

THE RED CLOUD CHIEF.

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NEW YEAR'S BELLS.

Bells, bells, ring, with your sweetest... Ring the Old Year out, with its sighs and tears...

UNAVAILABLE TALENTS.

My wife and I looked at each other in blank despair. We are such lonely people that it is very seldom we are both alone at once...

Now, however, we had no money, and very little flour in the house. My wife had made a nice Johnny-cake for the breakfast of the children...

And so we purchased the business by the location of the children at supper. Riding about the country, even in a peddler's cart...

That a tin peddler is a useful as well as an honest member of society, you can doubt. He deals in simple, necessary articles, and by carrying them...

The cottage we lived in was not strictly beautiful, but it was comfortable. It was a pleasant place, with an orchard before it...

Unfortunately the failure of the bank in which my legacy was invested changed the whole situation. I was not content at first, because we thought we should respect ourselves more if we were brave...

With her music the contrary is true. She knows nothing about the theory, but her practice is exquisite; so of course she cannot give lessons...

lost, and we had at last arrived at the above-mentioned state of blank despair. "It is really too bad," said Florence...

"Van, are you aristocratic?" "No, no, not exactly," said I. "I like the things aristocratic people have, you know, but it is not for fear of losing caste that I object to the factory."

"Oh, yes," said I, "first, you and the children; second, a horse that does not look to cover its own corns with salt and sulphur, a good fire in the winter; fifth, a warm woolen suit for each of us; sixth, some light active outdoor employment, which I will not do unless I can enjoy my society when I have leisure to sit down in the evening."

"And you would like to keep a horse?" said Florence, confidently. "Why, yes," I said, rather surprised; "but since we have never kept one since we were married, it seems to me we might dispense with it now."

"Unless it came in the way of business," said Florence, calmly. "I know what your real view of the necessities of life are. I have a plan which I had hesitated to propose before, thinking you might demand more of me, but I have now decided to propose it."

"I felt a spark of hope," I said. "I suppose you are in fun, Florence." "I said; "but I really think I should not hate this so much as anything else, and I am sure of trying. However, it will probably amount to nothing."

"It then appeared that it was several days since Florence had seen the notice, and she had not inquired into the matter before speaking to me. She knew some one in Plainville who had learned all the particulars. It really was true. The business was good, that is, it is in the hands of a very competent person, and he was willing to inform me, if I did not pay anything like the law."

"That a tin peddler is a useful as well as an honest member of society, you can doubt. He deals in simple, necessary articles, and by carrying them about, he does good to many people. So much for us."

I enjoyed my life even the first day, for, as nobody knew me, I had no jealousy, and I was not obliged to give my name to the puzzled faces of my customers, who seemed to feel that in some way I was not to the manner born. I liked to study human nature and now I saw much of it at home and off its guard. This delighted me. Two rules I observed: first, I never entered a room unless I was invited; second, I never insisted that people should buy what they did not want. But I always had a ready answer to every objection, and any little novelty might have I took pains should be seen at a glance, that I might recommend itself.

I am passionately fond of outdoor life, and I have my dreamy side, and I hardly know anything more exquisite than to jog leisurely along the country roads at six o'clock on a May morning, when the air is all humming and the birds all singing, or to return quietly home in the late June twilight, just as the stars are coming out. I like to be in a soft summer rain, too. There is something so soothing in the crisp autumn weather to reconnoitre me in the unwieldy cart I ride in. Even on rivers it is not to be despised. I believe I like all the seasons and all the weather. I used to give myself holidays, often in winter, when Florence and the children and I had no end of fun. Of course we helped Florence do the house-work first, and then had the day for pleasure. From May to October I hardly ever went alone on my journey. Every pleasant day Florence, or one of the children, or all the family, went with me on my rambles. How exciting it was, and how happy we were! We took our dinner with us sometimes, and played we were gypsies, and camped out in the most enticing places in the beautiful country.

Salt Boxes and Troughs.

But few farmers fully estimate the value of salt as a daily portion for stock. They look upon it as a luxury greatly relished by the different domestic animals under their charge, but do not know how to use it advantageously. Stockmen with long and varied experience very generally agree, however, that cattle should at all times have a plentiful supply of salt, and the more they eat the better they will be. It is well known that in their wild state animals undertake long journeys for the purpose of obtaining saline matter, and that under domestication they do not lose their taste for it. Long observation has taught that sheep kept in the vicinity of rock-salt hills or sea salt and having access to it thrive better than in other situations. They produce more wool, and the mutton is more highly esteemed than that from other localities.

Feeders of stock who have had large quantities of salt fed to their animals, the most attractive relish for all domestic animals when presented to them in the form of a solid mass, because they can get it in the very small quantities required by digesting it. A common custom among the stockmen of the far West who have large herds and flocks is that of mixing salt and hard wood ashes in equal proportions, and spreading the mixture over water enough to make a solid lump or mass. These lumps are distributed in the several sheltered troughs or boxes at points where the animals can have daily access to them. Some are placed at an elevation suited to horses and cows, while others are set within the reach of sheep. This plan, in addition to its economy, presents the merit of insuring the animals against the loss of salt. Numerous experiments have been made for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity needed for the different animals, and it has been found that the amount is not very different. The French government has made a report on this subject, giving the following results: For a cow, a scientific person commissioned to investigate it, and a scale fixed upon by them as the minimum daily allowance for the different animals in ordinary circumstances. For a cow, one pound of salt is allowed to each cow daily. Reported trials seemed to prove that the amount specified produces in milk cows the greatest flow of milk. One cow, for example, produced 100 lbs. of milk in one day, and another 120 lbs. in another. All received an equal amount of food and water, but the animals in one lot were given in addition one eighth of a pound of salt daily, while those in the second lot received none at all. At the end of the test the first lot were in prime condition and weighed some one hundred and forty pounds more than the second lot. In conclusion it may be added that this inexpensive relish is not only healthful, but it cures diseases attending the feeding of fat and lean animals, and it is a sure remedy for the ailments of the young of the species. It is a good plan to dig drains long before they are laid with tile or stone. They are apt to cave in especially in frosty weather, and in case it is desirable to do such work in winter, it is undoubtedly better to excavate the drains in the fall, when the soil is soft and the work is easier. The tile and mud, and cost less than half the labor to dig the drains and lay them.

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HOME, FARM AND GARDEN.

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THE INCREASE OF THE POPULATION OF THE CITY OF BERLIN.

The increase of the population of the city of Berlin is altogether unparalleled in the history of capitals. In 1800 the population was 228,000, while, according to the census taken the other day, it now exceeds 1,100,000. In 1850 the population was 450,000, and in 1870 it was 750,000. There are towns, indeed, in a similar line, have sprung from ten inhabitants of a hundred thousand, but not one which has grown from half a million to a million. This increase is as much as in Berlin, and is the more singular inasmuch as Berlin possesses no natural advantages whatever. It is not a port, or a great center of trade, or a great manufacturing city. It is in a flat, dry, sandy soil, and the river is only a stream of the third class. Berlin owes its increase to the immense, though temporary, prosperity induced by a plethora of money after the war of 1806-1813. The money which was hoarded up during the war, and which was afterwards swept through France. People flocked there from the provinces after the war, because they believed—as people in rural districts once believed of London—that the streets would be covered with gold. For a time all went well; speculative operations afforded employment to immense hordes of laborers; factories sprang up; and the city became the center of the German Empire. The money came in due time, and it is probable that for years past the position of the average workman at Berlin has been worse than that of his fellow in any other Berlin in Europe, with the exception of St. Petersburg.

It was necessary, on a certain occasion, to select a witness to testify as to the way in which a Mr. Smith treated his horse. "Well, sir," said the lawyer, with a sweet and winning smile, "a simple incident to do with all support, and for the sake of the horse." The witness looked up innocently and replied: "Generally a-straddle, sir, I believe." The lawyer asked: "The horse is a good one, what sort of a horse is it?" "The temperable witness answered: "The better rides any gate at all, sir, but I've seen his horse ride every gate on the farm." The lawyer said: "How does the horse like to be ridden?" "How does Mr. Smith ride when he is in company with others? I demand a clear answer." "Well, sir," said the witness, "he always gets up on the horse, and he is able to, and if not he falls behind." The lawyer was by this time almost beside himself, and asked: "And how does the horse like to be ridden?" 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