

Farm & Grange

The Farmer's Troubles. Mr. Harris, in his December "Walks and Talks," says: "Half our troubles are imaginary. The remedy for these is hope; and the remedy for the other half is work. Work will give us hope, and hope makes labor easy. What will not a little extra labor do for our comfort, and the comfort of our families? One-half hour's extra work a day would make all the difference between a dispirited household and a home of comfort. Let a poor discouraged man try it. Brooding over our troubles does no good. It will pay no debts. Work will make a creditor wait. And let me say right here that I do not think farmers as a class, or their families, are given to extravagance in dress or in their style of living. Just now the tendency is all the other way. They are spending less than usual. And it is a capital time to make improvements. In periods of general depression like the present some people seem to think that the world is coming to an end. So that as it may, it is wise in us to continue plowing and sowing. It is a great thing to feed and clothe the world. We have had a good dinner, and shall soon want a good dinner, and will not want to go to bed without supper, and to-morrow we shall want another breakfast, dinner and supper, and so on during all the days of the week, and the month and the year. There are 365 days in the year. Suppose we should forget that one-quarter of a day, and the world on the first day of January should wake up and find no breakfast. There would be a fine rum-pumpkin world found that it had to wait six hours for dinner on an empty stomach. Why, then, need a farmer fear? His products never go out of fashion. Bread, butter, milk, cheese, beef, mutton, pork, poultry, eggs, fruit and potatoes will be wanted every day until the end of time. And it is our duty and our interest to see that the world does not come to an end for the want of food."

Household Hints.

There is such gross neglect of some of the plainest rules of common sense and health in the dressing of children that one can hardly mention too often the necessity of dressing growing children warmly. There may be sufficient warmth about their bodies, where waists and skirts are made of numerous thicknesses, but the extremities are almost always dressed in too thin or two few garments. Remember that no woollen stocking is sufficient protection for a leg below the knee. There must be added either trousers or leggings, or warm underdrawers. For a little girl, there should be a complete under-suit of flannel (cotton and wool, or soft all-wool), composed of long sleeved waist and long drawers (skirt-fitting), buttoned together at the waist. Over this full covered flannel drawers, buttoned around the leg below the top of the stockings, are not too warm. Warm drawers are much more sensible than so much warmth in skirts, which should be as light and scant as convenient on account of weight.

The raising and using of carrots for coloring butter is attended with a good deal of labor and trouble, so much so as to induce many to use home-made preparations of annatto instead. If properly prepared a pretty good color is imparted to the butter, but more generally a dull reddish tint is given, the result of imperfect preparation or of using too much.

Winter Churning Made Easy.

A. Gale, of Galewood, Ill., writes: I saw this question in the Inter-Ocean some months ago, and as the time for winter churning has again arrived, if you will allow me, I will answer the question. Strain the milk into pans, and set them on a pot of boiling water on the stove, and heat the milk pretty hot—not to scald; set away the pans, and in thirty-six hours the cream will be up about as thick as leather aprons; which thins into a cream pot, and at each time of skimming stir the cream well together, and when enough for a churning has accumulated, take care, in cold weather, to have the chill taken off the cream; then scald the churn, put in the cream and churn gently, and if the butter does not come in less than ten minutes you may judge that your cream is too cold. Repeatedly in less than five minutes churning I have had butter. Try it.

A Good Dish of Rice.

Few persons know how to boil rice properly. It should be cooked so that the grains will remain separate and distinct, and the whole be in some degree loose and porous. The following is the point: Pick over the rice carefully; rinse it well in cold water till it is perfectly clean; drain off the water, then put in a pot of boiling water, with a little salt. Allow as much as a quart of water to a teaspoon of rice, as it absorbs the water very much while boiling. Boil it seven minutes, then turn the water off very close; set the pot over a few coals, and let it steam fifteen minutes with the lid off the pot off. The beauty of the rice boiled in this way is that each kernel stands out by itself, when it is quite tender.

A Good Suggestion.

It is not the amount of land that makes the farm rich, but the amount well improved. A few acres well tilled to its utmost extent of production will yield much more of profit than the large farm badly managed and tilled. The worst phase of farming is the greediness of man for land. A new-comer will put his last dollar in land and go in debt for his house and farming tools, and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred he will, after striving hard and living poor, find himself, at the end of a dozen years, worse off than when he first began. This is the general rule for those who choose farming for a profession.

Gotham's Extremity.

New York is alarmed at the loss of her grain trade, which has been steadily diverted to other seaports for the past ten years. As compared with last year the receipts at New York during the present season shows a falling off of over 19,000,000 bushels. The decrease of the crop of 1875, as compared with 1874, is less than 16,000,000, showing the diversion of about 4,000,000 bushels elsewhere. As Baltimore, Philadelphia and Boston show increased figures to that amount, the discouraging inference by New York is that what is her loss is their gain. Cheap transportation and superior terminal facilities furnish the reason.

Col. Geo. S. Bangs.

Col. Bangs was born at Milan, Ohio, in 1820, and when nine years old entered the printing office of The Akron Beacon as "devil." He gradually worked his way up, serving in several Western newspaper offices, sometimes as compositor and sometimes as reporter, till 1837, when he went back to The Beacon at Akron, and soon after, consolidating with that paper all the other Republican journals in the county, he became its manager, and made it one of the most influential papers in the State. In 1861 President Lincoln appointed him Postmaster at Akron, without solicitation, remarking, "I want no recommendations for an editor, for he makes recommendations." He held the office till the beginning of President Grant's term, when he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Railway Mail Service, with headquarters at Chicago, and soon after was promoted to Superintendent, and called to Washington. He thoroughly reformed the service, and early was convinced of the necessity for more rapid transmission of mail matter from the seaboard to the West. Postmaster-General Jewell, soon after he came into office, approved of the Colonel's plans, and, telling him to "go ahead," the result was the brilliant success which followed. Postmaster James thinks that Col. Bang's success in life is a striking proof of the truth of Thurlow Weed's observation: "Printing is not a trade, it is an art; and the profession of printing is the noblest of the learned professions."

Prof. Proctor rejects the cosmogony of Moses and accepts the cosmogony of Tyndall. He doesn't believe the world was created in six days, nor "nuthin' like it," and as to Adam and Eve—why, the author of the Pentateuch was mistaken, and he was prepared to say, with Topsy, "I 'spect they growed." We are glad now that Moses is dead. It would be very uncomfortable for him to encounter two such antagonists as Proctor and Tyndall, who have gone through the universe with a rake in one hand and a spy glass in the other, multiplying knowledge enough to drive the Hebrew law-giver crazy.—[Brooklyn Argus.]

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