



Intended for this Department should be addressed to "AUNT MARY," care of The Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.

Aunt Mary's Letter.

When newspaper people talk of matters which usually belong in their offices, they call it, I believe, by some such name as "talking shop." I wish you would take note, dear Chatterers all, of a few things I want to say this evening which may possibly come under this head. And Dixie Girl's letter, which was contained on two and a half pages of small note paper, will furnish a good text.

You know that many of our Chat-terers have felt like covenanting together to make our page brighter and better this year than ever before. I mean to write a hint or two which may help us to do so. Now a real enjoyable social chat consists of an interchange in a sociable manner of opinions and ideas among those engaged.

First, then, short letters. Do not take time to start, just start. Do not stop by degrees as the "cat dies" in the swing, but just stop. If you must warm up and then cool off—all right—but you will find the real letter in between; just take that and send it to your busy Aunt Mary. After writing it as long as you want it, make it as short as you can. There are two reasons for this: (1) A compact, concise composition is, as a rule, better than the opposite kind, and (2) more short letters than long ones can be put in our limited space, thus lending the spice of variety to the page.

Second, pointed letters. Think clearly. Sift out the separate things you want to say. Then arrange them in an orderly way. Doing these two things will help you wonderfully in thinking clearly and writing pointedly.

Third, helpful letters. If you see where you can add to the caeerness, the instructiveness, or helpfulness in anyway of the Social Page, don't fail to write. And remember that you can ask questions about things you would like to know as well as answer inquiries of other writers.

Dixie Girl's letter makes a good text. Notice how short, clear, pointed, and orderly it is. She (1) joins the circle, (2) gives her views briefly but clearly on one of the topics of discussion, (3) gives two recipes asked for by another Chatterer, and (4) concludes with a good excuse for not writing a long letter. Of course an apology for a short letter as good as this one was not needed. Notwithstanding this, Dixie Girl's letter is a good model in its composition, construction, and brevity.

Finally, let us not forget our great "Freedom's Gift" campaign for The Progressive Farmer. The object is to have every new subscriber send at least one new subscriber in the next thirty days—and as many more than one as possible. It is a good opportunity for every woman who reads The Progressive Farmer to make some extra pin money—and besides we all want to help our paper grow. And for our young folks, the Editor tells me he will have a letter this week—"If You Are Not Twenty-one." Only younger readers should look for it.

AUNT MARY.

Something to Think About.

Dear Aunt Mary: It is no man's duty or privilege to live by the toil of another. There is no degradation in the hardest manual labor or hum-

blest service work, but there is degradation in an aggravated form in bribery, indolence, pride, extravagance, and theft. It is very important that our youth should be impressed with the fact that vicious habits and chronic diseases are communicated by decent as well as by contact, and that by purity of birth the system of the human being and the soul itself, may be greatly developed and elevated, while a low or degraded birth may bring a wide difference. Whatever pains be taken to educate or elevate them, the ill-bred and the well-bred will show up.

AN OBSERVER.

Halifax Co., Va.

Compulsory Education.

Dear Aunt Mary: Will you admit an Onslow girl into your happy circle? I agree with Busy Tom on the subject of education. The day has past and gone when he who has no education stands equal in society with the educated one.

There are so many parents who do not send their children to school because they themselves got along without an education.

When I call to mind that in some cases the children are kept from schools by careless, indifferent parents, who compel them to do all the farm work, or work in cotton mills, while their fathers sit around the stores, talk politics, and discuss the ways and means of preserving the government; when I think of these cases I am compelled to conclude that the State ought to come to the rescue of these helpless children.

BLUEBELL.

Onslow Co., N. C.

Two Recipes for "Charity."

Dear Aunt Mary: I have been a silent listener to the discussion of compulsory education. According to the letters, there are some places where it is needed, but I do not think it is needed here, as all seem to be doing what they can to educate their children. I think that an attempt to force people beyond their means is out of reason and unjust. In answer to Charity's request of last week, I will give some recipes for cabbage slaw:

Cold Slaw—Take nice, solid, sweet cabbage, and chop to the desired size. Salt it. Take two cups of good, rich, sour cream to one cup of good vinegar; mix well together and sweeten to taste. Pour this over the cabbage and have enough to cover it well.

Hot Slaw—One quart of nice, white cabbage, chopped fine. Pepper and salt it and place in a dish. Then make the following dressing: Place three tablespoons of butter in a stew-pan; add one egg well beaten, and one cup of vinegar. When this boils up once pour over the cabbage.

As this is my first letter I will not write a long one.

DIXIE GIRL.

Halifax Co., N. C.

Memories of a Scotch Grandmother's Garden.

Dear Aunt Mary: My greatest ambition in the gardening line has ever been to have a "garden beautiful," like unto my grandmother's. She was a Scotch woman and loved outdoor life. Her garden was the admiration of town and country. How

she made it so beautiful as well as productive is beyond my ken. I wish I could describe it as it is in my memory.

I cannot say that I ever have made money off my garden, but certainly I have saved money, as we have plenty of vegetables all the year. My mustard and lettuce is now large enough to gather and I have radish and onions growing right along in this warm weather in February.

I think the garden should be manured and plowed in November.

I have a strawberry bed that I set last year that is growing fast, and I am expecting some delicious berries in May. I also have a long row of rhubarb, of which my family are all very fond. This keeps us in sauce until our early harvest apples are ready to use.

My husband is fond of cabbage and tomatoes, and is very successful in raising them. We sell a great many of both every year. I believe there is more money in cabbage and tomatoes than in any other other vegetable.

HAPPINESS.

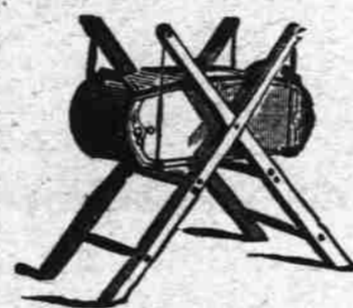
Burke Co., N. C.

The Garden a Source of Pleasure and Profit.

Dear Aunt Mary: As gardening time is almost here, I thought a few words apropos would not be amiss. Gardening is a source of both pleasure and profit.

For if the farmer will keep strict account, he will find at the settling time that he is much in debt to his garden—not only in dollars, but in

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pleasure and health of himself and his wife and children. A varied diet of fruit and vegetables calls for fewer doctors' visits and is a great saving to the little folks from nauseous medicines. Furthermore, what a pleasure and pride it is to us to gather our own vegetable and fruit in the "cool of the day or in early morning while the dew is sparkling like diamonds" and all nature is in sweet accord after the night's repose and we can compete with our neighbor in having the first and finest in season. This last is a great incentive, as competition is the life of all business, whether in city or country.

Talk of being "lonesome" in the country? Why there is no time in the whole day, for a man who is attuned aright, to be lonesome in the country.

As to the variety and amount of things to plant in a garden, tastes differ so much one cannot lay down any fixed rule. But for those who are new in the business, I suggest they plan their garden so they will be able to have a succession of vegetables from Christmas till Christmas.

Now let some of our dear good mothers or grandmothers, with their many years experience tell us about their way of planting, sowing and working a garden so that beginners and those who have tried, but failed, may be encouraged to keep on till blessed with abundant success.

MARGARET.

York Co., S. C.

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