

THE AVANT COURIER.

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1877.

The Presidents.

George Washington first to the White House came; And next on the list is John Quincy Adams's name; Tom Jefferson then filled the honored place, The name of James Madison next we trace, The fifth in succession was James Monroe; And John Quincy Adams the next below; Then Andrew Jackson was placed in the chair; And next we find Martin Van Buren there, Then William H. Harrison's name we meet, Whose death gave John Tyler the coveted seat, Then James K. Polk was the nation's first choice; Next for Zachary Taylor she gave her voice, Whose premature death brought in Millard Fillmore; And next Franklin Pierce the distinction wore, The fifteenth was Jimmy Buchanan, they say, Who for Abraham Lincoln prepared the way, Whose martyrdom gave Andy Johnson a chance, The eighteenth name was Ulysses S. Grant's— With Rutherford Hayes, and a B. we must close; For the name of the twentieth God only knows.

The Combatants.

The two great enemies which are perhaps soon doomed to meet along the banks of the Danube and Dardanelles are estimated to be armed as follows: Russia has 1,880,956 men in her regular army when it is placed on a war footing; and her irregular troops number about 140,403, giving a grand total of over two million combatants. The effective strength of the Turkish army is 486,100 regular troops, and 130,000 irregular and auxiliary troops. Of course, these forces are scattered over a wide extent of territory. If England is dragged into the field to help the Turks, the total British forces, counting regular army, reserve Indian army, and Indian police, members about 850,362, tolerably well-officered. If Persia should march to help the Muscovites and bar the advance of a British force from India, a hundred thousand more well-armed men could be put into line. It has been many years since so many warriors were decked and waiting for war, and it will require a long array of figures for the mathematician who calculates the expense of this vast array of consumers waiting only for the signal to prey upon each other.

The Household.

HOME ITEMS.

There is no cure for bald heads. There are many good preventives. If you still have any hair left, try this. Mix by measure equal quantities of rum and castor oil, and add a few drops of oil of rosemary. Rub it well into the roots of the hair twice a week.

Hall's Journal of Health advises over-stout people not to seek to reduce flesh by drinking vinegar and smoking, but to maintain as perfect a digestion as possible, and avoid fat-making foods, such as starch in the shape of potatoes, flour, bread, and rice. Spirits, malt liquors, and sweets are to be avoided. The gluten of wheat is the best food. It will sustain life in full vigor; but it will not add an ounce of fat to the body.

Sage tea is one of the very best washings and dressings for the hair. The hair should be carefully brushed and lathered in two firm braids, then the roots brushed with a sponge dipped in luke-warm sage tea, after which the braids can be washed and dried with a towel. This preserves the color of the hair, and keeps the scalp clean.

For mending valuable glass objects which would be disfigured by common cement, chrome cement may be used. This is a mixture of five parts of gelatine to one of a solution of acid chromate of lime. The broken edges are covered with this, pressed together, and exposed to the sunlight, the effect of the latter being to render the compound insoluble even in boiling water.

To prevent sparrows building their nests under the eaves or in window corners, rub the places with soft soap or oil.

To make hard water soft, dissolve two table-spoonfuls of fresh quick-lime in two and a quarter gallons of water. Stir into a barrel of hard water. Let it stand half a day to settle.

A method has been discovered for making more than the usual quantity of tea from any given quantity of the leaf. The whole secret consists in steaming the leaf before steeping. By this process 14 plants of good quality may be brewed from one ounce of tea.

THE TABLE.

COCOA-NUT PUFFS. Mix two cups of cocoanut with one cup of granulated sugar; the beaten whites of two eggs, and two teaspoonfuls of fancy flour or corn starch; drop on buttered tins, and bake quickly.

YORKSHIRE MIDDING. Four one pint of boiling milk over one small loaf of bread, finely crumbed; add four beaten eggs and a little salt and flour. Pour into the dripping pan, under the beef, and bake about twenty minutes.

SOUP OR TOMATO OYSTERS. Five ripe tomatoes cut fine, or the canned tomatoes will answer; boil in one pint of water with a small teaspoonful of soda; add one quart of milk; butter and salt to taste; one or two pounded crackers, as you like it thick or thin.

KENTUCKY POTATOES. Take raw potatoes, pare and slice very thin; place them in a pudding-dish; cover well with milk; add pepper and salt, and bake until nicely browned; do not put them in water after they have been sliced.

CATSKILL PUDDING. Take one pint sweet milk, two eggs, one teaspoonful butter, one tablespoonful

sugar, one-half tablespoonful salt, one quart flour, and two tablespoonfuls baking powder; bake in cups or dish, or bolt in a mould. To be eaten with a rich sauce, and flavored with vanilla.

PUDDING SAUCE.

One cup of sugar, one egg, teaspoonful extract vanilla, saltspoonful salt, beaten to a foam; stir in one wineglassful boiling water; then set over boiling fire five to ten minutes, stirring often; or omit the vanilla and put in wine or brandy and boil in water. This receipt is for five persons.

CROQUETTES.

Cold bits of meat can be finely chopped, and with bread crumbs, salt, and pepper added, mixed with gravy or milk, and made into balls or croquettes, and delicately browned in a skillet for tea. This same prepared meat need not be re-cooked, but put into a bowl, pressed with a heavy weight for a few hours, and then sliced down like "head-cheese" for tea, called "pressed meat."

MEAT RISsoles.

Chop any kind of cold meat quite fine, crumb the same quantity of stale bread as you have meat; put a little of the fat of the meat in; season with salt and pepper, and summer savory to taste; beat up one or two eggs, according as you need, and form your meat and bread into a thick paste with the eggs, then mould it into balls and fry a light brown color.

Farm and Stock.

Eight thousand sheep were lately sold in Southern California for \$1000—the cause being the scarcity of feed. After wheat is sown do not roll the land until the wheat is three or four inches high. The roller pulverizes the soil so that it is badly injured by our spring winds. After that, rolling is greatly beneficial.

Experiment shows that the amount of meat obtained from domestic animals varies greatly, some yielding as much as 80 per cent, while others give only 50 per cent. The average is calculated at 53 per cent. on the live weight of beef cattle, while sheep give but from 40 to 45 per cent.

A correspondent in an American paper, speaking of rakes and rollers, even plows, carrying the laborer who directs them, as useful contrivances, asks why no one has thought of making the horse perform the labor of walking, and carrying seed-bag and sower to and fro across the field during the operation of sowing grain. After long experience he found he could distribute seed grain more regularly from the saddle than on foot, and with far more ease and comfort.

The Dairy.

Among the causes which injure the quality of butter I will name, first, disease in the cow; fright also has an injurious effect upon the milk; breathing foul gases or odors often leaves its taint upon the milk; it is also affected by whatever the cow lives upon. Next, the cream while exposed to taints of all kinds; churning it at too high or too low a temperature always injures the product. Butter can be greatly hurt by over-churning, over-working, or both, and much of the poor butter in market is spoiled in these ways. When overworked it appears greasy and sticky, and will keep but a very short time. The secret of this injury is in breaking of the grain. Perfect butter, like sugar, appears under the microscope to be made up of granules or crystals, and to crush and destroy these is to destroy the distinguishing feature of perfect butter, and ruin completely its keeping quality. I find in going among dairymen and dairy-women that a large proportion of them do not know how to make butter which will keep sweet to get to market. On using a package of butter being put up, I asked the good lady whether she believed her butter would keep perfect for a long time. She replied that it always had kept good until her husband carried it to the village every Tuesday, which was their market day. This butter was churned, washed, salted, worked and packed in less than sixty minutes from the time the cream went into the churn. If it reached the consumer in a few days it was probably eatable, but if, through any delay or oversight, it was set aside for a few months it would be poor, and perhaps altogether unfit for eating or cooking.

Poultry Yard.

One of the experienced poultry breeders says: "A dozen fowls would do very well in a yard fifty feet square, with a little grass plot in one corner, as fowls will have grass. This place is as small as can be used for that number, and it one cannot give that space to them, he had better buy his eggs and chickens, as fowls cannot be kept without an area of yard room. A few fowls may be put into a smaller yard, and they will lay well for a few weeks, but after a while, with the grass all destroyed, the hens will begin to lay fewer eggs, and will be unprofitable." Bones are fed to fowls in two forms—either in a fresh or calcined state. The former method is the best, as the bones contain organic matter, just as they were in the framework of the animal from which they were taken. In this condition they are easily and quickly taken up by the secretive organs and appropriated to supply the waste and wants of the system. Burned and calcined bones are freed from all organic matter, and there only remain the ashes of the bones, which are chiefly lime (phosphate and carbonate), and consequently inferior to fresh bone. The only objection to fresh bone is the difficulty of keeping them fresh. The best and most satisfactory substitute is burnt bones. The water is removed by heat, leaving the lime in a dry and crisp state, easily crushed. A writer in the London Field states, that poultry properly fed will acquire all the fatness needed for market purposes, in a fortnight, or three weeks at most. Their diet should be Indian, oat, or barley meal, scalded in milk or water—the former is the best as it expedites the fattening process. They should be fed early in the morning, at noon, and also in the evening, just before going to roost, and giving a plentiful supply of pure, fresh water, plenty of gravel, and sliced cabbage or turnip tops. If the fowls are required to be very fat, some trimmings of

fresh mutton, or suet, may be chopped and scalded with their other feed, or they may be boiled in milk alone and poured over the meal. This renders the flesh firmer than it otherwise would be. When fit to kill, the feeding should be stopped for twelve hours or more, so that the intestines may become comparatively empty.

Eggs for hatching should be chosen of the fair average size usually laid by the hen they are from; any unusually large or small ones being rejected. Some hens lay immensely large eggs, and others small ones, which can only produce small, weakly chickens. Absolute size in eggs is therefore of but little importance. Round, short eggs are usually the best to select; very long eggs, especially if much pointed at the small end, almost always breed birds with some awkwardness in style of carriage. Neither should rough-shelled eggs be chosen; they usually show some derangement of the organs, and are often sterile. Smooth-shelled eggs alone are proper for hatching. It is a fairer to suppose that the size of the bird can be determined by the shape of the egg selected.

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