

The Old Friends.

The old friends, the old friends,
We loved when we were young,
With sunbeams on their faces,
And music on their tongue!
The bees are in the almond flower,
The birds renew their strain;
But the old friends once lost to us,
Can never come again.

The old friends, the old friends!
Their brow is lined with care,
They've furrows in the faded cheek,
And silver in the hair,
But to me they are old friends still
In youth and bloom the same,
As when we drove the flying ball,
Or shouted in the game.

The old men, the old men,
How slow they creep along!
How naughtily we scoffed at them
In days when we were young!
Their proleg and their dozing,
Their prate of times gone by,
Their shiver like an aspen leaf
If but a breath went by.
But we, we are the old men now,
Our blood is faint and chill;
We cannot leap the mighty brook,
Or climb the breakneck hill,
We moulder down the shortest cuts
We rest on stick or stile,
And the young men half ashamed to laugh
Yet pass us with a smile.

But the young men, the young men,
Their strength is fair to see;
The straight back and the springy stride
The eye as falcon free,
The shout above the frolic wind,
As up the hill they go;
But, though so high above us now,
They soon shall be as low.

O weary, weary drag the years
As life draws near the end,
And sadly, sadly fall the tears
For loss of love and friend,
But we'll not doubt there's good about
In all of humankind;
So here's a health before we go,
To those we leave behind!

—[London Spectator.]

"MY ANSWER, PLEASE."

She was a bright little woman, with hazel eyes, perfect teeth, wavy hair and, when she wasn't "worked to death," a delicate, rosy complexion. She had married very young—her ideal—and when after a few years later she could no longer hide from herself what a poor, weak bit of clay he really was, she made no moan, but set about the hard task of fitting the pieces of both father and mother to the three bright little children that came to them.

So well did she succeed that the little ones thought papa was the best and noblest man living. Fortunately, he departed this life before they discovered his frailties, leaving his wife a multitude of debts and only his life insurance to pay them with.

She was quite aware that creditors could not touch the money, but being honest she paid every bill, and then deposited the balance in the savings bank. It was such a small sum that, even with the most rigorous economy it would scarcely give them daily bread, let alone butter and meat occasionally, fuel, clothes, schoolbooks and the thousand necessary things which decency requires.

She made dainty trifles for parlors and boudoirs, which brought her a pretty penny, and this she augmented by making drawings of the said trifles and then writing the descriptions, which she sold to a ladies' periodical, so that altogether her children had a comfortable and even a charming home.

But it was hard work. She had no rest, no recreation whatever, and every day there was more need of money, and she seemed more tired when her old school friend, Mary Palmer, bought the corner house.

All the good things of life seemed to come to Mary Palmer—her marriage had been a brilliant one. Judge Palmer was one of earth's best, the possessor of great wealth, devoted to his family and honored by all who knew him.

Like a good husband he was interested in all his wife's friends, and though he would have scorned the idea of being a matchmaker he certainly did bring his old comrade, Captain Baker, to make a fourth in a game of euchre which his wife insisted on twice a week.

Captain Baker was a large, solid looking man. He was bald and a little gray, a man who paid little attention to women, for in war times he had been cruelly jilted by a gay coquette.

The old man she married was dead, and his widow made a practice of calling at the bank almost every day, for the captain of long ago was a bank president now. Though she asked advice frequently about the disposal of her property, and smiled her sweetest on her old lover, it only disgusted him the more.

He had been on speaking terms with Mrs. Joyce ever since her marriage, for he and the departed Joyce were members of the same secret organization.

But he almost forgot her existence

until he met her at the Palmers, and was charmed with her good sense, originality and absence of coquetry.

One evening Mrs. Joyce was quite surprised to have him ushered into her little sitting room. She was not making pretty things that night, however. The weekly wash had just come home and she was darning and patching.

She was a little embarrassed, it is true, but after shaking hands with him, she resumed her thimble, holding it a moment to the light so her needle would not slip through the holes, and while she chatted pleasantly her fingers flew, for time was money to her. Presently she said:

"I have a bit of news for you, Mrs. Joyce. I am thinking of getting married."

"Oh," she said: "am I to congratulate you?"

"Not yet; I haven't asked the momentous question."

"May I talk to you about marriage, Mr. Baker?"

"I shall be delighted to hear your views."

"I suppose you know that the majority of marriages are not happy ones, and that depravity is not the cause, since unhappiness enters all classes of society. In entering a partnership men have an agreement, and if either violates it the law is invoked, but in life partnership everything is taken for granted. Often the young woman who has been wooed assiduously scarcely receives any attention after marriage, and as the poet wrote of love, 'Tis woman's sole existence, and to deprive her of it is cruelty worse than death. At the altar the man endows his wife with all his wealth, and too often she has to beg for every dollar and give an account of what she spends it for, while the husband's cigars and clubs cost more than the entire family expenses. Now, if you are one of those selfish men I can't wish you success in breaking a woman's heart. But if you make your wife happy you have my best wishes for success in wooing the woman of your choice."

She resumed her thimble and the needle flew swiftly to make up for lost time.

"I think your views are sensible ones, Mr. Joyce; that is the way my mother used to talk to us. I shall endeavor to make my wife a happy woman, Mrs. Joyce; will you marry me?"

She looked up, her cheeks covered with blushes. "Oh, Mr. Baker, can you excuse me? I never supposed you thought of me."

He gently drew the work aside and holding both her hands, he said:

"My answer please?"

"Yes."—[Womankind.]

A Prodigal's Return.

When the son of the family or the old neighbor who had gone away returns from the States, the French-Canadian nature demands a celebration worthy not only of the event, but of the splendor of the home-comer. There are dancing and flowers and gay processions, and in the centre is the hero from the States, who has come back in a resplendent suit of clothes, with a velvet waistcoat and a marvellous "top" hat, such as the parish has not seen before, for the ordinary "top" hat of rural French Canada vies in form with the traditional St. Patrick's day hat of "old Ireland."—He has a gold or brass chain too, and a ring.

His wife has a silk gown, and she too has sparkling gem-studded glittering ornaments. And Baptiste, sitting among his old friends and neighbors, sustained by numerous relations, tells stories of the States that are so wonderful that the people of the States themselves would envy his imagination, and in time would unnecessarily come to think more of themselves than they do now. It is said by hard-headed Scotchmen and cynical Englishmen who live in Montreal, and whose faith in republican institutions is weak, that the French Canadian who goes to the States is spoiled by what they call too much freedom, that phrase having been invented doubtless by the "British Matron" of the London Times, and adopted as a happy thought by her conservative subjects. Doubtless the French Canadian is doomed to worthlessness who having gone to the States, returns to his old home to remain. There is every reason why he should be.

It is the French Canadian who is capable of taking advantage of better opportunities who does not return, except by way of making a visit, or for the purpose of inducing his relatives and friends to join him in his new home. We sober Anglo-Saxons know individuals of our own race who have returned to a life of idleness after having made fruitless excursions to

distant parts in search of fortunes, and so the tale is not new to us, nor does it mark a race distinction—that of Jacques returning home in splendor, and gradually, after a few boastful glorious days of honored guestship, sinking into a dingy parish idler, known only as a human parasite who has seen something of the world and made nothing of his experiences.—[Harper's Magazine.]

Dresses Made of Glass.

The idea of wearing dresses made of glass may at first sight appear in the light of an impossibility, and yet the great novelty of this season is a material made of spun glass, and which is as bright and supple as silk, with a peculiar sheen, reminding one of the sparkle of diamond dust, writes a correspondent.

In Russia there has for a long time existed a tissue manufactured from fibre of a peculiar fibrous stone the Siberian mines, which by some secret process is shredded and spun into a fabric, which, although soft to the touch and pliable in the extreme, is of so durable a nature that it never wears out. This is probably what has given an enterprising manufacturer the idea of producing the spun glass dresses lengths above mentioned.

The Muscovite stuff is thrown into the fire when dirty, whence it is withdrawn absolutely clean and ready for use, but the spun-glass silk is simply brushed with a hard brush and soap and water, and is none the worse for being either stained or soiled. This material is to be had in white, green, lilac, pink and yellow, and bids fair to become very fashionable for evening dresses.

It is an Austrian who is the inventor of this material, which is rather costly. Table cloths, napkins—nay, even window curtains are manufactured thereof, and I was shown by the Parisian agent a court train in a very delicate hue of pale lavender, shot with pink, which made me think of the fairy tale which we call Peat d'Aue, and where the princess orders from the gnomes three dresses, one the color of the sun, one the color of the moon and the third the color of the weather.

An Intelligent Cow.

Col. L. D. McDonald of Columbus City, Ind., tells a good story of animal intelligence. He had bought a lot of stock, including a cow and her calf, which he was driving home. The cow's affection for its offspring had attracted attention more than once.

At length a river was reached which being unbridged the cattle had to ford. The water was deep, and the cattle plunged in they were swept off their feet, the mother cow among the rest.

The calf, meantime, was taken by the current several rods down the stream, and when the poor cow regained her footing and discerned this her distress was apparent. Instead of making for the opposite shore as the other animals had done she swam down the stream below her calf. The current drove the young creature against the protecting bulk of the mother.

The cow, satisfied at this state of affairs, started for the shore, the calf swimming alongside of her. About midway of the river, the swift current striking the calf in the fore-quarter swept it behind the cow and again it floundered down stream.

Once more the mother went to the rescue. She had to swim around the other side of the calf, and this done, she had to steady herself in the stream until the calf was against her side. Her efforts were this time successful, and cow and calf swam safely to shore.—[Indianapolis News.]

The Famous Leaning Tower.

The famous Leaning Tower of Pisa is 150 feet in height, and consists of eight stories, the seventh containing bells and the one above being an observatory, from which a fine view is afforded of the city, the neighboring country, the Arno winding far down from its native hills, and of the sea in which it loses itself at length. Learned men and men who have nothing else to do have for a long time puzzled their brains with the question, Was it originally so constructed, or have its foundations sunk and caused its inclination? So much debating has made it still more uncertain, but the majority maintain that like Adam, it was created upright and began to fall from natural weakness. The majority may be wrong, both a and t. Adam and as to the Leaning Tower as to the latter, it strikes me that if I had once begun to fall, it would not have stopped at its present angle, but would have speedily come to the ground.—[New York Times.]

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

SEED POTATOES.

The Kansas station reports that second-crop potatoes used for seed the following spring give much better returns than by planting the early crop. The second-crop potatoes keep in a sound condition during the winter, when the first crop become shriveled and sprouted. The result is greater vitality and the ability to withstand drought.

BEST ROOTS FOR COWS.

All kinds of turnips are objectionable for cows as they will give their strong flavor to the milk unless fed with careful precautions and only at the time of milking. The special flavor of all the kinds of turnips depends on a volatile oil in them which goes directly to the milk, and gives it an unpleasant taste. This is prevented if time is given for it to be evaporated through the skin in the perspiration, but as beets and mangels are quite free from this objection they are preferable to any others for feeding cows. The long red and the yellow globe mangels are excellent, but the sugar beets have more nutriment in them, having twelve to sixteen per cent. of sugar. They do not yield as much as the larger mangels, as 300 to 500 bushels per acre is a good crop, while of mangels two or three times as much is often grown on good soil.—[New York Times.]

CURRENTS FOR PROFIT.

One of the best fruits for the farmer to grow for profit is the currant. He need not be driven to sell it within a day or two, but may take his time for one, two or three weeks, thus letting it interfere less with other farm operations. There is always a good demand for currants, and at prices that yield gross returns of \$200 per acre. The labor in caring for an acre after the plants are once set is little more than required for an acre of corn or potatoes. A very important point in growing currants is to keep the foliage heavy as well as perfect. Heliothrips on the leaves preserves them from the currant worm. The Bordeaux mixture sprayed over the bushes destroys the milder which otherwise strips the bushes of leaves by late summer almost as badly as worms could do. Currant bushes need mineral manure, chiefly potash, and with these the foliage will be generally healthy.—[Boston Cultivator.]

SPRAYING FOR PEACH ROT.

The principal source of infection in peach rot, is in the mummified fruit which is often allowed to remain on or under the trees. F. D. Chester of the Delaware station recommends that all infected fruit be removed from the orchard as soon as possible. Early in the spring before the fruit buds begin to swell, spray the trees with a solution of one pound of copper sulphate to twenty-five gallons of water. When the fruit buds begin to swell, and again just before they open, spray with copper carbonate or copper sulphate. As soon as the peaches begin to ripen, spray every five or seven days. Under favorable conditions of heat and moisture only eighteen hours need elapse between the sowing of the spores upon the uninjured surface of a sound peach, and the visible appearance of rot at the point of infection, and in two to four days the peach will be unfit for use. A heavy rain followed by warm weather is particularly favorable to the fungus, and in such cases the spraying should be more frequent.—[American Agriculturist.]

WATER FOR FARM HORSES.

It would be all the better for any farm horse if he could be given water at some time between morning and noon and noon and night. There seems to be a variety of opinion touching this point. It is almost a universal practice to give farm horses water but three times a day—morning, noon, and night. There seems to be no better reason for this than that it is convenient to do so, and that it would be inconvenient to do otherwise as a rule. All agree that the horse ought to have what water he needs rather than what he wants.

If left to go thirsty a half day after eating heating food at hard work there is no limit to the amount of water he wants except what he will hold when he reaches the trough. To fill up on cold water when the animal is in a heated condition is one of the most damaging things that can be done a horse, and yet because it happens to be convenient to let him do this the practice has come into vogue. Most farmers could find a way to remedy the matter if they would, and it would be humane for them to do so,

and profitable likewise.—[Chicago Times.]

MILK EXPERIMENTS.

A series of experiments have been conducted at the Illinois Agricultural Station, at Champaign, in order to ascertain the influence of change of weather, season and feed on cows, and also the variation in the weight of the animals and of the milk, as well as the composition of the latter. The result of these experiments has been published in Bulletin No. 24.

It was found that changes of feed increased the quantity of milk given by each of the six cows experimented with, but practically had no effect upon the quality.

The quality of milk given and the percentage of butter-fat it contained varied greatly from day to day, and even from one milking to another. It was found that satisfactory results can be obtained by testing once a week a composite sample of milk from each cow's daily yield.

By weighing the milk and testing its quality by the Babcock method once a week or once a month, it was found that the quantity of milk and of butter-fat for the entire period could be calculated with but little variation.

The milk products varied from 3,069 pounds to 7,160 pounds; the estimated butter product from 138 pounds to 314 pounds. The highest per cent. of total solids in any one milking was 22.4; of butter-fat, 13.3 per cent. This was the milk of a Jersey cow. The lowest per cent. of total solids was 9.1; of butter-fat, 1.5. This was the milk of a Holstein-Friesian cow.

This report is of great importance as touching on the point whether the richness of the produce depends upon the richness of the food. These experiments tend to prove that the quantity of milk is thereby affected, but not the quality.—[New York World.]

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Dry food is the best for chickens.

Early chicks have the most stamina.

Avoid draughts if you would avoid roup.

Never use sulphur with grease to drive away the lice.

Turkeys fed on corn alone are not apt to lay fertile eggs.

Only save the eggs of the best of your fowls for hatching.

In many cases out of ten lice are the cause of all chicken disease.

Turkeys are good investment if the stock is vigorous and the birds heavy.

It is not advisable to make any grain the exclusive food of chickens.

Feed and water the hens regularly and supply them with grit and a dust bath.

One of the first precautions to take to avoid ramp-all is to purify the hen-house.

In some parts where hogs are scarce farmers are following corn-fed cattle with turkeys.

A little salt added to moistened ground grain will prove a benefit to poultry at this season.

Never fly a pigeon that is moulting. It is sore and the best will not home while passing through this stage.

The horse-fly will cause milkers to go dry on a good pasture. Kerosene emulsion diluted is a good remedy.

To gain the best results from geese, feed but little corn and plenty of grass, and have water for them to run in.

With the coming of warm weather cut down the supply of corn and meal and give more cooked food and oats.

A writer recommends a tablespoonful of kerosene oil in every gallon of water for a flock in which a cold appears.

Sheep manure represents what the sheep consumes. They can't make it better by passing it through their stomachs.

Occasionally there is a sheep that gets on the wrong side of every question. They are born so, and don't pay for the trouble.

To keep a hen in good condition for laying she should be obliged to exercise for her food. Slow feeding promotes digestion.

Had His Reasons.

Young Mr. Fitts—What are you smiling at, dear?

Mrs. Fitts—I was just thinking how you used to sit and hold my hand for me.

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KEYSTONE STATE COLLINGS.

MORTGAGES IN PENNSYLVANIA.

THE REMINISCENCE OF WHICH WE HAVE NO CAUSE TO BE PROUD.
Superintendent of the Census Porter, at Washington, has just issued an extra census bulletin, giving some interesting information on farms, homes and mortgages for Pennsylvania. His figures show the real estate mortgage debt existing January 1, 1890, to be \$213,105,802. Fifteen of the 67 counties of the state having existing debts of more than \$10,000,000 each. These are Allegheny, \$2,975,531; Berks, \$12,591,921; Chester, \$13,974,830; Dauphin, \$10,659,838; Delaware, \$13,621,785; Luzerne, \$11,223,173; Lancaster, \$17,574,901; Lehigh, \$14,333,161; McKean, \$10,992,010; Montgomery, \$14,864,919; Northampton, \$10,907,738; Philadelphia, \$178,003,939; Schuylkill, \$39,307,836; Westmoreland, \$12,768,985; York, \$17,917,806. Pennsylvania's per capita mortgage indebtedness is given at \$117 each and in this respect stands high up among the other states whose statistics have been tabulated, as the following comparative statement will show: Tennessee, \$25; Maine, \$49; New Hampshire, \$50; Indiana, \$51; Oregon, \$73; Missouri, \$80; Vermont, \$84; Illinois, \$107; Iowa, \$104; Rhode Island, \$109; Connecticut, \$107; Pennsylvania, \$117; Nebraska, \$126; Massachusetts, \$144; Kansas, \$170.

The real estate mortgage movement in Pennsylvania, the second state of the union in population, and near the first in wealth and manufactures, was a progressive one, with a single interruption, from 1880 to 1889 having a debt of \$92,046,674 in 1881 and \$18,043,253 in 1880. The debt incurred in 1888 was \$194,839,253, a count not equaled by that of any other year. The increase of 192.77 per cent. in the incurred debt during the 10 years was greater than the increase of population, which was only 22.77 per cent. But Mr. Porter is not able to state how it compared with the increase of the value of all the real estate of the state, because that value was not estimated in the census of 1880. In 1880, 74,435 mortgages were made, while in 1889 the number was 131,501. During the 10 year period a debt of \$1,339,637 was incurred, represented by 1,038,693 mortgages. In the ratio between the debt and the estimated true value of all taxed real estate Pennsylvania is represented by 18.91 per cent. The average rate of interest on Pennsylvania's existing mortgage debt is 5.12 per cent. and from 1880 to 1890 has declined from 5.37 per cent. to 5.63 per cent. The mortgages now in force in Pennsylvania number 513,403.

55 BILLS VETOED.

BY THE GOVERNOR, WHO HAS SIGNED 332 MEASURES AND HAS 56 VETOS ON HAND.
HARRISBURG.—The Governor vetoed Senator McCarroll's bill to more particularly designate the rates of bridge tolls by providing for increase of tolls when authorized by the Courts of Quarter Sessions in certain cases.

The Governor also vetoed the House bill to provide for the creation and regulation of municipal liens and the proceeding for the collection thereof in the several boroughs.

The Governor disapproved bills to fix the salary of the directors of the poor of Lehigh county, because it was violative of the Constitution, and the bill to provide for fencing of improved lands used for agricultural and horticultural purposes in certain counties.

The Governor has approved 32 bills, vetoed 55, and 16 remain in his hands.

WILD BEASTS AT LARGE.

ONE OF MAIN'S TIGERS NOT YET ACCOUNTED FOR.

TIGERS—Some of the wild animals that escaped from the wrecked circus of Walter L. Main are still at large in the mountains, and the people are afraid to go abroad in the hills. A large black tiger has not been accounted for. It is known to be a beast of great ferocity and there are expectations that some person will be killed by it. Several hunters have been out searching for it, but have not seen it. On Friday John Parker and Robert Snyder were fishing near Vail. Snyder heard a noise in the bushes near him, and turned just in time to see a wild hog making for him. He dropped his fishing rod in a hurry and grabbed his gun. A quick shot put an end to the animal just in time to save Mr. Snyder from the claws. It was one of the beasts that escaped from the menagerie.

FIVE OF THEM CONVICTED.

UNIONTOWNS—Five of the Dawson rioters were convicted of assault and battery and being a nuisance. The occasion was a wedding when nearly the entire Slav population got drunk and raised such a noise that the officers tried to arrest them, but were assaulted and driven off. About 50 participants left the county to escape trial.

HORSE THIEVES are again at work in Cambria county. A valuable horse, carriage and harness were taken from the stable of Henry Speicher, in Richland county. The thieves were followed into Somerset county, but got away, stealing another buggy on route.

MARY LEVENSKI's hat blew out the window of a car on an elevated railway near Phoenixville. The girl rushed to the door and jumped off the platform to get the hat and was instantly killed. Her head ploughed through the ground a foot deep.

PAUL MICKEL, a Slav, fell from a Baltimore and Ohio train under the wheels near Lamont, and had both legs cut off. He will die.

Mrs. FREDERICK T. MERRIMAN, living near Uniontown, Pa., was dangerously injured by a rooster sinking his spur in her skull.

W. E. RISE, of Rochester, a Baltimore and Ohio freight brakeman, was killed near Washington, Pa., by falling from his train.

ROBERT RUDGE, 50 years old was instantly killed by a McKeesport and Belvidere passenger train at McKeesport.

LITTLE Harry Brotherton of Rochester went in the river bathing and getting beyond his depth, was drowned.

FIVE men were spilled out of a box car by a sudden jerk of the train between New Castle and Sharon Sunday night and "Doc" Biddle and George Grey were badly hurt.

JACOB WILMONT, a Baltimore and Ohio freight conductor fell under his train at Connelville, and had his right leg cut off. He will probably die.

A VALUABLE herd of cattle belonging to John Martin, of Hillsville, were poisoned by some unknown person. Two of the cattle have died.

HENRY HILLMAN, aged 28, an employe on the Union Drawn Steel Company at Beaver Falls was drowned while bathing in the Beaver river.

A MINER named David Westfall was instantly killed by a fall of slate at the works of the Redstone Coke Company, south of Uniontown.

SAMUEL JOHNSON, brother of councilman of Malvern, ran a cashless home in his hand. Lockjaw deposed and six hours after he was a corpse.

At New Castle, while ironing, Nannie Henderson's clothing ignited and in an instant she was enveloped in flames. Her head, neck and hands were terribly burned before the fire was extinguished.

At Johnstown, Henry Danges, a well-known hotel-keeper was out driving when his horse became unmanageable and ran into a freight train. Danges was killed, and his companion, George Field, injured.

While returning to his home in Beaver county, Samuel Owens was instantly killed by being thrown from his buggy over an embankment near Bright's bridge. He was about 70 years of age.