

Agriculture, &c.

PRAYER AND POTATOES.

The following is not new but it is none the less valuable on that account. We find it recently copied by a number of our United States exchanges, perhaps because the lesson it teaches is now quite seasonable. We commend it to the favorable consideration of our readers. See James ii. 15, 16.

An old lady sat in her old arm chair, With wrinkled visage and disheveled hair, And hunger-worn features;

For days and for weeks her only fare, As she sat in her old arm-chair, Had been potatoes.

But now they were gone; of bad or good, Not one was left for the old lady's food. Of those potatoes.

And she sighed, and said: "What shall I do? Where shall I send, and to whom shall I go For more potatoes?"

And she thought of the deacon over the way. The deacon so ready to worship and pray,— Whose cellar was full of potatoes.

She said: "I will send for the deacon to come; He'll not much mind to give me some Of such a store of potatoes."

And the deacon came over as fast as he could, Thinking to do the old lady some good, But never for once of potatoes.

He asked her at once what was her chief want: And she, simple soul, expecting a grant, Immediately answered: "Potatoes!"

But the deacon's religion didn't lie that way; He was more accustomed to preach and pray Than to give his hoarded potatoes.

So, not hearing, of course, what the old lady said, He rose to pray, with uncovered head: But she only thought of potatoes.

He prayed for patience, goodness, and grace; But when he prayed, "Lord give her peace," She audibly sighed, "Give potatoes!"

And at the end of each prayer which he said, He heard, or thought he heard, in its stead That same request for potatoes.

Deacon was troubled, knew not what to do; 'Twas very embarrassing to have her act so, And about those carnal potatoes.

So, ending his prayers, he started for home. The door closed behind; he heard a deep groan, "O, give to the hungry, potatoes!"

And the groan followed him all the way home. In the midst of the night it haunted his room; "O, give to the hungry, potatoes!"

He could bear it no longer; arose and dressed, From his well-filled cellar taking in haste A bag of his best potatoes.

Again he went to the widow's lone hut. Her sleepless eyes she had not yet shut; But there she sat in the old arm chair, With the same wan features, same wan air.

And, entering in, he poured on the floor A bushel or more from his goodly store Of choicest potatoes.

The widow's heart leaped up for joy. Her face was pale and haggard no more. "Now," said the deacon, "shall we pray?" "Yes," said the widow, "now you may."

And he knelt him down on the sanded floor, Where he had poured out his goodly store, And such a prayer the deacon prayed, As never before his lips essayed.

No longer embarrassed, but free and full; He poured out the voice of a liberal soul; And the widow responded a loud "Amen!" But said no more of potatoes.

And would you who hear this simple tale, Pray for the poor, and praying prevail? Then preface your prayer with alms and good deeds;

Search out the poor, their wants and needs; Pray for their peace and grace, spiritual food, For wisdom and guidance—all these are good: But don't forget the potatoes!

—Independent.

NEW REMEDIES FOR BURNS.—Two new remedies for burns are added to the long list. The first is charcoal. A piece of vegetable charcoal laid on a burn at once soothes the pain, says the Gazette Medical, and if kept applied for an hour cures it completely. The second one is sulphate of iron. This was tried by M. Joel, in the Children's Hospital, Lausanne. In this case a child, four years of age, had been extensively burnt, suppuration was abundant and so offensive that they ordered the child a tepid bath, containing a couple of pinches of sulphate of iron. This gave immediate relief to the pain, and being repeated twice a day—twenty minutes each bath—the suppuration decreased, lost its odor, and the child was soon convalescent.—Medical Press and Circular.

It is said that in the Antarctic seas there are sea weeds which have stems about twenty feet high, and with a diameter so great that they have been collected by mariners in those regions for fuel, under the belief that they were driftwood. They are as thick as a man's thigh.

SEAWEED.

Wm. F. Howes, of East Danvers, says: I am not a farmer by profession except in a small way, but have had a good opportunity of observing the result of the seaweed treatment on one particular farm, where I was kept pretty closely to work from a small boy up to eighteen years of age. I then left farming to save my life, and after following the sea regularly for thirty years I came in possession of a part of the same farm, which had been managed during the thirty years by a man who believed in seaweed, and the improvement has been wonderful. The land that I could not then plough deeper than four inches without turning up the yellow, dead earth, we can now plough to six and eight inches, and turn up a dark, rich mould. Where we then raised rabbins, we now raise ears of corn at the rate of fifty bushels of shelled corn to the acre, which is probably about the average crop in the State, though some say they easily raise upwards of 100 bushels and take premiums for it at the fairs. The land I have described has been in constant tillage and mowing, a rotation every five or six years, say two years in grain, and three or four years in hay, a good dressing of seaweed from the barnyard and pigsty ploughed under for each grain crop, and no other manure. Neighboring farms under the seaweed treatment have done equally well. We have had farmers among us who affected to despise seaweed, but they are about all gone, while all agree that it is a boon to the farmer.

ALLIES OF THE AGRICULTURIST.

When the bird is no longer present to arrest the propagation of the insect, the equilibrium is destroyed; the insect multiplies, devours the harvests and leads the way to famine. The value of nutritive substances destroyed by insects, foots up to millions; it equals three times the amount of the land taxes. In view of all this, we organize for the destruction, of insects?—no; for that of the birds. Man creates misfortunes for the sake of repairing them. He breaks up the nests and kills the birds in order to raise millions of caterpillars. Man the king of animals, points his finger at the crow, which is a charming animal, inasmuch as he destroys caterpillars; and then, man, the king of animals, complains of his ravages and boasts that he employs the inhabitants of a whole commune to destroy him. Before the Acclimation Society, a French professor stated that the crow renders great service as a destroyer of caterpillars. Having dissected birds from various departments, he found in all their stomachs great quantities of these insects. The crow should then be protected on account of the service which he renders to agriculture. The stomachs of these birds contained only insects and gravel; very few grains of wheat were found in them.

SELECTING GOOD OAK.—When selecting this wood for whiplettes, &c., choose that in which the concentric rings are close, thick, and uniform, and has, when cut, a glossy varnish-like appearance, and is of a pale yellow or straw colour. That which has a bluish tinge is generally tough, but is apt to be elastic or springy.

MILITARY.—At the battle of Gravelotte, a trumpeter was killed by a ball which went in at the mouth of his instrument.

When the victory of Metz was celebrated at Berlin, a wealthy householder displayed, along with the national colors, four flags of black erape. They were intended to commemorate the loss of his four sons,—all killed in the present war.

MATRIMONIAL.—A female lecturer said: "Get married young men, and be quick about it. Don't wait for the millennium, for the girls to become angels. You'd look well beside an angel, wouldn't you, you blockhead?"

A man named Tease has married a Miss Cross. He Teased her until she agreed not to be Cross any more.

A veterinary observer writes to the Prairie Farmer that it is a mistaken notion that a horse is better for having large feet. He looks upon large feet, either in horse or man as an indication that all the bones of the animal are soft and porous.

Very intimate relations exist between the sun and digestion. Digestion and assimilation become weak and imperfect if the man or animal is not daily exposed to the direct rays of the sun.

MESSSENGER ALMA LACK.

FEBRUARY, 1871.

Full Moon, February 5th, 9h 47m. morn'g. Last Quarter, " 12th, 10h. 40m. m. rang. New Moon, " 19h, 9h. 31m. morn'g. First Quarter, " 27th, 6h. 24m. morn'g.

Table with columns: Day, SUN., MOON., High Tide at Halifax. Rows 1-28 showing tide data.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southing gives the time of high water at Parrsboro', Cornwallis, Horton, Hanisport, Windsor, Newport, and Truro.

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentine, 2 hours and 11 minutes later than at Halifax. At Annapolis, St. John, N. B., and Portland Maine, 3 hours and 25 minutes later, and at St. John's, Newfoundland 20 minutes earlier, than at Halifax. At Charlottetown, 2 hours 56 minutes later. At Westport, 2 hours 51 minutes later. At Yarmouth, 2 hours 20 minutes later.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE DAY.—Add 12 hours to the time of the sun's setting, and from the sum subtract the time of rising.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE NIGHT.—Subtract the time of the sun's setting from 12 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

NOVA SCOTIA RAILWAY. WINTER ARRANGEMENT, 1870-'71.

COMMENCING FRIDAY, DEC. 16, 1870. UNTIL further notice, Trains will run as follows:—

Table with columns: Station, Down Trains, Up Trains. Rows for Halifax, Windsor, Truro, etc.

WINDSOR AND ANNAPOLIS RAILWAY. TIME TABLE, No. 6.

Commencing 16th Dec., 1870.

Table with columns: Station, Miler, Passengers and Freight, Steam Boat Express, Mo & Sat. Rows for St. John, N.B., Annapolis, etc.

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