

HOUSEHOLD DEPARTMENT

How to Test the Oven.

Put half a sheet of white kitchen paper on the shelf of the oven on which the cake is to be placed, and shut the door. If at the end of five minutes the paper is charred, the heat is too great. Cool the oven by leaving the door a little way open for a minute or two, and then test again with another sheet of paper. If it is dark brown after being in for five minutes, the oven is right for baking small pastries and thin cakes. The temperature of a few degrees below this—tested by a piece of paper turning a light brown—will be suitable for ordinary pound cakes, pie crusts, etc. When the paper turns only a dark yellow the heat is suitable for puff pastries, sponge cake mixtures and meringues.

Shelling Peas with a Machine.

This novel device, it is said, removes all peas from the pod without crushing or bruising them, and it automatically



MACHINE FOR SHELLING PEAS.

deposits the peas and pods in separate receptacles. The sheller is operated with a crank, and is mounted on an arm that can be clamped to a kitchen table, as shown in the illustration. The whole thing is not over seven inches high. It is made of galvanized iron and can be washed without injury to the parts.—New York Tribune.

Potato Yeast Recipe.

In the evening take a handful of hops and pour a quart of hot water over them and boil with four large potatoes, until the potatoes are done. Scald a teacupful of flour in a deep china bowl, with the water from the hops; mash the potatoes up finely in the scalded flour; and set this aside until cool; then stir in two yeast cakes that have been dissolved in warm water, and two big spoonfuls of sugar—mix thoroughly, cover with cloth and set in a warm place over night. Next morning stir in some meal and let rise two hours; then stir in again cornmeal enough to make it roll, cut in round cakes, dry one week before putting away, and the yeast is made for use.—Rural Home.

A Household Disgrace.

There is no justification for the feast and famine principle or the "blue Monday" idea in the home. They are ever an arraignment against the intelligence and womanliness of the mistress, mother and home-maker. It is the boast of some wives that their husbands accept uncomplainingly whatever is put before them, be its quality what it may. Alas, that any woman should make a boast so self-accusing! And alas, that any good but mistaken man should become a party to selfish neglectfulness and indolence by his complaisance!—Woman's Home Companion.

Sweet Baking Apples.

So many people are dyspeptic, and cannot eat pie because of its crust, that they ought to know that baked sweet apples are as good as pie, and can be eaten by anyone with impunity. Most of the sweet apples remain firm when baked, and are excellent eaten with milk, if care is taken to remove the skin, which should remain on while the apple is baking. Then the skin will come off as thin as a wafer, and leave all the aroma on the apple, which is lost when the apple is peeled while raw. The best of any kind of fruit is just under the skin.

A Preventive of Fire.

To prevent fires where flues and chimneys pass through inflammable partitions water jackets of tin or light metal are placed around the openings, the solder of the pockets melting in the heat and discharging the fluid on the fire.

Handy for Darning.

To assist in holding wearing apparel while darning holes therein the material is stretched over a flexible metal ring, the ends of which lap each other and engage one of a series of catches to expand the ring to the proper size.

To Remove Mildew.

In case of mildew, a rare occurrence in good housekeeping, the linen is wetted and a saline of brown soap is put above and beneath, French chalk is powdered and put on the spot thickly, and it is then exposed to the sun.

Brooms.

Brooms will last longer if they are dipped once a week in boiling soda. This toughens the straws and also cleanses the broom. They should always be hung up when not in use.

Tar Stains.

Any grease will remove the stains, but a few drops of salad oil is a handy and always ready form of the remedy.

THE FIELD OF BATTLE

INCIDENTS AND ANECDOTES OF THE WAR.

The Veterans of the Rebellion Tell of Whistling Bullets, Bright Bayonets, Bursting Bombs, Bloody Battles, Camp Fire, Festive Binge, Etc., Etc.

During the winter of 1863-64, it was the fortune of Gen. Cullen A. Battle, of Alabama, to be president of the court martial of the army of Northern Virginia. One bleak December morning, while the snow covered the ground and the wind howled around his camp, he left his bivouac fire to attend the session of court at Round Oak Church. Case after case was disposed of, and at length the case of the Confederate States vs. Edward Cooper was called—charge desertion.

A low murmur rose spontaneously from the battle-scarred spectators as the young artilleryman rose from the prisoners' bench, and in response to the question, "Guilty or not guilty?" answered, "Not guilty." The judge advocate was proceeding to open the prosecution when the court, observing that the prisoner was unattended by counsel, interposed, and inquired of the accused, "Who is your counsel?" He replied, "I have no counsel."

Supposing that it was Cooper's purpose to represent himself before the court, the judge advocate was instructed to proceed. Every charge and specification against the prisoner was sustained. The prisoner was then told to introduce his witnesses. He replied, "I have no witnesses."

Astonished at the calmness with which he seemed to be submitting to what he regarded as inevitable fate, Gen. Battle said to him: "Have you no defense? Is it possible that you abandoned your comrades and deserted your colors in the presence of the enemy without any reason?" He answered: "There was a reason, but it will not avail me before a military court."

Gen. Battle then said: "Perhaps you are mistaken; you are charged with the highest crime known to military law, and it is your duty to make known the causes that influenced your actions."

For the first time Cooper's manly form trembled and his blue eyes swam in tears. Approaching the president of the court, he presented a letter, saying as he did so: "There, General, is what it is."

Gen. Battle opened the letter, and in a moment his eyes filled with tears. It was passed from one to another of the court until all had seen it, and those stern warriors, who had passed with Stonewall Jackson through a hundred battles, wept like children. As soon as the president recovered his self-possession he read the letter as the defense of the prisoner. It was in these words: "Dear Edward—I have always been proud of you; since your connection with the Confederate army I have been prouder of you than ever before. I would not have you do anything wrong for the world, but, before God, Edward, unless you come home we must die! Last night I was aroused by little Eddie's crying, 'O, mamma, I'm so hungry!' And Lucy, Edward, your darling Lucy, she never complains, but grows thinner and thinner every day. And, before God, Edward, unless you come home, we must die, your MARY."

Turning to the prisoner, Gen. Battle asked: "What did you do when you received this letter?"

He replied: "I made application for a furlough, and it was rejected; again I made application, and it was rejected; a third time I made application, and it was rejected; and that night as I wandered backward and forward in the camp, thinking of my home, and the wild eyes of Lucy looking up to me, with the burning words of Mary sinking into my brain, I was no longer the Confederate soldier, but I was the father of Lucy and the husband of Mary, and I would have passed those lines if every gun in the battery had been fired upon me. When I arrived home Mary ran out to meet me, and whispered, 'O, Edward, I am so happy; I am so glad you got your furlough!' She must have felt me shudder, for she turned as pale as death, and catching her breath at every word she said, 'Have you come without your furlough?' O, Edward, go back! Go back! Let me and the children go down to the grave together; but, O, for heaven's sake, save the honor of your name! And here I am, gentlemen, not brought here by military power, but in obedience to the command of Mary, to abide the sentence of your court."

Every officer of the court-martial felt the force of the prisoner's words. Before them stood, in beauteous vision, the eloquent pleadings for a husband's and father's wrongs; but they had been trained by the great leader, Robert E. Lee, to tread the path of duty, though the lightning flash scorched the ground beneath their feet, and each in his turn pronounced the verdict, "Guilty."

Fortunately for humanity, fortunately for the Confederacy, the proceedings of the court were reviewed by the commanding general, and upon the record was written:

"Headquarters A. N. V.

"The finding of the court approved. The prisoner is pardoned and will report to his company."

"R. E. LEE, General."

—Washington Post.

Lee's Surrender.

When Gen. Grant was asked, "Did you take Lee's sword at Appomattox?" he replied, "No, I did not. Lee came there wearing the magnificent sword which the State of Virginia had given him; but I did not want him to surrender it to me. I sat down at once and finished myself writing terms of the surrender. When I had finished I handed them to Gen. Lee. He read them and

remarked, 'They are certainly very generous indeed.' He then told me the cavaliers owned their own horses, and if they were deprived of them they could not put in their crops. Then I gave the order, 'Take the horses home with you, for you'll need them in the spring plowing.' This is the simple story of Lee's surrender. Caesar would have had that sword; Napoleon would have demanded it; Wellington would not have been satisfied with it, but U. S. Grant was too great to take it.—Exchange.

The Story of an Old Clock.

Near Bardstown, Ky., in what is known as the Beech Grove neighborhood, dwelt Nathan Colerain and his maiden sister, now past middle life. She is Miss Patsy Colerain, or "Aunt Patsy," as she is known to her neighbors and friends. She is a lady of great refinement and bears traces of remarkable youthful beauty. She has not gone beyond the precincts of her own yard in over thirty years. There is a tragic story connected with her estrangement from the world. In the spacious hall of the Colerain residence stands an old clock, of the "grandfather" species. The pendulum of this clock has been motionless since a fateful night in 1864, when it played an important part in a bloody tragedy that broke Miss Patsy Colerain's heart and enveloped her life in a pall of gloom that will never be lifted this side of the grave.

In 1864 Miss Patsy Colerain was considered one of the handsomest young women in Nelson County, Kentucky. Of an old-line family, wealthy in her own name, she was naturally much sought after, and had suitors by the score. Of course, she had but one choice, and that was Reuben Morehead, a descendant of one of Kentucky's Governors. Young Morehead was an orphan, who had been reared by a neighboring farmer. Patsy had known him all her life, and had loved him as far back as she could remember. The war broke out, and Reuben took up arms for the North. Then followed sad days for the young girl. Her father sickened and died, and her only brother was in the far South, battling for the Confederacy. Thus she was left with only the faithful negro slaves and a nephew barely in his teens. At this time the neighborhood was full of guerrillas. Sue Mundy and his gang were terrorizing that entire section, and soldiers and civilians alike were falling victims at their hands. The outlaws were frequently at the Colerain home, and while Patsy had never suffered any indignities from them, she was in constant terror lest she might.

One rainy night in April, 1864, Miss Colerain was sitting before a cheerful fire, when suddenly the door opened and young Morehead, attired in a handsome uniform, stood before her. Before she could speak the young soldier caught her in his arms and showered kisses upon her blushing face. The two lovers talked together of the days when war would be over and they should be united never to part, and were happy in each other's company, when suddenly the sounds of horses' feet startled them. On looking out the window Miss Colerain was horrified to see the yard filled with half-drunken guerrillas. It was Sue Mundy and his gang. They were soon at the door clamoring for admittance. It was sure death for Reuben if the guerrillas set their eyes on him. What to do with him was a perplexing problem. Suddenly a bright idea struck the young girl and she pointed to the clock. Reuben lost no time in getting into the barrel of the timepiece, and his sweetheart fastened the door. Then she admitted the men, who, swearing and cursing, demanded food. She had hardly left the dining room to get it when she heard the report of firearms, and hurrying back she was just in time to see the murderous outlaws dragging the dead body of her lover from the old clock. At this juncture came the tramp of horses and more firing and commotion and then to Patsy a blank.

For weeks she hovered between life and death, a victim of brain fever, and when the disease left her she was but a wreck of her former self. Then she heard the story of how they came to find her lover. She neglected to conceal his overcoat and gloves and when the guerrillas discovered them they started a search for the young soldier. The latter threw open the door of the clock, presumably with the hope of making his escape, when he was shot and instantly killed. About this time a detachment of young Morehead's command swooped down upon the guerrillas and put them to flight.

Soldier-Made Checker-Board.

This chess and checker board is a relic of the war, not that which is just over, but of that grim struggle which may no longer be called "this late unpleasantness." It was made with a pocket-knife, of walnut, beech and oak. The patient man who carefully shaved and trimmed these bits of wood was Captain Knight, a Confederate officer. He was a prisoner on Johnsons Island, up the river from St. Louis, when he



SOLDIER-MADE CHECKER-BOARD.

concluded to turn his whittling to some account.

The board consists of 162 little blocks of wood glued to a square cloth. The cloth was once a part of the lining of a Confederate soldier's overcoat. The board laid out flat upon a smooth surface, makes a smooth and satisfactory checker board. When desired, it may be rolled into a tight roll and slipped into a man's pocket. It is a relic of the civil war that is much valued by daughters of the Confederacy.

When we would, with utmost detestation, single some monster from the traitor herd, 'tis but to say ingratitude is his crime.—Froude.

THE FARM AND HOME

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

How to Raise Chickens Successfully—The Packing of Fruit for Market—When to Cut Corn Fodder—General Notes About the Farm.

Mrs. W. S. Sherd, in Practical Farmer, tells how she manages chickens to make them profitable. She says: "Before setting my hens I cleared the nest of the old filling, threw in two or three handfuls of fresh slacked lime, put in fresh straw and sprinkled more lime all through the straw. I dusted each hen well with lime before placing her on the nest; again in about two weeks I dusted both nest and hen, and at hatching time not a louse was to be seen. Kept hen cooped for a week, feeding chicks table crumbs, scraps of bread soaked in milk, curd and occasionally corn meal moistened, but not sloppy. When a week old I let them out on pleasant days after the dew was off and fed on wheat screenings mostly, though I fed some curd and corn meal, keeping milk or water near the coops at all times. I never had chickens thrive and do so well, and I think two very important things in giving them a start were their freedom from lice and the feeding of proper food. First get rid of the lice, then give proper food, and you will have no trouble raising chickens. For winter feed raise plenty of beets, carrots, turnips, cabbage, squashes and potatoes, and depend less upon grain, as the roots are so much cheaper and relished so much by the fowls. You will get more eggs by this plan of feeding. If you feed oats for a change, cook them. I cook the roots, chop them up fine, then stir bran into the water they were cooked in, salting and peppering well. This they enjoy, and pay me well in eggs for my trouble."

Those who ship fruit to market may not be familiar with the methods of handling fruit by the carriers and merchants. Fruit started from the farm may be apparently well and properly packed, and yet arrive in the market in poor condition. The packing of fruit for market requires judgment and experience. There is something to learn and every grower should give some attention to securing information in that direction. One of the most important points is to have the fruit uniform, and of the same quality at the bottom of the basket or box as at the top, buyers always making close examination.

When cutting down corn fodder one point to observe is to cut when the corn is bright. Do not delay until the fodder begins to turn yellow, but cut when the blades are green. The ears will be dry and be as valuable when fodder is cut at the green stage as to leave the corn standing until the blades begin to change. It is sometimes inconvenient to get into the field to cut the corn when it is ready, which causes a delay of a day or two. If the weather is dry and warm the delay may greatly affect the value of the corn fodder. The stalks should be shocked in a manner to prevent being thrown down by the wind, as dirt is not conducive to its appearance or quality. The fodder should be removed to an open shed as soon as it can be done, so as to protect it against rain and dampness. If fodder is carefully preserved it will be more readily accepted by stock.

The Asparagus Bed.

The soil for an asparagus bed should be made rich before planting it. In the first place, the bed should have good drainage, and then it should have dug into it a heavy dressing of old manure. Do not use fresh manure, as this will be filled with weed seeds, and, besides, it is not so well adapted to plant nutrition as old rotted manure. Having the soil properly prepared, trenches should be opened about six inches in depth and the plants set in these trenches, spreading out the roots on the bottom of the trench in every direction. This done, commence to fill in the soil, which must be fine and capable of sitting down closely among the roots. After filling in two or three inches of soil, tread it down firmly on the roots, and then finish filling it in. Never allow any weeds to grow among the plants. To maintain the fertility, supply a coating of old manure, two or three inches in thickness, over the whole bed every fall, letting it lie on the surface, where the rain can soak it and wash it into the soil. In the spring, what is left can be lightly pointed in so as not to disturb the roots.

Range Cattle for Feeders.

We have referred to the determination of cattle feeders to either buy their feeding stock at lower figures than last year or restrict their feeding operations, which suggests a lower scale of prices than a year ago for thin cattle.

There is another feature of the trade, however, that is likely to modify this tendency to some extent, and that is the condition of the range cattle. Last year the average condition of the cattle from the northern ranges was far from good, and a great many of them went to the feed lots of the corn belt to again appear on the markets during the winter months. Unless all signs fail, there will be quite a different state of affairs this year. The ranges are unusually good, and have been all along, and the cattle promise to come to market in excellent condition for the slaughterer. Moreover, the market promises to require them, as the supply of corn-fed natives is apparently running low. The feeders who bought cattle from the northern ranges last season will have to look else-

where for their stock this year, and the problem before them is to get enough cattle at a reasonable figure.—National Stockman.

Care of Raspberries.

Raspberry bushes should not be neglected at this season. The canes that bore a crop this year should be cut off and removed to be burned. If left standing they will require as much sap as ever, and thus lessen the amount that should be available for the new canes that are coming on to produce the crop of next year.

The new canes should be pinched off as soon as they get three feet high to induce them to send out lateral branches on which the fruit clusters of the next crop are to grow.

If proper care is taken of the raspberries there will be no need of stakes to keep them standing, as they may be so encouraged that the canes will be strong enough to stand without help and bear any load of fruit that may grow on them.—Farmers' Voice.

Late Pullets.

Those hatched since June will not lay until next spring, but they will be among the first to begin laying in the spring, and will not moult until the fall of next year. Such breeds as Leghorns and Hamburgs, however, mature very quickly, and pullets of those breeds sometimes lay when only four months old. The early pullets—those hatched before April—should begin to lay before winter begins and lay through the winter. If the flock is large it will pay to get rid of the cockerels, so as to afford more room for the pullets and hens. Where the birds are crowded lice multiply rapidly and interfere with the growth of the young stock. Very little grain should be given poultry during the prevalence of warm weather.

Growing Alfalfa.

In growing alfalfa the land must be plowed deep and harrowed fine. Manure and fertilizer should be applied liberally and lime applied on the land in the fall. Sow the seed in the spring, using from 10 to 20 pounds of seed, according to circumstances, sowing broadcast if the land is clear of grass and weeds. If not it will be an advantage to drill the seed in rows, close together, and cultivate the first year with wheel hoes. Once established, an alfalfa plot will last for years, as the roots go down to great depths and secure moisture. In this section farmers should sow a few rows by way of experiment in the spring and keep the plants free of grass and weeds.

An Every-Season Crop.

Eggs are the all-year-around crop. Other crops have their harvest, when they must be sold at once or stored at an expense. With proper care hens are like money on interest, work Sundays, holidays and rainy days. A basket of eggs carried in one hand will often bring as much money as a load of straw. A neighbor hauled a cord of wood to market for \$2; his wife carried ten dozen eggs the same day, which brought \$2.50. A crate of eggs, which can be taken to market in a light vehicle, will fetch as much as a load of produce. The cost of producing eggs is nothing compared to the hard work and expense of producing the other.

Combination Mixture for Spraying.

Arsenic and soda solution, or arsenite of soda, is more safely used in combination with Bordeaux mixture than alone. When in combination it will not injure the foliage, but alone it is liable to burn the leaves. The same objection holds good, however, with reference to Paris green and London purple. It is better, however, in almost every case to use the combination mixture, as fungi are nearly always present and unless they are kept in check there is but little use of fighting insects.—Ohio Station Bulletin.

Irrigating Gardens.

Ten years ago the cost of a windmill was more than the owner of a small farm could afford, but windmills are better, more efficient and cheaper now, being within the reach of all. For irrigating gardens or small fruit farms they have been found very serviceable, and are more satisfactory in this section than in the West, as they are not essential except when there is a dry spell. When rain is abundant the windmill stores water for use when the moisture is lacking, and the cost is but little compared with the advantages gained.

The Pasture in Winter.

Keep the stock off the pasture and spread manure over the surface, so as to protect during the winter and give the grass a good start early in the spring. Those who manage to have good pastures allow the grass to grow late in the year and broadcast with manure after the frost appears. In the spring the land is harrowed, so as to fine up the manure, and wood ashes applied. In this manner a good sward is maintained for many years. Some pastures are cropped too close.

The Best Cantaloupe.

Cantaloupes have been plentiful this year and were very fine, but consumers do not get those of the best quality. The Emerald Gem, a dark variety, and of unsightly appearance, would be rejected in market, yet it is far ahead of all others in quality. If some enterprising grower would give away samples, with a circular calling attention to the variety, he would be unable to supply the demand the next season and could get his own prices for them.

Early Onions.

To have early onions before the spring varieties are ready sow the seed of the Egyptian tree onion, and leave the plants in the ground all winter. They are hardy, and if covered with straw, they will start off early in the spring and give the first crops to be obtained.

WAR TAX TO REMAIN

Added Revenue Needed For at Least a Year To Come.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—The Washington Post states that the war tax will not be abolished at the coming session of congress, and that there will be no revision of the tariff whatever. It bases this announcement upon the positive statements made Monday by Chairman Dingley of the wars and means committee, who in an interview says:

"The government will need for some time all the revenue produced by the war taxes. During the month of October the war expenses exceeded the war revenue by some \$14,000,000, and this month they will be \$10,000,000 in excess. This being the case there will be no changes at least this fiscal year. The war revenue act will continue in force and unchanged, except, perhaps, in a few minor administrative features, for at least a year longer."

"It is hardly necessary to add," continued Mr. Dingley, "that there will be no revision of the tariff, although I have seen some statement to the effect that such a revision is contemplated. The session is limited to three months and that a short period will be mainly occupied in passing the appropriation bills, in enacting new laws for the regular army and in deciding upon the legislation necessary for the government of Hawaii. In addition to these important matters, the usual number of routine matters will arise. From the present outlook the session will be well under way before the treaty of peace with Spain will be laid before the senate and the ratification of that document may not be accomplished long before the 4th of March arrives."

"Will that necessitate an extra session?"

"It is, of course, impossible," said Mr. Dingley, "to know what will arise between the 1st of December and the 4th of next March, but so far as the present outlook can form a basis for judgment I should say that no extra session will be necessary or desirable unless some new questions arise."

Convinced of His Guilt.

PARIS, Nov. 14.—The court of cassation today examined General Zurlinden and General Chanoine, who recently resigned successively the portfolio of minister of war, and it is said that their evidence was highly important in upholding the attitude they have taken throughout that Dreyfus is guilty and that a communication of the secret dossier would compromise the safety of the state and the good relations of France with foreign nations.

General Zurlinden, now military governor of Paris, has decided, it is reported, to send Lieutenant Colonel Picquart before a court-martial on the charge of having communicated to his counsel, M. Leblois, a chapter of the Dreyfus dossier containing the letter about "that canaille D—," since known to be a forgery, through the confession of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Henry.

West Virginia Very Close.

CHARLESTON, W. V., Nov. 16.—The political complexion of the West Virginia legislature on joint ballot depends upon contested seats and will not be settled until the two houses are organized. The republicans will organize the senate and the democrats the house. The two contested seats in the senate will be decided by the courts, and the same decision will settle both, the question being whether a senator loses his seat by accepting a commission in the army. Senator Pierson is a lieutenant and Senator Gotzendanner a captain in the Second West Virginia regiment, and democrats are elected as their successors. The house will pass on the eligibility of its members and several seats will be contested. The official returns will amount to nothing more than to furnish data upon which the two parties can work.

Freight and Express Meet.

KINGSTON, Ont., Nov. 16.—By a wreck on the Grand Trunk railroad at the Diamond crossing, near Trenton, Ont., early today, ten persons were killed and twenty more or less injured, several seriously and one perhaps fatally.

A freight train of three cars was endeavoring to enter a siding when the Montreal express, east bound, crashed into it at full speed, completely wrecking the freight train. The engine and several cars of the express were derailed, burying the fireman and engineer and an extra engineer named Riley, who was on his way to Belleville to take charge of an engine. A wrecking train was dispatched to the scene at once and the crew set to work with the assistance of the uninjured passengers, in caring for the dead and injured.

Ship Home From San Juan.

NEW YORK, Nov. 16.—The Red D line steamer Caracas arrived yesterday from Venezuelan ports, via San Juan, Porto Rico, November 1. She brought sixty-three passengers, among whom were Henry Carroll, special United States commissioner, and Edgar Williams, secretary; Fred Randolph of the United States weather bureau, and sixteen discharged soldiers.

Will Inherit the Fatherland.

ARRON, O., Nov. 15.—O. U. Barber, president of the Diamond Match company, who recently returned from Europe, makes the statement that arrangements have been concluded with the German imperial government by which a new match factory will be erected by the Diamond company in the fatherland. The plant will be located at Dresden. This makes the fourth American factory established in Europe.