# FARM, GARDEN AND HOME.

### A Crowd of Boys.

We live in a bit of a cottage,
With rooms neither many or wide;
Yet we're rich in possessions—at table
Our children count three on a side.
There are brown eyes and blue eyes and hazel,
And with various gifts they're endowed;
But the school boys agree that our Benny
Is the jolliest boy in the crowd.

My neighbor, who has only daughters,
Came in with her sewing one day,
And while we were pleasantly chatting,
The children came in from their play.
She paused in the midst of a story,
Unused to hear voices so loud,
But smilingly added: "Your Benny
Is the noisiest boy in the crowd!"

Their grandpa drops in of a morning,
And is often invited to stop,
To tell them some story or other,
Or mend up a wagon or top.
He is always amused at their sayings,
And seems of them all to be proud;
But he says, *sotto voce*, that Benny
Is the smartest of all in the crowd.

And grandma, who dwell in the quiet,
Unmoved by earth's clamor and noise,
Comes in with her sweet, placid manners,
For an afternoon's talk with the boys.
She sets them at peace, if a quarrel
Breaks over their joys like a cloud,
She is the fond of them all; but thinks Benny
Is the prettiest boy in the crowd.

Aunt Jane, from her stately old mansion,
O'ershadowed by poplar and elm,
Came down to the city last winter,
To visit my turbulent realm.
"I am glad," she assured me, at parting,
"Such blessings to you are allowed;
But keep a tight rein on that Benny,
He's the sauciest boy in the crowd!"

Ah me! what a mixed reputation
For any one boy to possess!
As the others have talents unnumbered,
We're a Babel, I frankly confess.
A philosopher, asked to appraise them,
At the ask would be puzzled and cowed,
Though at dinner might reason that Benny
Is the hungriest boy in the crowd.

At night, when they all have been settled
In crib and in cradle and bed,
I go on a tour of inspection
And pillow each slumbering head;
And while I commend them to heaven,
With spirit in reverence bowed,
I am sure I can never determine
The dearest or best in the crowd.

—*Independent.*

### To Correct Bad Tastes in Butter.

The disagreeable taste given to milk and butter when the cows are fed upon turnips may be effectually corrected by the use of a little common nitre (or saltpetre), but the common mode of using this preventive is not the best. It has been usual to put a lump of saltpetre in the milk pail. It will sometimes happen, however, that the nitre remains undissolved and the milk retains its objectionable flavor. Instead of this make a strong solution of saltpetre—say a pint of boiling water upon an ounce of saltpetre—and when thoroughly dissolved put it in a bottle and stand in a cool place. Before milking put into the milk pail a solution, or more, according to the quantity of milk expected, and all turnip flavor will be destroyed. The same substance will also, in a great degree, destroy the bad flavor given to butter by the yellow crowsfoot, or butter-cup. This has been tried and found serviceable. Another plan, equally if not efficient, is to scald the cream after the saltpetre has been inserted.

### Ventilate the Corn Cribs.

I would advise all farmers to ventilate their corn cribs well, and they will have less spoiled corn. There are annually thousands and thousands of bushels of corn spoiled by not having the cribs properly made, and by the want of ventilation. It is generally the practice to make the floor of the cribs level, and when the cribs are filled with corn, nine-tenths of them will sag in the centre. Then, when a heavy rain comes, the water that is dryed in the sides of the crib will run to the centre, and warm weather will cause the corn in the centre of the crib to sprout, and when once started, it will depend altogether on the weather when it will stop.

When building a crib, in the first place raise the floor in the centre of the crib from eight to twelve inches, according to the width, so that whatever water may run in during a driving rain storm, will run out again immediately. To make a ventilation, take four fence boards, six inches wide, and as long as the height of the crib. Make a square tube by nailing these together, and the ventilator is made. Place as many of them in the centre of the crib, at intervals from four to eight feet apart, as are needed, according to the width of the crib, and let the ends of the ventilator pipes go down through the floor and up through the roof of the crib, with rat and mice protectors on the bottom, and storm protectors on the top. Bore the ventilator full of small sized auger holes, so that the air that passes thorough will penetrate to the centre of the crib.—*Correspondent Country Gentleman.*

### Keeping Manures in Summer.

Most farmers lose the bulk of a summer fertilizer, suffering it to be washed away in the ponds and creeks, or else allowing it to leach and lose the chief essential which makes plant food, by exposing to the sun's rays, or the winds and rain during the warm weather. Now, to keep manure made by soiling green crops or by feeding with dry food and grain, it is necessary to "fix" the valuable particles that naturally waste themselves in the surrounding atmosphere. To do this the farmer must turn chemist for the moment, and see what other ingredient will neutralize volatile substances and hold them in the compost until they become plant food. Fortunately we have a cheap and very common substance—viz., gypsum land-plaster—that answers this purpose admirably. Ammonia, carbonic acid, uric acid, phosphorus, and nitrogen, all have strong affinity for the sulphate of lime, or gypsum, and will chemically unite with it on all occasions, and form a new compost of salts, that will not evaporate in the air very readily, and can be used as one of the very best fertilizers for almost all classes of crops grown in the temperate zone.

In order to make land plaster available, the manure should be heaped up; and whenever six or twelve inches deep, a good coating of "land plaster" should be scattered over it, and the process continued during winter or summer, as long as the compost is being increased. It is best to keep the compost heap sheltered to prevent unnecessary leaching; but even without shelter, this treatment will preserve the greater part of the strength of the fertilizing part of the manures. Gypsum costs less than any other fertilizer. As a top dressing for clover, corn, tobacco, wheat, or grasses, and from its power of attracting ammonia, phosphorus, etc., from the atmosphere, it adds more to the strength of the soil than any other fertilizer of equal cost. Millions might be saved the country each year, if our farmers would properly preserve all the manures that can be made on the farm, and then skillfully to use them.

### Food for Fowls.

A writer to the New York *Herald* says: If hens are rightly cared for they should pay from 200 to 300 per cent. profit as layers. They must not be stinted as to space, nor too many kept together. If confined allow at least a square rod to each fowl. Imitate as closely as possible the condition of the hen in summer, and supply by artificial means the wants which nature supplies in warm weather, and hens will lay in winter. Let the floor of the hen house be of dry earth, with a box of dirt and ashes for their sand bath. Keep their quarters clean by removing their droppings at least three times a week. Give free ventilation. Supposing your hens to be in good condition and health when they commence laying, give them the proper food to keep them so. Buckwheat and wheat are the best grains, although for variety other grain must be given. Give cooked feed in various way every day. Much is excellent, as also fresh meat and scraps from the kitchen. Two or three times a week give fresh bones and ground bones, with gravel and broken oyster shells, always within reach. Apples, cabbage, turnips and onions, raw or cooked, will be relished. The later in life a pullet commences to lay the longer she will continue to lay, and the greater will be the uniformity in the size of her eggs. A good Houdan hen will average from 100 to 150 eggs a year; but to average that, a flock must have good care. Thick sour milk or buttermilk is an excellent article of diet through the heated season. The Houdans are very prolific, and will stand a great deal of cold, but they must be kept dry. The Plymouth Rocks are almost constant layers, and bear confinement well. Their eggs are large and very even in size. Although their frame is not so large as the Brahmas, they are more plump and fatten readily.

### The Household.

OMELET.—Four eggs, whites beaten separately; one large tablespoonful flour, one cupful milk, little salt; cook slowly and cover while cooking.

POUND-CAKE WITHOUT SODA.—One pound powdered sugar, half pound butter, eight eggs, whites and yolks beaten separately and well; ten ounces flour, one nutmeg; bake one hour or longer. Never fails. And will keep one week.

APPLE JELLY.—Very clear apple jelly can be made from the cores and parings of nice apples; cover with cold water and stew gently; strain, and add a pound of white sugar to a pint of liquid; boil half an hour.

OYSTER MACCARONI.—Boil as above, take layer of maccaroni, then layer of oysters; repeat until the dish is full; pour over one-half cupful milk and juice, and put small pieces butter on top, and cover with bread crumbs and beaten egg. Bake in the oven, and garnish with boiled eggs and parsley.

TO KEEP CIDER FROM BECOMING SOUR.—Last fall I put some cider in a kettle and brought it to a boiling heat; then filled some bottles which I had ready, as for canning fruit, and poured the hot cider into the bottles, and put the corks in tight. The cider is as sweet as new cider.

SPICE BALLS.—One-half cupful good butter and one cupful sugar, creamed; one well-beaten egg, half cupful molasses, half cupful sweet milk, one cupful chopped raisins, teaspoonful of ground cloves, one grated nutmeg, teaspoonful of soda; mix with sifted flour enough to roll out; cut in pieces and roll up in a ball; do not let them touch each other in the pan; when baked, frost; flavor the frosting with lemon.

### A Little too Prompt.

Max Adler.

My neighbor Partridge made an arrangement with Judge Pitman that whenever the latter heard Partridge spring his watchman's rattle the Judge should understand that burglars were in Partridge's house, and he shoud come over to help drive them out. One night shortly after, Partridge had been up to the city, and he came home in the late hours, reaching his house after midnight. To his vexation he found that the hired girl had forgotten about him and locked the front door. After ringing the door-bell furiously for half an hour without waking anybody, he went around to the yard, and, procuring a crowbar from the shed, he pried open a window-shutter. He was just about to raise the window when Mrs. Partridge, aroused by the noise, came to the second-story window and saw a burglar engaged in entering the house. She flew to the front window and sprang the rattle. Partridge's first impulse was to run around and call his wife and explain. But he knew that he couldn't make her hear while the rattle was going. So he thought he would go inside and calm her fears. He pushed up the sash and climbed upon the sill. Just as he got his body half way in, the catch on the window slipped, and the heavy sash came down and held him there, so that he could neither get in nor out. While he was struggling to release himself the Judge arrived with his shotgun and a lantern, and a dog and a hired man. As soon as the Judge saw the burglar in the window, he banged away with his gun and poured both barrels at the scoundrel. The gun scattered a great deal and the Judge was nervous, so only about 100 shot struck Partridge. And then the Judge turned the dog on and let him take a few hearty bites; while Mrs. Partridge, seeing that the burglar was helpless, came down and scratched out a handful or two of his hair, and then thumped him with a crumb-brush. At last the hired man seized the burglar by the legs and drew him out, and then, as the Judge was about to pound him with his gun, he shrieked that his name was Partridge, and that it was all a mistake. The Judge examined his features and found that it was indeed Partridge. He then said:

"By George, old fellow, I'm most awful sorry. You know I thought you were a——"

"O, no matter what you thought—no matter what you thought, you infernal old idiot! It's enough for me to know that what you didn't shoot out of my leg that diabolical dog of yours bit out!"

"Your wife sprang the rattle, so I——"

"O I'll fix her! Lifted pretty near all the hair out of my head, and brained me with a club. Did it on purpose, I know mighty well! A divorce is what I'll get for her! And the very first thing I'll do in the morning will be to have you arrested for murder. I'm going to set out here on the fence and go to an alderman's as soon as daylight dawns."

The Judge and Mrs Partridge tried to soothe him, but he refused to be comforted; and when the Judge went home Partridge sat on the ash-barrel and meditated revenge while Mrs. Partridge stood at the window and cried. But he went in at breakfast time, and by the time he was able to lay aside his crutches he was disposed to take a less gloomy view of the tragedy. His present arrangement with the Judge, however, is that when the Judge hears an alarm he is to stay at home and lock his dog up somewhere

MR. CHARLES FETCHEE is said to be an excellent farmer, reaping every year very good crops on his Pennsylvania estate. He cultivates about a hundred acres, employing the best machinery. He sells nothing from the farm, however: he gives away nearly all that he raises, and is reported to almost entirely support, by these benefactions, many poor families living in his neighborhood.

## BRAVE JEROME.

**A Dashing Lieutenant's Experience in Chief Joseph's Trenches—After-Gossip of the Battle-Field—Poor Hale's Love Charm.**

The New York *Herald* correspondent with the Sitting Bull commission, writes as follows:

The commission, having camped this afternoon in a desolate spot on the plains, discovered its escort of three companies of the Second cavalry, which arrived and joined it this evening. These companies, commanded by Capt. Tyler, were engaged in the recent battle with and victory over Joseph and his Nez Perces, under General Miles. Among the commanders of companies is Lieut. Lovell A. Jerome, son of Lawrence Jerome, of New York city, who distinguished himself in the action in a manner which has been partially described to you. His distinguishing feat during the battle, one that entitles him to the highest credit as an officer, was the saving of the Seventh cavalry from absolute annihilation. While the Indians, after Capt. Hale's death, were pouring a deadly hurricane of lead upon the Seventh's battalion, Lieut. Jerome, coming up on the opposite side of the cut, bank or ravine, assailed the savages with a deadly fusilade which continued for two or three minutes, drove them into their pits and allowed the remnants of the Seventh cavalry to withdraw.

THE HERO'S APPEARANCE.

Lieut. Jerome, like his brother officers, presents a highly unmilitary but a warworn appearance. He is the most dashing and handsome of them all. His costume nearly resembles that of a prairie scout, and would astonish the denizens of his father's household and the *habitues* of the Union club. He wears a velveteen coat, buckskin pantaloon and heavy cavalry boots. On his head is a battered drab slouched hat with a black ribbon. He gave this evening, in the presence of one or two of his brother officers, an account of the battle and his share in it, which, in essential respects, had been anticipated by the stories of the scouts. But neither the scouts nor any one else with whom I have conversed gave the twang, the peculiar flavor to the narrative which the young lieutenant himself gave it, and which he must have derived the knack of giving to any story from his inimitable sire.

MAJOR HALE'S LOVE CHARM.

It was this young man, as you will recollect, who, after Joseph came into Miles' camp and made his first proposition to surrender, was ordered, or rather, permitted, by the general to go into the stronghold of the Nez Perces and reconnoitre. Indeed Lieutenant Jerome suggested Joseph's presence and temporary truce which then occurred as a good opportunity to recover the bodies of Captain Hale and Lieutenant Biddle, both of whom were killed during the charge of the Seventh Cavalry at the opening of the fight. Says Lieutenant Jerome:

"The story about Hale's saying, 'My God! am I going to be killed so early in the morning?' is probably a fiction. What did occur was this. When the command halted just after the news that the Nez Perces village was in sight was received from the scout, and while the scout was riding to the rear during the halt to inform Gen. Miles, Hale, who was spoiling for a fight, but who was evidently nervous and troubled, took out a charm given to him by a lady, which he wore around his neck, and said: 'Jerome, if I should get killed this morning I want you to see that this gets back'—mentioning the lady's name. I bantered him a moment about it. Then he took it in his hand and threw it with a gesture against his heart, laughed in his peculiar manner and exclaimed: 'There, nothing is going to harm me now.' That was one of the reasons, continued Jerome, why I wanted to go down and recover Hale's body."

I asked Lieutenant Jerome if he recovered the charm? He answered that he did, and went on with his account.

ENTERING JOSEPH'S CAMP.

He proceeded into Joseph's camp confident that he would be well received there, knowing personally, as he did, so many of the Nez Perces warriors. It was not until he had fairly entered it that he perceived he was a prisoner. Since Miles had determined to hold Joseph, the Indians determined to hold Jerome. They did not, however, treat him in the least like an enemy. In the most laughing way they insisted on his staying with them. They allowed him to wander through their camp and examine their strange fortifications and places of concealment. "At last," said he, "they put me into a pit where there were about fifteen of them. The weather was bitterly cold and I was glad I was sheltered. I had a pair of blankets that night and slept a little."

Here I asked the gallant young lieutenant to go on with his story in his own way.

"Well," he said, "what I did while I was in the Indian camp was to look around for the best places for Miles to put in his shells, and to see how their rifle pits were arranged, and whether it would be possible for us to take them by assault. I had the whole thing in my mind by the next day, when I expected to leave. On that day I received a message from Miles in the forenoon. Miles wanted to keep Joseph, but wanted me to escape. I believe now that if I had not gone into that camp under the general's order, he, being deprived of the information which I gave him afterward, would have withdrawn—holding Joseph as his prisoner—with his force to the cover of the distant woods, and there intrenched himself. The fact is he was very anxious, as all of us were, lest Sitting Bull should come to the Nez Perces' assistance. I can testify that the Nez Perces really expected that Sitting Bull would aid them, though of course I don't know how well their hope was grounded. While I was in their camp several warriors spoke of this matter.

FIRING ON THE FLAG OF TRUCE.

For a long time after I reached their camp the white flag floated over both encampments. But suddenly, while I was sitting in the pit I spoke of, a bullet came singing overhead. It was followed by others. These shots were from our own men, and I was alarmed and disgusted. In the first place I didn't want to be killed by a friend; in the next instant it struck me that the Indians suspected treachery. That they did suspect it I found out soon afterward. A couple of warriors who had been especially friendly to me, took me out of that pit into another one, warning me that the other Indians were talking about my "forked tongue," and of the propriety of killing me then and there.

THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

"During the day Gen. Miles decided to surrender Joseph. So he was brought down under cover of a white flag to a space half way between the Nez Perces' position and our own. The general himself went with Joseph and was accompanied by one of his staff officers. There were three Indians along with me. I suppose that was an interesting position. With the suspicion of treachery on both sides, thirteen of our men lay in their trenches, scarcely forty rods off, with their rifles held at a dead rest on Joseph and my three Indian guards. More than twenty Indians had an equally sure sight over their Winchester's and Henry's straight at Gen. Miles and me. I have since learned that Miles' staff officer had a cocked revolver in his bosom ready to fix Joseph if I should be harmed. The transfer passed without trouble, and I was restored to the command of my company.

### First Railroad Impressions.

From the Virginia (Nev.) Enterprise.

A man from Honey Lake saw a railroad train for the first time in his life the other day at Reno. In speaking of the wonder to a friend he said: "The forward thing just gin a couple of coughs, and the whole string of 'em got up and started right off."

"That thar lead steer pulls powerful fine," was what the Oregon man said when his two sons, living at Elko, took him out to the railroad track for the first look at the cars."

"What you call 'um; heap wagon, no hoss?" asked the Piute Indian when he saw the first train.

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COL. DAVID H. ARMSTRONG, the new U. S. senator from Missouri, was for several years a teacher of the New Bedford (Mass.) district schools when he was a young man, and married a Miss Haskell of Rochester, who was at the same time a teacher at New Bedford.


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CONSTIPATION.

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Extract from the "Life of Washington Irving," by his nephew, Pierre M. Irving, Vol. IV., page 272.

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