

THE SUCCESS FAMILY

The father of Success is
Work.
The mother of Success is
Ambition.
The oldest son is
Common Sense.
Some of the boys are
Perseverance,
Honesty,
Thoroughness,
Foresight,
Enthusiasm,
Co-operation.
The oldest daughter is
Character.
Some of the sisters are
Cheerfulness,
Loyalty,
Courtesy,
Care,
Economy,
Sincerity,
Harmony.
The baby is
Opportunity.

Get acquainted with the "old man" and you will be able to get along pretty well with all the rest of the family.

HOW THE INDIANS GREW CORN

Europeans on coming to America found the Indians cultivating and using a cereal that was unknown in all other parts of the world. This was maize or Indian corn—in this country we call it now simply corn.

The soil and climate of America are particularly well suited to the production of this cereal and enormous crops are grown every year. As everyone knows, it is one of our most important foodstuffs, a variety of valuable products being obtained from it.

By careful breeding and selection the white man has improved the corn grown by the Indians. He has also improved on the methods of cultivation practiced by them. Yet it is surprising that with all of his science and experience he knows so little more than the Indian did about breeding and growing it.

Agriculture was the principal occupation of the Indians before the meddling white man came and upset their customs and habits of life. Corn was their main crop. They had large fields of it, each consisting of numerous little individual plats. The women did most of the work in preparing the ground, planting and cultivating the crop, using crude implements to break up the soil and work it roughly. About the only time the men and boys took a hand was at harvest time when they helped to gather the ripened ears. The men regarded work as degrading to them and usually adhered to the principle of letting the women do the work.

The untutored red man understood the principles of seed selection about as well as the most expert agriculturist of modern times. They were careful to choose large, well-filled ears from plants possessing the most desirable qualities. In this way they developed some excellent varieties which have scarcely been

improved by the whites in several centuries. They also knew something of testing the seed for vitality and germinating strength. To do this they germinated grains from seed ears by soaking them in wet moss or in willow baskets, in a manner somewhat the same as that of the up-to-date farmer of today. Their methods of breaking up the ground and cultivating the crop were greatly inferior to ours, but as the soil was rich they usually obtained ample harvests.

The Indians' operations in the corn field were timed by what might be called a natural calendar. For instance, they aimed to plant the seed at the time when blossoms appeared on the wild turnips in the woods. The time when the ears of the growing crop were in the milk state was indicated to them by the first flowering of the buttonwood. They considered it the proper time to gather the corn at the end of the blossoming season for the buttonwood.

They had a hard, flinty variety of corn which they used for making hominy. Bread and other articles of food were made from a softer variety of corn. Succotash, made of corn and beans, is a dish of their invention. A number of our most toothsome and wholesome dishes made from corn are also prepared after recipes essentially the same as those worked out and used by these original Americans.

SPIDER "LISTENS" WITH ITS LEG

In his book, "The Wonders of Instinct," the late Henri Fabre, eminent French naturalist and entomologist, tells about a species of spider, the epeira, which ingeniously employs a delicate gossamer thread of its own spinning to signal the capture of an insect in its web snare. This thread which is suspended from the center of web extends downward and is attached to a foot of the spider which spends its days leisurely in a crevice underneath the web.

When a hapless insect gets caught in the web its struggles to get free of course shake the web. This motion is communicated to the thread running downward into the retreat and through the thread the owner and proprietor feels it. Thus apprised that dinner is awaiting it, the spider hastens up to the web, deftly binds its prey with newmade thread, injects some poison into it and then begins its repast.

"The web is often shaken by the wind," says Fabre. "The different parts of the framework, tossed and teased, cannot fail to transmit their vibrations to the signaling thread. Nevertheless, the spider does not quit her hut but remains indifferent to the commotion prevailing in the net. The line is therefore something better than a bellrope that pulls and communicates the impulse given. It is a telephone, capable, like our own, of transmitting infinitesimal waves of sound. Clutching a telephone wire with a toe, the spider listens with her leg; she perceives the innermost vibrations; she distinguishes between the vibration proceeding from a prisoner and the mere shaking of the wind."