

The Wild Carrot.

This is becoming a troublesome weed in many parts of the country. A recent report from the Maine State Board of Agriculture says it has been known in the State for the past ten years, and is now very widely spread. Our experience with it goes back more than forty years. The first specimens in our neighborhood came from a neglected field of the common carrot, which was so poor a crop that it was never harvested. As the ground that winter was covered with snow most of the time, these carrots lived and bore seed next year, which was widely distributed by the wind and other means. Ever after this year that neighborhood abounded with wild carrots, growing smaller roots each year. Too much care cannot be taken in growing carrot seed not to let any of it run wild, for if it gets on the roadside or in pastures it will at once degenerate and become the true wild carrot. It is, however, not a very troublesome weed if care is always taken in seeding down to put the clover and grass seed so thickly as to leave no room for it. Even on the roadside it is only abundant where the sod has been ploughed up and carted into the roadway as used to be done, leaving only the subsoil by the roadside, in which only the wild carrot, mayweed and ragweed will grow. All three of these weeds will be crowded out if the clover seeding covers the entire surface, as it always should.

Sow Plaster Early.

The experience of farmers who have used plaster most shows that it cannot be relied upon to do any good if sown after most of the spring rains have passed. How early it can be sown with advantage cannot be said. It was a common practice of an old farmer of our acquaintance to sow plaster on the snow at the same time he sowed his clover and grass seed. If there is a clover seeding on the ground, the plaster may be sown any time in winter or even the previous autumn. It will help the clover until the field is ploughed again. It is supposed that one advantage of the plaster is in absorbing ammonia from the air and rain. But there is more ammonia in most snow in proportion to the water it contains than in any rainfall. For that reason sowing plaster on snow that fell in large, open flakes, and therefore absorbed most ammonia from the air, will probably be advisable.

Turnips Must Go.

At the annual meeting of the Thamesford cheese factory patrons one of the most live subjects discussed was that of feeding turnips to cows, the milk from which was being made into cheese. There was a full meeting, and although a number of them had always been in the habit of feeding a few turnips to their cows in the fall, every man that expressed himself at all on the subject declared that he believed better results would be obtained if no turnips were fed, and that they should, therefore, not be used. At the close of the discussion the following resolution was unanimously carried: "We, as patrons of the Thamesford cheese factory, pledge ourselves not to feed turnips to our cows while sending milk to the factory, and do authorize our directors to pass a by-law prohibiting the feeding of turnips to cows from which the milk is used for cheesemaking."

Wood Ashes for Heavy Soils.

All heavy soils contain some potash, but it is often in form not available for crops. Hence ashes or other forms of available potash may do as much good on heavy loams as they do on sandy soils naturally deficient in this mineral. Even if potash is present in sandy soils, it is quite likely to be in the form of a silicate of potash, which is insoluble except in contact with something that is fermenting. It is thus that a dressing of stable manure, having very little potash itself, may make bright, clean straw wherever it is applied, while on the land not manured the grain and straw will be rusted. It is potash or the lack of it that makes this difference, and the result shows that the manure made soluble enough potash in the soil to maintain healthful plant growth.

Sheep in the Orchard.

I have five acres that are partially covered with apple trees, some of which are quite old. For several years no crops have been raised on the land. For a few weeks in the year it is used for pasturing cows, and during a portion of the summer and fall sheep are given the run of the field. They lie under the shade of the trees a greater part of the day, where a good share of their droppings is left, which seem to be a great benefit to the trees, and all wormy and defective apples are quickly eaten as soon as they fall. I now raise more and much better fruit, and believe it will pay any farmer who has an apple orchard to keep sheep.

Uncle Oatcake Explains.

BUT HIS EXPLANATION PUZZLES HIS LITTLE NEPHEW FROM THE CITY.

"Say, Uncle Oatcake," said the little boy who was staying at the farm, "what makes you go to bed now?"

The time was 8.15 on a winter's evening, and Farmer Oatcake, according to his life-long custom, having wound up the kitchen clock, thrown the cat into a snowdrift, and read a chapter from Hezekiah, was preparing to go to bed, says Truth.

"What makes me go to bed now?" repeated the agriculturist in blank amazement. "Why, so I can get up early."

"But, uncle, now that there is no work on the farm, what is there to do so early?"

"God bless the boy," said Farmer Oatcake. "Do? Why, light the fires, to be sure."

"But what do you want the fires for so early?"

"Har, Har!" laughed the farmer. "Well, now, don't that beat all? Ef you don't have no fire, how are you going to get breakfast?"

"But, uncle," persisted the boy, "what is the good of having breakfast so early?"

"The good of it!" cried Uncle Oatcake. "By gosh, sonny, ef you was to git up at 4 on a winter's morning you wouldn't want to be kept waiting round for breakfast! No, siree!"

"But you said you only got up to light the fire?"

"That's it," assented the farmer.

"And you only light the fire so as to get breakfast?"

"That's right."

"And you only have to get breakfast because you are up so early. Aren't you arguing in a circle?"

"Aren't I which?" said the farmer.

"Arguing in a circle—a vicious circle?"

"See here, bub," said Uncle Oatcake, sternly. "I've been working hard on this place for nigh on to 40 years and, by gun, I ain't going to have a young whippersnapper like you telling me my life's vicious. I git up because I've got to git up, and don't let me hear no more dummed fool questions!"

Saying which, Farmer Oatcake took down his bootjack from its peg and retired.

Remarkable Horse Trade.

Two gentlemen of Marshallton, Va., who for convenience we will call Mr. A. and Mr. S., met one day and agreed to swap horses.

"I'll tell you what, John," said Mr. A., "if you get the best of the trade, you shall bring me two bushels of wheat to bind the bargain, and if I come out best I'll do the same by you, eh?"

"That's a go," said Mr. S., "and I 'low you'll bring me the wheat."

"That's as it may be," retorted Mr. A. "But let it be agreed, then, that a week from this afternoon the one that's best suited, be it you or me, shall give 't'other two bushels of wheat."

The week passed, the day came, and as luck would have it, Mr. A. and Mr. S. met on the road about midway between their respective homes.

"Where to, John?" cried Mr. A., as they stopped a moment to chat.

"To your house with two bushels of wheat," replied Mr. S.

"Well, now, that's good," remarked Mr. A., "for I was on my way to your house on the same errand. This horse you let me have can't be beat."

"Just what I think of this nag," retorted Mr. S. and then they had a hearty laugh and separated after exchanging wheat.—*Youths' Companion.*

She Was Very Practical.

"It was a difficult matter to make up my mind which to accept," said the girl with a practical mind.

"I understand they both are very bright."

"Yes. They're inventors."

"There is something noble in that profession. I cannot think without the profoundest admiration of these men who harness that giant force of nature to do the bidding of the human will."

"Yes. That sentiment applies to William. He's at work on a flying machine and a new kind of electric engine. But one can't buy moquette carpets and dining-room chairs with fine theories, you know."

"Aren't you going to marry William?"

"No. I accepted John. He's going to be a rich man. He has an invention under way to fasten on suspender buttons so they can't come off."

"You can't set down no fixed rule o' conduct in this life," said old Wiggins, the barley-mow orator. "Samson got into trouble 'cause he got 'is hair cut, and Absalom got into trouble 'cause he didn't."

Fred—What do you think of this case where a man was fined \$20 for kissing a girl? Dolly—I think he got the wrong girl.

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2. If any person orders his paper discontinued he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether it is taken from the office or not. There can be no legal discontinuance until the payment is made.

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4. If a subscriber orders his paper to be stopped at a certain time, and the publisher continues to send, the subscriber is bound to pay for it if he takes it out of the post-office. This proceeds upon the ground that a man must pay for what he uses.

5. The courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers and periodicals from the post-office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud.

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