

# DAIRY AND POULTRY.

## INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How Successful Farmers Operate This Department of the Farm—A Few Hints as to the Care of Live Stock and Poultry.

**H. MONRAD,** writing in American Creamery, says:  
It seems to the "pen and ink" butter-maker that the fact of Eastern dairy butter being classed so low, indicates the need of more creameries.

Dairy butter, when properly made, ought to be better than creamery, as the maker has the means of controlling the feed given to the cows and the handling of the milk all the way through. The creamery buttermaker, on the other hand, has to contend with batches of poor milk; he will never get better milk than the average of what is produced by his patrons. It is true, one reason for the lower rank of dairy butter is the lack of uniformity, which hurts its sale in the open market. This fact is often not thoroughly understood by the dairy farmer. Take 100 tubs of dairy butter—good, bad and indifferent, with an average score of 90 points, and they will seldom be sold as high as 100 tubs of uniform creamery butter scoring 85 points. This fact alone, not to mention the saving of labor and the possibilities and economy of the very best appliances in the creamery, should be sufficient to encourage the farmer to co-operate and establish more creameries. Take the conditions in England. If the farmers were to co-operate there it would be all the worse for the Danes and Americans, just as the stronger and more extended co-operation in the west is proving such a hard competition for the east. It is not only the cheaper and more fertile lands of the west, it is the more enterprising spirit which adapts itself quickly to new systems, new machinery. And why? I may be wrong, but it seems natural to me that older communities are slow to undertake reforms. Just consider the case of two young men. One goes west and starts untrammelled by the traditions of what his father and grandfather has done, while the other has to face the adverse criticism not only of his relations, but that of every one of his neighbors. Is there no excuse for his letting improved methods alone and joggling along in the old ruts of his forefathers? Nor must it be supposed that the reform in the west—which is not completed by a long shot—has been carried out, before the farmers were, so to say, starved into it. In Dakota I asked a patron of a creamery how many cows he milked; he replied: "Two last year, ten this year, and I will milk more next year." When, in my enthusiasm, I slapped him on the shoulder, saying: "You are the man of my heart," he added, with a queer smile: "But I had to be starved into it." The truth is that the most successful creameries are in the districts where the continuous wheat crops have reduced the yields, and the low prices the profit to starvation point. What little I have seen of the eastern farming, where enormous sums are spent on artificial fertilizers, makes me believe that only by an intelligent co-operation in dairying will the "average" farmer get out of the dismal swamp of unprofitable farming. There are enough isolated cases of unequalled success to prove this. While I do not desire to be understood to advocate the total abolishing of private dairying, I do firmly believe that the establishing of more creameries in the east will prove a benefit to the farmers. Creameries—when properly run—are centers of education which soon spread a better knowledge of cheap milk production, and a better understanding of true co-operation.

### Hen Roosts.

A writer in an exchange says: Seeing a farmer near me building a hen house, I took occasion to give him a new idea. He was putting in his roosts in the old-fashioned way, one being above the other on an angle of about 45 degrees. In this way the fowls are led to attempt to get upon the highest roost, and, as it gets full, the weak ones are crowded off and fall to the ground; they begin again to climb up, only to repeat the same performance, until it gets so dark they stop climbing, resting content upon the lower roost, or even upon the ground under the roosts. In the morning the fowls will not go down as they went up, from one roost to another, but fly from the roost to the ground, this way, and by falling from the roost to the ground at night, heavy fowls, especially when very fat or very full of eggs, are often crippled in the legs or otherwise injured. Many likely hens I have seen completely spoiled in this way. I told him I should build all the roosts all of the same height, and no more than two and a half feet from the floor, putting about 15 inches apart. Before I left I had the satisfaction of seeing him commence to undo the work he had done and to build his roosts as I suggested, and of hearing an old farmer who was present declare his intention of taking out his roosts, which were on the ladder style, and putting in new ones, level and lower. I think they will save hens enough before summer by so doing to more than pay for the labor it will take.

### Census of Farm Animals.

The department of agriculture has issued a document showing the increase in the number of farm animals in the country and the value of their products; also, as nearly as may be obtained, the number of such animals in the world. Between 1892 and 1896 the number of horses in all countries increased only 259,453, being the present year 27,254,553. But in the United States there has been a net loss of over a million. Of mules and asses there has been a decrease of 32,000 and an increase of 182,421. The world's record of increase in cattle was 13,182,178, but they were all outside this country, where there was a loss of 278,000 in milk cows, and 3,870,000 in other cattle. In the United States there was a decrease of 3,250,000 in swine, though an increase of nearly 5,000,000 in other countries. There has been a decrease of 23,458,355 in sheep the world over, of which nearly two-fifths belong to the United States. Except in Asia every part of the world has fewer sheep than in 1893, even Australia showing 3,300,000 less. The world's general business is larger than three years ago, but it has undergone a change which has affected these particular lines of production.

### Live Stock in Argentina.

The numbers of live stock in the Argentine Republic, according to the last statistics, amount to about 25,000,000 head of horned cattle, 80,000,000 sheep, 5,000,000 horses, 500,000 asses and mules, 2,000,000 goats and 5,000,000 hogs. The population of the country is only 5,000,000 inhabitants.—Ex.

### Clean the Orchard.

Clean up the fallen leaves and rubbish in the orchard as early as possible. It is only unsightly, but furnishes shelter and breeding places for innumerable vermin and insects, which will annoy you another year. Burn all such waste, or put it to good use in the compost heap.—Ex.

### Even when the turkeys have the range of the grainfields, it is a good plan to feed them regularly at night to push their growth.

bone and feathers at the same time. For these reasons they require a good supply of varied and nourishing diet.

In winter green food of some nature is necessary for egg production. Any kind of vegetables can be served for the purpose. If the flock can have access to a field of growing rye or crimson clover it will meet their requirements. When fattening fowls for market corn can be used in varied forms. They relish cold mash. Mixing cornmeal with scalding water, or boiling the whole grain until soft, are all good. Celery tops are the best vegetable adjunct at this time.

It has been demonstrated that if one flock, during the winter, be fed with warm grains, and another with cold, that the former will produce during the season more than twice the number of eggs as the other, and will be even much finer in appearance. There are two extremes. You cannot let your poultry roost in trees in winter, nor can you shut them up in overcrowded houses, and then expect success. Success does not lie on either of these routes.

Do not lose time in grading up when you can buy pure bred fowls as cheaply as now. Neither is it well to keep the hens longer than the second year. Save enough young pullets that the mothers may be finished up for market. The hens kept for the producing of future stock should be of the best. It is unwise to use eggs for hatching unless these eggs are from certain hens, which are known to be not only prolific, but have shown themselves capable of producing hardy, strong and vigorous offspring. In short, breeders should be tested, just as with any other stock. So long as the poultryman uses eggs from the general basket for incubation, instead of from a few of his best hens, kept apart from the others, he will make no headway. The progeny may be better or inferior. It will be a matter of guess-work; but if care is taken it will be but one or two generations until a marked difference for the better will be noticed.



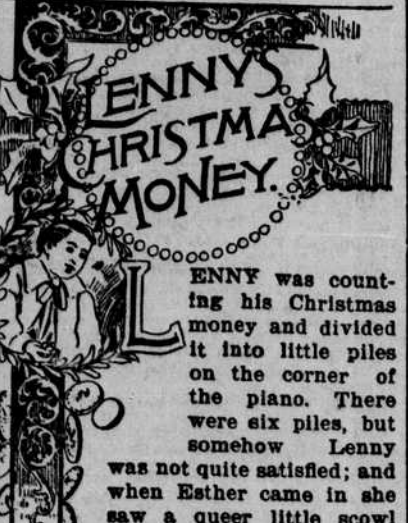
## GOING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

**T**HOUSANDS of the absent all over the land will be turning homeward with the coming of Christmas. The Babe of Bethlehem who was born in a manger and lived a homeless life upon earth hath set the solitary in families, and given us homes. Happy school girls have been eagerly counting the days until the holiday recess, when they will go home, carrying many dainty gifts of their deft handiwork to the loved ones there. Eager boys from college halls will go back to the fireside where anxious prayers have risen daily for their welfare since first they went away. Young men from the marts of commerce and the paths of trade will put the city, with its manifold temptations and cares, behind them to find rest and strength in the old country home.

Middle-aged men and women will go to the homes of their childhood to meet again brothers and sisters in family gatherings, and to cheer once more with their presence the belated pilgrims who still tarry below, divided between the children who have gone before and those who still meet once a year around the parental hearthstone.

What joy, what memories, what hopes the Christmas time will wake! And to some the merry season will bring new pangs of sorrow—griefs they never knew before. Since last Christmas dear old parents have gone home to God, and children who used to gather about them will not go to the old homestead this year, because so much of the home that was there has vanished into the heaven. Aged mothers will watch for sons who will come no more. Bereaved husbands will walk alone the rounds of the children's rooms, trying vainly to be both mother and father in preparing the surprises for the little ones on Christmas morning. And stricken wives will do their best to keep the little ones from feeling too keenly this first Christmas since the husband died, that "papa is dead." Thousands of little ones will know as they have not known before the losses which the year has brought them.

Good men and women will thank God for the homes behind them, and for the good home before; and wayfarers outcasts will stop to think of golden days gone by, and to wonder if somehow they will not one day find a resting place. And so, with all classes, the season should be one of tenderness and love and thankfulness.—Rev. W. A. Candler, D. D.



**L**ENNY was counting his Christmas money and divided it into little piles on the corner of the piano. There were six piles, but somehow Lenny was not quite satisfied; and when Esther came in she saw a queer little scowl on the white forehead.

"Oh, what a lot of money," she said, smiling, "are you going to buy a velocipede?" "That's my Christmas money," said Len; "the pennies for not being late to breakfast, and the dollar grandma gave me, and my five cents for bringing in wood. I suppose there's 'bout four dollars." "Two dollars and eighty-four cents," said Esther counting it over.

buy a cap with roses in it; and this is the baby's. I'm going to get her a whole lot of chocolate creams and peanuts; and this is for you, Esther, only I shan't tell what I am going to buy." Lenny stopped, and Esther tried very hard not to laugh at the thoughts of papa with a ring and mamma in a red necktie. "But there's another pile, Lenny," she said. "Yes, that's just the trouble; seems to me I ought to have some of my money myself. I can tell you I worked hard for that money, Esther."

"Well, then, this pile is yours, is it?" "Yes, I thought so," said Len, slowly, "only the minister said we should remember to save some of our gifts for the poor. I think poor folks and heathen are an awful bother, Esther." And Len looked up defiantly, as if ready to endure all that Esther might say in answer to such a shocking sentiment. To his great surprise Esther said quietly, "So do I, Lenny; sometimes I feel about discouraged when I think what a bother they are."

Lenny's fat hand reached out and transferred the sixth pile to his pocket.

"There's lots of folks taking care of them, too, and giving them money and things," he said.

"Yes," said Esther, "there are people in the great cities who spend their whole time looking after these poor persons, visiting them at their homes, begging fuel to keep them from freezing, and food to keep them from starving, getting them into hospitals when they are sick, and teaching them to work. They don't do this for pay, but just for the dear Lord's sake, and they



**WHAT A BOTHER THEY ARE.** keep on at work until they are worn out and die, and then someone else takes it up. Oh, it is a dreadful bother."

Lenny's hand crept into his pocket and fingered the money doubtfully. "And there are people who go out in the new countries, and live in miserable little cabins, and have scarcely enough to eat or to wear, and no money to buy books, or papers, or Christmas presents, or to send their children to school, all because they are trying to teach the poor people about Jesus, and keep them from growing as wicked and lawless as the heathen themselves. What a bother it must be to give up everything so!"

Lenny's hand crept into his pocket and laid about half the money back upon the piano, but Esther went on as if she had not seen him. "And then there are the heathen; just think how many men and women have left their homes and their friends, and gone away to try to win those poor, ignorant creatures from worshipping idols, and murdering their children and their sick friends, and leaving their poor old parents to starve to death. Just think, Lenny, of the fathers and mothers who have seen their dear children dying in these unhealthy regions or had to send them away from them to save their lives—of the martyrs that have given up their own lives, all for these heathen. I think they are a dreadful bother. And when, besides this, I remember how much trouble they have been to God, and how much they have cost Him, I am sure they must be precious or He never would have given His Son to save them. For if we would give all we have, our money and our lives, we never could give so much as God gave—for them, and us, Lenny." Lenny's lips quivered a little, but he laid the rest of the money down with a bang, as he said, "There, Esther, you needn't talk any more; that's God's money in this pile, and I guess I wouldn't be mean enough to touch it."

Rev. Dr. Curry, Peabody and Slater Funds' agent in the south, is moving to have A-bama townships levy special tax for more and better schools to reach the masses.

# TO RECLAIM LANDS.

## "MODEL FARMS" BEING ESTABLISHED ALONG THE BURLINGTON ROUTE.

**In Kansas and Nebraska—Practical Farmers in Charge of Each Station—Successfully Experimenting With Western Prairie Soil.**

**OMAHA, Dec. 8.**—The enormous crop Kansas and Nebraska produced the past year has given agriculture such an impetus in these two states that all other industries have in a measure been overshadowed. The Burlington Railroad company has established a number of experiment stations or "model farms" in order to demonstrate the advantage of the most improved methods of soil culture and lead farmers of Nebraska and Kansas to new efforts in this direction and enable them to become independent even in the so-called "drouth sections" and "dry years." Incidentally the company expects returns from its investments in increased and regular crops, necessitating heavy freight and passenger traffic on its network of lines in the West.

John Francis has just returned from a trip over Nebraska and Kansas, where he has established model farms at Oberlin, Kan., and at McCook, Holdrege, Alma and Broken Bow, Neb. Something was done in this line by the company last year and with immensely satisfactory results. The farms consist of forty acres in each station under the immediate supervision of a practical and tried farmer of the neighborhood. Each farm will be visited frequently by one of the learned corps of Prof. Campbell, who are skilled in the new methods. Nebraska and Kansas farm staples, corn, wheat, rye, oats and potatoes, will be produced.

The farming at the experiment stations is conducted primarily on the theory that the rainfall of the West is ample and abundant for all practical farming purposes, but that owing to capillary attraction, the moisture escapes from the earth before it performs its proper and desired functions. The new method will contribute to retard the action and retain the moisture. Experience has demonstrated that the virgin soil of the western prairie is hard and dry to an unknown depth. However, where the surface has been disturbed and capillary attraction interfered with, the same soil, under exactly similar conditions otherwise, is moist and mellow as desired by farmers. On this theory the small grain will be drilled in lines far enough apart to permit cultivation. The surface will be readily cultivated to a depth of one or two inches. Capillary attraction will bring the moisture to the surface, where the attraction of the molecules is destroyed and the unlimited store of moisture distributed gradually to the roots of the grain instead of passing rapidly into the atmosphere. The professor's experts will spend the remainder of their time in speaking at farmers' institutes in this and adjacent states.

**A Presumed Synonym.** A little girl who was in the habit of using the word "guess" intemperately, was reproved by her teacher. "Don't say 'guess,' Mary; say 'presume.'" Just then a playmate came up and, feeling Mary's cloak, said: "My ma is going to ask you ma for the pattern of your cloak." "My ma ain't got any pattern," answered Mary; "She cut it by presume."—Troy Times.

**The Modern Mother** Has found that her little ones are improved more by the pleasant Syrup of Figs, when in need of the laxative effect of a gentle remedy than by any other, and that it is more acceptable to them. Children enjoy it and it benefits them. The true remedy, Syrup of Figs, is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Company only.

**Reflections of a Bachelor.** It's a wise wife that doesn't try to know her own husband.

The smallest and the biggest thing in the world is the heart of a little child.

Men would go shopping oftener with women if they weren't shamed so by the way they treat the salesgirls.

The Queen of Sheba probably never overheard one of Solomon's wives ask him to get up and kindle the fire.

The man who envies his bachelor freedom is all right; it's the man that doesn't seem to mind it that needs watching.

Girls wouldn't stick the toes of their new shoes out so far in front if they knew how their skirt-tails dragged behind.—New York Press.

**Watering Plants in Winter.** There is far more danger of giving house plants too much rather than too little water in winter. During the short days and long nights, with very little sunlight on the soil it is hard to keep it at a temperature where the plants can grow vigorously. All the surplus water added lowers the temperature until it reaches a point where the plants barely exist without making any growth. If the soil has much vegetable matter, humic acid will be developed and a low temperature and this will poison the plant roots.

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**Saving Dry Road Dust.** One of the jobs which should be attended to before cold weather is to save a few barrels of dry road dust to be used as dust baths for hens in winter. Nothing contributes more to the health of hens than this. Coal ashes will answer, but they stick to the feathers of fowls worse than road dust will, and give the birds an unsightly appearance. The road dust is coarser, and we think the fowls like to roll in it better than in the white, fine dust that comes from sifting coal ashes.

# Burial Places of the Apostles.

All that now remains of the Apostles are in the following places: Seven are buried in Rome, namely: St. Peter, St. Philip, St. James the Less, St. Jude, St. Bartholomew, St. Matthias and St. Simon. The remains of three lie in the kingdom of Naples: St. Matthew at Salerno; St. Andrew at Amalfi, and St. Thomas at Ortona. St. James the Greater was buried in Spain. There is great dispute as to the whereabouts of the remains of St. John the Evangelist. St. Mark and St. Luke are buried in Italy, the former at Venice and the latter at Padua. St. Paul's remains are also believed to be in Italy.—Philadelphia Record.

**As to Trade.** Many a man who would smile indulgently at the innocence of his little child, who, planting a seed in the morning, would dig it up at night to see why it had not sprouted, is today pulling a long face over the lack of pressure of business which was to result from the sound money victory. Strangely disregarding the fact that the election did not occur until the fall trade was practically over in all the holiday lines, armies of travelers were put on the road election week to harass merchants who were in a position to buy nothing.—Dry Goods Economist.

**Sick Room Literature.** The reading matter of the chronic invalid and the convalescent is a complicated subject that receives too scant attention. Absolute requirements certainly are a freedom from morbidness, something bright and amusing, that also demands little thought. It is well, too, to decide upon a story that has plenty of vigorous action—in exhausting, hairbreadth escapes—in one of those healthy works that makes the reader feel as if he had been exercising himself. The enjoyment of this book will gently tire him and often superinduce refreshing sleep.

**A Woman's Way.** A handsome, well dressed young woman was standing at the curb on Market street, waiting for a car. The rain was falling steadily and a deluge was pouring down through the rents of the umbrella upon her silk and plumes. "Why, you are fairly drenched," exclaimed a friend who had observed her plight. "That umbrella of yours doesn't shed a drop of water." "Oh, but see what a lovely handle it has," and she held it up admiringly.—San Francisco Post.

Features in the January number of Harper's will be: "Portuguese Progress in South Africa," by Poulton Bigelow; an instalment of "The Martian," by George du Maurier; "A Century Struggle for the Franchise," by Professor Francis N. Thorp; "Fog Possibilities," by Alexander MacDair; "Science at the Beginning of the Century," by Dr. Henry Smith Williams; "Literary Landmarks of Rome," by Laurence Hutton; "English Society," by George W. Smalley; "John Murrell and His Clan," by Martha Culloch-Williams; "Indian Giver," a farce by W. D. Howells; "One Good Time," a tale of rural New England; "A Prize Fund Beneficiary," by E. A. Alexander; and "In the Watches of the Night," by Brander Matthews.

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**Grandma Victoria.** The journey between Windsor castle and Balmoral can be accomplished in less than nineteen hours, a rather long allowance for 589 miles, but the queen doesn't like to feel the carriage oscillate round curves, as the trains on American railways have a merry fashion of doing, says the Boston Herald. When this journey is taken, the royal children who happen to accompany grandmamma are not given any holiday, but are made to continue their lessons just the same as at home.

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