

UNDER A MASK.



"I know as little about it as you. I certainly made the tea this afternoon, but I took the tea and sugar and milk from their usual places. If arsenic was mixed with one of them I had, of course, no knowledge of it."

"That has to be proved. Everything is against you; it was you who suggested bringing the poison into the house; it was you who gave Mr. Bowyer the drink in which the poison was mixed; it was you who had the strongest reason to wish for his death. I know that he told you he would leave you twenty thousand pounds."

The pale silvery light that fell upon Ellen's face showed plainly its perplexity and pain. It seemed as though a net had been thrown over her and she was inextricably entangled in its meshes.

"What is it you wish me to do?" she exclaimed, helplessly.

"I wish you to leave the house at once—never to return, never to cross our paths here or anywhere again."

"You cannot mean that. Don't you see it would be a confession of guilt were I to go away so?"

"And was it not a confession of guilt when two years ago you fled rather than stand your trial for the murder of your own sister?"

In the afternoon she and Mr. Bowyer were left alone again. He slept for some hours, and woke up in a better temper.

ing her to hear; but, when her eyes opened, he felt constrained to say something to break the spell which he saw held her as well as him.

"I have come from Mr. Bowyer. He is ready to receive you back. Will you come with me now, or will you rest a little longer?"

"What did he say?" she asked, eagerly.

"He is ill and fanciful, and that horrid woman had evidently poisoned his mind against you. But that he leaves you still I am certain; and when he sees you the absurd suspicion will soon die a natural death."

When Ellen had resumed her outdoor clothing, they started for the Dover House.

The walk was over sooner than either wished. Seven sipped for a pleasure ended, and Ellen shrank back nervously as she remembered the ordeal to come.

"You are not frightened? Shall I go in with you?" he asked, his hand upon the gate.

"I think it would be better to go alone."

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

THINGS PERTAINING TO THE FARM AND HOME.

Sixty Acres Carefully Managed Will Produce Enough for One Family—How to Make Straight Furrows—Our Climate Not Good for Oats.

Living on a Small Farm.
The raising of choice fruit and vegetables and the producing of first quality milk and cream to be sold at retail, is a growing business, and can be made a most profitable one. A farm of forty to sixty acres can be worked to advantage by the farmer and one man, with occasional help in the summer season.

Upon such a place, ten cows can be kept, two or three female calves raised every season, two brood sows with their pigs, a pair of heavy horses and a large flock of chickens. The monthly sales would run from \$75 to \$100, with good management, yielding a profit of \$25 per month at the lowest. The farm should be located within five miles of a good market, and if possible upon a stone road. The farm should be so managed as to grow first the family and stock crops. Amateurs make the mistake of trying to farm too much land and to raise large market crops, thinking they can buy hay and corn cheaper than they can raise it—this is not the case—and the man that follows it will come to grief.

Let the raising of colts be given over to those that have many acres and cheap land. Commence in a small way, and feel your way. Remember you can spend your money quicker than you can make it. Especially is this so, if you do not understand the business. It is much the wiser plan for one that is unskilled in the business to hire out for a season or two to a first-class truck farmer, fruit grower, dairyman or general farmer, and learn the business in a practical manner. A year or two so spent would be of very great value to him. Our agricultural college is now controlled by practical experts in their various departments, and under their guidance an active young man would soon be well grounded in the rudiments of agriculture.

A sixty-acre farm should be laid out as follows: Fifteen acres in timothy and clover, fifteen acres in corn, ten acres pasture for stock, two acres oats and peas, to be followed with corn fodder for late fall feeding; three acres corn fodder for summer feeding; to be followed by rye for next spring's feeding; ten acres garden and fruit crops; five acres, dwelling, roads, lawn, etc.

The pasture should be lined with forty bushels of lime to the acre, and divided into two fields. If the soil is a clay loam, the lime will bring in red and white clover and the natural grasses. The corn land, if soil, should likewise be lined, using 200 pounds of bone-phosphate in the hill to the acre to start the crop. The manure from the stock should be spread over the grass and used upon the garden.—Baltimore American.

Making Straight Furrows and Rows.
It requires not only a good eye in the teamster, but a strong, active team to do good work in marking out furrows and making straight rows across a field. If the team is not strong enough for the work, it will dodge from one side to another in order to relieve the excessive strain on its shoulders. This will make absolutely straight rows impossible, no matter how correct the eye of the plowman may be. The first furrow across the field is harder on the team than any later one, especially if the field be in the sod. After it is cut each other furrow requires less lifting to turn it over, as on the plow side there is an open furrow instead of an unbroken sod, so that only one slice of the soil has to be cut. But the first furrow for this reason should be shallower than those that follow it. This will make less of a ridge where it lies.

The Feet of Western Horses.
In the prairie States, where horses are driven mainly on soft dirt roads, their feet are not so tough and able to resist hard shocks on city roads as are those of horses grown where uniformly good roads prevail. The main roads of Kentucky are generally good. They were made solid originally, and the soil being naturally dry, the road does not become miry even in spring time. It is quite possible also that the limestone which underlies the whole Blue Grass region has something to do with making sound hoofs and sound limbs as well. There is great difference in individual horses in this respect, but there is enough likeness in all the horses from a district to make it certain that feeding and locality have something to do in producing this result.

We have found that in most years a dressing of 150 pounds of phosphate paid better on the oat crop than on wheat, provided the oats were sown early. It is no use to put phosphate on late-sown spring grain of any kind. It requires a good deal of moisture to dissolve it, and if sown after spring rains have passed it may not do any good.

Baldwin vs. Greening.
The red color and the admirable shipping qualities enable the Baldwin apple to sell for 25 to 50 cents per barrel more than Greenings in most markets, says the Agriculturist. The Baldwin does not show bruises as readily as the other apple, and is less affected by scab or blotches. As an eating apple, it is greatly preferred; but for cooking, the Greening has points of superiority. The latter may yield more fruit than the Baldwin, taking one year with another, and is more likely to yield annually. The Baldwin has an upright growth that makes it easy to cultivate, whereas the Greening has a low, spreading habit that does not facilitate the cultivation which is now advised in the commercial apple industry. Each variety has its advantages; both are, therefore, worthy of being raised on any farm where they thrive, but the Baldwin is, above all, the commercial apple. Its proper culture in New York will pay better than oranges in Florida or California.

Grass Around Tree Trunks.
Nothing is more unsightly than to see a plowed orchard with a clump of grass growing up around the bodies of the trees. It is worse than unsightly, for it is a serious detriment. It is true that few or none of the feeding tree roots may be under the grass around the tree, but its growing makes a harbor for mice in winter and for the borer in early summer. It takes but a few minutes' work early in spring to spade the soil for two feet or more on each side of the tree, turning the grass under so that it will rot. When this is done examine the tree trunk closely where the grass has shaded it, and ten chances to one you will find a borer at work in it. He should be killed at once, and the trunk be washed with a dilution of carbolic acid with soap suds, which will prevent further trouble from the same enemy.

River Bottom Land.
There are some disadvantages in farming on land annually overflooded. One is that the sediment brought down is sometimes too deep, and completely destroys the grass in the hollows where most of it is deposited. A worse trouble occurs when the grasses run out on such land, and it has to be reseeded. It is very unsafe to plow it, as before the soil can be renewed the land may be flooded and gullied so that much of the most valuable soil will be lost. For this reason river bottom land is kept in grass as much as possible. It will produce a crop for years without loss of fertility, as the soil each year grows richer by the sediment deposited upon it.

Manuring for Roots.
Roots require a large amount of available nitrogen, but it is never advisable to plow under large quantities of stable manure where they are to be grown. This makes the soil too dry for the best growth, and it also furnishes most of the nitrogen in the hottest weather when the roots need it least. Turnips grow hollow and pithy when manured with stable manure. It is also likely to breed worms, which will attack the roots and make them worthless for marketing. Soluble commercial manures that will stimulate early growth will pay. Later in the season the soil, if fairly rich, will develop enough fertility without manure.

Hens and Their Value.
A great many farmers make a sad mistake in their estimate of the value of the hens on the place by not keeping an accurate account of expenses and receipts—and in the receipts you must not forget to count the good fried eggs that go down so nicely these cold mornings with the slices of ham for breakfast, says Farm News. If the hen got half the credit she deserves, we would not hear so much talk about her unprofitableness. Try it once and see.

Sunflower Seed for Fowls.
There is not much of a boom at present for growing sunflowers, but the time will come when they will be largely grown here, as they are in Russia, to press into oil. Even now a few should be planted every year to grow for poultry during winter. They are excellent for moulting fowls, because of the oil they contain, but when fowls are not moulting the sunflower seed should be fed sparingly, so as not to fatten them. They are better feed for laying fowls than is corn.

Mating Strawberry Plants.
When planting strawberries in the spring it is important, if the plantlet varieties are used, that the staminate varieties, which will be needed to fertilize them, should blossom at the same time. There is a difference of two or three weeks in the time when strawberry plants blossom, and if an early plantlet and late hermaphrodite variety are planted side by side it may result in a great many of the stamens aborting and producing no fruit.

Keep the Stock Comfortable.
Aside from any pecuniary gain or loss, it is a great comfort of a winter's night as I lie between the warm blankets and listen to the storm without, to know that the horses, my companions in labor, are as comfortable as a clean, warm stable, good food and plenty of bedding can make them.—George T. Pettit.

Certified Milk.
Certified milk from certified cows will soon be demanded by all consumers. Those who place themselves in a position to furnish such an article can choose their customers and secure the top price for their milk.

CHAPTER XX.

A dull, foggy morning. Though there had been no rain the ground was quite wet, and showers of drops fell from the overhanging trees at every gust of wind. Colonel Severn shivered as he rode on quickly toward Gravenhaven. It was business pleasure, that took him out that morning; and toward he was half inclined to call it fate.

Presently, a few paces before him—for the fog prevented his seeing further than that ahead—he saw a girl struggling on under the weight of a heavy bag, her articulated skirts clinging round her feet and impeding her progress. A gleam of light golden hair assured him of her identity.

"Miss Warde, is it you?"
A momentary impulse prompted her to affect not to know him, and to pass on unheeding; but she was weak and weary, and could not resist the temptation of speaking to him, though it were only to say good-bye.

She threw back her veil and disclosed a face pale and sad, but infinitely lovely. Her deep gray eyes shone through the fog like two stars, while her red lips quivered pitifully, like those of a frightened child.

"Yes, it is I," she said.
"But what are you doing here at this time? Where are you going?"
"Where?" she repeated vaguely; then, with a sudden sense of the desperation of her position, she added passionately: "Ah, if I only knew!"

CHAPTER XXI.

When Elaine crept in, Mr. Bowyer had mastered up sufficient courage to meet her with at least outward calm. He saw the pride beneath the quietude and humility of her demeanor, and he knew that such was her gratitude for what he had done before, that, however unjust he might be now, she would never rebel, but suffer mutely at his pleasure.

"You are tired, child, and cold," he said. "You would like to go to your room. There is a fire there, and Jane will get you a cup of tea."

Tears sprung to her eyes at the unexpected tone of kindness. She came forward and knelt beside his chair, looking yearningly into his eyes, as though grateful for so much, yet wanting more—far more still.

Somehow nervously he avoided meeting her gaze.
"Go and rest, Elaine. You are over-tired. After dinner you shall read to me if you are able."

Disappointed, dispirited, the girl rose understanding now what the terms were on which they met. He believed her guilty, yet, for his world's sake, as he had adopted her cause at first, and promised Colonel Severn now to take her back, he would treat her well and kindly. Could she ever bear it, enduring with patience and good temper to the end?

The next morning she was too ill to leave her bed; a low fever had seized her due to the excitement of the past two days, and a chill taken on the previous morning. For nearly a week she lay prostrate, happily too weak even to think, while exhausted nature gradually recovered itself.

After a little while Ellen was down stairs again, but Mrs. Priolo was determined on one thing—the same roof should not shelter both. Mr. Bowyer had displayed more resistance than she had expected, but she would wear him out in time.

CHAPTER XXII.

A dull, foggy morning. Though there had been no rain the ground was quite wet, and showers of drops fell from the overhanging trees at every gust of wind. Colonel Severn shivered as he rode on quickly toward Gravenhaven. It was business pleasure, that took him out that morning; and toward he was half inclined to call it fate.

CHAPTER XXIII.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXIV.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXV.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXVI.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXVII.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXVIII.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXIX.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXX.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXXI.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXXII.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXXIII.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXXIV.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXXV.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXXVI.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXXVII.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XXXIX.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XL.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XLI.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XLII.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XLIII.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XLIV.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XLV.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XLVI.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XLVII.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XLVIII.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER XLIX.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows:

CHAPTER L.

When Colonel Severn returned from a walk which, without his knowledge, had extended for some miles, he found his guest had gone. He had returned, the servants told him, packed up his things, and driven away to the station in great haste, leaving a note behind which would, they suggested, probably explain his sudden departure. Expressing no surprise at the news, he did not even open the letter which was placed in his hands until he was alone. Then he read as follows: