

BALLAD OF A STOCKING.

BY MAINE GOODALE.
What vain excuses shall I seek?
For ignorance "like a man?"
My scribbles will not let me speak—
I'll whisper—softly—if I can.

UNCLE AND NEPHEW.

"Well, girls, Oak Lawn has a new owner at last."
Mr. Fairfax imparted this piece of interesting news as he reached for the huge carving knife, and began a vigorous assault on a mammoth turkey, whose brown body sent forth an appetizing odor.

"Oh, how perfectly splendid that will be!" cried Miss Agnes, gushingly, as she clasped her white hands in rapture.
"Of course they are very rich, or they could not afford to purchase Oak Lawn. Mamma, we must call upon them as soon as it is proper."

"What's the matter with you?" asked Mrs. Fairfax, quickly, the cloud lifting from her face and a sudden hopeful expression coming in its place.
"Dear mamma, I wish you would keep silent about them," said Mrs. Fairfax sternly.

"I should, indeed! I love roses dearly."
"Is it not a pity that you should be so, even if the girls are so anxious to secure a wealthy husband that they forget to be decent in our own homes?" thought Pet savagely.

HOUSE AND FARM.

Brevities for the Farmer.

For every cent lost on account of the Jersey's smaller carcass, there are two cents gained on account of her better butter and large annual yield.

In the breeder's pasture along with its sisters and brothers, it contains and its aunt, is incomparably a better place to select a pig than in an ash-pen found in a fair-ground either east or west.

It is folly to turn under weeds that have gone to seed, for the seeds of most weeds, no matter how deeply buried, will retain their vitality and make rapid growth so soon as they are brought near the surface.

Colonel Gillett says that we have passed the time when there is any profit in growing steers first and then fattening them afterward.

It has heretofore been supposed that the Holstein cow was superior for milk, though not a great butter producer; but "Mercedes," a Holstein cow, for thirty days averaged three pounds and five ounces of butter for each day, or about \$3.12 per pound for the whole period. The yield was made in competition for a prize cup offered by the Breeder's Gazette.

Her owner has been challenged for a test against a Jersey cow which has an exact record.

"The man in charge of a herd of cattle or sheep," says the American Dairyman, "that cannot tell when some member is absent without counting the whole lot had better go into some other business. We have heard the owner of a drove of near a thousand head of cattle at the West say that a single animal was absent simply by allowing the herd to pass him." We would be inclined to take any man's statement to that effect with a degree of allowance.

The following has been found one of the surest cures for chicken cholera, being highly recommended by a great many: Give hypsulphite of soda in a dose of half a level teaspoonful of crystals dissolved in as little water as will make a solution. If the fowl will not drink or partake of it in any form, pour it down the throat. It will cure at once, and does not harm the bird.

Early indication pointed toward an immense crop of apples, but later developments proved otherwise, and some growers commenced to cry a very limited one, but they forget that many new orchards, both here and in the West, are just commencing to bear, consequently no great dearth will be likely to result.

Corn stalks cut up make a good mulch for strawberries. Clean the beds now thoroughly and apply the mulch after the first hard freeze. This mulch is not to be removed in the spring but left, first to protect the berries, and then to become incorporated with the soil. Unlike straw or hay or manure, it contains no seeds to germinate and interfere with the strawberry plants.

It were well if the growers of northern corn or sorghum, could assess themselves according to the Louisiana Sugar Bowl, the ribbon cane crop, as a whole, may be regarded as permanently injured. A cold, backward spring, a long spell of rain, weather, and lastly a drought, have all conspired to injure the crop of a time when dry weather is needed, leave but a poor prospect for the "sweets crop" of Louisiana. Bee-keepers and sorghum culturists may rest assured that the crop will be a poor one, and command good prices before midwinter.

Cassius M. Clay, thus eulogizes the country in the Rural: The luxuries of cities enervates; the luxury of the country builds up brain and nerve. Here rests the securities of liberty and the independence of nations. The city rises and falls, grows and is swept away by fire, sword and decay; but the features of the country remain forever. I return after being absent for years, to the city; it is no more there, but the old body of the city is still there. I know not its streets nor its houses, and the inhabitants know me not, themselves unknown. I wander over the wide world, I return to the city, and find it all the same, the same hills, and dunes, mountains and plains, and eternal features of nature are as in the days of the years that are gone; the trees have grown and the forests have developed. In the forests more sacred than temples wrought however grandly by man, let the setting sun go down in harmony with nature and in trust in God!

Household Recipes.
SOUTHERN GUMBO.—Cut two chickens, fry slightly, with a small onion and a few slices of pickled pork. Put in three or four quarts of boiling water eight hours, and add one half cup of tomatoes. Salt and pepper to taste and stew one and a half hours.

SOFT SAUCE FRIED.—Throw them into boiling water and let them boil about ten minutes. Drain and dry them well, and remove the spongy flesh or "dead" part of the corn. Fry in a shallow pan dredge lightly with flour, and roll them in bread crumbs. Fry them in boiling lard.

To have nice hard butter for the table in summer, without the use of ice, put a trivet or any open flat thing with legs in a saucepan, put on this trivet the plate of butter, and fill the saucepan with water; turn a common flower-pot so that its edges shall be within the saucepan and under the water. Plug the hole in the flower-pot with water, set in a cool place till morning; or if done at breakfast the butter will be hard at supper time.

To preserve bright grates or firesides from rust, make a strong paste of lime and water, and with a fine brush smear it as thickly as possible all over the polished surface requiring preservation. By this simple means all the grates and firesides in an empty house may be kept for months free from harm without further care or attention.

CUCUMBER PICKLES.—Make a brine of one-third of a pint of salt, and four pints of water. Drop in many cucumbers in the brine as it will cover, in which let them remain forty-eight hours; drain the brine off, place them in a porcelain kettle, covered with vinegar (good cider-vinegar, only moderately strong). Plug the vinegar come to a boiling-point very slowly; then pack the pickles in glass jars, pour the hot vinegar over them, seal up air-tight.

BAKED.—Heat one pint of sweet milk, add a dessert-spoonful of butter in it while hot; wet a heaping tablespoonful of flour in a little cold milk; when smooth, beat four eggs very light with it and stir into the hot milk; and almost a teaspoonful of salt. Bake in a pudding dish in a hot oven. This may also be served with sauce as a pudding.

A very nice way to serve peaches is, after cutting them, to pour over them a

HOUSE AND FARM.

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J. H. Bird, M. D., in Medical and Surgical Review.
Small-pox is always more feared by the people for its effects than for its danger. All persons have a dread of being marked by it. There have been many remedies suggested to prevent pitting, the majority of them being difficult and unpleasant in their application.

POTATO SALAD.—Boil five medium sized potatoes till just done. Let cool but not get cold. Cut them in small cubes, together with one beet—left from dinner—or two or three pickled onions (we get them by the pint at the grocer's). After tearing, do not cut, several leaves of lettuce in rather large pieces and placing in the bottom of a dish, mix all together thoroughly with two tablespoonfuls of oil, (I prefer melted butter), salt and pepper and a little vinegar. Hard boiled egg is pretty and palatable to chop and mix in with the salad. This should be prepared not longer than half an hour before using. I think the result will repay any one who tries this pretty German dish.

FANCY TEA CAKES.—Sift one pound of flour on the pastry-board; make a hollow in the center, put in half a pound of powdered sugar, half a teaspoonful of lemon essence, five ounces of butter, half a teaspoonful of salt and mix to soft, smooth paste, adding the yolks of three eggs and one egg of cream, after the butter has been thoroughly incorporated with the other ingredients. When the dough is ready, roll it out for one hour, then roll it out a quarter of an inch thick, cut in various small shapes with fancy cutters, put the little cakes on a buttered baking pan, brush them over with a beaten egg, and on the tops some chopped citron, raisins or blanched almonds. Bake in moderate oven until a light brown and cool on a sieve.

Watering Plants in Sunshine.
Widely accepted but very erroneous belief which is a cause of much loss during summer heats, is the fear that if plants are watered while the sun shines upon the leaves it will harm them.

There may be some tender young leaves which are not yet fully developed, and which would suffer from a sudden wetting with cold water under a blazing sun, but I have never met with such in vegetable gardens. I have long practiced frequent sprinkling of new plants during hot, dry weather to prevent their beginning to wilt. If allowed to wilt at all it is difficult to revive them. The foliage may be kept cool by spraying with water until their wounds are healed, and they become able to collect and send up supplies to the leaves. During this time of trial what is wanted is frequent sprinkling of the leaves to prevent their flagging. When the plants are well established, frequent watering is not necessary, but if they are not watered during hot, dry weather, during two or three days after transplanting—one that the planting can be done while the ground is dry and the plants will not pack, and the other that, if the ground is not watered, the plant instead of being half cut off, as is commonly done in planting cabbage, celery, etc., to reduce the transplanting, will be able to recover. Such cutting is not a great loss, and the plant, and can only be justified when there is no other practical way of saving or continuing its life.

A New Stock Malady.
A singular malady has broken out among the cattle in Georgia County, O., which is causing much apprehension, not to say alarm. It is called "The Grease." It is first observed as a continuous discharge of slightly-colored water from the eyes, which continues for a few days, and ends in the formation of a crust over the eyes, causing blindness. The eyes remain closed until or all of the time. As a rule, the general health of the stock does not seem to be greatly affected, though in one instance the animal died. The disease is not contagious, but examination showed no servable defects in any of the vitals. The local cow doctors are at a loss to detect the cause of the disease, and a specific. A remedy somewhat beneficial has been found in saltpeter, and local applications of nitre to the eyes has shown favorable results. Probably nearly every farm in the State has had cases of farms affected. No stock had died, except on the farm mentioned.

Some Experiments in Feeding Pigs.
Charles Farmer.
Last spring at the Iowa Agricultural College was tried an experiment which developed some points of interest. Six shovels were fed in two lots, one lot receiving only shelled corn, fifteen pounds per day, the other the same weight of corn-meal moistened with water. After continuing the ration for four weeks two pounds were added to each ration and the place supplied with the same weight of oil-meal. When whole corn and corn meal were fed alone the cost of pig was valued at 35 cents, corn-meal at 14 cents per bushel, and oil-meal at one and one-quarter cent per pound. It was observed that the pigs would eat their mess of moistened meal in eight minutes, while it took the others two days to eat the shelled corn. In this experiment, with pork at \$6.85, corn-meal fed to pigs returned \$1 per bu and whole corn 93 cents. This experiment points in the same direction as the one reported some weeks ago, that about feeding ensilage to fattening steers. It will be remembered that in this case the steers that were fed ensilage gained six or eight pounds more than those that were fed hay. It is not to be inferred that this increased result is due to greater nutritive value of ensilage, but rather that the digestibility of the corn fed with it is a well-known fact that two animals will sometimes eat the same amount of grain, and one will gain in flesh and the other not. In certain conditions of the digestive organs the power to assimilate nutriment is so impaired that no more is used than just what is sufficient to keep up the ordinary operations of life. If the digestive organs are so impaired that increased gain in pigs fed a small quantity of oil-meal with their corn was due to the superior digestibility of the mixture over corn or corn-meal alone.

"Is this train to stop at Neponset?" a passenger asked a conductor of the Old Colony road the other forenoon.
"No, sir," was the reply; "no stops between South Braintree and Boston."

"Why, how's that?" said the surprised inquirer; "you used to stop there; you did the last time I came up."
The conductor was puzzled. "Guess you are wrong," he said, "but when was that time?"
"Last time I came up," he said, "I built my barn—some time during the war."

A St. Louis butcher has begun a libel suit against a neighbor, who, he charges, declared in the presence of many customers that the butcher sold hog's liver for calf's liver. He claims that his business had been damaged to the extent of \$2,500.

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