



THE PUMPKIN.
It is born beneath the shadow of
a field of waving corn
From a flower whose golden color
outshines the glow of morn.
Where the bumblebees are work-
ing, their rough backs all
bright with gold.
And we learn the wondrous secret
their busy hum has told.
They say this flower sometimes
will take a different form
And be the yellow pumpkin
When autumn sunshines warm.
When the skillful housewife turns
it by some necromancy keen
Into the pie so toothsome, with a
color bright and clean
As the yellow of the pumpkin
as it lay the corn among,
Has a flavor sweet whose richness
by poet is unsung.
So give to me the pumpkin
With the good old-fashioned pie.
All hail, all hail King Pumpkin,
Live ye long and never die.



An English correspondent who went through the 1881 campaign wrote at that time of the fighting qualities of the Boers:
"We never are able to see the enemy. Except before the fight at Majuba Hill, I never saw but a handful of them at any time. And when they thought we noticed them they and their horses disappeared as if swallowed up by the earth. I think we all feel that they can shoot. Our losses at Hatley and Laing's Nek showed that. We were very much in the open, but not a blessed Boer was to be seen. But every once in a while there was the crack of a rifle, and then one of our poor boys would go over, the line would close up and we would begin chasing again for the enemy we could never find. I was taken prisoner just after General Colley was killed, and I can say that I could not have been treated better by any people. They were kind to our wounded, did not molest the dead nor insult us of the living. I think they are a very brave people, and, as for fighting, they seem to know just as much about it as we do."
The Boer loves his country with a passionate patriotism. He is not a miner, or an engineer, or a railroad constructor. He is pre-eminently an

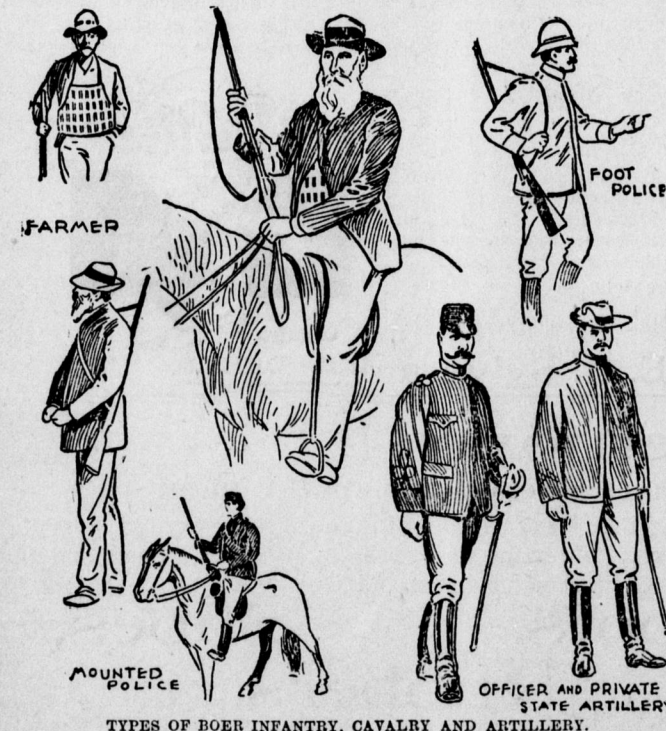
THE BOER AS A FIGHTER.

The Boers are born fighters, a nation of sharpshooters, they never waste a bullet; each Boer selects his man and kills him and keeps on doing the same thing all day and every day until the war is over. It is a common boast with them which they have made good in more than one clash with the British, that one Boer is equal to ten Englishmen. They do not come out and fight in the open, but swarm all over a mountain side, hiding behind trees and rocks, and woe to the thin red line or hollow square that comes within range of their unerring Martinis and Mausers. In fact, the Boer victories over the British soldiers are largely accountable for the British feeling against them, and in the bitter warfare against the nation the success of the Boers has been extraordinary.
Fewer than 450 Boers resisted 12,000 of the fiercest Zulu warriors on December 16, 1838, and 3000 natives were left dead on the field, and this with old flint locks. President Kru-



FIELD CORNET'S MESSENGER HANDING OVER COMMANDS TO BOER FARMERS TO BE READY FOR WAR.

ger, as a boy, helped the forty Dutchmen hold off 2000 of the men of Moseletkane, then the most renowned native captain in South Africa. The bravery of the men is shown by the attack that 135 of them made on 10,000 Zulus on the Marico River, driving them out of the Transvaal.
These are simply better-known instances of the fighting abilities of the Boers. Every man has handled a gun from infancy. In the old days, when a Boer was not fighting the fierce natives he was defending himself from savage beasts. Every Boer has been trained in warfare. They discovered the method of laagering their wagons, placing them in a hollow square, which the British generals have adopted as the most successful way of fighting the natives. The Boers have shown themselves masters of strategy, the result of constant warfare with a cruel and treacherous foe.



TYPES OF BOER INFANTRY, CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY.

cured in the sun, and called "biltong," concentrate in the specified "dorp" or village, where they invariably meet in the market place—the church, iron gated, iron steepled, in the background. Arms are distributed



INSPECTION OF A "COMMANDO" OF BOERS IN THE MARKET PLACE OF A TOWN.

to those who are without them; and as for forage, the velt is trusted to supply it at need. The commandant, who is the Dutch equivalent of the English colonel, drills his forces as best he may; and a certain amount of military discipline is easily acquired, despite the rather slovenly appearance, due in part to the absence of uniforms, except in the case of the commandants, the other officers, and the "State Artillery."

The Boer much resembles our American Apache in his ability to live on the shadow of things when in the field. A writer of South Africa, in a contribution to a London paper, calls attention to the ability of the Boer to live on rations which an ordinary trooper would not endure and his capacity to travel great distances with horse in incredibly short time.

The Boer knows every road and trail of the Transvaal; as a hunter he knows the devious ways of the wastes beyond. He is an agriculturist and a hunter. By the law of self-preservation he has learned the wily ways of the savage whom he displaced in the Transvaal. The secret recesses of the mountains are at his command. As a horseman he much resembles our American cowboy. He can ride on top of the saddle, or over his horse's neck, or Cossack fashion, with one foot in the stirrup, one leg on the saddle and his head and shoulders on the ground. His horse is part of his family life. The beasts are very hardy, sure-footed and affectionate. Then, too, the Boer is inured to the hardships of the mountains, to long horseback journeys, scant allowances of food, treks on which the water supply is scarce.

In the campaign of 1881 against the English the Boer took good care that his forces never faced the enemy in the open field. He never offered open

agriculturist. In Cape Colony nearly the whole of the wheat growing is done by the Dutch farmers of the Western province. In the interior the bulk of the grain used is supplied by the Dutch farmer of the Transvaal. The whole of the fruit crop is produced by Boers. Even far up in Bechuanaland you will find Boer wagons from the Republic loaded up with fruit, oat forage and other products.

The Boers, in short, are a pastoral folk, stolidly content to be that and nothing else. They shun towns, shop



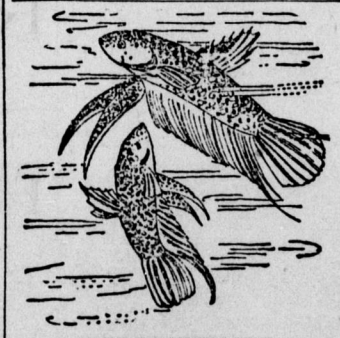
BOERS RECEIVING AMMUNITION.

keeping and gold mining. They ask only to live in a moderate degree of comfort, in a rude hut, to provide for their children, to grow up and to be let alone.

German Viceroy in the Carolines.
A correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt calls attention to the fact that a German was Viceroy of the Caroline Islands thirty-five years ago. His name was Teteus, and he was captain of a ship which exported snails to China. In 1865 he married one of the daughters of the "King" of the Carolines and bought of him one of the islands.

Male Goats Among Sheep.
A correspondent of the Charleston News and Courier sends the following information, based on personal experience, to the farmers of South Carolina: "If you put among a flock of sheep from three to four male goats the dogs will rarely attack them. Sheep always run to the goats for protection."

Novel Sport in the Far East.
The effete Parisian has just taken up the sport of fish contests. Oriental sporting men in Siam, Cochinchina and some parts of Japan have long taken great delight in the lively con-



SIAMESE FIGHTING FISH.

tests of the little fighting fish which are bred in the East for this particular purpose. The little finny belligerents are prettily colored red and blue fish, and when it comes to a matter of fighting a red stick to it to the death.

WHEN JOHN BULL LEFT US.

A Monument in Boston Will Commemorate the Historical Event.
"It is with the greatest pleasure I inform you that on Sunday last, the 17th inst. (1776), about 9 o'clock in the forenoon, the ministerial army evacuated the town of Boston, and that the forces of the United Colonies are now in actual possession thereof. I beg leave to congratulate you, sir, and the



DORCHESTER HEIGHTS MONUMENT. (Marks the spot where George Washington stood and watched the British soldiers sail away.)

honorable Congress on this happy event, and particularly as it was effected without endangering the lives and property of the remaining unhappy inhabitants. I have great reason to imagine their flight was precipitated by the appearance of a work, which I had ordered to be thrown up last Saturday night on an eminence at Dorchester, which lies nearest to Boston Neck, called Nook's Hill." Thus wrote General George Washington to the President of Congress March 19, 1776. The City Council of Boston has approved plans for the Dorchester Heights monument which marks the spot where General Washington stood and watched the British sail away. The plans show a type of tower common in colonial times, with fountain and memorial tablet on the most conspicuous side. It will be built of old-fashioned brick with dark headers. The trimmings will be of Indiana stone or white terra cotta. The height of the monument to the base of the steeple will be about seventy-five feet. The original appropriation for the monument was \$25,000.

Liked Them in Groups.
Albeit an attractive young miss in most ways, like many other young animals it was her habit to wolf her food. Of this her mother tried to break her, and on this particular occasion was remonstrating because of the number of peas Alice seemed to think it necessary to consume at a mouthful.
"Take fewer peas on your fork, Alice. Why should you want to take so many at one time?"
"They taste so much better when eaten in groups," was Alice's unexpected explanation.

Altered a Trifle.
One small girl says to another "They are not saying rubberneck any more."
"Why not?" asks the other with some joy.
"Because they are saying peninsula," says the one.
"And why peninsula?" says the other, innocently.
"Because it stretches out to sea," says the one.—"Worcester (Mass.) Gazette."

A Remarkable Girl.
Helen Keller, the deaf, dumb and blind girl, whose acquirements have attracted the attention of all students of educational methods, spent last summer at Wrentham, Mass., as the guest of Mrs. J. E. Chamberlain. She keeps up her study of Greek and Arabic, and writes her exercises on a typewriting machine especially designed for these languages, with interchangeable cylinders. By way of exercise she delights in climbing trees, and she is an excellent swimmer.



HELEN KELLER. (The deaf, dumb and blind girl.)

which she vastly enjoys. Helen puzzles new visitors by telling the color of the flowers they bring. She can even distinguish a white and yellow pansy from a purple one, and a red from a white rose. Her explanation is that the petals of the darker colored flowers are thicker than those of the lighter ones.

She Caught Him.
Patrice—"You know, Will said he'd like to be caught playing golf."
Patience—"Yes."
"Well, I caught him on the links this afternoon. We're engaged."
—Yonkers Statesman.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

Have Things up to the Handle.
A well known writer on agricultural subjects says that especially in seedling should there never be any haphazard ways. Even in giving milk to the calves should the process be the rule. The calf should have its ration steadily, should have it sweet, and should have it warm. Over feeding is injurious, but feeding cold milk is worse.

Weeds on the Roadside.
Not many farmers bother themselves about the weeds that grow alongside their farms on the roads, and, as a rule, not many road overseers care whether the weeds grow on the roads or not; but these same weeds produce seed and keep the farm well supplied with weeds every year, which cost the farmers large sums to destroy. The wise farmer will keep the weeds down at his own expense if they grow on the road.

Disposal of Potatoes Inclined to Rot.
Potatoes from fields affected by blight should be kept by themselves, so they can be disposed of first and in ways that might not be open to the disposal of the whole crop. Where blight has appeared in a field, except it be the early blight, the tubers from that field will rot, to some extent at least, when placed in an ordinary cellar and exposed to about all kinds of temperatures above freezing. The first care is that none of them be saved for seed, as they carry the mycelium of the diseases over from year to year. In disposing of them two ways are open. One is to sell them for use at once, even if they have to be sold at a small sacrifice. If they go to hotels or other places that use large quantities of potatoes they will probably be used before the rot begins to make itself manifest. If the potatoes must be kept, it can only be in cold storage of some kind. If dug late in the fall and the weather remains cool this may sometimes be accomplished by putting the potatoes into the cellar and keeping the cellar cool by opening the windows at night and keeping them shut during the daytime. This will keep the temperature down to a point where the concealed fungus will not develop. Later the tubers may be pitted.

Too Much Pollen for Wintering.
It has been claimed by apiarists that it has been tested the matter to some extent, that bees will winter better if not allowed to partake of pollen, but confined on combs of honey alone. I think some attention should be given to this matter in arranging hives for winter. I am satisfied that in some cases where a large amount of pollen filled the combs which the cluster of bees occupied during the winter, did not winter well. Dysentery showed itself to some extent in almost every case in such instances, but we might attribute this to the fact that they were confined to the combs containing pollen, and were obliged to partake of it or starve.

I believe they should not be confined to such combs, but I do not believe it necessary to entirely remove them from the hive. The frames of comb that generally contain pure honey are found on the outside of the brood nest, and those that contain pollen are always found next to the brood, and as this is the case the bees are likely to occupy the combs containing pollen for their winter quarters. This can be controlled to quite an extent, and all I think really necessary is to remove the centre combs, or those combs containing pollen, and place them at the outside, and the combs that contain honey next to the bees.

If this is done and the bees confined on combs of pure honey, we think no damage will be done by their partaking of the pollen at their pleasure. It is very necessary that bees have a good supply of pollen in early spring, and if possible we prefer to have it in the hive where they have access to it when needed. It is true that we can furnish a substitute in the shape of meal, etc., but can only do so on days that they can fly and work on it. It often occurs that a large amount of pollen is stored on the combs, and as it is exclusively used for food for the young bees, it naturally is stored near the brood nest. The amount of pollen stored depends on the supply. Bees seem to be as eager to gather pollen as to gather honey, and often a large reserve is on hand.—A. H. Duff in Farm, Field and Fireside.

Sage as a Market Crop.
Almost all farmers grow some sage for home use in making dressing for roasted turkey and chickens. In the olden time, when cheese making for home use was common, sage was usually put in one or more of the cheeses to improve the flavor and make a more wholesome seasoning than sage. Most others, especially the boughten spices, pepper, allspice and the like, brought from the tropics, are too constipating for health. Sage is not so, or at most only in very slight degree, and as it is always used as a condiment with fresh meat, which is laxative, it does good rather than harm. Those farmers who grow sage have generally an active demand about holiday time from their neighbors who have been less provident, and they have enough demand in their own neighborhood to take all their surplus. Sometimes, however, the well-to-do neighbors are ashamed to take so little a thing as this for a gift, and what pennies they give for sage much more than pays the expense of caring for the bed.

The market gardeners grow celery as an annual, and by taking the thriftiest plants and allowing them to seed, they have developed several varieties of large-leaved sage, which it is always better to use as seed when setting out new plantations. Sage, may, however, be spread from the root. This requires no annual planting of the seed, and of course keeps the large leaved variety pure, though after being grown in a clump the plant will be less vigorous and have smaller leaves. The layered sage stem, with its lower leaves stripped off and covered, roots very quickly, and this can be done any time in midsummer and secure a well-rooted plant next year. Most of the old sage beds in the country are grown from layers. This is why they grow in clumps, as the layer has some dormant buds which send up shoots the following season. The sage plant is best grown from seed which may be sown now, and get growth enough to live through the winter if the top is cut down in the fall, pretty close to the ground, and covered with a forkful of manure. This winter covering is important to keep the sage roots from heaving out in winter by alternate freezing and thawing.

New Way of Planting Strawberries.
It has been found that it costs more to cultivate a spring-set strawberry bed during its first six weeks than for any other period of its life. Attention must be given at the very time that other items of farm work need looking after. If this care is withheld the bed will become a mass of weeds and will be so checked that it may never recover. The following method which is in use in some sections of New York state and which the writer has tested in a small way, will be found as practical as it is simple.

The young plants are removed from the field in the usual manner, but are taken to a previously arranged bed of good soil where they are planted, after being trimmed of old leaves and injured and superfluous roots. The shortening of the remaining roots is rapidly done as follows: The plant is held in the left hand, leaves up, the collar grasped by the thumb and first finger, the hand is closed around the roots, which are snapped off by means of a pair of shears. In the bed the plants are set in rows about a foot apart and an inch apart in the rows. They are shaded until they have become established and a mulch of well rotted stable manure that is free from straw is applied. The plants are sprayed with Bordeaux mixture every ten days or two weeks, and watered if necessary. The ground is soaked just before they are to be removed to the field. They are then lifted, set closely upon trays and carried to the field. They are remarkably well provided with roots and suffer no check when set in the permanent rows.

While the plants are in the beds the field is being prepared. It is plowed, harrowed and thoroughly fined by means of a weeder run over it once a week or ten days, and after each rain. It not only pulverizes the surface but kills weeds and turns up any grubs and worms for the birds to remove. The plants have, by this method, a warm bed to start in, which is very different from the usual cold comfort forced upon them in early spring, when, in order to be ready, the ground frequently has to be plowed before it should be touched. The remaining treatment is the same as for other beds.

This method permits of easier spraying of the plants for disease, which operation occupies less time and requires less fungicide by far than is used in the open field. A double saving is thus effected. No spraying is usually needed in the field after the plants are set, unless the germs of disease are already present in great quantity in it. Much more time is allowed for transplanting since it may be done when the greatest rush of spring work is over. Shipments of plants that arrive late can sometimes be saved from utter loss by this plan. Lastly, plants grown in this way are in every respect equal to pot grown plants.—M. G. Kains in the Epitomist.

Poultry Notes.
It is possible to improve the egg laying qualities of any flock by careful selection.

The farmer who tries two colonies of birds this winter will want four next winter.

It is a good plan to give laying hens an occasional feed of corn that has been burned until it is charcoal.

The color of an egg has nothing to do with its nutritive value. A white egg is just as good as a brown one.

A party gave a dollar for a horse, killed it, sold the hide for \$1.25 and had the meat for his chickens for his trouble.

If you haven't got a bone mill feed chipped meat scraps or sausage to the fowls—meat is just about as good as bone, anyhow.

The hen is the most profitable of all birds kept on the farm, but it is well where one can have ducks, turkeys and geese.

If the hens are too fat to lay or moult well, feed them but once a day if yarded, or not at all if free, until reduced in weight.

The first three days that a hen sits on her eggs she should attend faithfully to business in order to start the "deck" to growing.

One brood at a time is best for the farm unless the farmer has money and time to build the yards and houses to keep the birds apart.

Ground oats, when made from a good quality of grain, is one of the best parts of the morning mash. It produces muscle, bone and feathers—not fat.