

STRANGE LAND TENURES.

Every student of English history or fiction has read of ancient leases of property which require rent to be paid in peppercorns or roses, or in some other curious way. The Windsor Magazine describes some customs in connection with land tenure which are still more curious.

Whenever a certain estate at Chingford, in Essex, passes into new hands, the owner, with his wife, man servant and maid servant, goes on horseback to the parsonage and pays homage by blowing three blasts upon a horn. He carries a hawk upon his fist, and his servant leads a greyhound, both supposed to be for the use of the rector for that day.

The newcomer receives a chicken for the hawk, a peck of oats for his horse and a loaf of bread for his greyhound. After dinner the owner blows three more blasts, and then with his party withdraws from the rectory.

The "Castor-Whip Tenure" is even more remarkable. On Palm Sunday every year a servant from the Broughton estate attends service at Castor Church with a new cart-whip, and after cracking it three times in the porch, marches with it to the manor-house.

When the clergyman begins the sermon the servant quits his seat. A purse containing thirty pieces of silver is fixed at the end of the whip-lash, and, kneeling on a cushion, he holds the purse suspended over the head of the clergyman until the end of the sermon. Then purse and whip are left at the manor-house.

The "Whisper Court" at Rochford, Essex, is a strange Michaelmas observance held under the superintendence of the steward of the manor. The business of the court is carried out at midnight in the open air.

The absence of a tenant is punishable by a fine of double rent for each hour he fails to be in attendance; no artificial light except a firebrand is permitted; the proceedings are recorded by means of one of the embers of the brand. The roll of fourteen tenants is called over and answered to in a whisper, and then they kneel and swear allegiance.

The explanation of this odd ceremony is that, very many years ago, the lord of the manor, after an absence from his estate, was returning home by night. Passing over King's Hill, he accidentally heard some of his discontented tenantry plotting his assassination, and, thus warned, he reached home by an unexpected route. He enacted that from that time forth the tenants on his estate should assemble every year exactly at the same time to do him homage round a post which he erected on the precise spot where the plotters met.

The Care of Umbrellas.

More umbrellas are spoiled through careless treatment than wear out from actual hard work. One great mistake that many people make is to leave an umbrella standing on its point to dry after it has been used in the rain. This is most harmful, as all the water trickles down and settles in the folds at the narrow end of the silk, and this not only causes the silk to rot, but the wire frame to grow rusty. The right way to treat a wet umbrella when brought into the house is to open it wide and wipe it as dry as possible, then half close it and leave it standing on its handle to drain. Wet umbrellas should never be put near a fire; this also is likely to cause the silk to split.

Future Life of Animals.

Sir William Blunden, a doctor and baronet, has favored a meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals with some views on the future state of animals. He "certainly believed," he said, in the future existence of animals, and, though he could not bring forward evidence in support of his proposition, he could not at the same time bring forward evidence to the contrary. If they took the case of the tinker's ass, which was born and reared in hardship, he found it hard to think that a merciful Creator formed that animal merely to suffer at the hands of man without receiving some compensation in the next life, if not in the present.

Chose a Suitable Text.

"Dr. Thirdly is certainly an up-to-date clergyman," said Fosdick.

"So?" said Keedick.

"Yes, sir. One of his parishioners was killed by the explosion of his automobile and the doctor took for the text of his funeral sermon the biblical account of Elijah going to heaven in a chariot of fire."—Smart Set.

Comparatively Speaking.

First child—My father's got so much money he doesn't know how to spend it.

Second child—That's nothing. My father's got so much money that mother can't spend it.—New York Sun.

Feminine Point of View.

He—Don't you think Miss Pinkleigh is rather pretty?

She—Well, she isn't a bad-looking girl—when she has her complexion on.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

He who waits on fate wins failure.

Just remember, as you go along, that the present good roads movement owes its origin to the bicycle.

The one fact that shines out lucid and distinct in the "explanations" regarding railways wrecks is that they happen.

Kaiser Wilhelm has ended his voice training and doubtless he now has it in a condition to meet all comers for the heavyweight championship.

Since Tsi An took to an automobile the Boxers have suspended operations. They doubtless recognize superior facilities for homicide when they see them.

Those who are inclined to criticize fireproof construction in buildings should remember that "fire proof" is only a relative term. Steel will melt if the fire is hot enough.

A Connecticut man has lost a fortune on a technicality. The only way in which he can get even is to go into the bribing and grafting business and then get off on another technicality.

The Chicago professor who complains that more attention is paid to raising pigs than rearing children should read the report of the woman who fed her pig and her baby from the same bottle.

As a birthday present an Iowa farmer gave his 16-year-old daughter 500 pigs. His idea was to take her attention away from some of these frisky young animals who poisoned the air of the front steps with monoxide of cigarette.

A British schoolboy is held responsible for the following comment in his school examination papers upon one of our national institutions: "In the United States people are put to death by elocution." Indeed, the boy spoke truer than he knew.

There are no swear words in the Japanese language. The nearest one Jap can come to swearing at another is to call him a beast. After this probably when one of the mikado's subjects desires to be particularly abusive he will call the other fellow a bear.

"Men who run great businesses," says young Rockefeller, "cannot afford to be dishonest; scrupulous honesty is necessary to success." Ah! that explains why J. Pierpont Morgan frankly owned up to the New York tax assessor that he was worth \$400,000.

The San Juan News says that Americans have virtually made baseball the national outdoor sport of Porto Rico. Tennis tournaments are also held, and football, cycling and other pastimes have been tried to some extent. When a Northerner is acclimated, it is said, he enjoys the various forms of outdoor exercise much as he does in the North. Southward the course of empire takes its way.

The movement for the preservation of the Calaveras groves of big trees in a national park has enlisted support in thirty States outside of California, and the petitions on file in Congress contain the names of 1,437,260 persons. Of these 239,560 are citizens of California. The others are scattered in all parts of the country—significant testimony to the national character of the demand. President Roosevelt is heartily in favor of the plan, for the success of which a determined effort is now making.

A few years ago several States passed laws by which the public was made financially responsible for mob violence to persons, as it has, of course, long been responsible for destruction of property by the same cause. Doubts as to whether such laws would be enforced have been lessened by some recent events. In Ohio two counties have been compelled to pay heavy damages for mob violence to residents of the counties, and in Louisiana five thousand dollars has been awarded to the family of each of three victims of mob law—or lawlessness.

Many people think that the world does not advance, and that it is useless to agitate for reforms. Yet it was only a far back as 1829 that the agitation for the normal school education of women began. The amount of prejudice at that time against the advanced education of women is evidenced in the case of Rev. Charles Brooks, a cultivated and refined Unitarian minister, who went all over Massachusetts lecturing on the higher education of women and who was actually mobbed in some communities by what were then called the better classes, and a judge of him, with a dunce's cap, was

exhibited, bearing the legend: "A fool going to the legislature to ask for money for a normal school for young girls." Now there is no fear of the educated woman in Massachusetts; that is, unless you are planning to hold her hand.

The great want of this age is men; men who are honest and sound from center to circumference, true to the heart's core; men who will condemn wrong in friend or foe, in themselves as well as others; men whose consciences are as steady as the needle to the pole; men who would stand for the right if the heavens totter and the earth reels; men who can tell the truth and look the world and the devil right in the eye; men who never fag or flinch; men who have courage without shouting to bring it; men to whom the current of everlasting life runs still and deep and strong; men who know their place and fill it; men who will not lie; men who are willing to earn what they eat and perform what they are paid for doing.

If there is any spot on earth which deserves the title of the "dark and bloody ground" it is not Kentucky, but Haiti. From the very day in 1492 when Columbus and his men set foot upon the shore, the beautiful but ill-fated island has been the scene of warfare, torture, murder, anarchy and misery. In a single generation the native inhabitants were totally destroyed by the cruelty of the Spanish invaders. Their places were filled by negro slaves imported from Africa. Then came the buccaners, mostly French pirates and marauders, who settled on the west coast. Their horrible deeds make in themselves a whole chapter of history. In 1867 the western part of the island was ceded to France. For another hundred years negro slaves poured in, and then between the three races, the black, the white and the mixed, there broke out one of the most terrible struggles in history. It resulted in the extermination of the whites and the independence of the negroes, under that great leader, Toussaint L'Ouverture. In 1801 France reconquered the island, but lost it again two years later. Since then the story of Haiti has been one long chapter of wars. The Dominican Republic was formed in 1843. This event, instead of giving over that half of the island—the eastern—to peaceful government, merely provided another stage for melodrama, and the history of Haiti as a whole continued in the new political division. The Dominican Republic, which is the division just now in the throes of anarchy, has a population of somewhat more than six hundred and ten thousand, mostly negroes and mulattoes. Suffrage is universal, in theory, at least, and a president is supposed to be elected once every four years. In point of fact, the people are absolutely incapable of self-rule, and the president is any man who is able to seize the government by force and to hold it. The present trouble began with an attack by General Morales up on the government of President Wosy Gil, who himself was only the head of a government which had come into power seven months before by overthrowing the administration of President Vasquez. Danger to the lives and property of foreign residents of Santo Domingo has made it necessary for the United States and other countries to send warships and check the fighting, but every one knows that this is only a makeshift. A satisfactory and permanent arrangement compatible with the independence of the republic is more difficult to devise. No one has yet suggested it.

Housekeeping in France.

In a talk by Miss Maria Parlo, on French housekeeping, she said that economy and patience were two strong traits of the French housekeeper. Many inconveniences and conditions unknown to American housewives have to be overcome, but, notwithstanding this, the French home is a model of neatness and comfort outside of, perhaps, the one point of temperature for in France the question of fuel is an important one. According to Miss Parlo, French cookery is not complicated, as is generally supposed; for example, the usual French breakfast consists of a cup of coffee or chocolate without cream and a slice of bread or roll, and high seasonings of food are unknown, herbs and vegetables being used in preference to spices. This statement of the situation is contrary to the general belief, and certainly if we accept it as literally true, the highly-seasoned dishes we obtain in American large cities must be originated by others than Frenchmen.

Weather Signs.

Mrs. Strongley—John, mother is coming to spend a week with us.

Mr. Strongley—Thunder and lightning!

Mrs. Strongley—No, just reign—Butte Inter-Mountain.

The Czar's Scepter.

The Russian state scepter is of solid gold, three feet long, and contains among its ornaments, 268 diamonds, 360 rubies and 15 emeralds.

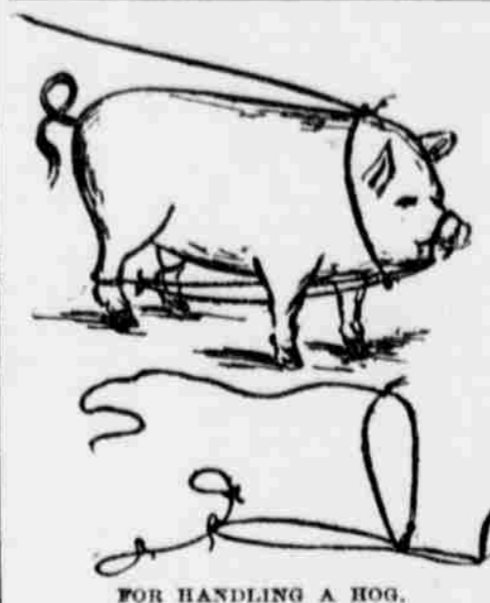
Never marry a woman big enough to whip you.



Handling an Unruly Hog.

Any one who has tried it will testify that it is not an easy task to handle a stubborn hog, and most hogs are stubborn. If one has occasion to do this work the device shown in the cut is simple and effective. Take a strong rope about the diameter of a clothes-line and about ten or twelve feet long. From this cut off three feet and tie a loop in each end, then tie the remaining piece in the center of the looped piece and bring the loop over the snout of the hog after slipping the loops in the first piece over his hind feet.

Have a ring in the long looped piece, and through this slip another rope, also looped, so as to come over his neck, as shown in the cut. This rope may be heavier than the first one, and if the



FOR HANDLING A HOG.

animal is unruly and strong, the end which is shown over the back of the hog extending to the hand of the one who is driving it, may be slipped over his rump and into the lower loop and tied, leaving a long loop in the driver's hands for better control. The illustrations show clearly how the contrivance is constructed.

To Grow Fine Celery.

A Michigan gardener writes: Take any land that will stand drought, put at least one load of well-rotted manure on every square rod of ground, plow and fit the ground well, set plants in rows 16 inches apart and six to eight inches apart in the row (set with an old brick trowel), keep the surface well worked till the plants cover the ground, after which no weeds will bother. By raising celery by this method the plants become dense, and consequently darken the lower parts of the plants, causing the celery to grow white from the center. None but White Plume will grow successfully this way. White Plume can be grown in single row and be blanched by placing bundles of corn stalks on both rows. Bundles should be at least eight inches in diameter. I grew White Plume celery 33 inches high last year on high ground, and it was as white as snow. I find the Giant Pascal is best for late winter use, but it has to be earthed to blanch. These two varieties are the best to my notion.

One-Man Corn Sled.

Make two runners, one 5 feet and one 7 or 8 feet long; use 2x6 stuff; place 2 feet apart and nail boards on top as shown in cut. Fasten a scythe blade on for knife. It is better than the steel plate knives. Knife should run high on edge and at an angle of about 45 degrees from the runners.



A ONE-MAN CORN SLED.

The object of the long runner is to keep the sled from bucking to one side, which is caused by the cutting being all done on one side. We stand up to cut in large corn, and put on a box and sit down in small. It is a waste of labor to knock the corn down on sled and pick it up again. Keep it up in your arms. The single sled is now preferred to the double ones here. I am a boy 14 years old. My father has taken the Practical Farmer since before I was born.—Archie Orange, Galesburg, Kan.

On Sowing Clover.

Sowing clover is an absorbing question with farmers who desire to keep up the fertility of their land. When seed is high there is always a disposition, with some, to defer sowing clover until another year, and plow up the fields again. Seed may be cheaper next year, you know. This management may have kept these same fields under the plow for years, making it more uncertain to secure a catch, and requiring more acres, every year, to secure the requisite amount of grain. It is unwise and foolish to fail to sow clover because seed is dear.

Diversified Farming in the Extremes.

The managers of the Maryville (Mo.) Street Fair offered a \$10 prize to the Nodaway County agriculturist who should exhibit the largest number of farm products grown on his farm this season. W. R. Bosley, of Ravenwood, drove up with a wagon load of stuff and took the prize.

His wagon contained a stalk of corn thirteen and one-half feet high; white, red, yellow and speckled corn in ear; wheat, rye, buckwheat, rape, timothy-seed, oats, thirteen kinds of green beans and peas, three kinds of pop-corn, two kinds of cucumbers, one red pig, a turkey, two chickens, two Guinea fowls, hedge balls, strawberry-seed, one cabbage weighing fifteen pounds, celery, summer and winter lettuce, peanuts, two kinds of beets, horseradish, asparagus, bluestem grass, slough grass, clover hay, prairie hay, carrots, green mustard, six kinds of pickles, seven kinds of jelly, jam, cherries, three kinds of parsnips, three gourds, two kinds of sunflower seed, sweet corn, can of honey, castor bean, one sunflower, the flower of which measured forty-six inches in circumference; sugar cane, two kinds of millet in stalk, an oyster plant, four kinds of radishes, turnips, four kinds of Irish potatoes, two kinds of sweet potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, two kinds of squash, green lettuce and onions.—Baltimore American.

How to Market the Butter.

Those who possess the knack of making butter that has that fragrant flavor that distinguishes the produce of many farm dairies, often make the mistake of keeping the butter on hand too long after it is made before marketing it. It will be found that however palatable it may be, and however good the flavor it possesses when first made, it will have escaped after too long keeping. Even when transported long distances it loses its distinctiveness while in transit. In fact, it seems that butter which possesses to a large degree this much-desired flavor deteriorates much quicker than an inferior kind. As a consequence of this, the farmer's wife who makes a superior article which has a local reputation for excellence should endeavor to dispose of the product to local trade, or at least sell it so near home that it will be but a day or two between the churn and the customer. This can be easily managed in almost any locality where there is a market for it by securing a list of private customers and furnish it to them direct as they need it. This class of patrons are much more profitable year in and year out than the city hotels or the commission houses or those customers who buy in the general market.

To Prevent Black Rot.

As a preventive of black rot in vineyards next season the North Carolina experiment station recommends that all dead leaves and rotten grapes be raked up and removed and rotten grapes clinging to the vines and trellises picked off.

Loose shredded bark that can be readily pulled from the vines prunings, dead grass and weeds should be burned; in fact, anything capable of harboring the dustlike spore should be destroyed or taken away.

While the vines are still in a dormant condition, spray with the copper sulphate solution, thoroughly wetting the vines and posts, and paying particular attention to bunches of tendrils or rough surfaces on the posts that would be likely to retain the spores. It is much easier to keep black rot out of a vineyard once cleaned than to keep it down in a vineyard not cleaned.

Sheep for Mutton.

Mutton as a human food is gaining rapidly in reputation. So much improvement has been made in the methods of breeding, fattening, slaughtering and ripening mutton that a great army of people who were once prejudiced against it no longer find anything the matter with it. Good authorities predict that the time is rapidly approaching when as many sheep and lambs will be slaughtered in this country as there are hogs and cattle slaughtered now. History shows us that in old countries mutton is the poor man's meat. The reason for this is that it can be raised at less cost.

Good Milkers' Milk Veins.

Good milkers will almost invariably show a well-developed milk vein. This big vein which carries the blood from the bag or udder to the heart for purification should constitute considerable of a network on the udder itself and should then continue well forward on the belly and disappear in the region of the heart.

Some Kansas Wheat Yields.

The banner yield of wheat in Kansas is said to be that of Joseph C. Ort, in Gove county, who thrashed 228 bushels of 62-pound wheat from three acres of an old corral, and 4,563 bushels (eleven ton weight) from a 100-acre field. The seed was Turkey red, one bushel to the acre. The three-acre piece had been heavily fertilized for vegetables, and after these were gone he again fertilized and plowed it four inches deep.

During 1903 Boston received 60,595,976 pounds of butter.