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The Manchester Democrat.

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The Democrat.
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The First National Bank
 MANCHESTER, IOWA.
 CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, \$60,000.
 ESTABLISHED 1885.

We invite you to keep your bank account and do your business with this institution. With ample means for the care of patrons, we are prepared to accord all the courtesies and accommodations consistent with safe banking.

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A Word and a Smile.
 Let us not wait till the box is full—
 Get your word and smile in now.
 Let us see how you get on.
 The word and smile are the best.
 They are the best of all things.
 They are the best of all things.
 They are the best of all things.

ART OF GOLD BEATING
 ONE OF THE OLDEST HANDICRAFTS IN THE WORLD.

The Way a Little Square of the Yellow Metal is Expanded into a Large and Almost Transparent Leaf by the Artisan's Hammer.

The art of the gold beater is one of the oldest handicrafts in the world and among those which have changed least. Much of the decoration of Solomon's temple is believed to have been covered with gold leaf, hammered to the requisite thinness by hand, as it is today.

The gold beater receives his material in the form of the sixty penny weight ingot in which it is cast, but in the form of a ribbon about an inch wide and twenty-four feet long.

This ribbon is first cut into 200 squares and placed in the "cutch," which is a pile of square pieces of peculiar paper, part animal and part vegetable in composition, the preparation of which is a secret. The best guides are made in London. A square of gold is placed between each two leaves and the whole mass is ready for the first beating.

This is done with an iron hammer weighing from twelve to seventeen pounds, while the cutch rests upon a granite block which is supported by a heavy wooden post.

Under the heavy, measured blows of the hammer the sheets of gold begin to stretch or expand until in half or three-quarters of an hour they have reached the edges of the cutch. They are then removed and with a thin strip of bamboo are cut into quarters, so that the 200 pieces become 800. Next comes the "shoder," a collection of 800 pieces of skin, four inches square, made from the intestines of cattle. As in the cutch, each piece of gold is placed between two leaves of skin, and bands of parchment or vellum are slipped over the whole pile to keep it together.

Another beating, this time with a hammer weighing from eight to ten pounds, now follows. This takes about an hour, during which the sheets of gold are all the time expanding.

The last stage is the "mold," which, like the cutch, is composed of alternate leaves of gold and skin, but the mold is about five inches square and made up of gold beater's skin. The preparation of this is a jealously guarded trade secret.

The skin, laid in the shoder is made from the intestines of the ox. It is translucent and not unlike rawhide in color. Although it will stand continuous beating without breaking, it will tear like a sheet of thin paper, and, as the gold is being pounded, the intestines of 500 bullocks. Between each two beatings the skin is rubbed with laked and pulverized gypsum.

A mold contains 1,000 sheets. After each beating the workman takes the gold from the shoder by means of a time, handling it with bamboo pinners and, when necessary, smoothing it with a rabbit's foot. With the strip of bamboo he cuts each sheet into quarters again, so that the original 200 have now become 3,200. One shoder, therefore, contains more than enough gold to fill three molds.

The final beating in the mold is done with a seven pound hammer and requires about three to four hours. By this time the gold leaf should have expanded again to the edge of the skins and should be of the requisite thinness, which is determined by holding it up to the light. If it transmits green rays it is done and will not require any two-hundred-and-eighty-thousandth of an inch in thickness.

The hammers used in beating gold are slightly convex on the face. The art of the workman consists in so striking that the gold will always be thinnest in the center. He must pound with evenness all over the square in order that the sheets of gold may expand without losing their form, but at the same time he must exert the thickest part near the edges, so that when the sheets are finally trimmed to size the thicker portions may fall in the waste, to be recast. No machinery has ever been devised which will do this successfully.

The tools of the craft are interesting and peculiar. The rabbit's foot is exceedingly soft and just oily enough to prevent the gold from sticking, and the bamboo pinners and cutting slips are of such things as wood which it is possible to do this delicate work. The gold does not adhere to the fibers of the reed as it does to steel.

The gold beater performs all his work standing. The use of the heavy hammers in such continuous pounding would, one would think, impose an almost intolerable strain upon the hands and arms. The men say, however, that their arms never ache. The only place where "it catches them" is in the bend of the knees.

The lack of strain upon the arms is accounted for by the fact that the hammer rebounds. It is an astonishing feat by no means a rare thing to see a gold beater change hands with the hammer in the air and without losing a stroke.—Edward Williston Trent in Youth's Companion.

Rice as a Soporific.
 "If people would eat plenty of rice they would not need drugs to make them sleep," said a New York drug clerk, pausing for a moment in putting up a sleeping potion for a woman. "There is much said about rice as a strengthening food, but few Americans know that it has soporific powers. If properly cooked it has. Rice should be washed many times until the water is longer appears milky. It should then be soaked a few hours, salted and boiled rapidly about thirty minutes. When cooked in this way it can be eaten each day with relish, and the person who eats it sleeps well and dreams not at all."

Gaston's Point of View.
 "Ze American, ah, he iss a ver funny man. He know nothing but ze delusion. He have no love of beauty or art. He do not comprehend."
 "What's on your mind, Gaston?"
 "Today I see a beautiful lady, clever, distingue, magnificent. She is with a man, an American. I go to him. I say, 'Pardon, monsieur, what iss ze lady's name?' The gentleman he say, 'That's my business.' Bah! Beesness, beesness, all de time. He was a rude man."—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Our New Spring Stock of FURNITURE

is now complete in every department, and we cordially invite you to call and look it over. Never before have we shown such a variety of designs and finishes and so large a stock as now.

We have a special bargain in BED ROOM SUITS for \$17.50 this week that is sure to interest you



BROWN,
 The Furniture Man.
 Sells Cedarine Furniture Polish the Best.

YOUR SUNDAY ORDER

For the accommodation of our customers who are not prepared to keep meat, I will deliver on Sunday morning. All orders must be given on Saturday. Do not ask for meat unless ordered Saturday.

A. BORN.

We guarantee every sack of **IDOL FLOUR.**
 If it doesn't suit, send it back and get your money.
 PRICE TO-DAY, \$1.30 PER SACK.

Over 1000 sacks used in Manchester during the month of April. You ought to use it.

Quaker Mill Co.
 Best white middlings \$18.00 per ton, while they last.

NO MORE SCRUBBING
 But a hard, smooth surface on your floors with
Granite Floor Paint
 Do it yourself—no skill required. Water, grease, dirt of all sorts, make no impression on Granite Floor Paint, because this paint produces a hard, glossy surface that will not absorb moisture. Excellent for kitchen floors, indoor stairs and similar purposes.

DENTON & WARD.
 ESTABLISHED 1867.
 Capital \$60,000.00. Surplus \$35,000.00.

DELAWARE CO. STATE BANK,
 Manchester, Iowa.
 Wm. C. CAWLEY, President. CHAS. J. SEEDS, Cashier.
 R. W. TIRRELL, Vice Pres. C. W. KEAGY, Ass't Cash.
 INTEREST paid on "TIME DEPOSITS" at current rates. Said deposits may be made in any amount from One Dollar up.
 A progressive and conservative banking institution which offers superior facilities for the transaction of your banking business.

MENS' DRESS SHOE
\$2.00

This is the best shoe ever offered for the money, and you will know it, too. You will call and look at them. Made from fine kid and box calf. Medium sole, all sizes.

Watch our trade grow!
E. T. Grassfield.

Beautify Your Homes

A coat of paint on your house will save you many times its cost, besides improving its appearance. It will pay you to call on us if you are going to paint, for we have something to tell you that will be of interest to you. Ask about

Carter White Lead or Heath & Milligan Paints.
 DON'T FORGET.

ANDERS & PHILIPP.
 Central Pharmacy.

The Automatic Refrigerator

We call your close attention to the Accompanying Illustration.

Automatics are not built on same plan as the old way goods. Of course not. They wouldn't be any better if they were. They are ice from the front. The top is stationary; good place to store kitchen goods. Provision chamber more convenient, more shelves. Shelf room is what you buy a refrigerator for. More space between shelves.

You know how very convenient this is, or do you? If you are using the old way goods you don't know. Our directions say: "No need cleaning out this box unless you spill something in it while there is ice kept in it." With the old way goods directions say: "Clean out once a week; never put anything warm in provision chamber." Why not? Because they have practically no circulation. Warm stuff means more condensation, more dampness, more mould. In Automatics hot pipes and puddings in them to cool them off.

No Condensation, No Dampness and No Mould.
 Always sweet and clean. Food odors will not mix. Meats are kept not only cool but absolutely dry in Automatics.

Automatics are Economical in Consumption of Ice.
 Remember it costs more to run a poor box than it does the best, and a poor box is always unsatisfactory; therefore a very unwise investment.

Automatics have Adjustable Sliding Shelves.
 Cut this out and preserve it.

Watch this Space in the Next Issue of this Paper.

QUARANTEED AND SOLD BY

Main St. **Simon & Atwater**
 Tel. 129.

RED JACKET SWEET CIDER
A. E. PETERSON,
 GROCERY.

A GREAT OFFER.

Now is the time to supply yourself and family with

The Iowa Homestead (weekly)	\$1.00
The Homemaker Monthly Magazine	.50
The Farm Gazette (monthly)	.50
The Manchester Democrat	1.50
Total	\$3.50

ALL FOR \$2.10.

Call early at this office and take advantage of this great offer.
 Manchester Democrat.

Forced thereto by the fear of consequences in the next decade, three paper-making companies of New York have adopted a system of reforestation. Hundreds of trees, furnishing wood pulp and speedy in growth, have been imported from Germany and thousands upon thousands of acres denuded of their forests are to be replanted and care taken that the reforestation proceed rapidly and generally. —Cleveland Leader.

Surrel.
 We notice in our travels through the country that sorrel is beginning to appear in spots in the pastures. This indicates an acid soil, and farmers should not fail to notice the warning that nature is giving them. We are sometimes asked what is the remedy. First correct the acidity by applying lime, then manure, then grow crops adapted to these new conditions. Nature abhors a vacuum and puts sorrel where the land has been so badly managed that nothing else will grow. Fit your land for better crops, and grow them, and there will be no trouble with sorrel. —Wallace's Farmer.

About Ducks.
 It costs from \$1.75 to \$2.50 each to keep breeding duck for a year. Soft food is their natural diet. The ducks has no crop the food passing directly from the throat to the gizzard. The duckling grows twice as rapidly and is a much heavier eater than the chicken. The most profitable time to sell them is at ten weeks.

Water for bathing is not necessary for ducks, but they must have drinking water by them at all times night and day.

Ducks begin laying the latter part of February or March and lay sometimes until midsummer, giving a season of about six months. That it is a profitable business for some farmers is evident from the increasing number of duck farms in the country, averaging from 5,000 to 20,000 ducks per year.

We have heard of different cases of vertigo among ducks. This is usually caused by overfeeding. Rations should be reduced until the dizziness disappears. —Wallace's Farmer.

Alfalfa in Iowa.
 Prof. Curtis of the Iowa Agricultural College says:
 "Regarding alfalfa, the greater acreage in that crop to be observed in Nebraska and Kansas is, I think, due to the fact that Iowa produces more clover than the western states, and Iowa farmers have not yet been brought to the necessity of increasing the alfalfa acreage.
 There are steadily coming to recognize it as one of the most valuable crops to which they can devote the use of their fields though, and we shall see great increase in coming years.
 The combination of Iowa's corn with clover and alfalfa will bring most splendid returns to the farmers of our state and excellent results in increasing farm fertility.
 In our experiment work with alfalfa we have attained best results by seeding in August. Rarely the return may be too dry to germinate the seed and give it a good start, but generally the stand is more satisfactory than that of spring seeding.
 We also get sufficient growth to get a cutting the next year and the land thus devoted to the crop does not lie long in an unproductive state. Alfalfa has already become a great and valuable crop in the west, but there is an enormous field for it that as yet lies undeveloped."

Success And Failure.
 The difference between success and failure is all in the way a thing is done. One farmer may make a complete failure, a money-losing proposition out of dairying, while another will make it pay rich returns. And very likely the man who fails has just as many cows and just as good opportunities as the one who succeeds. Every common-sense man would find proof of this statement.

John Wintringer, who sells more milk to the Walker creamery than any other one man, milks but thirteen cows, but every month his milk check amounts to \$80 or more. There are, perhaps, a dozen other farmers in this community who milk just as many cows, but none of them secures anywhere near such returns, and some of them fall as low as \$20 or \$25. These other men have just as much invested aid, no doubt, spend very nearly as much time in the care of their cows as does Mr. Wintringer, but his cows produce \$4 per month more than do the others. This difference is the result of different methods of feeding. Mr. Wintringer is a heavy feeder, and every month during the fall, winter and spring he buys \$20 worth of bran to mix with the ration of corn and hay for his milk cows. His cows are well fed and milked regularly, and as a result they give a large flow of rich milk and net their owner, after deducting for the extra feed, \$40 more per month than comes to the man who milks thirteen cows under different methods and gets a product of but \$20 per month. Surely it pays to do a thing well. —Walker News.

Queen's Cold Cure.
 "You have a cold, eh?" said the physician. "Well, suppose I give you the same prescription that Queen Elizabeth used?"
 He took down an ancient folio.
 "Dr. William Balfour's prescription for a cold, which Queen Elizabeth used all her life, was this," he said.
 "Takes nutmegs, the root called dorek, which the apothecaries have; setwall, gatangall, mastike, long pepper, the bark of pomegranate, of melon, of sage, lincol, marjoram, dill, spleenard, wood of aloes, cubebe, cardamon (called graynes of paradise), lavender, pennyroyals, the bone of a hart's heart, greece, cut and stamped, and beat your spices grossly in a mortar. Put in ambergris and musk, of each half a dram. Distill this in a simple aqua vitae, made with strong ale, in a serpentine. To tell the virtue of this water against cold, phlegme, dropsy, heaviness of mind, coming of melancholy, I cannot well at the present, for it is too great."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

The Exchequer.
 In past times it was the custom for the king's justiciar and his subordinates to make up the royal accounts twice a year, at Easter and Michaelmas, on a table which was the most striking object in the chamber in which they assembled. This table was covered with dark russet cloth divided into squares, which gave it a checkered, chessboard-like appearance, and in the columns and spaces the accounts rendered by the sheriffs and great landowners who attended for that purpose, were entered and reckoned up. It was the checkered cloth so conspicuous throughout the proceedings, that gave rise to the name exchequer, just as the stars painted on the ceiling of another historic room originated the name "star chamber."—London Globe.

The Doctor in the Duel.
 A medical man in France was asked to be present at a duel in his professional capacity. He got up early, trayed out some miles, "flamed" the swords and ministered to his client, who was slightly wounded. When both honor and wound were healed he looked for his fees and sent in a bill for \$10. The patient replied through his wife, who wrote: "I am told that between men there is a question of delicacy which forbids even the slightest appearance of trade in such a matter. Neither the doctors nor the seconds are brought on the ground for money. If you persist in your claim I shall, to my great regret, be obliged to leave to others the duty of settling this fine point with you."

The Sword of a Knight.
 The sword of a noble knight was mentioned almost as often as himself in the songs and ballads of the middle ages. In the older time this trusty weapon was named and personified as accomplishing countless brilliant deeds. In the proverbs of all nations it is spoken of with reverence and veneration. It represents the rank and renown, the heroism and honor, the glory and greatness, of nations in the past. One of the first weapons made by man, it became his most important arm and auxiliary of warfare. It has always been the visible badge of birth, bravery and freedom. To surrender it was to admit defeat and disgrace. So long has it been the constant companion of rank and valor that it has acquired a dignity of its own. Like no other weapon, it has a quality entirely distinct from its character as a blood-shedder. In England even at the present day the sword alone is considered adequate to confer knighthood.

The Banana.
 The prohibitionist looks on with favor, for it does not mix with alcohol, and some think the habitual use blunts the longing for firewater. Thus Captain Parsons of the English-West Indian line says that since his seamen and stokers have been allowed to help themselves freely to the cargo of bananas they have not wished so much rum. There is a trace of copper in the banana, and deep thinkers believe this is beneficial to the human clockwork.
 The taste for the banana is not acquired. As Mr. Crichton-Browne exclaims in a burst of Ciceronian eloquence: "An appreciation of it is not reached through slow stages of diminishing repulsion, but comes at the moment of first introduction. The infant absorbs it greedily; children devour it with delight; the adult does not despise it, and the clementulous octogenarian blesses its agreeable tenaciousness."—Boston Herald.

A Human Batter.
 The baby had swallowed two bottles a dime and three nickels.
 For a moment his optimistic father seemed a trifle disheartened. But presently he regained his equanimity.
 "It saves me the expense of buying a rattle for him," he chuckled as he dandled the infant on his knee.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Her Figure.
 Fred—She is anything but handsome, and she hasn't even got a good eye.
 Joe—I'll admit she isn't a prize beauty, but she is worth a half million in her own right, and if that isn't a handsome figure then I'm no mathematician.

Denies Future Life.
 A retired Des Moines minister recently made the statement in a public meeting of ministers that he "knew there was no such thing as a future life."
 Just how he had learned this interesting bit of news is not known. His is a new kind of dogmatism. There are agnostics who say they do not know whether or not the soul is immortal, but this ex minister makes a flat denial of it. He would find it difficult to prove his negative.

But—
 Putting aside the claims of the human consciousness as to immortality, and those of revealed religion, the question obtrudes itself.
 What possible good can come to the world through such a declaration?
 Suppose you see a crippled man making his way across the street on crutches. A brutal pedestrian seizes the crutches and the maimed one falls to the ground. What shall be thought of such cruelty?
 So this minister, should any one pay attention to him, is trying to knock the spiritual crutches from under the bereaved and the mourners who go about the streets. That the loved and lost have only crossed the bar and await our coming is the fond belief of the faithful soul. If we are to be deprived of this pleasing hope we are of all men most miserable.

Do you remember the sad sequel to the death of Robert G. Ingersoll, as told by a New York newspaper?
 There was a lot of good in the brilliant man, but he had taught his wife and daughters that a man dies as the brute die. And so when the husband and father they loved was dead these women refused to admit the undertaker. They caressed his body and whispered words of love into the insensate ears and fanned him as if he were alive. To them it was eternal farewell!
 The heart of love instinctively shrinks from such a view of death. Does not this minister know that it is better and nobler and truer to hope and love and trust and pray.
 Kill the hope of a future life and you make this earth a hell.—Des Moines Daily News.

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