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Farm and Fireside.

Pieces of cheese-cloth make the very best kind of dusters. Hem the edge and have a large enough supply, so that one set can be washed each day.

To take rust out of steel rub the steel with sweet oil; in a day or two rub with finely-powdered unslaked lime until the rust all disappears, then oil again, roll in woolen and put in a dry place, especially if it be table cutlery.

Tepid water with a little borax dissolved in it is good to wash colored table linen in. Nice table-cloths and napkins should not be allowed to become much soiled, so that they will require vigorous rubbing with soap or in hot water.

To mend china or broken earthenware, take a very thick solution of gum arabic in water and stir into it plaster of paris until the mixture becomes of the consistency of cream. Apply with a brush to the broken edges of the ware and join together.

We need to concentrate into meat our corn, grass, fodder and all the wastes from the mills which manufacture our wheat, corn, barley, flaxseed and buckwheat, that we may get more money and more manure, while we at the same time save fertility and labor, and cost of transportation. Rotation of crops will do much for us. Growth of grass and clover furnishes a crop for grazing and feed equal to the grain crop in value, and yet the fertility of the soil is preserved and labor diminished by such rotation.

The advice, therefore, that I would give to any young man that contemplates embarking in the business of breeding fine stock would be, first of all, to secure a farm adapted to general husbandry; and to the farmer who proposes to become a breeder of such stock my suggestion would be: "By all means keep your farm, and plow and plant, and keep up your meadows and pastures, etc., as you have been doing." It will be a hazardous business to abandon your farming with a view to a complete change, so as to run the blooded-stock business by itself.

The major portion of the good things told of ensilage is derived from practical New England farmers, who personally live upon their farms and attend strictly to the feeding of their stock. These men derive a large portion of their income from the sale of butter and milk. These, then, are the men who make the greatest claims for ensilage. It enables them not only to produce a greater quantity of milk and butter than any other one feed, but the quality is very much improved—very much the same color and taste of butter where cows graze on green, tender grass.

There are very few farms on which there is not waste land. Much now that is waste, can, by a little care, be made most productive. The wet places must be drained. By this means we may add to the amount and improve the quality of our crops. The cost of cultivation may be reduced and the health of the family and the herds protected by draining sloughs and swamps. The drained farm is more reliable, more productive, more healthful; but the value of drainage is already recognized, so that we may hope for its general adoption by all but the hopeless and reckless, of whom there will ever be enough to hinder progress, and show "how not to do it."

Still Another Phase.

"Yes, my dear daughter, I wish you to do your best to captivate the heart of our coachman."

"Ah, I see, you dear, good papa, you want all the papers to say I am a fascinating beauty and reigning belle."

"Well, of course, that will help a little, but that's not the main point."

"What is the main point, papa?"

"Well, you see the papers will say you are the daughter of a millionaire."

"Well?"

"Well, that will enlarge my credit. See? Now run out to the stable; that's a good girl."

FULL DRESS DETECTIVES.

How Philadelphia Society People are Protected.

A man in fashionable clothes, wearing a distinguished air and an eye-glass, walked into a detective's office on Sansome street. As he put down his cane and removed one of his light yellow gloves he asked for the chief of the agency. When the chief appeared the visitor had succeeded in freeing one hand from the tight confines of the kid, and said: "I understand you send detectives to weddings?"

"Yes, sir; we do."

"Well, I wish you would send a good man to my house next Thursday night."

"What kind of people do you expect to have there? The same as were at the De Belleville-Seidenberg wedding?"

The gentleman put on his eye-glasses, and stared savagely. He did not exactly remember the De Belleville-Seidenberg affair, but managed to remark, with a touch of sarcasm in his tone, "I don't exactly catch your meaning, sir, but I desire to say that the people who have been invited to my sister's wedding are supposed to have some slight claims to respectability. I live on West Walnut street."

"That's all right, sir; that's all right," exclaimed the detective. "I only wanted to know if you could describe any people you wanted watched in particular."

"No, I can not, but a great many valuable presents will be exhibited, probably \$25,000 worth, and we can not tell who may get into the house."

"I will send a man, but you will have to give him an invitation."

"That shall be attended to," said the gentleman, as he moved his eye-glass and walked out.

"Is that sort of thing customary?" asked a reporter who witnessed the interview.

"Oh, yes," replied the detective. "We send men by special request not only to weddings, but to churches and fairs. One of our men is up now at the St. Chrysostom Fair at the Bellevue."

"Why is a detective required at a wedding, where everybody comes by invitation?"

"Because it is not only the professional crook you have to look out for. There are plenty of wealthy kleptomaniacs. When a rich and well-dressed woman steals a diamond ring she is called a kleptomaniac. When a dirty beggar steals a pair of shoes she is called a thief. We detectives think this is a distinction without a difference. Then you must remember that every now and then a professional thief gets into a private house when a wedding is being solemnized, notwithstanding that he has no invitation."

"How does he do it?"

Walks right in. The most expert and successful of petty thieves always dress elegantly, and have the appearance of the greatest respectability. It is a peculiar thing, too, that they can control some of the handsomest and most accomplished women. A thief gets a 'mash' on an apparently respectable woman, and sometimes marries her. Some thieves I know of have married into fine families, and the people never knew they were crooks. If the thief doesn't marry the girl he keeps her as his mistress. When he makes a good haul of \$3,000 or \$4,000 he throws \$500 into her lap. They live on the top of the heap, and dress as well as the finest. It is the easiest thing in the world for a couple such as I have described to get into a rich man's house where a wedding is going on. They drive up to the door in a handsome carriage. What if they have no cards? Plenty of people come without them, although the invitation bears the explicit inscription: "Present this card at the door." The usher can not afford to insult such distinguished-looking guests, so they pass in. Once inside, what a harvest is spread before them! Frequently at weddings of the rich \$40,000 or \$60,000 worth of jewelry, silverware and all sorts of most valuable articles are spread out in a room without any protection whatever. Then look at the chances there are to steal jewelry and ornaments from the ladies present. The thief is given a better opportunity than in a crowd on the street, because everybody is totally unsuspecting. All the women wear the most valuable gems and ornaments they possess. I am a pretty good judge of a diamond—can tell one when I see it—and I have seen a woman at a wedding with \$50,000 worth displayed on her person, in her hair and ears, on her throat and breast, and on the shoulders of her short-sleeved dress. An expert thief does not want an easier job than to slip off a pin here, or a brooch there, and it does not take him long to collect enough to support him in the most lavish extravagance for months.

"Then the kleptomaniacs, the high-toned thieves of good families who have been invited to the wedding, pick up a silver spoon here, a fish-knife there or some knickknack that is never missed from among the large number of presents. At one wedding I remember, some years ago, the wife of a very prominent Philadelphia dropped her caba containing some jewelry just as she stepped from the carriage. Some one on the outside picked it up and handed it in

the door. It was received by a lady, and that was the last heard of it. We worked on that case for months, but were never able to get a single clew."

"What course does a detective pursue at a wedding?"

"Well, in the first place, you know, he appears as a guest, and not in an official capacity. He wears a dress-suit, even if he has to rent it for the occasion, a white tie, and a gold stud in his shirt-bosom. The work is extremely difficult. Really, all that can be done is to watch the presents closely and see that nobody carries any of them off. Sometimes in a large room, two men are required. Of course, we cannot prevent the crooks from working the crowd unless we happen to know them. If we spot any we know they generally get out as quickly as possible without making any trouble. After everything is over one man usually stays all night, because, as a rule, there are a great many strange servants in the house who have been employed for the occasion, and they need watching."

A Drink Which Beats Whisky.

"Do you know what that is?" said the captain of a bark lately returned from a cruise in the Southern seas to a reporter. He held in his hand what appeared to be a gaudily-painted barber's pole shrunken to the size of a policeman's club.

"That," continued the skipper, "is a piece of gagus stalk. It came from Gaupit Island, near the Molucca group."

"Who painted it?"

"Painted it? Why, that's the way it grew," cried the skipper, with a laugh. "It is a species of cactus," he explained, "and, as I said, grows only to my knowledge, on Gaupit Island. The island is a small one, but it is well populated by natives of the Malay race. In the interior this plant grows wild, flourishing chiefly in the rocky soil. It looks beautiful when growing, as you might judge by the bright hues with which this is spotted. A grove of gagus shrubs is a very pretty sight. But it is the properties of the plant which distinguish it. Opium is a potent drug, but I will back the extract from the gagus stalk to effect more damage on the human system than all the opium in the world. The natives cut the plant in the early spring. After they have gathered a sufficient quantity they put it in large bowls and crush it with high stones. A grayish sap runs out freely, and this they collect and drink after letting it ferment, which it does easily. One drink of a pint is enough for an ordinary man, but I have seen natives drink more. Within half an hour after imbibing it the drinker becomes perfectly stupid, and lies around like a log. The spell lasts a day or more, during which time the natives say they live in paradise."

"Do white men drink it?"

"I have known sailors to try it, but they never tackle it twice. Three years ago I had a man in my crew who was driven crazy by one drink."

"What effect does it have upon the natives?"

"Well, that is where the gagus displays itself. If you could see some of the terrible examples of gagus drinking in Gaupit you would be horrified. The first effect of the liquor is to soften the bones and gradually eat them away. There are natives there, the victims of gagus, who are indeed boneless and unable to walk and use their limbs. They then begin to wither away like this stalk, until they die in misery and convulsions. Immediately after death the head of the corpse becomes soft as pulp; no bones can be felt; the skull is eaten away. The body then begins to swell as though it were inflated with gas, and immediate burial is necessary."

"How long does it take to thus devastate a human being?" asked the reporter.

"That is according to the appetite of the victim to the stuff. Usually two years will finish the hardest man."

Some Wedding Superstitions.

In Sweden, a bride must carry bread in her pocket, and as many pieces of it as she can throw away, just so much trouble does she cast from her; but it is no luck to gather the pieces. Should the bride lose her slipper, then she will lose all troubles, only in this case the person who picks it up will gain riches. The Manxmen put salt in their pockets, and the Italians "blessed" charms. The Romans were very superstitious about marrying in May or February; they avoided all celebration days, and the Calends, Nones, and Ides of every month. The day of the week on which the 14th of May fell, was considered very unlucky in many parts of "merry old England," and in the Orkney Islands a bride selects her wedding day so that its evening may have a growing moon and a flowing tide. In Scotland the last day of the year is thought to be lucky, and if the moon should happen to be full at any time when a wedding takes place, the bride's cup of happiness is expected to be always full. In Perthshire the couple who have had their banns published at the end of one, and are married at the beginning of another, quarter of a year, can expect nothing but ends.

How Gun cotton is Made.

It is not generally known that there is but one place in the United States where gun cotton is manufactured, but such is the case. This is at the torpedo station in Newport Harbor. In the manufacture of gun cotton the best cotton waste and the strongest and purest nitric and sulphuric acids are used for the explosive. The cotton waste after it has been hand-picked for the purpose of removing the dirt and grit, is placed in boiling tanks, where it is allowed to remain for four hours. It is afterward subjected to a thorough washing and is reboiled. The operation removes all oily matter and leaves the cotton harsh and stiff. It is then dried in the rooms heated with the waste air from a drying box. After undergoing this treatment the cotton rolls up into snarls and bunches, and in order that the acid may have a freer access to it is passed through a shredder and converted into a fluffy state. It is afterward exposed in an airtight box for several hours to a temperature of 200 degrees, which practically deprives it of all moisture. From the airtight box it is removed to the dipping room, where there are iron troughs filled with one part nitric acid and two parts of sulphuric acid. Into these troughs the cotton is placed, one bundle at a time, and allowed to remain about ten minutes, long enough for it to be thoroughly soaked. The acid is hand-pressed from the cotton, which is then placed in covered earthen jars, where it remains twenty-four hours undergoing chemical transformation. In view of the fact that much heat is evolved during the chemical reaction, it is found necessary to place the jars in pots and surround them with flowing water, which serves to keep them cool. The cotton is now nitrated and is practically gun cotton, but the acid, still mechanically held, must be wholly removed or it would be apt to quickly deteriorate and become extremely dangerous. The charges, therefore, are taken one by one and placed in an acid wringer and plunged into a large tub which is kept filled with running water, in which a large wheel is rapidly turned in order to subject the cotton to a thorough washing. This latter process is continued till no acid is perceptible to the taste. It is then subjected to a still further washing and boiling in an alkaline mixture, this being necessary to remove every trace of acid. The cotton is now in long strands and balls, which can be used or stored without danger, the processes of conversion and cleansing being completed, but for military use it must be put into a more compact form. For this purpose the gun-cotton in charges of 300 pounds is thrown into a pulping tub, where, mixed with water, it is ground by steel cutters into a fine pulp. The grinding and breaking up of the cellular tissue of the cotton has made it more or less dirty, and it is necessary, therefore, to expose it to frequent washings in the poaching tubs, from which, after treating it with lime water to make the moisture slightly alkaline, it is drawn up into a large iron tank, where it is fed to the molds, which under a moderate pressure, press the water from the pulp and trim out cylinders of cotton about eight inches high and three and a half inches in diameter. These cylinders are then placed under a hydraulic press and exposed to a pressure of about 1,700 pounds to the square inch or about eight tons on each. The cylinders are pressed into hard cakes or disks, some two inches high and three and a half inches in diameter, with a specific gravity a little greater than water. They are then packed in boxes of fifty pounds each and kept in magazines for general use. Gun cotton is, from its great explosive power and the conditions of safety attached to its storage, superior to any other known explosive for naval warfare.

Great Men and Gastronomy.

Dr. Foodyea, the distinguished English surgeon, ate but one meal a day.

Dr. Parr confessed his love for hot boiled lobsters with a profusion of shrimp sauce.

Pope says: One loves the pheasant's wing and one the leg. The vulgar boil, the learned roast an egg.

Dryden said that a chine of honest bacon pleased his appetite more than all the marrow puddings.

Sir Isaac Newton, when writing his "Principia," lived on a scanty allowance of bread and water and a vegetable diet.

Dr. Johnson was partial to new honey and clouted cream, and all his lifetime had a voracious attachment for a leg of mutton.

Dr. Paley, having been out fishing for a whole day, was asked on his return if he had met with good sport. "Oh, yes!" he answered. "I have caught no fish, but I have made a sermon."

Beau Brummel, speaking of a man and wishing to convey his maximum of contemptuous feeling about him, said: "He is a fellow, now, that would send his plate up twice for soup."

Peppys of Charles II's reign, having company at breakfast, mentions: "I had for them a barrel of oysters, a dish of neat's tongues and a dish of anchovies, with wines of all sorts and ale."

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