The Rotten Egg.

"Do it!" shouted the driver, flying his whip. "Just you dropping for it!"

"Don't, I want to see what they're up to over there," Burt Wood, the driver, asked the man, stood to a rotten egg-throwing like a little girl's.

"Don't horses mustn't talk!" cried Phil, stamping a mighty foot, "so on!"

"Oh, please!" and back went the blunder—or rather the squirrel—which covered the squire's head. "I'm tired of being a noise, let's go see Buck" and Rosie, the girl, bounded away as nimbly as deer, the house had done, followed by Phil, whose curiosity was aroused at last.

Burt, who had thrown himself on the grass, paused to something beside him and said, as they drew near:

"Did you ever see a prettier sight?"

"The something was a nest lined with soft fur, in which were five tiny brown mice, just even as big as those cream chocolate mice we buy, but as lively as kittens.

"Oh," cried Rosie, "field-mice, aren't they?"

"Not exactly for they burrow and live in the ground; these are harvest mice, and make nests like the birds only lined with fur instead of moss, and seldom in tall grass instead of trees. I've looked for one all summer, but never should have found it, only as I lay here half asleep something ran over my hand, and I cut just a glimpse of the mother mouse. Then I knew the nest could not be far away, and I found it."

"What are you going to do with 'em?" asked Phil.

"Put 'em in a mug, mug cage, with a wheel to amuse 'em that," holding up fingers at the top. "It'll be just like a squirrel house, only not a tenth as large. You may come and see it, if you like. I'm going to get it all ready."

"Can't I have some?" he asked. "I want a mouse."

"No," said Rosie gravely, not understanding the thing, "it's very, very small, and it's pretty, though."

So it was, and ingenious too, being a very light frame covered with fine wire netting. One end was left open into the wire house, which was higher than the lodging room, but not so long, and the whole thing wasn't much larger than a cigar box.

The new tenants were stowed away on the bed of cotton batting in one corner, and then Rosie persisted in dragging Phil away, though he resisted at every step, for she knew that they ought not to stay longer without permission. All that evening he talked about those cunning mice, and when morning came could not rest till he had gained permission to go and see them.

"Oh, aren't they sweet?" he cried, getting close to the cage, his heart in his eyes and his hands in his pockets. "What would you sell 'em for, Burt?"

"Nothing," laughed the latter; "they cost me too much time and trouble."

"I've got a silver quarter with a hole through it," he ventured with keen anxiety, for if this offer failed he felt that he was bankrupt.

Burt laughed again—so carelessly. "Oh! keep your quarter; I don't want it!" and Phil felt that his castle had indeed tumbled about his ears.

After Burt had gone away he still stood there gazing.

"Oh! if I only had 'em!" he sighed longingly.

Nobody was near, and he gently lifted the cage, looked all around, then set it down again.

"I can lift it, he said. "I could carry it away!"

He lifted it again, and took a step forward—then another, his childish face showing clearly the fight going on within the little soul; and thus, step by step, he carried it home.

"I've got a present," he said, entering the sitting-room with a nervous air.

"Mice!" cried his mother, while Rosie exclaimed, "Did Burt really give them to you? I wouldn't have thought it. But you can never take care of them."

"I can too, Rosie Latta," and Phil began at once to expatiate on their beauties till he grew almost happy. But—

"The best laid schemes o' mice and men
Gang aft a-gley—"

and it was well for both mice and little man now that the latter's plans failed—as they did.

There was a loud, startling ring at the door, and Burt came raging in, very warm and flushed, and telling his story all in a breath. It was a straight story, though, and only needed one glance at Phil to convince his mother of its truth. From the short, red socks curling down from his round white legs, to the long brown lashes curling up from his whiter cheeks, he was a most abject little figure.

If the mother's heart had not been so sore with her darling's sin, she must have laughed at that comically sad little figure. As it was, she only said two words: "Oh, Phil!" and with one cry he threw himself into her arms and burst into a passion of tears and explanations. At this Burt melted.

"Don't cry, Phil," he said, "I'll get you some more—indeed I will. Mice are plenty."

"It ain't that," sobbed Phil, "I—I don't—want—'em. It's—oh, dear! dear! it's bein' a thief."

"But this is the last time, Phil, my boy, isn't it?" questioned mother, and from the shelter of her loving arms came a decided "yes ma'am, the—very—last! If I'd only run home when the thought of taking them first came into my head, I'd have been all right."

China.

According to the data obtained by a San Francisco statistician the actual population of the Chinese Empire is 280,000,000. This congregation of human beings is so vast that were there no more births in China it would require the death of one person every second for a period of nearly nine years before the Mongolian race would become extinct.

Professor Moseley, of the famous Challenger expedition around the world, has discovered eyes in the shells of chitonidæ, no less than 11,000 being contained in the shell of a single animal. As the shell grows larger new eyes are formed. No other molluscs have any sense organs in their shells, but the chitonidæ, in addition to eyes, have elaborate organs of touch permeating their shells.

A very simple contrivance—but at the same time one very valuable—is being placed in the switches, frogs and guards of the Old Colony Railroad. It consists of a piece of hard wood so shaped and bolted to a rail as to prevent a person's foot from getting caught in the groove when on the track. Accidents of that kind are of daily occurrence.

AGRICULTURE

Dehorn your Cattle.—The habit of attaching importance to the most useless appendages is a symptom of a diseased condition of the stomach. Horns adhering to cattle are generally due to fleshy, but the condition is produced by the result of the diseased state of the digestive organs rather than to the act of procuring food by the means of horns either to get with the teeth. A horse in which this habit has long existed can readily be recognized by the worn and rounded appearance of the edges of his front teeth, also by the scarred appearance of the nose after which depress the jaw. The habit can be prevented in several ways, but is liable to return again when the previous conditions are restored. By taking away the manger and feeding from the ground the animal will have nothing to tear his teeth upon, hence as a rule cannot gratify his propensity in this direction, except in some very obstinate cases, when they will rotate one of their horns and use that for grinding purposes. By nailing a strip of sheep-skin about eight inches the entire length of the ends, selecting a skin covered with wool and sprinkling it freely with cayenne pepper, rubbing it occasionally, the worst critter can be persuaded to desist from this habit.

A Peculiar Faculty of Animals.—It is well known that some domestic animals, notably dogs and cats taken to a distance of many miles from home, even when carried closely covered in a basket or in a bag, will readily find their way home within a few hours. Many remarkable instances of this are recorded, and few persons are without facts of this nature which have come within their own observation or thereby to their knowledge from others. What is it that enables these animals to find their way back? Which question is considered unanswered. This is a point which has perplexed many naturalists, and which only can be explained by the theory that animals possess a sense of locality, which men in a savage state possess in a high degree, but which is lost in civilized life. Thus it is that the Indian, when he has wandered from his camp, can find his way back by the same route by which he came, and the sailor can steer his course by the stars. Take away the compass from the sailor, and he is lost; take away the sun and stars from the Indian, and he is lost; but the animal, which has neither compass nor stars, finds its way back by the sense of locality, which is developed in it to a high degree, and which man has lost. Carry a dog or cat in a basket or bag, with the head covered, to a distance of many miles from home, and when released it will at once make straight for its former home.

Action of Certain Poisons.—Many of the most virulent poisons for the human system are harmless when taken into the stomach of animals. Thus the deadly nightshade, or belladonna, is eaten by sheep and cattle with impunity, whereas some kinds of grass, from insects and from the use of fat young horse in the autumn and winter. Harvest time is from December to March for eggs from March to June for broilers and from November to May for fat cockerels. At those seasons there is always a hungry market for good articles. The season, the exigencies of those who have hens and take little care of them and the game laws regulate these things.

Oatmeal for Cows.—Of the use of oatmeal for cows, says a dairy writer, mention is not often made in this country; but when spoken of it is always with praise. That it is better than cornmeal there can be no doubt; it is richer in both albuminoids and fat, and the usefulness of these two nutriments, and especially the former, for making milk, is shown not only by the results of numerous careful experiments, but by the acknowledged usefulness of oil-cake meal. Where this meal is used freely there would be less use for oatmeal; but under some circumstances it might be advantageously substituted for the bran in the favorite mixture for cows of Indian meal and bran.

The doors for pigpens should be swung on stout hinges from the top, so they will close as the pigs go in and out. The place above the trough should be occupied by a closely-fitting gate swinging on hinges from above, so as to swing over the trough while the swill is being poured in. It can then be swung back again and securely fastened. This arrangement, besides its convenience, will save its cost in a very short time in the swill that would otherwise be spilled over the pigs' heads.

The unsightly piles of stable manure around dwelling houses are unnecessary. They answer the purpose of excluding frost from cellars, but not better than putting a row of studding inside the cellar on all sides a little below the surface of the ground and closely sealing it. The object is to make a space of confined air, which is a nearly perfect non-conductor of heat. The advantage of this inside sealing is that it is always in place and moderates the heat of Summer in the cellar as well as the cold of Winter.

The mildew is one of the most annoying obstacles in the way of gooseberry growing in most parts of the country. A grower of experience has found that salt hay, spread over the whole surface of the ground to the depth of three inches, is a preventive. This grower, who resides near the sea coast, obtains his salt hay from the marshes which the tide overflows. Common coarse hay or bog grass, soaked in brine, would probably answer just as well. On account of the manner in which the salt absorbs water from the atmosphere, the mulching, and consequently the vines, is kept at an even temperature.

There is economy in providing barn room for all farm produce. Hay and grain exposed to the weather rapidly deteriorate. When a new barn is completed there is further saving that may be added in the way of paint. A small amount of paint will go a good way on new work, but weather-beaten boards take up a large quantity. Paints of handsome colors now come ready mixed. It does not require a skillful man to lay them.

St. Joseph county, Michigan, now claims to grow more peppermint than any other locality in the world. It requires a moist, mucky soil, but one that does not retain stagnant water. Where facilities exist for distilling the oil, it is a very profitable crop on land not considered fit for grain growing.

Mr. Hovey says that he would as soon think of rubbing off the buds of a tree of any kind, and then expect it to make a good growth, as that a potato with its buds broken off would produce a full crop.

Any grain food given to a young calf should be thoroughly boiled and given as gruel, with a little salt.

Clearing the potato bugs from an acre of potatoes by the use of Paris green is set down by potato growers at $5 in the cost of cultivation.

The only discussion in the British Association for the advancement of Science this year, which appears to have made a strong impression has been that on the relation of the sun-spots over the disc of the solar orb to the generation and movement of magnetic storms on the earth's surface. It seems to be an established fact that a correllation exists between the maculæ of the sun's surface and certain meteorological disturbances on corresponding zones of the surface of the earth. In regard to the feculæ the correllation is not so clearly made out.

People who dislike to have their windows frosted in cold weather can prevent it by rubbing the glass inside and outside with glycerine.

DOMESTIC

Dress Gloves.—Any lady may dye her soiled gloves almost as nicely, and at a very trifling cost, by the following recipe: Put black tea into the gloves with alcohol, when dry brush them again with a decoction of logwood; when this is dry repeat the logwood wash and, after ten or fifteen minutes, dip them in a weak solution of green vitriol. If the color be not yet black a little bottle may be added to the logwood. The gloves should be thoroughly rubbed with a mixture of pure olive oil and French chalk, as they begin to dry, to give them a smooth, soft and glossy appearance; they should then be wrapped in flannel, and placed under a heavy weight. Should there be any stains in the gloves they must be carefully mended before commencing the dyeing process, and the tops also should be sewed up to prevent any of the dye getting on the inside. Gloves can be dyed brown by using a decoction of fustic, alum and Brazil wood; this should be applied in the same manner as the foregoing. A decoction of sumac and a very weak solution of green vitriol produce gray, greenish gray being obtained by the addition of logwood and fustic to the sumac. Fancy shades can be produced by using the aniline colors in solution; they can be simply applied with a sponge. Thus soiled gloves may be made as good as new.

Those thrifty housekeepers who make soap at home will find it greatly to their advantage to prepare in this way the fat that is to be used: No matter how small the quantity of tallow or suet is that is not to be cooked with the meat, try it out and let it form a stock. Melt it over again with a decoction of logwood; when this is dry repeat the logwood wash and, after ten of fifteen minutes, dip them in a weak solution of green vitriol. If the color be not yet black a little bottle may be added to the logwood. The gloves should be thoroughly rubbed with a mixture of pure olive oil and French chalk, as they begin to dry, to give them a smooth, soft and glossy appearance; they should then be wrapped in flannel, and placed under a heavy weight. Should there be any stains in the gloves they must be carefully mended before commencing the dyeing process, and the tops also should be sewed up to prevent any of the dye getting on the inside. Gloves can be dyed brown by using a decoction of fustic, alum and Brazil wood; this should be applied in the same manner as the foregoing. A decoction of sumac and a very weak solution of green vitriol produce gray, greenish gray being obtained by the addition of logwood and fustic to the sumac. Fancy shades can be produced by using the aniline colors in solution; they can be simply applied with a sponge. Thus soiled gloves may be made as good as new.

A scientist has found that a woman's ear can perceive higher notes than a man's. This is the reason why the woman always wakes up first when the baby cries in the night.

An Artistic Humorous Gem.

The following "American" [illegible] humorous gem. [illegible] Boston and [illegible] Boston [illegible] Home [illegible] Boston [illegible] Boston [illegible] Boston