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Diamond Cut Diamond

OR, THE ROUT OF THE ENEMY.

CHAPTER XXII.—Continued.

"You love my nephew, Geoffrey," he said with cool deliberation, looking at her with a cruel remorselessness. It was a revelation, a delightful discovery to him, but he made no sign that it was so; he made as though he had known it for a long time.

"Mr Dane, have you brought me here to insult me?" she said with some indignation.

He waved his hands deprecatingly with a gesture of amusement.

"Tut, tut! don't let us go into heroics! What is the marvel? I am a man of the world, my good lady! It is not the first time I imagine in the world's history that a married woman has fallen in love with a handsome young fellow. This sort of thing is not new to me—nor to you either, I imagine," he added with veiled insolence.

"You have no right—" she began tremblingly.

"Pardon me. It seems to me that I have every right. Geoffrey is not only my nephew—he is, or may be, the centre and object of my future, and of the future of my house of business. I have plans for Geoffrey, plans that concern his welfare and his worldly advancement—with these plans, Madame de Brefour, you have chosen to interfere."

"I?" she cried angrily, "I interfere with Geoffrey's advantage or prosperity? Ah, how little you know me—how evil must be the bent of your own mind if you imagine such a thing."

"Ah, now we come to common ground, my dear friend," he answered soothingly. "I felt sure that your kind heart and good feeling would be touched, that your very love for that charming young fellow—you object to the word love?—well, let me call it your regard then, your sisterly—perhaps it is a motherly regard, eh? Any way your affectionate interest in the dear boy will soon lead you to do all you can to help instead of to impede his future interests. Is it not so?"

She bowed her head in silence. It was impossible for her to speak. Of what avail would have been vain denials of that which she had been entrapped into betraying? Her inner sanctuary had been invaded, the sacred veil had been rent in rags from before the altar of her heart, and she was too proud now to persist in disowning the idol that had been concealed within.

He waited for a few moments, and then finding she said nothing, he began once more:

"I may as well explain to you at once that I desire my nephew to marry a young lady of great personal attractions and of unexceptional character. This lady is the daughter of my partner, Mr. Halliday, with whom I have come to an arrangement on the subject. On his marriage with Miss Halliday, Geoffrey will be taken immediately into partnership, and will also become my heir personally, as well as step into a position which for a man of his age will be without its equal in the commercial world. So you see how good a thing for your young favorite this marriage would be."

"Oh, yes! I see it very well indeed, Mr. Dane," she answered, with a ring of scorn in her voice. "A capital thing for all concerned, for the bride and bridegroom no doubt, and also to the ambition of the bridegroom's uncle. Why then, in the name of fortune, does not your nephew hasten to conclude so advantageous an alliance?"

"Because, Madame, you stand in the way!" he answered quickly, levelling a heavy forefinger at her to emphasize his accusation.

"I?—good Heavens, Mr. Dane, for a clever man you are really exceedingly wide of the mark in your surmises. I have not seen your nephew for some months—the slight acquaintance, or friendship, if you like it better, that existed at one time between us is now entirely at an end, and I know nothing whatever of his plans or of the young ladies amongst whom he no doubt distributes his attentions."

She was angry, with a vague jealous anger that betrayed itself in a certain uncontrollable asperity. There came back to her memory that scene upon the river. The boat flashing by in the sunshine, the girls in their cool cotton frocks and sailor-hats, and the man she loved reclining at their feet, happy no doubt in the presence of the woman who had taken him from her. She remembered—would she ever forget?—the sick pain that was almost physical that struck her through at the sight.

Then upon her ears there fell once more the cool voice of her tormentor:

"It were better to come to the point at once. You will scarcely, I imagine, have the courage to deny what I accuse you of, when I tell you that but a few days ago I stated my wishes to my nephew, and that he definitely and absolutely declined to marry Miss Halliday, giving me as his reason for doing so that he loved another woman, and that that woman was yourself!"

And then there was a moment or two of silence between them. A silence so absolute that it flashed across her mind to wonder if those wild heart-throbs that leapt up tumultuously within her could possibly be audible in the stillness to the ears of the man who sat opposite her. For the great gush of joy that shook her from head to foot at his words rendered her physically incapable of words.

He loved her still then! In spite of the cruelty of her desertion of him, of the coldness of her actions, of the harshness with which she had pronounced the sentence of separation betwixt them—in spite of all this, he loved her still! For her sake, and so that he might remain true to that ideal of love which he had laid so humbly at her feet, he was prepared to give up all the good things of this world with which his uncle had sought to tempt him. Where upon the face of the earth is the woman who would not have rejoiced with an exceeding great gladness? It is so rare that a man is capable of so great a love, so few and far between are those to whom self and self-interest does not come above all else, so many there are who will sacrifice love to expediency, so very very few to whom "a faithful heart" is the chiefest of earth's good gifts. When such a man is given to a woman, is it to be wondered at that she looks upon him as a god, and that it almost seems to her as though a miracle had been wrought in her favour?

Meanwhile, all unconscious of the rapture of happiness into which he had translated her, Mr. Dane was telling out his tale.

"Of course, you will see that this is a most ridiculous position for my nephew to take up. It is absolutely impossible that he can be permitted to sacrifice his future to any claims which a woman in your position may imagine she has upon him—these sorts of entanglements are never desirable, but at any rate there should be no sort of difficulty in breaking them off where a woman of the world is concerned."

Her dreaming was at an end, his cruel and damaging words came like a rush of icy water upon her.

"You do not seem to have heard me say, Mr. Dane, that I have not seen your nephew for months? He does not even know my present address."

"It will be desirable then that you should see him, that he should pay you a visit for once, in order that you may persuade him to give his immediate consent to the plans which I have made for him and which are so enormously to his advantage. This, Madame de Brefour, is your part of our little contract. I told Geoffrey that of which he appeared to be in ignorance, that he was somewhat wasting his time and his affections as you were a married woman. He did not seem to believe me. I shall leave it for you to convince him."

She understood him now; and she knew that there was no escape for her. It was upon her love for Geoffrey, as well as upon her affection for her father-in-law, that Mr. Dane had reckoned in order to bend her to his will.

"By this sensible and praiseworthy course of action you will, you see, be able to perform a two-fold duty. You will bring ease and peace of mind to the aged relative whose declining days you have hitherto so devotedly watched over, and you will be instrumental in forwarding the worldly prosperity of a young man in whose future I am sure that you take a most affectionate interest. I, on my part, will undertake to take no further action of any sort or kind against your husband. On the day of my nephew's marriage to Miss Halliday, I will sign a written promise to condone the past, and as it were to blot it out entirely. It will be then no longer necessary for you to keep the unhappy man in concealment. He can return to his father's house, and you will be once more a united and happy family circle."

It pleased him to enlarge upon this subject, he could see how her eyes enlarged with horror and dismay, with what an unutterable loathing she listened to his description of the domestic reunion to which he was condemning her, and to which she now saw herself irrevocably doomed.

For how refuse the release of the unhappy man to whom she was tied by all rigour of a Faith that allows of no divorce? or how free herself from his hated presence without forsaking the old man who leant upon her for the support of his daily existence? Surely no punishment for her sin and weakness could have been devised by her enemy more unspeakably cruel and relentless than this—that she should live once more under the same roof with the man whose name she bore, and who had dragged down that name into the mire of an eternal ignominy.

"Do you agree to my little terms, Madame de Brefour?" enquired Mr. Dane with a charming suaveness of voice and manner, with that little smile upon his lips which he could assume when it suited him to be sweetly gracious, and with his head just a little on one side as he looked at her from between his half-closed eyelids.

"Yes, Mr. Dane, I agree," she answered, in a cold mechanical voice, "and I will perform the task you have set me to do." And then she rose and left him.

CHAPTER XXIII.

In the far-away parish of Coddisham the summer months, meanwhile, had succeeded each other with that eventful tranquility which constitutes the chiefest charm of an absolutely rural district. Events of a certain kind had, it is true, taken place, events which had set the church bells ringing or tolling as the case might be, and which had, no doubt, been of supreme importance to the principal persons concerned; as, for instance, the marriage of Timothy Green farmer Stubbs' head man, to poor little Jenny Bainbridge, whom nobody at Coddisham set any store by—because she was so meek, and small, and down-trodden, having no home of her own, but being only allowed on sufferance, as it were, to exist in her ill-conditioned uncle, the baker's house—that wedding, no doubt, created quite a disturbance in the district, much as though a new King Cophetua had plighted his troth to a poor beggar-maid, for Tim earned full wages, and had a cottage and a back garden of his own, whereas Jenny was nobody at all.

Then there was poor old Bibbins, who died of drink at last, as Florence Dane had always said he would, and was straightway interred with the usual pomp and ceremony, "in sure and certain hope of life everlasting"—as our truly sanguine Burial Service hath it. After that, Mrs. Meeks had twins, the second time she had committed the same offence, and the parish bag had to be called into requisition, and there was a great commotion of sympathy and excitement amongst the matrons of the village; and, finally, "that there brute," Daniel Steel, kicked his wife again one night that he came home very late from the "George;" and upon the active interference of the local policeman, summoned in haste by the affrighted neighbors, stated it as his opinion that he "wur quite in 'is right to kick 'er; and what do a man 'ave a wife for, I should like to know, if he mayn't larrup 'er hevery time 'e 'as a mind to." In spite of which sensible view of the rights and privileges of husbands, he was conveyed to the lock-up, and carried off the next morning to Lilminster Jail, there to await his trial, without the smallest consideration for his admirable theories. Ever since which, needless to say, Mrs Steel had with tears and sobs besieged the authorities daily for his release. For it really is a fact, which is as incontrovertible as it is incomprehensible that the women of that class do, in sober earnest, carry out the truth of the old saw, that "the more they are beaten, the better they like it." All these things presumably convulsed the village society momentarily to its very core, but left no outward or lasting trace upon its peaceful existence. They were quite accustomed to this kind of little excitement at Coddisham.

All the same the hay was cut and garnered, and the yellow fields "stood ready unto the harvest." The little red roses bloomed and faded upon the cottage walls, the labourers went out to their labour until the evening, and the trout stream rustled on beneath the bridge, much as in other years, whilst scarcely an echo from the great world without stirred so much as an answering flutter in the tranquil minds of those who were born, married and buried, generation after generation, under the square shadow of the ivy-covered church tower that looked down so unchangeably upon the little cottage settlement at its base. In the Vicarage there were no more changes than in the village. Mr. Dane wrote his weekly sermon each time with a little less of enthusiasm for his subject, with a little more of hopelessness for its ultimate success, such as a country clerlyman, conscious of a certain amount of originality and talent, who preaches Sudany after Sunday to an illiterate audience, is bound for all his zeal, to feel creeping over him as the years go by and old age is well nigh upon him.

Then he pottered out on his daily rounds visited a few old and sick people, gossiped a little with farmer Stubbs, gave his little orders to the old clerk, patted the heads of the urchins who came in his way, and wished a cheery "Good day!" to their mothers at their cottage doors; after which he came back to his five o'clock tea and his Quarterly Review upon his own lawn with a satisfied conviction of having fulfilled every item of his daily duty. Sometimes the village history required a little more of him, sometimes a little less, but whatever it was, he always did what was necessary—and surely no man can do more.

For Florence, too, the summer months wore away with nothing much to mark their flight There was for her the same amount of bustling about on deeds of mercy, the same visiting rounds of inspection, advice, and reproof to the cottages of her poor neighbours, which some of them were ungrateful enough to look upon as intrusion on her part. "What do she want a-pryin' and a-pokin' 'er nose into other people's concerns?" might have been heard upon the lips of more than one villlage dame as she looked after the sturdy, figure, in its short skirts and strong-made boots tramping away down the little street. "It's more 'arm than good she does with all 'er talking, I'm thinking." Which indubitably proves the black nature of some of the hearts she had to deal with. Luckily Florence was unconscious of their distracting remarks; their faces were always wreathed in smiles when she came to them full-handed, and they never failed to gether in troops at her "mothers' teas" and her school feasts, where they swallowed her admonitions, seemingly with as good a grace as they did her cake and buns, and with as pleasing an affectation of meek and thankful joy. For a long time, indeed, the school treat was the only event of any magnitude which occurred in Miss Dane's life, for the neighbourhood was a bad one for social gatherings, the great Downs cutting off one side of the country entirely from the other, so that those who dwelt beyond the hills held no communication with the inhabitants of the plains, whilst these latter, owing to deaths and absences and sundry other incidental causes, were, as far as social purposes went, almost entirely useless, the birds of passage, all the hunting world, having long ago taken themselves away for the summer months. To Florence, with her parish work and power of throwing herself heart and soul into all that she took up, this was, perhaps, but a small loss, and a tennis party more or less scarcely occasioned her a passing regret. She went about her daily work with unabated energy, burning with zeal and eagerness, and quite undaunted by the many rebuffs and failures which, not unnaturally to one who desired to reform and remodel everybody and everything, again and again threw back her splendid intentions unappreciated in her face. All this time Hidden House, up in the hollow of the chalk hills, lay silent and empty.

(To Be Continued.)

"JAG" SNAKES.

The next time you see snakes after a three days' celebration console yourself with the reflection that they are all in your eye. They are due, says an eminent oculist, to the presence, in certain veins of the eye, of dark, pulsating blood, as a result of alcholism, making them resemble snakes in appearance and motion. Hitherto it has been supposed that the "snakes" which men reported having seen in their alcholic delirium were simply creatures of the imagination. Now we are told that these hallucinations have an actual basis. Statistics on this subject collected by the oculist show that 95 per cent of the visual hallucinations experienced in delirium tremens consist of serpents in one form or another.

ROMAN REMAINS.

Many Roman remains, including a colossal head of Marcus Aurelius, have been dug up at Carthage by M. Gauckler, Director of Antiquities in Tunisia. He seems to have reached the Roman Carthage founded by Gracchus, but not to have struck the Phoenician city as yet.

The daily consumption of water in New York City is greater than that of any other city in the world in proportion to the population.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

What the Legislators of the Country are Doing at Ottawa.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

To confirm the agreement between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Hull Electric Company —Mr. Poupore.

To amend the charter of the Huron and Erie Savings and Loan Society—Mr Beattie.

Respecting the Columbia and Western Railway Company, of London, Ont. —Mr. Sproule

Respecting the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company—Mr. Prefontaine.

Respecting the British Columbia Southern Railway Company,— Mr. Prior.

To incorporate the Northern Colonization Railway—Mr. Fortin.

Respecting the Atlas Company—Mr. Ingram.

To amend the Winding-up Act, R. S. C., chap. 129—Mr. Fortin.

To amend the Act respecting the sale of railway passenger tickets—Mr. Beattie. Mr. Beattie explained that the bill introduced by him was intended to stop the practice of scalping tickets on the ferry between Windsor and Detroit

The following private bills were read the second time:—

Respecting the Canada Accident Assurance Company—Mr. Monk.

To incorporate the Canada Plate Glass Co.—Mr. Monk.

To incorporate the Alaska-Yukon Railway Co.—Mr. Logan.

Respecting La Banque du Peuple—Mr. Prefontaine.

To incorporate the Northern Telegraph Co.—Mr. Bostock.

Respecting the Atlantic and North-West Railway Co.—Mr. Macpherson.

Respecting the Calvin Co., Limited. —Mr Britton.

Respecting the Nesbit Academy, of Prince Albert.—Mr. Davis.

To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of Thomas Robertson.—Mr. Robertson.

To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of George L. Williams.—Mr. McCarthy.

Respecting the Home Life Association of Canada.—Mr. Cowan.

Respecting the Quebec Steamship Co. —Mr. Malouin.

Respecting the Ottawa and Gatineau Railway Co.—Mr. Champagne.

Respecting the Ottawa Electric Railway Co.—Mr. Belcourt.

A bill introduced by Mr. McInnes to restrict immigration is framed on the lines of that adopted a few years ago by the colony of Natal, and to which Mr. Chamberlain called attention in a recent despatch. It provides for preventing the immigration of paupers, idiots, criminals, persons suffering from disease, and other classes. Any person coming within this category entering Canada may be sent to goal for a term not exceeding six months, and any transportation company, whether steamship or railway, shall be held responsible for them and take them out of the country again. Immigration officers and Customs officials are to be charged with carrying out the provisions of the measure.

Mr. Maxwell's bill to amend the Chinese Immigration Act proposes to increase the poll tax from $50 to $500. It will exempt Chinese clergymen, as well as diplomatic representatives, from coming within the operation of the Act.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Before proceeding with the orders of the day Mr. N.C. Wallace directed the attention of the Prime Minister to a fact to which Sir Charles Tupper had previously called attention, viz., the fact that the Auditor-General's report had not been presented to the House within one week of the commencement of the session, as required by the act, Parliament had now been in session nineteen or twenty days, and the House was not in possession of the report.

The Premier repeated the explanation which he gave the House a few days ago, when the leader of the Opposition called attention to the same matter, from which it appeared that the Auditor-General had reported that he had forwarded copy to the Queen's Printer on the 23rd of February, and that all the copy was now in the hands of the printer, and that the report, with the exception of the Mounted Police and Trade and Commerce branches, would be brought down on Thursday. The Queen's Printer, however, challenges the accuracy of the statement by the Auditor-General, and there is a conflict as to who is at fault in the case.

Hon. Mr. Wallace read the clause of the act requiring the presentation of the report within a specified time, and complained that the law had not been observed.

The Premier—The keeping of the act of Parliament is in the hands of the Auditor-General.

SPECULATION IN DAIRY PRODUCTS

Last session Mr. Parmalee, of Shefford, introduced a bill "to prevent speculation in butter and cheese." It was referred to the Standing Committee of the House on Agriculture, with the result that it was decided to send copies of the bill to all persons interested in the sale and manufacture of those products, with a request that replies be returned stating whether the persons addressed were in favour of such a measure or not, During the recess Mr. Macleod, the secretary to the committee, sent out 2,591 of these circulars to cheese and butter dealers and manufacturers throughout Ontario and Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces.

Replies were received from 409, or about 16 per cent. From Ontario 213 replies were received, 158 being for the bill and 55 against. Of 175 replies received from Quebec, 159 were in favour of and 25 against the bill. Of 21 replies from the Maritime Provinces, 18 were for and 3 against the bill. Twenty cheese and butter boards or associations were heard from, 13 of them favouring and 7 opposing the proposed measure.

Several of the replies advocate the appointment of Government inspectors of cheese, and others urge the establishment of an official Board of Arbitration to decide disputes between cheeese makers and buyers. It is complained by cheese-makers that the buyers frequently refuse to accept cheese at the price contracted for, alleging defective quality as an excuse, when, as the manufacturers claim, no such defects exist.

NOTES.

Col. Gibson, of Hamilton, says, that he had heard there is every likelihood of the Government proposing to increase the militia appropriations for the coming year by half a million dollars, making it $2,000,000.

Prof. Prince and the members of the Lobster Commission, who have been holding sessions in the Maritime Provinces for several weeks, have reached Ottawa, and will immediately proceed to draw up their recommendations.

Mr. Taylor will move for several returns in connection with the St. Lawrence canals contracts.

Mr. McInnes gives notice of a resolution favouring the establishment of a mint in Canada.

TO PREVENT INTIMIDATION.

Mr. McInnes has given notice of a bill to amend the Criminal Code. He wants to make it an offence for any spiritual adviser to attempt to influence electors. He also desires to make it an offense for an employer, within a certain time before or after an election to dismiss an employe because of course pursued in regard to the election.

FOR THE MINING MEN.

Mr. McInnes also gives notice of a bill to provide for the speedy appeal to court from any official act of the Gold Commissioner or any other mining officer.

CIVIL SERVANTS AND THEIR DEBTS.

The bill by Mr. Richardson to attach civil servants' salaries is very elaborate and complete. It provides that "in future, all money and salaries due, or accruing due, by the Government of Canada, to any public officer, or other person in the employ of the said Government, shall be liable to be seized by way of attachment in each and every province of the Dominion of Canada in such proportion as may be determined according to the laws in force in such province." Complete machinery is provided for carrying this into effect.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT.

The Auditor-General's report was laid on the table. In the preface the Auditor-General says:—"It will be noticed that several of the standing points of difference between the Public Works Departemnt and this office have been removed. It is hoped that the vigor and clearness of the Minister who brought about this result will be early applied to the unsettled questions." The summary of estimates under statute for the fiscal year 1897-98 was $19,429,579, and the expenditure $20,882,263, the excess being $1,452,683. Mr. McDougall suggests the passage of an audit act, to consolidate the acts respecting the revenue, the raising of loans authorized by Parliament and the auditing of the public accounts. It is provided in the draft bill that an officer be appointed to be known as the Controller and Auditor-General, who shall be the custodian of the gross revenues of their departments. The proceedings as to money votes are to be these:—Upon receipt of the Governor-General's warrant the Minister of Finance shall issue credits in favor of the department concerned. The Controller shall see that no checks are issued for the payment of any public moneys for which there is no direct Parliamentary appropriation.

THE MARINE REPORT.

The discovery of the Yukon gold fields has had an indirect as well as a direct influence on Canada's progress. One of the subsidiary benefits is indicated in the report of the Marine Department, which Sir Louis Davies laid on the table. The total number of steamboats reported in the several districts in the Dominion is 1,417, of which 117 are new vessels since last year, and the gross tonnage is 240,344. The fees from inspection and engineers' certificate and two barges were $51,525, and increase of $6,430 on last year. Canada's export trade in live stock suffered a certain diminution, the existence of the British embargo on our cattle and the great increase in the Australian frozen meat traffic probably being the causes of the falling off. The total number of cattle shipped from Montreal during 1898 was 99,189, a decrease of 18,059 from 1897. The total number of sheep shipped during the same time was 34,941, a decrease of 25,697 from the shipment of 1897. The number of horses shipped from Montreal was 5,827, being 4,224 less than in the preceding year. United States cattle in bond to the number of 5,719 were shipped from Canada. From Quebec were shipped 2,897 cattle and 1,427 sheep. From St. John the shipments were 7,844 cattle, 4,843 sheep and 391 horses, while Halifax sent a solitary quartette of horses. The total number of cattle shipped from all these ports was 109,930; sheep 41,261; horses, 6,222.

PROPHETIC WORDS.

The Paris papers are telling an interesting story of a newly elected member of the French Senate. M. Bassinet, like many of his colleagues, is a self-made man, and began life as a journeyman mason. In that capacity he was employed to renovate the sculptural facade of the Luxemborg Palace, when the architect, noting his skill and industry, said to him by way of encouragement: "Why, you couldn't be making a better job of it if it were your own house." The young workman smiled, and is said to have answered: "One never knows what the future may bring forth." He had at the time no political aspirations, but all the same he now sits as Senator in the building he helped to adorn.

BRITON'S DRINK BILL.

The Briton's drink bill, published recently shows, a yearly expenditure on intoxicants of $19 for every man, woman and child in the United Kingdom Irishmen and Scotchman, it seems have been much maligned in this connection, for while the Englishman drinks 2.41 gallons of alcohol yearly, the Scotchman manages with 1.63 and the Irishman with 1.51. The Englishman spends $20.50, the Scotchman $15.25 and the Irishman $13.25.

On the Farm.

NECESSITY OF PURE STOCK WATER.

Few farmers and stockmen are as careful to supply the various wants of their stock as they should be. They think if they furnish their animals enough to eat at all seasons of the year they are doing their whole duty, little thinking that a regular and generous supply of pure water is fully as necessary as feed itself. Water forms from 35 to 63 per cent of the total weight of the body and enters into the composition of every bone, muscle and tissue. Food can only be assimilated when in a soluble state, hence water is an indispensable aid to digestion.

Where it is available, running water, either springs or creeks, is preferable to any other for stock, as it is pure and needs no pumping. Unless contaminated by surface washings or sewerage, creek water is good quality, as it is being continually aerated and purified by exposure to the sunshine. For domestic use, a spring or deep well is the best source of pure water. The soil acts as a filter and the more soil the water must pass through in reaching the subterranean streams the more thorough the filteration. A tubular well is much safer and a more reliable source of supply than a dug well, since no water can enter a tubular well except at the bottom. In a dug well there is always danger of surface drainage finding its way into it. A dug well may be pure when first dug, even though shallow, and later be contaminated from surface drainage or other causes. No cesspool or vault should be allowed near a well, either deep or shallow, unless every precaution is taken to make the basin of such pools or vaults perfectly water-tight, to prevent the surrounding surface from becoming foul.

The water from different sources has frequently been tested and the number of germs contained in each cubic centimeter, about half a thimbleful, has been found to vary from four in a hundred foot tubular well, to nearly three hundred thousand in a clean-looking pond, and four hundred thousand in a dug well receiving surface drainage. A dug well might be very much improved by cementing the inside of the wall down to the water line. This would keep the surface water from seeping in. In a dug well every precaution should be used to prevent any vermin from entering at the top. It is well to lay the upper foot or two of the wall in cement. If wooden sills are used as a foundation for the floor, let the top be just even with the top of the wall, then fill the space between the wall and sills with cement, and if the floor is tight, not even an earthworm can find its way through. Every well should be ventilated. Even water in a well will become more or less stagnant without it. A couple of tubes should extend from the top of the pump downward a few inches under the floor. The top of these tubes should be closed with fine wire netting, to exclude flies and insects. The air will descend in one tube and ascend in the other, preventing the accumulation of foul gases.

TREATMENT OF FROZEN FRUIT TREES.

The recent cold weather killed some fruit trees completely and injured many others. Some of the tender varieties were killed back to the main trunk, while with varieties a little more hardy only the tips of the branches were destroyed. In calling attention to this the Ohio Ex. Sta. states that the best thing that can be done is to remove all parts that are seriously affected. It is well to wait until it is possible to determine about how much injury has been done, as shown by the discolored wood and shriveled bark; usually one warm spell is sufficient. It is possible to defer the work too long, as the frozen wood seems to have a deleterious effect upon the sound parts if not removed before growth commences. During March, and in some cases even as late as April, the pruning should be done.

The quantity of wood to be removed will be determined in most cases by the extent of the injury. Peach trees which are from three to five years old and have never been pruned to any extent need special attention. In case the injury to such trees does not extend beyond the twigs and small branches, the best thing that can be done is to cut off all the branches to within one to three feet of the body of the tree. A tree five years old may have long, slender branches 6 to 10 feet in length, with most of the fruit-bearing wood near the extremities. Such a tree needs topping, even if a crop has to be sacrificed in order to get it into proper shape. Thus the pruning is to be done not merely to remove dead wood, but to get the trees into shape for future usefulness. They are to be so pruned that they can carry the next crop of fruit without breaking down. Of course it will be necessary to cut off limbs of considerable size in many cases, and it will not be possible to avoid naked stubs, yet this can be remedied the next season.

This method of pruning peach trees has so many advantages that the loss of this season's crop will really prove to be a blessing to those who take advantage of the present opportunity to get their trees into proper shape. In case of young trees, one or two years old, it may be found that the injury extends to the trunk and possibly to near the ground. If there is life above the bud the best thing to do is to cut the entire top away. To prevent cracking the end should be covered with wax, or some material that will prevent the escape of moisture. American and Japanese varieties of plums should be treated in the same manner as peach trees, and possibly sweet cherries also. Apple and pear trees will probably need no pruning of the kind mentioned.

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