

### Nobody.

Returning home at close of day,  
Who gently chides my long delay,  
And by my side delights to stay?

Who sets for me my easy-chair,  
Fixes the room with neatest care,  
And lays my slippers ready there?

Who regulates the evening fire,  
Piles the blazing fuel higher,  
And bids me draw my chair still nigher?

When sickness comes to rack my frame  
And grief disturbs my troubled brain,  
Who sympathizes with my pain?

Nobody.

### Farm, Garden and Household.

**LICE ON ANIMALS.**—The best exterminator of lice on any kind of animal says the *Rural New Yorker*, is fine sand or road dust put on the back from the head to the tail.

**WOOLLY TASTE IN MUTTON.**—Rev. D. Mills, Hammon, N. J., says this flavor called woolly is owing to the absorption of gases from the stomach and intestines, consequent on the cooling of the carcass. If the sheep is cleaned rapidly, it is prevented.

**CORN.**—Corn to replant should be taken from the butt of the ear. All observant farmers know that they should have late pollen for late issues of silk that is produced by "late rains," which "fills out" our corn crop. The corn from the point of the cob will do the job.

**MILK.**—The easiest and best way to keep milk from souring, is to scald and wash perfectly clean all the pails and pans used in milking and setting milk, and to use tin ones. By doing this, milk may be kept sweet for twenty-four hours at any time in the year in any clean, cool cellar.

**HARROWING WINTER WHEAT** is a practice we would earnestly commend. Many farmers are afraid that the harrow will pull up the wheat, but such is not the case. If the land is dry, a good, heavy, forty-toothed harrow will destroy many weeds, break the crust, stir the soil, and greatly benefit the wheat.

**THE BEST CALVES** I have raised says a farmer, were fed on early-cut clover, hay cut, wetted, and sprinkled with a handful of coarse middlings or mill-stuff and some oil-cake meal to each feed. They also got the skimmed milk until six months old. Yearling colts should have a quart of bruised oats per day—it is well repaid.

**BONES, HEN-MANURE, AND ASHES.**—A correspondent asks the *Agriculturist* this oft-repeated question whether it is injurious to mix ashes with manures containing ammonia. It is, except when the compost is to be used immediately, and then plaster or fine dry earth should be mixed; if the materials are perfectly dry, and kept so, very little ammonia will then escape.

**BOILED INDIAN PUDDING.**—Into one quart of boiling milk stir as much Indian-meal as will make a thick batter. Add half a pint of beef-suet, chopped; a teaspoonful of sugar, and a teaspoonful of salt. Mix well together, and then proceed as with the flour-pudding, only boiling six hours instead of two. Dried cherries or pears will answer as well as dried apples. Serve with cream-sauce.

**BEET SUGAR.**—From the *Prairie Farmer* we learn that the Black Hawk Beet Sugar Manufacturing Co., report the production of 131,400 pounds of pulverized, granulated, and loaf sugar. Two hundred and thirty acres were planted in beets; product, 4 1/2 tons per acre. The factory was run nearly two months at a daily cost of \$400; the product per day was about \$402, leaving a margin of only \$2 per day.

**A RELISH FOR BREAKFAST OR LUNCH.**—Take a quarter of a pound of cheese, good, fresh; cut it up in thin slices and put in a spider, turning over it a large cupful of sweet milk; add a quarter of a teaspoonful of dry mustard, a dash of pepper, a little salt and a piece of butter as large as a butter-nut; stir the mixture all the time. Have at hand three Boston crackers finely powdered or rolled, and sprinkle them in gradually; as soon as they are stirred in, turn out the contents into a warm dish and serve.

**OATS,** says the *American Agriculturist*, can be sown on a great range of soils, from a black muck to the heaviest clays. Of all the small grains they will stand the greatest neglect, but will repay good cultivation. They are often sown on new plowed sod land, and occasionally do well enough to induce farmers to continue the practice, notwithstanding the fact that nine cases out of ten the result is anything but satisfactory. Better plant corn on the sod land, and sow oats after the corn.

**SUGAR BEETS.**—The culture of sugar beets is rapidly spreading in the United States. Not only is a permanent market for them about to be established in the beet sugar factories now springing into existence, but they are found to be excellently adapted as food for stock. Milch-cows, fattening oxen, sheep, and hogs, all devour them readily and thrive on them satisfactorily. The climate is adapted to them, and in their culture no methods of implements other than those needed for the ordinary culture of turnips or rutabagas are required.

**SMALL VS. LARGE FARMS.**—The papers generally, but more especially the Southern papers, speak of the comparatively prosperous state of small farmers as against those owning large farms. Small farmers, generally frugally minded, study small economies, and, having their business under their own control, thoroughly understand their necessities, and are mainly industrious and successful. But large farmers, necessarily leaving much work to hired men and dealing with larger amounts of money, fail to keep all the threads of their web well in hand, and some occasionally drop or become tangled, while the small items of economy are overlooked, and the consequence is, failure debt and borrowing.

**SHEEP** will now require better feed and more care. Nothing tests the judgment of the sheep farmer more than thawing weather and cold rain-storms. The great enemy of sheep is dampness. No sheep will thrive in damp, close quarters, or with fermenting manure under them. Even young lambs will stand dry cold far better than moist warmth. There should be convenient pens for putting the ewes and lambs by themselves for a few days. Keep close watch of the lambs. If one gets chilled, wrap him in flannel and take him to a stove. If nearly dead, put him in a pail of warm water, as hot as you can bear your hands in. Many a lamb, apparently almost dead, has been saved in this way.

**SURE CURE FOR NEURALGIA.**—The *Northwalk Gazette* says: "A friend of ours who suffered horrible pains from neuralgia, hearing of a noted physician in Germany who invariably cured that disease, crossed the ocean, and visited Germany for treatment. He was permanently cured after a short sojourn, and the doctor freely gave him the simple remedy used, which was nothing but a poultice and tea made from our common field thistle. The leaves are macerated and used on the parts afflicted as a poultice, while a small quantity of the leaves are boiled down to the proportion of a quart to a pint, and a small wineglass of the decoction drunk before each meal. Our friend says he has never known it to fail of giving relief, while in almost every case it has effected a cure."

**WATERPROOF DRESSING FOR BOOTS AND HARNESS.**—One of the most important means of preserving health, especially at this season, is to keep the feet dry and warm. Farmers and others who are exposed to wet and cold would find the following composition very valuable as a protection and a preservative for their boots. It is also excellent as a dressing for harness. Neat-foot oil, 1 1/2 pint; beeswax, 1 oz.; spirits turpentine, 1 oz.; pine tar, 1 oz. Melt and mix together, and stir until cold. Spread and rub this composition over the leather while it is damp; leather will absorb oil or grease better when damp than when dry. For the soles, take pine tar, and rub it in before a fire until the soles will absorb no more. Three or four applications will be needed. The durability of the soles will be much increased.

**HOW TO CATCH RATS.**—One of the pests of the farmer is rats. To keep them within endurable bounds is somewhat a difficult task, for a rat is as cunning as a fox, and as hard to catch; but there is such a thing as working strategy on it. A rat never digs a hole unless it has some projection to begin with, say a stone, a stick of wood, or anything else that makes an angle with the ground; a cellar wall it likes best. If a rat is chased in a cellar or other room, it will run round by the wall, and is decidedly averse to leaving it. From this habit we have a hint how to outgeneral it. The common steel trap is the best article for the purpose. Stand a box or barrel, or other article, within four inches of the wall, and in that open space set the trap, without anything to hide it. The rat following the wall will get into the trap rather than go around the barrel. When it is caught, smoke the trap with a piece of burning paper, shift your barrel to another place, and set the trap as before.

It is said that if a man hides where crows frequent, and they see him go there, they will stay away until they see him leave. If two men hide and one leaves, the crows will go back to the one that is left; and this because a crow cannot count. Thus with the rat; there is something in the combination of the wall, the trap and the barrel that it does not seem to understand.—*Cor. German-town Telegraph.*

### THE FARMERS' CLUB.

**PLOW DEEP.** G. W. Tower, North-Loup River, Neb., said Mr. Greeley said "plow deep;" but how was he to do it? He could not get a plow to go fourteen inches deep, and he did not want to bury his sod that depth. What he wanted was a plow to turn the sod four inches and loosen up the soil, but not turn it over fourteen inches more. How was he to do this with one plow. The echo answered. How?

**SUNDRY MATTERS.**—C. W. Milliken, Trap, Md., wrote that there were chills in his neighborhood, but land was cheap, immigration was needed, and with cultivation its unhealthfulness, would be removed.—Fred. Weber, a miller, asked if a bolting-cloth which had been vetted could be restored. He was informed that it was spoiled, and a new one must be procured. Anchor bolting-cloth was made of silk, was imported from Germany, and was very expensive, and should be carefully preserved from contact with water.—W. L. Wilson, Mankato, Minn., was informed that asparagus roots might be split at the crown, but they should not be set in hills, but planted on the level ground, four inches deep, and carefully spread out before evening.

**NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.**—The opening of the spring with its mild, damp weather and warmer suns, sets in fermentation all accumulations of filth gathering during winter around houses, out-houses, and barns. This is highly productive of disease, to say nothing of the amount of noxious matter which, finding its way from the surfaces of yards or from cesspools, poisons wells and causes fatal sickness. Deaths or severe sickness arising from these causes, are often looked upon as mysterious or providential occurrences, when they are simply the results of natural causes which may be guarded against and prevented. Let thorough cleanliness be observed, and, above all, the escape of offensive matter into wells be strictly prevented. Carbolic acid, copperas, chloride of lime, and fresh earth are all good disinfectants, and will absorb or destroy foul odors and gases.—*Earth and Home.*

### The Oceanus Disaster.

The carpenter of the ill-fated steamer Oceanus in describing the scene of the disaster, says: The river around the wreck was covered with debris, baggage, bed-clothing, &c., much of it burning. The cabin and about half the deck had floated off and was burning. The captain was in the midst of the fire screaming for help, and the men and women in the water were throwing up their hands and sinking to rise no more. Six or eight persons were on the fore-castle, and Fisher got out the stage-plank, and all except himself got upon it, but as soon as it struck the water the plank careened, and all upon it perished. The steamer John Lumsden saved John Meeker, Charles Teasdorff, and John Martin. Wiggins, the red river pilot, and Tripp are both dead. Captain Worsham, the first clerk; Captain Reeder, the commander; the steward, C. F. Haff, a passenger of Covington, and many others, are missing. It is thought some sixty or seventy persons were lost. The books and papers of the steamer are lost, and a complete list of the passengers and crew cannot therefore be given.

The bodies of the second clerk (Worsham) and the steward (Demperwolf) arrived on the Cairo Short Line in charge of S. B. Fisher, the carpenter. The dead on the boat presented a horrible appearance, their bodies were of the color of raw beef, the skin having been entirely scalded off. It was the middle boiler that exploded. The engineer said he went on watch, but a few moments before the explosion and tried five gauges, in all of which he found plenty of water. He then walked back to get a cup of coffee, and in five minutes the explosion occurred. Robert Chew, one of the proprietors of the Atlantic and Pacific Circus, saved himself by means of a plank. He thinks George Constable and wife, circus performers from California, and Frank Slate and Frank Williams, also circus men, were drowned.

George Knightly, first engineer, who was on watch when the explosion occurred, says the boat had just struck the bar, the engines had been stopped, and he glanced at his watch to note the time, when the explosion occurred with terrible force. One of the boilers was blown back to the cylinders, and the whole forward part of the boat, including the pilot house, texas, and forward staterooms, was scattered right and left. The boat took fire instantly, and the startled and half-nude passengers who were not killed awoke to the reality. But one boat was left and that was badly broken. The officers did all they could to assist the passengers. Captain Reeder and his clerk, Henry M. Worsham, gathered together the life-preservers that were left in the back part of the cabin and distributed them to the half-distracted passengers. There were two women on board, Mrs. Constable and the chambermaid, named Wallace.

**THE EARTHQUAKE.**—California newspapers contain voluminous dispatches relating to the earthquake, the most of which was in the south-eastern part of the State. A Visalia dispatch says that fully 1,000 distinct shocks were felt. At Tibbet's Ranch, 15 miles above Independence, 40 acres of ground sank about seven feet below the surface of the surrounding country. Big Owen's Lake has risen four feet since the first shock. Owen's River runs over its bank, depositing shoals of fish on shore; afterward it receded. For a distance of three or four miles through Lone Pine the earth is cracked. One side remained stationary, while the other sank seven or eight feet, leaving a wall of earth, extending over three miles in length, where formerly was a level plain. Innumerable cracks were made throughout the valley. Kern and Owen's rivers turned and ran up stream for several minutes, leaving their beds dry; finally they returned with largely increased volumes of water. Some of the shocks were preceded by a deafening report, as though the mountains were being rent in two, while others were accompanied by a low, continuous rumble, as of a train of cars running underground. None of the sufferers ever experienced anything so frightful in all their earthquake experience. At the last accounts the explosions and heavings still continue, though not so violently.

**IDLE GIRLS.**—It is a painful spectacle, in families where the mother is the drudge, to see the daughters elegantly dressed, reclining at their ease, with their drawing, their music, their fancy work, and their reading, beguiling themselves of the lapse of hours, days and weeks; and never dreaming of their responsibility, but, as a necessary consequence of neglect of duty, growing weary of their useless lives, laying hold of very newly-invented stimulants to rouse their drooping energies, and blaming their fate when they dare not blame their God for having placed them where they are. These individuals will tell you, with an air of affected compassion, for who can believe it real, that poor, dear mamma is working herself to death; yet no sooner do you propose that they should assist her than they declare she is quite in her element, in short, that she would never be happy if she had only half as much to do.

**HOW TO TELL.**—An Exchange puts forth the following bit of information:—"To discover spurious greenbacks or national bank notes, divide the last two figures of the number of the bill by four, and if one remains the letter on the genuine will be A; if two remains it will be B; if three C; and should there be no remainder the letter will be D. For example, a note is registered 2,461; divide sixty-one by four and there will be one remaining. According to the rule the letter on the note will be A. In case the rule fails, be certain that the note is counterfeit."

The coopers have been on a strike in Milwaukee, and, after losing a great deal of time, have gone back to work on terms no more favorable than before.

### OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

The Rapid Transit Question—The Brooklyn Bridge—A Modern Jack Sheppard—A Word About Butter, etc., etc.

#### RAPID TRANSIT.

is a question which is being agitated in our legislature, through the papers and in business circles generally, and it seems to be a puzzling problem, the most practical solution of which is exercising all sorts of brains, and the result is a great many visionary schemes and theories which can have no practical result.

Among the most feasible plans offered are those for tunneling Broadway; another for a light and graceful iron span thrown across the street above contact with all passing vehicles, and one for an elevated track on West street similar to the one now in operation in Greenwich street.

A railroad contractor has given an estimate for tunneling Broadway at a cost of \$700,000 per mile, with track laid and all complete, but as our people seem to object to both, burrowing underground like moles and flying through the air like birds, neither of these plans have yet received encouragement sufficient for adoption, while many favor the sinking of a track on one of the side streets, arching over the cross-streets and fitting up waiting-rooms under the arches, devoting the center of the street to the track, while vehicles pass on either side protected by a wall or railing.

One obstacle in the way of all these plans is the opposition of the property-owners on the proposed streets, on the ground of its interference with business and the consequent decrease in the value of property, while Broadway property-owners clamor about the danger of sapping the walls of their marble palaces, and in fact, these objections have more certainly retarded work in that direction than a want of practical plans, and until these objections can be removed the upper end of Manhattan Island will lack that facility of rapid transit that energy, public spirit and concession would have accomplished years ago. There is no public improvement so much needed for our city as this; nothing that would so enhance the value of property, nothing that would so soon turn the tide of our citizens from crossing the ferries to seek homes where steam-cars insure them the certain benefits of its speed, nothing that would sooner beautify and populate the rocky wastes that stretch away to the end of the island. The fact is that it is a public necessity, and the sooner New York awakens to the vital reality of it and kindred improvements, the sooner will she make up the grand role of the glorious destiny which would make her the first and most populous city in the world. Give us thirty minutes from our City Hall to Harlem Bridge and to High Bridge and Washington Heights, and it will be the occasion of New York's greatest triumph and celebration.

#### THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

It becomes a question whether the great suspension bridge to connect New York with Brooklyn across the East River will after all prove a profitable investment to stockholders, as at its cost of \$15,000,000, it will require the crossing and re-crossing of 40,000 persons each day, at a fare of five cents each way, to pay a dividend of ten per cent, leaving the other patronage to pay the expenses of the bridge, stationary engines, wear and tear of cars, machinery, &c. Now, at the present time about 50,000 persons cross and re-cross daily on the boats of the Union Ferry Company, paying from one to two cents, according to the time of crossing, and it is not probable that the bridge can control any considerable portion of this patronage, unless the Brooklyn cars are allowed to cross the bridge into New York at a fare consistent with the convenience. This probable feature of success to the bridge the law prohibits, and yet we think that the greatest interest of Brooklyn, which owns two-thirds of the bridge stock, demands a continuous line of cars from one city to all parts of the other. This would present itself to any thinking mind as the most important feature in making both cities one by the bridge, and if the law does not grant the unrestricted passage of street cars, we fear the great undertaking will fail in its beneficial results.

If the State of New York feels no interest in keeping her citizens within her own borders, then leave them to seek the superior advantages of cheap and accessible homes in Jersey; but if she wishes to retain them, she must throw open the bridge to all means of travel that its dimensions will accommodate, and then we will truly have between the two but one city in one State under the same laws, with Brooklyn's outskirts stretching to New Utrecht, Fort Hamilton and beyond in all the grandeur of dimensions of the greatest city on the globe.

#### A MODERN JACK SHEPPARD.

It may not be uninteresting to your readers to give an account of the strange and successful adventures of a daring burglar named Jack Sheppard, who modernizes the wonderful escapes of the somewhat mythical Jack Sheppard of the days of English highwaymen. His last escape from durance being made from Police Headquarters a few days ago. His first was made when but twelve years old, under the following circumstances: Fifteen years ago, when only a boy of twelve, he was arrested and committed to the Tombs for petit larceny, in company with six other criminals as juvenile as himself in years and as old in crime. They were confined in the old station-house that fronted on Franklin

street, where some workmen employed on repairs during the day had left a crowbar leaning against the stove in the hallway. Now, with ninety-nine out of a hundred boys of the same age, that crowbar would have remained against that stove until the workmen resumed their labor with it; but not so with our young criminal hero. He pushed a broom-handle through the bars of his cell, and dragging the crowbar in reach, pried open his door with it, and then the bars of a window opening into the street, and lowering themselves by a blanket, he and his companions made off. He was soon recaptured in New Jersey, but again made his escape, only to be pounced upon in his hiding-place and taken back to the Tombs, where he was tried for grand larceny, convicted, and sentenced to State prison, where he served a short term and again found himself at liberty. After this he began his noted career. Four times he escaped from various New Jersey prisons; he laughed at the weakness of the Boston jail; he proved his contempt for *durance vile* in St. Louis, although guarded by policemen, and he also played his daring successes upon the United States officers. During the war he enlisted in an artillery regiment, deserted, and added another crime to his list by robbing a citizen. And when arrested and called upon to plead in the Court of General Sessions, he shrewdly confessed himself a deserter from the army, and being identified by one of Gen. Dix's provost-marshals, he was taken off, in the belief of all, that he would speedily be tried by a court-martial and shot; but again they had "reckoned without their host," for Sheppard that night escaped from the provost-marshal. But the grand climax of his robbery was reached when he broke open a bonded warehouse in Vestry street, and carried off \$42,000 worth of silks owned by H. B. Claffin & Co. With these gigantic proceeds he went West. Two months ago he was arrested in Cincinnati, but as cleverly escaped from Chief of Police Ruffin of that city as he had done before, and now winds up the last published chapter of his marvelous exploits by his escape from our Police Headquarters above mentioned.

I shall endeavor to keep his future career before your readers, for there is something of romantic interest in the "dare-devil Dick" way he has of committing his crimes and escaping their penalties.

#### A WORD ABOUT BUTTER.

Our dairymen during the past year having had so favorable and unlooked-for results on their crop, are in a condition to be congratulated as well as encouraged and advised as to the best means of securing to themselves similar steady results season after season without the fluctuations in the market they have contended against. We earnestly desire that our butter product should reach that standard of excellence that has given so steady a foreign demand for our higher grades of bacon and cheese, for after all the foreign demand which is usually based upon quality rather than quantity, is what our dairymen must receive their encouragement from in that special care required for the production of the higher grade. We are aware, however, that the dairymen's incentive to this industrious excellence and care is too often lost in its results through the adulterations of the butter-dealers, which so ruinously reduces the price to an ordinary standard, but this can and must be obviated by the producers coming in direct communications with the shippers.

What we want is no remnant left over the season to become as stale as the market which these adulterations often stock with mere wagon grease. We want butter direct from the dairymen or from honest dealers, of such a uniform standard of excellence that it has an equal home and foreign demand, a ready sale at all times, at a uniform price that will place it among the staples of commerce, with no more fluctuations than gold and no more grades than one would find at a county fair contending for the premium, and with the stock left over as good as that sold. Excellence is the standard in all things; quality always wins. Our cheese is beginning to come from a long line of manufactories that have established a reputation and competition with foreign stock. Our bacon has become an article of daily consumption in Europe, where formerly it was only a specialty, for one great reason, that they cannot be adulterated after leaving our farmers' hands and reduced to innumerable standards thereby.

We know that dairymen cannot control the management of butter after leaving their hands, but we also know that if they turn their whole skill and careful attention to the production of the finest quality of butter, there will be no inducement or interest in any one adulterating it, and the result will be most satisfactory to the pockets of our dairymen and to the pride of our nation for the excellence of our dairies.

To do this our dairymen must pay more attention to securing skilled labor, and leave nothing to hired help that they can attend to themselves, for the old adage will always hold good, "nothing is so well done as when we do it ourselves." They must also make use of their knowledge in the proper selection of cows and their food, and those delicate attentions to milk, its temperature and management in the production of butter, which talents, no country possesses to a more eminent degree than our own dairymen, which if only put in force will bring their own reward.

A fashionable mother's advice to a newly married daughter: "Do not get in the habit of taking your husband with you to evening parties. Nothing is so stupid as a husband at a party, nor so everlastingly in the way."

If your neighbor's hens are troublesome, says an exchange, and steal across the way, don't let your angry passions rise; fix a place for them to lay!