

THE POPULAR PULPIT

LITTLE SINS.

By Rev. John J. Donlan.

"Know ye that your sin shall overtake you."—Numbers 32: 23.

Reputation is the key to manhood. It leads us to a regard for the finer life in this beautiful, elusive and half-veiled world. "A good name is better than precious ointment," and so much of the affection and kindness of social sweetness is built upon the innate desire to adjust self to a harmonized realization of the rights of our fellow men.

No solitary act can purchase a good name. The desire to be esteemed should be built upon staleness of thought, word and action. The sum total is character, which again is but a confirmation of righteousness. It is difficult to comprehend the philosophy of the moral order unless it be founded upon a righteous being, and so the fundamental conception of character lifts us above merely and above the breathing of the divine image in our souls.

We are not automatons, but souls endowed with liberty of choice between good and evil. On this depends all moral growth and soul development. Good, therefore, in any form is the goal of humanity. But even if the spirit of goodness dwells in us, yet may we lessen His influence and unconsciously degrade our characters. As "dying flies spoil the sweetness of ointment," without rendering it totally unfit, so little failings may weaken the delicacy of our better selves without destroying our permanent virtue. Such heinous offenses as profanity, drunkenness, theft or lewdness are so powerful as to overwhelm us with a terrifying sense of guilt. When these sins are committed there can be no misunderstanding of the consequences. The character is entirely besmirched. But when it is a question of slight blemishes or petty defects of Christian manhood the sensibility of the conscience does not always recognize the wound.

Like the termite that leaves the bark uninjured while it eats the heart of the tree, so the guilt of little sins becomes a moral disintegration. If moral anarchy rioted in our souls, we could "put on the armor of light" instantly and fight; but because it is only moral confusion that reigns, we have no inclination to set ourselves aright. And all this time our frailties are working out their own punishment. For the moral system is inexorable. **Life is no more stationary than the Great East.** Every thought, word or action makes for our uplifting or degrading as the processes go on and no neutrality is possible. The saddest of all deaths is the death of a soul in a body still strong and vigorous.

The mistake made is in thinking that this life is one of fulfillment, that all process depends on our sagacity, that ultimate achievement depends on our own exertions, that the competition of energies compensates for the sassy descent from lofty standards. But this life is not complete; we are simply in a state of preparation. Life is a series of purifying processes. It is the expansion of soul culture based on divine ideals. Hence, in the present process of development, our burden of righteousness should be borne, the sorrows of abnegation endured, if we would come into final possession of eternal bliss. God never intended that our journey toward immortality should be a negative quantity—we should not cumber the ground if we are not fruit bearers. Let us then robe ourselves in the exalted attributes of divine character; let conscience, untroubled by little sins, be aroused through abounding grace to stand confessed blameless, harmless and without rebuke.

Love is stronger, safer and saner than law, because in it there is no compromise. Let love overshadow our every thought, word and action; let our sin be excess of divine love, and we shall then have no fear if it overtakes us.

SYMPATHY.

By Henry F. Cope.

"Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."—Gal. 6: 2.

To be loveless is to be lawless in the worst sense. The supreme sin is that of selfishness and the greatest of all religion's gifts to this world is the spirit of thought, care and service for others, the cultivation of willingness, even to sacrifice, for those who have no stronger claim on us than that they are human beings.

Nothing could be more simple than

the two essential commands given by Jesus: To love the Father of us all with all the heart and mind and strength and to love one's neighbor as one's self. The second law fulfills the first; fraternal affection leads to filial love. If a man does not love his brother, whom he can see, how can he love the Father, who is unseen?

We may be selfish as a race; but a selfish religion will never get any general hold on the hearts of men. So long as preaching made its appeal to instincts of self-preservation alone, urging us to flee from punishment and to fix ourselves solid for the future, it awakened no more enthusiasm than any other life-or fire-insurance scheme. Religion has been mighty only as it has glowed with a consuming passion to save others, to do good to all men, a longing that was willing to lose all that they might be helped.

The life of Christ is the best commentary on "the law of Christ"; He showed how to "bear the burdens of others"; He had troubles enough of His own; but He did not go about advertising them or exhibiting them as arguments for immunity from the troubles of His neighbors. His whole thought seems to have been for the sick ones, the sorrowing, stricken parents, the hungry mob, maimed bodies and imprisoned minds. None ever sought Him only to find the busy sign at His door. His law of life is the living in openness of touch with men; it keeps the gloves off the heart; it quickens and strengthens the spontaneity of the hand to help.

The greatest danger of our day is that its strife shall ent away our hearts, that the struggle for sustenance shall crush all sympathy, that we shall adopt the business creed of success at any price, no matter what the damage done to others. The law of every man for himself inevitably means the devil in us all. Insensibility to suffering is too great a price to pay for any kind of success. It will be a dark day for us if this age of steel turns our hearts to its own element.

True, we have organized charity. And what could be colder where the spirit of kindness is lacking? Nothing can ever compensate for the old neighborly interest in one another, the grief over the friend's losses, the tender inquiry for his welfare, the little kindly act of help. If we are building up walls of separation between ourselves and our fellows we are constructing our own sepulchers. We had better be buried the day we cease to ask, with real solicitude, "And how are all the folks?"

We do well to dot the cities with institutions of benevolence; but better far is it to have in everyone the heart of tender regard, the eyes that see in every face the story of struggles and needs, cares and burdens, just like your own. People are hungry for sympathy. Your hand can never help until you give them your heart.

Sympathy is more than sentiment. It loathes the impostor as much as it loves the impotent. It helps one by a gift and another by throwing him on his own resources. In every instance it is the seeing of another's life through the eyes with which we look on our own, and the consequent doing for another life what we would like to have done for our own.

The privileges of sympathy are open to all; none is too poor to pity. It is not a matter of giving money, but of giving the self. It is not the luxury of the idle; the path of service offers largest opportunities for sympathy. Interest, consideration, fellow feeling are things we all can give. Sympathy does not need to wait for great enterprises; it suggests the next, simplest, kindly thing to do. The little deeds of love make the largest record in the land where love is fully understood. Love is the one thing that lifts the world, and most of all is he lifted who learns to love the least of his fellows.

SHORT METER SERMONS.

Life's rest comes in its toil.

There is no justice without love.

Sin and sorrow often have the same root.

Religion is more than a prayer in the slot machine.

It takes more than pulpit thunder to strike sin down.

You cannot give life to men without giving life for them.

It's a poor kind of faith that you have to have faith in.

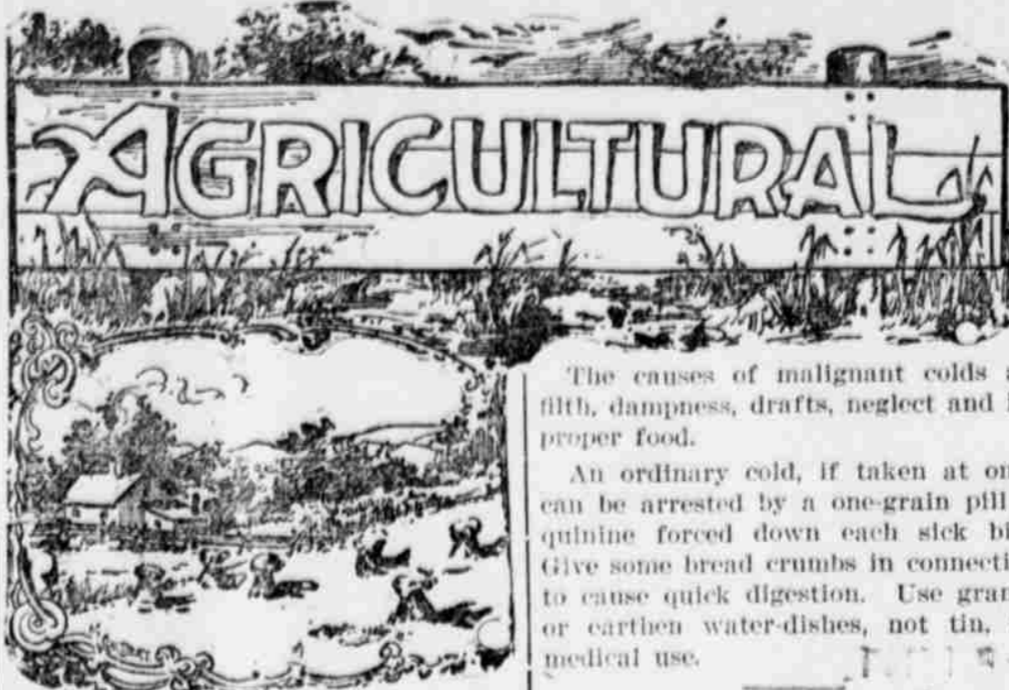
You do not escape from temptation by fleeing from trial.

Love does not overlook faults; it looks through them.

Where the life knows no waste the heart knows no wealth.

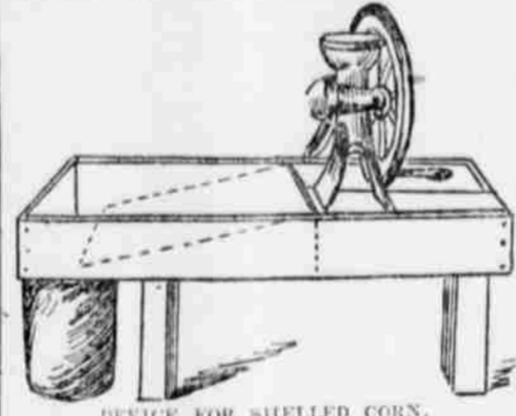
There is more good in a bad boy than in the best of dead men.

Salvation may be sensational, but sensation is not salvation.



For Shelled Corn.

Where considerable corn has to be shelled for the animals on the farm it is often wasted by falling on the barn floor and through the cracks between the boards. The device here suggested is easily made, and if correctly made will certainly save the corn to the last grain. Make a box three feet long, eighteen inches wide and ten or twelve inches deep. Cover over one end of this, at the top, on which to fasten the corn sheller. Make an inclined bottom to within

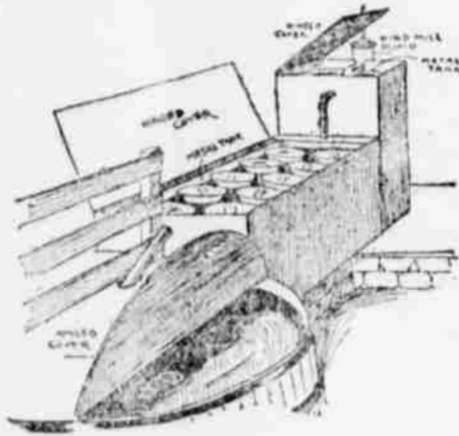


DEVICE FOR SHELLED CORN.

eight inches of the end, which remains open. Put legs under this box and set it high enough so that a pail or a bag can be set under the open end bottom to catch the grains of corn as they come from the sheller. If a bag is used, hooks will have to be put in the sides of the bottom of the box on which to hang the bag. A high box or a pail would be preferable to the bag. The cost of making this device is very small, any one with a few tools can do it, and it will certainly save both corn and labor. The illustration shows the plan so clearly that no further explanation is necessary.—Indianapolis News.

Farm Water Works.

The illustration explains itself. The plan is intended to meet the needs of the ordinary dairy or stock farm where there is a windmill for pumping the water. A two-inch tube conveys the water into the galvanized iron house tank, which is enclosed in a tight wooden box. Water is dipped from this tank for household purposes both summer and winter. The overflow is near the top, hence does not freeze as it is never filled with standing water. The overflow is conveyed from this tank to a gal-



THE FARM WATER WORKS.

vanized iron milk tank, which is also enclosed in a wooden box, and has an overflow pipe from it to the horse and cattle watering tank, which may be situated at some distance away.

Some Hints of Poultry.

Clean, varied, easily digested food is itself a medicine.

Aliments can be classed as colds, indigestion, vices and accidents.

A cold, accompanied by rattling, is called bronchitis; by gasping, pneumonia.

Canker in the mouth may extend to throat and become diphtheria. The diphtheria of fowls and man are different according to veterinarians, but attendants on sick birds have been known to take poultry diphtheria.

When a fowl sneezes, waters slightly at eyes and nostrils, and dumps, it has a common cold, not regarded as a germ disease.

When face and head swell a good deal, and the discharge from nostrils is profuse, fowls have roup, or influenza. Irregularity of habit is apt to accompany colds of all kinds.

If you have a scratching room in which to drive the flock, fumigate with sulphur their lodging-room. If you have no suitable place for them, to go, burn oil of tar or resin in their presence.

The causes of malignant colds are filth, dampness, drafts, neglect and improper food.

An ordinary cold, if taken at once, can be arrested by a one-grain pill of quinine forced down each sick bird. Give some bread crumbs in connection, to cause quick digestion. Use granite or earthen water-dishes, not tin, for medical use.

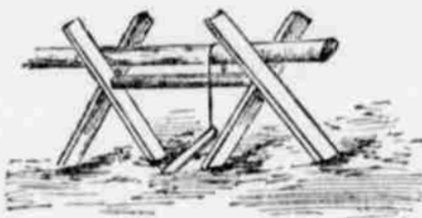
The Stall-Fed Cow.

Somehow many dairymen have reached the wrong conclusions when reading of dairy farms where the cows are stall-fed the year round. It by no means is intended that the cows shall have no outdoor exercise; on the contrary, except for cows that are on pasture entirely during the summer, few cows are more intelligently exercised and proper ventilation furnished them than stall-fed animals properly brought up. At regular hours the animals are turned into commodious barnyards for air and exercise. During the winter this outdoor exercise is as carefully looked after as during the summer, and, in the majority of cases, the cows occupy only sleeping hours and milking hours in their separate stalls, the balance of the time being spent in large sheds.

Don't be afraid of the fresh air for your animals during the winter; see that they have all the outdoor exercise the weather will permit, but more than all, see that the stables are properly ventilated and aired. There are a number of devices for this purpose, and one of the best of them is the window frame covered with muslin. Remember that close confinement and foul air predispose the cow to tuberculosis, and that fresh air and plenty of it will enable her to do her share, not only as a milk producer but as a mother.

To Hold Wood While Sawing.

Tend a piece of iron, put a piece of wood on long end as shown in il-



SAWHORSE ATTACHMENT.

lustration, put this between the legs of saw-horse. Stand erect with left foot on stick.

Agricultural Fairs.

The fair season has been exceptionally gratifying. Upon the whole, the agricultural exhibitions throughout the country have been better than usual. Fakes have been discouraged and legitimate exhibits have benefited. The issue of complete catalogues, using plain numbers conspicuously over each animal or other exhibit and referring to them in the catalogue, has attracted favorable attention wherever it has been adopted. Individual exhibitors have assisted the management materially by having placards printed, bearing their name and the name of the exhibit and other information for the benefit of those attending. The value of an exhibit is lost unless the visitor can learn quickly something definite in regard to it.—Exchange.

Take Care of the Plows.

When plowing is done, clean and dry your plow, then apply a heavy coat of paint, says an ingenious Dakota farmer in an exchange. It is best applied with a soft brush. If no such brush is at hand, one is very easily made by clipping the end of a horse's tail, and by means of a string fasten same securely to a stick. Allow plenty of time to dry, and in case some of it should get rubbed off before it is properly dried, apply another coat. To remove the paint when the plow is to be used again, pour on strong lye water the night before, and in the morning rub off the dry paint. If it does not come off clean, apply another coating of lye water, which will complete the job, and you will have a plow that is smooth and will scour from the start.

Corn-cob Ashes Valuable.

Of all things on the farm corn-cobs are the most valuable for ashes, as from 15 to 20 per cent of the ash is pure potash, and yet corn-cobs are thrown away on most farms. Every 1,000 pounds of hardwood ashes will give about sixty pounds of potash, or 6 per cent of the whole, and when compared with corn-cobs the latter are much more valuable in the shape of ashes. Save corn-cobs and burn them with wood in the kitchen stove, saving the ashes for the orchard and lawn.

HOUSEHOLD DEPARTMENT

Cream Sponge Cake.

Beat the yolks of three eggs light with one and a half cups of sugar, add the beaten whites of the eggs, then a cup of scalding water, flavoring to taste, and, lastly, one and a quarter cups of flour sifted with one and a half teaspoonfuls of baking powder. More flour may be added if necessary, but the batter should be thinner than for ordinary cake. Have the pans well greased, and the oven hot. Fifteen minutes should suffice to bake the cakes in layer tins. They are good with cream filling and chocolate frosting.

Eggs a la Creme.

Hard boil twelve eggs, slice them thin in rings. In the bottom of a large baking-dish place a layer of grated bread crumbs, then one of the eggs; cover with bits of butter, and sprinkle with pepper and salt. Continue thus to blend these ingredients until the dish is full; be sure, though, that the crumbs cover the eggs upon top. Over the whole pour a large teaspoonful of sweet cream, and brown nicely in a moderately heated oven.

Pepper Relish.

Remove the seeds from six large green peppers and one red pepper and chop fine. Mix with a finely minced head of cabbage, to which add a little less than a quarter cup of salt, a full cupful of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of mustard seed, and cider vinegar enough to cover the mixture. Stir thoroughly and bottle. This will be found an excellent addition to a meat or fish course.

Cheese Canapes.

Cut a stale loaf of bread into slices about a quarter of an inch thick. Divide these into pieces about two inches long and one inch wide, and fry them in hot butter or oil till they are a bright golden color. Spread a little thin mustard on each of these pieces, lay over that some good cheese, and put them in a quick oven till the cheese is dissolved. Serve as hot as possible. Time, altogether, about half an hour.

Filling.

Boil one cup of sugar with four tablespoonfuls of water to a syrup, or until it will "feather" from the spoon; have the white of the egg beaten to a stiff froth, and pour over it the boiling syrup, stirring all the time. To this add one-half cup of raisins, chopped fine, and one-half cup of nut-meats, likewise chopped. Spread between layers and on top.

Butter Cakes.

Beat thoroughly one teaspoon of soda with one and one-half pints of sour milk. Beat the yolks of three eggs and add to the milk, then stir in the flour and a little salt, making the batter of the consistency of cake. Then beat the whites to a stiff froth, fold in, not thoroughly.

Breakfast Puffs.

Boil a pint of milk with a quarter of a pound of butter. Stir in three-quarters of a pound of flour and let cool. Beat the whites and yolks of five eggs separately and add. Fill greased cups half full of the batter, and bake in a quick oven. Turn out on a hot plate and sprinkle with sugar.

Snow Balls.

Beat the whites of four eggs. Mix one cup of cream, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, a teaspoon of baking powder and flour to make a batter, and add the whites of the eggs. Fill buttered cups two-thirds full of the mixture, and bake in a hot oven.

Macaroon Sandwiches.

Be sure the macaroons are fresh. Lay a slice of fresh cream cheese between two macaroons, press these firmly together. Keep in a cool place until wanted.

Sheet Suggestions.

Corks can be made sound and airtight by boiling.

Camphor put in drawers or trunks will keep away mice.

Keep an account of all supplies, with cost and date when purchased.

When chopping suet sprinkle with a little ground rice; it will not then stick to the knife.

Clean windows with a flannel dipped in paraffin and polish with a clean duster. It imparts a fine polish.

Suet that has become hard and stale can be made fresh and usable by placing in boiling water for a few minutes.

Two pads the size and shape of kettleshoulders and sewn to a piece of tape are useful for lifting hot dishes out of an oven.

Imitation frosted glass is made by dissolving in a little hot water as much epsom salts as it will absorb. Paint the glass with the water while it is warm.