BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

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Promises make debts and debts make more promises.

Popular fallacies are more plentiful than popular facts.

Men who court trouble soon find themselves wedded to it.

You can't distinguish saints from sinners by their shiny hats.

There is no ailment more difficult to cure than willful ignorance.

Good fortune comes to men oftener on foot than in a stylish carriage.

There's usually a vast difference in a man's worth and what he is worth.

Marriages may be made in heaven, but there will always be a few doubters.

Old Diogenes would have an anxious time of it in France at the present writing.

Education benefits a man but little if he is unable to recognize an opportunity when he meets it.

The man who lets his wife get up of a cold morning and light the kitchen fire will never set the world ablaze.

"There are no birds in last year's nests," says a poet. True—and, by the way, there are no nests for next year's birds.

There is one Spanish possession, at least, that Uncle Sam does not want—the province of Promise in the land of Manana.

When last heard of the Quebec boundary commission was resting quietly with respiration normal and pulse even.

The woman who does not understand the art of making over her last year's bonnet should never marry a drunkard to reform him.

The Boston Herald says that to cure insomnia one "should jump out of bed and stand on one's feet." Is the Herald in the habit of standing on its head?

A special dispatch from Madrid reports that the Spanish navy has been put on a peace footing. Dewey broke the navy in two for the purpose of keeping the peace.

Army officers examined at Huntsville, Ala., lay most of the blame for their troubles to the weather. Now let us have the weather ordered up for court-martial and finish the business.

Report says that the Gould system has been looking for a deep-water outlet on the gulf coast. But the Supreme Court decision on traffic agreements has put it in deep enough water to satisfy it for the present.

Those who have given most thought and study to the subject concur in the testimony that it is not the work of brain or body that kills, but the accompanying worries and anxieties, combined with unphysiological habits of life, that undermine the sensitive nervous system and ruin the constitution. And here an aggravating fact comes in—in nine cases out of ten the disquieting thoughts and carking cares which are harbored and brooded over, are entirely unnecessary and tearfully imaginary. There are numberless kinds of worry, and many people seem born with a predisposition to it.

The average person if asked to name the most precious metal would mention gold, yet there are many less known metals that are worth far more. Gold is worth $250 per pound, troy weight. Barium, the metal which Davy isolated from its ore, baryta, in 1808, sells for $950 a pound, when it is sold at all, and calcium is worth $1,800 a pound. Cirium is a shade higher; its cost is $160 an ounce, or $1,920 per pound. These begin to look like fabulous prices, but they do not reach the highest point, chromium being $200. Cobalt falls to about half the price of silver, while didymium, the metal isolated by Masander, is the same price as calcium. Then comes gallium, which is worth $3,250 an ounce. With this metal the highest price is reached, and it may well be called the rarest and most precious of metals. Glucium is worth $250 per ounce, idium $150, iridium $68 a pound, janthanium $175, and lithium $160 per ounce. Nidium costs $128 per ounce, osmium, palladium, platinum, potassium and rhodium bring respectively $640, $400, $130, $32 and $512 per pound. Strontium costs $128 an ounce, tantaum $144, tilurium $9, thorium $272, vanadium $320, yttrium $144, and zinconium $250 an ounce.

It is just thirty years ago that Queen Isabella was deposed and fled from Madrid, and it was generally agreed that it was a good riddance. The exqueen is now 68 years old, but in good health and has not yet ceased to hope. She may live to see another change in the rulers of Spain.

A man in New York has offered to show Chief of Police Devery "a wide-open town." If he didn't explain in his offer that he meant New York itself we would surely think he intended to bring him to Chicago.

Trust France to find a way of letting go one horn or both horns of a dilemma. It was dangerous to persist that Dreyfus was guilty. It was equally dangerous to revise his case. So the court of cassation will decide "there was no treason," and the prisoner of Devil's Island will be free. But will Dreyfus be content to accept liberty without vindication?

It will cost $22,000,000 to put the streets of Havana in good condition. Those streets must be in almost as bad a condition as Chicago's.

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

THE WRESTLERS THE SUBJECT SUNDAY.

"We Wrestle Not Against Flesh and Blood but Against Principalities, Against Powers, Against the Rulers of Darkness."

Squeamishness and fastidiousness were never charged against Paul's rhetoric. In the war against evil he took the first weapon he could lay his hand on. For illustration, he employed the theater, the arena, the footrace, and there was nothing in the Isthmian game, with its wreath of pine leaves, or Pythian game, with its wreath of laurel and palm; or Nemean game, with its wreath of parsley; or any Roman circus, but he felt he had a right to put it in sermon or epistle, and are you not surprised that in my text he calls upon a wrestling bout for suggestiveness? Plutarch says that wrestling is the most artistic and cunning of athletic games. We must make a wide difference between pugilism, the lowest of spectacles, and wrestling, which is an effort in sport to put down another on floor or ground, and we, all of us, indulged in it in our boyhood days, if we were healthful and plucky. The ancient wrestlers were first bathed in oil, and then sprinkled with sand. The third throw decided the victory, and many a man who went down in the first throw or second throw, in the third throw was on top, and the victor was under. The Romans did not like this game very much, for it was not savage enough, no blows or kicks being allowed in the game. They preferred the foot of hungry panther on the breast of fallen martyr.

In wrestling, the opponents would bow in apparent suavity, advance face to face, put down both feet solidly, take each other by the arms, and push each other backward and forward until the work began in real earnest, and there were contortions and strangulations and violent strokes of the foot of one contestant against the foot of the other, tripping him up, or with struggle that threatened apoplexy or death, the defeated fell, and the shouts of the spectators greeted the victor. I guess Paul had seen some such contest, and it reminded him of the struggle of the soul with temptation, and the struggle of truth with error, and the struggle of heavenly forces against apollyonic powers and he dictates my text to an amanuensis, for all his letters, save the one to Philemon, seem to have been dictated, and as the amanuensis goes on with his work I hear the groan and laugh and shout of earthly and celestial belligerents: "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

I notice that as these wrestlers advanced to throw each other they bowed one to the other. It was a civility, not only in Grecian and Roman games, but in later day, in all the wrestling bouts at Clerkenwell, England, and in the famous wrestling match during the reign of Henry III., in St. Giles' Field, between men of Westminster and people of London. However rough a twist and hard a pull each wrestler contemplated giving his opponent, they approached each other with politeness and suavity. The genuflexions, the affability, the courtesy in no wise hindered the decisiveness of the contest. Well, Paul, I see that you mean, in this awful struggle between right and wrong, we must not forget to be gentlemen and ladies.

We are in the strength of God to throw flat on its back every abomination that curses the earth, but let us approach our mighty antagonist with suavity. Hercules, son of Jupiter and Alemene, with the precursor of smiles he helped rather than damaged for the performance of his "twelve labors." Let us be as wisely strategic in religious circles as attorneys in court-rooms, who are complimentary to each other in the opening remarks, before they come into legal struggle as that which left Rufus Choate or David Paul Brown triumphant or defeated. People who get into a rage in reformatory work accomplish nothing but the depletion of their own nervous system. There is such a thing as having a gun so hot at its muzzle that the gun explodes, killing the one that sets it off. There are some reformatory meetings to which I always decline to go and take part, because they are apt to be; come demonstrations of bad temper. I never like to hear a man swear, even though he may be on the right side. The very Paul who in my text employed in illustration the wrestling match, behaved on a memorable occasion as we ought to behave. The translators of the Bible made an unintentional mistake when they represented Paul, on Mars hill, the people of Athens by speaking of "the unknown god whom ye ignorantly worship." Instead of charming them with ignorance, the original indicates he complimented them by suggesting that they were very religious; but as they confessed that there were some things they did not understand about God, he proposed to say some things concerning Him, beginning where they had left off. The same Paul who said in one place, "Be courteous," and who had noticed the bow preceding the wrestling bout in the exercises gymnasties before he proceeds practically to throw down the rocky side of the Acropolis the whole Parthenon of idolatries, Minerva and Jupiter smashed up with the rest of them. In this holy war polished rifles will do more execution than blunderbusses. Let our wrestlers bow as they go into the struggle which will leave all perdition under and all heaven on top.

Remember also that these wrestlers went through severe and continuous course of preparation for their work. They were put upon such diet as would best develop their muscle. As Paul says, "Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." The wrestlers were put under complete discipline—bathing, gymnastics, struggle in sport with each other to develop strength and give quickness to dodge of head and trip of foot; stooping to lift each other off the ground; suddenly rushing forward; suddenly pulling backward; putting the left foot behind the other's right foot, and getting his opponent off his balance; hard training for days and weeks and months, and then they met in the giant, clutching giant. And, my friends, if we do not want ourselves to be thrown in this wrestle with the sin and error of the world, we had better get ready by Christian discipline, by holy self-denial, by constant practice, by submitting to the divine supervision and direction. Do not begrude the time and the money for that young man who is in preparation for the ministry, spending two years in grammar school, and four years in college, and three years in theological seminary. I believe that nine years are a big slice to take off of a man's active life, but if you realized the height and strength of the archangels of evil in our time with which that young man is going to wrestle, you would not think nine years of preparation were too much. In olden times the ministry was entered in other days, but not in this time, loaded with schools and colleges. A man who wrote me the other day a letter asking advice, as he felt called to preach the Gospel, began the word "God" with a small "g." That kind of a man is not called to preach the Gospel. Illiterate men, preaching the Gospel, quote for their own encouragement the scriptural passage, "Open thy mouth wide and I fill it." Yes! He will fill it with wind. Preparation for this wrestling is absolutely necessary. Many years ago Doctor Newman and Doctor Sunderland, one the platform of Brigham Young's tabernacle at Salt Lake City, Utah, gained the victory because they had so long been skillful wrestlers for God. Otherwise Brigham Young, who was himself a giant in some things, would have thrown them out of the window. Get ready in Bible classes. Get ready in Christian Endeavor meetings. Get ready by giving testimony in obscure places, before giving testimony in conspicuous places.

Your going around with a Bagster's Bible with flaps at the edges, under your arm, does not qualify you for the work of an evangelist. In this day of profuse gab, remember that it is not merely capacity to talk, but the fact that you have something to say, that is going to fit you for the struggle into which you are to go with a smile on your face and illumination on your brow, but out of which you will not come until all your physical and mental and moral and religious energies have been taxed to the utmost and you have not a nerve left, or a thought unexpended, or a prayer unsaid, or a sympathy unwept. In this struggle between Right and Wrong accept no challenge on platform or in newspaper unless you are prepared. Do not misapply the story of Goliath the Great, and David the Little. David had been practising with a sling on dogs and wolves and bandits, and a thousand times had he swirled a stone around his head before he aimed at the forehead of the giant and tumbled him backward, otherwise the big foot of Goliath would almost have covered up the crushed form of the son of Jesse.

Notice also that in this science of wrestling, to which Paul refers in my text, it was the third throw that decided the contest. A wrestler might be thrown once and thrown twice, but the third time he might recover himself, and, by an unexpected twist of arm or crunch of foot, gain the day. That is broad, smiling, unmistakable Gospel. Some whom I address through ear or eye, by voice or printed page, have been thrown in their wrestle with evil habit.

Aye! you have been thrown twice; but that does not mean, oh! worsted soul, that you are thrown forever. I have no authority for saying how many times a man may sin and be forgiven, or how many times he may fall and yet rise again; but I have authority for saying that he may fall four hundred and ninety times, and four hundred and ninety times get up. The Bible declares that God will forgive seventy times seven, and if you will employ the rule of multiplication you will find that seventy times seven is four hundred and ninety. Blessed be God for such a Gospel of high hope and thrilling encouragement and magnificent rescue! A Gospel of lost sheep brought home on Shepherd's shoulder, and the prodigals who got into the low work of putting husks into swines' troughs brought home to jewelry and banqueting and hilarity that made the rafters ring!

Two sketches of the same man: A happy home, of which he and a lassie taken from a neighbor's house are the united heads. Years of happiness roll on after years of happiness. Stars pointing down to nativities. And whether announced in greeting or not, every morning was a "Good Morning," and every night a "Good Night." Christmas trees and May Queens, and birthday festivities and Thanksgiving gatherings around loaded tables. But that husband and father forms an unfortunate acquaintance who leads him in circles too convivial, too late-houred, too scandalous. After awhile his money gone and not able to bear his part of the expense, he is gradually shoved out and ignored and pushed away. Now, what a dilapidated home is his! A dissipated life always shows itself in faded window curtains, and impoverished wardrobe, and dejected surroundings, and in broken palings of the garden fence, and the unhinged gate, and the dislocated doorbell, and the disappearance of wife and children from scenes among which they shone the brightest, and laughed the gladdest. If any man was ever down, that husband and father is down. The fact is, he got into a wrestle with Evil that pushed and pulled and contorted and exhausted him worse than any Olympian game ever treated a Grecian, and he was thrown. Thrown out of prosperity into gloom. Thrown out of good association into bad. Thrown out of health into invalidism. Thrown out of happiness into misery. But one day, while slinking through one of the back streets, not wishing to be recognized, a good thought crosses his mind, for he has heard of men flung flat rising again. Arriving at his house, he calls his wife in and shuts the door and says: "Mary, I am going to do differently. This is not what I promised you when we were married. You have been very patient with me, and have borne everything, although would have had no right to complain if you had left me and gone home to your father's house. It seems to me that once or twice, when I was not myself, I struck you, and several times, I know, I called you hard names. Now I want you to forgive me." "Help you?" she says; "bless your soul! of course I will help you. I knew you didn't mean it when you treated me roughly. All that is in the past. Never refer to it again. Today let us begin anew." Sympathizing friends come around and kind business people help the man to something to do, so that he can again earn a living. The children soon have clothing so that they can go to school. The old songs which the wife sang years ago come back to her memory, and she sings them over again at the cradle, or while preparing the noon-day meal. Domestic resurrection! He comes home earlier than he used to, and he is glad to spend the evening playing games with the children or helping them with arithmetic or grammar lessons which are a little too hard. Time passes on, and some outsider suggests to him that he is not getting as much out of life as he ought, and proposes an occasional visit to scenes of dissipation and disolpation. He consents to go once, and, after much solicitation, twice. Then his old habit comes back. He says he has been belated, and could not get back until midnight. He had to see some Western merchant that had arrived and talk of business with him before he got out of town. Kindness and geniality again quit the disposition of that husband and father. The wife's heart breaks in a new place. That man goes into a second wrestle with evil and is flung, and all hell cackles at the moral defeat. "I told you so!" say many people who have no faith in the reformation of a fallen man. "I told you so! You made a great fuss about his restored home, but I knew it would not last. You can't trust such fellows. They have once gone wrong." So with this unfortunate, things get worse and worse, and his family have to give up the house, and the last valuable goes to the pawnbroker's shop. But that unfortunate man is sauntering along the street one Sunday night, and he goes up to a church door, and the congregation are singing the second hymn, the one just before sermon, and it is William Cowper's glorious hymn.—

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Emanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

ODD RESULTS OF THE WAR.

Money Belts Have Been in Greater Demand Than for Many Years.

In the past six months there has been a greater demand for money belts than has existed before in the memory of any local dealer in that unpretentious but useful article. The unusual inquiry has in great part come from one or other of the new possessions which "manifest destiny" has thrust into United States domain. It is true that the summer is always the best season for such things, because of the great amount of vacation travel, but this year the number made and disposed of has been larger than usual. One Philadelphia firm, which has agents in this city, has filled several government orders for money-belts, to be used by officers of the army. These belts were of the same pattern that is commonly worn, with pockets about two feet long and three and a half or four inches wide, divided into several compartments for the different sizes of the money. The flaps of these compartments button down securely over them, and when the belt is fastened around the waist by means of stout tapes attached to the ends of it for that purpose, there is no possibility of having its contents drop out. The belts are all of about the same pattern, varying only in the arrangements and sizes of the compartments. They come in several kinds of leather—chamois, calf, soft-finished seal and buckskin.

Their Never-Ending Warfare.

Friend—Did you see this article? The prohibitionists are on the warpath again. Druggist—What's the trouble? Friend—They complain that the drug-stores in this town are being run wide open.—Puck.

Interest in the Baby.

Papa—Poor little fellow! It's his teeth that makes him cry that way. Friend—His teeth, eh? What do you do for that? Have 'em filled or extracted?—Puck.

PERSONALITIES.

Wealth seems determined to come to some men. Mr. Herbert Molyneux tried hard, but unsuccessfully, to dispose of his share in the Rivas diamond mine for $500. He now asks $1,250,000.

The emperor William has conferred the honorary colonelcy of the 15th Hanoverian hussars, stationed at Wandsbeck, near Hamburg, on the queen of Holland, in honor of her accession.

M. Jean de Reszke considers London a delightful bicycle center and when in town enjoys many a spin through its prettiest environs. Vocalists may be interested to hear that the great tenor considers bicycling in moderation the best of tonics for the vocal cords.

Much indignation has been caused in Berlin by the announcement that the kaiser has just restored to liberty Lieut. Von Brandewitz, who eighteen months ago was sentenced to three years' confinement in a fortress for having run through with his sword and killed a well-to-do mechanic of the name of Siepmann, in the Lohrengrin cafe at Carlsbad.

Mrs. Jefferson Davis, by the death of her daughter Winnie, is left as the last real link connecting the name of Jefferson Davis with the present. Mrs. Davis is in the seventies and in rare good health for so old a woman. She is a fine type of the old school southern lady, and, of course, her life is wedded to the past. For years the routine of her life has remained unchanged. For wit and taste Mrs. Davis has few equals, and, although she suffers from a slight lameness, she has never allowed her physical weakness to interfere with her good temper or her kindly disposition.

DAIRY AND POULTRY.

INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How Successful Farmers Operate This Department of the Farm—A Few Hints as to the Care of Live Stock and Poultry.

Street Sweepings as Manure.

The United States Department of Agriculture has been conducting some investigations on the manurial value of street sweeping. The report says in part:

The fertilizing value of street sweepings varies greatly with the nature of the pavements, being practically nothing in the case of the material taken from macadamized roads, and approaching that of good stable manure in the case of that collected on the hand-swept and well-paved streets of crowded cities. The regulations in different cities governing the nature of substances which may be thrown into the alleys and streets, and thus find their way into the material collected by the sweepers, vary so greatly that there is consequently a corresponding difference in the cost of sorting and preparing the material for spreading on the land. It is believed that the rapidly increasing sentiment in favor of the careful separation and systematic utilization of all forms of city wastes will tend to remove this difficulty and thus increase the value of sweepings, particularly of those collected in alleys, where the percentage of miscellaneous rubbish is now often very great. As a minimum the quantity and, in many cases, the quality of the street cleaner's product is greatly increased by the falling leaves.

Without a knowledge of the results of a large number of carefully conducted experiments, it would be hard to determine from the results of an analysis just what price per ton farmers can afford to pay for street sweepings in addition to the cost of hauling and spreading them on the land. Using the very conservative estimate of 10 cents per pound for the nitrogen, and disregarding the phosphoric acid and potash, the poorest sample analyzed would be worth 34 cents per ton; while the richest sample would be worth $1.46 per ton. The material has considerable value for many soils in addition to the value of the plant food it contains. Gardeners declare that it is very useful for improving the mechanical condition of stiff and badly aerated soils. It would also improve the condition of very light soils which are deficient in moisture-holding capacity because of the low percentage of organic matter which they contain.

The nitrogen of street sweepings is not as readily available as that of nitrogen of ordinary stable manure, because of the smaller proportion of urine contained in the sweepings. It is a well established fact that the nitrogen in the urine of animals is much more readily available than that contained in their solid excrement. It is, therefore, very difficult to make an estimate of the money value of street sweepings because of the great variation in their composition, which is dependent upon the nature of the pavements, the season of the year during which they are collected, the method of collection, etc., and because many accurate field tests must be made before we can determine their exact value as a source of plant food. Sixteen cities reported the prices at which street sweepings are sold to farmers by their street-cleaning departments or contractors. These prices vary from 15 cents to $2 per ton. The city of Atlanta reports a contract for the sale of the sweepings of their streets for $60 per year and an arrangement which gives the street-cleaning department the advantage of a short haul. This seems to be an excellent arrangement for both parties concerned, as the average quality of the entire product of a city for a whole year ought not to vary greatly from year to year. Moreover, the price can be adjusted equitably from year to year as the true value of the material becomes apparent.

Why Fruit Does Not Set.

According to a report from the Kansas experiment station there are four important reasons why fruit may fail to set:

1. The pollen may be insufficient in quantity. This applies particularly to the strawberry. Many of our cultivated varieties, the so-called pistillate sorts, produce only a small amount of pollen, not enough for complete fertilization (such as Bubach, Warfield, Crescent). A failure from this cause may be easily prevented by planting pollen-producing varieties (the so-called staminate sorts) among the others (such as Capt. Jack, Parker Earle, Gandy).

2. Insects may be prevented from visiting the flowers during the receptive period. If bees are kept from fruit blossoms by netting or other artificial means, the amount of fruit set is little or none. It not infrequently happens that inclement weather prevents or hinders the flying of bees during the period when the flowers are receptive. A fruit tree, half of which was subjected to such conditions, failed to set fruit during the flowering period, produced no fruit upon the sprayed portion, but ar. abundance upon the other. A failure due to the above mentioned cause cannot well be prevented, but may be modified by having bees near at hand to utilize the short favorable periods which do occur.

3. In some varieties of fruits the flowers are self-sterile and refuse to take pollen even from another flower on the same plant. Fertilization can then take place only when the pollen comes from a separate plant, that is from a plant arising from a separate seed. All our varieties of orchard and small fruits are reproduced by cuttings, grafts, buds, layers or other similar methods and not from seed, hence are merely one plant cut up into a great many parts. Therefore in self-steril) varieties (such as Bartlett pears, the Brighton, Merrimac and Wilder grapes) the pollen must be obtained from another variety. Isolated plants or large orchards of a single variety may fail to set fruit from this cause. To prevent such failures, mix the varieties. The quickest way to remedy cases which have reached maturity is to top grafts another variety upon them in sufficient quantity. (The Seckel and Kieffer pears and the Concord, Niagara, Agawam and Green Mountain grapes are self-fertile.)

4. An insufficient supply of bees will hinder the setting of fruit. While other insects may take part in the carrying of pollen, the fruit raiser must rely chiefly upon honey-bees. Experience shows that though hungry bees may fly two or three miles, hives should be within half a mile of the orchard or small fruit patch.

Good Feeding and Good Breeding.

Mr. J. H. Miller says: "In breeding pedigreed cattle for profit, nothing short of the very best care you can bestow should be thought of. In the first place, well fed and highly developed animals are always attractive; then who come to breeding barns expect to see something above the ordinary. It will not satisfy the average buyer to be told 'all these cattle need to make them as fine and large as those of Mr. So and So's, is more feed and the same care he gives his stock.' Ill-kept and under-sized cattle can only be sold to second and third-rate buyers; they will not command the prices that bring gain to the breeder. The fat, sleek cows are silent salesmen of the breeding barns, more effective than any speech the owner can make to bring prospective buyers to the point of purchase. We hold, too, that quality can be fed into cattle, as well as bred into them. We believe that stock that has been pushed to early maturity through several successive generations by generous care will beget the quality of early maturity in their offspring; finally a fixing it as a valuable heredity in the family so treated. On our farm we certainly do not allow our cattle to go hungry. We grind all our grain, corn, mixed bran, oats and other foods with the cob to give needed variety and to the mixture we add a considerable quantity of cut hay or straw to give bulk. It is believed that ground grain alone clogs in the stomachs of cattle and does not undergo the remastication known as 'chewing the cud,' and which is necessary with all stock of the split-hoof kind to get the best results from all they eat. Pure water, plenty of it, ventilation and clean quarters must all be provided, or no profits will follow."

Teaching Range Cattle to Eat.

J. H. Shepperd of the North Dakota Experiment Station says: In the feeding experiment at this station we found much trouble in getting some of the range steers to eat grain food. They were first fed a mixture of bran and shorts with a little oil meal and seemed to gradually learn to like it. There was much difference in individuals, some taking to grain very readily, even greedily, after a few days, while others ate sparingly for a long time. These steers which failed to learn to eat readily did not seem to be what are known by feeders as "dainty" steers, but were slow in learning to eat. I can readily see how a considerable percentage of such steers in a bunch of cattle fed together might induce the feeder to increase the quantity of grain feed too rapidly for the capacity of the more greedy animals. It was found also that after these steers had acquired a taste for bran and shorts that they did not care for so palatable a food as corn meal of a good grade. It took a number of days to get certain of them to eat even a fair amount of corn meal after having learned to eat bran and shorts greedily. The steers which finally disliked, was found in starting the lot of steers upon barley after the preliminary feeding on bran and shorts for a month. It will thus be seen that the feeder will be obliged to exercise care and to watch his animals closely when a change in the ration is made.

Age of a Hen.

It is not so easy to tell the age of a hen as it is that of domestic animals, says an exchange. Since the practice of dehorning, the cow's age can no longer be ascertained by the number of wrinkles in her horn. The horse and the sheep in their teeth which disclose their age, and it has been said that the spur on the hen will disclose her age. It is comparatively easy to tell an old hen from a young one, but to come any ways near the exact age will require a good deal of experience, and even then it is difficult to know how others may do the same thing. Nearly every housewife has a way of telling the pullet from the hen by the condition of the breast bone. Apearance is about all we have to go by in ascertaining the age of a fowl. The breast bone is all right, but the pullet will have other indications in her general appearance that will permit the practical poultryman to distinguish her from the hen. A pullet has a bright eye, and as she grows older, like a person, her head will show her age. It will be well to remember, however, that if a pullet is out of condition she will have an aged look, and may at this time be taken for a hen. There is a young look about the pullet, generally, that the hen does not possess.

Scaly Legs.

The unpleasant condition known as "scaly legs" comes from a parasite which gets under the scales of the fowl's shanks. One form of treatment to serve as a preventive is given by an Indiana poultry raiser as follows: I take a quart can full of lard, coal oil and crude carbolic acid and set the can in an old bucket, piling hot ashes and coals around it. Then, with a swab made by wrapping rags on the end of a stick, I proceed to the henhouse, and holding each perch over the bucket, sliding it along as I grease, I completely fill every crack and crevice with the mixture. The lard cools rapidly, leaving the perch greasy, and the legs of the fowls roosting on such perches look very bright and clean. It serves a two-fold purpose, ridding the perches of lice and preventing scaly legs. I never had a case of it among my fowls.

Rubber from Corn.

A new use for corn, it is claimed, has been discovered which will, if true, greatly increase the commercial value of the grain. By a process of vulcanizing the oil of corn, the chemists say, that a product superior to that of the product of the South American rubber tree results, more resilient and lasting than the latter. The corn plant is being widened in its sphere of usefulness.

The Danish bacon pigs are raised largely on dairy farms.

IDEAL CAVALRYMEN.

MUST BE BRED TO THE HORSE FROM CHILDHOOD.

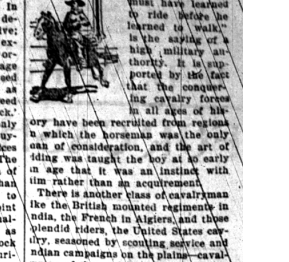
American Cowboy Fills the Bill—He Is Used to Life in the Saddle, Is Resourceful, Has an Indian Instinct of Locality.

(Special Letter.)

"O beau perfect cavalryman the man must have learned to ride before he learned to walk"; is the saying of a high military authority. It is supported by the fact that the conquering cavalry forces in all types of history have been recruited from regions in which the horseman was the only man of consideration, and the art of riding was taught the boy at so early an age that it was an instinct with him rather than an acquirement.

There is another class of cavalrymen like the British mounted regiments in India, the French in Algiers, and those splendid riders, the United States cavalry, seasoned by scouting service and Indian campaigns on the plains—cavalrymen of the modern school who fight either in the saddle or dismounted, and through constant frontier warfare against savage horsemen have become admirably effective troopers.

For the gathering, branding, herding and shipment of the millions of cattle that roamed the plains, a class of men who could ride, and endure and take risks, was required, and thus the cowboy was developed. He is the successor of the Texas and Mexican vaquero, multiplied and modified. He can ride and throw the rope as well as the old-time vaquero, but has more of the civilized and fewer of the homicidal traits



A HARD MOUNT.

than his lawless, picturesque predecessor.

He was bred upon the ranches or came as a young man from the "States," attracted by the adventurous life of the plains, and inspired by the hope of making a fortune in cattle raising, as so many men did in the beginning. Usually the newcomer was a passable rider before he came west. Afterwards, by experience more or less painful, he learned the idiosyncrasies of broncho nature, how to keep his saddle in a "pitching bed," with his pony jumping stiff-legged beneath him, and to handle cattle in all their moods in all weathers.

It would be difficult to find anywhere cavalry recruits better fitted in character and training than the cowboy of the plains. In everything but military discipline he is a proved soldier through his mode of life. He is hardy, enduring, accustomed to hardships, to sudden calls to duty, and to long stretches in the saddle without food or rest, and to bed in the ground under the rain or starry canopy; his simple fare is much the same as that of the army soldier. His home is the saddle, and he is usually a good shot, who can manage his firearms handily from the back of a horse. His standard of honor and duty, as he sees them, is high, and he thinks that nothing is so disgraceful as cowardice. In his personal quarrels and in defending his life and his employer's property against Indians and white robbers he has in many cases had already his baptism of fire. He has acquired self-reliance, and, a valuable quality in a cavalryman, he has an Indian instinct of locality and difficult country. Moreover, he is an ultra-loyal American, aggressively patriotic and ready at all times to fight for his country's honor "at the drop of the hat." What discipline and intrepidity the cowboy will show in action, when led by officers like Wood and Roosevelt, is told in the story of the charge of La Quasina and the carrying of the hill of San Juan in the siege of Santiago de Cuba. Employed as infantry, throughout the advance and siege, the rough riders showed the steadiness of regulars, not only in active fighting but in the harder ordeal of waiting under fire.

New Art Education in the South.

One of the most pleasing signs of the times in our southern states is the widespread interest being shown in technical education. There the industrial conditions have undergone marked changes within a few years. In many sections the planter is giving way to the manufacturer, and the latter, usually backed by northern money and capital, is already competing with success, especially in the lines of iron and steel and woolen and cotton goods, with older concerns elsewhere. Under several acts of congress these states, with all others, have been encouraged to establish agricultural and mechanical colleges that are usually connected with state universities and are similarly controlled. Excellent as most of these are, it is doubtful if there are any that really answer the demands of the day. The new movement is most intimately related to these interests that are building up the south as a manufacturing section. In the heart of the cotton and woolen-mill center of Georgia, and under the direction of the Atlanta Technical School, a special textile school is being erected and equipped, and the same is being done in similar places in the two Carolinas. These schools are projected on the model of those in many of the chief manufacturing cities of Europe, and differ in purpose and results from any now in operation in this country.

Masculine friendships are usually schooner-rigged.