

Fireside Reading.

In Season. "I am very sorry I kept you waiting, Uncle," said George with a blush, as he took his seat in the carriage for a drive, "I hope you have not been here long."

There were two little sisters at the house whom nobody could see without loving, for they were always so happy together. They had the same books, and the same playthings, but never a quarrel sprang up between them--no cross words, no pouts, no slaps, no running away from each other.

You never seem to quarrel," said I to them one day, "how is it you are always so happy together?" "It is because we are always so happy together," said the eldest, "I thought a moment. Ah! that is it," I said, "she lets you, and you let her; that's it."

Home After Business Hours. The road which the man of business travels in pursuit of competence or wealth, is not a macadamized one, nor does it ordinarily lead through pleasant scenes and by well-spring of delight.

Hoxie's Salve--How it Cured the Boy's Eye. Among the good men of whom New York city can boast, is the Hon. Joseph Hoxie. For nearly fifty years he has been closely allied to the Sabbath School cause, and has always tried in a quiet way to do good as he had opportunity.

putting it into the lad's hand, he said, "There, my lad, take that and keep it," and the boy went off happy enough.

When Mr. Hoxie went among a parcel of rough boys shortly afterward, one and another shouted, "There's the man that cured Tom's eye!" There's the man that cured Tom's eye!" and from this, and other causes, his "change" has made boys "feel better," it came to be called by them HOXIE'S SALVE.

Now, we have a good deal of faith in this sort of "salve," and we like the way of distributing it. For every day's little quiet every-day deeds of kindness, humanity goes marching through the world.

Four Pairs of Hands. "Grandmother," said a little girl, "I wish I had four pairs of hands to help you with." "O," thought the old lady, "how happy I am in having a grandchild so ready and willing to comfort my old age."

The Secret. There were two little sisters at the house whom nobody could see without loving, for they were always so happy together. They had the same books, and the same playthings, but never a quarrel sprang up between them--no cross words, no pouts, no slaps, no running away from each other.

Miscellaneous.

Cotton Imports to England. The imports of raw cotton to England during the eleven months ending with November, have been 4,720,853 cwts, or nearly 530,000,000 lbs. The highest import we ever knew was that of 1856--1,391,000,000 lbs; but the average of the six years preceding the commencement of the civil war in America was not above 1,400,000,000 lbs. Making allowance, therefore, for the increase during the month ending with this date, the imports of raw cotton during the year 1863 will considerably exceed a half of the annual average of imports of the period before our chief or almost only source of supply was suddenly cut off.

The Beggar Boy and the Flowers. The following story, the origin of which we cannot trace, beautifully illustrates the power of kindness: "Go away from there, you old beggar boy! You've no right to be looking at our flowers," shouted a little fellow from the garden, where he was standing.

Lord Melville and his Pet Ram. Lord Melville, of Scotland, had a large pet ram called "Bill," which used to follow him like a dog. One day he carelessly left the front door open, and Bill stepped into a passage. When the door was closed, where was a very beautiful glass mirror, bought of a Spanish nobleman, for nearly a thousand dollars. No sooner did he see his image, than he gave a challenge to fight, by stamping, and "getting into his position," which, of course, was answered by the image, and Bill dealt with all force against the glass, shattering it to atoms.

some. The young workman looked a moment into her fair face, and then said in a voice tremulous with feeling: "Twelve years ago I stood here, a ragged little beggar boy, and you showed me the same kindness. The bright flowers and your pleasant words made a new boy of me; and, as they made a man of me, too, your face, madam, has been a light to me in many dark hours of life, and now, thank God, though that boy is still an honest, hard-working man, he is an honest and a grateful one."

The Last Charge. Now, men of the North! will you join in the strife For country, for freedom, for honor, for life? The giant grows blind in his fury and spite, One blow on his forehead will seal the fight!

Blow, trumpet, your summons till sluggards awake! Beat, drum, till the roofs of the faint-hearted shake! Yet, yet, ere the signal is stamped on the scroll, Their names may be traced on the blood-spurred roll!

The New Governor-General of India. The following concerning Sir John Lawrence, the new Governor-General of India, is from a correspondent of the Witness: More than half a century ago the affairs of a worthy draper in the town of Coleraine, Londonderry, got somewhat disarranged. He sent his son, who was in the habit of going to Manchester and Leeds to arrange with his creditors. The young man was harshly received; and, after having failed to effect a settlement, arrived at Liverpool on his way home.

Now that the time for planting fruit trees, vines, &c., is approaching, we consider it our duty to warn our readers against the whole tribe of peripatetic tree peddlers who, about this season, commence their annual rounds, either selling worthless and spurious fruit trees, or taking orders for them. As a general thing they are tricky, irresponsible, and totally unworthy of confidence. They are able to sell because they buy low, and sell a worthless article. They purchase by wholesale the refuse stock of nurseries, and the trees and vines they offer are either not true to name, or are such dwarfed, sickly, and spindling specimens as only to cumber the ground.

Many of you have probably seen an engraving of the picture called "The Horse Fair," painted by a French lady, Rosa Bonheur. Her history is interesting, as showing what industry and plucky determination will do. Her father was a poor drawing-master in Paris, and apprenticed Rosa at the age of twelve to learn dress-making; but her health failed and she left a business she did not like. She soon commenced to make models of animals, and copy her father's paintings, hoping some day to be able to support herself. She worked hard day after day, until her father noticed her wonderful progress, and gave her a course of instruction. He then sent her to the Louvre, the finest picture gallery in Paris, to copy from the best paintings. Here she met the most interesting morning until night. Soon her pictures began to sell for a small sum, which increased her diligence. She was then but sixteen years old. Having resolved to devote herself to painting animals, and being too poor to buy models, she used to take a bit of bread in her pocket, walk out into the country, and copy from nature. She would also visit the cattle pens in the city where animals were kept previous to being slaughtered. This was not a pleasant place for a young lady, but she was too much in earnest to be stopped by trifles. Her reward soon came. When nineteen years old, she received several orders for her pictures exhibited in Paris, and at last took the gold medal for the best painting. At thirty-two, she finished the "Horse Fair," which brought her \$8,000, and from that time her fortune was made. She is now very wealthy, and the best animal-painter in Europe. Remember the secret of her success: She loved her work and stuck to it.

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much amused by the incident, that he sent Lord Melville a splendid mirror from his own palace. In return, Mr. Pitt presented the King with the snuff-box made of Bill's horn, and we suppose it is now in the Palace at Madrid.

Permanency of Photographs. The Paris correspondent of the Photographic (London) News states that, at a late meeting of the Paris Photographic Society, M. Davanne presented two photographic pictures on which photographs are extremely likely to be exposed, the addition being every variation of light, heat, moisture, &c., and they remained as fresh and pure as at first. It was also remarked that photographs are more liable to change when kept in a portfolio than under glass, except in a perfectly dry place, re-remaining for a very long time without exhibiting any signs of alteration, while in a damp place change is immediately evident. Thus, a photograph carefully framed is much better sheltered from humidity than when kept in a portfolio. Scientific American.

Farm, Garden, &c. For a journal having such a large country circulation as the Banner, we recognize a full and carefully-prepared Agricultural and Horticultural department as a very valuable and indispensable feature, and one which demands, and which shall hereafter receive our very closest attention. Our endeavor shall be to select the hints, articles, and communications on farm, flower, and vegetable garden, orchard, vineyard, home embellishment, &c., &c., that all our readers may find a pleasure and an interest in perusing them. We have already effected arrangements to have valuable original contributions from men prominent in Horticulture and Pomology, and shall always be glad to have well-thought and well-written communications from our own readers relating their individual experiences. Should such communications be very brief, pithy, fresh and interesting, we will either set them aside, or condense, and publish their substance. We must be the sole judges of an article's value, and acceptability.

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VALUABLE HINTS FOR THE PRESENT MONTH. Cows and Calves.--It is common practice to have cows come in about 40 to 60 days before they are to be calved out to pasture. This makes March or even April the calving time in this latitude. Still many cows come in in February. They ought to have good hay, a daily feed of cut roots, slightly salted, and a little meal sprinkled on top. For a few days before calving they should be removed to a roomy stall or a loose-box to get a little better rest. They should be looked after, but let alone unless in serious trouble. After parturition give a warm bran mash made with sealing water, and let the cow return to her ordinary feed, increasing the amount of roots and grain if the flow of milk is great, or exhausting. Calves dropped in February can seldom be afforded fresh milk. They should therefore be weaned as soon as possible, and fed with skimmed milk, clover-tea and gruel.

Root Feed.--Roots are a substitute for green feed, which no good farmer ought to be without. Sort over all kinds, separating the soundest to keep latest in the Spring Feed, the partially decayed and wilted at once. Be careful not to feed decayed turnips, rutabagas, or cabbages to the cows--they will not eat of them, and are highly prized in a certain locality. But by only such as have been tried, and are known to succeed well in your neighborhood. If you do not know those sorts, consult with your neighbors, and order only such as they approve; or, write, to some honest and responsible dealer or nurseryman and ask him to make for you a careful selection suitable to your locality. As a general thing, be not carried away by fancy names and much better buy a few of the best sorts, and try them. Next we will endeavor to give lists of the peaches, cherries, apples and strawberries hereafter recommended by the same Society. In order that readers may know from whom to order their Spring supplies of fruit and ornamental trees, vines, evergreens, shrubs, plants, &c., we append the names of five of our Pittsburgh nurserymen, who can be relied upon to send the best of everything, and who will, on application, be glad to give honest advice to those who are inexperienced. They are: Thos. L. Shields & Co., J. S. Knox, John Murdoch, Wm. Berry Bookstore, and William and James Murdoch.

List of Pears for this Locality. The Allegheny County Horticultural Society, at a meeting held at which some interesting business was transacted. The Pear question was discussed at length, each of the members present giving the result of his experience and observations with regard to the varieties of this fruit adapted for this locality. After a general interchange of opinion on the subject, the following list was made out and recommended by the Society, including those varieties best adapted for cultivation here:

"Dearborne's Seedling," "Tyson," "Bartlett," "Bourne Bosc," "Belle Lucrative," "White Doyenne," "Seckel," and "Lawrence." These were recommended as Standard. As Dwarfs, the following varieties also, in the order of their ripening: "Dearborne's Seedling," "Doyenne," "Louise Bonne Jersey," "Duchesse," "Bourne d'Anjou," "Vicar of Winkfield." Several other Pears, both Dwarf and Standard, were introduced by different members and pronounced good; but as they did not come within the rule adopted, the members should vote upon the basis of their own experience or observation, but not placed on the above lists. The Cherry question will come up for discussion at the next meeting of the Society.

The Late Cold Snap, and the Fruit. MESSRS. EDITORS:--Since the very cold weather we experienced about the first of January last, many paragraphs have appeared in the newspapers, especially those published in the West, stating that all the peach buds had been killed by the intense frost. Some of them say that the peach trees are also killed, that the buds of the cherry, plum, pear and apple are all killed--in short, a total failure of the fruit crop is predicted. If this was true, it would be a source of great regret; especially now, as fruit has become one of the most desirable supplies for our soldiers. Fortunately it is only true to a limited extent.

The cherry buds are not injured. I have examined them from several different parts of the county, and from various exposures and soils, and find them nearly all perfect. As to the buds of the apple and pear-trees that have been pronounced killed, I have only to say that I have not seen any that are injured. I have, however, known the buds of cherry trees to be winter-killed, nor do I believe that they ever are so.

Bedding Plants.--Put in cuttings for a stock to plant out in Spring. A good supply of Verbena, Lantana, Ageratum, and the like, is always needed.

INSOLUBLE CEMENT! It is of more general practical utility than any invention now before the public. It has been used for the repair of all kinds of masonry, and for the repair of all kinds of iron and steel. It is superior to any other cement known. HILTON'S INSOLUBLE CEMENT. It is a new thing, and the result of years of study and experiment. It is made of the best materials, and is of a superior quality. It is used for the repair of all kinds of masonry, and for the repair of all kinds of iron and steel. It is superior to any other cement known.

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Buildings--Keep tidy; consider plans for improvements; paint in warm, dry spells, and do not neglect or defer little repairs which save the expense of greater ones. Study to make changes which will save steps and afford decided conveniences. Paint last a great deal longer if put on in Winter instead of in Summer, and is less likely to be defaced by dust while in the green state.

Keeping Cider Sweet.--James Dills, Muskingum County, O., gives the following directions: Heat cider until it boils, then pour into a jug or other suitable glass or earthen vessel, which should previously be heated to prevent cracking. Cork tight and seal immediately with cement, the same as in putting up fruits. It will keep unchanged for years.

Frost.--Pumps and hydrants may be kept from freezing in the severest weather, by setting a headless barrel around them, and filling it with horse dung, mixed as usual with some straw litter. Fence posts, etc., will be saved by frost, if a handful of salt be sprinkled around each, an surface of the ground.

Hot Bed Frames.--Make all ready in time; strengthen old frames; glaze and paint sash, and if new ones are required, have them made in season. If a stock of fine rich mould is not ready, secure it at the first opportunity and keep under cover, otherwise when wanted for the beds it may be frozen or too wet.

Sheep.--Some lambs intended to be marketed early, will be dropped this month. The ewes should be kept at night in tight, well ventilated stables, without much litter for some time before and after dropping. Lambs may be put during mild weather, any time before the buds begin to swell; keep in a cool cellar in damp earth or moss. Root grafting, where it is carried on extensively, will afford sufficient in-door employment.

Wine should have a place under cover, where by working over the litter and making it of straw or oak and straw thrown to them, they will be preparing a good supply of manure for use.

Pen Brush, bean poles, stakes and supports of every kind--procure them before the busy season.

GLENDALE FEMALE COLLEGE.

THE TENTH COLLEGIATE YEAR opened September 14th, with increased facilities in all the departments of instruction. A few more boarding pupils can be accommodated, and the charges for all classes of entrance, for catalogue, terms, &c., are "FEMALE COLLEGE," GLENDALE, Hamilton County, Ohio.

NEW AND VALUABLE BOOKS FOR SALE AT THE PRESBYTERIAN BOOK ROOMS, IN RENSHAW'S NEW BUILDINGS, No. 57 Hand Street, PITTSBURGH, PA.

The Bible in the Family; or, Hints on Domestic Happines, &c. The Young Men's Bible Society, &c. The Young Men's Bible Society, &c. The Young Men's Bible Society, &c.

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