

# AT HOME WITH OLD FRIENDS.

Ill weather, friends, and wild enough  
To wear the dear old wig on!  
Once more from windy night and rough  
Around the hearth and flag.  
And check a glass and pour ye strong,  
And give us shakespeare and a song!

No witches of the mad Macbeth,  
With cold and evil cunning,  
But scenes where Falstaff "sweats to death"  
And "lance the lean earth" running!  
Once more call Bardolph—Pistol—Nym—  
The Prince, too—and a health to him!

Faith! How ye ever such a night?  
Storm-racked each ghostly gable.

## Prominent G. A. R. Organizer

John Mitchell Vanderlicke, past department commander of Pennsylvania, Grand Army of the Republic, was born near historic Valley Forge, Pa. He left Freedland seminary in Montgomery county, where he received his education in his seventeenth year, to enlist, at the outbreak of the war, in the Eighth Pennsylvania cavalry, with



which he served with distinction until the end of the struggle, being a prisoner at Appomattox at the time of the surrender and witnessing many of the interesting incidents that great event. He has been for many years secretary of the regimental association. At the close of the war he returned to Freedland seminary to renew his studies in Latin and Greek. In

## The Death of Johnnie Burns

Occasionally one comes across a verse or line that unexpectedly touches a dormant chord in the heart and bids the tear drop spring. Into the past we wander under the influence of such exciting and by-gone memories, then come to view pictures long since faded even from ourselves. Memory untried, silences upstart, life and emotion that once were real become again to us a reality. That which in this way touches one heart bids fair to touch others and just now letter in print brings before the writer of these lines a boyish face of the long ago, a childish companion, who turned his face toward the loved South, never by his boyhood's friends to be seen again.

"The death of Johnnie Burns," possibly now told for the first time in its realistic pathos to his relatives and friends, if relatives he has yet living. Johnnie was a young boy, a hero whose name history ignores. No shoulder straps were his part, but that he was a hero will be evident to whoever reads the story. This Southern soldier, forty years after the boy's death, tells his letter to the Confederate Veteran, which chances to come before my eyes. It is a touching and pathetic tale, and challenges thought. One cannot but wonder which Baptist Sunday school in this city the boy attended, who recited the story of whether that Bible with the bloody finger marks on the fourteenth chapter of St. John ever reached his mother. And one cannot but further wonder, after these years have passed, if in this city lives a friend to value the veteran's touching tribute paid to their boyish soldier of that sad long ago, or if it strikes only empty air in the home city where once the child was a pet.

With a view of possibly doing a service to the Confederate Veteran, possibly bringing some member of the Fourth Ohio into touch with the Southern soldier who cared for a brother in blue, I presume to offer for publication this Confederate's letter concerning the death of Johnnie Burns of Cincinnati.

From the Confederate Veteran:

"C. L. Gay, an Alabama veteran, writes that Joe T. Williams of Montgomery, was a member of company D, Twenty-first Alabama regiment, and tells this:

"A comrade and I were searching the battlefield of Shiloh for some missing men of our company, D, of the Twenty-first Alabama regiment. In passing through a swampy thicket near where that regiment charged the Fourth Ohio regiment early in the morning, we heard the voice of a wounded man crying: 'Boys! boys!' Thinking it might possibly be one of our men we went to him. He first begged for a drink of water, which I gave him out of my canteen. After he was wounded he had rolled into the edge of this thicket in order to protect himself from being run over by the flying ambulances, artillery and cavalry, constantly passing near. His knee cap was entirely shot off, and he was extremely weak from the loss of blood. His pitiful appeal to help him we could not and would not resist after talking to him. His name was Johnnie Burns of Cincinnati, Ohio, comrade B, Fourth Ohio regiment. He begged to be carried to our field hospital, where he might receive attention, and, if possible, get word to his loving mother, being her only son. He had a small Bible in his hand, which he was reading intently on the fourth chapter of St. John. His thumb being bloody it made a bloody spot on this chapter. He desired that the Bible should be sent to his mother, showing where he had read.

"Our Bible thought being a few hundred yards in the rear, we carried him down and requested our surgeon, Dr. Rowland of Mobile, to examine him, which he did in a few minutes, the hospital being crowded with patients. On examination the doctor found his wound to be fatal and his physical condition too weak for an

# AGRICULTURE

## In Selecting Feeders.

Quality—We may well distinguish between quality (a) general quality and (b) handling quality. (a) General quality. By general quality is meant general refinement of external conformation as seen in the head, horns, bone, compactness and smoothness of coat. General quality is affected by nothing so much as breeding; in fact the two are very closely associated. We seldom find good quality in a plainly bred steer and we generally find it in the well-bred high grade animal. The ability of general quality can not be too strongly emphasized. While it is a characteristic that involves many points and is difficult to describe, its presence or absence is quickly discerned by the trained eye of the intelligent buyer. It is this characteristic in the stocker and feeder more than any other we depend upon as indicating that the animal has within it the possibility of making a market topper or at any rate a prime steer.

The ability to select stockers and feeders having within them the possibility of producing a great profit is one of the most important lessons for the stockman to learn. Profits in steer feeding come not so much from skill in feeding and management as from intelligent buying and selling. The most successful feeders are those who do not increase the value per pound of the total weight of the animal as important as that resulting from the method employed in the feeding and management. It is seldom possible to produce a great profit which does not increase the value per pound of the total weight of the animal. Hence the importance of intelligent buying, or the selection of feeders and stockers of good quality.

(b) Handling quality. Good handling quality indicates that the animal is a good feeder. It shows that the animal is in good health or thrifty and capable of beginning to gain as soon as an abundance of food is supplied. We speak of cattle as possessing good handling quality when the skin is mellow and cool. A thick, money coat of hair of medium amount and a moderately thick skin are also desirable.—Prof. Herbert W. Mumford.

## The Battle of Grass and Weeds.

The dominant vegetation existing in any section of country, if left to itself, usually repels invaders. The reason that certain kinds of plants only are found growing predominantly anywhere is because, for the time being, they are best fitted to survive under local conditions. Those less well fitted are crowded out, and perish. In an old plant region, as a forest or a prairie, vegetation of a particular sort has established itself as the result of centuries of competition with other plants contesting for the same space. Seeds of invading species, however, may lie dormant for some time in the soil, awaiting the clearing of the land to germinate and grow. Notice the new plants that appear where land is cleared of trees or sod and left to itself. So long as the conditions in nature surrounding the wild prairie grass remain the same, they will continue to grow in about the same proportions and to about the same extent. Man, however, changes natural conditions violently. By breaking up the prairie and putting in crops he opens places which afford room for strange plants, weeds, the seeds of which are carried there to neighboring grazing land. Even then they will not drive out the grasses of the prairie but will crowd themselves. On the contrary, if a farm is abandoned, weeds may riot for a few years in the broken land, but the soil retains the soil eventually in the prairie regions, and the weeds are crowded out.—H. F. Roberts.

## Sweet Clover as a Soil Ameliorant.

Bulletin 223, Ohio Station: Those who have carefully observed the habits of the wild sweet clover (otherwise known as Bokhara clover or melilot) have noticed that its seedlings grow in practically confined to roadsides where the surface soil has been scraped away or where the ground has been puddled by trampling, and to similar locations elsewhere, such as the bottom abandoned brickyard and places in pasture fields where the soil has been trampled while wet, or hillsides from which the surface soil has been washed away. It is practically never found invading pastures or other lands where it has been kept in check by the farmer. In the Ohio Experiment Station the seeds of this plant have repeatedly been sown on soils which were merely this, but not washed or puddled, but invariably without success. The only case in which it has been observed growing where it was sown on the bottom of an old brickyard at Columbus in 1888. Here a full stand and vigorous growth was obtained, and the crop was allowed to stand and re-seed itself until the fall of 1891, when it was plowed under and the land sown to wheat. The result was a yield of 26.3 bushels of wheat per acre on the land where melilot had grown, against a yield of 18.5 bushels on similar land where it had not been sown previously.

Developing the Rice Industry. The work of introducing new plants into this country is proving exceedingly beneficial from a commercial standpoint. The introduction of rice from Japan a few years ago illustrates this. Secretary Wilson in a recent report said: In my last report attention was called to the fact that the introduction of Japanese rice resulted in an increased production, amounting to at least \$1,000,000, of this commodity in Louisiana, and furthermore that the Japanese rice, as the work in Louisiana and Texas led to the investment of not less than \$20,000,000 in the industry. In 1900 about 3,000,000 pounds more rice were produced than in 1899, and this year 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 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