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FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1907.

Corn Planting Time.

—:o:—

The fresh turned fields are grey and bare,
The sunbeams fall with mellowed light,
The violet's breath is in the air,
The dogwood gleams a mass of white—
Corn plantin' time.

The fish are swarming in the streams,
The buds are swelling in the trees,
And 'round the busy hive there gleams
The myriad flash of humming bees—
Corn plantin' time.

The quail is piping to its mate,
The lambs are bleating on the hill,
The oak that shades the pasture gate
Sends forth a plainting Whip-Poor-Will,
Corn plantin' time.

The doves are cooing in the grove,
The hens are cackling in the barn,
The angler in the shaded cove
Is hatching many a fishing yarn—
Corn plantin' time.

"Blue Darters" nest among the pines
And watch the gourded martin pole,
While truant lads with rods and lines
Are hieing to the fishing hole—
Corn plantin' time.

The 'simmon tree is shadowing
The watch dog's drowsy indolence,
The old gourd-jug fresh from the spring
Sits in the shadow of the fence—
Corn plantin' time.

With sightless eyes and nerveless hands
And garments ragged with decay,
Midway the field the "scarecrow" stands
To fight the thieving birds away—
Corn plantin' time.

Across the mellow, yielding soil,
Straight to the slender white-crowned stakes,
The ploughman, guided in his toil,
With shining steel the furrow breaks—
Corn plantin' time.

The barefoot boy with measured pace
Drops in the row the glistening corn,
And listens oft with anxious face
To hear the welcome dinner horn—
Corn plantin' time.

Ah, well! the frosts will come again,
But in the cycle of the year
The early and the latter rain
Will bring again the ripened ear—
Corn gatherin' time.
—Progressive Farmer.

The Capture of Squinty Smith.

—:o:—

BY JOHN H. RAFTERY.

'Yander he comes, Mammy!' yelled the little yellow-headed freckeled boy, running into the rickety shanty and out again, dancing with delight. A very scrawny and withered, weary woman came out of the house with two dirty children at her heels and behind them a half-grown, red-headed, gangling girl, with two fierce little fiery braids sticking away from her poll.

A burly man on a ragged pony came galloping down the country road.

'Supper ready, Mag?' he bawled at the woman.

'Supper! Why, 'tain't no mor'n 7 o'clock. What's up?'

'What's up! Everything is up! Squinty Smith has gone an' done it right this time. He killed Frank Copley in the Hazard s'loon, put four cold uns in th' dep'ty sheriff, and Lord knows how many he's shot sence I left town.'

The children stared in awed astonishment at this bloody news and followed him round to the corral.

'Well, what y'all lookin' at? Here, you, Siss,' to the red-headed girl, get a move on you. Maria, don't stand thar all night like you was locoed. Get my supper.'

'Did you see him, Hank?'

'See who?'

'Why, him, Squinty Smith?'

'See him! Of course I didn't see him. If I seed him it'd be all up with him! I'd a ribbed him up with lead till he'd a-sunk his own grave. But I didn't have no gun no how. Sher'ff Housman says I must jine the posse, an' I says, 'Sher'ff, if I'd a-been 'Sher'ff stead o'you, I wouldn't need no posse for to ketch Squinty Smith nor no other ornery outlaw like him.' So I didn't have no gun, so I just come home for t'git supper an' ready up my arsenal. Git a move on thar, Siss.'

The red-headed girl tossed her head and disappeared into the tumble-down kitchen. The mother got busy with pot and pan, and the man, blustering fiercely about what 'he'd a-done if he on'y had his weepons,' pulled his Winchester out of the closet and began to slip cartridges into the magazine.

'I don't want no mor'n a peep at that gol-dinged Squinty Smith no-how. He alluz was ornery, an' he otta been put outa biz along time ago. He's had Sher'ff Housman bluffed for two year an' more, an he's got purty nigh every man in Plankton buffaloed! But I'll show him!'

The man's slatternly children stood about him in gaping admiration. The red-headed girl stuck her head in at the door and said:

'What did you fetch t'eat, daddy?'

'Dry up, you ninny; I didn't have no time to think about fetchin' home nothin', I come home to git suthin'. I come home to git my weepons, an' if ever I ketch a peep at that blamed—'

At this instant there was a sharp, rasping click at the open window and a blue barreled gun muzzle jumped into the light.

'Hold up your hands, Mitchell!' said a quiet but very distinct voice.

The big man at the table held up his hands with a foolish effort to smile at the face that looked over the gun.

'Quit yer foolin', Smith,' he said, weakly; put it down an' come in.'

Squinty Smith, a bull-necked, one-eyed ruffian got in at the window without foregoing an instant of his advantage.

'I'll take charge of these, Mitch,' he said, coolly putting his host's pistol into his coat pocket, 'and this. Both suide-lookin' guns, but I'll take charge o' them.'

Mitchell sat still, his wife and Siss watching the performance from the darkness of the kitchen, while Smith walked out into the lot and deliberately dumped the rifle and the pistol into the well.

'Got any more guns?' he asked, coming back.

'Nary a gun, Smithy,' answered Mitchell, trying to wink knowing to his wife.

'All right, you can let down your mits,' quoth the outlaw. You sit there, and here, Mrs. Mitchell, you set alongside. Now make that gal o' yourn git me some supper.'

The scared children huddled in the corner behind their fallen hero. The woman, fascinated into submission, sat beside her husband. The outlaw, his big revolver beside his plate, attacked the pile of corn bread. Siss, the red-headed, nervous, viperish-looking girl, came in and out with a dish of potatoes, some fried bacon and a can of water.

'What makes you act so foolish, Smithy?' Mitchell was whing, 'aint' nothin' wrong, is they? You might a knowed I'd a give you your supper 'thout no such row as that.'

'You might and you mightn't. Got any eggs?' growled Smith, leering at Siss out of his one vindictive eye.

'Ain't got none for you! snapped the little virago, bridling with fury and whipping her two little red pigtails venomously.

The desperado turned red with fury, clutched at his pistol and was choking out a curse when Mitchell interrupted with:

'See here, Siss you little rattlesnake, fetch him some eggs. That ain't no way fur you to go sassin' Mr. Smith! Don't you know no better than fur to be givin' back talk to folks older'n you?'

Siss looked inquiringly at her mother, but the weak little woman nodded her head and piped:

'In the stone jar, Siss. You'll find a couple o' eggs in the stone jar.'

'Now, see here, Mitchell,' said Smith, transfixing the hulking coward with his mean eye, 'tain't no use you lettin' on you don't know. I seen you in town today, and you passed me on the road. I was under Baggot's corn crib. I killed Copley and the depty, and I'd a killed Housman too if I'd a chance. I'm a goin' to take your horse, an' if you 'r any o' these brats o' yourn says a word to the sheriff about me, 'r which way I come, 'r what route I took, I'll come back here an' blow th' whole outfit into—'

Siss came in with two fried eggs and laid the dish before him. He took his knife and fork and reached for the food, hurrying like a hungry, hunted man.

'I'll come back and blow the whole outfit into—'

Siss stood irresolute an instant beside him. Her snapping blue eyes were on the pistol. Quick as a flash she grabbed it up, whisked round the table, and with the cocked weapon held in both her skinny hands and pointed full in the bad man's face she yelled:

'Now, you impident pup, I'm a-goin' t' frazzle you with bullets!'

Smith was so astonished that he let fall his eating utensils, sat bolt upright, stiff as a lay figure, pale as his dirty hide would go, his lips hectic, his one eye starting and the sweat of rage and fear upon his mottled forehead. The little yellow haired boy crouching in the corner, began to squawl lugubriously. Mitchell and his thin wife sat and stared at the transfigured Siss.

'Git up an' tie him, daddy!' she almost shrieked. 'Tie him 'r I'll frazzle him over the floor!'

Mitchell looked at Smith and paused, his big hands shaking a bit.

'Tie him 'r I'll frazzle the both o' you!' she roared, stamping her foot in an ecstacy of wrath.

Mitchell hulked out into the yard for a rope, but Siss, the little serpent, held her quarry motionless with the glitter of her eye and the portent of the big revolver. But Mitchell came back and the cowed outlaw was limp and weak before the untrembling hostility of the red-headed girl. And when Mitchell's courage began to come back, and he had fixed fast the lariat about the pinched arms of Smith, there was a clatter of hoof-beats in the road. Smith made a motion as if to rise, but the blue eyes and the big gun bade him sit still. And when Sheriff Housman and his posse came galloping up Mitchell was in the road yelling:

'I ketched him, sher'ff! I got him in yander tied up an' licked!'—Chicago Record-Herald.

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Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher's
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If they keep on sending expeditions to the polar regions, the summer resorts will begin to complain about a falling off in patronage.

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Number of Hairs in Eyelashes.

Professor Stirling, in his lecture on eyes at the Royal Institution recently gave some instruction in the art of winking. "It requires a veritable education to wink," he remarked, "although 'blinking' is very simple."

He told the audience many strange things about their eyes. The eyelashes, for instance, contain from 100 to 150 hairs on the upper, and 80 or 90 on the lower lid; these hairs are replaced every 100 days. "Rub your finger outward along your eyebrows," he advised, "and you will experience a most pleasant sensation; rub in the opposite direction and you will have a revelation of the exquisite sensitiveness of your eyes."

Tears are of three kinds, he continued.

1. Natural tears, the little flood which nature secretes in the eye to wash away all the dust particles.

2. Psychic tears, which flow when minds are for the moment unbalanced, and

3. Alcoholic tears.

Tears do not always overflow, because there is just a little oily secretion along the edges of our eyelids which keeps the fluid back.

"The Japanese have a peculiar overlapping fold, which obscures the real edge of the eyelid. That is why their eyes look 'slanting.' And babies"—all the mothers in the room bent forward—"have just the same fold on their eyes, if you look for it."—London Daily Mail.

For a Morning Wedding.

The bridegroom wears a dark blue or black frock coat.

A high double-breasted pique vest or one that matches the coat.

Gray trousers.

White linen standing collar, Ascot or four-in-hand white silk or satin tie, with a pearl stick pin.

Gray suede gloves.

Patent leather shoes.

Regulation silk hat.

A full suit of gray with long cutaway coat, like the English walking coat, is also good form.

A white silk or satin necktie, with small colored figure, black or gray stiff hat, gray gloves and dull black leather shoes.

The best man dresses like the bridegroom.

It is considered good form now to wear a wedding veil at a morning ceremony in a church or at home. It is a matter of choice with the bride.

Clean Out the Useless Poultry.

Do not continue to feed a lot of useless or undesirable cockerels or aged male birds of any kind. Only keep a sufficient number of these to meet the demands of your yards. Fatten and sell the balance to market. It is true that it is always best to keep on hand high-scoring males or females often to an old age. This is a fancier's proposition. Do not keep them where your purpose is eggs and poultry for market. Male birds will soon eat their heads off when not needed. Eggs for market are more valuable when not fertilized than are the fertile eggs; therefore, the only need of the male birds upon utility farms is to guarantee the fertility of the eggs. Over and beyond this, they are a useless nuisance that should be turned into cash as soon as they are not of value to the farm.

Many remarkable things appear in the last annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture. The farm products of 1906 had a farm value of $6,800,000,000, half a billion over 1905 and in excess of two billions more than the productions of the census year 1900. Corn remains by far the most valuable crop, estimated at $1,100,000,000, while cotton, next on the list, including seed, was worth to its growers $640,000,000. Thus King Corn knocks out King Cotton and becomes easily 'monarch of all he surveys.' Hay is third at $600,000,000, wheat, $450,000,000; oats, $300,000,000; potatoes, $150,000,000.

'Who is the taciturn man opposite, next to Miss Smith?'

'That is Louis the Fourteenth.'

'Louis the Fourteenth?'

'Well, you see, his name is Louis, and he is called the Fourteenth because he's only asked to keep us from being thirteen at table.'

The Honduran colonel who insulted the American flag is likely to discover that there is no easier way to bring trouble down on himself.

It is a trifle discourteous of Peary to intimate that he will discover the pole next year, when Wallter Wellman says he will find it this summer.

NEW PURE FOOD AND DRUG ACT WORKS WELL.

From the Baltimore Evening News.

After having been in force for nearly three and a half months there seems to be a general impression among most of the people whose businesses have been affected by the pure-food and drug act that the law is an excellent thing, not only for the public, but for the dealers as well. Whatever objections may be made to the law will for the most part be expected to come from the whisky people, whose business it is thought will be materially affected by the decision of the Attorney General of the United States. By this decision straight whisky will have to be labeled as "straight" whisky; a blend of two or more straight whiskies will have to be labeled "blend"; a mixture of whisky and ethyl alcohol will have to be labeled "compound," and ethyl alcohol flavored and colored artificially so as to taste, smell and look like whisky will have to be labeled "imitation."

The entire State of Maryland enjoys an enviable reputation for placing high-class goods on the market. It is because of this fact and because of the further fact that few of the Maryland packers, grocers and druggists have anything to fear from a rigid enforcement of the law that one hears so few complaints about the way it is working. Believing that such a law would be beneficial to the industries of the State, many prominent Marylanders took active steps to secure its passage. For the same reason they are now anxious to have the law made more rigid.

As to the drug business, it is said that since the law went into effect there has been a noticeable falling off in the sales of patent medicines, but this decline in sales is said by some druggists to be in part due to the agitation against patent medicines made by certain magazines. The druggists express themselves as being highly in favor of the law and hope to have further restrictions incorporated into it.

It is noticeable that several manufacturers of patent medicines have changed their formulas since the new law wont into effect requiring that where a medicine contains a restricted drug the quantity of the drug contained must be stated on the label of the bottle. One well-known patent medicine, formerly said to contain about 45 per cent. alcohol, now, according to the label, contains only 18 per cent.

It develops that certain manufacturers of patent medicines have adopted a rather novel and, at the same time, successful method of advertising their goods. The plan seems to be to have inserted in some papers an advertisement in the shape of reading matter stating that a certain prescription is said to be excellent for rheumatism or some other disease. The prescription is then given, calling for so much of a patent medicine, in conjunction with two or three other legitimate drugs. There is nothing in the advertisement to indicate that any of the ingredients are patent medicines, and the advertisement is made to read as if some one had discovered a helpful remedy and wanted to apprise his fellow-sufferers of the fact. The advertisement does not state that the remedy is a sure cure, and seldom states that the prescription will be beneficial in the treatment of more than one disease. Some druggists say that the sales of patent medicine made by advertisements of this character have been enormous, and some of the most prominent people have been fooled.

For the most part, the grocers and packers of canned goods look upon the pure-food law as a real blessing. It is said that there has been a big increase in the demand for 'guaranteed' goods, not so much by the consumers as by the dealers, who decline to purchase goods unless they bear the stamp of the Government's approval. As a result, it is thought that few, if any, concerns handling unguaranteed goods will be able to survive.

Much the same state of affairs exists in the candy business. The manufacturers of high-class candies view the law with extreme favor, and say that its effect will be to permit them to increase the price of their goods to a point where a legitimate profit can be made, whereas heretofore they have had to compete in prices with cheap, low-grade goods. The candy dealers, like the grocers, for the most part demand guaranteed goods, and it is said that since the law went into operation some candy concerns have gone out of business.

The meat inspection law is now being better understood, and the packers report that things are working smoothly. Owing to high prices there is said by some firms to have been a falling off in the pork business, but this is in no way attributed to the working of the law. There can be little doubt that meat bearing the inspector's stamp of approval is preferable, for the reason that one is getting what is supposed to be good meat, but this rule will not always hold good, for there may be some butchers whose business is too small to warrant Government inspection, but who are reliable and kill only sound animals. There have been complaints, however, to the effect that diseased and crippled stock has been slaughtered and sold by some butchers. This is a matter which can only be remedied by a stringent State law, as the United States Government does not maintain inspection over slaughtering houses doing only a local business.

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Take No Substitute.

The man who does not advertise simply because his grandfather did not, ought to wear knee breeches and a queue.

The man who does not advertise because it costs money, should quit paying rent for the same reason.

The man who does not advertise because he tried it and failed, should throw away his cigar because the light went out.

The man who does not advertise because he doesn't know how himself, ought to stop eating because he can't cook.

The man who does not advertise because somebody said it did not pay, ought not to believe that the world is round because the ancients said it was flat.

A Cleveland woman is suing for divorce because her husband won't let her read the newspapers. Why doesn't she compromise by letting him tear out the baseball page?

In Havana 20,000 baseball fans tried to mob the umpire at a game the other day, and yet some people profess to believe that the Cubans could never become Americanized.

The peace advocates favoring arbitration in the settlement of all disputes are simply of the opinion that the jaw is mightier than the sword.

The people who make a living by writing plausible fish stories are certainly doing their best to earn their money this year.

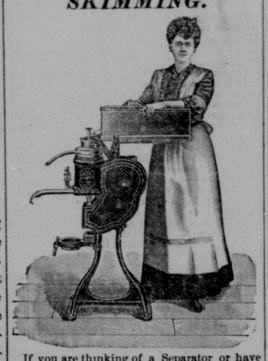
Milwaukee is again famous: the brewers strike is over and beer is being bottled at a million a minute as usual.

No man is a fool who is wise enough to recognize his own folly.

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