



FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

The Housekeeper.

A Quickly Made Padding.—Of flour and suet take half a pound each, four eggs, quarter of a pint of new milk, a little mace or lemon, quarter of a pound each of raisins and currants, mix well, boil three-quarters of an hour, and keep it covered closely.

Centennial Biscuit.—Make good corn mush, just as if you were going to eat it with milk; when it is lukewarm, take a quart of it, work in flour enough to make a stiff dough, make it into biscuit, put in your bake pan and set it in a warm place over night; bake in a very hot oven, and you will have the best and sweetest biscuit you ever ate. Eat hot for breakfast.

Strawberry Syrup.—For five quarts of fruit allow twelve pounds of sugar and one pint of water. Sprinkle the fruit with some of the sugar and let it stand over night, then crush the berries, strain, and wash out the pulp with the pint of water; add the remaining sugar, bring to the boiling point, strain again. Bottle and cork at once and keep in a cool place.

Celery Leaves.—Most housekeepers throw away the leaves and tops of celery. There is a better way than this. Dry them thoroughly in the oven, then pulverize to a fine powder, and they make a very delicious seasoning for soup, the aroma and strength of the celery being remarkably preserved. After being pulverized, the powder should be kept in a jar or closed bottle to preserve the strength.

Brown Bread.—Better than cake. One heaping quart of rye flour, one quart of Indian meal, a quart of Graham flour, a scant quart of milk, same quantity of warm water, a cupful of molasses, a cupful of home-made yeast or a penny's worth of baker's yeast, a teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of salt. Grease an iron kettle, put in the mixture and place in a slow oven; bake six or seven hours.

Catskill Milk Potatoes.—Take good, sound potatoes, cut them in slices (raw) and put the milk, in the proportion of a pint of milk to a pint of potato slices, in a pudding dish; then, after you have put the potatoes in the milk, put it in the oven for about twenty minutes, then take out and put the potatoes, with the same milk, into a saucepan to boil until done. It should be seasoned before put on to boil.

Apple Short Cake.—To a quart of sifted flour add two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar and one of soda, half a teaspoonful of salt, a quarter of a pound of butter, and sweet milk to mix it. Have a stiff dough roll and bake in a sheet. As soon as baked split open the whole cake, spread one piece quickly with butter, cover with well sweetened apple sauce, pour over it some thick cream, grate on nutmeg, and then place the other half on this, crust side down, spread with butter, cover with apple sauce, cream and nutmeg.

Cooking Greens.—This is the simplest of dishes, and yet it is not always a well served one. Greens to be properly boiled should be put in soft water and a tablespoonful of salt added to a large sized pot of it, which should be boiling hot when the greens are thrown in. It should be kept boiling until they are done, which can be told by their sinking to the bottom of the pot, and then they should be skimmed out as quickly as possible into a colander, so that all the water will run out. Press them with a small plate, and then turn them upon a platter; add a large piece of butter, cut up fine, and serve smoking hot.

Wine Jelly.—Two pounds of sugar, one pint of brandy or ale, one pint of cold water, one package of Coxe's gelatine, one quart of water, a good pinch of ground cinnamon, the juice of two lemons, and the grated peel of one lemon. Soak the gelatine ten minutes in the pint of cold water, add the sugar, lemons and cinnamon, and one raw egg crushed with its shell; a small pinch of salt. Pour over it all the quart of boiling water and place over the fire until it comes to a boil, then remove from the fire, pour in your brandy, wine or ale, and strain through a jelly-bag.—Turn into a mould, set it in a cool place, and when cold turn it into a platter and serve.

Farm and Garden.

There is no reason why green peas should not be eaten during the entire summer. The majority of people, however, who have gardens content themselves with one or two plantings of this wholesome and delicious vegetable.

It is often observed that short-legged, firm, compact horses do their work better and last longer than larger ones, particularly if they have a clean, flat bone and plenty of muscle. Cart horses of great weight and height generally have round bones.

As those of this generation are eating fruit from the trees planted by our fathers, so we ought to keep on planting trees for the next generation. Even if but one tree in ten lives and bears well, that one is worth more than the cost of all; but, with proper care and discretion in selecting and setting the trees, and in preparing and cultivating the soil, nine out of the ten may live and be productive.

It is no mystery that perhaps one-third of the so-called Goshen butter sold by our grocers is the product known as Oleomargarine, of which animal fat or ox suet is the basis. Why, then, should our farmers submit to such gross imposition and buy their butter in the city, as a great many do, when they have the pastures and stock that will make butter of as good quality as the genuine, and certainly preferable, even if it is inferior to this spurious product?

In the soil of the northern and middle parishes of Louisiana the growing of clover will be found almost equal to deep plowing, and where the "soiling system" is followed it is a capital crop, since a good field of clover is one of the very earliest to cut for fodder, and it may be cut two or three times a year, while on rich land adapted to this system several tons may be cut to the acre each season, leaving behind in the soil a mass of roots that with a liberal manuring will form an excellent preparation for corn or wheat crops.

There is a strong contrast between slack and slovenly farmers and those who are thrifty and tidy; and no farmer is excusable for the utter disregard of taste and neatness, so often manifested among our people. It is bad in all its consequences, especially in the deprivation of good and elegant society; the dissatisfaction children feel with such homes as they approach maturity, and the consequent loss of self-respect by all the members of the family, are the greatest evil consequences of such neglect. Farmers' homes should be made as attractive and pleasant as possible, and much can be done to this end with very little expenditure of money.

Grape Growers' Maxims.

1. Prepare the ground in the fall, plant in the spring.
2. Give the vine plenty of manure, old and well decomposed; fresh manure excites growth, but does not mature well.
3. Luxuriant growth does not always insure fruit.
4. Dig deep but plant shallow.
5. Young vines produce beautiful fruit, but old vines produce the richest.
6. Prune in autumn to insure growth, but in the spring to promote fruitfulness.
7. Plant your vines before you put up trellises.
8. Vines, like old soldiers, should have good arms.
9. Prune spars to one well developed bud; for, the nearer the wood, the higher flavored the fruit.
10. Those who prune long must soon climb.
11. Vine leaves love the sun, the fruit shade.
12. Every leaf has a bud at the base, and either a branch of fruit or a tendrill opposite to it.
13. A tendrill is an abortive fruit bunch—a bunch of fruit a productive tendrill.
14. A bunch of grapes without a healthy leaf opposite is like a ship at sea without a rudder—it can't come into port.
15. Laterals are like politicians; if not checked they become the worst of thieves.
16. Good grapes are like gold—no one has enough.
17. The earliest grape will keep the longest, for that which is fully matured is easily preserved.
18. Grape eaters are long livers.
19. Hybrids are not always high bred.
20. He who buys the new and untried varieties should remember that the seller's maxim is, "Let the buyer look out for himself."—Rural American.

The Little Folks' Column.

Fedele.

Among the Alban hills, which are situated some miles from Rome, a lad was tending his father's goats, when his eye caught the glitter of arms in the distance, and he knew at once that the King of Etruria, who had threatened to make war upon the Roman republic, was about to carry out his threat. Without waiting to communicate with his friends, he set off at the top of his speed toward the great city, to warn its inhabitants of their danger and bid them prepare for the coming foe.

Lithe and active, the little brown mountaineer went bounding down the slopes and across the wide marshy plain, bestrewn with huge fragments of rock, and intersected by sluggish streams and reedy morasses, amid which the red-eyed buffaloes lurked. On he sped, as fast as his sinewy legs would carry him. But he had a long way to go, the sun was scorching, there was no pleasant shade of leafy trees to shelter him from its fierce glare, nor any sweet cool water to refresh him, for all about him was unfit to drink, being brackish and muddy. Through a dreary desolate region he had to go. His legs were ready to sink under him, his thirst almost intolerable; yet the lad's courage did not fail—he kept bravely on, and at length entered the city gate, through which he passed, and ascended the hill to the capitol, where the senate of the republic held its sittings.

He was just able to whisper the fatal news. Then he sank down and complained of a sharp pain in his foot, on examination of which it was found that a thorn had penetrated very deeply beneath the skin. It was necessary that this should be extracted, and the lad died under the operation.

Grateful for such a noble deed of devotion to his country, the senate decreed that henceforth all their gate-keepers should come from Vitrochiano, the boy's native village, and that they should be called *Fedele*—the faithful.

How imperishable is the memory of a good deed! In the beautiful city of Florence there is a marble bust of this lad Vitrochiano, in the act of extracting the thorn from his foot. This is not strictly in accordance with historic truth, for he was too much overcome by fatigue to attempt this; it was done for him, with a fatal result.

A Monkey Story.

This is one of the true stories that I tell my little boys over and over again, as we sit before the fire, and make ready for their journey to "Sleepy Land":

When your grandfather was a lad about twelve years old, an uncle of his made a voyage to South America, and brought home as a present to his nephew a fine large monkey. Of course Master Richard was very much pleased, and the frolicsome pet would have had a warm welcome from the whole household, had not the uncle seen fit to report some of Jocko's pranks on shipboard. This put the young ladies upon their guard. But old Bella, the cook, never seemed prepared for his capers; and the fuss she made over them pleased Jocko so much that she became the object of his attacks. One day Bella went to the city, and brought home a fine new bonnet in a large bandbox. During the evening she showed it with great pride to the young ladies; and, unknown to her, Jocko enjoyed the sight from behind the parlor sofa. The next morning Jocko took it out of her bandbox and dressed himself in it. Bella, hearing a noise, looked around, and there he was, his head literally lost in a sea of red and yellow ribbons. With a shout of rage, she seized the broomstick and hurried after the thief. But before she could reach him, Jocko had climbed up to the roof of the house. There he rested, and there he was when the whole household ran out to see what was the matter that Bella should shriek so. In vain Bella scolded. In vain Richard coaxed and threatened. Jocko would not come down until he had finished his work, for he was busily engaged in tearing poor Bella's bonnet into fragments. As ribbon after ribbon was destroyed, Bella's cries grew louder and louder, and nothing could move her from her determination to kill the monkey except the promise of a gayer bonnet than the one Jocko had stolen and destroyed.

But Jocko never was forgiven, and the poor fellow would have gone supperless a great many times had it not been for his devoted young master.—Nursery.

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