

USEFUL RECEIPTS.

CHOCOLATE CAKES.—Beat the whites of two eggs with a quarter of a pound of pounded sugar into a frothy cream, add the juice of half a lemon, and six ounces of finely-graduated chocolate. Drop this mixture in spoonfuls on a flat tin, and bake them slowly.

CONFECTIONERS' ICING.—To every egg beaten stiff, allow four ounces of fine powdered loaf sugar, powder as much gum-arabic as will lie on a shilling in a teaspoonful of rose water, or any other light colored extract, or lemon juice. We prefer the latter, as it makes the icing more adhesive. Strain the eggs to remove the stringy substance in them, beat until they will remain on an inverted plate, and then stir in gradually the sugar, gum-arabic, and lemon juice; ice as already described. When the cake is to be ornamented with the icing in wreaths, dissolve gum-tragacanth, and stir a little in the frosting. Pick the gum clean, and wash it; allow a quarter of an ounce to a gill of boiling water, if wanted for immediate use; it takes some time to dissolve. The icing can be made into forms by moulding, or can be put on with a small syringe. The ornamental icing is not put on until the covering of the cake is nearly dry.

TO PREPARE CAKE FOR FROSTING.—Turn it up-side down, if very large, on a whitewood board; dredge it all over with flour, let it remain on fifteen minutes, then wipe it off. This removes the grease, and makes the frosting adhere better; commence by pouring a quantity on the centre of the cake, dip a knife in cold water, smooth it down, and let it dry.

VIRGINIA CORN DODGERS.—Take three pints of unsifted yellow corn-meal, one tablespoonful of lard, and one pint of milk; work all well together, and bake in cakes the size of the hand, and an inch thick. To be eaten hot, with butter, molasses, or both, as preferred.

GRINDING TEA.—It has been discovered that by grinding tea in the same manner as coffee, before infusion, the quantity of exhilarating fluid obtained is nearly double.

USES OF WHITE OF EGGS.—The white of eggs beaten up so as to destroy their structure, forms the *glair* of the bookbinder, with which he gives the shining appearance to the newly bound books.

If any of my readers are desirous of renovating the appearance of some of their old library favourites, they may rub off the dirt and fly marks with a slightly damp cloth, and then rub the covers over with a small piece of rag dipped in *glair*, and they will be surprised and pleased at the improvement in their appearance.

There is another employment of *glair* which is even more useful in the household. When the fruit-preserving season comes on the difficulty of procuring skin or bladder for tying down the pots of jam is often experienced. If, however, a sheet of rough fibrous paper taken, gaired on both sides and tied over the pot, it shrinks and tightens as it dries, and forms a layer quite as impervious as, and fully equal to, bladder, provided the preserves are kept, as they always should be, in a dry situation.

Another use of *glair* is worth remembering. It is the best antidote to the poisonous preparations of copper, lead, silver, or mercury, as it forms insoluble compounds with these metals. On one occasion a well-known chemist was lecturing to his class on the preparations of mercury when he accidentally took a draught of a solution of corrosive sublimate in mistake for water, fortunately a solution of white of egg was on the table, he instantly drank copiously of it, and thus prevented its deleterious action and saved his life.

The use of white of egg in clarifying is well known. A small quantity of *glair* mixed with any turbid or black solution coagulates when it is heated, and, entangling all the small particles that cause the turbidity, leave the liquid bright and clear as it boils up to the surface in the form of scum.

Whisked white of egg is often added to wines to clarify them. In this case the coagulation is caused by the spirit of the wine, and heat is not required. In all cases where eggs are employed for clarifying, the white only should be used, as the oil of the yolk interferes materially with the clearness of the liquid to be fined.

The least error should humble us, but we should never permit even the greatest to discourage us. It is stated that Captain John H. Bell, of Baltimore, a Presbyterian, has been promoted by the Sultan to the distinguished office of Lord Admiral-in-Chief of the Turkish Navy, without sacrificing his religious principles.

The western widows are calling indignation meetings with reference to the advent of Massachusetts virgins. The male persuasion is too scarce for the home market, without importations.

My child, take these eggs to the store, and if you don't get ninnence a dozen bring them back. Tommy went as directed and came back saying: "Mother, let me alone for a trade. They all tried to get 'em for a shilling, but I screwed 'em down to ninnence."

The Hon. James Gordon, a member of the Legislative Council, died at Toronto on the 10th inst.

IN THE MIST OF A stormy discussion, a gentleman rose to settle the dispute. Waving his hands majestically over the disputants, he began: "Gentlemen, all I want is common sense." "Exactly," Jerrold interrupted, "that is precisely what you do want!" The discussion was lost in a burst of laughter.

AN AMUSING INCIDENT occurred recently, during the progress of one of those "Sabbath School Concerts" so interesting to adults as well as children. The subject was the history of Samson, and the question, "What foolish thing did Samson once do?" Expectation was on tiptoe to ascertain his peculiar weakness, when from a front seat came the reply, given with solemn preciseness and irresistibly ludicrous accent, "He went down among the Philistines and got a wife!"

THE FINAL TEST.—A worthy old Irishman was told one evening that his wife was very sick and likely to die. Profoundly grieved at the information, he hastened to her bedside to ascertain the progress of the disease, and in his own way to make a diagnosis. He first wiped the tobacco from his lips and gave her an affectionate smack.

"Och! be the powers," said he, "and sure her mouth is as cold as the key-hole of a jail door!" Filling his cob pipe he sat down by the fire and cogitated. A thought struck him, and he rose and offered his pipe to the sick woman, begging her to take a whiff or two. She moaned a refusal, and the sorrowing man again sat down. The pipe was soon finished, and the canteen of old Irish whiskey was brought down; after a generous draught, besweetered a little for his companion. As before she shook her head, and seemed utterly incapable of appreciating her usual luxuries.

The good man's heart failed him, and, as he drained the toddy which she refused, he exclaimed— "Och, Bridget, dear, and yees go in' to lave me intirely! Ye'll neither smoke nor dhrink, and sure thin ye arn't long for this world, at all, at all!"

And, sure enough, she did die.

HOW CAPTAINS LOVE THEIR SHIPS. I remember once there were four ships of us lying windbound in a little basin of a harbour at the western extremity of Bass's Strait and all bound into Hobart Town, in Van Dieman's Land. Among the number was a Glasgow ship called the *Caledonia*—a regular mallet, commanded by Captain Archie Macgreggor, who thought her about one of the fanciest crafts that ever floated.

We were all anxious to get into Hobart Town before the Queen's birthday, which was to be an extra big holiday. So out we all went one morning, and after banging away at a S. E. gale a couple of days, we got a start, and three of us ran into port two days ahead of the Queen's time.

Ten days afterward in came the old Glasgow tub, staggering under every inch of canvass. Captain Macgreggor ran her slap up into the mud till she brought up, and then leaping upon the wharf, he slapped and patted her affectionately, singing out, "Weel doon, me noble *Caledonia*!"

THE TELEGRAPH SPEAKING SCOTCH.—The *Guelph Herald* says:—"The *Fergus Constitution*, of Friday, in giving the details of the celebration of St. Andrew's Day, in the capital of the North Riding, on the previous Wednesday, states the fact of telegrams having been exchanged by the sister Societies of Guelph and Fergus, making enquiry after the health of the "Sons" in their respective localities; the message being expressed in tolerable Doric. A neighbour reading the account to an old Scotch-woman, gave the telegram, as printed, in Scottish vernacular, at which the old lady, holding up her hands, in astonishment, exclaimed; Preserve's, sirs, can the telegraph speak Scotch? I never ken't that before! It maun be unco smart!"

WARD BEECHER'S PREACHING.—Henry Ward Beecher asked Park Benjamin, the poet and humorist, why he never came over to Brooklyn to hear him preach. Benjamin replied, "Why Beecher, the fact is, I have conscientious scruples against going to places of public amusement on Sundays."

AN ENGLISH ELOPEMENT.—The English papers bring details of an elopement from a "little market town on the borders of Hampshire." One the parties was a young gentleman student at a military academy, receiving the usual education afforded to cadets. This young person became enamoured of a rustic beauty, poor but respectable. There were social and parental obstacles to a marriage, so an elopement was decided on. The parties left the village by the train and went northward. It was a day or two before the truants were found, and then they were discovered in a small cottage before a turf fire, at breakfast, and married. A compromise was effected, and the father of the gentleman, a clergyman in a high position in the Church of England, at first highly indignant at his son, ultimately relented, and consented to pay their passage to Australia, if they would agree to expiate their folly by that species of exile. The newly-married couple accepted the offer and the atonement, and were speedily on the way to their destination.

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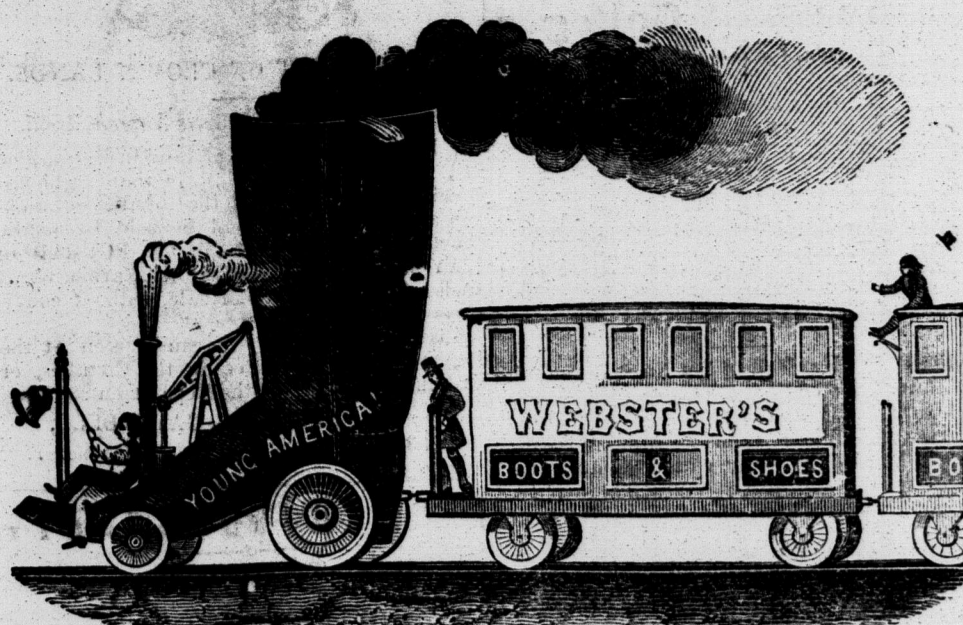
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