

The Family and the Farm.

Looking Through Glass.

"Lucy," said Frank, one day, to his sister, "I think cousin James is nothing but a spooney, after all."

"And what is a spooney?" asked Lucy, smiling.

"O, you know. He knows Latin, and all such things, but he don't know anything that's worth knowing. When we were on the pond, yesterday, I told him to take hold of the rudder, and what do you suppose he did? He took the oar. Now, if that is not being a spooney, what is?"

"Then that is your definition of a spooney, is it?"

"Yes. You know any one may be smart enough, and yet know nothing about practical matters."

"But James is two years younger than you, and has never been in the country before."

"Well, I guess I should have known better than that, if I'd never heard of the country," replied Frank, rather contemptuously.

Lucy said nothing more at the moment, but waited till the children were all assembled in the sitting-room, after tea. Then she said to James,

"Did I not hear you say you had been to visit some glass works, a week or two before you came here?"

"Yes, I went with Uncle John."

"I wish you would tell me something about them," continued Lucy. "I have never seen anything of the kind."

"Well," said James, "in the first place, of course, you go into the great rooms where the sand is heaped up."

"What's the sand for?" asked Frank.

"To make the glass, of course," said James, rather scornfully.

Frank looked a little abashed. "If they make glass out of sand," said he, "I think this would be a splendid place to make it, for here is the whole seashore, with such nice, white sand."

"Pooh!" said James; "they wouldn't look at such sand as this to make glass. It would be too coarse for barn windows."

"Perhaps they refine it," suggested Frank.

"I don't know where they could get any better."

"O, there are plenty of places. This that we saw came from Berkshire county, where there are whole hills of fine, white sand, which looks almost like snow. Then they have to mix other things with it to make glass."

"Yes," said Frank, "water, I suppose, to boil it down."

James tried hard not to laugh, but could not help it.

"I don't remember everything; but one of the principal things is potash, and for nice glass, red lead. And, O, Lucy, you ought to see the lead! They have great bars of it, and it looks as dull as you please. But they put it into great ovens, that are heated so hot you can't stand within a rod of them, and melt it. And you never saw such a beautiful color. A man stands with a long iron rod, and works it over and over. O, I wish you could see it! Uncle John said that even vermillion did not begin to express the depth and splendor of it; and it varies from silver to scarlet. It is perfectly beautiful! O, then—I forgot—I suppose I ought to have told you, in the first place, how they make the pots for melting the glass. They have a peculiar kind of clay which comes from Germany, I believe, and they they put into great bins. And how do you suppose they get all the air out of it?"

"I suppose they have some enormous great press," suggested Frank.

"No," said James; "they tried to use a machine, but found it wouldn't answer. The men tread out the clay barefooted. They tread, tread, all day long, and there is nothing like it for making the clay compact and pressing out all the air."

"How dreadful!" said little Mary; "I should not want to do that."

"Nor I," said James; "but the men said they liked it well enough. Then they take the clay and knead it, just like bread, and make it into long rolls, and make the pots of these, pressing them on, one by one, with their hands. So the pots are very strong; and they let them stand and dry six months before they use them, or else they would crack as soon as put into the furnaces. They are the funniest looking things! It was as good as going to a menagerie. There was a great room full of these pots that were drying, and they looked for all the world like elephants that had lost their trunks."

"I should think it would wear off in a little while," said Frank.

"So it would if it wasn't burnt; but after they paint the glass, they put it into a furnace, and keep it there till the colors are firm."

"I should think that would melt the glass," said Frank.

"O, they don't put it right into the fire, but only where it is very hot."

"How very nice it must be to see such things," said Frank, sighing, half enviously.

"Well," said James, "when you come to see me, I will show you all kinds of such things."

"When Frank said 'good-night' to Lucy, he whispered in her ear.

"I don't think now that James is such a spooney, after all. I am afraid I should have known less than he does about the country, if I had never lived in it; and he knows *heaps* of things I don't know."—Little Corral.

MARKETS.

Revised every Wednesday, for the Visitor.

COUNTRY MARKET.

Butter, in firkins, 100 lbs. 25 00 to 26 00

"Roll, 100 lbs. 27 00 to 28 00

Beef, 100 lbs. 22 00 to 23 00

"Do, 100 lbs. 24 00 to 25 00

Buckwheat, 100 lbs. 2 00 to 2 50

Calf Skins, per pair 12 00 to 14 00

Chickens, 100 lbs. 30 00 to 35 00

Cordwood, at the station 5 00 to 6 00

Eggs, 100 dozen 12 00 to 13 00

Hams, 100 lbs. 12 00 to 13 00

Hides, per lb. 05 00 to 06 00

Wool, per lb. 05 00 to 06 00

Lamb, per lb. 05 00 to 06 00

Lamb Skins, 100 25 00 to 26 00

May 14. 05 00 to 06 00

May 15. 05 00 to 06 00

May 16. 05 00 to 06 00

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