BABY ON THE PORCH.

Out on the porch, by the open door,
Sweet with roses and cool with shade,
Baby is creeping over the floor—
Dear little winsome blue-eyed maid.

All about her the shadows dance,
All above her the roses swing,
Sunbeams in the lattice glance,
Robins up in the branches sing.

Up at the blossoms her fingers reach,
Lisping her pleading in broken words,
Cooing away in her tender speech
Songs like the twitter of nestling birds.

Creeping, creeping over the floor,
Soon my birdie will find her wings,
Fluttering out at the open door
Into the wonderful world of things.

Bloom of roses and balm of dew,
Brooks that babble and winds that call,
All things lovely and glad and new,
And the Father watching us over it all.

AGRICULTURAL.

Best Breeds of Cattle for Dairy Purposes.

A WRITER on dairy stock in the Mark Lane *Express* thus alludes to the breeds most in esteem in Great Britain: "Of breeds in general use, and of acknowledged merit for dairy purposes, are the Dutch, Short-Horns, Crosses, and the Ayrshire. Dutch cattle are of large size; prevailing color black, with sometimes a white patch over the back, resembling a sheet, and are from this distinguished by the name of sheeted cows. They are heavy milkers, but the milk is of rather poor quality, and not very productive of butter. For this reason they are more suitable for parties who have large contracts, and supply workhouses, prisons, hospitals, and other public institutions with milk, than for the ordinary farmer who has to manufacture his produce into butter and cheese. Another very serious objection to Dutch cattle is the difficulty of fattening them when past their prime, and the large quantity of food they consume in the endeavor to prepare them for the butcher. On account of these two faults in the character of this at one time popular breed, they have of late years been going down in public estimation. Of all other descriptions of cattle Short-Horn Crosses are now the most popular, where dairy business and rearing and feeding are carried on simultaneously. They are, for the most part, admirable milkers; their calves, both heifers and bullocks, can be fed off at an early age, and, coming to heavy weights, bring large and remunerative prices; while the cows themselves, when no longer useful for the dairy, are easily fattened, and can be quickly got rid of. In the three kingdoms, but more particularly England and Ireland, this variety of cattle is to be found in every county, and on every kind of land, varying in size, of course, according to the quality of the land. The same distinctive features are, however, always retained, and they attain an immense size, and give extraordinary quantities of milk, where the soil is rich and the climate congenial to their habits and constitutions.

The Ayrshire next claims attention; and it may be concluded with safety that when dairy produce is the sole object, and where the land is light and of indifferent quality, this breed is the most valuable of any. Mere size in this case is not much of an object, as the small Ayrshire is considered a better dairy cow than the larger or medium sized variety. To keep them small in size, and partly to adapt them to the inferior pastures of Ayrshire and neighboring counties, they are very moderately kept in the earlier stages of their growth, particularly in the second year. This is supposed to add to their milking properties, and as they are generally made to produce at the age of two years, an Ayrshire cow on her native pasture is usually very small indeed. When removed to other countries, and placed upon richer pasture, they grow larger; but by doing so, the milking powers are unquestionably injured. So marked is this principle, that the Ayrshire cow is seldom found in the same perfection, as a milker, as she is to be seen on her native soil, which may be said to compromise the county from which she derives her name, and the adjacent counties of Lanark, Renfrew, and Dumbarton. There she takes her position as the dairy cow *par excellence*, and is highly and deservedly prized.

To Destroy the Potato Bug.

A CORRESPONDENT sends to the *Prairie Farmer* a remedy for the potato bug. It consists of one gallon of coal-oil to a barrel of water, mixed well together. Sprinkle lightly upon the potato vines out of a watering-pot, or a small brush, and they will disappear. The editor of the *Farmer* endorses the receipt as follows: "We doubt not that the above will prove the thing, and we hope our readers will try it and report results. If our readers will bear in mind that as insects breathe through spiracles, oil is more disastrous to them than anything else, they would have the clue to the saving of the most of their trees and vines. Bark lice, scale insects, turnip flies, caterpillars, flea beetles, and in fact all insects which can be reached, are destroyed by it. Any oil will do, but it must be kept stirred, so as not to remain on top of the water, and for this reason a brush or syringe is preferable to a watering-can. This mixture is also quite beneficial to plants, as is manifest from the healthy start they take after its application.

Bone Charcoal.

BONE CHARCOAL is made by heating bones in closed vessels called retorts. The gases which pass off during the heating contain carbonate of ammonia; these are condensed in water. The liquid is then mingled with fine ground plaster. This contains sulphate of ammonia and carbonate of lime. The liquid is then drawn of from the chalky carbonate of lime; and the ammonia salt is obtained by evaporation. The bones are now heated again to drive off the volatile substances. They are then broken down and pulverized, and they may now be used as a fertilizer.

Sheep.

KEEP tar upon their noses to keep off the bot-fly, which causes grubs in the head; examine rams about the horns and heads and elsewhere for wounds, which soon become maggotty if neglected. Wash them out and apply very warm pine tar.

FOR YOUTHFUL READERS.

The Seven Ravens.

As many strange things come to pass in the world, so there was a poor woman who had seven sons at a birth, all of whom lived and throve. After some years the same woman had a daughter. Her husband was a very industrious and active man, on which account people in want of a handicraftsman were very willing to take him into their service, so that he could not only support his numerous family in an honest manner, but earned so much that, by prudent economy, his wife was enabled to lay by a little money for a rainy day.

But this good father died in the prime of life, and the poor widow soon fell into poverty; for she could not earn enough to support and clothe her eight children. Her seven boys grew bigger, and daily required more and more, besides which, they were a great grief to their mother, for they were wild and wicked. The poor woman could hardly stand against all the afflictions that weighed so heavily upon her. She wished to bring up her children in the paths of virtue, but neither mildness nor severity availed anything—the boys' hearts were hardened. One day, when her patience was quite exhausted, she spoke thus to them:

"Oh, you wicked young ravens! would that you were seven black ravens, and would fly away, so that I might never see you again!" and the seven boys immediately became seven ravens, flew out of the window and disappeared.

The mother now lived with her little daughter in peace and contentment, and was able to earn more than she spent. And the young girl grew up handsome, modest, and good. But after some years had passed, both mother and daughter began to long after the seven boys; they often talked about them, and wept; they thought, that could only the seven brothers return and be good lads, how well they could live by their work, and have so much pleasure in one another. And as this longing in the heart of the young maiden increased daily, she one day said to her mother:

"Dear mother, let me wander in the world in quest of my brothers, that I may turn them from their wicked ways, and make them a comfort and a blessing to you in your old age."

The mother answered:

"Thou good girl, I will not restrain thee from accomplishing this pious deed. Go, my child, and may God guide thee!"

She then gave her a small gold ring which she had formerly worn when a child, at the time the brothers were changed into ravens.

The young girl set out, and wandered far, very far away, and for a long time she found no traces of her brothers; but at length she came to the foot of a very high mountain, on the top of which stood a small dwelling. At the mountain's foot she sat down to rest, all the while looking up in deep thought at the little habitation. It appeared at first to her like a bird's nest, for it was of grayish hue, as if built of small stones and mud; then it looked like a human dwelling.

She thought within herself: "Can that be my brothers' habitation?" And when she at length saw seven ravens flying out of the house, she was confirmed in her conjecture.

Full of joy, she began to ascend the mountain; but the road that led to the summit was paved with curious glass-like stones, so that every time she had with the greatest caution proceeded but a few paces, her feet slipped and she fell down to the bottom. At this she was sadly disheartened, and felt completely at a loss how to get up, when she chanced to see a beautiful white goose, and thought: "If I had only thy wings, I could soon be at the top." She then thought again: "But can I not cut thy wings off?—yes, they would help me." So she caught the beautiful goose, and cut off its wings, also its legs, and sewed them on to herself; and see! when she attempted to fly she succeeded to perfection; and when she was tired of flying she walked a little on the goose's feet, and did not slip down again. She arrived at length safely at the desired spot. When at the top of the mountain she entered the little dwelling. It was very small; within stood seven tiny tables, seven little chairs, seven little beds, and in the room were seven little windows, and in the oven seven little dishes, in which were little baked birds and seven eggs.

The good sister was weary after her long journey, and rejoiced that she could once again take some rest and appease her hunger. So she took the seven little dishes out of the oven and ate a little from each, and sat down for a while on each of the seven little chairs, and lay down on each of the little beds; but on the last she fell asleep, and there remained till the seven brothers came back. They flew through the seven windows into the room, took their dishes out of the oven, and began to eat, but instantly saw that a part of their fare had disappeared. They then went to lie down, and found their beds rumpled, when one of the brothers uttered a loud cry, and said:

"Oh, what a beautiful young girl there is on my bed!"

The other brothers flew quickly to see, and with amazement beheld the sleeping maiden. Then the one said to the other:

"Oh, if only she were our sister!"

Then they again cried out to each other with joy:

"Yes, it is our sister; oh, yes, it is; just such hair she had, and just such a mouth, and just such a little gold ring she wore on her middle finger as she now has on her little one."

And they all danced for joy, and all kissed their sister; but she continued to sleep so soundly that it was a long time before she awoke.

At length the maiden opened her eyes, and saw her seven black brothers standing about the bed. She then said:

"Oh, happy meeting, my dear brothers; God be praised that I have at length found you! I have had a long and tedious journey on your account, in the hope of fetching you back from your banishment, provided your hearts are inclined never more to vex and trouble your good mother; that you will work with us diligently, and be the honor and comfort of your old affectionate parent."

During this discourse the brothers wept bitterly, and answered:

"Yes, dearest sister, we will be better; never more will we offend our mother again. Alas! as ravens we have led a miserable life, and before we built this hut we almost perished with hunger and cold. Then came repentance, which racked us day and night; for we were obliged to live on the bodies of poor executed criminals, and were thereby always reminded of the sinner's end." The sister shed tears of joy at her brothers' repentance, and on hearing them utter such pious sentiments.

"Oh!" exclaimed she, "all will be well. When you return home, and your mother sees how penitent you are, she will forgive you from her heart, and restore you to your human form."

When the brothers were about to return home with their sister they said, while opening a small box:

"Dear sister, take these beautiful gold rings and shining stones, which we have from time to time found abroad; put them in your apron and carry them home with you, for with them we shall be rich as men. As ravens we collected them only on account of their brilliancy."

The sister did as her brothers requested her, and was pleased with the beautiful ornaments. As they journeyed home first one of the ravens and then another bore their sister on their pinions, until they reached their mother's dwelling, when they flew in at the window and implored her forgiveness, and promised that in future they would be dutiful children. The sister also prayed and supplicated for them, and the mother was full of joy and love, and forgave her seven sons.

They then became human beings again, and were fine blooming youths, each one as large and graceful as the other. With heartfelt gratitude they kissed their dear mother and darling sister; and soon after, all the seven brothers married young discreet maidens, built themselves a large, beautiful house (for they had sold their jewels for a considerable sum of money), and the house-warming was the wedding of all the seven brothers. Their sister was also married to an excellent man, and at the earnest desire of her brothers, she and her husband took up their abode with them.

The good mother had great joy and pleasure in her children in her old age, and as long as she lived was loved and honored by them.

WIT AND WISDOM.

THE way to make a hole in your income is to pay a large rent.

THE largest tin-tacks must be the Income tax, for that's a regular nailer!

POOR consolation for us survivors that "the good die first."

THE truly brave have as calm a judgment in the midst of danger as out of it.

WHAT two fish should be tied together on a frosty day? Skates and soles.

RESIGNATION is a virtue that is often made a necessity of in the political world.

CASTLES in the air have no foundation; but in some delusive schemes you will find abasement.

"YOU cruel man, my tears have no effect on you at all." "Well, drop them, dear."

WHAT is rest? Going out of the choir for refreshments during sermon time.

WHAT is called singing with "an understanding?" Marking time on the floor with your foot.

ON being told of a surgeon who amputated a lady's arm, and afterward married her, Nix wondered how she could have got around him so.

WHAT a satisfaction it must be to the Empress of the French that the Emperor has given up the idea of paying a visit to Nancy!

"DEAR LAURA, when we were courting, you were very dear to me; but now you're my wife, and I am paying your bills, you seem to get *dearer and dearer*."

A SAUCY debtor was recently cautioned by a saucy debtor to *be-ware*. He didn't take heed, and the next time we heard of him he was turned into a "stone jug."

THE best fellow in the world, sir, to get money; for as he sends you half cash, half wine, why, if you can't take up his bill, you've always poison at hand for a remedy."

"DID the minister put a stamp on you when you was married, Mary?" "A stamp, Charlie! What for, pray?" "Why, matches ain't legal without a stamp, you know."

JUDY BRALEGAN, having been requested to open some oysters, after knocking them about some time, exclaimed: "Upon my conscience, but they are mighty hard to peel!"

A MAN who pretended to have seen a ghost, was asked what the ghost said to him? "How should I understand," replied the narrator, "what he said? I am not skilled in any of the *dead* languages."

A LAD applied to the captain of a vessel for a berth; the captain, wishing to intimidate him, handed him a piece of a rope, and said: "If you want to make a good sailor you must make three ends to the rope." "I can do it," he readily replied; "here is one, and here is another—that makes two. Now, here's *the third*," and he threw it overboard.

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CATAWISSA RAILROAD.
From and after October 2, 1865, the trains will pass Rupert as follows:
GOING NORTH.—Elmira Mail at 4 P.M.; Erie Express at 2.18 A.M.
GOING SOUTH.—Philadelphia Mail at 11 A.M.; New York Express at 11 P.M.
GEORGE WEBB, Supt.

LACKAWANNA AND BLOOMSBURG RAILROAD.
On and after March 11, 1866, Passenger Trains will run as follows:
SOUTHWARD.—Leave Scranton at 4.40 P.M. and 5.20 A.M.; Kingston at 5 P.M. and 6.15 A.M.; Bloomsburg at 6.20 P.M. and 6.24 A.M.; Arrive at Northumberland at 6.50 P.M. and 10.35 A.M.
NORTHWARD.—Leave Northumberland at 7 A.M. and 5 P.M.; Bloomsburg at 8.25 A.M. and 6.25 P.M.; Scranton at 11.05 A.M. and 9 P.M. Arrive at Scranton at 12.40 A.M. and 10.15 P.M.
H. A. FONDA, Supt.
Kingston, March 15, 1866.

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FOUR DAILY TRAINS.
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	Leave Wash'n.	Leave Balto.
Express Mail	6.20 A.M.	9.00 A.M.
Fast Line	7.30 A.M.	12.10 P.M.
Pittsburg and Erie Ex.	3.30 P.M.	7.20 P.M.
Pittsburg and Elmira Ex.	7.40 P.M.	10.45 P.M.

TWO TRAINS ON SUNDAY,
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LOW FARE AND QUICK TIME.
Cars run through from Baltimore to Pittsburg, Erie, or Elmira without change.
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Time of Passenger Trains at Northumberland:
LEAVE EASTWARD.—Erie Mail Train, 11.25 P.M.; Erie Express Train, 3.55 A.M.; Elmira Mail Train, 10.25 A.M.
LEAVE WESTWARD.—Erie Mail Train, 5 A.M.; Erie Express Train, 3.11 P.M.; Elmira Mail Train, 4.35 P.M.
Passenger cars run through on the Erie Mail and Express Trains without change both ways between Philadelphia and Erie.
NEW YORK CONNECTION.—Leave New York at 8 A.M., arrive at Erie at 9.35 A.M.; Leave Erie at 1.50 P.M., arrive at New York at 2.45 P.M.
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H. H. HOUSTON,
General Freight Agent, Philadelphia.
H. W. GWINNER,
General Ticket Agent, Philadelphia.
A. L. TYLER,
General Superintendent, Williamsport.
March 22, 1866.

READING RAILROAD.
SUMMER ARRANGEMENT.
April 23, 1866.
Great Trunk Line from the North and Northwest for Philadelphia, New York, Reading, Pottsville, Tamaqua, Ashland, Lebanon, Allentown, Easton &c., &c.
Trains leave Harrisburg for New York as follows: At 3, 7.40, and 9.05 A.M., and 2 and 9.20 P.M., connecting with similar trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and arriving at New York at 5.40 and 10 A.M., and 2.40 and 10.55 P.M. Sleeping Cars accompany the 3 A.M. and 9.20 P.M. trains, without change.
Leave Harrisburg for Reading, Pottsville, Tamaqua, Minersville, Ashland, Pine Grove, Allentown, and Philadelphia at 7.40 A.M., and 2 and 9.20 P.M., stopping at Lebanon and principal Way Stations, the 9.20 P.M. train making no close connections for Pottsville or Philadelphia. For Pottsville, Schuylkill Haven, and Auburn, via Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad, leave Harrisburg at 4.15 P.M.
Returning, leave New York at 9 A.M., 12 M., and 8.30 P.M.; Philadelphia at 8 A.M., and 3.30 P.M.; Pottsville at 8.30 A.M. and 2.45 P.M.; Ashland at 6 and 10.15 A.M., and 1.55 P.M.; Tamaqua at 9.45 A.M. and 1 and 8.55 P.M.
Leave Pottsville for Harrisburg, via Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad, at 7 A.M.
Reading Accommodation Train leaves Reading at 6 A.M., returning from Philadelphia at 5 P.M.
Columbia Railroad Trains leave Reading at 8.20 and 9.15 P.M. for Ephrata, Litiz, Columbia, &c., &c.
On Sundays leave New York at 8.30 P.M.; Philadelphia at 8 A.M. and 3.15 P.M., the 8 A.M. train running only to Reading; Pottsville at 8 A.M.; Tamaqua at 7.30 A.M.; Harrisburg at 10.05 A.M.; and Reading at 1.30 A.M. for Harrisburg, and 10.52 A.M. for New York, and 8.25 P.M. for Philadelphia.
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G. A. NICOLLS, Gen. Supt.
Reading Pa., April 23, 1866.

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