

The Bloomfield Times.

Tuesday, October 6, 1874.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

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

A Country Boy's Achievement.

Over fifty years ago, a youth, working on a farm, asked his father to give him money enough to buy a gun. The old man could not spare it, but the boy, nothing daunted, found an old piece of iron about the place, and in the course of time contrived to make a gun barrel out of it, with the very meager facilities afforded by a country blacksmith's shop. He had not the materials to make a lock and stock, so he walked to the nearest town and traded for the necessary attachments, and was encouraged by the smith for having made so good a shooter; this gave him the ambition to make another, so he went to cutting out grindstones from the native rock to raise the money for gun materials; in a short time there was a considerable demand for guns of his make. During the French war with Prussia, he was called upon to furnish guns for the army, and in less than eight months he made and delivered to the government of France rifles of a particular pattern, costing five millions of dollars, which amount was duly paid. The same man furnishes rifles now for the United States, South America, Rome, Spain, Egypt, and Japan. The farmers boy who wanted a gun is Eliphalet Remington, of Iliou, N. Y. His manufactory covers four acres of ground, and he employs twelve hundred men. Not satisfied with this achievement, he has recently completed a sewing machine, which is reported to represent the latest and most perfect advance in the improvements of this important adjunct of domestic economy. This is the type of a boy who, when there is no way, makes a way for himself.

Many a youth would have sat down and pouted, thinking over what a hard thing it was that he could not get a gun, with hard thoughts against the father for being so stingy. Not so with young Remington; he wanted a gun and was determined to have it; and he got it by his own energy and pluck.

Female Ingenuity.

There is a quilt in the Cincinnati Exposition which is composed of 24,750 pieces of cloth, and nobody knows how long it took to put them together. There is another quilt made of silk, and into every figure is elaborately wrought some text of Scripture. There is also a rug of worsted work which required the constant work of three women for months. It was made for some young lady to stand upon at the supreme moment of her marriage.

It is remarkable to note the forms in which the female ingenuity displays itself. The pictures hung around the walls of the ladies department illustrate of some of the peculiarities. First in number came the worsted pictures. There are a great variety of subjects of every grade and merit. Then come pictures, some of them as impressive landscapes (at a distance) as any art hall can furnish, and actually made of hair. The scene of Hagar in the wilderness is portrayed with so much skill that it is difficult to believe that all the effects are worked out solely from the material of hair. Another curiosity is a picture, or rather a representation of flowers carved out of baker's bread and touched up with paint so that it looks like careful wax-work. This piece has retained its features for five years, and unless the rats get at it, is good for five years more.

Then come wreaths of flowers made from seeds. Pumpkin seeds, corn, rice, and wheat are the principle constituents, and they are so worked up, as to look remarkably like natural flowers. There are also wreaths and pictures of shell work; frames and wreaths made of bits of leather; pictures and wreaths cut with wonderful skill in white paper; beadwork ornaments; flowers of fish-scales; a "snow tree" made of frayed linen, and a score of other monstrosities which none but a woman's brain could ever have invented.

The method of harvesting corn by cutting the stalks close to the ground and curing the crop in shocks has no injurious effect upon the grain. If cut when the grain is glazed, the corn ripens perfectly, and the value of the fodder is greatly more than when the crop is topped or left until it is dry.

The "lock-out" of English farm laborers, which has recently come to an end, lasted 18 weeks, and cost the National Laborer's Union \$125,000. Two thousand four hundred men were locked out; of these 400 have migrated elsewhere, 440 have emigrated, and 1,220 have returned to work, leaving 840 still unemployed.

Pressed Beef.

Salt a piece of the thin part of the flanks, the tops of the ribs, or a piece of the brisket, for five days. Boil until very tender; then place between two boards, with a heavy weight upon the top one, and let it remain until cold. Serve it as it is, and garnish it with parsley.

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We give a few of the many testimonials given in praise of this most valuable work:

Rev. James McCosh, D. D., President of Princeton College, says: "It is clear, brief, judicious and eminently fitted to be useful, alike to pastor and people."

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Rev. A. W. DECKER, Pastor M. E. C., New Bloomfield, Pa., says: "I feel fully persuaded in my own mind of its intrinsic value, it being so concise and cheap, that it meets the wants of a greater number, than any Commentary published. It is just the thing for Superintendents and Teachers of Sunday Schools and all who wish a correct knowledge of the Bible."

Rev. John Edgar, A. M., Pastor Pres. Ch., N. Bloomfield, says: "I am often asked to name a Commentary on the Word of God, more modern and more brief than Scott, Henry, &c., and I always recommend the above, if a Commentary is wanted on the whole Bible. Families, teachers, and S. S. Superintendents, often find it too much to buy separate works on the different books of Scripture. To such I would say here is a good work on all, combined."

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The following shows how the work is received elsewhere. Rev. Sam'l Moore, Pastor of Pres. Church, Tyrone, Pa., says: "I sold 25 copies of the Commentary in about two hours' actual work. I sold six copies before rising from chair. People come and ask for it."

240 Copies were sold in three small towns in New Jersey; 100 Copies were sold in Milton, Pa.; 90 Copies in Lewisburg, Pa.; 110 Copies in Williamsport; 100 Copies in Watsonstown; 250 Copies in Scranton.

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