

STUDY IN PRODUCTIVENESS.

Alexander von Humboldt said that South America could produce more human food than any other continent. Very likely he was right. The palm of productivity, even for South America, he assigned to Paraguay, practically every acre of which is tillable. Possibly Humboldt was right there, too; but he overlooked many of the difficulties in the way of using that productivity. Paraguay at present is a cattle country. Climate and range are perfect, says the Chicago Journal. But the insect pest can be endured only by the "native" range cattle, whose hides are as tough as their meat.

Effort after effort has been made to improve the breed of Paraguayan cattle. Effort after effort has failed. The improved stock succumb at once to the insect pests. As a result, no refrigeration plant has been established in Paraguay, and none is expected. To the pleas of the cattlemen, the hard-hearted packers answer that they could not sell Paraguayan beef if they did freeze it. It is useful only for canning purposes—where it comes in to competition with the worn-out mule—or for immediate consumption by persons who cannot get anything better.

When an able bodied man halts you on the street and asks for money on the plea that he is unable to find employment, the chances are ten to one that he is lying. The industrial demand for labor has been steadily increasing from week to week since the close of summer, says the Cleveland Leader. Men are going about the downtown streets of Cleveland bearing signs almost beseeching workers to take the jobs they advertise. In front of all the employment agencies are bulletins soliciting applicants for many kinds of employment, skilled and unskilled. The indications are that there will be an even heavier demand for labor next year. The prosperity that lies behind the refusal of the business world to entertain apprehensions over the most important presidential election held in many years certainly is the solid kind. In these days men are not seeking jobs; the jobs are seeking men.

It is time that the warring of scientists and lovers of nature against the slaughter of useful birds was heeded by the American people and attention paid to their preservation. How many thoughtless men and boys wantonly kill birds never can be known, but the figures must run into the hundreds of thousands and perhaps to the million mark. Generally speaking, every bird that is killed reduces the army of consumers of insect pests, and that means just so many more insects are left free of forage in our agricultural domains.

The Essex squire who has been carried to his burial in a farm wagon drawn by a farm wagon team perpetuates a custom which still exists in other families and in other countries and is of very ancient origin. It typifies the intimate connection that used to exist between the landlord of the soil and its tenants, says the Pall Mall Gazette. The wagon is not usually made funeral nor is the team put into mourning. The wagoner walks with a bit of crepe on his whip and a black armband to his smock; that is all.

Miss Helen Louise Johnson, the new head of the household economics department of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, says that household administration is the privilege of the woman, and that she ought to regard it as a pleasure, as the man does his business. The man, she says, plays his business as he plays a game, and he plays to win. It will probably take Miss Johnson some time, however, to persuade the average housekeeper that washing kettles is a game.

Turkish riflemen hit an aviator in an aeroplane 4,000 feet high. If the sultan had begun the war with a few more such marksmen he might not have been forced to beg peace from little nations long despised in Constantinople.

"Man," says a woman writer, "contributes nothing to the home but money." Still, not every wife has the nerve to send out for a neighbor every time she wants the back of her gown hooked up.

A Los Angeles girl hugged another so hard she cracked three ribs. It must have been a long time since she indulged in the pleasure.

A Chicago woman got two licenses to marry the same week. Nothing like having two strings to your bow.

It is getting so that a baseball fan never has a chance to hibernate any more.

The Best Message

By REV. PARLEY E. ZARTMANN, D.D.,
Secretary of Extension Department of
Moody Bible Institute, Chicago



TEXT—And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2:10-11.

The best message for this Christmas time, the best message the world ever heard, is the message which came to the Judean shepherds on the first Christmas night nearly two thousand years ago; the message of One who had come to redeem mankind. But who can say anything new about this wonderful blessing which follows the coming of Christ? The message has come through the medium of angels from Heaven; prophets had foretold the Saviour, the apostles and martyrs, the saints of all ages have spoken of the glory which followed. Nineteen centuries of eloquence from poets, painters and sculptors, oratory and literature and song have united in telling the story of the glory of the first Christmas and the transforming power of the Christ-child. And yet the story never grows old; it is still the sweetest story ever told; nor is it strange that this should be so, for the coming of Christ was the supreme event in human history, the turning point in the calendar of the world, and the greatest gift to man. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The message was one of good tidings; of salvation, of forgiveness from sin, of deliverance from bondage, of refuge from the storms of life, of peace amid the restlessness of the world, of power over the evil in human nature, of cleansing from the stain of sin, of comfort in the midst of the world's sadness, and of a crown at the end of the race.

The message was of good tidings of great joy, and this is the keynote of the Gospel, for he who really has Christ in the heart can hear the Saviour say and realize the truth of it. "That your joy might be full."

The message is all inclusive—to all people. In the Psalms we read that Christ shall have dominion from sea to sea. There is no narrowness in God's plan. "There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea." This babe born in Bethlehem is he who shall rule in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. "All kings shall bow down before him." There is no better day than Christmas, and no higher theme and no greater motive for an appeal for our interest in foreign missions, for this same Saviour said: "Go ye into all the world."

This is the best message because it announced the Saviour. Redemption is the greatest factor in human history; although it reminds us of the awful fact of sin; for these two explain all mystery and unravel all history. Sin is the ground, redemption the process of all salvation. Sin makes redemption necessary; redemption shows us God, and we shout: "What a wonderful Saviour." In a very true sense God was a Redeemer before he was a Creator. This Saviour is announced as Christ and Lord, and every word is emphatic. Christ is the Messiah who was to come, and as Lord he takes his place as ruler in the hearts and lives of those who accept him.

The emphasis of the message is upon the fact that Jesus is the Saviour. There is one line that runs through all the Bible; it is the scarlet thread of the blood of Christ. There is one fact that shines out on every page of the book, the face of One who became man for us men and for our salvation. This is the message of prophets and angels, of types and symbols, of persons and sacrifices; the multitudes have found it true. It reminds one of the first words of a song used in the south:

"How do I know my Lord is divine?
He saves me from my sin."
The message is personal—"Unto you." Blessed be the night that song was born; blessed be the Saviour who came and who now lives in his saints; blessed be the God who sent such a wonderful redemption and said: "Whosoever believeth in him shall not perish." So the blessing reaches me and that means Christmas for my soul and redemption for me, and peace, and joy, and Christ, and Heaven—if I will. How is it with you? Has Christ been born unto you as a Savior? Have you accepted the greatest gift God could make? Have you made the Babe of Bethlehem your Savior and Christ and Lord?

"O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emanuel!"

Return of Flounce to Favor for Southland Dancing Frocks



Photo. by Underwood & Underwood, N. Y.

Flounces have come back into fashion, as is evidenced by the dainty dancing gowns for wear at Palm Beach, and by quite as dainty day costumes of embroidery and sheer materials. Flounces—the modern flounces, at least—are not gathered at the upper edge in the least, but are applied flatly to the narrow skirt so that the narrow silhouette is not spoiled. Many of the most charming frocks for the southland show very sheer machine embroidered flouncings used in this way and the illustration herewith pictures gold embroidered chiffon used in the same fashion, one flounce falling above the other in three tiers.

LATEST IN LUNCHEON SETS FRENCH JEWELRY IN VOGUE

Can Be Made With Prettiest of Effects Without Too Great Strain on the Purchaser's Purse.

At midseason one always goes over the house to find what needs renewing in linens, and bureau scarfs are usually among the things which must be replaced. For either chifferon, serving table or sideboard flit lace is popular, but to those who do not care for it point de Venise is shown. Of course, these real lace scarfs bring immense prices, ranging from about \$150 up to \$1,000. For those who are content with excessive simplicity plain hemstitched linen is to be had and these are priced up from \$1 according to size. Luncheon sets are to be had reasonably and are indispensable when one wishes to keep house easily and well. The sets embroidered in colored silk are out of fashion and the all-linen embroidered in linen thread or lace and embroidery sets are in fashion. These average 25 pieces to the set and range in price from less than \$10 to \$500 and \$1,000. For daily use Madera embroidered sets, though they have been popular for years, are still in vogue and are always satisfactory in appearance and wearing quality.

Artificial Trinkets Are Now Worn by the Best Dressed of the Society Women.

With the makers of this attractive jewelry growing more clever each year and copying more closely the genuine, it has long since ceased to be a social error for the well-dressed woman to use it. The designs are artistic, the pieces useful and the assortment offered so wonderfully large, a woman has at her disposal innumerable little trinkets for her adorning.

It is particularly suited for gift giving, particularly from one woman to another. Now that earrings are so very much the vogue one may have the right kind for each gown, when the most elaborate pair seldom costs a sum over two figures and much more frequently one below it. The pearl and rhinestone effects are especially good, and there are gleaming pendants, little bowknots and other ornaments with which to deck our ears and fill our trinket boxes.

Then there are corsage pins to hold one's flowers in place, delicate trifles that are almost as pretty as the blossoms they hold. Slipper buckles, too, are in this French jewelry—enamelled and jeweled and rhinestone affairs that look their best when decorating a satin, kid or suede slipper.

What with ruffles and frills and Robespierre collars and other neck fixings, she is an unusual woman who does not need for several bar pins. If the stones are glass and the pearls baroque, the gems rhinestone and the metal but near-roid, one may procure the prettiest of them for quite a moderate sum.

Accordion Plaited Waists.
Nowadays the waist has entered upon a new phase, and the accordion plaited example is carrying all before it.

Every girl must have her little waist accordion plaited, while most of these are belted in at the waist with a tiny accordion-basque depending from it. Nylon and crepe de chine are the favorite materials, and the brocade belt of some vivid tint which encircles the waist has usually one short end depending from it finished with thick fringe.

Collars on Children's Coats.
While a number of large collars are still being used on children's coats, says the Dry Goods Economist, the tendency is to have them a little smaller than was the case last season. The revers also are made to conform with this style. Many of the newest models have lingerie collars. These are either buttoned or basted on so that they can be readily taken off when soiled. Furthermore, the opportunity is presented of having one or more collars to the same coat.

French Plumes.
French plumes in solid and two toned effects are in evidence. Many small hats depend on some ostrich novelty, placed at some odd angle for decoration.

"YVONNE."



Charming theater blouse, in black chiffon over biscuit swifflon, with fine gold lace and deep swathing of Chartreuse ribbon.

Warm Foot Muff.
A foot muff of leather, fur lined, fitted with an electric or hot water foot warmer and made so that it can be drawn up snugly around the ankles, where it is finished with a wide band of long haired fur, is something every woman who motors much in winter should possess.

IRRIGATION OF COTTON CROP

Much Depends Upon Conditions, Says Prof. Kyle—Greatest Good Comes From Conserving Water.

E. J. Kyle, dean of the school of agriculture of the Texas A. and M. college, has received this inquiry: "How would a half-inch of water applied by subirrigation to a cotton crop at the time it is most in need of moisture benefit the crop and increase the yield, the water to be applied directly at the root of the plant and covered with dry soil to stop evaporation, the estimate being two and one-half quarts of water, equal to one inch of rainfall?"

To this Mr. Kyle replies: It is impossible to say just how much one-half inch water would benefit cotton, so much depends upon conditions. For instance, if you would set aside two plots of one acre each planted in cotton in an arid section where there was very little rainfall during the growing season, and on one of these acre plots apply one-half inch of water to the roots of the plants at the time they needed the moisture and on the other acre plot apply no water at all, the benefit would depend on when the next rainfall came.

If the rainfall came within the next few days, the application would not be of nearly so much benefit as in case the drought should continue as it would be too late for the rain to do any good for the non-irrigated cotton. In that case the irrigated cotton being able to hold up and continue growing until the final rain came, might be benefited 100 per cent. It is quite a frequent occurrence in this state for corn and cotton to be reduced one-half or more in yield on account of drought. Last spring we had almost a failure in corn crop due to the lack of rainfall just as the corn was in silk. In a case like that, if one-half inch of water could be applied to the roots of the plants it could easily have resulted in a benefit of 50 to 75 per cent., and in some cases probably more than that. The greatest good from irrigation would come from applying the water under the soil to the roots of the plants so as to prevent as much evaporation as possible. I should judge that a half-inch applied in this way would be worth about as much more than an inch applied to the surface.

BARLEY MAKES JUICY BACON

It is Also Good for Sheep and as Feed for Horses and Cattle is Nearly Equal to Corn.

Of course you like the big, juicy, red and white streaked strips of bacon. But you may not know that this kind of bacon is produced by feeding ground barley mixed with skim milk. Soaked barley, alone, is an excellent hog feed. Barley also is good for sheep, and as a feed for horses and cattle is nearly equal to corn.

You can't produce a better hog pasture than by sowing barley in the early fall, if the ground is sufficiently moist, putting the seed in thickly and at a depth of three or four inches. This furnishes excellent winter grazing until the ground freezes. Barley also makes very nutritious hay if sown thickly in the early spring, cut in the flowering stage, and properly cured. The hedges will then be soft and will not affect the mouths of the animals eating it.

This crop does best on deeply plowed soil. It is well to follow a crop of potatoes with barley. In a six-years' test at the Kansas agricultural college this kind produced an average yearly yield of 48.8 bushels an acre—15 bushels more than any other kind.

GENERAL FARM NOTES

It is not a hard thing to kill weeds if you know how to go about it. Clean grain always brings fancy prices. Mixed, dirty grain means low prices.

As a practical matter it pays to grind the feed—and to grind it fine and often. Be careful in covering plants with litter to guard against the ravages of field mice.

It is a mistake to suppose that you can take any cow and feed her well and get big profits.

The degree of success obtained in any line of work depends a great deal upon knowing the work well.

In some cows the hardness of butter depends more on the character of the food than upon the nutritive ratio. In an emergency mules may be worked for 24 hours without water and for two or three days without food.

The appearance of the package as well as the way the butter is packed has a great deal to do with the selling price.

Milk pans and pails are all the better for a good sun bath in a sweet, airy place after having been washed, scalded and dried.

Keep the bearings clean and well oiled and the machine level and your separator will run easier, do better work and last longer.

One of the main causes for having to churn for a long time is in having the temperature of the cream either too warm or too cool.

Knowing the yield of milk, its quality and the cost of keep, we can determine to a certainty the value of a cow as a business proposition.

Mules may be used for all purposes for which horses are suited, and in addition are well adapted to several lines of work in which horses cannot be employed.

THOSE RHEUMATIC TWINGES

Much of the rheumatic pain that comes in damp, changing weather is the work of uric acid crystals.



Needles couldn't cut, tear or hurt any worse when the affected muscle joint is used.

If such attacks are marked with headache, backache, dizziness and disturbance of the urine, it's time to help the weakened kidneys. Doan's Kidney Pills quickly help sick kidneys.

An Oregon Case
John H. Matthews, of East First St., The Dalles, Ore., says: "My back ached so I could hardly stoop or straighten. The kidney secretions became profuse, obliging me to arise many times a night and the passages were very painful. My kidneys became so disordered that I thought I was done for. Doan's Kidney Pills however, went right to the root of the trouble and in over three years my cure has been permanent."

Get Doan's at Any Store, 50c a Box
DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS
FOSTER-MILBURN CO., Buffalo, New York

WHERE WE FIND EMERALDS

Famous Muzo Mines in the Republic of Colombia Produce Finest Gems.

The finest emeralds are found in the Republic of Colombia, at the famous Muzo mines in the department of Boyaca, seventy miles north by west of Bogota, which have been worked since 1558. The Spaniards mined there in the middle of the sixteenth century, but withdrew after a time, owing to continual fighting with the Indians; with the result that for awhile the locality of the mines was unknown. They are now worked by an English company, in partnership with the government. The emeralds at Muzo occur in calcite veins running through black carboniferous limestone in all directions and at all angles. Often the limestone is covered with earth, in which bushes and trees are growing; this has to be cleared before prospecting is possible. When calcite veins have been located, the side of the hill is dug away in "banks," usually by Indians, whose chief tool is a steel bar forged to a point at one end. The pieces of calcite vein are examined superficially for emeralds, and are then set aside for conveyance to the sorting-shed, where a detailed examination is made, and the emeralds are divided into fifteen grades according to color, transparency, size, freedom from flaws, and so on.

Breath Was "Out of Place."

Papa took Harry to the country to visit his grandparents. They lived a short distance from the village where the train stopped. Harry insisted on running as they approached the home of his grandparents. They had not gone far, however, until Harry's breath was coming in short jerks and he could hardly talk.

"Wait—wait—a minute—papa," he gasped.

"What's the matter, son?" asked the father.

"My—breath—is all out of place," gasped the little fellow.

Her Advice.

"Reginald," says the beautiful object of his adoration, "I happened to read in the paper that sugar has gone away up in price, and for that reason candy is more expensive. I just think you are extravagant to keep bringing me a pound every time you call."

"I am glad to do it, darling," avows Reginald.

"I know you are but you must learn to be economical. Papa told mamma to buy sugar by the barrel and get it cheaper, so maybe you would better buy candy for me the same way."

Oh, Fudge.

"He is a regular kleptomaniac."

"And still you intend marrying him?"

"Sure. He steals nothing but kisses."

Handy Breakfast

Ready to Serve
Direct From Package
Post Toasties
and cream

A dainty dish of toasted Indian Corn, brimful of sweet flavour and substantial nourishment.

Post Toasties in the pantry mean many delicious breakfasts.

Direct to your table in sealed, air-tight packages.

Sold by Grocers everywhere.

"The Memory Lingers"

Postum Cereal Co., Ltd.
Battle Creek, Mich.