

What He Knew about Farming. I had an engagement, not long ago to meet a friend at the Battery. I was in a hurry, and I had not time to get ready, so I took a cab and went to the Battery. I had a very nice time, and I was very much pleased to see my friend. I had a very nice time, and I was very much pleased to see my friend.

AGRICULTURE.
EFFECT OF HARD WATER ON ANIMALS.
Horses have an instinctive love for soft water, and refuse hard water if they can get it. The reason for this is that hard water produces a rough and scaly coat on horses and renders them liable to gripes. Pigeons also refuse hard water if they can obtain access to soft. Claghorn states that hard water in Minnesota causes disease to the systems of certain animals, especially of sheep. So much are the race-horses influenced by the quality of water that it is not unfrequently carried a supply of soft water to the locality in which the race is to take place, there being only hard water, the horses should lose condition. Mr. Youatt, in his book called "The Horse," remarking upon the desirability of soft water for the horse, says: "Instinctive experience has made the horse himself conscious of this, for he will never drink hard water if he has access to soft; he will leave the most palatable water for the softest, and even for the muddiest pool." And again in another place he says: "Water from the springs of the well will assuredly make the coat of a horse unaccounted to it stare, and will not unfrequently gripe or further injure him."

SCIENTIFIC.
Alloys.—The alchemists divided the metals into "noble" (gold, silver and others which do not readily tarnish on exposure to air), and "base." When a metal is mixed with another, the latter was said to be "alloyed," or alloyed in the ratio which the former bore to the noble. The term "alloy" has been extended in signification so as to include all mixtures of metals, and temperature which reduces them to a fluid condition most metals will dissolve any other with which they are brought in contact, either quickly or slowly. Those which do not precipitate the dissolved particles, but hold them in solution till they cool and harden, form mixtures, many of which are almost new metals, and subserve a vast variety of purposes. Among those well known are bell-metal, (copper and tin), bronze (copper, tin and zinc), brass (copper and zinc), German silver (copper, zinc, nickel and iron), powder (lead and tin), type metal (lead and antimony), yellow metal (lead, tin and zinc), etc. Gold and silver are alloyed with copper, in proportions according to the uses for which they are designed. Some metals are made into alloys with gold and silver, even in weight, so close as to offer facilities for counterfeiting. Alloys commonly melt at temperatures above those at which their constituent metals do. Some metals, solder, other metal by their melting surfaces and then hardening into compact mass. All nations alloy their gold and silver with copper, tin and zinc, and the celebrated column in the Place Vendôme, which the Paris Communists overthrew, was cast of gun metal by the first Napoleon, from a mixture of brass, iron and tin. This tendency of the heavier metal to precipitate or form layers was such that the alloying came near being abandoned, because the portions first examined contained more than the stipulated proportion of tin. Alloys, while they are brittle, and the metals are usually better able to resist strain. When composed of metals which melt at widely different heats, that the alloy is brittle, and often is sweated out by heating to a high temperature at which the liquidifies. In this way silver is separated from copper. Lead, being melted in the ancient process, has been replaced by a more modern alloy, which has cooled and solidified by heating to a low melting point, when it brings the silver with it and is then expelled. The alloying process, which is the quality of expanding when it solidifies, and thus forces itself into every cranny of the mould, making a very precise cast.

DOMESTIC.
PEA SOUP.—Use half a pint or seven ounces of dried peas, for every two quarts of soup you want. Put them in a large pot, wash them, and then wash them; bring them slowly to a boil; add a bone or bit of ham, if you care to spare, one turnip, and one carrot peeled, one onion stuck with three cloves, and simmer three hours, stirring occasionally to prevent burning; then pass the soup through a sieve with the aid of a potato masher, and if it shows any sign of settling, stir into it one tablespoonful each of butter and flour (mixed together dry), this will prevent settling; meantime fry some slices of cold bread, about two inches cut half an inch square, in hot fat, drain them on a sieve, and put them in the bottom of the soup tureen in which the pea soup is served; to some bits of very hard stale bread or dry toast, to use instead of the fried bread. By the time the soup is done, it will have boiled down two quarts, and will be very thick and good.

HUMOROUS.
A BOSTON GIRL.—Not many days since, in a Western city, a young lady of ten summers was engaged in watering the plants on the garden gate, and she heard the report of a pistol and a shot whistled by her ear. She looked around and saw a man aiming at him with a revolver. He turned to fly just as another shot cut through his hat, but as he did so a second man hit him upon the shoulder with his fist and nearly knocked him down. A moment later Mr. Bister clenched, and a rough and tumble fight began. The stranger removed a handkerchief or two of Mr. Bister's hair; then he kicked his left leg three times with violence; then he put his elbow against Mr. Bister's third rib and scrougled it in with intense force.

Commercial Travelling in Arkansas.
A month or two ago Mr. Alexander Bister was out in Arkansas, travelling as a salesman. One morning, as he emerged from the door of his hotel, he heard the report of a pistol and a shot whistled by his ear. He looked around and saw a man aiming at him with a revolver. He turned to fly just as another shot cut through his hat, but as he did so a second man hit him upon the shoulder with his fist and nearly knocked him down. A moment later Mr. Bister clenched, and a rough and tumble fight began. The stranger removed a handkerchief or two of Mr. Bister's hair; then he kicked his left leg three times with violence; then he put his elbow against Mr. Bister's third rib and scrougled it in with intense force.

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