

A SONG OF OLD TIMES.

I love to think of old-time days—brighter and the best!
Sun goes up on a break of day on beams from east to west.

HOW ANGELS GOT RELIGION.

"Never heard how we got religion to angels, stranger? Yer see 'twas afore angels got to be such a big camp as 'twas later on, but it was a rich camp and a mighty wicked one.



"GENT, AS YER SEE, I'M A MINISTER OF REPOSE."

"The — he is," says Pete. "I'll finish the deal and go down and see ab 't that." So we all walked down to —ones and thar, sure 'nuff in the bar, talking with Old Bill, wuz the parson, black coat and white tie 'n' all.

in that old shak of Sal's 'n, never make a noise. Now I'm goin' to rustle round 'n' dig up dust eno' from the boys, and we'll jest build him a meetin' house as 'd be a credit to the camp.

"In a month every last man in camp wuz worryin' 'bout his future state. Old Bill 'ones came into meetin' one night with his face 'n' hands washed 'n' an old black s'f on, set down on the anxious ben 'n' and ast to be prayed for. The parson knelt down 'n' put his arm round him, 'n' how he did pray: before he got through Lu'ky Barnes, 'n' Abam 'n' me wuz on the bench too, 'n' Pete shoved his 'n' inamar up the aisle by the collar 'n' sot 'n' down 'n' longside o' me.

"There wuz over twenty peresses that night not countin' ete's 'n' inamar. 'n' next Sunday we had a big baptism in the creek. 'n' forty uv us was put through. Pete sed he reckoned Ah Foo had better be put through every day for a week or so, sence he'd ways been a dod gasted heathen, but the parson 'lowed 'n' wuz enuff, but he give him an extra dip just for luck; 'n' I never see a more ornery lookin' cuss in my life than that Chinese were when he came out.



"A MEETIN' IN THE DEACONS' 'N' CHURCH WARDENS."

"n' churchwardens down to his place, 'n' after the sexton Ah Foo had brought in a round of drinks he said: Gents, ez chairman ex-officer in this yer layout, I move that we give the parson a little present for Christmas.

"When we got outside Pete sez, 'Boys, you mind me that devil dodger'll capture the camp,' 'n' he did. That night we all went along down to Shifty's and found the parson and the kid on the platform where the fiddlers ust to sit; and every man in camp wuz in the audience. The parson spoke first. He sed, 'Gents, I want to tell yer first of I don't want any yer dust. I've got enuff for myself and my young friend, 'n' there won't be no rake-off in this yer meetin' house, 'n' I'm not here to preach against any man's way of makin' a livin'.

'n' ever, one turned around to find a great big black-headed cuss at the door a overin' the hull gang uv us with a double-barrel shotgun. 'n' jest standin' thar cool 'n' silent, 'n' 'n' round here, yer — foals' yelled some ody in a sharp, quick, bi-nus-eanin' vice 'n' all hands faced round to find the par on holdin' 'em up w' th another shotgun—own br ther to the one the other cuss hed, 'I don't want a word out er yer,' he sed. 'Yer see my game now, don't yer? Thar aint a gun in the house 'cept the ones you see, 'n' if any gent makes any row in this yer meetin' I'll 'n' his his so soon 'n' 'n' hole, 't won't hold his bones. The kid will now take up the collection, 'n' ez it's the first on we ever hev taken up yer must make it a liberl one, see.' The kid started out with a gunn sack 'n' went through every last man in the crowd. He took



"YER SEE MY GAME NOW DON'T YE?"

everything, even to the rings on our fingers. The parson hed the drop, 'n' jest giv' up our stuff like lambs. "After the kid hed finished he took the sack outside 'n' thets the last we ever seed o' him. Then the parson he sed, "'N' now, gents, I must say adoo, ez I must be a travelin' this eve'. I want to say tho', afore I go, that yoos're the ornier-t' gang of — foals I ever played for suckers. A few friends uv mine hev taken the liberty, while yoos've been to meetin' this blessed Christmas day, uv goin' through yer cabins 'n' diggin' up yer little caches uv dust 'n' other valuables. Yer stock hev all been stampeded, 'n' yer guns yer'll find some whar at the bottom uv the creek. My friend at the door will hold yer level while I walk out, 'n' we will then ke p yer utet fer a woder minute longer through the woder jest so's we can git a nice cum' table start 'n' so they did. What c'd we do? The parson walked out, grinlin' all over himself 'n' he 'n' his pals they na'ed up the door 'n' winder, thar wuz only two, 'n' yer soon after they had finished we heard the clatter o' huds 'n' knowed they wuz gone. I must draw a veil over the rest uv that day's proceedings, s'nt yer. The language used by thar boys wuz too awful to repeat, but 'twas jest, as this parson sed, when we got out o' that meetin' house we found every animal on the location gone, 'n' the only arms left wuz knives 'n' clubs yer wuz hed gone after 'em w' th nothin' but our hands, but we couldn't follow afoot. How much did they get? I don't rightly know, but not fur from \$50, 000. The hull camp wuz stone-broke, all except Ah Foo, 'n' he wuz the only one uv us had sence enuff not to tell thar durned parson whar he cached his stuff."

Assaulted by a Drunken Man.

Here is an original way of dealing with a drunken man, adopted with great success by Thomas Jefferson Hogg, the biographer of Shelley. "I was about to enter Covent Garden," he says, "when an Irish laborer, bearing an empty hod, accosted me somewhat roughly, and asked why I had run against him. I told him briefly that he was mistaken. Whether somebody had actually pushed the man, or he only sought a quarrel, I know not; but he discoursed for some time as if he considered himself injured or insulted, and being emboldened by my long silence, concluded with a cordial invitation just to push him again.

"Several persons not very unlike him in costume had gathered round, and appeared to regard him with sympathy. "When he paused, I addressed to him slowly and quietly, and with great gravity, these words, as nearly as I can recollect them: "'I have put my hand into the hamper: I have looked upon the sacred barley; I have eaten out of the drum! I have drunk and was well pleased; I have said Knox out-pax, and it is finished."

"Have you, sir?" inquired the astonished Irishman, and his ragged friends pressed round him with, "Where is the hamper, Paddy?" "What barley?" and the like. And ladies from his own country, that is to say, the basket-women, suddenly began to interrogate him:

"Now, I say, Pat, where have you been drinking? What have you had?"

"I turned, therefore, to the right, leaving the astounded neophyte, whom I had thus planted, to expound the mystic words of initiation as he could to his inquisitive companions."

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

How to Have Pure Water for Domestic Purposes—Horseshoe Without Nails—General Farm and Household Notes.

A Cheap Filter.

Our illustration represents a device for filtering water which is within reach of every farmer. There is nothing patented or expensive about it and it may be constructed by the merest tyro in mechanics. The plan is to get two casks—as seen in the engraving—fill the one into which is inserted the spout, or inflow of water, about half full of alternate layers of gravel, charcoal, and pebbles—a layer of gravel first, next six inches of

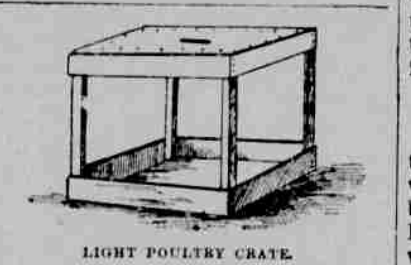


HOMEMADE FILTER.

charcoal, then pebbles, then charcoal again, then a few larger stones. From the bottom of this cask to the bottom of the next have a connection of a gas-pipe, which will rise in an elbow to about half way up the depth of the second cask. The cask is filled with gravel and charcoal just the same as the first. Thus the water is conveyed from the first cask to about half way up the second cask and as it falls by its own gravity, it goes a second filtering. At the bottom of this cask the water, twice filtered, is drawn off for use. Water from a pump, whether from a well, river or tank, may be as readily filtered in this manner as rainwater.

Crate for Shipping Live Poultry.

Express charges on live poultry being double rates, it is desirable to make the crate in which poultry is shipped as light as is consistent with strength. The illustration, from the American Agriculturist, shows what is perhaps the best framework for such a crate. An empty grocery box of requisite size may be sawed in the middle, making the top and bottom of the crate though if the box is at all high, some three or four inches only of the top and of the bottom should be taken. The corner post of inch and a half pine should be well nailed to the top and the sides and ends then covered with burlap or cotton cloth. The top may be of slats or of boards, as shown in the sketch. If of the latter, a hole should be cut both for ventilation and for convenience in handling. Straw should be placed in the bottom, and plenty of oats or wheat s'ntered into it. If



LIGHT POULTRY CRATE.

the birds are to be shipped but a short distance, no water should be placed in the crate, but if sent a long way a tin cup should be provided, and notice pasted on the outside that the fowls within are to be watered by the express messenger. If food is provided for a long journey it should be placed in some receptacle so that the birds will not soil it before it is eaten. Do not crowd birds that are to be shipped a long distance. If they are to be on the way but twenty-four hours, or less, some little crowding will not injure them.

Potato Bugs Love Sunshine.

The potato beetle and larva have made their appearance in England. The London Agricultural Gazette prints a complaint of farmers that they cannot effectively spray with poisons to destroy the slugs, because the spraying only reaches the upper surface of the leaf, while the slug is a great part of the time under the leaf out of reach of any application. This may be the fact in English climate, where on many summer days the under side of the leaf is often the driest and most comfortable place the bug can find. In our American climate the bug finds plenty of sunshine and when feeding is always in it. If the larva retires to the underside of the leaf at night it does not then need to eat anything before morning sunshine tempts him to the surface again. In England, being so much on the under side of the leaf, necessity may force the larva to the habit of eating there, but in a climate thus damp and cool the potato bug will not rapidly increase if his insect enemies are encouraged, or at least not destroyed by poisons.

Our Fertilizers.

For different crops different fertilizers are made in factories. As the great natural resources of prehistoric age were overdrawn, the European agriculturist has utilized the finely ground slag of the basic steel process. The farmer depends no longer on his barn yard, but pure uses his plant food in the most approved form, made in factories from the most unpromising sources of supply. The Atlantic Coast is patrolled by steamers whose occupation is the catching of menhaden or bony fish. After the fish is extracted from these fish, the farmer has a claim on what is left as a source of nitrogen for his crops. South American nitrate of

TEACHING THE CAT A LESSON.

His Wife Is Not Likely to Forget the Experience.

The man who a way has a cure for every ill and a remedy for every evil showed one of his strokes of genius the other day. His wife's cat had

acquired a fondness for one of the bath tubs in the house. Of course this tub was in the next room to the dressing room of the master of the house. Of course, the master of the house doesn't like cats. "Fannie," he said, "I found that cat snoozing in my bath tub again to-day."

"I'm sorry, dear," she said. "I have tried to break her of that habit, but I don't seem to succeed."

"Well, we must have that cat drowned," he said, fiercely. His wife protested mildly. "That is the only annoying trick she has," she said. "It would be a pity to kill her."

"Then," said the man of the house, "I'll take this thing into my own hands. Now, I'll explain to you how I'll do it. You know she gets into the tub. She takes a run, leaps to the edge and goes in with a stop. I'm going to run about three inches of water into the tub, let it stand there and let her get a soaking. You know how a cat likes water," he added significantly.

He put his plan into operation at once. That afternoon pussy did her little hurdie race, as usual, over the side of the bathtub. The plan worked to perfection. There was a loud cry, a streak of cat through the dressing-room and a flash into the sewing room. Near the door of this room stood a perch on which rested in peaceful sleepiness a dignified parrot. The cat tried this hurdie, but missed it, and the parrot, knocked to the floor, added to the force of the cyclone which went raging around the house. A table was knocked over and a statue of the Venus of Milo, already short of arms, was made legless. The adored baby of the house was frightened into spasms, the parrot scolded and screamed herself into a fit and afterward the dripping cat, having made a lightning tour of the house, was found, trembling and subdued, on her mistress' jacket, price \$5.

Barns and Lightning.

The frequency with which barns are struck by lightning has set some long-headed person to think ng, and he has figured out that the buildings, being filled with newly-cut hay and grain, become generators of heat, the heat rises in a column several feet above the barn and attracts the lightning, which readily follows a column of moist or hot air. When the building is reached by the electric fluid, silos follow. The remedy suggested is to throw open the doors as much as possible and let the winds blow through, carrying off the unnatural heat and distributing it. This will not give perfect protection. Nothing yet discovered can do that, but it will prevent the intense heating, the accumulation of heat and vap' r, and will consequently break up the danger column to a great extent, and probably reduce the liability by one-half.

White Clover for Pasture.

White clover is so short and small to be available for hay making, but we know of no plant that makes a better or more enduring pasture. Land that is once well seeded with white clover is never afterward entirely clear from it. Seeds form in the heads all through the season, and they have the faculty of lying in the ground without injury and growing whenever a favorable chance offers. The plant also spreads by trailing on the ground and rooting from the joints, as a strawberry will do, whenever there is a soft and moist place to strike its roots into.—EX.

Farm Notes.

POULTRY that is to be used on the table, if continued and fed on corn and clean water a few days, will be found to have the flesh sweet, juicy, and tender.

CATTLE should not be shipped directly from the pasture. The more rank and rapid the grass growth, the softer the stock. They should be fed some corn at the last.

THE Ohio Experiment Station says that the best of old varieties of strawberries are Wartled, Ludach, Crescent, and Haverland, and no variety seems to have been found that is likely to supersede them.

A TIRE horse added 60 pounds to his weight in a month when fed three pints of molasses on clover hay daily. There is danger of resultant indigestion, and care must be taken, but it will make horses sleek and fat.

M. A. THAYER says that berry vines, canes and fruit buds grown this season produce fruit next year and die. This year's growth of plants and buds, then, practically decided the quantity and quality of fruit that may be expected next year. For this reason the modest vigorous plants should be used in the beginning.

BLACK knot on plum and cherry trees prevails wherever those trees are grown. It can be prevented if all fruit growers will work together to extirpate it. Ohio has a law against it, which should prove beneficial. It is as much a matter of legislation as the destruction of thistles, against which many of the States have passed laws, making it an offense to allow them to grow.

The skim milk from one cow is estimated to be worth \$2 a year. So far as its actual proportion of nutritious matter is concerned it is more valuable than cream, because it contains the protein and mineral matter. Its value on the farm depends on the use so watch it is applied. It should furnish sustenance for two pigs in a year if used in connection with clover and grain.

TEACHING THE CAT A LESSON.

His Wife Is Not Likely to Forget the Experience.

The man who a way has a cure for every ill and a remedy for every evil showed one of his strokes of genius the other day. His wife's cat had acquired a fondness for one of the bath tubs in the house. Of course this tub was in the next room to the dressing room of the master of the house. Of course, the master of the house doesn't like cats. "Fannie," he said, "I found that cat snoozing in my bath tub again to-day."

"I'm sorry, dear," she said. "I have tried to break her of that habit, but I don't seem to succeed."

"Well, we must have that cat drowned," he said, fiercely. His wife protested mildly. "That is the only annoying trick she has," she said. "It would be a pity to kill her."

"Then," said the man of the house, "I'll take this thing into my own hands. Now, I'll explain to you how I'll do it. You know she gets into the tub. She takes a run, leaps to the edge and goes in with a stop. I'm going to run about three inches of water into the tub, let it stand there and let her get a soaking. You know how a cat likes water," he added significantly.

Barns and Lightning.

The frequency with which barns are struck by lightning has set some long-headed person to think ng, and he has figured out that the buildings, being filled with newly-cut hay and grain, become generators of heat, the heat rises in a column several feet above the barn and attracts the lightning, which readily follows a column of moist or hot air. When the building is reached by the electric fluid, silos follow. The remedy suggested is to throw open the doors as much as possible and let the winds blow through, carrying off the unnatural heat and distributing it. This will not give perfect protection. Nothing yet discovered can do that, but it will prevent the intense heating, the accumulation of heat and vap' r, and will consequently break up the danger column to a great extent, and probably reduce the liability by one-half.

White Clover for Pasture.

White clover is so short and small to be available for hay making, but we know of no plant that makes a better or more enduring pasture. Land that is once well seeded with white clover is never afterward entirely clear from it. Seeds form in the heads all through the season, and they have the faculty of lying in the ground without injury and growing whenever a favorable chance offers. The plant also spreads by trailing on the ground and rooting from the joints, as a strawberry will do, whenever there is a soft and moist place to strike its roots into.—EX.

Farm Notes.

POULTRY that is to be used on the table, if continued and fed on corn and clean water a few days, will be found to have the flesh sweet, juicy, and tender.

CATTLE should not be shipped directly from the pasture. The more rank and rapid the grass growth, the softer the stock. They should be fed some corn at the last.

THE Ohio Experiment Station says that the best of old varieties of strawberries are Wartled, Ludach, Crescent, and Haverland, and no variety seems to have been found that is likely to supersede them.

A TIRE horse added 60 pounds to his weight in a month when fed three pints of molasses on clover hay daily. There is danger of resultant indigestion, and care must be taken, but it will make horses sleek and fat.

M. A. THAYER says that berry vines, canes and fruit buds grown this season produce fruit next year and die. This year's growth of plants and buds, then, practically decided the quantity and quality of fruit that may be expected next year. For this reason the modest vigorous plants should be used in the beginning.

BLACK knot on plum and cherry trees prevails wherever those trees are grown. It can be prevented if all fruit growers will work together to extirpate it. Ohio has a law against it, which should prove beneficial. It is as much a matter of legislation as the destruction of thistles, against which many of the States have passed laws, making it an offense to allow them to grow.

The skim milk from one cow is estimated to be worth \$2 a year. So far as its actual proportion of nutritious matter is concerned it is more valuable than cream, because it contains the protein and mineral matter. Its value on the farm depends on the use so watch it is applied. It should furnish sustenance for two pigs in a year if used in connection with clover and grain.