

A Mistake.

MISTAKES will happen in the best of families.

A person with a basket on his arm stepped into one of our shops and asked the man:

"What is the price of spring chickens?"

"Three shillings for a good one."

"Do you know, my fine fellow, that you made a mistake this morning when I was trading with you?"

"A mistake?"

"Yes, sir, a very serious mistake."

"Why, I don't remember what it was."

"A mistake, sir, that your employer would not tolerate for a moment."

"Well, sir, what was it?"

"A mistake, sir, that would be considerate, if it happened to any other man; but, sir, I have always made it a rule to correct mistakes, even if they are in my favor."

"For goodness' sake, what's the matter?"

"I have been put to considerable trouble to rectify it—labor that I am called upon to perform as a duty, under the principle that honesty is the best policy; and I hope that you will take a lesson from this event, and not repeat it in the future."

"What is the mistake?"

"You know I purchased this morning one dozen eggs."

"Yes."

"For which I paid you one shilling."

"Yes."

"Well, sir, when I arrived home I discovered that you had made a mistake."

"Well, what is it?"

"Instead of a dozen eggs you put up a dozen spring chickens"—(uncovering the basket, and showing a dozen broken eggs in various stages of development). "And as the price of chickens is three shillings, and eggs only one penny, it makes a difference of eleven pence each; and not wishing to cheat your employer, nor having any desire to go into the poultry business, I have brought them back, and will gladly change them for eggs, as I consider it only a mistake on your part."

The man took the basket and emptied the contents in the street, put in a dozen eggs, and handed the customer a cigar. The man winked out of the right eye—

"Don't say anything about this."

Customer winked out of his left—

"Oh, that's all right."

Exit.

Exhausted Lands.

The cry we often hear about exhaustion of soil seems to be an unnecessary alarm.

Thirty five years ago we heard the conversation of some farmers with one who was somewhat slovenly, against the exhaustive course he pursued. His argument was:

"Those fields have borne beans and wheat (the most exhaustive crops known to the section), alternately for twenty years." It was near harvest which suggested the additional remark, "and there are four quarters an acre on them to-day," i.e., 32 imperial bushels. That ground has since steadily dropped under a six course shift—first year, fallow or fallow crop; second, spring grain, oats or barley; third clover or grass; fourth, wheat; fifth, beans; sixth, wheat. The wheat, most of the wheat straw, some of the beans and oats and the best of the hay went to the market. The wheat on 60 acres of it, a few years back, averaged 50 bushels per acre.

We heard recently that by good cultivation and stem grubbing it has become quite productive. We have faith enough to believe that by judicious rotation land is practically inexhaustible. Probably the cry we hear arises from neglect of proper cultivation. We would be the last to insinuate anything against the use of available manure.

A BURIED CITY IN ALGIERS.—French newspapers report the discovery in Algiers, by the archaeologist M. Tarry, of a city which had been entombed in the sand. M. Tarry's attention had been awakened by the mound-like appearance of the sandy soil, and some digging brought to light the minerals and upper portion of a mosque. Further excavations had bare a terrace, a tower, and about a dozen houses, all in excellent preservation. He reported his discovery to the Government of Algiers, which has undertaken to have the site thoroughly explored. The place is in the southern part of the province, not far from the town of Ounagh, and exposed to the full blast of the sandy winds from the desert. Probably a succession of siccoces bearing clouds of sand completely filled up the streets and houses, making the town uninhabitable, and so drove out the population.

We hear from time to time of the use of available manure.

The Emerson International has great faith in the substantiality of the reported discovery of a valuable bed of coal near that city. It says the first discoverers were Mr. Murry a Nova Scotia joiner, James Robinson, Emerson, and Mr. McKillop, of Elgin County, Ont. These three agreed to keep the matter a secret for a time and to share equally whatever could be made out of it. Murray went back to Nova Scotia and has not been heard from since. McKillop took specimens to Chicago where they were pronounced by Prof. Tilley to be No. 1 for general purposes, and then returning to Manitoba secured 2,000 acres of land in the vicinity of the "find." Robinson interested a number of Winnipeg capitalists and secured 4,000 acres of the land. In conversation with Mr. McKillop he said the coal deposit existed in township 2, range 6 east, about 18 miles east of Dominion city, and 25 miles north east of Emerson. Other than stating that the coal existed in a bed or layer six feet thick, and that four and one-half feet of the bed consists of pure hard coal, such as the specimen given the reporter, and pronounced by Prof. Tilley to be No. 1 for general purpose, though not quite good enough for blacksmithing purposes, and that the bed is nine feet below the surface of the earth, beneath a stratum of fine red clay, which stratum is covered with about one foot and a half of black soil, Mr. McKillop refused to describe the locality, but from other parties it was learned that the bed of coal juts out to the side of a ravine, the same as the coal deposit exists in the country west of the Missouri River at Bismarck and the Souris River 250 miles west of Emerson. Mr. McKillop said he had no idea of the extent of the bed but that his partners were getting up an engine and boring apparatus, and that operations for testing the extent of the bed would be commenced inside of six weeks.

It is strange that wears a man's legs so much less to stand in front of a bar, than it does to stand by a work-bench.

Tax Bands.—The boys will do well to remember that by 86 Vic. c. 45, s. 2, any person who cages or kills any wild bird expect eagles, falcons, hawks, owls, wild pigeons, kingfishers, jays, crows and ravens, or robs their nests, shall on conviction have to pay a fine of from one dollar to twenty dollars, and costs. Pass this on for the benefit of our feathered friends.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Thomas Brown, bookkeeper for Kerr Bros., Walkerville, was found dead in his bed on Monday morning. His death was caused by appendicitis. He was formerly a teacher in Hellmuth College, London.

The Duchess of Marlborough has arranged for the entire outfit of fifteen Irish families who will be provided with free passage to Manitoba and located there in newly founded homesteads.

The new Czar Alexander III. saturated his pocket handkerchief with the blood of his dying father, saying: "I will keep this as a sacred relic, so that it foretells me the innermost of my heart in this terrible and trying hour."

A Siamese delegation has arrived in London with a cart-load of the most costly presents for Queen Victoria. The chief arrival is a golden spitoon. Among the Siamese the spitoon is a piece of furniture of the highest importance. The place of honor in every well-regulated Siamese household is always assigned to it. If a Siamese welcomes a friend to his home, he does not spit in the cuspidore, but in the friend's face, which means the same as a kiss or a squeeze of the hand. His Siamese Majesty would also gladly have conferred the insignia of the order of the White Elephant upon Her Majesty, but the laws governing that order stipulate that the recipient must have caught or killed a lion, or a tiger, or a leopard, or a rhinoceros to be worthy of such distinction.

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The LADY'S FINGER.—The finger of the hand is a small, slender, pointed, tapering, jointed, and articulated part of the hand, extending from the wrist to the fingers. It is the fifth finger of the hand, and is the smallest and weakest of the fingers.

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