

So We Grow Old.

A broken toy; a task that held away
A yearning child heart from an hour of play.
A Christmas that no Christmas idols brought,
A tangled lesson; full of tangled thought;
A homesick boy; a senior gown and wise;
A glimpse of life, when lo! the curtains rise
Fold over fold,
And hangs the picture, like a boundless sea—
The world, all action and reality—
So we grow old.

A wedding, and a tender wife's caress;
A prattling babe the parents' life to bless;
A home of joys and cares in equal part;
A dreary watching with a heavy heart;
And death's dread angel knocking at the gate,
And hope and courage bidding sorrow wait
Or lose her hold;
A new-made grave, and then a brave return
To where the fires of life triumphant burn—
So we grow old.

A fortune and a generous mood of fame,
Or direful ruin and a tarnished name;
A slipping off of week and month and year,
Faster and faster as the close draws near;
A grief today, and with tomorrow's light
A pleasure that transforms the sullen night
From lead to gold;
A chilling winter of unchanging storm;
A spring replete with dawns and sunsets warm—
So we grow old.

Old to ourselves, but children yet to be
In the strange cities of eternity.

THE NECKLACE.

She was one of those attractive girls who, as if by some mistake, are occasionally born into a family of clerks. She had neither expectation, means nor dowry. She married a little clerk at the Ministry of Public Instruction. She dressed plainly and she was very miserable, as if she had fallen from her proper station.

She had no gowns, no jewels, nothing of the kind, and she loved only magnificence.

One evening her husband returned home with a triumphant air and holding a large envelope in his hand. "There," said he, "is something for you."

She tore the letter sharply and drew out a printed card which bore these words: "The Minister of Public Instruction and Madame Georges Ramponneau request the honor of M. and Mme. Loisel's company at the parlors of the Ministry on Monday evening, Jan. 28."

Instead of being delighted, as her husband expected, she threw the invitation on the table with disgust, murmuring, "What shall I do with that?"

"But, my dear, I thought you would be glad. I had a lot of trouble getting it." She looked at him with a flashing eye.

"What shall I wear?"

"How much would a suitable dress cost?"

She reflected several seconds, figuring out the amount, and wondering also what sum she could ask without drawing on herself an immediate refusal.

Finally she said doubtfully: "I think I could manage with 400 francs."

He grew a little pale because that was just the amount that he had laid aside to treat himself to a little vacation.

However, he said: "All right, I will give you the 400 francs."

Her husband asked her one evening, "What is the matter? Why have you been so queer these last three days?"

She answered: "It annoys me not to have a single jewel, not a single stone, nothing to put on."

But her husband exclaimed: "How stupid you are. Go look to your friend, Mme. Forestier, and ask her to lend you some jewels."

She uttered a cry of joy. "It's true, I never thought of it!"

The next day she went to her friend and told her distress.

Mme. Forestier got a large jewel box and said to Mme. Loisel, "Choose, my dear."

She saw first of all bracelets, and then a pearl necklace, then a Venetian cross of gold and precious stones of the workmanship.

All of a sudden she discovered, in a black satin box, a superb diamond necklace, and her heart beat with extreme desire. Her hands trembled as she took it. She fastened it around her throat, outside her high-necked dress, and remained lost in ecstasy at the sight of herself.

As she asked, hesitating, filled with anguish:

"Do you lend me that—only that?"

"By, yes; certainly."

"Sprang upon the neck of her friend, kissed her passionately, then she returned home.

The day of the ball came. Mme. Loisel made a great success. She was

prettier than them all—elegant, gracious, smiling and wild with joy.

All the men looked at her, asked her name and tried to be presented to her.

She went away about four in the morning. Her husband threw over her shoulders the cloak he had brought, a modest cloak of common life whose poverty contrasted with the elegance of the ball-room.

She felt this and wanted to escape, so that she might not be remarked by the other women, who were enveloping themselves in costly furs.

Loisel held her back.

"Wait a bit. You will catch cold outside. I will go and call a cab."

At home she removed the wrap which covered her shoulders before the glass, so as once more to see herself in all her glory. But suddenly she uttered a cry. She had no longer the necklace around her neck!

They looked in the folds of her dress, in her pockets, everywhere. They did not find it.

"I shall go back on foot," said he, "over the whole route which we have taken, to see if I can't find it."

He came back about 7 o'clock. He had found nothing.

"You must write to your friend," said he, "that you have broken the clasp of her necklace and that you are having it mended. That will give us time to act."

At the end of a week they had lost all hope.

The next day they took the jewel box to the jeweller whose name was inside. He consulted his books. "It was not I, Madame, who sold that necklace; I must simply have furnished the box." They found in a shop in the Palais Royal a string of diamonds which seemed to them exactly like the one they had looked for. It was worth 40,000 francs. They could have it for 36,000.

Loisel had 18,000 francs which his father had left him. He would borrow the rest.

He gave notes, took up ruinous obligations, dealt with usurers and all the race of lenders. He compromised all the rest of his life, risked his signature without even knowing if he could meet it; he went to get the new necklace, putting down upon the merchant's counter 36,000 francs.

Mme. Loisel now knew the horrible existence of the needy. She took her part with heroism. The debt must be paid. She came to know what heavy housework meant and the odious cares of the kitchen. She dressed like a woman of the people.

Each month they had to meet some notes, renew others, get more time.

And this life lasted ten years.

At the end of ten years they had paid everything.

Mme. Loisel looked old now. She had become the woman of impoverished households—strong and hard and rough. With frowsy hair and skirts askew, and red hands, she talked loud while washing the floor with great splashes of water.

One Sunday having gone to take a walk in the Champs Elysees to refresh herself from the labors of the week, Mme. Loisel suddenly perceived a woman who was leading a child. It was Mme. Forestier, still young, still beautiful, still charming.

She went up. "Good-day, Jeanne."

The other, surprised, did not recognize her, and stammered: "But—madam! I do not know—you must be mistaken."

"No, I am Mathilde Loisel."

Her friend uttered a cry, "Oh, my poor Mathilde, how you have changed!"

"Yes, I have had days hard enough since I have seen you, days wretched enough, and that because of you."

"Of me! How so?"

"Do you remember the diamond necklace which you lent me to wear at the Minister's ball?"

"Yes. Well?"

"What, I lost it."

"What do you mean? You brought it back."

"I brought you back another just like it. And for this we have been ten years paying. You can understand that it was not easy for us, us who had nothing. At last it is ended, and I am very glad."

Mme. Forestier had stopped.

"You say that you bought a necklace of diamonds to replace mine?"

"Yes. You never noticed it, then? They were very like."

And she smiled with a joy which was proud and naive at once.

Mme. Forestier, strongly moved, took her two hands.

"Oh, my poor Mathilde! Why, my necklace was paste. It was worth at most 500 francs!"—[From the French of Guy de Maupassant.

One pound of Indian tea will make 170 cups of strong tea.

Ceylon Snake Stones.

The so-called "snake stones" of Ceylon are celebrated for the efficacy which they are supposed to have in curing the bites of venomous serpents. Secrecy is maintained as to the method of their manufacture, which is a lucrative business carried on by monks, who supply the merchants of India with them. Very high prices are demanded for them. They are employed in the familiar manner by being placed on the wound, their absorbent material sucking up the blood and incidentally the venom, as is claimed. There is plenty of authentic evidence of remarkable cures performed by such snake stones, though science is as yet reluctant to place any belief in them.

Sir J. E. Tennent, to whose work on Ceylon the writer is indebted, tells of an occasion when he was riding along a jungle path on the island, and he saw one or two natives who were approaching suddenly dart off from the road and return immediately with a cobra, the most deadly of all serpents, grasped by the head and tail. The man tried to place the snake in a covered basket, but handled it so ineptly that it seized him by the finger and retained its hold for a few seconds. Blood flowed and intense pain appeared to follow. As quickly as possible the other native undid his own waist-cloth and took from it two snake stones, each the size of a small almond, intensely black and highly polished, though extremely light. These he applied one to each wound inflicted by the teeth of the cobra.

They attached themselves closely, the blood that oozed from the bite being rapidly imbibed by the porous substance. After three or four minutes they dropped off and the suffering of the man seemed to have subsided. He twisted his fingers until the joints cracked and went on his way without concern. It has been ascertained with certainty that these snake stones are usually nothing more than pieces of burned bone. The Mexican recipe for making a snake stone is to take a fragment of deer's horn of any convenient size and shape, cover it with grass, inclose both in a piece of sheet copper and place the parcel in a charcoal fire until the bone is well charred. When cold remove the calcined horn from its envelope, when it will be found to be a solid black fibrous substance. It will then be ready for immediate use.—[Washington Star.

Silenced the Bells.

The Mayor of the town of Arziero, Italy, being of a nervous temperament, was greatly annoyed by the constant ringing of the chimes in the church tower, and issued an order that the bells should only be rung at special times, and for a very few moments. The farmers of the neighborhood, who used to enjoy the chimes during their long stroll to church through the fields and gardens, were very much surprised and annoyed at the cessation of the sacred concert. When they were told who had been so arbitrary as to stop the bells and deprive them of their traditional feast, they grew angry, and 500 of them invaded Arziero and surrounded the clock tower. They began tolling the bells, going at it in relays, some twenty of them at a time. They kept the bells ringing until the poor Mayor could stand it no longer. In despair he mustered all the available police, and sent them to oust the noisy farmers. All those standing around the tower took to their heels when they saw the officers approaching; those on duty inside, numbering twenty-one, were arrested, and sentenced by the Mayor, acting as accuser, State's attorney and judge in one person, to imprisonment lasting from one week to six weeks. And the bells were not tolled at all on the following Sunday.—[New Orleans Picayune.

A Gigantic Saw.

A 110-ton saw is calculated to cut through almost anything, even through a nickel steel armor plate; and for just this use has the gigantic saw been made for the Homestead mill, Pittsburg, at a cost of \$85,000. The blade of the saw is 7 1/2 feet in diameter, being geared from above and revolving horizontally. After one has gazed upon the huge steel carpenter's tool, he wonders to see it slice off an angular slab of cold nickel steel, weighing about a dozen tons, as easy as a carving knife clips off a crisp turkey wing.—[Philadelphia Record.

She Knew Him Too Well.

Young Husband—I want you to love and trust me, Mabel.

Mabel—I can love you, Charlie, but I can't trust you.

(He had married his tailor's daughter.)—[Pack.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

USE FOR EVERGREEN TREES.

There is a use for the evergreen trees around the farmhouse that many farmers do not remember. They are among the best and most frequently chosen nesting-places of some of the insect-eating birds. They desire to be near the dwellings, and yet they must try to conceal themselves from hawks, owls and crows, and what gives so good an opportunity as an evergreen hedge.—[Boston Cultivator.

THE CONDITION OF FLEECES.

Wool of anything else should catch the eye of the buyer favorably at first glance. It should bear every possible inspection of the buyer. If good wools, honestly put up, attractive to the buyer and manufacturer, with a trade mark, the name and address of the grower, they will sell for more money, and be sought for in the market more and more every year. This is the top shelf, and not many try to get up there. There is lots of room for honest-thinking wool-growers along this line.—[American Farmer.

AN EXCELLENT EARTH ROAD.

Greatly improved results in road building or repairing may be attained by any device that will prevent earth and water from mixing on the road bed, and much may be done in the way of improvement by a proper admixture of suitable earthy materials. The requirements of the material, says Engineer Haupt, are that it shall not be readily affected by moisture, temperature or pressure, which are three principal destructive agencies. Clay is very sensitive to water and temperature and has a high ratio of absorption. Sand has little coherence and yields readily to pressure. Gravel has great mobility, due to its spheroidal form, but by mixing these in the proportion of sixteen parts of clay, twenty-two of sand and sixty-two of gravel, an impervious roofing may be laid, which, if under drained, will make an excellent earth road. The macadam and Telford roads, when correctly made, are excellent, but as built by most supervisors in this country, they are unworthy of their names.

When in the march of science the time comes for segregating the aluminum contained in the clay road into a hard, smooth, resisting medium covering its surface we will then have a road metal, both in fact and name, which will solve the problem of the clay pit and give us a medium of transportation which will surpass even the railroad in cheapness and convenience.

CATTLE ROOM WITH STRAW CARPET.

There is a large room, probably 25 to 30 by 40 to 50 feet, in the common Minnesota Experiment Station barn. In that room or space was set out no stall or any other article of furniture, save a watertrough about six feet long. On the floor, presumably of earth, a depth of a foot or more of straw and manure, but so large a proportion of the first to the last that the appearance of tidiness and absence of unpleasant odor was striking. "Here," said the professor, "is my idea of keeping cows. A place like this can be cheaply provided on any farm where straw is abundant. A straw-covered, straw-sided place will do. Arrange places for feeding, dehorn the cattle, and turn them loose. No stanchions, no discomfort to the cows' liberty to move about, warmth, shelter, the best conditions in all respects are provided, and at the minimum of expense."

"How often would you clean this place out?" was asked. "About once in three months," was the reply. Use plenty of straw, that is all the requirement. All the liquid manure is absorbed, and the proportion of straw to manure is so large that the effect is as you see it here; and what is the matter with this?" The professor continued: "How to utilize their straw is a problem with many farmers; here it is solved to a very large extent." The plan looked all right, and the reporter fervently ejaculated a mental prayer that it would prove all right, and eventually release cattle from the cruel thralldom of stanchions, and close confinement to the narrow limits of a stall, consummations that he for years has ardently hoped for.—[Farm, Stock and Home.

FITTING THE SHOE.

In many countries what is called hot-fitting—that is to say, after the horse's foot has been trimmed and leveled, momentarily applying the shoe at a red heat to the foot—is generally practiced to the almost entire exclusion of any other method, and the system is not only found to an-

swer, but receives the indorsement of the most competent authorities. The climatic conditions which render the practice open to objection in this hemisphere fortunately enable us to dispense with a procedure against which there exists in the minds of many horse-owners a not unreasonable prejudice, which, however, is directed at the abuse rather than the intelligent application of a proceeding not necessarily hurtful in itself. The advantage conferred by hot-fitting consists in the fact that a more accurate accommodation is by this means more readily obtained than by any other method, and the contact between hoof and shoe can be made more intimate and enduring. In most climates it is only by means of hot-fitting that a set of shoes can be got to remain on for any reasonable length of time; but in no part of this country have I found any difficulty of this nature. Indeed, on the contrary, shoes are usually allowed to remain on too long, especially in the agricultural districts. It has frequently occurred to me, when in the discharge of my duties as veterinarian to the Farmers' Institute of Minnesota I have remonstrated with some local blacksmith at the gigantic nails he employed in affixing a shoe, that I have been assured that did the shoe not remain on for several months his employer would be dissatisfied and would transfer his custom elsewhere. Nothing could be more short-sighted nor more unreasonable than such conduct.

The hoof of the horse is in shape a truncated cone with the base downward; as it grows the circumference of the base consequently increases, and the shoe fitted when it was newly put on after a time becomes too small. It would be just as reasonable for a horse-owner to buy his little boy a pair of shoes, which just fitted him when he was six years old, and then expect him to wear them until he was 12, as it is for him to require his dumb servant, who cannot protest against the infliction, to wear his shoes for months in succession without resetting. A badly-fitting shoe is to a horse as painful as a tight boot is to his owner, and under no circumstances should shoes be permitted to remain on more than a month or five weeks at the outside. Many animals require to be reshoed even more frequently. It is only when an owner lets his parsimony overcome his reason that he subscribes himself to a penny-wise and pound foolish policy, which can only result, as such policies invariably do, in a loss to their exponent.—[American Farmer.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

The young turkeys should be kept growing.

Feed a moulting hen a few sunflower seeds twice a week.

Until well feathered young ducks should be kept out of cold water.

Wool ashes and bone meal are specific fertilizers for vines and trees.

Stone fruits, such as the cherry, peach, and plum, need very little pruning.

A quart of copperas to the rod, scattered around the grapevines, will prevent rot.

In shipping fowls in warm weather care must be taken to water them well and not to crowd them in the coops.

Let the evergreens grow around the farmhouse. They serve as a nesting place for many insect-eating birds.

When it can be done without too much inconvenience, it is always best to ship hens and chickens in separate coops; they will sell better.

Fruit will not keep where the temperature varies. This should be low, and there must be fresh air, without a current passing over the fruit.

If your grapevines have been neglected and untrained, it is well to cut them down to the ground in the fall, allowing one or two new shoots to spring up, thus obtaining a good new vine to work on.

Early varieties of sugar corn, so popular in the North, are of little value south of the Potomac. Corn must be acclimated to the latitude, and it is useless to plant seed from Northern gardens in Southern soil.

The lady apple is highly esteemed for the table, on account of its small size and its beautiful red color on a yellow ground. It also keeps well, and can be found in good condition from early winter until May or June.

The grapevine flea-beetles often cause great injury to the vines by eating out the buds and devouring the blossoms as they appear. A good way to destroy them is to spray the vines with London purple, one pound to 200 gallons of water.

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

HOW TO POACH EGGS IN A BAIL.

To poach eggs in a bail is a knack known to clever cooks. The water is heated to boiling and then rapidly stirred till a small whirlpool is produced, in the hollow heart of which maistrum the egg is cleverly dropped. The motion of the water sets the white instantly into a circular covering for the unbroken yolk.—[New York World.

JAM MAKING.

There is a great difference in the space of time used by housewives in making jams. Twenty minutes is the average time for most fruits, but others prefer to cook their fruit half an hour, or even an hour, and, as the old Scotch servant declared, "To boil the very judgment out o' it." Long cooking certainly destroys the natural flavor of any fruit, and in many cases renders it mucilaginous or candied. In other cases, a delicious and distinctive flavor is certainly developed by the process of long cooking, as in the case of the quince, which only thus attains its red, rich color and flavor.—[New York Tribune.

RECIPE FOR COOKING PEAS.

Select peas that have green, crisp pods. Do not shell them many hours before cooking. Put them in a saucepan with enough boiling water to cover them, and one teaspoonful each of salt and sugar for each quart of peas, and simmer gently for half an hour longer—the time depending upon the freshness and age of the peas. A perfect pea will, when done, be tender and look a little wrinkled. Should they be hard, because of age or having been picked a long time, it may require an hour to cook them. About ten minutes before they are done add a tablespoonful of baking soda to every quart of peas. This will help to make them tender. Do not drain off all the water. Season with a teaspoonful of salt and two tablespoonfuls of butter for every quart of peas.

Remember that rapid cooking or cooking too long will spoil any kind of peas.—[New York Recorder.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Two thicknesses of newspaper makes a good lining for apple barrels.

To clean a black silk dress use a sponge dipped in strong black tea—cold.

Lemon juice helps a cake to rise and does not interfere with the other flavoring.

A tiny scrap of cucumber rind left in the salad adds a peculiar pungency to its flavor.

Headache yields to the simultaneous application of hot water to the feet and the back of the head.

Bar soap when first bought should be cut in square pieces and put in a dry place. It lasts better after shrinking.

The juice of half a lemon in a teaspoon of strong black coffee, without sugar, will often cure a sick headache.

It is claimed that white spots on varnished furniture will disappear if a hot plate from the stove is held over them.

Finger marks may be removed from varnished furniture by rubbing well with a very little sweet oil upon a soft rag.

To prevent colored stockings from fading put a tablespoonful of black pepper into the water in which they are rinsed.

Fine shavings from soft pine wood make a pleasant pillow. They have special curative virtues for coughs and lung troubles.

Pine may be made to look like some beautiful wood by giving repeated coats of hot linseed oil and rubbing hard after each coat.

For chafing, try fuller's earth pulverized; moisten the surface first when applying it. Oxide of zinc ointment is also excellent.

A chemist advises that canned fruit be opened an hour or two before it is used. It is far richer after the oxygen of the air has been restored to it.

It is said that if the woodwork in the kitchen is kept constantly scrubbed with water in which potash has been dissolved roaches and ants will speedily disappear.

Lay shiny silk upon a table, and, with a sponge wet with cider vinegar, rub the shiny places until they disappear. Then hang up in a shady place until dry, and the silk will look almost as good as new. The same treatment may be used upon fine black diagonal.