

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Some Valuable Information for the Plowman, Stockman, Poulterer, Nurseryman, and Everybody Connected with the Farm.

THE FARM.

Beautifying the Farm Home.

It is too often said farmers have no time for ornamental work. This is a mistake more of the understanding than of the judgment.

The usefulness of a horse or other animal to a farmer depends more on his handsomeness and well cared for; neither will detract from the yards about our houses to have them neat.

The first province of the art is to "remove nuisances," and this should be the keynote of our work. Better have the surroundings of our homes neat and fresh, by such common means as we have in our power to use.

In planning our ground, few designs are more generally satisfactory than an irregular border running around the yard and back of the house, with a row of growing plants in front, with the middle left open for a good space of grass.

The "best soil" is that which we have, for it is what we must use. Perhaps it is too poor to raise many things, and we must modify and improve it by the means in our power.

Every one who has had to pick apples in a side-hill orchard will understand the value of the device illustrated herewith.

It is an adjustable ladder-foot. It consists of a piece of wood about two feet long and the same width and thickness as the foot of the ladder.

A subscriber asks if there can be described a plan by which a tree can be properly stuck a hog.

The animal begins to struggle then lift square on his back, place a foot on each side of his head. Facilitate the animal, hold the head down to the ground by placing the left hand on the snout.

Withdraw the knife quickly, and a gushing stream will follow it out. The idea is to cut the aorta, the great artery rising from the left ventricle of the heart.

This is a sketch of a farm gate which I have used for several years, and have never seen in use anywhere beyond my farm, writes John P. Tripp in Farm and Home.

A back piece is made of scantling three inches square. This is as high as the high post of the gate. The top hinge must be put as high as the gate will allow, as shown.

The large grass louse preys on the skin of the heads and necks, and the long louse works on the feathers.

The turpentine is not rich in the elements necessary for the purpose of the hen, but it promotes health and egg production by making her quicker on her feet.

This may be done any time after the leaves have fallen from the trees and are in a dormant state, without injury to the vine or materially affecting the growth of wood or fruit the following season.

Nowhere do conveniences for doing work pay better than in the kitchen. The smooth running of which department the greater part of domestic comforts depend.

The top has a leaf behind it that can be raised by drawing out the table, when more room is desired for ironing or other work.

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These conveniences may serve as suggestions for others, should be continually on the lookout for means by which housework can be made lighter, and there are usually many ways if some thought and study be given to the matter.

BEEF marrow is excellent for frying purposes. Use turpentine and machine oil to polish your sewing-machine, and rub briskly.

It is not generally known that chamomile money bits are worn by a great many New York women of means.

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A BRILLIANT RELIGION.

SERMON DELIVERED BY DR. TALMAGE.

"The Crystal Cannot Equal It"—Job xxvii. 7, 8. The eminent Divine's Text—Ecclesiastes is far superior to the Crystal in all desirable qualities.

Dr. Talmage's text was, "The crystal cannot equal it" (Job xxvii. 7). Many of the precious stones of the Bible have come to prompt recognition.

In the first place, I remark that religion is not a religion; it is a religion in exactness. That shapless mass of crystal against which you accidentally dashed your foot is laid out with more exactness than any earthly city.

Again I remark that religion is superior to the crystal in transparency. We know not when or by whom glass was first discovered. Beads of it have been found in the tomb of Alexander Severus.

There is nothing so transparent in a crystal as in our holy religion. It is a transparent religion. You put it before your eye and you see man—his sin, his soul, his destiny. You look at God and you see something of the grandeur of his character.

Now I have no equaling for those people who are always insisting on Christian judgements about their early dissipation. Do not go into the particulars, my brothers. Simply say you were sick, but make no display of your ulcers.

Ions, said: "I am the wheat, and the bread of the wild beasts must first grind me before I can become pure bread for Jesus Christ," or the company of such men as Polycarp, who when standing in the midst of the amphitheater waiting for lions to come out of their cave and destroy him, and the people in the galleries jeering and shouting.

I remark again that religion surpasses the crystal in its beauty. That lump of crystal is put upon the magnifying glass of the orator, and he sees in it indescribable beauty—snow-drifts and splinters of hoar frost and corals and wreaths and stars and crowns and castles of conspicuous beauty.

Oh, it is not a stale religion, it is not a stupid religion, it is not a toothless hag, as some seem to have represented it; it is not a Meg Merrilies with shriveled arm come to scare the world.

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In this world, and not until Heaven breaks upon the soul. When that light falls upon the soul, there you will see the crystals. Oh what a magnificent thing for these jewels of eternity!

In another place he says, "Before the throne there was a sea of glass clear as crystal." Three crystals! John says crystal atmosphere. That means health. Balm of eternal jubilee. That weather after the world's east wind!

Oh, says some one, putting his hand over his eyes, "can it be that I who have been in so much sin and trouble will ever come to those crystals?" Yes, it may be—it will be. Heaven we must have, whatever else we have or have not, and we come here to get it.

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