

**A MOTHER'S LOVE.**

Some day,  
When others braid your thick, brown hair,  
And drape your form in silk and lace;  
When others call you "dear" and "fair,"  
And hold your hand and kiss your face,  
You'll not forget that far above  
All others' is a mother's love.

Some day,  
When you must feel love's heavy loss,  
You will remember other years,  
When I, too, bent beneath the cross,  
And mix my memory with thy tears.  
In such dark hours be not afraid;  
Within their shadows I have prayed.

Some day,  
A flower, a song, a word, may be  
A link between us, strong and sweet;  
And then, dear child, remember me?  
And let your heart to "mother" beat,  
My love is with you everywhere;  
You cannot get beyond my prayer.

Some day—  
At longest it cannot be long—  
I shall with glad impatience wait,  
Amid the glory and the song,  
For you before the golden gate,  
After earth's parting and earth's pain,  
Never to part! never again!

—Selected.

**Miscellaneous.**

**THE FUTURE OF POULTRY BREEDING.**

We have, nor can have, any idea of the future except by the past, and that has demonstrated, the great growth already made in the poultry business. The present discloses a great and growing need. We are importing eggs by the millions and are unable to meet our present demands. The country is rapidly increasing in population, and our fifty millions bid fair to be two hundred millions. If we cannot meet the demands of the fifty millions, what may we expect to do when four times that number call upon us to feed their hungry mouths. The business must extend until the supply equals the demand, but it will be years before this can be accomplished. There are two ways in which an attempt will naturally be made. First by increasing the number of fowls kept and making use of the breeds we now possess. The second, to improve the producing power of the fowls kept. If eggs are wanted more prolific layers will be sought after; if meat is desired, breeds will be in demand which upon the least feed and the least expense will produce the greatest quantity and the best quality of flesh.

This process has already given us the Wyandottes and Leghorns. It will give us these breeds greatly improved or successors far in advance of them. Just as mechanical genius has produced improved machinery for manufacturing articles of utility and beauty, so the inventive financier will in turn give us fowls that will produce flesh and eggs at a greatly reduced cost. The manufacturer must have the best machinery although it requires a greater outlay of money, in order to compete with the markets of the world, so the keeper of poultry must purchase the newest and most improved breeds of fowls in order to compete with other keepers of poultry in the egg and meat market. Breeders there must be, to supply the market poultryman. The future of poultry breeding is sure. Improved poultry will always be in demand.

A man may be a very good man, and a very well-meaning one, and yet think quite differently from what we do. The longer we live the more firmly are we convinced that it is only the fool who is opinionated. The wise man wants all the light he can get, and is never ashamed to admit that he has found out that his opinion was incorrect. Deliver us from the man who was never known to change his views. Such men make stubborn jurymen, disagreeable companions, ugly men to deal with and must be of that class whom an inspired writer seems to expect from the possibility of getting along amicably with, when he says, "If it be possible, live peaceably with all men."—*Norfolk (Va.) Farmer and Trucker.*

**HOW TO RAISE CUCUMBERS.**

The time for planting cucumbers is near at hand, especially if they are wanted for early use. But my plan, which I followed for a long time, is to plant cucumbers for pick-

les about the first of June, and the vines will not be troubled with bugs. In 1832 the cholera first visited the United States, and it was then stated by medical men that the eating of cucumbers was one of the causes that intensified that dreadful disease, and caused death in numerous cases. Paying heed to this caution, and knowing that all bowel complaints had their origin in many cases by eating improper vegetables, we abstained from the use of cucumbers, and as there is not much nourishment in them we think we have been more healthy for the last fifty-four years, by so doing. In regard to their cultivation, a correspondent of the *Horticulturist* writes:

"I had a narrow border, not more than two and a half feet wide, on the edge of a high fence. I planted three cucumber hills in the border, and laid some brush (such as is used for pea vines) between them and the fence. As soon as they crept up to the brush I pinched off the ends of the vine which thickened rapidly around the roots, and in every direction, throwing out the most vigorous foliage and profusion of flowers.

I did not allow the cucumbers to grow, but watched them, and such as I wished to reserve for the table I picked as soon as they became of proper size; and all the rest were gathered every day for pickles; every day pinching off the bud at end of each shoot. In this way the hill continued fresh and productive until they were touched by frost. Some judgment can be formed of the value of this practice when I add that more than a barrel of pickles were made from three hills, besides allowing a supply for the table.

Whenever a leaf began to look rusty or yellowish, it was removed, and the cucumbers and leaves were cut off with large scissors, so as not to disturb or wound the vine. There is an advantage in having them run upon brush instead of trailing over the ground; because they are much injured by being trodden on, and by being kept low on the bushes they can be easily and thoroughly examined over every day, which is essential, because if cucumbers are overlooked, and grow very large, it stops the yield of that vine.

**THE BEST BREEDS**

Low-priced goods are not always the cheapest in the end. Inferior animals that cost, originally, but little money seldom bring good returns for the investment, but they consume their regular rations nevertheless. Farmers who have stock should see that it is good and serviceable, and then give it good care and regular attention. It is not necessary that farm stock should all be thoroughbred, and then made delicate and dainty from excessive care and attention. On the farms we want stock for service, and we should handle only such as will pay the best in their use.

If the farmer does not breed his own stock he should buy such as has been well bred for his purposes, and always be sure to buy the best breeds. Poor stock, we repeat, is always expensive at any cost. In as low and dull an animal as the mule, we need not despair as to the effect of breeding. It is true that we cannot expect much from the stupid ass, but the cleanly bred mare may give vigor and spirit that will enliven her offspring. In rearing mule colts, too little regard is paid to the qualities of the dam. With many farmers any mare is considered good enough to be served by a jack. We question the wisdom of this policy. Cattle and hogs should be bred up by crossing thoroughbred males upon the native stock. Grades, possibly, more hardy and vigorous, will give about as good practical results as thoroughbreds; certainly so when they are several times crossed; the male used should always be thoroughbred. In stock-breeding, as in farming, the intensive plan will be the most profitable. Get good qualities concentrated into a small compass by having good stock and only a small lot; get the best breeds.—*Southern Cultivator and Dixie Farmer.*

—The minute hand of the clock on Westminster Abbey is sixteen feet long, and the hour hand nine feet. They weigh about a hundred pounds each, and are kept in motion by weights proportionally ponderous, the hands and appendages, in all, weighing about 1½ tons. In a recent snow-storm in London this clock was stopped, the hands being impeded by the snow.

**THE PRODUCER AND NON-PRODUCER.**

It is said that "Nature is lavish in her gifts." Perhaps she is. If so, the gifts usually go to the wrong man. The tiller of the soil is the only real producer. He practically makes something out of nothing. Others, such as miner, fisherman, hunter and lumberman, do not really produce. They prepare or bring to market a material for consumption already produced, although they are classed as producers. The tiller of the soil, who is the real producer, is working when not sleeping; the body receives attention, the mind being neglected. He dresses in the cheapest material. He gets but a bare subsistence, and thinks his lot a hard one. At the same time it is he that dresses our bank presidents in broadcloth and fine linen. It is he that pays for their fine establishments, assisted by the laborer and the operative. The nearer a man comes to being an actual producer, the less of the necessities of life he gets, let alone luxuries. The less of a producer, the more of the luxuries of life fall to his lot. A treasurer of a mill has been paid \$50,000 per annum, who did not even produce the bouquet that lay on his desk; while the actual producer often works for much less than \$1 per day, or \$312 per annum.

The producer cannot afford to let pleasure interfere with his business, while the non-producer will not let business interfere with his pleasure. A young man in the factory devotes just so many hours per day to his employer, his own business, what little he has, being attended to in the evening, compelling the country storekeeper to keep open late. A city young man spends the day largely in preparing for his pleasures. He gets to business from 8-30 to 9. If he has got to that age when he imagines there must be a beard somewhere, he will spend an hour more or less at the barber's. His boots must be blacked daily at least, and this is done in his employer's time. If he does this himself his employer must find the materials and time. If he needs collars or cuffs he will find a way to get them during the day. In fact, business must not interfere with his pleasures, present or prospective. Such is the difference between the two positions in life. The young man in town does not enjoy himself as much as either the farmer boy or the factory operative. The fact is, the pleasures open to him are worn out. They are threadbare.—*Wade's Fibre and Fabric.*

**MISTAKES IN BEE KEEPING.**

It is a mistake to invest very largely in any business that you are not acquainted with; better post yourself thoroughly before commencing.

It is a mistake not to feed bees before blossoms appear in the spring to encourage breeding.

It is a mistake not to have your colonies strong at all seasons of the year.

It is a mistake to neglect to put on supers early enough in the spring, if comb honey is required for breeding purposes.

It is a mistake not to use comb foundation; for by its use we can always depend upon straighter combs and greater conveniences for handling.

It is a mistake to neglect to remove all full boxes or sections as soon as properly sealed. Bees sometimes soil them by travelling over them with their dirty feet.

It is a mistake not to supply an abundance of room for them to store their surplus when honey is plentiful. Bees often remain idle for want of space to store their treasure.

It is a mistake to extract or take honey from the bees too late in the season without supplying them with more. It is cruel to rob them and then leave them to starve.

It is a mistake to visit the bees too often during the winter; better have their winter quarters so constructed that their condition can be ascertained without disturbing them.—*Fireside Friend.*

—There is a goose farm in Virginia on which are kept some 5,000 geese. The main object is the production of down.

—The Argentine Republic has 18,000,000 horned cattle and 140,000,000 sheep.

**Science and Industry.**

—It is claimed that Georgia's great swamp, the Okefenokee, can be reclaimed by draining into the St. Mary's River.

—The New York State capitol is said to have already cost \$17,502,993, or more than the national Capitol at Washington.

A recent sale of walnut trees was held at Delphi, Ind. One hundred and twenty trees were sold as they stood on a farm, known as the "Burntrayer" farm, for the sum of \$6,600.

—The exports of wheat during February were about 1,000,000 bushels per week. Rumor says Great Britain will require to import that quantity per week during the next six months.

—Millions of catfish were killed by the recent Florida freeze. Their bodies covered the river banks in many places, and planters reaped a harvest of fertilizers for their orange groves.

—Quail, once so plentiful in Illinois, have become very scarce, and Illinois farmers, who recognize their value as insect destroyers, are making arrangements to stock their farms with Tennessee birds.

In some sections of Dakota, where fuel is expensive, farmers will this year raise flax for that purpose, a ton of flax being considered more valuable for fuel than a ton of soft coal.

—Probably the first American establishment for the exclusive manufacture of edged tools was founded by Mr. Samuel Collins, at Collinsville, Ct., which is now one of the largest establishments of the kind in the world. It was begun about 1826, when the product of a day's labor was the forging and tempering of eight broadaxes.

—The March report of the Department of Agriculture on the consumption and distribution of the grain crops, gives the proportion of corn still in the hands of farmers as forty per cent. of the last crop. The estimate for one year ago was 37.6 per cent. The amount in bushels is placed at 773,000,000, or 98,000,000 bushels more than last March.

—The manufacture of alcohol from wood has increased rapidly within a few years, and it is said to be used largely for patent bitters, ginger extracts and other alcoholic compounds whose strong flavor makes it unnecessary to use a better quality of spirits. Wood alcohol is a dangerous product, and sometimes gives rise to serious disturbance of the brain and nervous system.

—The population of London now exceeds every other city, ancient or modern, in the world. New York and all its adjacent cities combined are not equal to two-thirds of it. Scotland, Switzerland and the Australasian colonies each contain fewer souls, while Norway, Servia, Greece and Denmark have scarcely half so many. Yet at the beginning of the present century the population of all London did not reach 1,000,000.

**GRASS.**

There is no doubt, says the *Maryland Farmer*, but that of all food for the dairy, grass is cheapest and best, taking the cost of production into account, but this does not prove but that even in the times of "flush" feed, a ration of grain, especially to the butter making dairyman, is not decidedly profitable. There is no question but that growing grass supplies the finest of flavors to butter, and gives it good color, but at the same time there is an element lacking that contributed towards making quality in butter which is supported by meal. Grain as a part ration, has great value in both promoting and maintaining the milk flow, and giving not only firmness to the butter, but also extra weight. It is not wise to take the grass-fed cow and begin at once to feed her a daily ration of six or eight quarts of hearty grain food, but in thirty days the feeding of grain could be safely increased to a point that the owner might mark as the limit of profitable grain feeding. Rarely does it fail to be profitable to feed grain ration to the butter cow, and even when butter is low, for eight pounds of butter per week on grass alone, or twelve pounds with grain, soon tell how much grain can be profitably fed to cows on grass.

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