Agriculture.

Cattle Feeding.

Mr. Peter Love has sent the Irish *Farmers' Gazette* the following interesting account of certain results, which he obtained by forcing calves into flesh from birth to slaughter: "Four years ago my engagement called upon me to provide by the most economical means farmyard manure for the requirement of a hundred acre growth of hops. Having a herd of fifteen good cross-bred cows and good pedigree Short-Horn bull, I determined to rear and fatten for sale to the butcher, at the most profitable age, fifty head per annum. The extra calves were bought in Aylesbury market, of the best Short-Horn type—after they had their dams' milk for a fortnight—at 50s per head, and I allowed our own dairy credit for the same amount and 4d a gallon for skim milk, of which each calf had an average of a gallon per day for 108 days. With this they had an average of five-eighths of a pound of equal parts pure linseed, rape and decorticated cotton cake meal, boiled and blended with the milk; also an average of four pounds of roots, green tares or clover, and a pound of hay per day. After four months old they had a daily allowance of compound, composed of one part bran, one malt dust, two rape cake, two pure linseed, and four decorticated cotton cake. The cakes were all broken fine and the compound thoroughly mixed. Of this each calf had 1¼ lbs. per day, and at the end of each subsequent month ¼ lb. was added to the daily allowance. The allowance of roots, green tares, or clover, was 7½ lbs. and 2 lbs. of chaff, equal weight meadow hay or pea straw for each pound of the compound given. The compound at that time cost ¾ of a penny per pound, or £8 5s per ton; roots, etc., I charged at 12s. 6d., and the chaff at £3 15s., making the rations cost 2 1-5th pence per pound of consumed compound.

He then proceeds to give the exact cost of feeding the same as if he were to purchase all the food. This gave data easily to calculate the cost of each animal the day of slaughter. All were sold by weight and he saw each weighed. The average price was 9d. per pound. He gives a table showing the results from twelve head sold from eighteen to twenty-five months old. Of these two were Sussex and one Welsh; the rest were very good common Short-Horns. The table shows that the profit per annum on the price varied from 6 to 30 per cent., averaging about 20.

"These results, as far as the feeding, are very satisfactory, and when viewed from a farmer's standpoint, price made and value of manure per head, the longer the animal is kept the more profitable. But when treated financially all is reversed, and it is found that during the time of most active growth more meat is produced from the food consumed; but when the body gets large, a large percentage of the food consumed is taken up to keep up the heat and meet the tear and wear, and the time comes when this is greater than that assimilated into flesh and fat; therefore after this age gradually daily loss begins.

"These circumstances are very different to those where stock are reared with healthy rough pasture to graze inexpensively till they are at the best stage of growth to put up to fatten on feeding pasture or artificially.

Fallacies About Sheep.

There is a general impression amongst those who do not know, that by means of sheep a great deal may be made out of nothing. We may frequently see absurd statements to the effect, that "the sheeps foot turns all to gold;" that there is no readier or surer way to fertilize a barren field than to put a flock of sheep to pasture upon the briers and weeds in it; that, in effect, sheep will live upon the poorest food and make the richest manure, and are thus the very best stock a farmer can keep on his farm. But those "who have been there" know better. "Sheep are always an unhappy flock,"—*oves semper infelix pecus*—wrote the old author, Virgil, and many a man who has been deluded into keeping sheep in the vain hope of finding gold in their foot-tracks, has found out "the truth about it."

Now, having been through the mill and having turned defeat into victory by disabusing my mind of the common fallacies about sheep, I warn intending shepherds that there is no other domestic animal that needs better care or food, for profitable thrift, than sheep; that out of their finely-grinding manure mill, comes nothing that is not first put into the hopper; that yet with proper care and skill, a well selected flock of the right kind of sheep, in the right place, can be made to pay 100 per cent. on their cost every year. It is true that a flock will clear a field of weeds, briers and rubbish and will enrich it; but it will not live upon these alone. To relish this rough herbage, the sheep must be fed liberally upon supplementary food, such as bran, meal, cut clover, grass, or green corn fodder, and always a pint a day per head of linseed oil-cake meal, bran or other grain food. Then, with this alloy, the sheep's foot will take on a golden tinge, and will edge with gold the farmer's pocket, by making his poor lands rich; giving him at the same time a lamb or two, and a fleece every year. A field may be enriched, too, by sowing rape seed, this month, at the rate of a peck per acre, and when the crop is of thrifty growth, the sheep may be turned in to eat it down through the late fall and early spring; thus fitting it for a crop of corn, oats or roots next year. But the sheep must have their pint per day of bran or oil meal even then.

The fact is sheep are manure spreaders, rather than manure makers. We feed them with the material; they take their pay out of it, and give us back the remainder, transformed into a substance of equal value—because it is more available—with that which they receive, and they get fat meanwhile in doing it. Just as we give the mint a bag of gold dust and we get back exactly the same weight of gold dollars, while the coiners have fed upon it—but without the dust we get no dollars. So with sheep; if we don't feed them with the materials needed to make fat for themselves and rich manure for us, they will be as unprofitable as Pharaoh's lean kine.

To Insure Early Chickens.

To insure early chickens you must have in the first place hens that will lay during the winter and be ready to sit before the snow is gone. Then there must be a place to sit them which will be warm and dry, and which is far enough from the place in which they have been kept in the winter to be free from vermin. Here the nests must be fixed with great care. There should be earth enough in the bottom of the nest to hold the heat of the fowl for some time after she goes off the nest, and also to hold a little moisture. Allowing the eggs to become dry from the heat of the fowl will be very sure to prevent their hatching, but of this more by and by. The nest should be slightly hollowed out in the center, but not too much, as, if it is too deep, the eggs will roll against one another, with force enough to break the shell when the hen gets off the nest.

Poultry Raising for Profit.

Poultry raising, to be profitable, requires a thorough knowledge of the business on the part of the keeper. First, he should be located near some city, town, or railroad station. He should procure one or two or more good breeds. Secondly, he should provide clean, comfortable houses for them in winter and airy roosting places in summer. Thirdly, when the two former essentials have been attended to, he should give his fowls cooked, parched, and raw grain food regularly three times a day, with a plentiful supply of fresh water. He should feed chopped meat scraps, vegetables cut fine or cooked with some kind of ground feed a few times a week during the winter months. He should provide pulverized oyster or clam shells, chalk, bone, or old slacked lime, also boxes of coarse sand or gravel for their use. Fourthly, he should clean out his fowl houses every day. He should not crowd too many hens into a house—forty are enough. He should colonize them if possible, and be careful to avoid in-and-in-breeding, no matter how valuable the breed. And by following these rules he can make poultry profitable; if he neglects them, he will find fowl raising an "up hill work," and a non-paying business.

Important to Butter Makers.

A method in practice among the best butter makers in England for rendering butter firm and solid during the hot weather is as follows: Carbonate of soda and alum are used for the purposes made into powder. For twenty pound, of butter one teaspoonful of carbonate of soda and one teaspoonful of powdered alum are mixed together at the time of churning and put into the cream. The effect of this powder is to make the butter come firm and solid, and give it a clean, sweet flavor. It does not enter into the butter, but its action is upon the cream, and it passes off with the buttermilk. The ingredients of the powder should not be mingled together until required to be used, or at the time the cream is in the churn ready for churning.—*Cincinnati Price Current.*

As the Jersey is especially adapted to the butter dairy, it is usually easier to make good butter from them than from an average mixed herd. The best butter makers are likely to have some Jersey blood in their herds, and sometimes the cows get credit that belongs more particularly to the butter maker.

Charcoal pulverized and mixed with water is now highly recommended as an agent for relieving cattle suffering from any derangement of the stomach, such as bloat or hoven, etc. This should be remembered. There is no doubt of its efficacy, if abundance of concurrent testimony can be relied upon.

Domestic.

Ornamental and Useful.

PORTFOLIO FOR MUSIC.—For the foundation cut two pieces of cardboard, 13 inches in breadth and 16 inches in length; cover these with gray cashmere, embroidered with any simple border in silk. The cashmere must be cut 20 inches wide and 31 inches long, and pointed at one end; this forms the outer cover for the two pieces of card and the fold over the pocket. A piece of cashmere, two inches wide at the top, and gradually sloping to one inch, is sewn to the outer card; and another piece of embroidered cashmere of the same size as the card, is sewn to this, to form a pocket. The fold-over, which is cut in the same piece as the cover for the cardboard, buttons over this. The two cardboard leaves are tied together with ribbon at the sides, and handles of ribbon are sewn to each leaf at the top.

SHAVING TIDY.—This useful article may be easily made, and will form a nice present for a gentleman.

The outside of the case may be either of velvet or cloth, measuring sixteen inches long and six inches wide, embroidered with silk of two shades, in a pretty design around the edge, and a monogram in the centre of one side. The case is lined with silk, and has two pieces of soft linen, edged with fringe; small squares of silk paper are tacked to the centre, so that they may be easily pulled out after the razor has been wiped.

The case is folded in half, and a silk cord and tassels are sewn to the centre of each side. Instead of embroidering the edge, narrow lace may be sewn on, if preferred.

Household Receipts.

PLUM CHEESE.—Boil plums in sufficient water to prevent burning; then wash and strain; to every pound of pulp add half pound of clear brown sugar; cook as you would jam, stirring to prevent burning. It can be cut in slices and is a nice addition for lunch.

COLORING KID GLOVES.—White kid may easily be colored black, purple or lilac, with a solution of one part extract logwood and three parts brandy. Apply with a sponge and rub until thoroughly dry, and keep rubbing the hands together so as to soften the gloves.

PEACH FLAVORING EXTRACT.—The meats of peach pits, in brandy, make an excellent flavoring extract, resembling that of bitter almonds. Allow one teacupful of the meats to two of brandy. Take one teapoonful of the liquor to a quart of custard or cake dough.

BREAD OMELET.—Put into a stew-pan a teacupful of bread crumbs, one teacupful of cream, one tablespoonful of butter, with salt, pepper and nutmeg; when the bread has absorbed the cream, work in two beaten eggs; beat them a little with the mixture; fry in an omelet-pan and roll up.

LOVE CAKE.—To one pound sugar and six well-beaten eggs put as much flour as will stir a stiff paste, flavor with lemon, roll half-inch thick; cut the size of a wine glass; strew some sugar and flour over a tin pan, lay the cakes on it, bake in a quick oven; when cold, ice the tops and set them in a warm place to dry, finish by putting jell in the centre of each, the size of a walnut.

LONG BRANCH MILK POTATOES.—Take good, sound potatoes, cut them into slices (raw) and put the milk according to the quantity you wish to make, in a pudding dish; then after you have put the potatoes in the milk, put it in the oven for about twenty minutes; then take out and put potatoes with the same milk into a saucepan to boil until done; season before you put them to boil.

GRAPE PICKLES.—Select small bunches of ripe, firm grapes and pack in the jars in which they are to be kept. To a quart of vinegar, add a half pound of sugar; one-fourth of a pound of stick cinnamon, and an ounce of allspice, whole. Boil, and when cold, turn over the grapes. They will keep without sealing. Stone jars, holding a gallon each, may be used for these pickles. A piece of white cotton cloth, should be spread over the clusters, and a plate placed on top, to keep them under the vinegar.

FAVORITE MEAT PIE.—Take cold roast beef, or roast meat of any kind, slice it thin, cut it rather small and lay it, wet with gravy and sufficiently peppered and salted, in a meat-pie dish. If liked, a small onion may be chopped fine and sprinkled over it. Over the meat pour a couple of stewed tomatoes, a little more pepper, and a thick layer of mashed potatoes Bake slowly in a moderate oven till the top is a light brown. This makes a very good dish, and is a very great favorite with parties who do not usually like meat-pies.

PRESSED CHICKEN.—I have noticed when travelling on the cars, that many of the passengers who carry their lunch, generally have a liberal supply of chicken. Now, there is no objection to the fowl itself, but there is to the *shape* in which it is often taken. When there are so many good recipes for "pressed" and "jellied chicken," it seems as if the bones need not be carried. I was once obliged to occupy a seat on the cars with a stranger, who entertained me for a half hour by gnawing the wings and legs of a fowl. At the same time another person who sat directly opposite, was engaged in the like occupation. If chicken be prepared according to the accompanying recipe, travelers need not be aware of the nature of each other's luncheon:

Cut up a young fowl and put it in a kettle, with one coffee-cupful of cold water. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, and cover closely. When tender, pick the meat off the bones, and chop into bits the size of peas, and pack in a quart bowl. Thicken with flower the little juice that remains in the kettle, and pour over the chicken. Put a plate on it, while warm, and a heavy weight on the plate. It is necessary to cook the fowl in but little water, otherwise it will not be jelly. It is best not to cut pressed chicken until the day after it is made. Place thin layers of it between the slices of bread, and press firmly together. To be eaten without separating, like sandwiches.

Scientific.

New Ways to Use Iron Wanted.—in view of the plain fact that existing establishments for the production of iron and steel have a capacity far in excess of any probable demand likely to arise in the natural course of trade, the London *Iron* proposes a new policy for the iron trade. The business of iron masters, it argues, should be not merely to make iron, but to discover and devise new ways for using iron; and mention is made of a few instances in which a well directed effort to extend the use of iron and steel could not fail of success.

"Without dwelling on the far too limited employment of these metals in bridge and ship building purposes—for which their superiority is uncontested—one cannot fail to be struck with the great field offered by the permanent way of railways for the disposal of our surplus stocks. Mr. Wood's estimate that some forty millions of railway sleepers have to be replaced annually at a cost of over six millions sterling, is probably not far from correct. That a permanent way constructed wholly of iron or steel is at least equal, if not superior, to the existing compound system, has been demonstrated in India, Belgium and Germany. With an economical mode of protecting the metallic sleepers from corrosion, the advantages would be still greater. Without implicitly adopting Mr. Wood's estimate that the railways would save three millions a year by the change, it cannot be doubted that it would be a highly beneficial one both for the companies and ironmasters. It is, moreover, a change which must inevitably come sooner or later, since wood is becoming yearly dearer and dearer; while there is hardly a civilized country which is not suffering—in deterioration of climate—from the destruction of timber, of which the demands of railway engineers are a prime cause. It will not be much longer endured that the preservation of a certain proportion of forest land, which is demanded alike in the interests of hygiene and agriculture, should be rendered impossible because the conservative instinct of engineers prefers continuing to use timber for purposes for which it is less well suited than iron. The enormous destruction of young trees for the supply of pit props might also be very materially lessened by the use of removable iron pillars in the many situations in which they can be successfully employed in mining.

The Formation of Quartz.—A San Francisco engineer and metallurgist, J. Mosheimer, writes to the London *Mining Journal* as follows:

A further proof of the formation of quartz from aqueous solutions, has presented itself in a steam boiler in use in one of the Nevada mines. A boiler of four feet in diameter and provided with five flues had been in use for some years; but little attention had been paid to cleaning it or blowing it off, as it is called, and a sediment accumulated until it reached the first two flues. The whole of the interior was heavily incrusted, and as it conducted too little heat the boiler had to be replaced by a new one. After cutting the former to pieces my informant, Mr. E. Watkins, M. E., found a heavy incrustation all around the inside. At the bottom of the boiler a soft sediment was found, which was overlaid by another hard crust. The flues were incrusted on top with silicate of lime, and had at the bottom a coating of solid, transparent crystals of quartz; the crystals were of rhomboidal shape, about one-half inch in length, and as perfect as any other natural quartz crystals. The formation of quartz crystals of considerable size in boiling water in but a few years leads me to the belief that the large quantities of granulated quartz which were found in early days in the burning Moscow mine, on the Comstock lode, were of the same origin.

Quartz may thus be decomposed and made soluble by the action of steam in combination with an alkali, and then used as a soluble silicate.

Electric Lights at Sea.—An exchange has the following: "The utility of the electric lights for ocean steamers was forcibly illustrated during the last voyage of the Faraday from New York. It would seem that during a thick fog near the banks of Newfoundland, at ten o'clock at night, she suddenly discovered a large emigrant sailing ship immediately under her bow. The brilliancy of Dr. Siemen's electric light revealed the danger just in time to enable the captain to reverse the engines, and the two ships passed each other at a distance of a few feet. The screams of the women and children who had hurriedly collected on deck, indicated the hopelessness of the situation in so far as they were concerned; and it is morally certain that the lanterns ordinarily used by transatlantic steamships would have failed to penetrate the fog sufficiently to have made it possible to avoid a collision, and more than a hundred lives might have been lost.

The literary and scientific excursion which recently left Marseilles for a voyage around the world includes, besides Captain Biart, of the Junon, and his crew, Captain Stevenson, secretary of the expedition, a doctor, a chaplain, professors of natural history, geography, and botany, and eleven Frenchmen, three Russians, three Swiss, a Belgian, and a Dutchman. The Junon is a steamer of 1125 tons, 250 feet long by 30 feet wide, with a draught of 19 feet, and engines of 600 horse-power. The trip is to occupy 320 days.

Humorous.

A POEM WITH A KEY.

I.

Mary had a little lamp:
Her lover, all serene,
Extinguished it, for he did not
Want any caress seen.

Solution.—Let x equal "caress," and x plus y equal "cress seen;" then x plus y plus n will equal "kerosene," and we have the answer thus:

Extinguished it, for he did not
Want any kerosene.

II.

When Mary saw the lamp put out
She screamed: "O, dear, it's dark!"
"But bright enough," her lover said,
"With delight of a spark."

Solution.—Let q equal "delight" and k plus q equal a hyphen (-), when q plus k plus a will equal "de-light," which reduced to United States means "the light." Note—a. The word "delight" refers to the joys of courtship. b. In some countries "spark" and "courting" are synonymous terms. Therefore—

"But bright enough," her lover said,
"With the light of a spark."

III.

What makes the youth love Mary so?
I'll tell you—she's a catch;
And he put out the lamp, you know,
So he might strike a match.

Solution.—This is very simple, and can be solved by mental process. The young man extinguished the lamp so that he could have the fun of striking a match and lighting it again.—*Oil City Derrick.*

—The man who was all doubled up with a kick, is supposed to have been kicked by a pair of double uppers.

—It is stated by eminent naturalists that the very rats come creeping out of the woodpile and laugh like demons when a woman tries to saw a stick of wood.

—"What is your son doing in the battle of life?" asks the Christian *Helper*. Well, he appears to be drawing rations most of the time, just at present, thank you.

—"Love is blind," and that's the reason why it can get along with one small hand-lamp, turned down as low as it will go, as well as under a blazing chandelier of fifty burners.

—Gussie—"Lizzie, darling, why do you wear another woman's hair?" Lizzie—"Gussie, dear, why do you wear another ca—I mean, why do you wear calf's skin on your hands?"

—Mr. Ho, of the Chinese legation in England, is translating Shakspeare into Chinese. One passage from "Hamlet" reads: "Ho, that this too too muchee venison would turn into saltee water."

—Little Harry asked his mother what "blood relations" meant. She explained that it signified near relatives. After thinking a moment, he said: "Then, mother, you must be the bloodiest relation we've got."—*Boston Globe.*

—"It seems to me," said a customer to his barber "that in these hard times you ought to lower your prices for shaving." "Can't do it," replied the barber. "Now a-days everybody wears such a long face that we have a great deal more surface to shave over."

—"Ma," said a little four-year old, "I saw something run across the kitchen floor this morning without any legs. What do you think it was?" The mother guessed various legless worms and things, and then gave it up; when the little fellow said: "Why, ma, it was water!"

—An honest ignoramus, who had escaped a great peril by an act of heroism, was much complimented for his bravery. One lady said: "I wish I could have seen your feat," whereupon he blushed and stammered, and finally, pointing to his pedal extremities, said: "Well, there they be, mum."

—Japanese women, it is said, never see and don't know the use of pins. So we suppose a young man in Japan can go up Sunday night too see his sweetheart without being surprised into a yell as big as the side of a house, before he gets his unprotected arm half way around her belt.

—He was a "cull'ed tramp," and approached Captain Jase Phillips as the train hauled up at Pewee.

"Is you de capt'in ob de kears?"

"Yes," replied Jase.

"Don't want fo' ter hire any deck hands, duz ye?"

"No! I'm not running a steamboat."

"Zactly! Mout I ride straddle ob de cow-snatcher to de nex' landin'? I'se busted, an' a long ways from home."

"Get on. All aboard!"

And the negro straddled the "cow-snatcher." Ed. Gilligan pulled the throttle wide open, and the train had not gone more than half a mile before the engine collided with a cow, throwing it over a fence into a cornfield, and the negro after the cow. Next day, coming down, the negro limped up to Jase at the same depot, and said:

"Boss, I didn't ride fur wid you on dat cow-snatcher; kase, ye see, de cow wanted to ride dar too, an' dar wa'n't room fo' bofe uv us; so we got off togedder up h'yar in de co'nfield fo' to rest. De nex' time I rides wid ye I'll freeze to de tail-gate of de wagon. Hit's safer.

A VOYAGE IN THE AIR.

PROFESSOR KING'S EXPERIENCE IN A THUNDER STORM DESCRIBED BY HIMSELF.

Aerial voyages, like affairs of life, are full of uncertainties Whatever may be our anticipations the realization proves how powerless we are to shape our course or foretell the surprises in store for us; but in this very hidden mystery lies the fascination. Who will pretend to forecast the events of the coming voyage? Shall we soar through fleecy clouds bathed in sunset glow? and, if night belated, will kind Aurora drop a flaming curtain in the north to light us on our way? or shall our bark, on chilling equinoctial gales, be borne through dreary skies? or yet mid the lightning's glare and the thunder's roar be tossed? Who can tell? All is uncertainty, and we would not have it otherwise, for it is this characteristic which gives zest to balloon adventure. But while we cannot anticipate our next experience, let me speak of one that cannot fail to interest the reader.

The city of Burlington, Iowa, was the place of ascension; a day in the early part of August, 1875, the time.—The balloon—which was capable of carrying three men—was inflated at the gas works, from which place it was towed by ropes a distance of two miles against a heavy wind. When the towing commenced the lower aperture of the balloon was closed to prevent the escape of gas; but on the way the wind shook the lashings off, causing a loss of about one-half the gas before reaching its destination. This seemed in the end to have proved a most fortunate occurrence. Half-past four, the hour for starting, had arrived; standing on a high cliff overlooking the Mississippi river stood the balloon, ready to be cast a adrift. To the southeast, on the Illinois side of the river, there was just at that time approaching a terrible, ominous-looking thunder storm. No time time was to be lost. So much gas had escaped that I had to go alone.—From the moment it left the ground the balloon was rapidly carried in the direction of the storm. It could have been landed on the prairie bottoms across the bottoms, but they were partly covered with water from a recent rise in the river, and besides, short, uneventful voyages are an abomination. As with two railroad trains approaching each other, so the space which lay between the balloon and the cloud was quickly anninilated. The ascent had been rapid, and, at the time, this seemed fortunate, for I had escaped that low, dusty, dark and ragged-looking front, which seemed to be seething with commotion, and by passing above it, had entered the cloud where it was much lighter in aspect, and where there seemed to be no commotion whatever. It was about seven minutes from the time of leaving the ground till the cloud was entered when I was surrounded with a thick fog which was momentarily illuminated with flashes of lightning. The crowd who had witnessed the ascent, as it appeared afterward, were horror-stricken and gave me up for lost. Not so myself; believing that the balloon had cleared the dangerous portion of the storm, and that it would soon rise out of the cloud into clear sunshine, I was perfectly satisfied. But more vivid grew the flashes and louder pealed the thunder.

I became anxious at last to reach the top, and just as it was evident that it was about to be accomplished, right down in front of me and apparently not more than fifty feet distant, came a discharge of electricity. Almost in an instant I felt the car lifted, the gas in the balloon suddenly expanded to overflowing, projecting a volume of gas through the open mouth of the balloon down into the car. I held my breath while I quickly caught a rope hanging from the hoop overhead, and tied it around my waist, then seized the valve with one hand, and leaning as far as possible out of the car, in this way escaped suffocation. In the meantime the balloon was being hurled with inconceivable velocity through the cloud. I felt like one who dreams that he is falling from a great height. The tornado of wind sought to roll the balloon over and over, but the weight beneath counteracted this, and the result was that the car was swung aloft and back and forth at a terrible rate. Now all this was suddenly accomplished, and would have been as suddenly ove., but before the car had time to stop oscillating another discharge of electricity would occur and the same thing recur again and again, and it seemed as though I should never escape. The valve had been open all the while, yet still with every recurrence of the storm's action, the balloon would be extended to its utmost. It was fortunate that the bag had not been full at starting, for, though it was an unusually strong one, it would otherwise have been burst into shreds in the very first instance. At last relief came. The balloon was thrown with the same violence into the very midst of the condensed vapor and the torrent that now fell upon the balloon was something tremendous. What with the great loss of gas and the added weight of water, I was soon extricated from the extremely unpleasant position. The lower part of the balloon in descending doubled up into the upper part (for there was but little gas left) and formed a sort of parachute. It sank gently enough through the clouds, and the only commotion was the falling rain, which was so heavy that the cloud seemed cut up by it into filaments.

Considerable time was occupied in falling—exactly how long I cannot tell—but at last I could hear the roar of the storm below. In looking down, the earth being nearest directly under the balloon, it is first sighted through what appears to be a round hole in the cloud. I knew there were dangers still threatening, and I kept a constant watch for the opening. At last it came right over the woods. It could not have been worse. My drag rope was out; I saw it touch the trees, and the next moment the car was flying through their tops and half a dozen trees were dashed through in less time than it would take to count twenty. The balloon was torn to ribbons. The netting caught among the branches and the car fell to within a foot of the ground, when I stepped out. Catching a piece of the torn balloon as it came floating down, I drew it over my head and shoulders and sat down upon a stump till the storm was over.

How far the balloon had traveled to reach the centre of the storm, it is impossible to tell, as, without doubt, during the whole of the descent it was returning. The direction in which the drag rope lay showed that I was bound direct for Burlington, which was just twelve miles distant from my landing place.

SUAVITY OR AGREEABLENESS.

In that portion of the brain lying a little on each side of the upper part of the forehead, phrenologists locate the organ suavity, or agreeableness. As this is large or deficient depends, in a great degree, the natural politeness of its possessor. Some men are so organized that it is only with difficulty they can even force an appearance of politeness. Without intending it, their manner is repellant, and if they have a fair share of combativeness, antagonistic to such an extent as to make their society unsought and disagreeable. They receive favors ungraciously, and grant them in such a manner as makes the recipient regret having asked them. Of this kind was the young lady in the rail car, who took a seat offered her by a gentleman old enough to be her father, without remark. Perceiving that he stood by her side longer than she thought necessary, she asked rudely what he was waiting for? "Merely to hear you say thank you," he replied, much to her annoyance and to the merriment of those sufficiently near to hear the remarks.

Sometimes a person really possesses a desire to be polite, the result of the action of other organs, as benevolence, reverence, &c., but lacks the power of expressing it by acts or words. Such are unfortunate, and are constant sufferers in consequence. Their questions are often put in such manner and word as to give unintentional offense, and their replies are shot out bluntly, and without the respect the circumstances demand. We know of more than one really kind-hearted and affectionate man, who impress a large majority of merely business acquaintances with the idea that they are ugly, unsocial disagreeable individuals, whose company is to be avoided.

On the other hand there are those whose brain is so largely developed and active in that region as to make them so desirous of appearing polite and agreeable that they often sacrifice truth itself in the endeavor. Of this class are those who treat you as if they desired to make you their dearest and most confidential friend, parting with you with an appearance of great sorrow, only to meet the next moment another person with the same expressions of affectionate regard. Their desire to please is so great, that their words are not always measured by the strict rule of fact, but expand or contract therefrom as it seems to them will best please the listener. Nor can those people be called really hypocrites or deliberate falsifiers. They act out their natures as inheritance and circumstances have made them.

But between these two unhappy extremes are various gradations tending to the happy mean. We occasionally meet men (would it were oftener) whose every look and action have attractions, and whose words, not studied, are as agreeable as possible, who can say unpleasant things in such a way as to deprive them of half their bitterness, and even decline a request in such away as makes a friend of the applicant. We cannot all attain this degree of perfection, but "character is not writ in marble," and is left for each of us by care, attention and cultivation to make ourselves better or worse than nature leaves us.

There is no place where true politeness is worth more—is productive of better results than at home. And by this we do not mean the house and family circle merely, but everywhere about—on the farm, in the garden, among the animals. What, be polite to animals, do you ask? Most certainly, we say. And we leave it for your own observation to discover how much gentle words, pleasant tones, and kind looks can accomplish. The best cattle trainers we know have learned by experience it is not necessary to scold and abuse oxen to render them obedient; and a horse soon comes to love a gentle master. Try it with your farm hands. A request pleasantly preferred is complied with quite as readily and with a better spirit than a mandatory order. "Please" is an entering wedge to a man's good nature, and often opens the way through which the sentence following passes without friction, where otherwise it would chafe and rub.

Capt. Gardner, an old friend of ours, was a student of human nature, and knew men, their ways and their weaknesses, and their deserving too. After one of his long trips he called on us. In a conversation he said he believed, since he saw us before, he had done what no other man ever did. He had sailed a ship around the world without using an oath or striking a blow. He believed it was possible to be kind and agreeable to his sailors and still maintain their respect and obedience. He determined to try it, and proved by practice what he inferred from theory.

There are many rough places in life's journey. We cannot make them too few, try how we may; but most of us can, by a little self-control and willpower, keep back a disagreeable expression, and replace it with one not only more polite and quite as effective, but which is less a stumbling-block in the way of our neighbor.—*Rural New Yorker.*

FUTURE RIFLE SHOOTING.

In a letter criticising somewhat severely the current style of rifle practice, the celebrated off-hand marksman, Dr. W. F. Carver, insists that his style of shooting is the only one worthy to be called practical. He believes, too, that it will soon become the prevailing style. He says:

"I am willing to acknowledge that what I do may be improved upon, and give as my honest opinion that in a few short years my shooting, considered so wonderful at present, will be child's play as compared with the skill which future generations will achieve. Some people call me a wizard, and others a trick shooter, while others assert that I am peculiarly gifted; but the fact is the shooting I do has come from years of hard and constant labor. The hardest life a man can possibly lead is hunting upon the plains. Twenty-seven years of steady Western life, dependent solely upon my own exertions, has taught me what I really know of rifle shooting. Was not that life of all things practical, and in nature should it not produce practical results? I have hunted for the market many years, learning nothing of trickery or deception by my calling, and what I am about to say in behalf of my shooting I know from experience to be true. Why, my style of shooting is the very first principle, and really the foundation of practical rifle shooting. All men who wish to become perfect in the use of either rifle or shot-gun should commence by shooting at flying objects. It is very easy to hit an object thrown into and moving in the air, provided you point your gun at it. This may seem a foolish remark, and provocative of laughter by its simplicity, yet that is all that can be said, and is the secret of hitting anything with either rifle or shot-gun, but more particularly with the rifle. In shooting at moving objects with a rifle a man soon learns to take deliberate aim, and to understand perfectly well that if he does not he will surely miss. This style of shooting makes a man handle a gun with the rapidity of lightning, and in a short time, or a few years, he does it with such ease as to make many call it 'trick shooting' or 'sleight of hand,' when in reality it is nothing but a degree of perfection resulting from practice. Many think I do not take aim. In fact, this has puzzled many theorists, and has been a point of considerable discussion. Those who think I do not take aim are mistaken. Should I not take aim I never would hit an object. Let any one practice my style of shooting with a rifle for a short time with even moderate success, and then take up a shot-gun, and for the first time in his life he will discover how easy it is to hit anything with a scatter-gun, and by virtue of the nicety with which he must draw his bead with a rifle, what perfect control he has of his shot-gun; then, on the other hand, how easy it is for him to hit a moving object with a rifle almost any distance. There is no question but that my style of shooting will revolutionize the whole shooting world, and a scatter-gun will ultimately disappear from the arena as a real test of skill, only to be used for hunting, and in the field for market."

THREE THINGS.

Three things to admire—Intellectual power, dignity and gracefulness.

Three things to love—Courage, gentleness and affection.

Three things to hate—Cruelty, arrogance and ingratitude.

Three things to delight in—Frankness, freedom and beauty.

Three things to wish for—Health, friends, and a cheerful spirit.

Three things to avoid—Idleness, loquacity, and flippant jesting.

Three things to fight for—Honor, country and home.

Three things to govern—Temper, tongue and conduct.

Three things to think about—Life, death and eternity.

—The Island of Giglio, near Leghorn, has been put up for sale, for arrears of land tax. Its two thousand inhabitants had rescued from utter barrenness, by the most arduous labor, its twelve square miles of soil; but the tax-gatherer swooped down and assessed it twenty thousand francs, a sum very nearly the whole value of the land. The largest of the 198 lots to be sold is valued at 761 francs, the smallest at 7 francs 60 centimes; there is wood worth 40 centimes less. The people are a peaceful, primitive folk, grinding their corn by hand between two stones, and never closing their doors by day or night. The only timepiece on the island is the Brigadier of Gendarmes' watch. The men work in the fields during winter, and in the summer join in the anchovy fisheries; they are frugal and hard-working and good fishermen. The vines, planted between the fissures in the rocks, are very small, but yield a very good wine, called Ausonica. The result of the imposition of this tax has been to reduce many of the islanders to a state of abject poverty, and there seems little resource for them but to emigrate to the mainland, in which case the island will probably go to waste, and the labor of many years be utterly lost.

—According to recently published statistics there are more deaf mutes, idiots and lunatics in Switzerland, in proportion to the population, and fewer people afflicted with blindness, than in any other European country.

—A young man sent sixty-cents to a firm in Michigan, that advertised a receipt to prevent bad dreams. He received a slip of paper on which was written: "Don't go to sleep."

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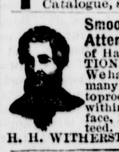

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