Che Bloomfield Gimes.

Tuesday, April 8, 1873.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

A Young Lady Farmer.

The Prairie Farmer says: We lately had the pleasure of "interviewing" a Miss A., of Illinois, who for some years past has been engaged in farming a farm of 120 acres; and, deeming her example worthy of imitation in these days of unhealthful and lackadaisical womanhood, we have made a few notes for the benefit of our readers.

Miss A. was a teacher, but at the time of her commencing farming was a student in a leading young ladies' seminary of the country. Her father died, leaving a widow, and, we believe, two daughters, of whom Miss A. was the eldest, and the boy a lad of ten or a dozen years of age. The farm was, we believe, encumbered with a considerable amount of debt. She found the health of her mother who was endeavoring to manage the farm with hired help, failing, and concluding, as she expressed it, that she would rather keep her mother than get an education, she left the seminary in 1868 and commenced farming.

The farm at the time consisted of eighty acres of the home farm, about half of which was in cultivation, and most of which was bottom land, rich, but was more or less subject to overflow, and at a little distance were forty acres more, all in cultivation. The home farm had a pretty good house, but the barn had recently been burned, and the fences were not good. Twelve acres had been planted to apples of good variety. She had one horse, and got the loan of an other from a friend, who also aids and is aided in turn by lending implements, &c. She has now a good team of her own raising, besides a horse that does duty in the

So she went to work with the aid of her then little brother, and to some extent of her mother and sister, who also took charge of the housekeeping. They hired but little labor, and as far as possible did their own work. She learned to do nearly all kinds of work. She does not plow much, but she can do it. She took out 50 to 100 stumps one year with spade and axe, at the same time assisted her brother, who was drilling wheat. She bound and shocked wheat, and can drive team well. She can use the axe pretty well; formerly she could chop better than her brother, but now he chops as well as she can herself, and she does less of it. She wears a gymnastic suit while at home, at work, a broad brimmed hat, gloves, and boots made to order. She wishes to look as well as other girls, and thus protects herself from the exposure resulting from out-door labor. She likes the open air life and the out-door work, and is healthy and strong-quite a miracle of vigor from the modern young lady's standpoint.

Most of the home farm is cultivated in corn, though she has 8 acres in grass and 12 in orchard. She raised 23 acres of winter wheat in 1872. It was a fine crop, but she lost from 3 to 5 acres from the failure of the man she had engaged to cut it in time. Even then, with scarce and inefficient labor by that feeble class of men who are always willing to take advantage of those who cannot help themselves, it cost her \$80 to harvest and thresh the wheat. Yet she got 450 bushels of wheat, weighing 62 pounds to the bushel.

The young orehard bore a good deal of fruit in 1852, and she sold 100 barrels of summer apple, and has 150 bushel of apples now in the cellar. She took most of the apples to market hersif, selling some of them as low as 75 cents per barrel, and some as high as \$1.

Interesting Facts.

A bell rung under the water returns a

tone as distinct as if rung in the air. Stop one ear with the finger and press the other to the end of a long stick, and if a watch be held at the other end of the wood, ticking will be heard, be the wood or stick ever so long.

Tie a poker in the middle of a strip of flannel two or three feet long, and press your thumbs or fingers into your ears, while you swing your poker against an iron fender, and you will hear a sound like that of a heavy church bell.

These experiments prove that water, wood, and flannels are good conductors of sound, for the sound of the bell, the watch and the fender passes through the water and along the deal and flannel to the ear, and excite in us the sense of sound. Sound of all kinds, it is ascertained, travels at the rate of fifteen miles in a minute. The softest whisper travels as fast as the most tremendous thunder. The knowledge of this fact has been applied to the measure of distance.

Suppose a ship in distress fires a gun, the light of which is seen on shore, or by an other vessel, twenty seconds before a report is heard, it is known to be at a distance of 20 times 1,142 feet, or a little more than four and a half miles.

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