

### An Igrant Kind o' Jay.

I am sumthin' of a veteran, just a-turnin' eighty year,  
A man that's hale and hearty and a stranger to all fear;  
But I've heard some news this mornin' that has made me  
And I'm goin' to ease my onshins if I never speak ag'in.  
I've lived my four score years of life and never till to-day  
Was I taken for a jacks or an igrant kind o' jay.  
Tew be stuffed with such darned nonsense 'bout them  
That's killin' human bein's with their microscopical germs.  
They say 'ere's 'mikrobes' all around huntin' for their prey;  
There's nothin' pure to eat or drink or no safe place to stay;  
There's 'miasm' in the dew fall and 'mal'ary' in the sun;  
Tain't safe to be out doors at noon or when the day is done.  
There's 'bactery' in the water and 'trich'ee' in the meat,  
'Ameby' in the atmosphere, 'calorey' in the heat,  
There's 'corpussels and pigments' in a human bein's blood,  
And every other kind of thing existin' sense the flood.  
Terbacker's full of 'nickerteen,' whatever that may be,  
And your throat will get all puckered with the 'tannin' in the tea.  
The butters 'olly margareen,' it never saw a cow,  
And things is getting worse and worse from what they be just now.  
Them bugs is all about us, just workin' for a chance  
Tew navigate our vitals and to know us off like plants.  
There's men that spends a lifetime huntin' worms just like a goose,  
And takin' Latin names to 'em and setten on 'em loose.  
Now, I don't believe such nonsense, and don't intend to try,  
If things has come to such a pass I'm satisfied to die.  
I'll go hang me in the siller, for I wout be such a fool  
As to wait until I'm pizen by an anny-mally-cool.

—Brief.

### LONDON FOG IS HEALTHY.

Figures That Show a Very Small Death Rate in the Metropolis.

If London is the metropolis of the land of fogs, there is much consolation to be found in the fact that in spite of the smoke and its fogs it is not only one of the healthiest cities in the world, but it is growing healthier every year. According to the official statistics for the quarter ending June last, our annual deaths are only at the rate of sixteen per 1,000. If we could eliminate from the calculation some overcrowded and notorious unhealthy districts the figures would, of course, drop considerably. Still more remarkable would our sanitary condition appear if the area were confined to the high and airy suburbs in which so large a proportion of those who are by day "in populous city pent" are fortunate enough to dwell. We have only to contrast the condition of things with the statistics of other capitals to see how great is the advantage we enjoy. In Paris, which shows a comparatively good record, the mean annual death rate is 22.10; in Berlin it is 27.5; in Vienna, 26.7; in Munich, 32.9, and in St. Petersburg, 43.7. In Brussels, which appears to be the healthiest of Continental cities, it is 18.9. To sum up the case, the death rate during the quarter in 29 colonial and foreign cities, having an aggregate population exceeding 16,000 persons, was 26.6 per 1,000, or more than 10 per cent. more than the London death rate.—*London Daily News.*

### Why Flowers Sleep.

That flowers sleep is evident to the most casual observer. The daisy opens at sunrise and closes at sunset; hence its name, "Day's eye." The morning glory opens with the day, but never lives to see another sunrise. The "John-go-to-bed-at-noon" awakes at 4 o'clock in the morning, but closes its eyes during the middle of the day; the dandelion is in full bloom only during strong light. This habit of some flowers is certainly very curious, and furnishes one of the many instances which prove the singular adaptability of everything in nature. The reason is found in the method by which this class of flowers is fertilized. It is obvious that flowers derive no advantage by being open during the day; and, on the other hand, that those which are fertilized by bees would gain nothing by remaining open at night. Why may we not suppose, then, that the closing of flowers may have reference to the habits of insects? In support of this theory we observed that wind fertilized flowers never sleep.—*St. Louis Republic.*

### Sir Edwin's Tricks.

Speaking of Sir Edwin Arnold's life in Japan, "he was," says a recent visitor to that country, "so charmed with Yokohama when he arrived there a few months ago that he determined to live in the native quarters for a time. He had no sooner selected a residence than the governor ordered him to move to the foreign quarters at once. Acting on the advice of friends, Sir Edwin sent back word that he was sick. That excuse was accepted and the Englishman was not bothered for some time. After awhile Sir Edwin was summoned before the governor, who asked him if he had not recovered his health. The distinguished visitor replied that he had hired himself out as a tutor in a rich Japanese family. The governor was satisfied. Every day the author can be seen teaching the young Japs how to spell 'dog,' 'cat,' 'house,' etc. His salary is \$200 a year, but by playing servant he can live where he chooses."

### Sympathetic.

An old man, nearly blind, calls on an oculist and requests him to examine his eyes.  
"Well," remarked the man of science, "I don't see anything."  
"Great heavens, doctor, you don't say so! Why, your nearly as badly off as I am."

From anthropological measurements made on Cambridge students it appears that their heads continue to grow after the age of 19. Those who have obtained high honors have had, on the average, considerably larger brains than the others at the age of 19, the predominance at that age being greater than at 25, a fact that is held to imply precocity as an element in the success of high-honor men.

Coalman—"I can't give you any more than fifty cents a hundred weight. I own it."  
All right, if you let me weigh it on your own scales."

## COLUMN FOR THE AGRICULTURIST.

### Hints and Helps to Every Farmer Willing to Read.

#### THE FARMER A SKILLED LABORER.

##### Plowing Under—The Mortgage Crop—Blanketing Horses—Notes of Much Interest.

###### THE DAIRY STEER.

Of all the no-count critters  
On the farm 'n' land 'round here,  
There ain't nothin' half so useless  
As the little dairy steer.  
Little dairy cows is business,  
I'll feed them without no fear,  
But the biggest no-count critter  
Is the little dairy steer.  
Livin' on the fame and record  
By his little sisters made,  
Struttin' 'round to claim attention  
When his board bill hain't been paid.  
Sister's smart snuff to keep 'em  
Both agin' 'e ye like,  
But that ain't the pint I'm makin'  
'Tain't the gun I wanter spike.  
I want critters that kin show me  
Pints of value fair and clear  
Not the kind that pints ter sister  
Like the little dairy steer.  
Ain't you seen men, though, jes' like 'em?  
Lazin' 'round and crackin' jokes,  
Spendin' lots of time in settin'  
Living on their wimmin' folks?  
Great fat fellers, stout 'n' hearty,  
Fit for work; each lazy lout  
Lettin' 'wimmin' folks support him—  
How I'd like ter rout such out.  
You jest sign my name unto it;  
Print it black ez it appears;  
Stout me ez will live on wimmin'  
Ain't ser good ez dairy steers.

###### PLOWING UNDER.

Try an experiment this year. Plow under some of the clover or rye and plant potatoes, using the same amount of fertilizers that you do on bare ground. The R. N. Y. will plow under some rye to try this. Many of us have yet to find that much of our work in cutting, curing and feeding clover is wasted. We had better plow it right under and use fertilizers with it for potatoes, or put our stable manure on it—the stalks chopped or crushed—and plant corn. Try it this year. This is a time for looking up new methods rather than for nailing ourselves closer to old-time notions, in the hope that by getting closer to them we can squeeze more out of them. French soldiers have always worn red pantaloons. In the old days when battle fields were covered with smoke, the red was not so conspicuous as to make glaring targets. The other day military men witnessed a trial of the new smokeless powder. Then it was plainly seen that the red trousers only made the wearer a conspicuous target for the opposing riflemen. The red will have to go or France will conduct her wars at a disadvantage. Some of our ideas regarding the use of clover are liable to be as rudely shaken as the sentiment that clothes French soldiers in red trousers.—*New Yorker.*

###### THE ORNAMENTAL MORTGAGE.

From all over the country come reports of threatened foreclosures of mortgages on farm property. In Pennsylvania many supposedly rich farmers have failed because of the depreciation in farm values. In Southern New Jersey several hundred farms are being sold by the sheriff. As our readers know, reports from many parts of the West are no better. What is to be done? This country cannot afford to have its native-born farmers driven from their farms to be replaced by a tenant peasantry. For a number of years past great mortgage and trust companies have gradually secured a grasp on thousands of American farms. When the present occupants of these farms are driven away, who will be secured to fill their places? No true American can view this state of affairs without alarm. The present condition of American agriculture demands the prompt and careful attention of our statesmen and business men.—*Rural New Yorker.*

###### BLANKET YOUR HORSE.

It is money in your pocket to keep your horse blanketed. The warmth must be kept up, and if the horse is not blanketed he must eat that much more to keep warm, and a blanket will save more than its price in feed. Your horse, if blanketed, will live longer, work harder, and his smooth, glossy coat will make him look \$50 better than if he was not blanketed. When buying blankets it is cheaper to get good ones which will wear. Many blankets are made merely to sell, and it is the poorest kind of economy to buy one of these poor blankets because they are a few cents cheaper.

###### THE FARMER A SKILLED LABORER.

Viewed from the lofty standpoint of the New York Hod-carrier's Union, considered from the hall of the Philadelphia Bill Posters' Protective Association, the prairie farmer is simply a cloidhopper. He is a man who decides to have corn, wheat and potatoes, instead of wild grass, grow on a certain piece of land, and plants the seed that will produce them. In point of fact, more knowledge and skill are requisite for prosecuting this craft than that of any city artisan. It requires more skill to handle a plough than a trowel. It is more difficult to handle a reaping machine than a machine that turns out brick. Greater knowledge to sow grain than to move switches in a freight yard. Much more information, experience and skill are needed to raise tobacco plants, to cultivate them and properly cure the leaves than to make them into cigars. Laying drain tile is more difficult art than laying brick. Properly to remove a fleece from a sheep demands as great dexterity as to shave a beard from a face. The successful farmer is necessarily a skilled laborer. He is master, not of one trade, but of many, and a long time is required to learn each of them. He is also a merchant, and to be prosperous he must be a judge of the quality of many things, and know how to buy and sell them to the best advantage.—*Rodney Welch in January Forum.*

###### SALTLESS BUTTER.

The butter supplied in summer to the best families in Great Britain is absolutely free from salt, and is considered a great luxury. The taste for unsalted butter is spreading in this country, and in Chicago there is a firm which does a good business among the richer classes with unsalted butter. Those who have tried this butter report that it is peculiarly pleasant to the taste, having nothing but the natural flavor of the cream. In autumn, salt at the rate of one quarter of an ounce to each pound of butter may be used. In England this is

called "powdered" butter to distinguish it from the "fresh" (unsalted) and "salt" (winter) butter.

###### Interesting and Useful.

It is thought that in the agricultural districts botany should be a study in the public schools, and that one day in the week should be given up to lectures on soils, plants, breeds of stock, cultivation, fertilizers, etc. Such studies are not uninteresting to children who are accustomed to the farm, and they would quickly comprehend the lectures from the aid imparted by every-day experiences. No doubt such studies would be of much benefit to the coming generation and lead to better systems of farming.

The better the quality of the manure the less the cost of handling it. Bulk does not give quality, and this is especially the case with manure. To haul and handle great quantities of unrotted, coarse, bulky material costs the labor of both men and teams. It is claimed that a ton of ordinary stable manure contains only twenty-five pounds of fertilizer in its concentrated form, and it is as expensive to handle this twenty-five pounds as it is to handle manure twice as valuable.

When the farmer churns his milk and sells butter he does not deprive his soil of fertility. The buttermilk may be fed to swine and poultry with profit, but when meat and eggs are sold the fertility of the soil goes also. Nothing robs the soil faster than selling milk, and unless the farmer procures fertilizers or buys a large proportion of bran and linseed meal his farm will deteriorate in quality.

To get a full crop of potatoes use plenty of manure or fertilizer. If manure, let it be fine and well rotted and applied liberally in the rows. If fertilizer be used it should be applied in quantity to push the plants vigorously and to enable the crop to produce as much as possible. It does not pay to be too economical in the use of manure or fertilizer.

It is a pleasure with those who live on the suburbs of towns and cities to keep a few hens. A small flock will cost but little, as the scraps from the table and any waste material will provide a large share of the food. It is claimed that as many eggs are produced in suburban sections as on the farms.

While the weather is dry the roots of plants will quickly dry if exposed. It is best to pour a little water around the roots of plants that are transplanted, as it will prevent many of them from wilting. If the ground below the surface is quite damp this precaution is not necessary.

Do not plant corn on the same land that you grew a crop of corn upon last year. A rotation of crops is best. When the location for corn is changed every year there is less liability of attack from rust, and the soil is not compelled to perform the same duty twice in succession.

Variation of the food promotes appetite. All animals become disgusted with a sameness of food. When food is refused tempt the animal with something else. In this manner sickness and loss of flesh may be avoided, while the cost need not be necessarily increased.

A correspondent of the *Mirror* states how to avoid rot and scab in potatoes: "Roll the land, and when the potatoes are four inches high sow on a mixture of fifteen parts plaster, three parts slaked lime and one part of fine salt."

Dry soils should receive flat cultivation and damp soils should be ridged. The object, in the first place, is to save as much as possible, and, in the second, to get rid of the excess.

If you cannot keep the number of animals you have on your farm do not try to get more land, but sell off a portion of the stock. Overcrowding is as injurious as too much room.

Do not work the horses too steadily at first. A horse that has stood in the stable all through the winter, doing but little work, is in no condition for enduring a heavy day's labor.

The value of any kind of fodder is not in its quantity, but in the amount that is digestible. The quality largely depends on the stage of growth when it is cut and cured.

Now that the teams will be busy it is important that the harness fits the horse. Galls and sores on the horse may be avoided by giving some attention to the harness.

###### The Philosophic Tramp.

"You worthless scamp, why do you tramp, and beg and sponge your food and toddy?"  
"Why, I'm a man of peace," said he;  
"I slander no one, and can't be,  
Therefore, a busybody."

###### The Remedy.

Jack—Were you ever crazy with love?  
Jim—Yes, indeed.  
Jack—What cured you?  
Jim—Marriage.

###### His Business.

Bridget—Here's a letter for Mr. Starboarder that's marked "In haste." Shall we send it to him?  
Mrs. Hamoneg—Why, no; let him hurry home after it.

###### Judging by Appearances.

"Well, I'm full again," said the Cider Barrel, trying to stand on its head.  
"I thought so," said the little Keg.  
"When I saw you rolling over here, all bunged up. Oh, yes, you are tight!"

Instantaneous photographs have been taken of troops engaged in sham combats and using the ordinary powder and the smokeless variety. The pictures were taken at the instant the command to fire was given. In the first thick black cloud of smoke appears, through which the troops are scarcely discernible. In the second only a thin haze appeared and the soldiers stand out clearly and sharply defined in the background.

De Lagny, the great mathematician, was asked the square of twelve when he was no longer able to recognize his friends about his bed and mathematically answered: "One hundred and forty-four."

Mr. David Smart, of Smart & Sobolay, flax and jute merchants, Dundee, died on the 4th inst., after a short illness, at the age of 52 years.

A correspondent says: "There is neither an English navy nor an English Government. It is Great Britain."

## TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

Seeding is nearly all completed throughout Manitoba and the Northwest.

The Toronto Diocesan Woman's Auxiliary to Missions concluded its business yesterday.

Mr. Ross, Provincial Minister of Education, was renominated in West Middlesex yesterday.

It is stated that Gen. Boulanger will return to France to-morrow and demand another trial.

The work of removing the debris at the Toronto University ruins, preparatory to construction, began yesterday.

The Russian Minister to Persia has been instructed by the Czar to conclude a new commercial treaty with Persia.

The Emin Relief Committee gave a reception in honor of Henry M. Stanley last evening, the Prince of Wales presiding.

Madame Albani had luncheon with the Governor-General yesterday afternoon and dined with Sir John Macdonald last evening.

The Morris and Brandon branch of the Northern Pacific & Manitoba Railway will be completed into Brandon in about ten days.

The Equal Righters of Ottawa last night nominated Alderman Henderson as their standard-bearer in the coming Ontario elections.

Miss Minnie Fraser, M.D., of Kingston, has been given a farewell entertainment prior to her departure for India as a medical missionary.

It is reported the Wells-Fargo express messenger on a Southern Pacific train was robbed on Tuesday night of \$45,000 at Eagleville, Tex.

The moulders of Kingston, numbering nine, struck yesterday morning for \$2 per day instead of \$1.75 and \$1.85, which they have been heretofore receiving.

Between three and five hundred miners at Arnot, Pa., went on strike yesterday. The superintendent of the mines says he does not know the cause of the strike.

It is stated from Washington that the McKinley Tariff Bill, if passed, will not likely go into force before the beginning of next year, and probably not till July, 1891.

Between 900 and 1,000 Louisville, Ky., carpenters struck yesterday for eight hours and 25 cents an hour as the minimum rate of wages. The non-unionists are fast joining the strikers.

The British steamer Saltwick collided with the British steamer Mount Olivet at Gibraltar yesterday and the latter sank. The Mount Olivet was bound from Rio de Janeiro for Montreal.

An English syndicate is arranging for the purchase of the cotton mills under the control of the Dominion Association, and it is reported that Mr. Gault, the President, has gone to England to arrange details.

The Belleville Police Magistrate yesterday fined Thomas Towns, police sergeant, and A. H. Crosby, assistant fishery overseer, \$20 each and costs, or 15 days in goal for having picketed in their possession during the close season.

The concurrent resolution requesting the U. S. President to enter into negotiations with the Governments of Great Britain and Mexico with a view to securing treaty stipulations for the prevention of entry of Chinese laborers into the United States has been agreed to.

The suit of Parker, vs. Owen Sound is an action brought by the proprietors of the waterworks for an injunction to restrain the town from taking over the works. A settlement was arrived at by the plaintiffs agreeing to except \$55,000 each party to pay their own costs.

Rev. William Stacey, Henderson, N. Y., formerly of Kingston, had a narrow escape from suffocation. He and Mrs. Stacey retired, leaving the dampers on the stove turned wrong, causing the gas to escape. They were found next morning nearly unconscious. Mrs. Stacey is quite sick.

There is no ground for anticipating that the land purchase bill will be much maimed in committee. There seems to be no definite principle on which the Opposition are united, and the ministerial majority is large enough to allow of a margin for a few defections. For good or for evil the bill will become law.

The Gloucester City (N. J.) National Bank suspended to-day. The bank was closely connected with the Bank of America, of Philadelphia, which suspended yesterday. The bank did not do a very exclusive business. The President of the institution declined to make any statement as to amount of liabilities.

The Manitoba & Northwestern Railway Company have sold their entire land grant, consisting of 9,000,000 acres, to an English syndicate who will establish a land colonization company. They intend dividing the land into small homesteads, and will lend the settlers \$500 each to enable them to commence operations at once.

Very Rev. Jacques Jean Vinet, Honorary Chaplain to His Holiness Pope Pius IX., died yesterday at the residence of St. Janvier, at Sault au Recollet, Que., the home for retired priests. The deceased was borne in Montreal in January, 1806, and reached the ripe age of 84 years.

The residence of James Dixon, corner of Ouellette and London streets, Windsor, was struck by lightning during the storm yesterday morning. The fluid entered the front chimney, tearing up things generally, and passed out through the peak of the kitchen. The inmates of the house had a miraculous escape. Loss about \$100; fully insured.

A letter addressed to a Quebec commercial house from Mgr. Bosse refers to the miserable and destitute condition of the population of the Labrador coast. The writer expressed the hope that the Government will send them a physician, as they are at present without a doctor and have to resort to their own curatives and appliances in cases of sickness or accident.

Sir Thomas Esmonde, M. P., met with a very severe accident on Wednesday, and he had to be carried upstairs into the House on Thursday to vote for Mr. Parnell's amendment. It was rather hard to travel nearly round the world in safety and then come to grief in the course of a morning ride in London. Sir Thomas Esmonde

was, however, determined not to allow his misadventure to deprive his party of his vote.

The first prominent result of the May-day agitation in Germany has been a formidable movement among manufacturers, merchants, mine owners and others employing large numbers of hands, to promote the formation of a German union against strikes.

Cordial correspondence has passed between Emperor William and the Czar respecting the betrothal of the Czarowitz to Princess Margaret, the sister of Emperor William. The German Emperor declines to allow his sister to join the Greek Church before marriage.

It is stated in Berlin that it was in consequence of hearing a report to the effect that Prince Bismarck was in the habit of taking such heavy doses of morphine as to destroy power of connected thought that the Emperor took steps which led to the Chancellor's retirement.

One thousand five hundred bakers have struck and camped on an island in the Danube, with tents, cattle, stores of lard and bread, and other provisions. They have been joined by 700 girls employed in jute works. Five hundred military bakers have been sent to Pesth from all parts of the kingdom.

Senator James B. Beck, of Kentucky, dropped dead in the Baltimore & Ohio Railway Station at Washington on Saturday afternoon, the cause being paralysis of the heart. Mr. Beck was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, in 1822. He was first elected to Congress in Kentucky in 1866 and became a Senator in 1877.

The Mayor of Roubaix, France, has asked for reinforcements and 800 dragoons have been sent to him. Cavalry patrolled the streets all Saturday night and all day yesterday. The employers of Roubaix announce that they are willing to agree to the demand of ten hours if other French manufacturers consent, but they decline to advance wages.

The Newfoundland delegates are expected in Ottawa this week. They are not authorized to discuss the question of federation with the Dominion. Their mission is to urge the Canadian Government to join in a declaration of the constitutional principle that colonies have a right to be consulted by the Imperial authorities in all colonial affairs affecting them.

The British Secretary of War gave a cold-blooded answer to an inquiry in the House the other night as to the action of the Government in coming to the relief of the survivors of the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, many of whom are in the deepest poverty, and not a few inmates of English workhouses. Private enterprise will provide for their needs, and the preparations for a great theatrical benefit are now far advanced.

Snow fell at St. Paul yesterday to the depth of an inch or more. It soon melted. Reports last night indicate that the snow-storm was very general throughout the Northwest. The storm extended from Lacrosse, Wis., to Jamestown, Dak., and reached to the lake on the north. At Jamestown it snowed for twelve hours, the snow fell estimated at four inches. This snowfall is generally regarded as favorable to big crops.

### A STORY OF THE DAY.

Some Strange Devices in England for Keeping People Awake in Church.

Mention is made in early English history of some remarkable bequests. Among the most singular was that of John Rudge, who on the 17th of April, 1725, bequeathed to the parish of Trysil, in Staffordshire, the sum of 20 shillings a year in order that a poor man might be employed to go about the church during the delivery of the sermon and keep the people awake, and incidentally to drive dogs out of the sacred edifice. It would appear from this that either the sermons in those days were long and dry or the people were lacking in piety. It was not an unusual thing in old days for comparatively wealthy men to set apart a portion of their worldly goods for keeping the congregation awake. Some curious provisions were made for this purpose. At a church in Cheshire forty or fifty years ago one of the church wardens used to go around during the service carrying a long wand. If any of the congregation succumbed to drowsiness and fell asleep, they were awakened with a gentle tap on the head from the wand. At Dunchurch a similar custom existed. There a person bearing a stone wand, shaped like a hayfork at the end, stepped stealthily up and down the aisles, and whenever he saw an individual asleep he touched him so effectually that he speedily was aroused from his dreams, this being sometimes done by hitting the fork to the neck.

### Where Will They Stop?

Mrs. Brownpot—Simon, they are not satisfied with sending the sugar and watering the milk. They're adulterating everything.

Mr. B.—What have you discovered now, dear?

Mrs. B.—Well, this morning I actually caught the gasman pouring water into the meter.

### The Green Thing.

"Is there anything green about a grass widow?"

"Certainly."

"Oh! you think so. What is it, please?"

"The fellow that hangs around her."

The Berlin gold besters at the Paris Exhibition showed gold leaves so thin that it would require 282,000 to produce the thickness of a single inch, yet each leaf was so perfect and free from holes as to be impenetrable by the strongest electric light.

Teacher—How many of you can tell me something about grass? Well, Johnny, what do you know about it? Johnny—Please ma'am, it is something you always have to keep off'n.

Gamaliel—Why is it you always get me so close to the fire when I call evenings? Hortense—Oh, I know the fire has a great way of making things pop!

A Buffalo man has eloped with his mother-in-law. This shows what desperate measures a man will sometimes take to get his mother-in-law out of the house.

Louisville (Ky.) brick moulders struck for an advance from \$2 to \$2.25 a day, and the wheelers demand \$1.75.