



A Valuable Hog.

James H. Trask, a progressive farmer of the town of Sictry, is the owner of what is perhaps the best breeding sow in Kennebec county in size of litters farrowed. The animal is a White Chester, and she recently gave birth to a litter of 18 pigs. This is the same animal which last fall farrowed 15 pigs, 12 of which Mr. Trask sold for \$3 each, or \$36. If any farmer in the state can beat that record he is yet to be heard from.—Maine Farmer.

Farming a Profitable Business.

That farming is really a learned profession, one which requires good natural ability and that ability well educated, is shown by the following from the Century:

"The character of farming is changing rapidly. It is coming more and more to be an efficient, profitable and attractive business. With here and there an exception, in the past we have not given much conservative thought to the business—nothing like as much as the merchant gives to his business or the doctor to his. It has been so 'easy' a business that untrained men could succeed in it. The change in economic and social conditions is breaking up the tradition, and the old methods must go. In the future only the well informed and efficient-thinking men can succeed; that is, only the educated man."

Wilted Hay Best.

Redtop and alfalfa I consider more profitable than timothy for any kind of stock. Timothy hay I find a poor feed as compared to other kinds mentioned. I prefer to cut mixed redtop hay when the seed has been perfectly formed.

I like to have hay thoroughly wilted, but with no water left on it, about as we used to think it would be when half cured. For clover hay I have not yet come to a conclusion to my own satisfaction just how it should be dried. The modern method of merely wilting the hay is much superior to the old plan of drying the life out of it. It is practicable. It certainly is better to use canvas hay caps over the mounds. These caps should not rest directly on the hay but should be lifted slightly for air circulation.—L. A. Newell, in the American Cultivator.

Marketing Lambs.

In my experience of ten years I find that from the first of July to the middle of August is the best and most profitable time for marketing lambs, everything considered. Sell them at the age of four or five months. The price is from six to seven cents a pound. This is money made quickly and with but little risk. The ewes are left in a better condition than when the lambs are sold later. Some think that earlier lambs pay better, but I do not. From the first of April to the middle is the best time for them to come. Then one soon has grass and warm weather, and the lambs will thrive and be as large as those two months older. Do not dock them. Give them the best care. If sold older, they will, of course, be larger, but the price will be less, and then there is the risk of dogs, wolves and disease. One more objection to early lambs is the ticks. They do not do well on this account, and it is too cold to dip them.—The Farmer's Guide.

Helping Chicks Out of Shells.

I wish to tell the readers of the Agricultural Epitome how I help out the chicks that cannot get out of the shell owing to the tough coating over the head. The remedy is very simple. Have a small bottle of olive oil, pour a drop or two on the opening. Spread the oil around the shell with the finger; tenderly remove a little of the shell and so on until the shell is off over the chick's head, pour in a few drops of oil around the cavity between the chick and the shell, put the chick under the hen twelve hours, and he will be as spry and active as those that got out of the shell themselves. If you take the chick out of the shell without using oil you break an artery and it bleeds to death; the oil is a tonic. I have no experience in using an incubator, but having used this simple remedy for years under hens with the best results I am of the opinion that the hatch would be greatly increased in incubators.—E. R. Drake, in the Epitome.

Whips for Horses.

The Maine Farmer recently contained an item about the use of whips, which is very good on the whole, yet it is also true that there are cases where a whip is necessary. For example years ago a friend told us of a man who went to a mill with a team of spirited horses for which he needed no whip. While at the mill the team became frightened and began to back. If he had had a good whip and given them a sharp cut with it they would have started the other way, they might have run away and broken up the wagon; but that would have been better than to end as it did, for they backed into the mill pond and were both drowned. Again there are some very lazy horses which need a whip to get any travel out of them. Still we

will agree that too many whips have been, and are still used.

The following is the article: "A dealer in whips says there is a great change as to the number of whips that are now sold to drivers in proportion to the number of people.

"I should think not half so many are used as were used, say, twenty-five years ago. Many owners of horses now never carry a whip. I know men in this country who always have horses and who never strike them. Many people hold that if a horse is properly reared from colthood up it will never need a whip. What are called the bad traits of a horse are usually the fault of the people who have handled them. Some bad traits are hereditary, but they trace back to bad management of the ancestry. The more good sense a man has, the less punishment his team will need. It is practically all a matter of good common sense."

Deep Cultivation of Corn.

While some still persist in plowing corn deep from start to finish, no matter what the season may be, and have no patience with any other method, those who study experiment station reports, know that shallow culture, after the roots have spread between the rows, almost invariably gives better results than deep cultivation, which breaks the fibrous roots and leaves them hanging in bunches on the cultivator shanks. I am satisfied that in dry weather corn may be injured to the extent of several bushels per acre by plowing too deep and too close to the plants when laying by. I have damaged the crop this way myself, as shown by adjoining acres worked in a more intelligent manner. In a wet season, however, root pruning is not so injurious, and weed growth during the time that cultivation is delayed by wet weather may render deep plowing and some ridging of the ground necessary in order to get ahead of the weeds.

It is nearly always the front shovels that do the main damage by tearing the roots, and in no case do I let them run deep at the last working, but draw the points well forward, so they will cut to their full width with the points not more than two inches below the surface. I depend largely upon the front shovels at the last working, turning them deeper than the front ones and turning them so they will throw the soil slightly toward the row; then set the gage well apart and keep away from the plants. The shovels should be sharp-pointed, to make a clean cut and penetrate husks, etc., readily, but long, narrow, needle points I dislike; for unless set flat to do the best work on top, the extra inch or two of the point only increases draft and root pruning uselessly, and should be avoided, particularly in dry weather. The time to go to the bottom of things in the corn field is when the ground is being fitted for the crop, and if necessary, at the first plowing, before the roots spread too much.—F. D. Coburn, in the Progressive Farmer.

PUT BAN ON STRAWBERRIES.

Sours Tempers of Those Eating Them, Especially, Says Hygienists.

Hygienists who delight in raising alarms against popular foods are now tilting against strawberries. These are accused of having a bad effect upon the tempers of their eaters, who, it is alleged, become sulky and irritable after eating them. A hygienist is quoted as saying that women are particularly susceptible in this respect. Some of them will eat a pound or more of strawberries at a time, and then become so morose that people are glad to avoid them. The fact is, they are physically ill without knowing it. They are suffering from the strawberries' disease, the symptoms of which are slight dizziness, a desire to be alone, and intolerance of being questioned.

The strawberries which have the worst effect are the large mushy ones. The small kinds, with seeds on the surface, are usually harmless. The trouble is ascribed to the strawberry acids, which cream does not mollify. Indeed, the fruit is more wholesome without cream or sugar, and nobody should eat more than a dozen at a time.

Eustace Miles, the tennis player, as a vegetarian dietist, confirms the danger to some persons from strawberries. He says they contain three acids, phosphoric, sulphuric and silicic. He believes that the last named causes the trouble. In addition to irritability sufferers have strawberry rash and strawberry headache.—London correspondence of the New York Commercial.

Her Bread.

"Mean thing!" exclaimed Mrs. New-liver. "It's just brutal of you to call it 'this stuff.' You said you'd be glad if I baked my own bread."

"Yes, dear," replied the great brute, "but I didn't say I wanted you to bake mine."—Philadelphia Press.

According to a statement issued by the London board of trade, the United Kingdom during March showed increases of \$22,385,500 in imports and \$15,359,500 in exports.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

A chain of circumstances generally has a weak link.

A poor excuse is better than none, provided it works.

You can kill time, but it will come back and haunt you.

A girl may wear fast colors without being that kind of girl.

It takes two to make a quarrel, and generally both are wrong.

He laughs best who realizes that the laugh is on somebody else.

It is hard for the man with a grievance to stick to the truth.

He who realizes his own weakness thereby adds to his strength.

Tomorrow is an uncertainty, and even today isn't a sure thing.

Many a man dines at expensive places merely to feed his vanity.

If the devil is the father of lies, he must have a mighty big family.

The world blackens the characters of some men and whitewashes others.

There is quite a difference between getting on top and being laid on the shelf.

The Mongolians are not the only people who have a streak of yellow in them.

He who banks on luck should hire some other fellow to take his risks for him.

After a girl reaches a certain age she doesn't like it if you don't remember her birthday, and she doesn't like it if you do.—From "The Gentle Cynic" in the New York Times.

SMITHS DOMINATE SOCIETY.

Social Register Locator Reveals Their High Social Position.

Society is led throughout the country, North, South, East and West, by the ancient and honorable family of Smith, as is shown by the Social Register Locator.

This volume is a compendium of the names of persons of social prominence in twenty American cities and has been prepared with painstaking care. It consists of an alphabetical arrangement of 84,599 names, together with the cities where the persons reside. This furnishes a clew to many sources of information concerning those whose doings are of interest to society in the principal cities of the United States.

Of the Smiths there are found to be 536 all told, while the Browns, who number 346, come next in preference. The Joneses number 262, while the Robinsons have 178 on the roll of the select elect, to quote Miss Carolyn Wells. The numerically predominant names in New York are as follows: Smith, 163; Brown, 137; White, 86; Morgan, 84; Clark, 81; Robinson, 81; Taylor, 80, and Miller, 68. Boston has only five Smiths and sixteen Browns, but the Hub has twenty-two Williamses, forty-four Peabodys and forty-four Coolidges.

New York has the most Smiths and forty percent of the Browns, while Baltimore is a close second in the possession of the clan of Brown. The Smiths predominate in Philadelphia, with a battalion of 123, although the Biddle family, which is so much a part of the City of Brotherly Love, has seventy-two members. The Joneses are to be found everywhere, except in Providence and Oakland. Oakland has nobody at all in society named Jackson. Baltimore is entitled to have the most Jenkinsses present at any large social function. In Chicago the Walkers follow the Smiths in preference, while in Providence the name Aldrich is the open sesame to society. Pittsburg has the most Laughlins. The Smiths are at the fore in St. Louis and St. Paul, and in Minneapolis the question of prestige is a tie among the Washburns, Winstons and Woodworths.

Summaries of the names which recur in the various cities reveal some interesting facts culled from this American Almanac de Gotha. There are 149 of the family of Adams in 15 cities, while the 94 Alexanders are distributed through 17 cities. There are 31 Amorys, and Boston society has them all. Of the Biddle family, besides the 72 in Philadelphia which have been mentioned, there are six in New York and in Washington, but they are really part of the parent stock which flourishes in the city of Penn.

Five cities only have Appletons, of whom there are 21 in Boston, 17 in New York, two in Philadelphia, two in St. Paul, and one in Baltimore. All of the family of Auchincloss, to the number of 17, have not wandered away from New York. Of the 35 Cabots 22 reside in Boston. The 213 of the house of Davis are scattered through 18 cities, and they are the most numerous in Washington. Nearly every city, or nineteen of the score, have some of the 163 Kings.

Strange differentiations in the spelling of names appear throughout the volume. There are 239 of the family of Clarke, and ninety-nine of the name without the terminal "e." Five ways are offered for the spelling of what is in effect the same name as is seen in such titles as Beal, Beale, Beales, Beall and Bealls. It is shown in the tables that there are forty Reads, seventy-one Reeds and thirty-one Reids. There are fifty-five who bear the name of Robbins and thirty-five who leave out one "b" and pronounce their name the same way. Forty-two are called Sturgis and thirty-two Sturges.—New York Herald.

Canada is now making serious drafts for power on Niagara Falls.



Subject: "The Opportunities and Abilities of the Church."

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Preaching at the Irving Square Presbyterian Church, Weirfield street and Hamburg avenue, on the above theme, the Rev. Ira Wemphill Henderson, pastor, took as his texts Jno. 4:35 and Mat. 28:20. He said:

It was Theodore Roosevelt who said, "The one thing supremely worth having is the opportunity coupled with the capacity to do a thing worthily and well, the doing of which in its vital importance touches the welfare of all human kind."

Opportunity and ability—that is to say, the chance and the capacity to do. All true success is a combination of these two elements in human life. Failure is a lack of either or both. Without opportunity the man of capacity, of ability, of real worth is handicapped in the race of life. To be without the chance to do is to be doomed to failure, whatever may be our capacities or abilities for accomplishment. Contrariwise lack of ability shears opportunity of value. The mute, inglorious Milton of whom the bard so sweetly sang, was, and is to-day a man of power, of capacity, of ability, lacking in opportunity. Not otherwise many a man has had opportunity standing at the door of his life, beckoning to success who has shorn that opportunity of its value because he has had no ability, because he has been unable to accept the chance that was presented to his view. If there is a sadder thing than a man of genius lacking in opportunity, it is chance awaiting the acceptance of incompetency. Ability needs opportunity in order to be exercised and the presentation of the powers of the human soul. Likewise opportunity is valueless without corresponding and sufficient ability.

As with the world so with the church of the living God. The church has ability beyond any force that works for righteousness and for God in the world to-day. But if the church has no opportunity for the exercise of her divinely granted capabilities for the uplift and the regeneration of the world her capacities are valueless. On the other hand, whatever the opportunities of the church may be, save as she has the ability to do the work that God has given her to accomplish her opportunities are void.

The opportunities and abilities of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us look for a moment at her opportunities. There are to be found to-day conditions that are at the first glance diametrically opposed that afford an opportunity for the church of the living God. The opportunity of the church is to be found in the lives of the leaders of the church and in the lives of the people. The church, as has been revealed in the recent and horrifying disclosures in our political and financial and industrial affairs. Another opportunity of the church is to be found in the imperfect acknowledgment upon the part of men in all walks of life of their accountability to God and to the living Christ. A further opportunity of the church is to be realized in the present distrust in the finality of materialism as a method of life and progress which is increasingly common in all grades of society and among all classes and conditions of men. We are growing to know that money in itself is of little value. We are maturing into a comprehension of the truth that wealth without character is a condemnation of its possessor. We are learning to grasp the fact that the things that are temporary are really transient; that the spiritual realm in the universe of God affords the greatest satisfaction to the soul, is most of account, lays hold upon eternity. Opportunity for the Christian church is to be found in that comprehension of the value of the spiritual that is becoming increasingly the vogue. Men, multitudes of men, find that the life that discounts the relations of the human soul to its divine Creator is dissatisfying. They are critical of their own spiritual fitness, and of the church's. They are questioning the credibility and reliability of the church's spiritual concepts and decreations. The church has a glorious opportunity in the return of God that is characteristic of the lives of a host of God's children throughout this land. From sea to sea, from lakes to southern gulf, materialism is palling on thoughtful wanderers from God, the truth is appealing and with such force as seldom in the history of the world it has appeared. To be sure this appeal is along new lines. It is suited to the needs and the demands of this day and of this generation. It is not yesterday's appeal, it is to-day's. But it is real. It is vital. It is compelling. It is heard. It will bear fruit. It will be the leaven in the meal that will perfect society and make it palatable to thoughtful men. It is the truth of God. It is God's voice in the language of the land and of the day. It is the message of the Almighty to the people. It cannot be denied. It will not be denied. There is a moving in the tree tops. The foot-falls of Jehovah are to be heard on earth. The signs of the times, he who runs may read. Any man with an open ear and open eye and an open mind may hear, and see, and satisfy his soul in the contemplation of such revelations as are as transcendent as they are immediate.

Having considered in some fashion the opportunities of the church, let us consider now some of the abilities of that organization, instituted of God among men, into whose hands has been given the tremendous divine task to transform individual lives and to transmute sinful, erring human society into the image of the heavenly democracy of God.

The abilities of the church are commensurate with her opportunities. Emmanuel is with her, as truly as He was with Israel. God is in her midst. His presence inspires her. His glory illumines her. God is with her. He constitutes that everlasting majority against which she cannot prevail.

The abilities of the church are to be found also in her means, in her men and in her message.

The ability of the church is to be found in her means. The church has more means than ever before in all her wondrous history. She is the richest institution in the world. The organization of the church is tremendous. We are almost over-organized. The church has an influence that is as far-reaching as her spiritual dominion and as effective when applied, as it is widespread when applied. Men may scoff at the church, they may laugh behind her back, but a militant and moving church, filled with the fervor and fire of the apostles, napped with the power of Jehovah, is a sight to strike terror to the heart of every evil man and band. Yea, and it does strike terror. The church may move slowly, as too often she does. But the church in motion is irresistible.

The church has the men. Never was her ministry more able, more intelligent, better educated, more cultured. Her spiritual possibilities through them are unsurpassed. When they gain the spirit of self-sacrifice of the Redeemer they will be invincible. In all the world there is no body of men better fitted to do the labor of blazing the trail for the world as we ascend toward God than the ministers of the church of Jesus Christ. There is no more competent leadership. There is no body anywhere that can so safely guide. The church has the men in the pew as well. The day has passed when the pew was piously uneducated and religiously untutored. To-day the bulk of the church is to be found in her enlightened laity. The minister no longer is the only superlatively educated man in the community. The layman is as cultured as the priest. And it is well. The efficiency of the ministry ought to be enhanced thereby. And it is. No minister may reckon the stupendous reform that has been wrought in the world, for the good of the ministry as for the whole church of Jesus Christ, through the education of the pew. Such a pulp and such a pew constitute a living factor that is constantly an effective asset to the work of the church of God.

And the church has the message. And it is not a new one. We may restate it. We may redefine its essentials. We may clothe it in the vernacular of our land and age. We may readjust it to the changing life to which it speaks. But it is the same old message. The message of salvation from the dominion and the grip of sin through the grace of God as it is revealed to a world in thrall through Jesus Christ our Lord. The world needs it. The world wants it. The church has it. It is her mighty asset. The church not only has the message. She is the message. She not only has the truth; in a sense she is the truth. It is not she ought to be. There is no need for new truth. There is no call for a new gospel. The necessity is that we shall apply the old, old story of God's redeeming love and of man's responsibility to God to the world to-day. We must lead man to see and to know that God is as truly the captain of our souls as He has been of our fathers' in the ages past, and that peace, quietude, contentment, that are perdurable, can be secured only through complete obedience to His holy will.

These opportunities and these abilities are dependent upon the spirit of fidelity to the Spirit of God that possesses us. Dominated and controlled by the spirit of the living God—the church, translating desire into energy, may lead humanity to the promised land of the new dispensation and follow our Saviour into the kingdom of the spiritual kingdom of God. Without the spirit opportunity and abilities are helpless.

The church must accept these opportunities since she has received these capacities. The world is her field. And the world is needy. The hearts of humanity are warming to her God. It is her prerogative, her duty to reveal Him, to direct humanity to Him. She cannot be neglected. She will not be. Trusting in the power of omniscience and relying upon the energy of divine love the empowered church will accept her God-given opportunities and measure up to them. For the church must be faithful to God or die. The church was not born to die. The church is immortal.

Daily Life Glorified.

Last Sunday morning in unnumbered churches throughout the land stood a simple table and upon it bread and wine. Men were partaking of the Lord's Supper. Christ had touched commonplace things and made them holy. Most memorials are evidence of striving after the uncommon as the worthy—the tomb upon the mountain-top, the obelisk, the pyramid, the vast building or the great institution. Not least of these lessons taught by that simple meal is the worth of common things. There is no meal but may be made an hour of thanksgiving, no honest toil that cannot become worship, no smallest deed to which highest motives may not add glory. The Lord's Supper gains its glory from its reference to Christ; why not "do all to the glory of God?"—Pacific Baptist.

The Quietness of Power.

One of the impressive things about the greatest engines is the silence with which they do their work. The stars rushing through space with a force we cannot even imagine, do so in silence. The same thing may be observed in regard to the work which is done in the world. The most powerful is always very quiet. The great spiritual ministry of the Christian Church is carried forward with very little noise. Noise is not the same as work; frenzy is not power. — Friendly Greetings.

The Heart is Known.

Lord of mercy, most loving, at whose coming men live, at whose goodness gods and men rejoice! Sovereign of life, health, and strength! The heart of man is no secret to Him that made it. He is present within though thou be alone.—From Egyptian Records.



In Germany sound-proof building blocks are made of a mixture of gypsum with sawdust, coke, dust or ashes. Some chemical skill is required to make the mixture.

Dr. Longstaffe, who is mountaineering in the Himalayas with two guides and a Gurkha officer, has reached the summit of Trisul, 23,466 feet. This is the record for the Himalayas.

Mosquitoes are found to prefer negroes to whites, a black dog to a white one, and a dark-colored resting place. Careful tests have been extended to great numbers of Anopheles, showing that they choose colors in the order of dark blue, dark red, brown, red, black, gray and violet, and that azure, ochre and white are distasteful and yellow extremely so. Conferring these results on 150 mosquitoes a Swiss malaria expert has found that three-fourths settle on dark colors.

Europeans are building up a considerable industry in the manufacture of galalith, or milk stone, which is cheaper than celluloid, and has the important advantage of being non-inflammable. The raw material is skimmed milk from the large co-operative dairies. To this in large tanks is added rennet, coagulating the casein, which is pressed, dried, powdered and freed from its cheesy odor by repeated washings, and is finally hardened by formaldehyde. The product is more brilliant, more solid and a trifle heavier than celluloid.

Imitating the New York engineers who moved a great steel bridge two miles down the Harlem river on scows, a Boston firm has floated a seven-room house, intact, from Prison Point, Charlestown, to the beach at Winthrop Highlands. The house had stood for years at the Prison Point crossing of the Boston & Maine railroad and was occupied by the saw tender. The construction of a grade crossing bridge made necessary the removal of the house. It was purchased by speculators and moved by them. It will be used as a summer cottage.

SILO SURPRISES SWISS.

Our Method of Wintering Stock a Revelation to European Agriculturists.

In describing the introduction of American silos into Switzerland, Consul F. B. Keene writes from Geneva: "Just outside of Geneva there is a small but model American farm, the property of an American who has long resided in this city. To a model dairy and equally up-to-date quarters for fowls and swine, the owner last autumn added two seventy-five ton American silos. While twelve acres of fine American corn were being ground and packed into these, farmers came in from the country round about to see what was to them a curiosity and a revelation. There were as many as fifteen or twenty in a day. These silos were, as far as I know, the first to be set up in Switzerland. During the past winter they have fed thirty head of fine cattle. The practical illustration of wintering thirty head of stock on the twelve acre crop of corn has resulted in inquiries for seed corn and in orders for three silos by farmers who came, saw and were convinced.

Each of these three silos will be a new advertisement for the system, which is bound to spread. The American model farmer in question grinds his ensilage by electric power. It may be that, in a country abounding in water power, the spread of silos will create a demand for electric motors, in which our American makers may find it profitable to seek their share.

Giant Reservoir.

Members of the Society of Engineers paid an interesting visit yesterday afternoon to the new reservoir under construction for the Metropolitan water board at Honor Oak. These immense works have been building for a long time, and are very noticeable from the railway, which runs close by. Above ground only the crowns of innumerable concrete covered arches are seen, with large pumping station in the distance. Underneath the surface, however, the arches prove to be the roofing of spacious and lofty caverns extending in every direction, and destined, when completed, to be filled to the keystones with a subterranean lake, which will be continually replenished from deep wells in the chalk and the Thames above Hampton Court. The reservoir will contain sixty million gallons of water, and be the largest of their kind in the world. The construction generally is of brickwork and concrete, the bricks having been made on the spot from clay dug during the excavations. But none of these spacious underground halls, cool and palatial, will ever be seen by the public, for as soon as ready they will be filled "to the brim," the roofing arches covered with earth, grass sown, and possibly a municipal garden established upon it.—London Telegraph.

But She Must Have Been.

"There goes a woman who once declined to be my wife."

"Yet she doesn't look like an unusually intelligent person, does she?"—Chicago Record-Herald.