Farm, Garden & Household.

HOUSEHOLD TALKS.

BY AUNT HATTIE.

Roasting meat. Many persons seem to suppose that it is an indifferent matter whether meat is cooked for a short or long time, provided only that it is cooked enough. I have often seen them place the meat for dinner in the oven as early as nine o'clock, making no distinction between beef, mutton, lamb, pork, chicken, goose, or duck, or three pounds, seven, or fifteen. They rightly consider that it is not necessary to watch, for a generous supply of water in the pan effectually prevents its burning. Now, there is as much difference between a piece of well-cooked or badly cooked meat, as between a loaf of good bread or bad bread, and perhaps more Meat of mature (and by mature I do not mean old) animals, such as beef and mutton, requires less time to cook than meat from immature animals, such as lamb and veal, which needs thorough cooking. The reverse is the case with poultry; all young poultry, such as spring chickens, young ducks, and green geese, take far less time than tough old fellows that can stand any amount of fire. Pork should always be well done. These few hints I throw out as a sort of key to the methods of roasting that I am about to give you. Another thing, mature meat should never be put into the oven until the latter is very hot, in order that the intense heat may quickly sear or shrivel the surface of the meat, which will prevent the juice from escaping. Never stick a fork or a skewer into a joint of meat while it is cooking, as the gravy will ooze out. It is obvious that where water is put into the pan, this quick searing of the surface cannot be effected. I think if advocates for water as an element in roasting would consider that it cannot be raised above a certain temperature, (its boiling point,) and that fat is susceptible of a much greater degree of heat, their scruples against grease as a roasting agent would be removed.

Roasting Beef.—A piece of beef to roast for my table must come from the sirloin or first or second cut. The third cut is near the shoulder, and is not as good as the others. A small portion of the shoulder-blade is taken with the third cut, which the butcher removes, and in its place neatly inserts a piece of fat, thereby deceiving the uninitiated; but it makes a poor roast. Epicures require that beef and mutton should be cooked rare. There is a great difference between raw and rare meat; raw meat inside of a roast will have a dark purplish color, while rare meat is of a delicate crimson. The plates should be very warm when rare meat is served. Allow no flour or fat in the gravy. Carrots chopped fine, turnips mashed, and whole potatoes and cabbage, are excellent with roast beef. I never mash potatoes for hot roast beef or mutton.

Roast Veal.—A loin of veal should be thoroughly cooked; a large piece will require three hours in a moderate oven. I should not put water in the pan for veal; a few slices of salt pork placed upon the top will improve the flavor, and will also serve to moisten or baste it.

Fillet or Veal.—This is cut from the thick part of the leg. Insert into the opening a stuffing made of crumbs of bread seasoned with summer savory, pepper and salt, and a little lemon juice, if convenient; tie around with a string, making the piece the shape of a small cheese. Never use sage or onions with delicate meat like veal. Roast thoroughly; make a brown gravy by adding flour and water to the exuded juice in the pan; serve with slices of lemon, and fried or boiled pork. The loin should be served also with pork and lemon, and flour should always be added to the gravy.

Lamb should be thoroughly cooked, but will require less time than veal or pork; when of a fine brown on all sides, you may conclude that it is done. Serve with mint sauce, made as follows: To one dozen leaves of spearmint chopped to a pulp, add two tablespoonsful of sugar and a half teacup of sharp vinegar. Lamb and green peas is the rule, but any vegetable nicely served will be acceptable.

Meat for Children.—Many persons consider meat injurious to children, but I allow my children a little beef or mutton whenever we have it for dinner, which is about four times a week; even the baby must have a piece as large as a finger, from which he pretty effectually extracts the juice. While I consider that meat in moderate quantities gives tone and vigor to the constitution, its indiscriminate use by children should be forbidden. My mother always gave her children milk and bread for breakfast, and bread and butter for tea. I reverse that order, giving them a few warmed up potatoes, and bread and butter for breakfast, with a bowl of milk and bread for supper. They are at table at breakfast and dinner, but not for tea.

Veal Pie.—Take a deep baking dish, and place some small pieces of veal in it, allowing any little bones to remain. The neck pieces may be used if desired. Nearly cover with water, and sprinkle with salt and pepper, adding little bits of butter. Cover with a paste, and bake. When the crust is done, open the oven door and let the pie remain an hour or more, to cook the meat. Is delicious eaten cold.

Minced Veal or Hash.—Take any cold veal which may be left from the roast, and cut up into very small pieces, but do not chop; cover with a water, adding a little pepper, salt and butter; bring to a boil, and thicken with a teaspoonful of flour. Toast a few slices of bread freed from crust, butter and place them around the dish, and pour the mince nicely in the centre. It is a most acceptable dish.—*American Agriculturist.*

When to Buy a Farm.—Very few persons seem to know that the months of June and July are the best in the year in which to look for the purchase of a farm. At this season one can judge whether the land can or does produce good crops, for if it is rich, the waving grass and grain will be ocular demonstrations of the fact; and if there is, according to the stereotyped assertion, an abundance of choice fruit, it can be seen at this time to the best advantage. The low lands will show whether they are really dry enough for pastures in summer, and the upland its capacity for withstanding a draught. If there are any mosquitoes about they will usually make their presence known at this time if ever, and by observing the children in the neighborhood one can readily determine whether the locality is a healthy one or otherwise. Summer is also a very good time to view the never failing spring and the trout pond near by, and a draught from the one and a lunch from the other are attractions which those who possess them seldom fail to bestow upon those who are likely to become purchasers. Even the weeds upon a farm will assist a man in determining its value, for if nothing but stunted ragweed and fivefinger are to be seen, then the land may be set down as poor indeed; but if burdocks and catnip abound it shows strength to produce crops of higher order.

The pasture and meadow, orchard and garden, all show what they are and what may be expected of them in these months; but earlier or later the aspect of things may change. In the spring the trees have not shown leaves, flowers, or fruit; the roads are muddy, if ever, and the distance from the railroad station to the farm appears to be much greater than it actually is, especially to a stranger. In autumn the leaves are turning yellow, the grain has been gathered, and the dry stubble is all that remains, and the fruits are nearly gone; still the air is fresh, and the landscape glowing with autumn tints; but the valuable properties of a farm, which are its products, are mainly out of sight, being stored in the barn, or in the proprietor's pocket.

Humorous.

Many a fool who has had sense enough to get a good wife, lacks wit to know it.

To make a window blind—Fill it with bricks and mortar.

Artemus Ward said that the man who wrote "I'm saddest when I sing," was a fool to sing much.

Josh Billings says, If you trade with a Yankee, steal his jack knife fust; for if he gets to whittling, you are gone in spite of thunder.

You talk of the selfishness of bachelors: why—there is not a married couple in existence who would not skin their dearest friends to make shoes for their children.

The site of the garden of Eden is now settled definitely, for a placard has been dug up at the East, on which is painted this warning, "Keep off the grass—Adam."

What nose is more brilliant than a toper's nose? Why, volcan-no's, to be sure. Pat remarks that the chief glow of each comes from the *crater*.

A scene in a Morris and Essex Railroad car: Fond Wife—"Let me see your paper a moment, dear." Husband—"Yes, as soon as we get to the tunnel.

An English Judge, Baron Alderson, on being asked to give his opinion as to the proper length of a sermon, replied:—"Twenty minutes, with a leaning to the side of mercy.

A lady teacher was endeavoring to impress upon her pupils the terrible effect of the punishment of Nebuchadnezzar, saying, "seven years he ate grass like a cow," when a boy asked: "did he give milk?"

Ear Marks.—A lawyer once asked a Dutchman concerning a pig "in court."

"What ear-marks had he?"

"Vell, ven I first became acquainted mit de hock, he hab no ear-marks except a bery short tail."

An Irishman, noticing a woman pass along the street, spied two strips pending from under the lady's cloak. Not knowing that these were styled sashes, and were hanging in the right place, he exclaimed, "Faith, ma'am, your gallasses are untied."

"How fortunate I am in meeting a 'rain-beau' in this storm," said a young lady who was caught in a shower the other day, to her beau of promise, who happened to come along with an umbrella. "And I," said he, gallantly, "am as much rejoiced as the poor Laplander when he has caught a 'rein deer.'"

A lady in Bangor, Maine, hung her hoop skirt on a nail in her chamber, and a member of her household, while exploring the premises, was so unfortunate as to get his head caught therein, and being unable to extricate himself, soon expired. The name of the victim was Thomas Cat.

The Palindrome.—The palindrome is a line that reads alike backward and forward. One of the best is Adam's first observation to Eve:

"Madam, I'm Adam!"

Another is the story that Napoleon, when at St. Helena, being asked by an Englishman if he could have sacked London, replied:

"Able was I ere I saw Elba."

The latter is the best palindrome, probably, in the language.

A brother being injured by another, came to Abbot Sidonius, told his story, and said "I wish to avenge myself, father." The abbott begged him to leave vengence to God; but when he refused, said, "Then let us pray." Whereon the old man rose, and said, "God, thou art not necessary to us any longer, that thou shouldest be careful of us; for we, as this brother says, both will and can avenge ourselves." At which that brother fell at his feet and begged pardon, promising never to strive with his enemy.

A well known physician of Burlington, Vt., driving into town on election morning, was met by a friend, who hailed him with the question if he had voted.

"Not yet," said the doctor; but I have been out all night after a voter. I got him too."

"When will he vote?"

"Oh, about twenty-one years from now."

"Ah—I see. Not bad. Well, look after him, and see that he votes right."

"No fear. He can't go wrong with the name he's got. His father is a Democrat, but when I told him he had got a boy, and asked him what he would name him, he said: 'Ulysses Grant, by thunder.' So he'll do."

Josh Billings.—If a man wants to get at his aktual dimensions, let him visit a graveyard.

If any man wants to be an old bachelor, and get sick at a boarding tavern, and have a back room on the 4th story, and a red-haired chamber-maid bring his watergruel to him in a tin wash basin, I have alwus sed, and I stick to it yet, he has a perfeck right to do it.

When a man loses his health, then he fust begins to take care of it. This is good judgment. This is!

It is getting nowadaze, that if a man can't cheat in some way he isn't happy.

Success in life iz apt to make us forget the time when we wasn't much. It is so with the frog on the jump; he cant remember when he was a tadpole—but other folks can.

Advantage of Being Poor.—A poor man never has any taxes to pay. He can sit down and laugh the assessors to scorn, and read off the big appropriations made by councils with a feeling of indiscribable exhilaration.

A poor man can enjoy life. He lives in a rented house, and it needn't worry him to see it abused, and his equanimity need not be disturbed if it burns down.

A poor man can repose in the bosom of his family and know that there is no avaricious young man prowling around after any rich daughters.

Nobody wants the poor man to die; nobody is laying around in misery and impatience waiting for him to die; so as to absorb his funds.

Another thing—no poor man is ever worried by debt, for nobody will ever trust him, and when he does see a greenback he heartily enjoys it.

In Wisconsin, an Indian woman died recently at the age of one hundred and twenty-three. She left a son who is ninety-seven years old.

The above "reminds us of a little story" lately narrated in our hearing, of a gentleman, who, in the course of his travles in the West, one day emerged from a neck of timber, and suddenly descried a country tavern, upon the porch of which, sat one of the oldest, white-haired men he had ever seen, and crying like a child. In answer to an inquiry as to the cause of his trouble he sobbed, out that "his father had just licked him." Upon entering the barroom, the traveler discovered another and much older man, behind the bar, whom he addressed: You seem to have some trouble here stranger; your son informs me that you have whipped him."

"Yes," rejoined the landlord, excitedly, "I could not avoid it—the young rascal was chasing his grandfather round a ten-acre lot, and stoning him. I had to interfere stranger.

Medicinal.

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And it is for him to say whether he will continue to endure a living death, or to put himself in a position to render life enjoyable.

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"Yours truly, GEO. W. WOODWARD."

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HON. JAMES THOMPSON,

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