

## MINE!

In that trance hush when sound sank awed  
to rest,  
Ere from her spirit's rose-red, rose-sweet  
gate  
Came forth to me her royal word of fate,  
Did she sigh "Yes," and droop upon my  
breast;  
While round our rapture, dumb, fixed, un-  
expressed  
By the seized senses, there did fluctuate,  
The plaintive surges of our mortal state.  
Tempering the poignant ecstasy, too blest,  
Do I wake into a dream, or have we twain,  
Lured by soft wiles to some unconscious  
crime  
Dared joys forbid to man? Oh, Light su-  
preme,  
Upon our brows transfiguring glory rain,  
Nor let the sword of thy just angel gleam  
On two who entered heaven before their  
time!

—[Frederick Marston.]

## FARM AND HOME.

### Grass on Sandy Soils.

One of the difficulties of farming light sandy soils is that of securing a sod. The natural grasses to such soils are few. All farmers desire to grow the cultivated grasses, for they are considered indispensable to successful stock raising, and the keeping of stock conduces to the improvement and fertility of the soil. With the beginning of a growth of grass the hopes of a better system of cultivation are inspired, for it enables rotation of crops to advantage.

There are several obstacles in the way of securing good sod on sandy soils, one of which is a lack of moisture in dry seasons. Sandy soils sometimes retain moisture for a greater length of time than those that are heavier, but not near the surface. With clover it is necessary to get the young plants well rooted and firmly established as early as possible, as they immediately perish when subjected to high degrees of heat from the sun and lack of moisture below; but when the roots are deep enough in the earth to reach the moisture that is lower down the danger is over. To do this it is best to seed clover in the fall, rather than in the spring, on light soils, for such soils are not equal to the task of maturing a crop of grain to shade the young clover, as is practiced on heavy soils.

Another obstacle with sandy soils is insufficient potash. Clover, as well as most grass crops, requires potash, which is usually a very soluble material, and when present in sandy soils in a state of solubility is carried downward by the rains. When marl is applied the potash therein is in the shape of a silicate, which is not available to plants on account of being insoluble. Marl, therefore, does not act quickly on soils, but by continued exposure to the heat, air and moisture, as well as contact with other substances in the soil, gradually becomes reduced, and its atoms assume new shapes and form other combinations, changing the silicates into sulphates and other compounds of potash. To manure with superphosphate for grass is expensive, as much of it will not be appropriated, though the seeds, which are not always desired, are benefited by it.

Lime in its several shapes acts differently on light and heavy soils. When applied to heavy soils as a sulphate (plaster) it quickens the growth of clover at once, not only entering into the composition of the plants but causing a chemical action on the ingredients of the soil also. But on sandy soils plaster seems to have no effect upon clover, while lime is very beneficial. Lime sets free the potash, which immediately unites with other elements, thus assisting the young plants to secure a sufficiency of potash that would not otherwise be available; but as potash is usually plentiful on heavy soils the lime, though really beneficial, does not show so marked an effect, as it must come in comparison with the natural elements that are available.

In order, therefore, to fit sandy soils for grass they should receive a light dressing in the spring and fall of lime and wood ashes, and, if the latter cannot be obtained, kainit (German potash salts) should be substituted. When marl is resorted to, the better plan is to compost it with stable manure before using, or it should be accompanied, when applied directly to the land, by lime, as lime not only hastens the beneficial effects of marl but is itself a valuable fertilizer, entering also into the composition of plants.

### Preserving Salt Meats.

Iowa Homestead.

Much of the corned beef and salt pork put up by farmers becomes tainted or completely spoiled during the summer and fall. The injury is not caused by using too small amount of salt. As a rule, much more salt is employed than is necessary to preserve the meat. Sometimes it contains impurities that cause the meat to contract a bad flavor. Pure salt should be employed for preserving meat and dairy products. It costs but little more than that which is impure, and it is more satisfactory in all respects. Meat packed in a barrel and covered with brine becomes tainted or spoiled in consequence of small portions of it or some of the fat or blood it contains coming to the top of the brine. The air comes in contact with it there and decomposition takes place. The products of the decomposition of animal substances always have an unpleasant taste and smell, and these in the case of meat in a barrel are communicated to the brine and from thence to the meat. Meat packed in brine should be cut in

pieces with a very sharp knife. This will leave the edges smooth. After it has been for a few days in the brine the latter should be poured off and boiled. The boiling will cause all the impurities to rise to the surface while the blood will be coagulated. These substances should then be skimmed off, and when the brine is cold it can be returned to the barrel. If the brine does not continue pure, the operation of boiling should be repeated. Special pains should be taken to keep the meat under the brine at all times. A perforated top or false cover, or a frame work, should rest on the meat and be weighted down by a clean stone. If these precautions are employed the liability of spoiling will be very slight.

### A Wire Fence Idea.

American Cultivator.

A durable wire fence can be made by planting straight-growing trees a rod or so apart, and putting wires on them by means of staples after they have grown several years. Lombardy poplars are good for this purpose, as they are straight and rapid growers. They are not especially desirable trees, however, as they are easily broken by ice and wind, and in many of the northern states they are not long lived. There could be no objection to using apple or pear trees for this purpose if one is pressed for room. As the trees would be in an isolated row there could be little trouble from their being so close together. If apple trees be selected for such a purpose the more upright growing varieties, as Northern Spy or Golden Russet, should be selected. Pear trees would answer the purpose best. On small places where a permanent fence is required fruit trees could in this manner be turned to double account.

### Sorghum on Light Soil.

Dr. Kedzie, of the Michigan agricultural college, writes of sorghum that it is a plant that grows well on soil too light to produce a paying crop of corn, will withstand the effect of summer drought far better than corn, so that it will grow and ripen in circumstances where corn will burn up, and its value as a source of syrups and sugar, and as a forage crop, is only beginning to be appreciated. While sorghum will make a large and vigorous growth on heavy soils, and those containing an abundance of organic matter, the value of the sugar products from such soils is less than on sandy soils, which are deficient in vegetable matter. The syrup made from amber cane raised on such light soils is lighter in color and superior in flavor to that made from cane raised on rich soils. The roots of the cane penetrate deeply in sandy soils, and is thus able to withstand dry weather in summer much better than corn.

### Bees on the Farm.

Farmer's Magazine.

Bees work without wages, only requiring a house in which to store their products, and many persons find them a source of very considerable profit. The methods of their proper management are easily acquired, though it is the experience of beekeepers that there is always something new to learn. If commenced with in a moderate way, say a couple of swarms, at no very great cost, they will increase quite as rapidly as the knowledge of their manipulation is acquired. A person would be pretty sure of a great deal of experience, and would have a reasonable ground for expecting to realize a fair amount of honey. Bees are clearly entitled to a place on the little farm.

### Feeding Experiments.

In the experiments of Professor Sanborn, of the Missouri agricultural college, he found that meal-fed steers gained, in sixty-one days, seventy pounds more on 380 pounds less of fodder than steers on whole corn. The cost of grinding was \$2.50; value of the extra seventy pounds, \$3.50, or a dollar was gained in flesh and 380 pounds of fodder saved besides. Wheat straw was fed with the grain in both cases. Professor Sanborn's statement is a very important one, for he has demonstrated that not only can the cost of grinding be repaid by the method, but an actual gain is the result.

### Value of Agricultural Products.

The six leading agricultural productions of the United States, according to the census report of 1880, were in the following order: Corn, wheat, hay, cotton, oats and potatoes. The value of the first was \$600,000,000; of wheat, \$500,000,000; hay, \$300,000,000; cotton, \$242,000,000; oats, \$130,000,000, and potatoes, \$73,000,000.

### Test for Adulterated Butter.

The following is said to be a test for adulterated butter: A drop of sulphuric acid on pure, fresh, yellow butter turns it almost pure white; while oleomargarine made from tallow changes to a deep crimson red. When lard or other oils are used the colors are varied.

### The Household.

COOKIES.—A large and good "batch" of cookies can be made from this recipe: One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, four eggs, two tablespoonfuls of sour milk, or buttermilk, half a teaspoonful of soda, with flour enough to make a moderately stiff dough.

FRUIT CAKE.—A good common sort of fruit cake is made of five cups of granulated sugar, three small cups of butter, one cup of milk, six eggs, one wine glass of wine and one of brandy, ten cups of flour, two nutmegs grated, two pounds of raisins, one pound of English currants and one-quarter of a pound of citron. This cake keeps well.

LEMON PIE.—Take one lemon, grate the rind, squeeze the juice and chop the

pulp very fine, a teaspoonful of sugar, the yolks of two eggs; beat well together, and add one cup of sweet milk; bake immediately; beat the whites of the egg to a stiff froth, with two tablespoonfuls of sugar; spread on the pie when done, and put back in the oven to brown.

OYSTERS AND MACARONI.—Butter a deep dish and sprinkle it well with bread crumbs. Put in a layer of fricasseed oysters, then a layer of macaroni that had been cooked quite tender, then another layer of fricasseed oysters, and so alternate until the dish is full; coat the top with bread crumbs, cover this with small pats of butter, and brown it in a quick oven.

PUMPKINS.—When cooking pumpkins for immediate use in pies, or to dry, it is a good plan to drain off all the water you can; stew the pumpkin tender; then let the kettle stand on the back part of the stove, and on an extra grid-dle, so that all the moisture, or a great deal of it, will evaporate. If it is to be dried, it should be treated just the same as if you intended to make pies at once.

ORNAMENTAL CHAIRBACKS.—Pretty and odd chairbacks are made of squares of linen and of satin. This seems at first a strange combination, but the effect is excellent. Where the squares are joined, cover the seams with fancy stitches. The satin squares may be left without ornamentation, and all the work be put on the linen ones. Embroidery, or painting, or etching, is the favorite method employed.

JAMS.—It is not generally known that boiling fruit a long time and skimming it well, without the sugar and without a cover to the preserving pan, is a very economical and excellent way—economical because the bulk of the scum rises from the fruit and not from the sugar, if the latter is good, and boiling it without a cover allows the evaporation of the watery particles therefrom; the preserves keep firm and well flavored. The proportions are three-quarters of a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit. The best jam is made of equal quantities of gooseberries and raspberries, and is generally preferred to all others.

### Mr. Blaine's Two Books.

Washington Letter to N. Y. World (Dem.)

Mr. Blaine has nearly completed his history of "From Lincoln to Garfield." He will then begin upon a history of the war of 1812. No satisfactory history confined to this interesting period has ever been written. Mr. Blaine proposes to fill up this gap in our history, and has already gathered a mass of material for it. From a personal friend of Mr. Blaine's I have learned that he was offered \$100,000 in cash for the two volumes of "Lincoln to Garfield" he is now writing. Mr. Blaine was new to the book business, and was about to accept the offer, when a friend urged him not to, but to insist in its place upon a royalty of 50 cents a volume. His friend, who has some experience with publishers, said: "You will make much more money by insisting upon a royalty."

Mr. Blaine, however, was not so sanguine in his belief in the sale of the great book. He finally agreed to take \$75,000 and a royalty at 15 cents a volume. This friend of Mr. Blaine said: "I believe the royalty will bring him in nearly as much as the cash down. The publishers have advanced orders for 100,000 of the history, and are perfectly confident they will sell 300,000 volumes."

Mr. Blaine has a great mass of material for the history of the Garfield administration and the canvass preceding the election. Mr. Blaine has preserved all of the papers of his term of office as secretary of state by having official copies of everything made before he left the department. He has also a number of Garfield's personal papers. In addition to this he has a very large number of papers from Gen. Garfield when he was organizing his cabinet. In the month of December following his election Garfield came to Washington and sent for Senator Blaine. He offered him the place of secretary of state. Blaine considered the offer two or three days and then accepted, his acceptance being kept officially secret. Garfield soon after returned to Mentor. From then on he wrote very freely to Mr. Blaine. There was scarcely a day that passed without Mr. Blaine's receiving a long letter from the president elect, asking his advice upon nearly every public man. His success may bring other public men into the ranks of historical writers. It is one of the complaints of students of American history, and particularly of the history of politics, that so little has been done by the leading men of the times to leave upon record a true inside picture of the events where they were the prominent actors.

There is hardly a man of long experience and public affairs who does not possess an endless fund of personal reminiscences. They are fond of relating but not writing their experiences. Some of the best pictures of current history are wasted in the social chat of a well-arranged dinner table. If public men learn something from Mr. Blaine's example, the future student of politics will be greatly the gainer.

New ball dresses are of colored tulle spotted with chenille. They are draped over satin of the same color, and have a low sleeveless bodice, worn with a fichu of the folded tulle.

A stone in the shoe, a giddy in the ear, a mote in the eye, a thorn in the foot, and a quarrel in the family, however small in themselves, are unpeppably tormenting.—(Hindu Vemana).

Vandyked flounces bound with velvet or with satin ribbon are used to trim the skirts of new woolen and silk dresses.

## The Army of Key Losers.

N. Y. Sun.

"It is likely enough, as you say," remarked a New York locksmith, "that my place doesn't appear particularly amusing. But if you had been in this business as long as I have—nigh on forty years—you'd have come across some interesting little circumstances. I don't believe that there are any queerer men on earth than the regular chronic key cranks."

"Now, here is a couple of dozen keys, all of exactly the same pattern, that I am making for one man. He doesn't know that I am making them; but I know that he's sure to call for one of these keys pretty regularly once a week until they're all gone. He's a genuine 'loser,' and the most curious thing about the matter is that he has not the remotest idea of how or where he ever lost a key. A few weeks ago he had a small closet made to hold a duplicate. Well, as no men are so ready to lock things up as key losers, the first thing he did was to have a lock put on his closet. Then, of course, he used to lose that key, too, and every few days he would have to break open his little cupboard with a hammer. Finding after a while that he was losing two keys instead of one, he had to return to the old plan."

"I have one customer who expects me to have duplicates of his keys always on hand, not at the shop, but at my house, for he always loses them late at night, latch-key and all. Four or five nights in the year I hear a tremendous ring at the door bell. I holler 'All right!' out of the window, and then grab the duplicate bunch and slip down stairs with it. Lor, bless you! I always know who it is. I believe he is a lawyer, and I'm told that he emphasizes his points in after-dinner speeches by poking his biggest key in the palm of his hand. Where he puts them afterwards he never knows, and he isn't the kind of a man to give himself away by inquiring."

"A customer that I had for six years told me once how he got a lesson. It seems that he had always had to work on a particular plan—couldn't stop it. He would first take out his key, and then sit on his doorstep to pull off his boots. During the latter operation he would lay down his key and lose it, and be obliged to ring. Sometimes he would lose both the key and the boots; but he never dared to mention the fact at the breakfast table. He asked me once—it was the day after Christmas—to guess what present his wife had given him. Well, sir, it consisted of eleven night keys and three pairs of boots. Between the servant girl and the milkman the crop had been gathered in and given to the old lady in a single year."

"There's one fact I never could account for, and that is how men with good memories otherwise will fail in the matter of keys. A man sent for me from down town on three occasions to pick a lock for him when he had the key about him each time. He was one of the regular losers, and had tried all sorts of ways to get over the habit. At last he tied the key around his neck. When he sent for me he was trying one pocket after another in a perfect fury. Just as I got the picker to work he yelled, 'Great Jerusalem! Here it is around my neck!' He did the same thing twice."

"How do people in general lose keys? Well, with them it is mere carelessness and forgetfulness, and they generally find them again. It requires a genuine key crank to lose a key instantaneously, completely, and forever."

"Who was the queerest key loser I ever knew? Take him altogether, I think the most peculiar was a customer I had during the last two or three years I was in London. He was a green grocer who lived on the Surrey side. He was so absent minded that whenever he went into his bedroom for the night he would lock his door and take out the key, as he had done an hour previously at his store. This act on his part was, according to his own account, always performed unconsciously, as was the subsequent act of hiding it. He was a most ingenious hider, and the consequence was that once or twice every week he would forget where he had hidden the key, and, finding himself locked in, would hammer away at the door until my arrival. This habit was at last the indirect cause of his nearly losing his life. One morning when he was banging away at his door his brother, who was in the hallway outside, concluded to give the imprisoned green grocer a lesson which might cure him. So he raised the cry of fire. The grocer became wild and threw himself against the door, but it was of thick oak and the lock was a heavy one. Then he threw the furniture at it and tried every means in his power to escape, but to no purpose. At last, in his desperation he rushed to the window and prepared to leap. His brother, by good fortune, heard the movement, and yelled with all his might that the fire was out, and so saved the grocer's life. Then I arrived and released him. Of course I couldn't let things go on that way any longer, although I was glad enough to get my two and six or five shillings a week from the man, so I had the lock taken off and a bolt put on."

"Did it cure him of his dangerous habit?"

"Not a bit of it; he only got another smith and went on as before. I heard afterward that his friends had the door fixed, unknown to the grocer, so that in case of real emergency it could be forced off its hinges. Lor' bless you, sir, a man with the key disease never gets over it, but you'll hardly find one in a lifetime so peculiar as this Surrey grocer."

Great thoughts are always hopeful

## It Was Contempt.

Free Press.

In the days gone by a citizen of Detroit who has lately been gathered to his fathers was a justice of the peace for one of the townships of this county. One day as he sat in his office with nothing to do a friend came along with a young horse. The Squire was somewhat conceited on the horse question, and when informed that the equine before him would let no man ride him he at once determined to accomplish the feat. A crowd gathered, a saddle was brought, and his honor presently found himself astride of the beast. The next thing he knew he was lying in a muddy ditch, and a dozen men were laughing to kill.

"I declare this court in session!" yelled his honor as he struggled up.

At this there was a fresh burst of laughter, and he continued:

"And each and every one of you is fined \$3 for contempt of court!"

They laughed harder than ever, but the fines were recorded and collected, and for years after it was understood that court was in session except when the Squire was in bed and asleep.

When the man with the deep voice sings, he is sure to get off his bass.—[Boston Post.]

Would a law against tight lacing be inimical to the freedom of contracts?—[Boston Star.]

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