

EULALIE.

Lightly swings the southern rose, Laced around with hisping leaves;

Softly falls the southern shine Stealing o'er my russet floor;

Gently laughs the southern breeze Through the window at my side;

He stood in a large, beautiful park that surrounded the spacious mansion which he called home, and gazed unobserved on the white draped form of a woman, who was half sitting, half reclining on a rustic seat in the shade of a flowering tree.



HIS VERY LIFE.

"D give my very life for her!" The speaker was a man of tall, commanding figure. His features were too prominent and irregular to be handsome, but his countenance and bearing betokened strength and will power.

He stood in a large, beautiful park that surrounded the spacious mansion which he called home, and gazed unobserved on the white draped form of a woman, who was half sitting, half reclining on a rustic seat in the shade of a flowering tree.

"Blanche, how would you like to live here always?" he asked. "That would depend," she answered.

"Yes, upon who owned the place. I suppose. Cousin Ralph is a good fellow to treat us so well. I never gave him credit for so much generosity when we were boys at school. A man is generally down on his poor kin, and it is scarcely human nature for him to like his heir-at-law."

"Mr. Romaine is not like other men," said Mrs. Owens. "He has certainly been very kind to us."

"I think a gentleman should be as brave in the struggle of life as any man."

"Well, yes. I have been telling Blanche that she is too good for me."

She has been very good to me in some ways and very bad in others," remarked Owens, as he escaped from the retarding hand of his wife and strolled away.

"I have a favor to ask of you, Blanche," Mr. Romaine said. "My housekeeper is indisposed, and I have given her leave of absence. Her niece will supply her place. Will you oversee her a little?"

"A lovely night for a row, Romaine," said Owens, lounging against a pillar of the veranda.

"See how fast that cloud travels and how the waves roll!" exclaimed Owens in some excitement.

"I suppose he should, on the same principle that the statesman lifted his hat to the negro, because he wouldn't be outdone in politeness; but I can't bear the pressure. Sometimes, Blanche, I think I am not worthy of you. You are stronger and better than I. They say honest confession is good for the soul, you know."

"I'm surprised at your humility today," she laughed. "You have certainly penetrated deeper into the mysteries of my nature than I have, for I am not conscious of any mental void that you do not fill, and remember dearest, you are my husband, and you are so good and noble that you may not admit that even to yourself."

"Well, Blanche," he said, imprisoning the little hand, "we'll not become sentimental and melancholy over it, but I'm afraid there is too much truth in my confession."

"I always thought Dame Fortune enore blind than just. She certainly doesn't always deal fairly," said Romaine.

Robert Owens inherited Romaine's fortune, as he was next of kin. The death of his noble cousin made a deep impression on him. He threw off his lassitude and became a busy efficient master of Romaine Park, endeavoring himself to his tenants, and winning the respect of his neighbors.

"There is nothing so fatal to crawfish as a thunder storm," said a Washington fishdealer to a Star man.

"The worst enemies crawfish have are eels, whose favorite food is a 1-year-old crawfish. Bigger ones seem very rarely to be eaten by the eels. If you want plenty of crawfish in a pond or stream you must catch all the eels. The crawfish themselves are very voracious feeders. As soon as dusk sets in each evening they become lively and move about with great agility. They swim well and have very keen sight. When the crawfish has spied its prey it steals up and with one bold dash impales the little fish or frog on its 'tusk,' as the long horn between its eyes is called. Then it drops to the bottom and devours the victim."

"In Europe, I am told, fishermen gather crawfish by the aid of torches. In summer the animals seek the shallows where the bottom is clear, and those who hunt for them do so at night with flaming pine knots. The method is called 'lightning.' The crawfish are dazzled by the light and do not attempt to escape, so they can be easily captured with the hands. One person will take a thousand in a night. Crawfish are much cultivated abroad in ponds and enclosures of water. No artificial means are resorted to for their propagation, but eels and predatory fishes are caught and removed. Thus the crawfish are given a chance to multiply, and they are fed upon fresh meat to fatten them for market. The industry is very profitable."

"If it had not been for this locking device I would have lost this valuable umbrella long ago. Picking up the wrong umbrella on a rainy day is as time-honored a habit as the borrowing of your neighbor's lead pencil and returning it back to your own pocket. To test this question to my full satisfaction, I strolled into the lobby of a well-known hotel one wet, stormy day, and, snapping the little lock through the wire spring under the folds of the umbrella, I placed it in a prominent rack among a number of others. On looking over a morning newspaper, I pretended to be deeply interested in its columns. I had hardly turned my eyes, when a respectfully dressed gentleman picked up my umbrella and off he went. It was raining in torrents. He could not open it, and in a moment or two he returned, ramming it back and muttering something about a 'mistake,' took another one from the rack and was gone for good. You may not believe me, but for one hour that umbrella came and went every five minutes—men, women and children, old and young, grave and gay. The performance was kept up until it tired me out. I took charge of it finally and sauntered off home."

"A Michigan correspondent of Vick's Monthly writes: 'I wish you would try my method of catching the cutworm. I have tried it the past two years and found it a perfect success. As soon as the ground is ploughed in the early spring before planting, I lay down the common mullein plant about twenty feet apart on the furrows, and it is so attractive that the worms will gather under the plant in good numbers. The best time to gather them is early in the morning. It takes but a few pickings to rid a field of the pests. I trapped as many as 80,000 in the summer of 1891.'

"I have never had any trouble, as they are seldom on the power to exceed twenty minutes, and our churning is always done the first thing in the morning, and it is seldom warm enough at that time in the day to do any harm. A sheep will work just as well on any kind of power as will a dog, and have more weight, which is a favorite point. The power I am using cost \$12, but could now, I think, be bought quite a bit cheaper. I cannot give the name of the manufacturer."

"The care of the sheep in summer is very little trouble. He can be hitched out to stake or pole, and with very little trouble changed each day you take him from the churning. A sheep will, if fed too much, often get too fleshy, and will suffer from the heat badly, but in my own experience I have never had any trouble, as they are seldom on the power to exceed twenty minutes, and our churning is always done the first thing in the morning, and it is seldom warm enough at that time in the day to do any harm. A sheep will work just as well on any kind of power as will a dog, and have more weight, which is a favorite point. The power I am using cost \$12, but could now, I think, be bought quite a bit cheaper. I cannot give the name of the manufacturer."

FARM, FIELD AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO RURAL READERS.

Harvesting the Hay Crop--Sheep Power for Churns--How to Avert Hog Cholera--Experiments With Fertilizers--Blue Hydrangea.

The value of the hay crop depends so largely upon its being harvested at the right time, and especially upon its being properly cured without damage from rains, that the time of the hay harvest is always a season of anxiety. Clover and orchard grass are the first crops to be made into hay. From the brittleness of the cured leaves of clover and the coarseness of the stems it is much more difficult to cure successfully than the smaller stalked grasses which constitute the bulk of the hay crop. Clover should be cut for hay as soon as the blossoms begin to turn slightly brown, for the development and ripening of the seed will make the stems more woody and less nutritious. When mown the swath should lie in the sun until the upper portion is partly cured, then turn it over and generally finish by placing into small cocks until dry enough for the barn. The less handling and stirring it receives while being cured the better. In a season of continued dry weather it may be hauled in from the swath or windrow, if cured enough, but clover will not shed rain in an uncovered cock and is damaged by a heavy dew.

Timothy is the standard hay of the country, and of the two is more resistant to injury from wet than clover. Neither one, however, should be allowed to become wet from rain after it has partly dried when it is possible to prevent it. When catching, showery weather prevents, partly cured hay should be placed into cocks and covered with hay-caps, of which every farmer should have a supply. These may be made from coarse, heavy muslin, two yards wide, and if stretched evenly over the hay-cocks and edges fastened down well, in most cases, be sufficiently protective without being painted.

Care must be taken that partly-cured hay does not remain unopened in the cock long enough to heat and mold. Farmers differ somewhat in their ideas about the proper stage of growth in which timothy should be mown. The most common practice is to cut after the seeds are fully developed, but before they are so ripe as to shell out while curing and handling the hay.

As a rule coarse grasses should be cut at an early stage and before ripening of the seeds has made the stems dry and woody.

My experience in using a dog is that if they churn they are not as a rule good for anything else--will not do much in handling cows or sheep on the farm, and to keep a dog simply for churning is a great expense with small returns. The goat did very well on the churn, but when you have the experience of having him get loose and eat up a week's washing on the clothes line, or your hat or coat, the expense is rather heavy, to say nothing of your feelings, when you know no words are sufficiently strong to express what you feel is wrapped up in that animal.

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As the result of various tests made at the Ohio station and at other places in the State at its instance, it was found that in experiments with fertilizers on corn, superphosphates and potash used separately or in combination, have as often caused loss as gain in the crop unless nitrogen was also added. Nitrate of soda has generally increased the crop, when used alone, in combination with superphosphate and potash, one or both, it has caused an increase in practically every case. While there have been cases in

which the increase of crop, apparently due to the fertilizer, has been sufficient to pay the cost of the fertilizer, it has been impossible to repeat this result on duplicate plots through successive seasons, thus indicating that in such cases the increase was largely due to accidental variations in the soil.

In the experiments on oats the fertilizers have apparently produced an increase of crop in practically every case, the increase being more uniform when the fertilizer contained nitrogen; but at present prices of grain and fertilizers respectively the average increase in no case has been sufficient to pay the cost of the fertilizer. The experiments on crops grown in rotation have not yet been carried over a sufficient length of time to justify general conclusions; but thus far they offer no more encouragement to the use of chemical measures than those on crops grown continuously. A very wide difference is indicated in the value of stableman according as it is used fresh from the stable or after half a year's leaching in the barnyard. Apparently the margin of profit in the use of open-yard manure is extremely meagre.

Turnips, Clover and Timothy. Having failed several times to get a good stand of grass by sowing the seed with wheat, as is usually done here, says Joseph Smith, of Michigan, in the American Agriculturist, I plowed the land as soon as the wheat was off. As fast as it was plowed the land was rolled and brought into as good condition as practicable. I then mixed a pound of flat turnipseed with the clover and timothy necessary to sow an acre, and sowed the land just as I would if I had only sown grass seed alone. I then rolled the seed without any harrowing, and, although the weather continued remarkably dry, the seed came up well, even on the lightest of the soil. Just before freezing up, so large had many of these turnips grown, I could not resist the temptation to bless myself at the expense of the land, so I took off about 70 bushels of turnips to the acre, and stored them away for early winter feeding. Even then the remaining turnips looked like a mass of green and when the frosts struck the leaves, they wilted down, not as a blanket, to smother out the young plants, but as an air-admitting mulch protecting the young and timothy. When the first light snows of winter struck that field, the turnip tops gathered the feathery covering for additional protection, and, when the sun melted the snow on other fields, here it seemed loth to depart. In spring, when I visited the field and saw with satisfaction that the turnips were decayed and the clover was feeding upon their remains, I felt I had made a discovery that would enable me to become master of, instead of being mastered by, similar conditions. I do not remember that I have ever cut a heavier growth of grass on any land than I did that year on this field. Of course I had some wheat, and occasionally a stalk with turnip seed in my hay, but with the exception of tempting mice to the bay of hay, this was of little detriment.

Farmers whose hogs are attacked by the cholera have only themselves, in nine cases out of ten, to blame for the visitation. It is simply the effect of cause--the result of filthy quarters and improper food. At least that is the emphatic testimony of those who, following different methods, are not troubled with the disorder, even when it is prevailing all around them. A farmer who has kept hogs for nearly forty years writes that he has never had the cholera in his herd but once, and then lost only a quarter of his herd, though all were desperately sick for more than ten days. And his is only one of many similar experiences.

We believe that it has been clearly proved that if hogs are provided with clean quarters and are fed on other food than corn, such as bran and oil-meal, peas, beets, turnips, etc., they will have better constitutions and thus be able to resist the attack of cholera and other diseases. Corn is an excellent fattening food and may be used advantageously to finish off a hog for the butcher; but as a "steady diet," without bone and muscle making food, it cannot be regarded as a satisfactory, well-balanced ration.

Each season's experience, while adding to our practical knowledge of how to make the best silage, also adds to the general appreciation of its inestimable value to the dairyman. As a consequence, each year a large additional number of silos are built. More were built last year than during any preceding year, and more will be built this year than last year. The most important lesson gathered from experience concerning silos is that when built of wood the silo needs to be well protected from the moisture of the silage by one or more thick coats of paint. Just what kind of paint is best has not been agreed upon. But it is manifest that as the silo has come to be one of the essentials of every well-equipped stock farm, it is true economy to make it out of the best material and in the best manner known. No reasonable expense should be spared in making it.--Jersey Bulletin.

A correspondent inquires how to get Hydrangeas that usually produce rose-colored flowers to have blue ones. Mehan says there is no way to accomplish this. Change of color in these flowers is wholly a vital process; frequently branches on the same bush will have flowers of both colors, and this of itself shows that no application to the root would be effective.

Blue Hydrangea. A correspondent inquires how to get Hydrangeas that usually produce rose-colored flowers to have blue ones. Mehan says there is no way to accomplish this. Change of color in these flowers is wholly a vital process; frequently branches on the same bush will have flowers of both colors, and this of itself shows that no application to the root would be effective.

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