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## A QUEST

Long since, there lived a man reputed wise  
(Some better things were said of him,  
some worse.)  
Who made his life a tireless quest to  
know  
The Why and Wherefore of the universe.

He wandered through solutions intricate,  
And old and new philosophers he read;  
This one converted, but another spake,  
And made his faith apostasy instead.

His life was girt with vain analysis,  
And subtle disputations held in thrall  
His soul, that wildly dreamed to overleap  
The mystery Life offers to us all.

But when Age left him twisted, gray,  
and worn,  
He felt the barren purpose of his quest,  
And longed to quite forget his mocking  
doubts  
And live his last, few, trembling days at  
rest.

But Death had watched him with a  
cynic's eye—  
Had marked his shuffling step, his sight  
grow dim,  
And one still evening stood before his  
chair,  
And smiled, half kindly, as he beckoned  
him.

One passing through a certain field of  
graves  
May find a stone of rather ancient date,  
Which bears these words, the last phil-  
osophy.  
Of him whose life they thus commemo-  
rate:

"Here sleeps a man who sought to ques-  
tion God—  
Who conjured with the everlasting Why;  
Delved deeply into science, creeds, and  
schools,  
And learned this truth—that Man is born  
to die."

## The U. S. Brand.

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It was just a common black army horse, raw-boned and broken-winded, such as the quartermaster-general was buying and marking by the thousands; and the bugler who rode him, stunted and narrow-chested, the recruiting sergeant had picked out of the gutters of the Bowery.

The general, inspecting this last shipment of recruits, let his glance rest on the two.

"Poor material," he said, gloomily, to the young aide at his side.

That same afternoon a foraging party was sent out up the valley. There were none of the enemy, it was believed, in the neighborhood; but less than two miles from camp they ran into a strong detachment of Confederate infantry, concealed in the woods and a ravine. At the first volley the color-sergeant fell, shot through the head; and the bugler's horse stumbled and threw him; but he was up again in an instant and had caught the colors from the dead man's hand almost before they reached the ground.

The rest of the party had wheeled about and were riding back up the hill. The boy stared after them blankly. They were going back without the flag—the flag! Putting the bugle to his lips he sounded the rally.



"Poor material," he said, gloomily. Half a dozen of the enemy came running toward him. "Guess that old rag's ours," said one of them. But the boy flung his back against a

tree, whipped out his sabre, and sounded the call again.

The men around him laughed. "The trump of old Gabriel himself wouldn't bring them fellers back," observed one; "it ain't no use a-kickin', sonny."

The bugler glanced despairingly toward the hill. They couldn't really be



going to desert the colors! For a third time he was raising the bugle, when there was a sound of hoofs behind him. Here they came at last! He turned eagerly; and crashing through the underbrush came his own riderless horse—answering the call. To vault into the saddle and dart through the crowd took but the space of a breath. The enemy's surprise gave him a minute's start. Then the bullets came singing after him, more than one finding lodgment in quivering flesh; but the rider, bending low in the saddle, murmured soft words of encouragement and praise, and the horse swept on up the hill and over the crest, leaving a trail of blood behind; across the creek, past the Union outposts, into the quarters of their own company; then dropped without a groan.

The boy sprang to one side to avoid the fall; and with the blood streaming down his face held out the flag to a young aide—the only officer near. "We've brought back the colors, sir," he said. Then men about sent up a quick cheer. The boy staggered a little as he turned toward them.

You can bottle up the truth for a time, but it eventually pops the cork.

"Tain't me that done it, boys," he said, with an uncertain smile; "it was the hoss," and fell, fainting, across his dead steed's saddle. The young aide turned away with a grim half-smile. "Poor material!" he muttered.

## ONE MAN'S FINE CONCEIT.

Massing of Men, He Says, Means Strength; of Women, Bonnets.

"It's an odd thing about women," remarked Jones to his wife, as he settled himself for a special effort. "We admire you intensely in the individual. We adore you when taken singly. But it's a strange, sad fact that when a few hundred of you get together you lose distinction. A multitude of rare women brought together in one building for a common cause are far from venerable. Look at Sorosis. The club is undoubtedly made up of ideal mothers and wives, but one resolutely refuses to find it anything else than a convocation of bonnets. Earnest, intense women recruit the ranks of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, but its mass meetings only amuse the rest of the world. An exclusively feminine tea was never an object of envy to those who pass it by."

"And what of you men?" suggested Mrs. Jones. "Are you all so much finer in a crowd?"

"Undoubtedly," replied Jones. "It isn't open to dispute that a 'gang' of men is at all times convincing. If it is only a mob with a rope looking up a criminal the sight does not lack impressiveness. The imagination plays about a 'smoker,' and speculates as to the quality of the cigars and the stories. And a good share of the world's work has been done by men in mass for a purpose. Union to us is strength, and the novelist has always remained below when the door of the banquet hall was opened for the filing out of the ladies."—New York Tribune.

## LOST CHANCE FOR A PANAMA.

An Office-seeker Hears Too Late of a Cabinet Officer's Desire.

An unsuccessful applicant for a government office was chatting with some friends the other day just before starting for home, and the conversation turned on Panama hats.

The unsuccessful candidate had a beautiful Panama, soft, light and close-woven, which had been appraised by a local hat dealer at a high price. One of those in the conversation repeated the remark of a cabinet officer, that he had been intending all his life to buy a high-grade Panama, but couldn't muster up courage to pay the price.

"I have often thought of writing to some friend in the tropics to purchase one for me," the cabinet officer was quoted as saying, "but have never done so. You know they can be bought much cheaper down there. The finest one I ever saw was worn by a man I met more than thirty years ago. He got it at Panama and told me he paid \$300 for it."

"Don't you believe these stories about such prices," said the unsuccessful candidate. "This fine hat that I'm wearing came from South America. It cost just \$5 in gold at the place where it was made."

There was silence for a minute, and then the ex-candidate asked:

"Who did you say was the cabinet officer who told that story?"

The name of the secretary who hadn't looked kindly on the candidate's application was mentioned.

"My!" said the candidate, sadly fingering the soft fabric of his Panama. "I wish I'd heard it sooner."

## Odd Wedding Customs.

Giving wedding presents is an old custom, but it differs in various countries. Scotland's penny weddings were peculiar. They were called penny affairs, but the invited guests contributed a shilling and occasionally a half crown, and out of this sum thus collected the expenses of the wedding feast were paid. Germany has a pay wedding at which the bride receives her guests with a basin before her, in which each person entering deposits a jewel, a silver spoon or a piece of money. In some parts of Germany the rule is that the expenses of the marriage feast shall be met by each guest paying for what he eats or drinks. The prices paid for viands and drinks are high, and the young couple often make a handsome profit out of their wedding, often realizing a sum quite sufficient to start them nicely in life. Often as many as 300 guests are present at such a wedding.

## New York Coaching Parties.

Personally conducted coaching parties are a summer feature of New York. The coaches leave at stated times during the day and in two hours and a half most of the "sights" of Manhattan island, including Grant's tomb, Riverside drive, Central Park, Fifth avenue, etc., are visited, each coach having "an expert guide and lecturer" on board to explain "the 1,000 points of interest en route."

You can bottle up the truth for a time, but it eventually pops the cork.



## Prepare for Cold Weather.

In the summer is the time to prepare the cow stables for cold weather. Comfort is money when applied to the cow. The cow stable should be warm, or at least should be warmable. Tests have been made at some of our experiment stations to determine how much comfort counts in the saving of feed. It has been proven that a cow exposed to cold and wet requires 25 per cent more food to produce the same amount of milk than is required if she is properly kept in a warm stable. The dairy cow will not stand the cold that a beef steer will stand. With the dairy cow the fat is deposited on the intestines or worked up into cream. It is evident that if what little fat she has is on the intestines it does not serve to keep her warm except in so far as it is burned up in the lungs. On the other hand the beef steer has his fat under the hide or infiltrated through the meat. The fat in that form helps to keep out the cold. The result is that the steer will lie down in a snowbank in the full sweep of the wind, chew his cud and look happy. The dairy cow on the same day will hump in the shelter of anything she can find and will look very unhappy. She demands and should have comfortable quarters, where the temperature can be kept at about 70 degrees or a little over.

## Temperature of Milk.

Milk, when drawn from the udder of the cow, has a temperature of 98 degrees. If this temperature is permitted to remain at that point the few bacteria in the milk when drawn will increase with great rapidity to an innumerable host. Therefore the milk should be cooled down as quickly as possible to 50 degrees and below. This, to a considerable extent, stops the increase of bacteria. Where the separator is used the milk need not be cooled before separating. It should be separated at once and then run over a milk cooler of some approved make. In a few minutes it will thus be reduced to the desired temperature. Carelessness as regards temperature is the cause of much of the poor farm-made butter on the market. The milk during the time when the cream is rising is permitted to remain at almost any temperature. This facilitates the increase of the more badly flavored bacteria, and the cream is thus spoiled before the butter is made. A low temperature from the first would have given milk and cream of better flavor and of greater value.

## Irish Looking for African Market.

Reports from Ireland indicate that the Irish are reaching out for the South African market. In some parts of South Africa butter is reported as selling at 85 cents per pound and to be of inferior quality even at that price. The Irish creamerymen and dairymen think they have as good a chance to take this market as any others. They claim that state aid to foreign dairymen is preventing large sales of Irish butter in England. They would therefore look elsewhere. The queer thing to a distant observer is that among the competitors that are driving the Irish butter out of the English market are enumerated the Australians. Now if the Australians can send butter all the way to London and successfully compete with Irish butter, what will prevent the Australians doing the same thing in South Africa? To us it does not look possible for the Irish to wage a successful warfare of this kind in a field thousands of miles from Ireland, when they cannot meet the same competition at their own doors.

## Chicago Milkmen Prosecuted.

The Illinois state dairy and food commissioner has brought about 100 suits against Chicago milkmen for the breaking of the state law relative to signs and names on wagons, selling skim milk for whole milk and for watering milk. Much of the milk being sold for the use of children in the poorer quarters was found to be watered. Some of the cases are due to the use of formaldehyde in the milk, but these cases are not reported numerous. The best part of the prosecutions consists in the publication in the daily papers of the names of the men being prosecuted and the charges against them. Thus in the list printed last week we find that there are charges against 17 for selling adulterated milk, charges against ten for having no labels on their cans of skim milk and also for selling adulterated milk, and against nine for selling skim milk contrary to law and violating the label law. The other prosecutions are for the violation of the label law.

A man's greatness is often exhibited in his self-imposed restrictions.

Nothing looks more peculiar than to see a young man trying to flirt, when he doesn't know how.



## The Hen Yard in Summer.

It is quite easy to make the hen yard in summer a profitable feeding ground for the fowls. Enough poultry wire to divide the yard will cost little. After the division is made, one side should be sown to seeds that will produce forage. One of the best things to sow we have found to be lettuce. The fowls eat this greedily. It should not be used for pasurage till it is well rooted and established. Another thing that should be sown is rape. A pound of seed will go a long way. It is not too late to sow it even in midsummer. It grows rapidly and soon reaches a height of a foot or more when the fowls may be turned onto it. They will strip it of its tenderest portions, but will leave the stems and the midveins. As soon as the fowls are taken off this pasturage, the midveins will at once begin to send out new leaves and soon the plant is again in full foliage. The writer noticed that at the North Carolina experiment station the yards were sown with oats. This makes a most excellent pasturage, and the fowls eat it readily. Some feed chopped grass in summer time, but we have observed that hens do not take much interest in eating anything that has been thus prepared. They prefer to have their green forage fastened down so they can pull it to pieces themselves. It is, therefore, better to give them green pasture in the form of growing crops than to give them green stuff cut up.

## Deformed Chicks.

While the faults of incubation are responsible for many of the deformities found in the chickens, and undoubtedly weaken others in ways which are not so apparent to us, one cannot state that the chickens which come from the egg in developed condition and can eat ever die on account of weakness due to the incubation, says a report of the Rhode Island experiment station. In my experience so far the weak chickens, when properly handled, seem to have developed and grown as rapidly as the stronger. However, those which were hatched incompletely developed or with crippled members, as the legs or beak, have not been able to survive in all cases. Under the even temperature system, however, the weaklings, when separated into hovers by themselves, grow unexpectedly well, and may attain some weight. As a practical matter, however, all such weaklings and cripples should be destroyed as soon as hatched. To the poultryman who can devote but little attention to them they would prove an annoyance.

## Poultry Points Picked Up.

If a man wants to show birds he must raise only good stock and that in abundance. The man that raises only a dozen birds a year stands less chance of having winning birds than does the man that can raise hundreds. In that case he finds it easy to get together a few exceptional birds. In this connection we must remark that in case the breeder is looking to contests in the show room he will need to make a study of the points of birds himself that he may when he goes to the show take only his very best instead of inferior stock.

Cull rigidly. Always be on the lookout for the poorest specimens of birds and get rid of them as soon as found and as fast as found. To permit the culls to go right on producing more culls or what should be culls is a mistake. The best thing to do with culls is to send them to the butcher, and if there is danger of his selling them for breeders send them to him dressed.

Hens should be made to lay when eggs are high in price. This can be done, but it requires attention to something more than feeding. The breeding must be looked after. The hens must be raised from early spring chicks and must be forced forward from birth to maturity.

One should not attempt to winter more fowls than can be comfortably housed. Too many birds in a house makes it extremely difficult to keep the air pure or the floors clean. Lice and disease are encouraged. The attempt to do this usually results in disaster of some kind.

Eggs should be sold to private customers, if possible, as in that way the farmer takes to himself the middleman's profits. Besides, private customers are usually well-to-do people and are willing to pay a little more than the usual customers of grocery stores.

The human heart is like a well-strung harp—a succession of sweet tones and of discords.

The life of a grass widow is not always green, nor does it run to hayseed.



## Students on Stock Farms.

A communication to The Farmers Review from the Iowa Agricultural college says: The department of animal husbandry of the Iowa Agricultural college has succeeded in placing a large number of its students on prominent stock farms during the summer vacation. These positions are beneficial to the student in two ways. First and most important, it affords them an excellent opportunity of familiarizing themselves with the methods of stock farming in vogue on the most successful stock farms on the continent. Secondly, they receive a liberal compensation for their services, which aids them in defraying their expenses during the school year. Experience gained in this way serves the student an excellent purpose in after-life, whether he decides to return to manage the home farm, to pursue agricultural instruction work or to assume the responsibility of managing a stock farm. During the past few months the department has received a great many requests for competent men to manage stock farms. Some of these positions have been filled, but so far the demand has been greater than the supply. In the future, however, the college should be in a position to supply men exceptionally well qualified for this line of work.

## Reseeding the Plains.

The reseeding of the plains grasses, while important, is no light task. The cattle and sheep herder on wild lands cares nothing about the future. Finding good feed, he continues to overpasture and overrun, until the earth is tramped solid and the plants virtually eaten down to the roots, and then seeks pastures new, going on with the work of destruction over and over again. The soil, also, produces less and less, until at length the land becomes a bare desert, and the ill effects of this savage procedure is felt hundreds and hundreds of miles away. In the summer the parched and heated earth gives rise to cyclones and storm winds that scorch and wither vegetation even to the Mississippi river and eastward. It will take more years to again cover the plains with grass than it has taken the reckless squatter herds to feed it off. In fact it never can be done, unless stock can be kept off the seeded ground for three years, or at least so carefully pastured the second and third year as to leave the ground fairly covered with foliage.—Jonathan Periam in Inter Ocean.

## Oats for Horses.

Horses nurtured on oats show mottles that cannot be reached by the use of any other feeding stuff. Then, too, there is no grain so safe for horse feeding, the animal rarely being seriously injured if by accident or otherwise the groom deals out an over-supply. This safety is due in no small measure to the presence of the oat hull, which causes a given weight of grain to possess considerable volume because of which there is less liability of mistake in measuring out the ration further, the digestive tract cannot hold a quantity of oat grains sufficient to produce serious disorders. Unless the horse is hard pressed for time or has poor teeth, oats should be fed in the whole condition. Musty oats should be avoided. Horsemen generally agree that new oats should not be used, though Bensington, conducting extensive experiments with army horses, arrived at the conclusion that new oats do not possess the injurious qualities attributed to them.—Feeds and Feeding.

## Mites on Cattle and Sheep.

The mite which causes cattle itch or mange, is closely related to the mite which causes sheep scab—both belonging to the same genus and species, but are different varieties. The sheep-scab mite will not attack cattle, nor will the cattle mite attack sheep or other animals. The itch mites are found to be very numerous upon affected cattle, and a very small quantity of debris from an actively infested area of the skin will often reveal a surprisingly large number of the parasites. These mites may be removed from an animal and retain their vitality for a long time. Specimens have been collected and kept in small glass bottles in the laboratory at the ordinary temperature of the room during the winter months, varying from 45 degrees F. during the night to 80 degrees F. during the day, which would live and remain active from eight to eleven days. Exposure to bright sunlight, however, would kill most of the mites in a few hours.—Farmers' Bulletin 152.

It is related of an Atchison man that he gave his first grandchild a silver mug valued at \$30. He bought a tin cup for ten cents yesterday, remarking that it was for the fifth.