

The Scrap Book.

Some men give according to their means, and some according to their meanness.

Public gossip is sometimes the best security for the fulfillment of engagements.

Many a man who thinks himself a "big gun," is nothing but a great bore, and not a smooth one, either.

Isn't it strange that we never hear of dynamite being used in Egypt, where there are more Nileists than anywhere else in the world?

Can a man marry his deceased wife's sister in any part of America? Not unless the sister is willing, and as a general thing she isn't. She generally knows him too well.

A burglar who has climbed up to a garret window on a ladder is arrested by a voice shouting, "Hallo, there, what do you want?" "May I ask you for a glass of fresh water?"

A paper speaks of a young farmer who "ran rapidly through his property." His property was an open field. He wore a red shirt and a bull was in the wake of the young farmer.

The proprietor of a tan-yard, adjacent to a certain town in Virginia, concluded to build a stand for the purpose of vending his leather, buying raw hides and the like. Debating what sort of a sign it was best to put up for the purpose of attracting attention, at last a happy idea struck him. He bored an auger hole through the door-post, and stuck a calf's tail into it, with the bushy end flaunting out. After awhile he noticed a grave-looking personage standing near the door, with his spectacles, gazing intently on the sign. And there he continued to stand, gazing and gazing, until the curiosity of the proprietor was greatly excited in turn. He stepped out and addressed the individual: "Good morning," said he. "Good morning," said the other without moving his eyes from the sign. "You want to buy leather?" said the storekeeper. "No." "Are you a farmer?" "No." "Are you a merchant?" "No." "Are you a lawyer?" "No." "Are you a doctor?" "No." "Who are you, then?" "I'm a philosopher. I've been standing here for an hour, trying to see if I could ascertain how that calf got through the auger-hole. I can't make it out to save my life."

Agriculture.

Many farmers of Western New York are going out of tobacco raising because of the uncertainties of the crop, the loss of fertility and depreciation of the land, and disappointments in sales. Even those farmers who have realized the highest prices and the quickest sales admit the effect of tobacco raising is to reduce profits on general farming; that its exhaustive tendency is a serious matter to consider, and that in the long run it is destructive to more important interests.

A horticulturist writing to the *Ohio Farmer*, says: "Nothing is more distressing to a level-headed horticulturist than to see tomato plants a foot or eighteen inches high and bare of branches to the top, swaying and whipping in the cold wind after transplanting. Where such drawn-out plants must be used a small inclined trench should be dug and nearly the whole stem placed beneath the soil. No evil will result, but much good, from such planting, and a vigorous, stocky growth will follow."

The *German town Telegraph* says that "in selecting old apple and pear trees for the purpose of grafting care should be exercised to take only those that retain their foliage late in the autumn. They will insure the growing of the graft sufficiently long to firmly establish it and cause it to remain unaffected during the winter. In every instance that we have tried to raise fruit from grafts on old trees which shed their leaves early we have failed. They grow for a few years, bear a few specimens, and then die."

The *American Cultivator* says: "Did you ever try planting peas in hills? Make a large hill, rich with well-rotted compost or fertilizer; then take a nail keg, or something about that size, and press it into the ground so as to make a deep circle upon the hill; sow your peas in that circle, and plant a large pea brush in the centre. You can grow as many peas to the acre in this way as in drills. They are convenient for the pickers, and they have a neat and tasty look in the garden, which is not a small item, especially when you are trying a new method."

Professor Beal, of the Michigan Agricultural College, reports an experiment where he planted an early, eight-rowed, yellow dent, and through it a single row of yellow flint. Before flowering the tassels of the flint corn were all cut off, making impregnation by the dent on this row a necessity. There was no trace on the ears of the flint of any crossing with the dent the first year. The next year, however, the flint corn showed all gradations from the dent to the flint. He reports some varieties as being less affected with

crossing than others, and names the red or brown varieties as having the greatest fixity of type.

France receives annually from England about \$20,000,000 for butter and cheese. This is suggestive to the American farmer. Many of our farmers know how to and do make good butter, but there are many farmers who do not know how to or at least do not make good, clean butter. If any one doubts this let him visit any city commission house, and he will find butter of every conceivable color, form and smell, and will lose his appetite for butter for a week at least. A little piece of bad butter will ruin the taste of the best bread that the skillful miller and baker can make.—*United States Miller*.

The quantity of food needed by stock varies even among animals of the same age and breed, and it necessarily varies to a greater extent among animals of different breeds. Upon this subject a farmer in England says it is sufficiently correct to reckon a sheep consuming twenty-eight pounds of green food, an ox or cow 150 pounds, a calf forty pounds and a yearling eighty pounds daily. At this rate an ox or cow consumes as much as five sheep. The latter will require 10,220 pounds, or nearly five tons apiece, the former 54,750 pounds, or nearly twenty-five tons of green food, for its yearly maintenance.

It is often desirable to know which is the most profitable way to sell fowls—alive, dressed or both dressed and drawn. To find out weigh the fowl alive, then after it is dressed and again after being drawn. Record this weight in each case, and then a little figuring, with weight and market prices as a basis, will soon tell the inquirer what he wants to know. Generally, we think it will be found that selling alive pays about as well as to dress, particularly if the owner's time is valuable and he is not an expert at picking. Those who buy and dress for market on a large scale are generally experts themselves at this work or have such "artists" in their employ.—*National Farmer*.

We have often seen trees of the same variety of apple or cherry, which year after year differed in shades of flavor or times of ripening. Professor Beal says: "I have two lots of Red Canada, one grown on Northern Spy stock and the other on Early Harvest. Apples on the latter rot first and are less brilliant in color." Many instances have occurred where the stock has shown some influence, but in none has there been an entire change in the variety. A Northern Spy is always a Northern Spy and nothing else. A Red Canada is never changed to an Early Harvest. And yet there is no doubt that the modification of a sort, ascribed to the stock, is often the result of a difference in soil, or other external cause. We have seen so much change produced in a pear by cultivation, after growing under neglect, that a common grower would not recognize the identity."

For more than thirty years we have had to do more or less with the rearing of calves. Our experience has taught us that scour in calves arises from many causes. Change of food, unsuitable food, cold, wet, bad litter, etc., will induce scour. We have tried many sorts of medicine. For several years we proved that from thirty to sixty drops (according to age of calf) of chlorodyne, in a little water, given early, at once stops the complaint; a second dose was very rarely necessary.

Latterly, we have weaned the calves gradually from their mother's milk and reared them on skimmed milk, since which time we have had little or no scour. One calf had scour by its mother's side, three or four days old, we put it on another cow and saved the calf. We could not perceive anything amiss with the mother or her milk, but it did not suit her calf.—*Farm and Home*.

LARGE GRAPES.—If you want large grapes, break off all the suckers at once, which are shooting out from the lower part of the vine. They will not be found much on old vines, but will be seen on young stock. If allowed to remain they will exhaust the energy necessary to the growth of the grape. Break off all the new canes that do not bear grapes, and pinch off the ends of the bearing canes; say within two leaves of the last bunch of grapes or blossoms, there usually being three bunches of grapes on a bearing cane, and the last or top branch is about one foot or more from the main branch. Keep all the growth back to the above limits, and your berries will be large and the bunches increase in size.

A colored woman, when reproved for undue expression of grief, said: "Now, look here, honny, when de good Lord sends us tribulations, don't you pose he 'spects us to tribulate?"

—It is said the Vanderbilts will make Bedford Springs the Saratoga of Pennsylvania.

The immediate cause of Judge Black's death was pyemia, occasioned by the absorption of a virulent matter from the bladder.

Humor.

I see gwine fer ter live in Jerowusalem, Dem angels an awaitin' fer me to come; De Lawd am a pardon all my sins, I'm allus on han' when the vival begins!

Come along sister, come wid me, The best watermillin ober you see, Plenty long collards and hominee, I'm gwine home!

De Lawd saves de sheeps; I see got de wool, De debbil fer my soul gib mighty hard pull, But my Lawd was strongest, de rope go slack, An' ole Massa Debbil went ober on his back!

Come along, brother, come wid me, De gates open wide fer you so free, De lame can walk, de blind can see, I'm gwine home!

Satan tried hit once my soul to 'spise, But I took my bible an' hit him 'tween the eyes. Says I, "Old Satan, I reckon you are beat, For I see got dem golden slippers on my feet!"

Come along, child en, come wid me, If you want dem golden streets to see, An' hear dem angels singing free, I'm gwine home.

"Blood will tell," so be careful how you make confidants of your relations.

"Is Mrs. General Sherman so extremely homely that the general has to kiss every pretty girl he sees to get the ba. taste out of his mouth?"

No, "Clarence, of Sandusky," we don't know why the U. S. Government does not settle the Indian question by setting the Redskins up in the ticket broking business, for, as you say, they ought to make successful scalpers.

"My dear," said Ratteler at the tea-table, looking up from his evening paper, "this French-China trouble looks serious." "Yes," answered Mrs. Ratteler, "Bridget broke the handle off the sugar-bowl to-day, but I didn't think you would notice it so soon."

A little girl, in coming home from a party, told her mother she was so happy she couldn't be any happier unless she was bigger.

"Mamma," said a Manson street four-year-old maiden, "do the geese lay rooseberries?" "Oh, no, my child, they grow on trees." "Well, what are goose eggs, anyhow?" "They are the things, my dear, which the base ball players make when they don't make anything."

An Englishman shooting small game in Germany remarked to his host that there was a spice of danger in shooting in America. "Ah," said the host, "you like danger mit your spice? Den you go out shooting mit me. De last time I shoot mine brudder-in-law in de stomach."

A well-known dry goods man advertised: "Something entirely new in flannels at our house!" During the week following, several of his married lady customers have asked him if it is a boy or girl, and as the dry goods man is an unmarried man, he don't know how to answer.

"Captain!" shouted an Irish soldier in the Caucasus, "I've caught a Tartar." "Bring him in, then," replied the captain. "But, be jabers, he won't let me!" was the soldier's despairing cry. General Crook had better luck with the Apaches in Mexico. The savages even compelled him to bring them in, it appears, making their own terms.

"Hallo, Charley! Where have you been?" "Just down to the apothecary's for a bottle of medicine for my wife. What things these women are for dosing, aren't they?" Charley's friend coincides in this view of the matter, and at Charley's suggestion the two step into the nearest saloon for something to brace up their respective stomachs.—*Boston Transcript*.

"Mr. Smith," said a Boston grocer the other day to an old farmer who had long been a customer of his, "I have received several complaints in regard to that last butter I bought of you." "No?" "Indeed, it tasted very queerly to me. What could have ailed it?" "Well, now, we had a new hired gal that week, and it might be possible that she didn't get the proportions right." "Proportions?" "That is, she got in too much grated carrot; but you kin tell your customers that carrots are perfectly healthy, and awfully good for the liver. We allus select the best and wash 'em through two waters."

Fashions.

Sleeves for full dress are still exceedingly short and gloves very long. Skirts remain short enough in front to display the embroidered stocking as well as the sandal. Boots are seldom worn in the evening, and undressed kid is the favorite material for slippers, most of which have painted designs on the toes and on the sides as well. A pretty foot looks prettier with a flat decoration on the slipper than with rosettes, buckles or any other trimming that interferes with the delicate contour of the foot.

Armure silks, that were formerly worn only by old ladies, are in fashion for youthful costumes, especially for black dresses. They are a small crapple-like figure, and are made in conjunction with the real China crappe—not the crepe de chene which is manufactured in Paris. A wide armure sounce scalloped on each edge is all that is visible on the skirt. The overdress of Canton crappe is a Watteau pelisse with

Barcelona lace, and jet trimming. The bonnet is of jet and lace, with a white aigrette; the parasol is black, with white lining, and the Suede gloves are eceru or slate blue.

A becoming wrapper is of blue Eolienne and pink surah merveilleux. The fronts close in the neck and open over a pink surah plastron apron, which is puffed and shirred. There are no gores to this garment. The back consists of small side pieces and two very narrow pieces down the centre, making a princess back, and so cut as to leave sufficient fullness for a large puffing on the upper part of the skirt. The gathered pocket under the left hip is surrounded by lace. Long narrow ribbon loops fall from under the puffings in the back. They are finished at the waist with a plaited ruffle, surmounted by a small drapery. In the neck is a full ruching.

The Suede gloves are worn in very light colors. Silk gloves come in all lengths, buttoned and loose-wristed. Puffed wrists, with lace inserting, are new, and much liked for their novelty. Silk and linen wears better than all silk in gloves, but is complained of as not keeping the color so well; still we think the fingers peep through the finger-ends of even these before there is much change in color. Silk gauntle, gloves are among the novelties for riding and driving. It is no longer the fashion to match gloves with the costume; neither are black gloves worn in full dress as formerly. Girls wear silk mitts in color usually like the trimming on the hat; they wear undress kids for school. Half-gloves and mitts are found in kid this season, but the silk is given the preference.

Greek embroidery is quite modern work, and is much used for small mats, banner screens and other decorative articles. It is a description of applique, and consists in arranging upon a flat foundation pieces of colored cloth or silk in arabesque designs, and attaching these to the material with chain, herring-bone, and other embroidery stitches, and these stitches are also repeated upon the plain foundation.

A very handsome result is obtained by drawing out the design upon dark Turkey-red cloth and cutting the smaller shapes of the pattern in a dark shade of blue, and the larger ones in paler blue. Laid upon the Turkey-red foundation they must be attached to the material by laying a silk cord rim on the edge of each, and catching it down with red silk, as in couching. Stars and various decorative designs can be worked in interstices of the pattern in tete de boeuf stitch or in raised embroidery.

Diamonds of Thought.

Hard work will best uncertain fortune mend.

If you would create something, you must be something.—*Goethe*.

Happiness is where it is found, and seldom where it is sought.

A straight line is the shortest in morals as in mathematics.—*Maria Edgeworth*.

Flowers are the sweetest things that God ever made and forgot to put a soul into.—*Becher*.

The rays of happiness, like those of light, are colorless when unbroken.—*Longfellow*.

He who loves to read, and knows how to reflect, has laid by a perpetual feast for his old age.

A man too busy to take care of his health is like a mechanic too busy to take care of his tools.

"One soweth, and another reapeth," is a verity that applies to evil as well as good.—*George Eliot*.

Act and speak to your servants as you would wish others to do if you were a servant.—*Dionysius the Carthusian*.

I do not call a healthy young man, cheerful in his mind and vigorous in his arms—I cannot call such a man—poor. True friends visit us in prosperity only when invited, but in adversity they come without invitation.—*Theophrastus*.

Children are travelers newly arrived in a strange country; we should therefore make conscience not to mislead them.—*Locke*.

Great trees, as fig-trees, make shade for others, and stand themselves in the glowing heat of the sun. They bear fruits for others, not for themselves.

These truth-speaking women are friends in solitude, are fathers in matters of duty, they are mothers to those who are in distress, they are a repose to the traveler in the wilderness.

The law of the harvest is to reap more than you sow. Sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit, and you reap a character; sow a character, and you reap a destiny.—*George D. Boardman*.

Like a blind spinner in the sun I tread my days. I know that all the threads will run Appointed ways. I know each day will bring its task; And, being blind, no more I ask. —*HELEN HUNT, in Demorest*.

Instructive.

The following directions are given for removing finger-marks from and restoring luster to highly polished but much-defaced furniture. Wash off the finger-marks with a cloth, or—better—a chamolis skin, wet with cold water, then rub the surface with sweet oil mixed with half its quantity of turpentine. A liberal rubbing of this mixture will prove effective.

MAHOAGANY, walnut, and some other woods may be polished by the use of the following mixture: Dissolve by heat so much beeswax in spirits of turpentine that the mixture, when cold, shall be of about the thickness of honey. This may be applied to furniture or to work running in the lathe, by means of a piece of clean cloth, and as much as possible should be rubbed off by using a clean flannel or other cloth.

THE NUMBER of species of silk-producing insects is very large, probably more than two hundred, very few of which are of any practical value to mankind; on the contrary, that portion of the caterpillar family which unite their silken tissues to form a family tent have not only defied the ingenuity of man to unravel their handiwork, but have made his industry contribute to their support by foraging upon fruit-bearing and ornamental trees. The spider family, notwithstanding many attempts to reel their beautiful threads, still monopolize their products for purposes of locomotion and snares for unlucky insects.

PLAIN COURT PLASTER that will not stick and remains flexible: Soak isinglass in a little warm water for twenty-four hours, then evaporate nearly all the water by gentle heat. Dissolve the residue in a little proof spirits of wine and strain the whole through a piece of open linen. The strained mass should be a stiff jelly when cool. Stitch a piece of silk or saracen on a wooden frame with tacks or thread. Melt the jelly and apply it to the silk thinly and evenly with a badger hair brush. A second coating must be applied when the first has dried. When both are dry, apply over the whole surface two or three coatings of balsam of Peru. This plaster remains quite pliable and never breaks.

LINSEED MEAL.—It has been recently observed by a French scientist that linseed meal from which the oil has been eliminated in such a way as not to effect the other principles present retains all the therapeutic properties of the ordinary meal. With equal weight, it contains more mucilage, starch, albuminoid substances, etc. To prepare a poultice of suitable unctuousness and consistency, twenty-five per cent. less of the oilless meal is required than of the ordinary meal. The poultices prepared with the oilless meal are less heavy and remain longer warm than the others. The prepared meal, moreover, does not become rancid. After many experiments in eliminating the oil, sulphide of carbon has been found the most suitable agent.

TO TRANSFER PRINTS TO STEEL OR GLASS.—To transfer prints to polished steel or to glass, make a varnish as follows—Gum Sandarac, four parts; mastic, one part; Venice turpentine, one ounce; alcohol, fifteen parts, or any smaller quantity in proportion. Digest in a bottle, with frequent shaking. Moisten the print slightly upon the back by laying a wet cloth upon it; then varnish the steel plate or glass with a thin, even coat; lay the print with the face next to the varnish, commencing on one side, so as not to enclose air-bubbles, pressing it down close with the fingers if the print is small, or a soft roller if the print is large. Be careful that all parts of the print are in contact with the varnish. Lay aside to dry. After it is dry, wet the back with water, and cautiously rub off the paper with the fingers; rub lightly towards the last with plenty of water, and the surface of the varnish will come up smooth with the ink of the print solidly embedded. Then a thin coat of mastic varnish will give it a finish.

IMPERFECTLY BAKED BRICKS.—It is often observed that bricks imperfectly baked become friable at the surface, and in time are reduced to powder. This phenomenon has been attributed to the action of moisture, alternations of heat and cold, etc.; but recent observations make it probable that these merely favor the action of the real cause—viz., the development of microscopic organisms. M. Parize observed some swellings on the plaster coat of a brick partition; he pierced one of these, and a very fine red powder came out, resulting from pulverization of the brick. Examined with a magnifying power of about three hundred diameters, this powder showed an immense number of diatoms and silicious algae belonging to the original clay of the bricks.

The existence and multiplication of such organisms under about one-fifth of an inch in thickness of plaster seems surprising; yet M. Parize found the same organisms—though fewer of them—at a depth of about one inch in the

undeccayed brick. All the deteriorated bricks showed the same organisms. These facts seem to have important bearings on the durability of buildings methods of disinfection of hospitals, etc.

Floriculture.

The green covering or so-called moss which accumulates on plant pots is always injurious to the plant. "A bright pot makes a healthy plant," is the gardener's rule. This green covering is an alga, a plant closely related to the sea weed. It acts much in the same way as glazing would act in stopping the pores of the pot and allowing no circulation of air. It should be scrubbed off as often as it appears with sand and water.

In setting plants make the ground mellow and rich with manure for a considerable space around where the roots are placed, so they may have a chance to reach out. The roots should have ample room; do not cramp them. When the earth is well drawn up around the plant, place your feet carefully on each side of it, and "firm" the earth down solidly. This will greatly increase the chance of its living, as it prevents the soil from drying down to the roots.

Begonias in summer should have a cool, shaded situation. The best plan we have ever seen adopted was a small lattice house, made entirely out of laths placed half an inch apart, sides and top alike; benches were arranged on either side, the same as in an ordinary greenhouse; upon these the plants were placed, and all the interstices filled with sphagnum. There the plants thrived most luxuriantly; we have never seen green-house plants in summer look better, if as well. Not only was this the congenial home of the begonia, but all kinds of ferns, coleus and many other plants grown expressly for exhibition purposes were here to be seen in the best possible condition. This was the work of an amateur, and when his plants were placed besides those of the professional florist, the latter was completely used up.

Care should be taken to see that plants in pots are given good drainage. This is best secured by putting a lot of broken bricks or pieces of broken pots in the bottom of the flower-pot. These pieces should be as large as a hazel-nut or even larger. Over these pieces some dried moss, sphagnum or peat should be placed, or even a handful of dried grass, if nothing better can be had. This will prevent the earth from falling among the fragments and will insure complete drainage. It is supposed, of course, that the regular flower-pots are used with a hole at the bottom for the escape of the water. If a box or other vessel be used a hole should be made in the bottom. Persons who have never tried the above method will be surprised with the difference it will make in their plants. The earth in the pots should be kept moist, but not wet, soggy, nor cold.

Much care should be exercised in watering house plants. Most housewives follow the practice of soaking the soil once a day or less, and then letting it dry out until it becomes hard. This stiff, hard and unyielding character of the soil in pots is not usually conducive to the growth of plants. The earth should be kept loose by a liberal addition of vegetable mold, such as can be obtained under the leaves in an old forest or in many neglected fence rows. For most plants a third or a half of the soil may be mold, which must be well mixed with the heavier earth. Then give good drainage by employing unglazed pots with holes in the bottom, and by placing a handful of broken bricks or crockery in the bottom, and over it lay sphagnum or other moss or peat. Do not water heavily. The soil should not be cold and soggy. Apply water frequently, but avoid soaking. The leaves of the plant should also be frequently sprayed, especially if evaporation goes on rapidly.

Probably Untrue.

Two ladies tete-a-tete: "That Mrs. Brown is just as mean as she can be! Why, would you believe it, she told me, right to my face, that I dressed too young for a woman of my years! The idea!"

"She did? Well, if she'd talked to me that way I believe I'd told her just what I thought of her."

"Oh! no, dear; that would be rude," "Possibly."

"But I did better. I told Mrs. Smith what my opinion of Mrs. Brown was, and Mrs. Brown will hear it soon enough. And then you know it won't lose anything in Mrs. Smith's mouth. It is one of my principles, never to do anything disagreeable when I can get somebody else to do it for me."

A METHOD of utilizing the waste of gold-leaf used in printing and the arts is by converting it into what is called fseece gold. The composition is used like the ordinary bronze, except that rather more copal is mixed with it. It is used for all fancy papers for which gold-leaf and bronze have hitherto been used.