

FAIR INES.

O saw ye not fair Ines? She's gone into the West, To dance when the sun's down, And rob the world of rest; She took our daylight with her, The smiles that we love best; With morning blossoms on her cheek, And pearls upon her breast.

I saw thee, lovely Ines, Descend along the shore, With bands of noble gentlemen, And banners waved before; And gentle youth and maidens gay, And snowy plumes they wore; It would have been a heinous dream— If it had been no more!

THE GARDEN By LETTER-BOX. C. S. REID.

THE big, square, weather-worn house looked in its silence and isolation like the relic of a long dead past. Not the abandoned relic, however, for the hand of a painstaking florist and gardener was in evidence in the little yard on which the house fronted.

Then she turned out the light and crept to the window, where she sat looking out across the way. Evidently she was still uneasy about her neighbor, for there was no light from his window, nor did one appear while Miss Phoebe watched, although it was late when she retired.

In spite of the flowers, however, there was such an atmosphere of sacred quiet about the house that except for the presence of a "abby cat on the step, it would have seemed to be uninhabited. But any urchin along the street could have told you who lived there; it was "Miss Phoebe," while the question, "How long has she lived there?" would invariably have brought the answer, "She's always lived there."

The following morning she again took her place by the window. But the "bus passed and Mr. Lorton had not appeared. During the day Miss Phoebe called Dinah to her room. "Dinah," she said, "I believe something has happened to Mr. Lorton, or he is ill over there in that house all alone."

Certainly every morning for more than twenty-five years Mr. Lorton had been seen to issue from his front door punctually at 7 o'clock, in order to ride to the station in the old "bus which passed at that hour. And from her window Miss Phoebe had watched his departure each morning, and noted his return at evening, by the faint glow of a light through the chinks of the ever-closed blinds.

The Lorton house was an old-fashioned one, with a street door at the end of an open entrance. Through this doorway Miss Phoebe entered and advanced along the passage, made dark and gloomy by the dense, untrimmed growth of shrubbery in the little side yard.

Approaching the door of what was probably Mr. Lorton's sleeping room, she tapped gently upon the panel. After a moment a weak voice from within said, "Come in."

At the sound of her step the figure turned, revealing the dazed, fever-brightened eyes of Mr. Lorton; then a hand wandered toward a table that stood at the head of the bed, and on which rested a pitcher of water, a goblet—and, yes, Miss Phoebe drew a long breath as she saw that the hand was reaching for a little box in which lay the long-seeded petals of a once red rose.

While Miss Phoebe was leaning against the little gate, her spirit drifting with the gentle current of happy memories, she was suddenly startled from her dreamland voyage by a strange noise in the post at her side. Quickly she glanced around, just in time to see a rat leap from the little square hole in the post, dragging with it to the ground the debris of a bluebird's nest of the season past.

With a swift impulse Miss Phoebe placed the white rose over the withered petals of the red one. Then laying her cool hand on the hot fingers of the sick man, she said gently: "You are ill. Why didn't you send for some one—for me?"

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Again the fevered eyes turned to hers, and again they sought the wall. "No use," murmured the hoarse voice, "no use to live; no future—no one who cares—only red roses—red roses—"

With an effort she roused herself, and this time dragged the little paper from the hole. Perhaps the bluebirds had carried it in, and, finding it unavailable for their use, had pushed it to the rear out of their way. At any rate, it had evidently lain there for many years, as the curves of the water marks were brown with age. Half eagerly, half fearfully, she unfolded the little sheet, and, although the twilight was deepening, and Miss Phoebe's eyes were not as strong as they once were, she read on till the last faded letter was deciphered. Then, without a sound, she sank down and buried her face in her hands.

For more than a fortnight Mr. Lorton lay in the grip of the fever, attended daily by the physician, and hourly by a gray-haired little woman, who always wore in the folds of her dark gown a single white rose.

It was almost dark when Miss Phoebe finally dragged herself from the camp grass and entered the house. Once inside the stately old drawing-room, she drew the folded paper from her bosom, and again read it over, while tears coursed slowly down her cheeks.

Miss Phoebe had no thought of his return until she looked up and saw him pausing before the gate. As his eyes met hers she flushed over so slightly, stammered some little phrase of pleasure for his recovery and then turned toward the house.

postoffice still open in the old gate-post? "It is open now; but, oh, John!" exclaimed Miss Phoebe, burying her face in her hands, "I did not get your last letter until the day before I found you ill."

"Phoebe! Phoebe!" cried Mr. Lorton, gently drawing her hands away from her face. The tears stood in her eyes, and John thought them a gentle shower that freshened the springtime beauty of her life.

The letter was undated and read: "My Dear Phoebe—You tell me you are going away in the morning to be gone a whole month, a length of time that to me will seem a whole year. I feel that I cannot let you go away without some token. I have tried to express, not only in words, but in a thousand other ways, my consuming love for you. Now, O Phoebe, best angel of my dreams! send me a simple token before you go. Will you be my wife? A pure white rose; if I must no longer hope, then send me the blood-red rose, that I may see in it my own poor bleeding heart. Your ever devoted

"JOHN" Mr. Lorton's hand which held the letter dropped to his knee. "And, Phoebe, you sent me a red rose that evening."

"Oh, John, how could I know? It was by chance that I sent it as a token of remembrance. Then for some reason we went away that night instead of the next day, so that I never thought to look in the letter box. When I came back a month later the bluebirds had settled there, and it was only by accident that I ever received your letter, twenty-five years after it was written."

Then, in a few broken phrases, she told of how the long concealed bit of paper had been discovered, and of how, on the afternoon she found him ill, she had covered the withered petals of the red rose on his table with a fresh white one.

Without a word Miss Phoebe reached out a trembling hand to a nearly rose-bush. Plucking the flower slowly, carefully, she held it out—still without a word. Quite as silently the man closed his fingers about the symbolic blossom and about the hand that gave it. And straightway in the face of both there dawned the look of those for whom the world had suddenly turned back through twenty-five years, and for whom the bluebirds sang with all the ecstasy of long past springs.—New York News.

Advertising Not Advertising. There is advertising and advertising. That is to say, there is so-called exploitation and exploitation that is genuine. Business firms get out pamphlets, booklets, circulars, etc., and these may or may not bring good returns.

Then there are church, charity, club and other programs, year books, etc., which are filled with advertisements in name, but not in fact. The houses which advertise in these do not expect any returns; they give their ads because they fear to lose custom if they withhold them. It is a process of sandbagging which individuals suit to for lack of courage to resist it.

But business men in the several communities of the country are getting very tired of the imposition. In some places they are combining to resist it, and declare they will advertise only in legitimate newspapers, whose business it is to advertise, which seek advertisements, which protect the advertiser and which see that the would-be buyer gets the advertisement.

Newsletters make a study of the art of advertising. It constitutes the major portion of their receipts. It is to their interest to study it; it is their interest to see that the advertisement does the advertiser good. Newspaper advertising is the one sure and certain way of getting results from advertising.

Tobacco Heart. It is estimated that about twenty per cent. of the young men who recently applied to enter the Naval Academy have failed in the physical test, and the failure was largely due to the use of tobacco, resulting in the irregular beating of the heart. Nowadays physicians speak of the "tobacco heart," a trouble caused by the excessive use of the weed. When the smoker develops into a "cigarette fiend" the services of a physician are necessary, but before this point is reached the heart may be permanently injured. The trouble is often of gradual growth, and it is only when the young man is subjected to a physical examination that the extent of the disorder becomes known.

An observant Englishman, recently on a visit to the United States, said in no country in the world had he seen smoking carried to such excess as in America.—Baltimore Herald.

A Religious Enthusiast. Brother Karl of the Benedictine Order, who was recently buried at Prague, was of noble blood and had a remarkable career. As Prince Edward Schoenberg, he was handsome, dashing, and of rare promise. But at twenty-five a change came over his spirit, and one day he rode straight to the "abyss" in the parade ground, and in full uniform asked the prior for admission. The head of the order at first refused, but the prince broke his sword, threw away his epaulets and decorations and begged for a monk's habit. He afterward went to Rome, studied theology, and was ordained.

One Farmer's Method. One of the best farmers we ever knew kept a slate hanging up in the barn and on this slate made entries something like these: Weak place in the west field fence; Joe repair it at once. Take cultivator shovels to shop next time buggy goes. Repair Jack's harness and Bob's bridle first wet day. Frank, see Smith and tell him to bring log chain home. Two sows due to farrow May 16; keep sharp lookout. Bunch of red sorrel in south field near shade; for self. Wood pile must be watched; haul some first chance.

When any job like the one noted was done, the rule was to erase the memorandum about it, and the man who kept the slate told us that there was always a friendly rivalry between himself, his son and the hired man in the way of keeping the slate clean. The rule was to scan the slate whenever any one came to the barn, and

The Farm

Money in Growing Beef.

Many of the agricultural papers are urging farmers to raise beef for market, claiming that the demand exceeds the supply. This may be so to a certain extent, but there are several other conditions to be met before this industry can be made profitable to farmers generally. As a matter of fact, the farm and its adaptability has every thing to do with success. There are many farms, even in dairying sections not at all suited to raising cattle for beef, and with such a farm and a proper knowledge of the work the results would probably be successful. The question is but one of many which should be decided entirely on local conditions and by each man for himself. It is folly to generalize on some things, and this is one of them.

Look Out For This.

In several sections of the country agents are offering what they claim to be trees budded on four-year-old seedlings. If they deliver what they claim, the trees are likely to be nearly worthless, declares the Indianapolis News, for a seedling four years old is too old to bud and make a good tree. It could be grafted, of course, but even then would not be superior in any way to the regulation root-grafted trees generally sold by nurserymen. There are so many reliable nurserymen in the country that it seems incredible any one should be victimized by any such absurd claims, much less a farmer who is more or less familiar with fruit growing. Be on the safe side, and if an agent comes to you with an offer of trees grown in some manner out of the ordinary, refer the offer to your State experiment station before closing it. Nine times out of ten you will find you have saved money by doing this.

Good Milking.

Tests at the Storrs' Experiment Station show conclusively that the amount of milk given by the cows and the purity of the product both depend greatly upon the method adopted by the milker. One young man, who said he could milk, was given charge of the milking of six cows. At the end of a week the quantity given showed a shrinkage of twelve per cent. In another experiment, in which five boys, previously taught as to proper methods, were tested as milkers, four increased the flow seven, ten and five per cent., respectively. The following instructions in regard to milking are in use at the station.



A Leghorn "Egg" Machine.

The above illustration, taken from the Feather, shows a proud and precocious pullet of the true egg producing type of conformation.

Poultry Notes.

An elevated site is desirable for a poultry house. See that the poultry house is well ventilated. Leg weakness comes from high feeding and forced growth. Sprinkle the places most frequented by the fowls with slaked lime. A sole diet of corn produces too much fat when given to laying hens. Mix a little powdered charcoal with the soft feed and it will assist digestion.

With poultry, as with other products, it is a safe rule to market as soon as ready. The turkey is one of the best paying fowls the farmer can keep, when the surroundings are favorable. The egg shell is porous and any dirt on it soon affects the meat. Eggs should be cleaned as soon as gathered. The brood of fowls to select from is the one you like the best. This has a great deal to do with which is the best fowl.

The Bee Colony.

It should be as far away from public highways as possible, and, if convenient, in a quiet place, sheltered from high winds, where the bees are not likely to be interfered with by men or animals. The hives must be securely fenced off, if situated on land where cattle are accustomed to feed. They should also be not so far away as to prevent those engaged about the dwelling house from seeing when swarms are in the air. If the hives can be so placed as to afford a free bee flight toward the open country, while the beekeeper has room to work at the side or in rear of them without interfering with the flight of the bees, it is mutually advantageous to them and to the beekeeper.

One of the most reliable arguments in favor of combining agriculture with small farming lies in the fact that the beekeeper can time his work so as not to interfere unduly with the attention needed for harvesting his ordinary agricultural produce. Moreover, much valuable help can be rendered by a farmer's wife who is so disposed, and many instances are recorded in which women make most successful beekeepers.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

Care of the Soil.

A recent observation of importance to the agriculturist would seem to indicate that the enrichment of soil which is observed in forest-covered lands is not altogether due to a conservation of the moisture and the addition to the soil of needed elements by the decomposition of the fallen leaves. Of probable greater importance is the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen by dead forest leaves when these rest on a moist substratum of soil. In effect this phenomenon is similar to that which is produced by the tubercle growths on the roots of the legumes and allied plant families.

A similar observation has been made in regard to the mountain pine, which, if verified, will account for the hardness of this tree and the ease with which it maintains itself in soils that contain comparatively few nutrients. It has been found by the Danish Heather Improvement Society, which is interested in planting trees on barren sandy stretches on the western coast of Jutland, that spruce and mountain pine, when planted together in pairs, mutually help each other to thrive, the valuable nitrogen-fixing functions of the pine serving to provide nourishment for both trees. It has been repeatedly observed that where such trees are planted in proximity on barren lands, if the pine is cut down, the latter will die, or else make a sickly growth. On the contrary, if cut down until after the spruce gets a good start, the latter will make better progress than if the pine had been allowed to live.—Indianapolis News.

Forcing Fowls to Moul.

Many poultrymen have tried the so-called Van Dresser plan of forcing fowls to moult early and have met with varying degrees of success. The plan consists of placing the fowls in a run of rather limited dimensions and giving them as little food as possible, and yet sustaining life for two weeks. The writer tried the plan for the second season last year and with satisfactory results in the case of Leghorns, but only fair results with Plymouth Rocks. The plan of feeding was to scatter in the runs some small grain like wheat, mixing it with a small quantity of oil meal. The quantity was sufficient to give each fowl about the equivalent of a teaspoonful of grain, provided she got her share.

At the end of two weeks the hens were again fed liberally and on the usual variety of rations. The experiment was made in August and in four weeks most of the Leghorns had their new stock of feathers and were beginning to lay. The Plymouth Rocks dragged along for from six to ten weeks before all of them were laying again. There is enough in the plan to warrant trying it, and if the results obtained with the Leghorns could be generally brought about it would give poultrymen eggs much earlier in the fall than now.

Proper Construction of Roads.

Broken stone roads may be conveniently divided into two classes—macadam and telford. The principal difference between these two constructions is as to the propriety or necessity of a paved foundation beneath the coating of broken stone. Macadam denied the advantage of this, while Telford supported and practiced it. This point will not be argued here, but it is suggested that good judgment should be used in the selection of one or the other of these systems. Under the best conditions, while the telford is more advantageous under others. The latter system seems to have the advantage in swampy wet places, or where the soil is in strata varying in hardness, or where the foundation is liable to get soft in spots. Under most other circumstances experienced road builders prefer the macadam construction.

The earth for either system is identical. It should have the same slopes from centre to sides as the finished road, with sufficient shoulder depth to hold the stone in place at the sides.

The Ways and Means.

Thoughtfully, progressive people are earnestly discussing the ways and means by which the highways of the country may be improved. The great est obstacle to progress along this line appears to be that, under existing law and conditions, no general movement is possible. Everything depends on local effort and local initiative. What is needed is National legislation which will stimulate action in all sections and co-ordinate local effort. At present those who have given the matter most thought are in favor of a National aid law similar to the State aid law now in force in several States. Just what will be the solution of the problem cannot now be foreseen, but this much appears certain that the era of road building on a large scale is dawning, and something of importance is going to be done in the immediate future.

The Weakest Link.

As a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, just so the greatest load which can be hauled over a road is the load which can be hauled by the steepest hill on that road. The cost of haulage is, therefore, necessarily increased in proportion to the grade, as it costs one and one-half times as much to haul over a road having a five per cent. grade, and three times as much over one having a ten per cent. grade as on a level road. As a perfectly level road can seldom be had, it is well to know the steepest allowable grade. If the hill be one of great length, it is best to have the lowest part steepest, upon which the horse is capable of exerting his full strength, and to make the slope more gentle toward the summit to correspond with the continually decreasing strength of the fatigued animal.

Grades.

Good roads should wind around hills instead of running over them; and in many cases this would not increase their length, as it is no further around some hills than over them. Moreover as a general rule, the horizontal length of a road may be advantageously increased, to avoid an ascent, by at least twenty times the perpendicular height thus saved; for instance, to escape a hill 100 feet high it would be better for the road to make such a circuit as would increase its length 2000 feet. The reason for this are manifold, the principal one being that a horse can pull only four-fifths as much on a grade of two feet in 100, and gradual loss as the grade increases until with a grade of ten feet in 100 he can draw but one-fourth as much as he can on a level road.

Tobacco Ash.

It has been calculated that 8000 tons of tobacco ash is annually wasted in England. It would make an invaluable fertilizer for poor soil, considering that seventy-five per cent. consists of calcium and potassium salts, and fifteen per cent. of magnesium and sodium salts, including nearly five per cent. of the essential constituent to all plants—phosphoric acid.



GOOD ROADS

An Era of Road Building.

That the first quarter of the twentieth century will be a great era of road building in this country now seems probable. All persons who have given serious thought to the question are agreed on the following propositions: That road building in the United States has been greatly neglected; that we are far behind other civilized nations in this respect; that the general improvement of the highways throughout the country would do more to promote the welfare and happiness of the people than any other work which could be undertaken, and that the present is an auspicious time for inaugurating a national good roads campaign.

The last of these propositions is in some respects the most important because on it rests the hope that something is actually going to be done. The last quarter of the nineteenth century was the great era of railroad building, but that has now passed into history. Of course, we are still building railroads, and will continue to build them for ages, but never again on the enormous scale of the past thirty years. The necessity and the opportunity no longer exist. The energy, the enthusiasm, and the capital heretofore directed to the building of railroads is now seeking other channels, one of which is the building of improved highways.

Another reason for believing that the time is ripe for a great popular uprising for good roads arises from the extension of the rural free mail delivery. This is rightly looked upon as one of the most beneficent developments of modern civilization. In fact, the people have scarcely begun to realize the extent of its benefits.

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Confidence in Commerce.

Confidence in commerce in continuation of trade has been so settled by sensational even wheat market and the lack of it between labor and capital. It coming evident that estimates whether agricultural news is much better than usual. In so far as the purchasing power of the farmer is concerned, prices have risen so sharply that an loss in quantity promises to be made up, but this obvious fact is not appreciated by those dealers who are making less preparation for future trade. Some disappointment is also felt by those who counted upon an early resumption of activity in building operations in other industries hampered by labor controversies. Otherwise, news of the week has contained much of an encouraging nature.

In several manufacturing lines there is less idle machinery, and visiting retail buyers have stimulated jobbing trade especially in dry goods and kindred lines. Railway earnings thus far reported for the first week of August show small gain of 1.4 per cent., as compared with last year's figures, whereas recent preceding weeks showed more or less loss in comparison with 1903.

Bradstreet's reports as follows: Wheat, including flour, exports for the week ending August 18 aggregate 1,703,047 bushels, against 1,281,399 last week, 3,372,789 this week last year, 5,954,759 in 1902, and 6,066,989 in 1901. From July 1 to date the exports aggregate 9,549,818 bushels, against 21,833,233 last year, 31,340,767 in 1902, and 28,153,895 in 1901. Corn exports for the week aggregate 520,362 bushels, 522,900 last week, 51,649 in 1902, and 523,883 in 1901. From July 1 to date the exports of corn aggregate 3,799,473 bushels, against 7,458,075 in 1903, 639,409 bushels in 1902, and 8,257,103 in 1901.

WHOLESALE MARKETS.

New York—FLOUR—Receipts, 12,825 barrels; exports, 14,526 barrels. Dull in view of high prices; winter patents, 5.20@5.50; winter straights, 4.90@5.25; Minnesota patents, 6.00@6.35. RYE FLOUR—Strong; fair to good 4.25@4.50. BEEF—Steady; beefhams, 24.00@25.50. COTTONSEED OIL—Barely steady; prime yellow, 28.1/2@28.5/2. POTATOES—Easy; Long Island, 1.50@1.62; Jersey and Southern, 1.37@1.50; Southern sweets, 2.00@2.75. PEANUTS—Steady; fancy hand picked, 6.1/2; other domestic, 3.60@4.00. CABAGES—Quiet; Long Island and New Jersey, per 100, 1.80@2.50; per barrel, 25@50. BALTIMORE—FLOUR—Firm and unchanged; receipts, 5,746 bushels; exports, 7,308 bushels. WHEAT—Strong; spot contract, 1.07 1/2@1.07 3/4; spot No. 2 red Western, 1.09 1/2@1.09 3/4; August, 1.07 1/2@1.07 3/4; September, 1.07 3/4@1.08; October, 1.08@1.09 1/4; December, 1.11 1/2; steamer No. 2 red, 1.00 1/2@1.00 3/4; receipts, 25,683 bushels; exports, 16,040 bushels; Southern, by sample, 70@1.00; Southern, on grade, 94@1.05. CORN—Dull; spot, 57 1/2@57 3/4; August, 57 1/2@57 3/4; September, 58; year, 53@53 1/2; steamer mixed, 54 1/2@54 3/4; receipts, 643 bushels; Southern white corn, 63 1/2@66; Southern yellow corn, 63@66 1/2. OATS—Steady; new No. 2 white, 38 1/2@39 1/2; new No. 2 mixed, 36 1/2; receipts, 19,826 bushels. RYE—Firm (upturn); No. 2 Western, 78; receipts, 2,492. BUTTER—Strong and unchanged; fancy imitation, 17@18; fancy creamery, 19@20; fancy ladle, 14@15; store packed, 10@12. EGGS—Steady and unchanged; 20 CHEESE—Strong and unchanged; large, 9@9 1/2; medium, 9 1/2@9 3/4, small, 9 1/2@9 3/4. Live Stock. New York—BEEVES—Good and medium steers slow to 15c. lower; common to choice, 12c. lower; bulls and cows easy; common to choice steers, 4.05@4.00; oxen, 4.55@4.75; bulls, 2.70@4.25; cows, 1.60@3.40. Cattle steady. Live cattle 10 1/2@12 per pound, dressed weight; refrigerated beef, 10 1/2@11 per pound. CALVES—Steady; veals, 5.00@7.25; tops, 8.00; culls, 4.50; buttermilks, 3.75; No. 1 York, 5.00@5.25; No. 2, 4.75@5.00; city dressed veals, 8@12 per pound; country dressed, 7 1/2@10 1/2; dressed grassers and buttermilks, 5@7. SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 2,200 head. Sheep steady; prime lambs, 10@15c. higher; others steady; sheep, 2.50@4.00; lambs, 2.50@3.00; culls, 4.00@4.50. HOGS—Firm; heavy State hogs, 5.80. Chicago—CATTLE—Good to prime steers, 5.25@6.10; poor to medium, 4.25@5.15; stockers and feeders, 2.00@4.00; cows, 1.50@2.25; heifers, 2.00@5.00; canners, 1.50@2.60; bulls, 2.00@4.00; calves, 3.00@4.25. HOGS—Market low. Mixed and butchers, 5.25@5.50; good to choice heavy, 5.20@5.45; rough heavy, 5.00@5.20; light, 5.40@5.60; bulk of sales, 5.25@5.40. SHEEP—Good to choice wethers, 1.75@2.10; fair to choice mixed, 3.00@4.00. WORLD OF LABOR. The only cotton mill in the South that employed negro labor has failed. The average pay a month for men teachers last year in Kansas was \$43 and for women \$35. France has waterfalls which would give 5,000,000 horsepower, and save the country 20,000,000 tons of coal. United States Labor Commissioner Wright is quoted as saying he does not expect a coal miners' strike. Charles M. Schwab is out with the opinion that steelmakers in the United States are the best in the world. An amicable arrangement, it is said, will be affected between the locomotive works management in Kingston, Can., and the striking machinists, and the latter will be taken back. An active campaign for the reorganization of job pressmen and feeders is to be inaugurated in Detroit, Mich. Union laborers at Birmingham, Ala., secure \$2 a day, while the non-union men get \$1.50 a day. Mill Employers' Union, No. 68, of Jackson, Mo., secured a raise of 15 cents a day for its members. The union demanded 40 cents, but compromised on the above rate. There are 52 unions in New England affiliated with the Hotel and Restaurant Bartenders' International Union, and the total New England membership is 10,000.