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 Why is it that the Union Central, while its premiums are low, can pay  
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 We furnish maximum insurance at minimum cost.  
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 We have several 14 horse-power Buffalo Gasoline Motors, last  
 year's model, with this year's improvements, right from factory,  
 which we offer for prompt acceptance at \$500, installed in boat.

**DRIFTING AWAY.**  
 Drifting away to Dreamland  
 On the tide of the sea of Sleep;  
 Drifting away to Dreamland,  
 O'er waters dark and deep;  
 Drifting away to Dreamland,  
 The way is smooth and bright;  
 And the ship of Forgetfulness  
 Is set with the sails of night.  
 Drifting away to Dreamland,  
 To the tinkling of fairy bells;  
 Drifting away to Dreamland,  
 As the great sea heaves and swells;  
 Drifting away to Dreamland,  
 Attended by nymphs so fair;  
 Borne over a mystic sea  
 By zephyrs of mystic air.  
 Drifting away to Dreamland,  
 Far from the shores of life;  
 Drifting away to Dreamland,  
 [Far from cares and strife;  
 Drifting away to Dreamland,  
 Past many pleasant streams;  
 Past the whirlpool of Delight,  
 Close to the shore of Dreams.  
 Drifting away to Dreamland,  
 The ship doth smoothly ride;  
 Drifting away to Dreamland,  
 She nears the other side;  
 Drifting away to Dreamland,  
 The journey is nearly o'er;  
 The ship has crossed the mighty sea,  
 And reached Oblivion's shore.

The above poem was awarded the gold medal given to the best original poem in one of the leading Virginia colleges for women. The writer was only thirteen years old when she wrote it.

**THE IMPROVEMENT OF CORN.**

(By Lyman Carrier, Agronomist Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Blacksburg.)  
 Corn is the most important crop which the American farmer grows. Its total value so far exceeds that of any other crop that it leaves little chance for comparison. The farmers of Mississippi and neighboring states are fond of saying "King Cotton," but it is only in a local sense that it can be so called, for corn is "King" in America. We are proud of Virginia's rank as third in the United States in the production of tobacco, yet the total value of Virginia's tobacco crop is less than one-fourth that of her corn crop.

**SELECTION OF SEED CORN.**  
 It should be understood in the beginning that we consider selection as the basis for improvement. We select our seed corn from the standing crop in the field. By this means we are able to study the plants on which the corn grew. It is not enough to pick good ears from the crib stock, because those ears may have grown on plants too weak to stand up during the season, or they may have had defects and undesirable qualities that render them unfit for use in producing other crops. Right here let me say that the same laws of breeding which we understand fairly well with animals hold true with plants. If we plant seed from excellent plants we are far more likely to get good plants than if we seed from inferior plants. Anyone who goes into a corn field and gives the subject a moment's thought will notice that there is a wide range of variation among the individual plants. We want a plant of medium size with one large ear, and select that type when we are picking our seed corn. There is a tendency in Virginia and all the other Southern states for the corn to grow too much to stalk and too little to grain. This fault can be overcome by selecting plants with the ears placed low down on the stalk. We do not pick an ear for seed that is grown more than three and a half feet from the ground. Then we want plants with plenty of leaves. It must be remembered that the leaves are the factories that manufacture the starch and sugar and other ingredients of the grain. Without leaves there can be no grain produced.

**WHAT CONSTITUTES A PERFECT EAR.**  
 After selecting the right kind of a plant, the next thing is to select good ears. The ear which I will describe has been adopted by some of the Corn Breeders' Associations of the Middle West as a standard. It is of medium size, about nine inches long and seven inches in circumference, measured three inches from the butt. It should taper slightly from butt to tip, but approach its general outline in cylindrical form. The rows of kernels should fit as closely as possible together, so as to get as much grain on the cob as can be produced by the plant on which it is produced. Therefore, we should pay much attention to the shape of the kernels. It is only the wedge-shaped grains with straight sides that will fit well together and prevent broad furrows between the rows of kernels. Do not pick kernels that are shaped like your thumb nail. It is only in the early maturing, eight-rowed flint corns of the North that this type is desirable. The corn that we grow here should have long, deep kernels to insure maximum yields of grain. The rows of kernels should be carried well out over both ends of the ear. If the butt of the ear is well filled out with grain it not only indicates that the ear has a tendency to put on all the grain possible, but also insures a small neck where the ear is attached to the stalk, and will break off easily when it is husked.

**CARE OF THE SEED.**  
 After we have selected good ears from good plants, we should take care of them. When corn is first husked in the fall, it contains about thirty-five per cent moisture, and if it is allowed to freeze in that condition, or is thrown in a pile and allowed to mould, the germination of the corn will be greatly injured. The seed corn should be stored in a dry, well-ventilated place as soon as gathered. It may be tied in strings of fifteen or twenty ears and suspended from the ceiling to prevent destruction by rats and mice, or it may be laid out regular in rows on shelves or racks. If I did not have a good place to store the seed corn at the barn, I would take it to the house. No place is too good for this purpose, for it means many dollars added to the value of the crop the following season if the corn is thoroughly dried out.  
**HOW TO TELL IF IT WILL GROW.**  
 Before planting corn in the spring we ought to know whether it is going to grow or not. If you go into any ordinary corn field, and I mean by this the best fields in your neighborhood, not the poorest, and count the missing stalks and hills, you will find that from ten to fifteen per cent of the stand is gone. That means that the farmer is plowing, harrowing, cultivating and fertilizing ten or fifteen per cent of his field for nothing. Poor seed is largely responsible for these vacant places. It is too late to correct the fault after the corn has "come up". You know that corn "planted in" never produces grain to amount to anything. The plants from the second planting do not stand any more chance in their struggle for food, air and sunlight than a two-month-old pig has for existence in a pen of pigs of twice that age. The corn should be tested for germination. This can be done in the winter or early spring when other work is slack. Do not leave it until the rush of work is on in the spring, because then it is almost sure to be neglected.  
 A convenient method of testing a large number of ears is as follows: Lay the ears out in regular order on the floor or on a rack where they won't be disturbed for a week or ten days. This saves the trouble of marking each ear, as it is easier to number the ears in the row consecutively from one up, starting at one end of the row. Then take six kernels from each ear to be tested.  
 The germination can be made in a box six to eight inches deep and any size, eighteen inches by twenty-four inches is about right for a hundred ears, filled up to one inch from the top with wet sawdust, sand, or anything that will hold moisture. A piece of white muslin laid off in checks, one and one-half inches square, is spread over the top of the moist sawdust. These checks should be numbered, or some system of counting to correspond with the row of ears, be employed. The six kernels of corn from each ear are placed on the check having the same number as the ear.  
 The whole box is then covered with a moist blanket or wet blotting paper and set in a warm place to germinate. If conditions are favorable, the germination will be well started in five days. You will be surprised at what you can tell from this test. The kernels from some of the ears will sent out strong, vigorous sprouts, while others are weak and sickly, showing lack of vitality. Still others do not germinate at all. The ears that do not germinate and the worst ones of those low in vitality should be discarded from the seed. Such ears are the ones that are largely responsible for the vacant places in corn fields. You can't, from the looks of an ear, tell very much about its ability to germinate.  
 The small, irregular kernels at the tips and butts of ears do not germinate as well nor make as strong plants as those from the main part of the ear. For this reason it is good practice to shell and discard the grains for an inch back of the tip and a half-inch from the butt before shelling the corn to plant.  
**CORN BREEDING—HOW IT IS DONE.**  
 There is one other feature of our corn work at Blacksburg that differs from ordinary farm practice, and to understand the need of it we must understand how the grain comes to grow on the cob. You all know how readily corn crosses. If you plant sweet corn and field corn anywhere near together they mix very badly. This is because the yellow pollen dust, which you can find floating in the air, in any corn field, from one sort has fallen on the silks of the other and set up a growth that produces the kernel. Each kernel of corn on the cob is a separate individual from all the others, and each kernel socket has its own thread of silk which grows out of the end of the husks and must be fertilized by a pollen grain before the grain is set. Some grains are set in one hour, and some are set in a day. The pollen produced by the same plant on which the ear grows. These are self-fertilized, we say, or inbred. Generally speaking, however, every grain of corn is cross-bred. One parent is the plant on which the ear grows, the other some unknown plant in that vicinity. If the barren stalks and poor plants in a field are allowed to produce and shed their pollen, it is easy to see that the ears which we have selected for seed may have only one desirable parent. So we must be careful to select our seed corn from plants on an isolated field. Experiments indicate that half the plants in a field can be detasselled without either decreasing or increasing the amount of grain produced. The benefits to be derived from the practice are the increased powers of the seed to produce larger crops in successive generations.  
**RULES FOR IMPROVING CORN.**  
 The five rules for improving the corn crop are:  
 1. Select good ears from good plants.  
 2. Take good care of the seed corn during the winter.  
 3. Test the seed for germination.  
 4. Nub back about one inch from the tip and one-half inch from the butt before shelling the corn for seed.  
 5. Detassel the poor plants in the field where you are going to select your seed corn.

**SWEET REMEMBRANCE.**  
 Sweet remembrance brings to me  
 Treasured sounds of long ago,  
 Words and songs of melody  
 That my childhood used to know,  
 And in strains ascending high,  
 Like a chant across the deep,  
 Comes my mother's lullaby,  
 "Sleep, my baby, softly sleep."  
 Oh, I feel my heart rejoice,  
 And I listen on my way,  
 For I hear my mother's voice  
 Teaching me, her child, to pray.  
 And I feel, in purer air,  
 As I say my infant prayer,  
 "Now I lay me down to sleep."  
 Now I lay me, still I hear  
 Mother's words of kindly praise,  
 And I feel her presence near  
 As I my petition raise;  
 As in treble accents, I  
 Pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep,  
 Then I hear her lullaby,  
 "Sleep, my baby, softly sleep."  
 Twilight shadows gather now,  
 And I long for peace and rest;  
 I would cease my aching brow  
 On my angel mother's breast,  
 I would hear her lullaby  
 In repose my spirit keep,  
 And repeat, with mother night,  
 "Now I lay me down to sleep."  
 Oh! for melodies that thrill  
 Until life itself shall cease;  
 Oh! for voices that are still  
 In eternal, calm repose.  
 But a sweet voice, tenderly,  
 Seems to chide me while I weep,  
 Saying, "Do not sorrow, He  
 Giveth His beloved sleep."  
 —Frank Leon Beeby.

**JUDGE MANN ANSWERS ENEMIES.**  
 (Danville Register.)  
 Hon. William Hodges Mann, Democratic candidate for the governorship, and for many years one of the leading public men of Virginia, has just given to the press a statement reviewing his public career and touching in detail upon certain phases of it as to which insinuation had been made by certain newspaper opponents. We regret that we cannot give space to this entire statement of several columns' length, for the reason that we believe it would effectually set at rest these unworthy insinuations inspired by political enemies. In our judgment, the statement is complete and convincing and leaves no honest man ground upon which to repeat these attacks.  
 Judge Mann first denies that he is the candidate of the Anti-Saloon League as an organization, though he admits many of its members will support him for the governorship, but the organization as such is not in politics and has endorsed no one. He denies that he is the candidate of any political machine, as his enemies have charged, and he dismissed as ridiculous the intimation that a combination has been formed by the Anti-Saloon League and the liquor interests of the State. It is admitted, however, that many liquor dealers, acting independently, will support Judge Mann as the representative of the local option principles and as a just and conservative man.  
 The gubernatorial candidate then disposes of the attack upon him as a railroad attorney, admitting that for several years he represented the Norfolk and Western in Nottoway county as a local attorney, being retained to represent that company in various local cases and receiving for his services in each case a fee, just as he would for any other legal service. During such employment he stumped his county in favor of a bond issue opposed by the Norfolk and Western and antagonized that road's interests on various occasions, his only connection with the company being as a case lawyer. He challenged any one to show that in any action or any measure before the General Assembly he has ever favored the interests of the Norfolk and Western or any other railroad. He adds that he resigned even the local attorneyship for the railroad about two years ago.  
 Taking up the suggestion of one of his political enemies that there was a cloud upon his title to a seat in the Senate at his first election to that body, due to the removal by some party or parties unknown of the pollbooks from Nottoway county, he conclusively proves that such theft could not have been perpetrated in his interest, and that as a matter of fact it could in no way affect his interests, the returns having been forwarded to Richmond and the ballots cast in the election being left intact. The registration books and the ballots were undisturbed and only the duplicates stolen. The original returns of the election certified by the commissioners were in Richmond, and the man committing the crime should have afforded a pretext to his political enemies for a cry of fraud. Judge Mann adds to this statement an editorial from the Richmond News-Leader, which has given publicity to charges of fraud, completely exonerating him on his statement. The News-Leader characterized the answer to complete and relieving him of the charge of hypocrisy.  
 Touching upon the Rhea investigation as to his course in which he had been criticised by those unfamiliar with the facts, Judge Mann completely refutes every charge. Judge Mann exhaustively reviews the case and shows clearly that his course was manly and honorable and that it was endorsed and approved by the legislative committee, by the General Assembly itself and by the Democrats of the Ninth district.  
 Judge Mann also reviews in detail

his service as a Confederate soldier and shows that despite a malady which made it impossible for him to stand in the field, he served in every capacity in which his physical condition would permit and rendered valiant and extremely dangerous service to the Confederate cause until the war closed, having a price upon his head by the Federals and being threatened with death in the event of capture. He calls upon any one questioning his record to consult any of his comrades-in-arms, and as to his disability he refers to several distinguished surgeons who operated upon him in an effort to effect a cure.  
 Finally, as to the charge that he was the candidate of two rings, Judge Mann says:  
 "As to the general charge that I am the candidate of two 'rings,' I will say that four years ago, when I was defeated for the nomination, I announced that I would be a candidate at the next primary. The support I now have consists of such friends as I then had, and such as have since come to my support. The recruits I must say have been very numerous, and I am proud to say that among them are many of the best citizens of the commonwealth. They have come to my support freely and of their own accord. I have not nor has any one for me, made any compromise or combination of any kind whatsoever, and I have not, nor has any one for me, made any promise or pledge to any man or set of men whatsoever, nor have I been asked to do so and if I am elected I will be absolutely free and untrammelled to perform my full duty to the very best of my ability. The Anti-Saloon League is not a political organization and has not endorsed me. I have long stood for the great principles it represents and am one of its members, and it should be my supporters almost the entire membership of the organization, not just the leaders but the great rank and file of members. The statement that a combination was made between the Anti-Saloon League and the liquor interests in my behalf or between myself and the liquor interests seem too absurd to answer. It is of course, untrue and has no foundation whatever in fact. The policy declared by the Anti-Saloon League was adopted because in its judgment that action would best promote the temperance cause.  
**REVOLTS AT COLD STEEL.**  
 "Your only hope," said three doctors to Mrs. M. E. Fisher, Detroit, Mich., suffering from severe renal trouble, lies in an operation," when used Dr. King's New Life Pills," she writes, "till wholly cured." They prevent Appendicitis, cure Constipation, Headache, etc. at all druggists.  
**DON'T BLAME FATE.**  
 Every week morbid man blames his own failure upon Fate. What he is he thinks fate has made him. What he has done he believes was the work not of himself, but of Fate.  
 It is a view of life that is shared by many. It is a comforting view of life for the failures. Having made a sorry mess of one's existence, it is pleasant to think that the blame is Fate's, that we are what Omar Khayyam calls—  
 "Important pieces in the game he plays  
 Upon his checkerboard of nights and days  
 Hither and thither moves, and checks  
 and slays,  
 And one by one back in the closet lays.  
 The defect in this view of life is that it is all wrong.  
 We are not puppets; we are not the sport of Fate. Perhaps we are not the absolute masters of our destinies, but at least we can direct them. We can escape the evil that Fate has in store for those who waste their lives. We can reap many of the rewards that are set apart for useful lives. But when a man deliberately makes a wreck of his mind and body, casts opportunities to the winds, and through his idleness and self-seeking finds himself drifting helplessly along on the ebb tide, he has no right to cry out that Fate did it, or that he is a poor victim of the "fell clutch of circumstance."  
 Fate is, after all, only a name—a name for something which has no existence. But it is human to find some person or object on which the blame can be cast for our own shortcomings.  
**TO PUNISH SUICIDES.**  
 The unique wisdom of the Roman law-giver was never better illustrated than in the days of the decline of that nation, when suicide became so common among the Roman matrons as to be an alarming fact. The Roman Senate enacted a law, singularly adapted to the times and the situation, and showing intimate knowledge of woman nature. It was decreed that any woman committing suicide should have her body stripped and in this nude state be dragged through the city, a rope about the neck and the rope tied to the tail of a cart. The body was afterwards to be thrown out on the hillside, denied burial and left for dogs and wild beasts to devour. It was absolutely effective; and suicide from that day on was discontinued among Roman women.  
**SOLDIER BALKS DEATH PLOT.**  
 It seemed to J. A. Stone, a civil war veteran, of Kemp, Tex., that a plot existed between a desperate lunatic and the grave to cause his death. "I contracted a stubborn cold," he writes, "that developed a cough that stuck to me, in spite of all remedies for years. My weight ran down to 120 pounds. Then I began to use Dr. King's New Discovery, which restored my health completely. I now weigh 175 pounds." For severe colds, obstinate Coughs, Hemorrhages, Asthma, and to prevent Pneumonia it's unrivalled. 25c and \$1.00 Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by all druggists.

**FADED DREAMS.**  
 I want to be a gipsy in the springtime,  
 I want to be a rover in July,  
 But November winds have racked,  
 And those things now don't attract  
 Me—I just want to be a quiet little guy  
 In a nice steamheated dwelling in a city,  
 With a carriage to conduct me to my  
 toil—  
 Which should last from ten to two,  
 And corral the revenue—  
 Yea, in winter I'm an alien from the  
 soil.  
 I want to be a farmer in the Maytime,  
 I want to be a vintner in the fall,  
 But I wake from such ecstatic  
 Dreams from reasons quite climatic—  
 My ears no longer hear the wildwood  
 call.  
 For me the simple joys of true existence  
 Some twenty from the public square—  
 Lost ideals—I wished in June  
 I were a tramp or peacemaker,  
 Now I only want to be a millionaire.  
 C. M. WOOD.  
 Tibitha, Va.

**ABOUT THE SAVAGES.**  
 Gov. Swanson Tells of Mistakes on Negro Orators.  
 (From the Mississippi Journal.)  
 Many stories have been told of the ludicrous mistakes of negro orators. Here is one for which Gov. Claude Swanson, of Virginia, is responsible. In a small Virginia town a pompous negro was delivering a Fourth of July address to an audience of colored folks. He said:  
 "My Colored Fellow Citizens: We have occasion to be proud of the Fourth of July. It was on the Fourth of July, 1776, that Christopher Columbus landed on Plymouth Rock and proclaimed freedom, liberty and independence to all mankind. And what was they doing down here in Virginy at that time? They had their feet on the black man's neck a-hollerin' 'Sick senter tyrannibus."  
 "My colored fellow citizens, this is a great country. It is the proudest nation the sun ever shone upon. But if these Democrats git into power here they'll do like they done in Rome. Look at Rome. Once the proud master of the land and the mistress of the sea, with her once proud citizens, which was Caesar, Olympus, Demosthenes, and others too numerous to mention. Then these Dimmercats got into power here and what is she to-day? Overrun by Greeks, Canadians, and other savages."

**WHAT HELLO MEANS.**  
 For many years the word "Hello" has been in use, and it has been more frequently employed since the telephone came into general service. Yet there are few who know just what the word means. We only know that the sweet-voiced "Central" greets us thus from time to time and the party at the other end of the wire uses the mystic word invariably. Therefore the following from the Asheville (N. C.) Gazette-News will be read with interest:  
 We learn from a correspondent that "hollo" is the word "halloo" (hello) in its proper form, and that halloo is a root common to all Indo-European languages. This correspondent adds that "the root is spelled, in the comparative grammar of the Indo-European language, by Heinrich Fick, HLU, and is pronounced almost exactly h-loo. It appears in whole classes of words signifying to call (call itself being derived from that root) and to hear and meaning very nearly, 'stop and listen to me.' The first word in the old Norse Edda is HLIOTH, and it means a listening in silence, so that the concrete meaning of halloo is to be in a state of listening silence, or the skill or listen." Now you know exactly what you mean when you say "hello."—Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.

**THE TIDES.**  
 We were brought up with the notion that the tides are caused by the difference of attraction between the sun and moon. As for me, I prefer to believe that the tides are caused by the earth's respiration. She breathes infrequently. At each inspiration the waters rise and we have high tide; at each expiration the waters recede and we have low tide. Once in a while she sighs—that is, takes in a very long and strong breath, when the waters spread over an unusual territory, which we call a tidal wave. And on the other hand, every now and then she has a slight faintness of breath, when the waters go out and we have the neap tide.—"Tip," in the "Press."

**Desperate Coughs**  
 Dangerous coughs. Extremely perilous coughs. Coughs that rasp and tear the throat and lungs. Coughs that shake the whole body. You need a regular medicine, a doctor's medicine, for such a cough. Ask your doctor about Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.  
 We publish our formulae  
 We banish alcohol  
 from our medicines  
 We urge you to  
 consult your  
 doctor.

**Desperate Coughs**  
 Dangerous coughs. Extremely perilous coughs. Coughs that rasp and tear the throat and lungs. Coughs that shake the whole body. You need a regular medicine, a doctor's medicine, for such a cough. Ask your doctor about Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.  
 Any good doctor will tell you that a medicine like Ayer's Cherry Pectoral cannot do its best work if the bowels are constipated. Ask your doctor if he knows anything better than Ayer's Pills for correcting this sluggishness of the liver.  
 —Made by the J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

**How To Gain Flesh**  
 Persons have been known to gain a pound a day by taking an ounce of Scott's Emulsion. It is strange, but it often happens. Somehow the ounce produces the pound; it seems to start the digestive machinery going properly, so that the patient is able to digest and absorb his ordinary food which he could not do before, and that is the way the gain is made.  
 A certain amount of flesh is necessary for health; if you have not got it you can get it by taking

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 Send this advertisement, together with name of paper in which it appears, your address and four cents to cover postage, and we will send you a "Complete Handy Atlas of the World."  
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 Lands surveyed and plats made. Estimates, Plans and Specifications for Bridges and Viaduct work and construction of all descriptions. Topography and Drafting specialties.  
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 Cor. 11th and Williams Sts.,  
**NORFOLK, VA.**  
 Bell Phone No. 3752.

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 Dangerous coughs. Extremely perilous coughs. Coughs that rasp and tear the throat and lungs. Coughs that shake the whole body. You need a regular medicine, a doctor's medicine, for such a cough. Ask your doctor about Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.  
 Any good doctor will tell you that a medicine like Ayer's Cherry Pectoral cannot do its best work if the bowels are constipated. Ask your doctor if he knows anything better than Ayer's Pills for correcting this sluggishness of the liver.  
 —Made by the J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

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