

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

The Borrowing Nuisance.

The greatest nuisance that the farmer has to contend with, and one which entails on him a not inconsiderable amount of loss in time and cash, is the borrowing nuisance. Neighbor A may be a very nice man in many ways; he is sociable, chatty and agreeable. He sends over to our place and politely asks us to loan him our spade. We do not like to loan him our old, weak-backed affair, so promising to return it the next evening, sure, as we want to use it the following day. Our plans are all laid out for work, in which the spade is to play a prominent part, and yet there is no spade to be found. One of the men is dispatched to bring the missing spade, while our other hands potter around until this and other tools are brought back. In the course of an hour the man returns minus the spade, not being able to find either the spade or Mr. A, the latter having gone to some remote part of his farm to work. We then have to alter our plans for that day's work and go to work at something else, after losing considerable time for the accommodation of Mr. A. The following morning, on going to the shed where we keep our tools, the spade is found, full of dirt and grime. We start out to work with it, only to find that some of neighbor A's men have been using it as a pry and have broken its back. We swallow the loss as best we can, and buy another spade. A nice, new briar scythe is borrowed to help in clearing a piece of new ground and get it ready for the plow. In the carelessness and hurry the scythe snathe gets badly charred in the fires of brush, while the temper in the blade is entirely destroyed. This is returned, with great sorrow being expressed that the thing has happened as it has; but nary a word is said about replacing it with a new one. Our clean, sound carriage is borrowed. It is brought back after sundown with a bolt or two missing, perhaps a spoke broken, and the whole covered with a generous sprinkling of mud. The horse rake goes the rounds of the neighborhood and finds its way home with one or two teeth broken. A sharp saw and sharp chisels are borrowed, and the saw is brought into contact with nails, which does not improve either the set or the sharpness of the teeth, while the chisels usually have several suspicious nicks in them which plainly show they have been borrowed.

As with the tools and implements so it is with books, periodicals, etc. A valuable book from our library is borrowed and taken to the borrower's home, where the children, usually with unclean hands, thumb over it till it looks like anything but its former self, while there may be several leaves missing, having been taken to supply the place of less convenient paper. Happily there are a few borrowers who take good care of what they borrow and try to return it in as good order as they received it, in default of which they replace it. We think our readers have had some experience with these nuisances—borrowers—and can testify to what we have written above as not being one whit overdrawn, for we could cite many other instances similar, and no doubt could they.

Curious Discovery of a New Grain.

We have been shown a new grain, discovered about four years ago by a farmer in Surprise valley, in the northern part of this State, taken from the crop of a wild goose which had been shot by the farmer. He sowed the seed immediately after it was taken from the garner of the bird's crop, and it produced more than a hundred fold. Mr. Merithew, a farmer of Butte county, obtained some few seeds of the new grain, and succeeded in propagating it with wonderful success on his farm in Butte county. The straw and beardless head resemble wheat; the grain looks a little like rye, but is twice as large as rye. When cut, as it is passing into the milk, it makes a hay even superior to wheat hay. Mr. Merithew has on hand several tons of hay from this new variety of grain, and perhaps five bushels of its seed. It appears to us every way superior to rye.—*Ventura (Cal.) Free Press.*

Rye Flappers.

A pint of corn-meal and a tea-spoonful of salt in a large bowl. Pour over boiling water from the kettle, and stir hard until it is smooth. Thin it with milk, and add gradually a pint of rye meal, beating it well. The batter should be made as thin as it is possible to turn the cakes—put on the griddle by the table-spoonful. These are as light, rich and delicate as if made with eggs, and are much more wholesome and economical.

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