

THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON.
 In seventeen hundred seventy-five,
 Right early in the morning,
 Before the birds had left their nests,
 Before the day was dawning,
 A note of loud alarm rang out,
 A horseman swiftly flying,
 A ringing of the bells, and then
 A wailing sound of crying
 "Arise ye men of Concord town,
 Make haste your guns to carry,
 And let your lovers go ye maids,
 It is no time to marry,
 For lo! a thrashing army waits
 Within our very borders."
 "So haste," the messenger cries out,
 "Wait not for further orders."
 All day the cannons deadly roar
 Made havoc for the flying,
 And many were the wounded men,
 And many more the dying,
 Ere long to every country farm
 The news came fast and foster,
 Good news—the news of victory,
 And to our foes disaster,
 And thus the fight at Lexington
 Bespoke a good beginning,
 And now the homes that once were sad
 Are full of joy and singing.
 —JOSEPH C. COVING

Illustrated Patriotic Jingle From The Churchman, New York.

**JOE DAYTON'S
 INGLORIOUS FOURTH**
 by Stella G. Florence

DOWN in the vil-
 lage there were
 going to be great do-
 ings on the Fourth
 of July, and the chil-
 dren of High Ridge
 Farm were wishing
 that they might go
 to see the fun. There
 were three of them

—Sadie and Bessie and Joe; and Joe,
 being the only boy in the family, had
 an idea that he ought to be allowed
 a little more freedom than his sisters.
 They were only girls, anyway, he
 argued, and girls had no business in
 a crowd, especially when there were
 bombs and cannon to be let off; but
 a boy—well, a boy could go anywhere
 and be safe.

But Mr. Dayton, Joe's father, evi-
 dently held a different opinion, for he
 said, very decidedly, that Joe could
 not take part in the village celebra-
 tion. "Best place for boys is home,"
 he added, as he went out to the field
 with his men. And Joe knew that ar-
 gument was worse than useless.

But in his way Joe was just as de-
 termined as his father, and if he
 couldn't go to the village he said to
 himself, he would have a little celebra-
 tion of his own at home. He had
 some pocket money hidden away in a
 little old trunk up in the garret, and
 with that he would buy all the fire-
 crackers he wanted. He would find a
 secluded place, far enough from the
 house to insure himself against de-
 tection, and there he would let them
 off.

It did not occur to him then that
 he would have rather a lonesome time
 of it letting off his firecrackers by
 himself; but a few days later, when
 the Elton boys and Jack Hardy came
 into the store where he was buying
 his firecrackers to make their own
 purchases, his secret became all at
 once too good to keep. The result
 was that the other boys agreed to

AN ANNUAL EVENT.

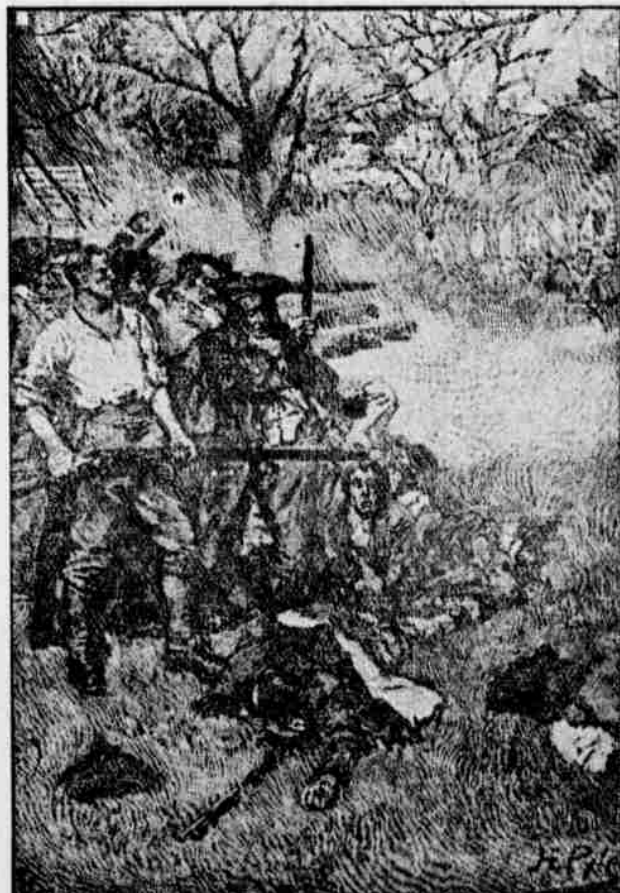


Great Fourth of July Bonfire on Gal-
 lows Hill, Salem, Mass.—A Pile
 of Fuel Eighty Feet High.
 —Mary H. Northend, Massachusetts, in
 Leslie's Weekly.

join forces with him, and it was ar-
 ranged between them that they would
 have what they called a "bang-up
 good time" all together.

The place decided upon was a strip
 of uncultivated ground on the out-
 skirts of the Dayton farm. There
 were no dwellings near save a small
 cottage which had once been occupied
 by an old negro farm hand, and was
 now used as a sort of shelter and
 storehouse for the men working on
 the new railroad close by. The men
 would all be away on the Fourth, the
 boys agreed among themselves, and
 anyway they wouldn't be likely to
 mind a bit of noise.

It seemed a little strange to Sadie
 when, on the afternoon of the Fourth,
 Joe suddenly and mysteriously dis-
 appeared. She was worried about it,
 too, for she suspected that there was
 some mischief afoot. She knew Joe
 better than any one else did, and she



LEXINGTON GREEN.
 "If They Want War, Let It Begin Here."
 Illustration From Thomas Wentworth Higginson and William Macdonald's "History
 of the United States." Harper & Bros.

had felt sure for some days past that
 he had some secret plan in his mind.
 Suddenly the distant sound of ex-
 ploding crackers was borne upon the
 wind to her listening ears.

"Sounds as if it were out by Uncle
 Josh's cabin," Mr. Dayton said, glance-
 ing up uneasily from his paper.
 "Where's Joe? I hope he isn't up
 there. I heard the contractor say
 the other day he expected to store
 some dynamite there, ready for the
 blasting. I guess I'll go and have a
 look around."

But Sadie was already out of hear-
 ing, with little Bessie flying at her
 heels. If she could only get there in

time to warn the boys! That was her
 only thought. She never for an in-
 stant doubted that Joe was among
 them.

Fear lent wings to the children's
 feet, and, taking a short cut across
 the fields, they were not long in
 reaching the scene of action. A
 pungent smell of smoke filled the air,
 and as the two girls came in sight of
 the cottage the first glance told them
 that it was on fire.

"Stay here, Bessie," commanded
 Sadie; "don't go one step further!"
 Then, quickly skirting the small gar-
 den plot, she tore around to the back,
 just in time to see the terrified boys
 making off as fast as their legs would
 carry them. Then, before she could
 turn around, she felt herself being
 lifted off her feet and carried rapidly
 away, and a minute afterward there
 was a tremendous roar, a great sheet
 of flame shot up into the air, the
 earth seemed to reel and shake, and
 then everything grew suddenly and
 strangely black.

When Sadie came to herself she
 was lying in her own room, with
 father and mother bending anxiously
 over her and Dr. Buxton sitting by
 her bedside with his finger on her
 pulse.

"Why, I'm all right," she said, in a
 surprised tone. "What has hap-
 pened?"

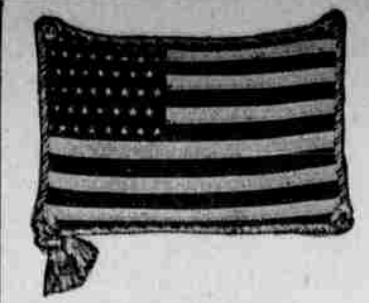
"It's lucky you are all right, young
 lady," the doctor said, with a relieved
 smile. "You had a narrow squeak,
 I can tell you. It was a mighty for-
 tunate thing that the Italian left in
 charge of the supply store had the
 courage and presence of mind to pick
 you up and run."

"Where are Bessie and Joe?" Sadie
 asked, springing up with terror in her
 heart.

"Safe, dear, both of them," said
 mother, soothingly.

"Nobody hurt at all—thank good-
 ness," the doctor put in, "though why
 you weren't all blown to smithereens
 I'm sure I don't know. Now, keep
 quiet awhile, young lady," he added,
 as he turned to go, "and the next
 time there's a dynamite explosion on
 the schedule make a point of keeping
 out of the way."

Joe Dayton learned a lesson from
 that Fourth of July that he never
 forgot. Long before Sadie recovered
 from the illness that followed the
 shock her brother had bitterly re-
 pented of the deceit that had brought
 it about, and had resolved that, come
 what might, he would always be



**THE FIRST BLOW FOR
 AMERICAN LIBERTY**

The Battle of Lexington.

"Stand your ground! Don't fire
 unless fired upon; but if they mean to
 have war, let it begin here."—Captain
 Parker.

Such was the courage of the brave
 men who shed the first blood in
 the American Revolution. It was at
 Lexington, and April 18, 1775, wit-
 nessed the famous ride of Paul Re-
 vere, and the next day, April 19, saw
 the approach of the British along the
 Concord road and witnessed the skir-
 mish between the enemy and the Mi-
 nute Men. This spot is marked by a
 huge boulder, weighing several tons,
 and properly inscribed with the



THE OLD BELFRY AT LEXINGTON.

declaration of Captain Parker given
 at the head of this article.

On a hill near by is an old belfry,
 shown in the illustration here given.
 When the old Lexington meeting
 house was built there was found to be
 no place for the bell, so a separate
 belfry was erected, and it was from
 this tower that warning was given to
 the villagers of the approach of the
 British on that eventful April morn-
 ing.

To the citizens of Lexington be-
 longs the honor of erecting the first
 Revolutionary soldiers' monument,
 and under its granite base repose the
 remains of the men who gave their
 lives in resistance to British tyranny.
 The monument was unveiled in 1799,
 and stands within a stone's throw of
 the Minute Men boulder.

April 19 is a legal holiday in the
 State of Massachusetts, and is known
 as Patriots' Day. Why should this
 momentous event retain merely a
 local significance? Its consequences
 affected every one of the colonies, and
 the causes which led up to it were
 the common burdens of the whole
 people.

That sacred spot of ground is,
 therefore, the joint heritage of all
 American freemen.

The editor of the Bee Hive regard-
 ed it as one of the greatest privileges
 of his life to visit, a few months
 since, the Old Granary burying
 ground in the heart of Boston, where
 Paul Revere is buried. We visited
 also the Old North Church, so closely
 related to the story of Revere. There
 are the tall pews, the high reading
 desk and the old lantern tower. The
 same sweet bells still call the wor-
 shippers to service. And what a thrill
 of patriotism we felt as we stood on
 the battleground at Lexington, where
 the 135 brave men struck the first
 blow for American liberty. The Lex-
 ington Historical Society is doing
 much to preserve the relics and keep
 sacred the memory of those men.

Another interesting relic is the old
 Clark house, where Hancock and
 Adams were sleeping when Paul Re-
 vere rode into Lexington. The build-
 ing was erected in 1699. It is open
 to the public and there may be seen
 the bed in which these two patriots
 were sleeping, the old kitchen, the
 quaint cooking utensils and a drum
 which was used on the battlefield.

American freemen will never cease
 to cherish the names and deeds of
 these early heroes.—The Bee Hive.

A watch taken to the top of Mont
 Blanc will gain thirty-six seconds in
 twenty-four hours.

LITTLE MINUTEMEN.

Rub-a-dub-dub and rat-d-tat-tat.
 Liberty day has come again;
 We're forty strong as we march along,
 And we are a band of minutemen,
 Rub-a-dub-dub,
 rat-a-tat-tat.
 While we are playing our soldier tricks,
 Each little man that wants to claim
 Honor the heroes of Seventy-six.
 —E. M. BEST.



—Clever conception from the Youth's Companion.



An Experimental Plot.

The experimental plot in field or
 garden may not be directly remunera-
 tive in a financial way, but its
 value cannot be measured when we
 count the pleasure it gives and the
 interest it awakens. These are items
 that make the difference between the
 farmers who find pleasure in their
 work and those who consider farming
 a drudgery.—Epitomist.

Preserved Eggs Tested.

The Agricultural Department at
 Washington recently tested eggs
 which had been preserved four years
 in water glass (sodium silicate).
 They were found to have an unpleas-
 ant taste, and the white coagulated
 in cooking. There was a slight taste
 of soda and the white had become
 pink in color and very liquid. Eggs
 kept in water glass for six months
 tasted and smelled like well kept
 eggs a few days old.

Clover vs. Timothy For Steers.

In very carefully and sensibly con-
 ducted experiments with yearling cat-
 tle at the Missouri station it was
 found that by substituting clover for
 timothy the efficiency of the ration
 was practically doubled. That is,
 a bushel of corn when fed in combina-
 tion with clover hay produced essen-
 tially double the number of pounds
 of gain that were produced on similar
 steers with the same amount of corn
 and good timothy hay. What was
 found to be true of clover apples al-
 most identically to cowpea hay.—
 Weekly Witness.

Work of Large and Small Cows.

Small cows consume relatively
 more feed and produce more dairy
 products than large ones. The Jer-
 seys, per one thousand pounds live
 weight, consumed daily during the
 St. Louis dairy demonstration on an
 average seventeen per cent. more
 nutriment than the Holsteins, twenty
 per cent. more than the Swiss and
 over fifty per cent. more than the
 Shorthorns; but they returned forty-
 three per cent. more butter fat than
 the Holsteins, seventy per cent. more
 than the Swiss and 100 per cent.
 more than the Shorthorns.—Ameri-
 can Cultivator.

The Spreader.

Corn ground is one of the best
 places for the manure. A top dress-
 ing of only five or six loads to the
 acre will show good results. A thin
 coat over a large area will bring
 greater returns than a heavy coat
 over a small area. The fact that the
 spreader can spread a load over a
 much larger space and much more
 evenly than can be done by hand is
 a strong argument for its use. No
 other tool on the farm gives us more
 satisfaction. We also like to give
 thin places in the meadow a light
 coat of manure in the spring. We
 keep all the manure on the farm
 under cover. What is not hauled out
 this spring will be used this fall to
 top dress the meadows and wheat
 ground.—Epitomist.

Getting Alfalfa Started.

An Illinois farmer writes: "I have
 not been very successful in getting
 a stand of alfalfa. I am anxious to
 get a small field started and would
 like to have some suggestions how
 to go at it."

If a stand of alfalfa is the thing
 you are after, and do not care much
 for a grain crop from the land this
 year, you should give this land a
 thin dressing of barnyard manure,
 then plow it under, and harrow it
 frequently, up to say the middle of
 May. Then roll and harrow it. Then
 sow twenty pounds of first-class alfalfa
 seed with two or three pecks
 of barley per acre. If you are near
 a field where alfalfa is growing, scat-
 ter a few loads of this soil over your
 own field. Then cut your barley off
 for hay and remove it from the field
 as soon as possible. Don't give it up.
 —L. C. E., in the Indiana Farmer.

Work the Ground.

There is economy in putting in all
 the work possible on the ground be-
 fore planting the seed. A well-
 plowed, well-harrowed and pulver-
 ized field is exactly the right condi-
 tion to start the seed. Good seed
 is hard to kill, but the more congenial
 germinating conditions we give
 it the quicker will it start. A suc-
 cessful corn grower says: "I would
 rather have one good day's work put
 upon a corn field before the seed is
 planted than ten days after the seed
 starts growth." Clear the ground of
 all trash and stalks possible; follow
 the plow with the harrow and keep
 the seed-bed mellow. Ground hand-
 led in this way will warm up quicker
 than poorly tilled land, and conse-
 quently, the seed will not be so apt
 to rot in the ground.—Indiana Far-
 mer.

Soil Fertility.

Don't let the truth escape from
 your observation, that soil fertility
 is before production. Therefore,
 guard jealously the elements which
 secure the harvests. There is a say-
 ing in Indiana: "Drive your grain to
 market," meaning, feed it to the

stock and drive the stock to market.
 There is no better way to maintain
 soil fertility, for it secures the en-
 vied gain while accomplishing the
 desired result. Crop rotation if
 practised systematically and intelli-
 gently, guarantees the same result,
 but it is not believed to be as pro-
 ductive. There are farmers whose
 land is not adapted for stock raising;
 these will of necessity follow other
 means to maintain the fertility of
 their soil than by feeding all farm
 products to stock. In whatever way
 it can be most economically accom-
 plished is the best way for the in-
 dividual farmer, but the necessity of
 obtaining it in some way is daily be-
 coming more evident.—Epitomist.

Sore Neck and Shoulders.

A little care right now in properly
 handling the horses when they are
 soft will save a whole lot of trouble
 after awhile, and it will save the
 poor beast a great deal of needless
 suffering. The spring seeding season
 is the hardest time on the horses'
 shoulders and neck, because the flesh
 is soft and easily bruised, and the
 dust seems to irritate now more than
 any other time during the year. By
 carefully hardening the team to their
 work, their shoulders will soon be-
 come firm, and pads will not be neces-
 sary. In fact, collar pads are a nuisance.
 They are hot and soon be-
 come gummed up with dirt and sweat,
 and will cause irritation easily. Use
 a close-fitting, well-matched collar,
 one that fits the horse's shoul-
 der. Break in a new collar on a
 horse as you would break in a new
 pair of shoes, and then after that
 particular collar has become set to
 the animal's shoulder, never use it
 on any other horse. The changing
 about of collars and harness is not a
 good thing. Fit bridle, collar and
 tugs to suit each horse, and you
 will find that the team will work
 much more willingly, and without
 any worry. Even the best fitting col-
 lars need daily attention. Keep the
 collar clean. Scraping the collar
 with a penknife is not a good thing,
 because it destroys the smooth sur-
 face and is apt to leave ridges. One
 other thing. We use riding cultivators
 and other machines or imple-
 ments with tongues. These are all
 hard on the neck of the team, unless
 the collar fits so snug that it cannot
 slip up and down with every move-
 ment of the tongue. Then be sure
 to set the harness so that the draft
 comes direct against the shoulder,
 and not too low or too high.—Epi-
 tomist.

Good Cow Ration.

A correspondent of the Jersey Bul-
 letin gives the following as the ration
 he is feeding his cows, with ex-
 cellent results he says:
 We are milking twenty-five Jerseys
 and weighing the milk of each cow
 and testing for fat every month. They
 are doing finely this winter; in fact,
 never did better—are giving an aver-
 age test of better than 5.7 per cent.
 fat. We have been feeding a grain
 ration composed of the following:
 200 pounds dried distillers' grains.
 250 pounds corn meal.
 100 pounds cottonseed meal.
 50 pounds fax meal.

Mix, and feed a 500-pound cow,
 giving from eighteen to twenty
 pounds of milk per day, about six
 pounds of the mixture together with
 twenty pounds of roughage. The
 ration composed of mixed hay, oat hay
 and corn clover. We increase or diminish
 the grain ration according to the
 amount of milk the cow is giving and
 her individual requirements.

By taking advantage of the mar-
 ket in the fall, we were able to put
 this grain ration together for about
 \$1.40 per hundredweight, which is
 very low for a ration containing
 over twenty-seven per cent. digestible
 protein, together with the standard
 requirements of carbohydrates and
 fat. I have been feeding this ration
 for nearly a year and a half and I
 have never fed anything that seemed
 to give better results, both at the
 pail and in the general health and
 condition of the animals.

Cottonseed meal is a valuable feed
 for milk and butter production. At
 the South Carolina station it was
 found that cottonseed meal when fed
 in conjunction with good corn silage
 may be fed to the extent of from five
 to six pounds per cow daily without
 affecting the health of the animals
 —in fact, keeping them in an un-
 usually good state of health. Cows
 fed exclusively on this diet for a
 period of five months exhibited no
 craving for dry roughage, but always
 preferred silage to good hay. More
 milk and butter fat were produced
 during that period than during any
 corresponding period. It is the con-
 clusion of the station that cottonseed
 meal and corn silage form the cheap-
 est dairy feeds available for the dairy-
 men of South Carolina.

The Virginia station concludes that
 as cottonseed meal when pure con-
 tains a larger percentage of digestible
 protein than gluten meal and is much
 richer in fertilizing constituents and
 can be fed with equal satisfaction
 for the production of butter and milk
 it should be utilized in the place of
 the latter.