

OH, WOULD I WERE A BOY AGAIN.

Oh, would I were a boy again,
When life seemed formed of sunny
days,
And all the heart then knew of pain,
Was wept away in transient tears,
When every tale of hope whispered then,
My fancy deemed was only truth,
Oh, would that I could know again,
The happy visions of my youth.

"The vale to mourn that years have shown,
How false those fairy visions were,
Or morn that false eyes have known,
The burden of a fleeting hour,
But still the heart will fondly cling
To hopes no longer prized as truth,
And memory still delights to bring
The happy visions of my youth."
—Mark Lemon.

THE BURGLAR AND THE PUBLIC HOUSE.

A FINE public house," said Blanco Watson, the humorist.

"Yes," I replied, looking at the building we were approaching. "but a strange position away from the high road, and surrounded by villas."

"A very strange position. We will rest in the public house, and I will tell you how it came to be built in such a very strange position."

I smiled, and followed him into the saloon bar. We sat at one of the tables, and were silent for a time, he thinking and I watching him.

"The story begins," he said presently, "with a burglar committed by a certain Bill Jones one night long ago."

"Bill was a young member of his profession. Hitherto he had not attempted anything very big, but continued success in small things had made him bold. On this night he broke into the country house of a well-known actress, in the hope of carrying off her jewels."

"He succeeded in getting the jewels and was leaving with them when he found that the slight noise he had made had attracted attention. A servant girl met him at a turn of the stairway and began to shriek. He rushed by her and to the window through which he had entered. As he passed through it again he heard doors being opened, and knew that the house was fully aroused."

"I understood," I said. "Bill escaped. The actress employed a detective. The detective built this public house in an out-of-the-way place, hoping that Bill, as an out-of-the-way young man, would call in one day for a drink. Curiously enough, Bill did."

Blanco Watson frowned.

"This is an intellectual story," he said; "it does not depend on coincidences."

"I will continue. Bill avoided the first pursuit by a long run across country, and then walked toward his home, not daring to use the railway. He kept to the by-roads as much as possible, and at the close of the next day had reached the neighborhood of London."

"A spade lying inside a field gate suggested to him the advisability of hiding the jewels until he had arranged for their sale. After making sure that he was not observed, he entered the field and picked up the spade. A tree of peculiar growth stood just beyond him. In the manner of fiction, he counted twenty steps due north from the tree, and then dug up holes, placed the jewels in it, and filled it up again."

"He arrived home safely that night, but was arrested in the morning. The servant girl had given an accurate description of him to the police, and they had recognized it."

"In due course he was tried. The evidence against him was very strong. The servant girl swore that he was the man she met on the stairs; some of the villagers swore that they had seen him near the house previously to the burglary. He was found guilty and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude."

"Bill behaved very well in prison, and at the end of five years was released on a ticket-of-leave. He decided to wait until the ticket had expired, and then to get the jewels and leave the country. But a day or two after his release he walked out to look at the field."

"There was no field. During the five years he had been in prison the estate of which the field was part had been built upon. He wandered about the houses in despair. But, as he turned a corner, he saw something which suggested hope. Behind some railings was a tree of curious growth."

"It was the tree twenty steps due north of which he had buried the jewels. He recognized it immediately, and ran toward it. Again he was in despair. A yard or two north of the tree was a chapel. He leaned against the railings, covering his face with his hands."

"It happened presently that the head deacon of the chapel, a kindly old man, came down the road. He saw Bill standing like one in trouble, and stopped and asked what was the matter and whether he could help."

"For a few moments Bill did not know what to reply, but then he spoke well. He said that once he had been a burglar, but that he had learned in prison that burglary is wrong; that now he was trying to live an honest life, but that, as he had no friends, it was not easy."

"The old man was touched. He had found Bill leaning against the chapel railings, and Bill had said that he had no friends. Was it not his duty as head deacon of the chapel to be a friend to Bill? Clearly it was."

"He took Bill home with him; he was a bachelor, and there was no one to restrain his benevolence. They had supper and talked together. The deacon found Bill intelligent and fairly well educated, and offered him employment. He was a builder in the neigh-

borhood, he explained, and had a vacancy in the works. Bill gratefully accepted the offer, and began his new career on the following Monday.

"Months passed. Bill had changed wonderfully. He had forgotten his old habits and learned new ones. The deacon was delighted. Not only was Bill the best of his workmen, but he was the most regular attendant at the chapel."

"Bill longed for the jewels, and he worked hard because he knew that money would help him to get them. He attended the chapel because while there he was near the jewels, the seat he had taken being just twenty steps due north from the tree. At first he had meditated digging down through the floor one night, but the chances of detection were great and he had given up the idea."

"Years passed. The deacon had become an invalid, and Bill practically managed his business. He was an important man at the chapel, too, and was often entrusted with a collection-box. One day the deacon died. Soon afterward it was known that, having no near relatives, he had left his property to his friend William Jones."

"I see!" I exclaimed. "Bill—"

Blanco Watson shook his head.

"Bill was Bill no longer," he said. "He had become a man of wealth. At the next election of deacons he was one of the successful candidates. In future we must refer to him as Mr. Jones, and not as Bill."

"Mr. Jones was a most energetic deacon. He introduced new members and he persuaded old ones to attend more regularly. He started a young men's literary society and a series of Saturday entertainments. He made the chapel the most popular in the district; and then, at a New Year's business meeting, he struck boldly for the jewels."

"The chapel was too small, he said in the course of an eloquent speech. They must erect another on a larger site. There was but one such site in the neighborhood. They must secure it before others did. He himself would undertake the building operations, charging only what they cost him. He would also purchase the old chapel. The net expenditure need not be very great."

"The proposal was well received, and a committee, with Mr. Jones as chairman, was appointed to consider the details. Their report was very favorable, and at another business meeting it was decided to carry out the proposal."

"The necessary funds were subscribed or guaranteed. Contracts were made with Mr. Jones. In the spring of that year the building operations were commenced, and by the autumn they were finished. The congregation removed to the new chapel. Mr. Jones purchased the old one at a high price and entered into possession."

"And then," I said, "I suppose he got the jewels?"

Blanco Watson laughed.

"No," he said, "he did not. He broke up the floor himself, counted the steps due north from the tree again, and dug. He did not find the jewels. He counted the steps again and dug deeper. He did not find them. Then he tried other places, but, although he kept on until he had tried everywhere beneath the floor, he never found the jewels."

"Why, what had become of them?"

"I cannot say. It is possible that when the foundation was being laid a workman had discovered and appropriated them. Again, it is possible that there were two trees of similarly curious growth, and that the one outside the chapel was not the one Mr. Jones first saw. Again—"

"And what has the story to do with the public house? But I can guess."

"Of course you can. Mr. Jones was very angry with the chapel members. He considered that, by false pretenses, they had led him into buying the old chapel and building the new one cheaply. He resigned his deaconship, and then sought a way to be revenged on them. He found one. On the site of the old chapel he built a public house—this public house in which we have sat so long."—Edgar Turner, in The Sketch.

In Italy.

Poor young girls in Italy are provided with a marriage portion from a Government fund. The sum annually distributed in this manner amounts to no less than \$25,000. To obtain a dowry the applicant has to produce witnesses as to her good character, and she has also to prove that her sweetheart has a trade, and that she herself has no means.

Fisheries Income.

Our fisheries are worth about forty-five million dollars a year. The fish refuse is so economically and ingeniously utilized in the preparation of oils, glues and fertilizers, etc., that these conquests of waste realize about one-seventh, or fourteen per cent, of the total income from the fisheries.

Silent.

It is the custom in Bulgaria for newly married women to remain silent for a month after their marriage, except when addressed by their husbands. When it is desirable for the customary restriction to be permanently removed, he presents her with a gift, and then she can chatter to her heart's content.

Birds' Vision.

In birds the organ of sight is highly developed. British naturalists declare that the kestrel is possessed of such wonderful powers of sight that it is able to see a mouse when it is itself at such height in the air that it is invisible to the naked human eye.

A mule has one advantage: everyone is afraid of a mule, and no one "jokes" with him.

People put a terrible lot of money and work into a home which they help to make unhappy.

CAPE AND JACKETS.

SEVERAL OF THIS FALL'S LATEST MODELS.

The New Shawl Cape and Its Near Relative that is Made in Four or Five Layers—Jackets Most Suitable for Young Girls.

Dictates of Dame Fashion.
New York correspondence.

Oh! ultra-fashionable woman is still out of town, yet she is scheming to get into town again, if only for a few hours. Her visit will enable her to see the new fashions, will give her a chance to chat with her dressmaker and will let her confer with the other tradesfolk who help to make her a bird of fine feather. She thinks it will never do to go back to town even for a flying run and look like a fright. Suppose she is induced to stay a day or so, or think of her meeting her worst best-friend right on the cars! Ah! the traveling rig must be perfection, even if it have an impromptu air. Then she can give that dangerous best friend her quietus by saying: "I haven't a rag fit to be seen, as a glance will show you, and am positively obliged to show Clarissa the state I am in to make her give me my fall dresses." Mohair is the

point at the back. The smooth-like fit at the shoulders is as exact as that now demanded of skirts about the hips, and the swing of the cape below this fitted portion is noticeable.

The young matron who goes in for all the sweeping dignities her new position allows will especially fancy the exaggeration of the shawl cape that is made in a series of from two to five layers. The foundation cape may reach the hem of the skirt at the back, and its edges in front may hang together almost to the knees, thus affording actual protection. Each upper cape follows the outline of the lowest, but is much shorter. As a rule the collar-and-collarette cape is detachable, as is the shoulder cape. Silk and very light-weight cloth are employed in these garments, and are often treated to rain-proof finish. Colors range from the practical to the picturesque, bright scarlet being a downright temptation.

These two, with a third sort whose cut-away edges are freely trimmed with ruffles, constitute an unusual showing of new capes. Each is distinctly new, so in buying them there is absolutely no danger that the recent purchase will seem anything less than entirely up-to-date. Even so, young women should be wary, and putting it generally, they will be wiser if they stick to the jacket. It suits their jaunty youthfulness better than any close-shouldered, sweeping cape can. The capes of the day belong to the young matron, the dowager and the romantic belle. Jackets must be very boxy and fastening a little to one side are pretty, and come in rough and smooth cloths, in browns, black and bright scarlet—the last a special favorite—and are relieved of all the loggery of braiding that defaced our coats and jackets last season. As a rule the collars of these jackets lie turned back in gentlemanly revers, but then she ties a soft fluffy bow under her chin, because she cannot get along without being snugly built up about the throat. The jacket de-



CAPE AND JACKETS THAT ARE THIS YEAR'S.

very thing for such an impromptu, and the model of the above small picture is a good one. It was leaf brown, the material gleaming like silk, as the latest weaves of mohair do. On the blouse was a spotless front of finely tucked lawn, the tab-caps on the sleeves proving the dress spike and span right from a stylish maker, the unadorned edge of the sleeve at the wrist accentuating this suggestion. The tab-caps are the latest shoulder wrinkle. Instead of an epaulette two little tabs, one to the front, the other to the back of the shoulder, are used. The point of the perfectly fitting sleeve shows a little at the edges of the tabs.

If it is more than a short run in town and she is to have several hours in the parlor car or on deck, then one of the new shawl capes will be just the thing to prove that she can spend her whole summer far from shops and bargain counters, yet have the latest wraps to put her shoulders under when she takes her little fall run into town. These capes add enormously to the height, especially when worn over

scribed, the upper right hand model of the pictured gown, was sketched in scarlet smooth cloth.

Diagonally opposite this jacket in the illustration is a newer one, for the boxed garment, in one variation and another, we have worn many seasons. The newer sort fits with habit-like precision, and is of outway pattern. Its total absence of braiding, frogging and other elaboration is again noticeable, and the simplicity that blurs no pretty curving outline is a charm.

One development of the present styles in hair dressing is shown in this sketch. It is that the pompadour about the brows of the very young girl is becoming so very soft and fluffy. It breaks so often into curls, that it resembles not faintly the bush hair we used to wear, wherein each large soft ring stood well on end and then all were combed out into a cloudy puff.

To the minds of some young girls, the very once likely to be pleased with a jacket that is plain and boxed, a jacket is something to be worn to show what is beneath it. Such a young woman will not wear her jacket buttoned. The type for them is the central one of this group. It is boxy in front outline and not close at the hips. Its collar turns back tailor-flat. Shirt front, correct tie and waistcoat are all revealed by the garment's jaunty open swing, as is the flash of its brilliant silk lining. Each edge of the front is finished with a close line of buttons. That proves that, simple as the front is, the jacket is not supposed to fasten. These jackets come in bright blue with fancy buttons, and when of that or any other bright color should, with a harmonizing dash about the hat, present the only striking shade of the costume.

If braid is wanted on the jacket, care should be taken that the trimming is not used in ways recently common. Employing braid on the new gown will be a mark of independence, and unless that independence is to pass as unattractive indifference the braiding should have a safely new and tasteful design. One of these is shown in to-day's final picture. It was sketched in ox-blood broadcloth, and had skirt that was perfectly plain but for black braid at the hem. The method of braiding the jacket is indicated in the picture. The set of the revers and the outline of the box edges as they hung open proved the costume this season's, though its jacket was worn over a silk bodice. A fluff bow held up the chin, and a hat with roll and wings adjusted in a manner to faint defiance at the very latest any one else might have established the wearer as the very best and cry of advanced fashion, for all she showed her heels at some of this season's managements.

A dipped skirt, a point that the model of the next illustration makes clear. They are made of all materials, from golf-cloth to silk, and are lined or not as the purchaser prefers. They are cut square off in front, or continue to narrow towards the front, fastening with a single lock under the chin, the edges hardly meeting below to the base line and from there sweeping apart towards the long

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TOPICS FOR FARMERS

A DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

Why Beet Sugar Production Is Needed—Conservatism Among Farmers that Does Not Pay—How to Prevent Hillside Washing—Notes on Bees.

Need of Beet Sugar Production.

We have a home market for sugar which will consume the product of at least 1,200,000 acres. The per capita consumption of sugar is rapidly increasing which, with the great increase in population, creates and insures a constantly increasing demand. The production of sugar beets at a profit in this country has been clearly demonstrated and has therefore ceased to be an experiment. The culture of the sugar beet, when understood, is simple, and does not require skilled labor. Beets can be sent direct from the harvest field to the factory without further preparation or storage. The culture of the sugar beet does not require any considerable investment of capital by the grower. The implements required for the production of sugar beets are simple and inexpensive as compared to those required for the production of wheat. Soil upon which beets have been successfully raised is left in prime condition for other crops. There is a very large area of comparatively low priced lands upon which sugar beets can be successfully raised. The profit to the grower is greater than the average of other crops. Four months after the crop is planted it can be harvested and at once converted into money.—Exchange.

Does Not Pay.

Farmers are conservative, but too much so at times. They have as persistently objected to improved stock and newer varieties of vegetables as the mechanics have in their opposition to labor-saving machinery. But few enterprising farmers in a community have been encouraged by their neighbors in their efforts to introduce better stock and better methods of farming. There are thousands of farmers who consider cows that average two pounds of butter a week as good animals, although there are farmers who have herds in which each individual will average from eight to ten pounds of butter per week. Some farmers are progressive, and quickly fall into line in the work of improvement, yet there is not a county in the United States lacking in those farmers who still refuse to believe that one breed is better than another, or that the scrub is not fully as good as the pure-bred animal. Until the farmer accepts conditions as they exist and realizes that the strongest competitor against him is the farmer with better stock, he will not be able to make farming pay. This is a progressive age, and farmers must be alive to all the advantages that will assist them in securing larger profits.

Handling Bees.

When handling bees the absence of fear and quiet treatment are essential to success.

Never strike at a bee.

Never move a comb hastily, nor hold a new comb horizontally; if you do it will probably break and fall.

Blow a little smoke into the entrance; after a minute or so (while the bees are gorging themselves with honey and so lessening their inclination to sting), take off the top and blow a little into the hive at each end.

Lift the quilt gently and opening part only of the hive; the carbolic cloth is very useful on the top besides a little smoke below.

Never open a hive in cold or rainy weather.

In cold districts, before winter, make the bees snug with quilts and adjustment of the dividing boards.

Don't breathe on the bees, or brush the combs upwards.

If stung when manipulating, pull out the sting and put a little honey on the wound.

If you have no real liking for the bees, do not attempt to keep them for profit.

Bees are the most pesky things about a farm; and although they do not involve laborious work they demand peculiar attention.

Do not keep many bees in places where they must depend mainly on orchard trees and garden flowers for food supplies.

If you are nervous, or if you have not plenty of native flora to hand, do not handle bees at all.

The Horse's Power of Scent.

There is one perception which a horse possesses to which little attention has been paid, says a prominent horseman, and that is the power of scent. With some horses it is acute, as with the dog, and for the benefit of those who drive at night, such as physicians and others, this knowledge is invaluable. I never knew it to fail, and I have ridden hundreds of miles of dark nights, and in consideration of this power of scent this is my simple advice: Never check your horse at night, but give him a free head, and you may rest assured that he will never get off the road, and he will carry you safely and expeditiously. In regard to the power of scent in a horse, I once knew one of a pair that was stolen and recovered mainly by the track being made out by his mate, and that after he had been absent six or eight hours.

Tomato Diseases.

A disease that attacks the tomato, egg plant and potato is indicated by a sudden wilting of the foliage, which may occur on a single shoot or the whole plant may be affected, and usually destroys the plant. It progresses more rapidly in young than in old plants, and especially in very warm weather. The woody tissue turns black

or brown, and with potatoes the tubers are also attacked, a dark ring being very conspicuous in a section of the tubers. An offensive soft rot follows the dark discoloration. The disease can be easily spread by potato beetles, which attack also tomato and egg plants. The remedy is to destroy the beetles as rapidly as they appear and burn all tops, using new ground every year if possible.

Current Fishes in Tree Form.

It is much easier to care for a currant plantation if the bushes are grown singly in tree form. Instead of growing in clumps, as they usually are. But to do this successfully, the currant bush should be grown from a single eye cutting, which is usually done with bottom heat. Usually, in setting a cutting or making a layer, a number of buds are buried under the soil. Each of these makes its independent growth and is really a separate plant. When bushes come up around a currant tree, the owner should dig down to the parent root and take up all of that which belongs to the cutting. It is best only to leave a clump of roots at the base of the cutting. Trying to get more roots than belong to plants is the main reason why they sucker so much as they do.

The Improvement of Stock.

It is estimated that the number of cows in the United States used for producing milk from which butter is made reaches 11,000,000, and that the average amount of butter per cow is 125 pounds for one year, making a total of 1,375,000,000 pounds of butter. Estimating at 125 pounds per cow shows that the average is low. The cows can double their average if "breed and feed" are made to enter more largely into dairying. There are cows used solely for supplying cheese factories, and also milk for immediate consumption, the item of butter only being taken to point out the enormous value of cows on the farms and their usefulness to farmers.

Feed for Young Pigs.

The growth of a young animal is the main factor in the increase of its weight, and when the food is both nitrogenous and carbonaceous there is a greater gain than when the food is mostly carbonaceous, as when corn alone is used. At the Alabama experiment station pigs pastured on nearly matured cow peas, and supplied with corn, made almost three times the gain in live weight made by similar pigs fed exclusively on corn. Pigs also gained more rapidly on ground cow peas and corn than on corn alone. In effect 5.25 pounds of the mixed food was equal to 8.06 pounds of ground corn. One pound of corn meal, however, proved superior to three pounds of sweet potatoes.

Paris Green for Squash Borers.

One of the worst pests of the garden is the squash or cucumber stalk borer. All its operations are confined to a part of the main stem near the root. Once inside the stalk the borer is safe from any outward application. But if his presence is seen quickly enough, the borer may be dug out with a knife and the plant will be saved. If a strong solution of paris green in water is spread over the squash or other vine stem for two or three feet from its roots, the parent fly will lay her eggs as usual, and when these hatch out, as they do in two or three days, when the young borer begins eating his way into the stalk, his first mouthful will be his last.

Cutting Grass Closely.

With the very sharpest scythe, it is possible on land free from stones to cut grass closer to the ground than a mowing machine can do. But the average machine-cut meadow will be cut more closely than it is likely to be cut by hand. This is often a matter of much importance, as grass grows much more heavily close to the ground, and an inch lower in cutting makes often a difference of two or three hundred pounds of hay. When clover is beaten down by rains, the difference between low and high cutting is often much more than this.

Growing Cucumbers for Pickles.

When growing cucumbers for pickles it is necessary to pick off the cucumbers before they exceed two inches in length. Should the vines be permitted to fulfill their mission—growing seed—they will cease to be productive, hence not a single cucumber on a vine should be allowed to mature. As long as the small cucumbers are picked off it will increase the numbers, as the vine will continue to supply others in their place in the effort to mature them. A few vines well managed will produce a large number of cucumbers of pickling size.

Ropy Milk.

Ropy milk is caused by a bacteria, but it is not yet known how this bacteria gets into the milk unless it is from the body of the cow. Wash the udder, teats and body of the cow before milking; also, see that the vessel and hands of the milker are clean. The animal heat in the milk should be removed as soon as possible by passing the milk over a cold surface or through a pipe surrounded by ice.—American Agriculturist.

To Prevent Hillside Washing.

A very serious mistake which I made when I began to farm was in running the rows up and down the slopes on rolling land. When heavy rains fell the water would follow the rows, washing away the soil and damaging both land and crop. For the last three years I have run my rows on a level, and my land has improved as rapidly as it was down under the old straight row system.—Practical Farmer.

Rock Elm a Valuable Wood.

There is a good demand for rock elm in Great Britain, where it is put to various uses and brings high prices. Doubtless many farmers who have woodland can find specimens of this tree on their premises which would give them a handsome profit if cut and sold.