St. Tammany Farmer.

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, Should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor."

W. G. KENTZEL, Editor. COVINGTON, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1891. VOL. XVI.—NO. 2.

HER SWEET-TONED MANDOLIN.

I hear her faintly humming
To the sweet and gentle strumming
Of the mandolin she fondles,
With the most impartial care,
And low dreamily I linger
Watching each bejeweled finger
O'er the strings go softly sweeping
Like a breath of morning air.

And how eagerly I listen
When I see those dear eyes glisten
With a light so pure and holy,
Where no darkness enters in,
And my heart keeps wildly dancing
To the melody entrancing,
Which she conjures with such deftness
From her sweet-toned mandolin.

In my dreams I hear its ringing,
And the voice of her whose singing
Leads my tired and restless spirit
To a land of peace and rest,
Where my heart is free from sorrow,
For no troubles can it borrow
That will cause one seed of sadness
To take root within my breast.

Ah! you think I'm only dreaming,
That I am forever scheming,
But the fact is, I assure you,
That my heart strings are akin
To those that sweetly render
When smote with fingers tender
The most exquisite music
On her sweet-toned mandolin.
—F. Parker, Jr., in Brooklyn Eagle.

MARRIAGE BY CAPTURE.

Places Where Force Is Necessary to Gain Wives.

Trials of Ancient Lovers—The Ardent Swain in Danger of Having His Head Broken by the Object of His Affections—Illustrations from History.

To all classes a marriage is a topic of absorbing interest. Politicians, formerly the best of friends, but since estranged owing to their political proclivities, and who, save to glare at one another from opposite benches, seldom meet under the same social roof, are drawn together once more when a mutual friend takes it upon him or herself to enter into the bond of matrimony, and for a time sink their differences in honor of the occasion. Perhaps the spirit of good-fellowship which seems to permeate everybody on the happy day may even induce the bitterest of foes to forget their wrongs and shake hands in a manner which shows they are both delighted to make it up and little likely to repent of so doing. The business man forsakes his daily task, and nearly everybody in the office gets a holiday; the lawyer returns his briefs, or has them "devilled" by some lucky junior who has long wanted to find his legal legs; the village turns out in Sunday best to gaze at the array of bunting and triumphal arches; and even the hermit throws off some of his impenetrability at the sound of the marriage bells.

The winning of the bride may have caused many sleepless nights; at one time the fates are propitious, at another frowning; but at last the difficulties and doubts have been overcome, and all troubles left behind, forgotten, when the day comes to crown the lover's patience with what he has so long desired. But all the trials of satisfying the stern demand for a handsome settlement, overcoming family prejudices, and winning the affections of the lady, are little in comparison with those we read of as having tortured the lover long ago, and even now in distant lands.

Hundreds of years before Britain had begun to attract the attention of the bold Roman adventurers, intent on gain and conquests new, we find that men had to take wives unto themselves by force of arms, or by some base subterfuge which went not altogether unpunished in those troubled times. Every schoolboy has felt the irksome task of translation relieved by the story of Romulus and his city full of men pining for the company of women, and driven at last by their desperation to their cowardly deception. Who has not heard of the proclamation of games to be celebrated in honor of the god Consus, the invitation of the Latins and Sabines to the festival, during which Romulus and his fiery youths rushed upon them and carried off their virgins, leaving the matrons to escape as best they could?

The Romans were not the only people of the classic age who had such difficulties to overcome, for the Spartan damsels also had to be compelled by violence to submit to matrimony. But although in very early times a husband had to resort to violence to obtain a wife, we find that when these nations had settled down into comparative civilization, it became part of the ceremony of marriage that there should be a show of capture on the husband's part. In Rome and Sparta, among the lower classes, when a marriage was arranged, the bride sat confidingly on her mother's lap, and was not at all surprised when her husband came accompanied by his friends to complete his part of the contract by tearing her away from her mother's fond embraces.

Records show that violence or capture was a necessary feature of a marriage in nearly every land at one time or another, and even at the present day among many races the custom is preserved in a modified form. An interesting instance of recent times is given of the Khonds. All the preliminaries being satisfactorily arranged, each family contributes something toward adorning the feast which is prepared at the bride's dwelling. The feast is succeeded by dancing and singing well into the night, until it is time for the real business to commence. An uncle of the bride takes her on his shoulders, and an uncle of the bridegroom does the same for him, while the dance is at its height.

Suddenly they exchange their burdens; and the uncle of the bridegroom disappears with the bride, hotly pursued by her female friends, who are kept at bay by the comrades of the bridegroom striving their utmost to keep them off and cover her flight. She is wrapped in a scarlet cloak; while the young women even go so far as to hurl stones and bamboos at the devoted bridegroom until he has escaped with his bride to the verge of the village. Then the ceremony is complete, and he is allowed to conduct his hard-won spouse to his abode without further molestation.

It has been suggested that in the hurling of the stones we can trace the origin of the throwing of old slippers after the wedded couples of our own land; but it seems a long way to go to Khondistan to derive the origin of the amusing custom over which so much skill is sometimes exercised to insure the slipper keeping company with them on their honeymoon.

Among the Kalmucks we have a slight variation of the programme. It seems that the man who wants to marry any particular girl, has to win her by the fleetness of his horse. She is mounted on horseback, and gallops off as fast as she can go. He follows; and if he can catch her she is his wife, and has to return to his tent with him. We are told that there has never been an instance where she has been caught if she has no desire to become his wife; but it would seem from this, that after he has paid her parents the price they agreed upon, she has no option but to avoid the marriage by a successful flight.

It is not unknown to many that until quite recently a similar custom prevailed in Wales. The bridegroom, having won the damsel's heart, appeared with all his friends mounted at her door on the wedding morn and demanded her from her parents. The bride's friends, likewise on horseback, refused to give her up, upon which a scuffle ensued. She was suddenly mounted behind her nearest kinsman and carried off, pursued by the bridegroom and the whole body of friends, who with loud shouts and much laughter gallop after her. It was not uncommon to see two or three hundred people riding along at full speed, crossing in front and jostling one another to the delighted amusement of the onlookers. When they and their horses were thoroughly exhausted, the bridegroom was allowed to overtake the bride, carry her away in triumph, the whole party finishing the day with feasting and festivity.

Sir Henry Piers gave an account of a similar kind of ceromony in the wilds of Ireland, where the interested parties met somewhere between the two dwellings to discuss the matter and make arrangements. If an agreement was concluded, the agreement bottle was drunk, and then the bride's father sent round to all his neighbors and friends to collect his wife's portion, to which every one gave a cow or a heifer. These the husband had to restore to their respective donors if the bride died childless within a certain time. On the day of bringing home, the bridegroom and his friends rode out to meet the bride and her friends at the place of meeting. Being come near each other, the custom was of old to cast short darts at the company attending the bride, but at such a distance that seldom any hurt ensued, although we do hear that on one such occasion a noble lord lost an eye, which must have gone far to sound the knell of this quaint old custom.

Another curious instance affording evidence of ancient capture occurs in a certain Arab tribe. The betrothal takes place apparently in a similar manner to that of young English people of the nineteenth century; but the marriage is only rendered complete by the husband bringing a lamb in his arms to the tent of the girl's father and there cutting its throat before witnesses. As soon as the blood falls to the ground the marriage is complete, and he retires to his tent to await his lady. A game of hide-and-seek is played by the girl and by the people of the village, who pursue her as she runs from tent to tent. At last she is caught, and led off in triumph by some of the women to her lover, who, taking possession of her, forces her into his tent.

Perhaps the Bedouin Arabs of Mount Sinai conduct their matrimonial arrangements in the strangest fashion, for when a man desires to marry he goes to the maiden's father and makes a bid, which may or may not be accepted. Should the father think the offer sufficiently tempting, the sale is completed without the chief person concerned being consulted. When she comes home in the evening with the cattle, she is met at a short distance from the camp by her intended husband and two of his friends, and is carried off by force to her father's tent.

If, however, she has time to defend herself, and suspects their errand, she defends herself like a young tigress, biting, kicking, throwing sticks and stones and anything that comes to hand at her antagonists, often injuring them severely, even though she is not altogether averse to the match. The greater resistence she makes the greater praise she receives from her companions, who record it in her favor forever after. When she is safely in her father's tent, they throw a man's cloak over her, and make a formal announcement of her future husband's name. She is placed on a camel in her bridal dress still struggling with might and main, and has to be held on by the young men. Then she is led round three times, and afterward taken into her husband's tent, the ceremony being wound up with the usual feast and presents to the bride.

In comparing these few instances culled from current authorities upon folk lore and kindred subjects, it will be seen how prosaic in the modern English marriage, which, even after a thoroughly romantic courtship, peacably assures the ardent lover of his victory. There are not many fashionable young men about town who would seek matrimony, if it could only be attained at the risk of a broken head or other practical demonstration of his wife's prowess.—Chamber's Journal.

A Simple Explanation.

"George," said the bride, "I seem to be constantly hearing the sweetest music. I wonder what it means."

"It means," said the practical groom, "that the feller that sold me that wedding ring for a plain gold band worked off a brass band on me."—Detroit Free Press.

—Civilization — First Citizen—"The first time I meet that fellow I'm going to give him the worst thrashing he ever had in his life." Second Citizen—"But suppose he should prove able to thrash you, what then?" First Citizen—"Huh! If he hurts me I'll have him arrested."—Good News.

THE USES OF VELVET.

How Plain Dresses May Be Rendered Elaborate This Season.

The contrasting of the gown fabric and color by the sleeve material and hue is more marked this autumn than ever before, though ladies of quiet tastes felt that the fashion had already gone to some extremes. Velvet, of course, is the leading sleeve material, usually of strikingly, though not discordantly, opposed color. Even in those few instances where the same color is employed in gown and sleeve the difference in fabric gives enough difference in tone to make a contrast, velvet never showing precisely the same tone of color found in other textures. Wool and silk may be matched so exactly that the eye passes unconsciously from one to the other, but velvet, while it is the most harmonious of fabrics, yet retains its individuality under all combinations. Possibly it is this peculiarity which wins for it the allegiance of all classes of women, as, even in its grave colors, it may be used with the certainty of securing a dressy effect. No fabric returns a greater measure of reward to its devotees; a very little velvet will go a very great way.

Naturally, then, a whole sleeve of velvet makes an otherwise plain gown quite elaborate looking. Black astrakhan sleeves will be used in the cloth gowns having astrakhan borders. Fur sleeves also will be seen when the weather grows cold. Passementerie sleeves over sleeves of the dress goods, or over contrasting colors and textures, are introduced. Plaid silk, the varicolored plaid velvet, and the heavy brocades in bright colors will be favorite sleeve materials. Vests, revers, sleeve-bands (replacing the cuff), bodice, or full-length plastrons, skirt panels, skirt-borders, high, flaring collars and capes will be of the sleeve materials oftenest, though in some elegant gowns several materials and colors are used, as in an exquisite imported gown of Venus pink brocade and velvet, which was given sleeves of seal-brown velvet. The brown velvet, pink velvet, and the one or two tones of pink in the silk and brocade of the body of the gown produced the same delightful result that the florists offer in the shaded roses or the wonderfully tinted orchids.

This use of different velvets on the same costume does not afford the scope for economy which is at first suggested, as the combination of colors requires the utmost nicety of skill, and such gowns are suitably worn only for the house or carriage. Fur will be used upon dresses, not merely for sleeves, but for vests, collar linings, and in bands upon the dress skirt, running perpendicularly or around the bottom, or as a flounce heading. Fur belts will be worn also, and narrow velvet belts, crossed in front, with jeweled or plain ends. Wide soft folds of velvet or silk will be laid about the waist, fastened either upon the edge of the bodice or the skirt, as is preferred; the effect is the same. These folds are pointed a little in front, and often run into two sash ends at the back, each graduating in width toward the bottom, which is cut slanting. The sash, and sometimes the fold, is lined with silk, if of velvet; or, if of silk, then with the dress material. The fold may be closed at the side without ornament or finished with rosettes at the back—of which short-waisted women should beware—or the flat bow, or may begin under the arms and pass across the front only. The folds are best when made of even width all around and worn without buckles. A half-finger fold is better than a wider one, and the prettiest sash ends are not over eight inches at the bottom, possibly nine or ten, and much narrower at the top.—Chicago Times.

HOME-GOING CHINAMEN.

Queer Scenes Witnessed on a Pacific Ocean Passenger Steamer.

Forward, between decks, are more than a hundred Chinese steerage passengers—mostly reposing in their rude wooden bunks, since it is too cold and rough upon deck for them. Some chat, some sleep, many are smoking opium, a few are gambling. At a low table covered with a bamboo mat, the game of fantan is being played by the light of three candles. A silent ring of watchers and wagerers presses closely about the table; from surrounding bunks others look down, and the yellow candle glare, coloring all these impressive faces, makes their placid race-smile seem as the smiling of gilded idols in some mysterious pagoda * * * *

Deep in the hold below, sixty square boxes are—much resembling tea-chests—covered with Chinese lettering. Each contains the bones of a dead man—bones being sent back to melt into that Chinese soil from whence, by nature's vital chemistry, they were shapen * * * * And those whose labeled bones are rolling to and fro in the dark below, as the plunging steamer rocks and shudders, once also passed this ocean on just such a ship—and smoked or dreamed their time away in just such berths—and played the same strange play by such a yellow light in even just such an atmosphere, heavy with vaporized opium.

Very silent the playing is. Scarcely a word is uttered despite of losses or gains. From the deck overhead an odd chant echoes loudly down—the chant of the Chinese crew. First one utters a snarling, sharp cry, like a cat's cry of anger—*Yow-gee!* Then all the others shrill together *Yo-we!*—as they pull at the ropes.

"Joss paper" has been strewn about—doubtless to propitiate the gods of that most eastern East to which we westwardly sail. Perhaps those ancient gods will hearken to the prayers of their patient worshipers, and make smooth the menacing face of this turbulent sea.—Lafcadio Hearn, in Harper's Magazine.

—Stuffy furniture is made endurable by means of pretty, clear starched linen slips, and such pretty linens come nowadays flowered and striped and damasked, that the homeliest set of furniture clad therein is transformed into something pleasing.

—To keep lemons, put in a glass can and cover with cold water, changing the water every week.

OF GENERAL INTEREST.

—In the Seattle papers a Western medical concern is advertising "spring medicine."

—Says a writer in the Houston (Tex.) Herald: I have a buzzard I will fight against any dog in Harris County for a wager of $50.

—A scheme is on foot for the erection at Droitwich of a new brine-baths hospital for the poor, affording increased and much needed accommodation.

—A vigilance committee was organized by the people of Oakdale, near Spokane Falls, and within thirty minutes every tough character was driven from town.

—An Athens (Ga.) man has given to the University Museum the skin of a rattlesnake killed at Sapelo this summer. The rattler was ten feet long, and at the largest part of the body measured ten inches in circumference.

—A new desecration of the landscape against which English people are protesting is the posting of advertisements upon the sails of fishing boats. One writes: "We have a great trouble with a large board advertisement of pills stuck up right in the middle of a beautiful bay."

—Gloves were, in 1416, often set with precious stones and sufficiently valuable to be left as legacies. The jeweled gloves of St. Martial were said to have rebuked an act of sacrilege. The gloves of Bishop Gravesend, worked with gold and enamel, were priced at £5, a great sum in 1310. But the sturdier Bishop Button wore thick yellow gloves at 10d a pair.

—One of the first contributions from the new State of South Dakota is a machine for burning prairie grass. The driver mounts his seat in front, turns on the gasoline, strikes a match and moves across the prairie, leaving a broad black line. The grass over which the big sheet-iron box is drawn is entirely consumed, but no fire escapes outside the box.

—Chimneys, says an exchange, to be safe from fire and draw well, should not be less than sixteen inches square inside and built up from the cellar. Use good brick with clay, instead of mortar, up to the comb. Plaster it inside with clay mixed with salt. Top with the best brick well wet and laid in cement. Do not let wood come too close to the brick and don't let the stovepipe come nearer than eighteen inches to the ceiling.

—The ricolite and green onyx quarries now operated in Grant County, New Mexico, mark a most remarkable discovery. The stone forms a true fissure vein fifty feet wide and more than a mile long, and it is taken out in huge blocks and carried to Chicago—where the quarries are owned—for use in inside and outside decorations of houses. The material is of a variety of colors—dark green and cream, striped and mottled, also pink and salmon—is susceptible of a high polish, very tough, and the only stone of the kind in the world that can be carved.

—A prominent New Jersey cranberry grower says that the New Jersey berries this year are unusually fine, and will bring four dollars per bushel. Jersey berries can be kept in good condition from now until May or June of next year, with little or no shrinkage, and no loss to the owner. Cranberries are grown in the poorest lands of the county, but yield a large profit. The people are beginning to realize that the barren lands which have hitherto been only an expense can be utilized, and large sums of money made from a very small investment. A grower who has had long experience in making and managing bogs said recently that a first-class bog can be made for from $600 to $800 an acre, according to the quality of the bog.

—A New Yorker of very limited means recently got a bequest, the news of which was printed in the papers. As soon as the fact became known, he got heavy mails that brought him letters from all kinds of charitable societies in need of aid, and from a host of the sufferers by impecuniosity; he also found more callers at his house than there ever before had been knockers at his doors, and he likewise enjoyed when in the streets the sight of many more smiling faces than he had previously been acquainted with. Never until this month had he realized the attractive power of the mighty $. He now finds that his deceased bachelor uncle, who left him a bequest, has endowed him with something else not set down in the last will, to wit, cynicism. —N. Y. Sun.

—Mr. Arthur came from England to be ordained by Bishop Patteson, when the headquarters of the mission were at Kohimarama, a few miles from Auckland, on the coast of the land-locked harbor. Soon after his arrival in Auckland, he hired a boat to take him to the mission-station; there, to his surprise, he found no wharf, no imposing row of buildings, no pier, and he had to wait in the boat until some one could be got to carry him ashore through the water. In response to his shouts, a man, in a flannel shirt and trousers, waded out at last from the shore and "gave a back" to the newcomer, landing him dry on the beach. In answer to inquiries for the Bishop's palace, a small building close by was pointed out, and to a further question of "Where is the Bishop?" the man in tucked-up flannels said: "I am the Bishop!"

Ornaments For Millinery.

High coloring in millinery is further enlivened by conspicuous ornaments in most novel and unique designs. First of all are antique Grecian buckles and war-like weapons of various shapes and sizes, set with gems that are in all tints and more or less valuable. There are handsome jeweled pins and old Roman coins and medals, linked together with glittering paste clasps, to say nothing of jeweled butterflies and dragon-flies and tiny reptiles—designs familiar to all, but appearing anew in real gold and silver filigree, enamel, French gold, copper, bronze, steel and jet, the range of ornamentation extending from hay-rakes and harpoons to crowns and coronets, from a pearl sandpiper to a solemn, stately owl, with bronze beak and diamond eyes.—N. Y. Post.

CHECKS FOR MILLIONS.

Gould's Iron Mountain Deal—Rockefeller's Transaction With Andrews.

The largest check ever given in this country was that given by Jay Gould to Thomas Allen for the Iron Mountain. He paid $2,000,000 for it and he handed Allen a check for that amount upon his acceptance of his offer. Allen looked at the paper that represented this vast sum and said: "Isn't this a good deal of money for one man to have in one bank?" "I don't know," replied Gould, "perhaps it is. Let me have the check." Allen then handed the check back to Gould, and he handed it over to his office boy, saying: "Here, boy, take this check to the bank and have the cashier certify to it." And the boy went out and did it.

A check for $1,000,000 was given by John D. Rockefeller to Sam Andrews, another coal-oil millionaire, and was accepted by Andrews only because he was too proud to refuse it. Rockefeller and Andrews were poor young men in Cleveland together twenty or thirty years ago. In connection with Flagler and others they organized the Standard Oil Company, and at once began to grow rich. Rockefeller in some way got the start of Andrews, and Andrews was very jealous of his growing power and wealth. He tried to outshine Rockefeller in every thing he did, and when Rockefeller built a big house in Cleveland Andrews put up a bigger one, bringing artists from Italy to do the fine work in it and making one of the finest residences west of the Alleghanies. Then Rockefeller bought a country seat near Cleveland and Andrews bought another, and so the strife went on. When Rockefeller was made president of the Standard Oil Company Andrews became very jealous, and in order to show his own importance he came in one day and asked Rockefeller how matters were getting along. Mr. Rockefeller said every thing was going off right, and Mr. Andrews asked for a look at the books of the company.

"You can't see the books just now," said Rockefeller, "but if you come in in a day or two I will have a statement made out for you."

A few days later Sam Andrews came in again and asked for the books. In reply he was handed a long sheet of paper covered with figures which he was told was the statement of the condition of the Standard Oil Company. He looked at it and as he did so his face got red and his eyes grew angry.

"This is not what I want, Mr. Rockefeller," said he, "I want to see the books of the company. If I can't see the books I want to sell my stock."

"What will you take for your stock?" replied Mr. Rockefeller, very coolly reaching for his check book.

"I want just $1,000,000 cash," said Andrews.

"All right you shall have it," replied the president of the Standard Oil Company, and he thereupon wrote out a check for $1,000,000 for Mr. Andrews. Andrews had to take it or back down. He was ashamed to refuse, and he had for the next few months all he could do in trying to invest that million dollars. He put $500,000 in Government bonds and scattered the rest here and there.—N. Y. Letter.

AN ELECTRIC CENSUS.

Amazing Growth of Telegraphy in Half a Century.

In 1837 the first practical telegraph was worked in England, after a crude attempt made in 1835, on a line of thirteen miles between Paddington and Drayton. In 1844 a telegraph line was opened between Washington and Baltimore. In 1850 a copper wire insulated in gutta percha was submerged between Dover and Calais, and the first submarine telegraph was laid by the late T. R. Crampton.

There are now 942 submarine cables exclusive of the seven Atlantic cables, with an aggregate of 112,740 nautical miles. The overland telegraph is already a world-wide institution, in which there is a total of 1,680,900 miles of wire, enough of the attenuated metal to go around the equatorial belt of the globe just thirty times. The number of words transmitted, the miles traveled and the cash changing hands would tax the enumeration table.

The United States have 777,500 miles of wire, and in 1889 no less than 56,000,000 messages were sent through the country. France has 220,890 miles of wire, on which in 1889 were transmitted 30,050,000 dispatches. Great Britain has 180,000 miles of metal line, and in 1889 sent 50,000,000 messages. Russia has spun out 170,500 miles, and in 1889 gave the operators 10,260,760 messages to dispatch. Australia has strung no fewer than 105,300 miles of wire across its surface, and transmitted in one year 12,000,000 messages. Italy has 19,500 miles, and has made an annual record of about 7,000,000 electric messages. Canada has 58,500 miles of wire, and did a business in 1889 of 4,627,581 dispatches. Egypt has 5,500 miles, and is in connection with India and England by submarine cables on which last year 1,600,205 communications were carried from one end of the world to the other. China has 5,800 miles of wire across Mongolia, and Japan owns no less than 16,300 miles, over which 5,000,000 messages were sent in one year. New Zealand has strung itself with 11,375 miles of metal cord, and dispatched 1,835,394 messages. Tasmania has 2,500 miles of telegraph wires. Persia claims, in partnership with European wires, about 6,124 miles. South Africa has a credit of 4,310 miles, and even St. Helena, the island prison of the great Corsican, has thirteen miles of the universal cobwebbing its rocks.

The telegraph systems of the world have unrolled the wire reel without stint, and if we add to the 1,680,900 miles used for telegraph purposes the wholesale appropriation by the telephone system, the sum total would be enormous. —Iron.

—A story is going the rounds of "a Georgia man who broke his neck with a sneeze." It isn't supposed to be true; but it is used as a warning.

—The greatest city park in the world is Fairmount Park, in Philadelphia, containing over two thousand nine hundred acres.

FARM AND GARDEN.

GET READY FOR ICE.

Plan for a Good Though Inexpensive Ice-House.

To cheaply build a good ice-house for forty to fifty tons, make it high, so that but little roof is required. The foundation should be three feet below the surface to avoid frost. Two stories fifteen by sixteen is about right. Double doors must extend to the roof. The corner posts must be rabbeted as shown to receive the matched board lining. On the outside of these posts a light frame should be covered with heavy building paper two and one-half inches from the lining and one and one-half to two inches from the paper, the covering should be nailed on lightly. This work leaves two dead air spaces between the sunshine and the ice and no sawdust packing will be needed. A ventilator in the shape of a blinded window should be placed in both gables under the roof and the best of drainage must be provided below.

In the cut the outer line shows the covering; the middle one the paper lining; strips of plank are spiked over the four-by-four posts to which to nail the covering, and the inner line is the matched lining. Of course the plan can be modified to suit circumstances, the main thing being to have the dead air space. An inside tight

PLAN FOR ICE-HOUSE.

frame, with the outside partition of sod or adobe bricks well plastered together with clay mud, would do. If you live on a Western farm and have more straw than you can use, build a straw stack right over such a house and ice will keep in it the year round. Straw, coarse hay or chaff can be used in place of sawdust for packing ice if you think any packing necessary. — Farm and Home.

DAIRY DOTS.

The following dairy items are taken from the columns of the Massachusetts Ploughman:

MILK is an article whose merits and peculiarities are little understood or studied on thousands of farms. The tons of poor butter made proves this.

THE quarrels and squabbles of rival breeders of fancy stock are beautiful to see in case you "stand from under." But they all have value if one looks at it in the right way.

A TOWN where the farmers have no creamery and don't want one is a good town to avoid when one wants a farm for a home. It is progressive farming that is attractive—not farming of the Abrahamic sort.

THE details as to the feeding of farm animals should be the subject of careful study, and experiment (where experiment is needed) on every farm. Most feeding is the result of habit, and is followed as such without a why or wherefore in a multitude of instances.

IT is not the cow whose milk gives the most butter that is necessarily "the best butter cow," but rather the cow who costs the least in proportion to the yield. If to get a certain yield of butter you must feed two or three times as much in one case as in the other, the cost becomes an important matter. In comparing Jerseys and Holsteins this matter is sometimes overlooked.

THE sale and breeding of very high priced cattle is confined mainly to capitalists who manage a farm as a "side issue" and an amusement. The farmer who lives by farming pure and simple can not indulge in thousand-dollar cows and bulls. And yet the study required in the breeding of fancy stock has been of great value to farming in general and is not to be discouraged.

A BUTTER test relating to the weight of salted and unsalted butter was lately made at William Crozier's farm, Northport, N. Y. Three hundred pounds of milk from his registered Jerseys was set, and yielded 105 pounds of cream. This was churned twenty-three minutes, duly worked, and gave thirty-seven pounds of unsalted butter. Then thirty-seven ounces of salt was added and worked in, and the butter then weighed twenty-three and one-half pounds. At least that is the published statement.

ENGLISH SPARROWS.

Some Methods of Destroying These Pestiferous Birds.

The United States Department of Agriculture recommends the following treatment: Dissolve arseniate of soda in warm water, at the rate of an ounce to a pint; pour this upon as much wheat as it will cover in a vessel which can be closed so as to prevent evaporation, and allow it to soak at least twenty-four hours. Dry the wheat so prepared, and it is ready for use. Three kernels of this will kill. Winter is the best time for operations. Other birds are then absent, and sparrows are hungry, alighting in flocks in the streets after passing teams and along railroad tracks, where grain is scattered from wagons and cars. Here poisoned wheat may be administered with wholesale destruction to them, and little danger of harm to any thing else.

If it is found that the birds are too wary to take the poisoned grain at first, they can be led up to it by feeding them at the same hour of the day for a few days with sound grain as a preliminary. When they are used to it, and off their guard, throw down a little poisoned wheat—not too much at once, but just enough for them to eat before they have found out that there is any thing wrong—for you can not catch them all at the one attempt. By this means a large percentage is got rid of at one time. Then begin with the sound grain again, and after two or three days use more poison. By this means of alternating non-poisoned grain with the other article, sparrows may be killed all through the winter months just as fast as they come in from other places, and in time be almost annihilated.

ROAD CONSTRUCTING.

Thorough Drainage Essential Where Good Roads Are Desired.

George W. Hinkle writes to the Orange Judd Farmer: In constructing any system of roads the most important part is thorough drainage, both under and surface. An earth road should be at least fifty feet wide, with surface ditches cut as far out on the sides as they can be made. Carry the earth to the center, forming an oval grade, about twenty-four feet wide. Make side ditches six feet wide, eighteen inches deep on outer and sloping on inner edge. Continue side ditches entire length.

Then underdrain all low land, springy and seepy hills on both sides of the roadway, conveying the water to a good outlet. Where surface water stands on the side of the road, fill in a small space over under-drain with broken tile. If not able to tile both sides of the road, then put tile in the center of the roadway, before grading; practical experience proves this to be successful. Do away with all small culverts, replacing them with double-strength sewer tile. A road so constructed is as near perfect as one can be of earth. If constructed according to the above directions, an excellent foundation is now provided for a gravel road.

In many parts of this State (Illinois) gravel exists in quantities seemingly sufficient to "spiderize" the State in every direction with first-class highways. We have about forty miles of gravel road in this (Paris) township; eight miles built this summer, with four miles more under contract. To construct these roads a tax is levied to full limit of law (one dollar to each one hundred dollars) and when collected such roads are built as the people vote to be constructed out of this special fund. The road to be made is divided into sections of one-half mile in length. We purchase our gravel, strip the earth from the surface, and then advertise for bids by the section, per cubic yard measurement.

In putting on the gravel we use stock boards twelve inches wide, fourteen feet long, set up on each side of center of roadway, held in place by iron pins; boards ten or twelve feet apart with iron pins in center every seven feet twelve or fifteen inches above ground. Whenever two pair of boards are filled one pair of boards and one pair of center pins are taken up and moved forward and set again, and so on until the line of road is finished. Now, if taken care of for twelve months, by keeping the gravel worked to the center with a wooden drag, you will have a road affording pleasure to ride over at any time of the year. It costs from two hundred to four hundred dollars per mile to grade, underdrain and sewer such a road, but all of this is done with the road and bridge tax. The special tax above noted is used for the gravel. The cost of gravelling depends on many circumstances—how much dirt is on the gravel, how close the bank is to the road to be constructed, how strong the competition in bidding, etc., etc. We get the earth removed from our gravel for six and seven-ninths to eight cents per cubic yard. We get the gravel put on the road (according to last contract) for an average of twenty-eight cents per cubic yard, on a road four and one-quarter miles long. Gravel bank within one-quarter mile of road and within one-half mile of end of road.

Protection for Outlets of Underdrains.

Many long, valuable, and expensive lines of underdrains are destroyed each year by mice, rats, and other vermin getting into them during the dry season, and wholly or partially clogging them up with their nests, earth, or themselves after having perished in the channel of the drain. In case of tile

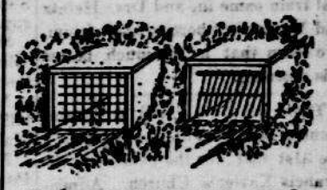

FIG. 1. PROTECTED DRAINS. FIG. 2.

drains and well-built stone drains the animals enter at the outlet. This intrusion can be easily avoided by covering the outlets with wire. All drains, and especially when the outlet is exposed to the trampling of stock, should have a strong wooden box for discharging the water through. Wiring in this case is quite an easy operation; the wires passing through holes at the side, top and bottom, as shown in Fig. 1. In the plan seen in Fig 2, the wire is cut in suitable lengths, or even a piece of wire sieve or screen is passed at the the upper end loosely around an iron or wooden roller placed crosswise of the box at the top. In this case the wire can be raised up to clean out the box if desired; and a heavy pressure of water will lift the lower end thus removing all obstruction. The screen is of sufficient length that it may be pressed outward but not inward. When tiles are used clear to the outlet, a piece of wire screen placed between the ends of the two last tiles will answer the purpose nearly as well.

Costiveness in Sheep.

The number of sheep that die from costiveness is very large. The sheep is naturally costive, as any observer must know from the character of the droppings. It is because of the tendency of timothy hay to produce costiveness that we so often advise against its use for feeding sheep. It contains a great deal of tannin. Straw has the same tendency, and yet good straw is such a valuable food that we advise its use, but with such foods as oil meal. Timothy hay we would not feed under any conditions. Those who have adopted ensilage will have at hand a very ready means to keep the bowels of the sheep in order. Those too, who have taken our advice and provided roots, will be similarly situated. If the breeding ewes are costive it must not be expected that they will go through the lambing season properly. At the same time we must be careful not to feed too much watery food in winter to the breeding ewes.—Western Rural.