

**Sixty Yaars Ago.**

I met, upon a journey, a man of fourscore years,  
Just like a leaf in autumn that the hard frost browns and sears,  
His cheek was wan, his eyes were dim, his form was worn and bent.  
The light of life still flickered, but the oil was nearly spent.  
He talked about the weather, the state of crops and roads,  
Of implements for farming, of different styles and modes;  
"You think," said he, "that times are hard and cash comes in too slow—  
I wish you'd lived near Fenelon Falls some sixty years ago."  
"The little crooked footpaths were our only roads at first,  
With fallen trees and mudholes they were freely interspersed.  
On journeys after dark we took, to keep wild beasts at bay,  
A torch or two of good pitch pine, which also lit the way,  
And through the gloomy forest we heard a gaunt wolf's howl,  
The yawning of a catamount or the hooting of an owl.  
When neighbors were in trouble, of course we had to go,  
But we didn't walk for pleasure about sixty years ago."  
"You've a daily mail, a railroad, you have shops beside your door;  
But the things were very different in the good old days of yore.  
As there was no opposition, the wily merchant seized  
The golden opportunity to charge what price he pleased.  
I've often paid five shillings for a pound of common tea,  
And the price of muscovado was often one and three;  
It has cost me one and sixpence for a yard of calico,  
And the same for factory cotton about sixty years ago."  
"And when we had a grist to grind, or trading we must do,  
'Twas no such simple matter as it is to-day with you.  
Yet how lightly used we bear our load, returning with our sacks,  
As we trudged home from the river with our flour upon our backs!  
The children all were watching, for bread was such a treat,  
They could scarcely wait with patience till the cakes were fit to eat;  
The children of the present would scorn such fare, I know—  
They haven't got the appetite of sixty years ago."  
"Your stylish stoves and ranges were things unheard of when  
We settled in this country—we used clay ovens then,  
We built about a rounded frame bricks made of straw and clay,  
And we made within a roaring fire, and kept it there all day.  
And—when the warmth had dried the sides our oven was complete.  
On baking days we made a fire in it, the walls to heat,  
And then we raked out wood and coals upon the ground below,  
And baked in it the bread and beans of sixty years ago."  
"We went on foot or horseback, but at last we made a way,  
Broad enough by careful teaming, by oxen and a sleigh.  
But of surveying implements we did not need a load,  
For a woman rang a cow bell while her husband blazed the road.  
Two disks cut from a big, round log made the first affair on wheels,  
And when that cart was coming you could hear for miles its squeals.  
We would run out doors to see it, 'twas a wonder then, you know,  
That pioneer conveyance of sixty years ago."  
"At logging, chopping, reaping, we always made a 'bee,'  
We gladly helped each other and were fond of company,  
And labor seemed much lighter when we did not toil alone,  
And we liked companions near us who had troubles like our own.  
A good-sized jar of whiskey was brought to treat the men,  
You see our views on temperance were a little lazy then.  
Why, every one drank liquor, 'twas the custom then, you know,  
They didn't put such pizen in it sixty years ago."  
"Ah, yes, there's been a mighty change, the forests now are cleared,  
You seldom see a stumpy field, they've slowly disappeared.  
To bind, rake, sow and harrow about your fields you ride,  
The sickle, flail and hand fan are long since laid aside.  
There yet are many hardships, and every one must work,  
Choose any calling that you will, there's not much chance to shirk.  
But many a poor fellow grubbed his crop in with a hoe,  
And fed his little family about sixty years ago."  
"In the long, long winter evenings, when the full moon shed her light,  
We took our home made farm sleigh out and raked up Buck and Bright,  
And a load of happy youngsters went to see some neighbor folks,  
And we made the old woods echo with our laughter and our jokes.  
Pianos, harps and organs in our homes had never been,  
But our hearts were light and happy with the sweet toned violin.  
And in the low scooped shanties, by the hearth fire's ruddy glow,  
We danced away the sorrows of sixty years ago."  
"The young folks of the present are not so gay and free  
As we were, living in the woods like one great family;  
They think too much of show and style,  
With fashionable array,  
They never have the merry times that we had in our day."  
I glanced down at the old man when he had

ceased to speak,  
A new life sparkled in his eye, a flush suffused his cheek,  
The wasted form was more erect, and his old heart seemed aglow  
With the life, the youth, the vigor of sixty years ago.

**Profitable Geese.**

GRAY AFRICANS GROW FAST AND ARE READY FOR MARKET IN TEN WEEKS.

Gray African geese are by many raisers considered the most profitable of all geese to keep. They grow the heaviest in the shortest space of time and are ready for market in ten weeks, weighing at that age between eight and ten pounds. They are very much like the Pekin duck in this respect, and as compared with other geese give the most satisfactory returns for the least labor and time spent in growing them. They are, according to standard weights, as heavy as the Toulouse and Embden, but specimens are not uncommon that exceed these weights by several pounds. They are first class layers, and average about 40 eggs in a season. This is considered as a low estimate for their egg production. For table purposes they are esteemed very highly, their flesh being fine and nicely flavored. These geese have a large head, with a large knob and a heavy dewlap under the throat. These and the Chinese geese are different from the others in the head, and are the only two breeds that have the knob on the head. The bills of the Africans are rather large and stout at the base, and their necks are long. Their backs are long and flat, breasts round and moderately full, and they have large, long and upright bodies. The wings are large and strong, and are folded well against the body. The thighs are short and stout and the shanks of medium length. The knob is black, and the dewlap of a gray color, while the plumage of the neck is light gray with a dark stripe running from the head to the body. The back is dark gray, the plumage of the breast is gray, and the under part of the body is light gray. The wings and tail are dark gray, and the thighs are light gray. The eyes are hazel or brown; bill black; shanks, toes and web are of dark orange color. The standard weight of the adult gander is 20 pounds; adult goose, 18 pounds; young gander 16 pounds, and young goose, 14 pounds.

**Bacon Hog.**

The cry is for a bacon hog instead of a lard hog. The bacon hog is the one that has plenty of streaks of lean meat alternating with the layers of fat. This is the kind of hog demanded for export and the one whose meat is healthiest to eat at home. The popular American breeds of swine, having been corn fed for generations, run too much to fat. One way to get more lean meat into them is to feed it in by mixing more nitrogenous or muscle making material into their rations. Such lean meat food is wheat bran and middlings, alfalfa, clover, and the various peas and beans raised for live stock. Another way to get lean meat into the American hog is to breed it into him. Professor Thomas Shaw recommends crossing with the sows of our American fat hog breeds males of the Tamworth or improved Yorkshire breeds. The Tamworth and improved Yorkshires are longer bodied, rougher and leaner than our Berkshires and Poland-Chinas. Professor Shaw says he has tried this cross for years with entirely satisfactory results when the cross was judiciously made. The first cross gives exactly the right thing.

**Black Minorca Fowls.**

This breed is not as well known among farmers as it should. They are an ideal egg machine and are large enough to pay to raise as a meat breed. They are away ahead of the Leghorns in size, and I believe will lay as many eggs in a year, and the egg is a great deal larger. Our storekeeper says the largest eggs he gets come from a person who has Minorca hens. They are pure white, and if kept clean are most handsome eggs. Anyone living near a city who had Minorcas, and would look up private customers and always take them clean fresh eggs, could easily build up a trade for all he could produce at quite an advance over storekeepers' prices. There are always plenty who are willing to pay a good price for an article that they can depend on, and it pays to cater to their wants.—*Breeders' Gazette.*

The Canadian Government is hatching cut ninety-five million eggs of white fish at Sandwich to stock Lakes Erie, Huron, Ontario and St. Clair. William Parker, the superintendent, estimates that he will hatch at least eighty per cent. of the eggs, which is many times greater than the percentage if they were left to nature. In a river like Detroit, he said, the fish do not get a fair chance. They deposit their eggs on the mud or sand, and every vessel that passes churns up the water and the young fish are smothered. Canada has kept well to the front in the artificial propagation of fish.

**SLEIGHS.**

When wanting a sleigh don't forget that I can supply you with anything in this line, from a hand-sleigh up to the heaviest bobs, at as low prices and of as good quality as you can get anywhere. Special attention given to repairing and repainting. Shop next door to Knox's blacksmith shop.

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*Seats free in all churches. Everybody invited to attend. Strangers cordially welcomed.*

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

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3. Any person who takes a paper from the post-office, whether directed to his name or another, or whether he has subscribed or not, is responsible for the pay.  
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.  
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