# THE AVANT COURIER.

THURSDAY, : : ; FEB. 15, 1877


### Boys' Rights.

I wonder if any one
In this broad land has heard,
In favor of down-trodden boys
One solitary word?
We hear enough of "woman's rights,"
And "Rights of working men,"
Of equal 'rights' and 'nation's rights,'
But pray just tell us when
Boys' rights were spoken of?
Why we've become so used
To being snubbed by every one,
And slighted and abused,
That when one is polite to us,
We open wide our eyes,
And stretch them in astonishment
To nearly twice their size!
Boys seldom dare to ask their friends
To venture into the house;
It don't come natural at all
To creep 'round like a mouse.
And if we should forget ourselves
And make a little noise!
Then ma or auntie sure would say,
"Oh, my! those dreadful boys."
The girls bang on the piano,
In peace, but if the boys
Attempt a tune with fife and drum,
It's "Stop that horrid noise!"
"That horrid noise!" just think of it;
When sister never fails
To make a noise three times as bad
With everlasting "scales."
Insulted thus, we lose no time
In beating a retreat;
So off we go to romp and tear,
And scamper in the street.
No wonder that so many boys
Such wicked men become.
'Twere better far to let them have
Their games and plays at home.
Perhaps that text the teacher quotes
Sometimes—"Train up a child"—
Means only train the little girls
And let the boys run wild.
But patience, and the time shall come
When we will all be men,
And when it does, I rather think
Wrongs will be righted then.

### Colorado.

[The following letter, addressed to Marion Flaharty, Esq., is given us for publication. Notwithstanding Mr. Alderson's eulogies of Colorado, he in another letter announces not only his desire but his intention to return to Montana so soon as possible, "carrying his sheep behind him."—EDITOR.]

The climate of Southern Colorado, East of the Rocky Mountain Range, is mild, warm and dry. We have few storms Summer or Winter, and though the storms we do have are of short duration, "It never rains but it pours." It is seldom that as great a fall of snow as four inches is seen here and when there is such a fall it has generally disappeared inside of three days. We had several snow storms so far this winter, the hardest one only leaving four inches of snow on the ground which soon disappeared and didnot prevent sheep from grazing as usual. So far this month there has been but one storm, when about two inches of snow fell, the weather during the remainder of the month having been as pleasant as October weather in Montana.

The grass here is a fine tender buffalo grass, quite thin on the ground, and the Mexican and Merino sheep are the only animals that can thrive on it. There is not enough of it for Cotswold or other large breeds of sheep. Cattle like it, but can't get enough to live on and do well. There are more poor cattle in Colorado this Fall than Montana had after the hardest Winter she has ever experienced. There is so little grass here that it takes at least three acres to keep one sheep the ye r 'round. As it requires nine to ten acres of such land for cattle, they can never be kept here in large numbers, but will be forced to some country where there is more grass, necessarily leaving the land entirely free for sheep raising.

Ranges having a frontage of two or three miles on some stream and running ba k four or five miles--capable of supporting three or four hundred sheep six months in the year—can be rented for ten to fifteen dollars per month—less than the frontage amounts to.

Experienced hands—men who have herded heep nearly all their lives—can be obtained here for fifteen to twenty dollars a month. During the month of May (lambing time) and the early part of June (while shearing) we need at least eight extra hands, which can be obtained on short notice for twelve to fifteen dollars per month—less than half what they could be procured for in Montana. In fact, I have my doubts whether they could be procured at any price—especially experienced hands.

Taxes here are also low, being only thirteen mills on the dollar and the assessed valuation of sheep being considerably less than in Montana, our taxes are only about one-third what they would be in Gallatin county.

We also have the advantage of direct railroad communication with the Eastern States, which not only reduces our living expenses, but enables us to compete with the thicker settled States in the Chicago and St. Louis mutton markets, and to lay our wool down in the Eastern cities much cheaper and quicker when handled part of the way by wagons.

The only disease with which we have to contend in this country is the scab, which is prevented and cured by dipping annually in a strong decoction of tobacco in which is mixed a small amount of sulphur. More sheep die of starvation and old age than from all the other causes combined.

MATT. W. ALDERSON.

PUEBLO, COLO., Dec. 20, 1876.

## The Farm.

A Poland-China hog weighing 750 pounds changed hands in Linn county, Iowa, a few days ago.

It doesn't pay to build temporary sheds for cattle. Build substantial barns with basement for cattle; the stock and plenty of store-room above. Such a building is relatively cheaper than a low one; the cattle can keep warm, and you save labor in carrying feed. Such a barn, too, adds to the selling value of the place.

New forests are said to be growing up in the western part of Massachusetts faster than the old ones are cut off. Especially in the hill towns is this the case. Many a farm that was impoverished as farm land twenty and thirty years ago is now covered with a vigorous growth of young forests, the rapid increase in the population of the outlying agricultural districts having rendered such a change inevitable.

A Davenport, Iowa, dispatch says farmers are complaining of the prevalence of the hog cholera, which, during the past two months, has killed thousands probably in the State. Many farmers thereabouts have lost as high as $1,500 to $2,000 worth of hogs each, which is particularly hard on them, as hogs and corn are the chief sources of profit to farmers this year. The dead hogs are hauled to Davenport and used by soap and glue manufacturers.

### About Grasshoppers.

One man has applied for a patent for the destruction of these pests by the use of coal oil, one pint of which, he says, when mixed with water and properly distributed by means of irrigating ditches, will destroy half a million. A woman in Colorado says she has collected fifty bushels of grasshoppers and scalded and dried them for winter chicken feed. Grasshoppers are a common food for the grizzly bears which wander over the snow banks in the mountains during the summer, and find thousands of these insects chilled and unable to move. Among the various agencies now at work, such as birds, Indians, bears, farmers and entomologists, some means should come to light that will at least avert much of the disaster so frequently caused by these plagues.

### Ditching.

The usual way is to shovel them out, but I think I worked out an improvement on that method last Fall. I took a plow and commenced plowing as I plow around a small piece of land, and, dragging it five or six times, I scraped it back each way, using for a scraper a two-inch plank seven feet long, simply beveled off one edge, with a hole through one end for a chain, and fitted with two handles. After scraping, plow several times and scrape again. A ditch can be cut in this way for one-fourth the cost and labor of a shoveled one, and is certainly worth four times as much.

Talking about the solution of the problem of fence or no fence, let me tell you that the matter has been settled in certain townships in this country, and no fence has become the order of the day.—Driving north from Champagne City, Ill., by the time you have gone two miles fences have disappeared, notwithstanding hundreds of town cows wandering on the streets not 2 miles off. And this has been going on for three or four years, without any reasonable chance for a return to the old fencing fashion. Town people have learned to care for their cows or take the consequences, and slip-shod farmers to herd their vagabonding stock, or it goes to the pound.

### Farmers' Diseases.

In view of the intelligence of the farming class and their families, we trust that a quite literal quotation of the opinions of forty six physicians may be of some service as a text and as a preventive. The question given out was, "What causes tend to injure the health of farmers and their families?"

| | |
|---|---|
| Overwork is mentioned in | 26 cases |
| Exposure | 18 " |
| Improper diet | 22 " |
| Sanitary defects, pertaining to barn yards, hog-pens, privies, drains, or filthy cellars | 10 " |
| Want of ventilation | 7 " |
| Overwork among women | 6 " |
| Irregularity of work | 3 " |
| Ignorance of hygienic laws | 3 " |
| Anxiety | 3 " |
| In-door life of women | 3 " |
| Want of recreation | 5 " |
| Neglect of bathing | 2 " |
| Damp cellars | 2 " |

Of the prevalent diseases by forty-nine correspondents:

| | |
|---|---|
| Rheumatism is mentioned by | 28 |
| Pneumonia | 12 |
| Pulmonary affections | 10 |
| Fevers | 23 |
| Dyspepsia | 10 |
| Phthisic | 23 |
| Bronchitis | 9 |
| Catarrhal affections | 4 |
| Diarrhea and dysentery | 1 |

When we consider that all the causes in the first table are or should be under the control of the individual, we can realize the importance of a better understanding of hygienic laws. In the second table we have rheumatism mentioned first among the prevalent diseases, and this trouble, although not as yet entirely under our control, either in its causes or effects, yet may be largely diminished through proper care. Pneumonia, in turn, is usually predisposed by conditions which may often be obviated; and as to fevers, we find ourselves almost ready to say broadly that the mere existence of fevers is the result of accidental or gross carelessness.

Indeed, as a general proposition, a little knowledge, and considerable action on this knowledge, would suffice to reduce this second list at least forty per cent. of its present numbers. This is to say, among people who must have one of these nine complaints, none should suffer from the fever or dyspepsia, and but few from diarrhea or dysentery.

## The Dairy.

The Sioux Rapids Echo tells of a cow whose owner sold one hundred and eight pounds of butter in six months, besides supplying a family of three with butter in the meantime.

The milk of a Jersey cow at Pittsburg, Pa., dwindled down to nothing from some mysterious cause, when an investigation revealed the fact that a family of rats came every night and standing on their hind legs reached her udder and relieved the cow of her supply of the lacteal fluid by the sucking process.

Milking is a good deal of an art. Each man has his own way of doing it. Some take the teat between the first and second fingers, applying the back of the hand to the udder. Others bend the first joint of the thumb to the teat, stopping upward flow with the knuckle. "You takes your choice." If the cow doesn't like your way she will probably let you know.

I have read a great deal about "animal odor in milk," but when my dairymaid gives me milk that smells "cowy," I say "Mary, use more water in washing your cow's bag. Wash it—wash it—and wash it again." Next morning the milk is not "cowy." I am thoroughly convinced that the animal odor which milk sometimes bears is from no other cause than that the cow's bag is not efficiently cleansed before milking.

Well-ripened cheese has no elasticity when pressed with the finger; it feels as if breaking under the pressure, and the dent remains; it has a salvy, oily appearance when worked between the thumb and finger, and melts on the tongue like a ripe pear. The cut surface remains soft and oily for a long time, not readily drying up. Unripe cheese, on the contrary, is elastic when pressed, and hard or tough when worked between the thumb and finger; soon dries and cracks when exposed to the air; when tasted by the tongue is found deficient in fat and does not dissolve readidly.

The Turf, Field and Farm says the question of whether the buffalo can be successfully utilized for dairy purposes is in a fair way to be satisfactorily settled. The buffalo, or, more properly American bison, is being extensively used in portions of Nebraska for dairy purposes, and half and a quarter-bred females of the bison family yield an abundant supply of rich milk.

It is remarkable that after crossing the bison two or three times it loses its original color and other distinguishing characteristics, including its outward formation and the bunch or lump of flesh on the back. The quarter or half-bred animals are also very hardy. Thus far the experiment seems to be a perfect success, and a new feature of stock-raising appears to open to stock farmers.

## Stock.

An attempt was made a few years ago by an exhibitor of cattle in England to mislead the judges of animals shown for prizes by putting on gutta percha horns.

A horse accustomed to starting and running away may be effectually cured by putting him to the top of his speed on such occasions, and running him till pretty thoroughly exhausted.

This accident resulted from changing the headstall of the harness while the horse was in the carriage, and we mention the instance as a caution to farmers, stablemen and everybody, not to change the bridle of a horse while the horse is attached to a carriage, and in no case do it if persons, women or children, are left in the carriage.

In order that there may be as much interest taken by the sheep in the visits of the owner as by himself, it will be found a good plan to carry a little salt and give them at each visit. This plan creates a mutual understanding between the sheep and their owner, and they soon become so tame that he can catch and examine any one of the flock without frightening the rest.

The first thing after finding a calf is to milk the cow, the next is to give her a bucketful of good drinking water, fresh from the well—such water as a thirsty man would relish. In about half an hour after she has drank that give her another, and so on until she is satisfied. It seems to me that very few of our writers have fully realized the necessity there is for supplying the cow's system with water soon after calving, and also that it be done gradually.

Should cattle at any time be in danger of choking by reason of any foreign substance sticking in the throat, take of fine chewing tobacco enough to make a ball as large as a hen's egg, dampen it with molasses so that it can be compressed into a ball, and will adhere closely; elevate the animal's head, pull out the tongue, and crowd the ball as far down the throat as possible. In 15 minutes it will cause sickness and vomiting, relaxing the muscles so that the potato, or whatever it may be choking it, will be thrown up.

The fact is overlooked that by allowing stock to retrograde in condition a serious loss is entailed, and the value of the animal is depreciated, and that to whatever degree this depreciation extends the loss can only be regained at a cost exceeding the value of the food which would have kept the animal in good condition. It is an axiom of the live stock industry that stock rearing and feeding can only prove remunerative where the animals are kept in a state of progression from birth to maturity. One of the most essential things to secure this is comfortable shelter.

### Wool on a Live Sheep

The Trade Journal tells us that generally the finest and softest wool is on the shoulders of a sheep. But not one person in ten thousand is aware of this fact. Let us watch an expert when he is about to pass judgment on a sheep concerning the value of the animal for producing wool, and it will be seen he always looks at the wool on the shoulders first. A writer of extensive experience in rearing fine wool sheep and in handling wool, communicated the following suggestion for selecting a fine-wool sheep.

"Always assuming the wool to be inspected is really a fine wool, we first examine the shoulders at the part where the finest wool is usually found.—This we take as a standard and compare it with the wool from the ribs, the thighs, the rump and the shoulder parts, the nearer wool from the various parts of the animal approaches the standard the better. First we scrutinize the fineness, and if the result is satisfactory we pronounce the fleece in respect to fineness very 'even.' Next we inquire into the length of the staples, and if we find that the wool on the ribs, thigh and back approximate reasonably in length to that of our standard, we again declare the sheep, as regards length of sample, true and even. We next desire to satisfy ourselves of the density of the fleece, and we do this by closing the hand upon a portion of the rump and of the skin wool, the fleece at these points being usually the thinnest, faulty, and if it again gives satisfaction, we signify the fact by designating the wool 'even' as respects density. Now to summarize these separate examinations: If you find the fleece of nearly equal firmness from the shoulder, rib, thigh, and back, and density on shoulder and across the loins, you may conclude that, you have a perfect sheep for producing valuable wool. Selecting sheep for valuable feeders, is quite another thing.

Passion is universal humanity. Without it religion, history, romance, and art would be useless.

## The Household

The numbers of buttons now used on garments are prodigious. This multiplicity of buttons is all the more extraordinary when one reflects that since lacing has been introduced there are neither loops nor button holes. Three rows of pearl buttons are sewn on linen cuffs.

An easy method of adding a Cardinal red to dark dresses, and thus freshening them up, is to add kilt plaitings of Cardinal red silk inside the neck and cuffs; the edge of the plaiting is just visible, and it is raveled out to form a fringe half an inch deep. This kilting is tacked in, so that it can be easily removed.

In every well-ordered home there is what the good housewife calls the "glory hole." Things that have accumulated in weeks and months gone by, all find a resting place there. It is a good place for a man when he feels discouraged and down-hearted (and can't find his necktie which he will take his oath, he hung on the bedpost the night before,) to look into. It will give him an excellent idea of evolution, and his brain whirls with the view for what could not envolve out of there! but "Come out of there?" salutes his ear and makes him jump back realizing that he is opening up to himself trouble, and treading on forbidden ground.

### Fuel.

Fuel that is saturated with moisture, even to a small degree, is not only disagreeable to use, but is very uneconomical. Experience teaches that it takes the heat produced by one pound of coal or two of wood to convert 1¼ pounds of water to steam. It therefore requires a considerable per cent of the heat produced by wet or moist fuel to drive off the moisture. And all this heat is entirely lost for all useful purposes. It is a very costly practice to season wood or dry coal after it has been put in the stove.

### Insurance.

According to a decision made recently in a St. Louis court, life insurance companies are not liable for the amount of the policy when the holder comes to his death through injuries received in an assault wherein he was the agressor, the court holding that the clause in the policy referring to loss of life in violation of law applied in such cases as the one under consideration.

### Flavors

Those who read French recipes for cookery will be impressed with the number and variety of flavors used by French cuisiniers. A carrot sliced, a turnip cut in dice, a head of parsley, an onion sliced thin and fried a golden brown in butter, a mushroom,—all these are of continual use in soups and stews. A bay leaf, a sprig of parsley, or sweet basil or thyme—these also are always at hand for flavorings. Except in the use of spices and extracts for cake and desserts, our crude and unskilled American cooks make little use of flavors, black pepper excepted.

Our food would be far more savory and appetizing if we should improve in this respect. Those who may not have their own beds of Summer savory and other sweet and aromatic herbs may be glad to know that all these are for sale in our large grocery stores, put up in small tin cans.

### Bean Soup.

One pint of white beans, soaked over night, four ounces white turnip, four ounces carrot, one ounce of celery, one-half ounce parsley, four ounces parsnips, one level teaspoonful of salt; if onions are used take three ounces. Add two quarts of boiling water, cover, and boil for two hours. Then strain through a seive, rub the vegetables through the sieve as far as you can, return the soup to the fire, bring to the boiling point and serve.

### Spanish Sauce.

Take four ounces of onions, slice them thin and fry them brown in a saucepan with two ounces of marrow, suet, or beef drippings. When brown, add one and a half pounds of any kind of beef cut in pieces, an ounce of parsley, the same of celery, five ounces sliced carrot, a teaspoonful of powdered thyme, or half a bunch, and one leek. Lay the beef on the onions and the other ingredients on top of the beef; cover tightly, and let it stay on one side of the fire half an hour. This will draw out the juices of the beef.

Then stir in three ounces of dry flour, then pour over three pints of cold water; bring it slowly to a boil, and boil three hours. Strain and serve with chicken and potato croquettes.


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"Send me five boxes of your Pills."

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