

## FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

### Heavy Farm Tools.

As a general thing, says a sensible writer, all of our farm tools are too heavy. Generally speaking, the farm wagon that will bear up under a ton weight with ease is plenty heavy enough for all practical purposes to which a farm wagon should be put. If you want to haul two tons it is far better and cheaper in the end to make two loads of it. The saving in horse flesh and feed will, in a few years, amount to enough to buy a new one and have something left for profit. If you are about ordering a new wagon have it made light and of the best material and you will never regret it.

**The Peanut.**  
The ground-nut is becoming one of the important staple productions of the soil. A late number of the *Gardener's Chronicle* gives an interesting account of it. On the west coast of tropical Africa, north of the Congo river, it is the principal crop, and many thousand tons are sent to Europe from that part of the world annually, chiefly to France. A very large and crowded population is supported mainly by this prolific and nutritive plant. After burning off the grass and weeds, the African women dig the ground superficially with little hoes, drop the seeds in October and November, and begin to use the green nuts in April. They are said to be really delicious then, roasted in their husks, and they are mashed between stones for use in soups. In July and August the nuts are thoroughly ripe, and are gathered for storage and sale. The natives used to separate the valuable oil for export by squeezing the powdered seeds in hot water with the hands, but as it is very easily expressed cold by machinery, and at enormous quantities are now called for, the primitive African process is left far behind. Great quantities are produced in India, and the price of the raw nuts has declined from \$100 per ton to \$70. The oil is used as olive oil, which it much resembles in flavor, sweet-scent and limpidity, and it is now a principal ingredient in toilet soaps, creams, etc. The residual cake is a valuable cattle food. The nuts are not so much in favor with English youth as they have become with Americans. They are eaten there, by the children, "Monkey nuts." The *Clouds* says that in America a sweetmeat is prepared from them by pickling them and treating them with sugar; they are also boiled into a pulp and fit for use as coffee, and rosted as a substitute for coffee. Nothing is said, at all, about the short and simple process of consumption which leaves our hulls after an evening performance.

### Cards of Arms & Sals.

New York has a "College of Heraldry," which does a good business in supplying coats of arms to people desirous of creating the impression that they are descended from aristocratic ancestors. A New York correspondent says of this growing practice: "I am afraid of an outsider who knows the college of heraldry well, and he told me of the modus operandi. The clerks (or professors) of this college can tell any man all about the past glories of his family. They can discover people's forefathers in no time. The Norman and the Saxon kings, and the Welsh nobility and the Scottish lords—everything is at their finger ends. Their acquisitions are wonderful—in factures, the dexter and sinister chiefs, tress and nombril, bends, chevrons, saltires, nebuly, rugule, and dancette and gules of every color. It is noticeable that the people who talk most about their family and high birth and lofty breeding are those who have inherited their money from industrial fathers, and are ashamed to have it known that their ancestors worked. A coat of arms is supposed to say to the world, 'We have never earned a dollar in our life, and our father never earned a dollar in his life, or while we live we bequeathed us to us by an ancestor, who was one of the most illustrious robbers in Europe.'

The correspondent also dropped in to see a well-known engraver on stone to inquire about seals. "Oh, yes," said the proprietor, "I engrave those seals of escutcheons on rings every year, mostly for gentlemen. What they wear them for I don't know, they never stamp letters with them, or write them on paper, or want it engraved on a stone, they generally apply to a jeweler and the jeweler sends us to us."

Seal rings are mostly of sardonyx, amethyst and tour, and the engraving is done with a lathe, a pedal turning a flat shaft of soft iron, whose sharpened end has been blunted to a small disk. The stone is held to the edge of this whirling disk, which has been wet with olive oil containing diamond dust. Much of the engraving is so fine as to be illegible without the aid of a strong glass.

### A Floral Follower of the Sun.

That the sunflower follows the sun in its westward journey is well known, but when does it turn its face back again to the east to greet the morning sun? Mr. C. A. White, of Washington, in a letter to *Nature*, relates an incident which throws some light upon the subject. One evening, he says, during a short stay at a village in Colorado, in the summer of 1881, I took a walk along the banks of a long irrigating ditch just as the sun was setting. The wild variety of helianthus annus grew abundantly there, and I observed that the broad faces of all the flowers were as usual in the clear sunset, turned to the west. Returning by the same path less than an hour afterward, and immediately after the daylight was gone, I found to my surprise that much the greater part of these flowers had already turned their faces full to the east in anticipation, as it were, of the sun's rising. They had in that short time retraced the semicircle, in the traversing of which, with the sun, they had spent the whole day. Both the day and night were cloudless, and apparently no unusual conditions existed that might have exceptionally affected the movements of the flowers.

### Industrious Convicts.

It is said that the fancy articles made by the convicts in the New Jersey penitentiary are numerous and of every description. A German, who is on a forty years' sentence for killing his two children, has made a pretty little bureau with many drawers of cigar boxes. A Frenchman made an other out of the heads of four barrels. Several flower baskets, laden with flowers, are exhibited as being made out of crumbs of bread. They are a wonderful piece of work. Fine vase of variegated colors are made from paper. There is no end to the variety of pretty articles made from bone and horn. There are tooth-picks, fancy whistles, crotchet needles, shoe-horns, etc. The work is all done with small saws and files and then polished with alcohol. In addition, the cells are ornamented in every conceivable style. Pictures of sweethearts, wives and children adorn the walls. The articles of workmanship made by the convicts are no longer kept on sale in the prison as formerly.

**Household Hints.**  
When boiling cabbage put a slice of salt pork in the water, and an agreeable flavor with no objectionable grease or fat will be given to the cabbage.

A simple but delicious dish for dessert is made by cutting up oranges in small pieces and then pouring over them some rich boiled custard. Serve with cake.

If before you put rolls in the tin to bake them you rub the edges with a little melted butter, you will not be troubled with their sticking together when baked, and the edges will be smooth.

Do not throw away the bones of turkey or of chicken. Crack them and let them boil for two or three

## LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

### Persian Patchwork.

Old-fashioned patchwork in which our grandmothers delighted is the subject of a new departure. This novel patchwork is made by cutting foundation squares of muslin all the same size, and arranging upon them odds and ends of silk or ribbon, plush or velvet, in any way the maker pleases, fastening them in position, and then joining them together with feathers, stitched in gold-color silk. The squares when completed are joined together in the same way, and the result is a handsome imitation of eiderdown which has quite an Eastern effect.

### News and Notes for Women.

**Is that map of your firm completed?**

It is well to arrange for crop rotation.

What about farm improvements this year?

Brains tell in farming as in other pursuits.

A good time to make gates, repair tools, etc.

It is claimed that cross-bred pigs are the best fatteners. The sows should be thoroughbred.

Remember to undertrain orchards that are on low, damp land. Such orchards cannot be productive without it.

Staked lime sprinkled over potatoes is said to prevent the potato rot, which is a scourge to many farmers. It is worth trying.

In pruning trees cover all stems half an inch or more in diameter with grafting wax or shellac, otherwise the end of the branch may decay.

Fowls require a great deal of attention. A knowledge of their wants and habits is indispensable. Uneasiness vigilance is the price of chickens.

The one great principle of success in preparing cattle, fowl, or swine for slaughter, is to keep them growing as rapidly as possible from the start.

Plant a few acres of artichokes. When once seeded they need no planting. They will give the most feed for pigs for the least money of any crop that is raised.

Houp is one of the most common diseases among fowls at this time of the year. It comes from exposure to draughts, cold, and from improper food. It is contagious to a certain extent.

Parmentier says that the best method of storing thoroughly dry and clean wheat is in sacks isolated from each other, care being taken to keep a sufficiently low temperature in the granary.

The fleeces of sheep are badly injured around stumps. Long-wooled sheep are more damaged than the downy ones of the fine wool, since they are longer and more open, and catch more burs, chaff and straw.

Every care and attention shown to horses, no matter what their condition is will bring its reward. The kind of influence thrown around a young horse will have its effect on its character in after years.

One of the advantages of the soiling and ensilage system of feeding is the greatly increased amount of manure that can be made on a given quantity of land. To realize this advantage to the utmost, however, the manure should be carefully saved and applied.

Lambs can be made to shear from two to four pounds more wool by a little extra care and feed during the winter. The extra wool will more than pay for the extra feeding, and the result will be a much larger and stronger sheep. For this purpose feed good clover hay, with bran, oats and corn mixed equally.

The use of coal ashes has not been recommended by agricultural chemists, but practical tests show that they have more value than is popularly supposed, especially on heavy soils. Probably as good a use of them as can be made is to throw in the hen-house or the vault. They will absorb the ammonia instead of liberating it, as is the effect of wood ashes.

Double flowers are most commonly the result of the substitution of brightly-colored petals for stamens or pistils or both; hence a perfectly double flower, where all the stamens and pistils are thus metamorphosed, is necessarily barren. Such a plant must needs be propagated by cuttings. It rarely happens, however, that the change is quite complete throughout the flower, and so a few seeds may be formed, some of which may be expected to reproduce the double-flowered plants.

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## ELDER MOSE ELITE.

### Its Hair-Strengthening Powers from Seven and Eight Years Old.

*For Girls, Boys, Infants, &c.* January 15, 1885.

Most of our older citizens well remember Miss Kate who lived in Petersburg, Boston, the hero of our stories, the valiant physician who in tended a colony of our people to Pine's Peak; who fought the Indians on the plains and was shot through the body; who was converted and became a Christian; who became a minister in the hills of Western Carolina.

Now, we have a new Miss Kate, a widow, who is a widow of a widow, and a widow of a widow.

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### "Bachu-Falba."

The Quick, complete cure, annoying Kidney, Bladder, Urinary Diseases. \$1. Druggists.

Dr. Lyon's Patent Heel Stiffeners applied to new boots or shoes before you run them over.

"Hough on Rats."

Cleans out rats, mice, roaches, flies, bed-bugs, ants, skunks, chipmunks, gophers, etc. Druggists.

Have you seen the Chirothia collars and cuffs? Something new. Ask for them.

**Last Faith in Physicians.**

Why is it that physicians are not more successful? Is it because people lose confidence in physicians?

There are irreconcileable differences between the medical men of this country and those of Europe. The former are more inclined to believe in the efficacy of their own methods, as they are commonly used.

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