

1700-1886.

When Erin first rose from the dark swelling flood... God blessed the green island; he said it was good.

THE CHIP BASKET.

Contentment is better than money, and just about as scarce. A consignment of eighty polled cattle left the Clyde last week for Mexico.

Experiments in steering balloons are to be made in all the fortified places in France. A black parrot from Madagascar lived in the Zoological Gardens, London, for fifty-four years.

It is reported that 150 patents for manufactured butter are registered in the American Patent Office.

Says an exchange: "All dressy spring wraps are short." That is more than can be said of the bills for them.

There is an average of one voter to every four persons in the United States, while there is one voter to every seven in Great Britain.

A funeral procession in Geneva, New York, stopped long enough to allow the body to be taken into a gallery and photographed.

Nearly \$2,000,000,000 would be due were all insured Americans to die at once. Nearly \$1,000,000,000 have already been paid on death losses in the United States.

A Rondout veterinary surgeon says that the habit of shying horses is generally caused by near-sightedness. Moral:--Near-sighted horses are not safe for a lady to drive.

The new Philadelphia directory contains sixty-three Aels, four Elms, five Walnuts, eleven Pines, fifteen Cherrys, thirteen Oaks, a single Poplar, four Chesnuts and a single Spruce.

In the Boston Public Library there are thirteen new books written by thirteen different Smiths. It is evident from this that the Smiths are getting a firm grip on the literature of the country.

A wise book agent:--"Is the head of the house in?" "Yes, sorr. He's in the library trying to write a letter with his new stylographic pen. Will yez come in?" "Book agent (hastily):--"No, I'll call again."

"Mush and milk parties" are very popular in certain circles in St. Louis. All present fasten bibs around their necks and then proceed to eat as much mush and milk as they can. These parties are thought to be awfully funny by the good people of St. Louis.

A parish clerk once gave out that "Mr. A. and Mr. B. would preach every Sunday to all eternity;" he meant alternately. Another mistake was, "that there would be no service next Wednesday 'kas master had gone a-fishing for another clergyman." Official was the word intended.

One little girl was heard to say to a playmate:--"When I grow up I'm going to be a school-teacher." "Well I'm going to be a mamma and have six children." "When they come to school to me I'm going to whip 'em, whip 'em. You mean thing! What have they ever done to you?"

Revenue Officer McDonald, of Atlanta, says that the best detective on his list is a woman, "and a lady, too." She lives near Atlanta, and is particularly skillful in working up cases and locating stills. He says she has no end of nerve, and does not work for the cause of temperance, but for money.

An audacious young man put his arm around a young woman who sat in the same pew with him during service in the United Brethren Church at Fort Wayne on Sunday night, and kissed her. She was so pleased that she laughed right out in the meeting, and others joined with her. These young people are to be indicted for disturb a religious meeting.

Six natives of Oregon and one tender-foot encamped in the mountains thirty miles from anywhere. Their provisions were as follows:--Three quart bottles of whiskey, one demijohn of whiskey, one keg of whiskey, one bottle of blackberry brandy, one bottle of blackberry "biters," twenty-five bottles of beer, seven loaves of bread, two pounds of cheese, one ham. The last items in the bill of fare were provided probably for the tender-foot.

An official in the American Indian Bureau gives figures to show that the future millionaires will be Indians. They are decreasing in number at the rate of five or six thousand a year; the lands they occupy are increasing in value, and when only a few thousand Indians remain, he says, it is natural to suppose they will be very rich. Judging from the past it is natural to suppose that the longer the Indian lives the worse off he will be.

AGRICULTURE.

Apiary. Bee-keeping, like all other occupations, is attended with losses and disappointments, and a person who has not the pluck to meet losses and disappointments, the quicker he gives up the business, the better it will be for him.

To have the bee at its best, each swarm should be put in proper shape for wintering at least by the middle of October, or at any rate when the weather is warm enough so the bees will cap in the syrup. It is best to feed them on their winter stores.

A colony should be fed sufficient to insure a full supply of stores to carry it through until May 1. It is not best to disturb the bees by feeding for stimulation, as it is termed, very much before May frogs peep and the swallows fly, nor even then if cold rainstorms are on the docket. Cover the bees up warm in the fall, with chaff if possible, and give them a thick covering of dry material above the hive, and do not disturb them except when absolutely necessary until the swallows come.

It is a bad sign to see miniature broods carried out in the night and lying about the entrance. This is a pretty sure sign the stores are short. This condition of things should not be allowed to occur, but be sure and feed so that the contingency of long swarms may be provided for in giving an abundance of feed at once.

Bees fed at any season means accelerated activity. A little honey clandestinely obtained sets the whole colony in a uproar. When bees are fed in the evening if the air is frosty, numbers will sally out to the entrance to make believe they are bringing in stores from the fields, nor do they forget the good luck when the morning comes. Thus feeding in April to stimulate brood-rearing does not result in gain, and often is the means of a positive loss, as the increase of young bees no more than balances the loss of the old ones. The best is best let alone during the critical period of our changeable spring weather.

Horticulture. Dahlia roots in small quantities can be safely wintered in frost-proof cellars when placed in a single layer and closely together in a shallow box. Put sifted ashes or sand over and around them, covering the crowns but not the stems.

Prunesses should not have too much sun. The Gardiner's Monthly figuratively smacks its lips over a whole half bushel of delicious fruit, and speaks of the curculio as a thing of the past.

London purple is mixed at the rate of one pound to every 200 gallons of water, and this, by means of machinery which causes a spray, is applied to an insect-infested tree two or three times during the season with a success which cannot be controverted. No injury ever resulted from its use.

What is the cause of pear tree blight? Bacteria. To illustrate this, stick a pin into a blighted tree and then into a healthy tree, and the latter will soon be affected. Cut off each blighted branch as soon as noticed and burn it.

Mr. T. T. Thomas, the well-known horticulturist of Central New York, according to the New York Tribune, has never known Bartlett, Boussock, Church Clapp, Lawrence, and Louise Bonne pears to crack; and Duchess, Nels, Seckel, Anjou, and Clairgeau are seldom badly injured by blight. The record, however, would not be safe to apply to the West, at least not west of Lake Michigan, in respect to blight.

Superintendent De Vry, in a communication to the American Florist says in the flowers-beds in Lincoln Park, Chicago, this season the following amounts of plants were used: Thirty thousand clematis, 40,000 geraniums, 16,000 verbenas, 12,000 alternantheras, 4,000 variegated sweet alyssums, 4,000 phlox, 8,000 oxalis tropaeoloides, 2,000 pyrethrum, 1,000 lobelia, 8,000 achyranthus, 2,000 coxcomb, 4,000 cineraria, 2,000 centauras, and about 30,000 other annuals and miscellaneous bedding plants making a total of nearly 160,000. The park greenhouses have 100,000 feet of glass comprising four propagating houses, one cold and palm house, and in addition 300 hot-bed sash.

Poultry. A Missouri man, T. J. Russell, of Monticau county, Mo., has a white hen 11 years old that was once grey.

The Call is the bantam among ducks and the smaller it is the better. Like bantams they should be hatched late in order to shorten the time for growth.

The Leghorn breed crossed on Partridge Cochins result in good layers, fair sized and active.

A sieve should be kept handy, and each part of ashes should be sifted.

Ducks should be given plenty of freedom. When kept with hens they become quarrelsome and do damage.

Tobacco in its raw state, or previous to sweating in bulk is very powerful in its effect and will drive vermin from the hen's nest. The whole leaves may be thoroughly dried so as to crumble easily, when they should be placed in the nest of the setting hen as lining under the eggs. With this protection she will not be driven from her nest by vermin before the time of hatching arrives.

Dairy. The dairy cow requires very little exercise. She needs plenty of pure air and moderate movement in a small enclosure; but every good dairy man knows his cows will seriously shrink in milk when required to walk a mile to pasture and back.

The chief requisites for successful winter dairying are warm, well-arranged stables, or cattle houses, good cows, plenty of rich feed and pure water with chill taken off, and the most scrupulous neatness in all the operations of the dairyman, from the stable to the packing of the butter for shipment.

Cows which drink poison will give poisonous milk. Pure milk cannot be had from cows which are compelled to drink of foul water. They should always have pure drink, as clear as crystal. They should always breathe pure air. Dairy houses must be placed far away from foul odors. Sickness is doubtless often caused without suspicion from the impurities which cows partake of in drink, food and air.

In France some experiments have recently been made in supplying cows with cold and warm water to test the effect on them as milk givers. The food given was the same in both cases, but it was found that those supplied with water heated to 113 deg. F. yielded one-third more milk than those given cold water.

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Horse Talk.

A Maine man says the way to start an obstinate horse is to take him out of the shafts and lead him around until he is giddy.

Rye bread is a common feed for horses in Belgium and Germany.

Ground feed is better than whole grain for horses because it is more readily digested. Thus the horse gets more good out of ground feed and the cost may be a trifle less.

The Journal of Agriculture says that when a horse is known to have the glanders he should be killed. It is as dangerous a disease as hydrophobia in a dog.

The late Mr. Vanderbilt, who was the richest man in the world, was an ardent lover of fast horses. He once owned Maud S.

By nailing a strip of sheepskin about eight inches in width the entire length of the crib, selecting a skin covered with long wool, and sprinkling it freely with cayenne pepper, renewing it occasionally, the worst cribber can be persuaded to desist from this habit.

It is singular that while thoroughbred blood is held to be detrimental to trotters, yet every trotter of note is sure to have more or less of it in him, and in most cases it is more than less. Facts are stubborn things, and it is no use kicking against them.

Fifty million horses are now owned in America, and more than one million a year must be bred to keep up the supply. The largest portion of these are used for agricultural and heavy draft purposes, and such horses bring from \$175 to \$240 each.

Large numbers of Percheron stallions are being bought in the United States by Canadian breeders to renew the old French blood so highly prized, and also to give quality, style and action to the large English draft and Clydesdale stock which has been bred there so long.

Skill Wins Success. Agriculture never pays where it owes nothing. He who has a low opinion of his profits is generally a poor farmer. He judges by his own want of success, which he does not get because he fails to deserve it.

There may be fewer "bonanzas" in soil tillage than in mining, but there is far more "pay dirt." It is common to discuss this question of net returns without consideration of differences in industry, efficiency, economy in all the processes of rural labor, judgment constantly exercised in avoidance of errors which are simply losses, and taste and tact in preparing products for market and securing prices in accordance with quality.

These differences are forgotten in the egotism which assumes a knowledge of practical agriculture unsurpassed by that of any neighbor; and yet there is not a region in the country which does not display them with their inevitable result--high success here, a fair return for work there, a bare subsistence in other quarters, and, in too many cases, "hard scratching" for a living. Reasons enough are assigned for such disparity, but seldom the true causes. A common one is a begging of the question by depreciating absence of capital, a want of money--an impetuosity resulting from some lack in management. "There is more in the man than in the land."

How They Farm in Germany. The following figures in relation to machinery used in Germany, taken from a recently published volume of imperial statistics, are interesting at the present time: Of 5,276,344 farms only 391,746 used machinery at all. Of these 836 used steam ploughs, 63,842 sowing machines, 19,630 mowing machines, and 374,057 used steam or other threshing machines. Thus not much over 7 per cent. used machinery at all, and of these by far the larger proportion only the threshing machine. The forty-fourth of the whole agricultural industry used no machinery, 4,000,000 peasants dispensing with it altogether. The farms between 25 and 125 acres, numbering roughly 600,000, employed in round figures 213,000 threshing machines.

Epidemic Diseases. All animals in their natural state are rarely subject to contagious diseases, while all classes of domestic animals are seldom free therefrom. We must attribute the cholera and other diseases, therefore, to the conditions surrounding the hog in the pen. From a life of freedom he is consigned to imprisonment and relegated to a diet incompatible to his taste. With the trees air around him in his former condition, he now breathes the odors of the pen. From a life of freedom and boughs he is transported to filth and worried with insects. All these things must be considered in arriving at a knowledge of the causes which bring disease and death to swine.

Lie on Fowls. Mr. H. H. Stoddard says, to kill lice on fowls, pigeons and song birds, or fleas on cats and dogs, dust pyrethrum powder well down to the skin on every part of the animal. To apply it to a setting hen, disturb her slightly when on the nest at night, causing her to bristle up her feathers, when the powder may be sprinkled over every part of her head, neck, sides and back, and by scattering it all over the nest and eggs, it will be brought into contact with the hen's under parts, also.

For Plum Growers. In an experiment with a hundred plum trees a farmer dusted five trees with air slacked lime just as the blossoms were falling, and repeated the application every two weeks several times. From the five trees so treated he secured good crops of plums, but upon the remaining ninety-five trees the curculio did not allow a single plum to mature. This is an important discovery to plum growers should the method prove effectual hereafter.

To Preserve Implements. The following mixtures are recommended as excellent for coating ploughs and tools in order to keep them from rusting. Dissolve an ounce of resin in four ounces of kerosene oil, and add one quart kerosene, stirring the mixture well. Apply in a warm condition. Another method is to dissolve an ounce of camphor in turpentine and add four ounces of lard and one ounce of pulverized black lead or stove polish; mix well and rub on with a rag.

Silk Culture. One ounce of silk worm eggs, under favorable circumstances, will produce from thirty to forty pounds of dried cocoons, which are worth from seventy-five cents to \$1 per pound. A family can raise the worms from one to three ounces of eggs if plenty of food is at hand. The time required for raising a crop of silk varies from twenty-eight to thirty-five days, according to race, temperature, quality of food, &c.

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