

The happiest men who live by toil are those who cultivate the soil.

How to Preserve Cider.

The Scientific American, good authority, gives the following for the preservation of cider: A pure, sweet cider is only obtainable from clean, sound fruit, and the fruit should be carefully examined and wiped before the grinding. In the press, use the haircloth or gunny in place of straw. As the cider runs from the press let it pass through a hair sieve into a large open vessel that will hold as much juice as can be expressed in one day. In one day or sometimes less the pomace will rise to the top, and in a short time grow very thick. When little white bubbles break through it, draw off the liquid through a very small spout placed about three inches from the bottom, so that the bees may be left behind. The cider must be drawn off into a very clean, sweet cask, preferably fresh liquor casks, and closely watched. The moment the white bubbles, before mentioned, are perceived rising at the bung-hole, rack it again. It is usually necessary to repeat this three times. Then fill up the cask with cider in every respect like that contained in it; add a tumbler of warm sweet oil, and bung up tight. For very fine cider it is customary to add at this stage of the process about a half a pound of glucose (starch sugar), or a smaller portion of white sugar. The casks should then be allowed to remain in a cool place until the cider has acquired the desired flavor. In the meantime clean barrels for its reception should be as follows: Some clean strips of rags are dipped in melted sulphur, lighted and burned on the bung-hole, and the bung laid loosely on the end of the rags so as to retain the sulphur vapor within the barrel. Then tie up a half a pound of mustard seed in a coarse mustard bag, and put it in the barrel, fill the barrel with cider, add about a quart of a pound of sulphate of lime or fine gelatine dissolved in hot water. This is the old fashioned way, and will keep cider in the same condition as when it went into the barrel, if kept in a cool place, for a year. Professional cider makers are now using calcium sulphite (sulphite of lime) instead of mustard and sulphur vapor. It is much more convenient and effective. To use it, it is simply requisite to add one-eighth to one-quarter of an ounce of the sulphite to each gallon of cider in the cask, first mixing the powder in about a quart of the cider, then pouring it back into the cask and giving the latter a thorough shaking or rolling. After standing bunged several days to allow the sulphite to exert its full action, it may be bottled off. The sulphite of lime (which should not be mistaken for the sulphate of lime) is a commercial article, costing about forty cents a pound by the barrel. It will preserve the sweetness of the cider perfectly, but unless care is taken not to add too much of it, it will impart a slight sulphurous taste to the cider. The bottles and corks used should be perfectly clean, and the corks wired down. A little cinnamon, wintergreen or sassafras, etc., is often added to sweet cider in the bottle, together with a drachm or so of bicarbonate of soda, at the moment of driving the stopper. This helps to naturalize ferrous acids, and renders the liquid effervescent when unstopped, but if used in excess it may prejudicially affect the taste.

Saving Fences.

This is an item that should be carefully estimated, as it is one of the heaviest burdens of agriculture. Fences are needed only to restrain stock; and if the stock is not pastured no fence is needed, except for yards, and perhaps a lane to lead the cattle to the wood lot for simple exercise. Take the fact of fencing ninety acres into four fields, for pasturing thirty cows or cattle. These fields would be 22 1/2 acres, and would acquire 720 rods of fence. Now, if this fence cost only \$1 per rod, and if we suppose it to last twenty years, then the decay will amount to five per cent. a year, and the labor of annual repair is generally estimated at five per cent. The interest on the original cost at seven per cent. would be \$50.40, and the ten per cent. for decay and repair \$72, making \$122.40 as the annual expense for fencing a pasture for thirty head of cattle. We shall see that this is more than the cost of labor for soiling the thirty head of stock. Mr. David Williams carefully prepared the fence statistics of Walworth county, Wisconsin, and after deducting for waste lands in ponds and lakes and one-half of the division fences, he makes the annual cost for the whole county about \$1 per acre. Mr. Prince, of Maine, goes into an elaborate calculation of the cost of fences in that State in 1869, and the result does not vary much from an annual cost of \$1 per acre. The late Ezra Cornell took a great interest in studying this question, and gave his views in an address before the State Agricultural Society of New York in 1862, and he arrived at the conclusion that the average cost of fencing for every acre included in that State is \$1 per annum. If then we take this as a fair estimate in the older States, every acre of the farm must be charged at this rate, or a farm of 300 acres, which usually keeps about 60 head of cattle, would pay a fence tax of \$300 in labor and material. The smaller the farm and the smaller the lots the greater the cost of fence per acre.

To Remove Dandruff.

Into a quart of water put an ounce of flower of sulphur and shake frequently for several hours; then pour off the clear liquid, and with this saturate the head every morning. In a few weeks every trace of dandruff will disappear, and the hair becomes soft and glossy.

Frosted Lemon Pie.

One lemon grated, yolks of two eggs, a cup of water, one and one-half tablespoons of flour; beat well together. The white of one egg beaten to a froth with white sugar. This makes one pie.

Around the Fireside.

The True Heaven.

The bliss for which our spirits pine—That bliss we feel shall yet be given, Somewhere, in some far distant clime, Some happier state we name a heaven—Is not the bliss of languorous hours, A glory of calm measured rapture, But life which feeds our noblest powers, On wonders of eternal change. A heaven of action freed from strife, With ample ether for the scope Of an unshuffled, boundless hope; A heaven wherein all discords cease, Self-torment, doubt, distress, turmoil, The core of whose majestic peace Is God-like power of tireless toil—Toil without tumult, strain or jar, With grand reach of range indeed, Unchecked by even the faintest star That trembles through infinitude. In which to soar to higher heights Through widening ethers stretched abroad, Till in our onward, upward flights, We touch, at last, the feet of God! Time swallowed in Eternity! No future evermore, no past, But one unending Now to be A boundless circle round us cast.—Paul H. Hayes, Harper's Magazine.

Whiter Than Snow.

When a flippant unbeliever accented an earnest evangelical preacher with an objection to his sermon, and said, "Sir, I don't like your theology. It is all blood, blood, blood!" It savors of the shambles, I like a pleasanter gospel." The ambassador of Christ replied: "True, my theology is bloody. It recognizes as its foundation the death of Christ, with torn-pierced brow, bleeding hands, and open side. I am quite content that it should be bloody, for God has said, 'Without shedding my blood, there is no remission of sins; and, 'The blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanseth us from all sin.'" "Scarlet" sins become "white as snow." How? "Not by works of righteousness which we have done." All the dyes on earth cannot dye a red into white. And no human merit can avail to cleanse one crimson spot of guilt away. "By the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost," are we justified and sanctified, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood.

"Of the redeemed in glory we read, 'they have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.' The liveliest of heaven is white. 'Fine linen, clean and white,' 'white robes,' 'white horses'; and 'a white cloud,' as the seat of the Son of Man; 'a great white throne' for the Judge; 'a white stone' for the accepted saints, who 'walk in white' with Him who has made them worthy." Varily, we must wear our "white raiment" here, if we would enter there. "They are without fault before the throne of God." And "Christ also loved the Church and gave himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it—that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." To the Fountain opened for sin and uncleanness let us daily draw near, and take with us the words of "the snow-prayer." As said a happy little girl who came in one morning to her Christian mother's knee, after a bright race in the crisp, freshly-fallen snow, "Mamma, I could not help pausing while I was at play, to pray the snow-prayer." "What did you pray, my dear?" asked the interested mother. The dear child replied, "Mamma, I said to Jesus, 'Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow!'"

Live for Something.

Thousands of men breathe, move and live; pass off the stage of life and are heard of no more. Why? They did not a particle of good in the world, and none were blest by them, none could point to them as the instrument of their redemption; not a line they wrote, not a word they spoke could be recalled, and so they perished—their light went out in darkness, and they were not remembered more than the insects of yesterday. Will you thus live and die, O man immortal? Live for something. Do good, and leave behind you a monument of virtue that the storms of time can never destroy. Write your name by kindness, love and mercy, on the hearts of the thousands you come in contact with year by year. And you will never be forgotten. No, your name, your deeds will be as legible on the hearts you leave behind as the stars on the brow of evening. Good deeds will shine as bright on the earth as the stars of Heaven.—Chalmers.

A Wise Legislator.

He is successful because he has the motives or interests and cast his vote and influence on the side of measures which will contribute to the well being of his fellowmen. The good of the many, even though it proves injurious to the interests of the few, is the maxim of the wise legislator. But certain men will never admit the wisdom of this doctrine, any more than some selfish private practitioners will admit the superlative value of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Pleasant Purgative Pellets, because these remedies have injured their practice. Of course no man in his right senses will pay a physician \$50 for a consultation, a bottle of bitters, a few powders, and a prescription, when one bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and a bottle of his Pleasant Purgative Pellets, both costing but \$12.50, will accomplish the same result, viz: cleanse the liver and blood, regulate and tone the stomach, and impart a healthful action to the bowels and kidneys.

Always Ready.

Our bodies are shaped, from the very first, and seventy years of existence in view; and yet we are to be ready at any time. We are to be ever ready for death, but not to lie down in a ready-made coffin, awaiting that event. He who thinks of death, and never puts a God-willing in his utterances, is very sure to think least of life. He who is always prepared to drop dead is the very man to work hardest, and in accordance with the most mature plan.

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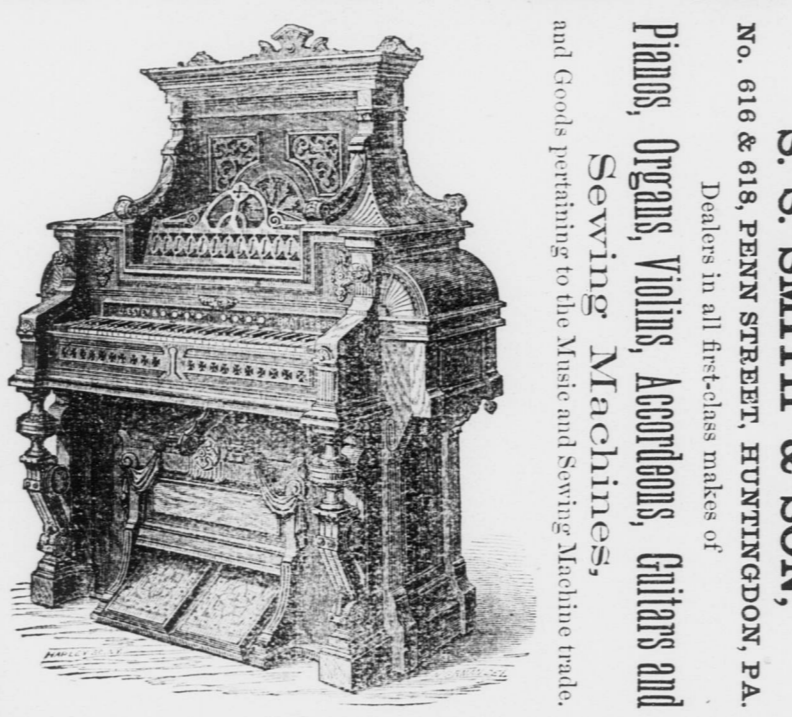
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