

How to Care for Chickens.

Let me tell you how to have eggs all winter if you have young hens of any good laying breed, or rather I will tell you how I have them, and you may do likewise. We have a comfortable but very cheap hen house, packed with straw around three sides. The south side or front is left clear for a door and window made by placing four sashes containing six lights of sash glass in a row. The perches are opposite the windows, and nests underneath. For feed I give the hens plenty of milk, and in freezing weather heat it before giving it to them. I keep a large store kettle especially for the purpose, and cook all the turnip and potato peelings, and throw into it all the table scraps and remainings of the pots and kettles. Once a day, early in the morning, I fill the kettle nearly full of milk, and after it is hot, I throw in with meal or bran, whichever I have, and two or three times a week I stir into it a heaping teaspoonful of black pepper. If I did not have milk I should use water and mix scraps of meat and lard "cracklings" with it. The hens gather around me when I take this steaming kettle of feed to them so I can scarcely get room to pour it out into their feedpans. I feed oats in a clean deal, but never dry. I pour over a bucket full of oats enough milk to swell them, and let them soak several hours, generally from one feed to the next. The milk will be absorbed, and there will be no danger of the oats swelling the crop. At butchering time I boil the livers, lights and any other scraps which are left, in a large kettle out door, adding slightly, and throwing in a red pepper or two, and feed it out. I feed it two or three times a week. Of course, my hens get more or less corn, but I make it my special care to see to the milk all the time and a warm feed once a day. I have fresh eggs all winter, and when they bring 25 cents a dozen one feels well repaid for the trouble. We do not keep the hens shut up all the time, only in very cold, stormy weather, and on bright days they range on the farm.

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How Men Should Act. Young men, we want just a word with you privately. Now listen, living leap year, you will doubtless have more or less offers of marriage from the fair sex. Of course you are not entitled upon to accept any of them unless you choose. When your admirer falls on her knees, and with disheveled hair, dilating eyes, disordered nostrils and clenched teeth begs upon her breast, bid him swear by all the stars that she loves you and you alone, don't get frightened and send for a policeman under the impression that you have a lunatic on your hands. It's not an enemy. All you have to do is sit until the paroxysm is passed, when he will subside and calmly await your decision. If you want her, frankly tell her that you have always loved her, and thank her cordially for giving you this opportunity of saying as much. If you don't want her, you should smile a few times, and tell her that you are awfully sorry, but your heart belongs to another, and the best you can do is to love her as a brother. If she has any kind of stuff in her head, she will stand on her feet, straighten her bustle around, charge it belongs, cut up her hair in shaggy, pin her hat on her head, crawl into her sensible sarong, and with an expressed wish that you may be happy with whoever is fortunate to win your heart, sail out into the night, and lay plans for their next campaign. These ordeals are liable to come to you any moment, so you will do well to be always on the lookout, lest in an unguarded moment, you get frightened into making a promise that will cloud the whole course of your life.

A Phase of Married Life. Bob Burdette puts into the mouth of a good wife words that illustrate one of the many delightful phases of married life. "Now I'll tell you," she says, "why I wouldn't go into the restaurant and have a cup of coffee with you while we were waiting for the train. I didn't like the way you asked me, 'Keep quiet, I have the door.' Now half an hour before you said to me, 'I don't come, let's get a cigar,' and away you went, holding his arm and not giving him a chance to decline. When we met John O'Howdy on our way to luncheon, you said, 'Just in time, John, come take lunch with us.' And then to night, when we found the train near by an hour late, you looked at your watch, turned to me and said in a questioning way, 'Would you like a cup of coffee?' And I did want it; I was tired and a little hungry, but I would have faintly before I accepted such an invitation."

The Way to Austria. The system carried out in Vienna for educating girls is certainly worthy of notice. They are kept at their studies until they are 15 years of age. Then they go through a course of education in the pantry and the kitchen under some member of the family, or sometimes under trained cooks for a year or two years. Thus they learn to do everything themselves, and to know the value of things long before they commence housekeeping on their own account; and, though they may never be required to cook a dinner, they become independent of cooks and servants. The Austrian women are so efficient as housewives and mothers. They are accomplished and learned as any English governess, or as witty in society as a Parisian, and are some of the most beautiful women in Europe.

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Ancient Order of Snakes. The dancing man, says the Apache Critic, made four circuits around the rock which stands near the center of the plaza, halting to face the chorus, where as on the day before, a snake was gone through with. The snakes were formed into groups of three each, and now an individual from each group went into the cottonwood shade and extracted a snake from one of the bags, and, after putting it into his mouth and firmly fixing it there by the teeth, started on his round.

Those who danced with the snakes frequently had three or four at the same time in the mouth, which, of all the performances, was the most repulsive. To see a human being going the rounds with his entire face hidden behind the snakes, not a feature visible, was something to make the shudders creep up one's back, which it did. Yet there was sounds of applause from the natives gathered around, urging the dancers to attempt greater feats, such as taking two of the larger rattlers in the mouth at once, and in one instance a dancer held many snakes in his mouth, which turned around his face in a hideous mass, as if his head had been transformed into that of the fabled Gorgon.

Life in the Indian Territory. A gentleman who lived for years in the Indian country said yesterday that the present system is breeding a race of murderers. "As a population thickens in the States and law-abiding settlements take possession of the country, the desperadoes are driven into the Indian territory to prey upon the widely scattered victims. Added to their depredations are the acts of violence committed by the members of powerful families of the civilized tribes and force the more peaceful Indians to obey them implicitly. They do not hesitate to kill anybody who dares thwart their will. Feuds are more common than friendships. Lwars are laughed at, and the impotence of the police is growing worse. I know a harmless white man in one of the civilized tribes, who carried his Winchester for months, even in going from his house to his store, simply because he stood in the way of some influential Indians, and was constantly in danger of assassination. The lands are not cultivated except by a few scattered and half-bred. The majority of the Indians live poorly and idly. They quarrel over religion and politics, and that is about their only apparent interest in life. When I say religion and politics I should say preachers and politicians. They neither know nor care anything about measures or principles. They take a fancy to this or that preacher and fight over their preferences freely. So with politics; it all turns on personal and family attributes. It is a shame that such a state of things should be allowed to continue. As for the Indians on the western reservations, they are worse yet."

Character in Ears. I have often felt, too, that something of a man's nature could be determined by his ears—their shape and their hang, if I may put it in that way. I have noticed that, while, heavy jawed and stolid animals, and even men of intellect, whose ears are close to their heads, these men are not to be trifled with, and they only appreciate the pressure of force or of mind when they feel it. The lantern jawed and flappy eared are easily read and handled. The most desperate animals, whether of higher or of lower order, are of the former class, while the petty thieves and men of light mental culture are generally of the flappy eared group. I think, too, that something can be told of a person's nature by his gait of walking. I do not know that much can be determined by the carriage of the head, just the same as the jockey or horse fancier tells the nature and spirit of a horse by head posture.

Some think six acres is to small a quantity of land to be honored with the name of farm, but a correspondent of the Massachusetts Ploughman in describing the six acre homestead of Mr. Horace Eaton, living near Quincy, Mass., says that whether it is right or not to call it a farm, one thing is certain—Mr. Eaton raises more of his six acres than do some of his neighbors of their two or three hundred acre farms. He keeps four, and some times five cows, two horses, a number of hogs, and a large lot of poultry. He does not raise enough hay and grain to carry his stock through the year, but he sells his milk cows in the summer, and raises roots and green fodder ensilage for them in winter, he has very little provender to buy, and the quality of his butter is such as to bring him sixty cents a pound the whole year around, the richness of his milk too, selling the care taken and quality of his cows. Fruit is his specialty, he sends some of the finest specimens to the Boston market, as well as taking a number of prizes at the annual exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He raises strawberries in great variety, and ships numbers of his plants to various parts of the country. He practices severe pruning of his vines and a rigid thinning of his fruit trees, believing it is the only way to obtain the most superior fruit. His land is low but thoroughly underdrained, every inch of it being made to count. His barn is a model one and supplied with all the modern conveniences. He keeps one man the whole year round, and another man during the working season. About one acre of his estate is occupied with buildings, among which stands one of the most elegant mansions in the town or suburbs of Quincy, front of which there is neither hedge, wall or fence to mar the view. Here is a merchant farmer, doing a million or more business in Boston, and yet can find time to go out to his little farm every day; reaching there by six o'clock in the evening between which time and the starting of the 7:30 a. m. train for Boston the next morning he directs all the operations on the farm, raises better crops than any of his neighbors, besides supplying his own table with the choicest of vegetables and sending wagon loads to the city markets. A man with such energy is bound to make farming pay, even though his farm may contain but six acres.

A Mixed Train. On some of the western roads they attach a passenger car to a freight train and call it "mixed." It isn't in the order of such things that such trains should travel very rapidly, and sometimes they are considerable growing among the "traffics."

Celebrated Smokers. Jackson was an inveterate smoker. Grant used to smoke a cigar a day. Leopold Morse of Boston, always has a cigar in his mouth, and Vice-President Caffez smoked daily his fifteen cigars. David Davis smoked all his life. Senator Kennas a great smoker, Senator Conger smokes three cigars daily and Allison is by no means averse to a good cigar. The Prince of Wales smokes cigars and it is said that Gladstone smokes a pipe. Edwin Booth is a pipe-smoker and Tennyson, Thackeray and Bulwer were always fond of the weed. Charles Lamb is said to have used very poor tobacco, and Isaac Newton lost his sweatshirt through his absent-mindedness in using his fingers as a tobacco stopper. Pope, Swift, Bolingbroke, and Congreve were addicted to snuff, and Frederick the Great had a snuff pocket made in his vest to satisfy his craving. Gibbon the historian, was a confirmed snuff taker, and Byron sang the praises of tobacco. Milton, Locke, Raleigh, Isaac Walton, Addison, Steele, Robert Burns and Walter Scott all used tobacco, and Prescott was very fond of smoking. It injured his health, however, and when his physician limited him to one cigar a day he ran all over Paris to buy the biggest one he could find.

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Merchandise Maxims. Do not be in a hurry to get rich. Gradual gains are the only nature gains. Never take great hazards, for they are seldom well balanced by the prospects of profit. It is not the business that elevates the man, but the man who elevates the business. A thoroughly honest clerk can always command a better salary than one of equivocal habits. The foundation for wealth and fortune is good health, good habits, industry and honesty. When business is attended with mingledness, of detail, strict punctuality, it runs evenly, without jar or friction. The man who has not one half of his stock paid for is an unsafe customer, provided he has no other available means. He who has traded out his neighbors' good opinion is pretty sure to be a poor man, however high the price for which he sold it. Stick to your business. Let speculation make their thousands in a day. Your increase may be slow, but it is sure and safe. The honorable merchant who infuses energy, ability, honesty, and good sense in his business with moderate capital, invariably succeeds. It is statistical truth that no single cause leads to more disasters than the use of liquors, and not necessarily through drunkenness, but the effecting of the judgment. In dress be neat and unobtrusive. The perfection of dress is to be so perfectly in keeping with your occupation that the attention of an observer is directed to it at all. Vainly shall a man hope to live and thrive by buying and selling, after the neighbors; his customers have learned by sad experience that his word is not reliable, that his representations of the cost or quality of his wares are not to be trusted. Fuming and fretting in and around a store, finding fault with clerks and employees, denoting a lack of order and tidiness, and exposing the merchant to ridicule and unpleasant comments from those from whom he should have respect and confidence. "Then trade is dull use every legitimate means to improve it. Some merchants stop advertising when trade slows. This is just the time it is most needed. Saved by a Sausage. While a lady who lives in Milton, Pa., was returning from a shopping expedition the other day, says the Milton Argus, she noticed a man following her, and when she had passed Upper Market street he hurriedly passed, but instantly turned and confronted her in a threatening manner. It was dark, and she had a heavy basket in her hand on the top of which lay a piece of Bologna sausage. Acting on a sudden impulse the lady grasped the sausage, pointing it at the fellow and saying, "You scoundrel, if you touch me I'll shoot you." As if really shot at the man fled, and ran across the lots toward the street and ran across the lots toward the reservoir with a speed that she lost him to sight. The lady says she has more faith in Bologna than in a revolver to scare a cowardly thief.

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