THE AVANT COURIER

THURSDAY, : : : DEC. 13, 1877.

"Wonder Who They're For."

My ma's been working very hard,
And also very sly,
And keeps her sewing out of sight
Whenever I am nigh
I asked her once what made her stop
Her work when I came in;
She said she only stopped to get
A needle, thread or pin

The bureau drawer just next to mine,
Is locked both night and day,
And when ma wants to open it
She sends me off to play
I stole a peep one afternoon,
Although it was not right;
But, oh, the little things I saw
Were such a pretty sight.

The cutest, nicest little clothes—
Just big enough for doll,
But then I know they're not for her—
She needs them not at all
I know they're not for ma or pa,
Nor me nor brother "Hor,"
For we can't wear such little clothes;
I wonder who they're for?

Our Boys and Girls.

Items.

—"This," thought a boy while being trounced by his fond papa, "is very like a whale."

—"Who is your warmest friend?" asked the teacher.

"My mother," yelled one of the boys.

"My mother?"

"Yes; she 'warms' me every day!"

The teacher has given up her missionary work.

Jimmy, the Cow Boy.

An eccentric old gentleman of wealth, named Morgan, invested a sum of money, the income of which he designed to be used for the liberal education of the most deserving lad in town.

He made his plan known to five gentlemen, requesting them privately to make observations and report to him in six months.

Had the boys known this, many of them might have used every means to gain his favorable opinion, but as the matter was a secret, he had an opportunity to watch them without suspecting his motive.

At the end of six months the five gentlemen met at Mr. Morgan's and discussed the question in all its bearings. Each had his favorite, whom he considered most worthy.

"There is Johnny Ingalls, who is a most exemplary lad," said one. "What fault can you find with him, Mr. Morgan?"

"I will tell you," was the reply. "I once hired him to take some important letters to the morning mail, but he met a companion on the way, and was so anxious for his own amusement that he neglected to mail the letters till it was too late, and they were delayed a day. A gentleman heard him say to a companion that "he did not care much, so long as the old fellow would never find it out." But the delay caused the loss of quite a sum of money."

"Gentlemen," continued Mr. Morgan, "I have tried in one way and another all the boys you have mentioned, but none of them satisfy me."

"Then you have to give up your project," said one; "for I think we have discussed the merits of nearly every boy in town."

"I believe Jimmy has not been mentioned," said Mr. Morgan.

"What! Jimmy, the cow boy?" asked one, with a smile.

"Yes, I believe he drives cows to and from pasture."

"Surely, Mr. Morgan, you must be joking now."

"I never joke; and had I any disposition to, I should not take a poor little boy for a subject."

"But, Mr. Morgan, do you know any good of this boy?"

"Do you know any harm of him?"

"Nothing special; but does he amount to anything except to drive cows?"

"He never has had an opportunity, but I intend he shall have. I am fully decided to give him the benefit of my project."

"You will tell us the reason for making him your choice?"

"Certainly, with pleasure. You call him a cow boy. Well, that does not signify to me one way or another. It is simply because I know him to be a good and faithful cow boy that I gave him the preference. It seems a small thing to drive cows to pasture, but he is the only one who has always done it faithfully every day, the season through, the same in my absence as when I was at home, while others loitered on the way, and allowed them to stray into other inclosures for the day, thinking it would never be known. It is evident to me that if he is so strictly faithful in small things, he has the right spirit in him to make him trustworthy in greater things."

Just then—

"To-link, to-lank, to-linkle linkle,
O'er blanks with buttercups, at-twinkle,
The cows came slowly home."—

Jimmy, gray-shirted and barefooted, guided them into the yard. He saw the last cow in, put up the bars, saw that the gate was all secure, and was about to trip away, when Mr. Morgan called him into the house, where he told him something that made him dumb with glad surprise, and sent him home the happiest lad in the town.

Around the Farm.

—The best workmen always find employment.

—Drive your cattle on ice if you want to have cow-slips in winter.

—An Illinois farmer, Mr. Sullivant, of the big farm of Illinois, has a crop of a million acres of corn.

—Grant county, Wis., got rid of fifty-three wolves, fifty-seven wild cats, and two lynx in twelve months, at an expense of $848 paid for the same in bounties.

—Do you want to see in five years every mortgage removed and every farmer out of debt? Then you see for the next five years how little you can live on, how much you can make, how much improvement you can make on stock and buildings, how much fertility you can add to your farm.

—California's wool growth is becoming one of her greatest industries, the export last year having been over fifty million pounds, worth $8,000,000. There are several wool-growers who own from 30,000 to 40,000 sheep each.

—The Sprague of Rhode Island have always furnished their employes with a small patch of land per family, from a quarter to half an acre in extent, thus greatly improving their condition and contenting their help. Low wages have compelled the workmen to cultivate these plots of ground, and they have found that they can almost raise subsistence enough for their families by tilling the soil, and by that means, even with the lowest wages, they are able to save something. It is said also that the moral effect of the cultivation of the little gardens is excellent, the men having less idle time to be tempted into dissipation, and soon learning to take pride in the home which their own industry builds up for them.

FARMING AS A BUSINESS.

A man who is not smart enough to run a store is not smart enough to run a farm, and do it successfully. It used to be thought that any fool could be a farmer, but now, thanks to an enlightened nation of farmers, that day is past, never to return. Farmers are not made out of what is left after lawyers, doctors, ministers and merchants are sorted and picked out, and if a man fails on a farm he is not likely to succeed in a store; for it requires more talent to be a thriving farming that to be an average merchant. One great fault with the farmer is, that he is not satisfied to make farming a business, and to throw his whole soul and ability to make his business pay. Too many want to keep store, peddle and speculate one way or another; and neglect the farm; and whenever a man does this ruin will be the inevitable result.

Another great cause of failure is too many farmers keep too much land. Large farms are all right if you have large capital; but large farms and small capital will not do. A farmer's capital is his skill and labor. If he has little cash he must have no more land than he can thoroughly manage by his personal labor; every acre beyond that is an incumbrance. One acre, well worked, is more profitable than twenty acres skimmed over; for a half-plowed, half-harrowed field will not produce a good crop of anything, unless it be weeds. It is this greed for land that keeps so many poor.

WIDE-TIRED WHEELS.

Every one who has noticed the great damage done to our roads by the passage over them of heavily laden teams with narrow wheels will heartily indorse the following:

We suffer ourselves to be guided by wagon makers, and the wheelwright knows very well that he lives by his trade, and that wear and tear is the life of trade. He serves himself when we are suited with narrow wheels, a set of which, with four inch or six inch rims, and heavy tires, cost to make considerably more than a set 2 1-2 inches wide; but an extra price is always put upon them. A wagon or cart with a 6-inch tread will take heavy loads over soft meadows and hardly leave a track, where a narrow-wheeled wagon with a similar load could not go at all. On country roads such broad-tread vehicles destroy ruts, and act like rollers, making the roads agreeable for light carriages, and keeping them in much better order throughout the year. It would be a real blessing to every State in the Union to put so heavy a tax on narrow wheels upon heavy wagons and carts, that they would become quite obsolete. Millions of dollars would be saved to the people of each State, in repairs of wagons, and in horse flesh.—*American Agriculturist.*

About the House.

ITEMS.

—In case of accident don't try to extinguish a kerosene fire with water. Smother the flames with blankets or rugs.

—Our lady friends who generally have charge of the poultry department are sometimes worried and tortured by the obstinacy of hens that persist in sitting when they are not wanted to perform that duty. Many plans have been tried to prevent hens from sitting, such as tossing them in the air, or driving them from place to place; but the best way is to fasten a string to the hen's leg, four or five feet in length, and tie the other end to a stake driven in the ground, close to the path where you are in the habit of passing frequently. Then scare her as often as you go that way. One day affects a cure.

Keeping the Young Folks Contented.

How shall farmers manage to keep their children near them? How can we discourage an influx of unnecessary, nay burdensome influx of superfluous population into our cities? We answer—By making agricultural society attractive. Fill the farmhouse with books and periodicals. Establish central reading rooms or neighborhood clubs. Encourage social meetings of the young; have concerts, lectures, improvement clubs; establish a bright, active, social life, that shall give some significance to labor. Above all, build as far as possible in villages. It is better to go a mile to one's daily labor than to place one's self a mile away from a neighbor. The isolation of American farm life is the great curse of that life, and it falls upon the women with a hardship that the men cannot appreciate, and drives the educated young away.

To Keep the Hair in Crimp.

Ladies who have difficulty in making their hair remain crimped will find the following of use:

Let five cents' worth of gum arabic be dissolved in a very little hot water and left to stand over night in enough alcohol to make it thin; then bottle. The hair should be wet with the mixture before being crimped.

Rules for the Sick-Room.

1. Bring in fresh flowers or something new every day; even the commonest green thing is better than nothing.

2. Don't talk about anything unpleasant. Talk about something that will lead the patient's thoughts away from his aches and pains, and leave him in a cheerful and restful state of mind.

3. Follow the doctor's directions implicitly.

4. Never ask a sick person what he wants to eat. If he asks for anything that will not injure him, get it if you can. Never bring him much at a time. A little bit in a dainty dish will sometimes tempt the appetite when a large quantity would cause nausea.

5. Expect sick persons to be unreasonable. They will fret and complain, no matter what happens, and must be borne with patiently.

Profanity.

We are emphatically in the age of profanity, and it seems to us that we are on the topmost current. One cannot go on the street anywhere without having his ears offended with the vilest words, and his reverence shocked by the most profane use of sacred names. Nor does it come from the old or middle-aged alone, for it is a fact that the younger portion of the community are most proficient in degrading language. Boys have an idea that it is smart to swear; that it makes them manly, but there never was a greater mistake in the world. Men, even those who swear themselves, are disgusted with profanity in a young man because they know how, of all bad habits, this clings the most closely and increases with years. It is the most insidious of habits, growing on one so invisibly, that almost before one is aware he becomes an accomplished cursER.

Renovation, not Prostration.

Did any enfeebled human being ever become strong under the operation of powerful cathartics or salivants? It is sometimes necessary to regulate the bowels, but that cannot be done by active purgation, which exhausts the vital forces and serves no good purpose whatever. The only true way to promote health and vigor, which are essential to regularity of the organic functions, is to invigorate, discipline and purify the system at the same time. The extraordinary efficiency of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters in cases of debility or irregularity of the organs of digestion, assimilation, secretion and discharge, is universally admitted. Appetite, good digestion, a regular habit of body, active circulation of the blood, and purity of all the animal fluids are induced by this superb tonic and corrective. It has no equals, moreover, as a preventive of chills and fever, and other types of malarial disease. To emigrants and travelers it is particularly serviceable as a medicinal safeguard. 9-2t.

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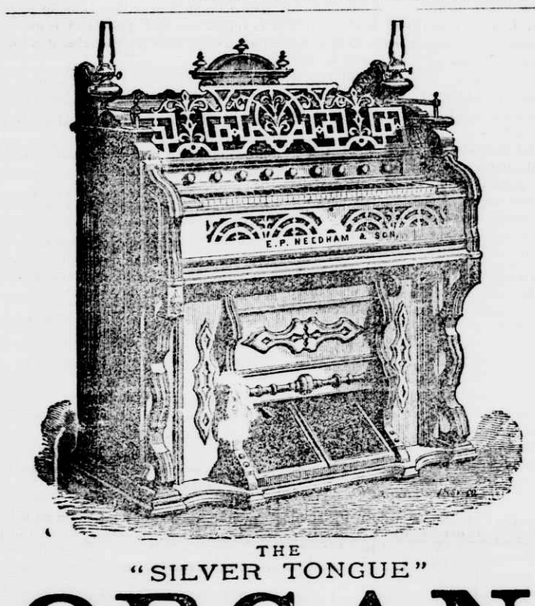

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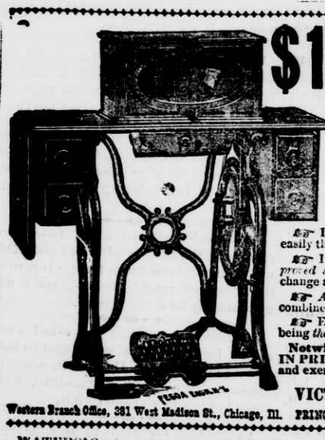

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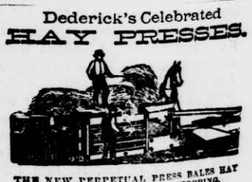

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