NOW AND THEN

BERKSHIRE FARMSTEAD

As he returns, his long day's ploughing done,
Pausing with hand upon the yardgate latch,
He sees in the low rays of frosty sun,
Beneath brown budded beechwoods, the old steading,
Of mellow brick, clustered with barn and byre
Of umber timber and deep-ochre thatch,
Glowing to greet him with the very fire
Of welcoming; and half-forgets the day
Of toilsome squelching through the sludgy clay
As, with a heart contented and at rest
In the homecoming quiet of his breast,
He leads his tired team to their warm dry bedding.

—Wilfrid Gibson, London.

THREE POETS

England, Ireland and Scotland each produced an outstanding poet in the 17th Century. Byron, a most gifted poet, Burns who is considered to have had one of the brightest minds of all time, and Thomas Moore of Ireland, the prince of melody; all of them so gifted and yet as we read of them it is sad to think that in spite of their many talents their lives were shortened and spoiled by yielding to excesses. Byron was adored by his countrymen for awhile. His poems reached every heart until he became bitter and pessimistic and his works, licentious. Listen to his description of sunset:

"Parting day
Dies like the dolphin whom each pang imbues with a new colour as it gasps away. The last still loveliest, till it's gone and all is gray."

He left his native England and went to Southern lands, and while fighting with the Greeks for their freedom he died of fever at the age of 36, so young to die with so much that he might have given to the world.

And then there was Burns so full of poetry and music. He, too, learned that:

"Pleasures are like poppies spread
You seize the flower its bloom is shed,
Or like the snow fall in the river,
A moment white then lost forever."

He passed away at an early age with so much genius and music lost, and talent wasted.

Then Thomas Moore! The English song book would be poorer indeed without "The Last Rose of Summer" "The Harp that once through Tara's Halls" and many other songs, besides his stories, yet he spoiled his life by indulging in excessive pleasures, wasting the good things which God had given him.

X-ray photographs have revealed that under an exterior coat of paint on a relatively obscure painting in the Walker art collection here, there is hidden a priceless original by Peter Paul Rubens.

The art gallery is considering a six months paint removing job to reveal the original painting. Layers of paint would have to be taken off with slow working solvents so that under layers would not be damaged.

Detroit

Faith, Hope and Charity are busier in Shullsburg these days, but they still lead to Judgment.

Judgment is this little lead-mining community's main street, on which is situated the court house. Faith, Hope and Charity are thoroughfares which cross it. Other city streets are named Love, Goodness, Wisdom, Honor and Happy.

The streets were named a hundred years ago by the Rev. Samuel Mazzuchelli, early Dominican priest who planned part of Shullsburg. And recently Shullsburg citizens rejected a proposal to change the names of the streets.

Shullsburg sprang up as a lead-mining center. Miners burrowing into the ground gave Wisconsin its nickname, "the Badger State." Later, many of the mines became idle, but with the current munitions boom several of them have become active again. And traffic is heavier along Faith, Hope and Charity.

SHREWD MANEUVER

One bitterly cold night, Benjamin Franklin sought warmth in a small wayside inn, but found himself crowded away from the fire by a crowd of inconsiderate loungers.

"Half a peck of oysters in the shell for my horse," he called out in a loud voice.

When the astonished innkeeper went to obey this strange order, the entire assemblage, save Franklin, rushed out to see a horse eat oysters.

Soon they returned and told Franklin that his horse had rejected the bivolves.

"Well," said Franklin, now comfortably seated by the fire, "bring them in and watch me eat them."

The Negro, by nature rhythmical, works better if he sings at his labor. He seems to lighten his toil, perhaps even to forget the fact that he is working, if he has a song to help him on. As a soldier can march with less fatigue if inspired by the music of a band, so a Negro's hoe or axe swings more easily to the beat of a ballad or the sighing swing of a spiritual, or any sort of a song he chants at his task. He can work not only more pleasurably to himself, but more profitably to his employer, for he moves faster and accomplishes more if he sings.

Willkie, the Republican nominee is, they say, a very forcible speaker, but he slipped up in his Grammer the other day when speaking in his native town. In a glow of enthusiasm, in thanking them for the cordial welcome given him, he said "We certainly appreciate all the kindness shown to Mrs. Willkie and I during our stay here. Of course every one knew that it was a "lapsus linguae" but it delighted the critics who were listening in.

HOT OFF THE GRIDDLE

To start a fresh coal fire, make a bed of tightly crumpled paper, then kindling wood, and, on top, a little coal, and light. When this coal catches, add more in small amounts at intervals until the fire is the desired size.

Diapers are best folded unironed.

When bothered by rats and mice, search for possible holes or large cracks through which they may enter, and fill them in. Do not leave food exposed. Catch in traps baited with small pieces of bacon rind or bread crumb, or bits of dry cheese. The bait must be a mere crumb or else the animal will eat the food and escape the trip. If traps are to be used more than once, they should be washed in scalding water after each use.

When serving a veal roast, the bone may be removed by the butcher and the meat rolled and tied into place so that, when served, the roll simply has to be sliced down thinly like a loaf of bread. Or, the bone may be left in, in which case, the carving is harder. The fork holds the meat firmly while it is sliced at an oblique angle to the platter. The round end is placed uppermost.

Butter is usually thought of when fat is called for, and generally speaknig, if it is plentiful and there is no thought of cost, may be used without question, except in deep-fat frying, where it cannot be heated to the high temperature required without smoking. For use with bread or in seasoning vegetables, there is no agreeable substitute for good butter. However, there are many substitutes for cooking purposes, beef fat, olive oils, lard, various vegetable oils, and solidified fats, sold under different trade names. Most of them can be used in deep-fat frying, if they are not strongly flavored and do not decompose and smoke when heated to a high temperature. Some are adapted for use in salad making in place of the more expensive olive oil—although the taste of the dressing made with a good oil cannot be equaled by any substitute. Other vegetable oils or fats may be used in all kinds of frying and baking with little effect on flavor.

To blanch chestnuts: Slit the flat side of the shell with a flat knife. Place in a pan in a hot oven with a few teaspoons of melted butter or of oil poured over them for five minutes. Then keep warm while removing outer shell and inner skin. They are now ready for boiling, to use as a vegetable or in stuffing.

In gravy making: Add the liquid to the browned flour and fat very slowly, preferably removing the pan from the fire so that the sauce will not be lumpy and need straining. Avoid too much fat for quantity of gravy made so that there will not be a layer of fat floating on the top of the gravy. Heat over an asbestos mat, and it will not become too thick. If color is not brown enough, a few drops of Kitchen Bouquet or a bouillon cube will darken it and improve the flavor. Season well.

Two tablespoons of flour equals one tablespoon of cornstarch in thickenings.

Select well-rounded crisp dinner rolls, cut off each end, and scoop out the soft center. Moisten ground ham, or tongue, or Swiss cheese with sardennel paste. Fill the cavity with this and put into the refrigerator for 24 hours. Slice thin and serve as an appetizer.

To use the chicken feet in soup making, they must be skinned and cleaned by pouring boiling water over them. Let them stand in the boiling water a little while; the heavy yellow skin is then easily peeled off. Clip off the tips of the feet.

Fish which has been propertly frozen and kept in cold storage is said to be as palatable and nutritious as when fresh. It is cooked the same as fresh fish, but should be used as quickly as possible after it has been thawed out.

For a oyter stuffing for fowl—add to the plain dressing, drained oysters which have been heated in a frying pan until their edges are curled.

Dried mint leaves added to a salad of mixed greens give fine flavor.

When vegetables are boiled they should be plunged into rapidly boiling water and kept boiling until done and removed from the fire. If steamed, the same rule holds good; the water under the steamer must be boiling and the steam at its height when the vegetables are placed in it, and then closely covered.

HEAR YOURSELF TALK

If you talk by radio around the world, you can hear you voice come back into the same room from which you are talking. Your voice will sound like an echo, as each syllable will be delayed about one seventh of a second.

—Scribner's Commentator Magazine.

WHO WEARS THE PANTS?

It recently came to the attention of this department that the Bureau fo Occupational Diseases of the Buckeye State of Ohio lists tyenty-seven cases of housemaid's knee for last year. Twenty-five of the patients were men.

—Scribner's Commentator Magazine.

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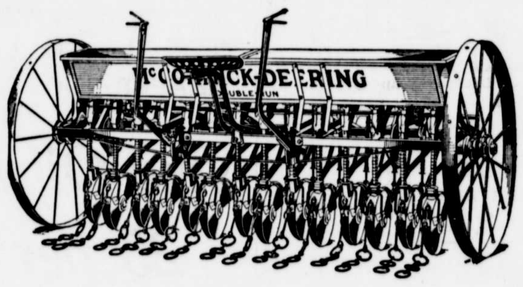

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