Farm and Household.

GOOD BISCUITS.—One pint of flour finely sieved, two teaspoonsful of baking powder and milk or water sufficient for paste; roll and cut rapidly; bake in quick oven.

BEAN SOUP.—Pick over one pint of dried beans and wash them in cold water; peel and slice an onion, put in a saucepan and fry it brown, with a tablespoonful of dripping; ham or bacon-fat preferable. When brown, put the beans in with the onion, pour on three quarts of cold water, and boil slowly; every fifteen minutes add one cup of cold water until a quart has been used; mix one tablespoonful each of flour and butter to smoothe paste, and fry some half-inch bits of stale bread with a little butter. As soon as the beans are soft put them through a sieve with a potato masher; put them again in the saucepan with their broth, stir in the paste, let the soup boil once, and serve with the fried bread in it.

BEAN POLES.—The following is recommended as convenient for bean poles: Take three good common laths to every two hills, two for the beans and one for a brace; set in the form of a tripod, letting the tops cross about one inch or more, and a fourpenny nail will hold them together.

QUANTITY OF HAY IN A MOW.—Multiply the length of the mow by the breadth, and that product by the height; divide by six hundred for timothy, and eight hundred for clover; the result will be tons. To the remainder annex a cypher, and divide by three. the result will be pounds.

WHEN TO CUT GRASSES.—The report of the analytical chemist of the Department of Agriculture, summing up the results of analysis of nearly all the cultivated grasses says:

"It is apparent, then, that in most cases the time of bloom, or thereabout, is the fittest for cutting grasses in order to obtain the most nourishment and largest and relatively profitable crops, and for the following reasons: The amount of water has diminished and the shrinkage will therefore be less. The weight will be largest in proportion to the nutritive value of its constituents. The amount of nitrogen not present as albuminoids will be at its lowest point; fiber will not be so excessive as to prevent digestion, and the nutritive ratio will be more advantageous.

"If cut earlier, the shrinkage is larger, although the fiber is less and albumen is a little larger. The palatabilty may be increased, but the total nutriments to the acre will not be so large, and the nutritive ratio will be more abnormal.

"The disadvantages of late cutting are evident in the digestibility of the nutriments, and the falling off of the albumen by conversion into amides. This is not made up by the larger crop cut.

EARLY HARVESTING BEST.—There is, perhaps, no other one feature in all the process of wheat growing apparently so poorly understood, or in which there is so much lack-faith, as in regard to the proper time to harvest the crop; more than nine-tenths of all the farmers wait too long, allowing the crop to get too ripe, and one loses thereby in many ways; it should really be cut just as soon as the *milky state* begins to thicken into *dough*; and this for several reasons:

1. It is sooner out of the way of risks and contingencies of damage by weather, insects, diseases, and other disasters, while the work need not be done in so great and wasteful hurry, as is too often the case.

2. It is more pleasant to handle, the straw being softer and tougher, and the grain does not waste half so badly by shelling and shattering, as when it is dead ripe, in handing.

3. It allows a longer season in which to safely and carefully do a larger harvest, if early begun.

4. More important still, early harvests give heavier and better grain which makes more and better flour for the same weight of grain, than when cut perfectly ripe.

5. But what is, perhaps, equally important in early harvesting is the security against *rust*, smut, insects, etc.

A NEGRO MICHAEL ANGELO.

In Champinas, Brazil, there is an enormous church, which has been seventy years in building, and is not completed yet. The remarkable feature about it is the still more wonderful fact that the greater part of it is the work of a negro man, who has never studied the simple principles of sculpture, and who, indeed, does not even know his alphabet. The sense of beauty of form was instinctive with him, and with the cunning hand of self-taught genius he has carved temples and columns, flowers, arabesques, and cherubims, throwing off his wondrous creations with the profusion which is only possible to those who draw their inspiration from within. He worked at his labor of love until old age brought failing sight and trembling hands; and now, poor, solitary, helpless and blind, he ekes out a miserable pittance which his townsmen grant for his support, by begging alms in the street of Champinas. Others have continued his work, more or less imperfectly, and as there have been no plans made, the variety of workmen has greatly detracted from the harmony of the general effect.

JENNY LIND AND THE BIRDS.

I remember hearing a stage driver's story of Jenny Lind when she was riding in the country. A bird of brilliant plumage perched on a tree near by as they drove slowly along, and trilled out such a complication of sweet notes as perfectly astonished her. The coach stopped, and reaching out she gave one of her finest roulades. The beautiful creature arched his head on one side, and listened deferentially; then, as if determined to excel his famous rival, raised his graceful throat, and sang a song of rippling melody that made Jenny rapturously clap her hands in ecstacy, and quickly, as though she were before a severely critical audience in Castle Garden, delivered some Tyrolean mountain strains that set the echoes flying. Whereupon little birdie took it up, and sang and trilled, till Jenny, in happy delight, acknowledged that the pretty woodland warbler decidedly outcaroled the great Swedish nightingale.

CORK.

The cork tree (*quercus suber*) is a species of oak growing abundantly in Spain, Portugal, and Italy. As there are undoubtedly many parts of our country where it could be raised, it is a wonder that a tree whose product is so extensively used, has never been acclimated. The barking is commenced when the tree is fifteen years old, and may be repeated every eight or ten years afterward with no injury to the oak, which in spite of this periodical flaying, lives to the age of a hundred and fifty years. In July and August, incisions are made around the tree, and down to the root; the pieces which detach easily are soaked in water, placed under heavy weights, dried before a fire, and stacked in bales for exportation. The corkcutters cut the sheets into narrow strips, and round them into shape with a thin, sharp knife.

TROUT.

The standard of intelligence among trout would seem to be lessening, if the latest inventions for their beguilement are as successful as represented. Artificial worms are sold with all the capacity for wriggle and none of the cold clamminess so obnoxious to lady fishers, and one of the members of the English fish commission announces that he has several times brought a trout to the surface with bits of paper. In the Highlands last year a boy caught a number with heather-bells strung on a bait-hook, thus proving conclusively the extraordinary progress of æstheticism. There was prophecy in the old line, "die of a rose in aromatic pain," and whaling will undoubtedly in time be accomplished with lilies, and sharks and sword-fish rise to sunflowers and daisies.

AN UNWRITTEN POINT OF HISTORY.—Truth is indeed stranger than fiction. It is interesting to note how some of the most illustrious historical characters died. Richard Cœur de Lion like the animal from which his heart was named fell by the arrow of an archer. George IV passed away a victim of gluttony and dissipation. Henry VIII died of carbuncles and scurvy, because in those days there was no Swane's Ointment for skin diseases to cure the afflictions in the beginning.

HIS TEACHING.

A teacher in a western county in Canada, while making his first visit to his "constituents," got into conversation with an ancient" Varmount" lady who had taken up her residence in the "backwoods."

Of course the school and former teacher came in for criticism, and the old lady, in speaking of his predecessor, asked—

"Waal, master, what do think he larnt the scollard?"

"Couldn't say, ma'am. Pray what did he teach?"

"Waal, he told 'em that this 'ere airth was reound, and went areound, and went areound, and all that sort o' thing? Now, master, what do you think about sich stuff? Don't you think that he was an ignorant feller?"

Unwilling to come under the category of the ignorami, the teacher evasively remarked—

"It really did seem strange, but still there are many learned men who teach these things."

"Waal," said she, "if the airth is reound and goes reound, what holds it up?"

"Oh, these learned men say it goes around the sun. and that the sun holds it up by virture of attraction," he replied.

The old lady lowered her "specs," and by way of climax, responded—

"Waal, if these high larnt men sez the sun holds the airth, I should like tu know what holds the airth up when the sun goes down?"

TOO GOOD A TALKER.

Scene—A small lawn on Seneca street. Time—noon. Personage—A parrot sunning itself on a perch beside its open cage-door; and a strange dog wandering upon the the lawn. The parrot speaks first: "Sick! sick! sick him!" The dog, with ears and tail erect, looks about for something upon which to charge; he espies the parrot, and an exciting scene ensues. From out the confused mass of dog-hair and parrot-feathers comes the shrill cry, 'Get out! D—n you, get out!" Dog breaks for street. Parrot, after looking at herself from head to foot gravely exclaims: "Polly, you talk too much!"

—When a Kentucky Congressman was informed that he could have all the garden seeds he wanted from the Agricultural Department, he exclaimed: "Seeds! What do I want seeds for? But hold on! Yes, yes, I believe I do want a few." And he forthwith sent for half a bushel of cardamom seeds, the only seeds he had any use for.

—Professor Proctor has a new girl-baby, and although only a few weeks old, it inherits and evinces its father's taste for astronomy. Its researches at present extend no farther than the milky way.

—If you want to get rid of pimples, boils, tetter, etc, use "Lindsey's Blood Searcher." Sold by druggists.

—If a man makes money at the expense of his virtue he dishonors his soul. He sells honor for gold. All the gold on earth is of no value compared with virtue.

—Indulgent parents who allow their children to eat heartily of high-seasoned food, rich pies, cake, &c., will have to use Hop Bitters to prevent indigestion, sleepless nights, sickness, pain and, perhaps, death No family is safe without them in the house.

—Habit is a cable. We weave a thread of it each day, and it becomes so strong we cannot break it.

DELICATE FEMALES.—The exactions of society, added to the cares of maternity and the household, have tested beyond endurance the frail constitutions which have been granted the majority of women To combat this tendency to premature decline, no remedy in the world possesses the nourishing and strengthening properties of MALT BITTERS. They enrich the blood, perfect digestion, stimulate the liver and kidneys, arrest ulcerative weaknesses, and purify and vitalize every function of the female system.

—Who is the most likely to divulge the secrets of a bank?—The teller.

NOBODY ENJOYS the nicest surroundings if in bad health. There are miserable people about to-day to whom a bottle of Parker's Ginger Tonic would bring more solid comfort than all the medicine they have ever tried.—*News.*

—Sow good services; sweet remembrances will grow from them.

—Nature has given us two ears, but one tongue, in order that we may repeat but one half of what we hear.

Skinny Men.

Wells' Health Renewer. Absolute cure for nervous debility and weakness of the generative functions. $1. at druggists.—Prepaid by express, $1.25, 6 for $5. E. S. WELLS, Jersey City.

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It removes faintness, flatulency, destroys all craving for stimulant, and relieves weakness of the stomach That feeling of bearing down, causing pain, weight and backache, is always permanently cured by its use For the cure of Kidney Complaints of either sex this Compound is unsurpassed.

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Both the Compound and Blood Purifier are prepared at 233 and 235 Western Avenue, Lynn, Mass. Price of either, $1. Six bottles for $5. Sent by mail in the form of pills, or of lozenges, on receipt of price, $1 per box for either. Mrs. Pinkham freely answers all letters of inquiry. Enclose 3ct. stamp. Send for pamphlet.

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Mr. Austin has located his office for the present at WYTHEVILLE, WYTHE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, to which point all communications to him should be addressed. Upon the completion of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad to a connection with the Norfolk & Western Railroad, which will be effected at Roanoke, Roanoke County, Virginia, in May, 1882, the principal office of the Bureau will be removed to Roanoke.

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The Commissions charged will be moderate.

Parties having lands for sale are invited to record them at this Bureau, with plans, maps, description of improvements, and of mineral deposits, analysis of minerals, price, &c., &c.

It is hoped that, by means of such an organization, the material developement of the resources of this rich, salubrious, and fertile section of Virginia may receive an effectual and permanent impulse, and public attention be directly and practically assured to its varied and remarkable elements of national wealth and prosperity.

GEO. F. TYLER,
President Norfolk & Western Railroad Co.
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