

Iowa State Bystander

BYSTANDER PUB. CO., Publishers. DES MOINES, IOWA

The Farm

The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR JULY 14, 1912.

POETRY

of and by Our People

Of Interest to Our Women

The silk stocking girl is very much in evidence these summer days.

Aviators may carry the mails, but most of our postmen will prefer to walk.

One of the latest triumphs of modern science is the dried egg. In fact, you can't beat it.

Disaster follows the German dirigible in April are stricken by dry rot and disappear.

One by one the pennant hopes that bleed as closely as it does the French and American airships.

A genius comes to the front with the seedless apple, but the seedless raspberry is still afar off.

All is not gold that glitters. A New York woman wants a divorce because her wedding ring is brass.

A girl lately died from eating too much ice cream. The majority of girls would die rather than own it.

A bumper wheat crop is promised this year. All of which goes to show that political hot air has no effect on crops.

A Connecticut man says he has been struck by lightning every seven years. Probably he means political lightning.

Naturally the Summer Girl who tans expects to have a much happier vacation than the Summer Girl who freckles.

Philadelphia angler claims that he caught a fish with a diamond ring in its stomach. This brings the number up to 1,466,782.

A California man claims to have caught an eight-legged fish that barks like a dog. Still, they claim California wines are harmless.

This is a cruel world. After a college man is graduated he has to hunt a job at boys' wages.

A man was arrested for refusing to kiss his wife—that is, this complaint was made along with another about his refusal to pay bills.

A New York man wants everybody to keep a snake in his home. If the N. Y. man's happiness depends on this want, he'll die unhappy.

We have it from John L. Sullivan that the typists of today are not what they used to be, but in John's day typewriters were scarce.

"Man," says an uplift person, "is the only animal that smokes." Like-wise he is the only animal that holds political campaigns. Poor man!

The weather man's prediction for the week is "generally fair." It is characteristic of his prophecies that he always leaves room for hedging.

A western girl has been awarded a judgment for \$28,828 for breach of promise. Probably the \$28 is for the ice cream and soda water she didn't get.

A new French aeroplane has wings that can be folded, but the average aviator is satisfied if the wings only stay where they belong while he is flying.

Illinois boasts of a laundryman poet. If he can mangle verse as well as the average laundryman can mangle shirts, we sorrow for the English language.

The report that prunes are selling in New York for a nickel apiece reveals the startling fact that some persons eat them deliberately and without coercion.

The alphabet, according to a scientist, is 9,000 years old. And yet, a good many of us have not taken advantage of the opportunity to become acquainted with it.

One hundred thousand caddies are kept from Sunday school by golf, says a religious convention. But there is no guarantee that they would go to Sunday school if there were no golf.

Burglar in New York was tracked by means of the perfume on his clothes. We move that he be freed on the charge of burglary and sentenced to life imprisonment for wearing perfume.

Although he had committed his crime a year before, a holdup man was recognized by his victim and arrested. The moral is that a man with such a face as that has no business to go into the holdup business.

The new battleship Arkansas is declared to have proved herself the swiftest in the world. Well, if we must have battleships it is some comfort to know we have the best—at least until somebody else builds a better.

Boodlers many years ago acquired by experience a strong distaste for taking the boodle in the form of checks. They will now be forced by reason of the advance in modern methods to be strictly on their guard against the lurking and insidious dictograph.

A Brooklyn judge in sentencing a man for perjury told the prisoner he was a liar of the first magnitude. This is one expression, at least, which has escaped the justly celebrated founder of the Ananias Club.

An Ohio gambler made a unique proposal in asking to have an operation performed on his brain to relieve him of the gambling fever, instead of a penitentiary sentence. He was evidently so much cut up by the latter prospect that he preferred the real thing by the knife.

LEVEL CULTIVATION.

Thirty to forty years ago corn was plowed the first time with a one-horse bar plow. The soil was thrown away from the row on both sides, leaving a narrow, elevated ridge of soil exposed on three sides for the young corn to grow on and in. This left a large ridge of soil between rows, and the next time the corn was plowed this ridge was thrown back to the rows, resulting in two furrows with a small ridge between rows, or simply a trench, according to the width of the rows and the size of plow used. This cultivation of the corn was followed by the single-shovel or double-shovel cultivator. At the last cultivation of the crop the bar plow was again used for rigging up the rows as high as they could be ridged.

But the old-fashioned way of plowing corn has gradually given way to a newer and better fashion. The two-horse cultivator followed the single-shovel and double-shovel cultivators. This was simply two double-shovel cultivators on wheels, drawn by two horses and operated by one man, a saving of one man's time in working the crop.

The first two-horse cultivator had two shovels to the gang, and the majority of farmers use such, believing they are the acme of perfection. In some cases they may be as good as other kinds, yet in the majority of cases they leave the soil too uneven and full of hollows and ridges for quick drying out. During a very wet season when the soil really contains a surplus of moisture, the cultivator that can be used. But the average season is not yet. In most cases every pound of water in the soil in summer should be conserved for the growing plants. Cultivating corn and other crops with a large-shovel cultivator digs deep trenches and throws up ridges for rapid evaporation of soil moisture, which is a detriment to the growing crop. It is an old saying that poor land will grow a large crop during a wet summer, and the reason is that the water in the soil dissolves mineral plant foods in abundance for feeding the growing plants. If during the average summer in humid climates the soil is cultivated as level and fine as possible, enough moisture will be retained in the soil for growing better crops than are usually grown. Water in the soil is the greatest factor to be considered, yet it is impossible for the soil to hold its moisture during the long, hot days of summer if the surface is plowed deep and left uneven with large shovels. The more surface exposed to the action of sun and air the greater is the evaporation of soil moisture at the surface.

The best cultivator is one with at least three rather than two shovels to the gang. Four or five shovels to the gang are better for midsummer, dry summer face working. The cultivator with three shovels to the gang leaves the surface soil fully 50 per cent. smoother and finer than the cultivator with two large shovels to the gang. The difference in loss of soil moisture in the use of the different kinds can easily be realized. The cultivator with three or more shovels to the gang has a tendency to make the space between the rows level in all directions. Depressions are filled more perfectly and large clods and humps in the field are reduced and spread out. The few large shovels working between rows might be compared to a dump scraper in road work, while the cultivator with three or more shovels is comparable to the road grader or modern road drag, which smooths and levels at the same time.

Level cultivation with a small-shovel cultivator gives better general results in every way, both as to killing weeds and stirring the soil. The crops are cultivated the first time and the last time with the same-sized shovels. There is no rigging either way in the beginning or in the end. The weeds are effectively killed, the soil is well stirred for perfect aeration, the soil moisture is conserved for feeding the growing plants, and the entire field is level for easy harvesting of the crop and for subsequent plowing. The only way to learn the actual good qualities of a cultivator with many shovels to the gang is to use one. After using one, you will wish to use no other kind.

ANOTHER FRUIT PEST.

A new and dangerous fruit pest has appeared in New York state. This is the pear thrips, one of the most dreaded enemies of this fruit and others in California, where the thrips first became noticeable. The outbreak of the insect in New York is one of the mysteries of entomology, since California and New York are about as widely separated as two states in the Union can be; yet the thrips appears in both, and, not as far as known, in the intervening territory. Its ravages in New York are largely confined to a small area in the Hudson river district, but it is known to be present in several other localities and may be more widely distributed than is realized. Its work, is of a peculiar nature, often mistaken for frost injury or blight, and the insect itself is too small to attract attention unless present in large numbers.

INSECT PESTS.

One-fourth of all cultivated crops are destroyed by insect pests. This means that we pay 25 per cent. more for them than we would but for their depredations. This condition increases in direct proportion to the decrease in the bird population which are slaughtered for food, for millinery or for fun. The great bird army was one of this nation's greatest resources, but, like our forests and our fauna, it has been wasted for "fun," and we "pay the fiddler" by giving up, each year, one-fourth of the greatest farm crop produced by any nation. Such fun costs high.

ELECTRICITY IN RAIN.

It is an observed fact, says the Scientific American, that rain may carry an electric charge, and this charge may be either positive or negative. M. A. Baldt has made various researches in France, and has found that in 11,326 readings taken with an electrometer at intervals of fifteen seconds, 8,400 showed that the rain was charged positively and 2,926 gave negative charges. For a unit volume of water, negatively charged rain is seen to carry a stronger charge, and this is true for storms or for ordinary rainfall. On the other hand, it is found that for ordinary rain the positive charges are of more frequent occurrence. His results as to the predominance of positive charges are in accord with the researches made by G. Simpson in India and K. Kahler in Germany.

HER WORST FEAR REALIZED.

"No, mother," said the beautiful heiress, "I shall not marry the count. I do not love him." "Alas!" the good old lady sobbed. "I've always feared you had inherited your father's plebeian ideas."—Judge's Library.

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THE SEED IN THE FOUR KINDS OF SOIL.

Golden Text—Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.—James 1:21. Lesson Text—Mark 4:1-20. Commit v. 20. Time—Autumn A. D. 28. Place—By Sea of Galilee near Capernaum. Exposition—I. Jesus as an Open Air Preacher, 1, 2. This like every other great sermon recorded in the Bible was preached in the open air. Jesus went to the seaside because that was where he would get the crowd. Jesus began to preach when the crowd collected (Luke 8:4), but he was not above preaching to an audience of one (Jno. 3:4). But the multitude loved to gather to hear Jesus (Matt. 5:1; 15:32; Luke 8:45). It is not hard to tell why. Jesus always saw in a great crowd a call to preach the gospel (Matt. 9:36-38; Mark 2:2; 6:34). Jesus began at this time to adopt the parabolic method of teaching, which reveals truth to those who love it and conceals it from those who have no appetite for it (vs. 11, 12; Matt. 13:10, 13; 2 Thess. 2:10-12).

AROUND THE FARM.

BY JAMES S. WOODS.

This season is different from last season in that generally the soil is now full of moisture, with favorable signs for good crops this summer and fall. Dry spells may come this summer, but the thing for us to do now is to work the land in such a manner as to conserve what moisture it holds. Harrowing plowed land as soon as possible will aid in preventing the escape of soil moisture. It is a good plan to have the plow in the field and to harrow in the evening all that has been plowed during the day. This will not only conserve the store of moisture in the soil, but the clods will remain moist and soft for subsequent easy working. Harrowing newly-plowed land immediately after plowing in late spring and early summer reduces the labor of working the land down to a fine and smooth seed bed.

Water in the soil is what dissolves the plant foods for making the cultivated plants grow. The more soil moisture present, other conditions being good, the larger will be the crop yield. As the summer advances with longer days and hotter sunshine, evaporation from the surface of the soil becomes very great. It should be the aim in handling growing crops in hot weather to retain as much soil moisture as possible to feed the roots of the growing plants. Frequent stirring of the soil early in the season, leaving the surface soil fine and level, will prevent excessive evaporation of soil moisture and hold it down at the roots of the plant where needed. Saving the spring store of soil moisture by right cultivation is an insurance against late summer suffering of the crops. Hence, saving the moisture at this time means saving, or making, money.

The time to plant corn is just as soon as the soil becomes warm enough to sprout the grain with no danger of the seed rotting on the ground. Some soils by nature are much warmer than others. Your neighbor may safely plant corn from a week to ten days sooner than you because his soil may be warmer. For the same reason, some fields on your own farm may be fit for planting considerably earlier than others. Every man must be the judge of his own soil conditions, and plow and plant accordingly. Some delay planting till late in May, and even up into June, in central latitudes, because they say early planted corn is slow in growing. It is true that corn will not come up and grow rapidly while the soil and air are cool, yet if the seed will sprout the young plants will be making deep roots for rapid and better growth when warm, growing weather does arrive. Other things in favor of early planted corn are that it has a longer season for growth and development, the mature ears as a rule will be heavier and firmer, summer worms will not bother the ears, and seed will mature and dry sufficiently so as not to be injured by late fall frosts and freezes. It is often a good thing to plant a small field of late corn to be used for late fall green feeding, yet the main crop should be set as early as the soil can be worked without injury and when it is warm enough so that the seed will sprout perfectly without rotting.

Those who are short of hay and have a field of good clover may have hay for the work horses by cutting small strips of the clover before it begins to blossom. Enough can be cut for two or three days' feeding at a time. This can be allowed to cure in the field for several hours, then raked up and hauled to the barn. It will not be fully cured in this time, yet it will soon be fed out and, hence, none will spoil. Most farmers before new hay begins have abundance of mow room, so by spreading new clover hay thin on the mow floor, enough can be kept without spoiling to last the teams for five or six days.

CLEAN MATTING.

To clean straw matting, put three pints of bran in two quarts of water and boil. When cool wash the matting. For white matting add a little salt. For red, add vinegar.

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MY OLE COB PIPE.

Wen de' day is over An' my workin' time is done Me' heart jest shoves gladness. Wen its time to toddle home, Fer der's joy of high expectation, Kase der's nothin' suits me right, Mak de joys dat comes from puffin' Ob my ole cob pipe.

W'en de smoke am a curlin' up, Wreathin' lak an' gran' I jes thows away my sorrow, An' loosens up de bon' In de evenin' long to de night I jes' sits back an' holds de stem Ob my ole cob pipe.

W'en yer troubles come a swoopin' down, Lak de wagle fow de sky, Dese aint no use a worryin' W'en do atiny green is high, I jest lays the leaves befo' de nah Untill dese dried up right, Den crumbles up and fills de bowl, Ob my ole cob pipe.

De 'sticrats dey ches a box, To keep dere matches dry, But dere's nothin' suited to de pipe, Lak a burnin' coal of fish, I jes' says a coal upon de bowl An' draws wid all my might, Den watch de smoke come rollin' out, Ob my ole cob pipe.

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WHAT STRIVES.

Nothing strives unless we lay Down our lives to make it pay; Leaving selfish motives out— In the gate to duty's way. Something comes, and something strives, Ev' with worthy noble lives, Seldom goodness doth endure, Less our hearts are true and pure.

Nothing strives to make us rise, Towards a great enduring prize— Hid away from others here, What but we ourselves endeavor, Things of consequence are known, Virtue gives to them a tone, Sweet to life and that we find Working where they give sunshine.

Nothing strives unless we ask, Not to bless that and to task; Trusting Him and those around, Showing faith in self renowned, Every heart of hope will learn, Something strives for those who turn— "Soon and late"—at trade of life, Aiming higher in the strife.

Nothing strives at once of worth; Precious things are rare on earth; Patient striving all have done, Teming with a victory won, Something strives for those who try, Fighting odds that may come by, Keeping hope forever bright, In the heart, at day and night.

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LITTLE JOURNEYS INTO FASHION LAND.

One has to keep a watchful eye on sleeves. What will happen to them eventually is not known, but for the present they are certainly "up to" all sorts of tricks. Who in the world is to say what is or is not the fashionable sleeve when in its simplest form the arm emerges from the wide armhole of a sleeveless kimono and in its most elaborate it reaches from the shoulder to wrist, with many complications of drapery, cut and trimming to be met with enroute?

Although at all times the sleeve has its importance, quite an unusual amount of ingenuity seems to have been expended upon it this season. The novelty that comes to us is the long sleeve in its many forms, of which the simplest and most attractive ends in a full of lace at the wrist, is loose enough for comfort and somewhat wrinkled over the arm. At the top it is narrow, being inset after an old English fashion into a kimono bodice.

Rarely do we see a seam on the shoulder. Often it is not there at all, but when it is—and comfort and convenience may demand it—one finds that it is concealed by a deep collar or by some form of trimming. In very wide materials the new long sleeve is actually cut en kimono, and is quite a triumph for the dressmaker; but sometimes, of course, the seamless effect is only on the surface, and the sleeve is either cut out under the arm or a gore is inserted.

The one style of sleeve that has not appeared either to dressmakers or tailors up to date is the three-quarter length, which some claim to be the most becoming of all. It does not, like the elbow length, expose the worst defects of the arm, and when it is frilled even a wrist ailment to skinfulness emerges scathless from the ordeal. On the whole, this is preferable to a newer notion which stops the sleeve a little above the wrist, just as though the material had suddenly run short.

There are some pretty sleeves of elbow length. A tailor made coat of taffetas has a loosely fitting elbow sleeve turned back with a facing to match the collar, which, by the way, falls over the shoulder and so incidentally keeps up the kimono effect. A wrinkled elbow sleeve is pretty for a blouse or house gown with a contrasted facing and a frill of chiffon of lace.

As a rule evening sleeves are short, and sometimes, as in the case of the kimono effect, already referred to, they are altogether conspicuously absent. Occasionally they assume the form of a flat frill set into a Magyar bodice, and very often the sleeve is entirely concealed by the falling over of a deep collar or berthe of lace or embroidery or the arm is revealed under the soft drapery of some graceful flchu like arrangement of net or chiffon.

SCRAP BAG FOR SEWING MACHINE IS CONVENIENCE.

The woman who uses a sewing machine will do well to make herself a good-sized bag that can be attached to the side frame of the machine and used to collect all scraps and bits of thread left from the sewing.

Select an embroidery hoop eight inches in diameter and cretonne six inches long and fourteen inches wide. Sew the ends and one side together and turn the edge of the other side over the hoop and run a gathering thread in the hem thus formed. When finished draw up the thread the size of the hoop and catch it tight. This will make a bag that is gathered onto the hoop and is amply full in body to hold a goodly number of scraps before it is necessary to empty.

Another sewing help is to have a pattern bag hung back of the machine. Make inside pockets to this bag in which you can keep the patterns belonging to the different members of the family. Have also two extra pockets that hold patterns of fancy aprons, bags, or dress accessories.

A deal of time and strength can be saved in the hunting of patterns and picking the bits off the floor if your machine is equipped with these two handy bags.

SMART HOSIERY.

The American woman is fortunately more sensible in the matter of footwear than her Parisian sisters, who are running to absurd extremes this season, not only in the matter of elaborate materials but in the height and slimmness of their heels. At a recent race meeting in Paris it was only by great skill that the wearers of high heels kept their balance at all, and they hobbled rather than walked, and had the appearance of being deformed at the knees.

In dances it is only possible to glide; the wearers of such heels are balanced entirely on their toes. If beauty were achieved by such sacrifice to comfort one might understand this high-heeled race, but it is positively ugly and unsightly to behold the natural foot so distorted, and although we follow France's lead in fashion to a large extent let us taboo very strenuous this ridiculous fashion in heels.

At present the summer shoes are cut sensibly. For the most part we see tones of grays and tans in suede and velvet calf, with neat little bows

across, and where colored footwear is introduced it appears in the uppers to a patent goshawk shoe. The buckled shape will be worn a great deal this year with the panner dress.

For evening slippers are made mostly of soft satin to match the frock, or in some pretty contrasting shade. Suede shoes are dainty also for evening wear, and many gold and silver slippers will be seen at smart functions this season. Except for tiny bows or paste buckles and sometimes a little embroidery, the shoes are simple and neat.

The introduction of shot taffeta dress has occasioned a wave in favor of shot effects in hosiery, and many women are wearing bright color silks under a contrasting shade. Naturally these stockings are of goosamer lightness, to avoid bulk.

Fine open work silk stockings and some pretty embroidered silks are among the newest designs, but the most generally popular hose for outdoor wear is the plain or clocked silk.

HOW LONG?

Under this caption, "How Long?" there hangs in a bride's well equipped kitchen a guide to cooking various foodstuffs. The set of hints was compiled by the bride's mother, who had them carefully engrossed on heavy paper, and framed that her daughter might not have to learn through failure in preparing her meals—for this same bride is caring for her home herself. The table has three divisions, "broiling," "baking" and "boiling." Under the first head is this information:

- Thin fish, five to eight minutes. Thick fish, 12 to 15 minutes. Thin steak, five minutes. Thick steak, 10 to 12 minutes. Lamb chops, medium thick, eight minutes. Young chicken, 20 minutes. Under the second heading are these directions: Plain cake, 20 to 40 minutes. Sponge cake, 50 to 60 minutes. Gingerbread, 30 minutes. Rolls, 10 to 15 minutes. Pie crust, 20 to 40 minutes. Cookies, 10 to 15 minutes. Biscuits, 15 to 20 minutes. Bread, in one pound loaves, one hour. Lamb or mutton, per pound, 15 minutes. Rib roast, beef, per pound, 12 to 15 minutes. Chicken, three to five pounds, one to two hours. Tame duck, 45 to 60 minutes. Large birds, 20 minutes. Small birds, 15 minutes. The last division is as follows: Hominy, three to six hours. Rice, in double boiler, one hour; in boiling water, 20 minutes. Oatmeal, one to three hours. Chicken, three hours, simmering. Beef a la mode, three to four hours. Corned beef, five to six hours, simmering. Ham, medium, three hours; large four or five. Cod, per pound, six minutes. Bluefish, per pound, 10 minutes. Finnan haddie, per pounds, six minutes.

THE PANNIER PREVAILS.

At the recent races in Paris everybody was eighteenth century to a woman. There were panniers, panniers everywhere. The slim glories in them because they had no reason to fear the extra bulk; the stout wore them in the hope of disguising their proportions under a cunning arrangement of stuff.

To vary the program some panniers occurred only on one side of the skirt, others swelled into an extravagant width far below the hips. Any monstrosity is excused if called by the name of panniers—a name which will cover a multitude of sins of cut and construction.

The pannier habit also accounts for the continued popularity of taffeta. The latter was born so early in the year that it should not have survived the coming of the real spring. It bore the heat and burden of the dressmaker's spring, a season which begins in February and has nothing to do with tradition or climate. In February taffeta was already in all the shop windows; it played an important part in all the new schemes, and June, contrary to all predictions, finds it on everybody's back.

To drape panniers no more suitable material has been invented. It emphasizes the new bunchedness and lends quite a professional air to amateurish efforts. Therefore, it should have disappeared long since from the fashionable dressmakers, and yet, in spite of all, it survives.

Whatever may occur in the way of premeditated or accidental bulgings above the knee, below it the skirt is still rigidly tight and plain. All that has actually happened to our friend the hobble skirt is that it has gained in width in the one place where width was not needed.

FINGER TIPS.

Don't cut the cuticle or any part of the flesh around the nails. Don't polish the nails too highly; they should have only a natural gloss. Don't file the nails in points, but carefully arch them. Don't allow the nails to remain long soiled with anything that will stain them.

TO SAVE MATTING.

To save your matting, make a cover of outing flannel to slip over your broom when sweeping. This will be found to take up the dust easily and saves the matting much wear. It doesn't take a kitten long to become a cat.