aid that the cities and villages can help.

## THE TIRE QUESTION.

Road Students Are Unanimous For the Broad Bearing Surface.

In an article in the Indianapolis Journal on "Broad Versus Narrow Tires" a writer expresses strongly for the former. He says in part: "Without one single dissenting voice the students of road economics say that the greatest road destroyer is the narrow tired wagon. It cuts like a knife, and, no matter how carefully the surface is graded and leveled, a rut is bound to follow its use. It finds every soft spot and cuts until a fine reservoir is formed to hold the rains. On the contrary, the wide tire not only keeps gravel but also dirt roads smooth and in good condition. The amount of bearing surface presented to the road prevents any material cutting, but, on the contrary, acts as a roller, smoothing out rough spots and solidifying the smooth ones.

"When the frost is coming out of the ground in the spring, the narrow tire gets in its work of cutting the surface and forming ruts to start the season with, while the wide tire is in itself a roadmaker, smoothing and packing the upheaved surface. The wide tire is also easier on the team. A much heavier load may be hauled with the same power on wide than on narrow tires over any road in the state outside the larger cities. The same is true on the farms in the fields."

## ROAD REFORM LAWS.

The Idea Prevails That the State Should Help Build Main Highways.

So far as improved road laws have taken shape in this country, the French idea is recognized that the state should bear a considerable share of the cost of constructing main roads, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. French rural prosperity can be traced in no small degree to its excellent roads.

The substitution of a solidly built road for a dirt road soon effects a transformation in the region through which it passes, and even the old topography seems to vanish. Improved accessibility tells upon every farm and adds to its value. Time and money, which are usually equivalent, are saved to the farmer and to all whose business it is to communicate with him. Economy is consulted as well as convenience.

Now that the rural inhabitant is expected to bear but a portion of the expense of good roads, his disposition toward the movement is changing. With a few states already engaged in the reform its extension promises to be rapid.

## India Rubber Streets.

India rubber, in spite of its growing scarcity and expensiveness, is meeting with favor as a paving for streets. It was first tried on a bridge in Hanover a little more than a year ago and has proved so satisfactory that experiments with it for ordinary roadways are being made in Berlin and Hamburg. It is said to be perfectly noiseless, unaffected by heat or cold and less slippery and more durable than asphalt.

## Scraps the Roads.

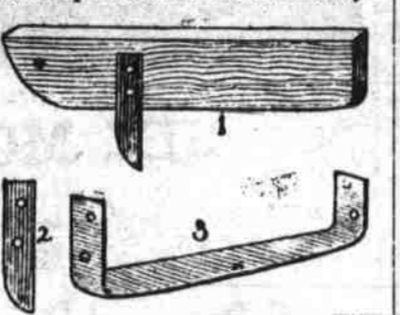
Country supervisors should be advised and instructed to scrape all roads in their respective townships at least three times a year—spring, summer and autumn, particularly the latter time—then roll down hard the surface of road after each scraping by heavy rollers. This will protect the roadbed at all times and give a very little expense just what we want.—Good Roads.

## GOOD SOD CUTTER.

It Cuts Rapidly and the Sod is of Uniform Thickness.

A sod cutter to use with a horse which cuts rapidly and furnishes sod of uniform thickness is a desirable implement. It is within the reach of every man having ordinary ability in the use of tools. A correspondent of Ohio Farmer provides the model. Here is the illustrated description:

To construct this cutter, procure a piece of pine or oak 2 inches thick by 6



MAKING A SOD CUTTER.

inches wide and 7 feet long. Cut in the center and shape one end of each piece like Fig. 1. For the top use a piece of pine 2 inches thick, 14 inches wide and 3 feet long. Spike or fasten the top board firmly to the side pieces or runners as shown in making a sled, as in Fig. 4. It will require two steel cutters about 8 inches long and firm enough to be substantial, like Fig. 2, and a steel cutter (3), the bottom to be flat and about 1 1/2 inches wide, the length of which must be width of sled, but which must be fastened to the sled on an angle so that one knife or cutter which is fastened upright in front will be in advance of the other.

This cutter must be made of good steel, with stout upright ends and well bolted to the sides, so it will project below the bottom of the runners about 2 1/2 inches, or whatever thickness is deemed best to cut the sod. Have it well sharpened across the width. Place the two upright knives, well sharpened, just in advance of the uprights of the knife or cutter, allowing their points to project half an inch below the cutter bar. Fig. 4 shows the cutter complete, with the bottom up. Rings can be put in front and a short chain attached to hitch the horse to.

In cutting, drive straight and stand on the cutter over the knife. It is best to cut a strip crosswise at each end of the strips and remove it, and there will be less trouble to start it each time. Ey



CUTTER COMPLETE, BOTTOM UP.

using a spade that is sharp to follow and cut off the lengths it is easy to get any sized piece that may be desirable to haul. The whole expense of such a cutter ought not exceed \$1, and if well made will last a lifetime.

## A Mistaken Idea.

Many farmers hold to the mistaken notion that fertilizers must be used alone. Every fertilizer manufacturer nowadays, however, is wise enough to advise farmers to utilize every possible source of manure or compost on the farm before buying fertilizers. One great advantage of commercial fertilizers is that they can be used to supplement manures or compost, being positive and quick acting, while the latter are slower and more uncertain. Many a man who ignorantly declines against commercial fertilizers as costly and unprofitable pays two or three times what it is worth for the city stable manure he prizes so highly. The price of that stuff has been too high for years. Many market gardeners about Boston, New York and Philadelphia find that the money they used to pay for city manure will buy several times as much plant food in the higher grade brands of fertilizers, according to The New England Homestead.

## Beekkeeping and Fruit Growing.

In many sections beekkeeping is considered a necessary adjunct of fruit growing, because of the assistance of the bees in fertilizing the blossoms. Some orchardists have learned lessons during the season of bloom, getting the bees by paying the cost of transfer from one to another again and a trifle more. Many New Jersey fruit growers are said to have benefited colonies of bees in their orchards. Don't spray when the blossoms are open if you have bees.

## News and Notes.

A systematic plan planned with reference to the matter is suggested as a general preventive against wire worms.

There are 84 experiment stations in the United States.

Considerable interest is manifested in beet sugar by farmers in many states of the Union.

It is said that the new stock food will keep as well as wheat bran. It is named the new corn product.

Winter wheat is reported winter killed to some extent in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, but its condition is not discouraging in Ohio and is generally promising in Kansas, Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Spring wheat is doing well in Kansas and Iowa is to increase her acreage in this cereal.

The 1897 crop of maple sugar and sirup is a full one except in Ohio and parts of Pennsylvania.

The Farm Journal declares that the time has come when it will pay to breed good horses.

## BREEDS AND CROSSES.

An Acknowledged Authority on Poultry, Eggs and Markets.

In a recent address at the Massachusetts Plowman's farmers' meeting in Boston Mr. Samuel Cushman said concerning breeds and crosses:

"The best breed is the one whose product, quantity considered, best suits your particular market.

"The demand in certain sections for market poultry having very yellow skin and legs is a senseless fad, just as much as breeding for beauty of feather is a fad. People ignorant of what good poultry is think a yellow chicken looks rich and healthy. The fact is that a thin, wasted chicken will look like a healthy one because the color of his skin is yellow, while a white skinned bird must be plump and fat, or it will not pass muster. Unless fat and in good condition the flesh of the latter shows through its more tender and transparent skin and therefore looks blue and unattractive. Certain breeds that have the most juicy, tender and delicious flesh of all fowl have white skin and white or dark legs. In some markets, Philadelphia and New York, a good chicken, one that is soft, tender, plump and fat, is all right, regardless of color of skin or leg. But you must bow to this fad where it exists in order to sell your goods unless you have a private trade and are willing to carry on an educational campaign.

"Brown eggs are preferred in Boston and some other eastern markets, while white ones bring the best price in New York city.

"There is usually no real difference in the quality. The eggs of game fowls, which produce few, are considered the richest, and doubtless are. The eggs from Leghorns, Black Spanish, Minorcas and Hamburgs—breeds that are nest-sitters and most persistent layers—may toward the latter part of the season be less rich and sometimes, pale and watery. This is due, however, to the fact that they have exhausted themselves by excessive laying or have not had sufficiently nutritious food or enough of it. Their early eggs are as rich as any brown eggs. All there is in it is this—the breeds that lay brown eggs are more hardy and stocky. They are not so prolific and do not lay enough to exhaust themselves or when they have insufficient material to produce a good egg.

"If your market calls for yellow poultry, you must not select stock that does not produce chickens having yellow skin and legs. The pinfeathers of the dark plumaged birds are also objectionable. Some dark breeds, when mated with white breeds, produce white or very light chickens. White and buff fowls are to be preferred. If you are to raise brown eggs, you must not keep pure breeds of the nonstaying varieties. You may cross them with the breeds that lay brown eggs and get excellent stock that produce brown eggs. If you are to keep your stock pure, you have from which to choose White and Buff Wyandottes and White Plymouth Rocks, which have no feathers on their legs, and Light Brahmas and Buff Cochins, which do have feathers on their legs. They also make most excellent yellow poultry. If you cross for brown eggs, mate large White Leghorns or Buff Leghorns with Light Brahmas or Buff Cochins rather than with Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks, as the results will be better.

"If you cross for flesh production, mate compact yellow legged games, white or light colored birds preferred, with any of the foregoing, or stocky Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks with the Light Brahmas or Buff Cochins. Both Cornish and Indian games, which are slow growers, Houdans, which are quick growers, have full flesh development, but dark plumage, and may be mated with Light Brahmas and Buff Cochins and Wyandottes with good results.

"The best pure breeds for white eggs, where yellow poultry is a consideration, are White Leghorns (large strain) and White Plymouth Rocks (white egg strain). If you cross for white eggs, try the White Minorca-White Leghorn cross.

"Where dark legs and white skin are not objected to, keep Black Minorcas for large white eggs and Black Langshans, which are hardy, for deep brown eggs. A Black Minorca-Langshan cross is probably the best cross for egg production, if size and number of eggs and hardness upon are considered. Houdans are for flesh. Indian games and Derking cocks may be crossed on Langshans with good results if your market does not require yellow poultry."

**Leghorns For Eggs.**  
For egg nothing will equal a Leghorn, so it would be best to select a White Leghorn cockerel for the yearlings and a White Leghorn cock for the pullets. When the chicks are 2 days old, take a pair of scissors and snip off their wing on one side at the first joint, so as to remove all flight feathers, and they will never bother you by flying and can be kept with a 2 1/2 foot fence. This must be done at night by lamplight, so that the other chicks will not pick at the single drop of blood that forms. By morning these are healed and the chicks as lively as crickets. No bad effect is noticeable, and in the future the Leghorns are no more trouble than any Brahmas.

Leghorns can be put in pens of 15 to 20 hens to one cock, according to the vigor of the cock. The best capons are made from any of the heavy breeds. None of the smaller breeds is worth bothering with.

## The Turkey Trade.

It is estimated that the turkey trade of the United States exceeds \$12,000,000 annually. The greatest of the turkey growing states are Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas. Rhode Island produced but 11,626 turkeys in 1896, but the flavor of the bird raised in that little state is well known to epicureans.



**ROYAL BAKING POWDER**  
Absolutely Pure

Celebrated for its great leavening strength and healthfulness. Assures the food against all forms of adulteration common to the cheap brands. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., New York.

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on any purchase you make of us; provided you present this advertisement. In order to prove to you that we will not take any advantage of you, you may present the advertisement after you have made your purchase.

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Leading Low-Priced Clothiers.  
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SALESMEN:—John W. Crawford, John E. Shaw, Will H. Rees, WILL H. MATTHEWS, Manager.

Calhoun county commissioners let out the work of the county physician to the lowest bidder. A Dr. Lafferty won—he agreeing to do the county practice for \$1.50 per visit and furnish his own medicine.

**Tetter, Salt-Rheum and Eczema.**  
The intense itching and smarting, incident to these diseases, is instantly allayed by applying Chamberlain's Eye and Skin Ointment. Many very bad cases have been permanently cured by it. It is equally efficient for itching piles and a favorite remedy for sore nipples, chapped hands, chilblains, frost bites and chronic sore eyes. 25 cts. per box.

**Dr. Cady's Condition Powders** are just what a horse needs when in bad condition. Tonic, blood purifier and medicine. They are not food, but medicine and the best in use to put a horse in prime condition. Price 25 cents per package.

For sale by T. A. Albright & Co.

Rev. Dr. Peyton H. Hoge has accepted an invitation to preach the annual sermon before the Teachers' Assembly, Sunday, June 27th, at 11 o'clock a. m., in the Teachers' assembly hall at Mordecai City.

Don't neglect a cough because the weather is pleasant; before the next storm rolls around it may develop into a serious difficulty beyond repair. One Minute Cough Cure is easy to take and will do what its name implies. Simmons the Druggist.

The county of Stanly issued \$100,000 in bonds in aid of the Yadkin railway. It now asks the court to declare the bonds null and void and claims that the railway has failed to comply with its contract.

It should be made a matter of public knowledge that DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve will speedily cure piles of the longest standing. It is the household favorite for burns, scalds, cuts, bruises and sores of all kinds. Simmons the Druggist.

It is the purpose of the State superintendent of public instruction to have teachers' institutes held in a number of counties during the next three months. Among those who hold them are Charles D. Melver, J. Y. Joyner and J. J. Claxton.

## Mortgage Sale!

By virtue of the powers given in a mortgage executed by A. Tate and wife to the undersigned on the 1st day of October, 1894, and recorded in Book No. 17 in the office of the Register of Deeds of Alamance county, I will sell at the court house door in Graham, N. C.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 1897,**  
to the highest bidder, for CASH, the land conveyed in said mortgage, to-wit: A tract of 108 acres in Meville township, adjoining the lands of A. V. Craig, Andrew McElhiney, E. Tate, Rufus Motson and others.

The title is good. Possession given as soon as sale is made. This is known as the Armstrong Tate tract of land. Sale at 12 o'clock, 15th day of May, 1897.  
For further information address J. A. Long, Attorney, Graham, N. C.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE!

Letters of administration having been issued to the undersigned, upon the estate of Elizabeth Boyles, dec'd., he hereby notifies all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and all persons holding claims against said estate to present them on or before the 15th day of May, 1897, or this notice will plead in bar of their recovery. This 15th day of May, 1897.  
DR. J. B. THOMPSON, Adm'r.

## Wanted—An Idea

Protect your ideas; they may bring you wealth. Write JOHN WEDDILL, P.O. Box 100, Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., for their \$1,000 prize offer and new list of one thousand inventions wanted.

## TONSorial.

When you want a nice hair-cut or shave, call on me. My shop is at the southeast corner of Court House Square.

ELLIS HARGAVE.

Jacksonville Times: Mr. Robert George, a highly esteemed and successful farmer who resides about a mile from Jacksonville was killed by lightning last Friday afternoon a week. Mr. George came to Jacksonville last Friday, and about 4 p. m. he departed for his home; a storm came up and he sought shelter under a large pine tree which was struck by lightning, killing him instantly.

Sick headache can be quickly and completely overcome by using those famous little pills known as "DeWitt's Little Early Risers." Simmons the Druggist.

The North Carolina medical convention in session at Mordecai City last week elected the following officers: President, Dr. Francis Duff, Newbern; vice-presidents, Dr. C. E. Reister, Charlotte; J. B. H. Knight, Williamson; A. T. Cotten, Morrisville, and F. H. Russell, of Wilmington; secretary, Dr. R. P. Jarratt, Wilmington; treasurer, D. M. P. Peary, Mason, Charlotte was selected as the place of the next meeting.

Not only piles of the very worst kind can be cured by DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve, but eczema, scalds, burns, bruises, boils, ulcers and all other skin troubles can be instantly relieved by the same remedy. Simmons the Druggist.