

ORIGIN OF THANKSGIVING DAY.

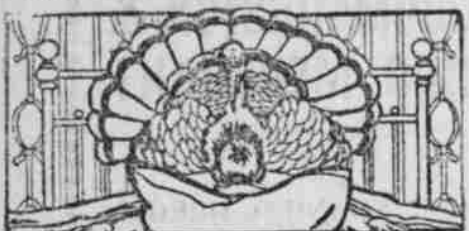
In 1631 the United States was a tiny babe in English long clothes; and it happened that there was a great scarcity of food in that little colony that had settled on Massachusetts bay—they were threatened with famine. The prospect grew dark and ominous; the people were brave; but their anxiety grew very keen for all that, and they knew not where to turn for earthly aid. It was the wont of those early pilgrims to turn to God in times of need and the elders decided that a special day be set aside for fasting and prayer. Before the day arrived, however, their long expected boat hove in sight and the day set aside for fasting and praying was transformed into one of cheer; good dinners and hearty thanksgivings prevailed. This was the first general Thanksgiving of which we have any record; it was by no means the last; from that day to this successive Governors and Presidents have set apart many different days for special Thanksgiving for some propitious event in State or county.

After the Revolutionary War was successfully ended Washington appointed a Thanksgiving day that was universally observed with the greatest rejoicing, as we may well believe, and after our own sad Civil War was almost ended President Lincoln proclaimed another of similar sort. Many hearts were full of grief then, yet there was much to be thankful for.

For over a century now the States of New England have set apart a day in the autumn for giving thanks to God for the many blessings of the year. It gradually came to seem a very pleasant, appropriate custom, and one State after another adopted it, until now, for many years past, the President has issued a proclamation for a day of public thanksgiving throughout the Union. This day is one of our legal holidays, a day that rich and poor alike can spend as they will. We all welcome it with delight, and it is a day peculiar to America only.



Peter had scarcely closed his eyes before his hair began to rise. For who should be perched on his bed but Barnyard Turkey, fierce and red! "Peter," he roared, "I saw to-day you looked at me as if to say—'Aha! You are so fat and fine—on Thanksgiving I'll make you mine!' Don't say you didn't, for I know your greedy nature makes you so." "Oh, sir," cried Peter, "that must be some other lad that looks like me; I am not greedy, sir, at all; in fact my appetite is small." "Flibber!" cried Barnyard Turkey. "What! Shall I destroy you on the spot? Did I not see you do your best? To eat my brother, legs and breast. Till you were stuffed so full with him it almost made my senses swim? But now things are the other way. There'll be no more Thanksgiving Day. We gobblers have it in our view to turn about and gobble you!" With that he puffed and puffed until he grew as big as any hill—so big the walls just burst apart. And Peter woke up with a start. With trembling voice he stammered: "Oh, dear! Turkey is bad for me, I fear."



A Country Girl's Thanksgiving.

By Antonia J. Stempel.

"Great Thanksgiving weather we'll be having, I'm thinking," remarked Mr. Wheeler as he came in to supper. "It's snowing hard, and the wind is coming up."

"Oh, goody," exclaimed Martha in high glee. "What's Thanksgiving without snow?"

The next morning it was still snowing, and the wind was busily piling up great white drifts. "Twon't be a pleasure trip to go to the village with the milk," said Mr. Wheeler, as he prepared to start, "but I s'pose I've got to." He found the traveling even worse than he expected; it was very late when he reached the village, and he did not return home till nearly dark. Not being a robust man, he was completely exhausted from his exertions, and during the night became ill.

"Whatever shall we do?" Mrs. Wheeler asked Martha despairingly. "We must have the doctor, and how to get the milk to town is a problem. And Thanksgiving Day, too!"

"Oh, I'll go," volunteered Martha, cheerfully. "I'll tell Dr. Brown to come right up, and then I'll peddle the milk. I've been with father so many times that I know all the customers."

Martha bundled herself up, put on her mother's rubber boots, and two pairs of mittens, and set out. "Old Billy must think I'm pretty heavy," she laughed, as she drove out of the yard with the milk cart.

Getting to the village, two miles away, was not an easy matter for a girl not yet sixteen. The roads were not broken out, and badly drifted. The milk cans bumped into each other with great force, and Martha had several narrow escapes from an upsetting. But finally, Grafton was reached, and Martha drove through the almost deserted streets to Dr. Brown's house.

When she had stated her errand, the doctor promised to go to her father immediately, and urged her to come in and rest.

"Oh, no, I can't," exclaimed Martha. "I've got all the milk to peddle, and I'm very late already. People need their milk for dinner, and the babies will be crying for it, too."

Martha set out on her rounds. When she opened the door of Mrs. Judson, her first customer, that lady started as though she saw a ghost.

"Mercy sakes, child," she cried, catching her by the arm and seating her in a chair by the stove. "How on earth did you get here? I'm mighty glad to see you. There ain't a milkman been around yet. Where's your pa?"

"He's sick and couldn't come, and I thought folks couldn't get along without milk on Thanksgiving Day, anyway. How much do you want?"

"I'll take five quarts," answered Mrs. Judson, her heart aching for tired Martha. "I'm going to pay you double price for it, too, for you've earned it. You're the only milkman's had gumption enough to get around, so far."

Everywhere Martha went she was greeted with exclamations of surprise and delight. In nearly every instance she was voluntarily paid extra for the milk.

"I'll bless you to the last day I live," cried Mrs. Morton, when Martha clumped into her kitchen with the milk can. "The

baby's been crying for milk all morning and I didn't have a mite to give him."

When Martha came to the house where her last customer, Miss Webster, a maiden lady, lived alone on a side street, she was surprised to see that snow had not yet been removed from the doorstep. All was very quiet, and Miss Webster could be neither seen nor heard. Martha banged the door, stamped her feet and rattled the milk can to attract attention. Then she felt sure something must be wrong, and set out to investigate. She opened the door leading from the sitting room into the hall. There lay Miss Webster unconscious, with a look of agony on her face. Martha felt a strong impulse to run. She conquered the feeling, got her milk can and dashed some of the icy cold liquid over Miss Webster's face, and at length she opened her eyes. The poor lady was too dazed to talk, but only moaned about her foot. Martha tried her best to assist her up, but found it impossible. So she made her as comfortable as she could, and started for help.

In the next house an Irish family lived. Mrs. Mulcahy caught sight of the milk cart.

"And is it milk ye've got?" she asked joyously. "The saints be good to ye, child, for bringing it. I'll take three quarts, if ye please." "She's a fine lady," said Mrs. Mulcahy when Martha stated her errand, "and faith, darling, it's meself would be glad to do something, but Timmy's got the measles, and my man ain't home, neither, so what kin I do, at all, at all?"

Martha concluded to go directly for the doctor. Fortunately Dr. Brown had just returned from the Wheeler farm. Leaving the milk cart at the barn, Martha got into the doctor's sleigh, and they drove back to Miss Webster's. Her ankle was broken, as Martha had guessed, and she assisted the doctor while he set the fracture. When he had finished, he said: "Now, little girl, just stay here a while longer till I can get somebody to come and take care of our patient, and then we'll go home and thankfully eat our dinner."

No Thanksgiving dinner had ever tasted so good to Martha before, though she missed her parents. The doctor insisted upon heaping her plate at every opportunity.

Late in the afternoon Martha drove home, tired but happy. Her father was comfortable, and was quite as much interested as her mother in listening to the narrative of her experience.

But Martha's Thanksgiving surprises were not all ended. A few days later her father, who had nearly recovered, came home one morning and gave her a huge bundle.

"Miss Webster told me to give that to you," he said. "It's good and heavy, whatever it is." The bundle proved to contain a mammoth turkey. Around its neck was tied a blue ribbon to which a card was attached bearing the words: "For Miss Martha Wheeler, with the compliments of those whom she made happy on Thanksgiving. Look at my heart."

Martha was nearly overcome by this gift, but she proceeded to investigate the meaning of the card's last sentence. The inside of the turkey proved to be neatly lined with white paper and contained a

dainty box, inside which reposed a beautiful watch, suitably inscribed.

"Why, mamma," exclaimed Martha, "we'll have a second Thanksgiving day now, won't we? That wind and snow brought me good fortune, though I didn't think it was very nice then."—Farm Life.

Not Sent in Vain.



Widow Gobbler—Yes, Dr. Quack, my dear husband devoted his life to charitable purposes; he was served at a Thanksgiving dinner for the poor!

Filling for a Turkey.

Plain bread filling is always nice. It would require at least one loaf of stale bread and one-fourth pound of butter. It should be three days old at the very least. Reduce it to fine crumbs, salt and pepper to the taste. Use no water, milk or baking powder. There is moisture enough from the turkey. If you wish to add oysters drain all the liquor off them, see there are no shells, roll in bread crumbs and drop them in through the dressing. There should be about one and one-half pints of large oysters.

Before putting the turkey in the oven, brush it all over with soft butter and put it in breast down. Place the turkey on a rack over a pan containing two cups of hot water. It is well to have for basting also a pint of hot water on the stove in which are three level table-spoons of butter. At first turn on full heat, then reduce the heat roasting the last hour and a half with slow heat.

He Has It Coming.



"I've got a notion to get down and punch that conceited fellow once or twice just for luck." "Don't do it. He'll get a dressing in a few days."

A Boy's Thanksgiving Menu.

No real Thanksgiving dinner would be complete without pie; indeed, it is said that a certain 8-year-old lad, on being asked to write out what he considered a good bill of fare, offered this:

- FIRST COURSE.
- Mince Pie
- SEKOND COURSE.
- Pumpkin Pie and Turkey
- THIRD COURSE.
- Lemon Pie, Turkey Cranberries
- FOURTH COURSE.
- Custard Pie, Apple Pie, Mince Pie
- Chocolate Cake, Ice Cream
- Fifth Pudding
- Dessert
- Pie

Looking in Respect

"I have a great respect for gray hair," said the humorous boarder as he raised his eyes from his plate.

"That's very creditable of you, Mr. Jellyby," said the landlady. "But I have no respect," said the humorous boarder, "for gray feathers!" And he tapped viciously on the tough fragment of turkey that lay before him.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Used to Be a Calling Day.

In the middle of last century it was fashionable, and therefore customary, to make calls. Thanksgiving day rivaled New Year's day in this respect. Society folk dined at noon and then held receptions.

UNCLE SAM'S BOUNTIFUL THANKSGIVING.



AGRICULTURAL

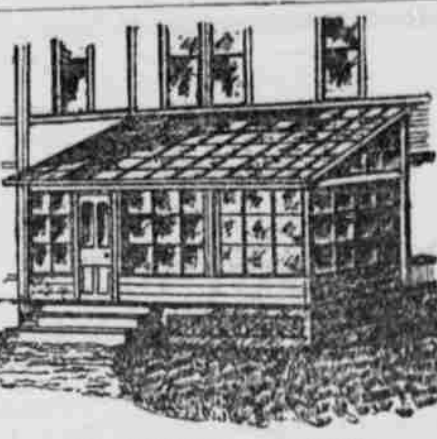


A Small Greenhouse.

To speak of a greenhouse suggests the idea of an expensive building that requires much labor on the part of some person to keep in order. While it is possible to spend almost any amount, a very practical house can be made of hot-bed sash, using the south piazza as a basis for operations. Hot-bed sash, all ready for use, costs from \$3.25 to \$3.50 each, and measures 3x6 feet; the glass in these frames measures 10x12 inches.

Buy the sash first, and then build according to the number of sash. This little greenhouse can be heated by a smokeless blue-flame oil stove without injury to the flowers.

For a beginner some of the bulb family will be best. Of late years, Roman hyacinths, narcissus of various kinds, freesias and tulips have had a great sale in the winter months. When grown for cut flowers they are put



SIDE VIEW OF GREENHOUSE.

in low boxes of a convenient size for handling, at a distance apart equal to about twice their diameter, and so they will just show above the surface.

General-Purpose Horse.

The general-purpose farm horse is one that can be well utilized in ordinary farm work of all kinds and can also do the limited amount of road work needed in connection with the working of the medium-sized or small farm, says a well-known farmer. A horse called a "chunk" in market, standing 15 to 16 hands high, weighing from 1,100 to 1,400 pounds, compactly built, with good feet and legs, a tractable, lively disposition, a good, clean, rapid way of going at walk or trot, is in brief, the kind of a horse that I would call a general-purpose horse. This kind of a horse has a place on farms, and we say is the most valuable class, so far as farm work is concerned. You will note that he partakes of the qualities of both the draught and coach or heavy roadster types, in both his conformation and disposition.

Iowa Farmers' Phones.

For the first time a census of telephones has been taken in the State of Iowa, and this has disclosed that there are now in use 222,325 instruments. Of this number 104,524 are classed as instruments used in connection with rural-lines. That is, they are used by the farmers of Iowa.

During the past few years the Government Weather Bureau in Des Moines has arranged for telephone distribution of forecasts, and a large percentage of these farmers now receive by telephone every morning the forecast of the weather for the coming thirty-six hours. This, in fact, has been one strong incentive for installation of telephones in the homes of the farmers of the State.

One Way to Kill Rats.

Here is the method used by one farmer to clean out rats: On a large number of old shingles he put about a half teaspoonful of molasses each, and on that, with his pocketknife, he scraped a small amount of concentrated lye. He then placed the old shingles around under the stable doors and under the cribs. The next morning he found forty dead rats, and the rest left the farm for parts unknown. He has cleared many farms of the pests in the same way, and has never known it to fail.

Cotton Greatest Export Crop.

Cotton is king in export record of the United States for the fiscal year just closed. The total value of raw cotton exported, for the first time crossed the \$400,000,000 line, and exceeded by far the value of any article of merchandise sent out of the country. The exports of cotton have increased over \$100,000,000 since 1901. The manufactured cotton goods were also larger than heretofore, and aggregated \$53,000,000.

Making Henhouse Warmer.

The henhouse can be made much warmer, if the walls are thin, by lining sides and ceiling with tar paper. The floor may be of brick, stone, cement, dry earth or coal cinders. The latter is preferable, especially if you are unfortunately possessed of a damp house. Fill in the damp henhouse a foot with cinders and they will always be dry on top.

Test of Age in Fowls.

A rooster's age is determined by the size of his spurs. If they are long he is "antique." If there is a small button on the ankle where the spurs come later he is a young bird. Ducks are invariably judged by the under lip of the bill. If a drossed duck will sustain its weight by its under bill, "lay it back and try another," for there is no telling how old it is; certainly too old to be real tender. But if the bill snaps easily it is a young bird. Gobblers are told by their spurs, the same as roosters, the age of the hen turkey being determined by the length of its beard. Aside from the test applied to ducks there is one infallible rule which can be applied with safety in all cases. The back part of the breastbone can be bent easily in a young fowl. If it is sharp and hard and refuses to yield to pressure from your thumb it is an old bird.

Impure Maple Syrup.

Impure maple sugar and sirup is the rule rather than the exception, both in this country and in Canada. The Canadian government has been making an investigation of the matter, and out of 85 samples of sirup only 22 were found to be genuine, while 53 were adulterated. In the same way, out of 26 samples of sugar only 11 were genuine. These samples were purchased at stores in different cities and towns. Out of 319 samples of milk gathered in the same way, only 180 were genuine. Canada is as much in need of a pure food law as is the United States, and one will soon be in operation on that side of the line.

Sweet Potato Growing.

The following suggestions about sweet potato growing are from a Virginia lady: Sweet potatoes succeed best on a deep and rich sandy soil with a warm exposure. The ground should be well plowed and harrowed fine. In each hill plant two sets, covering about two inches deep, and as they grow keep drawing dirt around them. They are among the very best vegetables for table use. Select a bright, clear day for digging, let them dry a day or two, then place in boxes with paper with a small quantity of slaked lime among the potatoes. Keep during winter in a storeroom.

Profitable Apple Trees.

H. A. Squires, living near Dearborn, Mo., has 125 trees of Wealthy apples and seventeen trees of Summer Queen; there are eight trees of another early sort, making 150 trees, or three acres, of apples ripening at this season. This year Mr. Squires sold the fruit from these three acres for \$1,000 net, after paying for the barrels in which the fruit was shipped. More than \$300 an acre is not a bad record in a year like this. Of course, Mr. Squires had a good crop, some trees making six and seven barrels of choice apples, but prices were not as high as is often the case.

Build a Toolhouse.

Every farmer needs a good toolhouse. It should be so convenient of access that there need be no excuse for leaving farm implements exposed to the weather when not in use. Properly cared for, many implements that now last only a few years ought to be serviceable as long as the farmer lives to need them. Besides, a tool that has not been rusted, warped and cracked by exposure will work as well the second and third year of use as the first. On many farms the tools are so much injured by being left out of doors that after the first season they cost more for repairs than they save in labor.

Handy Egg Turner.

When keeping eggs for hatching they should be turned frequently. The sketch shows a combination egg drawer and turner which is very effective. The



EGG TURNING DEVICE.

bottom of the egg drawer is removed and the eggs rest upon a roller curtain cloth, which winds upon a rod with a small crank. Winding the roller a very short distance turns each egg and jostles it slightly. A single turn on the crank will usually be sufficient.

Honey Crops of Europe.

The United States Consul at Frankfurt, Germany, has been gathering statistics about honey production in Europe. He finds that Germany leads all European countries, producing 20,000 tons from 1,910,000 beehives. Spain yields 19,000 tons; Austria, 18,000; France, 10,000; Holland, 2,500; Belgium, 2,000; Greece, 1,400, and Russia and Denmark, 900 tons each.

How to Save Melon Seed.

Melon seeds are best when saved from the entire melon. Select a fine specimen; let it remain on the vine until there are indications of ripeness. Then gather, put in the sun and weather until there are indications of decay. Wash the seed from the pulp and spread in the shade to dry. Such seed will keep several years and will produce fine, vigorous plants.



1415—Battle of Agincourt.

1663—Arrival of William Penn at Newcastle, Del.

1751—Extraordinary eruption of Vesuvius.

1774—First American Congress convened.

1775—Battle of Hampton, Va.

1777—Battle of Red Bank, N. J.

1780—John Hancock chosen first Governor of Massachusetts.

1814—First steam war vessel launched, and named The Fulton.

1842—Island of Madeira devastated by storm.

1844—Many killed by explosion steamer Lucy Walker at Newbury, Ind.

1847—American fleet under Commodore Perry bombarded Tobago.

1854—Two additional asteroids discovered and named Polymnia and Lilla.

1858—Theodore Roosevelt, twenty-second President of United States, born.

1861—Second naval expedition, consisting of 80 vessels and 15,000 men, sailed from Fortress Monroe.

1870—Convention in Cincinnati to remove the national capital from Washington to some point west.

1871—Riots in Chinese quarter of Los Angeles; 18 Chinese hanged; "Boss" Tweed of Tammany Hall arrested and jailed.

1872—Steamship Missouri burned at sea; 87 lives lost.

1874—Emperor William proposed the organization of the German army on a larger scale.

1883—Henry Irving made his American debut in New York; seats sold \$10 each.

1893—Battleship Oregon launched at San Francisco.

1898—The limit for the Spanish evacuation of Cuba extended to Jan. 1, 1899. Philadelphia celebrated jubilee. Dewey released the Spanish sailors captured at Manila.

1901—Czolgors executed at Auburn, N. Y., for assassination of President McKinley.

1902—Great loss of life and property from eruption of Santa Maria, Guatemala. Denmark declined to sell the Indian islands to the United States.

1903—Emma Booth-Tucker killed in road wreck in Missouri. Her road wagon trotted fastest mile on record. Memphis behind a wind sail.

1904—The Episcopal General convention agreed on a new divorce canon. A railroad strike spread through the Russian empire. Gen. Kurov appointed commander-in-chief of Russian army. Russian fleet fired on British fishing boats in North Sea.

College to Pay Smart Students.

Financial reward for high standing in financial loss for poor work on the part of students of Columbia university a novel plan announced by the faculty for the year 1907-08. On this tuition is to be paid for on the basis of \$5 per point, a point meaning the successful completion of work one week for half a year. This would mean the total course for the three years amount to \$320, except where deductions are made for scholarship. Any student who are credited with 94 points may receive one point extra toward a higher degree. Thus it will be possible for a student to get twelve extra credits in three years and for this \$60 will be deducted from his tuition. On the other hand, students lose \$5 for every course in which they fail and the fee for delinquent examinations is \$5.

Negro Artist Wins Prize.

The \$500 Harris prize for the best painting at the nineteenth annual exhibition of American paintings, now on at Chicago, has been awarded to Harry O. Tanner, a Pennsylvania negro, for a work entitled "The Disciples at the Tomb." Mr. Tanner is a Port-au-Prince, Haiti, who has studied in the best European studios. His works have been long in the Luxembourg, the Carnegie Institute, the Philadelphia academy of fine arts, and elsewhere.

Methodist Publishing Negro.

After the executive board of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society had approved the plan, all of the publishing interests of the Methodist Episcopal church had finally been consolidated with headquarters at Cincinnati. This includes the Board of Education, the Sunday School Union, the American Tract Society and Freedmen's Aid Society.

35,000 to Siberia in a Year.

The Russian government, under Premier Stolypin, continues its policy of rest and exile for every one suspected of opposing its program. A report that 35,000 people have been exiled to Siberia since the manifesto of Oct. 20, 1906, an imperial decree removes all class distinctions regarding state employment. All persons are declared equal before the law. Peasants are released from communal system and will be allowed to dwell where they please. The policy will be abolished Jan. 10.