FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

A Protection from Rabbits.

A correspondent of the *Gardener's Monthly* says: A few years ago I was greatly annoyed with rabbits barking my young apple trees. To prevent their depredations I made ropes of hay. These I wound around the trunks of the trees from the roots to the first limbs in the fall. I left them on all the following summer, and when I removed them in the fall I found the bark fresh and healthy and free from blotches. I repeated the operation for some years, and in consequence have healthy, vigorous trees, free from fungus and all disease, and yielding an abundance of fruit. The process is not only good for protecting the trees from rabbits, but also to protect the bark from the cold winds of winter and the hot sun in summer.

A Fat Milking Cow.

It is not inconsistent with good milking qualities that a cow should also be fat. When a cow changes a certain quantity of food into milk and butter, and is getting more than this quantity, she will turn it into flesh and fat, and that is no injury to her. If a cow when fresh gives twenty-six quarts of milk a day and consumes twelve or fourteen quarts of bran and middlings daily and on that feed keeps in fair moderate condition, she is using the feed in making milk. But when after nine months the milk falls off to six quarts a day and the same feed is given, the cow cannot fail to get fat. The remedy is to reduce the feed somewhat, although no harm can come of her being moderately fat at such a period. It might be well to take off the middlings and give only the bran, as the middlings make more fat than bran.

Shorthorns.

Putting on one side all the advantages which have accrued to the breeders of shorthorn cattle, by what in America is called the "boom," which has helped the breed along, there is still the fact that when farmers want to rear their stock by hand, and make part of the return in dairy produce, there has not yet been found the equal of the shorthorn for that purpose. Several breeds, under different circumstances, could be made into better beef, but they won't give milk at the same time, and several breeds, under similar circumstances, would give more milk, but they can't be made into good beef, and are consequently useless [illegible] when [illegible] to rear [illegible]. The shorthorn can be [illegible] the pale [illegible], will give a fair amount of good milk, and can be fed easily in stall during winter into a suitable "carcass" of [illegible] beef. Now, I want to know where another breed is to be found that will do likewise, and do it as well.—*[illegible] Stock Journal.*

More Fowls and Less Pork.

It is just as cheap for the farmer to live upon poultry and eggs half of the time as to live continually upon hog and pork. [illegible] fowls than hogs. They rustle for themselves equally as well, and serve as great a purpose in picking up the waste about the farm. They are more palatable as food, are healthier and may be had fresh at all times. This being the case, we hope that the day is near at hand when every farmer's barnyard will be a poultry yard, and when chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese will no longer be regarded as a luxury, but become a staple of the country and adorn the tables of the poor as well as the rich. These birds cannot live on the commons, hide their nests in the stack yards, and roost in the trees, but they are healthy and profitable if rightly managed. Too many regard it an unimportant branch of husbandry, and neglect to give it due consideration. They say that chickens eat their heads off many times in a year, and that it don't pay to bother with them even when eggs are worth fifty cents per dozen and birds fifty cents each. The reason of this is that they do not manage their poultry but let the poultry manage themselves. There is no branch of farming that would pay better if run in the proper manner than poultry. —*South and West.*

Silk Culture.

At the present time much is being said and written in regard to silk culture, and indeed it is high time the subject was agitated in the United States, for if once developed it will furnish lucrative employment at their own homes for thousands of women and children and add largely to national development.

Perhaps a few practical ideas in regard to the relative value of the different kinds of mulberry used for silk culture from one who is engaged in the business will be of interest to some of your many readers. For the Northern States I place at the head the Russian (brought to this country about seven years ago by Russian Mennonites). First, because it is perfectly hardy and will thrive in almost all soils; second, it is a rapid grower; third, it produces large quantities of leaves which furnish silk of the finest quality; fourth it produces the best fruit of all the mulberries and the most of it. It can be grown to the height of forty feet, and from three to five feet in diameter, or can be sheared to any size or shape you like.

There are eleven varieties of the Morus alba or, white mulberry; among them Morus Tartarica, Morus multicaulis, Morus moretta, Morus japonica, English white and others. The only hardy mulberry among these sorts is the Morus Tartarica from Russia, where it has long been used for silk culture and is a favorite. It produces a reddish-white fruit of inferior quality.

For the South there is but little difference in any of the varieties of Morus alba. The Morus multicaulis produces the largest leaves, but the common old English is hard to excel and is planted largely. The following will indicate relative quality of leaves required for one pound of silk: Morus multicaulis 18; English white, 16; Moretta, 14; Tartarica, 13; alba rosea 13; japonica, 12; Russian, 13.

Nearly all silk-producing countries of the old world have their favorite varieties of the mulberry for the production of silk. In China and Japan the multicaulis is said to be the best. France clings fondly to Morus alba rosea. In Italy the Morus moretta leads all others, while the German thinks the Morus nigra has no equal even if it does produce silk of a coarse quantity. Soil and climate have much to do with the different varieties.

Never plant the common American variety, or Morus rubra, nor the paper mulberry, and I would not advise planting Morus nigra. Plant one-year old trees. Avoid cuttings, as they are not sure.

In conclusion, let me say that in Europe and Asia the mulberry is considered the most valuable of all trees, for it produces the most delicious fruit. Its timber is used in the arts and for fuel, the bark and fibres for paper, and the leaves produce the finest of fabric silk.—*G. J. Carpenter, in Prairie Farmer.*

Recipes.

CHEAP CAKE.—Chop a cupful of fat pork very fine, pour on a cupful boiling water, add a cupful molasses, boil together a few moments, then add a teaspoonful soda, also a half-teaspoonful each of cloves, allspice and cinnamon; stir in flour to make a stiff batter, also chalf-cupful currants; bake an hour in a moderate oven.

POTATO CAKE.—Mash cold boiled potatoes with pepper and salt, mix in a very small proportion of flour and a little yeast; mix this into the proper consistency with thin cream or milk, roll out to the thickness of an inch and cut it to the size of the frying-pan; grease this, lay in the cake and cover with a plate; when one side is cooked, turn it over and fry till done.

LANCASHIRE PIE.—Take cold beef or veal, chop and season as for hash; have ready hot mashed potatoes seasoned as if for the table, and put in a shallow baking-dish first a layer of meat, then a layer of potatoes, and so on till the dish is heaping full; smooth over top of potatoes and make little holes, in which place bits of butter; bake until a nice brown.

ORANGE JELLY.—Jelly which does not require any boiling will be a new and popular dish for many housekeepers. Take four large oranges, grate the rind of two of them, use the juice and pulp of the others, and the juice and pulp of two lemons also. Soak half a box of gelatine in half a pint of cold water, sweeten to the taste, put with the juice of the fruit and then add two-thirds of a pint of boiling water. Strain into molds.

Household Hints.

A little borax in the water cleanses ivory and celluloid hair-brushes.

In washing muslins and lawns put a little pulverized borax in the water, and use but little soap.

A tough piece of meat can be made tender by letting it cook for several hours in water at simmering heat.

Kitchen tables may be made as white as snow if washed with hard soap and wood ashes. Floors look best scrubbed with cold water, soap and wood ashes.

Silver should never be washed with soap if you wish it to retain its original lustre. When it requires polishing use a piece of soft leather and whiting, and rub hard.

An excellent polish for zinc or tin is made of three pints of water, one ounce of nitric acid, two ounces of emery, and eight ounces of pumice-stone shaken well together.

To wash lace make a soapsuds of white castile soap and soft water, and, while cold, dip the lace in and put on the stove to boil. Let it remain until the lace looks clean. Do not rub. After boiling sufficiently rinse thoroughly in clear, cold water, and then dry. When perfectly dry, wet it in milk and let it dry again; then dampen and stitch it on a flannel cloth, and put over it a piece of damp flannel. Steam dry with a hot flat-iron, and then pull out.

Tobacco Experience.

Abbé Moigno, a man over 80 years of age, who has been an industrious student and prolific writer, was in the habit of using tobacco both in smoking and snuffing until he was surprised to find himself unable to recall the meaning of foreign words or to remember familiar dates. Therefore, in 1863 he resolved to quit the use of tobacco, and the result was to him almost like being born again. There was a revival not only of memory, but of general health, and a greater capacity for work, and also, he adds, for food.—*Dr. Foot's Monthly.*

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

The hours perish and are laid to our charge.

How white are the fair robes of charity!

That charity comes too late that comes for the asking.

The reward of doing one duty is the power to perform another.

A noble part of every true life is to learn to undo what has been wrongly done.

Envy is a vice, which keeps no holiday, but is always on the wheel working its own disquiet.

It is better to wear a poor vest with a royal heart beneath it than to wear a royal vest and a beggar heart inside.

Men are frequently like tea—the real strength and goodness are not properly drawn out until they have been put in hot water.

We talk about men of genius, but are they more than men of earnest thought and action? Is not genius another word for industry?

The pursuit of success by nations and individuals seems to be the only criterion by which the world distinguishes right from wrong.

Knowledge gained by long experience and used under the direction of prudence, will give access to every corner of fortune's warehouse.

Every person is responsible for all the good within the scope of his abilities, and for no more, and none can tell whose sphere is the largest.

"You Dream too Big for Me."

One day, Sir William Johnson, the Indian agent in the Mohawk country under the colonial government, was unpacking some clothing brought from England. Hendrick, a famous Indian chief, was present, and took a strong fancy for an embroidered coat. He dare not ask for it, but next day he told Johnson a dream. "Last night," said he, "me dream you say, 'Hendrick, you've been good friend, and now I reward you,' and you gave me the gold coat." The white man pondered a moment, and then said, "You are right; the coat is yours." Not long afterward, Johnson told Hendrick he had been dreaming. "And what did my white brother dream?" "That you took me by the hand and said: 'Sir William, you have been my friend, and I will show my love for you. I will give you all the land on the Great river and Canada creek.'" The Indian was amazed; for the tract was nearly [illegible] thousand acres in extent, and very choice land. But he was not to be outdone in generosity, and finally replied, "My pale brother, the land is yours; but, he added, after a long pause, "Sir William, we won't dream any more; you dream too big for me." The old chief's title was confirmed by the British government, and the land was long known as the "royal grant."

A Red-Dust Storm.

A paper published in Iquique, Peru, has the following particulars of a dust storm which occurred at Mollendo toward the end of last August. On the night of the 22d of August a wind partaking of the character of a hurricane was felt at Vitor, La Joya, Cachendo, etc., as far as Mejia. We are informed that it was impossible for people to retain their feet, and the greater part of the telegraph office at Vitor station was blown down. From one o'clock on the morning of the 24th a copious shower of red dust, supposed to have been raised by the wind at Cachendo, commenced to fall at Mollendo, and lasted until three A. M. When day broke the port presented a curious spectacle. The streets, roofs, trees and sea-foam were stained red, just as if some invisible hand had done it during the night.

The Peasant and His Knife.

A Peasant took great pains to sharpen up his Knife in anticipation of an opportunity to strike down a Doe which came every day to drink at a certain spring. As he crept through the Forest the Knife was accidentally thrust into his own leg. Dancing around with the pain, and angered at the sight of blood, the Peasant cried out:

"Base ingrate! You have stabbed me!"

"It is true that you have been stabbed," replied the Knife, "but had you not sharpened me for the purpose of drawing blood this would not have happened."

MORAL.

Lies and scandals sent out of the kitchen may come back through the front door.—*Free Press.*

Good Books.

Good books are shields to young. Temptations are blunted on them, which otherwise would pierce to the quick. A man who draws sufficient pleasure from books is independent of the world for his pleasure. Friends may die; books never are sick and they do not grow old. Riches melt away; books are in no danger of bankruptcy. Our companions have their own errands to execute and their own burdens to bear, and cannot, therefore, be always at hand when we need company. But books need never go out from us. They are not sensitive to our neglect; they are never busy; they do not scold us, and they do welcome us with uniform and genial delight.

An English physician says that a woman who has a great secret and dare not tell it can be made really ill by keeping it.

Habits of Bees and Wasps.

Probably the most careful and interesting investigations of the habits of insects are those conducted by Sir John Lubbock, who has given to the Linnean society, of London, an account of his observations during the past year. To test the hearing of bees he trained some of them to find honey placed on a music box, which was kept going several hours a day for a fortnight on the lawn close to a window. The music box was then taken into the house and set close beside the window, though out of sight. The bees could not find it, though when it had been shown to them they went to it readily enough. As regards the industry of wasps, Sir John tried a bee and a wasp, for each of which he provided a store of honey, and he found that the wasp began earlier in the morning and worked on later in the day. He did not, however, quote this as proving greater industry on the part of the wasp, as it may be that wasps are less sensitive to cold. Moreover, though the bee's proboscis is admirably adapted to extract honey from tubular flowers, when the honey is exposed, as in this case, the wasp appears able to swallow it more rapidly. This particular wasp began work at four in the morning, and went on without any rest or intermission till a quarter of eight in the evening, during which time she visited the store of honey 116 times.

President Van Buren's Ancestry.

During Martin Van Buren's brief mission to England, it is said, he attended one of the soiries of Queen Adelaide; at which in conversation with him, she inquired how far back he could trace his ancestry? "As far back as Kinderhook (the place in New York he was born) may it please your majesty" replied Mr. Van Buren with the grave urbanity characteristic of him. Supposing the name to be that of some distinguished aboriginal chieftain, the fair descendant of a long line of German princes paid still greater deference to her guest.

The World's Stock of Gold.

The *[illegible]* estimates the total stock of gold in the world in use as coin or as [illegible] in one shape or other at about [illegible], of which total England has £126,000,000, France £136,000,000, Germany £80,000,000, and the United States £92,000,000. Other nations come in for shares varying from [illegible] in the case of Holland [illegible] in Spain's.

There are [illegible] ambulances constituting New York's ambulance system. Each one is accompanied by a driver, and surgeon, and by law is given the right of way throughout the city. A [illegible] tells you that one of these [illegible]-arranged vehicles is swiftly hurrying to the scene of an accident. They are summoned from the station-house. In the event of a serious calamity the call for ambulances is sent out without waiting to learn if any [illegible] injured.

A [illegible] bunch of grapes, carefully [illegible] in a glass case, was [illegible] down through Michigan by a peddler, who had for sale sprouts from what he said was a vine of the same variety. The [illegible] was at length discovered to be waxwork.

One of the four silver half-dollars coined by the Confederate States government is in the possession of a gentleman living in Cartersville, Ga. He has been offered on several occasions the [illegible] sum of $500 by numismatic collectors for the coin.

A Boston jeweler was puzzled by the failure of his chronometer clock to keep correct time. An investigation showed that a spider had found entrance to the case and had spun a web, one thread of which was attached to the pendulum, thus shortening its swing.

They have a queer sort of tree in Australia, which stings like a wasp, and [illegible] quite as fatal effect to animals [illegible].

It is estimated that the total wool [illegible] United States this year will [illegible] pounds, worth [illegible].

The Shah's Lesson.

A young French painter was showing the shah of Persia his picture of Herodias bringing in the head of John the Baptist. The shah asked him how many minutes were supposed to have passed since the head was cut off. "Two minutes," said the painter. The shah then told him that the lips ought to be wide open and of an ashy white. As the artist was unwilling to be convinced, the shah clapped his hands and a slave appearing, drew his sword, and with one tremendous sweep, severed his head from his body. He then pulled out his watch and two minutes after stooped down, picked up the bleeding head, and, walking to the picture, held the real head by the side of the painted one, and said to the Frenchman: "Monsieur, you can see for yourself that the lips ought to be ashy white and wide apart, and you will learn to believe the shah in future." Then he tossed away the head and calmly walked out, leaving the painter more dead than alive to take himself and his unfortunate picture back to his own apartments. The shock was so severe to the painter's nerves that he became hysterical and remained so for months, unable to do any work. The shah conferred decorations and titles upon him, which cost nothing, and, giving him just enough money to take him home, allowed him to leave Persia, and he now occupies a studio in the Palais Royal in Paris.

Considerate.

Probably the politest and most considerate man who ever lived was General Bradsbale, of Arkansas. Some time ago, boarding a train, he perceived his son, whom he had not seen for twenty years, occupying a seat, reading. The old gentleman sat down immediately behind the young man. After the train had gone about thirty miles, the young man laid aside his newspaper, and discovered his father, seized the old man with affectionate warmth. "Why didn't you let me know that you was on the train, father?"

"Because," replied the old gentleman, "I saw that you were reading and I did not wish to disturb—"

"That would have made no difference."

"And besides," continued the father, "I thought that you might want to borrow a few dollars.—*Arkansas Traveler.*

Frazer Axle Grease

One greasing lasts two weeks; all others two or three days. Do not be imposed upon by the humbug stuffs offered. Ask your dealer for Frazer's, with label on. It saves your horse labor, and you too. It received first medal at the Centennial and Paris expositions. Sold everywhere.

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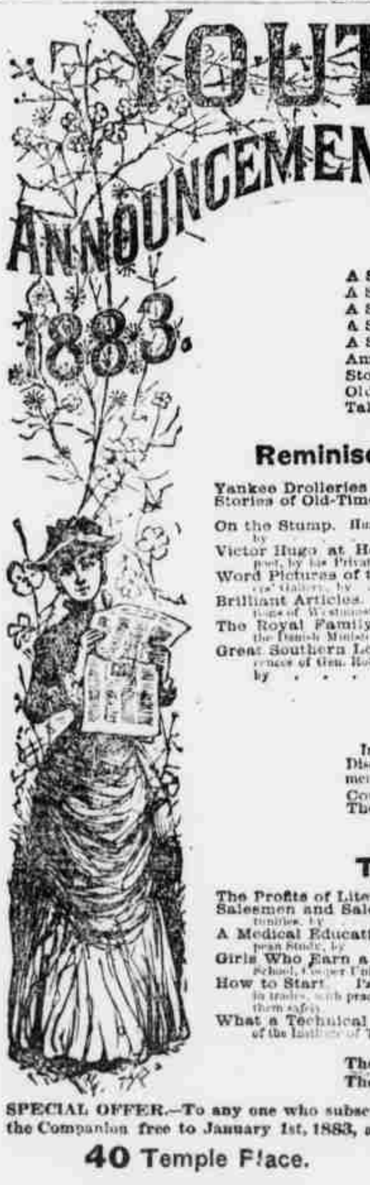
YOUTH'S COMPANION

ANNOUNCEMENT, 1883.



A REFERENCE to the contributors announced below will show that nearly all of the most distinguished and popular authors of this country, and many of those of Great Britain, have been engaged as contributors to the COMPANION for the year 1883. The Announcement will be found in many respects, we think, an extraordinary one; but it includes only a part of the features of the volume for the coming year.

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A Serial Story of Boy Life in Great Britain, by . . . . William Black.
A Serial Story of New England Life, by . . . . Harriet Beecher Stowe.
A Serial Story for Girls, by . . . . Harriet Prescott Spofford.
A Serial Story of Southern Life, by . . . . Marie B. Williams.
Amusing College Stories, by . . . . Henry A. Gordon.
Stories of Old-Time Poor-Houses, by . . . . J. D. Chaplin.
Old New England Peddlers' Tales, by . . . . Wm. A. King.
Tales of the Old Dutch Farmers of New York, by . . . . Eugene M. Prince.

Reminiscences and Anecdotes. (Illustrated.)

Yankee Drolleries at Old-Time Fairs and Shows, by . James Parton.
Stories of Old-Time Quack Doctors and their Remedies, by Edgar Knowles.
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Victor Hugo at Home. A chatty description of the home life of the great poet, by his Private Secretary, Richard Lesclide.
Word Pictures of the House of Commons. As seen from the Reporters' Gallery, by H. W. Lucy.
Brilliant Articles. Reminiscences of Dean Stanley and Picturesque Associations of Westminster Abbey, by Canon F. W. Farrar.
The Royal Family of Denmark. Articles of Personal Anecdote by the Danish Minister at Washington, Hon. Carl Bille.
Great Southern Leaders. A series of articles containing personal reminiscences of Gen. Robert E. Lee, "Stonewall" Jackson, John C. Calhoun, etc., by . . . . Hon. Alexander H. Stephens.

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Tales of Old Ships and Sailors, by . . . Capt. F. Luce.
Old Times on the Missouri, by . . . A Missourian.
After the Mindanao Pirates in a Dutch Gun-Boat, by Lieut. P. F. Grinnell.
Adventures in a Whaling Cruise in the North Pacific, by Macomber Brett.
The Fiftieth Tiger. A narrative of Adventure by the Special Correspondent of the London Telegraph, . . . Phil. Robinson.
Child Life and Home Life in Japan. Curious Pictures and Domestic Incidents, by a traveller in that country, . Prof. E. S. Morse.
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