



CHAPTER XXIII.

Nuttie was carried away to Cowes, where her father had been persuaded to recur to his old favorite sport of racing. She would have rather liked this if Clarence Fane, a favorite acquaintance of her father, had not been there, too, and continually hounding them. She had been distrustful of him ever since Annabelle's warning, and it became a continual worry to the motherless girl to decide whether his civil attentions really meant anything, or whether she were only foolish and ridiculous in not accepting them as freely and simply as before.

"How now! I thought your grace condescended to him more than to anyone else." "I don't dislike him unless he has that in his head; but as to marrying him! Oh—!" "So hot against him, are we? Who is it, then? Not the umbrella fellow?" "Father! how can you?" she cried, with a burning flush of indignation. "He—why—be! He has always been a sort of uncle, ever since I was a little girl." "Oh, yes, adopted uncles are very decent when young ladies rush out to morning prayers at unearthly hours." "Father! with her voice trembling. "I assure you he doesn't—I mean he always goes to St. Michael's, unless he has anything particular to say to me." "Oh, yes, I understand," and Mr. Egremont indulged in a hearty laugh, which almost drove poor Nuttie beside herself. "Indeed—indeed," she stammered, in her confusion and suppressed wrath; "it is nothing of that sort. He is a regular old bachelor—he always was."

"At what age do men become old bachelors? For he seems to me about the age of poor Harry, whom you seem to view as a bachelor." "I wish you would not think of such things, father. I have not the slightest intention of leaving you, and dear little Wynnie! Nothing should tempt me!" "Nothing? Then you may as well be on your guard, Miss Egremont, or we shall have pleadings that you have encouraged them—church and world—or both, may be. You pious folk take your little diversions and flirtations just like your poor sisters whom you shake your heads at, never guessing how Gregorio and I have looked out at you and your adopted uncle parading the street."

"I wish Gregorio would mind his own business, and not put such things in your head!" burst out Nuttie. At which Mr. Egremont laughed longer and louder than ever. Poor Nuttie! It was a terrible discomfiture, not only for the moment, but a notion had been planted in her mind that seemed cruel, almost profane, and yet which would not be dismissed, and made her heart leap with strange bounds at the wild thought, "Could it be true?" then sink again with shame at her own presumptuous folly in entertaining such a thought for a moment. Yet whenever she actually encountered Mr. Dutton her habitual comfort and reliance on him revived, and dispelled all the embarrassment which at other times she expected to feel in his presence.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Though it was the Derby day, Mr. Egremont's racing days were over, and he only took his daughter with him in quest of some spectacles he wanted, as those which Nuttie had brought him did not suit. When they came back, Nuttie mounted to the nursery, but no little brother met her on the stairs, and she found nurse in deep displeasure with her subordinate. "I sent him out with Ellen to play in the garden at Springfield, and swim his ship, where he couldn't come to no harm," said nurse, "being that my foot is that had I can't walk the length of the street; and Gregorio take the dear child and goodness knows where—without her."

CHAPTER XXV.

There was no rest sleep for Ursula that short summer night. She saw the early dawn, listened to the distant roll of market carts, and wondered when it would be reasonable to be afoot, and ready to hear, if aught there was to hear. At any hour after seven, surely the finders would have mercy and bring the welcome news. And just before seven she fell asleep, deeply, soundly, and never woke till past eight. But that was just enough to revive the power of hope, and give the sense of a new day. For there was nothing to hear—no news. She found Mr. Dutton in the dining-room. He had had to administer another draught to her father, and had left him in a sleep which would probably last for some time. If she would go and sit in the outer room, after her breakfast, he would go out to obtain intelligence.

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

Things Pertaining to the Farm and Home.
A Young Colt Rarely Recovers from Stunt—Food Water Good for Cows—Why Temporary Fences Are Best—Value of a Good Spring on the Farm.
Hanolin—Fools.
Whatever method is employed in handling foals, it should have in view the full and unretarded development of the growing colt. Any young animal on the farm must recover from any setback it may receive during its growth, and the aim should be to keep it always in a thrifty condition, and gaining each day until fully matured. If the young colt is stunted at any period of its growth, the effect is sure to follow, and it cannot be overcome without extra food and care, greatly in excess of what have been required to keep it in constantly growing condition. In fact, the chances are that it never will recover and be what it might have been. It may grow to be a well-developed horse, but it would have been that much better had it suffered no check in its growth.—*Brooders' Gazette.*

Ponds for Watering Cows.
So much is said about the need of pure water for cows that most people have come to the conclusion that pond water is always objectionable. It may be near large cities, where various kinds of refuse get into it, and so also may the spring water of such localities be polluted with typhoid and other germs. But away from large cities or villages the pond water as found on many farms is as pure as that which comes from springs. Cows will drink it, even if the water be muddy, rather than the water freshly drawn from a spring or well. The reason is because in summer the water is warmer. If allowed, cows will wade into such ponds, letting the water cover their udders. This is very refreshing to them in a hot day, but is best done where there is a running stream, so as by exposure to the air by its motion to keep the water fresh.

Match Under Beehive Trees.
Almost all kinds of fruit trees suffer late in the summer for lack of water. The best way to keep moisture in the soil is to thoroughly mulch it with straw, cut grass or anything that will present an open, dry surface. If nothing else can be procured cultivate a little loose soil under the trees as far as the roots extend. Many people do not think of loose soil as a mulch, but it is one of the best. It is for this reason that an orchard in bearing ought always to be cultivated rather than kept in grass. In cultivated soil every little shower sinks down where it will help the roots. But if the surface is left hard and uncultivated, even the heavy rains, if there is a steep descent, may run off on the surface and do little good. There is an especial need of moisture while the fruit and its seeds are being formed, for this requires potash which cannot be used by roots until it is dissolved by water in the soil.

The Value of a Good Spring.
A spring of pure water on any farm adds at least a hundred dollars to its value, and if near a city it is worth much more. Often such springs can be found in hill-sides by digging six or eight feet, especially if the soil shows springy places during winter and spring. If the spring is higher than the house it can be conducted into the kitchen by force of gravity, and the water can be turned off or on as the housewife may desire. There are doubtless hundreds, and possibly thousands, of farms where the best pure water can be conducted into the house at slight expense. If the water has to be lifted a hydraulic ram will force the water up hill. This costs somewhat more, but it will generally pay.

Nature Studies.
We cannot but feel that an elementary knowledge of plant growth and of other processes of nature will some time be considered a natural part of the education of all boys and girls in the country, and this not simply because it will make them more successful farmers or fruit growers or truck raisers, but because as a matter of mental discipline it is an excellent schooling for anybody, helping to train the mind to habits of observation which can be used in any field of life, and giving a knowledge of facts and processes which will furnish pleasure and entertainment in all after life, even if it is not made directly profitable in work on the farm or the garden.—*Garden and Forest.*

Jeweled Eyeglasses.
Dainty eyes are now considered an opportunity for using jeweled eyeglasses. A fashionable jeweler has contrived fancy spectacles heavily mounted in elaborately chased Roman gold; to them is attached a long, equally elaborate gold handle. They are then held before the eyes precisely after the fashion of a loggnettes. Single eyeglasses are daintily set in all manner of pretty styles, the rims studded with jewels, the glasses themselves being oval, square or round, according to the preference of the owner. Loggnettes are massive with gold and brilliant with gems. This fad is taking immensely with elderly women who wish to avoid the appearance of age. There are to be no more slender gold bows resting upon old ladies' ears. Those will be only for the superannuated.

He Knew the Law.
Johnnie's Teacher—And now, Johnnie, tell me what the last commandment is.
Johnnie (a street car tourist)—Please don't spit on the floor.—*Cleveland Plaindealer.*

Stock in Rainy Weather.
Stock in pasture in summer often suffer more from cold in wet weather than they do from the cold of winter. The constant evaporation of moisture which is hastened by the warmth generated by the body chills the skin, and gives the animal what is known as cold, but is really internal fever. Milch cows and those heavy with young suffer most, as they cannot so well run around and thus keep their blood circulating. Every farmer has noticed that after rain has fallen all day the milk yield shrinks if the cow has been exposed to the wet. For this reason a shed in the pasture field may be a good investment. Better still is to get the cows up to the barnyard under shelter and cut some grass for them, giving a bran mash to increase the nutrition. Wet grass in field or cut does not have the proportion of nutriment to its bulk that the same grass has in dry weather with only its own natural juices in it.

A Cheap Good Silo.
A good silo can be built cheaply and easily by the exercise of a little thought and ingenuity. If possible, construct it in any of the farm buildings, for it will then cost not more than 50 cents per ton of ensilage. Get all the height you can, rather than diameter. If you already have a large silo and you are troubled with mold over the top before you get a layer of feed, divide it with rough lumber, and so have two. Try to get at least twenty-four feet in height. Figure on a cubic foot per day for each cow or steer to be fed. In building outside of a building it is needful to have the silo double and large in space as a protection against frost. Frost will get in through one thickness, as in the case of matched lumber silo. Better use a rough hemlock, two thick-nesses, with waterproof building paper between.—*Agriculturist.*

Care of Grain Drills.
The grain drill is much too expensive an implement to be left to rust by neglect in caring for it. The fertilizer drills are especially liable to this injury, because they have held some molds which cannot help rusting whatever iron they come in contact with. While in use the friction prevents rust formation, but if phosphate is left in the drill over night some injury must result. Worse still happens if the drill is left out of doors to be wet and rusted by rains. We have known careful farmers who kept grain drills in good condition twelve to fifteen years. But they kept them under cover, and always greased the parts most exposed to rust before putting away.

Millet for Outworms.
Aside from its feeding value, millet is a very useful crop for clearing the ground of outworms. A few years ago the agricultural experiment station of South Dakota sent out questions concerning the outworms, one of which follows: Will a crop such as millet, which the worms do not like, and which effectually chokes out all other growth, leave the ground free from worms in the fall? Out of sixty answers received, only one reported that worms had followed a thrifty crop of millet. All the others reported that corn after millet stood the best chance of being unmoested by wire worms.—*Agriculturist.*

Farm Notes.
The burdock, considered a nuisance in this country, has been cultivated as an article of food in Japan for centuries. The roots, leaves and tender shoots are cooked and eaten, and the annual value of the burdock crop is said to be about \$400,000.
June and July are the months for digging the peach tree borer out of the trunks. This work may be done with out injury to the trees, and is very necessary. The method is to cut into the opening made by the borer or insert wire, but care should be used that the work is done so as to insure the destruction of the borer.
A good milch cow has broad hind quarters and thin forequarters, thin and deep neck, pointed with horns, head pointed between the horns, flat and fine-boned legs and fine hair. Choose one with udders well forward, wide apart and large enough to be easily grasped. A medium-sized cow will give more milk in proportion to the food she eats.