

# The St. Tammany Farmer.

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

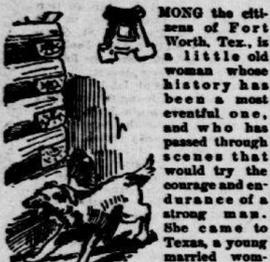
W. G. KENTZEL, Editor.

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## A BRAVE FIGHT.

### How a Woman Resisted a Pack of Wolves.



MONG the citizens of Fort Worth, Tex., is a little old woman whose history has been a most eventful one, and who has passed through scenes that would try the courage and endurance of a strong man.

She came to Texas, a young married woman, in 1839, settling first in San Augustine, and about ten years later moved with her husband into Parker county, some miles west of where Weatherford is now. She is living with a married daughter, and is still bright and cheerful, notwithstanding her age and the trials she has passed.

"Oh, I felt at home in San Augustine," she said to the Globe-Democrat correspondent, "but I didn't want to move to Parker county. It was so far from every place—just like going clear to the edge of the world and then jumping off. But it was the only place that would suit John, and so we came and stopped our two wagons right where you could hear wolves howling and built a little hut there and moved in. The house was built of logs, with the ends notched together, and the floor was made of puncheons, smoothed off by an axe, and the door was of puncheons, too, thick and heavy enough for a jail door. We didn't have any window in the house, and so John left one of the puncheons out of the door, as 'twas summer time, so that we could get a little light. And having got that far, John went to clearing land and fixing for his crop.

"Oh, the times we had while we lived in that house! Once I remember John and our nearest neighbor, who lived ten miles away, agreed to go to mill together. They had to go clear to Dallas, and it was a ten or twelve days' trip. The neighbor came by early in the morning, and he brought with him a deer that he had killed on the way, because it ran so close that he couldn't resist the temptation. And he and John drove away and the children and I were left alone.

"I had lived in Texas a long time, and had the thoughts of being afraid. I wasn't of the scary kind, you see. So I went singing about my work and finished up a lot of sewing I had on hand, and as fresh meat was rare with us, I fixed up all I could of it for drying. And as evening came on I got a pile of dry splinters ready for kindling and brought the ax in the house. Not that I was afraid, you know, but it suddenly occurred to me that I was sorry John had gone. I had never been alone before, except when there were near neighbors, and I acknowledged to myself that the sensation wasn't a pleasant one. There were Indians in the country. I knew. Some of them were savage, for one of the marauding bands had killed several people only a few months before. As for wild animals I had no need to be told about them. Had I not heard the wolves howling, night after night? And had not a bear killed our largest hog only a few nights before and dragged the body away? I still think that I was not much afraid, but I turned our little table down before that open place in the door. Not that I looked all around the room until my eyes fell upon a little patch of ceiling about six feet square, where John had laid some loose puncheons over the joists and made a kind of shelf to store things

springing at my throat and I had to fight for my life. By keeping the table down I managed to protect myself a little, but I was gradually edging around the wall toward our ladder of wooden pegs. I knew very well that I couldn't keep up the fight much longer. My strength was already giving out. The wolves were pressing nearer, and I would soon be pulled down and torn to pieces, right there in the sight of poor little Jennie and the sleeping babies. And so I watched my opportunity, gave my weapon a longer swing to drive them further away, and I dropped my ax, springing for my ladder. Here they came like a whirlwind, their mouths open, their eyes ablaze. Two of them actually caught the skirt of my dress, but I pulled myself up and pulled myself up beside the children, so unmoved that I was compelled to lie down. When I had recovered sufficiently to peep over the edge of the little shelf on which we were all perched, there the great creatures were hanging high in the air to get at us, and falling down and being trampled upon by others. In a twinkling the spirits of some of them knocked over the little stand on which the candle was sitting and it went out, leaving us in darkness, but the howling and raving went on for hours—I don't know how long. We spent the night on that little shelf. When day began to dawn the wolves skulked away gradually, and before I could see anything of the room the sun had gone in. It was a long, long, oh, such a sight as that house and yard were. The remains of four wolves were scattered about the yard, and the whole place looked like a slaughter pen.

"And we stayed alone a whole week after that, never looking upon a human face. But I managed to get some of the missing puncheons into the house, and through the house came and howled following the house on the two nights following that eventful one, they did not get in. And then they disappeared and were seen no more in that neighborhood—at least in such numbers. We always supposed that the drought had driven them from their old haunts and they were preyed by hawks, but I never forgot that horrible night I spent fighting a gang of hungry wolves."—Fort Worth (Tex.) Co., St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## WHERE TOYS ARE MADE.

### Where French Dolls and Saxony Toys are Made.

"It is an open secret that Santa Claus brings the greater part of his vast stock of Christmas toys from Europe, Germany being his favorite collecting ground.

But he encourages American industry in a few directions, notably in cheap mechanical toys. The tin railway trains and tin horses and steamboats that run when wound up with a key are made in Brooklyn, and the cast-iron toys of the same description are made principally in New York.

When he desires an expensive mechanical toy, however, he goes to France for it; to Saxony for his Noah's ark and all the other carved wooden toys; to Nuremberg for his toys, tin trumpets and magic lanterns, and to Thuringia for his China tea sets.

It is so important that all other toys are the dolls, a nine dollar doll of every tin and little German girl. In whole districts in Germany the country people spend the winter in making dolls, tilling their fields in the summer.

The cheap wax doll, commercially known as "composition wax," such as may be bought and retailed in the country for twenty-five cents, resembles perhaps the best idea of wax dolls ever made.

A "molder," who has nothing further to do with the making of dolls, makes plaster of paris models of the styles of heads and limbs most in demand and sells them singly or in sets to the peasants who make the dolls.

Throughout the winter father, mother and all the larger children unite in making paper mache casts from these models, each cast being, of course, an exact counterpart of the model, but thin and light and gray in color.

The legs and arms are dipped in dead-colored paint, and the painted shoon are put on and brushed with the various parts, together with the head, are fastened to a cloth body stuffed with sawdust, and dolly goes off to the factory, where the more artistic work is done.

An expert workman in the factory, holding dolls by the feet, dips her head and shoulders for a moment into molten wax, as she emerges from the bath the composition wax doll of commerce.

When she is sufficiently dry she passes into the hands of a girl operator, who quickly paints the pink tinge on her cheeks. Another girl adds the blue eyes; still another the eyebrows and eyelashes; and so she goes through the hands of a row of girls, one girl for each tint, the whole process taking about six hours, for there are delays while the paints are drying.

In six hours six girls are expected to paint ten gross, or nearly one thousand five hundred dolls, complete. This requires rapid work, and the girls receive about one dollar and seventy-five cents a week each. Flowing locks of molten wax are fastened to the head and dolly is ready to emigrate to America.

For the real wax doll a more expensive article, the molds for the head are made in three parts—one back and two fronts. The mold is filled with melted wax, which is allowed to remain for a minute or two, and then all that is not hardened is poured out.

## OF GENERAL INTEREST.

### A Resident of Thomastown has a dinner table that has been in the family 130 years, and upon which his great-grandmother's wedding dinner was set.—Savannah News.

—Harrisburg, Conn., has a grove of trees from which musical sounds come during a wind. In September, during what is known as the equinoctial storm, this strange grove is heard. Then, above the howling of the wind, the roar rises and falls like the moaning of ten thousand Leviathans in the agonies of death.

—A dispatch states that a silversmith in Monterey, Mex., is engaged on a work in silver which when completed will be an exact reproduction of the agricultural building now being built on the exposition grounds, Chicago. It will be eight feet wide, will contain a quantity of silver valued as bullion at \$10,000, and when finished will be valued at \$30,000.

—A peculiar and extraordinary phenomenon was worked on the snow-covered campus of a New York theological seminary recently. One morning passers-by were astonished to see the immaculate field of over five acres covered with white eruptions varying in size from a marble to a pumpkin. Investigation showed that the snowballs had been formed by the high wind of the previous night.

—The stand taken by women against the slaughter of birds is making itself felt in a practical way. The Birds' Protection Society of England has just published its first annual report. In it the statement is made that a professional wild-fowler declared he had not shot a single Kittiwake gull or sea swallow this year, because there was no demand for them, though the year before he had filled an order for eight thousand of them to one dealer alone.

—Two strange fish were taken in a trawl off the coast of Maine recently. One, the lampfish, is the only specimen of the kind ever taken in eastern waters. In shape it is like a very large sunfish, and its weight was about 300 pounds. It back was of a beautiful sky blue, the sides were snowy white, and the fins scarlet. The other fish, the eel of the Casco Islands, is a common fish in warm latitudes, but has never before been taken so far north as in this case. Both were taken at a depth of 1,000 feet.

—Vermont has become famous for her spruce gum, the gathering and selling of which have grown to be more than an infant industry. The champion gum picker of the state is said to be Alvin Bishop, of Woodford. Bishop is a Yankee notion peddler in summer time, but when the cold weather sets in he starts out with bag and pole and roams the mountain forest in search of gum. When the deep snow comes he goes about on snowshoes. The product of his lonely hunting trips he disposes of for cash at Bennington, and makes a good living thereby.

—About two hundred and fifty years ago Jonathan, a large attainable tree, was repeatedly refused, but he persevered in his suit, riding seventy miles every Saturday across a country infested with hostile Indians in order to pay the Sunday near the lady at "meeting." On the last visit, as he slowly mounted his horse to ride away, the slight of his object was perceived by a young lady, and, lifting her hand, she beckoned to him, crying, "Return, Jonathan." The phrase was adopted as a Christian name in the family that sprang from the subsequent union, and a man named "Return Jonathan Meigs" has just died in Washington.

—A motor is running at the patent office in Washington which seems to fulfill the conditions of perpetual motion. Perpetual motion is said to exist in a machine that "when once started will continue to run until worn out." This machine operates by the power given out in different expansion of metals under varying conditions, and is so small and carefully constructed that if there was absolutely no change in the temperature of perpetual motion, it would run for a great many years without stopping and probably will continue to run until it wears out.—The Industrial World.

—At seven o'clock of the evening of January 9, Charles Winniger, who is employed in a furniture factory at Louisville, Ky., was a single man and had no idea of getting married. Two hours later he was a husband and was on his way home with his wife. He had finished his work in the factory and after eating supper, concluded to take a trip up town. He stopped at the house of an acquaintance, where he met Mary Winkler. It was a case of love at first sight, and Winniger lost no time in proposing. The woman was equally well pleased with her strange admirer, and she readily gave her consent. No time was lost in making arrangements. A carriage was called and the couple drove over to Jeffersonville, Ind., where Equivoque Kalgwin performed the ceremony. Two friends accompanied them, and upon their return the certificate was exhibited to the people in the neighborhood. The marriage was one of the quickest on record.

—A Curious God.—Among the most extraordinary pieces of symbolism known to have been used by the early Aethiops was a figure of a donkey's head used as a representative of the Deity. There is no doubt whatever that the same emblem was once used among the Egyptians, the Egyptians and one or two other nations as a symbol of the Red God Set. The superstition of the yellow donkey of India; the story of the swift son of eastern Asia and the use of Donkeys, and many other marvellous stories, are all survivals of that curious form of religious worship—the adoration of the donkey's head.—St. Louis Republic.

## ROMEO AND JULIET.

### The Old Story, With Modern Accessories, Retold in Naples.

In the criminal court of Naples the story of Romeo and Juliet in modern life was told recently. Least Leone of the Tenth regiment of artillery, fell desperately in love with Catherine Notarbartolo de Villorosa, a beautiful young woman. The Notarbartolo family is among the most powerful in Sicily, where a good deal of the old feudal system survives, in spite of the Italian unity. Donna Maria Bentingone, widow of Notarbartolo, and the mother of the young woman, had a brother executed in 1849 for political offenses, and she was banished, but she returned to Sicily with Garibaldi. Although she is 84 years of age, she administered the rich patrimony of her family. The beautiful Catherine was her youngest child.

The question before the court was whether the young officer committed suicide, or was murdered by the brother of the young girl. His body was found at the door of the Notarbartolo mansion. He had been shot through the heart, and a pistol was found at his feet. The evidence for the prosecution was that he had been called into the house by Catherine's old nurse, Caterina Timballo, and that Catherine's brother, who was his sworn enemy, had waited for him at the entrance, and had shot him. Francesco Notarbartolo, who was accused of having organized the plot, had previously fought a duel with the lover. It was a one-sided fight, however, in which all the fury was with Notarbartolo. Leone, who was an expert swordsman, foiled all his desperate attacks, and allowed himself to be wounded rather than run the

risk of killing the brother of his lady love. Francesco was also the recognized chief of the Mafia society in Palermo. Eleven times he was on the point of being arrested, but on each occasion he was saved by the Mafia, and at one time he was concealed in the house of a near relative of the chief of police.

The trial of the case extended through two years in Palermo, and then the venue was changed to Naples, where it lasted for eighty days. Love letters in abundance from Leone to Catherine, and from Catherine to Leone were read, in which the tender passion was painted with all the high coloring peculiar to the Italian school. The brothers Notarbartolo did not deny anything of the love affair between their sister Catherine and the young officer; they simply confined themselves to a denial of the charge of murder. One of them, Pietro, declared in his examination that Leone was completely unknown to him when he received the following note:

"Sir: I love your sister Catherine. Francesco has told me that I shall shoot by it and taste no longer.

In describing the effect of the letter, Pietro said: "I spoke of that letter to my mother who said, 'The young man is crazy. The marriage is impossible.' I informed Leo of this declaration, and advised him to postpone as far as possible the stupid notion of getting married. We parted on the best of terms. A few days afterward while we were at dinner, we heard a pistol shot outside the door. We came down and found Leone dead at the door. He had just sent a bullet through his breast."

The medical reports seem to establish that Leone did not kill himself, but was murdered," the president of the court remarked.

"On the contrary," Pietro responded. "He shot himself in the heart. Lovers always shoot themselves in the heart and bankers always shoot themselves in the head. Whether it is the heart or the brain, it is always the affected part that they aim at."

The old nurse, who carried the letters of the lovers, denied that she induced Leone to come to the house. The deposition of Leone, Sr., was particularly dramatic. He said: "When I learned that my son was in love with one of the Notarbartolo young ladies I knew that it was all over with me. All the lovers of the young ladies were killed by the brothers Notarbartolo. Francesco killed Boccardo and his brother-in-law Coppola."

"If I struck down Coppola," the accused Francesco interrupted, "it was because he begged to court my sister Constante, and then deserted her, to make love to my sister Maria. And now poor Constante is crazy from love."

"You are also accused of having killed Leo. Why did you run away after the tragedy?" the president asked.

"Because I knew that I would be suspected. I have already been in prison for beating policemen, and now I am to be shut up in four walls."

Other witnesses gave the details of the duel, in which Leone was kind enough to allow himself to be wounded by the brother of his expected bride. Letters were then produced to show that when the broken-hearted lover of the Notarbartolo family was shot, he was in the company of the brothers, who suspected his decision. Leone for a time accepted his fate; but on receiving a burning and tearful document from Catherine, begging him to continue his suit and asking him if he had ceased to love her, he weakened and determined to return to Palermo. His brother officers urged him not to go. "They will kill you," they said. "Well, let them kill me," Leone said. "I can't give up my love."

Several of his comrades testified that he never had any idea of suicide. The evidence pointed to murder, or at least to manslaughter, for a quarrel between Leone and the brothers was also described. Francesco Notarbartolo was convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. The others were acquitted, and now Catherine is crazy.—N. Y. Sun.

## AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

### Importance of Getting the Seed into Soil Under Favorable Conditions.

One of the principal advantages in getting the sowing done in early is that the plants, having a better opportunity to get well established, are in a much better condition to withstand the hot, dry weather of summer. Plants that are sown in the early stages of growth never fully recover, and seed sown under unfavorable conditions will rarely always stand up to a weak and unfavorable season, whose effects after treatment will entirely overcome.

With nearly all spring crops, especially in the field, earliness is quite an item in securing the best growth and yield, yet it is rarely good economy to risk a low, poor germination of the seed and an unthriftiness to grow in order to plant early. Allowing seed to remain in the ground or planting under unfavorable conditions, so that they germinate slowly, causes more or less loss of vitality that, when the best growth and yield are desired, it is best to avoid. Under present conditions if a fair profit is realized a good yield is necessary and in many cases a fair yield can be made to return a fair profit while a light yield will be made at a positive loss. Hence it is important to take every precaution to secure the best growth and yield in order to lessen the cost and increase the profit.

These things are important: Good seed carefully planted in thoroughly prepared soil so as to insure a quick, vigorous germination and growth; a good even stand. A failure in either of these respects will affect the yield. At the start it is best to take every precaution to plant under favorable conditions as possible, and with such crops as require it, give thorough cultivation.

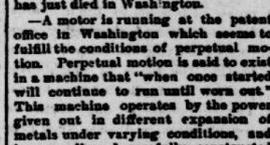
In order to lessen the necessity for attempting to work the soil wet or to plant under unfavorable conditions the best plan is to make all of the preparations possible in advance. Get everything ready so that when the soil is in condition to work the seeding may be pushed along rapidly. It is only in exceptional cases that it will pay to attempt to work the soil wet. It will nearly always pay to delay the work a few days until the soil is sufficiently dry. With good drainage in the spring crop, or two days will make a very considerable difference. One working of the soil when wet will so injure it that a whole season's work afterwards will fall entirely to remove the effect; planting the seed with the soil not in good condition will seriously affect the growth and yield of the crop.

Sow or plant as early as possible, but have the soil in a good tilth, and get the seed into the soil under favorable conditions. This is the first step towards securing a good yield, and much depends upon the way it is done.—St. Louis Republic.

## A CONVENIENT BARN.

### One Suitable for Holding Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Pigs.

Our illustration represents a barn capable of holding 15 horses, 50 head of cattle and 20 sheep, with room enough for at least 40 tons of hay. The end of the stable portion is represented as left open to show the arrangements of the stalls, etc. The horses occupy the central portion of an end, in two rows, with a passageway between them, and the spaces for the sheep being the other end of the central space. The cattle occupy the sides, each row facing toward the horses on that side. Their stalls are 12 feet deep. The floor



LIVE STOCK BARN.

of the cattle stalls extends to a narrow ditch behind the cattle, and behind this is the passageway. The cattle may be fastened with stanchions or in any other approved way. The horse stalls have a dirt floor. The barn is 75 feet long, 45 feet wide, 18 or 20 feet high at the eaves. The upper part is used as a haymow.

## FACTS FOR FARMERS.

WRITE fair to good draught horses selling in Chicago at \$15 to \$20 and in good order at \$25 to \$35 each. It appears that there is still money to be made in raising good horses.

THERE is money in squashes. They will sell at \$3 to \$6 per ton and are easily raised to \$8 to \$10. Their removal from the farm impoverishes it less in proportion to the returns than almost any other vegetable crop.

The price of farm land is going to be higher. The unoccupied lands of Uncle Sam's domain will soon be wanted, and the people are growing land hungry. Those who can hold out had better not sacrifice in order to sell. This is true in general way; of course, it is not of universal application.

The large farm has had its day and has got to go. Taxes are too high to pay on unproductive lands. Small acreage and the intensive system of farming will do more to increase the condition of American farmers than unlimited legislation. Intensive farming calls for close attention to all matters, which only a good head can give. Let the boys have the benefit of careful training.

Corn, hay and timothy (or moderate exercise) will bring the horses out in the spring fat, sleek and handsome, but soft short winded and unable to sell. Better sell half the corn and buy hay and feed them as much as possible on timothy, oats and clover, bright wheat straw, with a little corn and hay for variety, and give them all the exercise possible. It is unkindness to keep a horse in idleness.

Good Cows are Big Earners.—A cow giving a big mass of milk has an enormous appetite, and it is an important point to feed her so that she will keep this big appetite. To do this we must keep a close watch and see that she is not overfed. If a cow that is in full milk is poor, and shows her ribs plainly, don't try to get her fat; we are not feeding for fat in the cow, but for fat in the milk. A good cow will put most of her feed in the milk, and may look as if she did not get enough to eat, but that is all right so long as she keeps in good health.—Institution.

## THE WOOD NYMPH.

### A Beautiful Insect Which is Said to Thrive on Grape Vines.

This has often been mentioned as an enemy to grape vines, usually in connection with *Alypia oetomaculata*, an allied genus, on account of the very close resemblance between the larva of the two moths.

The moth of the *Eudryas* genus is among the most beautiful of the Lepidoptera, with its pleasing contrasts of white, soft brown, purple, green and yellow. Perfect specimens—unless bred—are seldom seen, however, as it is a night flier.

The eggs and larva are also very pretty, the former being delicately sculptured and the latter ornamented with alternating bands of bluish and red orange, the bluish bands marked off and the orange bands dotted with black.

The food plant of the larva is usually grape, varied occasionally by ampelopsis or Virginia creeper.

It is seldom abundant enough to do much injury, though, according to Dr. Lintner, *Alypia* often proves a serious pest while *Eudryas* is rare. Here, in Iowa, *Alypia* is very seldom met with while *Eudryas* is comparatively common and in favorable seasons might grow in and favorable seasons might become formidable. Owing to its size and conspicuous coloring the larva are readily seen and can be destroyed on the few vines usually found in the farmer's garden, if they become numerous. They have the habit of dropping to the ground when approached, the same habit being mentioned by Dr. Lintner in regard to *Alypia*.

If the ground underneath the vines is free from weeds and litter they can thus be easily destroyed. *Eudryas* grates in—in common with the majority of the insect world—subject to parasitic attack, noticeable among which is a tachina fly, in appearance about like a housefly.

In this locality there is but one annual brood, the larvae attaining their growth about the middle of August. They then descend to the ground and either enter the earth to pupate, or, if pieces of board, wood, sticks or twigs are in the vicinity they often gnaw into them a cavity large enough to admit half of the body, covering the outer half with sawdust stuck together with a gummy secretion.

Packard mentions this wood-boring habit as occasional, but in my experience it has been more common than the usual (French) method of entering the ground. Especially in this case of confined larvae which in nearly every instance appeared restless and uneasy until provided with pieces of wood in which to transform. They remain in their snug wood and sawdust or earthen abodes until the following June, when the beautiful moths emerge to lay eggs for another generation.—Prairie Farmer.

## ABOUT EARLY SEEDING.

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