

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Domestic Recipes.

RISE MUFFINS.—To one quart of sour milk, three well beaten eggs, a little salt, a teaspoonful of soda and enough of rice flour to thicken to a stiff batter. Bake in rings.

RISE CUSTARD.—Into a quart of boiling milk stir two teaspoonfuls of rice flour, dissolved in a little cold milk; add two well beaten eggs to boiling mixture; sweeten and flavor to taste.

INFANTS' FOOD.—Mix the rice flour with cold milk and stir it into boiling milk until of the proper thickness; sweeten with loaf sugar.

RICI SPONGE CAKE.—Three-quarters of a pound of butter, one pound of white sugar, ten eggs; beat the yolks with the sugar; add the whites alone; add the yolks, sugar and flour together a little at a time; flavor and bake in shallow pans.

COTTAGE PUDDING.—Two and a half tablespoonfuls of butter, melted; two tablespoonfuls of sugar stirred together; two eggs, little salt and nutmeg, one pint of flour, with two tablespoonfuls of cream tartar stirred in; one teaspoonful of soda dissolved in a little cold water, and added last. Serve hot with hot sauce.

TAPIoca Pudding.—One quart of milk, three tablespoonfuls of tapioca, two eggs; four tablespoonfuls (heaped) of sugar; one good teaspoonful of butter, half a teaspoonful of salt, little nutmeg and a dash of vanilla; mix the tapioca in half the milk before adding the rest of the above. After it has become heated in the oven stir up the butter. To be eaten hot.

TO MAKE GOOD YEAST.—Pare six good sized potatoes and boil with them three handfuls of hops, also put into an open vessel one cup of sugar, half a cup of ginger, pour the boiled hops and potatoes into hot water, rub a little, making when strained one gallon; when lukewarm add one cup of good yeast, and when a froth rises put all in a jug and cork tightly. This will keep good for three months; use one cup for five or six loaves—no flour.

WAR CURE.—One heaped coffee-cup of butter the size of an egg; two eggs; one teaspoon of milk; three teaspoonfuls of flour; one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder; one heaping spoonful of bitter almond; one-fourth teaspoonful of salt.—Housekeeper.

Raising Grapes.

Grapes do best, says a writer, near a river, lake, or the ocean, the moisture in the atmosphere in such places being very beneficial. In such locations many varieties flourish, which would be a failure elsewhere. Hybrids possessing foreign blood often grow well in such locations, when they fail in other places. Grapes also grow better where there is lime naturally in the soil. If we plant a vineyard near the water, it will be all soft, there is a danger of decay, but a failure there where the water is hard; but still, as I said, I claim that purely native grapes, and none others, can be made to grow well in any soil.

In the first place, the land must be in a highly fertile state, just as one would make it to produce two feet deep of corn, and nothing more; and the same manure that is used for corn, or garden vegetables, is good for grapes; but if commercial fertilizers have to be resorted to, finely ground bone dust is best. The old idea that land must be trenched eighteen inches or two feet deep, is a very bad way of setting vines. When they are thus placed in position, cover the roots with about four inches of earth, and tread it firmly upon them; then throw in a part of a shovelful of manure directly over the roots, tread it down, then fill up with soil, and the setting of the roots is complete. From time to time have cut down the canes of your vines to two or three buds each.

Making Maple Syrup.

A great many farmers, says a sugar making correspondent writing in Ohio, might make a few hundred pounds of super maple syrup, and a barrel of super maple syrup, just as well as not. They have the trees, an abundance of cheap help, and wood that would cost nothing except the labor of preparing it for the fire. The only difficulty in the way is a disinclination to do such a job. My process of reducing the sap is this: I keep the larger pan supplied with fresh sap, by means of a spout with a coarse cloth strainer over the end, from the reservoir, so adjusted as to admit a supply equal to the evaporation from the smaller pan, from time to time I transfer sap from the larger to the smaller boiler, passing it through a fine woolen strainer. After accumulating a desired quantity in the small pan, and reducing it to a thin syrup, it is clarified by putting into a quantity which will make three or four gallons of molasses the whites of one egg beaten up with about a gill of sweet skimmed milk. The syrup should not be too thick to cook the egg. The egg and milk will entangle any sediment or foreign matter in the syrup, so that when brought to the boiling point everything will rise, when it is strained off, leaving the syrup clear. I then continue to boil it as rapidly as possible, till it is reduced to the desired consistence. I reduce my molasses to what I suppose to be about thirty-eight deg. B. My process of making sugar is to reduce the molasses to a degree which I should think to be about forty-eight deg. or fifty deg., and pour it into a cask with one head out, with a spile at the bottom, to which other lots are added from time to time, as they are made. In a short time the mass will begin to granulate; and after having stood some days the molasses will drain, leaving a white and beautiful sugar.

Preparing for Torpedoes.

Iron says that it is proposed to "crinoline" the British ironclads with a network of iron wire, supported by booms at a distance of twenty-two feet, and reaching to below the keel. The reason is not, as the reader will be only too prompt to remark, because of the sex attributed to all ships, but because the authorities hope thus to guard against the attacks of the "fish-torpedo," that can be propelled under water against the side of a ship with fair accuracy from a distance of a mile, exploding when it strikes.

The Dynamite Fiend.

The St. Louis Republican identifies Thomassen, the dynamite monster, as one Alexander Keith, Jr., son of one and nephew of another prosperous brewer in Halifax, N. S., and during the early days of the war a person of considerable note in that city. The particulars recited by the Republican make it seem probable that the Thomas or Thomassen of Dresden in 1875, was really the Keith of Halifax in the years preceding 1863, and that the identity of the mysterious villain, so carefully guarded from his wife and from his later companions, is at last cleared up. He seems then to have possessed the same jovial, convivial characteristics; the same huge capacity for food and drink, and the same art of making everybody for a jolly, open-hearted, good natured fellow, as those which were recorded of him in his relations with the American society in Dresden and in his recent voyages across the Atlantic. He was known among his friends and families as Sandy, a title obviously derived from his name, and which fitted equally the cheery and the monster into which he grew, and the social gathering or drinking bout was complete without his presence. In the early days of the war he left his employment in his father's brewery and seems to have engaged largely in the business of blockading runners, and to have in some way become possessed of large amounts of money. His credit rose with these acquisitions. Irregular cargoes of cotton and tobacco were consigned to him, and he was entrusted with large sums of money to purchase supplies for shipment to the blockaded ports but with the safe-keeping of the funds of fugitive Confederates who made Halifax a temporary place of refuge and asylum. Late in 1864 he departed for New York on a purchase of business.

He did not stay in New York long. He carried off all the funds he could lay hands on, having appropriated the proceeds of the cargoes consigned to him, and scattered forgeries right and left. He was followed by a handsome Nova Scotia girl who had been a servant in the hotel where he had been, and displayed a beautiful hospitality during his prosperous blockade running days. This unhappy female came back haggard and woe-stricken a few months afterward, with the story that she had married him in New York, where she had nursed him through a severe and dangerous illness, and she was left a parent to twins, who, as well as herself, are since dead. It was not long after this that Keith, under the name of Thomas or Thompson, appeared in St. Louis, and there within a year he married the lady who is now his widow, and with her children, arrived from Europe but a few weeks ago.

Fashions in Silks.

GROS GRAINS FOR COSTUMES.—Plain solid colors, says the *Bazar*, will prevail in gros grains, as they have always done. The reps are of medium size, and the gros grain has the soft finish necessary for drapery, instead of falling into stiff, heavy folds. The fancy is for rich dark colors for costumes, and the list of shades is not long, nor does it show any novelties, since the object is to return to old-time subdued yet positive colors. There is seal brown, myrtle green, marine blue, mud color, and various gray shades, such as steel color, caoutchouc, Coassime, Bilboa, etc.

SILKS FOR EVENING DRESSES.

The shades for evening silks are cool, clear, and are a very strong shimmering blue, sea foam green, and every shade that has a yellow line, such as cream, pale or straw color, chair or flesh, Isabel, buff, canary, etc. With these plain gros grains are imported two fabrics or corresponding shades from which to choose. One is a very fine, broad silk and brocade Chambery gazeuse. Three shades of white double faille are shown for bridal dresses. These are white, cream, or dead white; blanc rose, with faint rosy tints; and blanc creme, or the rich cream white like that of the original original. Another is a double faille, as double twisted chain silk, grain, making very rich looking reps, yet retaining the desired softness.

BLACK SILKS.

New importations of black silks show the cashmere-finished silks which are now the first choice by reason of their softness and their subdued lustre. The best manufacturers, such as Penon and Bounet, have done away with the harsh, heavy stuffs that caused their silks to fall into set-looking folds, and have given this cashmere finish to all high priced silks made in their factories. There is a welcome reduction in the price of silks. For \$3.50 or \$4 a yard can be bought rich silks that formerly brought \$5 or \$6.

Light Taffeta Silks.

The light taffeta silks for making simple suits for the spring show new effects in the way of colorings. There are silver gray grounds barred with black and white—a very stylish design. The old contrasts of white with dark brown, blue, or black are also repeated. From twenty-five to thirty yards of these silks are required for a very simple dress, as they are only nineteen or twenty inches wide, and cost \$1 a yard.

A Wonderful Boy.

A four-year-old boy of Boonville, Mo., by the name of James Martin Williams, is crammed with dates, figures, facts, and a volume of lore, such as ordinarily requires a lifetime to acquire. In history he is a very encyclopaedia of knowledge. The ancient kings, their wars, the rise and fall of the Roman empire, the career of Bonaparte, the times of the death and the age of the rulers of England, the settlement of this country, and similar facts, are as familiar to him as the alphabet to an older person. He can name the capital of every State in the Union, and of every foreign country. He repeats whole chapters of the Bible, and speaks in a childlike manner, just as though rattling off the veriest commonplace remarks of other children of his age.

The first indication of this marvelous faculty came to his parents in this way: They are religious people, and each morning read from the Scriptures before prayer. Shortly after the exercises one morning—several months ago—his mother was astonished to hear him repeating, word for word, the lines from the Bible which he had heard an hour or so before. She called him to her and found that he could recite other portions of the holy book. She commenced teaching him his letters, and in an hour and a half he had learned the whole. He progressed with wonderful rapidity, and soon could spell. A physician was consulted, and advised them to keep the boy away from books and not allow him to study, as his health would not allow it. Since that time, he has been read by his father, and now remembers everything he has heard.

This parents are people in ordinary circumstances, and cannot in any way account for the remarkable memory of their child.

JOHN PAUL JONES.

An Outline of his Life—Why he Changed his Name—His Naval Career.

The Baltimore Sun prints a letter from a correspondent residing in Buckingham street, Va., containing some interesting statements connected with the career of the naval hero of the Revolution, John Paul Jones, and especially explaining the addition of the name of Jones to his original name, John Paul. The summary of the letter, the *Sun* says, is vouched for by Hon. E. W. Hubbard, of Virginia, formerly a member of the House of Representatives from that State, and who, in 1844, made an elaborate report in favor of paying to the heirs of the outstanding Virginia Revolutionaries the bounty claim for the preparation of this report the claim of Commodore John Paul Jones came under review, and was passed upon formally. The investigation of this claim necessarily required a knowledge of the history of Paul Jones, and all the facts pertaining to one of the most noted statesmen of that day, and the love and gratitude it shadows forth is a scathing reproach and a touching example to a people who could neglect in life and forget in death.

The outline of his life is briefly told. John Paul, the son of a gardener, was born July 17, at Ardingly, Scotland. At the age of twenty he went to sea. In 1773 the death of his brother, in Virginia, whose heir he was, indeed he had to settle in America. It was then he added to his name and thenceforth was known as Paul Jones. This was done in a friendly manner, and is a noted statement of that day, and the love and gratitude it shadows forth is a scathing reproach and a touching example to a people who could neglect in life and forget in death.

It appears that before permanently settling in Virginia, moved by the restlessness which had been his, he wandered about the country, finally straying to North Carolina. There he became acquainted with two brothers, Willie and Allan Jones. They were both leaders in their day, and wise and honored in their generation. Allan Jones was an ardent patriot, and a distinguished statesman, one of the noted patriots of the time, and the love and gratitude it shadows forth is a scathing reproach and a touching example to a people who could neglect in life and forget in death.

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How a Cobbler Made a Will.

Many years ago the husband of an old lady living in England died without making his will, for the want of which necessary precaution his estate would have passed away from his widow, had she not resorted to the following expedient to avert the loss of the property. She concealed the death of her husband, and prevailed on an old cobbler, her neighbor, who was, in person, somewhat like the deceased, to go to bed at her house and persuade him, in which character it was agreed that he should dictate a will, leaving the widow the estate in question.

An attorney was sent for to draw up the writings. The widow, who, on his arrival, appeared in great affliction at her good man's danger, began to ask questions of her pretended husband, calculated to elicit the answers she expected and desired. The cobbler, groaning aloud, and looking much like a person going to give up the ghost as soon as possible, feebly answered: "I intend to leave you half of my estate, and I shall not resented to the following character of my will: I leave you the whole of my property, while the old rascal in bed—now that the poor old cobbler living opposite—laughed in his sleeve, and divided with her the fruits of a project which the widow had intended for her sole benefit.

A Ruby of Great Value.

A ruby, which was formerly in the possession of the Diamond Duke, Charles Brunswick, has been sold to the emperer of Brazil for \$5,000 francs. This gem, which is a ruby of rare value, had an interesting history before it fell into the hands of the Duke of Brunswick. It belonged to a certain Portuguese, Duke Walicky, who appeared suddenly at St. Petersburg in 1811, and exhibited a precious stone, valued at several millions. These treasures Duke Walicky brought to Portugal, there disposed of many of them, and, after several successful speculations, arrived in St. Petersburg. Further than this, nothing was ever known of the means by which this collection of jewels found their way to Europe.

The one ruby, which is of great rarity and beauty, after passing through several different hands, came into possession of the Duke of Brunswick. After his death it was given, in accordance with the wishes of his testator, to the Countess de Brunswick, who was sent from there to Paris, where the count-jeweler of the emperor of Brazil purchased it. Now, perchance, it has found a permanent home, after the various vicissitudes through which it has passed.

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Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pills.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pills are so compounded from concentrated principles, extracted from roots and herbs, as to combine in each small granule, scarcely larger than a mustard seed, such a cathartic power as is contained in any larger pills sold in drug stores. They are not only pleasant to take, but their operation is easy, unattended with any griping pain. They operate without producing any constitutional disturbance. Unlike other cathartics, they do not render the bowels torpid, but, on the contrary, they establish a permanently healthy action. Being entirely vegetable, no special care is required by the proprietor to any one who will detect in these pills any calomel or other form of mercury, mineral salts, or injurious drug. They are sold by druggists.

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A Fatal Mistake.

A man may drink moderately but steadily all his life, with no apparent harm to himself, but his daughters become nervous wrecks, his sons epileptics, his friends or drunkards, the hereditary tendency to crime having its pathology and unvaried laws, precisely as scrofulous consumption, or any other purely physical disease. These are stale truths to medical men, but the majority of parents, even those of average intelligence, are either ignorant or recklessly regardless of them. There will be a chance of riding our jalls and alms-houses of half their tenants when our people are brought to treat drunkenness as a disease of the stomach and the blood as well as of the soul, to meet it with common sense and a physician, as well as with threats of excommunication, and to remove gin shops and gin sellers for the same reason that they would stagnant ponds or unclean sewers.

The Papuan poison their arrows, according to a private letter received by Dr. Hooker, by plunging the bone points with which they are tipped into a human corpse and keeping them there for several days. Poor Commodore Hood, enough and some of his men suffered from arrows so poisoned. The results of a wound from one of these arrows do not declare themselves for some days, being a blood disease induced by inoculation. Death, which is almost inevitable, is accompanied by tetanic convulsions, with consciousness to the last.

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