

THE BRAVEST BATTLE.

BY JOAQUIN MILLER.

The bravest battle that ever was fought, Shall I tell you where and when? On the map of the world you will find it not;

'Twas fought by the mothers of men, Nay, not with a cannon or battle shot, With sword or noble pen;

A BERKSHIRE STORY.

It was away up in the Western Massachusetts, just where the famous old post road through the Berkshire hills winds itself into New Ashford.

The black vanguard of an approaching summer storm crept along the valley behind us, and a few stray raindrops already warned that it was time to seek for shelter.

There must be a corpse in the house," remarked Harvey reassuringly, leaning upon his bicycle and turning on me a look of hungry resignation.

"What's wrong?" I queried, riding alongside. In reply he held out the case, and there on the cigarettes lay Clemmie's little turquoise ring.

"Of course," said he, fastening the jewel securely to his watch chain. "Of course I will—but, say, you might postpone writing that pastoral play for me until I return to the ring. There may be a new suggestion for you."

"He is dead, Clemmie, dead! My Dave is dead!" and fell at the side of the little bed, sobbing and crying. The girl quickly glided by me, and placing her hand upon the man's chest said quietly:

Bagdad the Garden Spot of the Desert.

The fall of Bagdad, besides impairing German hopes of near eastern dominion, based on a Berlin-Bagdad railway, will reverberate throughout the Mohammedan empires and, it is believed, will help to rehabilitate British prestige in the far east, damaged by the Dardanelles campaign and the loss of Kut-el-Amara.

When the oriental traffic died down after the conquests of Alexander the city died. When the power of Islam rose and safety was re-established it was refounded and flourished again. Finally, when the route to the north along the Caspian was opened Constantinople took its place as the great mart of the east.

There are many reminders of the captivity of Judah in the old around the city. Within a few miles stand the tombs of Joshua, Ezra and Ezekiel, prophets of the exile. Outside the city is the famous well of Daniel, into which the prophet is supposed to have been thrown during one of his controversies with the Median king.

From this time to the Christian era the city almost vanished from the record. It is mentioned occasionally for a few hundred years and then forgotten. The resurrection of the city came in 762 A. D., and it is then that the history which made the name known to the world over began to form.

For a thousand years after Mansur pitched his tent beside the river and traced the lines for the great walls of Bagdad remained the wonder city of the east. Its glory and its greatness were in the hands of the great caliph Harun was the last of the great caliphs. The race degenerated, and the wild Turkish adventurers in the north who had gathered into the caliph's bodyguard took the rule of the palace and finally the realm.

One of the suggestions made is that the State adopt in a modified form an English system of requiring dogs to be penned up within yards after sundown. The various ideas are being studied with the object of framing a law satisfactory to all interests.

Among the curious customs of the Philippine Islands one of the most peculiar is that of "beautifying" which prevails among the Bagobos of Mindanao. Both boys and girls of this tribe undergo the filing process before marriage, and this usually occurs while they are still very young.

The total number of trees in the streets of Paris is 86,000, and of these 26,000 are plane-trees, 16,000 chestnuts and 14,000 elms.

Here's a Way to Save Doctor Bills.

Physicians Give Free Advice by Which Parents May Profit.

It was an association of gentlemen, professionally physicians and chemists, all of whom were born in the drug trade, so to speak, and who have been connected with it all their lives, who first gave to the world Castoria, which as every one knows is a pleasant and effective remedy for the ailments of infants and children.

Many parents call in the family physician. Many other parents take advantage of what the physician told them when he was first called in consultation. All good family physicians say: Give the children Castoria.

Charles H. Fletcher has received hundreds of letters from prominent physicians who have the same esteem for Castoria that Dr. McCann has. Not only do these physicians say they use Castoria in their own families, but they prescribe it for their patients.

Medical Journals are reluctant to discuss proprietary medicines. Hall's Journal of Health, however, says "Our duty is to expose danger and record the means for advancing health."

Russia Haven of Homeless Hordes. The passage across the Russian frontier of thousands of Rumanians, who have abandoned their homes and property in face of the invading Germans and Bulgarians, has cast the shadow of a new refugee problem on the Russian Empire.

The condition of the refugees has been improved through committees, which are succeeding in distributing the migratory population throughout the interior, encouraging their colonization in fertile agricultural districts and giving them work in making boots, all sorts of clothing and other immediately marketable articles.

A curious method of reviving languishing or dying trees was reported recently to the French Academy of Agriculture after being tested successfully in experimental gardens at Autun. The earth was first removed so as to lay bare the larger root branches, in which longitudinal slits were then cut and kept open by wedges. These cuts were well rubbed with linseed oil and appeared, furthermore rapidly gained new life and vigor.

Skirt widths for spring average two and one-half yards at the hem. Many skirts are high waisted, others have fancy belt arrangements.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT

To be 70 years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be 40 years old.—O. W. Holmes.

In touring one often wants to take along a good hat for wear when not in the car. A bag that will hold two or three hats may be made by taking two long, straight pieces of heavy linen, to match the car lining, binding them together with tape at the edges, leaving the top open lengthwise and dividing them into three pockets.

We often hear, early in the season, the announcement that tailored suits will not be greatly used, or later we are told that tailored suits have not been worn as much as dresses and coats; but never was there a time when tailored suits did not play a most important part in the wardrobe of the fashionable American woman.

One girl who desired to enter the physiology class was asked to define the functions of the stomach. She replied "The functions of the stomach are to hold up the petticoat." This girl was raised in the country, where petticoats are still worn.—Lansing (Kan) News.

Add lemon juice to the water in which you wash and centerpieces are bleached and you will find this will bleach them without rotting the material.

An easy way to put on and remove buttons that are not to be laundered on a washable waist: Sew the thread into the button loosely; use small-size safety pins to pin them on from the under side; have a couple of stitches where the buttons are to be placed and you will not have to locate them every time.

If you have no pastry flour equal results may be obtained by using one quart of corn-starch and seven parts ordinary flour.

In millinery the newest development is the tenacity away from hats that are really only appropriate for sport wear and toward the more practical tailored effects that can be worn with formal or informal street wear.

FARM NOTES.

Properly pasteurized milk is as digestible and nutritious as raw milk.

Buckwheat is well suited to light, well-drained soils, such as sandy and silt loams. It needs but little lime, where alfalfa and red clover could not succeed. The plant seems unusually active in taking plant food from poor and rocky soils. It needs a large proportion of phosphoric acid and potash than of nitrogen, since large growth of straw is not desired.

Turkey ranching is a new industry born of the decreasing production of turkeys on farms, according to an article in the recently published 1916 Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Exclusive turkey ranching is now found practically only in the unsettled foothill regions of California and in certain sections of Arizona and other Western States. In these regions a few persons are engaged in raising a thousand or more turkeys a season.

Contrary to general belief and practice, chicks do not grow or thrive as well during the warm months or hot summer days as they do early in the spring. Experienced poultrymen realize this fact. The average farmer, however, does not make an effort to hatch early so that the chicks will have the advantage of a longer and more favorable growing season.

Given the same food, care, and attention, chicks hatched the 1st of March will weigh more when they are four months old than those hatched a month later, say the poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. This likewise holds true with chicks hatched the 1st of April as compared with those hatched May 1. This is due to the fact that the rate of growth of a chick is greater during the first four weeks of its life than at any other time.

Millions of chicks die every year as a result of being infested with lice which, under average farm conditions, are oftentimes difficult to control. Hatched chicks are not as subject to lice in the early spring as they are during the warmer months when lice are more prevalent. If for no other reason, chicks should be hatched early so their growth will not be interrupted by the presence of lice.

Many farmers realize considerable money each spring from the sale of broilers, the price of which is usually governed by their size and the time marketed. Thus it would appear that in order to increase the amount of money from the sale of broilers and fryers early hatching would be employed so as to have a marketable-sized fowl early in the spring when prices are highest.

As the time approaches for a hen to become broody or sit, if care is taken to look into the nest, it will be seen that there are a few soft, downy feathers being left there by the hen; also the hen stays longer on the nest when laying at this time, and on being approached will quite likely remain on the nest, making a clucking noise, ruffling her feathers, and pecking at the intruder. When it is noted that a hen sits on the nest from two to three nights in succession, and that most of the feathers are gone from her breast, which should feel hot to the hand, she is ready to be transferred to a nest which has been prepared for her beforehand, according to the poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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