

They Were Always Busy.

Prior to the American Revolution every colonial farmhouse and every blacksmith's shop was a manufactory, for everything was literally manufactured, that is, made by hand.

The farmer prepared the leather from skins which had lain in the vat for a year, and his wife made ready the cloth. Spinning-wheels buzzed from morning till night.

Every woman in the household manufactured something. The aged grandmother spun flax with the little wheel; the youngest daughter carded wool, and the oldest, if the men were busy, latched flax.

The woman, whose "work" was never done, not only carded, spun and wove, but they milked the cows, made butter, bread and cheese, soap and candles, cooked the food, did the washing, and in harvest raked hay, pulled flax, and dug potatoes.

The neighbor, who happened in for an afternoon's gossip, brought her work. The mother patched or knitted, as she rested by the fireside, or quartered apples for the children to "string" and hang in the morning in festoons on the sunny outside walls.

Post Office Thief Drowned.

Shot While a Gang is Breaking in to the Bound Brook Post Office.

BOUND BROOK, N. J., Feb. 10.—Daring thieves entered the post office here. They were discovered by the railroad agent and he at once opened fire on them. One thief was shot, but he managed to get into the Raritan River, where he jumped in, hoping to escape by swimming to the other side.

The pal of the drowned thief made a desperate struggle for freedom. He fought like a tiger, but was overpowered and taken into custody. It is supposed that others were with him, but they got away safely.

The town is in a terrible state of excitement. The captured burglar was taken to the jail at Summerville. He is sullen and morose, refusing to tell who he is or give the name of the dead thief.

A Woman Fish.

'Walk up! Walk up, ladies and gentlemen,' shouted a man at the top of his voice in front of a booth at a fair. 'Walk right up and inspect this curious phenomenon—a real, live woman-fish, the only one in existence!'

Delicately Done.

'Ah, madam,' he said, as he extended a hand to help her up. 'I never saw a more graceful fall. You threw up your arms like a born actress, your little feet indulged in a scuffle, and down you settled with a swan-like movement which was superb.'

'Really, sir?'

'Honest Injun, madam.' And he picked up a No. 7 rubber which had been flung from her left foot, turned his back to a dent in the snow which looked as if a cottage had been upset there, and, raising his hat and making a profound bow he took his leave, while she continued to blush and smile for sixteen blocks.—Detroit Free Press.

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