

### The Gay Handlebarre.

(AN OLD POEM MODERNIZED.)

Oh, young Handlebarre has come out of the west;  
From Gotham to Frisco his bike was the best;  
And, save his ki-yi gun, he weapons had none.  
He rode with his oil can and air pump alone.  
So faithful in love and the best scratch by far,  
There never was bikist like young Handlebarre.

He stopped not for puncture nor cared for a tack.  
He rode where tomato cans littered the track.  
But ere he alighted at Featherby's gate  
The bride had consented to wed a cheap skate;  
For a snail on the wheel and a milksop in war  
Had been trying to cut out the fleet Handlebarre.

So slyly he sneaked into Featherby's hall,  
'Mong golfers and players of tennis and all.  
Then spake the bride's father, the grizzled old clam  
(For the hatchet faced bridegroom was meek as a lamb),  
"Oh, come ye with glad hand or come ye in war,  
Or to dance a fandango, you dub, Handlebarre?"

"I long wooed your daughter, but you told me 'Nit!'  
Hearts swell up like tires, yet seldom are split,  
And now I am here, and I've no time to lose,  
So start up the fiddler and start round the booze.  
There be maidens in plenty more lovely by far  
That would share the meal ticket of young Handlebarre."

The bride kissed the goblet. The cyclist did sup.  
He quaffed off the liquor and threw down the cup.  
She looked down to blush, and she looked up to sigh,  
With a grin on her face and a watery eye.  
He seized her white fingers in spite of her "par."  
"Now tread we a quickstep," said young Handlebarre.

So stately his form, with its bicycle hump,  
That never a ballroom contained such a chump,  
While the old woman grumbled and papa did stamp,  
And the bridegroom stood fumbling his bicycle lamp,  
And the bridesmaids whispered, "Twere better by far  
To have palmed off fair Ellen on young Handlebarre."

One clutch of her hand as he squinted his eye,  
When they reached the hall door and the cycle stood nigh,  
So light to the bar the fair lady he dumped.  
So light to the saddle behind her he jumped.  
"She is won! We are off with a jolt and a jar.  
They'll be scorchers that follow," quoth young Handlebarre.

There was wailing 'mong all of the Featherby gang.  
They pursued on their cycles with whoop and with clang!  
There was scratching of gravel, the chickens did fly,  
But the lost bride of Featherby ne'er did they spy.  
So nerry in love and the best scratch by far,  
Have ye'er heard of cyclist like young Handlebarre?  
—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

### A Game for Two.

"William," she said, "perhaps you imagine that I cannot retaliate?"  
"What do you mean?"  
"You have inflicted your baseball conversation on me without compunction."

"Oh, I see! You're not up to date. That's where the trouble is. You don't post yourself. You might get so you liked it after awhile. Now, in this game the batter"—  
"Stop where you are, William," she said sternly. "You have been telling me about 'hot liners' and 'daisy cutters' and 'swatting out a fly' and 'doing a toboggan to second' until I am fairly dizzy. Now, let me tell you something."  
"Very well."

"I want to describe a new dress that I saw. The corsage is made of frilled mousseline de soie over a transparency of hortensia color. It has butterfly sleeves and"—  
But the door slammed and William was out in the chill darkness.

### She Was Shocked.

"You never need tell me anything about the gallantry of southern gentlemen again!" exclaimed Miss Twitters.  
"What's the matter?"  
"Well, I heard two colonels or majors or something talking, and after awhile one of them said to the other, 'Let's go and lick her.' And the other replied, 'Don't care if I do.' So off they went to thrash some poor, helpless woman. Just think of it!"

And Miss Twitters could not understand what there was about such brutality to make her escort laugh so immoderately.

### Lime on The Farm.

PROPERLY APPLIED, IT PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE AND IS A VALUABLE AID.

Lime is a much used, and very often at the same time much abused, material on the farm. It has a very important role to play, and if handled in the proper manner is a valuable aid to the farmer. There are many who use this material again and again with a mistaken notion as to its true functions in the soil. These are explained as follows in The Farm, Field and Fireside: While lime has a value as a plant food, its greatest worth on the farm is due to its physical effect on the soil itself. It is very seldom that a farm does not contain a sufficient quantity of lime to furnish this ingredient as plant food pure and simple. Briefly described, the actions of lime are as follows: If applied on a sandy soil, it fills up the openings, makes the particles adhere closer, causes them to retain moisture better, to absorb less heat and retain more at night. On clay soil it separates the particles, making the soil more porous, thus easier for the passage of water and air, and therefore makes the soil warmer and easier to work. Lime also hastens the decay of vegetable matter in the soil, which, of course, renders the nitrogen more available. If a soil is sour, an application of lime will sweeten it. If a green crop is plowed under, an application of lime will prevent the soil from becoming acid.

There is one effect of lime that has no doubt frequently been noticed, although wrong conclusions have been drawn from it. It has often been experienced that an application of lime proves very beneficial to clovers of all kinds. It was formerly thought that the lime itself was the only fertilizer needed for the clover. It is now known, however, that the beneficial action of the lime upon clover is due to the fact that the lime liberates other plant food in the soil, notably potash, which is of so much importance in successful clover culture. It will be seen, however, that the continued application of lime alone would soon cause the soil to become exhausted of its natural supply not only of potash, but also of phosphoric acid, and in time the land would become clover sick, which is a condition often met with. This can be avoided by keeping up the supply of these two ingredients through applications of the cheaper forms of potash salts and phosphates.

In applying lime it is best to put this material on a plowed surface, either during the fall or early in the spring before the growing season. It is unnecessary to plow the lime in, as it will soon work itself down into the soil. Lime is usually applied at the rate of one to three tons at a time, and once in every six years is generally sufficient. Some prefer to use smaller quantities at more frequent intervals and claim to get better results. Lime should never be mixed with acid phosphate or ammoniated fertilizers, as it will make the phosphoric acid less soluble and drive off the ammonia. The best results are obtained from lime when the soil is kept well supplied with mineral ingredients, phosphoric acid and potash. The nitrogen can be furnished by growing clover or peas. This is a rational and economical plan to follow, and will gradually increase the productive capacity of any soil.

### Burying Boulders.

When there are but few boulders and these not more than three or four feet in diameter, the quickest way to dispose of them is by burying them. To render this operation safe, the following plan may be adopted. First determine the underground dimensions of the stone by forcing a crowbar down close to it, upon all sides. Frequently there is a projection at one side; this should be ascertained. Then excavate a trench, for a heavy stick or fence post, two feet longer than the stone is wide. With this supporting timber in place a proper excavation may be made and the stone undermined to half its width at least. There will be no danger of its falling as long as the ends of the stick are firmly embedded in the banks, as they should be. When the hole is the proper depth to sink the boulder below the plow line the stick is removed by prying up one end. Often even then the stone will not move unless pressure is applied at the other side. This manner of disposing of boulders is often cheaper than by blasting. In the case of extra large ones a blast may be applied to break them in two or three pieces, and these buried in holes upon the sides toward which they lean. In every neighborhood there are usually men who will take the contract to bury a certain number for a specified amount, and that is a very good way to have the work performed, unless you do it yourself or have men in your employ attend to it at leisure times.

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