

HE WAS SATISFIED.

The Old Parly Had Faith in the Injunction Against Two Masters.

A colored man, past middle age, but active and polite of manner, approached the captain of one of the lake boats, says the Detroit Free Press.

"I un'stan'," he said, "dat you aalls is lookin' foh er man ter he'p out or you aalls boat?"

"Yes. Have you ever had any experience on the water?"

"No, suh. I dist come ter dis paht er de country, an' I ain' much on navigatin'. But I's a pow'ful good cook, an' I reckon I kin cook dist ez good on watah ez I kin on land, ef I gits de chance."

"Well, I guess we can give you a place, if that's the case. We'll have your abilities tested to-morrow, and if you suit you can come along."

"Thanky, suh. Thanky berry much, indeed. But 'ah is dist one question dat I'd like fur ter ask yer."

"What is it?"

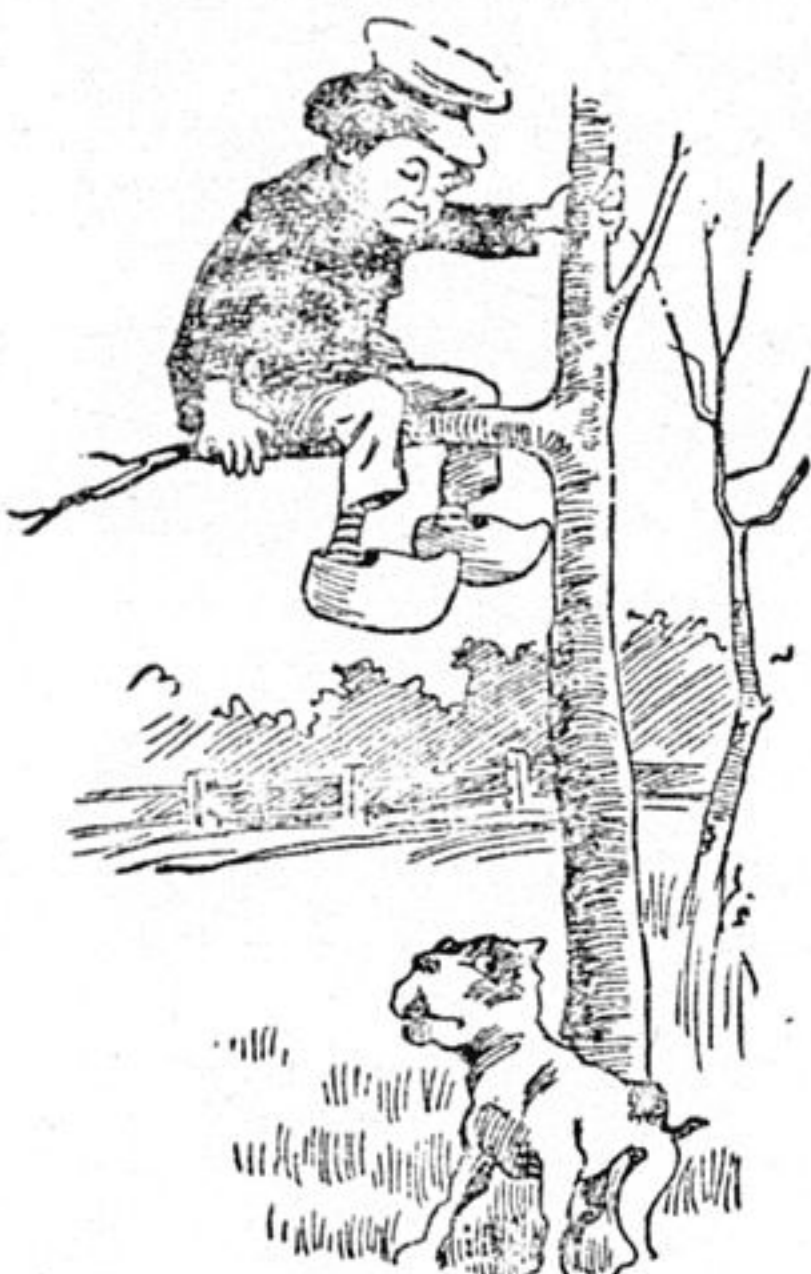
"'Hah yoh boat got two masts or three masts?"

"It has three masts; but I don't see how that can concern you."

"'Hit doan seem ter concern me none, suh. But ef yoh boat wus er two master, suh, I couldn't go wif yer, much ez I needs de stivitation."

"Why not?"

"'Case de Good Book done prevent it, suh. I'se done yeard de minister read it over and over agin, dat no man kin serve two masters an' ef yoh ship wus er two master, suh, I'd er hatter han' in mer resignation befoh I done got hired."



HANS UP.

How He Did It.

As we were waiting at Deadwood for the coach to Custer City I fell in with a stranger who was so pleasant of speech that I asked him to have a nip with me. Later on we began to talk about road agents and holdups, and I asked him if he thought the road safe.

"It's hard to say," he replied. "You may get through all right, and then you may be held up before going ten miles."

"There will be five men of us. We ought to be able to stand off a highway-man."

"Yes, unless he gets the drop on you."

"But if we are on the watch, how can he get the drop on us?"

"Why, you see—well, I can't exactly explain, but he will probably do it. I'm in something of a hurry now, but should we meet again I'll tell you how the boys generally work it. Have something with me?"

"No, thanks."

"Then I owe you one and bid you good day. Pleasant journey to you!"

Four hours later, as the coach was totting up a long wooded hill, there was a loud command of "Hands up!" and as we came to a standstill a man with a gun in either hand appeared at the heads of the leading horses and called out—

"Now, then, everybody down except the driver, and if I catch sight of a gun I shall pop away at the owner before asking any questions. Get into line and keep your hands up!"

I was hardly down before I recognized the man who had clinked glasses with me at Deadwood. I was at the head of the line, and as he came up he laughed and said—

"You see how it is done, don't you? I hadn't time to explain this morning, and now you see for yourself."

"Yes, I see. Is this a joke or bustness?"

"Straight business, sir. Shell out!"

"I 'shelled' and the rest followed suit, and the fellow got over a thousand dollars in cash and four good watches. When ready to go he threw me a five dollar gold piece with the remark—

"I owe you one, and here it is. If any of you gents have ever been curious to know how the old thing worked you've seen it and can tell all about it. Pile in and g'lang, and don't get into a row over who showed the most pluck."

The Difference.

Mr. Franks town—There goes young Mr. Homewood, cycling with that pretty grass wifew.

Mr. Point Breeze—Yes; he's deeply infatuated with her. He tells me he can't live without her.

Mr. Franks town—That's odd. I know her ex-husband very well, and he confided to me that he could not live with her.—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

More Urgent Business.

Breathless Citizen—Here, policeman! Quick! There's a burglar in the house next to mine. I saw him break in. If you come right away you can nab him!

Officer—Burglar nothin'! Ketch 'im yourself! If you want 'im, I'm on track of a feller that's been kissin' his wife on the street.—Chicago Tribune.

It Prevents Accidents.

John Medders—Huh! What the ding-dang is the sense of that rule of etyket which says that a gent should always leave the parlor backwards?

Jay Green—That is so's the folks he has been visitin' can't git a chance to klog him, I guess.—Truth.

AGRICULTURE

Portable Gates.

A portable fence is one of the useful things on the farm, especially where portions of a field are to be pastured in succession, or where only part of a field is used as pasturage for stock. As ordinarily constructed, the portable fence is heavy, unwieldy, hard to move from place to place, and still harder to set up again; or if made light to avoid this objectionable feature, it lacks the strength necessary for a fence that will effectually turn stock, and it is also very easily overturned by the wind.

The best portable fence in use in this part of the country is shown in the figures. It is unpatented, the invention

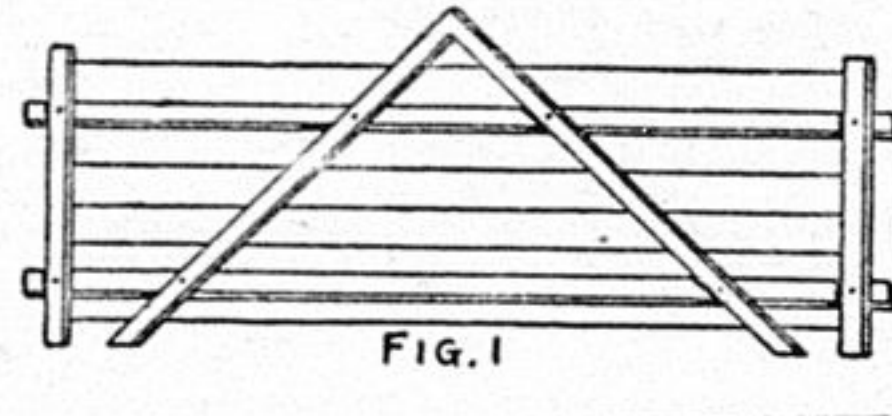


FIG. 1

of a practical farmer, and appears to be about as near perfection as any we are likely to find. It is strong, yet light and easily handled, can be easily set up or taken down, and is not overturned by ordinary storms.

The panels are made of pine scantling, two by three inches. The rails, above and below, are 16 feet long, with clear space of 2 1/2 feet between them. They are connected by an upright post at each end, leaving four inches of the rail projecting beyond the post to lie in the notches of the support when set up. The upright posts are 4 1/2 feet long, extending six inches below the lower rail and a foot above the upper. The braces at the center are each seven feet long, and are placed upon the frame, making a right angle above, and, like the posts, reaching six inches below the lower rail. Wherever these pieces cross they are bolted together with a quarter-inch bolt. Barbed wires are stretched from post to post, fastened also to the braces.

In making these panels, a barn floor is the best workshop. After one has been made to measure, it is laid flat upon the floor, the pieces of the next are arranged in place just above those of the first, a nail is driven into each crossing to prevent displacement while putting in the bolts, and the work is finished by putting on the wires before it is taken up. In this way a large number of panels can be made in a comparatively short time. The supports are made of oak scantlings, two inches square. The legs are 4 1/2 feet long, bolted together without notching or framing of any kind, and spread to a width of four feet at the base. In the fork above, a triangular notch an inch deep is cut on the outside of each piece, a place where the opposite sides of these notches are four inches apart, or just wide enough to receive the ends of the two panels. Two feet eight inches

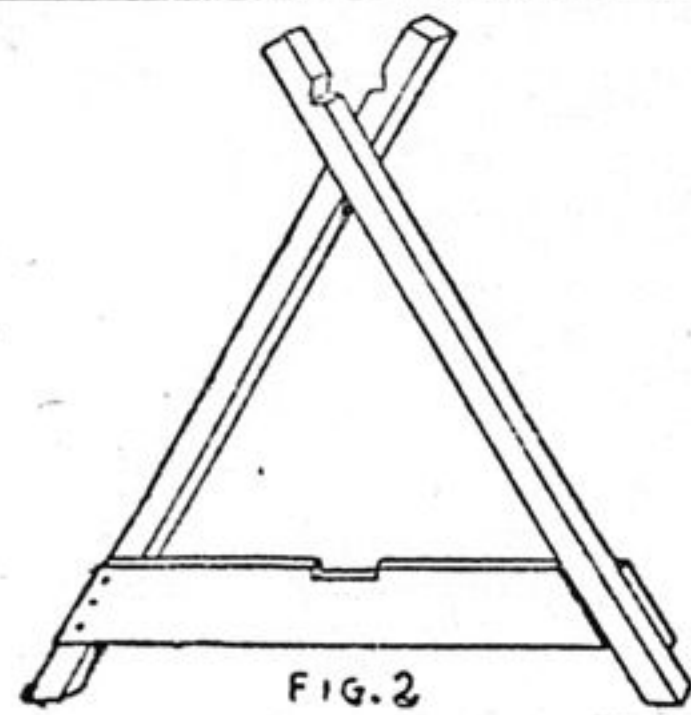


FIG. 2

below this, an oak board six inches wide is nailed across the legs. At the center of its upper edge, a notch four inches wide and one inch deep is cut, making two feet nine inches between the notches that are to hold the upper and lower panel rails.

The points of superiority claimed for this fence are lightness, combined with strength and durability, small area of surface presented to the wind, ease of construction, and comparatively small cost. On level ground, the panels come solidly together, yet as they may be two inches apart above or below, it will cross a hill or valley at considerable curvature. That it is easy to handle is proved by the fact that two men can take down, move half a mile, and set up a hundred rods in half a day.—Country Gentleman.

Preserving Eggs in Summer.

There are a great many processes for preserving eggs in summer so as to keep them for higher prices. Some resort to packing in lime or lime solutions, or coat the eggs with some substance that renders them impervious to air. All the processes will usually serve the purpose, but when the eggs reach the market they are not "fresh" in the strict interpretation of the term, and do not sell at prices which make it profitable to produce them. The best and cheapest mode is to remove the males, as infertile eggs will keep three times as long as those used for hatching. Place them on racks or shelves, and turn them three times a week. Keep them in a cool place, the cooler the better. Eggs kept in this manner (especially if the males have been removed) should be in excellent condition at the end of three months, which is long enough to secure better prices. They will keep for six months in a temperature of 50 degrees. It will not be profitable to buy eggs to preserve, as there is too much risk of bad ones, and one stale egg will spoil all.

Annoyance From Insects.

When the comb of a fowl is torn or the legs injured, insects will take advantage of the opportunity to annoy the bird. Get a pint of linseed oil and add a tablespoonful of oil of tar and the same of kerosene. Use a few drops of the mixture on the injured place and it will keep insects off and act as a curing liniment. It is the best substance that can be used for the large lice on the heads and for scabby legs.

To Clean Straining Cloths.

Jelly bags and straining cloths should not be washed with soap, but soaked in very hot water and squeezed dry before finally rinsing in tepid water.

A RUNAWAY

Or an upset may damage your buggy or waggon, perhaps only slightly, perhaps so badly that you will want a new one. In either case the best thing to do is to go to S. S. Gainer's, where repairing and repainting are done in the best style, and where the best kind of vehicles can be had at prices to suit the times. Shop on Francis Street East, next door to Knox's blacksmith shop.

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