

FARM, GARDEN AND HOME.

Loaded Wasps.

From the broad fields, their golden glory shorn, and sunny uplands of their beauteous form...

The straggler bears his brightened scythe, the stalker the great machine has made, and the bee-liner and the golden gnat...

Wax all the meadow land with harvest stoppas.

Clustering and laughing round the loaded wains. 'Tis so! September nature's harvest yields...

But all through life our rippling fruit we reap, new storing yields from sweet April fields, new rows that bright July sunbeams steep...

Yet, ere the mighty reaper takes it all, and ere the golden gnat and the bee-liner...

Saving Seed Corn.

Select the best ears, those that are bright and plump and well filled with the tips...

Great Britain must rely chiefly upon America for her wheat supply this year, and for that country also...

There being an admitted large crop in this country, it is safe to speculate by looking with the expectation that the war will be over...

It is always safe to sell an article when ready for market. Much more is lost by waiting for better prices than is gained...

GREEN CORN PUDDING.—Twelve ears of corn brated, two quarts of milk, four well beaten eggs...

PICKLED ONIONS.—Use none but small onions; peel; drop into cold water to prevent changing color...

TOMATO PICKLES WITHOUT VINEGAR.—Take large tomatoes, that are just ripened, but not soft...

FRUIT CAKE.—Cover the bottom of a deep dish with tart apples, sliced quite thin, and cover with brown sugar...

POTATO ONIONS may be set during the first half of September, and will generally keep better in the ground...

SPINACH is another vegetable that can be sown about the first of September, and without any protection...

WATERING BEES. An essay read by Mr. A. Salisbury before the Illinois Bee-keepers' association...

Four antecedent requisites are necessary to secure at all times successful wintering. Yet they frequently winter quite well when the requisites are not perfect in all respects...

I. Good wholesome food. II. A proper, uniform temperature. III. Absorbents above the bees or what is often called upward ventilation...

IV. Youthful vigor or vitality to carry them through the winter. The health of the bee, like all other animals, largely depends on wholesome food...

During extreme drouth and the influence of a parched earth and burning atmosphere, the saccharine portion of the fluid sap of all vegetation partakes very largely of the acid of the vegetable...

Notwithstanding bees often winter in a very irregular temperature, uniform success demands an even temperature, not too hot or cold, about 45 deg. In this latitude this can only be secured by a good warm repository...

III. Absorbents above the bees, in the shape of chaff or straw cushions, or the second story of the hive filled with leaves (a cloth first covering the frames) is almost indispensable for outdoor wintering, but in a warm repository they are all superfluous...

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Notwithstanding bees often winter in a very irregular temperature, uniform success demands an even temperature, not too hot or cold, about 45 deg. In this latitude this can only be secured by a good warm repository. Where all things are equal, bees will live in dark confinement four or five months, and come out as active as they went in.

III. Absorbents above the bees, in the shape of chaff or straw cushions, or the second story of the hive filled with leaves (a cloth first covering the frames) is almost indispensable for outdoor wintering, but in a warm repository they are all superfluous. All that is necessary is to raise or slip the lid of the hive a little to one side and let the moisture from the bees, which arises in the form of vapor, escape, otherwise it will condense into drops of water and damage the combs and endanger the lives of the bees.

It was once stated by the late Samuel Wagner (if my memory serves me right) that bees grow no older than in healthy confinement. I am not inclined to be skeptical on this point; but it is apparent to all that have lived out two-thirds of their time before they go into winter confinement will die in early spring before a sufficient number of young bees to generate heat and take charge of the hive are hatched. So bees, queen and all, become discouraged and stamp—a suicidal act, but with them preferable to a lingering death in their once happy home.

HISTORY OF THOMAS CAT.

The Days of His Infancy—His Record as a Musician and Distributor of Peace.

I have taken the precaution to clothe myself in a coat of mail before entering this subject. The Tom cat is a young man in a coat of mail too, I wish to be as near an equal footing with him as possible...

There is no doubt in my mind that the Tom cat is a young man in a coat of mail too, I wish to be as near an equal footing with him as possible, but still he now beats me by two feet. It is hard to get the advantage of a cat. Anybody who can get the advantage of a cat does not need a guardian; he can just go right out in the cold world and earn a dollar a day the year round...

At the opening of the Royal Agricultural Society in Galway, recently, the Duke of Marlborough, and Lieutenant of Ireland, was present, and in response to the toast, "Prosperity to Ireland," said:

It has been his good fortune lately to visit the northern provinces of Ireland, and there he had an opportunity of witnessing the great strides of commercial and manufacturing industry and activity. It might be well that he should refer to the statistics of the agriculture of the country. The return for the year 1887 showed an increase of 2,000 acres under wheat. He was not sure that this was altogether a healthy condition, for he believed it might be attributed in a great degree to the very fine harvest of wheat last year. There had been an increase of the quantity under barley of 5,000 acres, and a somewhat peculiar increase in cabbages. There had been an increase of 4,500 acres of rapeseed and potatoes, but the extraordinary increase was that of 6,000 acres in meadow clover. There had also been an increase of 15,000 acres of oats. There was also a singular increase in the breadth under potatoes. He did not think the diminution in this crop that had taken place in recently preceding years was to be deplored. That diminution in 1867 to 1877 had been 121,000 acres. The decrease in the same period was 142,000 acres; while in barley there had been an increase of 49,000 acres, and in this latter item they had an evidence of the industry now prevailing, namely, that large industry with which so respected a name as that of Guinness was associated. He would not advance any opposing argument to the conversion of land out of tillage into grass was an unpatriotic act, but it was generally found that things found their own level in agriculture as in any other employment, and it was impossible to prescribe any way in which the fertility of the soil was to be developed. There were 121,000 fewer cattle and 19,000 fewer sheep, but they had exported during the year £18,105,000 worth of live stock, so that if the amount of stock had decreased they had this reflection to fall back upon, that the large sum £18,000,000 had been paid into the hands of the farmers of the country. They find, however, there were in the country at present 3,996,000 cattle, being more by 350,000 than there were two years ago. Sheep also were more by 538,000. In sheep there was an extraordinary decrease. Taking all these facts into consideration, he thought that as regards the agriculture debit and credit account, and the country was to be congratulated, and there was no cause for alarm or despondency. Since the passing of the land act there had been the province of Ulster eighty-one applications for loans to purchase small holdings of the valuation of £93,000, and the money advanced was £28,000. In Munster there were six applications, and the amount advanced was £77,000, and the total annual rental was £4,700. In Connaught there were eighteen applications for purchase of holdings of the annual rental value of £1,164, and the amount advanced was £18,000. The total number of applications for such loans was 575, the annual rental £21,000, and the sum advanced £327,000. The progress of the future, but at the same time it opened a way for the desire that the holders of small farms in Ireland should become possessed of their own property, and if it produced general contentment in the country, he for one would regard it as a step in the right direction. His Grace then spoke of the improved condition of the laborer, and of the improvement in agriculture. He had a remarkable instance of this. Wages had so increased, and the culture of the corn crop had, in consequence, become so expensive that it became cheaper and more profitable to the farmer to lay down his land in grass. A large number of laborers annually emigrated to England for the purpose of saving the harvest. The Midland Great Western Railway Company annually carried from this country 30,000 laborers. They earned about £10 each, and there was thus a sum of £300,000 drawn by the agricultural laborers from the pockets of Englishmen for the benefit of this country. His grace spoke of the increase in the savings banks deposits made by agricultural laborers in the present year. The increase was £117,000; in the previous year it was £103,000. The average of five and a half years was £129,000. In regard to the Post Office Savings bank, the result was still more remarkable. The increase in one year was £118,000; in 1870, £94,000; in 1874, £57,000; and in average for the previous ten and a half years was £79,000. The improvements of drainage in Connaught amounted to 42,000 acres, the average in value of which was 4s 7d. The increase in the value of Ireland was £26,000,000, which were drained at a total charge of £200,000. The increased value in the letting of this land was £74,000. The increase in the letting value only represented half the value of the letting. The state of Ireland, in point of law and order, had improved, and in support of this statement he quoted statistics relating to the various classes of crime from the year 1849 to 1876. In conclusion, he expressed his hope that the prosperity and loyalty of the country would go on increasing as it had done in recent years.

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There is no doubt in my mind that the Tom cat is a young man in a coat of mail too, I wish to be as near an equal footing with him as possible, but still he now beats me by two feet. It is hard to get the advantage of a cat. Anybody who can get the advantage of a cat does not need a guardian; he can just go right out in the cold world and earn a dollar a day the year round. I have forgotten the name of the inventor. It was patented, and for a long time the inventor held it as a monopoly, but after a time the patent ran out, and the cat came into general use, since which time there has been some improvements added, so that the cat of this age is a hard thing to beat.

Cats are of a couple of kinds. One is the Tom cat, and the other—well, the other is the puss. The Tom cat, with the exception of the eyes, is always nine days late. When a cat comes into it is called a kitten, and there are usually considerable many brothers and sisters of him at once, and for nine days they are obliged to go it blind. The eye business sticks me. I have read up all the work of optics, and notice that most everything that is going to have eyes, contract, even to the potato, and the more than I can say a woman looks under a der a bed to find a man.

The cat is composed of a peculiar composition, similar to India rubber; the exact combination of the material is one of the lost arts. I dropped a cat out of a five-story window on Broadway once, and he landed up about a rod and landed on his feet. He simply refused to see if any bones were broken, he simply glanced at the lamp-post on the corner, and read the name of the street to get his bearings, and then sailed away as peacefully as though he had just got out of a stage. It is wonderful how far a cat will tumble and not break.

Cats have a tail built into them on the end. In repose it is about the size of a broom handle, but when excited the owner has the power of blowing it up about the size of a Bologna sausage, and when erect in the air it gives the cat a very gay appearance. The principal uses of the tail to the domestic cat are few. Their memories are poor, and they forget and leave their tails round on the floor for people to step on. One of the chief delights a cat experiences is in getting the tail under the rocker of a chair. Just in season for the ground and roll of the chair at the coming day. To get the pure, unadulterated cat, one needs to go to the city and make the acquaintance of the Tom cat. There is more life to the square inch in a city Tom cat than can be found anywhere else, barring a piece of cheese. There he flourishes in all his native vigor. Their cat-like qualities find full play.

Then he courts, Then he fights, Then he yells, On moonlight nights, Chiming bells, Also bulging, dodging boots, From the chimney to the gutter, Then comes the shatter, Into the garden plot, See!

The Tom cat and the street lamp attend to business chiefly at night. Daytime they are more ornamental than useful. Sprawling around the stove, basking in the sun, he passes away the day in sleep. As night approaches he braces up, and starts out to attend to business. He has no friends. Every cat he meets in the street meets the enemy and they arch his, or he is the enemy and she arches his back, inflates his tail and sounds the war cry. Talk about the tocsin alarm; the Tom cat calls in a voice that immediately gives him the belt for hideous noises. The enemy near each other; there is not a clench of arms exactly, but there is an interlocking and braiding of legs, two lumps of animal fat go into the air and come down onto the ground and roll over, and claw, and scratch, and fur flies, and they face scratches, and they yowl, and howl, and bite and tear for a few moments, and then unbraid their legs and sit down and look at each other for a minute, and collect their scattered senses, and try and discover what particular portion of their anatomy is missing, and then both at the same instant turn and annihilate space in opposite directions, with a unanimity of thought that is wonderful in a dumb animal. This is not an illuminated picture, but is a hunk of truth about a cat fight.

The Tom-Cat ranges with undisputed sway on fences, porches and house tops. A man to fully realize the charm of a country home and a steep roof needs to pass a night under a tin roof and have an experiment of cats hold a leg above his head. As he listens "a musk in the hair," and leaps from bed as a cat springs from a chimney top and lands on the roof above his head, and then engages in Greco-Roman struggle, while the man throws up the window and yells and swears and throws boot-jacks and blacking brushes in the direction of the noise, it is then that the city loses its charm, and dollars don't look bigger than cent pieces to his country home, where milk is but five cents a quart, and eggs grow thirteen to the dozen.

I know what I am saying. I passed a night once away from home. What I learned that night would fill a very large barrel. I had retired and was endeavoring to tangle myself up in sleep, when a most indescribable bouquet of stinks stole into my room and entwined itself about my head. It was the first night of a cat fight. I got out of bed and opened my mouth and dropped a "scat!" out of the window. The yowling increased. I added a pair of \$10 boots to the affair, a boot jack followed the boots, but the noise continued with more zeal, if possible, than ever. My contribution was not the only one. From other windows a continuous fire was kept up; bottles, boots, shoes, slippers, and every available article that could be reached was abashed into the darkness at the noise. Occasionally a more terrific yell would seem to indicate that the objective point had been reached, but still the yelling continued with unabated vigor.

At last I bethought me of a dark lan tern I had, and lighting it, I turned the light down into the backyard in the direction of the house. What I saw I can't describe, but I felt locked would need a larger pen than mine to describe. To say that my hair stood up would be very lame. It not only stood up, but it fairly lifted me from the floor. I saw hanging from the clothes line a couple of Tom cats, tied together by the tails, and engaged with all their might in tearing each other apart, while in the yard was a man with a bag, into which he was putting my boots, boot-jack and other articles that had been thrown out of the window, and gathering up all the spoils, as he unslung the cats from the line and placed them in the bag and sealed the fence, it dawned upon me that

CONDITION OF IRELAND.

The Green Isle Becoming a Prosperous Country.

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In Munster there were six applications, and the amount advanced was £77,000, and the total annual rental was £4,700. In Connaught there were eighteen applications for purchase of holdings of the annual rental value of £1,164, and the amount advanced was £18,000. The total number of applications for such loans was 575, the annual rental £21,000, and the sum advanced £327,000. The progress of the future, but at the same time it opened a way for the desire that the holders of small farms in Ireland should become possessed of their own property, and if it produced general contentment in the country, he for one would regard it as a step in the right direction. His Grace then spoke of the improved condition of the laborer, and of the improvement in agriculture. He had a remarkable instance of this. Wages had so increased, and the culture of the corn crop had, in consequence, become so expensive that it became cheaper and more profitable to the farmer to lay down his land in grass. A large number of laborers annually emigrated to England for the purpose of saving the harvest. The Midland Great Western Railway Company annually carried from this country 30,000 laborers. They earned about £10 each, and there was thus a sum of £300,000 drawn by the agricultural laborers from the pockets of Englishmen for the benefit of this country. His grace spoke of the increase in the savings banks deposits made by agricultural laborers in the present year. The increase was £117,000; in the previous year it was £103,000. The average of five and a half years was £129,000. In regard to the Post Office Savings bank, the result was still more remarkable. The increase in one year was £118,000; in 1870, £94,000; in 1874, £57,000; and in average for the previous ten and a half years was £79,000. The improvements of drainage in Connaught amounted to 42,000 acres, the average in value of which was 4s 7d. The increase in the value of Ireland was £26,000,000, which were drained at a total charge of £200,000. The increased value in the letting of this land was £74,000. The increase in the letting value only represented half the value of the letting. The state of Ireland, in point of law and order, had improved, and in support of this statement he quoted statistics relating to the various classes of crime from the year 1849 to 1876. In conclusion, he expressed his hope that the prosperity and loyalty of the country would go on increasing as it had done in recent years.

At the opening of the Royal Agricultural Society in Galway, recently, the Duke of Marlborough, and Lieutenant of Ireland, was present, and in response to the toast, "Prosperity to Ireland," said:

It has been his good fortune lately to visit the northern provinces of Ireland, and there he had an opportunity of witnessing the great strides of commercial and manufacturing industry and activity. It might be well that he should refer to the statistics of the agriculture of the country. The return for the year 1887 showed an increase of 2,000 acres under wheat. He was not sure that this was altogether a healthy condition, for he believed it might be attributed in a great degree to the very fine harvest of wheat last year. There had been an increase of the quantity under barley of 5,000 acres, and a somewhat peculiar increase in cabbages. There had been an increase of 4,500 acres of rapeseed and potatoes, but the extraordinary increase was that of 6,000 acres in meadow clover. There had also been an increase of 15,000 acres of oats. There was also a singular increase in the breadth under potatoes. He did not think the diminution in this crop that had taken place in recently preceding years was to be deplored. That diminution in 1867 to 1877 had been 121,000 acres. The decrease in the same period was 142,000 acres; while in barley there had been an increase of 49,000 acres, and in this latter item they had an evidence of the industry now prevailing, namely, that large industry with which so respected a name as that of Guinness was associated. He would not advance any opposing argument to the conversion of land out of tillage into grass was an unpatriotic act, but it was generally found that things found their own level in agriculture as in any other employment, and it was impossible to prescribe any way in which the fertility of the soil was to be developed. There were 121,000 fewer cattle and 19,000 fewer sheep, but they had exported during the year £18,105,000 worth of live stock, so that if the amount of stock had decreased they had this reflection to fall back upon, that the large sum £18,000,000 had been paid into the hands of the farmers of the country. They find, however, there were in the country at present 3,996,000 cattle, being more by 350,000 than there were two years ago. Sheep also were more by 538,000. In sheep there was an extraordinary decrease. Taking all these facts into consideration, he thought that as regards the agriculture debit and credit account, and the country was to be congratulated, and there was no cause for alarm or despondency. Since the passing of the land act there had been the province of Ulster eighty-one applications for loans to purchase small holdings of the valuation of £93,000, and the money advanced was £28,000. In Munster there were six applications, and the amount advanced was £77,000, and the total annual rental was £4,700. In Connaught there were eighteen applications for purchase of holdings of the annual rental value of £1,164, and the amount advanced was £18,000. The total number of applications for such loans was 575, the annual rental £21,000, and the sum advanced £327,000. The progress of the future, but at the same time it opened a way for the desire that the holders of small farms in Ireland should become possessed of their own property, and if it produced general contentment in the country, he for one would regard it as a step in the right direction. His Grace then spoke of the improved condition of the laborer, and of the improvement in agriculture. He had a remarkable instance of this. Wages had so increased, and the culture of the corn crop had, in consequence, become so expensive that it became cheaper and more profitable to the farmer to lay down his land in grass. A large number of laborers annually emigrated to England for the purpose of saving the harvest. The Midland Great Western Railway Company annually carried from this country 30,000 laborers. They earned about £10 each, and there was thus a sum of £300,000 drawn by the agricultural laborers from the pockets of Englishmen for the benefit of this country. His grace spoke of the increase in the savings banks deposits made by agricultural laborers in the present year. The increase was £117,000; in the previous year it was £103,000. The average of five and a half years was £129,000. In regard to the Post Office Savings bank, the result was still more remarkable. The increase in one year was £118,000; in 1870, £94,000; in 1874, £57,000; and in average for the previous ten and a half years was £79,000. The improvements of drainage in Connaught amounted to 42,000 acres, the average in value of which was 4s 7d. The increase in the value of Ireland was £26,000,000, which were drained at a total charge of £200,00