

AGRICULTURAL.

A farmer, to be successful, should never sell poor sheep, but sell fat ones and fatten the poor ones. Some farmers do not stable sheep, claiming that they can make them thrive out of doors. Now it is absurd to tell people that sheep will do better out of doors, and that it does not pay to shelter them. A man that can make a sheep fat out in the wet and cold, would make a good success of feeding in shelter. If he would put his attention to his work like he would have to out-of-doors. A man should never keep more sheep than he can shelter without crowding, although some breeds will stand crowding more than others will.

The first thing in feeding is to be regular. Feed at a certain hour, and then stick to that time; for where feeding is done with regularity, you can go about the stable and sheep will not pay any attention to you until the feeding hour.

Second is cleanliness. Keep the troughs clean, and do not let them stand in the wet manure, but use plenty of straw.

Third, I would say that good hay or corn-fodder should be used. If you have poor hay, feed it to the cattle, but never to the sheep. Corn shelled and mixed with oats and bran makes a good feed, but when the farmer has the money, it is good to buy oil-meal; but we do not always have the money. The best rations are shelled corn, one bushel; oats, one peck; bran, one peck, and to make certain that they get salt, mix a small amount with the grain, for feeders are apt to be forgetful when it comes to giving on a cold morning.

The last, and most important, is water. A great many farmers claim that sheep do not need any water. I often wonder how they would like to be fed on bread and potatoes for six months without water. Water is necessary to animal existence, and why deprive them of it? To feed successfully, sheep should have water accessible at all times. In these days of bored wells it will pay a farmer to have a well by the sheepstable.

Do not scare your sheep, but make them know that you are their friend, and they will thrive; and it will be a pleasure to stand in the stable and watch them crack corn and eat hay without being on the watch to see if any danger is near. Shoot all stray dogs and some that are not stray. I believe the best motto would be, shoot all dogs not with their owners, and it would be better for the farmer and shepherd.

To Preserve Fence Posts.

A correspondent of the *Courier* Gentlemen recommends saturating fence posts with crude petroleum by boring a half dozen holes into them obliquely, near the butt, with a three-quarter inch bit, then filling with petroleum, and plugging to prevent waste. After the operation the posts should lie in piles a week or ten days, when the pores of the wood will be completely saturated as high up as they are specially liable to decay. A paint composed of raw linseed oil and pulverized charcoal is then spread freely over the lower end of the posts, and six inches above the surface line when set. White oak posts, cut in February, and sawed 4x4 at the butts and 4x2 at the top, and prepared as directed, are claimed to be good for any man's lifetime, if occasionally covered with a fresh coat of cheap paint. A four inch wide strip, one inch thick, should be nailed on for a top rail, and the posts then sawed off square, when a five inch strip nailed to top of posts, and edge of the four inch strip, will keep water from getting into the tops of the posts and rotting them. Two strands of barbed wire below the top strips will make a fence that will turn cattle and look well. The wire should be put on in warm weather to secure the proper tension, and one or more additional strands should be used if sheep or swine are to be pastured.

To Kill Wheat Smut.

A correspondent, at the risk of being laughed at by scientific men, contributed to the *American Miller* his experience in clearing his wheat from the black smut. Before applying the remedy the men at threshing time were as black as Africans. The wheat, before sowing, was soaked for hours in strong lye made from wood ashes, and was then sown while yet wet. The application made the young wheat plants look as if a coat of manure had been spread upon the land. After two years smut entirely disappeared from the farm, and none has been seen since, although the experiments were made nearly forty years ago. Our advice is to try such a remedy on a small scale before risking the entire crop. Lye will quickly start the hull from grain, and it will also eat the skin off the hands of those who may handle it. It is customary to roll and dry soaked seed in plaster of Paris before trying to sow it by hand or with a machine. The remedy, if effectual, would doubtless be equally applicable to oats and other spring grains.

Domesticating the Indian.

One of the experiments in the civilization of the Indian undertaken at Hampton, Mass., this year is taking several young married couples from different Indian tribes and teaching them how to make a home. It has been very successful, and the dawning gentleness of the men to their wives and children, the new tenderness and pride of the women, their eagerness to learn how to sew and their pleasure in cleanliness are encouraging in every way. It is funny, and yet touching to see the men with their children, their awkwardness in handling them and yet their determination to carry the heavy youngsters and share the care of them with their squaws. And these are not the Creeks and Cherokees, but the warlike Sioux and Onahas.

OBSCURE OPIUM.

Its Destructive Effects.

Although quite common in almost all the large cities in the West, the pernicious habit of opium smoking or "hitting the pipe," as it is called, is quite unknown in some districts.

This habit has grown to an alarming extent on the Pacific slope and in all other localities where Chinese are to be found in any great numbers. I have visited many of the Chinese opium joints, both in New York and San Francisco, and can tell at a glance whether a person is addicted to the use of the deadly drug or not. I have had strangers come into my store whose facial appearance indicated that they were the slaves of the habit, and so far as I know there is no sure cure for it except to shun the drug as one would a viper.

The opium used by the Chinese is of an inferior quality, and is brought to this country in the form of a paste, put up in small round foil-lined boxes similar to those used for pills. The pipe is a curious-looking contrivance, and might be taken for a common walking stick were it not for the little metallic bowl placed midway between the mouthpiece and the end of the stem. The stem itself is constructed of bamboo, one end being plugged, the other fitted with an amber or metallic tip. In the bottom of the bowl are two small holes, one of which leads through into the stem, the other only about half way.

In using the pipe a small quantity of the opium paste is rolled up into a pellet and placed on a wire, the end of which is inserted in one of the holes in the bowl of the pipe. The smoker stretches his or her form on the floor or a low divan, as the case may be, and ignites the opium by applying the bowl of the pipe to the flame from a charcoal brazier. If it be his first attempt the initial whiff will be sufficient to partially strangle him, as the fumes of burning opium are exceedingly pungent and distasteful. Very soon he becomes accustomed to the peculiar taste, and gradually succumbs to its influence, as one does in taking an anesthetic, and finally drops off into a deep sleep. I tried it once and that proved sufficient for me. I had the most delightful dreams, and imagined that I owned the earth, and had a chattel mortgage on the other planets. When I regained consciousness my head felt as large as a Saratoga trunk, and for two days at least every bone in my body ached as badly as if I had been punished with a club. I had no desire to try it again.

"Second Wind."

The reader may not be aware that in ordinary respiration we only use a portion of our lungs, the cells at the extremity not being brought into play. This is the reason why those who are not "in training," and who try to run any distance, soon begin to gasp, and, unless they are courageous enough to persevere in spite of the choking sensation, are forced to stop. But if they will persevere, the choking goes off, and the result is what is technically known as "second wind." When the second wind is fully established, the runner does not become out of breath, but goes on running as long as his legs will carry him. I know this by experience, having been accustomed for some years to run three miles every morning over a very hilly road. The fact is, that on starting, the farthest portions of the lungs are choked with effere air and the remainder do not supply air enough to meet the increased circulation caused by exercise. By degrees, however, the neglected cells come into play, and when the entire lung is in working order the circulation and respiration again balance each other, and the "second wind" is the result. Now, let the reader repeat his experiment of holding his breath against time, but first let him force out of his lungs every particle of air that he can expel, and then draw as deep breath as his lungs will hold. If this be repeated some seventy or eighty times, by way of imitation of the whale, the experimenter will find that he can hold his breath for a minute and a half without inconvenience. Should he be a swimmer, he should always take this precaution before "taking a header," and he will find that he can swim for a considerable distance before he needs to rise for breath.

Red Pheasant.

This Indian Chief is the head of a band Crees, about one hundred and forty in number (of whom sixty-nine are men and women able to work, who have for some time been settled upon a reservation a short distance to the south-east of Battleford. While that post was the Indian headquarters for the North-West, this band received a great deal of attention, but while they were encouraged to break up land, given implements and tools and were provided with houses, they appear to have become actually pauperized. They are spoken of in the last reports as being "apathetic," and as having made but little progress. In all they had twenty horses and about fourteen oxen. The first offensive act of this band was the breaking in upon their instructor, Mr. George Applegarth, and their pursuit of him and his wife as they escaped over the plains toward the south. Poor Payne, the instructor upon the adjoining reserve, was not so fortunate, having been killed. The two bands, which in all would amount to about 450 souls, then appear to have abandoned their reserve and gone north-west to join Poundmaker the leader of the Indian rising west of Battleford, as when Col. Otter's column reached the reserve, it was entirely deserted, and as our correspondent stated in his dispatch, the dead-body of the murdered man was discovered and has since been buried at Battleford.

Betting.

It is generally assumed that the first rudiments of that spirit of gaming which makes itself conspicuous from time to time among all classes of Englishmen at the present day, may be traced back to the associations of the Saxons with our earliest ancestry. And it is perfectly reasonable to believe that the helpless Britons, when they invited the practical Saxons to land on their shores, and protect them from their domestic foes, may have readily fraternized with a tribe scarcely less barbarous than themselves, adopted their habits and customs, and followed some of their favorite amusements. We read how the plunders of the period would boldly stake all they possessed, even to their personal freedom, till the losers were often made slaves to the winners, and sold in traffic like other merchandise. But, after all, we can hardly lay the burden of our vicious practices on the shoulders of the ancient Saxons, for the habit of gaming was never confined to any particular tribe, but it is common to all countries, and almost every age; and it is not till long after the fusion of the Anglo-Saxon with the Norman races that gaming in England was carried to such excess as to call forth the intervention of the legislature. In the middle of the sixteenth century we find the first act prohibiting gaming to all gentlemen, and interdicting tennis, cards, dice, and bowls to all inferior persons except at Christmas time; and a hundred years later on it was enacted that any person losing more than £100 at any one time should not be compelled by the law to pay the same. From that date onwards the legislature has passed various acts to restrict the evils of gaming, and has latterly directed its attention principally to gaming-houses and places of betting, while still refusing to acknowledge the legality of any sums of money won or lost in wagers. How the enriched fraternity of book-makers can drive coaches and any number of horses through these fragile restrictions, and how the smaller dependents on the betting ring can evade such ambiguous penalties, the broken ranks of infatuated backers of horses can testify to their own grief and to the amazement of the uninitiated lookers on.

Statistics Concerning Women.

Almost all the Southern States have a nearly equal number of each sex. In Massachusetts the females between twenty and fifty years of age exceed the males of the same age by about 44,000. In seventy-eight cities the excess of females is 148,000. That illiteracy prevails more among women is due probably to the foreign population. Women contribute less to pauperism, the proportion being 31,000 to 36,000. The ratio of prison inmates stands 5,068 women to 54,190 males. Women are in excess among the insane, men in excess among the idiotic, blind and deaf mutes. The proportion of women who engage in occupations outside of the household is smaller in the United States than in foreign countries, but in no country is the proportionate number engaged in superior industrial occupations equal to that in this country. Of the 2,647,000 women in occupations 695,000 are engaged in agriculture—most of them colored women in the Southern States; 632,000 are in manufactures, of whom about one-half are in New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania; 282,000 are milliners, &c.; 52,000 are tailors. Of the forty-four occupations recorded as "personal service," forty find women in them. The 525 female surgeons of 1870 have increased to 2,473; the 7 lawyers to 75; the 65 clergymen to 165. The number of laundries has increased from 61,000 in 1870 to 122,000, and of the latter 108,000 are kept by women. This large increase shows a great lightening of the housewife's labor.

Getting up his Appetite.

"Out in Portland, Oregon, where distances are so deceitful, a very amusing incident occurred last summer among a party of friends with whom I was traveling. It happened that one of our number was troubled somewhat by insomnia, so much so that he arose one bright morning just as the day was beginning to dawn, dressed, went to the office and inquired of the clerk at what time the matutinal repast began. Being told that 7 o'clock was the earliest hour, he walked to the piazza, looked around for a few moments, returned and inquired what mountain that was in the distance. Upon being told that it was Mt. Hood, he said to the clerk: 'If any of our party inquires for me, say that I am going to take a run over there to get up an appetizer; will be back in time for breakfast!' Now Mt. Hood is some twenty or thirty miles from Portland, but has the appearance of being not over two or three. As the hour for breakfast approached, our party began counting up its numbers, but Mr. A— was nowhere to be found.

"Inquiry was at once instituted as to what might have become of him, when it was ascertained from the clerk that he had gone to Mt. Hood for a morning walk, and, with a merry twinkle in his eye, he added, 'he might not be back in time for the first breakfast'; consequently we took our breakfast minus the absent Mr. A—, and immediately after took carriages for a drive to Mt. Hood, if possible to overtake the prodigal. Finally, after riding an hour or two, we came to a little brook, and there, sure enough, was Mr. A— divesting himself of all his clothing. When asked what he was about to do he replied that he was 'going to swim across.' 'But why don't you stop over?' said some one. 'Well,' replied Mr. A—, 'in this country of magnificent distances, how do I know but it is two miles across?'

Pie-a-Pot.

This respectable chieftain has probably been a greater source of trouble to the Indian department than any other Indian in the North-West, and although he has not yet got into any trouble the fear that he will soon be "up" has created a panic more than once. His reservation, to which in 1882 he withdrew his people because if he had not they would have starved to death, is in the vicinity of Indian Head, and is of his own choosing. His band numbered, in 1882, 562 souls, but they have suffered much since they came under the treaty, forty-five dying in ten months in 1883, no births occurring during that time, and the ration list for 1884 was for 370 persons. They have made but little progress in agricultural pursuits, as there are only about twenty-two acres of land broken, and their entire crop for the last harvest was 250 bushels of potatoes. The trouble with Pie-a-Pot runs over a considerable number of years. He and his tribe followed the buffalo south, and for some years he and his people loafed around Fort Walsh, utterly and entirely refusing to return and live upon the reservation offered to him. In 1882 he was induced to come back and settle on a reservation of his own choosing, but he with a large portion of his band almost at once returned to Fort Walsh. He could obtain nothing to eat there, however, and during the month of August, with 436 followers, he went to Fort Qu'Appelle and demanded food. The chiefs of the district, with 600 followers, assembled to meet him, and for a time things looked serious, but the Indian agent was firm and would neither feed nor pay a cent of subsidy to the Indians of Pie-a-Pot's band further than a supply of six days to enable them to rest. Pie-a-Pot, at last, in the face of threats and privations, started for Indian Head, dalled three days irresolutely on the road finally reached his reservation, submitted to the Government, and was given the food he required to feed the women and children. It was the same chief with whom Mr. Dewdney, the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West, got into serious difficulty regarding a spring cart, which he promised Pie a Pot, and then did not give to him, provoking the Indian to most immoderate expressions of disgust.

Naval Service in Shallow Streams.

The naval service of the delta, with its many hundred miles of shallow channel, is done by seven or eight small gun-boats of peculiar pattern and half a dozen steam-launches, each carrying a Hotchkiss (French, *Oshkees*) gun, and manned by six or eight sailors. The gun-boats are called cannonieres. They are nearly all of them of the same pattern, broad, flat-bottomed, and not drawing more than three feet of water, even when heavily loaded. The idea is a peculiarly American one, borrowed entirely from the little shallow steamers that have for the last half-century nearly been running on the upper water of the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri, and more directly from the tin clads that did such excellent services during the rebellion. The boilers are in front, protected by a thin steel plating sufficient to turn any fire to be expected from hostile forces in the delta. The engines are aft, and similarly protected. The quarters of the officers are amidships, or, if the pattern is varied, wherever convenience dictates. The armament is usually two medium steel guns forward on a revolving platform, with a range of two miles, the gunners being protected by semi-circular steel plates at the edges of the platform, and two or three Hotchkiss guns at the sides or on a mast guarded in similar fashion. The wheels at the stern are sometimes masked by broad plates of steel, a continuation of the plating on the sides. The small-arm is the Mauser rifle, a heavy weapon, but considered by the French the most efficient. These vessels are all painted gray. They were built in France brought out in pieces and put together either at Saigon or Haiphong. Two are now on the stocks at Haiphong, which will in a few days be added to the delta squadron, making it the most useful for the special duties exacted that could be devised.

Josh Billings' Maxims.

Most people are like an egg, to phull of themselves to hold anything else. Curiosity is the germ of all enterprises—men dig for woodchucks more for curiosity than they do for woodchucks. There is lots of polks in this world who can keep nine out of ten or the commandments without envy trouble at all, but the one that is left they kant keep the small end ov. There is numerous individuals in the land who look upon what they hain't got as the only thing worth having. One man ov genius to 97 thousand four hundred and 42 men ov talent is just about the right proportion for actual business. There is menny a slip between a cup and a lip, but not half as menny az there ought to be. Rather than not have faith in enny-thing, I am willing to be beat nine times out of 10. The two most important words in enny language are the shortest, "Yes and No."

Never pay cash when you can get trusted. Remember, it was a goose who laid a golden egg every day.

Shakespeare wasn't a broker at all, but do you know of any man who has furnished so many stock quotations?

What is the difference between an experienced father and a poor musical conductor? None; they both beat the air.

The Weird Bird of the Atlantic.

As the craft bows along in the Atlantic a new world seems to open to the voyager. The constellations of Southern cross has scarcely become familiar to him before he begins to see a small, or rather bird, like altogether new to him. One of the greatest novelties of this kind that can ever impress itself upon the mind of man is the albatross. In the morning the lounge will reach the water, and, casting his eye in the wake of the ship to judge her speed, will see a bird just above the horizon far astern. It grows larger and larger as it approaches, finally develops into a gigantic bird, and gruffly suggest the fact that it is a species of albatross. There is something impressively weird about the bird, and it is well as in its manner of flight, and in its matter of little wonder to those who have seen it that a brain such as Coleridge's should have hit upon it for the text of the Lay of the Ancient Mariner. With a beat of wing, without motion of the body, the bird will, by long, easy glances, swoop up from astern until it is within easy watching distance from the ship it chooses to follow. It will "lay too" at that respectful distance, and after taking thoroughstock of the steamer, that has invaded its domain will, with apparent effort, swoop past the ship's port or starboard, as the case may be, pass it by several cable lengths and then lay too on the opposite hand to its advance, allow the ship to pass it, and then once more take up its post as guard of the procession. Nothing can be more ghost-like than the action of the albatross in thus passing and being passed. No stroke of the wing occurs and all the motion apparent, except that of the most unintelligible cleaving of the air, the half turn of the bird's head toward the ship, made as if to see what manner of beast this was that had come to bother it. Though sailors are over prone to superstition, they seem not to be very particular as to the sacredness of the albatross and will always assist in a capture in spite of the curse Coleridge associates with its killing.

Increasing Size of Ocean Steamers.

The *Etruria*, the latest addition to the Cunard fleet, has made her trial trip. She is said to be the most powerful steamship in the world. Her dimensions are: Length, 520 feet; breadth, 57 feet 3 inches; depth, 49 feet; upper deck, 41 feet; to promenade deck, 41 feet; tonnage, 8,000; horse-power, 10,000. Comparing these with the dimensions of the first steamships that crossed the Atlantic by use of steam during the entire voyage, and it will be seen what amazing progress has been made in increasing the size of sea-going steamships. The dimensions of the *Sirius*, which left Cork on the 4th of April, 1838, and arrived at New York on the 22nd of that month, were: Length, 178 feet; breadth, 25 feet 6 inches; depth, 13 feet 3 inches; tonnage, net, 450; horse-power, 270. The dimensions of the *Great Western*, which left Bristol some days later than the *Sirius* and arrived a few hours later on the day of the arrival of the latter vessel, were: Length, 236 feet; breadth, 35 feet 6 inches; depth, 25 feet 3 inches; tonnage, 1,340; horse-power, 400. The difference in the speed of the two classes of ships is also nearly as great as the difference in tonnage. Thus, the *Great Western's* best time was 12 1/2 miles, while that of the *Etruria* is expected to be twenty-one miles per hour. On her last trip from Queenstown the *Umbria*, the sister ship of the *Etruria*, for twenty-four hours made twenty nautical miles per hour.

Yet, after all this enlarged size and this increased speed, it is only the great ocean steamers carrying large numbers of saloon passengers that are at present, on account of the great trade depression of the world over, making money.

It may be interesting to the marine antiquary to know that the *Sirius*, which was built in 1836, was sturdily left a few years after she had made two trips to New York, on the Smith's rocks, to the east of Cork harbor, and that the *Great Western*, which was built in 1838, was broken up in 1858.

Tamed With Electricity.

Nearly every day some new use is found for electricity, and one of the most recent applications of this power is in the taming of the professional tamers of wild animals. The inventor is a tamer himself, and his instrument is an apparatus adapted like a stick and highly charged with electricity. When the animals become unruly, he gives them shocks from this battery, and the effects are said to be instantaneous.

Three of his lions immediately showed signs of the greatest terror. They were seized with trembling, and growled fitfully. The tiger was more quickly subdued, became stupefied, and crouched in a corner of the cage. Bruin was more refractory to electricity, which seemed scarcely to effect him. He would growl and show his teeth, but was subdued after repeated discharges.

The most astonishing effects, however, were perceptible in the boa constrictor. On receiving the discharge the specimen from Cayenne, nearly twenty feet in length, became at once paralyzed and remained motionless for six hours afterwards. When he recovered, he showed signs of helplessness for three whole days. Finally the elephant, on being electrified by a touch of the stick upon the tip of his trunk, set up a series of wild cries and became so frantic that the tamer feared he would break his heavy iron chain.

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