

A COLUMN FOR FARMERS.

SOMETHING ABOUT RAISING VALERIAN ON THE FARM.

It is Proving a Profitable Crop to Several Farmers at Hancock, Vermont. What Two of Them Have to Say About the Labor and Profits of the Business—A Clay-Loam Soil.

In collecting the notes on "The Cash Crops" which were printed some weeks ago, the "Rural New Yorker" learned from E. A. Fassett, a subscriber at Hancock, Vt., that farmers in that neighborhood found considerable profit in producing valerian root.

Valerian root is quite largely used in medicine as an antispasmodic. It is impossible to get at the exact amount imported or used in this country. McKesson & Robbins, wholesale druggists of New York city, estimate the imports of valerian at \$5,000,000 yearly.

E. A. Fassett says, "This question was asked me last fall: Why don't we see anything in agricultural papers about valerian?" The question was asked by a farmer who had raised valerian for thirty years.



crops often couldn't write about them if they tried.

Valerian culture was first introduced in this section by Dr. William Huntington of Rochester, Vt., about thirty years ago. He has been a dealer in valerian in this section ever since.

After it has been once started, there is no expense in raising it. As roots are left in the ground for seed, one doesn't have to buy any in the spring, and it doesn't cost anything to winter it.

After the ground has been thoroughly prepared, it is furrowed out two feet apart. The roots are plowed out of the ground, where they were left the fall before, and separated by cutting the clusters of roots apart.

Mr. C. Dowell, also of Hancock, Vt., says: "I have grown valerian twenty-four years; my best crop was 2,100 pounds, and the poorest 100 pounds. I like a clay loam, with plenty of good rotten barnyard manure.

Children's sayings. Little two-year-old Maud had been out to see the chickens fed. Entering the house, she approached her mother with one little hand extended and tightly closed.

On another occasion Maud was anxious to be taken out for a walk. Her mother lied on her hood, saying, "Now, don't go too far, darling!" "No, mamma, we won't go far; we'll do one far, and detum back," replied Maud.

Iron ore is produced in twenty-nine counties in the State of Wales, twelve counties in Scotland, and in one of the provinces of Ireland.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

THE RAMBLE IN THE WOODS.

"You took a walk in the woods, little dear,—Pray tell me, what did you see?" "I saw a bluejay up in a tree. That winked its head-like eyes at me; I saw a squirrel with bushy tail, A wild pink rose, and a lilly pale.

"You took a walk in the woods, little dear,—Pray tell me, what did you hear?" "The caw of a crow that was lurking near. The hoot of an owl, dismal and drear. The sharp, quizzing croak of a hunter's gun. The noisy thrush dashing swiftly on. I heard the wind as it whistled by. The song of a thrush in the bearded rye. And the whirr-poor-will's sorrowful cry. The murmur of leaves by the zephyrus stirr—I cannot tell you all that I heard!"

"You took a walk in the woods, little dear,—Pray tell me, what did you get?" "I saw a bluejay up in a tree, Violets, that have their fragrance dew. Pine cones, calamus flags and acorn cups. Sassafras bark and bosch-tree nuts. Maple leaves, with their silvery gloss. And the corn, just as sweet as dew. Ferns, and grasses, and red-dotted moss—What did I get? Why just lox and seed! I'm sure you'll wish you had been with me!" — Frank H. Stauffer, in Youth's Companion.

TWO LITTLE WHITE CHICKENS.

Two such pretty little white chickens! They belonged to Neddly and Floy, and their names were Fido and Fido.

"They're all the hen's got," said she, putting one in Neddly's crooked apron; and I can't have her scratch my round with them all summer and no laying an egg. So you're welcome to 'em, dearies. Take good care of 'em—they're real Leghorns.

Neddly and Floy were very sure they would take good care of the little, fluffy, white things, though they hadn't the least idea what a "real Leghorn" was.

"Chickens ain't hats," answered Neddly, with a sniff; "they're worth a good deal more—chickens are."

"Floy didn't know about that, because she did know that Aunt Clara's hat cost a good many dollars.

"As much as fifteen or ten," said she, with a little sniff to match Neddly's; "and chickens don't cost as much as that."

"But they're worth more," said Neddly; "because they lay eggs, and hats won't. I'll tell you, Floy, let's buy a sewing-machine for Aunt Chatty with the eggs our 'ay, first thing."

"Yes," chimed Floy, eagerly, "and then we'll buy a goat-carriage to harness Fido in."

They were opposite Col. Bell's big house just at that minute, and down across the lawn rushed a tiny, white dog, barking and snapping.

Maybe Floy was a wee bit frightened and dropped one corner of her apron.

At any rate, she tumbled the little downy chick-n; and the little dog snapped at it and caught it, and tossed it on the ground quite dead.

And that was not all that happened; for Neddly, who had sprung to the rescue, dropped his own white chicken, and in an instant the dog had shaken that, and was lying by the side of the other.

Then Floy and Neddly began to cry, not softly, but with a perfect storm of tears and reproaches, which very soon brought the little dog's mistress to see what the trouble was.

She was a very pretty lady, with a sweeping white dress and smooth brown hair, and a soft voice.

"O general, you naughty boy!" she cried to the little dog, who really hung his head and looked very sorry, though Neddly and Floy didn't believe he was "those poor little chickens! Can't you get some more, children?"

"No'm," said Neddly. "Aunt Chatty's hen only had two."

"They—they were real leghookers," said Floy, sorrowfully dabbing her eyes with her checked apron. "Aunt Chatty said so."

"Leghookers!" said Neddly, sharply. The lady laughed—a soft, sweet laugh that didn't hurt Floy's feelings a bit.

"Never mind," said she. "Horns are hookers sometimes." And Floy took courage.

"We were going to buy Aunt Chatty a sewing machine with the first eggs they laid," said she, "because she's poor."

"And then a goat-cart," said Neddly. "But we can't now, because they won't lay any."

"Naughty General!" said the lady, trying hard not to laugh.

Somehow she didn't feel like laughing, as she watched the sorrowful little dog trudging off down the street with their dead pets in their checked aprons; and as she turned away to go back into the house, she boxed General's silky ears soundly, and sent him to bed in disgrace.

And the next day she really did order her carriage and drove into the city, where she bought a very nice sewing machine, which she sent by express to Aunt Chatty, and she bought the very prettiest little carriage that could be found to harness Fido into; because it happened she had a great deal of money, and it also happened, which is not so common, that she liked better than almost anything else to make people happy.

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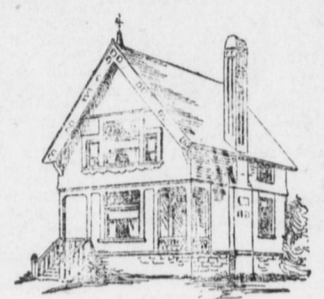
A little girl who had been to the circus for the first time in her life greatly amused the family on her return by telling them she "saw the elephant eat with its front tail."

THE HOUSES WE LIVE IN.

POINTS FROM ARCHITECTS AND HOME-MAKERS GENERALLY.

Some Valuable Information About the Seasoning of Timber—A Pretty and Convenient Cottage That Can Be Built For Less Than \$1,000—How to Test the Purity of the Water Supply.

The seasoning of timber is a matter of interest to every builder and home-maker. Hence we present the results obtained by experiment under the direction of Superintendent G. W. Rhodes, of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad. The experiments were to determine (1) the time that outdoor seasoning begins and ends, as indicated by the moisture; (2) to ascertain whether the wood will again take back moisture during the wet seasons of the fall and spring; (3) effects of size of wood; and (4) whether one season is sufficient to season wood. The wood used varied from 8x9-2 inches to 2-1-2x5 inches, and the length from 7 feet to 30 feet, the species being oak, a-h, white wood, elm, hard pine and soft pine. The results were published in Bulletin No. 3, Forestry division, department of agriculture. The timber was freshly cut, and

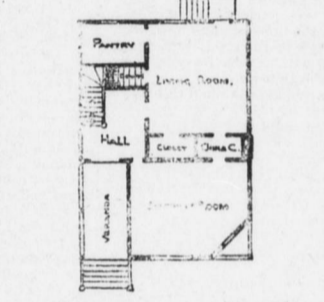


COTTAGE FOR \$1,000.

on December 29, 1886, was piled in a roofed shed, so that no rain could reach it. The conclusions arrived at are as follows:

Outdoor seasoning depends a great deal on the character of the weather during the year, that is, as to an early or late spring or fall, hot or cold summer months, or severe winter, etc., but during the experiments it may be considered to have been average Illinois weather.

The result of this series of experiments shows that the month during which the seasoning begins varies with the kind of wood



FIRST FLOOR OF COTTAGE.

1. That for oak the season commences in March or April, with pine the exact month cannot be decided, as they were not placed under observation until late (April), but all test pieces showed a loss of moisture within a fortnight after being exposed.

Ash and white wood commenced to lose moisture in April and elm immediately on being exposed in January.

No law can be deduced from the experiments as to the exact time that seasoning ends, as the wood is all var, but as a general rule it may be stated that in all woods, except perhaps elm, seasoning virtually ends with the end of the summer months.

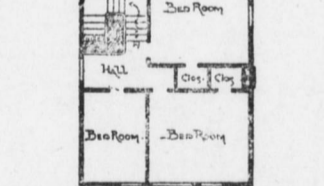
2. All woods take up moisture in slight amounts during wet weather of the fall and winter months.

3. Fine of small dimensions, such as one-inch flooring "M," will absorb moisture during the wet months. Other woods of small dimensions were not experimented with.

4. As shown by these experiments, one season of average weather is generally sufficient to season wood for purposes of construction.

A cheap cottage that will meet every demand that can be expected of such a structure is shown herewith. It can be built for \$1,000, including cost of ground at about \$200.

I should be observed that on both floors the size of the rooms make them more desirable than such structures usually boast. Many examples of this type have been built in the suburbs of all the large cities this year.



SECOND FLOOR OF COTTAGE.

The growing popular knowledge of invisible impurities and the deepening impression upon the minds of people, the necessity of a pure water supply, have caused a demand for a simple and convenient test. As yet there is no certain and reliable test by chemical analysis. The following tests are recommended:

1. Fill a perfectly clean quart bottle half full of water, cork and shake it; remove the cork and see if any odor can be detected at the mouth of the bottle. Cork the bottle again and put into a warm place for a few hours, or set into a pan of hot water for an hour. Shake, uncork, and again test by smell. If an unpleasant or faint or musty odor is perceptible, the water requires more minute investigation.

The second simple test is to evaporate a quart of water to dryness in a new tin pail or cup, and note the character of the residue, and what happens when it is strongly heated in a metal spoon. If the sediment left after evaporation is small, and on being poured in a metal spoon gives rise only to such an odor as comes from burning vegetable matter, the water is not grossly contaminated with sewage. But the sediment is in considerable quantity, dark in color and burns (leaving of the peculiar odor of burning) hair or other animal matter, then the water is foul.

A CHEAP AND TASTY HOME.

A House for Less Than \$1,000, With Furnace for Heating.

Any architect can furnish plans and specifications from which the house here shown can be built for from \$500 to \$800, and be heated by a furnace. Every good builder will contract for a completed house at those prices.

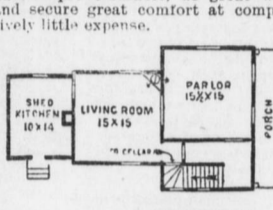
Instead of making the corner square where the partition divides the parlor from the middle room, make it octagonal, if heated by a furnace, by nailing coarse woven wire to the studs to plaster on, leaving space behind to run up a ten-



THE FINISHED HOUSE.

inch round tin hot air flue, with asbestos for safety and to retain heat. In the corner, over a twelve-inch hole in the floor, nail a triangular piece of sheet-iron, with a ten-inch hole in it, for the hot air pipe, and several small holes for the circulation of air, to insure safety and keep the pipes cool.

No one will object to the octagonal corner after seeing one tastefully decorated and remembering it affords the round hot-air flue, which enables a small furnace to prove durable, do great work, and secure great comfort at comparatively little expense.



THE THREE FLOORS.

The ten-inch pipe should have a damper in it, and be contracted to eight inches in diameter just above the parlor, and middle room registers, and run up this size to the second floor, and stop just above the registers. A tin partition should divide the flue between the registers, both upstairs and downstairs.

Twelve-inch pipe reduced to nine inches adds but little to the cost when large rooms make more heat or a larger furnace desirable. The builder should use woven wire over the hot air flue to plaster on instead of wooden lath.

It adds safety to wrap the hot air flue with asbestos paper, and it is no disadvantage to add a trifle to the cost given and expose wood work with tin or asbestos paper.

A dainty corner closet is cheap, and finishes the upper room nicely.

A New Opera House.

The Harlem opera house, which has been in course of construction since last September, is nearly completed. The theater is one of the largest in the city. The decorations will be in blue and gold—the ground blue, while the fresco work will be old gold. The orchestra chairs are twenty-two inches wide. There are eighteen private boxes, finished in Moorish designs, and upholstered in blue plush. Over the stage there is a iron sounding cove extending out beyond the boxes.

All of the exposed woodwork of the building is covered with sheetrock to guard against fire. The stage appliances are of the most improved kind, and the stage, one of the largest in the city, is 90 feet high, 50 feet deep, 80 feet wide, with opening of 45 feet. The building will be lighted throughout with incandescent rose lamps. The means of ventilation are of the most approved pattern. The air in warm weather will be led by passing through a

ice house built for the purpose, then drawn through flues to the roof of the building, where it descends and is drawn out through openings near the floor. The lobby is finished with marble and mirrors. The large mirror ever placed in a theater will occupy one end of the lobby. The house will hold 1,800 people.

Higher Than Eiffel's Tower.

According to "Building" Charles Kinkel of Washington is preparing a plan for a tower which shall out-Eiffel Eiffel and stand 1,500 feet high when the coping-stone is laid on. He is preparing his plans with an idea to locate it at the world's fair in New York, and he has submitted the idea to the mayor of the city. Chicago architects have discussed a somewhat similar plan in connection with their wish to have the great fair in their city.

"We could build a tower," said one architect, "that would be bigger than the Paris affair, but what would it prove? We go into any scheme of that sort we must have something distinctly American, say a tremendous log house that could accommodate all our visitors or a corn palace; or, what would be really a worthy idea, a thoroughly well-worked-out duplication of the architectural advance of the world from the Egyptian obelisk to our own, and including all the intermediate steps. Mere cleverness is not a worthy ambition. Our architecture should show how thoroughly our architects have grasped the whole history of their art."

Cool Upper Stories in Summer.

The most effective plan of keeping upper stories under slated roofs cool in summer is to lay felt on boarding and then batten the latter to the slates, and the felt is more likely to last than when it is placed close to the slates. If this is to be no ceiling, one can be placed at trifling expense by suspending shabby fibrous plaster from the rafters or the beams if there are any. A circulation of air should be kept up in this space by apertures made in the outer walls, or better still, by a tube carried up above the ridge, upon which an exhaust or a pump ventilator can be fixed, but with the heated air can be drawn out.

Many private houses have rooms in rear, quite unusable for sleeping, owing to living in during the summer months. The heat of the lower room, associated with the heat from the sun, is on the one hand, renders the stories unusable for storage purposes—E change



A PHYSICIAN'S LETTER.

"GENTLEMEN:—I am glad to write you my opinion of 'IVORY SOAP' and have long intended doing so. It has become a household necessity with us.

If there is an unusually obstinate spot on the clothing, on the door-plate or surgical instruments, a cleansing and harmless preparation for the teeth, and a very superior toilet soap needed, we resort to 'IVORY.'

We buy it by the box, remove the wrappers, and allow the soap to thoroughly ripen.

Now, if I had saved fifteen wrappers I would ask you to send my little girl a drawing book in accordance with your offer in the Youth's Companion; but as it is, we all feel under obligation to you for manufacturing 'IVORY SOAP' for us.

We do not hesitate to recommend it unqualifiedly to all our friends. It is one of the few articles that will do what it is advertised to do."

A WORD OF WARNING.

There are many white soaps, each represented to be "just as good as the 'Ivory';" they ARE NOT, but like all counterfeits, lack the peculiar and remarkable qualities of the genuine. Ask for "Ivory" Soap and insist upon getting it.

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Rosenbaum & Co.

Nos. 510, 512, 514 Market St., and 27 Fifth Ave. PITTSBURGH.

The Leading Millinery

FURNISHING GOODS HOUSE

Offer the following line of

WINTER and SUMMER GOODS

AT THE LOWEST PRICES IN THE CITY:

Men's and Children's Straw Hats, Boys' Drapery Suits, with Fringes and Children's Trimmings, Ladies' and Gents' Underwear, and Children's Wraps and Hats, Men's Shirts, Woolen shirts, at all prices.

Children's Corsets of all styles, over 80 styles, including the guaranteed and best makes, from \$1.00 to \$5.00 a pair.

Men's and Children's, 600 styles, at low prices, such as \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.00, \$5.50, \$6.00, \$6.50, \$7.00, \$7.50, \$8.00, \$8.50, \$9.00, \$9.50, \$10.00, \$10.50, \$11.00, \$11.50, \$12.00, \$12.50, \$13.00, \$13.50, \$14.00, \$14.50, \$15.00, \$15.50, \$16.00, \$16.50, \$17.00, \$17.50, \$18.00, \$18.50, \$19.00, \$19.50, \$20.00, \$20.50, \$21.00, \$21.50, \$22.00, \$22.50, \$23.00, \$23.50, \$24.00, \$24.50, \$25.00, \$25.50, \$26.00, \$26.50, \$27.00, \$27.50, \$28.00, \$28.50, \$29.00, \$29.50, \$30.00, \$30.50, \$31.00, \$31.50, \$32.00, \$32.50, \$33.00, \$33.50, \$34.00, \$34.50, \$35.00, \$35.50, \$36.00, \$36.50, \$37.00, \$37.50, \$38.00, \$38.50, \$39.00, \$39.50, \$40.00, \$40.50, \$41.00, \$41.50, \$42.00, \$42.50, \$43.00, \$43.50, \$44.00, \$44.50, \$45.00, \$45.50, \$46.00, \$46.50, \$47.00, \$47.50, \$48.00, \$48.50, \$49.00, \$49.50, \$50.00, \$50.50, \$51.00, \$51.50, \$52.00, \$52.50, \$53.00, \$53.50, 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