

## "GRAND OLD MAN."

Simple and Regular Life of Premier Gladstone.

Plain Food at His Meals and Plenty of Sleep.

Mr. Gladstone is in the best of health, sleeps remarkably well and, so far from having shown signs of decreasing vitality through an inability to maintain the appetite for food, the right honorable gentleman enjoys his meals with the zest of a young man. When he rises he invariably takes a tepid bath, and every morning before breakfast while at Biarritz he attended church, and since his return to London has frequently taken a little walk in the grounds of Downing street. His first meal usually consists of hard-boiled egg, a slice of tongue, with tea and toast. After breakfast he devotes himself to his correspondence, and for several hours is busy with his private secretary and receiving such political callers as may arrive.

For luncheon Mr. Gladstone takes cold meat, milk pudding and cheese. At 5 o'clock, if disengaged, he has afternoon tea. His dinners are selected to his taste. He takes soup, fish (if it is to his fancy), but usually dines off one dish, which he selects and does not depart from. He is very fond of rice pudding and prunes and rice, and upon either of these, but more especially the former, he would, if the etiquette of the dinner table permitted it, make an entire meal. He does not drink coffee because it is seldom made to his liking, and, being astringent, keeps him awake.

While at Biarritz a rule was made that Mr. Gladstone should be left alone at 10 o'clock every night. This rule is likely to be adhered to still, and the other evening, while the guest of a friend, he left at a quarter past 10 and was in bed fifteen minutes later. Mr. Gladstone has, with very rare exceptions, always slept well, and for some time was in the habit of remaining in bed until noon. This was when he felt fatigued or desired to think out some matter which specially engaged him. But at Biarritz he never lay in bed but once, and that was two days before the time fixed for his departure, when he was attacked by a cold in the head, and reverted to his old rule, kept his bed for twenty-four hours and thus regained his usual health. Since the right honorable gentleman returned to London he has risen early, and is as vigorous and hearty as his friends could wish. Mr. Gladstone lives very plainly, his regimen being guided by authority, but his appetite in London is good. On one occasion at Biarritz he was asked how he slept, to which he replied gaily: "Well, I have done my nine hours."

His memory is as keen as ever and at the Biarritz dinner table, as when he dines at home or with friends in London, it was the life of the party. On one occasion, when Mr. Tollemache was present, there was a discussion about classics and Mr. Gladstone quoted, not single lines of Greek, but whole passages. On the voyage from Calais the channel was very stormy and Mr. Gladstone lay down, but did not suffer from seasickness. The reports of his ill health and lessened vitality have caused the Downing street post bag to be unusually heavy and a great deal of ill-afforded time has consequently been expended in refuting these idle inventions.—[St. James Gazette.]

### The Last of Her Race.

Old Jennie, the last representative of the famous River Indians now living in this country and quite advanced in years, is making a burial robe, after the custom of the distinguished members of her tribe, in which to be laid away when the summons shall come and she shall pass to the happy hunting grounds, where the white man is not and firewater is unknown. The groundwork is of fine buckskin and is superbly decorated with the various kinds of money used by the tribe for generations past and richly ornamented in a pleasing and skillful manner with jewels, pebbles, beads and other valuables used and admired by the tribe in the past.

The robe when completed will weigh fully 50 pounds, and as a relic or reminder of the peculiar customs and practices of a nation of people now practically blotted from existence is most valuable and should be preserved. With this commendable purpose in view Mrs. Rowena Nichols, who has been employed by the world's fair committee to paint the Table Rocks, has procured a number of sketches of this interesting subject and will paint a life-size picture of old Jennie wrapped in her gorgeous ceremonies, and thus happily preserve a sacred

custom about to pass forever into oblivion. Old Jennie was born and raised at the foot of Table Rocks, and during the wars was once captured by the whites and later rescued by her people. She lives about a mile and a half from Jacksonville, up Jackson creek, and to hear her tell, in that peculiar and impressive Indian style, the grievous outrages and nameless wrongs perpetrated upon her people and their consequent annihilation from the face of the earth would touch the stoutest heart with sympathy and almost make one wish he could face again the brawny braves who fought and died for this fair heritage, and for which sad fate old Jennie's heart goes out in bitter wails. This painting will be a valuable object lesson as indicating the fast fleeting cycles of time and the rapid mutations of human customs and usages and will serve as a most fitting companion piece to the Table Rocks, where Jennie was born and grew up, chiefly on war-whoops and camas, clad only in the free raw material of innocence and a copper complexion, happy in her native simplicity and blissfully ignorant of modern civilization.—[Jacksonville (Fla.) Times.]

### What Bad Roads Cost the Country.

The Board of Trade in a Tennessee town, in a recent memorial to the Legislature, demonstrated that bad roads were costing the people of that commonwealth more than \$7,000,000 annually. Professor W. W. Carson of the University of Tennessee, after careful investigation, found the average cost of hauling to the Knoxville market by wagon to be \$7.50 per ton—aggregating \$1,250,000 a year on the total tonnage hauled. He maintained that this hauling could have been done for half the sum over good dirt roads, and for one-sixth of it over good macadam roads, saving \$1,000,000 annually.

Professor Richard T. Ely of the Johns Hopkins University and Secretary of the American Economic Association, affirmed that poor roads cost this country over \$20 a horse, and Professor Jenks of Knox College, Ill., thinks \$15 a horse a low estimate for the loss. From papers calculated by Professor Carson for an agricultural experiment station it is shown that on gravel a horse will draw one and a half times the load, and on macadam over three times the load he can draw on a dirt road.

As to the cost of bad roads in the United States, Judge Thayer says: "I have made a careful computation from such data as I have been able to obtain of the cost of bad roads, and I find they tax what is understood to be agricultural products fully \$135,000,000 annually. I think it a moderate estimate to put the other contributions to bad roads by the remaining traffic of the country at an equal amount, making a total of \$270,000,000."

### A Bird Story.

I hope, although the incident may be trivial, that the little story may interest your readers as much as it did myself when I was listening some nights ago to the little lark of whom my story tells, piping away in what the poets call "dulcet strains" of the most melodious music.

My friend, James Shanock, three years ago, caught a young lark, and it has been pouring out its song ever since then from the cage, and a very sweet note it is. Some little while ago, as the afternoon was sunny, the cage was hung outside in the garden at that moment another lark was carolling in the air, and Shanock's bird rose from the cage, which was only covered with a fine net, and in which there must have been a rent, and disappeared in the direction of the other lark. My friend seeing this, at once began to whistle, holding up the cage to attract his pet back again, and in a very short time down it came to his feet, and waited patiently while he gently replaced him in his cage. There were three witnesses, I believe, in this case.

The funniest thing, too, is about the same time James Shanock's cat brought him in a little bird quite delicately, and waited for him to take it from his mouth quite uninjured. He is a great bird-lover, and it looks as if the cat, like everybody else, knew this fact.

### Fatal to the Intimacy.

Mrs. Smith—And how is your neighbor?

Mrs. Brown—She's well enough, I suppose. I haven't seen her to speak to for six weeks.

Mrs. Smith—Why, thought you were on the most friendly terms.

Mrs. Brown—Well, we used to be, but we've exchanged servants.—[Vogue.]

The favorite method of fishing in China is with a trained cormorant.

## FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

### CULTURE OF HORSE RADISH.

This root is grown as follows: The soil should be rich and well prepared, or the roots will not be so smooth as they ought to be. Cuttings are made of the small roots as thick as a lead pencil and four inches long. These are set in the soil, care being taken to keep them right end up, or the roots will be distorted, in rows eighteen inches apart and the plants eight inches apart in the row. The soil will need cultivation, of course, and when the roots are full grown they are dug, trimmed, and washed and bundled for sale. The small side roots are kept for planting.—[New York Times.]

### FOR MUNCHING TREES.

Which is the more profitable, town manure at twenty-five cents a load, or leached ashes at ten cents a load, to be put around young trees and vines?

Answer by the Rural New Yorker: A ton of good stable manure should be worth \$2 or more as compared with fertilizers for which one must pay cash. A ton of leached ashes on the same basis will be worth not quite so much—say \$1.80 or over. Still the manure may be cheaper to be used around the trees. It makes a better mulch and contains some nitrogen, none of which is found in the leached ashes. At the same time, at ten cents a load and for a short haul, leached ashes make a cheap source of potash and phosphoric acid. In an average ton of such ashes there are nearly twenty pounds each of these substances as well as 1000 pounds of lime. The ashes are most serviceable spread on very light, open soil or on very stiff clays. They make the former compact and better able to hold moisture, and the latter more open and easily worked.

### SALT AS A FERTILIZER.

It is not known by chemists how salt acts as a fertilizer, but the opinion is, says a writer in an exchange, that salt has the power to liberate ammonia from soils that have been manured with nitrogenous manures. This is the case in sandy soils, where the ammonia exists in fertile combinations. The salt acts upon the ammoniacal salts by forming soda in the soil, and chloride of ammonia, which passes into solution and then becomes an active fertilizer. It is known that on poor lands devoid of humus and ammonia it acts as a very indifferent manure, while on rich lands, where ammonia has been stored up in clay or humus, it acts well by eliminating the ammonia and placing it in combination suitable as soluble plant food. Salt is also beneficial on soils as a fertilizer by aiding in rendering insoluble potash and phosphate soluble, which dissolves the bone phosphate and transforms it into soluble phosphate of lime. Salt is a beneficent solvent when added to the manure heap by drawing moisture and keeping down the fermenting heat in nitrogenous manure and making it more soluble and better decomposed as plant food when applied to the soil and crop.—[Chicago Times.]

### TWO HOED CROPS FROM ONE SOD.

It was the practice of a successful farmer we knew many years ago to let his land lie in sod two and sometimes three years. By this time the clover had run out, and a heavy sod of timothy and other grasses were feeding on the decaying clover root. He put all his coarse manure, drawn as made in winter, on this sod, and in spring plowed sod and manure under for corn. After thorough cultivation during the summer, the field was fall-plowed a little deeper than in the spring, so as to turn the partly decayed manure to the surface. It was then lightly plowed in the spring and planted with potatoes.

Our friend claimed that thus he got the best results from the manure for both crops, as the second year it made a large growth of potatoes without liability to rot that an application of fresh manure might induce. The potato crop was then got off early, and the land sown to rye or wheat and seeded with clover in the spring. There were no more crops, and no more time between sod-plowing and clover-seeding than in the usual rotation. The plan has certainly its advantages where land is very weedy, as it is apt to become where too many grain crops come in proportionably to those that require, if they do not always receive thorough cultivation.—[Boston Cultivator.]

### WOOD ASHES IN SWINE RAISING.

An agricultural authority of high repute formulates three rules for the guidance of those who would secure the maximum of profit from the feeding of swine—first, clean, dry, warm

quarters, protected from winds and draughts; second—as much whole, some food—if grain—preferably ground fine—as they will eat clean, three times a day; and third, free access to a mixture of salt and ashes, to sods or soil. Another writer speaks specifically of the great value of wood ashes as a medicine for all kinds of farm animals, and especially for pigs. He has raised swine extensively for more than twenty years without cholera or swine plague, and has not lost one per cent. of his hogs from disease. He keeps wood ashes and charcoal mixed with salt, constantly before his swine in a large covered box with holes two by six inches near the bottom.

The hogs will work the mixture out through these holes as far as they want it. He selects ashes rich in charcoal, and mixed three parts of ashes to one of salt. There is no danger of the swine eating too much of this mixture, or of pure salt, if it is kept constantly before them, and they are provided with water. The beneficial effects of the combination are quite marked, especially when the hogs are fattened on fresh maize. Wood ashes when given to horses are found to have a most salutary effect. The writer last mentioned says that in thirty-seven years' experience upon the farm he has lost but one horse, and this was overheated in the horsepower of a threshing machine during his absence, and the only "condition powder" he has ever used has been clean wood ashes.

The ashes may be given by putting an even teaspoonful on the oats twice a week; but he prefers to keep the ashes and salt mixture constantly before the horses, and has made for this purpose a little compartment in one corner of the feed box. His experience is that the best condition powder is a mixture of three parts of wood ashes to one of salt; and when it is given regularly, and reasonable care and intelligence are used in handling horses, no other medicines are necessary. Apart from the medicinal qualities of wood ashes their efficacy as a fertilizer is well known.—[Courier Journal.]

### WARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Plenty of eggs are better than running a grocery bill.

The Dorking is a good general fowl for market purposes.

With most stock, breeds affect profit more than quality.

Barley makes a good grain food for either dogs or horses.

With all animals cleanliness is a preventive of disease.

Many good breeders prefer training mares after breeding.

Pack horse radish roots in sand to keep to use in winter.

To make a success of farming one must be schooled to it.

The man who has much to sell usually has less to buy.

Winter laying requires warm quarters and plenty of food.

Plenty of exercise in winter is very essential to good health.

Even in winter it is an item to keep the water troughs clean.

Corn lacks in muscle-forming and strength-giving material.

A visit to the poultry shows can easily be made profitable.

The scraps from the table will furnish food for a small flock.

The flesh of a well-fed guinea is equal to that of a wild duck.

Poultry are never properly fed unless regularly fed every day.

Do not undertake very early hatching without a good brooder.

The question of breed must largely depend on the fancy of the owner.

See that the guineas roost in the poultry house with the other fowls.

In a majority of cases the best market for poor chickens is at home.

Every month has its disadvantages as well as advantages in special ways.

Scattering a little sulphur in the sleeping quarters will help prevent lice.

A milk cow should never be driven faster than a walk or be worried by dogs.

Give the hens a place for themselves, and let the animals have the tables.

The best butter and milk cows were bred by once pairing animals that were near akin.

You have a right to make butter as you please, but the folks that want to purchase have a right to price it as they please.

Water is a necessary constituent of the milk, and the cows must have it during the time the milk is being manufactured.

## BEET SUGAR.

Result of Experiments by the Agricultural Department.

Sugar Beets Can be Grown in Nearly Every State.

The American beet sugar industry is a success, writes a Washington correspondent. The experiments of the Department of Agriculture during the last two or three years, prove the entire practicability of producing beet sugar in the United States, and that in quantities. A single state produced last year about twenty million pounds of beet sugar, and sugar beets were grown in greater or less quantities in nearly every state in the Union. Sugar beet seeds were sent by the Department of Agriculture at the beginning of last year to 2316 persons, located in every state and territory, and sample beets were received from 29 states and territories.

This gives to the department officials, who have been making a study of the beet sugar question, a pretty thorough knowledge as to the possibilities of beet culture and beet sugar producing in the United States. It is found that the sugar beet will grow and thrive in nearly every state in the Union, though the sections of country lying north of the Ohio River and stretching southwardly from the mouth of the Ohio through New Mexico and Arizona and Southern California appear to be the best suited for the production of sugar-yielding beets. In many states it is found that between 3000 and 4000 pounds of sugar can be produced per acre.

The results of these experiments indicate that the section of country lying west of the Mississippi river is to be the great sugar producing section of the United States and that it may readily produce all the sugar that the people of this country want or ever will want should the population become many times that of today. One gratifying feature which the experiments of the year have produced is to show that beet sugar raising is not only practicable but a profitable industry. The work at the government experiment station was carried on with great care, and accompanied with an accurate estimate of cost and results, and showed that a net profit, above all expenses, including labor, of over \$10 per acre would have been the result of the work carried on in an extensive form.

### Right or Left Handed.

The despised left hand makes good its claims in many cases to be the defter of the two. The fingers that touch and adjust with such nicety the strings of the violin are surely as cunning as those that move the bow. The hand that guides the reins and steers with exactness the horse through the crowded streets is quite as cunning as, one might say much more than, the hands that wield the whip. But great is fashion, unanswerable is theory.

It would appear that as life becomes more and more complex we are becoming more and more specialized, and the difference between our limits is encouraged, rather than hindered, by every screw made in Birmingham, and by every slap administered to the offending fingers that would dare to shake hands incorrectly.

It is curious to notice the vagaries of humanity in cases where no hard and fast line has been already drawn. Although most right-handed persons put on their coats left arm first, a considerable percentage thrust in their right first. Soldiers fire from the right shoulder, but sportsmen are found who prefer the left.

In working with the spade the proportion of right-handed men grasp the spade with the left and push with left foot and right hand, though, when using an ax, the same individuals would grasp farthest down with the right. The Persians mount their horses from the right side, which is the different side from that mounted by Europeans.

The buttons on coats, etc., are placed on the right side, and the shed of the hair in boys to the left, evidently to suit manipulation by the right hand. The great philosopher Newton records that at first he confused his astronomical observations to his right eye, but afterward he managed to train his left.

But there are persons who could not do this, owing to the unequal strength of their eyes. Strange to say the Chinese assign the place of honor to the left.

At Kunyanye, in Africa, Camern relates being introduced to the hair presumptive to the throne, the nails of whose left hand had been allowed to

grow to an enormous length as a sign rank, proving that he was never of high rank, proving that he was never of high rank required to perform manual labor and also providing him with the means of tearing the meat which formed his usual diet.—[Chambers Journal.]

### The Opening of Oklahoma.

"The opening of the Cherokee Strip," said A. J. Myers of St. Louis to the Star representative at the Randall, "recalls to me an experience that I had in the rush at the opening of Oklahoma.

"I was on the eastern border of the territory. There were about 500 settlers with me. We ranged all along the line. There was not a soldier or Deputy United States Marshal in sight. There was, in fact, nothing to prevent any of us from crossing the line before noon, the hour fixed in the proclamation. It was a magnificent example of American love and loyalty to the observance of the law of the land, for there was not a single restraining influence.

"We all compared watches and agreed upon the time. There were three pistol shots promptly at noon and the rush began. I have been through the war, but it was one of the most exciting scenes I ever witnessed. A few of us were on horseback, while there were countless teams, prairie schooners and even ox carts, to say nothing of the people on foot. Men, women and children were frenzied with excitement, and it was a wild rush over the prairie, the railroad, fifteen miles distant, being the objective point. I was splendidly mounted and three or four of us were the first to reach the railroad. It was a great race. The owners of good teams in spring wagons were next behind us.

"The settlers spread out over the country, the bottom lands along the streams being the first selected, the high rolling prairie and the divides being the second and third choice. Those in advance, when they came to a quarter section that they wanted, would drive their stakes and hold it down. Considering the great excitement under which the people labored and the rivalry for the land, the shooting affrays were remarkably few."—[Washington Star.]

### The Grand Canon of Arizona.

In Northwestern Arizona lies what is known as the Grand Canon district. This embraces an area of about fifteen thousand square miles. Its northerly beginning, at the high plateaus in Southern Utah, is a series of terraces, many miles broad, dropping, like a stairway, to lower geological formations. In Arizona the platform is reached which borders the real chasm, and extends southerly beyond far into the central part of that territory. It is the theory of geologists that 10,000 feet of strata have been swept by erosion from the entire surface of this platform, whose present uppermost formation is the carboniferous, the deduction being based upon the fact that the missing Permian, Mesozoic and Tertiary formations, which belong above the carboniferous in the series, are found in their place at the beginning of the northern terraces referred to.

The climax of this extraordinary example of erosion is, of course, the chasm of the Grand canon proper, which, were the missing strata restored to the adjacent plateau, would be sixteen thousand feet deep. The whole region has been repeatedly lifted and submerged and during the last upheaval the river cut its gorge. As the plateau deliberately rose before the pressure of the internal forces, the river kept its bed worn down to the level of erosion. Thus calmly does science explain away the wonders of earth's wonders.—[New York Observer.]

### Sifting Salt.

My mother used to seat me before a table in a rather high chair, give me a long, shallow tin pan, a little sieve or gray strainer and about two pounds of common table salt in another dish, writes Mrs. H. H. White in the New York Recorder.

I then proceeded to have a miniature snowstorm by sifting the salt upon the long tin, in some places piling it high in drifts. I was fortunate in having among my toys a "farmyard," consisting of a little house, some wooden trees and all kinds of animals. These I distributed about in my field of snow, making paths through the drifts and building pens for the animals.

A handful of wooden toothpicks will suffice to make fences, woodpiles, etc., and a tiny mirror or bit of looking-glass serves as a beautiful ice pond in the midst of the fields.

The "farmyard," of course, is not necessary. Green leaves will serve for trees, and a log cabin can be made of little bits of wood.