His Fair Experience.

According to the *Dakota Bell*, the secretary of the Dakota Agricultural Fair Association has received the following letter:

"I am a farmer, and I hear you are going to have another agricultural fair next fall, and I thought I would write and tell you that I am getting ready for it.

"You probably don't remember me, but I attended your fair last year. I brought the doggondest biggest punkin on the grounds, though I reckon mebby you didn't see it, most of your time being took up keeping a record of the different racing horses entered. I also had a fine blooded cow, while my wife brought a big loaf of bread so light it wouldn't hardly lay still, and two bottles of ho'made wine; though you might not of saw these either, as I noticed that besides the hoss business you had enough work for one man issuing permits to those sturdy farmers which had three-card monte outfits and such other agricultural products.

"And, after all, it cost me ten dollars to see the other side of the cards one of these gentleman exhibited.

"I reckon I may say I had hard luck at your fair last fall. When I first drove in the folks was making such a hollering 'bout a hoss race that had just come off that my team got scart and run away and sprained my wife's ankle. While I was looking round for a good place to put the big punkin a man come along and said he was judge on wines and drank up both bottles of ours.

"I afterwards saw him standing in front of a tent and yelling: 'Ere's yer chance! 'ere's yer chance! See the livin' half woman an' the man what was tittattoed all over on the island ov Chattanooga! Only one dime!'

"I then went to tie up the cow, and when I come back a tramp had his face in the loaf of bread. I didn't care so much about that as that I missed him when I kicked at him.

"I stayed three days, and each night some gypsies which were camped right on the grounds milked my cow and pounded her with a lumber wagon whiffletree because she switched her tail.

"I watched the races most of the time, there not being much else to look at. One day I had to pay a man fifteen dollars because the hoss that come in 'way ahead on the first two heats was the very last on the other three. I think that hoss must have been took sick—I know I was.

"The next day a pickpocket got my silver watch.

"About every hour Bill (that's my boy) would come to me and get another half-dollar. He said he had a system that he was certain must finally beat the wheel of fortune, and the nut-shells, and roulette, and the man down back of the barn who was throwing the loaded dice. I couldn't say nothing because I had took Bill with me to show him how I was going to clean out the three-card monte man that time it cost me ten dollars.

"My wife bought a bottle of liquid glue, which proved to be mostly water, and a receipt for soap which she afterwards discovered was printed in Norwegian. She would have bought some other things, probably, but she lost her pocketbook.

"In the mean time I might mention that somebody stole the whip, and spring seat, and end-board, and neck-yoke off'n my wagon and cut all the ivory rings off'n the harness.

"When the fair was through I demanded my diplomas on my cow and punkin as they were the only ones there. I got them after some talk—two leetle pieces of paper with some printing on them—and when I turned 'round to go out a big fat man stepped on one of my corns. He was the owner of one of the race-horses and was looking down rolling up the $6,500 the treasurer had just paid him as his share of the purses, to put it in his pocket, and so didn't notice me.

"That, Mr. Secretary, is a brief and condensed history of my experience at your fair. I shall come next year, but as Billy says, I shall come heeled.

"I shall make no exhibits, but I have got a two-wheeled sulky and every day I hitch old Doll to it and run her 'round the five acre field. I shall enter her in the senior class—as I believe it is called—I judge she is old enough.

"Bill has got himself a thimble-rig outfit and has whittled some dice out of the bone of a mule's leg and has inserted lead on the opposite side from the big numbers.

"My wife is preparing liquid glue by the wholesale, the same kind she bought, and will peddle it on the ground.

"For myself, beside entering old Doll and betting all my money agin her I shall work the three-card monte business for all it is worth. I can al ready throw the cards so as to nearly always mix up my wife and occasionally fool Bill.

"I am also painting the end of the ox-yoke to look like a face and shall stick a clay pipe in its mouth and let people throw rolling-pins at it, three whacks for a quarter. Come over and try it. If you break a pipe you get six nickle cigars.

"We shall all of us bum our feed on the grounds and sleep under the grand stand. If I can get a two headed calf to exhibit in a tent (not to enter for a diploma) I shall do so. In fact, to sum the whole matter up, we shall come prepared for an agricultural fair as we understand it. Yours truly,

ZACHARIAH WAYBACK."

P. S.—"I shall wear a poker dot shirt and smoke a cigar p'inted high. Bill will stick out his chin and crook his elbows considerable. Z. W."

A Charming Acquaintance.

The Baltimore *Sun* is responsible for the following story:

"While Ralph Waldo Emerson was on his way to California, several years ago, he fell in with a man who was altogether so sociable and chatty that an otherwise tedious journey was rendered as cheerful as possible. This man's name was Sackett, and he told Mr. Emerson that he resided in San Francisco. Mr. Sackett pointed out the points of interest along the way, related a lot of amusing anecdotes, and, best of all, was an attentive listener. The natural consequence was that Mr. Emerson came to the conclusion that Mr. Sackett was as charming a man as he had ever met with, and it was in this positive conviction that he accepted Mr. Sackett's invitation to dine with him immediately upon their arrival in San Francisco. The next morning Mr. Emerson was well-nigh paralyzed to find in all the local papers this startling personal notice: "Professor Ralph Waldo Emerson, the eminent philosopher, scholar and poet, is in our city as the guest of Mr. J. Sackett, the well-known proprietor of the Bush street Dime Museum. Matinees every half hour; admission only ten cents. The double headed calf and the dog-faced boy this week."

Contest Over the Presidency.

Wall, the minute I sot down, before I begun my business or anything, Miss Petingill took me to do about puttin' in Miss Bibbins President of our Missionary Society for the relief of Indignent Heathens.

The Bibbins'es are good, very good, but poor.

Says Miss Petingill: "It seems to me as if there might be some other woman put in, that would have had more influence on the Church."

Says I, "Hain't Miss Bibbins a good Christian sister, and a great worker?"

"Why yes, she wuz good, good in her place. But," she said, "the Petingills hadn't never associated with the Bibbins'es."

And I asked her if she s'posed that would make any difference with the heathen; if the heathen would be apt to think less of Miss Bibbins because she hadn't associated with the Petingills?

And she said, she didn't s'pose "the heathens would ever know it; it might make some difference to 'em if they did," she thought, "for it couldn't be denied," she said, "that Miss Bibbins did not move in the first circles of Jonesville."

It had been my doin's a puttin' Miss Bibbins in, and I took it right to home she meant to have me, and I asked her if she thought the Lord would condemn Miss Bibbins on the last day, because she hadn't moved in the first circles of Jonesville?

And Miss Petingill tossed her head a little, but had to own up, that she thought "He wouldn't."

"Wall then," sez I, "do you s'pose the Lord has any objections to her workin' for Him now?"

"Why no I don't know as the *Lord* would object."

"Wall," says I, "we call this work the Lord's work, and if He is satisfied with Miss Bibbins, we ort to be."—*From "Samantha at Saratoga," by Josiah Allen's Wife.*

Agricultural.

The cabbage worm has not been visibly affected by the hard things said against him, nor have the numerous sure cure remedies sensibly affected his appetite. Peter Henderson suggests the application of alum water, one pound of pulverized alum to three gallons of water. This will not injure the plant and may kill the worm. Pyrethrum, either in powder or solution, is effective. The great difficulty is to get any preparation on the worms, and to repeat the application as often as the successive broods hatch out.

There is no process known that will keep cider sweet without deteriorating its methods for arresting fermentation and preventing it from becoming sour. Professional cider makers sometimes use Shaw's Antiseptic Solution; others, who prefer to avoid patented articles, employ sulphite of lime, which is added after fermentation until the cider has acquired the acid taste desired. The powder is first mixed in a quart or so of cider and then poured into the cask and thoroughly shaken. Do not mistake sulphate of lime for sulphite of lime; the latter is the correct article.

The great secret for preventing decay in fruit through autumn and winter, is to preserve a uniformly low temperature. It changing and fluctuating, they quickly rot. Currents of air are bad, because they make changes in temperature. We find that apples keep longer in winter by merely wrapping each specimen in tissue paper and thus excluding air. Hence the advantage of packing in any soft, powdered substance, as dry sawdust, bran, ground plaster, or bedding in moss. On a large scale this cannot be done, and large fruit rooms must therefore be kept cool without changes of air. Much may be accomplished by ventilating windows, admitting cold air in the night, and excluding warm air in the day time by closing them. These remarks apply more particularly to apples and pears, and also to grapes. They would also apply to small and perishable fruits, if it were an object to keep them, but the common practice is to consume them while fresh.—*Country Gentleman.*

Some judgment is required to know when to cease using the lawn mower in autumn. The grass should not be cut too close, but enough left to protect the roots in cold weather; nor left too dense to smother the lower leaves. As a general rule, there should be twice as much growth as through the summer. The kind of fertilizing top-dressing used will make some difference. A fine coat of pulverized compost, half an inch thick, will afford considerable protection to the grass, but a concentrated fertilizer, like super phosphate, will make but little difference. Is sometimes happens that lawns are uneven or have depressions in their surface. Early in autumn is a good time to correct these defects by filling the depressions with sand or fine pulverized soil, raking perfectly level with the rest of the surface and sowing lawn grass seed. Or, the depressions may be gradually filled by placing an inch of fine soil in them, each year successfully, through which the grass already growing will find its way, and thus obviate sowing seed.

The experience of the rolling years proves that the farmer cannot always feel secure in the most promising results. Such has been the case the past season in the result of the potato crop. With no other trouble than the changes of weather in some sections, the crop was very much reduced below a medium crop. To this result has been added in some sections a disasterous potato rot which threatens severe destruction to the crop as it was. It is a difficult matter to determine the real cause of the potato rot. It comes suddenly, with little if any warning, and with no apparent cause that can be satisfactorily traced, nor has there yet been any remedy discovered, so far as we know, that is effectual. The trouble seems to be that the disease gets an uncontrollable hold of the potatoes before any evidence of its existence is made manifest. We have known the foliage of a field to be destroyed almost in a single day. About as sure an indication of the presence of disease as any that we know, in its first stages, is the prevalence of an unpleasant odor; then follows an immediate withering of the foliage and an examination discloses diseased tubers.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

TO PRESERVE NATURAL FLOWERS.—Dip the flowers in melted paraffine, withdrawing them quickly. The liquid should be only just hot enough to maintain its fluidity and the flowers should be dipped one at a time, held by the stocks and moved about for an instant to get rid of air bubbles. Fresh cut flowers, free from moisture, make excellent specimens in this way.

If you would preserve your health and invigorate your entire system use Perrine's Pure Barley Malt Whiskey. For sale by C. B. Robbins, Bloomsburg, Pa. [sow.

Buying Curios in China.

Later experience taught us that the curio man asks about five times as much as he is prepared to accept for his wares. Making a choice and getting your man into a proper frame of mind to see as you do, as regards his profit, intelligently occupies about one-half of the cultured diplomat's time. The curio chosen, tha first thing to do is to take your man into the house, separating him from his fellows that he may not have their moral courage to uphold him. For the lot you make your offer, he disdainfully refuses, and begins briskly packing up. When everything is nearly stowed away, he asks, as if there had never been any question of it before, "How much?" You again offer, and with a long-drawn "No," he once more unpacks that he may tempt you. Seeing you remain firm and take no more notice of him, with a tragic air he deposits the things at your feet, and gives you to understand that he has made you a present of them; that you are a hardened sinner; it has cost him his life's blood, but he had no choice. With an I O U for the amount and a deep bow he has gone, and you find yourself a collector in embryo with the costly disease firmly clutching you.—C. B. ADAMS, in the *American Magazine for October.*

Another Liberty Statue.

A statue of liberty is to be erected on a peak in San Francisco by Adolph Sutro, the millionaire. The figure and pedestal will be lighted by electricity, will be 1,000 feet above the level of the sea. The pedestal will rest upon the solid rock of the peak, and will be over twenty feet high, eleven feet square at the base, and seven feet square at the top. The principal figure will be that of a woman holding aloft in the right hand the torch of liberty, and in the outstretched left hand the sword of justice. At her feet will be a figure emblematical of despotism, and will be that of a man lying on his side and clutching at the sword held out of his reach.—Chicago *Times.*

How a Gull Opens Clams.

"I had a very singular experience last Sunday," said a tradesman, whose shop in Oakland is adorned by the sign, "Ornithological Rarities," but who, on a pinch, would sell a dog or a rabbit. "I was walking on the beach, not very far from the Cliff house, and I had just noticed that an usually large number of sea gulls were flying over the sands, when a hard substance struck me violently upon the head and staggered me. Luckily my hat was very thick and I am blessed with a tolerably solid skull. So I soon recovered myself, and I was looking about to ascertain what had hit me, when I was greatly startled by a weird and ghostly fluttering of wings a foot above me. A great gray gull had narrowly escaped alighting upon my shoulders. He just succeeded in checking his impetuous descent as his feet almost touched me. With a queer kind of half frightened cry he was again into the air. But what had brought him so close to me? I soon found out. Lying on the sand was the thing that had given me that blow upon the head. It was a large black mussel, and the sea gull had dropped it from a dizzy height upon my unoffending scalp.

I have studied the habits of these birds pretty carefully, and I know very well why he had done it. He was trying to get at his dinner, and as the shell of the mussel was still unbroken, and I wished to see him try again, I walked a couple of hundred yards away and then turned to watch his movements. Seeing that the coast was clear, he quickly flew back to the place where the mussel had fallen, seized it in his beak and, again rising high into the air, he let it drop. He followed it closely as it fell, keeping almost beside it during the greater part of the descent, and only moderating his downward rush when he was in danger of dashing himself upon the beach. The mussel struck the sand, but the shell was still unbroken, and, indeed, it was very evident to me that the soft ground that received it would never lay it open. Then I flung the mussel to a distance, and the gull, seeming to take this as a hint that my head was not a chopping block, seized his troublesome delicacy and flew away. I saw him turn a little inland, rise once more to a great height, dart swiftly down and then wing his way out to sea. I found that many stones lay at the place of his last descent; so, doubtless, his perseverance was at length rewarded, and he had gone off to some lonely rock to dine."—San Francisco ".

Power of a Kind Voice.

There is no power of love so hard to get and keep as a kind voice. A kind hand is deaf and dumb. It may be rough in flesh and blood, yet do the work of a soft heart and do it with a soft touch. But there is no one thing that love so much needs as a sweet voice to tell what it means and feels; and it is hard to get and keep it in the right tone. One must start in youth and be on the watch night and day, at work and play, to get and keep a voice that shall speak at all times the thoughts of a kind heart. It is often in youth that one gets a voice or a tone that is sharp, and sticks to him through life, and stirs up ill will and grief, and falls like a drop of gall on the sweet joys of home. Watch it day by day as a pearl of great price, for it will be worth more to you in days to come than the best pearl hid in the sea. A kind voice is to the heart what light is to the eye. It is a light that sings as well as shines.—Elihu Burritt.

On Mount Katahdin's Summit.

A cone of burnished tin, twenty inches in height and twelve in diameter, has been placed on the summit of Mount Katahdin by the Bangor (Me.) Appalachian club, in order to note the distance from which the peak can be seen.—Chicago News.

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