

WISHES.

I asked a little child one day. A child intent on joyous play. My little one, pray tell to me Your dearest wish: What may it be? The little one thought for a while, Then answered with a wistful smile; The thing that I wish most of all Is to be big, like you, and tall.

THE SURPRISE PARTY.

BY HELEN FORREST GRAVES.

HER'S gwine to be a good hard frost to-night," said Deacon Cummings, as he pulled the ragged buffalo robe over his knees, settled the tub of lard in front of him, and touched up Old Dick with the extreme point of his whip-lash.

"It is cold," assented Clara, her blue eyes intently fixed on the evening star. The deacon was grim and hard-fisted, with a nose that reminded one of Cape Cod on the map, and a complexion like the snow on the mountain.

Clara was plump and pretty, with skin like a rose-leaf, long-lashed eyes, and a dimple which no one had ever been able exactly to locate. Clara might grow old one of these days, but she never would grow into the pattern of the deacon's old age.

"A—bonnet!" The deacon jerked the reins in a way that had nearly collided Old Dick with the churchyard wall. "Ain't your mother got a bonnet? It does seem, Clara, as if money burned a hole in you young folks pocket."

good Parson Potter used to be when I was a child!" "Ten dollars!" echoed the deacon. "In money!" Be my ears a-deceivin' of me?" "Yes, ten dollars—and in money. It's my own, isn't it, to spend or keep, as I please?"

"It's a downright flingin' away of money!" gasped the deacon. "Ten dollars! Is the gal crazy! Why, I declare to goodness, it's enough to make a man's hair stand on end!" "Here we are!" cried Clara, joyously springing over the wheel.

Clara Cummings, however, had an auditor to their sweet filial confidences of whom she little knew. The deacon, hanging up his old harness, back of the kitchen door, had "It's sinful," said the deacon to himself—"absolutely a temptin' o' Providence! Ten-dollar gold pieces! Gingham! Leaves o' oak, not to say nothin' of the dried apples I was calculatin' to fetch! I—don't—see—"

Mrs. Cummings would have enjoyed her evening at the parsonage, if her husband had not glared so severely at her new bonnet. "Gloves, eh?" said he, as she climbed out of the wagon.

"Oh, Clara!" she faltered, "how can I thank you enough for your kindness—you noble generosity? Mr. Potter is as grateful as I am, but his voice is simply gone. He can't speak."

wonder if Clara didn't leave the taller candle burnin' in her room, an' the cat knocked it over? And there was that hundred dollars. Doctor Pettibone paid me for hay, in the house. I swan to gracious I'll put it in the bank afore I'm a day older. I dunno how I come to be so careless. Polly, look here, to his wife; "do you see that blaze? My eyes ain't as good as they was. Is it anywhere out our way?"

"I guess," muttered he, "ther' ain't no use in my goin' home to get them cattle foddered. I may as well stay an' eat my supper. It's like to cost me enough."

"The very thing!" he muttered to himself. Going softly to his wife's bureau, he abstracted the little leather reticule which Clara had given her on her fifty-second birthday, a brief while ago, and slipped it into his pocket.

In the Missouri River, near Leavenworth, there is an island which has furnished the land law officers of the Government a novel problem. This island was surveyed in 1858. Now it is a legal part of Kansas. But that is not the queer thing about it.

It is said to be fairly established that the common wart, which is so unsightly and annoying on the hands and face, can be easily removed by small doses of sulphate of magnesia taken internally.



YOUNG CALVES MUST BE PROTECTED. The first year of a calf's life determines to a great degree its value as an animal for profit. If it is permitted to run with the cows, steers and older cattle, where it will be jostled and made to stand back from the feed until such a time as it can get to take up the refuse left after the stronger have their choice, an unprofitable, stunted calf will be the result.

IRIGATION AND TREE CULTURE. The necessity for tree culture is equally imperative with irrigation, and the arid lands question will never be satisfactorily settled without the recognition of this principle in its solution. America can ill afford to ignore the experience of other Nations in this respect, and forestry should receive equal consideration with irrigation.

It has been estimated that within historic times some seven millions of square miles along the shores of the Mediterranean, once highly fertile, have been changed into worthless deserts, and for nearly two thousand years the inhabitable portion of the earth has decreased at the average rate of 3500 square miles. This has been produced by the direct agency of man, the evil being chiefly due to river floods caused almost exclusively by the destruction of land protecting forests.

It is right that America should set the example of reclaiming desert lands, and thus increase the earth's capacity for supporting the human race. Irrigation and tree culture must go hand and hand in this work.

FRUIT GROWING FOR PROFIT. The best land for fruit growing is a loan with some gravel in it, but good drainage is indispensable for success. Plums and pears will do better on heavier soils than other fruits. There is no doubt of the profit of either of these two fruits, but both are difficult of culture, and skill and extreme care are necessary to succeed.

Essentials in Strawberry Growing. Professor Lazenby, before the Columbus Horticulture Society gave the following summary of essential points to be kept in mind: The most profitable varieties for the commercial grower are those not easily influenced by differences in soil and climate.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES. Fatten your sheep before selling. It will never pay to feed poor cows. Have the colts thoroughly broken to harness when young.

WINTER CUTTINGS. In the winter time cuttings from shrubs and small fruits should be made for early spring planting. In this way trees and shrubs can be greatly increased in numbers, and new, large orchards can be given an early start without any expense other than the labor required to make the cuttings and plant them.

The various methods adopted by florists to increase the number of their shrubs and trees are all simple, such as the soft wood cuttings in the greenhouse in the winter and layering in the summer, but the hardwood propagation in fall or spring is the method that should be considered at this time of the year.

The young shoots of last season should be selected for these cuttings, and they should be cleft from the main bushes so that they will be about one foot long. These are nearly all buried in the spring in deep, rich soil, leaving only four inches of the tips above the ground. The soil must be tramped down firmly around them. They will begin to start almost immediately, and a young orchard of trees or shrubs will soon prove a great blessing.

Quince orchards should be started every few years if a good crop is expected annually, and there is no easier, quicker and surer way than selecting the cuttings in the winter months, when there is plenty of time, and then starting them out early in the spring. Meanwhile, the land on which they have been started can be planted the same as usual for a season or two afterward.

HIGHEST PROFITS IN HIGHEST FEEDING. Ten cows were fed a ration beginning with eight pounds of grain and twelve pounds of hay, and gradually increasing up to as high as nineteen pounds of grain and twenty-seven pounds of hay per day and head, and then gradually decreasing to the original amount. Throughout this test at the Pennsylvania Experiment Station accurate notes were kept.

Perhaps the most striking lesson is the demonstration given of the profit there is in liberal feeding. The cheapest ration used cost 18.8 cents per day and produced butter valued at 26.5 cents, making a net profit of 7.7 cents per day per cow. An increase of 2.9 cents per day per cow in the cost of this ration made the daily value of the butter 31 cents, and the net profit 9.3 cents per day, or a difference of 1.6 cents per day per cow in favor of the more costly ration.

A further increase of the cost of the ration, however, to 25.1 cent per day gave no further increase in the butter product, and the net profit was thereby cut down to 4.9 cent per day, or 1.8 cent less than with the cheapest ration of the three. In other words, the experiments indicate that there is certain medium ration for each cow which will give the greatest net profit, and that any attempt to economize by feeding less than this will result in a loss, while, on the other hand, it is possible to feed a cow too much as well as too little. Generally, however, there is much more danger of feeding too little than too much.

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