

THE ODD CORNER

Dream and Despair.

If I were only bolder,
To her I then should swear
My dawn is her white shoulder,
My dusk her ebon hair;
My day, my night,
My whole delight,
My dream and my despair!

Such beauty seems to fold her
For ever fresh and fair,
Between the dawn, her shoulder,
And dusk that is her hair;
Her soft eyes are
Each one a star,
My dream and my despair!

So let my love be told her,
And let my faith declare
Dawn sparkles on her shoulder,
Dusk hovers in her hair,
And each lip shows
For me a rose—
My dream and my despair!
—Cassel's Saturday Journal.

Ambidexterity.

Gen. Baden-Powell has long been able to write and draw with either hand with equal facility. During some manoeuvres which took place when his right arm was useless owing to the bite of a dog, he wrote and illustrated his daily reports entirely with his left hand, says the "House Beautiful." Sir Walter Parratt, organist of St. George's chapel, Windsor, can accompany a full choral service with his left hand and his feet and write a letter at the same time with his right hand. Queen Victoria was ambidextrous; she could draw as well with the left hand as with the right. Prof. Morse of the Baltimore university and Sir Edwin Landseer were able to use either hand impartially; and the great artist-scientist of the Renaissance period in Italy, Leonardo de Vinci, was ambidextrous. Conjurers and jugglers must be able to depend upon the left hand as much as upon the right. All who possess ambidextral power declare it to be a most highly prized faculty. The Japanese appear to be the most ambidextrous nation in these days, though many Orientals are able to use either hand with impartiality. The Shah of Persia signs his name with either left or right hand; artisans in the east are frequently able to work with either hand with equal skill, and they also bring both right and left foot to their aid.

Ticked Time Two Centuries.

The residents of Tlalpam, Mex., complain that the public clock of that town is useless; repairs are made every week, but every week the clock gets out of repair and can never be kept in good condition. The Tlalpam clock is probably the oldest public clock on the American continent. It was originally installed as a cathedral clock in the year 1657; in 1790 it was donated to the council of San Agustin de las Clevas, near Tlalpam, when it was installed there and set in motion. Since that time it has never undergone repairs until a few weeks ago. The clock, however, has told the time for 247 years and it is but natural that it is tired and wants to be sent to a museum.

Singed Hair of Cat and Dog.

Henry Adams, a Henry county farmer, was in the city yesterday with a very naked dog and a strange tale of the odd effects of a bolt of lightning that struck his house during the severe storm of Monday afternoon.

The lightning struck the kitchen, running down the pipe of the stove, shaving the fur clean from the back of a cat that was asleep beneath the stove, striking the dog as lightly as it had struck the cat, running down the animal's legs to the ground, leaving a trail of singed fur in its wake and doing no damage to either animal beyond a severe fright.—Baltimore Sun.

Chair Has Seen Long Service.

Mrs. J. W. Burgess, a Vermont woman, has in her possession a chair which came to her through the Field family, it formerly belonging to Gen. Martin Field, her great-grandfather,

who was also the grandfather of Eugene Field, the poet. When she had it taken to an upholsterer last week and the outer covering was removed, a card was found on the inside bearing this inscription: "Chair owned and used by Rev. Aaron Crosby of Newfane in 1770. He was a missionary among the Indians on the headwater of the Susquehanna river before the revolutionary war."

Cow Made Clean Haul.

Frank Dow pitched a tent in a pasture, where he employed himself in picking berries at Meredith, N. H. During his absence a cow tipped the tent over and devoured nearly the entire camping outfit. Among the things eaten was a pound of salt pork, six quarts of berries, four candles, one quart of cooked beans, the sleeves of a coat, a bundle of newspapers, half a dozen doughnuts, a peck of potatoes, a number of cookies and several other articles.

Harm Done by Paris Green.

Speaking of the potato an observant Maine farmer states that for several years past he has noticed no potato balls, although previously the plants were covered with them. He gives as a reason for this that the paris green, used so generously in recent years for the extermination of the bugs, killed the flowers of the plants and thus prevented them from going to seed.

Cow Gives Birth to Triplets.

At the Rock Cliff farm, North Smithfield, R. I., of which Hiram F. Thayer is proprietor, an Ayreshire cow has given birth to three calves, a most unusual occurrence. All of the calves appear to be healthy, although they are somewhat under size. The same cow two years ago gave birth to twin calves, both of which were of the usual size.

Letter and Envelope of Bark.

Ellory A. Baldwin of West Upton received a unique letter from his son, who is on a fishing trip in Maine. The envelope was stripped from a birch tree and held together with a postage stamp and the letter was written on a large piece of bark and folded twice, the same as an ordinary piece of writing paper.

Oldest Cat Killed.

The oldest cat in the world was killed by its owner, Belford Bonham, at Shiloh, N. J., last week. The cat was 22 years and 3 months old, and had been in his day one of the greatest of ratters. He fell ill with a cancer of the nose, however, and had to be put to death.

Bedsread Made in 1805.

Mrs. Denison Turner of North Stonington, Conn., is the possessor of a bedsread made in 1805 by her grandmother, who spun the woolen yarn from which it is made, wove the cloth, colored some of the yarn, and drew in little tufts over the face of the spread.

Not Injured by Long Fall.

A 5-year-old boy named Durkin climbed into a new house at Naugatuck, Conn., and fell through the hole left for the chimney into the cellar, thirty feet below, escaping with nothing more serious than a lump on his head and a few bruises.

Weapon Used by Red Men.

An Indian ax is attracting much attention in Rockland, Me. It was found by William Geyer of Friendship while repairing a road. The ax is of stone, is a perfect specimen and weighs seven and one-half pounds.

Caterpillars' Healthy Appetites.

A caterpillar in a month will devour 6,000 times its own weight. It will take an average man three months before he eats a quantity of food equal to his own weight.

Peculiar Claim for Damages.

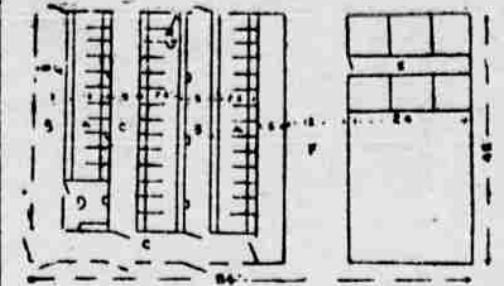
A Washington county, Maine, man seeks indemnity from the state for damage done his orchard by wild animals.

TO MAKE OVER BARN.

Plan Will Ensure a Commodious and Comfortable Structure.

A. C. McL.—I wish to remodel a barn, 48 by 84 feet, the floor of which runs through the center from end to end. The barn stands north and south and the dwelling house stands about 150 feet south of the south end. I wish to run the floor across the barn and to arrange a cow stable to hold forty-five cows, convenient for feeding and clearing out.

We do not know how far the bents are apart in your barn, nor how many there are, so that some of them may come directly over the mangers or gutters behind the cattle. If you adopt the plan shown and the bents come over any of the gutters or mangers, so that the posts would interfere with your stable, two posts opposite each



Ground Floor Plan of Remodeled Stock Barn.

A, cow stalls; B, passages behind cattle; C, feed rooms; D, box stall; E, granary; F, drive floor; G, windows.

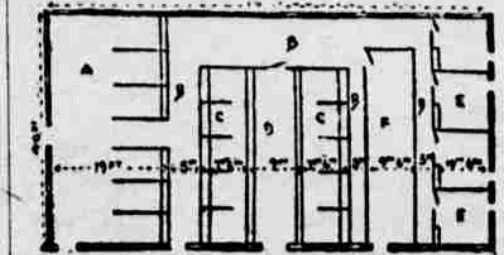
other can be placed on each side of the sill, and a 10 by 10 or 12 by 12-inch timber placed on top of posts to carry the sill.

The plan shown provides for bents of the following lengths, commencing at the south end: 14, 14, 20, 12 and 24 feet, making in all 84 feet.

There is an over-shoot of six feet on the south side of the driveway to feed the first row of cattle from. The windows on the west side are close to the doors and come directly over the gutters in order to let in light. In cleaning out the cow stable the doors can be made wide enough to drive in from the east side through the stable and out of the west side. The stalls are single stalls for swinging racks for mangers, but if swinging racks are not used the stalls can be converted into double ones if desired. There are thirty-nine cows stalls and one box stall; if the box stall is not required, three single stalls can be made of it.

Roomy and Up-to-Date Stable.

A. McL.—Please publish a plan for the basement of a barn 76 feet by 40 feet, to have 6 or 8 stalls for horses,



Ground Floor Plan of Handy Stable.

A, horse stable; B, feed rooms; C, cattle stalls; D, passage behind cattle; E, box stalls; F, room for cattle to run loose.

4 or 5 box stalls, stalls for 18 or 20 head of cattle tied, and a place for 8 or 10 head to run loose.

The above plan provides for six horse stalls, ten double cattle stalls, four box stalls and a room for young cattle to run loose in. The box stalls have doors in from outside, so that they may be cleaned from these. The passage behind the cattle is nine feet wide, allowing room for a wagon or cart to be backed in to draw out the manure.

Blaming It on the Bread.

"Sick at your stomach, eh?" said the boy's mother. "What made you that way?"

"I guess," said the boy, reproachfully, "it was that bread you made me eat at lunch time."

"Indeed? Where have you been all afternoon?"

"Over in old man Peters' apple orchard."



Her Ex-Son.

Mrs. Wabash—There goes Mrs. Marimore with her stepson. What a homely boy he is!

Mrs. De Vorse—Yes, and yet I remember several years ago I thought him quite pretty.

Mrs. Wabash—Ah! but you were his mother at that time, were you not?

Mrs. De Vorse—Why, yes, I believe I was.—Philadelphia Press.

Looking Over the Family.

Mr. Watkyns—Do you think that that young Mr. Spryggyns is especially interested in Mabel?

Mrs. Watkyns—Well, it looks that way. The last time he called he persisted in having her bring out the old photograph album and show him the pictures of all the near and distant relatives.

The Old, Old Story.



Ted—Well, ta-ta, old chappie, I must get away; I have an engagement.

Gus—A pressing one?

Ted—Well, it generally ends in that, don'tcherknow, when the gas is turned down.—Half-Holiday.

A Logical Inference.

Little Bess—Who is that strange lady, mamma?

Mamma—That is Miss Goodwin, the philanthropist, my dear.

Little Bess—What is a philanthropist?

Mamma—it is a word derived from the Greek signifying "a lover of men."

Little Bess—Then I guess all women are philanthropists, aren't they, mamma?

Could Not Believe It.



Jack—I thought that the author of this book was famous for his keen understanding of women?

Jane—Well, do you doubt it?

Jack—Of course. He says that the heroine suffered in silence.

Retribution at Hand.

"Mandy," said Farmer Cornrossel, "do you know that one of them boarders is the man that got me into a crooked game in the train last winter?"

"Are you goin' to have him arrested?"

"No, jes' you see that he doesn't pay his board in counterfeit money an' we'll get even all right."