

A LESSON OF LIFE.

A long day's journey there lay before me. I crossed the meadow at breaking morn...

CULTIVATION OF RICE.

WATER PLAYS A BIG PART IN THE RAISING OF THE CEREAL.

An Industry in Louisiana That Is Very Profitable to the Grower, but Which Is Still in Its Infancy—How Rice Fields Are Kept Flooded.

"Tell you something about rice in Louisiana?" repeated Andrew C. Wilkinson, the owner of a large rice grower in New Orleans...

"How is it cultivated? Well, the first necessity of profitable rice culture is a comparatively level piece of land, properly prepared for the seed."

"Then comes the most delicate part, in the rice manipulation. After the seed is planted the soil is thoroughly saturated with water to sprout it, but the water is at once taken off when the seeds have evenly germinated...

"The most expensive part of rice growing comes when it is about a foot high, after it has been liberally watered; I mean the grassing of the rice. You see, the laborers weed through the rice, pulling up and throwing into heaps all the weeds and water grasses they find."

"The nature of rice cultivation would be great fun to city sportsmen, but is a terrible nuisance to us I mean the birds. Talk about your ducks and geese hiding the sun. Perfect clouds of rice birds, English sparrows, summer ducks, rail and other fowl of the air and water, come to see if they can't harvest our crops for us."

"The rice birds are our worst enemies, and while we kill millions of them, left to nature the fields, other millions come in to take their place. The ravages of the rice birds some years are fearful, the crop being almost a total loss. Perhaps now that the Yankees are coming down to grow rice they may invent some machine that will either destroy the birds or keep them away."

"As soon as a pale yellow tint appears over the level heads of the opening grain the water is carefully drawn off, the fields being drained as thoroughly as possible, and the work of harvesting is begun. The dried sheaves are carted to the mill, and the steam threshers, where the grain is prepared for market."

"The profits in rice planting, with good luck, will in a few years make any man rich. The yields on good lands in Louisiana give from fifty to seventy-five bushels to the acre. Rice is a plant which is generous to the attentive and industrious farmer, but it resents neglect more than any other cereal. A man can cultivate fifteen to twenty acres of rice land, and if strong and industrious he can easily secure from 1,000 to 1,500 bushels of rice, worth at present prices about a dollar a bushel. The work is not hard, except during the summer time, and as good living is cheap with a small rice farmer can easily save one-half his gross income."

"The cultivation of rice in Louisiana is still in its infancy. Many of the hundreds of immigrants are yearly turning their attention to rice, and at the present rate of increased acreage Louisiana will be able to supply the entire country with this most valuable cereal."—New York Telegram.

A Fine Word. The following extraordinary word is given in Miss M. A. Courtney's "West Cornwall Dialect": "Pednolshlost-witwell, spoken by fishermen in describing the peculiar model of a boat; is said to mean 'god's head and conger's tail.'"

The most useful domestic pet of the natives of Greenland and other Arctic climes is a peculiar looking animal, to which the name of Eskimo dog has been given.

FAITHFUL AFTER DEATH.

A WOMAN PERFORMS THE LAST OFFICES FOR HER HUSBAND.

A Pathetic Story of Frontier Life—How a Wife and Mother Heavily Laid to Spend Her Strength for the Sake of the Man She Loved to the Last.

The story of Mrs. U. J. Wenner's life on Fremont island is a most pathetic story ever told on the frontier. She was born and bred in luxury; she came to this city a bride eleven years ago. When, five years ago, her husband decided to move to Fremont island, she cheerfully gave up her luxurious home in this city and went with him. Of course she had no money. With no one but her husband and her little family around her, with a hired man and girl to assist, she lived there five years. At one time she was there two years and a half without leaving the island.

When, two years ago, her husband became too weak to ride on horseback, she looked after the store horse. She attended to her horse, she taught her children, she nursed her husband, and in these occupations she was busy every moment of her time. She says she was happy and we do not doubt it. Her husband was falling all the time, but he had been a long time ill anyway. With no permit the thought of the possibility of his dying to enter her mind. So it went on until two weeks ago Wednesday, when her husband had a severe hemorrhage of the lungs. It was stopped, and he said he felt more relieved than he had for months past.

Of course great preparation always follows a hemorrhage of the lungs, and so he lay very weak, but cheerful. Thursday he wanted the man who had been his faithful employee so long to take the boat, so over to Hooper and get the boat, so he said he wanted his papers and magazines. The man, however, did not get until Friday morning. Through the day Friday Judge Wenner was comparatively easy. He asked his wife to read to him from his favorite books, and also to repeat to him whole poems which she knew by heart, and so the day and night passed away.

Saturday morning he told her what to cook for his breakfast, saying he wanted a good breakfast, but while this was in preparation she heard the signal which she had prepared for him to make in case he needed her. When she got to his side she found him lying on his back, and when she hastened to give him medicine that was always given him at such a time he motioned it away. She put her arm around his neck, drew his head on her bosom and asked him if he loved her; he answered, "Yes," and asked her if she loved him. At her "yes," he smiled, and in an instant, without a gasp, that smile was transfixed and his soul had fled.

She was there all alone; with her own hands she washed and dressed her husband's body, went outside and got the board herself, and stretched it upon the chairs beside the bed; the girl had such a horror of death that she could not be induced to come into the room to help her lay her husband on the plank. She did it all alone, and when all was composed she went to her children, told them that their father was dead, explained to them as well as she could why death meant, took them in and showed them their father's body. All kissed him, and melted and prayed beside him. The day wore along and a great storm came upon the lake, so that it was impossible for the man to return. It had always been understood that two signal fires meant that she needed help, so as the night came down she went and lighted these fires and then took up her watch beside her dead. At intervals during the night she would go and replenish the fires, and so the watch went on till daylight. All that day passed away. At night she renewed the fires; and finally, at great peril, the man reached the island at 10 o'clock at night.

A PATHETIC BURIAL. There was no possibility to return to get a casket, so the poor woman told the man that he must from the boards on the place make the best box he could. The man helplessly said he could not, but she encouraged him and told him she would help him. So the box was made up of the best material she had in the house. From her own hands she fixed the box and fixed a pillow for the sleeper's head. That completed, the man dug a grave. The only services for the dead was by the wife and little children kneeling around the coffin and their work up her back to the house and praying. But then what other service was needed?

As best they could they got the box to the grave, the man drove stakes on one side of the grave and tied ropes to them, and that woman and that man lowered the body into the grave. Then she went back to take care of her children. The storm was so furious that she was unable to work before she could take her children and leave the island.

What she endured through that Saturday and Sunday night, that Sunday and that Sunday night no one knows, and no one can imagine. She did not shed a tear. She has not shed a tear since. She says calmly that she never anticipated life without her husband, but that now her children need what strength she has got. And she speaks of what she did as nothing at all. She says it was a pleasure to her to do the last office; it is very much sweeter for her to think of than it would be to think that it was performed by some one who might have been less tender in his touch than she.

And that was by a little woman who never knew what work was or what isolation meant, who knew nothing at all about the rougher side of life until she gave her heart up to her husband and thereforth lived only for him.—Salt Lake Tribune.

Always Plenty. "Suppose coal were to give out, what should we use in its place?" asked Helen. "Poems," returned his editorial friend.—Life.

Footprints of the Musk Ox. Vasey says the footprints of the musk ox resemble those of the barren ground caribou so closely as to easily deceive the unaccustomed eye. The external hoof is rounded, the internal pointed.—Horace T. Martin in Popular Science Monthly.

Arguing is a source of annoyance and wears upon the nerves of the listeners, however they have schooled themselves to bear and forbear.

ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF A BEEHIVE.

Opinions Expressed by an Apiarist at a Missouri Beekeepers' Convention.

The average apiarist, in speaking of modern progress in beekeeping, is almost sure to place stress on the "hive" as the highest point to be attained in the art of beekeeping. That a certain amount of time and talent should be used in this direction will be agreed to without argument, but to bend every energy in this direction I think is a mistake. When we investigate the subject we find that practical beekeepers are succeeding equally well with the many different makes of hives. This fact alone indicates that good management and adaptability to the business overbalance everything else.

A hive to facilitate labor should be simple, easy to manipulate and of reasonable price. If these points are combined they will be almost sure to produce a popular hive. I use the simplicity hive, improved, nine frames or eight frames and a division board; fill the brood chamber, use one depth section crates with break-joint honeyboard and section support combined, and follow the flooring up plan combined. For extracted honey use same size brood chambers with perforated zinc queen excluder, and tier up two or three stories high with empty combs, nine combs to the story above the brood chamber.

In taking up the second proposition of my subject, I will be governed by what has been said of honey production I want to have a hive for. If I were working for comb honey exclusively, I would possibly adopt the eight frame hive, but do not think I would. I do not like a small hive, especially for the general beekeeper. They need closer attention, and for both comb and extracted honey from the same apiary I have adopted a size of hive suited equally well for both kinds of honey, and of uniform size, viz., the nine frame simplicity single walled hive, with chaff hive for winter and early spring protection. In conclusion I want to be liberal, I want to be found for each comb, and I recommend to the beginner and to those who have not got a movable frame hive to secure some reasonably good movable frame hive with crates to hold one pound sections and learn to succeed with it.

Cheapest Feeding Materials. Linsed cake is the staple food with many farmers. It is not improbable that this article will advance beyond a reasonable price, and the farmer should cast about to see if there is not some food which can be bought so as to pay him better. A good linsed cake is the best for general purposes, because it contains a fair proportion of the different forms of feeding matter that animals require, and one of its great features is the oil, a substance not strongly represented in grain. An English authority explains that it is only because the feeding constituents are well balanced that it is preferred to other foods, and if other foods are mixed so as to possess the same properties equally good results are obtained. The oil is the chief difficulty, but that may be easily arranged by buying the linsed instead of linsed cake, for then the whole of the oil is obtained. Linsed contains about four times as much oil as linseed cake, so if in making a mixture we bear this point in mind, the most difficult portion of the problem will be solved. Of course the linsed must be crushed or boiled. To supply the albuminoid matter which is found in the cake we have to turn to the pulse crops—beans, peas, lentils, maize and barley.

Corning Beef. The object in salting beef is to get it just salt enough to preserve it, and not so salt as to make it hard and dry when used. The following is a receipt much used—Cover the meat for two hours with brine scarcely strong enough to float an egg. Then take it out and wash it in cold water, and press it well with the hands and squeeze out all the blood you can before salting it down. Then throw the bloody brine away. Now make a new pickle, and for two hours keep it in a cool and well ventilated place. For the south and for keeping far into the summer more salt will be required. Never allow the meat to float up and remain uncovered with brine any longer than is necessary while taking out a piece for use.

Poultry Points. After burning sulphur in the poultry house (some people use it as a remedy for roup and lice) do not let the chickens out into rain or mist. They will catch cold then very easily, the same as a person who has been taking sulphur. Don't feed dry oats: scald them well first. If you want to get eggs, keep the hens from ever getting chilled. This is the biggest "secret" of the egg business. Don't give food or drink to a fowl for at least twelve hours before killing it. Ground bone is not only excellent to prevent leg weakness, but it encourages general health, but it encourages egg production immensely.

At the present season the dusting box serves its most valuable purposes. Whole wheat is fine egg food, but too much of it may cause looseness of the bowels. Scaly legged fowls are a disgrace to any yard, for they are generally caused by neglect and are easily cured. If you have birds whose combs frost readily apply a little vasoline to them when the weather is unusually cold.

Buried in Silver. William L. Scott was buried in a magnificent coffin, the manufacture of which required seventy-six pounds of solid silver, besides quantities of silk and broadly. The undertaker says that within their recollection only one other American, Samuel J. Tilden, ever had his mortal clay housed so elaborately. The use of gold bars and solid gold plates on expensive caskets is not unusual, but so lavish a use of solid silver is unprecedented.—San Francisco Argonaut.

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