

STEALING A CROP OF BARLEY.

An Exciting Battle in the Dark with Dangerously Armed Thieves.

A daring attempt to steal a whole field of barley that had been thrashed has been made at the farm of J. M. Mumford, on the line of the Burlington ditch, nine miles northeast of Denver. The barley had been bagged, and the bags stood piled up in a field some distance from Mumford's house. Just at dusk a young fellow who was taking a short cut across the fields saw four men at work loading the sacks of barley into two wagons that stood outside the field. Two of the men were carrying the sacks to the fence and throwing them over and the other two were loading the wagons. He soon saw that they were not Mumford's farm hands. Mumford's men would have driven the wagons into the fields, and besides, they would be very strange farm hands indeed that would work with the desperate haste with which these men were working.

The young fellow went at first to Mumford's house and told him of what was going on. J. S. Foster, a neighboring farmer, was called in, and soon six men were got together, all armed, and they started out on horseback to catch the barley thieves.

The night was dark and cloudy, and it was impossible to see any distance, but they rode in the direction of the place where the barley was stacked, and soon they could hear the voices of the men at work. It was impossible to see anything, and a consultation was held to try to decide the best way to go about the capture. While the six horsemen were gathered in a group, talking in low tones together, a flash of lightning from the cloudy sky lit up the field. It disclosed a man with a barley sack upon his shoulder not fifteen feet away, and close at hand the two wagons, with the other three men at work. One of the horsemen, almost as quick as the flashing lightning, pulled his weapon and took aim, and before darkness once more hid the scene a shot from his pistol rang out upon the air. This was the signal for a general fusillade that filled the dark night with flashing pistol shots.

The thieves returned the horsemen's fire, and the horsemen kept it up until their ammunition was exhausted. The only aim for either side was the flashing pistol shots of the others, so that not much damage was done. None of the horsemen were hurt. While the firing was going on the wagons were heard driving off, the drivers whipping up their horses in a furious way. It was evident that the two men outside the fence had fled and left their companions to take the consequences of their acts. When the firing ceased, the six horsemen made a search for the remaining men, but they could not be found. They had fled in the darkness. An examination of the barley bags showed that a great many of them had been taken, and the horsemen at once went in pursuit of the wagons.

About half a mile away they found the wagons, but the horses and men were gone. The wagons were half filled with sacks of barley, and a number of empty bags were found with the marks of a Denver firm upon them, so that it seems probable that the thieves came from this city. The wagons are now at Mr. Mumford's place waiting for an owner.

In the morning an examination was made of the field where the shooting took place. A trail of blood was found leading to the fence, but there it was lost. The attempted robbery alarmed the neighboring farmers, and an examination was made, which resulted in the discovery that seventy-two sacks of wheat which one of the farmers had stored in a distant field had disappeared. It is supposed that the thieves were the same ones who tried to steal Mumford's barley.—Denver Republican.

Bishop Brooks' Way With Children.

No one who has seen Dr. Brooks with children is likely to forget his "way with them." Sterner persons say that he makes them behave very badly, and, possibly in jealousy, others have called him fonder of youngsters than of grown people. No objection is heard from the children. They look mischievous, indeed, on those knees, high and broad, in which two schools of churchmanship figuratively meet. It is foolish to imagine that the new bishop's visitations will gain some of their power—over mothers at least—through his extremely happy intercourse with the children? However literally true it may be, surely the story of Dr. Brooks going to a poor woman's rooms and keeping the children out of mischief while she went to church tells something of his spirit. And the story loses none of its point when one reflects that the woman could not hear one of her visitor's sermons.—Harper's Weekly.

Patent Leather and Patent Calf.

While many may apply the term "patent leather" to all kinds of enamel leather, still, strictly speaking, it is only used in the harness trade and in the cheapest grade of shoes, while patent calf is the material from which fine shoes are made. Only the very finest calfskins are used, the enamel being applied after the skin has been through a long course of treatment and all the stretch taken therefrom, and is, therefore, much more durable than patent leather, which is made usually from cow-hides.—Shoe and Leather Facts.

The Allantus Tree.

The first allantus trees grown in America were brought from the far east and planted in the garden of Burns' coffee house on lower Broadway, opposite Bowling green, New York. They were much admired by the New York beaux and belles of seventy-five years ago, from which the conclusion is drawn that fashions in odors also change.—Exchange.

One Way of Putting a Spell on Enemies.

It was a custom in the time of Catharine de Medici to make figures of wax and melt them slowly before the fire or stab them with needles, in order to bring suffering to enemies. This operation was called putting a spell upon them.—L. Popoff in Popular Science Monthly.

ARTISTIC TABLE COVER.

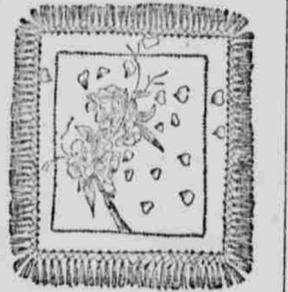
No Matter How Simple the Materials the Result Will Be Good.

This exquisite cover is made of a fine quality of linen suitable for the delicate flowers—the apple blossoms—with which it is embroidered. The four sides are first provided with a hem five inches wide, if the cloth be a large one, or three inches if small. This hem is next neatly hemstitched, when the cover is ready for the embroidery.

The silks must be chosen of the washable sort. The colors needful are cream-white, gray and two shades of delicate pink for the blossoms; two or three pale-greens for the leaves, and three shades of wood color for the stems.

First to be worked is the stem, naturally, it is the first to grow; then, in their natural order, the leaves, buds and blossoms. These directions as to order may seem needless, but they are not, for indeed no blossoms can be artistically embroidered unless they are followed. The flower that is worked before its stem will surely not look as though it grew, but rather as though it were stuck to the branch. Here again is a point to be observed in truly artistic work; if nature be the model the work should grow as nearly as possible after nature's fashion.

For the stem or branch is to be used the wood colored silks, the light shade for the high lights, the medium for the



shadows and the dark for the heavy ones. The stitches, as a matter of course, are in this instance to be small, and all the work is to be done in what is known as Kensington stitch.

For the leaves the green shades are to be used in the same way, light and dark being made to express light and shade. The stitches of the leaves must all run from the central vein to the edge, exactly as the natural leaf is veined, and care must be taken to preserve the serrated edge.

The blossoms are white, for the most part, delicately shaded with gray for the inside and with pink for the outside. In all instances of the leaf curling over the curve must be expressed by making the outside pink and the inside white at the center, shading to gray under the curl. The stamens are yellow, and each should be completed with a stitch running crosswise at the end. The center is expressed by a number of French knots, all of yellow, making an effect like the natural blossom.

When the entire spray is worked, the falling leaves must be done. To give them as much variety as possible, and, at the same time, keep closely to nature's model, these leaves should, some of them, be shaded with pink and some with gray. This, because the real leaves in falling would surely some alight upon one side and some upon the other.

The embroidery well finished, the last step is the making of the fringe. For this fine linen thread is needful, which is to be knotted into the hem at short intervals and then tied so as to form a heading.

When complete this dainty cover will be found truly artistic and fit for any room wherein the furnishings are sufficiently light in tone to admit of its being in harmony.

No much might be said, and to good effect, too, on the subject of harmony that I dare only touch the edges here. Be the materials ever so simple, the result will inevitably be good if one but obtain what Mr. Whistler calls a sympathy.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Sunny Rooms for Health.

The rooms occupied by children should be made bright, light and pleasant. It is seldom thought of as much as it should be, how essential to health of children plenty of light, especially sunlight, is. One reason why poor people's children thrive in the face of most adverse surroundings is that they are nearly all day out of doors in the full light of day and in the air. Keeping children excluded from sunlight and putting them in dark, gloomy rooms, is similar to caging a young bird and keeping it always in the shade; it will soon droop and lose all brightness, becoming dull and soulless. Some children look pale and delicate, although surrounded with every comfort and luxury, well fed, well looked after. The real cause is often want of light, want of sunlight and want of cheerfulness in the people and in the rooms they inhabit.

A Most Toothsome Dessert.

A delicious dessert is made as follows: Four cups milk, four eggs, one cup sugar, four tablespoonfuls grated chocolate, two tablespoonfuls vanilla. Put the chocolate over the fire in a double boiler with part of the milk and let it cook until smooth, add the rest of the milk, and when this is hot pour it upon the sugar with the beaten yolks of the eggs. Return it to the stove and cook until the custard begins to thicken; when cool pour into glasses or small cups, and heap on the top of each a meringue made of the whites of the eggs whipped stiff with a little powdered sugar, or it may be served in a large dish. An agreeable variation may be made by substituting for the chocolate half a cup of strong coffee.

Bottled Grapes.

Here we have a simple way of keeping grapes fresh for months at a time. Cut the laterals as long as possible, and insert in bottles of water into each of which has been placed about two tablespoonfuls of finely powdered charcoal. Hang the bottles in a cool, dry room.

AROUND THE HOUSE.

NEVER give your children anything because they cry for it.

A NOWL of quicklime kept in a cupboard will soon absorb the moisture, if there be any.

WASHING old silk in beer is said to give it a luster almost equal to that possessed when new.

A PERFUME lamp, which burns cologne and spreads a pleasant scent about the room, is among the late household novelties.

WHEN decorating rooms for reception use one kind of flowers for each room, as roses for one, carnations for another, violets in another, etc.

THE leaves of the peach tree, a few at a time, put into the boiling milk of a custard or blanc mange and removed before it cools into shape give a delicate almond flavor.

BREAD CAKE.—Two cups of sugar, two cups of bread dough, two eggs, one cup of butter or dripping, one teaspoonful of cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg and soda, one cup of raisins.

IN making up flowers avoid stiff, set forms and let them be artistic in grace and simplicity, as near to nature as possible, with plenty of the pretty foliage which surmounts them when growing.

IN bottling catsup or pickles boil the corks, and while hot you can press them into the bottles, and when cold they are tightly sealed. Use the tin foil from compressed yeast to cover the corks.

IF you can give your roses a window in some room that has no stove in it, yet which does not freeze, they will do far better. And an occasional slight frost will do them less injury than continual dry heat.

THE wild red plum is not a favorite fruit in many households because of the bitter taste which it develops in cooking. This bitterness may be entirely overcome by first parboiling the fruit in salaratus water.

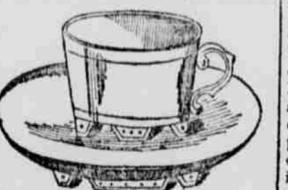
A GOOD way to make fritters is to take three eggs, three cups of butter-milk, one rounding teaspoonful of soda and a little salt; stir in flour to make stiff batter. Have the fat hot, and fry, dipping in a spoonful at a time.

"IN canning fruit," an expert house-keeper says, "it is wise to use a great deal of sugar, and as sugar is so cheap this year everybody can have it. Plain canned fruit is apt to turn, and does not retain its flavor as well as when made a little rich."

TEACUPS FOR INVALIDS.

A Novelty Which Will Be Found Very Useful in a Sick Room.

A most charming little novelty, of which the following is an illustration, is the invalid's teacup, brought out by an Englishman. It consists of a teacup and saucer, differing neither in price nor in size from the ordinary breakfast



teacup, but so made as to allow of a depression in the saucer, in which is placed a small cube of prepared fluff, by means of which the liquid contained can be kept hot for some time, until the invalid is ready for it. For night nursing this cup should supply a long-felt want.

A Fashionable Combination.

Women who are deft with their fingers can easily, indeed inexpensively, obtain the most fashionable decoration for either jacket or skirt; that is, one formed of fur or velvet, and outlined as elaborately as one pleases, with gold, silver or copper soutache. Very finely cut jet, showing diamonds, pearls, and the various geometrical designs, are fancied in black velvet, with heavy lace as an applique decoration. The old-fashioned coarse black silk lace is very much used on black velvet, and then finely-cut jets are systematically placed upon it. Entire skirts of lace like this are laid over the deep velvet skirts of long jackets, making them look very elaborate.

Little Pigs in Blankets.

Select a dozen or more large-sized oysters, drain, and wrap each one in a very thin slice of breakfast bacon. Fasten with a fine wooden toothpick. Have hot a granite-ware saucepan or spider; place in it enough of the thus prepared oysters at a time to cover the bottom, keep turning until they are a nice brown. As soon as done, lay them on slices of nicely browned and buttered toast and serve hot.

Potato Croquettes.

Pare six large potatoes, boil and mash fine, and mix with them the whites of two well-beaten eggs, one tablespoonful butter, two-thirds of a cup of hot cream or milk, and salt and pepper to taste. When cool enough to handle, mold into balls, dip in beaten egg, then in cracker crumbs, drop into hot fat and fry brown.

Pepper in the Water.

To prevent colored stockings from fading put a tablespoonful of black pepper into the water in which they are rinsed. Black stockings or those which are dark colored should never be washed in water which has been used for other clothes. Black pepper in the water will also keep black calico or cambrie from fading.

When You Make an Aquarium.

A good recipe for making waterproof cement to be used in constructing an aquarium, is to take twenty-five parts gutta serena in shreds and melt it carefully. Add seventy-five parts ground pumice stone and then mix in one hundred and fifty parts burgundy pitch and melt well together.

This Will Stop Hiccoughs.

A very good authority gives a simple remedy for hiccough: A lump of sugar saturated with vinegar. In ten cases, tried as an experiment, it stopped hiccough in nine.

A Six-year-old Giant.

There is a remarkable specimen of a boy in the New Jersey Reform school at Jamesburg. He has been made a ward of the state because it is not considered safe for him to be at large. He is only six years old, but has the manners and the maturity of a young man of twenty and the mustache of a man much older. He is called by the medical men who have examined him a precocious baby and a wonder in more ways than one. His name is Herman Hoffer. He is more than four feet in height, has a nicely curled blond mustache and can strike from the shoulder with the force of a sledgehammer. He can move a barrel of flour and lift easily a 200 pound weight. His parents have found it impossible to control him.

The boy is not only the admiration of his companions, but the terror of the neighborhood. He can whip any boy in Trenton, and he occasionally amused himself by playing David to the town Philistines. The parents were forced to appeal to Judge Robert S. Woodruff, of the Mercer circuit court, to put him in subjection. He was examined by Dr. Horace G. Wetherill, who pronounced him a phenomenon and a remarkable case. The boy is now at Jamesburg and the wonder of the institution. He has not yet made any trouble. He is too deeply interested in his new surroundings. He is attending the school, but the teachers have not yet reached a conclusion as to the trend of his mind.—Exchange.

Snakes in West Virginia.

It is evident that West Virginia does not intend to be relegated to the background while the narration of snake stories is going on, and she relates through the medium of a dispatch the following boaner: "While two lumbermen named McCray and Deuers were felling timber near Cleveland, Webster county, they cut down a large linn tree which was literally alive with snakes of a variety never before found in this vicinity. They were brown in color, large in size—having yellow jaws, from which they continuously evicted a slimy matter—and were exceedingly vicious, attacking the men as soon as the tree fell. After killing a large number, McCray and Deuers were obliged to retreat. Securing assistance, they returned to the spot and a general slaughter took place, not less than 500 reptiles being killed. Investigation was then made and from 1,500 to 2,000 eggs were found in various parts of the tree."

Eating Buckwheat Cakes.

Says a gentleman who attended the recent Methodist conference in Washington: "I was amused at the way in which a few English delegates conducted themselves at the hotel. It reminded me of the story told about Matthew Arnold on the occasion of his visit to this country. When at Cleveland he was generously entertained. One morning his host put before him at the breakfast table, among other things, buckwheat cakes. For a long time neither he nor his wife took any cakes, but noticing that his American friends ate them with a great apparent relish and gusto, he gingerly took one on his plate and tasted it very critically. Then leaning over to his wife he said, 'You'd better try one, dear, they are not 'alf so nawsty as they look.'"—New York Tribune.

Japanese Cigarettes in China.

During the month of May last the export of Japanese cigarettes to Shanghai aggregated 552,500, from which it may be inferred that the foreign residents of China are beginning to appreciate the Japanese article. But unfortunately, as is usually the case with everything exported from this country, the necessity of keeping up the quality of the article is not appreciated.

Adulteration with leaves of the lotus, the goba and so forth, has been resorted to, with the result of greatly injuring the reputation which the cigarettes were just beginning to earn. The Tokio news agency addresses a word of timely warning to the shortsighted manufacturers.—Japanese Mail.

Cut Off His Ten Foot Beard.

Mr. Phil Benson, the gentleman distinguished for having produced the longest beard in the world, found it so inconvenient and uncomfortable that he was induced to cut it off. A number of his friends had planned to place him in charge of the Mississippi department of the World's exposition at Chicago, where it was presumed his remarkable beard would prove a striking feature in the attractions, and much regret is felt that he chose to relieve himself of that incumbrance. The beard was by actual measurement about ten feet long.—Corinth Herald.

Sunday Labor in Maine.

A wealthy New York merchant had employed a minister to labor in rural Maine for a year among the "unchurched." People who have not investigated the matter have little idea of the opportunities for such labor. On cross-roads within ten miles of Lewiston there is absolutely no observance of the Sabbath. Men were in the fields pulling turnips and women were hanging out washings last Sunday.—Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

A Queer Bird.

While a gentleman was out hunting near Crawfordville last week he noticed something curious swimming just under the water. It didn't seem to be a fish nor yet a bird. Presently it rose, shook the water from its wings and started to fly, when he shot it down. It had a head like a turtle, wings like a bat and a tail scaly like a carp. There were two feet webbed like a goose.—Atlanta Constitution.

The Lull in Europe Before the Storm.

In Europe 3,600,000 armed men are suddenly facing each other, waiting only for the word to spring at each other's throats. War has long been thought of as imminent, and this state of things has come to be regarded as normal. This anomalous condition is without a parallel in history.—Forum.

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