The Weed's Mission.

Tall grew a weed outside a garden gate,
Inside a gladiole in splendor grew.
'Why do you with the autumn blossoms wait?'
The flower asked. 'There is no need of you.
In truth, I know not why you live at all—
Only a few, pale, yellow blooms you bore
And worthless are your seeds. Pray, droop and fall.
I should not grieve at seeing you no more.
I grace the world, for evening's brightest skies
Are not more rich in gold and red than I,
And every day the ling'ring butterflies
Beg me to stay till they must say 'good-bye.'
'Yes, you are beautiful,' the weed replied,
In patient voice, 'and I am plain, indeed,
But God knows why.' Just then a bird, bright-eyed
And scarlet-beaked, saw the clust'ring seed,
And lighting on a slender branch he ate
With many a little chirp of thankful glee,
Then spread his wings and perched upon the gate
And blessed his wayside friend in melody.
'Ah!' said the weed, when he had flown, 'proud flower,
A hungry, south bound bird you could not feed
Though you rejoice in beauty's gracious dow'r—
That boon was granted to an humble weed.'

FOR THE FARMER'S HOUSEHOLD.

Domestic Hints.

To Kill Bedbugs.—Dissolve ten grains of corrosive sublimate in a half pint of alcohol. Cork the bottle, make a hole in the cork and insert a quill through which to pour the mixture.—Pour into every crack and crevice; it will not only kill, but prevent the bugs from returning. The mixture being poison, should be labeled by a druggist.

Coddled Apples.—Take green apples, put them to boil nearly covered with water; when they are perfectly tender pour away part of the water; mash through a colander, or sieve, if you wish them very smooth; melt a lump of butter in them; add a liberal supply of sugar and flavor with nutmeg; put them on the ice to get very cold, then eat with rich cream.

Dry Bread and Cold Meat Utilized. Chop your beef very fine, and soak the bread in cold water until soft, having two-thirds as much bread as meat, and after pressing out the water through a colander, mix with the mass three eggs well beaten, and salt to the taste; make into balls the size of a biscuit, and fry slowly in butter or lard until brown on both sides. A most excellent dish for breakfast.

Boiled Potatoes.—Steam, peel and slice the potatoes. Lay the slices on a gridiron and place it over a rather slow fire. Have melted butter, and spread some over the slices with a clean camels'-hair brush. As soon as the under part is broiled, turn each slice over and spread butter over the other side. When done, dish, salt and serve them hot. A little butter may be added when dished, according to the taste.

Notes About the Farm.

An old standing ringbone is incurable because the bony deposit has become hard and permanent. In its early stage, when beginning to form, blistering may both cure the disease and cause the deposit, which is soft and immature, to disappear.

Raise plenty of sunflowers. The seeds are excellent for chickens and a valuable medicine for horses. Half a pint of flaxseed or one pint of sunflower seed in a horse's feed, three or four times a week, fall and spring, does much to keep them in good health.

Founder, or fever of the feet, is caused by high feeding and hard work on hard roads; but many horses are predisposed to it by constitution. The usual treatment is to give salts in twelve-ounce doses, once or twice, followed by half-ounce doses of saltpeter, to cool the system; then take off the shoes, put the feet in hot water baths, and give the horse a rest.

Hogs require a moderate quantity of salt; but they cannot use as much as sheep without injury, because of the different character of their intestines; the swine's stomach is small, and is easily affected by acid substances, while the sheep's paunch is large, and a large quantity of salt may be eaten with impunity, as it is largely diluted by the half liquid contents. Half an ounce of salt may be given occasionally to each hog, separately—not when in a bunch—otherwise some will take too much.

Sandy Soils.

Of all soils to be cultivated, or to be restored, none are preferable to the light, sandy soils. By their porousness free access is given to the powerful effects of air; they are naturally in that state to which draining and subsoil plowing are reducing the stiffer lands of England. Manure may as well be thrown into water as on land underlaid by water. Drain this, and no matter if the upper soil be almost quicksand, manure will convert it into fertile, arable land. The thin covering of mold scarcely an inch in thickness, the product of a century, may be imitated and produced in a short time by studying the laws of its formation. It is a well recognized fact that, next to temperature, the water supply is the most important factor in the product of a crop. Poor soils give good crops in seasons of plentiful and well distributed rains, or when skillfully irrigated; but insufficient moisture in a soil is an evil that no supplies of plant food can neutralize.

Sandy soils are rich in mineral constituents, and fail to give good crops in time of drought only on account of their inability to retain moisture. This can be obviated by the application of peat, or clay, or the sowing of clover—all of these enable it to retain moisture in times of drought—and the decay of the vegetable substances in the soil gives off carbonic acid, a powerful solvent of the soil. Peat contains two per cent. of nitrogen, or the same quantity as barn manure; but, as it is dug out, its nitrogen is locked up in insoluble combinations, and, applied to land in this condition, brings in sorrel and coarse grasses; composting it with soda ash to neutralize its acid, renders it soluble and fits it for food for plants at a cost of about two cents a pound for nitrogen.

When to Apply Manure.

The common practice among farmers is to make a general clearing of the yards and barn cellars once a year, either in the spring or fall. Either practice makes a heavy draft upon the teams, and has its disadvantages. If this work is done in the spring, it is when the ground is soft and other work is exceedingly pressing. If the manure is drawn out in the fall and dropped in heaps upon the field to be cultivated next season, there is more or less waste by leaching and by evaporation. There is a growing disposition among our intelligent farmers to apply manure directly to growing crops, or as near the time of planting and sowing as possible. It is felt that the sooner manure is put within reach of the roots of plants, the better for the crops and their owners. Manure is so much capital invested, and bears interest only as it is consumed in the soil.

The barn cellar may be so managed as to manufacture and turn out fertilizers every month in the year, so that the farmer may suit his convenience in applying them to the soil. When manure is not wanted for cultivated crops it is always safe to apply it to the grass crop, either in pastures or upon meadows after mowing. Top-dressing is growing in favor with our intelligent farmers.—Grass pays better than almost any farm crop in the older States, and the spreading of compost saves the necessity of frequent plowing and seeding. By top-dressing at any convenient season of the year, fields may be kept profitably in grass for an indefinite time.

Raising Calves.

After the calf is a couple of weeks old it is well to let it have a bundle of sweet English hay within reach, where it can nibble at leisure. A healthy calf will early learn to eat hay and chew the cud. A box with a little oat meal or wheat bran may also be nailed on the side of the pen, where the calf will soon learn to go and lay when hungry. Old hay is better than grass or rowen, if the milk given is new and rich. If it is all skimmed the other feed may be a little more loosening. But to succeed in the highest degree, one who is raising calves must feed them himself, morning and night, and notice the very first indications of indigestion. There are plenty of signs by which an observing person will know at a glance whether his animals are in perfect health or not. Some farmers give their calves porridge and hay tea, and where milk is scarce this is a good practice, the same caution being used to see that the bowels are kept in a healthy state. Yet, when milk is plenty, we ask nothing better, even though most of the cream is removed. It is quite important that calves be tied in stalls or otherwise while drinking, and for a while afterward, to prevent them from getting into the practice of sucking each other, which is very bad.

The Boers of South Africa.

The Boers, whom the English have acquired by the annexation to their South African colony of Transvaal, can hardly be classed as desirable subjects, apart from their unwillingness to acknowledge the supremacy of Great Britain. Separated from the outer world by hundreds of miles of only partially settled country, they have established a public opinion among themselves which does not accord in many things with that of ordinary civilized communities. One cherished belief is that education beyond the most elementary kind is not desirable, and even the wealthy farmers, who have the means to employ tutors from Holland to instruct their children, are careful to warn these teachers to go no further than reading, writing and the simple rules in arithmetic. Another feature in their lives is their absolute indifference to dirt. Their homes, even those of the well-to-do class, are mere hovels, in which the family, often composed of numerous members, lives in one or, at most, two common rooms, which rarely undergo a cleaning; a somewhat singular fact, in view of the Dutch descent of the Boers. Their attachment to Biblical literature is exceedingly strong, and in almost every household the Bible, and one or two commentaries on it, form the entire family library. Indeed, their readings in Holy Writ have been so constant that it has strongly colored their thoughts and language, and in ordinary conversation their ideas take form in words, very much in the way that those of the old Jewish patriarchs might have taken.—However, the stranger who comes upon the settlement of a Boer, surrounded by his droves and flocks, is not likely to be graciously entertained. Even if a resting place is given him, he is made to feel that he is not deserving of the consideration. No matter how hungry he may be, his wants are not supplied until the time for the family meal arrives, and then not until the household itself has been provided for. Although the Boers live in small scattered communities, church regulations are strictly adhered to, and once a quarter the inhabitants over a wilderness of country gather at some central point to attend communion service. Their religious belief does not, apparently, do much to soften their dispositions, for, according to the reports of investigating commissions appointed by the English government, the Boers have not unfrequently treated the surrounding natives with great brutality; and have, in many instances, captured and made slaves of Kafir boys and girls.

A Natural Barometer.

Ilmakiur is the name given by the Finns to a peculiar stone which is found in Finland and serves the inhabitants for a barometer. It turns black or blackish gray when it is going to rain, but on the approach of fine weather it is covered with white spots. Probably it is a fossil mixed with clay and containing rock-salt, nitre or ammonia, which, according to the greater or less degree of dampness of the atmosphere, attracts it, or otherwise. In the latter case the salt appears, forming the white spots.

Among the Gold Bars.

'A gold coin is worth its value the world over,' said an official at the Philadelphia mint.

'But sovereigns and napoleons do not circulate in this country. What, then, becomes of them after they get here?'

'Come in here,' said the mint official, leading the way into a little strong-walled chamber, without a single window in it, looking much, in the dim light of the gas, like an enlarged edition of a safe. There were hundreds of chunks of smooth, bright yellow metal piled up on half a dozen small trucks. These chunks varied in size. One might be lifted with one hand. Another would require two hands. Others could not be lifted at all.

'There,' said the official, placing one of the latter in the visitor's hands, 'lift that.' It was 'lifted' accordingly. It was a good lift, too. 'There are about $5,000 in that piece,' said the official.—'Move that truck once,' he said, with a sly expression of countenance.

The most vigorous effort that could be mustered up failed to make it budge.—Upon it lay seventy or eighty of those shining chunks of metal.

'There are about $2,000,000 worth of gold in what you see here—yes, over two million. These have been chiefly English sovereigns and French napoleons. They came here from the government assay office in New York, where they are melted up. Exporters receive them, you see, in payment for goods, and send them to brokers, who in turn send them to the assay office, where they get American gold coin for them.'

Further talk showed that the government is accommodating enough to exchange for the foreign money either American coin or gold 'bricks,' or gold in whatever shape the owner of the coin might desire. Of course this has nothing to do with the transactions of the American exporter, who wants what he can make immediately available to the wants of his business—the gold dollar.

All the foreign coin thus received in New York—or at least the bulk of it—goes to the assayer's office there for exchange. Here the clockwork method that characterizes all the government departments steps in.

Not a single foreign coin of all the millions that go there yearly is 'passed' or paid for until its value is ascertained. To do this involves some work. Weight and quality are the things sought.—It is first weighed, then put in a pot and melted. Sometimes the pot absorbs some of it, and then it has to be broken and melted itself. If there is even little as an eighth of an ounce absorbed the pot must be broken and that precious morsel eliminated from it.—After it is melted it is weighed again. Allowance is made for the slight loss it must necessarily sustain in passing through the crucibles, and, with this allowance, it must exactly compare with its original weight as a coin. After its value is thus ascertained the broker, or whoever brought it there, receives its equivalent in American gold, or gold in any other shape he may wish.

Another consideration obtains in the melting up process, and this is to make sure that no counterfeit coin shall be palmed off on the government. Rarely does this occur in the case of gold coin, for the reason that the brokers and others who bring them there are generally expert in detecting counterfeits themselves; but in the silver Mexican dollar it frequently happens; more so probably than in any other coin of that denomination.

Foreign Election Tricks.

Even in imperial Austria, it seems, they are up to electioneering tricks which rival the droliest that are practiced in the freest and easiest parts of our own land. In Galicia the two leading parties are Polish and Ruthenian. At the recent election efforts were made by both sides to secure the success of their candidates, and the two principal hotels on the market-place of Brzezan were filled with electors who had arrived from the country to record their votes.

The Ruthenians, mostly priests of the United Greek church, who occupied one of these hotels, determined to steal a march on their opponents by going to the place where the election was to be held at sunrise, in order to win votes for their side. Accordingly, at 5 o'clock in the morning of the polling day, they called the waiter to brush their clothes and boots. The waiter came and took away the garments, but, although the priests waited nearly an hour, he did not bring them back. They rang and shouted, but in vain, all the people of the hotel seemed to be asleep.

At last the priests began to suspect that a trick was being played upon them. It became evident that they must either allow the election to be completed without taking part in it, or go barefooted and without their nether garments to the voting place. They chose the second course; but here, too, their adversaries were too much for them. Scarcely had they came out of the hotel when a Polish policeman came up and threatened to put them in prison for improper conduct, if they did not return at once to their rooms. There was nothing for it but to go back, and the Poles won the election.

A Mother's Enduring Love.

A touching story of the endurance of human love is that of a mother in a West Virginia village whose son went out one evening, thirty years ago, asking her to have supper ready for him when he should come back.

Whether he was murdered or ran away to sea nobody knows. He has never returned. His mother, now feeble and white-haired, makes ready for him every night, places his chair by the table and waits.

'He will come some day,' she says, 'and then he will see that I never have forgotten him.'

One cannot but hope that the loving patience of the poor waiting heart may yet be rewarded.

Notes for the Ladies.

According to English fashions, trains are now always fastened up at the side when the wearer is dancing.

The new materials for combination costumes have exactly the coloring and designs seen on Japanese bronzes.

The black velvet bonnets have satin antique crowns, and are made very gay with cashmere-colored velvets and silk, and birds of brilliant plumage.

Large gold-headed pins of most quaintly cut designs are chosen for ornament, and also for use, as they serve to hold the bonnet on the head.

Fabrics with flowered stripes will be most in vogue this season. This style and the Oriental designs will be used for the trimming and accessories of the toilette.

The newest ostrich feathers are not merely several shades of one color, but they represent contrasts of color, like the changeable silks, and are especially liked when they are partly red and partly green.

In the infinite variety of materials one of the fabrics which meets with most favor for elegant bonnets is the crackle velvet, especially in old gold and gendarme blue shades, and in combination with cashmere figured ribbons and the new changeable silks.

Ribbon strings are wider, and are very often placed directly at the end of the crown; they may then hang as streamers behind, or be tied under the coiffure, or, better still, be passed under the chin, and tied just below the left ear in a bow made of long loops and ends.

New veils for dressy bonnets are cut in mask shape, mounted below the chin, and ending in tabs behind. They are made of very fine black tulle, on which small figures are embroidered with the smallest and finest jet beads, and a fringe of the same falls below the chin.

Little by Little.

If you are growing little by little every day be content. Are your expenses less than your income, so that, though it be little, you are yet constantly accumulating and growing richer and richer every day? Be content; so far as concerns money, you are doing well.

Are you gaining knowledge every day? Though it be little by little, the aggregate accumulation, where no day is permitted to pass without adding something to the stock, will be surprising to yourself.

Solomon did not become the wisest man in the world in a minute. Little by little—never omitting to learn something even for a single day—always reading, always studying a little between the time of rising in the morning and laying down at night; this is the way to accumulate a full storehouse of knowledge. Finally, are you daily improving in character? Be not discouraged because it is little by little. The best men aiming for short of what they themselves would wish to be. It is something, it is much, if you keep good resolutions better to-day than you did yesterday, better this week than you did last, better this year than you did last year. Strive to be perfect, but do not become downhearted so long as you are approaching nearer and nearer to the high standard at which you aim.

Little by little, fortunes are accumulated, little by little, knowledge is gained; little by little, character and reputation are achieved.

Woman's Never-Failing Love.

The San Antonio *Herald* relates this: On a bed in the pest-house a young man was lying stricken with the exanthematic plague that has lingered so long in this city. There was no suffering in concert to make his pangs endurable; he alone of all the city lay in the hateful house with the yellow flag, the hateful symbol of taboo, flattering out its message of warning, crying to the winds 'Unclean!' taking up the song of the lepers in Judea; but Helen's physician no longer walked the earth. Nevertheless an attribute of Christ remains on earth; there was one that dared the monster in his den and wrestled with him for the prize. Day and night she stood at her post by the lethsome couch, nursing her lover from whom the world had turned shuddering away, still seeing the beautiful through the veil of horror, unchecked by voice, music or flower, alone with her lover and the monster that claimed him; counting time by the creeping shadows, administering the medicine with a tender hand, disputing with death for a life; the bosom of a virgin opened to an arm of bell. The crisis passed and the sick man left the couch; the two went their way, the Moloch with the girl who held him back from death's jaws; no trumpet sounded nor drum beat, but as brave a heart beats in the breast of that girl as nerved Murat or Ney or the heroes of the Alamo, and her noble act deserves the world's applause. But she will never get it because she is a poor Mexican girl; besides she does not want it.

Infection by Post.

It is of little use, says the London *Lancet*, incurring the cost and trouble of large measures for the isolation of contagious diseases, if those lesser precautions which, in fact, make up the sum of safety, are overlooked or disregarded. For example, what particular advantage is likely to ensue from removing the unaffected members of a family in which smallpox or scarlet fever has obtained a footing, if they are daily apprised of the state of affairs in the sick chamber by means of letters elaborated at the bedside, and perhaps carefully wrapped in blotting paper under thin envelope. It is not necessary, remarks the *Lancet*, to make any sensational statement as to the manner in which diseases, of this class at least, are propagated; but if the atmosphere surrounding the patient is taken with germinal particles capable of inoculating a healthy subject, it is obvious that the malady may be transmitted in an envelope with the aid of thick blotting paper, or as is well known, without any such accessory.

FACTS AND FANCIES.

Nature is up to tricks when she waters the milk in cocoanuts.

Every man has his prejudices and every woman her bias.

People pick their teeth and yet they do not all get good ones.

A potato should be judged by its weight and not by its eyes.

A crowded street car affords a man an opportunity to stand up for his rights.

The ladies sing 'in the sweet 'buy' and 'buy,' we will meet in that beautiful store.'—

The gold mines in Arkansas did not pan out well. They are now working lead mines.

A paper advertises for sale a pew which 'commands a view of nearly the whole congregation.'

It is now believed that liquor casks are marked 'XX' because their contents make men walk that way—crosswise.

'Darling, I am growing old,
Silver threads among the gold'—
Sang the wife—but Jack replied,
'Turn your switch the other side.'

'Have you a mother-in-law?' asked a man of a disconsolate-looking person. 'No,' he replied, 'but I've a father in jail.'

'What are the best stories?' 'That depends. When you are telling them the long ones are; when you are listening, the short ones.'

Martin F. Tupper says: 'Where are the pure, the noble and meek;' and the New Orleans *Picayune* says they are all running for office down that way.

The oars of resolution and the sails of discretion are necessary to make headway up the swift, opposing current that every one must face to secure success.

As the western clouds are tinged with gold even after the sun is lost to view, so does the memory of a kind act bring a smile to the face when its author is forgotten.

'Tis true, 'tis pity—pity 'tis, 'tis true,' was written in the porch reason when some fellow purchased fifteen cents' worth of free lones that turned out to be clings.

One of the saddest things about human nature is that a man may guide others in the path of life without walking in it himself; that he may be a pilot and yet a castaway.

A college student, in rendering to his father an account of his term expenses, inserted: 'To charity, thirty dollars.'—His father wrote back: 'I fear charity covers a multitude of sins.'

The philosopher of the Mt. Mathon *Independent* says: 'A man who attempts to do business without advertising might as well set a pan of tea and attempt to skim cream from it in the morning.'

'Somebody's coming when the dew drops fall,' she was softly humming, when the old man remarked, 'An' you bet yer sweet life, Maria, that he'll think a thunder-storm's let loose when he gets here.'

A man may speak of his uncle or his aunt and be understood; but when he talks of his cousin he must explain whether or not the cousin is a man or woman. The English language is a great thing in its way.

They were talking about the approaching theatrical season. She, innocently, 'I believe Mary Anderson has a new play, 'Love?' He, taking unworthy advantage of the uncertain construction of the sentence—'I think she has, dear.' Then she saw it and screamed.

When two couple of young people start out riding in a two-seated carriage, they are as happy as four loving clams until the shades of evening approach, and then the couple in the front seat begin to realize that the crying need of this great, free and majestic country of ours is—a two-seat carriage with the front seat behind.

'I can warrant his eyes,' said the horse dealer, and Mr. Bartholomew bought the horse and found him as blind as a bat. Then when he raised a row about it, the dealer lifted his hand in amazement and solemnly swore that he said he 'could warrant his size.' And Mr. Bartholomew sits up at night to malign the English language.

A Decayed American Industry.

Before the advent of cheap cotton the production and manufacture of flax were important industries in this country. In 1810, when the population of the country was but little more than 7,000,000, there were produced in the United States over 21,000,000 yards of flaxen cloth made in families. At the present time, when the population of the country is believed to be 50,000,000, the total annual production of flax and linen fabrics is probably not over 5,000,000 yards, and not a yard of fine linen is made in the country.

Obeying Literally.

A man who had never seen the inside of a law court until he was recently introduced as a witness in a case pending in one of the courts, on being sworn, took a position with his back to the jury, and began telling his story to the judge. The judge, in a bland and courteous manner, said, 'Address yourself to the jury, sir.' The man made a short pause, but not comprehending what was said to him, forthwith continued his narrative. The judge was then more explicit, and said to him, 'Speak to the jury, sir—the men sitting behind you on the benches.'

Checked in their Advance

By the speedy action of Hostetter's Bitters, dyspepsia, nervous indisposition, constipation and bilious complaints cease to harass the invalid. That they will instantly give ground is not pretended, but no medical fact is more certain, or avouched by more competent testimony, than that these maladies, and others to which it is adapted, entirely succumb to the influence of the medicine, if it be given a fair trial. Their total, if not instant rout, is certain to ensue. Losses of strength are repaired, and failure of appetite and nerve quietude are remedied by the Bitters; and as the stomach grows stronger and assimilation is aided by its action, a gain in flesh will follow. Ladies in delicate health, aged persons and convalescents, derive bodily and mental solace from its use, and experience none of the repugnance which ordinary tonics frequently inspire. The emphatic recommendation of physicians confirms the verdict in its favor.

The Trypograph.

A new instrument for multiplying copies of letters, etc., has been introduced into England under the name of the trypograph. It seems a modification of Edison's electric pen. A sheet of special paper is placed on a perforating tablet, and the writing is done with a firm hand and a steel-pointed stylus.—This has the effect of piercing the paper with a number of very minute perforations, through which it is possible to force ink on to the sheet of paper placed beneath. The making of the stencil is the most important part of the operation. A little practice will show the proper amount of pressure to put upon the stylus and the easiest way of writing; and this once accomplished, it will be understood that the number of copies is limited only by the duration of the stencils, which can be stored away for future use, and brought out as required. No press is needed; all that is wanted is something with a flat surface, the means of holding the stencil firmly, and a squeegee for scraping the ink over the surfaces.

Why suffer with a bad cold if one bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup will cure a Cough of the worst kind. Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup is sold for 25 cents per bottle in every respectable drug store in the United States.

Lady—'And put just a tint of carmine on the cheeks, but not too much, you know.' Photographer—'Exactly, madam; I perfectly understand; about as much as you have on now.'

If you want your Boy to look bright do not tie it to sleep with his mamma when he dies, but use Dr. Bull's Boy's Syrup. 25 cts. a bottle.

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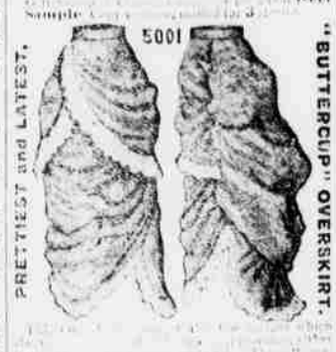

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