

The 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.

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THEY NEVER KNEW.

The Unexpected Romance of a Ruined Life.

HE snow was whirling down silently, throwing its pure beauty over the grimy streets, a soft, high chimney and ugly square factories of the northern manufacturing town. But the poor soul who came shivering from the hospital, was not to be comforted by the light and heat which he sought for. He was a comparatively quiet white street did not see this unusual beauty. He was thin and the piercing north wind cut through him. He had been discharged from the hospital, a white, drawn face and heard the rattle cough which shook his enfeebled frame. But what can be done in such cases? Others were waiting to take his place, and he was well enough, the doctor said, to leave.

He told them in the hospital that he was going back "to the old place," mentioning a village some miles distant—and which he had not seen for many years; for when taken ill in London he had been drawn as by a magnet northward, and with a sick man's longing thought he would get well if only he could breathe again his fresh native air and see the home unvisited so long. No one knew his story, saying that he had been brought in by a friendly policeman, who found him when on his last breath, desperately ill in the shelter of a doorway. He had no friends that he could find, he said, so they admitted him.

It was the old-told tale. John Lear was a country lad who had left home to find work, and had left, too, behind him a girl to whom he was to return when he had made a home for her. That home had never been made, nor had he had any fate but hard times. Gradually he drifted lower and lower still, however honestly struggling for work. He had said when leaving Mary Romer that he would not come back till he had a home for her, and she had waited, weeping, through long years for news, while he, too, worked for her bread and kept her father's house till the report came that John Lear was dead. Dead, indeed, he was to her, for no word came from him to her, too, it had ended in illness, from want and then the hospital. Now he was discharged, with the longing for home strong in him. He would make his way home; perhaps the square or some farmer would give him work, he would not trouble Mary Romer, but he must see the old place. This last desire overpowered all others. It was a weary tramp, always through the blinding snow, to his destination. Hard enough for a whole man in such weather, but well-nigh impossible to him in his weakness. But he was true north-country in pluck and doggedness. His poor, thin clothes clung to him, though the heavy snow gathered often on his forehead and his worn boots got clogged with snow, but he trudged on patiently, asking no help, passing only when his cough caught him with sharp pain and he had to stand still to ease his panting breath. He had a little money which had been given him by the kindly doctors to help him on, for his simple courage had won on them; but it was his fixed idea that this must be kept to pay for food and lodging when he reached the village, so that he might not disgrace his name by returning a beggar.

Resting perforce at intervals, spending as little as possible on food just to help him on, he walked through the

It was a weary tramp. Still the snow whirled down, making drifts by the hedges and stinging his face as it eddied round him in the wind. The smoky town was far behind; he was among his own woods now, and in spite of the leveling, whitening sheets of the snow his eager eyes traced well-known landmarks in the dim light.

"It is but a man's bit now," he muttered, "if men see 't old place, though they are all gone, 't old place." A cottage or two by the road and twinkling lights further on showed he was nearing the village. "It is her home, but I couldn't go there," he went on, as he passed a small cottage. "I'll knock at the farm. No one will know me," he added, "a poor clammy body, but 't old place." A "rich" neighbor of his came to a larger, more substantial house, which was the farm. Entering the gate and going up the flagging path he knocked at the door. A bright, barn-looker woman opened it. She did not recognize him but he knew her at a glance as Mary Romer, his old love. A bright light came to her eyes and she

BOUGHT THE QUAIL.

A Story Showing the Absolute Authority of Reasoned Desires.

In Mr. Barry's "Russia in 1870," the author remarks upon the unlimited and irresponsible power which the proprietors of large estates had over their dependents in the days of serfdom. One proprietor caused a man who had offered him to be looked into an iron cage, and confined him in it for a length of time. Happily, however, the proprietor himself was a man under authority, and his day of reckoning finally arrived.

While the oppressor was absent on a journey, the case of his wretched prisoner came to the knowledge of the governor of his province. The governor caused the man, cage and all, to be brought to the government town, and at the same time sent a message to intercept the tyrannical proprietor on the road, with an invitation to dinner. The proprietor was flattered by the courtesy, and presented himself at the government house at the time appointed.

There was then a curious fashion in Russia of keeping live quails, whose notes were greatly admired by connoisseurs. The governor was famous for his collection of these singing birds. The dinner was good, the company merry.

After the cloth was removed, the governor addressed his guest. "Now, Ivan Simonovitch, I know you are very fond of quails, and I have a beauty which I don't mind selling you." "Very well, your excellency, if the bird is not too dear, I will buy it of you."

"Bring in the quail," said his excellency to the attendants.

A very ordinary sort of bird, in a wooden cage, was introduced. "I want to sell you that bird for ten thousand rubles," said the governor. The proprietor could not understand the joke, but declined the bargain, as he thought the bird a little too dear.

"Well," said the governor, "I will show you a better bird than that, and I think you'll buy him. Have the other quail brought in."

Folding doors flew open, and the iron cage with its captive was set down before the astonished guest. "Now," said the governor, "think do you think of that for a quail? But this is a very expensive bird; I want twenty thousand rubles for him!"

"All right," said the alarmed proprietor; "I will buy this one. Send him down to my works without the cage, and your messenger shall bring back the amount."

History does not add that the poor peasant profited by any part of the twenty thousand rubles. — Youth's Companion.

ROBUST ENGLISH WOMEN.

Their Health the Result of a Vigorous Amount of Exercise.

Of course the English climate has something to do with their fresh, clean skin and her fine physique. But still more depends upon the English life; contrast it with continental habits and customs if you would learn how much. The outdoor life, with its regular exercise, led by the Englishwoman in the country, is an old story, though one which can not be told too often. But less is said of her out-door life in town, which is really of more importance. To go out, to amuse one's self in the open air, is obviously a necessity in the country. In town it becomes a luxury, but one with which few Englishwomen will dispense. The average London woman is so careful to get her daily or weekly supply of fresh-air, to take her allotted amount of exercise, as she is to attend to her household and social duties. We should be putting our Anglo-manics to good use, if, in our American towns, her example were followed more closely.

I have never been on the Thames at any hour or on any day that I have not found a fair proportion of women, and that they were not working as actively as the men. You see them sculling, rowing, and paddling, and usually carrying the work, which is really the best of play. It stands to reason that they are the better for this breath of pure air, the better for the healthy exercise which develops their muscles and strengthens their system, sending them back to London in good condition to stand the wear and tear of town.

PITH AND POINT.

—An Irishman, struggling to get on a pair of new boots, exclaimed: "I shall never get 'em on at all till I wear 'em a day or two."

—The other fellow is always getting off the good thing we were just on the point of sending out to a bright world.—Boston Journal.

—When a young man is first married all the cake his wife makes is angel cake to him, no matter what it may seem like to other people.—Life.

—"Have you any lot?" asked a gentleman of a waiter at a restaurant. "No, sir; the reply; but the water here has been three degrees colder."

—A correspondent who does not give his full name, sends us a poem headed: "Are You Weary?" We have read it attentively, and find it very true as we are.—Buffalo Commercial.

—We have noticed that no matter where a man has a pain he is always satisfied that he would be very brave and patient if it was only somewhere else.—Rochester Post.

—One Was Enough.—Suitor—"Come to see you for your daughter's hand." Her Father—"She is my only daughter." Suitor—"Well, sir, she is all I want."—Yankee Blade.

—There are people who enjoy a dinner of the poor to him does not necessarily before them in head "mean" than if it bears the old-fashioned heading, "bill of fare."—Lowell Times.

—Portly Dame (with the aid of her maid, struggling into her last season's winter jacket)—"Why, Jane, I really believe this thing has shrunk." "Yes, m'm; it is really wonderful how clothes do shrink at your time of life."—Blackstone's Commentaries.

—As a matter of good form, the contributor to the newspaper now accompanies his manuscript with a note assuring the editor that this submission is not a copy of any work published, or implying any lack of merit on his—the editor's—part.—Boston Post.

—Anxious Wife—"What is his ailment, doctor?" Physician—"I pronounce it parala, madam." Boston sick man (feebly)—"According to recent authorities, you—don't pronounce it—correctly. The accent is on the first syllable."—Chicago Tribune.

—"You don't know how to play chess, do you, Mr. Adlet?" asked Miss Skitts, with a look at the clock, which indicated that it was time to go. "Why, I do, Miss Skitts. What makes you think I didn't?" "Why, you don't seem to know when it's your move."—Brooklyn Life.

—Paddy O'Ryan—"Please mum, and wad ye after buyin' any noice peraties, this day?" Lady of the House—"But these potatoes which you have are sunburned." Paddy—"Fair mum, and they'll soon be baked of that. I've rubbed them well with glycerina, mum."

—"And do you really love me, George?" she asked. "Love you!" repeated George, fervently. "Why, while I was bidding you good-by in the porch last night, dear, the dog bit a large piece out of the calf of my leg, and I never noticed it until I got home! Love you!"—Once A Week.

—His Misfortune, not His Fault.—"It is not our fault that we are reduced and small," says a western editor. "The argument of Princess May of Teck was a circle of riddles. A large diamond or pearl is considered the proper fastening for the snowy exposure of a man's shirt front. Golden yellow and green beryls from Russia, the first that has been seen in a long time, have been recently brought to this country."

Lapidary work in rubies, crystal, garnets, amethysts, topaz, sard, jade and rhodochite, peculiar to the Ural mountains, is being imported.

English women prefer pigeon's blood rubies, but French women choose brilliant tints in the favorite gem of the season. Pink coral which imitates pink pearls is very popular.

DOMESTIC CONCERNS.

—Boswell Tea: Take one tablespoon of boswell; put in it a pint of hot water, letting it brew fifteen minutes. Sweeten with molasses. When cold, strain and take two tablespoons every half hour.—Ladies' Home Journal.

—White Rose Cake: Sift together one cup of flour and two teaspoonsful of baking powder, a little over half a cup of good butter, one cup of powdered sugar, one-half a cup of rose water and the whites of six eggs.—Detroit Free Press.

—Baked Ham: Soak a ham in cold water overnight. Trim it neatly, and cover it all over with a thick crust of flour and water. Bake slowly eight hours. Remove the crust and skin; cover the top with fine cracker crumbs slightly sweetened. Place in the oven till the crumbs are brown. When cold, cut in very thin slices.—Boston Budget.

—Cream Cake: This is very easily made, and may be baked in a number of ways. Take one cup of sugar; break two eggs into a cup and fill it with sweet cream; add a pinch of salt, two spoonfuls of baking powder and two cupfuls of flour sifted together. Flavor with lemon, and bake in small patty pans. The same recipe may be baked in three deep tins, and put together with fruit: lemon, custard, sliced bananas, icing or fig jam; it may be baked in one cake and loaf.—Woman's Work.

—Mock Oyster Soup: Save the giblets of chickens, and turkey gizzards, livers, hearts, necks and feet. Skin the feet, by dipping in boiling water, when the outside will slip off readily. Put the giblets to boil in one quart of cold water, with one onion, and one carrot cut small. When very tender, take from the kettle, cut in pieces the size of large oyster, add two tablespoonfuls of butter, one cup of sweet cream, salt and pepper to season. When ready to serve, add gradually, so that it may not curdle, one well-beaten egg. Do not let the soup boil after adding the latter. Stir well, and serve at once. Water, from time to time, should be added to the giblets, so that they will be a quart before adding the cream.—Rural New Yorker.

—To Keep Hams in Summer: Make of stout, thick-woven, unbleached cotton oblong bags a finger longer and wider than the hams to be encased, and boil them in a very strong solution of red pepper, or cayenne pepper if those from the garden are not at hand. When dried drop in the hams, stitch across the mouth of the bag, gather together in the hand and tie with a strong twine, leaving a loop for hanging. No insect can enter the bag, and the pungency of the pepper will prevent their lighting on its exterior. The sacks will do duty for several years if annually cleaned and reeppered. Hang the bagged hams in a cool, dry place if a smoke-house, which is the best for them, is not conveniently near. This is a long-tested method.—Old Homestead.

—Styles in Jewelry. What is just now popular in the way of Decoration. Russian jewelry, as all things Russian, is the fashion abroad. The princess of Wales' favorite gems are moonstones set with diamonds. The engagement ring of Princess May of Teck was a circle of rubies. A large diamond or pearl is considered the proper fastening for the snowy exposure of a man's shirt front. Golden yellow and green beryls from Russia, the first that has been seen in a long time, have been recently brought to this country.

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The long sleeves worn by women have somewhat dimmed the popularity of brooches, but the flat woven links and tapes in which platinum is introduced takes the lead in favor.

Tiny snowballs are the latest caprice in jewelry abroad. They are made up of small diamonds with the foliage of green enamel. The gueldre rose, which is the foreign name for the snowball, is worn in clusters and sprays.—Jeweler's Circular.

Satin Ruches. A fresh and dainty appearance can be imparted to a black net, grenadine, or silk evening dress that has seen service by putting two or three satin ruches near the edge—scarlet, mauve or any shade preferred. A dress so fashioned was made of black satin figured with Marie Antoinette rose clusters. The ruches added were old rose color, stem green and black and the bodice was correspondingly trimmed. Satin ruches are seen on old cloth gowns, even those which are tailor-made being so decorated. This is quite a durable form of trimming, and it is effective also, the sheen of the satin being a relief to the surface of duller materials.—N. Y. Post.

Some Causes of Gray Hair. Many of the young men become gray in front and on the sides of their heads without knowing exactly what causes the change. Falling out of the hair makes it gray. It often happens that clerks, book-keepers and persons of sedentary occupation pluck at their hair or beard while at work. They need not be surprised if in a few months they find themselves turning gray, for the plucked-out hairs are almost certain to be followed by white ones.—St. Louis Barber.

The nest of a "nuthird," living in New South Wales, is described by Mr. North as a beautiful structure, "being bowl-shaped, and composed externally of long twigs entwined around the large, broad leaves of *Platelia*, and the outer branches of *Platelia* and the interior of the nest is lined entirely with fine twigs. Although included among the better birds, the "nuthird" has not been known to make a nest.

And Thompson said, as he walked away: "I'll tell her the rest some other day."—Chicago Tribune.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

CLOVER-GROWING.

How to Take Care of the Crop.—Production of Seed. R. A. Brown, of Sand Beach, Mich., writes to the Orange Judd Farmer: "No matter what constitutes the soil or its 'lay' clover will grow very successfully if there is any plant food left to start vegetation and keep it alive long enough to bring forth its seed. The mammoth, red or June and alaska clovers are the main species. Clovers are biennials (taking two years to germinate and come to maturity). But by constant cutting or grazing to prevent its maturity it may be kept alive for an indefinite number of years. As soon as the clover plant fills its mazon of producing seed it dies, but it has such peculiar tenacity of life that if prevented from maturing it will cling to life beyond its natural time."

"It is a mistake to keep clover longer than the second year. After that the plant has so lost its strength that what does grow will not be profitable. The better way is to cut it after seedling or plow it under. Many farmers suppose that in ripening its seed the soil is much impoverished, but such is not the case. Clover has a long deep tap root, often found ten feet down in the soil, and those long roots bring fertility to the surface of the soil which is only depleted there as the seed ripens. To ripen clover seed in sufficient quantities is one of the great problems to the farmer. The mammoth clover ripens its seed with the first cuttings so will the alaska, but in this region many farmers cut the red or June clover the last week in June or first week in July, and let the plant grow the second time until September or October to ripen its seed. This plan was successfully carried on here always until a few years ago, when the clover midge infested the plants. The fields are now pastured until the first or second week in June. The plants are allowed to mature. This brings the ripening period on before the midge infests the blossoms. Two to ten bushels per acre are procured, and prices range from four to six dollars a bushel. Success in clover growing depends more on the dryness of the soil than any thing else. Wet soil is death to profits. The roots of clover grow so deep that surface drainage is of little account. If the ground is sufficiently elevated to cause the water to run away quickly in the furrows. We find it preferable to either cut the growth off about five or six inches in August or September, or feed it off with stock, not too closely, leaving just enough to cover the plants from thawing out too easily with a day's sun, when it freezes again at night. If too much top is left, the plants are liable to get smothered, being beaten down and held there with a heavy fall of snow; they then decay about the surface and die.

FEEDING CORN FODDER. An Improvement That Should Be Introduced on Every Farm. Throwing the bundles upon the ground for the cattle to trample under foot, while the fodder is descending the steps or coming around the back way, is the ordinary method of feeding fodder from the two-story or "bank" barn. Those who have been pursuing this plan will greatly appreciate the improvement represented in the cut; and as its cost is comparatively small it comes within reach of all. A platform 15 to 16 feet long and as wide as the small double doors, seven feet or more, is hung to the rear of the barn. Out upon this the fodder is carried and dropped into a feeding rack placed on the ground just below. The side beams of this hanging platform are made of light wood, pine or poplar, 8 inches by 8 inches, connected below by four cross pieces of stouter material, 3 inches by 4 inches, all firmly bolted together. Boards nailed down upon these cross pieces form the floor. A bolt having a hook above is inserted near the outer end of each side beam of the platform; and in each door post, about four feet from the floor, a similar hooked bolt is placed, upon which are hung the brace rods, made of five-eighths inch round iron furnished with a ring at each end. Through the sill, just back of each door post, two half-inch holes are bored and an iron loop (C) inserted, having an inside measure slightly greater than three inches in width, and extending half a foot or more below the surface. These receive and hold the beams at the back end of the platform. To prevent straining these loops by any horizontal thrust, a board (D) is placed just behind them, against which the ends of the beams may rest. This board is supported by others (AA) nailed against the sleepers in the position shown in the drawing. When the season's feeding is done, the platform is

FOR FEEDING CORN FODDER. taken down and stowed away until again needed. The feed rack is placed just below the outer end of the platform, and parallel with the barn. In this position it may be sixteen feet long and yet easily reached from the platform. Ordinary feeding boards and scooping are used in the construction. The bottom of the rack is formed of boards lying upon the three strips nailed from post to post across it below. It is not upon the ground without sinking its posts into the soil, and when the feeding season is past may be accumulated around it and carried aside.—E. P. Shell, in Rural New Yorker.

"WHAT IS IT THAT CAN BE TAKEN FROM LAND AND LEAVE IT BETTER? Answer: Clover. Sow it whenever there is a chance; sow it liberally. It is the only opportunity of making, under all circumstances, a clean profit—getting a valuable crop without leaving the land poorer thereby."

THE CORN WORM.

A Pest That Attacks Many Plants and Does Great Damage.

The corn worm has received attention chiefly as a cotton pest, but the recent work of the United States division of entomology indicates that its importance as a cotton insect has been exaggerated and that its injuries to corn are as great as to cotton. The worm is well known over a large part of the United States, in the south as the boll worm, or when in cornfields in early summer as the bud worm, tassel worm, or ear worm; and in the north and west as the corn worm, the tomato and fruit worm, and by other titles derived from its various food plants, peas, beans, etc. Its most noticeable damage to corn is done by eating into the ears when in the milk, furrowing its way through the kernels, at first the end of the ear, but often reaching the middle before it ceases work, and by leaving its track lined with semi-solid excrement, thus providing a fertile soil for the development of all kinds of rot. The worms doing damage of this description belong to

the second brood. The worms of the first brood are said to feed upon the unopened tassels, and do not attract much attention. The moth shown in the illustration is rather stout bodied, of a dull ochre-yellow color, and belongs to the family of owlet, or night-flying moths, Noctuidae. The eggs are deposited upon the silks of the corn and hatch in a few days. The larvae feed until the corn becomes hard, when they descend into the ground and pupate within an inch or two of the surface. The pupa cell is hollowed out smooth and kept free from loose dirt. Observations seem to prove that if the pupa freezes when in contact with moist loose dirt which is not allowed to freeze for some little time, it will die; while if it freezes undisturbed in its smooth and hollow cell it will be unharmed, and a moth will issue in the spring. This fact teaches that badly infested fields of corn should be harvested in time to plow them in autumn so as to destroy the pupa cells and thus cause the death of the pupae, by their freezing in contact with the loosened dirt in winter. The various expedients of light traps and poisoned baits cannot be very highly recommended at present.—Orange Judd Farmer.

REGARDING SEEDLINGS. Uncertainty That Is Impeding and Giving Loss to the Grower. A western writer advances the peculiar theory that, "unlike the seed of the apple, the nut will produce a tree that will yield nutlike the one from which it sprang. Planting a nut is only another way of transplanting," etc. The apple having been longer under cultivation than any of our native nut trees, there is likely to be a greater or wider departure from the original type; but whoever found any two trees of hickory bearing exactly the same size, form and quality of nuts. And this accounts for the remarkable variations of the mixture seen in any large lot of nuts in the market. It is one of the rules of nature never to produce two things alike, and upon this variability all progress, or the original type, but whoever found any two trees of hickory bearing exactly the same size, form and quality of nuts. 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