

SPRING STEPS.

Once more upon the hills my eager feet. My winter's slippers too long, too tight, too warm. The happy heralds of the spring-time sun, the tiny advents of the spring-time rain.

For my little feet, my little feet, my little feet. On baby blossoms faintly dusted and sweet. The odorous perfume of the spring-time sun, the tiny advents of the spring-time rain.

I stand, this April, waiting, my little feet. The tears of winter are still upon my cheeks. The sun is shining, the wind is blowing, the birds are singing.

APPLE BLOSSOMS.

On Monday morning in May when Mr. Castor, of the law firm of Castor & Brush, entered his office he found on his desk a bunch of fragrant white flowers.

"Apple blossoms, sir," his clerk explained. "I spent Sunday in the country, and brought them down thinking you might like to see some."

Mr. Castor's preoccupied face lighted up with pleasure. "Thank you, Mr. Clark," he said. "Get some water, will you, John? We must keep them as fresh as we can. I shall want to take some home to my wife to-night."

Clark smiled, and Mr. Castor went to work at his law cases. But something was the matter with him. His thoughts would go wandering off to the green meadow by the side of the river where Clark told him he had broken the fragrant branch.

"I wonder," he soliloquized, "whether it is any thing like that meadow where—pshaw! what am I thinking of! In a case of ejectment—wonder if I could arrange the blossoms to advantage against the law!"

"Gave me her promise true"—just as the door was thrown violently open and John Edson, the most quarrelsome man in New York, as his friends and enemies both agreed, burst in.

"I don't know, said Mr. Edson, thoughtfully, taking up the tumbler and smelling the fragrant things. "Where did these grow?"

"Up in a little country village in Connecticut. Clark is from the country, you know, and I should think from his descriptions its quite a pretty place. Green meadows and a river, you know, all that sort of thing. But what do you want me to do?"

"Wait a minute, can't you?" said Mr. Edson, impatiently. "You lawyers are always in such a tearing hurry."

HOME AND FARM.

In almost all cases it is the universal experience that orchards are more certain to do well where the spot chosen is somewhat higher than the surrounding land.

A HALF SPOON CAKE.—One and a half cups sugar, three eggs, half cup sweet milk, four tablespoons sweet cream, two tablespoons baking-powder, one teaspoonful lemon essence; beat whites and yolks separate.

Now and then a farmer may be found who annually sows a row or two of barley. This grain is excellent when mixed with other sorts for feeding purposes. The two-rowed and four-rowed are the principal varieties sown.

On no account, when in health, should our domestic poultry have sulphur given. It is a very good, but should not be fed to the fowls. It should be given as other similar substances are. If conveniently broken the fowls will pick up and eat all they need, or ought to have. Give all food clean and cold.

Mix a half pint of vinegar and a half pint of milk. When they have formed a curd take the whey and strain it. Boil the whole together; sift into them sufficient quick-lime to make the whole into a paste. It is a good cement to hold broken glass and crockery.

FARMERS who practice sowing would do well to remember that a field of clover furnishes a very large amount of green food, since two or three crops can be cut during the season. The scarlet clover is an excellent sort, sown in July it does well on almost any soil moderately fertile. The Bokara clover affords excellent food for bees and is grown quite extensively by large apiarists.

A good recipe for sponge cake is said to be this: One pound of sugar, sifted; half pound of flour, rind of a lemon grated, with the juice. Beat the yolks very light and mix them well with the sugar; add the lemon; beat them well together; add the whites, beaten stiff; shake the flour in very dry state; do not stir when the flour is well mixed. If in one pan, two hours; if in two pans, one and a half hours.

CURE FOR SELF-SUCKING COW.—An Indiana farmer says a cow may be prevented from sucking herself by placing a pair of jointed bridle-bits in her mouth upon a head stall which passes over her head between the ears and horns. The bits do not prevent the cow from eating, but keep her from sucking. An improvement on the above is to use hollow bits which are perforated with holes, so that when the cow tries to suck her mouth is at once filled with air which passes through the bits.

ABOUT forty-six miles from Munich, in Upper Bavaria, is a district chiefly inhabited by wood-cutters. The village of Oberammergau—a place to which travelers in Europe during the coming season will be specially attracted. Between May 17 and September 15, which has been performed for nearly a century and a half, is the Passion Play.

The next day the body was ready for the funeral. The mother sat on the floor beside the little pine coffin in stony despair when Meg crept softly up and laid her cherished breast, now reduced to two faded blossoms and one just budding pink bud, in the baby's hand.

"God bless you, Meg," she sobbed. "Shure, there's lots of blossoms where he is now, the darlint, but it's I that's glad to see these purty posies in his little hand. Oh, my baby! my baby!"

Mr. Edson, for his part, went down to his brother's office and entered with a little hesitation. The brother, a man of about thirty, with a high forehead, stern, self-repressed face which says as plainly as words could, "I've had a hard life and I don't care a cent about you. I'll have what I can get, whether you suffer or not," started as Edson came in.

There was a moment's silence, and the younger Edson, looking down, saw his brother put his hand to his throat as if he were choking. The next moment the older spoke almost as awkwardly as his brother's name done.

"It wasn't the money I cared for, but—but I wanted the old place. I—well, I had some associations with it." The younger brother started. Associations? What associations of pleasure could George have with the old place? There were none, there could be none except those with Lucy Baird, who had been for one short year his own wife, now laid away in Greenwood.

He sprang forward. "George, did you care for her? You could have won her all the long time I was sick and you didn't think that now I was your brother. Did—do you mean to say you gave up the chance of winning her for me?"

For a minute or two the Edsons might as well have been a couple of Frenchmen meeting after a long separation. The elder was the first to recover himself.

"There, there, John," he said, in exactly the same way he used to speak when they were boys together. "I've been hard, but you see I never had a wife to soften me, and I intended to pay you for your share of the property at first, but—well, it's no use talking it over. Of course you didn't know, but I kept thinking you might have known if you wanted to. But there, never mind that now. Did you know that Midland bonds are going up? I'll make a good thing out of them yet."

"I can't stay," answered Edson, opening the door, "but I'll see you again. Come up to dinner with me, won't you?" "I will," answered his brother, heartily, and with a cordial hand-shake they parted.

The younger brother went straight home and put the precious branch of apple-blossoms, which had been a divinatory rod to him, showing him where the richest treasure of a brother's love lay hidden, into a glass and set it where he could see it often. The elder as he turned to his desk again saw three petals lying on the floor. He hesitated a moment, then stooped and quickly gathered them up and laid them reverently in his pocket-book.—E. L. Ogden, in Christian Union.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, June 5, 1890. 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