

IN DUTCH HOUSES.

THE WAR WHICH A PEASANT WOMAN MAKES AGAINST DUST.

Interesting Study of a "Dutch Interior." How Laundry Work is Done in Holland—Servants—A Strange Custom. Food and Cooking.

Had Lady Macbeth lived in Holland, that "damned spot" would have been out in five minutes. Nothing, not even it, could stand against a Dutch cleaning woman. She is irresistible. Look how she is armed. Glance at her weapons. Cloths and chamols, brooms and brushes, scrubbing brushes for the floors, hair brushes for the wainscots, feather brushes for the walls, tooth brushes for the corners, goose wings for the stoves, hemstitch brushes for cleaning out the key holes, small sticks of wood for poking out any unhappy particle of dust which may have got into the cracks of the floor, white paste for the windows, red paste for the hearth stones, terry for the steel, and several other pastes and polishes as the occasion may require. These are the implements a Dutch peasant woman uses to clean out her cottage home. Dust is her natural enemy, she is born into the world to fight it, it is her mission, and she does no more than her mother and foremothers have done before her. No wonder that such a home training turns out an exceedingly high class of domestic servant; and yet, the Dutch mistress grumbles. Such is life.

A DUTCH INTERIOR.

A "Dutch interior," from a housekeeper's as well as an artistic point of view, is a most interesting study. It is one thing to know a country well by traveling through it, stopping at the best hotels, visiting all points of interest, taking careful notes by pen and brush of all worth recording, but it is quite another experience and fully as interesting to live among its people as one of themselves to see how they live and think, manage and eat; when they are conscious no longer on its by, and that they need not adapt themselves to any stranger's custom or fancy. This latter has been my good luck to experience, and I can truthfully say that there are no cleaner, more hospitable, kind hearted, domestic people in the world than the Dutch. I mention "clean" first because with them it comes first. What would become of a Dutch woman in a world where there is no dust is a subject for conjecture, and though I look upon my visit to Holland as part of the happiest time in my life, still my sincere prayer is that my Dutch friends may never visit me. I could never live up to their idea of cleanliness; the mental strain would be too great.

Washing is not done weekly as in America, but allowed to accumulate for weeks, sometimes even longer, an unhealthy custom, but in this as in many other respects the Dutch can hardly be called a clean nation, from a hygienic point of view. With them it is dust, dust, and again dust.

Often the underservants such as scullery maid, nurse maid, etc., do not sleep in the house. This gives more space and room for the family. These girls come in by the day, sleeping at their own homes at night. All servants in Holland dress extremely neat, generally in lilac print dresses, white muslin caps, and large white aprons.

The same dress is worn in the street as in the house. If the weather is cold, a shawl is thrown over the shoulders. They do a good deal of the household shopping. It must be indeed delightful for the Dutch mistress to have Betsy Jane all ready dressed to run her little errands, instead of having to wait an hour or more while Betsy Jane curls her "bangs" and beds her hair with cheap liniment. This is a good arrangement for maid as well as mistress, for with the former it breaks the monotony of the daily round, gives her a little blow of fresh air, besides the opportunity of a slight flirtation with the butcher's boy or the green grocer's assistant.

A HOUSEHOLD CUSTOM.

A strange household custom in Holland is the custody of the "guest money" by the mistress. Each guest is, as in England, expected to fee the house servants. In Holland, this money is at once handed by the recipient to the lady of the house, who at certain seasons of the year such as Christmas and Easter, divides it equally among all her staff. Not a bad plan when one thinks it over, but rather startling at first to the guest.

And now for Dutch food. All food is good in Holland, all cooking excellent, beef and mutton even better than in England, vegetables in abundance. Butter is very good and plentiful and is used without stint, but everything is spoiled by being served cold. Rich dishes which would be most appetizing were they eaten piping hot, become repulsive, indigestible masses of grease when served from a cold dish on a stone cold plate. During the whole of my stay in Holland I never once saw a dish covered or a plate heated.

Cakes are a specialty with the Dutch. Each town has one or more of its own, and it was interesting to trace the ancestry of many of our American ones. Waffles met me at a kermis at The Hague. The kookje, which is to be found all over Holland and is, in fact, the Dutch word for "little cake," is actually and etymologically the ancestor of the New England cookie. Doughnuts I met everywhere, though I cannot imagine from where they got their ugly name of "doughnut." In Holland they are called spritsen, and in French Canada, where they are a sort of national cake, they are known by the name of croquignoles, and sometimes beignet, which latter name is simply the French for fritter. I imagine that in one way and another we owe a good deal of our cooking to Holland.—J. E. Brooks in Good House-keeping.

The Zulus' Military Tactics.

The Zulus are a war like race, and their recent record in the war with England showed them to have an instinctive knowledge of military tactics best suited to their arms and themselves. For ages they have held their own against the other tribes, and rose to their highest point of power under the rule of the terrible Tshaka.

In the native fights each man throws his assegais at his enemy, catching his opponent's on his shield, if possible, then throwing them back again. Tshaka had his soldiers' assegais cut nearly through at the base of the shaft, so that although still strong enough to kill a man, they would break if caught upon the shield or ground, or upon the man falling with one in his body; this expedient placed to all the sound assegais in the hands of his own men, who then rushed upon their foes stabbing them without mercy.

A curious fact is that over 2,900 years before Marius, the Roman, in his war with Cimbr, did very nearly the same thing. Their javelin, called pilum, had the rivet farthest from the point removed and a wooden peg inserted just strong enough to carry it in its flight. Tshaka also invented the short or stabbing assegai, and introduced the trick of receiving the enemy's second fire, which exhausted their assegais, and then charging home with their deadly short one. He ruthlessly killed every man who was wounded in the back, or who failed to retain his spear and shield after the battle.—WILLIAMS' Zulus and Their Warfare.

PENAL SERVITUDE.

THE STORY A CONDEMNED MAN TOLD AN AMERICAN.

The Miseries of Prolonged Imprisonment in a Siberian Dungeon—The Growing Fear of Insanity—Loss of Self-Control. Scoury—Suicide.

You cannot imagine the misery of prolonged confinement in a casemate of the fortress under what are known as dungeon conditions (kartsernoi polozhenie). My casemate was sometimes cold, generally damp, and always gloomy. Day after day, week after week, and month after month, I lay there in solitude, hearing no sound save that of the high pitched, melancholy bells of the fortress cathedral, which slowly chimed the quarter hours, and which always seemed to me to half articulate the words, "Tee zdais seedesh—oo seedee tee." (Here thou liest—like here still). I had absolutely nothing to do except to pace my cell from corner to corner and think. For a long time I used to talk to myself in a whisper; to repeat softly everything in the shape of literature that I could remember, and to compose speeches which under certain imagined conditions, I would deliver; but I finally ceased to have energy enough to do even this, and used to sit for hours in a sort of stupor, in which, so far as I can now remember, I was not conscious of thinking at all.

WEAK, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

Before the end of the first year I grew so weak mentally and physically that I began to forget words. I knew what ideas I desired to express, but some of the words that I needed had gone from me, and it was with the greatest difficulty that I could recover them. It seemed sometimes as if my own language were a strange one to me, or one which, from long disuse, I had forgotten. I greatly feared insanity, and my apprehension was increased by the fact that two or three of my comrades in cells on the same corridor were either insane or subject to hallucinations, and I was often roused at night and thrown into a violent chill of nervous excitement by their hysterical weeping, their cries to the guard to come and take away somebody, or something, which they imagined they saw, or their groans and entreaties when, in cases of violent delirium, they were strapped to their beds by the gendarmes. My inability to do what was happening in the cells from which these groans, cries and sounds of violence came gave full play, of course, to my imagination, and thus increased my nervous excitement, until I was on the verge of hysterics myself.

Several times, when I feared that I was losing all self control, I summoned the fortress surgeon, or the "feldsher," who merely gave me a dose of bromide of potassium, and told me that I must not excite myself so; that nothing serious had happened; that two or three of the prisoners were sick and delirious; but that there was nothing to be alarmed about. As the fortress contained no hospital, insane and delirious patients were treated in their cells, and were rarely removed to an asylum unless they were manifestly incurable, or the care of them became burdensome. The effect of the eternal stillness, solitude, and lack of occupation on the mind was greatly heightened by the want of proper exercise and nourishment for the body. "Accused" prisoners awaiting trial in the Trubetskoi bastion were allowed to have money in the hands of the "smatritel," or warden, and could direct its expenditure for white bread, vegetables, tea, sugar, etc., to make up the deficiencies of the prison ration; but we, the "condemned," had to live upon black rye bread, soup which it was often impossible to eat on account of the spoiled condition of the meat from which it had been made, and a small quantity of "kasha," or barley, boiled with a little fat and served without seasoning, and sometimes only half cooked.

ATTACKED BY SCURVY.

Such food, in connection with the damp, heavy air of the casemate and the lack of proper exercise, caused derangement of the digestive organs, and this was soon followed by more or less pronounced symptoms of scurvy. Madame Lebedeva, who was in the penal servitude section with me, suffered from scurvy to such an extent that her teeth became loose and her gums greatly swollen, and she could not masticate the prison bread without first soaking it in warm water. Scurvy, even in an incipient form, intensified, of course, the mental depression due primarily to other causes and made it almost insupportable. I never seriously meditated suicide—it always seemed to me a cowardly thing to escape suffering by taking one's own life—but I did speculate upon my possibility of suicide, and wondered how I could kill myself in a casemate where there was absolutely nothing that could be used as an implement of self-destruction.

Once I went so far as to see if I could hang myself from the small cylindrical hot air pipe which projected two or three inches into my cell from the face of the brick oven. I did not really intend to take my life, but I felt a morbid curiosity to know whether or not I could do it in that way. As soon as I threw my weight on the pipe, it pulled out of the masonry, making, as it fell to the floor, a noise which attracted the attention of the guard in the corridor. I was forthwith removed to another cell, and I never again tried a similar experiment. They say that poor Goldenberg succeeded in committing suicide in the fortress, but I cannot imagine how he accomplished it. I became satisfied that I could not kill myself in my casemate in any other way than by biting into an artery or dashing my head against the wall, and I ultimately became so weak that I doubt very much whether I could have fractured my skull by the latter method.—George Kennan in The Century.

The Parisians' Off-hand Manner.

In place of their old flowery language, Parisians have of late years adopted an off-hand manner (running to the extreme as is so often the case), a manner which they are kind enough to call English or American. Still, there are bounds which must never be overstepped, and a certain degree of formality is always demanded in the intercourse between the sexes before the world, whatever they may be behind the social scenes. A Frenchman always bows when greeting a lady, even when he shakes hands with her. His bow may or may not be perfect, his "shake hand" is almost always awkward. To style it a "shake" at all is straining a point. The hand is taken and as quickly let go again as if it were of ice and there were considerable fear of melting it. For some years it has been the vogue for the lady of the house to offer her hand to all comers—even quite young men—whom this piece of condescension sometimes embarrasses extremely, they having their thumbs neatly encased between the folds of their gibus. Having joined hands with their hostess, there is an end of it; the other ladies of their acquaintance who happen to be in the room do not get nor expect more than the bow simple.—Paris Cor. Argonaut.

Nineteen thousand more Irishmen left their native land last year than in the year before.

FARM AND GARDEN.

PROTECTION OF CHERRIES AND OTHER FRUITS FROM BIRDS.

Remedies Suggested for the Apple Root Louse—Facts About Guernsey Cattle. Trellis and Arbor Suited to Fast Growing Vines.

Farmers are often puzzled as to the style of arbor or trellis best suited to vines of rapid growth. The trellis shown in the cut is of simple construction, and is advised by Farm, Field and Stockman for grape vines, along with other sorts.



TRELLIS AND ARBOR.

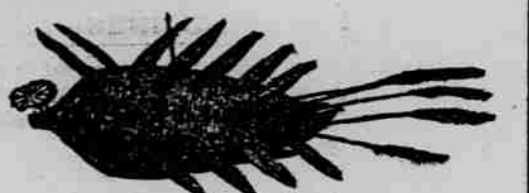
The journal quoted from says that grape vines planted at intervals of twelve feet, alternating on each side so that plants may not come opposite, will completely cover the trellis and arbor overhead and at the same time bear full loads of fruit if annually shortened in to prevent too great elongation of the main vines. The leading shoots should be cut back annually to about six feet, and the spurs to two buds each. If grapes are not desired any good climber may be substituted, and in this case, after the trellis is fully covered, all that will be necessary will be to keep down the rampant growth. The posts rest on stones sunk a little into the ground. The posts may be of any desired size of timber. Cap pieces connect them along each side, and cross pieces join the opposite posts. Wire is used for the lattice work.

The Production of Apples.

No farmer who has the land to spare should be deterred from setting out an apple orchard of good fruit by the fear of no market, or, in other words, overproduction. The population is constantly increasing, and the apple is the king of American fruits, sought for everywhere, and only in exceptional cases and limited districts is there in any year such an excess over the demand as to render an orchard of good fruit unprofitable. As many as 50,000 barrels of American apples have been sold in London in a single week, and the demand for them is steadily increasing. And England is only one of the many countries to which they are sent. The manufacturers of pure vinegar in this country also make a market for an immense amount of the more common varieties. The fear of apple growing being overdone has been entertained by some people, from time to time, for as many as forty years back; nevertheless a good orchard has continued to be a good thing to have, and it is quite safe to predict that it will be the same hereafter for first class apples of good keeping qualities. The amount exported to other countries has grown to such an extent that it is stated that the value of it is almost equal to one-seventh of the estimated merchandise value of the whole amount produced.

Protection Against Birds.

Every season innumerable contrivances are invented and employed to frighten birds away from cherry laden trees and other fruits. The one represented in the cut was originally suggested in Popular Gardening, and it is claimed, has been found effectual.



MONSTER OF THE AIR.

As will be seen on examining the cut, this is an improvement over the potato stuck with feathers, to which the birds soon get used, and, finding it not possessed of life. For the body of the monster take a long mangel wurtzel, a large parsnip, or a mammoth beet. Into this thrust feathers along what is to be the back and sides, with two set in the head for horns. For the tail, the feathers are mounted on light twigs, the object of this being to keep the suspended monster lively by turning with the wind. The eyes are important parts for giving a life like appearance. These consist of two bits of broken porcelain, thrust into the root from the top downward, and with eye holes gouged out of the sides to these. Two small spin wheels are projected forward of the eyes, to add horror to the look. They are made of circular pieces of tin, about four inches across. These are cut from the edge to near the center into about ten or more radiations, and the parts given a slight twist, windmill like. A wire nail through the center attaches each wheel to the end of a stick, and on this it should revolve in every slight breeze.

For suspending it, a cord which encircles the body is carried up to one end of a half hoop shaped iron rod, the other end of which is bolted to a pole that is raised slightly above one of the trees to be protected. Then the monster bobs about and turns with the wind, the spin wheels fly and clatter, and altogether there is a dreadful look to strike terror to evil doing birds, even those disposed to boldness.

Apple Root Louse.

In the last annual report of the New Jersey State Horticultural society, along with much other matter of practical importance, is a communication on the apple root louse from Mrs. Mary Treat, Vineland, N. J. This communication is of very general interest, for the root louse are far more destructive to vegetation than are those that inhabit the stems and leaves. Following are some of the statements made, in condensed form: The root louse increases even more rapidly than do plant lice, and when ready to migrate they know enough to go to new pastures to found colonies on apple trees not before inhabited by their predecessors. For the last twenty years a woolly plant louse has been known to infest the roots of apple trees, causing swellings and deformations of almost every possible shape, and, when very numerous, killing the tree.

Although the insect usually confines itself to the roots of the tree, yet a few may be occasionally found on the suckers that spring up around the butt of the trunk, and even on the trunk and limbs, especially in places where the branch has been amputated and nature is closing up the old wound by a circle of bark.

When it works upon the naked trunk it often causes a mass of little granulations to sprout out about the size of cabbage seeds, thus producing, on a small scale, the same effect that it does upon the roots.

Wherever the insect works, small as it is, it may easily be recognized by the peculiar bluish white cottony matter which it excretes from its body and which is never met with in the case of the common apple tree plant louse that inhabits the leaves and tips of twigs. Fortunately, there are two or three natural checks to this pest, or it would soon destroy all the trees. The nine spotted lady bug is one of these.

As for artificial remedies, Professor Riley says: "The best mode to get rid of the apple root louse is to drench the roots of the infested trees with hot water. But to render this process effectual the water must be applied in quantities large enough to penetrate to every part of the infested roots." Professor Comstock says that the root lice thrive in a dry, porous soil. Mrs. Treat therefore recommends that, as a heavy, damp soil does not agree with these pests, the earth around the crown of the tree be kept hollowed into a sort of basin, in order that the water may collect there.

No tree can bear knots and excrescences on its roots such as these lice make and bear good apples at the same time, for the main part of the sap and nourishment of the tree goes to support the galls which these creatures produce.

Successive Planting of Peas.

Peas should be planted as early as the ground will admit, in a rich, deep soil, for a vigorous growth and large production. Several successive plantings should be made at short intervals to secure successive pickings through the season. The same result can be obtained to some degree by planting at the same time varieties that have earlier and later periods for ripening. From the many excellent kinds offered by seedsmen choose the ones most to your liking, and follow the directions as to planting and cultivation that are given on the packets. The wrinkled peas are more delicate in flavor and remain longer in season than the smooth sorts, and there are many to select from that do not require support from brush.

Petroleum as a Wood Preservative.

As a preservative of wood, hardly anything better than petroleum is known, as many persons have realized, and more are finding out every day, and its cheapness makes it available for purposes for which no substitute of the same cost can be found. It can be applied to advantage on unpainted posts, gates, shingles, etc., greatly increasing their durability, but should not be used with colors as paint, for it does not dry and harden well, but wood, where it has been applied, can afterward be painted more easily than if it had not been used.

The Capacity of a Barn for Hay.

The exact weight of a body of hay cannot be ascertained by measurement, varying as it will according to the kind of hay and the length of time it has been packed away. The rule is to measure the spaces to be filled with hay and multiply the length by the width and that by the depth, all in feet, then divide by 500, which is the number of cubic feet commonly taken to represent a ton of average hay. Sometimes, owing to quality and condition, 400 cubic feet will weigh a ton, when in other cases 600 may be required.

Pure Water for Fowls.

It is of great importance in keeping fowls in a healthy condition that they should have access to no water that is not pure. Leakings from the manure heap, water from the kitchen sink or slop holes in the yard are all unwholesome, as is stagnant water of any kind. Drinking vessels should be easily accessible at all times and supplied with water that is pure and fresh. Tin, galvanized iron or earthen drinking vessels may be used, and should be thoroughly cleansed and rinsed out whenever refilled.

Bagging Tomatoes.

All have heard of bagging grapes as a preventive of mildew and rot. Progressive men who have tried the bags on tomatoes say that the tomatoes thus covered were so delicate in color, so very smooth and perfect that members of the household did not, upon first seeing them, know what they were. Now we hear of perfect specimens of pears and plums raised in this way. It would not pay in a money sense to do such work, but it might well serve to delight and instruct the little folk.

The Guernseys.

The Guernseys, one of the several types of dairy cattle represented in the herds of this country, are nearly allied to the more popular Jerseys, and like them are great butter producers.



GUERNSEY BULL "WONDER OF THE WORLD."

The Guernseys make a fine show not only in the herd, but in the exhibition ring, being beautiful animals, somewhat larger than the Jerseys and more uniform in color. Numbered with remarkable specimens of this breed is the famous cow Jolie 2d, imported by Mr. J. W. Fuller, of Catsaug, Pa., who won first prize as the best cow in the island of Guernsey in 1884. She is considered one of the best among milk cows of this breed in this country. A noticeable characteristic is the extreme yellowness of her skin.

In the annexed illustration is given a true likeness of another prominent Guernsey, the bull "Wonder of the World," imported by E. N. Howell, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. At the last New York dairy and cattle show this animal was awarded the first prize for the best bull over 1 and under 2 years old. He is pale fawn and white with a rich colored skin.

Things Farmers Tell One Another.

Mr. M. B. Faxton advises that parsnip seed be planted early, and when well up thinned to six inches apart.

Never allow potatoes to throw off sprouts in an over warm cellar; it weakens vigor, says Mr. Alfred Rose, the veteran potato grower.

Mr. J. H. Hale, Connecticut, says that peach trees that have been annually and heavily banked with wood ashes to keep out the borers have been more free from yellows than those not so protected.

To have sweet corn for a succession Mr. E. S. Carmon advises, first, either Cory or Northern Pedigree, then Shaker's Early or Perry's Hybrid, then Moore's Concord, Triumph or History, then Stowell's Evergreen, Moonbeam or Egyptian.

The Plattsmouth Herald Is enjoying a Boom in both its DAILY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS. The Year 1888

Will be one during which the subjects of national interest and importance will be strongly agitated and the election of a President will take place. The people of Cass County who would like to learn of

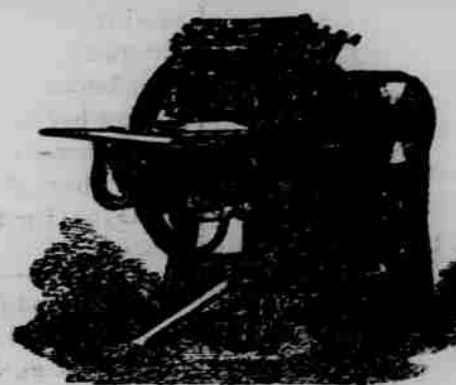
Political, Commercial and Social Transactions

of this year and would keep abreast with the times should

SUBSCRIBE Daily or Weekly Herald.

Now while we have the subject before the people we will venture to speak of our

JOB DEPARTMENT.



Which is first-class in all respects and from which our job printers are turning out much satisfactory work.

PLATTSMOUTH, :: NEBRASKA.