

Agricultural.

Improving Wheat.

Before he can be successful in making the best better by crossing, the experimenter must be thoroughly acquainted with his wheats in every respect. Should he wish an offspring with harder grain than either of his parents, with stronger straw, etc., the most cross varieties that possess elements that will make them so in proper proportions. For instance, should be cross a hard finely bearded wheat, that makes very poor flour but has fine straw and grain well clothed, upon a smooth weak-strawed wheat with fine grain, the offspring the first year after crossing, will be of all colors, shapes and qualities—a diversity of forms. The heads will be of various lengths—some bearded and some smooth, some poorer in every respect than either parent, and some far superior, to all outward appearances. After the crossing, and after the first crop is ripe in the field, selection begins. In the first place the best heads are picked that are found on the best straw and possess the best chaff; next, after shelling, head by head, the best kernels are taken just as the stockman selects his best pig, pup or chicken to breed from. Now, it may be, and often is the case, that none of these offspring are worthy or as good as either parent: if so try again and again until success attends your efforts. If the proper rules are observed success is sure to follow, at least in half the trials made by an experienced hand.

Breed Up.

If a common cow has the marks of a good milker it is wisdom to breed from her. Whether or not her calf will inherit her good qualities time alone can tell. It is right here that the value of improved stock is greatest. Its characteristics are fixed and will be reproduced. It is here, too, where the value of a registered pedigree is apparent. The fact that a book contains the brief statement of the ancestors of an animal is nothing of itself. But the fact that it tells that an animal has certain ancestors from a long line of ancestors which have regularly transmitted their characteristics is very thing, for it not only shows that the animal itself possesses the family characteristics to a greater or less degree, but that it in turn will be able to transmit them. The common cow may reproduce herself, and she may not. The purely-bred cow will reproduce herself, with possibly slight variation, under proper breeding. It is so often the case that the owners of common cows get an erroneous impression when their attention has been called to the desirability of improving their herds. They are convinced, perhaps, that it would be to their interest to breed up, or rather to improve the character of their herds; but, thinking that the only way to do this is to purchase outright, they may not feel like going to the expense. Some of the best cows in the country are crosses of our common stock with the improved breeds, and if a man owns a common cow that has proved herself a valuable dairy animal he has excellent encouragement to use her for crossing. It is every man's duty to breed up. It is throwing away money to keep an inferior animal when we can just as well have a better one.

Value of the Poultry Business.

Every business that increases national wealth and promotes individual comfort and prosperity possesses an interest to the philanthropic commensurate to its importance. It is impracticable for census reports to fairly represent every industry. Should it be done in the simple matter of poultry and eggs the figures would astonish those who have given the subject only a mere passing thought. I am certain that the value and importance of the poultry business as a source of national wealth has not been fully appreciated. Judging from the census reports of the State of New York I am led to believe that the actual value of poultry in the United States is scarcely realized. There can be but little if any less than three million farmers' families in the United States that keep poultry—hens simply. It is reasonable to suppose that on an average each family keeps at least ten hens, and that each hen lays 100 eggs annually. This would give an aggregate of 300,000,000 dozen eggs, which at a net valuation of 10 cents a dozen to the producer would make the net proceeds to the farmers \$25,000,000! Does this startle the reader? In New York alone, twelve years ago, the census report set down the actual value of poultry at \$3,000,000. The city of Boston, according to statistics, expended for eggs in 1899, \$4,000,000, and for poultry the same year, \$3,000,000, making the enormous sum of \$7,000,000 expended in a third-class city for poultry and eggs. I have no doubt but the estimate of \$25,000,000 for eggs is a low one, while that of poultry sold would swell the amount of the poultry interest to more than \$60,000,000. And this refers to hens alone. The additional amount in geese, turkeys, ducks, guinea fowls and pigeons I will not attempt to consider.

A Nonsensical End.

To call a laundress a bosom friend is flat-irony. Once upon a time, when General Ney, the Duke of Elchingen, who died last year, was commanding the cavalry at Versailles, a circus manager was introduced who came to obtain a dozen cuirassiers to take part in the grand entree of his circus. "Oh, I suppose you can have them!" answered the Duke. "What'll you pay them?" "Three francs a head!" "Three francs!" exclaimed the Duke, who was very prudent in money matters; "why, man, I'll go myself!" A man named Dunlop requested Theodore Hook to make a punning allusion to his name. "Well, just lop off the last syllable," responded the wit, "and it's Dun." Time and again, without any gain to himself, however, has an Austin tailor, Mr. Pinkney French, dunned Dr. W. R. Rhodes. The latter has been owing the former a tailor's bill for the last four years. "Doctor, I am losing a great deal of time trying to collect that bill," said French. "You will get all your time back. I am going to pay you in time." Heinrich Heine, when he was a student, once wrote to his friend: "Send me fifty thalers right away, or I will starve myself to death at your expense." The London World has statistics to prove that lawyers have less sickness as a class than physicians, but as an offset physicians can get their medicines for about 50 per cent. off. The Pullman train hadn't run more than ten miles before the robbers headed it. "You're lucky," said one of the passengers to the leader of the gang, "the porter hasn't been through the car yet." The use of iron cannot increase the running qualities of a dog, but tin can. A City of London policeman before Judge Maule, said he was in the hen (N) division. "Do you mean in the Poultry?" the Judge asked. An Arkansas editor, in retiring from the editorial control of a newspaper, said: "It is with a feeling of sadness that we retire from the active control of this paper; but we leave our journal with a gentleman who is abler than we are, financially, to handle it—a gentleman well known in this community. He is the sheriff." "What are the nine muses, pa?" asked a little boy who was reading mythological lore in the lower class. "It is when the home 'nine' is beaten in a game of base ball, then the nine muses over it," was the reply.

Matches.

The fiftieth anniversary of the invention of matches by three Austrians was recently celebrated in Vienna. The inventor of the lucifer match lives in every country under the sun, and Austria will do as well as another. Fifty years ago, in England, matches had only reached the stage known as "lucifers," and were clumsy and inconvenient. Fox and Barne and Dr. Johnson used to light their candles with flint and steel, though practice probably made them more skillful than we would be at such an operation. About the beginning of this century long brimstone matches took the place of the tinder. They were about six inches long, tipped with sulphur, and caught fire easily from the spark of the flint. In 1835 an elaborate apparatus called the "expyrion" was in general use in the cities. This was a large mouthed bottle containing sulphuric acid, soaked in fibrous asbestos, and the matches, which were about two inches long and sold for a shilling a box, were tipped with a chemical combination of which chlorate of potash was the principal ingredient. When the end of the match was dipped into the acid and rapidly withdrawn fire was produced. But the acid was inconvenient, the matches were likely to be spoiled by damp and the expyrion soon went out of use. Another instrument called the "pyrophorus," the pneumatic tinder box, and the hydrogen lamp of Dohereimer were successfully used for short periods. In 1832 the first friction match was made and it was jokingly called a lucifer. Lucifers were substantially the same as our present matches pulled through a piece of sandpaper. The only change since then has been altering it from a silent to a noisy match, and the invention of the safety fuse, which will ignite only when rubbed upon chemically prepared paper.

Paris is no longer the gastronomic paradise that it was of old. The Parisians dine on the architecture of set dishes on damask linen, on the brilliancy of the glassware, on the flowers that are on the table, on the white cravats of the waiters, but on butter at thirty cents a pound, and on ordinary wine from the wine-shops round the corner, on fish with the bones painted in bistre on the fillets by one of those mysterious and ingenious artists whose specialty it is to do "kitchen painting." The inventor of this industry was named Chapellier, who invented the trade of "painter of turkey's feet." He had noticed that the poulterers had lost largely on stale stock. The sign by which the staleness of a turkey, for instance, is betrayed is the increasing paleness of the legs and feet. Chapellier invented a varnish to tone up the color. His successors have invented many other tricks which are the providence of second-class game and fish dealers. Oh, the meanness of some apparently brilliant Parisian households is awful to think of! I think, perhaps, the painter Ziem's table is the most phenomenal. Ziem hires half the dishes by the hour, and the guests are, of course, not allowed to touch them. The dessert is generally in wax, except one plate of cheap apples and a dish of nuts!

A novelty in lace curtains is announced, which consists in the peculiarity of the design rather than in anything special in the fabric itself. It represents, within a border of floral design, a window with drapery and a view in perspective beyond. The idea may be new, but is certainly not artistic. You never know how much water an umbrella is capable of containing until you accidentally stand it against the wall and on the pear-colored carpet that cost \$5 per yard.

Horse Hints.

Road horses should have their front feet stuffed with flax-seed meal twice a week. When light shoes are needed, particularly hind ones, have them made of cast-steel. Don't hook your horse to the sleigh the same as to your wagon, but give him more trace. Horses wearing boots should have them loosened while under the shed at the road house. If your horse should pull on one line or throw his head up and down and fight and pull on the bit have his mouth and teeth examined. The hand-pieces of driving reins frequently become smooth from use, causing the hand to shift. In such cases rub the lines with powdered rosin. If you wish to drive your horse with an open bridle have him tried with one before putting him to your top-wagon, otherwise he might get away with you. When horses overreach lengthen the hind shoes; when they hit the front of the hind feet have the toe of the front shoes made narrow and concaved on the inside. Some horses when trotting in putting their hind feet to the ground strike principally on the toe. Such horses should have the heels lowered, and should wear shoes without heels. Skunk-cabbage is said to be good for heaves in tea-poufeful does night and morning. Moisten the hay and grain. Be careful with the diet. Never work a heavy horse on a full stomach. Steel bits should be kept in a warm place until they are placed in the horse's mouth. Any person can realize the sensation of placing a cold bit in the horse's mouth by first touching it with his own tongue. Tar is one of the most useful articles to be kept about a stable. Internally use a teaspoonful night and morning for chronic coughs; externally it is particularly useful in thrush and all diseases or wounds of the foot. Mix d with fish-oil it is one of the best remedies for hard or brittle feet. An excellent remedy for mange is: Oil of turpentine, 1 pint; add cautiously 2 ounces of oil of vitriol, stirring the mixture constantly; then add 8 ounces lincsed oil; to be rubbed in with a brush twice a day. If your double team did not work to suit you to-day, one crowding to the pole while the other would pull his head to one side, see that the reins are right, and in hooking them to your wagon to-morrow put the off horse on the near side. When heels and toes are required on a horse's shoes, instead of having the shoe turned down for heels have the heels and toes of cast steel and welded on. The heels should be put on half an inch from end of shoe and placed lengthwise. For a horse that "pulls" use the over-check with strap attached over the nose and under the lower jaw. For an extra hard-mouthed horse use a four-ring bit. Have a slide-loop on the front of the over-check, so that it can be moved up and down, as may be required; then have the check-pieces and over-check attached to the loose rings and the driving lines alone to the large rings. Influenza is one of the most prevalent diseases at this time of the year. The first stage of the disease is generally mild and will readily yield to careful, nutritious diet, such as warm mashes, oatmeal gruel, suitable clothing and proper ventilation. If the respiration is troubled and the extremities cold, give a sedative medicine, rub the legs with dry mustard, bandage with flannel, and send for an expert.

What Parisians Dine Upon.

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The Way Studies are Crowded Upon the Misses in the Public Schools.

She ran up against an iron railing and looked scared. "I'll call a policeman," she said, panting, "if you insult me." She was only fourteen, and her pretty, thin face, with a spot of carnation in each cheek, and her little flaxen curls hanging over her pale forehead as if trying to look into her blue eyes, gave her the adolescent aspect of a French doll. She had a bundle of books that must have weighed thirty pounds. "But I don't want to insult you, my dear," said the reporter. "I only want to interview you." "Interview me?" she exclaimed. "Oh, don't please. I haven't done anything. Go and see pa." "Oh, nonsense," said the reporter; "we've been interviewing pa for years. He doesn't know anything about it. We've wasted our time interviewing school superintendents and principals and all the other people who won't know anything about it. Now we're going to interview you. Don't your head ache?" "Mine? No!" (with a little astonishment.) "Not when you have got to get all those books into it?" "Oh, they don't make my head ache; it's my arms." "Ah! I see. You carry them in your arms—not in your head." Here the reporter made a mental exclamation. Wonderful feminine instinct, to carry the best things of life in its arms and not in its head! "Will you let me read the titles of the books?" "Yes, if you will strap them up again." "Trigonometry! Do you study that?" "Oh, yes." "And surveying?" She nodded her head affirmatively. "And navigation?" "Another nod." "Will you excuse me while I swear a little?" "Well, turn your head away." Reporter—Thunder and Mars! (sotto voce). What's this, French! Do you study French?" "Oh, I'm in the French and German classes." "You don't say so! But you haven't got into the Italian and Portuguese classes?" "I don't think there are any Portuguese, sir." "Well, if there had been, you'd have got into them, wouldn't you?" "Yes, sir, I hope so." "Physiology—do you study that?" "A little, I've only just commenced that. After fluxions we talk half an hour at biology, and then go to applied mechanics and telegraphy. I'm going to commence organic chemistry on Monday, after my music, but Ma thinks it will interfere with my painting in oil." "I should think it would. Don't you ever sleep or play?" "Oh, yes. I play the whole of Czardny's exercises for the piano every morning, and I am learning the overture to Tristan and Isolde. I used to go to sleep in the class-room, but it was awful mean, and I got over it. Miss—our principal, says that if we knew what the mission of women is in the nineteenth century we will not be caught napping. Besides, if I went to sleep I wouldn't pass." "Pass what?" "The examination." "But you might pass some other things." "What other things?" "Well, vertigo, nervous exhaustion, premature decline." "Oh, I don't study those yet." "No, I see you don't." "Let me go now, please." "Wait a moment, I want to ask you one other question. Don't you ever feel tired?" "Oh, what's the use of feeling tired! I haven't got time. If a girl got tired she wouldn't pass, would she?" "I suppose not. But after you've passed you intend to leave this world, don't you?" "Oh, no. When I pass I'm going to study for the stage, and get a yacht and live in Chicago, but you mustn't put that in the paper, because I wouldn't like Pa to know it." Then the American infant picked up her books, gave her head a little toss and went off with a saucy air. De humblest man in de world ain't de man dat is fixin' to be hung, but de man what hab jist got over a drunk. He feels like ebrybody is a p'inting de finger ob scorn at him, an' when one ob his fren's speaks of some little happenin' ob de spree, he bleeds inside. But he ain't entirely cured. After awhile he gins ter feel big agin an' forgettin' his shame, he gets drunk. Den ebrybody seems ter be 'gratulatin' him till he gets through wid his foolishness. Oh, Ise been dar.—Ark Traveler. Many statesmen look upon a morning cocktail as a constitutional amendment.

Mark Twain as a Horseman.

Joaquin Miller says: I remember at a dinner at the Garrett Club, which he had given to Mark Twain and myself, he rode his favorite hobby, the saddle, almost to the verge of anger. You see, Mark Twain was then lecturing on a lecture, on "Biting the Mustang." Trollope began to talk riding with the soup, and endeavored hard to draw the great humorist out and get the advantage of his long experience with the mustang in the Far West. But Mark was silent and very thoughtful. He essayed once or twice to talk about Jerusalem, and even made some faint allusions to the old masters; he went off eloquently on the weather two or three times. But he left the discussion of the question entirely to Trollope and myself, greatly to the disappointment of the former. After dinner, as we sauntered back to Mark's Hotel (the Edwards, St. George's square), where he was living in great state on the same floor with Disraeli, Mark pulled me up suddenly under a lamp post, and said, in his dry, slow and inimitable way: "Look here, old boy, now why didn't you help me out of that horse business, eh?" "Didn't know you wanted any help, Mark." "Well, now, didn't you see me trying to talk about Jerusalem and the weather and the state of future punishments? Why, look here." And he pulled out of his vest pocket a short dozen of little bits of pasteboard. "See them? Tickets for that riding-school in Queen-street, down by Hyde Park. I bought a dozen of 'em the other day. Have eleven left. Take 'em; take 'em all. I'll never go back there as long as I live. I've used one. I got on one of the old mares there and she scraped me off, and I won't go back there no more." "What?" said I, "don't you know how to ride?" "Never was on a horse before, and never will be again. But, you see, as I am lecturing on how to ride a mustang, I thought I ought to know something about horses. But I know enough." "But," said I, as we parted, "you don't mean to tell me you know nothing about horses?" "Nothing—noting at all, and don't want to. You see? I'm a steamboat man."

Noble Thoughts.

Nothing is so reasonable and cheap as good manners.—[Don Quixote. All who joy would win must share it. Happiness was born a twin.—[Byron. As the rolling stone gathers no moss, so the roving heart gathers no affections.—[Mrs. Jameson. Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune, but great minds rise above it.—[Washington Irving. It is in vain to gather virtues without humility; for the Spirit of God delighteth to dwell in the hearts of the humble.—[Erasmus. The bore is usually considered a harmless creature, or of that class of irrational bipeds who hurt only themselves.—[Maria Edgeworth. The true grandeur of humility is in moral elevation sustained, enlightened and decorated by the intellect of man.—[Charles Sumner. The true test of civilization is not the census, nor the size of cities, nor the crops—no, but the kind of man the country turns out.—[Emerson. He who does not respect confidence will never find happiness in his path. The belief in virtue vanishes from his heart, the source of nobler actions becomes extinct in him.—[Auffenberg. 'Tis a rule that goes a great way in the government of a sober man's life, not to put anything to hazard that may be secured by industry, consideration or circumspection.—[L'Estrange. It is when our budding hopes are nipped beyond recovery by some rough wind that we are the most disposed to picture to ourselves what flowers they might have borne if they had flourished.—[Dickens. There are moments when the pale and modest star, kindled by God in simple hearts, which men call conscience, illumines our path with truer light than the flaming comet of genius on its magnificent course.—[Mazzini. The character of the publican and sinner is not always practically incompatible with that of the modern Pharisee, for the majority of us scarcely see more distinctly the faultiness of our own conduct than the faultiness of our own arguments or the dullness of our own jokes.—[Geo. Eliot. Drapery, as the means of modifying the stiff and cold appearance of the entrance hall, is not made as much of as might be. Whenever it can be employed either as a portiere over a door or across an archway, as well as for hangings for the staircase windows, it will, if made of suitable material and harmonizing in color with the walls and woodwork, warm and lighten the hall and give it a much homelike and hospitable aspect.

The Religions of the World.

A Statement of the Real Facts in Regard to Their Denominational Strength. The Southern Cross, of Buenos Ayres, has the following: There is probably no other topic which is so often warmly discussed in religious circles as the numerical strength of the various Christian bodies in the country. One will maintain that the denomination to which he belongs is larger than any other. His statement will be promptly and warmly contradicted, and neither party will be convinced that the other is right, and it is certain that hard feelings are thus engendered. Editors not unfrequently are appealed to for a statement of the real facts in regard to denominational strength. It is partially to answer some of these inquiries and partially to enlighten the general public on this topic that the statistics contained in this article are given. The patient investigation of the numerical strength of the various Churches of the United States up to January 1st, 1891, being the latest reliable statistics, furnishes instructive material for reflection and study. Many persons who have believed that the Methodists headed the list have been in error. The Catholics, though having only 6670 churches and 6613 priests, have 6,174,209 members. There are in the Methodist Church 2,736,497. There are 2,260,431 Baptists. It will thus be seen that there are about three times as many Catholics as Methodists or Baptists, and that there is a close rivalry between the last two. Taking the Church proper, the Baptists exceed the Methodists in numbers, but reckoning all in each denomination, which is as fair for one as another, the Methodists rank next to the Catholics. There are 891,458 Presbyterians. The Lutherans number 681,570; Christians (Disciples of Christ), 567,448; Congregationalists, 383,685; Protestant Episcopalians, 323,876; United Brethren in Christ, 155,473; Reformed Church in the United States, 154,742; United Evangelicals, 144,000; Mormons, 110,577. Having given the numerical strength of the various religious denominations in North America, it will probably interest the reader to be briefly informed concerning the creeds and the distribution of the various religions throughout the world. The estimated population of the earth is 1,345,700,000 persons. As to their creeds, the Buddhists, Shintoes and followers of Confucius numbered 482,600,000; Christians, 882,200,000; aboriginal tribes, practicing fetishism, and other pagans, 27,000,000; Mohammedans, 122,400,000; Brahminical Hindoos, 121,000,000; Jews, 7,000,000, and the Parsees, 1,000,000. As to the distribution of the religions, the Catholics, the largest body of religionists in the world, are greatest in number in France, having there 83,500,000; in Austria, 27,904,308; South America, 26,754,000; Italy, 26,648,679; Spain, 16,825,000, and Germany, 15,371,227; and are to be found all over the world, numbering in all 202,367,858. The Protestants of various sects come next, and predominate in the United States, which has 30,000,000; Germany, 25,835,588; Great Britain, 26,000,000; Sweden, 4,313,800; Russia, 4,000,000; Austria, 3,558,000; South America, 2,000,000—aggregating in all 108,629,509, or about one-half as many as the Catholics. The Greeks have 54,000,000 in Russia, and the rest are to be found in Turkey, Austria, Greece and Germany, aggregating 70,483,000. The Armenians and Abyssinians number 3,000,000 respectively; the Jacobites, 950,000; Nestorians, 170,000, and the Maronites, 150,000. These are all of the Christian religions of the civilized world, and the total membership is 388,249,764. As there are 1,345,700,000 inhabitants of the earth, and 388,249,764 of the above class of Church members, there are 950,450,236 individuals who manifestly have a religion of their own or their fathers, so to speak. These are the Buddhists, Shintoes, Aborigines, Pagans, Parsees, Mohammedans, Hindoos and Jews, whose numerical strength has been given. A Man of Considerable Tact. "I declare," exclaimed Rogerson, "I never saw a man of such consummate tact as Pingleton. You know what a bore Clinger is? Why, he has come into my office day after day, and hung around until I have been half a dozen times on the point of braining him. I have thrown out all manner of hints, but the fellow wouldn't budge until he got ready. But Pingleton has that happy way you know. Why, he got rid of the bore just as easily as you would get rid of a five-dollar bill at a church fair. Ah! Pingleton is a man of tact!" "How did Pingleton do it?" "Oh, he simply took Clinger by the coat collar, forced him toward the door and told him if he didn't go instantly he'd kick him down stairs. Now, that's what I call tact. A wonderful man is Pingleton. Such a knowledge of human nature, you know!"