

Farm Notes.

It is more profitable to buy old Western corn for feeding than to grind home-grown while in its soft condition.

The culture of Indian corn is increasing in Australia. It is said that 15 cents per bushel covers the cost of cultivation and harvesting.

Soft-shell eggs are caused by a deficiency of lime. Oyster shells are composed of carbonate of lime, and serves as "grit" in grinding the food as well as for material for forming the shell.

A Montreal dealer ships tomatoes to England, where they bring good prices. The taste for tomatoes has been acquired, but the English climate will always be too cold for them to ripen.

Spent hops, if properly dried, are said to be an excellent and healthy substitute for feather down in bedding. They have been used for that purpose many years.

Frequently the British farmer expands in a single year as much in making a crop as would by an equal number of acres in the cultivated and older portions of this country.

A large fowl will make more meat than a small one, but requires a longer period in which to mature. Early maturity in hens is of more importance than size or weight of carcass.

Fowls need gravel, oyster shell and some green food. When in confinement these substances should not be overlooked. A head of cabbage or an onion or two will always be highly relished.

The Richmond, Va., Southern Planter says: "There is no mean, no procrustean standard that can be declared off-hand applicable to a special soil. Strictly speaking, each particular case demands a new analysis. One field may produce a forage five times more nutritive than another."

A new white potato called Duke of Albany is becoming very popular in England. It is a sort of the Beauty of Hebron. Most of our American potatoes do well if taken to England, but the rule does not work both ways, as American farmers who have planted imported seed have found to their cost.

Mr. J. J. H. Gregory, of Marblehead, Mass., carefully collected the castings of worms daily for one season over a given area, and they measured nearly a quart to the square foot or enough to raise the surface of the land half an inch. He also by experiment shows that an acre of land may contain six tons of worms.

Vegetables, like grain, seem to pass through a sweating process when placed in a heap, which guides those storing them in large quantities to be careful of the temperature of the cellars and storehouses in which they are kept. They need not only a temperature suitable, but also more or less ventilation in the heap.

Goats' milk is sold in London at thirty-seven to fifty cents per quart. It is preferred by many for the food of very young children. English and Welsh cottagers find the keeping of goats for their milk a profitable business at the prices paid. The yield is generally very small; but a goat picks its own living with less expense to its owner than any other animal.

Australia has 80,000,000 sheep, against 38,000,000 in this country. The wool yield of Australian sheep has been very light; but the improvements made by importing American breeding stock are rapidly bringing it up. Some fine-wool breeders have shipped rams to Australia at \$100 to \$500 per head, and the crosses from these fully double the original wool-clip per sheep.

Cottonseed oil is said to be superior for many cooking purposes. It does not scorch so readily as other oils, and if properly refined gives an excellent flavor to what is cooked with it. People have been using more cottonseed oil than they knew, much of it being palmed off as olive oil. Now that its merits are better understood, it can afford to pass under its true colors. Let those who desire to consume oil have their opportunity.

The New Hampshire Mirror and Farmer recommends that fine salt be sifted over cattle from head to tail about this time, and again later in the season, as a remedy against lice. About a pint to each animal is sufficient. A correspondent who tried the remedy selected a few animals for experiment with the salt, and omitted its use on others, and the result was that those that were so salted were free of lice, while those not so treated were lousy.

G. H. Danley writes to the Indiana Farmer: I have a heifer that is four years old, with her second calf, that I consider is hard to beat. The following is the result of seven days' milking—from May 18th to 19th: Number of pounds of milk given, 470—an average of 67 pounds per day; most given in one day, 70 pounds. From the 470 of milk we made 18 1/2 pounds of butter. She is a grade short-horn. I would like to know if there is any better record—taking into consideration her age—than this, or any breed.

PRINCE-GOD-BARBONES.

I and my cousin Wildair met And to me a pot together; Burnt seat it was that Mollie brewed, For it was nippin' weather.

She laughed a little and shook her small head. I remarked the sharp curved chin and ventured "15?" "Try agen."

A Daughter of the Gods. The first time I saw her—and I never saw her but twice—there was nothing visible but a slat sun-bonnet and a pair of red angular elbows keeping time to a monotonous chant:

"Mary and Marthy served the Lawd, Marthy and Marthy served the Lawd, Marthy and Marthy served the Lawd, And I kin serve Him tew."

"Dew you live at the tavern?" she asked, putting her brown head over on one shoulder like a bird, and looking at me with bright, inquisitive eyes.

"Yes! What a shame to let such a child as you wash; you ought to be playing with dolls," I remarked, indignantly.

"An' it's yew," was her laconic greeting, as she swung the old boards that served for a door and reluctantly admitted me.

"Do you keep house here alone?" "With feyther and gran'feither," said the child, "an—an—Kedle."

"Oh, your brother?" She nodded her answer; I sat on the bench and dried myself in the firelight; the old man roused himself and looked curiously at me with red, ferret-like eyes, that had no lashes to their weak lids.

She laughed a little and shook her small head. I remarked the sharp curved chin and ventured "15?" "Try agen."

"I believe you are fifty," I said sharply, there was such a change in each movement of the little woman. "Yime twenty," she replied in her childish voice.

"Do you take care of these?"—these dreadful people I had nearly said, but checked myself—"your father and grandfather?" "Yes, an' Kedle! Wait, till yoh see Kedle!"

"Yoh killed it, Kedle," said the girl, sadly. "Look yeh how its eyes winple; that's teahs in 'em."

"The foolish boy laughed; then he drew a pretty green lizard from his pocket and held it with his thumb and finger, its long, narrow green head undulating like a snake; he made a sound that resembled the chattering of a monkey, and it was evident that he knew no power of speech.

"I did the next worst thing I could have done—took out a silver half-dollar; fortunately I saw that the little mountain washerwoman was a princess in disguise, and I asked humbly:

"May I buy the lizard?" I took the reptile home with me in a piece of a broken cup; I have the bit of dell yet to remind me of the little unselfish being whose history, known in all the Pocket country, is the saddest I ever heard.

"I don't believe in a good-natured husband," said Mrs. Jeems. "It makes him bring home too many friends for dinner, and if there's anything I hate, it's that."

Humor of the Day.

A stump-speech: "Gimme the butt of yer cigar, mister?" A Buffalo is not a bird, but we have often heard of a buffalo bill.

A very old lady on her death-bed, in penitential mood, said: "I have been a great sinner more than eighty years, and didn't know it."

The deacon's son was telling the minister about the bees stinging his pa, and the minister inquired: "Stung your pa, did they? Well, what did you pa say?"

The Providence Star relates a pretty story this: After all, sincere politeness is the sweetest and most acceptable. The other day I saw a New London man in Providence—a New Londoner not noted for his urbanity, but rather for his grisly austerity.

There is one sin which it seems to me is everywhere, and by everybody is underestimated, and is too much overlooked in valuations of character. It is the sin of fretting.

There are plenty of things to fret about. It is simply astonishing how much annoyance and discomfort can be found in the course of one's everyday living, even at the simplest, if one keeps a sharp lookout on the dark side of things.

A wee boy beset his mother to talk to him, and say something funny. "How can I?" she asked, "don't you see how busy I am taking these pies?"

A Year of Crime.

The New York Evening Telegram thus summarizes the criminal account of the year that has just closed: On an average there has been each day two murders and one suicide.

In regard to murders New York leads with 131; 76 of these were committed in the city of New York, and 15 in Brooklyn. The other States and Territories rank in the following order:

Missouri, 44; Virginia, 43; Pennsylvania, 30; Kentucky, 27; Texas, 31; Illinois, 30; New Jersey, 30; Ohio, 28; Massachusetts, 27; Arkansas, 24; Tennessee, 21; Indiana, 19; North Carolina, 18; Georgia, 16; Mississippi, 15; Colorado, 13; California, 10; Iowa and Minnesota, 9 each; Alabama, Connecticut, Maryland, Michigan and Wisconsin, 8 each; Louisiana, Maine and South Carolina, 7 each; Kansas and Rhode Island, 6 each; West Virginia, 5; the District of Columbia, Indian Territory, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming, 4 each; Florida, Nevada and New Hampshire, 3 each; Dakota, Nebraska and Washington Territory, 2 each; Delaware, Montana and Vermont, 1 each.

One hundred and one persons paid the penalty of their crimes by death during the past year. Of this number ninety-eight died on the gallows, and three were shot. The scene of the executions of the latter being the Indian Territory. Of those who forfeited their lives fifty-two were negroes, thirty-eight were white, eight were Indians and two were Chinese.

Of the murders expiated six were those of wives, one that of a husband, one of a son, one of a sister, one of an aunt, one of a daughter-in-law, and one committed in prison. One of the executions was that of Gullett for the assassination of President Garfield, one that of the Indian chief Brave Bear, and two occurred in New York city, those of Shorran and Leighton, on the 20th of April and May 19th, respectively.

The 101 executions are divided among the several States and Territories as follows: Georgia, 11; South Carolina, 9; Louisiana, 7; Missouri and North Carolina, 6 each; Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Indian Territory and Pennsylvania, 5 each; Kentucky, New York, Tennessee and Texas, 4 each; Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Mississippi and Virginia, 3 each; Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico and Oregon, 1 each.

Judge Lynch has been very busy during the past twelve months. By his orders 57 persons have been put to death for various crimes. There were twelve double and four triple lynchings. Thirty-four of those on whom summary justice was inflicted were white men, twenty-two were negroes, and one was an Indian who was hanged in California.

The hanging by mobs and vigilance committees occurred in the following States and Territories:—Colorado, 6; Alabama, 5; Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico and South Carolina, 4 each; Kansas, Missouri and Washington Territory, 3 each; Arizona,

Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas, 2 each; Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Missouri, Oregon, Virginia and Wisconsin, 1 each.

Three hundred and eighty-three persons in various parts of the country having grown tired of life, ushered themselves into eternity by the agency of the pistol, gun, knife, razor, fire, the rope and various other ways. In New York city 123 persons committed suicide, and in Brooklyn, there were 26 cases. Of all the States and Territories, New York ranks as the first, with 184 cases; New Jersey, 33; Pennsylvania, 27; Ohio, 24; Maryland, 13; Missouri, 10; Illinois, 9; California, 7; Arkansas and Delaware, 6 each; Connecticut, Massachusetts, and North Carolina, 5 each; Alabama, Indiana, Georgia, Maine, Rhode Island and Virginia, 4 each; District of Columbia, Louisiana, Mississippi and New Hampshire, 3 each; Kentucky, Michigan, Vermont and Wisconsin, 2 each.

The usual crowd of autumn idlers were gathered together in the store, occupying all the grocery seats—the only gross receipts the proprietor took no pride in—when a little, blue-eyed, weazen faced individual sneaked in by the back door, and slunk into a dark corner. "That's him," said the ungrammatical bummer with a green patch over his left eye.

After much persuasion he began: "It was just such a night as this—bright and clear—and I was going home down the track, when, right before me, across the rails, lay a great beam. There it was. Pale and ghastly as a lifeless body, and light as it appeared, I had not the power to move it. A sudden rumble and roar told me that the night express was thundering down and soon would reach the fatal spot. Nearer and nearer it approached till, just as the cowcatcher was about lifting me, I sprang aside, placed myself between the obstruction and the track, and the train flew on unharmed."

The silence was so dense for a moment that one might have heard a dew drop. Presently somebody said: "What did you do with the beam?" "I didn't touch it," he replied; "but it touched me."

"Well," persisted the questioner, "if you couldn't lift it, and didn't touch it, how in the dickens did the train get over it?" "Why don't you see?" said the sad faced man, as he arose from his seat and sidled toward the door. "The obstruction was a moonbeam, and I jumped so that the shadow of my body took its place, and—"

Bananas and Plantains. A pound of bananas contains more nutriment than three pounds of potatoes, while as a food it is in every sense of the word far superior to the best wheaten bread. An acre of ground planted with bananas will return, according to Humboldt, as much food material as thirty-three acres of wheat, or over a hundred acres of potatoes. The banana (it should be called plantain) is divided into several varieties, all of which is used for food. The plantain mas'nto is a small, delicate fruit, neither longer nor stouter than a lady's fore-finger, it is the most delicious and prized of all the varieties of plantain.

El plantino guineo—called by us the banana—is probably more in demand than any other kind. It is subdivided into different varieties, the principal of which are the yellow and purple bananas that we see for sale in our markets, but the latter is so little esteemed by the natives of the tropics that it is seldom eaten by them. El plantino grande—known to us as simply the plantain—is also subdivided into varieties which are known by their savor and size. The kind that reaches our market is almost ten inches long, yet on the isthmus of Darien there are plantains that grow from eighteen to twenty-two inches. They are never eaten raw, but are either boiled or roasted, or prepared as preserves.