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Oxford Democrat

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Poetry.

REVERIE.

BY CELIA THAXTER.

The white reflection of the sloop's great sail
Sleeps trembling on the tide,
In sunset's shimmering blue,
Looming on either side.

Pale blue and streaked with pearl the waters lie,
And glitter in the heat;
The distance gathers purple bloom where sky
And glimmering coast line meet.

From the curve of rim of sandy gray
The ebbing tide has drained,
The morning in the dusk of yesterday
The curlew's voice complained.

Half lost in hot mirage the sails afar
Lie dreaming, still and white;
No wave breaks, no wind breathes, the peace to mar
Summer is at its height.

How many thousand summers have thus shone
Across the ocean waste,
Passing in swift succession, one by one,
By the fierce winter chased?

The gray rocks blushing soft at dawn and eve,
The green leaves at their feet,
The dreaming sails, the crying birds that grieve
Ever themselves repeat.

And yet how dear and how forever fair
Is nature's friendly face
And how forever new and sweet and rare
Each old familiar grace!

What matters it that she will sing and smile
When we are dead and still?
Let us be happy in her beauty, while
Our hearts have power to thrill.

Let us rejoice in every moment bright,
Grateful that it is ours;
Bask in her smiles with ever fresh delight,
And gather all her flowers.

For presently we part: what will avail
Her rosy fires of dawn,
Her moonlike pomp, to us, who fade and fall,
Our hands from hers withdrawn?

—Atlantic Monthly.

Selected Story.

PERKY'S CROSS.

They did not institute judicious proceedings in scrutiny of the character of every man who came to Kansas in those equivocal days. As a general rule they only cared to know how the new-comer stood on the slavery question. Nevertheless it fretted them to feel that they had a man among them whose oddity of conduct piqued curiosity, while forbidding even reasonable conjecture concerning that other life of his "back in the States." And Perky gave the people of Seward Center just that feeling. Perky was a perplexity. He was also a printer; and his employer, the editor of the *Clarion of Freedom*, had carelessly disclosed the secret that he was the author of certain Procrustean rhymes in the last number of that excellent family journal, bearing the caption, "Saddy We Roam," and having a cut of a horse at the top of them. These verses had pleased the minister very much, and he thought he detected in their somber monotony "the yearning of a jaded soul for the rest and joy of the New Jerusalem," which was a pretty thing to say, Perky remarked, when the editor told him of it. Public opinion was somewhat calmer, but not harmonized or satisfied by the minister's pathos;—

There could be no doubt, they were all agreed, that Perky was not easy in his mind; but the cause was still as deep a mystery as ever. Various were the surmises and suggestions—some kindly and some otherwise—touching the matter, as poverty, grief, disease, disgrace; but perhaps the average sentiment of the community was best expressed, after all, by Aunt Naomi Seybold, when, in answer to some new hint upon the subject, she said with solemn earnestness that was intended to be convincing and conclusive: "He's just a totin' of a cross, a totin' of a cross."

Of course these things came to Perky's ears now and then; but if they disturbed him in the least, there was no betrayal of it in his looks, his speech or his actions. Indeed, he might have passed for a thoroughly contented, if not a really happy man, as he sat upon the little bench under the cottonwood, in front of the *Clarion* office that rare June morning, watching the white and blue clouds fold and unfold again, like the flags of some splendid parade. Behind him rose the hill of rocks and cedars, and dense involvement of vines and shadows, which hid the dreary waste of raw prairie that lay beyond; in front of him, those two foremost symbols of advancing civilization, the little signs of the "American Bible Society," and "Wells, Fargo & Co's Express," flashed back the sun's brightness from the dull grey of the store door at the upper end of "the avenue," as they called the generous exaggeration of a wagon road which led through the village and on to the river out there in the low belt of elms and sycamores a mile away.

And the sky above it all was very beautiful, he thought, as he turned reluctantly from it at last, and glanced curiously about him, like one in doubt about the identity of its surroundings. Then he said to himself: "Perky old fellow, we won't finger any long primer to-day; we'll rest and have a ramble." A moment later and he was gone.

Perky was resting and rambling considerably now. The weekly publication of the *Clarion* was several times delayed by his neglect of his type setting; and once the editor had to humiliate himself and expose his gaudy subscription list to great peril by sending out a half sheet, "owing," he said, "to circumstances beyond our control." This mishap had the effect of keeping Perky steadily at work for three consecutive days. It

also afforded him occasion to speak to the editor, in a delicate and confidential way, of certain grave facts connected with the newspaper business. "For instance," he said, "a paper should be prompt in its appearance as the sunrise, for if it lags people soon lose faith in its stability, and cease to pay for it in advance; and the half sheet contrivance should never be resorted to," he continued, "for the size of a newspaper is a good deal like plenary inspiration, and won't bear trifling with." This bit of philosophy being kindly received, he dropped his confidential tone and manner, and went on, after the habit of your true printer the country over, to give the results of his varied observations in other affairs including politics, education, religion, and, finally, matrimony. "It is every man's duty," he declared, with some warmth, "to get married—and every woman's, too," he quickly added. Then he stopped, blushed a little, and lifting the slug that concealed the next word of the manuscript, on the case before him, resumed his work. They smiled one to another in a knowing way, the editor and the office boy, and urged him to proceed with his discourse; but he only shook his head, and answered a trifle sadly: "Not now, not now." The next day and the next he was unusually reticent, and they noticed that he usually threw back as much as half a line of type from his composing stick into the boxes as if he had unconsciously set up the wrong words. When he did not appear the following morning, they knew he must have returned to his resting and his rambling.

It proved had been immediately required of the fact that Perky had taken another holiday, it would only have been necessary to call Aunt Naomi Seybold as a witness, for she had seen him saunter past her front window,—the window where she always put the cracked porcelain teapot that held her rose geranium,—and he had stopped a while at Widow Hamline's gate on his way down the road toward the woods. A halt at the widow's gate had of late become a regular feature of Perky's rambles. He had been known to tarry there on some occasions for fully an hour; and more than once it had been observed that he had gone on over to the bluff, as was his usual custom, but turned and came back. To suppose that these circumstances attracted no attention and provoked no comment would be to fancy Seward Center a community of winged creatures with crowns and harps, which it was not. The matter had gradually assumed an interest in the public mind, second only to that of the pending strife for the county seat, between the Center and the rival town of Konoma. Hence the religious patience with which Aunt Naomi Seybold watched Perky's movements from behind her window curtains; hence, also, the significance which had been attached to his remark in the *Clarion* office upon the subject of matrimony. The Center really believed that Perky was in love with the widow.

The Widow Hamline, it is proper to say, was not a widow at all. She was a divorced woman who had resumed her maiden name, but still retained the title of "Mrs." on account of her son Benny, a glad-eyed little lad of eight years. Her husband had abandoned her when Benny was but two years old; she had obtained a divorce three years later, and the next summer she had come to Kansas, hoping in time to get a farm for the boy. This was substantially all they knew about her, except that during her nearly three years' residence at the Center, she had been a well-behaved, hard-working woman. It seemed strange that with her bitter experience and her frigid and methodical ways, she should be thinking of marriage; much stranger that Perky, who was so lonely and so peculiar should be contemplating such a thing. To be sure, there was no absolute evidence that her thoughts were running in that direction. But there ever any but circumstantial testimony in such cases? Perky had been seen going to and from her house very often; she spoke of him always when she spoke of him at all, with noticeable kindness; her face flushed with evident pleasure whenever anybody praised him a little for his known good qualities or made generous excuses for his faults. And then she had not bought a new dress with a gaudy pink stripe in it, and did not lately wear an unusual bow of bright ribbon at her throat, and sometimes a big red rose in her hair?

Surely these signs, meaning so much with other people, could not be mere accidents or idle freaks with her. So the verdict of the Center soon came to be unanimous that if the widow thought she did not love Perky, she was very much mistaken. The Center having made up its mind, there was no more doubt and no more discussion. And yet, as a matter of fact, Perky had never once been known to go into the widow's house, nor had he and the widow ever been seen so much as chat together at the gate. When Perky stopped there it was the boy Benny, who came out to see him, and talked with him by the hour, and often accompanied him as he went on over the bluff and down into the river bottom, where the large trees were, and the birds and the squirrels, and the queer sound of running water. For Perky and Benny had come to be close companions and friends. The one was rarely seen without the other. The boy had caught some of the man's best spirit of unrest, and the man had borrowed a bit of the boy's gentle cheeriness, so that they blended very happily.

They spent much of their time wandering about in the woods, over the hills and out on the breezy sweep of upland, overlooking the river from the other side. Their talk—and they talked a great deal—was of the things they had seen and thought and heard together—of the flowers, the stars, the psalms, the miracles, the printing-office, the farm Benny was going to have when he got to be a man. Sometimes the boy's swift questions went far beyond Perky's power of answering, and then there would be a little silence and a change of the subject. Sometimes, too, Benny could not understand why his friend stammered and looked ashamed when making inquiries of him about his mother. But there was no distrust between them and no disagreement; and when, as they were speaking one day of the boy's father, and Perky said suddenly, as if he had just thought of it, "How would you like to have me for a father?" Benny replied, without hesitation and feeling, "Oh, that would be splendid!" Then they walked home without saying another word, and when they parted at the gate there were tears in Perky's eyes. Benny lay awake a long time that night, wondering what it could mean, and fell asleep at last to dream that his father came to him in the vague white robe of an angel, with a face that shone like the sun. And the face was the face of Perky.

As the summer wore away Perky's gloominess grew upon him day by day, and he could not shake it off. It seemed to him, also, that it took very little exertion to overcome him with fatigue. He could hardly walk to the river ford and back as far as the Widow Hamline's without a singular trembling in his limbs and a dizzy sensation about the head; and he would often be obliged to stop and steady himself against the catalpa tree by the widow's gate, before he could go on, he was so tired and there was such a blur just ahead of him. Once, when he was standing there, the widow came out of the house on an errand to a neighbor, and, as he lifted his hat to her, he sank down exhausted at her feet; but he pretended that he had merely stooped to disengage a wanton briar from her dress skirt, and when she bowed him her thanks, he stood again like an athlete. He had a harassing cough, too, and slept fitfully, and in his thin, pale cheeks were ugly spots of scarlet. When they told him he was sick and in need of a physician, he smiled wearily and said: "Only a little bilious, that's all." And on the days when he felt so weak that he dared not venture out,—days that came quite frequent in that lazy, lethargic September weather,—he was always ready with some plausible excuse to conceal the real cause of his staying in doors. He consented finally to allow another printer to take his place in the *Clarion* office—temporarily, and as his "sub," only, for the editor would not like it, he said, if he should give up his case "merely because he wanted to loaf a few days to get the malaria out of his system."

He visited the office from time to time to see how his "sub" got along, and to take a look at the exchanges. They showed him the first number of the new paper at Konoma, which was to be the *Clarion's* contestant for the county printing, and he curled his lip at sight of its double advertisements and said the grave yawner for a paper that started out by leading its selected matter. Some days he would relieve the "sub" for half an hour, or read two or three galleys of proof for the over-worked editor; but usually he remained only a few minutes, and many times he came only to the door, looked in as if seeking for somebody, then turned and went away without speaking.

He had abandoned his customary rambles nearly a month before; and this fact, though no longer new enough to be in itself remarkable, served to give unusual interest to the report that Perky had been seen going leisurely down the road again toward the wood the morning of that important Saturday when "the grim chief," General Jim Lane, was to deliver his first speech in Seward Center. Aunt Naomi Seybold had called to him three times from her open window, but he paid no attention to it except to quicken his pace a little, and she watched him "as stiddy as she had a bin a settin'" for to have her prier took," she said, until he passed the Widow Hamline's and disappeared over the hill. Then she hastened up to the store and the printing office to tell what she had seen, and an hour later the surprising event was the talk of the town. With the afternoon, however, came "the grim chief" with his speech, and after an early supper they had a bonfire and another speech, and in the novelty and agitation of it all, the incident of the morning was forgotten, and nobody noticed that Perky did not return. It must have been quite 4 o'clock of Sunday evening when his absence was first observed. That some harm had been done seemed the only reasonable solution of the matter; and there was no time to lose in delay or speculation. The editor, accompanied by such of the townsfolk as he could readily get together, promptly started in search of him. They called to make inquiries of Aunt Naomi Seybold, and she went on with them to the Widow Hamline's, repeating to them as she walked along, her story of the day before. The widow could give them no additional information; indeed, the whole of it was an astonishment and a shock to her, she said, and she questioned them very eagerly about it, while Benny listen-

ed with an indefinite dread and wished they would go on and look for him before night came. They started directly down the road to the river. Benny went with them, upon his own suggestion, to point out the places where he had been with Perky; and as he glanced from the familiar old leaning beech half way down the hill, he saw that his mother and Aunt Naomi were following closely after them. They found him just where Benny had fancied they would find him. It was hardly a stone's throw from the road and the ford, but such a quiet, soothing, win-bling little nook that it might have been a fragment of some other world. He was lying upon the grass with his arms under his head, and his feet hidden from sight by the fallen leaves. He could almost have reached the river with his hand, but the murmuring of it there in the bend among the bewildering roots and stones was so soft and so uncertain that it seemed only an echo. A cluster of haw bushes, bending beneath an overplus of fading and shivering woodbine, shut off the vision on the south, as the river bank did on the west and the north; but on the east, up the steep bluff, beyond the massive decaying tree-trunk that lay in the edge of the thicket of hazels like some great broken hearted giant, was the little arbor in the rear of the Widow Hamline's house, where the honeysuckles grew, and where the widow often sat in the cool of the late afternoon with her sewing. When they roused him, Perky turned his eyes in that direction a moment, then closed them again, and said as it in reverie, "I must have been dreaming."

They stood waiting around for some minutes in an undecided way, and then the editor gently raised him to a sitting posture, and he tried to smile as he looked from one to another of them and said "Go on to your picnic; don't mind me." No one spoke when he sank down again upon the grass and leaves; but Aunt Naomi Seybold took off her shawl and made a pillow of it for him, and buttoned his open coat over his breast, for it was nearly sundown, and there was a chill in the air from the river. He appeared to be sleeping, the Widow Hamline thought as she leaned forward and gazed intently upon him out of the shadow of the maple just back of where his head lay; and Benny knew she must be very, very pale, she trembled so as he felt her put an arm around him and press him to her side.

The setting sun flooded the crisp and stained foliage with a transient ecstasy of October gold and crimson as Perky started and sat upright again and said he wished Benny would hurry back, for it was growing dark. The widow walked rapidly around in front of him, where the rest were, and knelt close to him and took his hands in hers. "Julia, darling," he muttered, with a harsh laugh that was half a moan, and fell back as it all his strength had suddenly left him. How she stooped and kissed him—on the lips, on the eyes, on the forehead—and rising to her feet, met the questioning stares of those about her, with a look that would have been terrible but for the abounding tenderness there was in it, as she exclaimed: "I was once his wife, God help him!"

"Then he's my father, isn't he, mam?" cried Benny, "and we'll take him home."

"Oh, child," they heard Aunt Naomi sobbing, "he's—he's done gone home."

When they turned to see what she meant, she was covering his cold, still face with her handkerchief. —*Scribner's Monthly.*

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utmost capacity. A second meeting was organized in the large lecture room, and still hundreds went away unable to gain admittance. It is estimated that at least 2,500 persons were unable to find their way into the Congregational church, in the evening. The interest extends to all classes of society, and many are being converted. Some of the hardest cases in the community are among the converts. The work is being heartily entered into by all the churches, and much good is the result.

Investigations are still the order of the day, but as yet have developed no glaring frauds committed by the true friends of the administration. As we predicted before Congress convened, they have pushed matters but a short time in any direction without running against their own friends. This has been literally true, as no Republican has as yet been brought before the public as having committed a fraud against the government. Some little excitement was created last week by the summary manner in which Sec. Chandler decapitated Lippincott, Chief Clerk of the Land Office. Subsequent inquiries developed the fact that irregularities had been discovered in issuing Indian half-breed scrip. While auditor of the Land Office he was in league with parties in Minnesota, who with L's full knowledge, furnished forged Powers of Atty. in Government cases on each of which he received a fee of \$25, amounting to a total of \$22,500 00. The result of these forgeries was to defraud both the Indians and the government. It is further alleged that he has been engaged in other fraudulent transactions which are being investigated by the Committee on Indian Affairs. Here is another proof of the folly of a republican administration trusting its most important positions to the democracy. With his well known democratic tendencies he was given a responsible position and kept in office during all these years, the only reason being that he was a very agreeable, pleasant gentleman and the husband of "Grace Greenwood."

We are heartily sick of this cry against proscription in office, as the republican party can yet furnish honest and capable men enough to fill these places acceptably to the people and in the interest of good government. Our faith in the grand old party is yet unshaken.

The House of Representatives has thus far wasted its time on the bill for reducing salaries and the force in the departments, hoping thereby to make some political capital. When it is known that the present salaries of clerks was fixed by a democratic Congress and the bill signed by a democratic President, at a time when the purchasing power of a dollar was fully double that of the present time, we think the capital thus gained will be small and the labor spent will be in vain.

The present organization of the clerks in the departments into classes was done by act of Congress and approved by President Fillmore, March 3, 1853, which act classified them and fixed their salaries as follows, viz: Clerks of the 1st class \$900; 2nd, \$1200; 3d, \$1500; 4th, \$1800. By act of Congress, approved April 24, 1864, it is provided that the salaries of clerks in the departments at Washington shall be, 1st class, \$1200; 2nd, \$1400; 3d, \$1600; 4th, \$1800, to take effect June 30, 1863, being retro-active. At that time good houses were rented at from \$10 to \$16 per month; the best of meats sold at 10 cents per pound, coal, \$4.50 per ton and butter from 15 to 18 cents per pound. At present rents are \$25 to \$40 per month—the average being considerably above \$30—except in the outskirts of the city where a four or five room house can be had at \$20. Meats cost from 25 to 30c. per pound, coal \$8.50 per ton, butter 45 to 50 cents a pound, and all other articles in like proportion. We think any unprejudiced person will readily admit that the present attempt partakes somewhat of a partisan character to say the least.

It is very pleasant indeed to observe the improvement in the feeling regarding political matters since the New Hampshire election. It was a bomb shell in the camp of the enemy. OXFORD.

How to be Cheerful.

I said if there were only a recipe—a sure and certain recipe—for making a cheery person, we would all be glad to try it. There is no such recipe, and perhaps if there were, it is not quite certain that we would all try it. It would take time and trouble. Cheeriness cannot be taught like writing, "in twenty lessons," nor analyzed and classified and set forth in a manual, such as "The Art of Polite Conversation," or "Etiquette Made Easy for Ladies and Gentlemen." It lies so deep that no surface rules of behavior, no description ever so minute of what is or what is not, does or does not do, can ever enable a person to "take it up," and "master" it like a trade or a study. I believe that it is, in the outset, a good gift from God at one's birth, very much dependent on one's body, and a thing to be more profoundly grateful for than all that genius ever inspired, or talent ever accomplished. This is natural, spontaneous, inevitable cheeriness. This, if we were not born with it, we cannot have. But next best to this is deliberate, intended, and persistent cheeriness, which we can create, can cultivate, and can so foster and cherish, that after a few years the world will never suspect that it was not a hereditary gift handed down to us from generations. To do this we have only to watch the cheeriest people we know, and follow their example. We

shall see, first, that the cheery person never minds—or if he minds, never says a word about—small worries, vexations, perplexities. Second, that he is brimful of sympathy in other people's gladness; he is heartily, genuinely glad of every bit of good luck or joy which comes to other people. Thirdly, he has a keen sense of humor, and never lets any droll thing escape him; he thinks it worth while to laugh, and to make everybody about him laugh; at every amusing thing, no matter how small, he has his laugh, and a good hearty laugh too, and tries to make everybody share it. Patience, sympathy, and humor—these are the three most manifest traits in the cheery person. But there is something else, which is more an emotion than a trait, more a state of feeling than a quality of mind. This is lovingness. This is the secret, so far as there is a secret; this is the real point of difference between the mirth of the witty and sarcastic person, which does us no good, and the mirth of the cheery person, which "doeth good like a medicine."

Somebody once asked a great painter, whose pictures were remarkable for their exquisite and beautiful coloring: "Pray Mr. —, how do you mix your colors?" "With brains, madam—with brains," growled the painter. His ill-nature spoke a truth. All men had or might have the colors he used; but no man produced the colors he produced.

So I would say of cheerfulness. Patience, sympathy, and humor are the colors; but patience may be more doggedness and reticence, sympathy may be worldly and shallow and selfish, and humor may be

family, the Yellow Liniment is for
animals.

Feb 15 3m

PYLE'S DIETETIC **SALERATUS** - Unimpaired
Each pound for

Poetry.

STABILITY.

By THOMAS S. COLLIER.
"Oh, love, love, love," the poet sings,
source from which all our sorrows spring.
Why rest your soft and glowing wings
In my abode;
Do you not see my heart no more
can welcome you, as once before
it did, when walking on the shore
You bared the road?

And with a flash of golden hair,
A face with color rich and fair,
A smile so sweet and delicate
Made me your slave:
Then filled my soul with sweetest bliss
The ecstasies of a kiss,
Oh, cruel love, why tell this
Sins in a grave?

Was't not enough to cause my heart
From all its love to part?
Why bring to it the pain and smart
That after comes?
Why make the flowers fade away
Why change the sun's smile day
To one by clouds made dim and gray
Oh, love, for shame!

But still I thoughtly cling to you
Dear love, though changed, what can I do
I dream you may be found and true
As years ago?

You cannot lose your beauty's might,
Your eyes still hold their wondrous light,
Yet, though they miss some other light,
To my eyes close.

She is not dead, though love is dead;
Sleeping—Was't the word you said?
Oh, cruel love, why tell this
Sins in a grave?

I made mistakes, she waits for me
Oh, love, have pity! Can't you see
She comes—she comes—Oh, love, I see
You are pure gold.

Agricultural.

Dairy Cattle.

The first requisite for a successful, profitable dairy, is good stock. If a half dozen cows are kept to produce the milk which one first-class animal would supply, the profits—if there are any—are reduced by just the value of the food consumed by the five unnecessary animals, and the value of the care and labor expended upon them. It is often said that it costs no more to feed a cow worth one hundred dollars than to feed one worth but twenty dollars, and this is true to a certain extent.

It does, however, cost more to feed a cow as she should be fed, which is producing twenty quarts of milk per day, than one which yields but ten quarts; but it does not cost so much as it would to feed two like the latter. The difference is quite appreciable; and if the good animal is kept, the difference is so much profit to her owner. Such being the case, it is highly important that every farmer should procure a fine stock of cows. Animals which are adapted to his soil and climate, and which have proved themselves to be good milkers. The best way to secure such, is to raise his own cows from birth. Such calves as are born of good, large milkers, should be raised to supply the place of their dams when the latter are no longer serviceable. It is not necessary that a herd of cattle should be thoroughly bred to be profitable; though many agricultural writers would have us believe the contrary. There are many herds of native cattle, which are contemptuously denominated scrubs, by breeders of fancy cattle, which are more profitable than many costly thoroughly bred herds; but they have been selected with care, and well fed and tended, and it is largely owing to extra care attention that blooded cattle are superior, in the main, to natives.

If a farmer owns a good cow, one that yields a large quantity of milk, or milk of an unusually excellent quality, it will pay him to raise her heifer calves for milkers; provided he does not contract the good qualities of the mother by the bad ones of the sire. It is always advisable to produce the services of a blooded bull when it is practicable to do so, because we can count with tolerable certainty upon the calf reproducing the qualities of the sire, and if it is of a family bred for ages with special reference to the production of quantity or quality of milk, the chances are much greater of producing a valuable calf for the dairy, than if a bull is used whose family has no such special desirability.

The calf, when born, should not be stunted in feed. There should be no attempt to see how cheaply she may be raised. The effort should be to see how rapidly she can be made to grow, and rapid growth, can only be secured by liberal feed and good care. All the good hay which it will eat should be fed during the winter, and a plentiful supply of roots and grain should also be allowed. The object must be to raise a large cow, for other things being equal, the larger animal will yield the greater quantity of milk. The calf must not be stunted by exposure, but housed in comfortable quarters during cold storms, while it should be allowed plenty of outdoor exercise during fine weather.

When a heifer has her first calf, she should be fed liberally with bran, shorts and roots, in addition to hay or pasture according to the season. The distending of the milk veins and udder which will take place under such a course of feeding, will enable the cow to produce a larger quantity of milk ever after, than she could under a different and drier diet. Cattle should never be confined to a diet of hay. It is unnatural and not conducive to the best health and growth. Roots should form part of the winter feed.

In purchasing cows it is desirable to learn, if possible, what kind of milkers were their dams. There are some points which usually are found in good milkers which it is well to remember. A milk cow should be broad across the hips; with prominent milk veins, a small head, a thin neck, slim horns and a large, full, quiet eye. The milk udder—a true of hair turned upwards on the inner side of the thigh—should be well defined, and the lower part should be broad and well spread out. Of course one will not rely upon points, if he has an opportunity to milk the animal which he thinks of purchasing, and can see just what she yields; but a careful inspection of her points will often enable him to decide whether with the superior feed and care which he intends to give her, she will prove a much better milker than when

bought. With good stock, well fed, sheltered and cared for, regularly milked and gently handled, the greater part of the difficulties in the way of successful dairying are overcome, and the farmer has every prospect of success in this, one of the most profitable industries in our State, when properly conducted.

The Hot-Bed.

In order to secure early vegetables or flowers, a hot-bed is indispensable. Comparatively few, however, make any attempt to provide any thing of the kind. Many have no hot-beds would be glad to have one if they knew how to construct and manage it, and for the benefit of such we will give a few directions.

The first thing to be attended to is to procure the manure. Fresh stable manure in which there is plenty of litter is best. If the manure does not already contain a sufficient amount of litter and straw, more should be added, until at least one-third of the heap is litter. Enough of the manure and straw should be procured to make a pile about three feet high, and one foot wider and longer than the required bed. This must be thoroughly forked over and mixed, adding water if the manure is very dry, and then left in a compact heap for a week or ten days until it begins to ferment well. Then mix thoroughly again and prepare the bed. Choose a sunny aspect where practicable, and if it faces the southeast, it will be better. A high board fence, a building, or an evergreen screen on the north, will be valuable as a protection. If the box, or frame, has been already made, mark off a space six or eight inches larger, and drive a stake in the ground at each corner, so as to be about three feet high. Then commence with the manure, and build the manure bed by placing layer after layer, perfectly as a farmer builds a haystack, except that the hot-bed should be lighter and lower in the middle, instead of compact and rounded as in the haystack. If the manure is placed too light and loose, the heat will be short and violent; if too solid the heat will not rise. The common practice is to place with the fork, even and successive layers, beating the centre down compactly with the fork and treading the outer layers. With some manure, treading would make it too solid. The height will also vary some from the same cause; that is, a higher bed must be made of manure which does not ferment freely. The bed should be about six inches higher at the back than in front.

The frame can be constructed by any handy man at a very small expense. It consists of a wooden frame, generally six feet wide, fifteen inches high at the back, and twelve inches in front, and from six to sixteen feet long, according to the supply of early vegetables required. The frame should be subdivided by cross bars and each division covered by a glazed sash; the sides and ends should be joined by hooks and staples, to admit of its being taken apart and stored away when not required. The bed being prepared, place the frame in position and close the sashes. The manure will begin to heat immediately, and in about three days it should be covered with six or eight inches of rich and finely pulverized garden soil. The sashes should then be kept slightly raised so that the steam and vapor may pass off, and in about a week or as soon as the heat in the soil declines to 100°, the seed may be planted. When the manure is too dry, the bed will sometimes stop heating too soon. In such cases make a few holes with a crowbar in the top of a bed and pour in water. This will soon revive the heat and give the plants a fresh start.

How to Test Vegetable Seeds.

It is a very easy and simple matter to test any variety of seed, and thus avoid imposition and loss by the purchase and planting of an inferior article. Purchase of your seedsmen a very small quantity of the seeds you intend to plant, and submit these to the following test:

Take two thicknesses of woolen cloth—either flannel or fluted cloth will answer. Dampen them with cold water and lay them in some shallow dish, as a plate or a saucer. Then sprinkle a few seeds on them, being careful not to spread the seeds so thick that they will lay one upon the other. Now dampen another piece of cloth and lay over the seed. Keep the plate or saucer in a moderately warm place, and by removing the upper cloth at will, you can watch the result. The good seed will gradually swell and finally sprout, while the seed that is too old, or that is bad from any other cause, may swell at first, but instead of growing like the good, will mould and rot. By a careful test in this way may be learned the exact proportion of good and bad seed in the lot offered you, and thus you may avoid not only the loss of the money asked for the same, but also the greater loss you would sustain by planting bad seed and experiencing a failure of the crop. Test the seed before buying.—[Record Union.]

DRUGGISTS.

who are competent witnesses to the work it is daily doing. Sanford's Radical Cure has proved the best remedy for relieving Catarrh. W. M. FELLOWS, Haverhill, Mass. I am selling large quantities of your Sanford's Radical Cure. DR. WENTWORTH, Bedford, Mass. Sanford's Radical Cure is having a good sale. It is just what the people need, and is a great relief. A. G. GERRY, St. Paul, Maine. I have kept Sanford's Radical Cure on hand since its first introduction, and the sale and satisfaction in its use have been increased by my other side preparation without my knowledge. W. W. WILSON, Reading, Mass. I have sold Sanford's Radical Cure for years, and it stands the test of the best of any similar remedy I have ever sold. W. H. OWEN, Milo, Me. We recommend no other cure, and have no trouble in selling it. L. P. EVANS & CO., Gardiner, Me. Sanford's Radical Cure is having universal sale, and is a great relief to all who are afflicted with Catarrh. E. F. CAREY, Haverhill, Mass. 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