

ALMA MATER.

We skimmed ter send that boy ter fill
The holler in his head with knowledge.
He was n't good fer much, but still
We thought he might pull through a
college,
We guessed he'd study up at nights,
Work hard ter mend his mind and natur',
But now the young Philistine writes
He's deep in love with Alma Mater.

We'd better kep' him hoin' corn,
An' feedin' pigs, an' doin' ploughin'
An' gitten' up at early morn
Ter milk the cows, as I'm allowin'.
There's neighbor Quiggs's Hetty—Gosh!
How this here news will agitate her;
I'd always picked her out for Josh,
And now he's sparkin' Alma Mater.

I've heard about them college chaps,
I've read about 'em in the papers;
An' Josh is one of 'em, perhaps,
An' deep in all their scrapes and capers.
He wrote us he was doin' fine,
Was something of a woman hater;
An' now we find he was a lyin',
An' wastin' time on Alma Mater.

Last night we wrote a letter warm,
A-sayin' we was led to statin'
He'd better come and mind the farm,
An' never mind 'bout graduatin';
That he could pack his college riggs,
Or he would find out, soon or later,
He's better sparkin' Hetty Quiggs
Than making love to Alma Mater.

A New Cross.

Referring to Mr. Havemeyer's plan
of "putting new life into the Jerseys"
by crossing them with Simmenthal bulls,
Mr. S. Hoxie writes in The American
Agriculturist: The impression is strong
that Havemeyer might have found
breeds nearer home more suitable for
his purpose. The Ayrshire is a beauti-
ful animal of unquestionable health and
stamina; the cow gives nearly or quite
as much milk as the Simmenthal, and
it is as rich. The Red Polled, with
equal stamina, is not behind in any
dairy quality. And last, though not
least, the Holstein-Friesian give as rich
milk and more of it. One of the large-
est breeders in California writes that he
crossed Holstein-Friesian on other cattle.
He says: "I have a half-bred Holstein
and Jersey—thoroughbred on both sides
—which produced 662½ lbs of butter
last year by the Babcock test." I have
advocated the crossing of breeds for
several years, and have made enquiries
on the subject. From what information
I have been able to gain, and from my
own limited experience, I am led to the
tentative conclusion that a cross of med-
ium weight Holstein-Friesian bulls with
Jersey cows is a success. A cross thus
made by me resulted in no difficulty of
birth, and the produce was a large and
very rich milk. I sold her to a large
dairyman, who has often said to me,
"She was the best cow I ever owned."
I cannot recommend the opposite cross
—that of Jersey bulls on Holstein-Fries-
ian cows. As breeders say, "it does
not seem to be a good nick."

Mixed Farming.

Mixed husbandry has brought untold
blessings to our country. The is no
other farming that will long stand the
test with the rank and file in any coun-
try. One line of farming may do in a
new country, but it comes to an end.
One requires one crop system. Many
men grew rich by raising wheat when
the land was new and good, and then
they became poor again when the soil
became worn and prices fell. The one-
crop farmer comes to be a narrow gauge
man in his views of farming. He gets
into a rut, and cannot apparently get
out of it. With him the thing that has
been is that which shall be. The man
who grows a variety of crops from the
soil, and a variety of products from the
crops which he has grown, soon gets
ready for any emergency. He has some
crops that yield well in almost any sea-
son. There are some products which
bring a fair price though the times are
depressed, and there is always a fair
living for the farmer and his family
even in adverse seasons. The one-line
farmer may sometimes find a spring-
tide, but the next season he is just as
likely to find an ebb-tide, and he finds
himself sometimes in "good" luck and
sometimes in "hard" luck. The man
who diversifies wisely sails on a smooth
sea, and he usually finds the winds at
least fairly propitious.—Farming.

One reason why there is usually a
good crop of potato beetles every year
is because farmers do not use their best
efforts to destroy them. Many potato
fields receive no Paris green after the
crop is assured, the beetles having full
sway. The consequence of this saving
of a few hours' labor is that ten times
as much work must be done next year
in destroying beetles and saving the
crop of potatoes.

Does every acre on your farm pay its
taxes and a profit on its cash value?
Every farmer should ask himself this
question, and then look over the farm
and see how the matter stands. And
if you can't make every acre a profitable
one, better sell or give away such as
are a burden and a tax.

Mixed Their Metaphors.

SOME AMUSING EXPRESSIONS MADE BY
PERSONS WHO DIDN'T THINK
CAREFULLY.

The following collection of curious
phrases is taken from the *Ram's Horn*:
A coroner's jury in Maine reported
that "deceased came to his death by
excessive drinking, producing apoplexy
in the minds of the jury."

An old French lawyer, writing of an
estate he had just bought, added:—
"There is a chapel upon it in which
my wife and I wish to be buried, if
God spares our lives."

On a tombstone in India is the fol-
lowing inscription: "This monument
was erected to the memory of John
Jenkins, accidentally shot as a mark of
affection by his brother."

A Michigan editor received some
verses not long ago with the following
note of explanation: "These lines were
written fifty years ago by one who has,
for a long time, slept in his grave
merely for pastime."

A certain politician, lately condemn-
ing the government for its policy con-
cerning the income tax, is reported to
have said: "They'll keep cutting the
wool off the sheep that lays the golden
eggs until they pump it dry."

An orator at one of the university
unions bore off the palm when he de-
clared that "the British lion, whether
it is roaming the deserts of India or
climbing the forests of Canada, will
not draw in its horns nor retire into its
shell."

A reporter in describing the murder
of a man named Jorkin, said: "The
murderer was evidently in quest of
money, but, luckily, Mr. Jorkin had de-
posited all his funds in the bank the
day before, so that he lost nothing but
his life."

A merchant who died suddenly left
in his bureau a letter to one of his cor-
respondents which he had not sealed.
His clerk, seeing it necessary to send
the letter, wrote at the bottom: "Since
writing the above I have died."

An Oklahoma editor expresses his
thanks for a basket of oranges thus:
"We have received a basket of oranges
from our friend Gus Bradley, for which
he will please accept our compliments,
some of which are nearly six inches in
diameter."

The Morning Post in 1812 made the
following statement: "We congratulate
ourselves most on having torn off Cob-
bett's mask and revealed his cloven
foot. It was high time that the hydra
head of faction should be soundly rap-
ped over the knuckles."

An English lecturer on chemistry
said: "One drop of this poison placed
on the tongue of a cat is sufficient to
kill the strongest man," and an English
lieutenant said that the Royal Niger
Company wished to kill him to prevent
him going up the river until next year.

A clergyman in an eastern town warn-
ed his hearers lately "not to walk in a
slippery path, lest they be sucked, mael-
strom-like, into its meshes!" This met-
aphor suggests that of another clergy-
man who prayed that the word might
be as a nail driven in a sure place,
sending its roots downward and its
branches upward.

The present Duke of Leeds is report-
ed to have accused the late Government
of making a direct attack on the brew-
ers by means of a side wind. It was
during the late administration that one
of the Irish whips telegraphed to Dub-
lin that "the silence of the Irish mem-
bers would be heard in the House of
Commons no longer."

It was the celebrated Sgt. Arabin
who, at the Central Criminal Court, in-
formed the prisoner before him that
"if there was a clearer case of a man
robbing his master, that case was this
case;" and, after passing sentence, con-
cluded: "I therefore give you the op-
portunity of redeeming a character ir-
retrievably lost."

In the Irish House of Commons of
1795, during a debate on the leather
tax, the Chancellor of the Exchequer,
Sir John Parnell, observed that "in the
prosecution of the present war every
one ought to be ready to give his last
guinea to save the remainder of his for-
tune." Mr. Vandeleur replied that "a
tax on leather would press very heavily
on the barefooted peasantry of Ireland."

At a recent temperance gathering an
orator exclaimed: "The glorious work
will never be accomplished until the
good ship Temperance shall sail from
one end of the land to the other, and
with a cry of 'Victory!' at each step
she takes, shall plant her banner in
every city, town and village of the
United States." Another speaker said
that "All along the untrodden paths
of the future we can see the hidden
footprints of an unseen hand. We pur-
sue the shadow, the bubble bursts and
leaves the ashes in our hands!"

Pat.—Sure, an' that soort ov a burd
is that troiy'n to sing wid the cookles
in his t'roat?

Farmer.—That's a guinea hen.
Pat.—A guinea hin! Faix, an' she's
not worth it.

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