

FROM SOFA TO HAMMOCK.

Dear parlor sofa, fare thee well,
A long and fond adieu.
The hammock says have come and so
We say farewell to you.

TOM'S BARGAIN.

It is very, very nice, and I am
extremely proud of it, but—"and
here Maggie Denton hesitated.

Tom nodded approvingly. An in-
strument costing but a few months
ago upward of "three-quarters of a
century" to be disposed of for a third

had a wonderful bewildering, fasci-
nating manner her features were won-
derfully sweet and regular, and her
sordid blue eyes, half bold, wholly
shy, went straight to Tom's heart

"It is of no consequence," he
stammered, unconsciously paraphras-
ing Mr. Toots. "I did come over to
see the instrument, which I thought
of purchasing if it—that is—"

"I will not decide now," he hesi-
tated, ma like. "You see, I am not
buying for myself, but for a lady—
my sister—and I should like her to
see it first. If there is no objection
I will call again to-morrow after-
noon."

"My husband chose that in-
strument," the lady said, a most
timidly; "indeed, did not circum-
stances compel me, I would not part
with it now; but I am not so well off
as—"

"I am very sorry—Mrs. Kerr, I
think you said—but I cannot de-
cide now," he said, almost humbly.
"I will bring my sister to-morrow."

"I de-are you are quite in love
with her," she said, half jealous.
"It would be a romance if you went
to buy a piano and found a wife in-
stead."

"I am very sorry—Mrs. Kerr, I
think you said—but I cannot de-
cide now," he said, almost humbly.
"I will bring my sister to-morrow."

and you a customer for the piano,"
Maggie decided, vigorously. "Any
one so long as he does not buy it
himself. Your late husband must
have been sadly taken in, dear; that
showy thing is not worth picking up
in the street."

"Tom never knew how it came
about, but a fortnight later Mrs.
Kerr found herself established at
The Laurels for a few days before, as
she said, she could finally dispose of
her furniture and piano before going
abroad."

"I have a confession, a shameful
confession to make, and it had better
be made now. When my parents
both died last year I found myself
penniless, friendless and without a
situation. I was getting desperate
when I was introduced to a trades-
man whose business it was, I found,
to buy cheap pianos and sell them to
unsuspecting customers eager for a
bargain. I was a good fellow, and I
played an important part for two
years."

"I have taken cheap lodgings in
suburban London, a piano has been
brought in, our advertisement inserted
in the London daily papers, and—
well, you can guess the rest. I tried
to deceive you. What could I do, as
you were a stranger to me then?—
but I have suffered. I would not
have come here unless I had been
forced to, and you cannot tell how I
have longed for a little rest and
quiet. My employe was angry; but I
was equally determined, and be-
sides, I have promised to go back
again; but I cannot go now. If you
can only say that you forgive me, re-
membering how hard I was pushed."

"Tom murmured a few incoherent
words and the next thing happened
was that his arms were round her,
and she was crying gently on his
breast. She made an ineffectual
struggle to free herself, but the clasp
was strong and kind.

"That is your fate," he said, firm-
ly; "rest there, my darling."

"I have not finished yet," she said,
lifting the sweet rosy face to his.
"Do you know that I am not even
entitled to that name—I am not a
widow at all!"

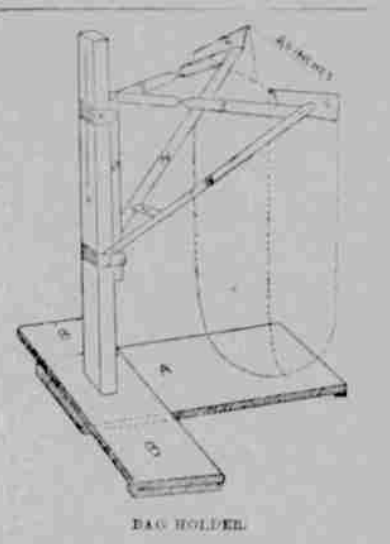
"So much the better," Tom said,
cheerfully. "Do you know I have
suspected that there was something
wrong all the time, but although,
my darling, I did not buy that very
elegant looking piano, I am inclined
to think that after all I got quite a
bargain."

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

Life of the Small Farmer is a Happy One
Convenient Bag Holder—A Model Vil-
lage Stable—Well-Arranged Water
Bench—Agricultural Notes.

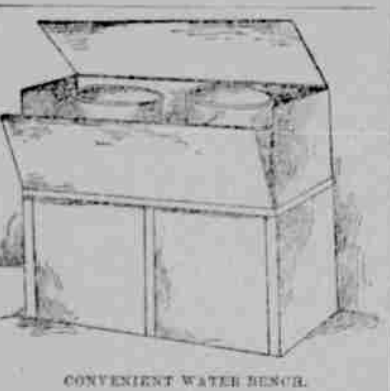
The Ohio Farmer thus describes
the bag holder which is here illus-
trated. A is an inch board 12
inches wide and 24 inches long. B is
an inch board 2 inches wide and
24 inches long. C is an upright post
3 inches high, 1 1/2 inches square,
and mortised through the boards A
and B at the bottom. D is an
upright post 2 1/2 inches high, 1 1/2
inches square. E, E are two iron
arms 12 inches long, 1 inch wide and
1 inch thick, fastened on top of post
F with a wood screw bolt, and given
a half twist as shown; also two up-
ward and outward extending plates
G, G, 6 inches long and 1 inch high.
H, H, are two hickory springs 2 feet



long, 2 inches wide by 1 inch thick,
fastened near the outer end of the
iron arms, E, E, with rivet at lower
end to post D with 1/2 inch bolt. I is
a small block fastened between the
springs H, H, to give the arms E, E,
the proper spread, which should be
20 inches at outer tips. J is a collar
made of hoop iron, fastened to post
D and fitting loosely around post C.
K is a light iron clevis fastened
loosely to post D and fitting loosely
around post C. A piece of hoop iron,
1 1/2 inches long, is fastened in post C,
slightly extending at back of post,
and has very small notches filed in
it to which the clevis K holds. Post
D with all that is fastened to it is
free to slide up and down post C,
thus adjusting itself to long or short
bags, while the springs, H, H, allow
the arms E, E, to be pressed together
or spread, thus adjusting itself to
wide or narrow bags. The dotted
lines show bag in position for filling.

A Well-Arranged Water Bench.

Where water can be brought by a
pipe from a near-by well, or from a
spring, the task of bringing it in
pails can happily be avoided. But a
large proportion of homes are still
served with water from a pump in
the yard from which the water must
be carried to the house in pails. A
simple bench usually provides a sup-
port for these pails of water which
are thus exposed to heat in summer,



dust, flies, and an occasional visit,
perha s, from the family cat. The
illustration accompanying this shows
how water can be kept cool in sum-
mer and perfectly protected from
cats, flies, and dust. When the pails
are to be filled, the front, which is
hinged, is let down, the cover raised,
and the pails when filled are easily
set back as upon an open bench. The
front and the cover can then be
closed and the water kept clean and
cool. The closet below will be found
exceedingly convenient for numerous
uses that will occur to any house-
keeper living in the country.

A Tub for Grain Soaking.

At the grain sowing season nothing
is more handy than a tub in
which to soak, clean or kill smut
spores to a tight half-barrel of
convenient size for use. On many
farms the common method is to
borrow the good wives' wash-
tubs, pans, etc.

The cut shows a
half-barrel which may be put to use
at all seasons of the year for other
purposes when not in use for seed
soaking. In making, select a tight,
strongly made barrel, a vine or
mosses barrel being preferable; but
if a light one is desired a four or
sugar barrel where perfectly tight
may be used. In the farm tool-
house it may be quickly sawed in
two, tightly hooped and rope handles
put in at the two sides.

Progress in Spraying.

In no other department of horti-
cultural knowledge has so much pro-
gress been made as has been made in
spraying. It was at first recom-
mended chiefly to destroy the codling
moth, which destroys the apple crop.
But it is now found equally effec-

tive in preventing the scab and
blight on leaf and fruit, which is a
greater present danger than the cod-
ling moth to perpetrate its species.

In most orchards where the apple
crop entirely failed when apples are
now grown they are free from worms.
For grapes the spraying is now re-
garded as indispensable to prevent
rot. The Bordeaux mixture is also
found an effective remedy for an-
thraxnose on blackcap raspberries.
In spraying for fungus diseases sev-
eral applications are better than
one. A small bit of fungus that es-
capes the first or second application
increases very rapidly. But it is
probable that thorough spraying one
season will greatly lessen the amount
of this work that will be needed the
year following.

Coat With Coal Oil.

A prevention of parasitic diseases
of cereals by treating them before
sowing or planting has been found
useful by many who have experi-
mented along this line. A slight
coating of coal oil given to peas in
the autumn is said to destroy the pea
weevil. This causes the crop of the
following season to be almost free
from this pest. A somewhat analog-
ous remedy has been discovered for
smut in wheat and oats by Professor
Jansen of Denmark, only that the
heat seems to be the effective agent
in these cases. The remedy is simply
to immerse the seed wheat or oats
in water at a temperature of 135 to
140 degrees. The crops grown from
seed thus treated have been found to
be entirely free from smut. The
remedy has the merit of being both
cheap and simple.

Dairy Hint.

Hoard's Dairyman gives these
hints about wooden vessels: "Don't
set a wooden bowl or butter printer
in the sun or by a stove to dry. They
last much longer if dried slowly.
Also wet these things before using
them for cream, milk or butter. If
the pores are filled with water they
cannot absorb grease and so get
tainted. Wood will absorb the but-
ter fats in milk and milk products,
and they will not dry out as does
water."

A Village Stable.

A small window over the stable
door, through which hay is pitched
with difficulty, is avoided by a break
in the roof as shown in the accom-
panying illustration from the Ameri-
can Agriculturist, giving room for a



door of generous size. A box stall
ought to be provided in every stable,
as it will be found most useful for
the occasional use both of the horse
and cow. It may take the place of
the extra stall that ought a ways to
be provided for the horse of a visitor,
so that there is but little extra room
called for.

Fattening Animals on Grass.

Large numbers of animals are every
year fattened on grass, being turned
out in May or June, and sold off when
fattened in the fall. This grass feed
is also right when at its best, but at
either end it needs to be supple-
mented with grain feeding, as does
also the feed of cows at pasture. So
long as the grass is immature a con-
siderable amount of grain will be
eaten daily. There should be a grain
ration also when the pasture fails in
the fall, and especially if it is sup-
plemented by fodder corn cut before it
is mature enough to come in tassel. A
little grain feed in summer will go
farther in fattening any kind of stock
than a much larger amount in
winter.

Farm Notes.

White clover is excellent for fill-
ing up bare places on grass plots. as
it will grow and thrive where other
grasses will fall, but it prefers a rich
soil that contains lime.

The farmer is his own employer,
and does not have to go or come at
the beck of anyone else. This is
worth remembering when you are
figuring up the advantages and dis-
advantages of the occupation.

The Lima bean has been so called
for a hundred years, and as its name
indicates, seems the have first been
known in South America. The com-
mon kidney bean seems to have first
been known to the ancient Peru-
vians.

It is stated that the best way to
test cabbage seed is to drop some on
a hot stove. If the seeds burst and
pop (like popcorn) they may be con-
sidered of good quality, and those in
the package will germinate and pro-
duce good plants.

DIAMONDS ARE FREAKS.

The Stones Are Found in the Quarter of
Planes.

In a report made by George F.
Kunz to the U. S. Geological Survey
(not yet in print) an interesting ac-
count is given of an experiment made
at Chicago during the World's Fair
in determining the character of what
appeared to be a diamond carbon
found in a meteorite by Prof. George
A. Coe, of the University of
Pennsylvania.

Prof. A. E. Foote, of Philadelphia,
obtained a piece of meteorite from
Canon Diablo, Arizona, in 1891. He
sent it to Prof. Coe for examina-
tion. The piece weighed about six-
teen pounds. When an attempt was
made to cut it, it was found to be
remarkably hard. The edge of a half-
inch chisel was repeatedly broken by
it. One spot in particular, was so
hard that the tool produced a black
powder instead of chips. When the
meteorite was being cut, an attempt
was made to polish the sections on an
emery wheel. The emery wheel was
ruined.

Diamonds had been noted pre-
viously in Russian meteorite stones,
and Prof. Coe pronounced the
black particles from this Arizona
meteorite to be diamond. The par-
ticles of this substance obtained were
so minute that the ordinary chemical
tests could not be applied to them,
but Mr. Kunz suggested at the meet-
ing of the Academy of Arts and
Sciences that if enough clean grains
could be obtained to polish a dia-
mond, the nature of the substance
would be definitely determined.
About 200 pounds of the meteorite
iron was examined, and specimens
which appeared to contain diamonds
were dissolved. The exhibition of
diamond-cutting in the Mining Build-
ing of the World's Fair gave the op-
portunity for trying the experiment,
and Tiffany & Co. made preparations
for the test. A diamond-polishing
wheel was specially planned, and
prepared with radiating striations so
as to be easily charged with diamond
powder.

The wheel was run at 2,500 revolu-
tions to the minute, and a diamond
was tried on it for five minutes with-
out any polish resulting. The wheel
was then charged with the meteorite
powder mixed with oil. As soon as
the diamond was placed on the wheel
a hissing noise showed that it was
being cut. In three minutes one
face of the diamond was polished.
After a series of experiments with
this powder, Mr. Kunz said he is sat-
isfied that it is diamond, and a sub-
stance with the same hardness, color
and brilliancy.

This experiment is interesting only
as showing one of the queer freaks of
nature. Why a meteorite should be
charged with diamond dust is no
more apparent than is the reason for
the discovery of a single diamond in
a Kentucky field. There has been
but one diamond discovered in Ken-
tucky, though certain sections of the
State have been studied minutely
with a view to probable development
of diamond mines. The diamond in
the United States is almost as great
a freak as the diamond dust in the
meteorite.

Dubious Hospitality.

In the reception of an invited
guest—for every blossom is an em-
bodied welcome to its insect affinity
—each flower observes curious social
customs peculiar to itself. The gar-
den salvia, for instance, slaps the
burly bumblebee upon the back and
marks him for her own as he is
ushered in to the feast. The moun-
tain laurel welcomes the twilight
moth with an impulsive multiple
embrace. The desmodium and gen-
esta celebrate their hospitality with
a joke, as it were, letting their
threshold fall beneath the feet of
the caller, and startling him with an
explosion and a cloud of yellow
powder. The prickly pear cactus in-
cludes its buzzing visitor in a golden bower,
from which he must emerge at the
roof as dusty as a miller. The bar-
berry, in a similar vein, lays mischiev-
ous hold of the tongue of its slip-
ping bee, and gives him a roughly
cordial welcome. The evening prim-
rose, with outstretched filaments,
hangs a golden necklace about the
welcome murmuring noctuid, while
the various orchids exact in the in-
genuity of their salutations. Here
is one which prevents a pair of tiny
clubs to the sphinx-moth at its
threshold, clinging them to its bug-
ging eyes. Another attaches similar
tokens to the tongues of butterflies,
while the cyrtopodium speeds its
parting guest with a sticking-plas-
ter smeared all over its back. And
so we might continue almost indefi-
nitely.

A Note for Farmers.

A "Cape Coder" tells how he
cured a setting hen. "I made," he
says, "half a dozen snow balls and
soaked them in water. In the morn-
ing they were solid ice. I shaped
them as near like eggs as possible,
and then placed them under the set-
ting hen. She smiled. I stood by
and watched her. She cuddled the
ice eggs under her and chuckled softly
to them. In a few minutes she
appeared to get uneasy. She arose
and scratched the darlings together
and shook herself, then, evidently
satisfied, settled down again. Soon
she got up once more, this time with
evident concern. Something was
wrong, surely! Perhaps the weather
was getting cold. She felt wet and
chilly; but with great perseverance
she sat down again, and again got up,
this time for good. She walked out
of the box, and then turned and
looked in; but she had enough."

It isn't the dishwashing a girl
dislikes so much as the thought that
she is hiding her talents away from
the world.

MOTHERS get scared so easily that
doctors make considerable money.