

Twins, like misfortunes, never come singly.

"Husband, where shall I get the tickling for our new feather bed?" "Any place where you can get the tick."

A critic says that no English woman of cultivation wears her garter below her knee, as it is ruinous to the calf.

It has now become a question as to whether a phenologist can tell what a barrel contains by examining its head.

To whist players—Should a chimney-sweep trump his partner's trick when he cannot follow suit?

One of the neatest toasts ever given—"Woman, the last word on our lips, because it comes from the bottom of our hearts."

Bismarck's wife, who died lately, was her husband's secretary, clerk and messenger. All private dispatches were first read by Frau Bismarck.

A woman in Iowa broke the handle of a neighbor's spade in killing a snake who had attacked her infant child, and he now sues her for its value.

When you see a bare-headed man following a cow through the front gate, and filling the air with garden implements and profanity, you may know that his cabbage-plants have been set out.

An Irishman, seeing a ship very heavily laden, and scarcely above the water's edge, exclaimed: "Upon my soul! if the river was but a little higher, the ship would go to the bottom!"

The regents of the Michigan University refuse to appoint professors of homeopathy, as ordered by the Legislature, and the Circuit Court gives them until November 7 to show cause why a mandamus compelling their obedience should not be issued.

SLIDING-GATE ROYALTY. A Missouri correspondent writes us that parties are roaming over Livingston and adjoining counties, in Missouri, collecting royalty from farmers, who use the slide and swing gate. We presume these farmers do not take the *Prairie Farmer*, or they would know better than to pay the claimants without a law-suit. We have exposed the absurdity of the claim so often, that we have little sympathy for the dupes.

—*Prairie Farmer*.

TERRIBLE FIRE. One of the worst prairie fires it has ever been our painful duty to chronicle, occurred in the southern part of the State, on Tuesday last. It started near the Otter Indian reservation, near Beatrice, and traversed twenty-five miles. Near Wilbur, it approached a school house filled with children. The school grounds were provided with the usual safeguards but the children were panic-stricken and started for home. Ten were overtaken and three were burned to death on the spot; three others were burned so badly that their lives are despaired of, and the other four maimed badly. Mrs. Morey, in attempting to save her children was also burned to death. Several houses and large quantities of grain were destroyed.—*Freemont Tribune*.

Why Some are Poor. Cream is allowed to mould and spoil. Silver spoons are used to scrape kettles. The scrubbing brush is left in the water. White handled knives are thrown into hot water. Brooms are never hung up and are soon spoiled. Dish cloths are hung where the mice can destroy them. Tubs are left in the sun to dry and fall apart. Clothes are left on the line to whip to pieces in the wind. The pie-crust is allowed to sour, instead of making a few tarts for tea. Dried fruit is not taken care of in season and becomes wormy. Vegetables are thrown away that would do to warm for breakfast. The cork is left out of the sugar jar, and the flies take possession. Bits of meat are thrown out that would make hashed meat or hash. Coffee, tea, pepper and spices are left to stand open and lose their strength. Pork spoils for the want of salt, and beef because the brine waters scalding.

Wilkie Collins and Charles Bradlaugh. A New York telegram says: At the reception of Mr. Wilkie Collins at the Lotus Club on Saturday night a remarkable scene followed the introduction of Charles Bradlaugh, late in the evening, in the restaurant. He referred pointedly to the fact that class distinctions in England were so great that this American club had given him on foreign soil the first opportunity of his life to meet a countryman whom he was so glad to honor, and even to say a word in his praise. "There was no club in England," said he, "that would give me an equal privilege." The speech was received with wild outbursts of enthusiasm. Prolonged cheers were freely given, and even after Bradlaugh had turned to his seat at the table beside Collins the crowd continued cheering until he came forward and spoke briefly again.

Railing Fassion Strong in Death. An old farmer, up to all methods for making a good bargain, was very ill, and friends were expecting an early demise. His nephew and a man hired for the occasion had butchered a steer which had been fattened; and when the job was completed the nephew entered the sick room, where a few friends were assembled, when to the astonishment of all, the old man opened his eyes, and turning his head slightly, said, in a full voice, drawing out the words:

"What have you been doing?" "Killing the steer," was the reply. "What did you do with the hide?" "Left it in the barn; going to sell it by and-by."

"Let the boys drag it around the yard a couple of times; it will make it weigh heavier."

And the good old man was gathered into his father's grave.

TO TRAIN A DRIVING HORSE.

In teaching a young horse to drive well, do not hurry to see how fast he can trot. Keep each pace clear and distinct from the other; that is, in walking, make him walk and do not allow him to trot. While trotting, be equally careful that he keeps steady at his pace, and do not allow him to slacken into a walk; the reins, while driving, should be kept snug, and when pushed to the top of his speed, keep him well in hand, that he may learn to bear upon the bit so that when going at a high rate of speed he can be held at his pace; but do not allow him to pull too hard, for it is not only unpleasant, but it makes him difficult to manage.—*National Live-Stock Journal*.

PLOWING DOWN GRASS.

Notwithstanding the utmost pains and care in plowing, the grass, especially if long, will bristle up in beads and tufts here, there and everywhere, injuring alike the appearance of the field and its capacity for growth. Do you wish to remedy this great difficulty? If so, use the chain and ball to your plow. No matter what kind of a plow you have, try them. A piece of ordinary trace chain will do very well. Fasten the one of it to your coulters, and to the other end attach a round iron ball of from two to three pounds weight—leaving the chain long enough to permit the ball to reach back to about the middle of the mold-board, and there let it drag along, on the off side, of course.—*Canada Farmer*.

GOOD POINTS OF A COW.

1. Youth. A cow is in her prime at from four to six years, and the best paying time to buy just after the birth of her second or third calf.

2. Prominence and fullness of milk veins, and velvety softness of skin. The milk veins, run down on either side of the animal toward the udder, and are easily perceptible to the eye, or can be readily found by pressure of the hand if the animal is not over fat. The skin should be soft and mellow, not hard, rough, and "staring."

3. Symmetry, fullness and softness of the udder. It should be broad, well spread out, projecting behind the legs, and also reaching forward under the belly. There should be a softness and thinness to the touch, and an absence of fleshiness and thickiness.

4. Perfect number and condition of teats. If one teat is wanting, about a fourth less milk will be the result. A cow's udder is not, as some suppose, a barrel with four taps, but is divided into four different compartments, called "milk glands," each of which has its own tap or teat. It is not only important that the full number of teats be present and in working order, but it is desirable that they be well placed, not crowded together, but pretty far and uniformly apart; rather long and tapering; all pointing out and downward, equal in size and even in appearance.

5. Docility and quietness of disposition. These are indicated by large, mild and clear eyes, and an air of contentment generally. A cow that is quiet and contented feeds at ease, chews her cud with entire satisfaction, and will secrete and yield more milk than any restless and turbulent animal having similar milking characteristics in other respects.

PENNSYLVANIA BARN.

Mr. W. C. Croft, editor of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, one of the spiciest, witliest, and most practical writers in the West, has been taking a stroll East, and thus discourses of the barns he saw there:

"May I jump from the foot-lights to the farm?—from Chicago to Pennsylvania? In Chester and Lancaster counties is, I think, the most finished farming in the Union. The farms, composed of a brick-stall sort of soil, are cultivated from fence to fence every rood, as the farms of Flemings and of Brittany are cultivated from hedge to hedge. Cattle stand with their four feet in two feet of clover.—Every field is a park. Every barn is a cow-palace. Every pig-pen is a porcine paradise. Pennsylvania is pre-eminently the State of barns. Think of a three-story stone barn, with a swell front and dormer windows in the roof, and a luxurious portico where the Sybaritic calves chew the cud of sweet contentment on summer evenings! And then behold the little cabin in the rear where the agricultural Dutchman lives with his 'frow,' and where the children lie on the floor and envy the happy calves in the lattice portico.—Every barn is three times as large as the house, which serves as a sort of appendage, and, as it were, plays second fiddle to it. The barn is headquarters, and the house a sort of sentry-box where the man resides who takes care of it. The barn is slated, painted, corncolored, cisterned, lightning-rodled, and the pigsty is glazed, the chicken coops are painted, and the word-fences are whitewashed as far as you can see. I have no doubt the original dwellers here whitewashed the ground for acres around the domicile twice or thrice a year, till they learned its fatality.

I do not know about the effect on cattle of so much petting. I should think it would tend to make animals aristocratic, yet I do not know of any place where cattle are more stuck up than they are in the West. There, you know, we have no barns to speak of.—There are townships enough in Minnesota where everything with horns has the same chance to fight for the warm side of a haystack in January, and it must be admitted, the weaker animals are considerably hump-backed and subordinated in their feelings by April. Moreover, here the farmers use fertilizers, but in Minnesota we have an idea that the earth is an orange to be sucked, a goose to be plucked, a sponge to be squeezed, a reservoir to be everlastingly drawn from, without in the least diminishing its flow. All through the central West they are learning what Minnesota has yet to learn, that Nature's wheat restorer, to which the poet so touchingly alludes, is not balm sleep, but manure."

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