

TOO MUCH.

He had trundled weighty triplets when his wife was wrapped in slumber.
He had got up every morning and had built the kitchen fire.
He had pondered on her carpets and had sawed up cords of lumber.
And had stretched with endless patience several miles of stiff clothes wire.
He had sworn off his smoking just to help her on her missions.
And had matched whole coils of ribbons with no thought of the disgrace.
He had eaten several samples at her cooking exhibitions.
With a moaning in his stomach and a smile upon his face.
He had borne the shirts she made him, and his courage never forsok him;
He had stood the socks she darned him, though the agony was keen;
He had worn her colored neckties, though his dearest friends shook him.
And the clothes that she selected he displayed with humble mien.
But when one night she showed him some pajamas she had made for him.
And informed him she expected that in them he would abide,
He quailed before this torture and the thought of it dismayed him.
And he gave one look remorseful, and he lay right down and died.
—Clothing and Furnisher.

MISTAKES.

HAT ails you Kate? Are you ill?"
Kate shook her head.
"I'm well enough," she said, "You can't expect any one to look as cheerful as you do, unless they lead the same happy life. Not a care, not a pain, not a worry—I do envy you, Nellie."
"You envy me! Why I thought young married women were the happiest women in the world."
"Don't fancy that, Nellie," said Kate, "and if you desire to be happy, never think of marrying."
"I declare you astonish me!" cried Nellie. "Why, when I was your bridesmaid you gave me the very reverse of that advice, and that is exactly two years ago next Wednesday."
Kate burst into tears.
Nellie looked grave.
"When did all this trouble commence?" she asked.
"When? I don't exactly remember," said Kate. "He began to show his neglect by staying out late, and being cross. Then he flirts and makes comparisons between my appearances and that of other ladies."
"He must be a very worthless creature," said Nellie, quietly.
"He's a splendid man," said Kate indignantly. "It's only his want of affection I complain of."
Nellie took her friend's hand.
"Is any of this your fault?" she asked.
"Mine! I'm sure a better wife could not be found," said Kate. "Oh, they are all alike!"
Nellie looked at her friend's dress and hesitated. At last she said:
"You say Harry makes comparisons between your appearance and that of other people," she said. "You know perhaps you are one of those women who alter with their dress. I remember that you would never see Harry without your hair dressed carefully, and every pin in properly," said Nellie. "Now excuse me, but you have breakfasted with your hair tucked up with one pin, a rumpled robe, no collar, and slippers down at the heel. You look like a fright, and five years older than I ever saw you."
"Oh he's used to that," said Kate. "I can't bother to fix every morning."
Nellie put her hand on Kate's arm.
"There is no way of losing a husband's admiration so certain as being dowdy. You dress when you go out and when you have company, and look like this in your husband's presence. Why, if I were married, my morning robe would be my pride, and I should even feel anxious to have becoming nightcaps."
Nellie said no more, but went away, leaving Kate to reflect that there might be two sides to the question.
That night Harry found her trim and neat as ever in his courting days, and his first question; "Who is here?" proved that Nellie was right in one thing. And Kate answered: "Nobody," in a rather conscious-stricken voice.
It was plain that Harry was pleased, and, after all, it was easy to dress neatly always, but it was harder to take the first humble step. Kate did it, though, like a heroine.
"Harry," she said, "come home to lunch today. It shall be punctual."
Harry kissed her.
"If you'll promise me that I'll come," he said; "but I'm greedy of time. I'm alone in the office, you know."
"Where is your partner?" asked Kate.
"He has been ill for six months," said Harry. "I'll tell you about it some other time." And he flew to catch the stage.
At noon he was home again. Kate was tidy, the baby fresh in its fresh robes; lunch perfect. The old courting times seemed to have come back again in Harry's manner, and Kate was happy. But that night Harry staid out late again. Kate walked the floor indignantly.
"Nellie may talk," she said, "you can't manage them. He may be anywhere. He doesn't care for me, that's certain."
But then the thought of Nellie's words rushed into her mind again.
"I won't scold and won't sulk," she said.

And she didn't; only at dinner next day she gave a little sigh and said a little sadly:
"Another lonely evening, I suppose."
Harry looked at her.
"Have you been lonely, my dear?" he said.
"Of course, Harry."
"It's a shame," said Harry, "and it's almost over now, Hartwright is nearly well."
"Has your partner been so very ill?" asked Kate.
"Didn't you know that?"
"No—you never told me."
Harry blushed.
"The fact is," he said, "you blew me up and I got angry. I didn't like to be suspected of all sorts of naughty things, when actually I was wearing myself out with nursing at night and working by day. Hartwright was injured in a railway accident and had a fearful time of it. He's a bachelor, and has no relatives, and the doctor wanted to amputate a leg for him, I knew it could be saved, and I've held out against them and saved it. He'll dine here next Sunday, and I wish you'd ask your friend Nellie. He's in love with the girl, and if she likes him she'll be Mrs. Hartwright before long. I think she'll make a good wife."
"I know," she will," said Kate confidently.
But when Sunday came, and young Hartwright with it, and Nellie also, she met them with beaming smiles. The house was redolent of comfort and Harry as fond of his little wife as a husband could be. And when late in the day Kate, coming upon the balcony suddenly, found her with her kerchief to her eyes and saw Hartwright just escaping to the parlor, she stood amazed.
"You are low-spirited now," she said.
"No," said Nellie, "very, very happy. Oh Kate! you don't know how happy. But you told me it was the way to be miserable—to marry—and I've promised to marry Mr. Hartwright."
"I told you a heap of nonsense and Harry has explained everything. Only, Nell, I've been kept in the dark too much."
Nellie blushed crimson.
"How could I, Kate," she said, "when I did not know he liked me at all. In fact, I fancied that he loved that little flirt, Jessie Brown. I've had my troubles, too, Kate."—Brandon Banner.

WALKING FISH.

They Have the Power of Using the Fins as Feet or Legs.
The ability of a fish to retain its vitality out of water depends in a great degree upon its ability to keep the delicate tissue of its gills wet, says the Youth's Companion, and this ability is increased, in a few species, by means of a peculiar construction in the head, in which water is retained after the fish is taken out of a river or lake, the gills being kept wet by percolation from this reservoir. Some such species have also the power of using the lower fins as feet or legs, and are enabled by these two singular gifts of nature to pass overland from one body of water to another.
A correspondent in Province Wellesley—as quoted in the "American Angler's Book"—relates that while passing along, during a shower of rain, the wide, sandy plain which bounds the seacoast in the neighborhood of Panama he witnessed a singular overland migration of ikan puyr from a chain of fresh-water lagoons toward a second chain to lagoons about 100 yards distant.
The fish were in groups of from three to seven, and were pursuing their way in a direct line, at the rate of nearly a mile an hour. When disturbed they turned and made an effort to make their way back to the lagoon they had left, and would very soon have reached it had they not been secured by the Malays who accompanied the teller the story and who looked upon the migration as an ordinary occurrence at that season of the year.
Upward of twenty were thus taken during a walk of about half a mile, and no doubt many more could have been obtained had the Malays been given time.
The grounds these fish were traversing was nearly level, and only scantily clothed with grass and creeping plants, which offered very slight obstruction to their progress.
Sir Emerson Tennent mentions the fact that he has seen fishes walking across the country. In India a writer speaks of fish that, by making an extraordinary use of their fins, can climb trees.

Poor in Clothes but Rich in Love.
Among the instructors of the duke of York at Heidelberg is Professor Karl Knies, considered by many Germans the greatest teacher of political science in the fatherland. He is without doubt the most popular professor at the famous old school, and possesses the power of personal attraction for students in an eminent degree. His pupils have a sincere and deep affection for him, and love to show their appreciation of his wisdom and good-heartedness in every possible way. He is in appearance the typical German professor, illustrated so often in "Figende Blaetter" and other comic papers. His clothes never fit, his trousers are too short, and his hat and umbrella bear the imprints of age and many rains. But his very indifference to outward appearances seem to endear him the most to the students. No one ever appealed to him for comfort in vain. The crown prince of Greece, the late duke of Clarence, the prince of Baden have all listened to his words of wisdom. The duke of York could not have entrusted himself to a better man.—N. Y. Tribune.

FOR THRIFTY FARMERS.

USEFUL INFORMATION ON FARM TOPICS.

Building Up the Land—Small Things to Be Attended to Now—Keeping Eggs in Dry Packing—Artichoke Culture—Current Culture.

Building Up the Land.

Much of the prosperity of old-time farmers, and of new settlers on virgin soil, was because so large a part of their work was and is devoted to making the farm better. On wild land something must always be done at first before it can be made productive. Then, too, there are houses and barns to be built, fruit trees to be planted, wells to be dug and fences put up. In all these ways the early settler finds a use for his labor, which is paid for at good wages, while the soil remains fertile. But when fertility diminishes these improvements no longer pay. In all the older sections of the country, and in some places in the West, land can now be bought of disgusted owners for little more than the cost of the improvements, often for less. There is naturally much more caution in these days about improving farms. It comes from previous mistakes in making improvements that did not pay, and is not always a wise caution. What is needed says a writer in Cultivator is a closer discrimination as to the character and productiveness of improvements. Some not only do not bring money to the owner's purse, but subject him to an annual bill of expense. In constructing a new house, for example, many a man has found too late that not only did the house cost more than it should, but the expense of furnishing it and the style of living that it presupposed were all equally disproportionate to the farm income. We do not say aught against fine farm houses, but they should follow rather than precede improvements on the farm itself, to produce enough income to justify such dwellings.

HOW TO IMPROVE THE FARM.

How shall the farmer heavily in debt begin to improve his farm? He will not at once expend large sums of borrowed money in putting up expensive buildings and fences. These he can probably better do without than he can with many other things that cost less money. He may and should spend part of what he can get in manure, and another part in tile for draining, using his own labor at times when other work does not press, to dig ditches and place the tile. Had as this work is, in no other way will a man form greater love for his farm than under-draining it. The rule of Nature always is that we love what we have sacrificed most for. Whatever may be thought of the Henry George theory denying the title to land bought with money, there ought to be no question as to the title of the farmer who has taken wet land and reclaimed it by thorough under-draining. And such a farmer not only thus acquires a love for the land he tills, but it is also the best way to make sure that he can keep it. Of the thousands of abandoned farms in the older States, comparatively few have been well drained.

The money expended on them was put where it did much less for soil productiveness. Judicious planting of fruit trees and properly caring for them until they come into bearing is another safe way to improve land. It is not enough alone, for the fruit trees must be well cared for and manured. Unless this is done they will entail loss rather than profit. When planting trees, most farmers under-estimate the labor and manure they will require; hence they plant too many. Fewer trees better cared for, and more money invested in the best stock, is the best condition for the farmer heavily in debt. If he buys ever so small a number of thoroughbred animals at first, and cares for them as he should, their increase will bring him out of debt quicker than he can get out in any other way, and without impoverishing the soil by an exhaustive system of cropping.

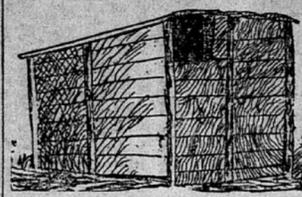
Small Things to Be Attended to Now.

In the press of work on a farm, many little things go unnoticed, or are seen at a time when it is impossible to attend to them. This is particularly the case regarding barns, stables, chicken houses, etc. If the farmer will cast his eye around when in these places, and make a note of the broken hinges, the loose rattling windows, the holes in the floor, constantly growing larger from wear, the rickety perches, the neglected manure heap, broken posts, leaky roofs, and the thousand and one other little things that will give him annoyance in the near future, he can set apart a day or two to attend to his mending. Secure a few boards, a hammer, a saw, and nails, and go to work with a will says a writer in Indiana Farmer, and it will surprise you if you have never tried it, to find how much happier you will feel to know that your cattle and horses are comfortable during the cold, stormy weather. Do not stop with repairs. There are few who cannot improve on the conveniences around one's premises. Have you a sloppy, muddy walk to your barn and out-houses? Have you an uncomfortable place in which to milk? Are your tools and implements un-housed? Are all the walks leading to the house such as will make no extra work for the wife? Have you scrapers and mats at each door, enabling those who enter to leave dirt outside? It is unnecessary to ask more questions.

A Cheap Ice House.

Our illustration represents an ice house made of rough posts and slabs,

hence it can be very cheaply constructed. Set the posts in place, the taller ones in front to give slope to the roof. Nail the lowest board all around. The house is now ready for the ice. Cover the bottom with a layer of sawdust, shavings or cut hay



and pack firmly. Upon this place a tier of ice, keeping the blocks a foot from the wall. Put a board next the ice and fill the space between this and the outside, with sawdust thus forming a double wall. Put on another layer of ice, carrying up the wall at the same time. Continue in this manner until the house is full. The planks or slabs need only be slightly nailed, as they will be held in place by pressure from the inside. Complete by covering the top with a thick layer of sawdust and putting on the roof.

Artichoke Culture.

A writer in the Orange Judd Farmer touching on the subject of feeding artichokes to hogs says "I have raised and led them several years, and would not now return to the old method of feeding corn alone. Since I adopted this system I have never had hog cholera on my farm nor so frequently had empty corn cribs. Artichokes can be planted either in Spring or Autumn. They are very hardy and will not be injured by any amount of freezing. Autumn is rather the best time to plant, as they will get the benefit of an early Spring growth, commencing to grow the last of March when the weather is favorable. They are planted the same way and require the same culture as the potato the first year. During the second year they need no cultivation as there are always enough tubers left in the ground to produce the next crop. If there are thin places, they can be replanted! In Autumn after the first planting I turn my hogs in and let them help themselves, when the frost has killed the stalks. Here they will fatten with only a little corn. In Spring I close up the fence and let the artichokes grow again. I keep two lots, one for Autumn and Winter use, and one for Spring. They are also good for feeding cows, being rich and succulent and increasing the flow of milk. Spring calves winter nicely on them, and colts eat them equally as well as corn. In good soil they will sometimes yield one thousand bushels per acre. They are very prolific and fill the ground from row to row. I dig and pit a large quantity for my stock during Winter, and when the ground is frozen feed them to my hogs. I think if our farmers would try this plan of feeding, they would never go back to the old way of feeding corn alone.

Keeping Eggs in Dry Packing.

A few of the methods of packing eggs dry, for keeping, have been tried by the New York agricultural experiment station, with the following results: With these the eggs were all wiped when fresh with a rag saturated with fat or oil which had been mixed with some antiseptic, and packed tightly in salt, bran, etc. Eggs packed during April and May in salt, and which had been wiped with cotton-seed oil, to which had been added boric acid, kept from four to five months with a loss of nearly one-third, the quality of those saved not being good. Eggs packed in bran, after the same preliminary handling, were all spoiled after four months. Eggs packed in salt during March and April after wiping with vaseline, to which salicylic acid had been added, kept four and five months without loss; the quality after four months being much superior to ordinary lined eggs. These packed eggs were all kept in a barn cellar, the ordinary temperature of each box varying little from 66 degrees F., and each box was turned over every two days. Little difference was observed in the keeping of the fertile eggs, and no difference was noticeable in the keeping qualities of eggs from different fowls or from those on different rations.

Current Culture.

Plant in rows, four feet apart each way. Plenty of light and air is necessary to their best development. Prune every Spring. Keep the ground mellow and fertilize moderately. If the bushes are troubled with insects, dust a little white hellebore powder over the leaves while damp. It may be necessary to repeat this several times, but the expense and trouble are trifling compared with the fruit produced. Successful currant growing requires care, patience, and constant attention.

Short Pointers.

Young hens for eggs, old hens for roasters.

Better buy your milk and butter of the neighbors than to keep a cow that will not pay her keeping.

The poor cow is not to blame for being poor; she is so by birth and breeding and can't help herself.

A poor cow is a dead weight which will drag a man to the bottom of the slough of despond.

Educate the butter-maker and slaughter the poor cow, if you expect to make any money out of dairying.

Warm quarters, occupied with young hens fed a mixed diet, ought to give eggs this month and on through the winter.

Cold quarters and too much corn is the cause of few eggs on most farms. Especially so if the hens are old and bred stock.

Do unto your cows as you would have them do unto you. If you are stingy with feed they will be stingy with milk.

Fritz Williams,

Proprietor of

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