FARM, GARDEN AND HOME.

Nothing but Leaves.

BY LEWIS L. DAVIS.

Nothing but leaves! Shall this be the case
When you come to the close of your day of grace?
Was it for this probation was given,
Think you, to secure a home in heaven
With nothing but leaves?

Nothing but leaves! Will that crop suffice
To give you place with the good and wise?
Can you stand at the throne and plead your suit,
Having produced no grain of truth,
With nothing but leaves?

Nothing but leaves! Naught else is thine
Can you truly be said to have let your light shine?
Has your "lamp" been burning night and day,
Yet guided no wander into the way?
No, nothing but leaves!

Nothing but leaves! Ah! your case is sad,
Jehovah's assistance you might have had;
You've let it pass by like the idle wind;
Have not even endeavored to bless mankind.
No, nothing but leaves!

Nothing but leaves! "By their fruit we know"
Whether they're fit to be left to grow;
If they bear no fruit, they shall be cut down,
As they are but cumberers on the ground,
With nothing but leaves!

Pickling Beef.

The Yorkshire (England) hung beef has long been deservedly famous, and is thus easily prepared:

Cut into the ribs or a round of beef, or, even a fine thick flank, about twenty pounds weight of either, for example. Finely beat in a mortar for this quantity half a pound of bay salt, a quarter of a pound each of saltpetre and sal prunella, and two hands of juniper berries; mix them with three pounds of common salt and one pound of coarse sugar, and thoroughly rub the beef all over for a considerable time. Let it lie in a good salting pan, and rub it well with the pickle once a day for at least a fortnight, carefully turning it every time. Take it out, and after drying it well with a coarse cloth hang it up to the ceiling of a warm kitchen or in a chimney corner where only a moderate fire is kept, till it becomes properly dried. It may be either boiled as wanted, or cut into rashiers and broiled, but in the latter case it will always eat much better if previously dipped into boiling water.

Harrowing Wheat.

Secretary Stratton, of the Colorado board of Agriculture, in his report to Governor Routt, among other interesting information has the following in relation to harrowing wheat:

The practice of harrowing winter wheat in the spring of the year, has obtained to some extent in the western states; and reasoning from analogy, Mr. P. M. Hinman, of Builder county—a member of the board—having a field of wheat which failed to have a good stand, and whose general outlook was every way inferior to the balance of his wheat, decided to harrow the field and note the results. The harrow was faithfully applied when the young wheat was four to six inches high. Many of Mr. Hinman's neighbors, who witnessed the operation, were very free to express their opinion that the wheat would be ruined. Such, however, was not the case, as Mr. Hinman informed me that imediately after the harrowing, the wheat took on a better look, and commenced growing rapidly; and at harvest time the field so treated gave the largest yield.

Storing Roots for Feed.

In storing roots for winter feeding, never use the house cellar for the purpose, for the smell that will continually arise from them and prevade the entire house will not only be unpleasant, but may lead to sickness. A barn cellar is the most appropriate place, though we have kept large quantities out of doors, in mounds made for the purpose. We select a high piece of ground, on which we put a light sprinkling of straw; on this the heap of roots is put, say about fifty bushels in a heap, after first carefully removing the tops or leaves. After the pile has been nicely rounded up, spread a light covering of straw on them and then put on the earth or soil carefully to the depth of six or eight inches, first making a "chimney" at the extreme top, with a whisp of straw placed upright, to afford ventilation. By taking the soil from immediately around the pile for covering the roots, better drainage is afforded and they are kept free from wet or dampness. After the soil has all been put on which is necessary, go over the heap and pat it down nicely with the spade, to make it shed the rain without washing away any, or but little. In this way we have kept carrots, beets, parsnips, turnips and mangel wurtzels the entire winter. We always took one heap at a time, when wanted for use, and conveyed all to the barn, to a dark place free from frost. When this lot was used up, we tackled another heap in the same way.

If roots are kept in a light and airy place, they will soon shrivel up or rot, and lose much of their value as stock feed. After the heap has been finished and packed down with the spade, it is a good plan to cover with a few inches of old straw or fresh litter from the stable, which will prevent heavy rains from washing the earth down. A better substance is long rye straw placed around the mound and tied at the top, as this will shed most of the rain, and if drainage is properly provided for, no trouble need be apprehended.—*Cor. Practical Farmer.*

Wintering Bees.

Having had over a quarter of a century of experience in the care of bees, and not having been out of honey for over thirty years, I will give to the readers of your paper my manner for wintering bees. Place the hives on a covered platform, near together, about two feet from the ground, in a dry place; then bore fine holes in the top of the hives, for ventilation (five-eighth bitt is about the size). Then place boxes two-thirds filled with dry straw to absorb the moisture from the bees and prevent freezing. Pack dry straw around the hives, to keep as even a temperature as possible. Give plenty of air at the entrance of the hives, but guard against mice. Place a board, edge raised, in front of the entrance, to prevent snow from drifting in; examine often, and keep the passage clear from snow, ice and dead bees, to prevent smothering. Mild days in winter, if the bees incline to move, raise the hive a little, and remove all dead bees and dirt from the bottom board, and if it is dry, your bees are all right if plenty of honey.

It is not extreme cold weather that causes bees to perish, but a sudden change and a continuation of cold, as in 1874–5. For example, the cold winter of 1872–3 I carried my bees through nicely without loss. In 1873–4 my bees were all right in the spring. In 1874–5 the extreme long winter, I lost five colonies; the balance did well. If you recollect, there were about 120 days that it was too cold for bees to move in the least. It is said by experienced bee managers that bees cannot endure much over 100 days of confinement. That is why my bees perished, I have no doubt.

In 1875–6 my bees came through all right, and have trebled their population and given us two sets of boxes and filled their hives full for winter.

When your bees come out in warm days and there is snow on the ground, it is a protection to feeble bees to have straw spread on the snow in front of the hive. —*G. W. Dickinson, in Michigan Farmer.*

Roosting Places.

Far less attention is paid to providing suitable roosting places for fowls than is given to a host of other and less important matters connected with poultry and poultry houses. We have seen neat, tasty poultry houses, which appeared, from an outside view, to be the most comfortable places fowls could wish for, yet an inspection of the inside revealed the roosts from five to six feet high, far too high for heavy fowls. In "ye olden times," when light bodied fowls were the go, it did well enough to let them roost high, especially as the hen house was not carefully closed at night to prevent the visits of predatory rats, weasels and other animals with a natural relish for chickens in the rough. Now we have heavier fowls, are more particular in regard to the condition of the plumage, and take more pains with them, so these aerial roosting places can readily be dispensed with, a substitute being readily found in the now popular roosting benches, which can be made but with a small outlay of time, labor and money, and are movable, permitting the fancier to move them wherever necessary. These benches can be made from twelve to sixteen inches high and of 2x1 inch slats. There is no regular length for these benches, from five to six feet being a very convenient size, though if the compartment be not too wide, they can be made to conform to the width of the house, being careful to make them set true on the floor, with wide spread legs well fastened on.—*Poultry Journal.*

The Household.

MIRACLES.—Four eggs, two cups of sugar, two-thirds of butter, one-half teaspoonful of ginger, stirred thick with flour. Roll out, cut very thin, and fry in hot lard.

TO KILL MOTHS.—Pour plenty of odorous naphtha over your furniture; set the furniture out doors some bright windy day, and the naphtha will soon evaporate. Spring and fall are good times to try it.

COLOGNE.—Alcohol, one gallon; oil of lemon, two ounces; oil of bergamot, one ounce; oil of lavender, (best English) one and one-half drams; oil of orange, four drams; oil of neroli, one dram; essence of musk, one and one-half ounces; otto of rose, one-half dram; acetic ether, four drams. The materials should be of the best quality, and should be well mixed, allowed to stand for eight days, and filtered through magnesia.

ALMOND MACCAROONS.—Blanch (that is, scald and remove the brown skin) ½ pound of almonds, and pound in a mortar with 1 teaspoonful lemon essence till a smooth paste; add an equal quantity of sifted white sugar and the beaten whites of 2 eggs. Work well together with the pestile till very smooth, then dip the hands in the cold water and work the paste into balls the size of a nutmeg; lay them on white paper an inch apart and put them in a cool oven for forty minutes. Cocoanut can be grated and used in the place of almonds.

TO BONE A TURKEY.—After a fowl is drawn, take a very sharp knife and carefully separate the flesh from the bones, beginning at the wings, and being very careful not to break the skin; scrape the flesh clear from the bones, going from the wings to the breast, then the thighs, then the legs; when all the bones are loosened, take hold of the turkey tightly by the neck and give it a pull, when the bones will come out; but this requires the greatest patience and care to do nicely, and it is far better and cheaper to send it to a professional cook to do for you. There are steel instruments for boning turkey.

OYSTER PATTIES.—Make puff paste in this way: To every pound of flour add ¾ of a pound of butter, the yolk of 1 egg—use ice cold water—chop half the butter into the flour, then stir in the egg, work all into a dough, roll, cut thin, spread on some of the butter; fold closely, butter side in, and re-roll; do this until the butter is all used up. Keep the paste in a cold place, while you prepare the oysters. Set the oysters on the stove in a sauce pan, with liquor enough to cover them; as soon as they come to a boil, skim them, stir in a little butter and pepper: also, if desired, a little cream. Line your small tins with your paste, put three or four oysters in each, add a little of the liquor, then cover with paste; bake in a quick oven twenty minutes; while hot, wash over the top with a beaten egg, using a swab or brush, and set in the oven a minute or so to glace.

Rebuilding London.

A London letter to the Newark *Daily Advertiser* says: "London presents the appearance of a city in the course of being rebuilt. In all directions houses are being torn down for the purpose of widening existing streets, or making new ones, or creating squares, or clearing sites for new blocks of shops, hotels or private residences. The buildings now in course of erection are invariably of the most showy and at the same time substantial orders of architecture. The road-beds are exceedingly firm, and the surface smooth and hard. The pavements are wide, strong and well-laid. The gas-lighting is liberal, and occasionally tasteful, particularly on the north side of the Thames, from Westminster to Blackfriars bridge, along the new embankment which is a paterre of flowers and shrubs by day and a fairy-like illumination by night. But all this is modified, and the aspect of the city is to a certain extent disfigured, like blotches on a fair face, by excavations, heaps of rubbish, and the vast piles of dirt, lime, stone, brick, timber and iron everywhere blocking the streets. There appears literally no end to the rebuilding and reconstruction of the metropolis. One set of improvements is no sooner finished than another is begun. In ten years London will probably be more beautiful in every quarter than Paris. Already many foreigners consider London, on the whole, preferable to the butterfly metropolis of France, but when the vast changes now progressing are partly accomplished, London will be without a rival for taste and elegance as a residence, as it is peerless for wealth, influence and population. In the meantime, the stream of tourists, travelers, pleasure-seekers, business men, invalids and others visiting London, seems to be forever increasing. Never was anything seen like it. Wonderful as the day is, the morrow is equally crowded with marvels. London is a succession of surprises, and they never cease."

THE London undertaker who had charge of the funeral of M'lle Tietjens advertised his business extensively by setting up in his shop window for a few days preceding the burial the coffin-lid which was soon to cover the body of the dead singer. The lid contained the customary plate, with the name, date of death, etc., conspicuously engraved on it; yet when called to account by the newspapers for his indecency, the undertaker sought refuge in a plea that the obnoxious object found its way into the window through inadvertence!

CONSCIENCE MONEY.

The Queer Anonymous Letters that are Sent to the New York Custom House.

One of the special accounts kept at the custom house is popularly designated, "The Smugglers' Conscience Fund." The account is made out monthly, and sometimes amounts to thousands of dollars. Last month it was only $43.30. The money is received from those who have cheated the government out of its just revenue. Some of the correspondence affords an interesting insight into the mysteries of smuggling. In one letter, written in a woman's hand, enclosing $25, the writer says she brought some goods with her from Paris a few years ago, on which she did not pay the duties. She had the goods in her trunk, and when a custom house officer examined it on her arrival she told him that it contained only clothing that she had worn. The officer said that in that case they were not dutiable, and let her take them away. She omitted to inform the officer that the only time she had worn the dresses was when she tried them at the dressmaker's in Paris.

"Banker" writes as follows:

In 1873 I returned from Havana, bringing with me 500 cigars as a present to some of my friends. I had them packed away in the bottom of my trunk, under my clothing. I told the custom house inspector, when he came to look at the trunk, that it contained no dutiable goods, and he merely opened the trunk and closed it again without making any search. I did not have the least suspicion then that the cigars were dutiable, as they were only intended for presents. Since then I have heard that I was just as much liable to pay duty on them as if I had fetched them here for sale. Please find enclosed $20, which I hope is enough to pay what I owe the government.

A "Captain" remitted $40 as a penalty for his trade in smuggled goods. He said that when he engaged in the smuggling it was a common practice for masters of vessels to smuggle goods from European ports and sell them here at a great profit. He further said that the profit from smuggling was one of the inducements held out to officers when they were employed, and that shipowners were constantly looking to them for smuggled presents.

A "Merchant" forwarded $100, confessing that he had been engaged in undervaluing goods.

An "Ex-Customs Officer" sent a conscience-offering of $50, because he had got dresses for his wife, cigars, liquors and other articles from the ocean steamers free of duty.

One of the earliest of the annoymous letters received is as follows:

"My husband and self visited Europe not long ago, and I bought several hundred dollars' worth of goods in Paris and London to bring home with me. When we sailed from Liverpool for New York one of my friends told me that I would have to pay the government a big sum on my dresses. I thought it would be nice to cheat Uncle Sam, I did not know what right he had to make me pay him for my clothes. Accordingly I got one of my lady friends to hide some of the articles in her trunk among her old clothes. I also placed some in the bottom of my husband's trunk unbeknown to him, and the remainder I hid in my own trunk. When we arrived a polite officer approached me and said, 'Did you bring any dutiable goods with you, madam?' I said, 'No, sir,' in the most innocent way possible. 'Are you quite certain, madam?' he said. 'Yes, sir, I am quite certain; I have only got my old clothing with me.' He lifted the lid of my trunk and just looked inside, but did not discover anything. Afterward I was given a paper to sign. I did wrong, I know, but I was told that almost everybody acted like me."

Accompanying the letter was a fifty-dollar greenback.

The Romantic Origin of the Awa Family.

The story is a familiar one to the Japancse, and connects the first daimio of the house with the career of the famous Hideyoshs. That eminent warrior and ruler of the sixteenth century, the only man in the annals of Japan who ever rose from a plebeian station to the position of ruler of the empire, was a pauper and a vagrant in his youth. While wandering an unprotected child in his native province, he was accustomed to sleep at night in the fields or by the roadside. On one occasion, according to the proper chronicle, he lodged himself upon a bridge in Okasaka, and was roughly awakened by a kick from a powerful and well-armed man, who demanded his name. "My name is Sarumatse," he answered, "and this is the highway. You have no right to disturb me. The road is mine as much as yours. Who are you?" "I am Koroku," said the other, "I know Koroku of Owari," retorted Sarumatsu (such was Taiko's name in childhood), "for I came from Owari myself. He is a robber and I will not stir for him." It is related that Koroku, who was one of the most noted highwaymen of his time, instead of resenting the lad's audacity, was amused at his spirit, and took him under his protection, and in many ways befriended him, in return for which, when he attained the supreme executive control, Taikio made the former desperado a daimio, and endowed him with the province of Awa. The young nobleman, Hachisuka, now in London, is his literal descendant.—*Takio Times.*

How the Texas Cow-Boy Lives.

A letter from San Antonio, Texas, to the New Orleans *Democrat* says: "One of the distinctive features of western Texas is the cow-boy, so-called. Heretofore there have been but few inclosed pastures. The cattle and horses have ranged at will over the prairies, and when a norther prevails they become widely scattered. When the spring of the year returns, then a dozen or more of the young men of a neighborhood mount their mustangs, taking each a spare horse, the company having several sumpter horses, and scour the pratries for many miles, sometimes fifty or sixty in one direction. These excursions last about ten days or two weeks. They bivouac at night, cook their own meals, seldom enter a house, drink quantities of black coffee, generally without sugar, kill a yearling when they needed meat, and are truly rough and ready riders. This kind of life to have an inexpressible charm for the young men. It is an exciting scene to see them in full chase, with their lariats whirling over their heads, their mustangs as much excited by the race as themselves. From this school comes the noted Texas ranger, and it would be hard to find a better training for a cavalry soldier. Their splendid qualities were exhibited on many hard-fought fields during our late unpleasantness."

A Story of Andrew Jackson.

When Andrew Jackson was a young man attending court at Rogersville, Tenn., he lived at a hotel famous for its good cheer. One day, as he sat on the piazza, a youth came riding along dressed in the pink of fashion, his eyes fixed on vacancy, replying not to the salutes which it was the custom of the times for strangers to give each other. At a glance Jackson saw the fop, and determined to play the part of Boniface. He welcomed the silent stranger with distinguished politeness, and the company around the fire made room for him. But the automaton was not to be won to conversation. He walked up and down the room contemplating his own graces, and presently exclaimed, commandingly: "Landlord, I want supper!" Supper was spread and the stately youth devoured it. Then he resumed his walk, answered not a word to the remarks of the fireside circle of lawyers and judges, and Jackson grew more and more wrathful. "Landlord, I want to go to bed!" was the next demand; and he added, "I want a room to myself." Jackson represented that house was full, and there was no single room to be had; the young fellow was not to be moved. Jackson disappeared, and shortly returned, announcing that the guest's room was ready. The two went off through the front door, all the company following, and stopped—at the corn-crib, through the cracks of which a light was shining. "There's your room," said Jackson. "Do you wish to insult me, sir?" "No insult at all, sir. You vowed you would not sleep in a room with any one, and demanded a room by yourself. There it is, sir." "I vow I will not sleep there," said the dandy. "By the Eternal you shall!" exclaimed Jackson, and grabbing the youth, he sent him at one toss into the crib and locked the door. And there he staid all night, and in the morning he was released and dismissed breakfastless by the impetuous Jackson. This is a tale related by an ancient lady of Rogersville.

Taking a Likeness Under Difficulties.

Paris Corres. of the Hartford Times.

Gambetta is the most of a Jehu that holds reign in France to-day. During the past two weeks, when everything that he has to do with has been in the utmost turmoil, that man has been "sitting for a bust" or rather the sculptor has been sitting for it, while Gambetta was flying about his office, reading letters and writing them, dictating to three scribes at once, receiving his agents from all over France, hearing their reports, encouraging and discouraging, commenting upon them and instructing the agents, receiving visitors, and talking with government officials and lawyers. It was one of the most amusing sights of all Paris, to sit in the private office, a permit for which, under pretence of some business or other, was comparatively easy to obtain, and watch that helpless artist maneuver. When the great statesman's back was toward him he went for his hair; when the profile was presented, for the nose; when full front face was turned upon him he had the most hopeless task of all. Every one knows what a Frenchman's face is under excitement, all manner of extraordinary contortions imaginable; and the poor fellow sometimes threw down his steel with the most woe-begone idiotic stare that a lean, lank, cadaverous, long-haired, grizzled-bearded, large-eyed, half-starved dog of a sculptor could put on, till it verily seemed as though the poor fellow, if he had had a thing on his stomach, would have been absolutely seasick in the whirling and heaving that he was forced to submit to. From present appearances, however, the bust will be a complete success, a picture true as life, of the ruling spirit of France to-day, in his very best position of intense animation.

An Odd Little Story of Napoleon III.

It was a good many years ago, and all Paris was raving about the exquisite beauty and wonderful voice of a young girl who had just left the Conservatory to become not long after and continue to this day one of the brightest ornaments of the lyric stage. She was honored with an imperial command to sing at the Elysees, where she fascinated the Emperor, who, sending for her, favored her with an audience in the presence of the brilliant assembly, praised her singing and asked her in what way he could be of assistance to her. The girl's only thought was that this interview, which so distinguished her, was so soon to come to an end, and stammeringly and with downcast eyes, she said, "Sire, there is one thing you could do for me, but to ask it of you would be too presumptuous." The Emperor encouraged her. "Come, what can I do to serve you?" he repeated. "Sire," said she, "talk to me some more." The Emperor never was a brilliant conversationalist, and on this occasion had been rather less elegant and witty than usual. Not understanding that she was in earnest, he took it into his head that the brilliant young prima donna was quizzing him, and thereafter she was always in his bad books.

How California Raisins Are Made.

Folsom (Cal.) Telegraph.

The grapes are brought by the Sacramento Valley Railroad cars alongside the establishment, and are taken to the first floor, where they are assorted, and dipped in a composition of chemicals, which cuts the tough pellicle of the skin, by which evaporation is more easily affected; they are put in the driers, where a heat is kept up from 140 to 160 degrees, and in the manner before described are taken out at the top, where they are put for a short time in a steam box, which makes the stems flexible and enables them to be packed in layers without breaking the bunches; they are then packed in 6½, 12½, and 25 pound boxes, nailed up and sent to a warehouse. The loose raisins are packed up in paper boxes, made expressly for that purpose.

GENERAL SHERMAN'S official salary, it is stated, amounts to about $18,000 a year, inclusive of the usual commutation for supplies. He lives, at present, at the Ebbitt House, in Washington. He is said to enjoy Washington gayeties greatly, and to feel aggrieved when there is not—to use his own words—"some sort of a fandango" every evening.

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