

Farm, Garden and Household.

A DASH FOR LIFE.

Paper-hangings for walls are known to everybody. It is now proposed to use hangings made of metal, and an account of this new invention, which comes to us from Paris, has been read before the Society of Arts. The metal employed is tin foil in sheets about sixteen feet long, and from thirty to forty inches wide. The sheets are painted and dried at a high temperature, and are then decorated with many different patterns, such as flowers, geometrical figures, imitation of wood or landscapes. When decorated, the sheets are varnished, and again dried, and are then ready for sale.

A new mode of washing linen has been introduced and adopted in Germany. The operation consists in dissolving two pounds of soap in about three gallons of water as hot as the hand can bear, and adding to this one table-spoonful of turpentine and one of liquid ammonia; the mixture must then be well stirred, and the linen steeped in it for two or three hours, taking care to cover up the vessel which contains them as nearly hermetically as possible. The clothes are afterward washed out and rinsed in the usual way. The soap and water may be reheated and used the second time, but in that case half a table-spoonful of ammonia must be added. The process is said to cause a great economy in time, labor, and fuel.

A writer in the Country Gentleman says: "Steers handle and yoke up the first winter before they are a year old, and during the following summer, to walk them to the yoke, and to accustom them to the yoke together. The second winter I put them to light sleds, and put a small rope around the neck one's head, not to guide them by, but to secure them from running away from me by some sudden fright or some other cause. I then, with a light, short whip, proceed to teach them to draw, to go forward to stand, to bow and gee, I use few words with them, and few motions of the whip, not trying to teach them too many things at once. When they are a little older, I teach them to back by choosing a piece of descending ground for that purpose, with the empty sled or cart for a load. I never try to plough with a driver till steers are four years old.

An Iowa farmer recommends the following device for measuring land. Take two slats about one yard, square, one end of each, lay them upon a level like a pair of open compasses, so that the points shall be exactly five feet six inches apart; now nail the other two ends together and a piece across the middle, so that it will look like the letter A, and the measure is finished. To measure any place open, lay the slats on the starting place and the other end on the ground in a straight line for destination; stand alongside the machine, with one hand on top of it; take one step forward, tip up the point that is behind, swing it around (from you) on the other point, and set it in line also. A person using this measure correctly as fast as he can walk—narrowly skirted, a rod—walk straight without stopping, count the spaces, divide these by three, and you have the rods.

Californians lead in the matter of dairy cutness so far as heard from. A commission firm in San Francisco "late"ly found that some of their customers were exasperated about something, and in a hasty, suspicious and greasy-looking condition, and they brought in and deposited on their counters by persons who stated that they found them in firkins of butter they had bought of the firm, and these persons not unreasonably indulged in remarks that they could not be deemed complimentary to the dealer. An investigation was at once made, and it was discovered that a consignment consisting of twenty-eight firkins of what purported to be a choice product of the dairy was largely "doctored" in this substantial manner. Some of the firkins contained from ten to fourteen pounds of rock and brick. Measures were at once taken to trace the ingenious villain to its proper source.

A correspondent of the Prairie Farmer who has had large experience with swine, says the following are reliable: "Preventive.—One peck wood ashes, four pounds salt, one pound each of black antimony, copperas, and sulphur, quarter of a pound saltpetre. Pomad, mix thoroughly and moisten enough to prevent waste, put in a trough in a dry place where the swine are fed, across the trough as much as they please of it. I have strictly followed directions and have had no cholera.

Remedy.—It is: Sulphur, two pounds; copperas, two pounds; madder, half pound; saltpetre, half pound; arsenic, two pounds. The mixture is made, which for 100 hogs, and is mixed with slop enough for a few doses all round—a pint to each hog. Each time I tried this I had about fifty head, and not one died that was able to walk to the trough and had enough life left to drink.

A correspondent of the Vermont Farmer thus describes an improved poke or jumping-stick: First put a piece across the horns. Then have a piece of hard wood board, one-half or three-fourths inch thick, and cut three feet long. Have a hole in the center of the board across the horns in such a way that when this hard wood strip is inserted in it, running over the back, as the animal naturally carries its head, the rear end will be just free of the back. Drive three or four single nails, ground sharp into its end, letting them come through the fore-foot of an inch, so that as soon as the animal makes an effort to raise his head to jump the fence, the nails will soundly prick his back, and he will be apt to frisk his tail and start for some feed that is easier to be obtained. For cheapness and durability this arrangement is unequalled. It weighs less than three pounds; it is not in the way in traveling around, and when it is in the animal's head it is on one side, as it is natural for the animal to throw its head opposite to the side it lies on. When they are feeding it is upright in the air. It will keep the animal to which it is applied where he belongs, sure.

Everything that enters Paris has to pay octroi duty. For many weeks an elegantly-attired gentleman drove a well-appointed dog-cart from the Bois de Boulogne to the city, being attended every evening by a neat-looking groom. One night the dog-cart was upset in the presence of the gendarmes, who, on going to the rescue, noticed that the groom had not moved from his seat. "Come," said one of the men. The groom preserved a dignified silence. "Come down," they angrily, "don't you see your master is hurt?" "Is he drunk or stupid?" The groom preserved his English sang froid, and the employes, giving him a shake, discovered that he was made of zinc, and contained 150 litres of cognac!

I was out in ----, during the wild times that they had here a number of weeks ago. I think, I think, I think, have been five or six hundred of us, and about 8-----. We were surrounded on all sides by bushrangers. Outrages of every possible kind were of daily occurrence, and many a brave fellow met his death in attempting, with others, to break up the camps of these daring outlaws. I came near losing my life, you ask? Yes, more than once. And I particularly recall one time of which I will tell you.

We had a small, resolute company of men under us, made desperate by repeated wrongs, and they hardly cared what they did or what risk they ran, in trying to exterminate those fierce bushrangers.

Almost every movement of ours was watched; and Sheldrie Day, our captain was as keen as the sharpest of the outlaws. So when an old farmer came in with his wagon filled with green stuff and covered with straw, Day watched him homeward with a load of rifles under the straw.

Toward nightfall one man straggled off, whistling in one direction, with his hands in his pockets; another one another way; another, another; and so on. Our rendezvous was Dirty's Forks, a lonely back of country, where the roads branched off in many directions.

When we got fairly beyond the limits hampered by spies, we needed our pace, and the men were soon coming in from all directions upon the run, ready to seize their weapons and go whither Captain Day might lead.

Without a word, I was thrust into a damp dark underground apartment, whose only aperture for light and air was a grated hole which just rose above the ground level. I gathered myself up, and looked my situation in the face. I knew these outlaws well. I had nothing to expect but to be dragged forth during the night, and to be hung upon the first gibbet which offered sufficient support for my weight.

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the camp of bushrangers; some of whom I had carried me to prison but a few hours before.

Preture my position. Had I possessed a good horse, I should have made a rush for it, while they were petrified with amazement; but my treacherous old beast now refused to move forward or back. Just then, coughing, I have about with Richard, "My kingdom for a horse!" Well, they had me, more the pity, seeing that nearly all of them were drunk, and the rest unsteady in their joints. Maybe they made me the butt of a few thick practical jokes, as they pulled me from the old mule's back, and bound my hands, making the rope fast to a stump, and setting a thick, rough fellow to guard me. I was half palsied by my mistake, I had made no resistance. No doubt that much was in favor.

Time passed. Ere long my guard became to snore. I then cautiously worked my hands, and found my joy, that I could strain upon the knot and slip my hands through. This I did. Next I made some slight movements to try my chance, and I found they did not arouse the sentinel.

The fire was dying down to a flickering shade, and I knew that it must be within an hour or two of daylight. I crawled past my guard; he did not stir, and keeping well in the shadow, I made for the horses of the party. When close up to them, I cautiously rose upright, and snatched a picket-pin, seized the halter, and vaulted upon the back of a powerful horse. He seemed docile enough, but the moving him out from amid the others made them uneasy. They stamped, and pawed, and neighed, and when, with a rap of my heel, as a spur, we dashed for the cover of the trees, the disturbance made by these treacherous animals alarmed the camp.

I was in for it now. Life or death depended upon the events of the next fifteen minutes. I dashed into the thick, tangled woods. Utter darkness reigned. In five minutes I was unharmed, but holding to the halter, I leaped on again, and madly dashed forward to life or to death.

What a ride that was! Without bridle or saddle, dashing full tilt against the wild grape vines everywhere strung across the way, went I. Once they caught me under the chin, and swept me off over the horse's back into the brush with the perspiration oozing from every pore.

I scrambled out and mounted again. It was a good horse, but a dangerous way. Now a dead branch would catch the corner of my mouth, and now something would come in contact with my eyes, making them sparkle again.

But I escaped. The very danger which beset my path saved me. I got through that seventeen miles' ride somehow, coming out scratched and bleeding, but alive. I got him up, some five miles from L-----, I ran upon the remains of a mule train that had been bringing us provisions. The drivers lay around murdered, the carts plundered and broken, and one boy of fourteen, with his scalp clean gone, lay on the ground, yet alive. I got him up before he--for how could I leave him there?--and carried him to S-----.

"But did the boy live, captain?" "Bob? Oh, yes, and afterwards became a soldier, too, and fought against the Indians."

"Without his scalp?" "Yes, and thereby escaped much trouble, you understand. Pass the cigars."

Shark-Fishing in Iceland. "The Icelanders," says the National Magazine, "take an active part in the whole fishery, but devote themselves, as a rule, to that of shark and cod. They fish principally from light open boats, with projecting prows, and carrying only one small lug-sail. Row-boats are preferred on account of the number of hands required. The Icelandic fisherman is dressed in a heavy, warm, and powerful endurance, an ability to keep the sea in all weathers, and a courage above all praise; they scorn to take provisions of any kind to sea, though they never neglect to carry their snuff-horns. It is greatly to be deplored that these hardy mariners are so careless both as to their persons and efforts, and as to the seaworthiness of their craft, since to these faults may doubtless be traced the fact that forty per cent. of the deaths of the men are caused by drowning. When a vessel is in search of sharks, it is anchored at a place where they are presumed to be--in presence, near the rising edge of a bank. The anchor used is generally a four-pronged iron grapple, weighing about 180 pounds, with fifteen to twenty fathoms nine-sixteen inch chain cable, and a 350-fathom long hawser. When anchored, the fishing commences. If nothing is caught, the position is shifted until the shark is found; and if the take is good, it is generally a forty-pronged iron grapple, weighing about 180 pounds, with fifteen to twenty fathoms nine-sixteen inch chain cable, and a 350-fathom long hawser. When anchored, the fishing commences. If nothing is caught, the position is shifted until the shark is found; and if the take is good, it is generally a forty-pronged iron grapple, weighing about 180 pounds, with fifteen to twenty fathoms nine-sixteen inch chain cable, and a 350-fathom long hawser. When anchored, the fishing commences. 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