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The most honorable business of "housewife takes equal and recognized rank with that of "husbandry" in Colorado now.

The undeniable insecurity and decrepitude of many of the large buildings of Chicago is a subject which is beginning to agitate and alarm builders and business men.

The British warship Goldfinch recently returned to Sidney, New South Wales, from a five months' cruise among the Solomon Islands.

It is reported that the French Minister of War has decided that the canned goods for the use of the army must hereafter be of French manufacture.

"A venerable man," says the Chicago Inter-Ocean, "who deserves well of his country and is honored the world over for his achievements, has been quietly walking these streets for three months, almost without recognition."

"THE TIME HAS COME."

The time has come when rustles go aloft And make the lazy air resound With loud lalaloes;

THE IRON BRACELETS.

BY FRANK BARRETT.

INTON took the train tickets as the train was running into the station; in hastily snatching up the change a half cover slipped from his fingers.

"Three-quarters of an hour to wait in this hole," Hinton groaned. "Better walk over to Chorley. The train is due there at 9.15, we can do it easily."

"Will you be good enough to open the door," she asked, as we drew near. We both stopped. Hinton brushed past me to render the service; he was younger than I, his gallantry was boundless, and the present appeal to it was made by one of singularly prepossessing appearance.

She stood at the open door in embarrassment that added a charm to her face. The platform did not extend to the carriage. The depth of the ground was considerable, the step awkward.

"May I ask you to help me? I have hurt my hands; they are useless." In a moment we were on the foot-board, one on each side, helping her to descend.

"Now, then, sir, are you going on?" called the guard, with his whistle raised.

"I shall come on by the next train, Jack," said he, and started at once to rejoin the fascinating lady.

"The guard blew his whistle, and I stepped up mechanically into the carriage, closing the door, and never losing sight of my friend and the lady with the iron bracelet.

"Heavens! What was this at the other end, half on the ground, half on the seat. I started to my feet and drew near the dark mass, with growing terror, as I perceived that it was a police officer who lay huddled together, with one shoulder on the seat and his head drooped down upon his breast.

"The carriage was open from end to end—the compartments simply divided by backs. There was only one other traveler in the carriage—a navy in the next but one compartment, with

his back to me, and his head was out of the window that the short black pipe he was smoking might not be objected to.

"A dead policeman!" he said, his little eyes rounding with wonder. "Yes, come over and help me lift him up."

"Nought it," he said, his face settling with an expression of dogged objection. "I ain't goin' to have no truck wi' no dead policemen, no fear. I'm a poor man, I am, and they'd have me off to the station 'n' soon's look at me if I get messin' myself in that job, no fear," and with that he turned his back on me and sat down in an attitude of neutrality.

While they were getting the dead man onto the platform the inspector came over. After he had heard my brief explanation he took out his notebook and pencil, saying he must have my name and address. I gave them, and added that I was to be found during the day at Guy's Hospital.

"If you are a medical gentleman you may perhaps be able to tell the cause of death," he said. "Heart disease, I should say."

"Where did you get in, sir?" "Chorley." "Anyone in the compartments beside yourself?" "No."

"There was no one else in the carriage?" he asked. "There was a navy in the third compartment." I explained his behavior. The inspector smiled.

"He was right. I should have had to detain him. That would have been the loss of a day's wages, perhaps—couldn't let him off with his name and address. However, there's no sign of violence, and most likely what you say about heart disease is right. That will do, sir, thank you. I expect you will be summoned to attend the inquest."

The platform was empty; the ticket collector had come up to satisfy his curiosity. As I was going away he said: "Your ticket, sir."

I gave him my ticket; as I turned the corner by the barrier I saw him showing it to the inspector.

My friend Hinton, on coming up to the lady with the iron bracelet, said: "I have ventured to follow you with the hope that I may continue my assistance—your disabled hand."

"It is precisely for that reason that I found courage to—to look back," she said. "I felt sure that you would not misunderstand my motive."

"Only tell me how I may serve you." "I am ashamed to tell you that I have no ticket, and I cannot get at my purse," she explained, blushing and smiling at the same time; "and if you would kindly get me some sort of conveyance."

"Then you shall not see that young lady," cried Hinton, in a fierce fury. "If you think I'm going to get out of the difficulty by shifting my responsibility onto the shoulders of a woman you are in error!"

"Then you may prepare for twenty years of penal servitude," said Kenet, brutally.

My gushing young friend had got as far as this in his narrative, when the hall porter ushered into our sanctum our old friend Kenet, a clear-headed lawyer.

"Now, you young fellows," he began brusquely, "I've come to get you out of a mess, if I can. I must know all about the affair this morning."

"I told him my story as I have written it here. His first question surprised me. "Can you bring anyone forward to prove that you got into that train at Chorley, and not at Stevenham?"

"After taxing our recollection to the full, Hinton and I came to the conclusion that we could not find a witness to prove this. The station master had closed the ticket box the moment after giving Hinton his change. The door leading onto the platform was locked when we reached it. At Chorley we had not gone through the booking office. The guard's van was in the front of the train; the porters were on the platform, and we were not seen till the moment when we were helping the lady to descend. Kenet looked grave.

"Now, give me your account, Mr. Hinton," said he. "Hinton went over the facts again. "Do you know where the young lady is now?" "Yes, but I must decline to tell you until I know your reason for asking."

"My reason for asking! That's simple enough: I wish to save you from criminal prosecution." We gasped: "What crime has been committed?" "Murder!" "The handkerchief that lay beside the dead man is found to have been saturated with chloroform."

"Good heavens, Kenet, do you think we carry chloroform about with us?" "You are medical students." "Hinton and I stared in blank bewilderment. "Of course you don't believe the young lady committed the murder," Kenet said, addressing Hinton.

"How on earth is such a thing possible? She had her wrists handcuffed, and a muff on her hands." "So much the worse for you. The man is murdered, and the responsibility lies upon you two young men and that young woman. Of course, I believe in your innocence, but that counts for nothing. Your fate will be decided by a jury, and not by me. Now what is the evidence that will be laid before them? One of you is found in a third-class carriage with the dead man, and gives up a first-class ticket from Stevenham, the station at which the policeman got into the train with his prisoner. The other young man gets the young woman out of the train at Chorley, pays her fare, and whisks her out of the way in a fly. A handkerchief saturated with chloroform is found beside the dead man, and you two are medical students. What is the presumption? That you, seeing this attractive young woman put into a third-class carriage by a policeman at Stevenham, get into the same carriage with her. The young woman fascinates you and excites your sympathy. On hearing Chorley the policeman dozes, and one of you, intending, possibly, only to prolong his sleep, applies chloroform. The effect is more serious than you expected, and while one saves the young lady, the other remains with the policeman to use such means of restoring him to life as your experience suggests. However, you had better let me see this young woman at once. If we can prove her guilt—"

"Then you shall not see that young lady," cried Hinton, in a fierce fury. "If you think I'm going to get out of the difficulty by shifting my responsibility onto the shoulders of a woman you are in error!"

"Then you may prepare for twenty years of penal servitude," said Kenet, brutally.

In all probability we should have got the punishment, but for an event that never entered into our calculations.

The young lady with the iron bracelet had assured Hinton that in three days or four at the outside she could clear her character if only she was secured from misapprehension in the interval. The infatuated young man sent her to his mother at St. Albans with a touching letter that appealed to the old lady's sympathy—of course she regarded her son as faultless in all things. The young lady was treated as an honored guest. The first thing she did was to send telegrams to London.

The old lady seems to have been as enchanted as her son by the lady of the iron bracelet, and at night-time they separated with affectionate regard.

When the servants came down in the morning they found the street door, which had been carefully bolted over night, open, and the plate gone. Later they found that the lady with the iron bracelet was missing also.

In the evening a man was arrested on suspicion of having committed the burglary. At the examination I identified him as the navy I had seen in the carriage on the morning of the murder. He was recognized by the police as one of a gang who, in conjunction with a young female of fashionable exterior, had been concerned in a series of burglaries, for which the "young female" had been apprehended at Stevenham.



COPPERAS FOR GRAPEVINES.

Copperas has been tried in France on grapevines which are suffering from an absence of the proper green color. The results are reported to have been most satisfactory.

Sour milk is not fit food for a calf. It may keep the animal alive, but it will not thrive or make a healthy growth. The sour milk will quickly curdle in the stomach and cause indigestion.

When extra feed is needed as early as June there is nothing better than clover. The best time for sowing clover is in July or the early part of August.

When the hog has stopped putting on flesh or fat he must be disposed of, no matter what the market, for after that period all food given is practically wasted.

The business of the horticulturist and that of the apiculturist are each a necessary adjunct of the other, says a lady writer. The beekeeper may pay a wonderful sum for the best bees in the world, may have them in the best of hives with movable frames, queen-excluding honey boards, etc., etc.

Do not forget parsley seed. A small package will yield enough to use all the year.

Many are discarding the pole lima, and taking up the bush lima bean as a specialty.

Young bees are valuable in the spring, and none should be allowed to die from carelessness.

Beeswax will be darkened if melted in an iron vessel. It is better to use brass or copper vessels.

The best shipping crates for honey are of a single tier, and hold from twelve to twenty-four pounds.

Never set plants of a poor quality. Poor seed will make a failure, but only for a single year, while poor plants last over many seasons.

All fruit plants, including trees, should have a generous supply of fine, light-colored, fibrous roots, in order to be of a vigorous and healthy growth.

For the potato crop sulphate is thought to be much better than muriate of potash, for it gives a greater yield and improves the quality in a higher degree.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

There are aluminum bath tubs. Incandescent lamps now sell for twenty-five cents apiece.

More than 16,000 Hindoos have been inoculated for the prevention of cholera.

Illinois physicians endorse the theory that sun spots and smallpox are connected.

The human skin is exactly like that of a fish, as it is covered with minute scales overlapping each other.

Peach stones find ready sale to be used in manufacturing perfumes, flavoring extracts and prussic acid.

Illinois University is to have a summer station for the natural history laboratory and the study of aquatic fauna.

Opticians say that the eye can detect the color produced by adding but one-millionth of a gramme of fuchsine to a glass of water.

The projected Pan-American Railway will be from six to ten thousand feet above sea level, and a good many long and expensive tunnels will be necessary.

The largest passenger engine in the United States belongs to the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis Railroad. Weight, sixty-five tons.

Zoologists claim that the strength of the lion in the fore limbs is only sixty-nine per cent. of that of the tiger, and the strength of his hind limbs sixty-five per cent.

The cylinder head of a Connecticut locomotive blew out while at full speed. The train's momentum carried it to the station, five miles away, without a pound of steam.

It is said that Paris will build a tubular railway eight miles long for the exposition of 1900. It will be for passenger service and electricity will furnish the motive power.

Josiah Hoopes, of Westchester, Penn., has been collecting American birds for forty years past, and now has carefully mounted what is believed to be one of the finest collections in the United States. It numbers 6900 specimens.

As to where man first appeared it is beyond doubt that his earliest home was in southern Europe, or Asia, or North Africa. No earlier traces of him have been found than those found in the area that is now England, France and Spain.

Professor Otto Luggler, in charge of the Minnesota experimental station at St. Anthony Park, Minn., has discovered from numerous experiments that if the animal is healthy no rise in temperature will follow the injection of Koch's lymph, while, if afflicted with tuberculosis, even in its incipient stages, there is an instant rise in temperature.

In tests last year in the German town of Dessau it was shown that cooking by wood and coal costs a little more than twice that done with gas. From experiments continued at Leipzig for several years it is estimated that a consumption of 700 cubic feet of gas per month is sufficient for preparing the ordinary food of a family of four persons.

Dr. Koppin, of Hamburg, has communicated to the United States hydrographic office his method for calming the waves—out a ship in times of storm. He recommends the use of soap suds. G. W. Leutclacher, assistant United States hydrographer, says that it is the particles of air under the water which result in the formation of waves. He also recommends soap suds for preventing the growth of waves.

The Delicious Maracujas. Have you ever eaten maracujas? If not, I advise you to make the experiment as soon as may be. I had never seen them till the other night, when I was dining out, and noticed what at first I thought were oranges nestling on the dish beneath glorious bunches of purple and green grapes. The fruit was arranged on low silver epergnes and mingled with flowers, as is now often the case. I soon, however, discovered that the skin of the fruit as well as the shape were quite dissimilar to that of an orange, the exterior being shiny and "papery," and the size and shape resembling that of a very large Victoria plum.

I found that maracuja was another name for the fruit of the passion flower, and as soon as I had been told this I recollected that even in England the shape and color of our own passion flower fruit is exactly similar, though it becomes no larger than a good-sized daisy. Those to which I was introduced the other evening came from Jamaica and the south of Madeira, and were obtained at a West End fruiterer's. It requires a little pluck to eat them, as the interior is rather a shock.

The fruit is like a collection of dark gray seeds in silver-colored gelatinous syrup, and does not look appetizing, but the flavor is delicious, resembling a most beautiful butterscotch melon. If maracujas were better known, I am sure they would be a favorite addition to our dessert.—London Gentlewoman.

The Phantom City of Glacier Bay. During the past eight or ten years a curious phenomenon has been regularly observed at Glacier Bay, Alaska. It always occurs immediately after the full moon of June and at no other time during the year, and is said to be a beautiful mirage of some unknown city suspended in the rarified air directly over the bay. A Juneau (Alaska) photographer has taken pictures of it on four different occasions, but so far no one has been able to identify a single one of the ghostly buildings outlined on his plates.—St. Louis Republic.

THE STUDY OF AGRICULTURE. Agriculture is the basis of our national progress and prosperity. While this fact is widely recognized, yet the study of this most important of all callings is not placed in the curriculum of the public schools of the country. Generations of children pass through life without ability to distinguish between wheat and barley when they see it growing. It seems necessary to be born on a farm to be acquainted with even the rudiments of agriculture. This is all wrong. The studies of the school-room should be arranged to meet this oversight. True, men have become famous in many ways, whose sole equipment was furnished in the common schools of the country, but these have yet to graduate a scholar who was ever aided in his life work as a farmer by the knowledge acquired in the school. The introduction of sound text books on agriculture in rural public schools would remedy this defect of the system under which they are operated. The children of farmers have as perfect a right to the technical knowledge of their prospective calling, as that such knowledge of things that at best are but mere accomplishments shall be taught. The tendency

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES. Give the pears a light, rich soil. Red raspberries should not be given deep cultivation. Do not forget parsley seed. A small package will yield enough to use all the year.

Many are discarding the pole lima, and taking up the bush lima bean as a specialty. Young bees are valuable in the spring, and none should be allowed to die from carelessness.

Beeswax will be darkened if melted in an iron vessel. It is better to use brass or copper vessels. The best shipping crates for honey are of a single tier, and hold from twelve to twenty-four pounds.

Never set plants of a poor quality. Poor seed will make a failure, but only for a single year, while poor plants last over many seasons. All fruit plants, including trees, should have a generous supply of fine, light-colored, fibrous roots, in order to be of a vigorous and healthy growth.

For the potato crop sulphate is thought to be much better than muriate of potash, for it gives a greater yield and improves the quality in a higher degree. The cucumber should not be set in open ground until about the middle of May or until the weather settles, as it is a very tender annual. Plant in June or July if you want them for pickles.

Do not plant potatoes on hard, poorly plowed soil, for the crop will be poor, no matter how thorough the cultivation or how favorable other conditions if the soil is not mellowed deep enough.