

## OUR SOCIAL CHAT

All letters intended for this department should be addressed to "Aunt Jennie," care of The Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.

### Aunt Jennie's Letter.

This morning while waiting ten minutes for the milk man who was just a few doors away talking to a boy, and who seemed unconscious that several others besides myself waited for his coming, I was deeply impressed with the importance of the seemingly little incidents of life. Now while we waited, our house work was at a stand-still. With me, it was sewing which needed being done, but the machine was standing idle. Ten minutes is not long, you say, but think of how much you can do in that length of time—and it takes only six of those ten minutes to make a whole long hour, and not many of those hours to make a day. If one is busy, and loses ten minutes, it counts when the day's work is done.

A little shortage in the final count of what you meant to do; a few buttons you meant to sew on, or, perhaps, a small rent you intended to mend? Well, if you failed to find time to do this, were you or some one else responsible? Oftentimes we try in vain to lay the blame on others when we ourselves are the guilty party; we have thrown away our minutes and thereby lost hours which constitute our little day of life.

Oh, I am so anxious to impress our boys and girls who are in school with this thought. They have just begun their day's work. It is early morning with them and they are unencumbered with care either of their own or that of others. Are they studying as they should? Are they trying to make a record of work well done, or are they, as it were, simply basting the seams in a pretty commo cement dress? If they do nothing but baste the seams the garment will not last. Honest work is always best; anybody can baste a garment after it is cut; but you must know how to sew before you can make a perfect garment.

Deceit is abominable. Don't make your teachers believe that you know your lesson if you have simply read it over and luck favored you by asking you to answer the only question you remembered. Examination day is coming and then you will wish that you had really learned what you were supposed to know. The world turns aside to let any man pass who knows whither he is going, but if he is undecided the throng is busy getting out of the way of the fellow who does know and it doesn't see the hesitating man.

Mrs. L. had best be sure that the temperature is above the freezing point before opening the door for sunlight on her tomatoes. They keep and ripen perfectly when cut from the vines and stored where they will not freeze. Try both ways this winter and let us know which tomatoes were best.

We thank Eleanor for her prompt response as to the "Famous Sayings." Her answers are all correct

except the sixteenth. It was Wordsworth, not Emerson, who said, "Plain living and high thinking are no more."

AUNT JENNIE.

### Answers to "Famous Sayings."

Dear Aunt Jennie:—I have just read in this week's Progressive Farmer the "Twenty Famous Sayings," printed on page 14, and I hasten to send you what I believe to be a correct list of replies. The authors are as follows, I think:

1. Wendell Phillips.
2. Mary, Queen of Scots.
3. Oliver Wendell Holmes.
4. Oliver Cromwell.
5. Thomas Aquinas.
6. Alexander Pope.
7. Caligula (Roman Emperor).
8. Ralph Waldo Emerson.
9. Horatio Nelson.
10. Ulysses S. Grant.
11. Daniel Webster.
12. Nathan Hale.
13. Abraham Lincoln.
14. Alexander Pope.
15. Duke of Wellington.
16. R. W. Emerson.
17. Edward Young.
18. William Cowper.
19. Thomas Jefferson.
20. Shakespeare.

I read the Social Chat with much interest and always regret to see the page not filled with letters.

ELEANOR.

Wake Co., N. C.

### Nemo Returns.

Dear Aunt Jennie:—After a long silence I call in to ask a few questions. Why do the good people not give us more discussions of temperance and Sabbath-keeping? More souls are lost by the drink habit than any other one evil, while there are more curses pronounced on Sabbath-breaking than on any other one evil and, on the other hand, there are more blessings promised to those who keep it holy. Would it not be a blessing to have these blessings and curses printed in our paper? It is a good paper anyway, but let us strive to warn and win souls, as Paul says, by stirring up the pure minds by way of remembrance. May God help us to put these stumbling blocks out of the path of the young.

Our paper improves with age. No farmer should be without it. It is a good educator to those interested in material or intellectual success and well-being, and fit for any parlor.

I wish to ask the readers of The Progressive Farmer if they know of a small song book printed in Virginia many years ago with the Ten Commandments printed in ten stanzas, each containing a commandment beginning, first:

"Down the ages long departed,  
For a moment look and wonder,  
Listen to the Ten Commandments,  
Louder far than Sinai's thunder,  
Hear a voice which speaks to thee,  
Thou shalt have no gods but Me."

It would be a great favor to find the little book or song. I think it was published by McIver, removed to Pennsylvania.  
NEMO.

Cumberland Co., N. C.

### Autumn Days.

Dear Aunt Jennie:—The autumn days have come again, the sweetest of the year: I cannot believe them the saddest. Why, think them sad with their bracing breezes and brilliant hues? Nature has exerted herself for several months to reward man's labor with an abundant harvest. Man is tired and needs the rest that will soon be his when the long cold nights arrive, and his home and out-houses are made comfortable for all that inhabit them.

I used to think that life in Mexico where crops were being planted and gathered all the year round would be an ideal existence, but as I grow older I like more and better the rest which comes with winter.

How many of the Circle intend to have at least one green plant in the home this winter? They add cheer and encouragement to the home besides reminding us that the bleak winter gray will ere long transform itself into a vast area of green outside. And will you pardon me right here if I quote some good suggestions from the October number of the Housekeeper which I have just received:

"An ideal window garden contains both foliage and flowering plants," writes Lora S. La Mance in this magazine. "There should be the most of the latter. In fact, there need not be above one or two foliage plants, if they are large and handsome ones, in a small collection. The should always be what are known as specimen plants, i. e., handsome enough and luxuriant enough to stand in a jardinier or on a pedestal by themselves, if one wanted to have them thus. These finely developed, bold-outlined specimens give breadth and tone to any collection. If one can afford a fine palm or rubber plant, these are excellent. But a really good Boston fern, or a luxuriant asparagus sprengeri or plumosa makes a good substitute, or even a bushy rose geranium or thrifty canna may be used with far less drain on the pocket-book. Give foliage plants roomy pots, rich soil and generous treatment. In particular keep the dust off from their leaves by frequent washings. Never crowd this class of plants. They need plenty of space to show off well. A bracket or stand is a good place for them for this reason. The majority of window plants should be flowering ones. A flowerless flower window is common enough, but it is a fraud. There is no need of such a condition. For instance, abutilon and the begonia are always in bloom; oranges and lemons are perpetually in fruit or flower. Many other kinds of begonias, oxalis, double petunias, primulas, nicotiana, carnations and geraniums, if they are of flowering size and have not been allowed to exhaust themselves by summer blooming, will flower steadily all winter and spring."

Let me tell you all that I tried Aunt Jennie's plan for keeping tomatoes last winter and had fresh ripe ones on the table Christmas

day. I had the vines pulled up and hung in my husband's barn with the green tomatoes on them and they ripened, but were not so brilliant; in fact, they were a pinkish red, but they retained their flavor and were delicious in soups, etc. This winter I intend to let more sunshine into the barn and see if this will not make them redder.

I watch for the Chat every week, and it helps me very much in many ways.

MRS. L.

Edgefield Co., S. C.

"Then gently scan your brother man,  
Still gentler, sister woman;  
Tho' they may gang a kennin wrang,  
To step aside is human;  
One point must still be greatly dark,  
The moving why they do it:  
And just as lamely can you mark,  
How far perhaps they rue it.

"Who made the heart, 'tis He alone  
Decidely can try us;  
He knows each chord, its various  
tone,

Each spring, its various bias;  
Then at the balance let's be mute,  
We never can adjust it;  
What's done we partly may compute,  
But know not what's resisted."  
—Robert Burns.

If your lamp-  
chimneys break,  
say MACBETH to  
your grocer—  
loud!

He knows.

You need to know how to manage your lamps to have comfort with them at small cost. Better read my Index; I send it free.

MACBETH, Pittsburgh.

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