THE MIRROR

"OH, WAD SOME POWER THE GIFTIE GIE US, TAE SEE OORSELS AS ITHERS SEE US."

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A CALL TO YOUNG MEN.

THEIR OPPORTUNITY, SAFETY, DEFENSE AND DESTINY.

Rev. Dr. Talmage Says a Good Home Is a Mighty Defense, and So Are Industrious Habits, But He Insists That Religion Is the Strongest of All.

Washington, Nov. 29.—A resounding call goes out in this sermon of Dr. Talmage. If heeded, it would be revolutionary for good. His subject is "Young Men Challenged to Nobility" and the text II. Kings, vi, 17, "And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man."

One morning in Dothan a young theological student was scared by finding himself and Elisha, the prophet, upon whom he waited, surrounded by a whole army of enemies. But venerable Elisha was not scared at all, because he saw the mountains full of defense for him in chariots made of fire, drawn by horses of fire—a supernatural appearance that could not be seen with the natural eye. So the old minister prayed that the young minister might see them also, and the prayer was answered, and the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he also saw the fiery procession, looking somewhat, I suppose like the Adirondacks or the Alleghanies in autumnal resplendence.

Many young men, standing among the most tremendous realities, have their eyes half shut or entirely closed. May God grant that my sermon may open wide your eyes to your safety, your opportunity and your destiny!

A mighty defense for a young man is a good home. Some of my hearers look back with tender satisfaction to their early home. It may have been rude and rustic, hidden among the hills and architect or upholsterer never planned or adorned it. But all the fresco or princely walls never looked so enticing to you as those rough hewn rafters. You can think of no park or arbor of trees planted on fashionable country seat so attractive as the plain brook that ran in front of the old farm house and sang under the weeping willows. No barred gateway adorned with statue of bronze and swung open by obsequious porter in full dress has half the glory of the old swing gate. Many of you have a second dwelling place—your adopted home—that also is sacred forever. There you built the first family altar. There your children were born. All those trees you planted. That roof is solemn because once in it, over the hot pillow, flapped the wing of death. Under that roof you expect when your work is done to lie down and die. You try with many words to tell the excellency of the place, but you fail. There is only one word in the language that can describe your meaning. It is home.

Now, I declare it, that young man is comparatively safe who goes out into the world with a charm like this upon him. The memory of parental solicitude, watching, planning and praying will be to him a shield and a shelter. I never knew a man faithful both to his early and adopted home who at the same time was given over to any gross form of dissipation or wickedness. He who seeks his enjoyment chiefly from outside association rather than from the more quiet and unpresuming pleasures of which I have spoken may be suspected to be on the broad road to ruin. Absalom despised his father's house, and you know his history of sin and his death of shame. If you seem unnecessarily isolated from your kindred and former associates, is there not some room that you can call your own? Into it gather books and pictures and a harp. Have a portrait over the mantel. Make ungodly mirth stand back from the threshold. Consecrate some spot with the knee of prayer. By the memory of other days, a father's counsel, and a mother's love, and a sister's confidence, call it home.

Another defense for a young man is industrious habits. Many young men in starting upon life in this age expect to make their way through the world by the use of their wits rather than the toil of their hands. A boy now goes to the city and fails twice before he is as old as his father was when he first saw the spires of the great town. Sitting in some office, rented at $1,000 a year, he is waiting for the bank to declare its dividend, or goes into the market expecting before night to be made rich by the rushing up of the stocks. But luck seemed so dull he resolved on some other track. Perhaps he borrowed from his employer's money drawer and forgets to put it back, or for merely the purpose of improving his penmanship makes a copy plate of a merchant's signature. Never mind. All is right in trade. In some dark night there may come in his dreams a vision of the penitentiary, but it soon vanishes. In a short time he will be ready to retire from the busy world, and amid his flocks and herds cultivate the domestic virtues. Then those young men who were once his schoolmates and knew no better than to engage in honest work will come with their ox teams to draw him logs and with their hard hands to help heave up his castle. This is no fancy picture. It is everyday life. I should not wonder if there were some rotten beams in that beautiful palace. I should not wonder if dire sickness should smite through the young man, or if God should pour into his cup of life a draft that would thrill him with unbearable agony; if his children should become to him a living curse; making his home a pest and a disgrace. I should not wonder if he goes to a miserable grave and beyond it into the gnashing of teeth. The way of the ungodly shall perish.

My young friends, there is no way to genuine success except through toil, either of the head or hand. At the battle of Crecy in 1346 the Prince of Wales, finding himself heavily pressed by the enemy sent word to his father for help. The father, watching the battle from a windmill, and seeing his son was not wounded, and could gain the day if he would, sent word: "No, I will not come. Let the boy win his spurs, for if God will, I desire that this day be his with all its honors." Young man, fight your own battle all through and you shall have the victory. Oh, it is a battle worth fighting! Two monarchs of old fought a duel, Charles V., and Francis, and the stakes were kingdoms, Milan and Burgundy. You fight with sin and the stake is heaven or hell.

Do not get the fatal idea that you are a genius and that, therefore, there is no need of close application. It is here where multitudes fail. The curse of this age is the geniuses—men with enormous self conceit and egotism and nothing else. I had rather be an ox than an eagle; plain and plodding and useful rather than high flying and good for nothing but to pick out the eyes of carcasses. Extraordinary capacity without work is extraordinary failure. There is no hope for that person who begins life resolved to live by his wits, for the probability is that he has not any. It was not safe for Adam, even in his unfallen state, to have nothing to do, and therefore God commanded him to be a farmer and horticulturist. He was to dress the garden and keep it, and had he and his wife obeyed the divine injunction and been at work they would not have been sauntering under the trees and hankering after that fruit which destroyed them and their posterity—a proof positive for all ages to come that those who do not attend their business are sure to get into mischief.

I do not know that the prodigal in Scripture would ever have been reclaimed had he not given up his idle habits and gone to feeding swine for a living. The devil does not so often attack the man who is busy with the pen and the book and the trowel and the saw and the hammer. He is afraid of those weapons. But woe to the man whom this roaring lion meets with his hands in his pockets.

Bless God that you have a brain to think and hands to work and feet to walk with, for in your constant activity, O young man, is one of your strongest defenses. Put your trust in God and do your best. That child had it right when the horses ran away with the load of wood and he sat on it. When asked if he was frightened, he said: "No, I prayed to God, and hung on like a beaver."

Respect for the Sabbath will be to the young man another preservative against evil. God has thrust into the toil and fatigue of life a recreative day when the soul is especially to be fed. It is no newfangled notion of a wild brained reformer, but an institution established at the beginning. God has made natural and moral laws so harmonious that the body as well as the soul demands this institution; Our bodies are seven-day clocks that must be wound up as often as that or they will run down. Failure must come sooner or later to the man who breaks the Sabbath. Inspiration has called it the Lord's day, and he who devotes it to the world is guilty of robbery. God will not let the sin go unpunished either in this world or the world to come.

This is the statement of a man who has broken this divine enactment: "I was engaged in manufacturing on the Lehigh River. In the Sabbath I used to rest; but never regarded God in it. One beautiful Sabbath when the noise was all hushed, and the day was all that loveliness could make it, I sat down on my piazza and went to work inventing a new shuttle. I neither stopped to eat nor drink till the sun went down. By that time I had the invention completed. The next morning I exhibited it and boasted of my day's work, and was applauded. The shuttle was tried and worked well, but that Sabbath day's work cost me $30,000. We branched out and enlarged, and the curse of heaven was upon me from that day onward."

A noble ideal and confident expectation of approximating to it are an infallible defense. The artist completes in his mind the great thought that he wishes to transfer to the canvas or the marble before he takes up the crayon or the chisel. The architect plans out the entire structure before he orders the workmen to begin, and, though there may for a long while seem to be nothing but blundering and rudeness, he has in his mind every Corinthian wreath and Gothic arch and Byzantine capital. The poet arranges the entire plot before he begins to chime the first canto of tingling rhythms. And yet, strange to say, there are men who attempt to build their character without knowing whether in the end it shall be a rude Tartar's tent or a St. Mark's of Venice—men who begin to write, the intricate poem of their lives without knowing whether it shall be a Homer's "Odyssey" or a rhymester's botch.

Nine hundred and ninety-nine men out of a thousand are living without any great life plot. Booted and spurred and plumed, and urging their swift courser in the hottest haste, I ask: "Hello, man! Whither away?" His response is, "Nowhere." Rush into the busy shop or store of many a one and taking the plane out of the man's hand or laying down the yardstick, say "What, man, is all this about—so much stir and sweat?"

The reply will stumble and break down between teeth and lips. Every day's duty ought only to be the filling up of the main plan of existence. Let men be consistent. If they prefer misdeeds to correct courses of action, then let them draw out the design of knavery and cruelty and plunder. Let every day's falsehood and wrongdoing be added as coloring to the picture. Let bloody deeds red stripe the picture, and the clouds of a wrathful God hang down heavily over the canvas, ready to break out in clamorous tempest. Let the waters be chafed and froth tangled and green with immeasurable depths. Then take a torch of burning pitch and scorch into the frame the right name for it—the soul's suicide. If one entering upon sinful directions would only in his mind or on paper draw out in awful reality this dreadful future, he would recoil from it and say, "Am I a Dante, that by my own life I should write another 'Inferno?'" But if you are resolved to live a life such as God and good men will approve, do not let it be a vague dream, an indefinite determination, but in your mind or upon paper sketch it in all its minutiae. You cannot know the changes to which you may be a subject, but you may know what always will be right and always will be wrong. Let gentleness and charity and veracity and faith stand to the heart of the sketch.

Many years ago word came to me that two imposters, as temperance lecturers, had been speaking in Ohio in various places and giving their experience, and they told their audience that they had long been intimate with me and had become drunkards by dining at my table, where I always had liquors of all sorts. Indignant to the last degree, I went down to Patrick Campbell, chief of Brooklyn police, saying that I was going to start that night for Ohio to have these villains arrested, and I wanted him to tell me how to make the arrest. He smiled and said: "Do not waste your time by chasing these men. Go home and do your work, and they can do you no harm." I took his counsel and all was well. Long ago I made up my mind that if one will put his trust in God and be faithful to duty he need not fear any evil. Have God on your side young man, and all the combined forces of earth and hell can do you no damage.

And this leads me to say that the mightiest defense for a young man is the possession of religious principle. He may have manners that would put to shame the gracefulness and courtesy of a Lord Chesterfield. Foreign languages may drop from his tongue. He may be able to discuss literature and laws and foreign customs. He may wield a pen of unequaled polish and power. His quickness and tact may qualify him for the highest salary of the counting-house. He may be as sharp as Herod and as strong as Samson, with as fine locks as those which hung Absalom, still he is not safe from contamination. The more elegant his manner and the more fascinating his dress, the more peril. Satan does not care for the allegiance of a cowardly and illiterate being. He cannot bring him into efficient service. But he loves to storm that castle of character which has in it the most spoils and treasures. It was not some crazy craft creeping along the coast with a valueless cargo that the pirate attacked, but the ship, full winged, and flagged, plying between great ports, carrying its millions of specie. The more your natural and acquired accomplishments, the more need of the religion of Jesus. That does not cut in upon or hack up any smoothness of disposition or behavior. It gives symmetry. It arrests that in the soul which ought to be arrested and propels that which ought to be propelled. It fills up the gulleys. It elevates the transforms To beauty it gives more beauty, to tact more tact, to enthusiasm of nature, more enthusiasm. When the Holy Spirit impresses the image of God on the heart. He does not spoil the canvas. If in all the multitudes of young men upon whom religion has acted you could find one nature that had been the least damaged, I would yield this proposition.

You may now have enough strength of character to repel the various temptations to gross wickedness which assail you, but I do not know in what strait you may be thrust at some future time. Nothing short of the grace of the cross may then be able to deliver you from the lions. You are not meeker than Moses, nor holier than David, nor more patient than Job, and you ought not to consider yourself invulnerable. You may have some weak point of character that you have never discovered, and in some hour when you are unsuspecting the Philistines will be upon thee, Samson. Thrust not in your good habits, or your early training, or your pride of character—nothing short of the arm of Almighty God will be sufficient to uphold you. You look forward in the world sometimes with a chilling despondency. Cheer up. I will tell how you may make a fortune. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you." I know you do not wnt to be mean in this matter. Give God the freshness of your life. You will not have the heart to drink down the brimming cup of life and then pour the dregs on God's altar. To a Saviour so infinitely generous you have not the heart to act like that. That is not brave. That is not honorable. That is not manly. Your greatest want in all the world is a new heart. In God's name I tell you that. And the Blessed Spirit presses through the solemnities and privileges of this holy hour. Put the cup of life eternal to your thirsty lips. Thrust it not back. Mercy offers it—bleeding mercy, long suffering mercy. Reject all other friendships, be ungrateful for all other kindness, prove recreant to all other bargains, but to despise God's love for your immortal soul—do not do that.

I would like to see some of you this hour press out of the ranks of the world and lay your conquered spirit at the feet of Jesus. This hour is no wandering vagabond staggering over the earth; it is a winged messenger of the skies whispering mercy to thy soul. Life is smooth now, but after awhile it may be rough, wild and precipitate. There comes a crisis in the history of every man. We seldom understand that turning point until it is far past. The road of life is forked, and I read on two signboards: "This is the way to happiness," and "This is the way to ruin." How apt we are to pass the fork of the road without thinking whether it comes out at the door of bliss or the gates of darkness.

Many years ago I stood on the anniversary platform with a minister of Christ who made this remarkable statement: "Thirty years ago two young men started out in the evening to attend the Park theatre, New York, where a play was to be acted in which the cause of religion was to be placed in a ridiculous and hypocritical light. They came to the steps. The consciences of both smote them. One started to go home, but returned again to the door, and yet had not courage to enter, and finally departed. But the other young man entered the pit of the theatre. It was the turning point in the history of these two young men. The man who entered was caught in the whirl of temptation. He sank deeper and deeper in infamy. He was lost. That other young man was saved, and he now stands before you to bless God that for 20 years he has been permitted to preach the gospel."

"Rejoice, O young man in thy youth and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth; but know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment."

Tears are often to be found where there is little sorrow, and the deepest sorrow without any tears.—Johnson.

When lions and tigers bring forth young in captivity the greatest care has to be exercised to keep them for several days in the dark and undisturbed as otherwise the mothers will almost invariably destroy their cubs.

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading

CANADA.

Port Arthur harbor is frozen over.

Belleville had 16 births, 1 marriage, and 14 deaths during November.

A grain elevator, to cost $500,000, is to be erected at Kingston.

The Montreal Cotton Company has declared a quarterly dividend of 2 per cent.

Dr. R. J. Woods, late of Toronto, died on Tuesday at Vancouver, B.C., of pneumonia.

John Mills, a keeper in the Kingston Penitentiary has fallen heir to an estate of $140,000 in Scotland.

Montreal's finances are in a rather bad way and the Council is considering plans to relieve the pressure.

Mr. John McKeown County Crown Attorney of Lincoln, died at the Hotel Dieu hospital, Kingston, yesterday.

The Ottawa Free Press advocates the abolition of the Act exempting civil servants from the process of garnishee.

The medical staff of the Ottawa General Hospital has resigned in a body, accusing the directors of not keeping faith.

The young Galician girl who was stricken with smallpox in Winnipeg died on Tuesday night. There are no new cases.

A number of the employees of the C. P. R. repair shops in Montreal have been discharged as there is no work for them.

The Keewatin Power Company are making contracts to supply electric power in Winnipeg, transmitted a distance of 130 miles.

The threatened split of the High Court of Quebec Independent Order of Foresters into French and English seems to have been averted.

A young man named Tophan was accidentally killed a few days ago in the Lake Dauphin country by his two brothers, who mistook him for a wolf and shot him.

Mr. A. D. Flint, assistant postmaster at Holland, Man., shot himself through the head while handling a loaded revolver in his office, dying in a few minutes.

Miss Pennock, telegraph operator at Langdon, N.W.T., had her legs crushed under a train. One was amputated, and the young lady is in a very critical condition.

The Dominion Fisheries Department has promised a supply of salmon eggs to the Hawaiian republic, to see if the Canadian fish will thrive in the waters of that vicinity.

At St. John the Pullman Car Company won a suit brought against it for injuries alleged to have been sustained by a passenger owing to the coldness of a car.

At Rat Portage a Pagan Indian who shot his foster father, thinking him a wendigo or evil spirit, was found guilty of manslaughter. Judge Rose sentenced him to six months' hard labor.

Mr. Shaughnessy, vice-president of the Canadian Pacific railway, denies the truth of the report that his line was endeavoring to lease the Buffalo and Lake Huron Branch from the Grand Trunk railway.

Mr. James Crawford, an elderly Englishman who went to Manitoa, Man., from the United States recently, was frozen to death on Monday night, while walking to his son's farm, four miles from Manitoa.

It is stated that the Federal Government has decided to follow the example of the Grand Trunk railway, and henceforth purchase all the goods required for the Intercolonial railway in the towns along the line.

Arrangements have now been perfected by which cattle and sheep from the Dominion of Canada, for export from Boston, may be entered and examined at the frontier ports of St. Alban's and Island Pond, Vermont.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A Christmas gift from the English people to U. S. Ambassador Bayard is being mooted in London.

It is rumored that the Queen may visit Ireland next year, during the celebration of her long reign.

Chas. Cushman, the only brother of Charlotte Cushman, the great American actress, died in England.

Dr. Jameson was removed from Holloway Jail in an ambulance and taken to a private sanitarium in one of the suburbs of London.

The exporters and manufacturers in London say that their trade with Canadian firms who import dry goods from the Old Country is not nearly up to that of former years.

Ambassador Bayard stated his belief that before his departure from England some permanent arrangement of arbitration will be arranged between England and the United States.

The London Daily Mail says that the fetes at Blenheim castle in honor of the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough cost twenty thousand pounds.

A cold wave of extreme severity is prevailing throughout England, and several deaths of tramps and others from exposure to the weather are reported. Skating is freely indulged in.

A London despatch says that the Canadian Gazette asserts that enquiries made in the highest quarters failed to disclose any intention on the part of the Duke and Duchess of York to visit Canada next year.

The Manchester Guardian says Lord Salisbury will make very strong representations to the Spanish Government with reference to the detention in Cuba of Richard and John Beatty, residents of British Columbia.

Nothing is known in London official circles of the rumoured intention of knighting Mr. Laurier on New Year's day; but there is a desire that he should visit England and become acquainted with the British Ministers and officials.

At a meeting of the British Empire League on Friday the Duke of Devonshire said that he believed the Imperial Federation sentiment was growing, but that the idea of free trade within the Empire had not yet met with a hearty response.

UNITED STATES.

The Missouri National Bank, Kansas City, has collapsed.

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher is bed-ridden from the effects of a fall.

The Salvation Army in St. Louis intends giving a Christmas dinner to three thousand persons.

The window glass manufacturers of the United States have reorganized both the old associations.

President Cleveland has purchased a house in 96th street, New York, in addition to a home in Princetown, N.J.

So far the Southern Pacific has had no trouble from snow, but Northern Pacific trains have been delayed somewhat.

Elkods are doing great damage in Wisconsin, and causing intense hardship to the people living in the river valleys.

Luther Greenman, his wife and four children are reported to have been burned to death in the destruction of their home by fire at Perry, N. Y.

The United States & Hayti Telegraph Company have laid a cable direct from New York to Hayti, which is now open for business to all South American points.

The comparative statement of the receipts and expenditures of the United States during the month of November shows a deficit of more than seven million dollars.

Telegraph advices from the commercial agencies of Messrs. Bradstreet and Dun in New York are of the kind usual at this dull season. The recent spurt of orders has been filled, and trade generally is quiet, while there is an under-current of activity consequent on the usual Christmas requirements. The failures are small for November by comparison with those for the month of October. What is known as the iron and steel combine has been broken up, and lower prices are expected to prevail. The general volume of trade is only moderate, and no special activity is expected in any part of the country this year. Stormy weather has to a certain extent interfered with the distribution of goods The dry goods trade is dull for this time of year.

GENERAL.

Spain is fitting out a flying squadron.

There are now thirteen thousand men on strike in Hamburg.

Princess Elizabeth of Lippe is dead. She was sixty-three years of age.

The Porte denies the reports of recent massacres at Diarbekir and Kharput.

Cuban rebels attacked the town of Guanabacoa, near Havana, on Tuesday and burned a part of the town.

Arrests of persons suspected of being concerned in plots against the Government continue in Constantinople.

A cyclone, accompanied by heavy floods, has swept the eastern West Indies, causing great loss of life.

Sir E. J. Monson, the newly appointed British Ambassador to succeed the Marquis of Dufferin, has arrived in Paris.

The Paris police have seized at the Gare du Nord large packages of a manifesto by Prince Victor Napoleon.

The Hamburg employers have refused to submit their difference with the striking dock laborers to arbitration.

All the harbor laborers at Hamburg Committee, and a general strike throughout Europe is said to be imminent.

Gen. Porfirio Diaz, who was first elected to the Presidency of Mexico in 1876, has just been inaugurated for the fifth time.

Lord Rosemead, Governor of Cape Colony, who has been suffering from dropsy, will undergo an operation in a few days.

The Minister of Marine in the French Government is opposed to the proposal to include $40,000,000 in the naval estimates for new men-of-war.

The Government has decided to renew the charter of the Bank of France for 24 years. The select committee opposed all schemes for a State bank.

A divorce judgment given in Paris establishes that the wife of a habitual gambler is entitled to a divorce and to the management of her children's property.

A mass meeting of the Farmers' Union was held in Lyons, France, at which the dealers in salt meats resolved in favor of the exclusion of American pork products in view of the fall in the price of swine.

Signor Cecchi, the Italian Consul, and the captains of the warships Volturno and Staffetta, with six other officers, are reported to have been murdered by Somales at Magadoxo, according to reports from Zanzibar.

The London Times, after commenting on Gen. Weyler's failure to subdue the Cuban insurgents, says the gloomy outlook in the island makes it impossible to exclude the possibility of some kind of United States intervention.

Lord Cromer, the British Agent at Cairo, has officially informed the Egyptian Government that if they decide to repay to the Caisse the money advanced to meet the expenses of the Anglo-Egyptian expedition, Great Britain will refund the amount.

BRIDAL SUPERSTITIONS.

If the wedding ring is lost the couple will separate.

If an apple be thrown upon the roof of the bridegroom's house it is a sign the bride will be happy.

The bride must not look in the glass after performing her toilet unless one hand is ungloved.

If a bride tears her wedding dress it is not good.

It is unlucky for a bride to put her bare feet on any bare floor on her wedding night.

To change the name and not the letter is to change for worse and not for better.

If the bride open an umbrella in the house bad luck will surely follow.

It is unlucky for two brides to meet in a church.

The bride should not permit the best man to wear everything black at the ceremony as it is a very bad omen.

THE FARM.

GROWING WOOL.

The sheep to a greater extent than any other of our domestic animals is a double producer. Its two products are in no way incompatible. The best wool is grown at the same time we are producing mutton. But so much stress is being put upon the latter that the wool product is largely dismissed from thought.

The nature of wool and the conditions of its growth should be understood. A fleece of wool is far more easily damaged in the process of making than is the carcass, yet as a rule flockmakers give no more thought to the growth and protection of the fleece than they do to the growth of hair upon cattle. It is considered a purely incidental product. Even at present prices it deserves better consideration than this. And we have no doubt that we may expect better prices another year for our wool.

With great depression in the price of wool the world over and the consequent decline in the number of sheep, the supply must soon drop below the demand. If farmers and flockmasters wish to come in for their share of the benefits of a rising market they must be prepared to meet it with a superior product. At present our home market is gradually slipping away from us, not so much because better wool or cheaper wool can be found, but because wool in better condition can be found.

We think it safe to say that under our system of smaller flocks and regular feeding we can grow better wool, that is, wool with a stronger and more even fiber, than can be done in what we consider more favored countries. The flocks there are far more at the mercy of the seasons. The fibers of wool record the fluctuations in food and water supply as certainly as does the thermometer the variations in temperature. The fibers increase in diameter as the conditions for existence improve. As these fail the fibers continue to grow in length, but shrink in diameter, thus making a weak point. The old adage that a chain is no stronger than its weakest link applies to wool. These "breaks" in the fibers, as they are called, are a source of great loss and annoyance to manufacturers. In the case of breeding ewes it seems almost impossible to prevent breaks in occasional fleeces, as any severe shock to the system may cause them. Severe fright from an attack by dogs has been known to result in broken fleeces.

But, barring accidents, reasonable care will secure a uniformly strong-fibered fleece. To just this season of the year many "breaks" are attributable. They result from allowing the flocks to depend too long upon the pasture fields for support and in some cases to exposure to severe storms. A single week's neglect may damage the fleece beyond repair. Lost weight in fat and flesh can be regained, but a weak point in the fleece cannot be repaired. The longer the splice in a rope or strap, the safer it is; so the longer the grass and grain feeding overlap each other the better. If the flocks can be brought up to winter quarters strong and accustomed to eating grain, there need be no fluctuation in their physical condition to record in the wool fibers.

It may be asked here if high feeding is compatible with the production of fine wool. Certainly the fact that the highly fed breeds at England produce coarse wool and the great migratory flocks of Spain that gathered their sustenance from the native growths of grasses developed the finest fleeces in the world, were no accidents. Just how far the conditions of their existence determined the character of their fleeces is far the conditions of their existence is hard to say, but without doubt they were a very large factor.

Constant attention to selection might counterbalance the tendency to produce a coarse fiber under high feeding, but certainly as English methods of feeding are adopted in this country the tendency will be toward the production of a coarse-fibered fleece. Just now that is not to be deplored. With the exception of a very limited demand, the fineness of fiber is little considered. It is uniformity of fibers throughout the fleece, uniform strength throughout the length of the fiber, and freedom from foreign matter, that make a fleece valuable.

FARM NOTES.

When prices are low it may be due to causes which will soon pass away. At this season many farmers sell in order to realize cash to meet obligation and to avoid storage during the winter, hence the bulk of crop is now moving and prices will be better later on, as the markets will not then be so liberally supplied.

How much an acre will produce depends upon climate, fertility of soil and other circumstances. In Switzerland an acre keeps five cows, which are on the soiling system. In Japan a five-acre farm is considered a large one. In this country in the growing of "truck" as much as $500 has been made in a year from an acre where the land was near a large market.

When fruit or vegetables are sent to a commission merchant and are not in perfect condition he is compelled to sell as soon as possible to avoid deterioration in value, but when the fruit arrives in good condition he can hold for better prices. The proper shipping of perishable farm produce to market is not thoroughly understood if the manner in which much of the produce reaches the market is an indication.

Cease old methods on the farm that have proven unprofitable. Don't continue in the footsteps of your father unless it pays. Conditions change yearly in important particulars, both in market demand and methods of productions, and you must keep pace with them. This can best be accomplished by keeping in touch with the world through the columns of reliable publications of frequent issue, and the exercise of trained judgment aided by thoughtful reading.

It is difficult to procure wood ashes that have their full strength of potash. Ashes absorb moisture, which adds to their weight, and in buying them this should be overlooked. The fact that ashes have caustic qualities and indicate potash when placed to the tongue is no indication that they have not been leached by rains, as aportion of the potash always remains. One of the substances which largely predominates in ashes is lime, and ashes will give satisfactory results sometimes due to the lime, which is often credited to potash through mistake, but it does not pay to use ashes for the lime contained, as the lime can be more cheaply obtained from other sources.

It is well enough to fatten stock in the dark because this in cold weather means also warmth. But growing animals, especially if they are young, need light and plenty of air. They should have a warm place to sleep in, and this may be made dark, provided there is a yard attached open to the south, and where they may enjoy the sunlight. The south side of a building, when the sun shines, is not uncomfortable for any animal that has fur, even on a cold day.

CANADA'S LUMBER RESOURCES.

A Special Commissioner of The Timber Trades Journal Seeking Information—He Predicts an Active Demand.

"There is likely to be a very active demand for lumber next year in the English market." This encouraging statement is made by Mr. Edwin Haynes, Director of The Timber Trades Journal, London, England. This journal, which is the greatest authority on timber and lumber in Europe, has sent out Mr. Haynes to write up a series of illustrated articles on the Canadian lumber industry. The reason for doing this is that a very strong colonial feeling is growing and in fact already exists in England in favor of trade with the colonies, and it was considered that this was an opportune time for further enlightenment in regard to one of Canada's most important industries. Mr. Haynes has been visiting the lower Provinces and Ontario. He is already very favorably impressed with the country and says that our timber resources are greater than he imagined. He finds that the manufacture of square timber for the Quebec market this year will be at least 5,000,000 cubic feet, as against 4,000,000 last year, but he says as the "coves" in Quebec are unprecedentedly bare, more so than for years past, that in view of the active demand the increase will be easily absorbed.

Speaking of the business generally, Mr. Haynes says, that it was a matter of great surprise to him that the manufacturers of lumber in Canada do not cultivate closer business relations with the actual buyers in England. If the wood-converting manufacturers here would take the trouble to study more closely the English market they would find that there were many lines of goods they could manufacture that would find a ready sale there. As an instance he mentioned the extensive trade already done in miscellaneous goods by the Rathburn Company of Deseronto.

Mr. Haynes also mentions the fact that the streets in London were being paved to a large extent with West Australian hard woods, and he thinks it would be well if the Canadian lumbermen would investigate this matter, as he believes there are several kinds of hard wood in this country that would answer the purpose admirably. Mr. Haynes is agreeably surprised with the climate of this country and will endeavor in his journal to undeceive its readers in the matter. He thinks it a shame that the country should be so much misrepresented. Before leaving the country Mr. Haynes will make a short trip to the western States.

A FIGHT IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Each Thought the Other Had Been Killed, But Soon Found Their Mistake.

The stories of fighting between Boers and English in South Africa have a strong resemblance to those of Indian fighting in the old days in New England. Bullets are exchanged between excellent marksmen concealed behind stones and bushes, and each bullet has, under such circumstances, an immense value.

The Cape Mercury says that Mr. Sampson, one of the Johannesburg "reformers," still in prison at Pretoria, is the hero of a famous combat with old Botha, a Boer fighter of renown. In the Boer war of 1881 Sampson and Botha found themselves behind stones on a level plain, shooting at each other. Sampson presently made sure that he had hit Botha and raised his head a little, when a bullet plowed his neck.

"My man is dead," exclaimed Botha, and exposed himself. At the same instant a bullet from Sampson's rifle struck him.

"This time I've got him!" shouted Sampson, and raised himself up, but a bullet grazed his side and he dropped. Botha now had no doubt that he had ended his antagonist, and jumped up on his feet, only to be again laid low.

Though the men were now past fighting, with two bad wounds apiece, both recovered, and when Sampson settled in the Transvaal they became great friends, and often chaffed each other about this encounter.

IMMENSE TENEMENT HOUSE.

Most of the large towns in France contain workmen's model dwellings, or tenement houses, which have been dignified with the picturesque appellation of barracks, but none of these have attained to the colossal proportions of the "Freihaus," situate at Wielden, a suburb of Vienna. This building has 13 courtyards, and accommodates 2,112 persons belonging to all classes of society. One postman is specially appointed to deliver letters to the inmates, whose correspondents have to be careful to put on the cover not merely the Christian name and the surname of the addressee, but the number of the yard, the staircase and the flat, if they want the letter to reach its destination.