

FARM NOTES.

—Begin cultivation as soon as the young plants appear, using a wheel hoe, which loosens the soil on both sides of the row and throws it slightly away from the plants.

—With land in the proper condition, an authority says a good farmer can raise on one acre any one of the following:

- Tomatoes, 300 to 400 bushels. Sweet potatoes, 500 to 600 bushels. Beets, 300 to 400 bushels. Carrots, 300 to 400 bushels. Cabbage, 8000 heads. Potatoes, 100 to 300 bushels.

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The First American Printing Press. Under the title of the Cambridge Press Robert F. Roden has written a history of the first printing press established in English America, and he has added to this a bibliographical list of the issues of this press, which existed from 1638 to 1692.

Native Life and Conditions on the Isthmus of Panama.

The banana business is a very delicate one to handle. First of all the fruit is never cut from the plants until it is a certainty that a boat will be on hand to take it off within twenty-four hours.

HER DOWRY.

A waiter in a coffee shop in Vienna was arranging the tables, seeing that the ware that is usually kept on them was in order, when the door opened and a gentleman walked in and asked for a cup of chocolate.

"You are too early," said the waiter. "Do you suppose we can serve guests till 2 o'clock in the morning and be up at 4 to begin another day? You'll get nothing here till 9 o'clock. Be off with you!"

The stranger made no reply, but left the shop. Walking across the street, the waiter watching him the while, he entered another coffee shop and made the same request.

"Sit down, sir," said the landlord cheerily. "The chocolate will be ready in a moment."

While the guest was waiting for his chocolate he conversed with the landlord. He did not take the proffered seat, but walked back and forth. He asked many questions about what was going on in the neighborhood—whether the people were satisfied with their condition, how the city government suited them and if the inspectors troubled them much.

While they were talking the landlord's daughter, Rosina, a very pretty girl, came in with the chocolate. The stranger wished her good day and made some very pretty speeches to her. When she went out, pouring the chocolate, he said to her father:

"She is a nice girl. But I warn you that flowers are not always in bud nor even in bloom. She should be married before she fades."

The landlord, who stood before his guest, with a napkin on his arm, shrugged his shoulders, spread out his hands on either side and rolled up his eyes.

"She is fading very fast," he said, "not from age, for she is only nineteen, but because she loves a young man, and since I have no dowry to give her she cannot marry him."

"Who is the young man?" asked the stranger.

"He is an optician, a maker of glasses, a fine young man. He served his term in the army and was very brave. He fought for the emperor at Sadowa and received a medal for saving a standard from falling into the hands of the enemy. He was badly wounded and was brought home here and put in a hospital. My daughter was serving as nurse, and she took care of the young soldier. It was doubtless due to her care that he recovered."

"Why do you not represent the case to the emperor?" asked the stranger. "He should pay for the lives of his soldiers. Your daughter should receive a dowry from the government for saving the brave young man."

"The emperor! The poor man is already beset by the cares of state without being troubled by a poor coffee house keeper's daughter. What with keeping so many different people together under his flag one would think he would go crazy."

"How much dowry does your daughter require to marry her soldier lover?"

"A thousand crowns."

By this time the stranger had swallowed his chocolate.

"I would advise you," he said, "to send your daughter with her lover to the emperor that she may tell how she saved one of his soldiers, and perhaps he will give her a dowry."

"Are you crazy?" asked the landlord in astonishment at such a proposition.

"Not at all. I am perfectly sane."

"Why, she could not even get an audience with the emperor. And if she did it would be shameful for her to bother the good man with her affairs."

"Nonsense! The emperor would be glad to listen to a petition from a young girl who had saved a life for him. And, as for securing an audience, I will attend to that for you. Give me pen and paper."

The landlord, wondering whether he was awake or dreaming or out of his senses, brought writing materials, and the stranger scribbled something on a bit of paper and handed it to the landlord, saying:

down the street. The waiter opposite who had refused to serve the stranger also went to the door, wondering what had so interested the neighbor in the man. Together they examined the paper he had left, but could make nothing out of it except three letters—F, J, and R.

All that day and in the evening the family of the landlord, with Rosina and her soldier, discussed the matter of risking their necks for themselves by going to the palace.

The decision was to go. They were admitted on the stranger's pass, and on entering a room where the emperor received petitions they saw that he was the stranger who had drunk chocolate in the coffee house.

He received them with a smile and without requiring them to state their case handed Rosina a check for a thousand crowns.

The Romantic Story of an Old California Miner.

"The finest gentleman I ever knew," said Mark Twain once, "was an old California miner who could barely write his own name. He was a forty-aider, and he and his partner had struck it rich in the early days. The old man had neither chick nor child, and he had worked hard all his life, and when he did get his money he hardly knew what to do with it."

"He did not try to jump into society or to push his way with the 'big fellows' there. He continued to live with the people whom he had associated with all his life, and many an act of kindness was done, many a wandering son and father saved, many a sorrowing woman's burden lightened and her home brightened by an unknown donor, whose identity with the old man was only known to a few."

"It was different with the partner. He had a wife and two daughters with social aspirations, and after a whole lot of pushing and hauling and shoving they landed in society. The expense was too much of a drain on the husband's purse, and he speculated, with the inevitable outcome. He lost his entire fortune and then shot himself. Then it was that the true gentleness of the old man showed itself. The widow and her daughters had no one to turn to but him, and he did not disappoint them. He saved their home under the hammer, and he maintained them in all the regal style to which they were accustomed, although he still lived in his old lodgings. He lived long enough to see both of the girls well married and the mother carefully settled in life. Then he died in a charity hospital in San Francisco. He had spent every penny he owned on the family of his partner."

Gold in Ancient Rome.

William Jacob in his "History of the Precious Metals" estimates from the accounts given by the Roman writers that in the reign of Augustus, the first of the emperors, when Rome was at the height of its power, the amount of gold in the Roman empire was nearly \$2,000,000,000. This vast treasure had been gathered chiefly by conquest from various nations of Europe, Asia and Africa. There had been extensive mines in Spain and in the Atlas mountains of north Africa, but their yield in the wealth of kings and of cities in Asia and Egypt had been despoiled and carried away to enrich the conquerors.

Our First Money.

The first United States money was made in 1786, but instead of bearing the faces of leading statesmen it bore only the face of Liberty. Some few coins were stamped with the face of Washington and are highly valued by collectors. The first coins struck by the United States mint were some half dimes in 1792. The first United States dimes were struck in France from old silver family plate furnished by Washington and were known as "Martha Washington dimes" from the fact that the Liberty head was adapted to that of the president's wife.—New York American.

Unfair.

Farmer at the grindstone.—Well, why don't you turn? City Nephew:—Nix! Ye don't turn me agin. When ever I turn ye go and bear down with the ax.—Life.

Cuts Them.

Wiggs—How mighty exclusive Uplish is getting of late. Biggs—Exclusive! Why, he refuses even to meet his bills.—Exchange.

The Way Charles II. Was Dosed by His Fourteen Doctors.

Charles II. of England lived less than a week after he was attacked by his fatal illness, and it is wonderful that he lived so long. A monograph on "The Last Days of Charles II." gives some extraordinary details of those last days:

"The royal patient had fourteen doctors in attendance. They bled him to the extent of thirty-four ounces; they shaved his hair and applied blistering agents all over his head; they also applied plasters to the soles of his feet, and they dosed him with orange infusion of the metals, white vitriol dissolved in compound penny water, powder of sacred bitter, sirup of buckthorn, rock salt, emetic wine, two-blend pills, bryony compound, powder of white hellebore roots, powder of cowslip flowers, best manna, cream of tartar, barley and licorice, sweet almond kernels, sal ammoniac, antidotal milk water, mallow root, melon seeds, chicken broth, bark of elm, a julep of black cherry water, flowers of lime, lilies of the valley, peony compound, spirit of lavender, prepared pearls and white sugar candy, senna leaves, flowers of camomile, gentian root, nutmeg, ale made without hops, spirit of human skull (commonly employed in convulsive disorders; the purpose was suggestive—viz. to excite horror, as it was to be the skull of a man who had died a violent death, Peruvian bark, sirup of cloves, Raleigh's strouger antidote, Goa stone, Rhine wine and oriental bezoar stone."

Dr. Raymond Crawford, the author of this odd historical sketch, believes that the king's trouble was not apoplexy, but Bright's disease.

Easy Oysters.

During a discussion on finance in the United States senate one of the speakers traced the history of the various mediums of exchange, their development and changes from the days of barter to the days of gold and silver.

"I call to the attention of the senate," he said in the course of the speech, "that at one time the medium of exchange was oyster shells. Oyster shells were used for money."

"Delightful!" broke in the late Senator Hoar of Massachusetts. "If that system only prevailed now we could order half a dozen oysters on the half shell and pay for them with the shells."—Saturday Evening Post.

Same Way.

"How did you find dear old Broadway?" "That way yet." "What way?" "Old and dear."—Cleveland Leader.

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