

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., January 17, 1890.

Farm Notes.

Never prop a fruit tree, says the *New England Homestead*. If the load is too heavy thin the fruit, and make what is left better than it could possibly be if overcrowded.

The cow may work well, the churn may work well, and the conditions may be perfect, but if there is not an active brain behind the whole thing, it will be like an engine without any fire under the boiler.

At the present price of feed stuffs Professor Goessmann reaches the conclusion that it pays to grow and prepare corn-fodder, stover or corn ensilage. This conclusion is confirmed by the Ohio and Iowa experimental stations.

Wood or coal ashes are among the best materials that can be used to loosen up a stiff, hard soil, says the *Live Stock Indicator*. It should be applied freely whenever it can be secured, while wood ashes are a valuable fertilizer.

Instead of counting on mere competition from the West in the future the East may count on less. The West will become more and more a consumer of its own products, while it will manufacture more and more and buy less. The West will buy less of the East.

A farmer in Texas gives his hogs one good feed each year of corn boiled in poke root, three parts of corn to one of root. He considers the root a preventive of cholera. In twenty-two years experience he has never lost a hog with this disease.

Every bull on the farm should be broken to the yoke when he is young and be made to work. There is nothing so efficacious as work for tempering a savage disposition. The bull is dangerous because he is idle and has nothing to do.

Of the seven weeds of the "weed law" of Wisconsin, which requires farmers, under penalty, to destroy, says the *Michigan Farmer*, only one is a native of the United States, all the rest being naturalized importations from Europe, where they are common wild plants.

Frequent transplanting of the young plant and good tillage are essential to best results in tomato culture, says the *Michigan Farmer*. Plants started under glass ten weeks before transplanting into the field will give fruit about a week sooner than those started two or three weeks later.

Knowing just what everything costs its value, and its price in market, can only be determined by the farmer keeping an account of all his transactions, and by comparison of the accounts of each year. With the beginning of the new year every farmer should commence keeping a strict account.

A Michigan farmer tells a contemporary how he manages to conquer Canada thistles by the help of 500 sheep. He puts a small handful of salt on each thistle at the root. The sheep eat the thistle close to the ground. The salting is repeated as often as necessary, and the thistle seldom appears the second year.

We know a man who has been hunting about for an all-purpose cow for the last twenty-five years, and during all that time has not owned a cow that has served one purpose. The man who grabs anything that is at hand and turns it to profit is the man who "gets on in the world."—*Western Rural*.

An exchange says that it would be a help to those unacquainted with varieties of three-fourths of the varieties of garden seeds were culled out and left out of the catalogue altogether. A few standard varieties will produce better results and give more satisfaction than a larger number, many of which are comparatively worthless.

If the cow is the cow she ought to be she will give good returns for the extra food she consumes. But always remember that nature takes care of herself before she attends to our pecuniary interests. If the cow is half fed nature will use the most of her for the needs of the animal system, and the cow-owner will get badly left at the milk pail.

Just so long as the buttermaker sells his butter at the country store we are free to admit that it is of no account to anybody whether he makes good or bad butter. If he makes good butter he will not get any more for it, and the better butter is thrown into the barrel with the bad, and the consumer is not benefited. Make good butter and send it to a commission house.

Sheep should not be housed in large numbers under the same roof, says the *American Sheep Breeder*. The breath of so many together renders it noxious to breathe. A practical shepherd estimates that not more than fifty should be stable under the same roof. It is much better to build several small sheds at convenient points than one large building.

The *Orange County Farmer* says: "Pench culture seems to be coming to the front again in this part of the world. For many years but few peaches were grown, but of late they seem to have taken a new lease of life, and apparently do well. The trees cost so little that every farmer should have a few. They get but one crop before the tree dies it is a good investment all the same."

Asbes and hen manure, if mixed together before being applied to the soil, result in a loss of ammonia that greatly lessens the value. But the ashes on after the manure has been mixed with the soil; the ammonia will be absorbed by it and remain in it for the use of the crop. Wood ashes are a valuable application to soils deficient in potash, and hasten the decomposition in the coarse manures.

Fashion Notes.

Tartan is much used in combination with plain serge.

Richly colored bead trimmings in leaf patterns find favor.

Skirts of ordinary dresses seem to be increasing in length.

The skirts of home toilets are almost invariably made with trains.

Vandyked borders are used in very handsome and rich materials.

Ostrich feathers and wings are much used on both hats and bonnets.

Sleeves, veils and yokes of fur are features of some winter costumes.

Small muffs of silk and ribbon, filled with lace, are in favor in Paris now.

Low crowns and flat trimmings represent a favorite fashion in millinery.

Ribbed velvet, resembling very fine corduroy, is being used for winter costumes.

Embroidered Russian braids are employed on house jackets and dresses for children.

No trimming is put on the fashionable walking skirt, but only an artist can cut, hang and finish one.

All the walking dresses have one twelve-inch steel set in the skirt twelve inches below the belt.

Small crochet ball-bonnets are first choice for smooth cloths. Hat buttons are covered with velvet.

Edgings and loops of narrow black silk cord furnish a neat, inexpensive trimming for woolen dress goods.

Warm jackets for coaching, driving etc., are made of leopard-skin, sealskin, the axis deer, mink or black Russian lamb.

It is rumored that the short walking skirt is to be superseded by the inconvenient half long dress when a train is not desired.

Monotony is not an element in the millinery line this season, when trimmings range through every stage of texture from lace to astrachan.

The Figaro jacket is a popular style of corsage at present. It is completed by a vest or chemisette of puffed or plaited silk confined at the waist by a belt.

Only bent hooks are used by modistes who know the resources of the notion stock. Instead of eyes, small brass rings are used, which have previously been buttonhole-stitched with silk. Once fastened the bent hook remains so.

A new material for rough wear much used in London is Harris cloth, which comes in dull grays and browns mixed with white, and is made in simple styles. It is dyed with seaweed, and takes its name from Harris Island, a Scotch island where it is made.

White buckskin is coming into use for the waistcoats of cloth gowns, and collars and cuffs of the same material are seen on some English suits. The buckskin may be restored, when soiled, to its pristine whiteness with pipe clay without the necessity of removing it from the garment.

Newspaper English.

We are not only getting into the habit of using French words, but also of translating French phrases into our English. For instance, there is scarcely a paper I take up which does not inform us that something has been "definitely arranged"—meaning, of course, "definitely, or finally" settled; or that something "goes without saying"—where it goes we are not told. * * * We never say anything—we intimate it. Mr. Black boldly says to Smith at supper: "If you say that again I'll knock you down." But the newspapers report that he intimated an intention to prostrate his opponent. Black also adds that Smith is a blackguard and a rascal. Smith's friend says that "Black" alluded to him as not being honorable in his conduct." Brown, wishing to know who began this, says: "By whom was this initiated?" Smith's friend replies that it was initiated by Black, and that the controversy lasted the balance of the night. Jack was definitely arranged by an apology. Brown then asks where the parties are "stopping" now—meaning to ask where the two persons are staying, for nobody now stays in a place he "stops"—and Smith's friend intimates that it has "transpired" that they are in Green's hotel, and that Smith has "extended an invitation" to Black to dinner, and that this "difficility" has been "definitely arranged."

But, in the newspaper account of it, the writer says: "An outrage, which at first sight seems almost incredible, has just been ventilated by special inquiry."

Had Daniel to Read!

A farmer who was seated with his wife in a wagon in the market yesterday beckoned to a newsboy who was shouting:

"All about—!" etc., and asked?
"What's up now?"
"All about the message."
"What message?"
"The president's."
"Oh, that's it. The president sent a message to some one, did he?"
"It's the message to congress," said the boy after looking at the headlines.
"Must be mighty important!"
"Yes, sir."
"Quess I take one of them."
"I guess you won't!" exclaimed the wife as he felt for his change. "What on earth do you want of a message?"
"Want to see what it is, don't I?"
"But it's nothin' but readin'."
"No, I s'pose not, but the president must a had somethin' on his mind when he made it up."
"S'pose he had. We've got 'nuff on our minds, haven't we? You haven't finished that Life of Dan'l Boone yet."
"That's so. Say, bub, sorry to have troubled ye, but I guess I don't keer for any message, and the ole woman is rayther agin it, too. I've got a good book to home that makes my hair stand right up on every page, and I guess the president can't beat that 'Life of Dan'l Boone,' and the way he did knock In-guns and b'ars about would make your feet cold to read. No, I guess I won't buy. I'll continue on with Dan'l Boone."—*Detroit Free Press*

The Norwegians are said to be the longest-lived people in the world. Official statistics show that the average duration of life in Norway is 48.33 for the men, 51.30 for the women, and 46.77 for both sexes. The duration of life has increased of late years.

IN THE CHIMNEY CORNER.

What do you see in the fire my darling? Gold haired lassie beside my knee? Is it a castle in Eldorado, Is it a lover from over the sea? Leave the castle for others, lassie, Let the lover come whence he may; Love is love in the humblest cottage, Never mind what the world will say.

What is there in the flames, my darling? Do you wonder what I can see? The old white house and the little garden, Oh, how it all comes back to me! Oh, the sound of the mill wheel turning! Oh, the scent of the lilac tree! When I was a girl like you, my darling, When your grandfather courted me.

You will grow old, like me, my darling; Time will whiten your golden hair, You'll sit at eve in the chimney corner, Dreaming and watching each empty chair; You will not weep as you sit and ponder; You will remember granny's smile; For we know that the hearts that are gone, my darling, Are but lost for a little while.

—Frederick E. Weatherly
BANANA CHARLOTTE.—This is simple and refreshing. The sides of a quart mold are to be lined with sponge cake, and the bottom of the mold with thin slices of banana. Fill the mold with tiff whipped cream. Set it aside in the ice-box till wanted. Remove carefully from the mold and serve.

"My dearest Laura, what is the matter? Here you are bathed in tears and only four weeks after your wedding?"

"Oh, Clara, my husband is a candidate for Mayor, and I have just found out by this morning's paper that he is a paragon of all the vices."

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.—"Mr. Slowplop has proposed to you, my dear. How do you know, papa?"
"I met him as I was coming in."
"Did he look happy?"
"No, but his trousers were terribly bagged at the knees."

William Hammond, of Wilkes-barre Heights, aged 79, has worked continuously in coal mines for over 70 years, having commenced with his father, in Wales, when he was 8 years old. He is hale yet.

Kansas raised 34,000,000 bushels of wheat this year. If made into bread, reckoning a bushel to 60 pounds of flour, it would give each man, woman and child in the United States 34 two-pound loaves of bread.

The Nipomo postmaster has advertised postage stamps for sale for thirty days at 1c. He says he will not be undersold by any postmaster on the Western coast.

The farmer who moves into a new country should attend to setting out fruit trees just as quickly as possible.

Carriages.

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