

BEHIND TIME.

By JOSEPHINE POLKARD.
I hid on Father Time, you are going to get it!
Pray, what is your terrible stratagem?

By LUCY LAMBORN.
Her friends are good women and faithful men
Without the least trace of selfishness.

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WISDOM IS LIKE ELECTRICITY.

There is no permanently wise man, but men capable of wisdom, who, being put into certain company, or other favorable conditions, become wise for a short time, as glasses rubbed acquire electric power for a while.—Emerson.

MISS TEMPERANCE ANDERSON, a resident of Baden, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, has hair six feet and a half long. It is quite thick and fine, blonde in color.

A LADY with a very unusual voice insisted upon singing at a recent party. What does she call that? inquired a guest. The Tempest, I think, answered another. Don't be alarmed, said a seaman present. It's no tempest. It's only a squall, and will soon be over.

WHEN we look for the highest benefits of conversation, the Spartan rule of one to one is usually enforced. Discourse, when it rises highest and scorches the deepest, when it lifts us into that mood of thought which thoughts come and remain as stars in our firmament, is between two.—Emerson.

THERE is no outward sign of politeness which has not a deep moral reason. Behavior is a mirror in which every one shows his own image. There is a politeness of the heart akin to love, from which springs the easiest politeness of outward behavior.

JOSH BILLINGS was asked, How fast does sound travel? His idea is that it depends a good deal upon the noise you are talking about. The sound of a dinner-horn, for instance, travels half a mile in a second, while an invitation sent up in the morning I have known to be three quarters of an hour going '2 pair of stairs, and then not half strength enough left to be heard.

SOME of those who hold receptions on New Year's day will appreciate what Sydney Smith says of the shakes of the land: There is the high official, the body erect and a rapid, short shaker, near the chin. There is the mortician; the flat hand introduced into your palm, and hardly conscious of its contiguity. The digital: one finger held out, much by the high clergy. There is the shaker rustian; when your hand is seized in an iron grasp, betokening ride, health, warm heart, and distance from the metropolis, but producing a strong sense of relief on your part when you find your fingers unbroken. The next to it is the retentive shaker; one which, beginning with vigor, pines as it takes breath, but without relinquishing its prey, and before you are aware begins again, till you feel anxious as to the result, and have no shake left in you.

WILL he ask me how would I like it out? Will he talk to me? Will he blow upon me? Will he snip a bit off my ear? Will he prick my lip when he trims my mustache? Will he tell me that my hair is getting rather thin at the top? Will he ask me whether I have tried, or would like to try, his marvelous balsam, or their wonderful wash, or their unrivaled restorative? Will he ask me whether I will be shampooed? Will the brushing business bring tears into my eyes? Will he part my hair on the wrong side? Will the uncomfortable hairs get my collar and my neck? Old Judge W. of —, in the Old Dominion, is a character. He was a lawyer, a legislator, a judge, and leading politician among the old-line whigs of blessed memory; but, alas! like them, his glory departed, and, like many others of his conferees, has gone "where the woodbine twines." Notwithstanding the loss of property and the too feeble use of apple-jack, he maintained the dignity of ex-judge, dressed neatly, carried a gold-headed cane, and, when he had taken more than his usual allowance of the favorite beverage, he was very pious at such times, always attending church, and sitting near the stand as discreetly as circumstances would admit, and responding fervently. On one occasion a Baptist brother was holding forth with energy andunction on the evils of the times, and in one of his flights exclaimed, "Show me a drunkard!" The judge rose to his feet, and steadily balancing himself on his cane, said solemnly, "Here I am, sir; here I am!" The elder, though a good deal nonplussed by the unexpected response, managed to go on with his discourse, and soon warming up to his work, again called out, "Show me a hypocrite!" Show me a hypocrite! Show me a hypocrite! Judge W. again rose, and reached forward across a seat which intervened, touched Deacon D. on the shoulder with his cane, and said, "Deacon D, why don't you respond, sir? Why don't you respond? I did when they called me."

How to Trap Rats. The best and cheapest way to catch rats that I have ever known, is to select the place most frequented by them, and take a common post sugar and bore a hole in the ground from six to eight inches in diameter and three feet deep. Remove all the earth that has been excavated, and all straw or sticks entirely away, leaving the other surroundings as near as possible the way you found them. If the weather is dry, and it is hard for the rats to get water, pour a little around the trap; if there is plenty of water, put a very little where flour around it. You now have one of the best rat traps ever known. In their wanderings at night for food and water, many of the rats not seeing the trap will fall into it, and raising a cry, others coming to their relief will fall in also. I have seen as high as sixteen caught in one night, among which were all sizes, from the common mouse to the full grown rat. When they are once in it, it is impossible for them to escape, as they can neither dig, climb nor leap out.

To get them out of the trap, take a small stick and place on the end of it a large wire with a sharp point, made in the shape of an arrow head. This, when stuck in them, will hold them until you can carry them away some distance from the trap to kill them. Try the above plan, and if you do not succeed in catching rats I shall never say another word to you again.—Central

Agricultural.

The Old English Breeds of Sheep.

The Norfolk sheep were indigenous in the countries of Norfolk and Suffolk. The horns were large and spiral; the bodies long; the loins narrow with a high back and thin chine; the legs long, black or gray. They were of a wild, roving disposition, and not easily confined within any but strong inclosures. The wool of the original breed was short, and the fleece weighed from two to two and a half pounds.

The agile form of these sheep, enabling them to move over a large space of ground with little labor, was a vast advantage to the old Norfolk farmers, many of whom were possessed of large tracts of heathland, which they had no means of bringing into cultivation except by the assistance of the fold. Mr. Marshall characterizes them, in his account of the Norfolk husbandry, as being singularly well adapted to the soil and system of management prevalent in that country, thriving upon heath and barren sheep-walks, where nine-tenths of the breeds in the kingdom would starve, standing the fold perfectly well, yet fattening freely at two years old, and bearing the journey to distant markets with comparative ease.

The Wiltshire breed were distinguished by large spiral horns bending downwards, close to the head. They were perfectly white in their faces and legs; and long Roman noses, with large open nostrils; were wide and heavy in the hind-quarters, and light in the fore-quarter and offal. The quality of the fleece was that of clothing wool or moderate fineness, averaging nearly three pounds in weight; and the carcasses of the weathers, when fat, usually weighed from 70 to 90 pounds.

This breed has now nearly disappeared. It was first improved by the Southdowns, and it has been crossed so frequently with that breed, that it became almost a Southdown, or differs only from the true Southdown in its increased size, lighter color, and finer fleece.

The Dorset breed are horned. The ram has a singular long convoluted horn, and is entirely white. The chest is deep, and the loins broad. The wool of the pure breed is of an intermediate kind between long and short, and of middling fineness, weighing about four pounds per fleece; and the carcass averages eighteen pounds per quarter of excellent mutton. Great numbers of Southdown sheep have been introduced into this country, but in the neighborhood of Dorchester the original breed retain their native character. They are a hardy race, being chiefly bred on open downs, and inured to the fold; but their principal value consists in the peculiar forwardness of the ewes, who take the ram at an earlier period than any other species, and are therefore much sought for, and command high prices, for the purpose of producing horse-lamb for winter consumption. They will often take the ram so early as April.

There is a variety of the Dorset breed in Dean Forest, and on the Mendip Hills. He is a small compact animal, that would thrive on the poorest soil. In both situations, however, and particularly on the Mendip Hills, the sheep are materially changed since the progress of inclosure. The Buckland, the Leicesters, and the Southdowns, now occupy the greater part of these once wild tracts.

These old breeds have now been greatly improved, by the introduction of rams from the different flocks of well bred sheep, for which Great Britain is so famous all over the civilized world. Sheep breeding has always received more attention in England than in the United States.

Apple-Trees on the Red Clay Land. In an interesting description of Mr. Peters' farm, in Gordon county, Georgia, Mr. Howard says: Mr. Peters' apple trees planted on red clay have gradually died out until almost the whole orchard is destroyed. He strongly dismises those desiring to establish permanent apple orchards planting the trees on red land. The observation runs over the period in north-west Georgia from 1840 to the present time. Trees planted on grey or bottom land have survived and done well. Trees on red land, on the contrary, have perished. They grow luxuriantly for ten or twelve years and then decay. The excess of iron in these red lands is probably the cause of the short life of the apple tree.

Red clay lands, similar to those in Gordon county, Georgia, are so extensive on the Atlantic slope in the southern States, and in the valleys west of the Alleghenies, that we may well study their relation to fruit-trees, as the apple and pear (not to name others) and to wheat, clover, timothy and other important crops. I set out an orchard in Clarke county, Georgia, which included four hundred Shockey apple trees, among others; and since my connection with the Southern Cultivator in 1847, my attention has been more or less turned to the natural defects and resources of the red clay hills, plains and valleys of the south. Numerous analyses of these clays justify the remark that they contain, generally, twenty times more iron than lime; while nearly one-half of the ash found on burning the wood and bark of the apple tree is a lime salt. In the absence of lime in proper quantity, iron in clay is apt to run into an acid salt like copperas and do harm, especially on ground whose soil is compact, and not sufficiently drained when cultivated. This iron salt (copperas or sulphate iron), is decomposed by an application of lime, and gypsum is formed while the iron becomes harmless, being quite insoluble, but before, very soluble. One of the founders of the first agricultural society in New York in the last century, Chancellor Livingston, says: On the other side, the mountainous coast stretches away to Mentone.

There are in active work as usual

three table—the table d'or. By four o'clock in the afternoon the tables are crowded by respectable-looking old ladies, anxious or vulpine gentlemen, and many heavy-eyed gamblers, male and female, with the desire of gain and no other expression, stamped upon their features. Of course there is a concert room, and many who would think it wrong to play, sit enjoying the music which is paid for out of M. Blanc's profits. By the way, this orchestra is not so curious as that one at Nice of which we heard. There is a Russian there who made many millions of dollars by railway speculations. He refuses now to go into society, and receives at his home none but the persons whom he knew in the happy days when he had not a son. To them he makes little presents of a thousand or two thousand roubles, and so on. He is an uneducated man, but passionately fond of music, and his one pleasure is to maintain an orchestra. He engages by the year the best musicians he can obtain; in the morning they take up their position at one end of the saloon in his villa, he sits down in his armchair at the other end and they play to him all day. This is luxury to him—wonder what it is to the musicians.

Agricultural Implements. A great deal has been spoken and written concerning agriculture and its influence on the nation and on the individual, and it will not be denied that the advancement of the one in every desirable direction, and the prosperity of the other depend in a direct degree upon the progress made in this fundamental interest. And the prosperity of any section is in proportion to its advancement in agriculture and its associated interests. Agriculture is not understood, and properly so, to be a science, the gaining of the mystery by man over nature, and the acquisition of such knowledge of her ways, and her laws of action, as will enable him to attain the control necessary to secure the result he has in view.

There can be no successful agriculture unless it be made profitable and pleasant. But before this result can be obtained there must be an abandonment of all prejudices. These prejudices stand in the way of improvement of any kind, are the offspring of ignorance, and they constitute the formidable obstacle to anything like progress. Whenever these exist, an obstinate determination to permit no innovation of the rules and practices of one's forefathers, no deviation from the customs of other years, there cannot possibly be taken any step forward. When a mind is so constituted that it can find nothing attractive in the inventions of genius, or the discoveries of science, we can confidently assert that it is stagnant, and until its depths are stirred by the power of enterprise or learning, it will remain dull and sluggish, contracting always.

We must get something to dispel old prejudices. Obstinacy is the result of prejudice and ignorance, and when we can dispel them, we can, with reason, look for improvement. Now, this is a fact that demands more attention than it has received. Unless farmers devote more time to the cultivation of their minds, how can they make any desirable advancement?

The wise man once wrote: "The wisdom of a learned man cometh by opportunity of leisure." And in that sentence is food for reflection and thought sufficient for an entire sermon, if we had time to preach. It is not the skillful hand, the strong arm, or the watchful eye alone, that will, in these days, bring success and wealth to the farmer. These are needed, but the cultivated mind is far more important. If thorough tillage is indispensable to profitable results, then an educated mind, with experience and observation, are essential, for there can be no thorough tillage in the sense here understood, unless it be performed with intelligence, care and skill. Judgment is absolutely worthless unless it is based upon knowledge. An ignorant farmer is sometimes successful, because the circumstances are fortuitous, but we urge a higher standard of mental cultivation for farmers that they may, at times, retreat success from unfavorable circumstances—that practical skill, learning, experience and matured judgment, may secure desirable results even when the elements seem to oppose him. We have written a great deal on this subject, and it is ever an interesting one to us, for throughout the whole country, we can see that agriculture is making rapid advancement, and that farmers are increasing in their social and political influence, while their material prosperity is being improved. But the full power and grandeur of agriculture will never be acknowledged or known, nor will it ever attain that pre-eminence it is entitled to as the basis of national prosperity until farmers everywhere, large and small, powerful and humble, admit the truths we have just stated.

King of the Blood. FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND ENLARGED GLASSES, CASE.—For several years past I have been badly afflicted with gonorrhea, or swollen neck, and it became so bad that an effort to raise my arms above my head produced a choking sensation, which was almost insupportable. After trying several remedies, with no benefit, I was advised by King of the Blood, and bought a bottle of the same. I have not felt so well for years. I have been troubled from childhood with fatty matter on my neck, and greatly benefited by your medicine. I have already begun to diminish, and I think I can get rid of it with the medicine they will gladly dispense.

Cure for Cough or Cold.—As soon as there is the slightest uneasiness of the chest, with difficulty of breathing, or indication of cough, take during the day a few "Brown's Bronchial Trochies."

Do we notice how much more rapidly each succeeding year seems to pass away? Cannot we remember how, in our childhood, the term of a year appeared interminable, and we thought we could compress into that great space almost any amount of work and play? But as we get older, how is it that, with all our industry, time seems too short for the work we take in hand? We become so engrossed that holy days and holidays are alike invaded; and, after all it is done, how much is left unfinished, how many schemes remain untried! "It is the solemn thought connected with middle life," says the late eloquent F. W. Robertson, "that life's last business is begun in earnest; and it is then, midway between the cradle and the grave, that a man begins to marvel that he let the days of youth slip away so half enjoyed. It is the pensive autumn feeling, it is the sensation of half sadness that we experience when the longest day of the year is past, and every day that follows is shorter, and the light fainter, and the feeble shadows tell that nature is hastening with gigantic footsteps to her winter grave. So does man look back upon his youth. When the first gray hairs appear on the other side, the mountainous truth fastens itself upon the mind that

down, and that the sun is always wester-

ing, he looks back on things behind. When we were children, we thought as children. But now there lies before us manhood, with its earnest work, and then old age, and then the grave, and then home. There is a second youth for man better and holier than his first, if he will look on, and not look back."

Ventilation of Cupboards. In the sanitary arrangement of houses, even for the richer classes, the ventilation of cupboards is neglected. It places let out as tenements, closets are the receptacles for bread and the fragments of various other kinds of food. Often the dirty clothes are put away in these places waiting for the washing. It is therefore important that air should be plentifully passed through such cupboards; generally, there is but little arrangement made for this purpose. The doors are kept close without any perforation. There are no ventilators in the walls, and, in consequence, those places become cases of polluted air, which, when the doors are opened, escapes over the apartments. This defect is visible in nearly all houses of old date; and while looking at some houses of recent construction, it is seen that, although care had generally been taken to ventilate staircases and rooms, the cupboards are in this respect neglected.

The Supreme Question.—Health is the most important of earthly blessings, and therefore the nervous anxiety of the sick to ascertain the relative merits of the various medicines in use is not surprising. Within the last two years many thousands of invalids have abandoned the preparations of the pharmacopoeia for the remedy introduced by Dr. Walker of California, under the somewhat eccentric name of VINEGAR BITTERS. That this new vegetable medicine is "winning good opinions of all classes of people" is beyond a doubt. The accounts of the cure of rheumatism, rheumatism, liver complaints, malaria, nervous prostrations, and many other distressing diseases, certainly justify the popularity which it has everywhere acquired.

Dr. Walker claims for his specific a remedial power over all disorders that do not involve an irreparable destruction of bone and fibre, and results so far from being permanent, and happy, in this age of wonders we are not disposed to deny the possibility of any phenomena not directly at variance with the laws of nature; and as it is held by many physiologists that all maladies are the result of some general derangement, we see no reason for incredulity with which some people regard the idea of a universal medicine. Dr. Walker's preparation seems destined to be universally approved.

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