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. COVINGTON, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1896. VOL. XXI.—NO. 4.

THE AUSTRALIAN SYSTEM OF VOTING

Fully Explained—A Check to Fraud and Other Species of Corruption in Our Elections.

BY LOUIS F. POST.

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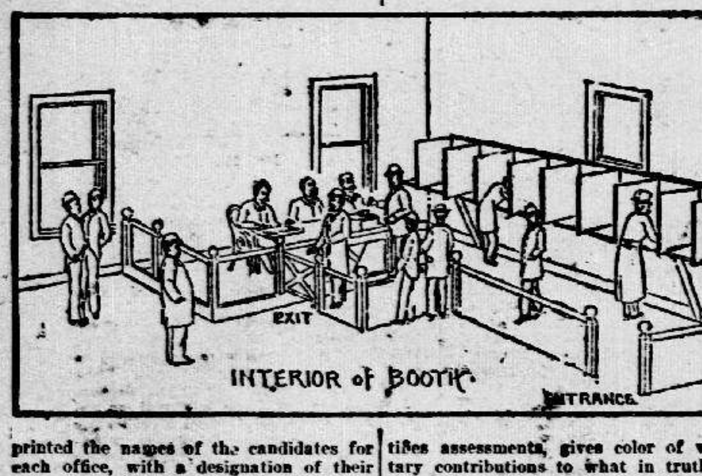
The Australian system of voting, so-called because first used in Australia, has been for several years in successful operation there, and, with non-essential variations, in England, Scotland, Ireland and Canada. It has also been adopted in Massachusetts, where it goes into effect in 1889. Its principal object is to prevent bribery and intimidation, to place all candidates upon an equality before the law, and to undermine the dangerous powers of political machines.

The system will be readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawing.

The voter, upon entering the polling place, turns to his right at the point marked "Entrance," where he receives, from two election officers selected from opposing political parties, a single ballot, or a single set of ballots, according to the local custom of voting. On the back is indorsed a stamp or signature, sufficient and only sufficient to identify the ballot as official; and on the face are plainly printed the names of the candidates for each office, with a designation of their respective political parties, after this manner:



	For Mayor.	Vote for One.
Democratic	John Doe	
Republican	Richard Roe	
Prohibition	David Smith	
Independent	Samuel Jones	

	For Coroners.	Vote for Two.
Democratic	Alanson Jacobs	
	Harvey Sylvester	
Republican	Martin Rawson	
	Wyman Simpson	
Prohibition	Valentin Remsen	
	Victor Sampson	
Independent	Erastus Meyers	
	Samuel Bixby	

Having received his ballot the voter enters one of the booths back of the railing, where, secluded from observation, he prepares the ballot by placing in the blank column a cross opposite the name of each candidate for whom he desires to vote; or, if he prefers, by writing the names of the candidates of his own nomination in place of those already there. If there are several candidates for the same kind of office, as coroners in the sample ballot above, or Presidential electors, and he wishes to vote the "straight" ticket of his party, he places the cross under the name of his party, or draws it through the space in the blank column allotted to the party's candidates, which signifies that he votes for each candidate named in that space. Thus, in the sample ballot, a cross under the word "Democratic," or through the first two spaces of the blank column to the right, is one vote each for Alanson Jacobs and Harvey Sylvester.

After preparing his ballot by indicating every candidate for whom he votes, the voter folds it in such manner as to conceal the face and expose the indorsement, and, withdrawing from the booth, gives the ballot to the inspectors, who identify it by the indorsement as official. It is then deposited in the box and the voter passes out at the gate marked "Exit."

From the time he receives his ballot until he casts it, the voter is permitted to have no communication with any one but the election officers, and with them only for official purposes; and only election officers and persons actually engaged in voting are ever admitted within the railing.

Upon proof of inability from physical infirmity, a voter may call into the booth officers appointed and sworn for the purpose, to aid him in preparing his ballot, and when a ballot is accidentally destroyed or defaced it must be exchanged for a clean one. The importance of the latter requirement may not at once be apparent; but to secure secrecy every ballot delivered to a voter must be either cast or returned. This explains the necessity for indorsing ballots. But for the indorsement a blank paper outwardly resembling a ballot might be cast by a voter, who would then be able surreptitiously to carry away an official ballot. This could be prepared for a bribed voter, the proof of its use being his production of a second official ballot. That could be similarly prepared and used, and so on. Such a fraud, known as the "Tasmanian dodge," was successfully perpetrated in Australia in the early days of the system; but its repetition was prevented by requiring ballots to be officially indorsed.

As it is essential that ballots be printed at public expense and distributed by public officers, the system must include some mode of certifying nominations to the proper authorities a reasonable time before elections. That proposed by the Yates-Saxon bill of New York was perhaps as convenient as could be desired. Under it State nominations were to be certified fifteen days and local nominations ten days before election; nominations of a political party which at the next preceding election polled 3 per cent. of the whole vote were to be certified by party officers; and independent nominations, if for a State office, were to be certified by a thousand voters and if for a local office by a hundred.

A brief explanation of the way in which this system affects its objects cannot anticipate or answer captious objections, but will be useful to candid inquirers.

Penal laws are ineffectual to prevent bribery and intimidation. The primary remedy is a secret ballot. And this is best secured when the only proof of an elector's vote is his own uncorroborated assertion. Under the Australian system no other proof can be made. That fact gives to the most timid among dependent voters a sense of security which makes him free. And to bribery it is fatal. Bribers are not likely to invest money on the faith of a bribed man's naked assertion; if there be such a virtue as "honesty among thieves," it is not acceptable security to the thieves themselves.

But secrecy, though the primary remedy for bribery and intimidation, is not all that is required to purify elections, nor the only remedy the Australian system offers.

The printing and distribution of ballots is a most important part of election machinery, and, left to private enterprise, inevitably tends, as does the farming out of any other public function, to breed corruption and build up monopoly. It makes a necessity for irresponsible organizations which come to wield autocratic power over the political party they claim to serve, and in turn, through discipline almost military in severity, are dominated by an inner circle of "leaders." As ballots can neither be printed nor distributed without money, and may not be faithfully handled unless trusty workers are rewarded with more than an election day stipend, the organization undertaking the work has a plausible if not reasonable claim for money from its beneficiaries and official patronage for its retainers. It is the necessity of raising these funds and employing these "workers" that justifies assessments, gives color of voluntary contributions to what in truth are sales of nominations, excuses the submission of official patronage to the distribution of the machine, provides ample cover for collecting a corruption fund, and, through "workers" at the polls, a convenient channel for disbursing the fund in bribes. And as corruption funds increase, masked in increasing demands for legitimate expenses, assessments grow, the price of nominations rises, independence is shackled and the organization becomes more indifferent to party principle as its monopoly of political power strengthens. Born of the necessity of volunteer machinery for preparing and distributing ballots, it develops into a powerful instrument, which, in the hands of political jobbers, enables them to buy and sell office "as the Praetorians sold the Roman purple." Already, poor men rarely obtain political advancement without assuming obligations to be redeemed by official perfidy, and the obstacles to unallied candidacy have become so great as often to prevent and always to discourage independent nominations.

This political monster would be destroyed by the Australian system. If the State assumed its function of providing ballots, there would be no necessity for "workers" at the polls, and the excuse for raising, as well as the best mode of using, corruption funds would disappear. Assessments could not then be levied upon candidates, for when "workers" at the polls are not required, machines can neither serve nor injure. Nor would nominations be sold; for when candidates stand upon an equality in respect to election machinery, and there is no opportunity for bribing voters, organizations merely as organizations have nothing worth buying, while organizations as representatives of principles cannot be approached through commercial channels. Trafficking in office would be replaced by political discussion, the power of the machine by the voice of the party.

The evils of machine organization and the remedy of the Australian system are summarized as follows by William M. Ivins, than whom no one has done more intelligent, energetic and effective work for electoral reform:

THE EVIL.

1. The necessity for voluntary printing and distributing the ballot justifies organization for this purpose.
2. It practically vests the machine with the monopoly of the election machinery.
3. And as a consequence, with the monopoly of nominees.
4. It involves the necessity of defraying the expenses of both printing and distribution by means of assessments on or contributions by candidates, office-holders or party leaders.
5. Which facilitates bribery and corruption by affording them convenient covers.

THE REMEDY.

1. The printing and distribution of all ballots at public expense does away with the necessity of organization for this purpose.
2. And will deprive the political machines of the monopoly of an essential part of the election machinery.
3. It will enable any body of citizens of the number prescribed by law to have the name of their candidate printed on the same ballot with the names of all candidates for the same office, so that before the law and before the voters all candidates and all party organizations will stand on a perfectly even footing.
4. This will dispense altogether with the necessity of all excuse for levying political assessments.
5. And leave no legal cover for bribery.

To this system it is objected that by requiring nominations to be made in advance of elections it denies a constitutional right of voters to select candidates from the whole body of voters. From such eminent authority as Judges Cooley, McCrary and Folger, and the highest courts of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York, it may be safely inferred that a restriction of the franchise to candidates nominated a short time before election is a reasonable regulation and not an unconstitutional interference; but the inference is not necessary, since the system allows each voter to reject all candidates and write new names upon his ballot.

It is objected, also, that by requiring the blind to expose their vote to election officers, secrecy of the ballot is, as to them, violated. Under our present system voting is not secret; it was, for that reason, rejected by the British Parliament, and the Australian system adopted. The object, now, is to secure secrecy, but in aiming at that we are confronted with a class of voters to whom exposure of their ballots to somebody is necessary, and an exception must be made in their favor to prevent their disfranchisement. What form which shall be consistent with the highest degree of secrecy can that exception take? If allowed to carry their ballots away, these voters fall into the hands of irresponsible and perhaps dishonest persons, and may be made, innocently or otherwise, instruments for perpetrating some form of the "Tasmanian dodge." If, for their benefit, official ballots are generally circulated, all efforts for secrecy are frustrated. And if they are permitted to take a "friend" into the booth a door is opened for the bribery of every venal voter who is, or can successfully pretend to be, unable to read English. Exposure of ballots must be prevented by every means that ingenuity can suggest; but in exceptional cases in which it cannot be avoided, it may most safely be confided to election officers, who represent opposing parties, are under oath of secrecy and fidelity, can be readily detected in malfeasance, and when detected are liable to severe penalties. As to blind voters, this seems to be the only course.

There is reason to believe that the Australian system of voting is about to receive favorable consideration in all the States where election abuses have been seriously felt; but its adoption would so surely dispense with machine organizations that there is also reason to fear attempts at essential modification. These are likely to be in the direction of allowing the delivery of ballots to parties and candidates before election, and distribution as well by "workers" at any time or place as by sworn officers at the polls. A little thought will show that this would continue the power of political machines and endanger secrecy. Any such modification no intelligent and sincere advocate of electoral reform can accept, for in this matter it is not true at this time that "half a loaf is better than no bread." It were better that the reform be delayed, with the force of public opinion pressing it forward, than that inefficient measures should allay public opinion by seeming to meet its demands. Details may be compromised, but essentials must be required at every step in the agitation. These are, that ballots containing the names of all candidates be printed at public expense; that one official ballot or set of ballots be delivered by sworn officers to each voter as he appears to vote; that the voter be immediately secluded for the purpose of preparing to vote; that he deliver his ballot to the inspectors so folded as to conceal its face and expose the official indorsement; that immediately after voting he withdraw from the secluded part of the polling place; that there be no intercourse with him except by election officers for official purposes from the time he receives his ballot until he votes, and that no voter be allowed to cast any ballot but the one he receives from the election officers. It is also essential that the ballots be arranged (as above) by offices, and not in "straight tickets," for, as a straight ticket can be voted in much less time than one in which the separate candidates are marked by the voter, a watcher on the outside is enabled to tell how a voter has cast his ballot if a chance is afforded to vote "straight."

Ballot Reform League Office,
New No. 219 Camp St., New Orleans.

One who is induced by fraud to subscribe to the capital stock of a corporation can rescind his subscription before the insolvency of the corporation.

An equitable title meets the requirement of an insurance policy that the interest of the assured is the entire, unconditional and sole ownership.

Bonds issued by a corporation and secured by mortgage are negotiable, though under seal and payable to bearer on a certain day named, or sooner after five days.

ABOUT PEOPLE.

Mary Anderson Navarro, according to reports from England, is in broken health. She is wheeled about in a bath chair every sunny morning.

A 17-year-old London boy killed himself with cyanide of potassium because he had to wear a wig while his hair, which had fallen out on account of a fever, was growing out again.

Mr. Eugene Ysaye, the violinist, has bought, for $5,000, the Stradivarius known as Hercules. It is dated 1732, is one of the most perfect of its family, and is beautifully preserved.

The late Prof. Boyesen's three sons have been made wards of the college by the trustees of Columbia college. They are now at school and the cost of their education is to be met by the college.

Mahlon A. Sellers, of Windsor Castle, Berks county, Pa., recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of his appointment as postmaster at that place. He secured the establishment of the office in 1845, and has been postmaster ever since.

Robert L. O'Brien, of Massachusetts, who during the last campaign acted as Mr. Cleveland's stenographer, and who has since been principal executive clerk, has resigned to become the Washington correspondent of the Boston Evening Transcript.

CHEERFUL CHATTER.

"I'm going to be president some day," said Willis, proudly. "Papa said I might."—Harper's Bazar.

Cook (to mistress)—"Now I'm leavin' of yer, I may as well tell yer as the key o' the kitchen door fits your storeroom."—Tit-Bits.

George—"You would marry the biggest fool in the world if he asked you, wouldn't you?" Ethel—"Oh, George, that is so sudden."—Tit-Bits.

Blooblud (to friend, just back from a western trip)—"Well, what is new in Chicago?" Nicker Bocker (sententiously)—"Her old families."—Puck.

Agriculturist (to season ticket-holder in train)—"You don't have no ticket?" Season Ticket-Holder—"No; I travel on my good looks." Agriculturist—"Then, probably, you ain't going very far."—Household Words.

"Who was it," asked the pretty schoolmarm, "who said: 'Give me liberty or give me death?'" "Patrick Henry, ma'am," replied a small pupil. "And which did he get?" "Both, ma'am."—Harper's Bazar.

A Powerful Sermon.—Patrick—"Phwy didn't ye go to church, sure?" Bridget—"Oi had other things to do." Patrick—"If yes had gone and heard thot sermon on 'Absenteeism' ye would have been ashamed of y'self fur not bein' there."—N. Y. Weekly.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Texas has 30,660,772 acres of unimproved land.

Hollow steel spheres are in use in Sweden, for billiard balls.

The culture of silk promises to be an important industry in Oregon.

A rubber horseshoe, for use on icy pavements, is becoming quite popular.

It is said that salmon, pike and gold fish, are the only fish that ever sleep.

Only one-fifth of the boys of India go to school, and only one-fifteenth of the girls.

Little alligators are admired as drawing-room pets in some of the fashionable houses of Paris.

A shark recently caught near Annapolis, Md., had in its stomach one leg of a pair of trousers.

The cathedral of Antwerp has a musical combination of 34 bells. The largest is seven feet wide and eight feet high.

A Philadelphia barber displays up-to-date enterprise. He has issued a fashion plate showing several styles of fall and winter whiskers.

FARMER AND PLANTER.

ABOUT GRASS.

It is One of the Three Golden Links in Agriculture.

Prof. Roberts, of Cornell university, at a recent farmers' institute said: "There are three golden links in agriculture, and if the chain be broken you very soon find that, first, the land suffers and next, the people suffer. These links are implied in this statement: We raise a plant to feed an animal, to make fertility, to raise another plant to feed another animal to make fertility." This embraces all there is of permanently successful agriculture, but there are innumerable particulars embraced in this law that are not stated. The plants, as well as the animals, must be fed, and the product of the soil must pay a tax to the farmer whose head direct and whose hands perform the labor involved in the operation. This theory can not be carried out without grass, which must ever be the sheet anchor of successful farming, and the true meadow grasses are large consumers and small producers of nitrogen—an element necessary to their successful growth. This nitrogen must be supplied or the grass will deteriorate. Nitrogen exists abundantly in the air, sparingly in the soil. A pasture should improve with age. But the best perennial grasses will deteriorate or die out unless aided. All the substance taken off, whether crops, meat, wool, milk or butter, are mostly that much taken from the soil. The place of these must be supplied, one way or another. One way is to purchase nitrogenous fertilizers, or make them elsewhere than on the pasture land; another way is to tear up the grass sod, cutting the old hardened roots, and causing new feeders to put out in search of plant food, and scatter in clover (the crimson seems the best in most of the southwest) or, if there are places where the grass is weak, a few cow peas will gather nitrogen from the atmosphere and distribute it where it is most needed. Perennial grasses will become weak if the roots are left undisturbed, because these roots become hard, like heart wood in a tree, and can no longer feed the plant. Tearing these roots up new ones will grow and the grass take on a new lease of life. In Europe a harrow made of sharp cutting teeth is used for this purpose, and every two or three years the grass is gone over with this implement, and the grass thus treated is preserved for ten or twenty years, or longer, in perfect vigor. There can be no permanent agricultural prosperity without grass, hence the best manner of producing and preserving it is worthy of thought. This requires that nitrogen is supplied, either by direct application, or by growing with the grass such plants as have the power to gather it from the great fountain—the atmosphere.

Early Maturity of Hogs.

There is not so much call now for hogs that will keep on growing three or four years before they reach maturity, says American Cultivator. The large hog has always coarser meat than the young pig, and the difference, we suspect, is because there is always some check to growth in cold weather. Spring pigs, fattened in the fall, will always make better pork than they will if kept later. In these times, too, the hog that weighs 200 to 250 pounds sells for higher price per hundredweight than one that is heavier. Hence the early maturing breeds that reach their full weight when one or two years old are now the favorites with farmers. But there is something to be said in favor of the heavy-weights. If not allowed to get too fat the late-maturing hogs are better breeders, especially for dams. A cross of an early-maturing boar with a large, long-bodied sow brings pigs that for fattening are better than either breed alone. They will be larger at birth, and at ten to eleven months will weigh thirty to fifty pounds more than the full-bloods of either early or late-maturing varieties. One reason why late-maturing sows are better breeders is because they keep on growing until three or four years old, and therefore their food does not go to fat so much as that of the early maturing breeds which never attain large size.—Farm and Ranch.

Wintering Sweet Potatoes.

The following method I have found to keep sweet potatoes in perfect order until June: Procure a good supply of pine straw from the woods in a dry time and keep it under cover ready for use. Dig the potatoes as soon as the frost cuts the vines. If not convenient to dig at once, cut the frosted vines off at once, or they will harbor fungus growth that will damage the potatoes. Dig on a warm sunny day; lay the potatoes along the rows as dug, and do not allow them to be bruised by throwing into piles. Handle at all times as gently as eggs. Allow them to lie in the sun during the day, and in the evening haul to a convenient place. Place a good layer a foot thick of pine straw on the ground, and on this pile the potatoes in steep heaps, not over twenty-five bushels in a pile. Cover piles thickly all over with the dry pine straw. Now build a rough board shed over the piles and let them remain until the weather grows colder, or until they have gone through a sweat and dried off; then cover the heaps with earth, six or eight inches thick and beat smooth. The important points are, the sweating under the previous cover of the pine straw before covering with earth, very careful handling and the board cover overhead. Dry earth keeps out more cold than wet earth. If for family use, put in smaller piles, and take up an entire heap at once for use, keeping them in a dry, warm place while using.—N. C. Experiment Station.

Marketing Fowls.

Fruit growers are injuring their business by bad marketing, and the public, commission men and the better class of growers are grumbling about it. Farmers and poultry and stock growers are guilty of a similar error. They can raise their produce, but don't know how to market it, and if they only realized this fact, this is as important as any part of the proceeding. As this item is intended for the poultry department, it will refer specially to the marketing of fowls. As poultry raisers can not, like the fruit men, conceal the bad specimens by covering them with that which is better, they mix all sorts—good, bad and worse—in a rough and dirty coop, and throw them on the market and ask "How much will you give?" and the answer is "Not much," or words to that effect. The manner in which fowls are marketed has a tendency to destroy the public appetite for chickens. Every individual fowl should be sold on its merits, and this would be the case if good fowls only, of uniform size and good condition, were cooped and sold together. They would bring at all times a fair price, while those not so good, if cooped together, and relieved from the invidious contrast of better ones in the same coop, would bring better prices than they do. Retailers who are up to snuff buy these mixed coops at a low price, assort them to a reasonable degree of uniformity, and sell at a good profit, one-half of which profit the poultry raiser might have had if he had sold only uniform lots. Marketing any sort of produce calls for good business sense, and nowhere is this more needed than in the marketing of fowls.—Farm and Ranch.

Planting Fruit Trees.

If you own a piece of land, even if it does not contain more than five acres, plant a portion of it to fruit. In a small orchard it is a good plan to alternate apple and peach trees. In this way you can plant trees much closer together, as the peach trees will have died before the apple trees are large enough to interfere with them. Apple trees should not be planted nearer than two rods of each other. If they are, the mistake will be noticed before they are half grown. Plums, apricots and cherries may be planted 20 feet apart and it will be a long time before they crowd each other. Standard pears should have five feet more room each way. Dwarfed fruit trees are condemned by some fruit growers as bearing early and dying early. They may be profitably planted in a new country where fruit is scarce and land cheap. Manure a young orchard heavily and cultivate it thoroughly. Plant small fruits for the first five years between the rows, leaving it so you can plow one way, especially where the tract is small and land is dear.—Farm and Home.

Kill the Hogs Early.

There is not much profit in keeping hogs till they are rolling in fat, as used to be the common practice. The pork is not so good as that of hogs that have been kept thriftily growing and have less inside fat. What is more, such pork is now much more salable in all markets than is the heavy-weight pork that was formerly most in demand. The use of cotton seed oil in place of lard is probably better for the health of the community than any other of the substitutes for farmers' products. It makes it for the interest of farmers to grow pork with a greater proportion of lean. Such pork being more healthful will lead to a larger demand for it.—Farmers' Home Journal.

Good Food.

Now that the falling leaves foretell the coming winter, wise forethought should lead the owners of valuable Jersey cows to provide foods that will in some measure take the place of the health-giving grass. No food is so good for this purpose, perhaps, as good silage, but for those who have no silo, a valuable substitute may be found in linseed meal. The old process meal is preferable because it contains more oil. It is a laxative and must be used with discretion; not more than two pounds a day, in two feeds. It is especially valuable to keep the the bowels loose just previous to calving.—Farmers' Home Journal.

HERE AND THERE.

—Fine feathers make fine scoring birds, and win prizes, but vigor and virility fill the egg basket.

—Seven thousand horses were recently purchased in Washington, in one herd, by the Portland Horse-meat Canning Co. The horses cost three dollars per head.

—All diseases of poultry are preventable. How to prevent them is the question. Proper care as to comfort, cleanliness and wholesome food and drink will cure most of them.

—A few cow peas mixed with the horse feed, is said by those who have tried it fairly, to add greatly to the strength and durability of the animals. Beans are used largely in many parts of Europe as horse feed.

—Farmers are reading more to-day than ever before. They are becoming more intelligent, and ought to become more prosperous. They are studying the problem of making the most on the farms from the least expenditures.

—One of our live stock exchanges says that nine-tenths of the cattle received at the Great Western stock yards are without horns. This is attributed to chemical, mechanical and breeding methods. In a few years horns will be a curiosity.

—Poultry powders, patent foods, cooked foods and condiments are of no use excepting in preparing fowls for show or the market. Grain food, green food, insects and clean water are all their constitutions require to keep them in good condition.

—Animals can not thrive their best when food is given them at any time of day or night which happens to suit the convenience of the feeder. Irregular feeding disturbs and deranges the organs of digestion and assimilation, so that they fail to make the most out of the food supplied.

—When fowls do not seem to get along well, the chicks puny, the hens refuse to lay, and the male birds seem to lack vim, there is something wrong. If you can not find a probable cause for the trouble, change their feed; change feeding place; change runs; change roosts; change something, until you have solved the difficulty.

—If we stint a ration we fail to make all possible out of the food and out of the animal. It is food consumed over and above what is needed to sustain animal life which gives a return of profit; so that fullest profit follows fullest judicious feeding.

—The more we look into the fodder question the more one is convinced that if the intelligent, economical farmer will save everything which grows on his farm suitable for forage, in ten years he may be independent, able to keep a year's supply on hand to tide off an occasional year when it comes.

—Anarchy and anarchism are never found among farmers. Agriculture tends to construct, to build up, to develop, to make two blades grow where one grew before. A well-cultivated field is better than a waste piece of land or a desert. A well-cared-for farm and neat house, a happy family, an honest and honorable citizen—all these are the opposite of anarchy and its doubtings, and are the product of the farm.

USEFUL AND SUGGESTIVE.

—Peach Pie.—Line a pie tin with nice paste; cut peaches small, and put in a thick layer of peaches; them make a custard and pour over, and bake. When done, make a frosting of whites of two eggs and a little sugar; cover your pie and set in the oven a moment to brown the frosting.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

—Mount Photographs.—Make boiled starch, and allow it to get cold before being used. Damp the photograph before applying the starch, paste two or three in the book, and put it under a heavy weight. It is a mistake to paste in a great many before applying the weight, for they often cockle and spoil the pages of the album.

—Glazed Onions.—Butter a saucepan and lay in some onions, as nearly of a size as possible. Pour in meat stock, gravy or water to nearly cover the onions, and two lumps of sugar. Boil briskly until the liquid is reduced one-half, then draw to the back of the stove and allow to simmer slowly until the gravy is quite thick. Add salt and pepper.—Orange Judd Farmer.

—Steak Stewed in a Plain Way.—Fry the steaks in butter a good brown, then put them into a stewpan with half a pint of water, one onion sliced, a tablespoonful of walnut catsup, a little caper liquor, pepper and salt. Cover the pan close and let them stew slowly. Thicken the gravy with a piece of butter rolled in flour, and serve them on a hot dish.—Boston Budget.

—Potato Salad.—Mince two onions, mixed with four or five potatoes boiled and mashed. Stir through this a dressing made of the yolks of three hard-boiled eggs, one small teacup of vinegar, one-half teaspoonful of black pepper, one desert-spoonful each of celery salt and salt, a tablespoonful of melted butter, and if liked a little prepared mustard. Garnish with slices of hard boiled eggs.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

—Raised Graham Muffins—Mix two cups of graham, one of cornmeal and one of white flour with one tablespoonful of sugar, one-half a tablespoonful of molasses and enough warm water to make a soft batter. Dissolve one-half a yeast cake in water; add it with one-quarter of a teaspoonful of soda to the batter, and let it rise over night. In the morning mould with a very little flour into biscuits and bake in a rather quick oven.—Ladies' Home Journal.

—Rice Custard Pudding.—Soak a cupful of boiled rice for fifteen minutes in a pint and a half of milk, then stir in a pinch of salt, three eggs well beaten, a cupful of sugar and vanilla flavor to taste. When well mixed, pour into a pudding dish, grate nutmeg over the top and bake in a hot oven till firm. This will require about thirty minutes, and if the baking is prolonged curdling will be the result. It is to be served cold and is delicious.—Good Housekeeping.

—Chocolate Pudding—I have not seen a recipe for chocolate pudding like mine. It was used in a boarding-house last summer and the boarders thought it excellent: One pint bread crumbs and 1 quart milk. Set on stove to scald, then add 3 eggs, 1 cup sugar, butter size of an egg, 4 or 5 tablespoons grated chocolate; salt, bake about ¾ of an hour. Sauce: Beat the whites of 2 eggs to a stiff froth, then add 1 cup of powdered sugar, beat well, add then the yolks of the eggs and small ½ cup of milk; flavor with vanilla.—Boston Globe.

WAKING THE COLONEL.

Not Successfully Accomplished Without the Aid of a Flask.

Near Tuscumbia, Ala., as I was riding across the country on horseback, I reached a crossroad and saw a white man fast asleep with his back to a tree, while an ancient-looking colored man was lying on the grass three or four yards away, and a horse was hitched to a fence. The Negro saw me as I approached and got up and came out on the road, and respectfully saluted me and said:

"Does yo' wanter ax any queshiuns, boss?"

"Yes. I want to ask how far it is to Graysville."

"Deed, sah, but I can't tell yo'. I hain't dun bin yere a great while."

"Who is that?" I asked, pointing to the white man.

"Him's Kurnel White, sah."

"And you are his servant?"

"'Zactly, sah—'zactly."

"Well, let's wake the colonel up and see if he can't tell me."

"Did yo' jess want ter ask how fur it am to Graysville?" he asked.

"That's all."

"Doan' want ter talk pollytics?"

"No."

"Nor about de wah?"

"No."

"Doan' wanter buy de kurnel's land nor nuffin'?"

"No. Did he tell you not to disturb him?"

"He did, sah, an' de kurnel's a werry pesky man. Doss yo' want to wake him up to ax him to take a drink wid yo'?"

"I haven't a flask along."

"Den, sah, let me inform yo' dat de minnit I dun woke him up he'd yell the biggest yell yo' eber heard of. Den he'd whoop an' holler an' begin to shoot wid his pistil, an' afo' we knowed it we'd boaf be dead an' de hoss shot full of bullets. Sorry, sah, but I knows jess how he acts. Some kurnels wake up like lambs, but dis yere one nebber did surrender arter de wah an' he's all de time believin' dat de United Staits is arter him wid a gunboat an' fo'teen cannon."—Detroit Free Press.

Weary Willie's Ruse.

She didn't wait for Weary Willie to begin his harangue, but slammed the door shut as soon as she spied the tattered form on the stoy and was rapidly retreating down the hall when the bell began to ring again and so violently that she didn't dare open the door again. Her husband came, however, prepared to kick the wretch downstairs, but the look of pain on the visitor's face restrained his wrath: "I wouldn't have troubled ye agin," said he, "but it hurts me feelin's to hev the door shet on me that way," and as he spoke he was engaged in removing the remnants of his thumb from the jamb of the door. He got a dollar and a bottle of arnica, to say nothing of a square meal. Then, readjusting the bit of beef that served as a complement to the stub that a bulldog had left five years before, he tackled the next house.—Detroit Tribune.

—In imitation of the electric lighting of Gedney's channel it is proposed to establish electric light buoys in the Thames up to the London docks, so as to enable vessels to pass up by night.

IN THE ELECTRICAL WORLD.

—The Orleans street railway, of New Orleans, La., is being converted into an electric system.

—A system of treating iron ore by electricity has been discovered by Dr. Laval, a Swedish scientist. He claims that by his method the ore can be converted into steel at one-fourth the usual cost.

—Russian scientific men have ascertained that out of 597 trees struck by lightning in the forests near Moscow 302 were white poplar. They advise farmers to plant poplars as natural lightning conductors.

—The house of parliament in London is partly lighted by 40,000 electric lamps, which number is being constantly increased. Fifty experienced electricians are employed to keep the system in order. But there is still a gas bill of over $12,000 for this year.

—In Dresden, Germany, the drivers of electric cars use a peculiar bell for warning pedestrians. The bell is fixed on the top of the lever handle, and even while braking the motorman can sound the alarm by simply raising and lowering a tube on the brake handle.

—Pure chloroform is now successfully prepared by electrolythic methods. A constant current is passed through a salt solution in an enamelled vessel by means of lead electrodes. This liberates chlorine, which reacts on a stream of acetone diffused into the vessel, and the chloroform produced is thus collected by distillation.

—The statement has been frequently made that within the next year the Illinois Central and the Chicago & Northern Pacific railroads, both of which are now operated by steam, will be run by electricity. It is further said that while it is possible that the latter road will use electricity on its entire system, the Illinois Central will begin with its suburban service only.

—The Hartford (Ct.) electric street railway company is experimenting with various plans for a complete system of colored lights to be used on the cars at night. It is proposed to have lights on each of the four corners of the car roof, each lantern showing lights at both the side and the end. The lanterns are of tin, blackened, eight inches high, and about six inches square, with two reflectors, side and end. The lights are electric.

HOUSEHOLD HELPS.

Items of Information on Various Domestic Topics.

Vinegar and yeast should never be kept in stone jars, for there is an acid in them which attacks the glazing, and mixing with it has a poisoning property.

Ninety grains of eau de cologne and fifteen grains of belladonna is an excellent lotion for moist hands. After the use of this dust the hands with powdered alum.

Any furniture that is in daily use and that is covered with damask, brocade or chintz, will look better for having its surface cleaned with bran and a piece of flannel.

In cleaning japanned goods never use hot water. Wet a cloth slightly in warm water and rub the article to be cleaned. Should any smear appear, sprinkle with flour and wipe dry.

In roasting, the time allowed in cook books, usually a quarter of an hour to a pound, must be reckoned from the moment the meat begins to cook, and not from the time it is put into the oven, and even with this precaution a little extra time should be allowed unless the meat is required underdone.

Do not use jelly glasses with tin covers, for the jelly will be almost sure to spoil, although occasionally some one uses them with success. The old-fashioned way of placing a piece of tissue paper over the jelly, cut the size of the receptacle, then sealing with letter or wrapping paper, will prevent spoiling.

Careful cooks remove the cores of eggs, the tough, milk-white bit found in the whites. These become hard and indigestible when cooked. Another small kitchen pointer is to know that puddings, cakes and such compounds of which baking powder is an ingredient, should be baked at once when mixed.

Fruits are generally healthy, they cool the blood and by their aperient qualities aid in digesting other foods, but they do not agree with all systems; in that instance they produce a sour stomach, ferment instead of being digested, cause irritation and often produce eruptions on the skin. Unripe or decayed fruits are not eatable, but good fruits are generally wholesome. A well person must know what to eat and what not to eat to remain so.

A favorite assertion of the modern trained child's nurse is that no healthy baby cries. If he is well, as he should be, and properly clothed and looked after, he will not cry. But on the other hand, some medical authorities assert that crying is the chief and best exercise for young children, and one hospital superintendent says that a healthy baby should cry three or four times a day at least, and from ten to fifteen minutes at a time. This world would be dull indeed if all mankind agreed.—Boston Budget.

ONE SKIRT FOR A WINTER.

It May Form the Foundation of Many Costumes.

There is nothing like a black satin skirt to help out a deficient wardrobe. It may be made, with careful planning, to take the principal part in as many as six different costumes. Worn with a Louis Quinze coat of black satin, trimmed with jet and cream lace, it will make an effective church costume.

When an evening gown is desired the black satin should have the gores outlined by a narrow jeweled trimming. Then it may be worn with a frivolous chiffon waist spangled with jewels. As a theater costume the black satin skirt may appear in connection with a bodice of scarlet satin. If this seems too gay for ordinary theater wear the bodice may be toned down with black chiffon frills.

For one's afternoon "at home" the black satin skirt may be worn with any stylishly made silk waist. Persian silk waists are much the vogue this year, and waists of flowered taffeta are always charming. As a dinner dress the black satin skirt may also be utilized. It would look well for this occasion worn with a bodice of black satin, trimmed gorgeously with gold galloon and lace.

Even for an afternoon's shopping expedition the black satin skirt will not come in amiss if worn with a walking coat of light tan box cloth. And after it has served a year in all these various capacities, then it will do nicely for black satin sleeves in next year's gown.—N. Y. World.

THE SUSPENSE WAS MISSING.

What Happened to a Girl Who Went Out in Bloomers.

At Tower Grove park there was a big crowd, and one section of it witnessed an incident which may lead to the abandonment of a bloomer habit by one young woman; or it may lead merely to her acquiring a more accurate knowledge of the eccentricities of the costume once believed to be fashioned for the exclusive use, comfort and protection of the male of the human species. This young woman and another young woman equally pleasing to the eye, equally expert in the management of the wheel, sped swiftly along the smooth roads and byways of Tower Grove park. They were a handsome pair, and attracted the attention of most people whom they passed. After awhile they began to attract more attention; at least one of them did. The diffusive glance of the man who was looking casually at everything at once gave place to concentrated gaze at one object; the women blushed and looked angry, and men blushed and looked twice; small boys didn't blush and did giggle, and the young woman from Olive street was the cause of it all. Finally a mounted policeman's eagle eye fell on her. He put spurs to his horse and after a hot chase of two hundred yards overtook the girls.

"Excuse me, miss," said he, "but there is something wrong with your clothes."

The other young woman glanced at her companion and nearly fell off her wheel. "Oh Lord!" she gurgled, "they are coming down."

At this the Olive street young woman stopped her wheel and dismounted. It wasn't a wise thing to do, perhaps, but probably it helped her to arrive at a speedier realization of her companion's remark than would have resulted from a mental process, for be it known that when the upper section of a pair of bloomers is sundered from its moorings the fact is more apparent to the wearer when she is standing than when she is sitting. When the girl stood up what had been an inconsiderable, though noticeable, hiatus in the continuity of her apparel became something worse.

The policeman blushed until his helmet smoked, the other girl scurried about like a hen whose offspring is in danger, and the wicked men gathered around and looked. The girl in trouble appeared to be the coolest person in the crowd of two hundred people. With a left jerk or two and a wriggle and a twist she restored the garment to its former position, and stood holding it with one hand while she beckoned to the officer with the other. He approached, and she asked him for something.

"I'm sorry, miss, but I haven't got it," said the policeman.

At this juncture a young man with a tow linen suit and a negligee shirt, who had manifested a deep interest in the entire proceeding, slipped a hand under each side of his vest, and after fumbling nervously for a moment shifted them to the rear and clawed wildly at his spinal column. Almost simultaneously a smile of great benevolence lighted up his face, and drawing from beneath the tail of his coat a pair of silk embroidered suspenders, he tendered them to the young woman, saying: "Here, take mine; I really don't need 'em."

It was well meant, but the crowd laughed, the policeman fingered his baton and scowled, and the girl looked scornfully right through the young man, and then beckoned to an elderly gentleman and asked him to lend her a pin. He did it, and in a few moments the young woman from Olive street and her fair companion were going away from the park at a gait that would have put Dute Cabanne on his metal to equal.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

He Was Warned.

"Mr. Clinker," said the thrillingly beautiful heroine of this tale, as she turned her head and looked straight into the eyes of the young man, who was sitting so close to her on the sofa as it was possible to get, "there are some things which even a girl of my—er—advancement will not easily brook. When you first entered this room, half an hour ago, you bowed formally as you shook hands, did not dream of calling me by my first name, and when you sat down, you took a chair which was at a convenient distance away. You had not—"

"But, my dear Miss Spingler—"

"Don't interrupt me, sir. You had not been here ten minutes before your chair was six feet nearer where I sat. In another five minutes you called me dear. Shortly afterward you deliberately sat down on the sofa next to me. It was then that you attempted to take my hand. You need not deny it. You know it is too true. And now, sir—"

"Hear me. I—"

"And now, sir," repeated the young girl, her slight form trembling with emotion, her eyes blazing, her whole attitude expressive of the deepest concern, "I want you to distinctly understand that if you should so far forget yourself as to attempt to kiss me, you do so at your own peril!"—Harper's Bazar.

Justifiable.

"There is some excuse," said the police judge, "for a man becoming exasperated by the strains of a hand organ, but to rush out and attack the musician with an ax is carrying things with a little too high a hand." "I know it is, jedge," pleaded the man who had never been in a police court before, "but when a blame Dago comes and stops in front of the house jist after a man has had an argument with his wife about whether he gits an overcoat or her a cloak, and begins playin' 'Home, Sweet Home,' it is more than flesh an' blood kin stand!"—Indianapolis Journal.

The Frank Answer Inspired Wrath.

Board School Teacher—Which letter is the next one to the letter H?

Boy—Dunno, ma'am.

"What have I on both sides of my nose?"

"Freckles, ma'am."—Woman.

No Danger of Scandal.

Charlie (aged ten)—Don't tell any one that I walked home with you, Mamie.

Mamie (aged nine)—You needn't be afraid, Charlie. I am just as much ashamed of it as you are.—Brooklyn Life.

—Though every old man has been young, and every young man hopes to be old, there seems to be a most unnatural misunderstanding between the two stages of life. This unhappy want of confidence arises from arrogance or ambition in youth, and in ... despondency in old age ...