

FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

Plum Curculio.

The plum curculio, once regarded as one of the most formidable of all destructive insects, is easily destroyed by means which many years have proved quite efficient, consisting of jarring the beetles down on spread sheets, by the mode which we have occasionally described. But this remedy, so efficient when rightly performed, usually fails because imperfectly applied. Padded mallets, making a soft and feeble jar, are used instead of a heavy iron hammer struck sharply on iron plugs. Spikes are sometimes inserted to strike on, but being sharp at the inner end they are gradually driven into the tree and become useless. All attempts to repel these insects by throwing nauseous substances over the trees mostly end in failure, besides requiring more labor than the jarring mode.—Country Gentleman.

Sunlight in Stables.

We tried an experiment some years since to test the effect of absence of light on a calf. We had two red calves of the same age (sixty days) one weighing 180 pounds and the other 182 pounds. The latter we placed in a dark room, with a trough that could be filled by a spout through a partition. The other was confined in the same amount of space, but in full light, and both were fed exactly alike for the next three months. The object was to test the effect of light upon such a growing animal. At the end of the time the one in the light weighed 430 pounds, and the one in the dark weighed 360 pounds and its color had faded to a very pale, dirty red. Its eyes were so much affected when admitted to the light that it kept them closed most of the time for the first week or two. The two calves were kept on together, but the one from the dark room never fully recovered from this three months of darkness. It never recovered its bright red color, although the color improved. Any one who noted these two calves during this experiment would never after doubt the impolicy of dark stables.—Live Stock Journal.

Soiling Cattle.

It is a matter of surprise to us that the soiling of cattle in portions of the country where the farms are small, and where the dairying is the most profitable branch of the farming business, that can be pursued within reach of our large cities. There was a time when it appeared to have taken an active start, but whether it has increased or even maintained the footing then shown, we really have no means of knowing. If we can believe the statements of those who have experimented with this system of dairying, it clearly showed that no other branch of farming paid so handsomely. 'Soiling' is the feeding of cattle in their stalls or yard, instead of grazing them in the open field, allowing them to roam at will and destroying a large part of the pasturage, while to a great extent the manure was wasted. It is said that the principal drawback was the increase of labor which the system required, cultivating and hauling the grass to the cattle three or four times a day. While we admit that the labor is increased as well as the expense connected therewith, yet at the same time the saving of manure is a strong point on the other side; and the driving of the cattle to and from the pastures is another; and the saving of at least one-half the land required for pasture is strongest of all, and together would far more than over-balance this one of labor.

Nevertheless, whatever the reason may be, it is not in our power to say at this writing that we know of a single instance in which soiling is followed by any farmer within our knowledge. In England, among small farms, and, especially in France, where there are comparatively few large farms, soiling is adopted generally as a principle as the most profitable mode in which at least dairy cattle can be fed.—Germantown Telegraph.

The Value of Clover.

Clover as a manure acts in several ways. As a shade it imparts nitrogen to the soil, and when a crop of it is turned under besides fertilizing elements it has a mechanical

effect. This does more than make the land work easily it enables the roots of other plants to penetrate the soil, and find food which they otherwise would be unable to reach. It furnishes humus which has other value in the soil besides supplying plant food; its dark color making the soil warmer. It also gives the soil greater power of retaining water and of absorbing moisture and ammonia from the air.

Clover not only produces an abundant growth of great manurial value above the surface, but is one of still greater value beneath. The large fleshy roots of the clover, as they decay in the soil, yield both humus and ammonia. The roots of the clover run deep; pores are created for imbibing a greater quantity of atmospheric elements of growth, and bringing up mineral matter from below; the advantages arising from this process are not to be disregarded by the farmer.—Prairie Farmer.

A Large Butter Dairy.

O. M. Tinkham, secretary of the Vermont Dairyman's Association, has visited a farm in Pennsylvania, owned by Jessie and Jared Darlington. The farm contains 650 acres, and the herd consists of 250 cows of no particular breed. Their feed is bright clover hay cut and mixed with an equal quantity by weight, of corn-meal and wheat bran, about eight and one-half pounds of each. The milk is separated directly after it is brought in, the separators being run by an engine in the creamery and the cream set aside in the cans to ripen, as the late fashionable phrase is, or, in plain United States, to sour before churning, which is done twice a week; and in cold weather a little sour cream is left in the cream can to hasten the process. The churn is made of cedar, barrel shaped, except being of uniform size and with three narrow staves projecting inside. The butter is washed by pouring cold spring water into the churn after the buttermilk is drawn out and before the butter is "gathered." It is worked by hand, not salted by guess, and after standing about an hour is re-worked, lumped and printed, then put away in the coolers to be shipped next day. The prints are half-pound and pound lumps, each wrapped in muslin, and are shipped in galvanized iron cans, in cedar tubs, with ice in warm weather, and holding from a pound and a half to seventy pounds of butter.

Their average product is about twelve hundred pounds per week, and it is sent to Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Washington, etc., and they are now sending to families which have been supplied by their father and grandfather for seventy-five years. The lesson in this for the dairyman seems to be: Careful feeding, the making of a uniform article the year through, and getting a good reputation for your butter. By this is meant the making of a good article and getting it to the consumer with the knowledge of where it is made.

Recipes.

Risks.—One pint of flour, one pound of sugar, one cup of sweet milk, one cup of butter; four eggs beaten separately; one tablespoonful of cinnamon, one teaspoon of cloves, one teaspoon of soda, two teaspoons of cream tartar, or three spoons of baking powder. Bake on tins, an inch thick, and when taking from the oven sprinkle with white sugar while hot.

Amber Pudding.—One dozen large, tart apples, one cupful of sugar, the juice and rind of two lemons, six eggs, four table-spoonfuls of butter, enough puff or chapped paste to line a three-pint pudding dish. Pare and quarter the apples. Pare the thin rind from the lemon, being careful not to cut into the white part. Put the butter, apple and lemon rind and juice into a stew-pan, with half a cupful of water, cover tightly and simmer three-quarters of an hour, rub through a sieve, add the sugar and set away to cool. Line the dish with paste. Beat the yolks of the eggs, and stir into the cooled mixture. Turn this into the lined dish. Bake slowly for half an hour. Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth, and gradually beat into them three table-spoonfuls of powdered sugar. Cover the pudding with this; return to the oven, and cook 12 minutes with the door open. Serve either hot or cold.

Apples Snow.—Put twelve very tart

apples in cold water over a slow fire. When soft remove the skins and core and mix in a pint of fine sugar; beat the whites of twelve eggs to a stiff froth and add to the apples and sugar; cool in glasses, with a piece of red currant jelly to ornament the top of each.

To Recook Cold Fresh Fish.—Pick up in flakes any cold fish, boiled, broiled or fried; brown some butter, add to it a pinch of grated nutmeg and a few whole pepper-corns, a little minced parsley and one onion, with a table-spoonful of salad oil; stir the fish in this sauce, and when dished squeeze the juice of a lemon over it.

Household Hints.

Quassia in sweetened water will destroy flies.

Vinegar will remove lime from carpets.

In dusting use a cloth; feathers only set it adrift.

To wipe dust from papered walls take a clean, soft piece of flannel.

Tobacco tea will kill wormers in flower pots and is also good for the plant.

One teaspoonful of chloride of lime in three quarts of water, will take stains from white goods.

Rose water is a peculiar flavor for a sponge cake, but it is highly recommended, especially if the cake is being served with ices.

A Comparison of Statues.

The Bartholdi Statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World" has been presented by its creator in Paris to the representatives of the American Government. The pedestal on Bedloe's Island is not yet in readiness. Indeed, the popular collections come in very slowly. M. Bartholdi has recently been comparing his statue with the famous Colossus of Rhodes. The figure of Liberty stands, without reckoning the diadem, 105 feet high; but the extreme height from the feet to the upper end of the torch held by the outstretched hand is 137 feet 9 inches. The statue will be placed on a granite pedestal 83 feet high. It is interesting to learn that a person six feet in height, standing on the lips of M. Bartholdi's head of Liberty, can only just reach the eyebrow; that people can jump with ease in and out of the nose, and that the eyes measure five feet from corner to corner. Turning to the old "Wonder of the World," we find that it was the largest of the hundred colossal statues of the Sun which at one time embellished the city of Rhodes. It was upward of 105 feet high; few persons had arms long enough to embrace its thumb; the fingers were longer than the whole bodies of the majority of the statues then extant; the hollows of the limbs, when broken, resembled caves, and inside might be seen huge stones inserted to keep the statue in position. It took twelve years to erect, and cost three hundred talents. The story that the legs of the Colossus extended across the mouth of the harbor is generally considered to be a fiction; but that it stood close to the entrance of the port of Rhodes, and was made to serve as a pharos or lighthouse, seems certain enough. It was overthrown and smashed to pieces by an earthquake fifty-six years after its refection. For 903 years the fragments of this Wonder of the World strewed the mole at Rhodes, and then they were sold by the Caliph Omar to a merchant at Emesa, who carried away these prodigious marine stores on the backs of 900 camels. Hence Scaliger calculated that the aggregate weight of the bronze must have been 700,000 pounds.—Demorest.

The Oldest Tree.

The oldest tree in the world, so far as known, is the Bo tree of the sacred city of Amarapura. It was planted, according to tradition, B. C. 288, and is therefore now 2170 years old. Sir James Emerson Tennet gives reason for believing that the tree is really of this wonderful age, and refers to historic documents in which it is mentioned at different dates, as A. D. 182, A. D. 223, and so on to the present day. "To it," says Sir James, "kings have dedicated their dominions, in testimony of belief that it is a branch of the identical fig-tree under which Buddha reclined at Urumelya when he underwent his apotheosis. Its leaves are carried away on streamers by pilgrims, but it is deemed too sacred to touch with a knife, and hence they are only gathered when they fall. The King oak in Windsor Forest is said to be 1000 years old.

Is Your Blood Pure?

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