

Comrades

ONCE IN A WHILE.

Once in a while the sun shines out,
And the arching skies are a perfect blue;
Once in a while, 'mid clouds of doubt,
Hope's brightest stars come peeping through.
Our paths lead down by the meadow fair,
Where the sweetest blossoms nod and smile,
And we lay aside our crosses of care
Once in a while.

Once in a while with our own
We clasp the hand of a steadfast friend;

Tricks of Soldiers

The boys played tricks on one another every day, says a writer in the Chicago Inter Ocean. "On one occasion after our line of battle had been formed the color-bearer stuck the flagstaff in a hole in a stump, behind which he sought shelter from the bullets of the enemy's sharpshooters. For a time the rebel fire centered on that stump, or rather on the flag waving from it, while all the time the color-bearer, curled up behind the stump, smiled at the efforts of the boys to cut his flag down.

"Soon the firing became regular and the boys relaxed from the high tension of the opening session. The color-bearer, as the boys settled down to regular business, drowsed off to sleep, his flag still flying from the stump. I. N. Cook, now of Guilford, Ill., thought the color-bearer was drowsing and he crept up, lifted the flag, straightened it out and let the colors fall to the ground. The boys yelled, 'Raise the flag,' and the color-bearer, waking up, crawled around to the rebel side of the stump, caught up the flag, examined it for bullet marks, and finding none, was greatly mystified.

The Grand Army

The forcible letter of Mr. Victor Hagemann, which you published yesterday on the editorial page of the Times, strongly and clearly points out the great error which the Grand Army of the Republic commits in admitting to its membership every one who has served in the military service of the United States for a period of thirty days.

Under these liberal terms of admission thousands and tens of thousands of men have been admitted to the ranks and attained the highest positions in it—without having in the least degree participated in the war or aided in the suppression of the rebellion. Every member of a militia regiment that was hurriedly called into service for a brief period (and which was passed in fortifications or other duty far removed from a veteran and is associated in the common mind with all the battles and great campaigns of the war) without the faintest knowledge of actual war, who never came within

The Famous Apple Tree

"I have carried from that day to this a square inch of the apple tree of Appomattox, which came to me in this way: There was a general impression that Grant and Lee had met at the apple tree for their first informal talk over the terms of surrender, and the particular tree was guarded by both Unionists and Confederates," says an old soldier. "But, as soldiers passed, twig after twig was broken off, and finally the tree broke in two, and the limbs as they rode by. At this juncture a squad of cavalry rode down on the crowd about the tree, dismounted, and two men proceeded to cut it down, the chips flying out among the

Piano With a History

A presentation of more than ordinary interest was made in New Orleans the other night, and thereby hangs a story. Just after the fall of Vicksburg, when Gen. Sherman's army was marching on Jackson, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston made a determined stand in the suburbs of Jackson, Miss. The famous Washington Artillery of New Orleans constituted a portion of his forces, and they were stationed at what was known as the Cooper residence, two miles west of the town. It was known that everything in the Cooper house would be ruined if not burned, wherefore the

Death of Col. McCook

"That story of Sergeant David U. McCook," said the captain, "reminded me that he was almost at McCullough's side when he was shot. He was carrying the colors of the Fifty-second Ohio when he met the assault on Kanesaw, June 27, 1864. He was at the abutment in front of the main rebel works when he was shot through the shoulder. As one of the color guards caught him and lowered him to the ground McCook handed Major J. T. Holmes, then in command of the Fifty-second, the colors, and said: 'Take these, major; they never touched the ground.'"

"The major grasped the colors, gave them to one of the corporals of the color guard, and led the way through the obstructions. At first the colors were planted on top of the rebel works. When they were shot down and the flagstaff splintered, the boys cut a canteen in strips, repaired the staff, and planted the colors in the loose earth at the foot of the works. I remember that a rebel captain was killed trying to get the flag while it was on top of the works, and when the burial parties went out between the lines to look after the dead, the adjutant of the Rock City guards told me that he saw Col. McCook on top of the works, and said further that officers and men were amazed to see him there and to hear him coolly demand their surrender. For a minute no one fired. Then came the fusillade that fatally wounded the colonel."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

POULTRY

The Man Yard in Summer.

It is quite easy to make the hen yard in summer a profitable feeding ground for the fowls. Enough poultry wire to divide the yard will cost little. After the division is made, one side should be sown to seeds that will produce forage. One of the best things to sow we have found to be lettuce. The fowls eat this greedily. It should not be used for pasture till it is well rooted and established. Another thing that should be sown is rape. A pound of seed will go a long way. It is not too late to sow it in midsummer. It grows rapidly and soon reaches the height of a foot or more, then the fowls may be turned onto it. They will strip it of its tender portions, but will leave the stems and the mid-veins. As soon as the fowls are taken off this pasture, the midveins will be left to rot, and soon the plants will be in full foliage. The writer noticed that at the North Carolina experiment station the yards were sown with oats. This makes a most excellent pasture, and the fowls eat it readily. Some feed chopped grass in summer time, but we have observed that hens do not take much interest in eating anything that has been thus prepared. They prefer to have their green forage fastened down so they can pull it to pieces themselves. It is, therefore, better to give them green pasture in the form of growing crops than to give them green stuff cut up.

Deformed Chickens.

While the faults of incubation are responsible for many of the deformities found in the chickens, and undoubtedly weaken their in ways which are not so apparent to us, we cannot state that the chickens which come from the egg in developed condition and can eat ever die on account of weakness due to the incubation, says a report of the Rhode Island experiment station. In my experience so far the weak chicks, when properly handled, seem to have developed and grown as rapidly as the stronger. However, those which were hatched incompletely developed or with crippled members, as the legs or beak, have not been able to survive in all cases. Under the even temperature in which, however, the weaklings, when separated into hatched, and may attain some weight. As a practical matter, however, all such weaklings and cripples should be destroyed as soon as hatched. To the poultryman who can devote but little attention to them they would prove an annoyance.

Prices for Poultry Products.

From Farmers' Review: In a recent issue the Farmers' Review asked its readers to report on the prices they are receiving for poultry and poultry products. In reply I will say, we are receiving as follows: Eggs, 9 cents; broilers, 9 cents per pound; broilers, according to size, 12 1/2 to 16 cents per pound. In other words, we receive within one and one-half cent per pound of the price quoted in the St. Louis daily report of the market. Our country is favored in every respect and poultry is raised in every nook and corner by huckster women, and the prices are paid for at the farmer's door. It does not, therefore, pay the farmer to take them to market.—A. L. Hamerton, Clark County, Illinois.

Poultry Points Picked Up.

If a man wants to show birds he must raise only good stock and that in abundance. The man that raises only a dozen birds a year stands less chance of having winning birds than does the man that can raise hundreds. In such cases he finds it easy to get together a few exceptional birds, in this connection we must remember that in case the breeder is looking to contest in the show room he will need to make a study of the points of birds himself that he may when he goes to the show make only his very best instead of inferior stock.

Cull Rigidity.

Always be on the look-out for the poorest specimens of birds and get rid of them as soon as found and as fast as found. To permit the culls to go right on producing more culls or what should be culls is a mistake. The best thing to do with culls is to send them to the butcher, and if there is danger of his selling them for broilers send them to him dressed.

Hens should be made to lay when eggs are high in price. This can be done, but it requires attention to something more than feeding. The breeding must be looked after. The hens should be mated from early spring chicks and must be forced forward from birth to maturity.

One should not attempt to winter more fowls than can be comfortably housed. Too many birds in a house makes it extremely difficult to keep the air pure or the floors clean. Lice and disease are encouraged. The attempt to do this usually results in disaster of some kind.

Eggs should be sold to private customers, if possible, as in that way the farmer takes to himself the middleman's profit. Besides, private customers are usually well-to-do people and are willing to pay a little more than the usual customers of grocery stores.

Tree Labels.

A good way to make a label that will last for years is to use a plan strip, painting it with white lead. Before the lead is dry write the name of the tree on the tag with an oil pencil. The plumage and the lead will combine to form an indelible inscription that will be good for years. Many of the little tags that come with new trees are so badly written that the names are effaced in a few months, or the iron wire used to fasten the tags should be fastened to a tree with copper wire. To allow a tree to go untagged may cause all kinds of complications in the future. The matter is worth attending to at the first opportunity, and if the opportunity does not come of itself it should be made.

It is related of an Atchison man that he gave his first grandchild a silver cup valued at \$20. He bought a tin cup for ten cents yesterday, remarking that it was for the fifth.

Some women love like a balky horse. No telling what kind of a stunt it will indulge in.

It is never too late to learn that we are sometimes too late.

AGRICULTURE

Methods of Removing Stumps.

The clearing of new land is a science but little understood. For the most part it is blindly pursued. This is perhaps caused by lack of general information on the subject readily obtainable by the people that need it most. The United States Department of Agriculture has taken up the matter and has issued a bulletin on the subject. From this bulletin we reproduce a number of cuts.

The first cut shows a stump ready for blasting, the dynamite cartridge being in position shown. It may be placed even lower than this, but it is frequently very difficult to do so. The lower it is placed, the better should be the effects of the blast.

Another method is to hollow out a space in the soil under the stump and place the cartridges in this. While the stump is not so thoroughly demolished as in the other way, yet it is generally split enough to make its removal possible.

In our second illustration we show one of the most successful methods by the use of a horse and chain. At time of attempting removal by this method, the ground should be soft and loose. The chain should be fastened to the tree as high above the ground as the flexibility of the tree will permit. A horse or a team of horses should be hitched to the other end of the chain. While the horses are pulling, a chopper cuts away the roots.

We also show a method of pulling stumps by means of horse and chain. One of the large roots of a stump is used as the hitching point of the chain. The chain is placed across the top of the stump, which acts as a fulcrum and furnishes leverage for its own removal.

A method in use at the Alaska experiment station is thus described by Prof. C. C. Geoghegan, special agent in charge of the station, in his annual report for 1901:

"It has been our policy to gradually extend the clearing of land when time could be spared from other work. The timber is small and the task is not a difficult one, but the stumps are numerous, and it became necessary to

Temperature of Milk.

Milk, when drawn from the udder of the cow, has a temperature of 98 degrees. If this temperature is permitted to remain at that point the few bacteria in the milk when drawn will increase with great rapidity to an innumerable host. Therefore the milk should be cooled down as quickly as possible to 50 degrees and below. This, to a considerable extent, stops the increase of bacteria. Where the separator is used the milk need not be cooled before separating. It should be separated at once and then run over a milk cooler of some approved make. In a few minutes it will thus be reduced to the desired temperature. Carelessness as regards temperature is the cause of much of the poor farm-made butter on the market. The milk during the time when the cream is rising is permitted to remain at almost any temperature. This facilitates the increase of the more badly flavored bacteria, and the cream is thus spoiled before the butter is made. A low temperature from the first would have given a butter of cream of better flavor and of greater value.

Irish Looking for African Market.

Reports from Ireland indicate that the Irish are reaching out for the South African market. In some parts of South Africa butter is reported as selling at 85 cents per pound and to be of inferior quality even at that price. The Irish creamerymen and dairymen think they have as good a chance to claim that market as any others. They claim that state aid to foreign dairymen is preventing large sales of Irish butter in England. They would therefore look elsewhere. The queer thing to a distant observer is that the competitors that are driving the Irish butter out of the English market are enumerated the Australians. Now if the Australians can send butter all the way to London and successfully compete with Irish butter, what will prevent the Australians doing the same thing in South Africa? To us it does not look possible for the Irish to wage a successful warfare of this kind in a field thousands of miles from Ireland, when they cannot meet the same competition at their own doors.

Chicago Milkmen Prosecuted.

The Illinois state dairy and food commission has brought about 100 suits against Chicago milkmen for the breaking of the state law relative to signs and names on wagons, selling skim milk for whole milk and for watering milk. Much of the milk being sold for the use of children in the poorer quarters was found to be watered. Some of the cases are due to the use of formaldehyde in the milk, but these cases are not reported numerous. The best part of the prosecutions consists in the publication in the daily papers of the names of the men being prosecuted and the charges against them. Thus in the last printed list last week we find that there are charges against 17 for selling adulterated milk, charges against ten for having no labels on their cans of skim milk and also for selling adulterated milk, and against one for selling skim milk contrary to law and violating the label law. The other prosecutions are for the violation of the label law.

When Butter Went Down.

When the price of butter went down at the opening of the pasturing season a certain New York firm imagined that it had singly and alone been the cause of the sudden decline in butter prices throughout the country. The firm in question sells butter. They attempted to stave the passage of the oleomargarine bill by advertising in some New York papers, calling the attention of the people to the fact that directly after the advertisement appeared and butter fell from 33 to 22 cents. The firm then came out in a long letter in a publication declaring that their advertisement had so frightened the butter makers that they had cut down the price as mentioned. The advertisement cost the firm \$250 and they claim to have saved to the people of the United States through it the enormous sum of \$4,000,000. The modesty of the firm in question is remarkable.

Corn for Calves.

Calves may be fed whole corn at a very early age, and they will then make better use of it than they will later. Up to nearly a year of age a calf will digest whole corn fully or nearly so, much better than in later years. The stomachs at that time are engaged in taking care of concentrates rather than of hay. All the food that goes through is thus digested. When the time for eating hay comes the four stomachs get into operation principally for the purpose of consuming coarse fodder and in that case the grain fed goes through whole unless it is fed with the coarse feed and mixed with it. We see some advising to feed calves meal, but we fail to see why corn is not just as good or even better.

The human being is like a well-strung harp—a succession of sweet tones and of discord.

The life of a grass widow is not always green, nor does it run to hayseed.

A man's greatness is often exhibited in his self-imposed restrictions.

Close inbreeding should be avoided.

FAMOUS HOPE DIAMOND

Negotiations for the sale of the famous Hope diamond to a rich American have been in progress ever since the big blue gem was brought to the United States last November. The price of the diamond is \$500,000.

It is known that the Hope diamond was recently sent to Senator Clark's office at No. 49 Wall street, and that it has been proven that a cow exposed to cold air requires 25 per cent more food to produce the same amount of milk than is required if she is properly kept in a warm stable. The dairy cow will not stand the cold that a beef steer will stand. With the dairy cow the milk is deposited on the intestines and works up into cream. It is evident that if little fat she has in the intestines it does not serve to keep her warm except in so far as it is burned up in the lungs. On the other hand the beef steer has his fat under the hide or infiltrated through the muscles. The fat in that form does not keep out the cold. The result is that the steer will lie down in a snowbank in the fall sweep of the wind, chew his cud and look happy. The dairy cow on the same day will hump in the shelter of anything she can find and will look very unhappy. She demands and should have comfortable quarters, where the temperature can be kept at about 70 degrees or a little over.

Bessie and Her Auto

In a gown that is a vision
Noted for its close adhesion
To the figure it is privileged to
pinch—
To the figure in its shaping
Like the hourglass it is aping,
Swelling out in both directions from
the cinch.
With her soft eyes proudly blinking,
As the pretty queen is thinking
Of the envious admiration she will
win,
Charming Bessie looks so queenly
As she gracefully serenely,
Lifts her skirts and mounts her auto
for a spin.

Down the avenue she's sailing
While a film of steam is trailing
In her wake as if by a bridal veil;
At the knob her foot is banging,
And the pong is loudly clanging
At pedestrians who turn a deathly
pale!
See them rushing hither-skeiter,
Seeking for a place of shelter,
While the fair 'mobility's' features
flash a grin.
For it is her sweet opinion
None dares question her dominion
When she's out upon her auto for a
spin.

In a reckless way she forces
Men who drive the vulgar horses
To skeddadle from the middle of the
street,
And she doesn't care a penny
For the blessings (?), which are
many,
That are fired at her with fervid vocal
heat,
And the wheelman whom she
grazes
Fill the air with dark blue blazes,
But for that she doesn't care a safe-
ty pin!
To the curb they must go scot-free!
Or she'll smash them sure as
shootin'
When she's burning up the roadway
on a spin.

She's of modest disposition
In her home. You'd think her mis-
sion
On this planet was directed from
above;
Not a sweeter smile was ever
By an angel flashed—no, never,
And her eyes are gentle as the eyes
of doves,
But her traits so meekly humble
From their base take a tumble
And a spirit of wild recklessness
creeps in
When she grasps the waiting lever
In a fit of scorching fever
And is off upon her auto for a spin.

One of the Best of Ian Maclaren's Stories

Mr. Beecher's funny story of the "loaded" drummer which the Journal published last Saturday, has become one of our best stories with no local habitation. Ian Maclaren, in his interesting experience of Drumtochty, brought together under the title of "Auld Lang Syne," tells a story of "Jamie" Soutar, who possessed a nippy tongue, which he was very fond of exploiting at the expense of hundreds of all sorts of people. For it is her sweet opinion None dares question her dominion When she's out upon her auto for a spin.

"Do you really mean that you are ready to go to 'g' o' 'ere' where I mentioned?"

"'Am no anxious for sic a word," said Jamie, blandly, "but 'a' cudia bear tae see ye stannin' alone, and you a stranger in the parish," and Drumtochty went home satisfied that it was not always safe for strangers to come patronizing the village upon their superior goodness, at least while Jamie was to the fore.—H. S., in Boston Journal.

SELF-PROTECTED PLANTS.

Southwestern Vegetation Either Armed or Armored.

Writing in The Century of the Southwest (Arizona and New Mexico particularly), Ray Stannard Baker has this to say of the self-protected plants of the desert spaces:

"In the green hills one loves to lie on the grass, to brush against the trees, to pick a twig here and there and taste the tart sap, but the desert allows no such familiarity. Everything that lives within its confines is either armed or armored. Every cactus stalk is covered with a myriad of spikes and hooks as sharp as needles, that warn one to keep his distance. In the case of the cholla, which with your heavy shoes even, for the barbed spines will often pierce thick leather; every rider of the plains has had the experience of picking cactus spines from his bare flesh. The mesquite tree, which is a near relative to the honey locust, is covered with thorns, so that you trespass at your peril; the cat's paw strikes at you as you pass, tearing your clothing and lacerating your skin. Even the agaves and the yuccas, the green foliage of which looks soft enough to the distance, are armed with leaves each of which is a double-edged sword with a spear point. The leaves of the spreading bunches of bear grass, which covers a thousand desert hills, often are so long, needle-pointed, and sharp-edged that no animal ever ventures to touch them. Even the greasewood and the strange palo verde tree—the 'green pole' of the Mexicans, a tree with branches, but with almost invisible leaves—while having no sharp edges, yet know well how to protect themselves. Break off a twig of either and the smell of it that clings to your fingers will cure you of further de-lude to meddle."

A Final Decision.

It was while Judge Charles E. Martin of the New York State Court of Appeals was on the Supreme Court bench, says the New York Times, that a self-important young lawyer was arguing a motion before him. Tiring of the attorney's grandiloquence, Justice Martin interrupted him and started to render an adverse decision.

"But your honor does not understand the case," still urged the attorney, who said that things were not coming his way. "Permit me to explain the law. I have here some of the latest decisions of the Court of Appeals in which it is held—"

"Motion is denied with costs," again interrupted the justice. "Have you any later decision than that?"

Splendid Forests in Siberia.

The indifference of Sakhalin, the great forest colony of Russia, has splendid forests of fir and pine.