

THE BATTLE OF THE YALU

CAPT. M'GIFFIN OF THE CHEN YUEN TELLS THE STORY.

Japanese Ships Outnumbered the Chinese, He Says, and Had Better Guns and Projectiles—Capt. McGiffin Came Near Being Killed by One of His Own Guns.

Capt. McGiffin was in actual command of the ship Chen Yuen during the five hours' contest of the Yalu, while the nominal commander, Admiral Lin, was below praying to his gods. He left China five weeks ago on a six months' sick leave and he will stay in America indefinitely in the hope of recovering his shattered health, unless he is recalled by the Chinese Government. He came through Singapore and Marseilles instead of by the Pacific, because a reward of \$5,000 had been offered by the Japanese for his capture, alive or dead. He is a soldierly man of about thirty-five years, with blue eyes, a blond mustache, and a face darkly reddened by his service in the Orient. His hearing and eyesight are somewhat impaired and in other ways he is a sufferer from wounds received at the Yalu.

He had obtained leave of absence, to begin Aug. 6 on account of poor health, and intended to leave at that time for America. About July 1, however, he saw how things were going, and believing that war was inevitable, he gave up his leave and took service on the Chen Yuen. A number of the men under him had been trained at the naval school.

The war began Aug. 20 and on Sept. 17 came the battle of the Yalu.

"One thing about that battle," said Commander McGiffin, "that has not been understood on this side of the water is the fact that we were outnumbered by the Japanese although the Japanese have represented differently. We were ten ships to the Japs' twelve at the beginning of the battle but two of our ships immediately put about and ran away. Two others were soon set on fire, so that they were of no use to us. At that point in the battle three of the Japanese ships had been put out of action.

"Aside from the preponderance of numbers, the Japanese had a great advantage over us in other respects. Our guns were furnished with solid shot only, which passed through the Japs' hulls without doing any great damage, while they rained shell on us from guns of the most modern construction. Some of their ships were furnished with melinite exploding shells.

"In reports emanating from the Japanese it has been said that we ran away from them, which is absurd, in view of the fact that the maximum speed attainable by our squadron as a whole was 12½ knots, while the Japanese squadron could reach 17½ knots.

"It is an actual fact that at the end we drove the Japanese back, and remained in possession. Admiral Ito, commander of their forces, said at the time that when peace had been declared he would tell why they retired, but I don't believe he will."

At the surrender of Wei-hai-wei the Chen Yuen, Capt. McGiffin's ship, passed into the hands of the Japanese, but he had left her after the battle of the Yalu, in which he was completely disabled, chiefly by one of his own guns. During the battle he was hit several times.

First a fragment of shell struck him in the left thigh and penetrated about two inches. He pulled it out with a pair of pincers and preserved it as a souvenir. Shortly afterward his abdomen was cut by another fragment.

A shell exploded under a hard-wood ladder, and a piece of the wood striking him in the left flank, inflicted a wound from which he still suffers. The circumstances under which he was wounded by one of his own guns was described by him last night.

"The ship was on fire at the bow," he said, "and I went forward with several volunteers to put it out. The fire of the enemy was directed at that particular part of the ship in order to prevent us from extinguishing it."

"The men would not go forward without an officer, and as none of the Chinese officers would go, I had to take charge of the work myself. While I was stooping down with the hose in my hands, a shell passed between my hands and then between my legs, just grazing both wrists and carrying away the tails of my coat."

"The bow guns were so arranged that they could be fired to either side. The starboard guns, of which there were two working together about six feet apart, had been firing across the bow to the port side. When we began work on the fire I directed the Lieutenant in charge of the guns to fire to the starboard. He did so until he was killed, and the captain of turret, who took his place, did not know that we were there. We could not be seen from the turret. He swung the guns around to return the enemy's fire on the port side. I was directly in front of one of the guns, and not over ten feet away. Fortunately, it was the other gun that he fired first. They were forty-ton guns, each loaded with 222 pounds of other powder and a projectile. The projectile passed six feet to one side of us, but the concussion and flame were sufficient to kill or wound every one of us."

"The man who had hold of the hose with me was killed. I was blown five feet into the air, my clothes were set on fire, all my hair and eyebrows were burnt away, my eyes were filled with powder, and my hearing was partly destroyed. I fell back on my chest and my lungs were set to bleeding by the concussion."

Commander McGiffin was asked whether he had anticipated the easy victory of the Japanese.

"No," he replied, "I did not expect the Japanese would be victorious at all. I thought their success was possible, but hardly probable, and in case they won I thought it would be only after a severe struggle. I never dreamed of such a walkover as they have had, and I think no one in China did."

"I believed that a European army corps of 30,000 men could walk right through China, but I did not believe the Japanese would be able to do what they have done. I really did not give them credit for the advance they have made."

"At the beginning of the war the Japanese did not fight with the same confidence they displayed at the last. They were afraid of us. They constantly avoided coming into contact with our fleet. We were held within certain bounds by our orders, but the Japanese fleet was not, and they could have forced an engagement at any time, but they held off."

"The first fight or two made a great difference. If the Chinese had won the first battle I believe it would have discouraged the Japanese greatly, and it might have affected the termination of the war. However, it is too late for 'ifs' now."

"Why is it that the Japanese showed so much greater courage than the Chinese?"

"That is a mistaken notion. Our men showed great courage wherever it was possible to do so. The Japanese never had so severe a test as that to which the gunners of the Chen Yuen were subjected at the Yalu. We had only six guns while some of the Japanese vessels carried twenty-two quick-firing pieces. One of their ships could fire seventy or eighty shots to our six."

"During the battle the Chen Yuen was struck over 400 times, but our men stood to their guns. There was no cowardice displayed by the men. Some of the Chinese officers were brave men. Of many others, perhaps the least said the better. Admiral Ting, who commanded the squadron, was a gallant, plucky old fellow."

"One reason the Japanese were better able to exploit their bravery was because most of the war correspondents were within their lines and their despatches had to pass through the hands of censors. Of course they found it advisable to depreciate the Chinese."

"The Chinese sailors were better men than the soldiers. They were disciplined and were paid good wages. In China no man would become a soldier if he could be a respectable thief or thug. If they were treated half well, they would have done much better."

"No matter what pay they are promised they are never paid anything until they mutiny, and then they are put off with as little as possible. They are frequently supplied with guns and ammunition of different calibres, and when they tried to put them together in the field and found they didn't fit, they did what you or I would have done—they bolted."

WITHOUT A MOTHER.

A Pathetic Incident of a Motherless Boy Who Was Travelling Alone.

A blind musician has for ten or twelve years partly supported his family by going from seaside resorts to mountain hotels, during the summer, giving concerts and taking up collections. He says that never throughout these seasons of wandering minstrelsy has he met with the least unkindness or dishonesty. No one has dropped a counterfeit bank-note or coin into the hat. The fact is that blindness appeals to the better nature of men and women, just as a child's loneliness and sorrow appeal to a mother's heart. Read, for instance, this incident:

A pale little lad in a west-bound train glanced wistfully toward a seat where a mother and her merry children were eating lunch. He tears gathered in his eyes, though he tried to keep them back. A passenger came and stood beside him.

"What's the matter?" he asked. "Have you no lunch?"

"Yes, I have a little left, and I'm not so awful hungry."

"What is it then? Tell me; perhaps I can help you."

"It's—it's so lonely, and there's such a lot of them over there, and—and they've got their mother."

The young man glanced at the black band on the boy's hat. "Ah," he said, gently, "and you have lost yours."

"Yes, and I'm going to my uncle; but I've never seen him. A kind lady, the doctor's wife, who put up my lunch, hung this card to my neck. She told me to show it to the ladies on the car, and they would be kind to me; but I didn't show it to any one yet. You may read it if you like."

The young man raised the card and read the name and address of the boy. Below were the words:

"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

The reader brushed his hand across his eyes and was silent for a moment. Then, "I'll come back very soon," he said, and made his way to the mother and her children.

And presently little George felt a pair of loving arms about him, a woman's voice, half sobbing, calling him a poor, dear little fellow, begged him to come with her to her children. And for the rest of that journey, at least, motherless George had no lack of "mothering."

Behind the Age.

New Clerk (anxious to show his shrewdness)—Mr. Selffast, I have an idea. Put a little more lead into your weights. Then your customers will get overweight, and when they deal elsewhere they'll think other grocers are cheats. You can make up by adulterating the goods a little.

Grocer—The goods are adulterated to the utmost limit already. Now skip down cellar and bring up another lot of Maine herring for sardines, and a gross or two of cotton-seed oil for olive.

Won One.

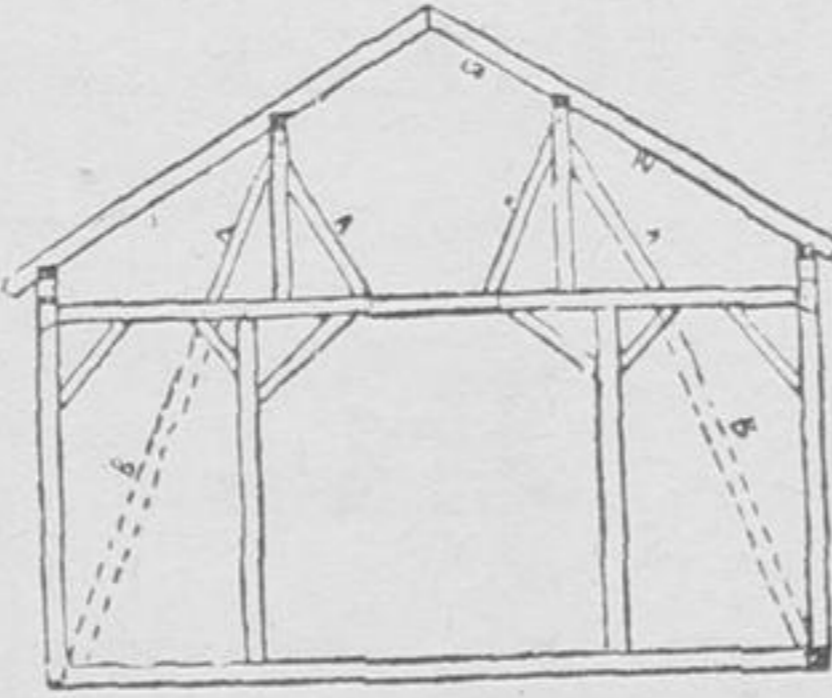
An intelligent foreigner is said to have expressed himself after the following fashion in regard to the English language:

When I discovered that I was quick I was fast, if I stood firm I was fast, if I spent too freely I was fast, and that not to eat was to fast, I was discouraged; but when I came across the sentence, "The first one won one guinea prize," I was tempted to give up trying to learn the English language.

PRACTICAL FARMING.

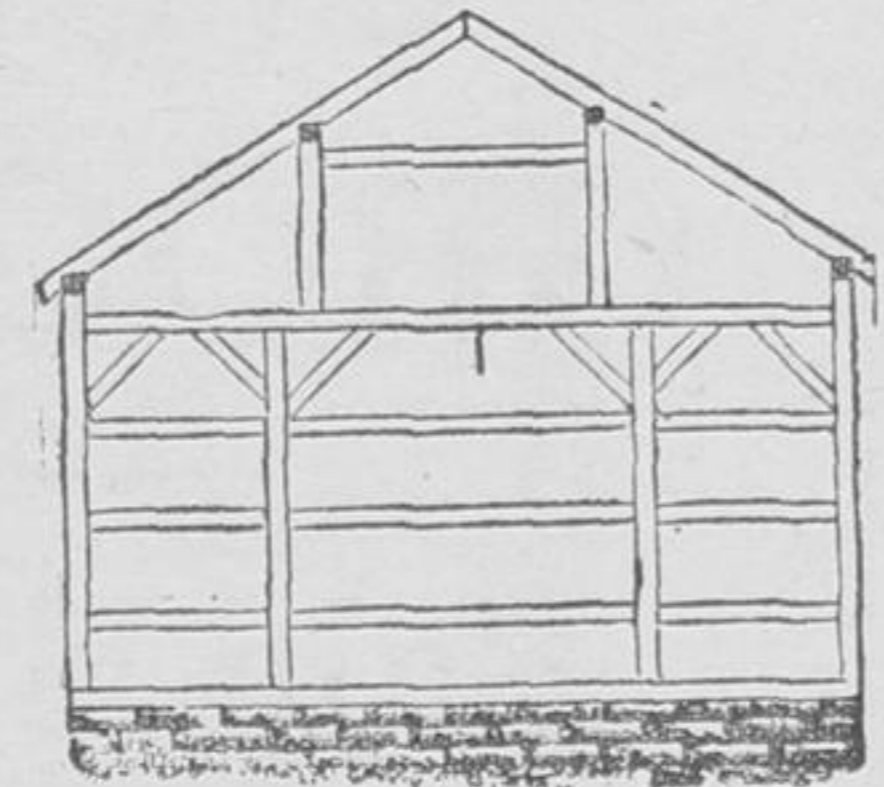
A Good Barn.

have helped to build several barns and have seen and examined plans of many others, writes a correspondent. I have made the subject a study for a number of years, but have never yet seen anything that equals the accompanying plan. It



CENTRE BENT.

requires very little explanation. The braces marked A are of little or no use. If the posts in centre are left out, then put in brace, as shown by dotted lines.



END BENT.

The barn is 40 feet wide and 20 feet high, giving 13 feet in the clear for hay to swing over the girt. The size can be adapted to the builder's wants. This plan economizes space the best of any I have ever seen, and it can be built of any material any large barn can. The rafters should be spiked to both plates. Basement can be made to suit the builder.

Variety in Food.

Too little concern is manifested by farmers about the food suitable for live stock. Dry corn or oats is often thrown out to the herd for consecutive months, with only the occasional addition of roots and stray scraps of food that the vigilant animals chance to find. In winter the loose straws are not lying about thickly as a rule. Without winter pasture in the form of permanent blue grass, or the supplementary forage of green rye or wheat, the up-to-date farmer will try to provide abundant changes in the diet of his animals, if he expects the full profit to be derived from breeding and feeding.

The chance granger, who leaves all to luck and allows the farm stock to help themselves to the scant supply of corn stalks or straw in the field, takes great risks of having poorer stock of lighter weight in spring than when they left the pasture in the preceding autumn. By prompt attention to such stock next week, beginning Monday, it is possible to give a warming-up tone to the digestion of half-starved animals which will fit them for the grazing season.

A variety of corn, oats, (rye and wheat in small proportion) and added to the mixture of linseed meal—at first about 10 per cent, of the mixture, to be gradually increased to 15 per cent.—will prove an excellent ration for any and all kinds of farm stock. But it must be judiciously administered, and the quantities of oats or linseed meal adjusted to the requirements of the animals. Attention to numerous individual cases, too, will be in order.

The quality of the linseed meal is to be noted. If quite dry of the natural oil a greater proportion of it may be used. If the use of the meal seems to provoke "scouring" the quantity should be reduced one-half, and only very gradually increased again.

Some such astringent food as oats or wheat straw should be brought in to aid in correcting irregularities in this form. If constipation is the difficulty, wheat bran, as well as linseed meal, may be included. Plenty of salt to induce drinking of water freely will aid in this line. Violent or sudden changes are to be avoided, and a feeder does better to take three days for a correction than one day.

Don't neglect to get in the line of improvement by running pure-bred sexes in all departments of live stock. It is economy in feeding to do so, as greater gains follow.

The Purchase of Farm Machinery.

One may easily go to either extreme on almost any question. This is certainly true in the matter of buying farm implements and machinery. A prominent place in the causes of failure of not a few farmers should be given to their habit of recklessly buying farm machinery when not needed, and of neglecting to care for it after it is bought. When one has a good implement or machine it is folly to throw it aside and purchase another because of some trifling claimed improvement. On the other hand, it is at least equal folly to continue to use nearly worn-out or inferior tools, neglecting to avail oneself of important improvements. A noticeable tendency of agriculture in the prairie regions, which are so admirably fitted for the use of farm machinery, is to reduce hand labor to a minimum. It is not only attempted to do almost all parts of field culture work by the aid of horse-drawn machinery, but to do it with the smallest

possible number of men. Wide cutting or gang plows, harrows or cultivators, or seeders, and so of mowers and reapers, are becoming more common. Many of the new machines are decidedly better than the older ones of the same class; some are not. In many cases it will be a clear gain to buy new machinery; just as in others it would be a needless waste of money.

If the new plow will cut an inch or two wider than the old one with no increase in draft, it would soon pay for itself. If equally good work can be done with a harrow which cuts fifteen feet instead of ten, the saving in cost of labour will soon equal the cost of the harrow. One or two bushels increase per acre in the yield of corn on the area which can be cultivated with a good cultivator will make the price of a good cultivator in one year.

Cautions for Butter Producers.

Pure water is absolutely necessary, and pastures must be kept free of noxious weeds.

Do the milking in a quiet place and make no noise doing the work. If in a stable have it free from odors.

It is necessary that you be able to control the temperature while ripening cream. Always weigh your butter at home.

Don't breed for bones, but strive to build up a dairy of butter producers.

NICARAGUA.

A Country of Small Population and Size but Rich in Resources.

The total population of the republic of Nicaragua is put by the best authorities at 310,000, according to the census just taken. Of the inhabitants of the country, one-tenth belong to uncivilized aboriginal tribes, while the main body are classified as "Indians," Zambos or mulattoes, negroes, mixed races, and Europeans, the latter being but few in number.

The area of the republic is only about 49,500 English square miles. There are few towns, and all of them, with two exceptions, are small and rude. The population of Managua, the capital, is 18,000, and that of Leon, formerly the capital, 25,000. The town of Corinto is the principal port on the Pacific, and the ladino element (a mixture of white and Indians) predominates there. The most important industry of the inhabitants of Nicaragua is the raising of cattle, the hides of which are exported; and among the other exports are coffee, bananas, sugar, indigo, coconuts, cacao, Brazil wood, and cedar. The head of cattle number over 400,000. The greater part of the imports are from England, and the greater part of the exports are to the United States. There are over 100 mines worked by American companies, in nearly all of which gold is found mixed with silver, and in a few silver mixed with copper. Nicaragua is especially rich in valuable woods, the mahogany, rosewood, granadillo, and ronron, also medicinal trees, besides other commercial trees, including the castilloa elastica, from which india rubber is made; the gutta percha tree, and several trees which produce gums. Wild animals, monkeys, alligators, lizards and snakes abound, besides tropical birds to the number of 150 species. Mosquitoes swarm in all damp places, and there are fierce wasps. The foraging ants move in large armies. The seas, rivers, and lagoons are alive with every variety of tropical fish.

There are numerous volcanic peaks, a few of which are still active, but most of them have long been extinct. The last great eruption was that of 1835, when Cosequina scattered its hot ashes over a circle 1,500 miles in diameter. Near some of the extinct craters are vast beds of lava and scorie and numerous vents called infernillos, which emit smoke and sulphurous vapors. On the Pacific coast the soil is very rich, and the climate is essentially that of the central zone; but the amount of cultivated land is small in proportion to the arable area of the country. Maize, the principal food of the natives, is very prolific, and fine fruits and vegetables grow in abundance.

The form of government is constitutional and republican. There is a Congress of two branches, the Senate and the House of Representatives, the members of both of which number only thirty-nine, who are elected under the Nicaraguan system of universal suffrage. The President now in power, Gen. Santos Zelaya, was elected, in the Nicaraguan way, last year, and holds office for four years. He has a council of four Ministers, who have charge of that number of departments of the Government.

The active army of Nicaragua consists of 2,000 men, with a reserve of 10,000, besides a nominal militia force of 5,000. The active troops are poorly equipped and appraised, and the reserves are unfit for any service in the field as against a European force. The despatches about the anger of the Nicaraguans and their readiness to fight the English must be interpreted with an understanding of the mixed elements of the population.

There are about 100 miles of railway open in the country, which were built at a heavy cost. One line extends from Corinto, a distance of 58 miles, and another from the capital to Granada, 33 miles. A number of concessions for new lines of greater length have been granted to contractors, who are blamed for delaying their construction. There are over 1,700 miles of telegraph lines. There are a fair number of schools for the population.

The finances of the Government are always in bad condition, on account of the disturbances that often prevail, and in many years the expenditures for the army have been beyond the total receipts. Two-thirds of the total annual revenue are derived from Government monopolies on spirits, tobacco and gunpowder, and the remainder chiefly from import duties and a tax on slaughtered cattle.

In view of the chronic impoverishment of the Treasury and the weight of the public debt, it is easy to understand that President Zelaya may find great difficulty in raising the sum of \$75,000 demanded by England.

THE HOME.

Courtesy.

All mothers are anxious for their children to appear well in the eyes of others, to be easy and graceful when in company, and possessed of what is termed good manners, yet comparatively few seem to realize that this is something that is only acquired by long practice. Instead of trying to teach our children to observe the forms of polite society when company is present or when away from home, which is sure to result in bashfulness and awkwardness from their inability to remember all things required of them, they should be taught these things from childhood until they become a part of their daily life. The more free a child's mind can be kept from the thought "What will people think or say?" the less self-conscious, hence the more easy in manner they will be, and we mothers should remember this in our reproving and training.

The golden rule is the foundation of all true politeness and we should be careful always to teach our children to be thoughtful for the comfort and pleasure of others. Beginning in childhood we should teach them to say "If you please" and "Thank you" for everything, no matter how trivial it be. We should teach our boys to remove their hats as soon as they enter the house, or touch or raise it when speaking to a woman or an older man; to open the door for mother or sister; to place a chair for them or pick up a dropped article, and to acknowledge every little attention or act of courtesy by saying "Thank you."

We should teach our sons and daughters to properly ask a guest in and give him a seat, to make introductions, to say "Excuse me" or "Beg pardon" if necessary to go before another or to make an interruption, and all the many little things that mark the lady or gentleman. Soon they are so accustomed to it as to observe all these forms without a thought and there is no chance for awkwardness. If our children are nearly grown it may not be so easy, but if one is really desirous for better manners in the family it is not hard to arouse an interest by talking the matter over together and each agreeing to help the other—father and mother as well as boys and girls working together for a more genteel bearing.

Pillow Shams.

There is nothing about a bed dressing that is harder to keep in place and looking neat than the pillow shams. The two-piece fixtures which are used throw the sham out of the way, to be sure, but when again let down it is full of wrinkles. However nice a sham may be, or however recently laundered, one folding up of the sham fixtures spoils its freshness.

There is a new kind of sham not widely used as yet, which is the most sensible and serviceable of any we have seen, and may be made as pretty as taste dictates. It is made on the draw-curtain principle, and of a material to match the bed dressing, or any other preferred goods may be chosen. The sham is cut the length wanted, allowing for a heading at the top and a three-inch hem at bottom; then make all in one piece as wide as the bed, allowing half as much again for the fullness and for hems at the sides as wide as the one at bottom, and gather to width of bed, making the heading.

To fasten on the bed, use a small brass rod as long as bed is wide, set in brackets. Also place a pair of brackets on the other side of head of bedstead. At night place the rod in these, and the sham hangs there undisturbed and unruined until put on the bed again in the morning.

Butcher's linen is a good material of which to make a sham of this style. A pretty drawn work may be made inside the hemstitching, or a heavy torchon insertion may be used. If wanted to match a room, line with satin or silk of the color wanted, which, showing through the open work, gives the desired effect.

A woman can easily make these for herself, and her taste or the requirements of the room will suggest materials of which to make them, and new ideas of adornment in their construction.

Some Seasonable Pies.

Apple Pies.—Now that the few remaining apples are getting dry and tasteless, we put into each pie a tablespoonful of tamarind jelly which we prepared to eat with meats by stewing the tamarinds in a little water, straining, adding an equal bulk of sugar and boiling until quite thick. The pies require a little more sugar, but their flavor is very much improved. If you have no jelly, stew the apples and flavor with lemon juice and nutmeg.

Berry Pies.—If blueberries are not sweetened until they are taken from the can, the pies will have a much fresher, more natural taste.

Custard Pie.—Fill a good-sized, deep plate with a custard made of three well-beaten eggs, 2 cups of milk, ½ cup sugar, a little salt and cinnamon. Bake in a quick oven until a knife comes out clear.

Cream Pie.—Roll out two crusts a little thicker than for ordinary pies, place on a rather flat plate with a sprinkling of flour between; bake and split open with a thin knife as soon as taken from the oven. For filling for two large pies, put in a double boiler 2 cups of milk, when hot stir in two heaping tablespoonfuls of flour, wet in a little cold milk, 2 eggs, ½ cup sugar and a little salt. Boil until thick, remove from the fire, add lemon or vanilla flavoring and put between the crusts.

Lemon Custard.—For two pies wet 4 tablespoonfuls of corn starch with a little water, pour on three cups of boiling water. Add the juice of 2 lemons, 2 cups sugar, the yolks of 3 eggs and a bit of butter. Pour into deep plates lined with crust and bake. Make a meringue by beating the whites of the eggs and adding 5 tablespoonfuls of sugar. Spread over pies and return to the oven to brown.

At the Euchre Table.

He—Let me take your hand, Miss—She—Oh, this is so sudden.