

Mowing.

Oh, he lightly swings his gleaming scythe Down in the fragrant clover. And he hums a gay refrain the while As he turns the wire over. And his heart beats time to the old lay— The song of a happy lover.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

The reader is ready to ask, How can I and other planters to know what our soils need to make them produce good crops, you say the analysis of the soil will not tell us? We reply, resort to the plant analysis. Ask your soil a series of questions such as the following: Do you need potash? Do you need ammonia? Do you need phosphoric acid, or do you need any two or all of these? How shall I ask these questions, and how will I interpret the reply? Select a plot of land which will represent fairly your soil, or several such plots, if you have soils differing materially in character and supposed composition. Next get a few pounds of muriate of potash, a few pounds of sulphate of ammonia, and some high grade superphosphate or acid phosphate. If you have a State Department having supervision of fertilizers, you can get those already inspected and analyzed. Ask the chemist of your State College, or your Commissioner of Agriculture, to suggest the quantities of each of these elements to apply per acre, and then apply to one plot, say three rows, sixty feet long, only potash; to three others, only phosphoric acid; to three others, only ammonia; to three others, potash and phosphoric acid; to three others, phosphoric acid and ammonia; and to still another three, all three of these elements, leaving three rows in the center of the plot without the application of any manure whatever. If your soil needs nothing but phosphoric acid, it will say so by giving the largest yield where phosphoric acid is used, whether alone or in combination. If it needs two of the elements, that combination will give the best results. If it needs all three, or the so-called complete manure, that plot on which all were used, will show the best results. If individuals cannot afford to undertake these inquiries, let clubs combine to bear the expense, and impose the investigation of their most careful and accurate observer. If this cannot be done, insist upon your Commissioner of Agriculture selecting careful men in different parts of your State to conduct the inquiry under his direction, he to supply the material, and publish results. If you have a General Assembly with intelligence and statesmanship enough, get them to establish one or more experimental stations in your State with your money which you pay for the support of your government, to be administered by your scientists. If you farmers who read and think and know the needs of the productive industries of your State, will wield the influence you should and can if you will, you can instruct your brethren of the plow best, and teach your servants who make the lives—South Sea Plumber and Farmer.

To give hogs plenty of muscle, let them have all the exercise they will take in a ten-acre lot. Fat, which does not go for as food, comes from abundant food and little or no exercise. Lardy hogs are not generally as popular as they once were. An abundance of corn is not desirable to make lean and well-grown hogs for food. To kill bushes along fences and elsewhere, where not wanted, cut them down often during the growing season. The cutting back then seems to be more effectual than at other times. Nothing makes a farm look worse than to see bushes growing along fences and in other places.

It is said that a single shepherd and his dog will accomplish more in gathering a herd of sheep from a Highland farm than twenty shepherds could do without dogs; and it is a fact that without this docile animal the pastoral life would be a mere blank. Without the shepherd's dog the whole of the mountainous land in Scotland would not be worth a sennet. It would require more hands to manage a stock of sheep, gather them from the hills, force them into houses and drive to market than the profits of the whole stock would be capable of maintaining. Well may the shepherd feel an interest in his dog; he is indeed that earns the family's bread, of which he himself is content with the smallest morsel always grateful and always ready to exert his utmost abilities in his master's interest. Neither hunger, fatigue, or the worst treatment will drive him from his side. He will follow him through fire and water, as the saying is, and through every hardship without murmuring or repining until he literally falls dead at his feet. If one of them is obliged to change masters, it is sometimes long before he will acknowledge the new one, or consent to work for him with the same willingness he did for his former lord; but if he does acknowledge him, he continues attached to him until death, and though naturally proud and high-spirited in so far as relates to his master, these qualities are kept so much in subordination that he has not a will of his own.

PLUCKY GIRLS.

A seaside story—about the Baby and Money Making Lass—killed a Crane. Miss Nellie Reed is the name of a young woman of Georgia who accompanied her uncle to Nag's Head, North Carolina's delightful resort. One afternoon she accepted an invitation from one of her admirers to go sailing on the sea. The day was pleasant and the young folks enjoyed themselves, starting just before sundown to return to the shore. In going about the boom struck the young man a terrific blow on the head and hurled him into the water. Miss Reed instantly seized a boat hook and by hanging over the rail, exercising her utmost strength, she was able to drag her companion's body on board. Her efforts to restore the young man to consciousness were not so successful, however, and it occurred to her that the best thing to do was to sail with all speed for the shore. She had never handled a boat, but she had watched sailors closely, and in a few minutes the craft was scudding along at lively speed. Most persons would have been appalled at such a task, especially as it grew dark and the wind freshened. A steady run of three quarters of an hour brought the boat to its landing, and then the plucky Georgia miss delivered her wounded charge into the hands of his friends. The young man recovered from the blow and the young woman became the admirer of the Nag's Head company. Swaps and Mrs. Swaps are hard on their teens, and yet they have found time to meet, to court, to love, to marry, quarrel and to part. The Swaps live at Mendota, Ill. When they parted the wife carried off the baby. The other day the baby was taken by its mother to the court house, and the father, snatching it from the maternal arms, tried to get to his carriage near by. Mother, mother-in-law and quite a number of women performed a wild war dance around the paternal kidnapper, but the kid was snatched and placed in the hands of a nurse in a neighboring town. Before the child had been in the custody of the nurse twenty-four hours the mother made her appearance, and, before the nurse could offer objections, she caught up the child, skipped out of the house, drove furiously over into the county and arrived safely at her father's house with the little charge. The spunky heroine is now master of the situation. Inasmuch as both husband and wife are of wealthy and respectable families, the affair is causing considerable interest for miles around Mendota.

HUMOROUS.

The young lady who could not make her lungs stay long said she was having a stiff time of it. Josh Billing thinks: It is better to be unknown than to have a pedigree that is too much for us, just so it is better for a peacock to be bolt-tailed than to have one too big to spread. Billing and cooling: "I don't like it at all," exclaimed Frank. "I really feel lowered at your conduct, C. R." And Clara looked at him sweetly through her eyelashes and said: "Oh, I am so glad! I just admire Frankness!" "You must feel lonely since your husband went away," considerably pleased a neighbor to her lady friend. "Not at all," she replied. "It's the first holiday I've had since I was a school-girl!" P. M. Jones: Forgive me to give his seat in the horse car to a young lady last evening, and when she said "Thank you, sir," it so amazed him so that he left right back in his seat again, and didn't have the strength to get out of it until he reached his journey's end. Gilbert Stuart once met a lady in Boston who said to him: "I have just seen your likeness, Mr. Stuart, and I know it because it is so much like you." "And did it kiss you in return?" said he. "No," replied the lady. "Then," said the gallant painter, "it was not like me."

FASHION SPRAYS.

Dress waists with long coat-tails are fashionable in Paris. Shirred gatherings are much used when the fabrics are fine and supple. Laces of all kinds are worn, from point de Venise to imitation edgings. White moire satin is very popular and especially when adorned with flowers of silk, muslin richly embroidered. It is the height of elegance to have the gloves somewhat dark, even with light dresses, medium tan being the favorite shade. Collars designed after the style of an ancient grille are favored. They are carefully worn, forming a pretty throat garniture and shoulder drapery. Silk gauze and embroidered muslin form a stylish combination for full dress evening wear. The garniture should be composed of lace and delicate beaded fringes. The report is, in the world of dress, that feathers will play a rather "loud" part in millinery. Long plumes, with their tips flying thick, will be in demand; some of the tips are shaded through several tones. Cloned plush has been introduced for full dress. This style of goods is very effective and showy. Moleskin plush will be encored next season; no fabric was very popular last winter. It is now stated that plush will be the favorite material for autumn cloaks. Fancy feathers will also figure largely in fall headgear. Tiny chapeaux are very important in the trimming department of the incoming millinery; they are made of impion feathers and cock's plumes.

Bullet-Proof Vests.

In answer to a correspondent's inquiry as to where he could obtain a steel jacket, a New York Star reporter visited gunsmiths' shops to learn whether life-saving apparatus was known to the trade as well as life-destroying appliances. He visited eight first-class shops of this kind, and no one in them had ever heard of such steel jackets made or sold in this country. Some bullet-proof vests, it was said, had been made at one time by a firm in London, which is now out of the business. Such things are made now in Paris, and might be imported.

At two shops, one on Broadway and the other on Maiden lane, it was said that such jackets had been made in America. In the Broadway establishment the proprietor described a vest that had been much used, he said, by officers in the late war. The vests were made to order, and sent to the front. Privates never bought them, because they were expensive. Cavalry officers especially bought them, not only because they were heavy, but also because they kept the body as stiff as though it was in a strait jacket. The tailor's work was simply to make strong pockets on each side that reached to the bottom of his military jacket in front, and well around on each side. Solid plates of steel were slipped into the pockets, and when the jacket was buttoned the plates met in front. They reached from the collar bone to the groin. The steel plate was little more than twice as thick as sheet of blotting paper. The inventor tested these plates by putting them into an old jacket, looking it around a tree, and dring at it with a pistol ball. It was found that a twisting ball from a rifle would go through them as though they were sheets of paper, but a pistol ball, even at close range, would be stopped and the plate indented. A bayonet or knife would make no impression. This bullet-proof vest weighed about five pounds.

By the Madison lane shop it was said by the proprietor that chain-mail vests had been made by his firm, although none were kept in stock, and the proprietor did not seem to be over anxious to receive an order for one. It was more than that it was worth to make them, he said, since inquiries were made for such vests only three or four times in a year. The inquiries always came from the Southwestern States. The vests were made, the proprietor said, in New York by a man in the employ of this firm. The workman's name the proprietor refused to divulge; saying that the man was an artist in this and in other ways, and that it would be for the interest of the firm to make his name public. The skill required to make these vests, continued the proprietor, lay in the necessity of making a garment of steel that would fit the person so that it could be worn under the clothing without attracting attention by its bulging, wrinkles, or bagginess in appearance. The manufacture of such vests is an art in itself, he said, and he had been investigating it for some time. He had been successful in his search, and he had a few vests made for him. He had been successful in his search, and he had a few vests made for him. He had been successful in his search, and he had a few vests made for him.

Miss Jennie Henne is the name of a young woman who has won the admiration of the people of Kansas. Some time ago she secured a tract of land on Ash creek. "To show what an enterprising girl can do," says the Logan Enterprise, we will state that she came to that place several years ago with barely enough means to sustain herself after entering the land. She went to work by the week and the money she earned was invested in improvements on the land until now, at which time she has about thirty acres under cultivation, a comfortable house, well furnished, and other valuable improvements. By her industry and perseverance she has gained the admiration of all who know her. She will soon have a deed to one of the best tracts of land in that country. We take pride in mentioning such instances as this, and thus they will prove a worthy example to some young men we might mention to imitate."

Salt Products.

Among the industries of this country which add to its aggregate wealth and employ its labor not the least is the production of salt. The census bureau in its bulletin No. 245 gives a glance at the magnitude of this industry, which is carried on in fifteen states and territories. Although the oceans which have the long coast line of the United States would produce salt enough for the world, many people will no doubt be surprised to learn that by far the greater part of the salt produced in this country is from subterranean brines raised from wells and evaporated by solar or artificial heat. The total salt product was 29,800,208 bushels, of which 888,958 were produced from sea water, 914,158 from inland lakes or natural deposits, and the remainder, 27,997,192 bushels, which is by far the largest proportion, from natural subterranean brines. Michigan takes the lead, with 12,424,885 bushels, mostly evaporated by artificial heat from subterranean brines; New York follows with 8,718,203 bushels, all from subterranean brines; West Virginia, 2,679,438; and Ohio 2,650,301, and Pennsylvania 871,450 bushels, all from the same source. The salt lakes of Utah furnished 482,800 bushels, while from subterranean brines Virginia produced 427,805, and Nevada 182,103 bushels. California produced 878,003 bushels from sea water by solar evaporation; Louisiana, 312,000 bushels from natural deposits, the principal of which is at Petite Anse, near the coast. Solar evaporation produced 4,831,126 bushels, and artificial evaporation 21,969,172 bushels.

Great is the bicycle.

Great is the bicycle. It has numerous names. One is the "Columbia," named from Columbus who discovered America, and the rider thereof discovers America twice as often as he wants to. Then there is the "Mustang," and you mustang on or you will fall off. A third kind is the "Harvard," and you Harvard work to ride it you may be assured. A cheap one is the "Otto," and a man who got his life insured because he tries to manage it.—Marathon Independent.

A book stolen from a Boston library twenty years ago has just been returned. Conscience wrestled with that thief for a long time, but fetched him at last.

A man ran punch over 200 half-dollars to get silver enough to make sixty cents, and yet some one keeps on punching.

A MODERN MIRACLE.

The most marvelous experience of one of our readers, a young man, is related in the following. It is a description of the circumstances, and the extraordinary results, of a case of recovery from a severe illness. The patient, a young man, was afflicted with a severe illness, and was in a state of extreme weakness. He was unable to move, and his health was rapidly declining. His family was at a loss to know what to do, and they consulted several physicians, but to no avail. He was in a state of extreme weakness, and his health was rapidly declining. His family was at a loss to know what to do, and they consulted several physicians, but to no avail.

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It's a long way from this world to the next.

"It's a long way from this world to the next," said a dying man to a friend who stood at the bedside. "Oh, never mind it, my dear fellow," answered the friend, consoilingly, "you'll have it all down hill."

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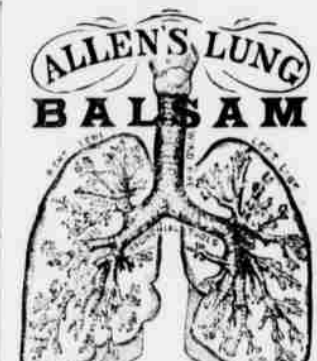
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