Keep the Garden Growing.

A good many of us get rid of much of our gardening enthusiasm when the hot weather comes and the garden looks like it would be hit hard by drouth, or the quack grass encroaches, or a wet spell lets the weeds get ahead of us. It takes courage then to push right in and insist on making the garden continue to give a good account of itself. Still we want garden truck all the season, and a good supply for winter use. A lady remarked the other day that she canned almost everything, even rabbits and squirrels, and always had plenty of variety on her table and had little to buy of anything she could raise. This is the true spirit for all of us to imbibe, and then the high cost of living will not frighten us. There is not much that we will need in the vegetable line that we cannot grow if we determine to work for it and if we will go at the canning right there is nothing we cannot can and have for winter use.

If our garden has been well prepared before planting and has been kept stirred during the early part of the season we must not neglect it now or all this early work will be lost. As the season advances the need for quick cultivation after each rain is most imperative. I do not like to let a crust form at all, but I want to get out with my five-prong cultivating tool and stir that soil just as soon as it is dry enough so it will not pack together. It will be necessary to go over it again in a day or two for this moist soil will settle and allow some moisture to pass up to the air if this is not done. After the soil gets dry down as far as stirred it does not matter if it is not stirred again until a rain if it is not too long in coming.

Weeds and grass use up plantfood and make the plants grow weak and spindling even if there is plenty of moisture in the ground, so we must keep down the weeds in wet spells as much as possible for best results. We can shave the weeds off at the surface when the ground is wet, without injury to the soil, but we cannot dig in the soil without compacting it and it will not come back into good mechanical condition again for a long time.

There is a knack about hoeing to be effective. I have known people to hoe and leave the garden with spots unstirred and with the weeds either cut off above the ground or not cut at all, but buried, while another would systematically cover every inch of the space with an even stroke and the work would be good for a long time. It pays to be careful to do good work for the other kind has to be done over again before the job is hardly finished. I aim to cut the weeds far enough below the surface to keep them from starting up again from the same roots. Of course, where we shave them at the surface in wet weather it is only a temporary makeshift and has to be well done as soon as we can get at it.

A good many crops mature quickly and we should plant such plots again at once. In order to do this effectually I plant with this end in view and make the crops maturing together come together in the garden as far as possible. Even when in single rows or beds we can easily plant again, and I prefer to plant to some other crop that is not liable to attack by the same insects, for we are pretty apt to have a supply of these on hand by the time the first crop is off the ground. Plants that have the aphis on them badly will provide a sure death to any other crop subject to aphis attacks if the same ground is used. Cucumbers are best planted where no cucumber has been grown for at least a year previous. Late-planted cucumbers will often bear surer than the early-planted, and one year I got the very best results from some vines that came into bearing in September, though they will not stand frost and should be bearing before there is danger from frost or even very chilly nights.

Late planting for canning I have found very effective. I have planted beans, beets, corn and some other quick-maturing crops so they would come into canning condition along in August and September, and then do up a lot of canning all at once.

Top-dressing the soil with a well pulverized manure will be a help where the plants need feeding, or where two crops have been grown one after the other, especially if they are both, or either, heavy growers. Bonemeal is a valuable fertilizer for garden use for it is concentrated and contains both phosphorus and nitrogen and is safe to use by those not versed in the use of commercial fertilizers. I have used it with good effect and know that it pays well if judiciously used. Where planted in drills or rows the bonemeal can be sprinkled along the row on either side and then stirred into the soil. Just a thin sifting four inches wide will be enough if applied to each side of the row.

Poultry manure is good but it is very strong and should be mixed with dry dust and worked over until it is all broken up and fine. Then scatter along the row to a width of six inches on each side, not over a quarter to a half-inch in depth. Stir into the soil at once. It is never a good idea to give plants a heavy dressing of this manure when they have been dry for a long time until after it has rained. If the ground is dry when applied, too much of it is carried to the roots at once and often the result will be drooping and sometimes dying plants where thrifty ones were before.

One Way of Making Good.

Here is a case of two farmers who have been under the writer's observation for a few years. Their experiences prove that a farmer's success or failure depends about as much on his management as upon the crops he produces. Both came from the same distant province about six years ago, and bought land near us.

The one bought an improved farm of 60 acres for $800, paying two-thirds cash and agreeing to pay the balance in two annual payments. He brought improved implements with him, and was able to cultivate more acres than a poorly equipped farmer. He planted largely of feed crops, corn, peas, peanuts, and potatoes, and produced much more than he could gather or house properly. Other farmers produced the same crops, so only a dull market existed for them, and no profitable shipping facilities were convenient. Besides his two horses he kept no livestock, not even a pig, and the money which he spent for milk and butter would have paid for a cow. He made no improvements, not even the planting of a fruit tree; spent the winters in idleness, and got deeply in debt. He sold his farm after four years, and, of course, blamed the soil for his failure. He has gone to find a better place. He has a small family, and with a sufficient number of pigs and calves to consume even the waste he could have lived independent of the credit merchant. Whatever place he may select as his home he will be a failure without a change of management.

The other had only $150 in cash after paying his and his family's transportation. He invested this as one-half payment on a 40-acre farm with a two-room dwelling, a pretense of a barn, and a weak rail fence as its store of improvements. He brought his meat and lard for the first year. With these exceptions he had everything to buy on credit, even a horse. He soon saw the need of a cow, so bought one on the installment plan. When he had paid all but $5 the cow died. He sold the calf to complete the payment, and bought another cow on the same plan as the first one.

He has sold butter enough to go a long way toward buying needed supplies and cattle to the amount of $80. Three years ago he borrowed money and bought a pair of pure-bred hogs. Besides producing his own meat and lard he has sold some hogs at fancy prices for breeders. His first horse, a plug, died just when he was needed the most, but he bought a good mare on credit to replace him. He has built up-to-date fences, a poultry house, and barns, and added another room to his dwelling. He has a family of small children, has had much sickness and one death, all causing him heavy expense. He has planted fruit trees every year excepting one, and has already begun to realize a profit from his orchard. He has paid for his farm, owes no man anything, and does not believe a better place exists for a poor man. He plans ahead and always has a desired end in view.

Which of the two men makes the better citizen?

How I Made My Poultry Pay.

The first of January, 1917, I bought 24 young Plymouth Rock pullets, gave them good care and fed them for eggs. In three weeks they were laying finely. I then bought two incubators. I set my hens' eggs and added some others to fill up the incubators. I set four hens at the same time.

My first hatch came off the middle of February. I hatched 266 fine chicks from 389 eggs. I divided the chicks among the four hens and a good brooder. I kept part of the chicks in the brooder at night until they were six or seven days old, then gave them to the hens. For their first feed I gave them finely crumbled egg shells and prepared chick feed, plenty of fresh water and fine grit. After they were two weeks old I kept them in a small building with clean litter for them to work in. I gave them plenty of milk.

I raised 460 good chicks from 553 eggs. At 3 months old I sold all but 87 pullets which I kept for winter layers. I received $186.60 for the hens and young chicks, the hens bringing $16.80, which, after I deducted $58 for the feed, eggs and oil for the incubators, left $111.80 for my work for four months, and my 87 pullets.

Then I began to feed for winter laying. The first of September I gave them a noon mash of beef scrap, chopped bones and bran. After we butchered our hogs, I fed a mash of turnips, potato peelings, table scraps and meat cracklings, with a tablespoonful of sulphur once a week. My pullets began to lay December first.

I sold eggs as follows: December, $18.60; January, $28.63; February, $35.75; March, $40.45; April, $38.94: $162.37 in five months. I sold the 87 hens for $73.95 so the total for hens and eggs was $236.32. The cost of feed for the hens being $63, I had to my credit $173.32 for the hens and eggs, $11.80 for the young chicks, making the total for all $285.12 in sixteen months.

Prizes for Racing Pigs.

Every year a pig race is held at Crone-sur-Marne, north of France, a prize of 2,000 francs (400 dollars) being awarded the lucky rider of the winning pig. This race is held in accordance with the terms of the will of a wealthy tradesman of the village, who died forty-two years ago. He ordered that amongst the amusements of the annual fete should be included a race with pigs, to be ridden either by men or boys. The prize, however, was not to be handed to the winning jockey except on condition that he wore deep mourning for the deceased for two years after the race. The municipality accepted the eccentric bequest, and these singular races have been held regularly ever since.

The Remedy.

"That young man stayed very late again, Edith."

"Yes, papa; I was showing him my picture post-cards."

"Well, the next time he wants to stay late, you show him some of my electric light bills."

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
JUNE 15.

Prayer—Matt. 6: 5-15; Luke 18: 1-14.
Golden Text, Phil. 4: 6.

Matt. 6: 5-15. The Lord's Prayer. Do not pray, Jesus said, "as the hypocrites." They pray "that they may be seen of men." They desire a reputation for sanctity which may heighten their influence among the people. Better the secret prayer which God hears, the prayer in which the heart speaks and the soul goes out to Him in desire and faith. Nor is there need of "vain repetitions" or of "much speaking," for God knows the need of those who call upon Him. The model prayer which Jesus gave His disciples is remarkable for its simplicity, its brevity, and its comprehensiveness. Calling upon the heavenly Father, it pleads for the reverence due to His name, for the coming of His kingdom, for daily food, for forgiveness of sins, and for deliverance from evil. This is "the prayer that teaches to pray."

Luke 18: 1-14. Parables of Prayer. "The unjust judge." The parable presents an argument from the less to the greater witness. If the less proves the case, how much more convincing will the greater be! If the unjust and selfish judge can be moved by continual pleading that will not be denied, how much more will the good and just God be moved to act on behalf of His own! Men ought, therefore, "always to pray, and not to faint." Faith in God means such trust and confidence in Him as will not despair of His goodness, but will keep watch, wait patiently, and keep on praying. "Pray without ceasing."

"The Pharisee" belonged to a select society of men who were zealous to maintain the ancient laws and customs of Israel's religion. In their origin, one hundred to one hundred and fifty years before the birth of Christ, they were sincere and honest, even if narrow, champions of the ancient faith against Greek and other innovations. They became, for a time, an active political party, but now, under Roman rule, they were chiefly interested in preserving, through a display of religious formality, their hold upon the minds of the common people, and their influence in the great Jewish council which controlled purely Jewish affairs of religion and morals. While there were still good men among them, many were merely wearing a mask of piety and well deserving the name of hypocrite which Jesus more than once applied to them. They "devoured widows' houses and for a pretence made long prayers."

"The publican" was a tax collector, in the employ of the Roman Government, and so was looked upon as a traitor to, or as an outcast from, his own people, who hated their subjection to a foreign power. The Pharisee exalted himself in his prayer, the publican humbled himself. The parable illustrates well the saying of Psalm 51: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Compare also Isa. 57: 15. The old English poet, Richard Crashaw, writes:

"Two went to pray? Or rather say
One went to brag, the other to pray.
One stands up close, and treads on high
Where the other dares not send his eye;
One nearer to God's altar trod,
The other to the altar's God."

Perhaps no prayer of penitence has been more often repeated than that of the publican, and it has often been the last uttered prayer of the soul about to meet its God. And it has many times been the wisest and best to whose lips it has come. They have put to the test and have proved the Saviour's words that "he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

Five Little Brothers.

Five little brothers set out together
To journey the livelong day,
In a curious carriage all made of leather
They hurried away, away!
One big brother and three quite small,
And one wee fellow no size at all.

The carriage was dark and none too roomy,
And they could not move about;
The five little brothers grew very gloomy,
And the wee one began to pout,
Till the biggest one whispered, "What do you say?
Let's leave the carriage and run away."

So out they scampered, the five together,
And off and away they sped,
When somebody found the carriage of leather
Oh, my, how she shook her head!
'Twas her little boy's shoe, as everyone knows
And the five little brothers were five little toes.

Ex-Empress Eugenie 93.

The ex-Empress Eugenie, who was 93 on May 5, strikes all who see her as the picture of good, but not robust, health. Prince and Princess Napoleon are still residing with "Her Imperial Majesty," as M. Pichon (the French Foreign Minister) styled her last autumn when telling a great gathering of Alsatians and Lorrainers in Paris that she had presented to the French archives the original letter written to her in October, 1870, by the King of Prussia (then at Versailles) declining her appeal to him not to insist upon the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine.

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There are 550,000 buildings to be rebuilt in the devastated districts of France, according to statistics given the Chamber of Deputies by M. Lebrun, minister of liberated territories, says a Paris despatch. Three hundred thousand buildings were totally destroyed, while 250,000 were destroyed in part.

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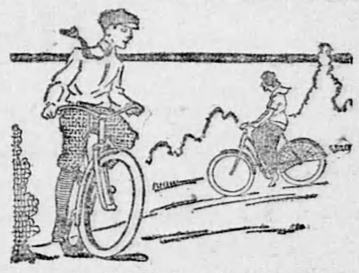

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