

girl will be! But the price, Alice, a good, fair price—what shall it be?

'I never sold a picture before,' said the girl, her face still radiant, and her lips smiling, as if they held some happy secret, 'but I'm sure I'd rather not have a cent more than they are really worth.'

'Very well child. I am going to the city on the five o'clock express, and will turn them over to my friend Lorn, an artist there, who will have them suitably framed for me. I will ask him to put a price upon them. He knows all about such things; and I will come in a day or so, to tell you his valuation. But for the present, I will leave you twenty-five dollars. All your eyes need is entire rest, and you must let them have it. Now, good-bye. I am in a great hurry this afternoon.'

But Alice detained him a minute. She raised her eloquent face to his, and held out her hand.

'Oh, sir, God must have sent you here to-day. I wish I knew how to thank you!'

Later on, when she had told the children of their wonderful good fortune, merry shouts and innocent laughter filled the humble room.

'And now we may hang up our stockings, sister?'

'Yes, indeed,' said Alice, with a beaming smile. And now, my dears, you must keep house for sister while she wraps up, and puts on a thick veil and goes to town. You shall have something nice to eat right away, you poor little hungry birds! Put on enough coal to make you a warm, bright fire. I'll order some more, now that I am so rich. How happy we will be! I father only knew—and perhaps he does and is happier for it, even in heaven!'

Fortunately for her peace of mind, Alice seldom reasoned upon the apparent unequal distribution of God's good gifts; or in her humility and simplicity, she might have imagined herself far below the rich in his esteem. She saw plainly the great difference between her lot and that of the young girl whose gleaming diamonds and frost-like lace dazzled her eyes, as they passed each other in the thoroughfare; but she asked herself no perplexing questions. She caught all the sunshine and bits of blue sky that God intended she should for weeks and months together, and if she sat down in darkness and gloom for a little while, when want and trouble came, who can wonder? She was only human, and eighteen years old.

But if her heart was light as she threaded the busy streets on this eventful evening, it was to be made lighter still in a way she never dreamed of. A great surprise awaited her.

(To be continued.)

FARM AND GARDEN.

REMOVING HORNS.—A stockman, in the Rural New Yorker, recommends the removal of the horns from young calves, saying that the pain caused to the animal by the operation is insignificant. It is very easily done when the young horns first become conspicuously prominent under the skin. The skin over the horn is the covering which afterwards grows to be the outer and more insensible casing of the horn; that, in fact, which is called the horn. The true horn lies under this, and can easily be removed by raising a flap of the skin and cutting it out. It may be done in a moment, and a plaster of tar over the cut protects the slight wound, which soon heals.

SALT AND LIME.—The following is recommended as an excellent combination for fertilizing purposes:—Mix one bushel of salt with two bushels of dry lime, under cover, and allow the mixture to decompose gradually, thus forming an intimate chemical union of the two materials. For this purpose the mixture should lie at least six weeks before use, or still better, two or three months, the heap being turned over occasionally. This salt and lime mixture when applied at the rate of twenty or thirty bushels per acre, forms an excellent top-dressing for crops. It acts powerfully, on the vegetable matter of soils. Fifty bushels applied to a turnip field have produced as large a crop as twenty loads of barnyard manure. It is also very destructive to insects and grubs in the soil. Like salt it attracts moisture from the air, and has been found useful against

drought. Its decomposing power is remarkable, and if three or four bushels of it are mixed with a cord of swamp muck the latter will soon be reduced to powder. Coarse manure is in a similar manner decomposed and made fine. Sour, wet muck thus treated and composted with barnyard manure constitutes a fertilizer almost as valuable as the unmixed manure of the barnyard.—*Prairie Farmer.*

Turnips, says the *Weekly Times*, are excellent food for cows, the only objection being that they give a disagreeable odor to milk and butter. This difficulty, it says, may be overcome by feeding them immediately after milking. The odor will all have passed away within the twelve hours before the next milking.

Turnips are not so good before as after a frost; but a very light frost is sufficient to impart a finer flavor. The growth, however, is made during the moist weather that follows the first light frosts.

The Scotch pine, according to Professor Sargent, of Harvard, is the most valuable tree farmers can plant for screens and wind-breaks about their fields and buildings

THE LARGEST OF APPLE TREES.—Probably the largest apple tree in the world is to be seen on the farm of Delos Hotchkiss, in Marion, Conn. Measurements taken of it are as follows:

Circumference of the trunk near the ground.....15 ft. 3 in. Circumference of the trunk, three feet from ground.....13 ft. 9 in. Circumference of the trunk, at the forks.....16 ft. 2 in. Circumference of the 2 main branches.....10 ft. 4 in., and 8 ft. 8 in. Circumference of nine smaller branches, from.....4 to 6 ft. each. Height of tree.....60 feet. Diameter of tree top.....104 feet.

A peculiarity of this tree is that it is what is termed "an alternate bearer;" five limbs bearing one year and four the next. The usual yield from the five limbs is about 85 bushels, although in a single instance it reached 110 bushels; and the four limbs vary from 35 to 40 bushels.—The fruit is said to be excellent for winter use.

The age of this venerable tree is estimated at about 175 to 180 years. Curiously enough the patriotic old tree marked the centennial year by bearing fruit on all its branches, the first time it was known to do so in its life, and it has continued to do so down to the present time.

Hogs.—Plenty of salt and red pepper in boiled hog feed is recommended by the *Rural Messenger.*

HOUSEHOLD.

COOKING AS A PART OF EDUCATION.—At the session of the State board of charities in Albany the other day a resolution was adopted setting forth that inasmuch as the teaching of cooking by professional persons has become in many sections of the State part of the education of young females for the practical duties of life, enabling those thus educated to obtain well paid positions, without difficulty in families, and placing them more readily in the rank of the self-supporting, and recommending to all orphan asylums in the state having females under their care to have instruction in cooking given to the older girls by competent persons from time to time as opportunities may occur, as is now done in many other schools not coming under the head of "asylums." The resolution also expresses the opinion that such a system, properly executed would do much to relieve the institutions from over-crowding and be one means of preventing the present rapid increase in the number of dependent orphans.

SALT liberally sprinkled over a carpet before sweeping will absorb the dust and dirt and bring out the colors as fresh as new.

A NICE BREAKFAST DISH.—Remove the skins from a dozen tomatoes; cut them up in a saucepan; add a little butter, pepper and salt; when sufficiently boiled beat up five or six eggs, and just before you serve turn them into the saucepan with the tomatoes and stir one way for two minutes, allowing them time to be done thoroughly.

UNFERMENTED WINE.—To make an unfermented drink of pleasant flavour from grapes:—Mash the grapes; boil or not, as convenient—by boiling more, colour is extracted from the skins—then press. When it is desired to bottle it, sweeten the juice to taste with best white sugar, fill the bottles, set them upon a wooden foundation in a boiler, surround them with water up to the necks, bringing to a boil, and boil for ten minutes. Then from one of the bottles fill the rest, to make up loss by evaporation, and cork them while hot. The sulphurous acid gas impregnating the juice will be volatilized and driven off by the heat.

PRESERVED APPLES.—Apples which you are sure will not keep may be preserved, and they are excellent with meats or for tea. Prepare in this proportion:—Pare and core 12 large apples. Cut each in eighths. Make a syrup of one pound of sugar and half a pint of water. Put as many pieces of apple into this syrup to boil as you can without their breaking. When tender skim them out, and add to the syrup one cup of sugar. Let this boil slowly for ten minutes. If the apples are flavourless, a little lemon may be added.

TO RESTORE COLOR.—When color on a fabric has been accidentally or otherwise destroyed by acid, ammonia is applied to neutralize the same, after which an application of chloroform will in almost all cases, restore the original color. The application of ammonia is common, but that of chloroform is but little known.

SCIENCE.

REAPPEARANCE OF THE COMET OF 1812.—On the third of September, Mr. Brooks, of Phelps, New York, discovered a telescopic comet. Its advent was quickly made known to the scientific world, and it was described as round and faint, and having no tail. Its course was toward the earth, and it was hoped that it would become visible to the naked eye in two or three months. It was generally accepted as a new-comer making its first visit to the clime of the sun.

Instead however of being a new-comer, this comet is an old friend that made its first recorded visit in 1812 and is known as Pons' comet from the name of the discoverer, or more simply, as the comet of 1812. Encke an astronomer of the time, found that the comet moved in an ellipse with a probable period of nearly 71 years, so that its return was looked for about this time.

Cosmic astronomy was comparatively in its infancy when Encke made the computation of the orbit of this comet. It is simply wonderful that, with the data at his command, he should have reached a result so nearly accurate. Within a few years, however, two series of observations of the comet have been discovered which were unknown to Encke.

There is therefore no shadow of a doubt that our eyes behold the long expected comet of 1812. Its perihelion passage will take place on the 25th of January, 1884. It will then be about 60,000,000 miles distant from the earth, two-thirds the distance of the sun.

The comet of 1812 may now be seen in the evening in the northwest in a telescope of moderate power, and is said to be visible in a good opera glass. In a few weeks it will be easily perceptible to the unassisted eye, and when the year 1884 makes its advent, it will be near its culminating point. It will not equal the superb comet of 1882 in size or brilliancy, but it will be visible in the evening sky and will be so much more convenient to observe that there will be compensation in its lessened splendor.

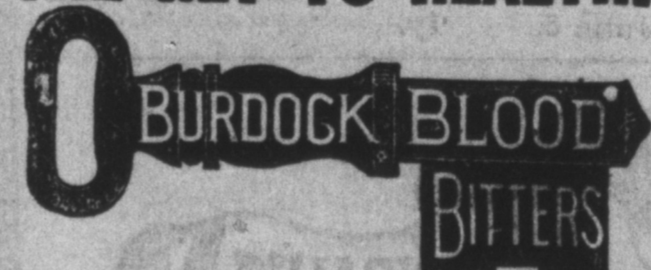
It is an astronomical triumph, that with the inadequate means at command for computing an ephemeris, an astronomer seventy years ago was able to predict nearly the exact time for this comet's return. Our ancient friend is winging its swift flight toward us, and before long our eyes will be gladdened by a sight of its face after a long travel of threescore years and ten, when almost every eye that noted its first appearance has ceased to behold the shining picture that nightly arches over the earth.—*Sc. Am.*

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