A RIDDLE.

There's a queer little house When the good mother cails, The children all run. While under her roof

It is cozy and warm, Though the cold wind may whistle And bluster and storm

In the daytime this queer Little house moves away, And the children run after, So happy and gay; But it comes back at night. And the children are fed, And tucked up to sleep

In their warm, cozy bed.

This queer little house Has no windows nor doors The roof has no shingles, The rooms have no floors: No fireplaces, chimneys, No stoves can you see. Yet the children are cozy

And warm as can be The story of this Little house is quite true: I have seen it myself, And I'm sure you have, too, You can see it tonight, If you'll watch the old hen

While her downy wings cover

Her chickens again. -Author Unknown.

THE COLONEL AND THE HORSE THIEF

[BY REX BEACH.] Copyrighted by McClure, Phillips & Co.

one, you know. Well, I s'pose it was sort of a queer game. Came near being my fast, too, and if Black Hawk hadn't been the best horse in Texas the old colonel would 've killed me sure. He chased me six miles as we lost no time in getting away. it was--me with one arm full of his buckshot and anxious to explain and plained Barrett as we rode south. him straining to get in range again and not wishing any further particu-

That was way back in the sixties, when I was as wild a lad as ever straddled a pony.

You see, five of us had gone over into the Crow Nation to race horses shoulder, but I used the gun in my with the ludians, and it was on the left hand and broke for the nearest way back that the old man and the pony." builet holes figger in the story.

devilment in it to suit a harum scarum young feller like me. So we got five of the boys who had good horses, lumped together all of our money and rode out to invade the reservation.

You know how an Indian loves to that?" run horses? Well, the Crows had a good deal of money then, and our had and take down the wealth.

through.

You see, as soon as the money was up and the horses started every Indian would be watching the race and pot, Indian's money and ours, too, and we'd make our getaway across the river back into Texas.

minutes' start of 'em, and, with the much danger of their getting in range looking as we were. before we crossed back to where they couldn't follow us.

out like that scheme did. Them Crows disreputable an outfit as we are-two was dead anxious to run their ponies men shot up and the rest of us withand seemed skeered that we wouldn't out bedding, grub, money or explanalet 'em get all their money up.

I'm sore that we didn't have more coin. If we'd worked 'em right they'd 'a' give us odds. We could 'a' got 5 to 3 anyhow and maybe more."

"They shore have got a heap of confidence in them skates of their'n," says "Kink" Marrin. "I never see says. "One of us 'll be the sheriff of anybody so anxious to play a race in Guadalupe county, back home, with my life. If it wasn't all planned out three deputies, bringing back a prisonthe way it is I'd like to stick and see er that we've chased across the state. which hoss is the best. I'd back Black We'll ride up to a ranch and demand Hawk agin any hunk of meat in the lodging for ourselves and prisoner in territory with the kid here in the sad-

They'd ribbed it up for me to ride Martin's mare, Black Hawk, while a fittle feller named Hollis rode his own horse.

Donnelly's part was to stay in the saddle and keep the other horses close to Barrett and Martin. They was to 'em do the bearin' off of the booty while the other made the protection play.

We hoped in the excitement to get off without harming any of Uncie Sam's pets, but all three of the boys had been with the rangers, and I knew if it came to a showdown they wouldn't hesitate to "pot" one or two in getting

We rode out from camp the next morning to where we'd staked out a mile track on the prairie, and it seem- like the devil. We'll all tear off a few ed as if the whole Crow Nation was

there and nary a white but us five. They'd entered two pretty good looking horses and had their jockeys strip- praying that the gallant and misguided ped down to breechclouts, while Holtis and me wore our whole outfits on our backs, as we didn't exactly figger on dressing after the race-leastways, not on that side of the fiver.

Just before we lined up Jim says: ry, so we decided to try it on. "Now, you-all ride like-and when you git to the far turn we'll let the guns loose and stampede the crowd. Then jest leave the track and make a Jim called the owner out. break fer the river, everybody fer "I want a night's lodging fer my feet bound together and me fastened

conwoods on the other side, so we can "I'm the sheriff of Guadalupe county, you can watch him, but you're in my icross after us."

That would have been a sure enough all four got as pretty a start as I ever see and went down the line all to gether with a-banging of boofs and indian yells ringing in our ears

I had begun to work Black Hawk out of the bunch to get a clear start across the prairie at the turn when I heard the guns begin snapping like popcorn.

"They've started a'ready!" yelled Hollis, and we turned the rearing horses toward the river, three miles away, leaving them two savages tearing down the track like mad.

i glanced back as I turned, but instead of seeing the boys in the midst of a decent retreat the crowd was swarming after 'em like a nest of angry hornets, while Donnelly, with his reins between his teeth, was blazing away at three reds who were right at Barrett's heels as he ran for his horse. Martin was lashing his jumping cayuse away from the mob. which sputtered and spit angry shots after him. Bucks were running here and there and hastily mounting their ponies, while an angry roar came to me, punctuated by the popping of the guns.

Hollis and I reached the river and swam it half a mile ahead of the others and their yelling bunch of trailers, so we were able to protect 'em in their crossing.

I could see from their actions that Bennett and Martin was both hurt, and I judged the deal hadn't panned out exactly according to specifications.

The Crows didn't attempt to cross HOSE marks on my arm? Oh, 1 in the teeth of our fire, however, being got 'em playing horse thief! satisfied with what they'd done, and Yes, playing. I wasn't a real the horses safely brought our three comrades dripping up the bank to where we lay taking pot shots at every bunch of feathers that approached the opposite bank.

We got Barrett's arm into a sling, and as Martin's hurt wasn't serious

"They simply beat us to it," com-"You all had jest started when young Long Hair grabs the sack and ducks through the crowd, and the whole bunch turns loose on us at once. We wasn't expe ding anything so early in the game, and they winged me the first clatter. I thought sure it was off with me when I got this bullet in the

"They got me, too, before I saw At the beginning it was Jim Barrett's what was up," added Martin, "but I plan, and it had jest enough risk and tore out of there like a jack rabbit. It was all done so cussed quick that the first thing I knew I'd straddled my horse and was making tracks. Who'd 'a' thought them durned Indians was dishonest enough fer a trick like

Then Donnelly spoke up and says: "Boys, as fur as the coin goes we're scheme was to go over there, get up a out and injured. We jest made a big race, back our horses with all we 'Mexican stand off'-lost our money, but saved our lives-and mighty lucky Taking chances? Don't you believe at that from appearances. What I it. That's where the beauty of Jim's want to know now is how we're all going to get home, clean across the state of Texas, without a dollar in the outfit and no assets but our guns and the nags."

That was a sure tough proposition, yelling at the nags; then in the con- and we had left it teetotally out of fusion our boys was to grab the whole calculations. We'd bet every bean on that race, not seeing how we could lose. In them days there wasn't a railroad in that section, ranches were We figured that we could get a few scattering, and people weren't giving pink teas to every stranger that rode horses we had under us, there wasn't up, especially when they were as hard

"We've got to eat, and so's the horses," says Hollis, "but no rancher is Well, sir, I never see anything work going to welcome with open arms as tions. Them's what we need-expla-As we was eating supper the night nations. I don't exactly see how we're before the race Donnelly says: "Boys, going to explain our fix to the honest hay diggers either. Everybody W think some sheriff is after us, and two to one they'll put some officer on our trail, and we'll have more trouble. I believe I've had all I want for awhile."

the name of the state of Texas and say that we'll pay with vouchers on the county in the morning."

"No, sir; not fer me!" says Martin. "I'm not going in fer forgery. It's all right to practice a little mild deception on our red brothers, as we figgered on doing, but I'm not going to try to flimflam the state of Texas. Our troubles stick next to the money and one of would only be starting if we began that game."

"Your plan's all right, Kid," says Bennett to me. "You be the terrible desperado that I'm bringing home after a bloody fight where you wounded Martin and me and 'most escaped. You'll have every rancher's wife giving you flowers and weeping over your youth and kissing you goodby. In the morning, when we're ready to go and I'm about to fix up the vouchers for our host, you break away and ride shots and foller in a hurry, leaving the farmer hoping that the villain is recaptured and the girls tearfully

youth escapes." It seemed to be about our only re sort, as the country was full of bad men, and we were liable to get turned

down cold if we didn't have some sto-We rode up to a ranch 'bout dark that night, me between the others, with my hands tied behind me, and

stand 'em off if they try to swim and I'll fix up the bill in the morning."

"Come in! Come in." the feller says, calling a man for the horses. "Glad hot race if we had run it out, for we to accommodate you. Who's your prisoner?

"That's Texas Charlie that robbed the Bank of Euclid single handed." answers Jim. "He give us a long run clean across the state, but we got him jest as he was getting over into the indian Territory. Fought like a tiger." It worked fine. The feller, whose name was Morgan, give us a good layout for the night and a bully breakfast next morning.

That desperado game was simply great. The other fellers attended to the horses, and I jest sat around looking vicious and had my grub brought to me, while the women acted sorrowful and fed me pie and watermelon

pickles. morning Jim says, "Now, Mr. Morgan, I'll fix up them vouchers with you," and, giving me the wink, I let out a yell, and, jabbing the spurs into Black Hawk, we cleared the fence and was em shooting and screaming after me like mad.

Say, it was lovely, and when the boys overtook me, out of sight of the house, Morgan would have been aston-



"That's Texas Charlie that robbed the Bank of Euclid. ished to see the sheriff, his posse and

the terrible desperado doubled up in their saddles laughing fit to bust. Well, sir, we never had a hitch in the proceedings for five days, and I was getting to feel a sort of pride in my record as a bank robber, forger, horse thief and murderer, according to the Bennett presented it. He cer ly was the boss liar of the range.

He had a story framed up that painted me as the bloodiest young tough the Lone Star had ever produced, and it never failed to get me all the attention there was in the

One night we came to the best looking place we'd seen, and in answer to Jim's summons out walked an old man, followed by two of the prettiest girls I ever saw, who joined their father in inviting us in.

"Glad to be of assistance to you. Mr. Sheriff," he said. "My name is Purdy, sir-Colonel Purdy, as you may have heard; in the Mexican war special mention three times for distinguished conduct. These are my daughters, sir-Annabel and Marie." As we went in he continued: "You say you had a hard time getting your prisoner? He looks young for a criminal. What's he wanted for?"

Somehow when I saw those girls blushing and bowing behind their father I didn't care to have my crimes made out any blacker'n necessary, "I'll tell you how we'll work it," I and I tried to give Jim the high sign to let me off easy-just make it forgery or arson-but be was looking at the ladies, and, evidently believing in the strength of a good impression, he said: "Well, yes; he's young, but they never was a old man with half his crimes. He's wanted for a good many things in different places, but I went after him for horse stealing and murder. Killed a rancher and his little daughter, then set fire to the house and ran off a bunch of stock."

"Oh, oh! How dreadful!" shuddered the girls, backing off, with horrified

glances at me. I tried to get near Jim to step on his foot, but the old man was glaring at me something awful.

"Come to observe him closely, he has a depraved face," says he. "He looks the thorough criminal in every feature; dead to every decent impulse,

In those days I was considered a pretty handsome feller, too, and I knew I had Jim beat before the draw on looks, but he continues making matters worse. "Yes, and he's desperate, too-one of the worst I ever see. We had an

awful fight with him up here on the line of the territory. He shot Martin and me before we got him. You see, I wanted to take him alive, and so I took chances on getting hurt. "Thank you, miss; my arm does ache

considerable. Of course if you'd jest as soon dress it- Oh, no; I'm no braver'n anybody else, I guess! Nice of you to say so, anyhow." And he went grinning out into the kitchen with

the girls to fix up his arm. The old man insisted on having my

house now, and I feet a share of the responsibility upon me. I've had experience with desperate characters. and I'm going to be sure that this young reprobate don't escape his just punishment. Are you sure you don't need more belp getting him home? I'll

ro with you if"-"Thank you." interrupted Hollis. We've chased the scoundrel 400 miles. and I reckon, now we've got him, we can keep him."

At supper Jim. with his arm in a new sling, sat between the two girls. who cooed over him and took turns feeding him till it made me sick.

The old man had a nigger move my chair up to the foot of the table and bring me a plate of coarse grub after they all finished eating.

He had tied my ankles to the lower rung of the chair bimself, and when I When we was ready to leave next says to the nigger. "Those cords have plum stopped my circulation; just ease 'em up a little." he went straight up. "Don't you touch them knots, Sam!" be roared. "I know how to secure a man, and don't you try any of your off like a puff of dust, with the rest of games in my house either, you young fiend I'd never forgive myself if you

escaped." I ate everything I could reach, which wasn't much, and when I asked for the butter be glared at me and said: "Butter's too good for horse thieves. Eat what's before you."

Every time I'd catch the eye of one of the girls and kind of grin and look enticing she'd shiver and tell Jim that the marks of my depravity stood out on my face like warts on a toad

Jim and the boys would all grin like idiots and invent a new crime for me. They put it to the old man so strong that when he turned in he chained me to Sam, the cross eyed nigger that stood behind me at supper, and made us sleep on the door.

I told Sam that I cut a man's throat once because he snored, and that nigger never closed an eye all night. I was trying to get even with somebody. After breakfast, when it came time to leave, Donnelly untied my feet and led me out into the yard, where the girls were hanging around the colonel and Jim, who was preparing to settle

As we rode up the evening before i had noticed that we turned in from the road through a lane and that the fence was too high to jump, so when I threw my leg over Black Hawk I hit Donnelly a swat in the neck, and as he did a stage fall I swept through the gate and down the lane.

The old man cut the halter off one of his Mexican warwhoops and broke through the house on the run, appearing at the front door with his shotgun just as I checked up to make the turn on to the main road.

As I swung around, doubled over the horse's neck, he let drive with his old blunderbuss, and I caught two buckshot in my right arm where you see them marks

I had sense enough to hang on and ride for my life, because I knew the old fire eater would reckon it a pleasure to put an end to such a wretch as me if he got half a chance. I heard him howl: "Come on, boys!

We'll get him yet!" And over my shoulder I saw him jump one of his loose horses standing in the yard and come tearing down the lane, ahead of the befuddled sheriff and posse, his white hair streaming and the shotgun waving aloft as though charging an army of greasers at the head of his

From the way he drew away from the boys I wouldn't have placed any money that he was wrong, either. I've always wondered how the old man ever got through that war with only three recommendations to the government.

He certainly kept good horses, too, for in five minutes we'd left the posse



"Come on, boys! We'll get him yet!" behind, and I saw him madly orging his horse into range, reloading as he

came. As I threw the quirt into the mare with my good arm I allowed I'd had about all the horse stealing I wanted for awhile.

The old devil finally saw he was losing ground in spite of his best efforts and let me have both barrels. I heard the shot patter on the hard road behind me and hoped he'd quit and go home, but I'm blamed if he

shoe or something would happen to

I believe I was on the only horse in Texas that could have outrun the colosel and his that morning.

About noon I stopped at a blacksmith's shop, half dead with pain, and had my arm dressed and a big joit of whisky As the posse rode up to me sitting

in the sun by the lathered flanks of my horse and nursing my arm, Jim vells out: "Here be is! Surround him,

boys! You're our prisoner!" "No: I'm blamed if I am!" I says. "You'll have to get another desperado.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN

After this I'm the sheriff."

DAILY THOUGHT.

To cultivate kindness is a great part of the ness of life.-Samuel Johnson

Among the minor discomforts of the winter season-especially in climate of sudden changes and high winds-the chapping of the face and hands is one of the most annoying. The skin becomes rough, red and generally unsightly, and actual cracking and bleeding sometimes

To protect the skin from this irritation, especial care should be taken to temperature. Don't toast the face and and grain. They must be pushed to lay hands before a blazing fire and then go

straight out into the icy wind. be sure to rinse it in cooler water, then in very cold water. Dry the skin of hands and face thoroughly.

Don't wash the skin immediately after it has been exposed to the outdoor cold. Chapping of the lips is frequently the result of moistening them with the tongue in the open air. Keep your lips closed as much as possible while you are out in is to raise more beef cattle on our farms. the cold.

Don't wear woolen gloves if you wish to keep the hands smooth A liberal amount of cold cream should

used on both face and hands during the winter season. Wash the skin at least an hour before you start out; then while still warm, rub in the cream on face, hands and arms.

Rub off the surplus cream with a soft cloth, rinse the skin in cold water, and apply powder to remove the "shine. An automobile veil is a great protection to the face if one is driving or motoring in cold weather. A muff, while a great comfort, is likely to aid chapping, as the hands become too warm, and chilled when it is necessary to take them out of the muff. Never keep the

muff while you are indoors.-Woman's

There is no line of a woman's face so indicative of age as the "jaw line." The suggestive at 25 becomes a possibility at 30, and a stern reality at 40. Some faces acquire the double chin more readily and earlier than others, because of sagging, and lax muscles, but much can be done to ward off and alleviate this unsightly

line, if a few simple rules are practised. High collars will invariably cause a double chin, and too much cannot be said against them. They not only form this line by folding the flesh above, but they mar the skin of the neck by their pressure and heat. The present fashion of low collars is being generally adopted, them, because of their comfort and de-

cided benefit to neck and chin lines. A second help in the demolition of the double chin, and a healthful practice as well, is pillowless sleeping. This habit at first is hard to acquire, and it will take a few nights to become accustomed to lying with shoulders and head flat. But one wakens from a night of perfect relaxation, and dreamless sleep, with refreshed nerves and rested muscles. With the high pillow the head is bent forward, the chest muscles are cramped and the

flesh of the neck folds beneath the chin. The muscles which must be strengthened in order to prevent or help the forming of a double chin are those at the side of the face. Do not attempt massage in ignorance or you will only

stretch and not tighten the muscles. A tonic bath should be given the flesh when the skin is flabby, although a treatment for nourishment should be used first. For the tonic, and also for a delightful refreshment to the skin, use a bath of tincture of myrrh. A few drops every few weeks. to a bowl of tepid water gives a milky bath which will be found most beneficial The face should be gently splashed with the water for five minutes and dried by patting with a soft towel.

Considerable diversity of opinion reigns regarding slit or curved-up skirts, which are almost universal for evening wear. In the opinion of some the introduction of even the filmiest petticoat just calls attention to what would otherwise merely be a charming inaggressive interlude in an otherwise simple scheme.

Lemon Custard Pudding. - Boil one pint of milk and pour it over three ounces of fine bread crumbs; cream one ounce of butter with two ounces of sugar, add the beaten yolks of two eggs and grated rind of lemon, then gradually add he milk and crumbs; stir all together and pour into a buttered pie dish. Bake hne-half hour or until set; then beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth, with one ounce of sugar and a few drops of lemon juice. Pile roughly over the pudding; sift a little sugar over and then brown lightly in the oven.

Hamburg Roast.—Make a dressing of passed down through the generations, stale bread soaked until soft. Then means loss. squeeze the water off and season with a little pepper, salt, sage, one egg and a few bits of butter. Stir it into your meat and put into a greased tin; add a little hot water and bake about one and one-half hours. One pound of steak fixed this way is plenty for four.

Although there was an effort on the part of fashion to have the hats small this fall, she has only succeeded with the tailored models. The dress hats remain large, in fact very large, and their brims are more or less irregular, giving them decidedly becoming angles. All crowns, both on tailored and dress hats are lower, and the head sizes remain large.

After the removal of clothing from the break fer the river, everybody fer "I want a night's lodging fer my test bound together and me fastened didn't chase me five miles further between the next step. Any form of oily dressing which can be had may be used. FARM NOTES.

-When purchasing a dairy sire, if possible, see his dam. She should be of good size for the breed, a regular breeder, possess a strong constitution and vitality, with well-developed barrel and mammi system, and have made a good yearly official record.

-A large proportion of the growth obtained while the pig is less than five months of age costs but little actual money, and to make the business profitable it is essential that we secure the most gain possible during the first few months of the pig's life.

-Winter leguminous plants are very valuable and should not be neglected. They improve the soil, prevent loss in plant food during winter and furnish grazing for all kinds of stock. Progressive agriculture requires that these plants have a prominent place in our rotation.

The maintenance of good digestion is important. By feeding a coarse and in nutritious ration, especially to old horses, digestion may be so badly deranged when spring arrives that they cannot maintain strength and proper condition even when fed with a more generous ration.

-If the lambs are to be fattened for market start them on a little grain just as soon as they will learn to eat it, and feed grain continuously with good pasture un-til they go to the block. Prime fat ribs shield it from too sudden changes of cannot be produced by alternate grass on fat from the start to finish.

-Charcoal is a pressing essential for After washing the skin in hot water, poultry, especially at this season. Instead of buying it, rake up some old chunks of wood, cobs and other refuse about the place, setting fire to them. When the heap turns to a mass of hot coals smother it down with a little water or dirt, and when it cools you will have

a handy supply. The manager with a small farm may diversisy his crops so that plenty of feeds may be produced, devote a portion of the farm to pasture and return the manure from the animals to the soil, so that the yield will be increased and thus find prof-

its in a few beef cattle -One way to solve the beef problem is to raise more beef cattle on our farms. The manager with a small farm may diversify his crops so that plenty of feed may by produced, devote a portion of the farm to pasture and return the manure from the animals to the soil, so that the yield will be increased and thus find prof-

its in a few beef cattle. -Potatoes can be fed to hogs with good results, but they should be cooked first. In experiments it has been found that four pounds of cooked potatoes are equal to one pound of grain feed. The potatoes should be fed with grain, as alone they form an unbalanced ration. The grain fed should not be cooked, as

the raw grain is most digestible -There are some soiling crops that may go before the more delicate and fastidious feeders. Buckwheat, rye and the cowhorn turnip are of this character. They will tame and benefit almost any wild and barren soil and flourish over a wide range of climate. The rye must be turned under promptly in the springtime, before it drains the soil of moisture and interferes with orchard trees or any such

thing. -There is no place where meat can strong brine in a cool cellar. eral practice for farmers has been to cure a lot of meat, smoke it all at one time and then try to save it in some way. Leave it where it is safe, that is, in good pickle. It will absorb only a given quantity, and that is all. From time to time such cured meats as are desired can be freshened by soaking in water, then let drip until thoroughly dry and smoked. In this way meat can be smoked to suit and

yet be mellow and free from insects. -A good hogs' house is dry and clean inside, admits plenty of light, is well ventilated, free from draughts and comfortably warm for the hogs. This is the teaching received by a class in swine production at Western Agricultural College. And the most practical hog man will admit that it is good advice. Change the bedding frequently by cleaning everything out of the sleeping pens. Scatter airslaked lime about at frequent intervals. Use a coal-tar dip or crude carbolic acid solution, and spray the pens

-Growing large quantities of legumes -clovers, alfalfa, peas, beans and vetches-not only increase the nitrogen but if all manure is carefully preserved and applied to the soil the humus will also be increased, and by paying special attention to good tillage the physicial condition of the soil will without doubt be generally improved, making the farm more productive year after year. Without the soil in good physical condition no farm can do its best. There is scarcely a farm on which the productive power cannot be greatly increased by the growing of more legumes, the intelligent use of manure and good tillage.

-Wintering Turkeys.-A vigorous stock should have been reserved. It is a mistake to save the stunted individuals. just because they will not bring as much on the holiday market as you would wish. Get rid of them and keep only a few of the best. Birds at least a year old are more profitable than the young ones, and they increase in value for at least a couple of years. It is stated authorita tively that nine-tenths of the blackhead is traced to in-breeding. Vigorous stock and freedom from the disease mean profit, while the weakness resulting from a lack of new blood, added to disease germs

Turkeys need no expensive poultry house. Even as far north as Rhode Is land some of the most successful breeders allow the turkeys to roost in a tree. If the weather is so severe that they must have shelter, a shed on the south side of a building. But in most of the region of the Middle States, the tree suits better and is more healthful. Turkeys chafe under restraint of any sort, even when asleep. Pure air they will have, and the kindness which confines is real punishment. Some owners object to the tree, lest it stimulate rambling and they ecome a prey to various thieves, but if fed regularly there is little danger of

winter roaming.

Turkeys will prove more prolific if not allowed to become over-fat. A ration of corn alone is for this reason objectionable. Corn mingled with wheat, and oats that have been boiled and then drained