

THE RED CLOUD CHIEF

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No. 16.

The Western & Southern

MERCANTILE ASSOCIATION,

Red Cloud, Nebraska,

Have just received their fall stock of

**Dry Goods,
Clothing,
BOOTS
SHOES**

Cloaks, Shawls, Blankets, Comforts

AND FLANNELS.

OUR CLOAKS, CLOTHING,

and BOOTS AND SHOES,

Were purchased direct from the manufacturers in the east, and will be sold accordingly.

Highest market price paid for Produce.

Remember we are the cheapest cash house west of Chicago.

Call and see us.

The Western and Southern Mercantile Association

MASON'S OLD STAND

Chas. Schaffnit, Manager.

ADULTERATED BREAD.

A Few Comments on the Use of Alum by Professional Bakers.

Considerable exaggeration has been perpetrated in reference to the adulteration of bread with alum. The quantity actually used is very small, and the question whether the term adulteration is fairly applicable to such addition is a debatable one. From the baker's point of view it is not an adulteration but an improvement. He is fairly justified in maintaining that if the alum which he adds is an adulteration, so also is the salt and the baking powder which are added to home-baked bread. According to Tomlinson the proportion of alum commonly used is but 2 ounces to a sack of flour, weighing 280 pounds. As one sack of flour is with water made into 80 four-pound loaves, the quantity of alum to each pound of bread is but 1-160 of an ounce, or 1-2,560 part. Oddly enough in this case the baker supposes himself to be more guilty than he really is. He purchases what is called "stuffed" or "rocky" in packets, supposing it to be ground alum. Tomlinson finds that it consists of three parts of common salt to one of alum. Half a pound of this is added to a sack of flour. The mode of action of this minute quantity of alum is a chemical conundrum not yet answered, but it actually does improve the appearance of the bread. Batch bread made of ordinary flour without alum has a lumpy fracture when the loaves are pulled apart, or the bread otherwise broken; the alum renders the fracture more silky. I have recently observed that the batch, or household, loaves commonly sold in Edinburgh show a more silky and in flat fracture than London loaves, and attribute this to the use of more alum. It may be that the Scotch bakers prepare their own "rocky," omitting the common salt. In Belgium and Northern France sulphate of copper is added to improve the appearance of bread; 1-1,500 to 1-3,000 part has a perceptible effect. It is said that the base of this and of alum combines with the gluten and renders it insoluble, but this theory does not explain the mystery of the efficacy of so small a quantity. Pure flour contains alumina. Mr. A. H. Allen, comparing the results of his own analysis with those of other chemists, estimates the average quantity of natural alumina to correspond to about 8 grains of alum in the four-pound loaf, which nearly corresponds to Tomlinson's allowance for the baker.—W. Matties Williams, in *Gentleman's Magazine*.

HOW MANY VARIETIES.

Wholesale Advice for Farmers Afflicted with the "Chicken Fever."

When some people contract the "chicken fever" it goes directly to their brain and they lose their head, so to speak. We get letters occasionally from persons who are about to start in the business of breeding fancy fowls, asking how many varieties they had better keep. Some think that ten would be a good number.

Those who talk in this way do not know what they are about, and show their lack of fitness to breed any variety properly.

One variety, or at most two, is enough for any one to breed who has had no experience in the business. The eye must be trained to see and understand the points required to make a valuable bird. Each breed is a study and requires peculiar treatment in respect to mating and feeding.

When more than one variety is bred on the premises, the owner is kept in a state of constant anxiety, lest by accident they become crossed, and his reputation suffer in consequence.

It is difficult to rear enough chicks of several varieties to supply the demands for any one of the number, especially if one of them be popular. A large number of each must be reared to allow for culling freely, so that there may be no temptation to sell or breed from birds of inferior quality.

There is a temptation to crowd the flocks into contracted houses and yards, when several varieties are bred on a single farm or plot. Breeding birds need yards of liberal area in order to produce vitalized eggs and vigorous chicks, and young stock intended for breeding need wide range to attain their fullest development.

The man or woman who begins with a single variety, and gives it close attention, will have more money and a better reputation at the end of five years than the person who begins with ten or even more.

If more than one breed is to be kept, have them bred on separate farms. Several persons in the same neighborhood on different farms may each make a specialty of some one breed, and then all unite in advertising and selling under the management of a single individual. This mode of co-operation is frequently followed by farmers.

A single variety of turkeys, chickens, geese, ducks and guineas may be kept on one farm without danger of intermixture. Do not attempt to mix—*Farm Journal*.

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

—E. P. Roe wrote the last chapter of "Miss Lou" on the day of his death.

—Howard Seeley, the Texas writer, makes use of a human skull for an inkstand.

—Carlyle's present popularity in England is estimated by the fact that during six months 15,000 volumes of a cheap shilling edition of his works have been sold.

—John Tod, a Scotchman who has just published in Edinburgh a book entitled "Bits About America," says that American women have great power of expressing what they mean.

—The most expert stenographer in the country is said to be Mrs. Barrows, wife of the editor of the *Christian Register*. She is able to "take" Carl Schurz's speeches without difficulty.

—Alexandre Dumas is one of the few wealthy authors in the world. He has a magnificent house in Paris filled with art treasures. Near Dieppe he owns a beautiful chateau covered with ivy and decorated on the inside with handsome furniture and rare paintings. Dumas is sixty-four years of age, but strong and vigorous.

—Mrs. Dr. B. H. Badley's "Life of Queen Victoria" has already had three thousand copies sold, and another edition is ordered. The author has received the thanks of Queen Victoria for a copy of the work, and it has been adopted as a text-book in the vernacular schools of the American Methodist mission in Oudh and Kholi-cund.

—Prof. Edward A. Freeman says: "Anglo-Saxon" is such a very foolish word that I never use it. I see so reason why the two branches of the English folk should be called in the nineteenth century by an antiquated description used—for a particular reason—in characters of the tenth and eleventh centuries and hardly anywhere else."

The encyclopedia published by the academy at Pekin, as far as bulk is concerned at least, is the largest in the world, it being composed of 160,000 volumes. We are not informed how long it takes to find a given topic, or how long to read it when found. We have been accustomed to look upon the "Britannica" as a stupendous work, but here is an enterprise which appears far more colossal in its proportions.

—Miss Agnata Ramsey, who recently married the master of Trinity and received as a wedding present from the learned bridegroom elegantly-bound volumes of Plato, Sophocles and Dante, was not above exhibiting a worthy feminine desire to have a pretty wedding. She wore lace said to have been Cardinal Wolsey's, and also diamonds and pearls. She had a page and eight bridesmaids, and these fair ones wore Cambridge-blue sashes and carried bouquets of pink roses and mignonette. Each one also received two books of poetry from the bridegroom.

—James Trimble, a lineal descendant of Daniel Defoe, the author of "Robinson Crusoe," died at his country place in Cecil County, Md. He possessed, among other mementoes of the great traveler, two chairs used by Daniel Defoe in his study when he was writing the story of "Crusoe." One of them he gave to the Delaware Historical Society many years ago. The other he bequeathed to the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Mr. Trimble was born in Pennsylvania. He was a leading member of the Society of Friends, a noted botanist and an astronomer, having a large private observatory and telescopes at his country home.

HUMOROUS.

—At the horticultural show—"This is a tobacco plant, my dear." "Indeed! how very interesting! But I don't see any cigars on it."

—"Bravo, my child; you were a born actress." "Yes, sir. My birth was scored." "What do you mean?" "I'm a twin."—N. Y. *Tribune*.

—Mustard comes in at a duty of six cents a pound. It will receive honorable mention when mustard out, according to its strength and services.—*Texas Siftings*.

—Old Lady—"Pray, Mr. Jones, what does your friend, Colonel Murphy, do for a living?" Jones—"He's got money." Old Lady—"Ah, that's plenty to do."—*Washington Critic*.

—Old Gentleman (to boy behind the bar)—"Haven't you got a small little boy?" Boy—"Yes, sir." Old Gentleman—"Why don't you wear it?" Boy—"My big sister's wearin' it to-day."—*Epock*.

—The papers make a good deal of fun of a chiroprapist who wants a pension for removing corns from soldiers' feet. Undoubtedly the chiroprapist regards himself as the corn-curing hero of the war.—*Boston Transcript*.

—Eve—"Dearest, your cruel father kicked me down the steps last night." Angelina—"Do not complain, darling; submit to fate. Just think how lucky you are. Supposing I had on the third floor."—*Fun*.

RATTLESNAKE VENOM.

Method by which it is safely extracted from the Serpents.

The snake is seized a short distance behind the head by means of a staff having at its end a thong of leather passing over the end and through a staple, and this is tightened or loosened, as occasion may require, by means of a string extending up the handle. It has been found necessary not to confine the snake's head too tightly, as otherwise it can not be induced to strike. The head being secured, a stick having its end covered with absorbent cotton is pressed against the snake's mouth, and it is teased until sufficiently irritated to strike its fangs into the cotton, which receives the venom and obviates any danger to the fangs, as it has been found in allowing snakes to strike against a saucer the fangs are frequently broken off. Generally a snake will strike three or four times very viciously and then relapses into a sullen apathy. We have in vain endeavored to procure venom from our snakes by pressing over the poison glands, but this has been unsuccessful, except in one instance, unless the snake was chloroformed, and if this is done the reptile generally succumbs within a few days. This fact is mentioned, as it has been learned through the public prints that some experimenters in a neighboring city have succeeded in squeezing out the venom while the snake was active.

The quantity of venom obtained from different individuals varies greatly. From a large rattler, weighing perhaps three or four pounds, our first attempt resulted in securing about fifteen drops of venom after the reptile had struck three times; but if the process is repeated every day or two but a very small quantity is obtained. The smaller snakes give a much smaller quantity. The cotton, after having received its charge of venom, was removed from the stick and washed out carefully in glycerine, and by measuring the quantity of this substance first, and then after the venom had been added, we were able to tell accurately the strength of the solution, which consisted of eight drachms of chemically pure glycerine and one drachm of the venom. This is the preparation which was used in all the experiments, and it is called glycerine-venom. One fact should be stated as bearing upon the popular belief that snakes, if kept from water, are not poisonous. It was found that by keeping the rattlers without water for a week or two, the quantity of venom was materially smaller than when we allowed them free access to water, and that the color of the venom, which was yellowish green when no fluid was supplied, became much lighter in color when they had freely drunk. We have never been able to induce our rattlesnakes to eat, although they have been tempted with a variety of food, but water they consume largely.

When the present supply of rattlers was first received it was a very easy matter to grasp any one of them behind the neck with a snake-staff, but experience has taught them that they must do something against their will, and now it is quite difficult to secure them, and even when secured it is difficult to make them strike; in fact, one specimen is now so tame that it may be handled with impunity, and it is the writer's belief that a rattler, if carefully and tenderly handled, will not bite the hand that grasps it. It is believed the Moqui Indians are aware of this, and it enables them to handle with impunity the venomous snakes used in their fearful dance, so well described by Captain John G. Bourke, U. S. A. Many persons suppose that the fangs of a rattler once removed the reptile is harmless for all time, or that at least a year is required to replace the fangs. This is an error, for the writer has in his possession a rattler in which the fangs were twice replaced after an interval of three weeks only. As the rattler doubtless knows when the contents of the poison gland is exhausted, as is evidenced by his refusal to bite after two or three efforts, he probably also knows that it is useless to show fight when the fangs have been removed, and this has been practically tried on one of our snakes. She continues to coil and rattle, but, no matter how much teased and irritated, makes no attempt to bite.

An interesting fact has been noticed important to record. It is that the rattler does not invariably use both fangs in striking, the muscular movement of either side of the jaw being quite independent of the other, and quite at the will of the reptile. The practical bearing of this point is that occasionally in snake bite but one puncture will be found, and some doubt may exist if this was really due to the serpent's fangs or not. Another point of interest lies in the fact that if only one fang is plunged into the tissues, the patient will not have received so large a dose of the venom as if both teeth had been used, and a more favorable prognosis can be made.

R U

Going to Buy a Pair of Shoes?

We are making a special sale this week of

Men's Fine Shoes at \$1.35.

Also, Ladies' Kid and

Goat and Lace Shoe \$1.35,

Either kind worth twice the money. If you need a pair it will pay you to examine them. Come and see

Our fall and Winter Wraps

We have the best line of Dress Goods and Notions to select from in Red Cloud. Call and examine our stock.

R. M. MARTIN.

Highest price paid for butter and Eggs.

No Difference How You Vote

IT STILL REMAINS A FACT, THAT

S. F. SPOKESFIELD,

KEEPS ON HAND A LARGE LINE OF

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, ETC.,

Which he is selling at remarkable low figures, in keeping with the close times. He don't make a great show but sells goods as cheap as any one.

OLD STAND, RED CLOUD.

MINER BROS.,

THE

"PIONEER"

Dry Goods & Grocery House.

Keep on hand a full line of

Dry Goods, Boots, Shoes,

Clothing, Groceries, &c.

And sell them at the lowest living prices. Call and see them. A full line of CARPETS always on hand.

New goods arriving daily.