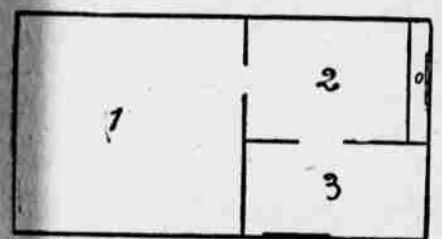




Perfect Hog House.

After experimenting with a dozen plans for hog houses, the writer found the one illustrated to give the best satisfaction of any at the smallest expense. It will be seen that there is no waste of room; that the building is compact and easily made comfortable, even in the coldest climates. It may be made of any material, and by using matched lumber or batten over cracks where unmatched lumber is used, made as snug as desired. In the ground plan of the illustration figure 1 represents the yard in which feeding troughs may be arranged.

Figure 2 is the main part of the pen, the living room, with the trough located on one side, where the animals are



PLAN FOR HOG HOUSE.

fed on stormy days. Figure 3 is the bed room, and a window or board door may be placed in the side of this room, through which the bedding may be thrown. Figure 4 shows the inclined floor, which is filled in underneath with broken stone to furnish firm support. Any variation of this plan may be used if the main arrangement is held to; for this arrangement provides for the best use of the space. The cost of such a structure can be kept down low if the work is done by those on the farm.—St. Paul Dispatch.

Emmer, the New Grain Crop.

The accompanying illustration shows a head of bearded, white-chaff emmer. Emmer has been grown for the past

few years in various localities in the West and North-west with gratifying results, and where known needs no words of commendation. It is making a place for itself among field crops. There is, however, a wider field for emmer. It is well worth a trial in any part of the winter-wheat belt where it is desirable for any reason to find a substitute for oats. As a spring grain crop for feeding purposes it certainly has a considerable merit, and some positive advantages over oats. Where the latter are subject to rust and give only moderate yields of light-weight grain, emmer is the better crop to raise. Although not absolutely rust-proof, emmer is affected only a little when wheat and oats are badly injured. Again, it is not damaged in the shock by rainy weather like oats. It is hardy, and should be sown very early in the spring. The growth at first appears backward as compared with oats or spring barley. The blades and stems of the plant are fine, and it does not grow as rank as oats, but it stools out well, forms a large number of short, compact heads and yields heavily. Owing to its habit of growth it is a much safer nurse-crop for grass and clover than oats.

HEAD OF EMMER.

Sheep that Pay.

No farmer should keep sheep because they are scavengers and can pick off a large share of their food from scanty herbage. Such sheep must be active to travel over large spaces in order to find subsistence. To expect sheep to pay without the investment of labor is to sacrifice profits. Success is assured only when the farmer is willing to use breeds that give large carcasses and which respond quickly to care and attention. It is only the labor, after all, that makes profit, but the labor must be bestowed on the best to be had.

Barley for Hogs.

After several years' experience I am convinced that for growing pigs between the age of 2 to 6 months barley is preferable to corn if only one thing is fed. But to be able to feed barley profitably it must be finely ground and soaked at least six hours before it is given to the pigs. It should always be fed in the form of a very thick slop. Skim milk is preferable to water for making the slop, especially for young pigs. I once fed a lot of pigs 5 months old, and they made a gain of 2 1/2 pounds a day each on finely ground barley fed as a very thick slop with a liberal quantity of skim milk. For very young pigs I prefer to feed equal parts of shorts and ground barley and then gradually change it to one-half each of corn and barley the last six weeks, when finishing for market.—Lewis O'Follow.

Good Butter Preferred.

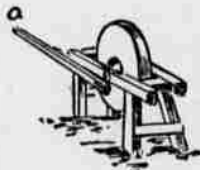
Dairy schools are now in operation in many States, and short courses of instruction on butter and cheese-making are given at some of the agricultural colleges. It was not long ago demonstrated that inferior butter could not compete with oleomargarine, and that good butter of choice quality could always be sold at a good price. The fact has also been demonstrated that there was much to learn in making good butter, and that cleanliness and the proper management of the milk were essential in producing the choice article. There has been a wonderful advance in the methods of butter-making, and oleomargarine is responsible for it. Consumers will not purchase the counterfeit article if they can get the genuine, and poor butter is as much a counterfeit as any other imitation.

Feed for Young Animals.

The younger an animal the more mineral matter it requires in its food. When very young pigs are growing they are producing bone very rapidly in proportion to size, and consequently require more phosphates in their food, especially of lime in a soluble condition. Milk contains all the necessary substances for pigs, but after a while they become of such sizes as to be unable to consume enough milk to supply them, as they must drink about eight times as much water in the milk as there are solids. To supply this deficiency corn meal is added, but corn meal is deficient in mineral matter. Bran, ground oats, shipstuff and finely cut clover hay (scalded), in addition to the milk and corn meal, will prove advantageous.

To Turn the Grindstone.

What's the use bending your back or barking your knuckles when grinding the ax, scythe, or the mower knives? Turn the stone with a wooden rod hitched by a slot and pin to the crank. The turner stands at a, out of the way of the knife bar or ax handle. For small stones and heavy work such an attachment is positively needed.—H. B. Fiske, in St. Louis Republic.



Value of Cattle Foods.

The value of cattle foods depends largely upon their digestibility. There is more protein in straw than in corn fodder, but the latter is more digestible. Some coarse foods are valuable, however, in assisting to digest the concentrated foods by giving bulk to the mess, and separating the materials, especially when the coarse foods are reduced to a fine condition. Even if but a portion of the straw foods are digested they are prepared for the manure heap by the animals, and are thus increased in value compared with wasteful use.

Start in Life on the Farm.

The young man who is thinking of leaving the farm for the city may learn when it is too late that while he can earn more in the city he cannot save as much as he could on the farm. If his object is to secure a competence he in nine cases out of ten will do it the sooner on a farm. There are more chances to spend money in the city than in the country, while the cost of living is higher.—Twentieth Century Farmer.

Greater Variety on Farms.

The farmer who confines himself to two or three staple crops and who has not ventured beyond them does not know the full capacity of his farm. He should try some special crops on a small area and endeavor to have a greater variety of articles to sell. The causes of failures in some crops do not influence other kinds.

Economy in Hauling.

When hauling a load it is better to have the horses draw as much as they can, making the load the maximum in weight, as the horses have traveled the distance whether the load is small or large, and it is the time lost in traveling that makes hauling expensive. If the roads are good heavy loads can be carried. If not, then two trips must be made and smaller loads carried. Let any farmer estimate how much he loses as the difference in large and small loads, and loss of time in the mud, and he will make less objection to road tax in the future.



TRAGEDY OF CHRIST'S DEATH.

By Rev. W. J. Williamson, D. D.

The birth, the life and the death of Jesus differ so widely from similar experiences among men that we shall find it forever impossible to explain them apart from the statements of the Bible. Every cradle in which rests a little child is a holy place, yet every Christian mother holds her babe aloft that its face may catch the light from the manger of Bethlehem.

The interest which heaven takes in the birth of a child is utterly unlike that attendance of the heavenly host when the Christ of prophecy took upon himself the form of man. The birth of Jesus was unique in that he asserts that he came into the world of his own volition. Only once does he speak of being born, and then to the dulled ears of the Roman Governor.

We need constantly to assert the great and fundamental fact of the pre-existence of Christ. He was the active agent in the world's creation. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." He constantly asserts that he was sent, and associates with his coming his own definite purpose. We enter upon life by no choice of our own, but Jesus Christ, whose previous existence is recognized by all Christian sources of truth, and who could say, "Before Abraham was, I am," chose to humble himself and to become "God manifest in the flesh."

Just as the birth of Jesus was a matter of choice, prompted by an infinite compassion, so his death was utterly unlike any other in all the world's tragedies. We assert of our dead friends that they gave up their lives, but do not mean what we say. On the contrary, their lives were taken by a foe, whose advances were bitterly contested at every step by all that love and science could do. But the Son of God asserts that he has authority over his life, so that he has power to take it up, and power to lay it down. The goal of his earthly career was not Bethlehem, but Calvary. He came with the definite purpose to die on the cross. "The Son of Man came to give his life," and any other conception of his death utterly fails to grasp its essential meaning.

Christ also regarded his death as accomplishing the redemption of man from the penalty and the power of sin. It is far beyond the human mind to satisfactorily explain the mysteries of the atonement, nor should the independent reader of the Bible regard himself as bound by men. You and I have to do with the great fact as asserted by Christ himself, that "the good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." "The Son of Man must be lifted up." "He bore our sins in his own body on the tree." Even the casual reader of the Bible must see that Christ regarded his death as the price paid for a lost world.

We cannot enter into the hidden things of God and construct syllogisms of the plan of redemption which will satisfy our human reason, but we may participate in all its blessed results. Many of the most important truths make their last appeal to our consciousness. When we walk abroad in the morning light and air, we have no difficulty in saying "God made the world," but when we attempt to dogmatize as to the method and time of its making, we soon find mankind divided into many schools of thought, and the conclusions of none of them are too certain.

So with this great central fact of revelation, the death of Christ; it has its perfect interpretation in the man who yields his soul to the Christ of Calvary. The man who has forsaken sin and is keeping his heart open to the message of heaven, has no difficulty with the Scripture teaching of the cross. As Thomas exclaimed in the presence of the risen Savior, "My Lord and my God," so the life which has experienced forgiveness instantly says "Christ died for my sins according to the gospel."

The value placed upon the death of Jesus, rather than his birth and his life, determines the growth in grace of the individual Christian. The words of the Sermon on the Mount are beautiful and exceedingly wonderful, but the power from the cross makes their attainment possible.

It is forever the suffering Savior who moves men to repentance and speaks words of pardon, and peace, and power. This, too, is the appeal by which God seeks to bring the world to himself. Paul's great message was Jesus Christ and him crucified, and this is forever the one great message

of the church until our Lord shall come to reign.

Wherever this gospel is preached, whether in cathedral or by earnest lives amid the activities of a great city, it will prove to be the power of God and the wisdom of God. "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me."

THE ANGELUS.

By Rev. J. P. Berg

Like the silver tones of an evening Angelus sounding the hour when work shall give place to prayer falls this restful call on the ears of the world's workers, telling them that the time for struggle and toil has passed and the time for prayer and peace has come. From the minaret of his own experience the divine Watcher sees a world engaged in labors from whose dreary monotony there is no release. "Come unto me all such," is the invitation, "and I will give you rest."

How urgently the world of to-day, with its mad hurry and haste and superficial rest, needs to heed this call! It is repeated in scripture in many forms, but the burden of its cry is always "Come." Here is no vague invitation, "come now" is the plain meaning and rest is immediately given. No one can doubt the sincerity of such an invitation, there is a constraining power in its tenderness that appeals to the "weary and heavy laden," to whom it is extended.

"Tired and overweighted" is another meaning of these words, and while physical troubles are not alone or even chiefly intended it would be a mistake to suppose them to be excluded. Our difficulties are often complex in their origin and we do not always know from what source they arise. There is a form of soul weariness which arises from a deep sense of failure. No matter what a man's religious creed, provided it is a creed and not a mere catalogue of opinions, he will find it no easy matter to live up to it.

To many this is a discouraging fact and the conviction of failure is one of the hardest burdens to carry. But that is not the hardest form of religion which makes us satisfied with ourselves; indeed, a certain self-dissatisfaction will alone furnish us with incentive to attempt to better our past. The creed that a man can live up to, and that without half trying, is not worth the having. It is not the satisfied conviction "I have reached my ideal" that gives us peace, but the thought "I am nearer to it than I was a while ago." The knowledge that in spite of mistakes we are making progress means tranquillity. "I will give you rest" means I will teach you how to succeed.

However unable we may be to diagnose our disease, we are always sufficiently aware of the symptoms. Why we are tired and overweighted we may not always know, but we are never in doubt as to the fact. Perhaps times have been hard and work is scarce, whether due to strikes or cold weather, you have struggled hard to support your families, and have worked as faithfully as you know how. Your religious beliefs may be many or few; perhaps you have never formulated them clearly in your own mind; that is not, however, the important point in regard to this invitation. It is this: You are discouraged, the call makes no exceptions; it does not read, "Come ye discouraged Christians," or "Come ye faithful disciples;" it's a broader call than that; the invitation includes you.

Or perhaps health has failed and you have become disqualified for work; you cannot dig, and you are, of course, ashamed to beg. Possibly you have almost reached the point when you feel it is better for you to die than to live. You "have never subscribed to any creed," you say; well, none the less, the invitation is for you. Often death visits the home. The son is trying to supply the place of the father or the daughter of the mother. Duties are many and onerous, vexations frequent and not always trivial; the burden is heavy on your young shoulders; it is certain the invitation is for you.

Many hear this Angelus who do not stop their work to pray. Perhaps you think you have no time. Try it. See if he will not give you rest. After all, it is not so much what God gives you as what he is to you that means rest to the discouraged heart. In its fullest meaning the Angelus is this: "Come unto me all ye discouraged ones and I will be your rest."

Short Meter Sermons.

Love cannot be leased. Silence is the eloquence of sympathy.

The happy man cannot help being helpful.

He who courts martyrdom weds no crown.

There never was an argument that could compete successfully with an appetite.



He—I'd give up all my millions to have you." She—If you did you wouldn't have me.—Smart Set.

Citizen—How can you be tired when you are doing nothing? Tramp—I reckon it's 'cause dere's so much uv it ter do.—Chicago News.

Ascum—Well, well! I congratulate you, old man; and how is the baby to be name'd? Popley—By my wife's people, it seems.—Philadelphia Press.

Wife—When we go anywhere now we have to walk. When we were only engaged you always called a carriage. Husband—That's why we have to walk now.

Blunt—I hear Blones has stopped gambling. Front—That's true. I bet him \$100 this morning that he couldn't stop, and he took me up.—Yonkers Herald.

Georgiana—We are not old. Juliana—Oh, yes, we are, my dear. Georgiana—Well, we are just as young as any girls of our age in town.—Indianapolis Journal.

Snaso—This souvenir habit is getting to be something fierce. Rodd—I should say so. I know of a man who visited a friend and took his friend's wife as a souvenir.

Little Willie—What is the difference between character and reputation, pa? Pa—Character is a luxury, my son, while reputation is a necessity.—Chicago Daily News.

Scribblehard—I believe I've written myself out; I don't seem to have an idea left. Penhandler—Well, why don't you write stories for the magazines, then?—Life.

The Lady—I gave you a piece of pie last week, and you've been sending your friends here ever since. The Tramp—You're mistaken, lady; them was my enemies.—Judge.

"She claims to have studied music." "Well, she has, after a fashion." "How is that?" "Why, she has studied the pronunciation of the names of the great composers."—Chicago Post.

"So you were in London, eh? How did you find the weather there?" "I didn't have to find it. It came and hunted me up and surrounded me in chunks."—Philadelphia Press.

Wife—Now, don't you think my new hat is a perfect dream? Husband—Well, no. To be a perfect dream the bill attached to it should also be merely a dream.—Philadelphia Press.

"Didn't she have some trouble in hiding from her husband the present she was going to give him?" "Not a bit. She put it in one of the pigeon holes of his desk."—Chicago Tribune.

She—And you don't think there is a chance in the world of our living through our lives without a quarrel. He—There is always a fighting chance, dear.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

"Yes, his painting attracts a great many people." "Great artist, eh?" "No, just a house painter. He puts out a sign, 'Fresh Paint,' and everyone touches it to see if it's dry."—Chicago News.

Jack—Miss Fay, will you marry me? Fay—I wouldn't marry you if you were the last man on earth! Jack—Oh, I say, that's rather hard, I—Fay—Goose! How could I? Who'd perform the ceremony?

He—We must economize. Suppose, darling, that you try your hand at making your own clothes. She—Oh, George, dear, I never could do that. Suppose I begin by trying to make yours?—The New Yorker.

A stout man met a sad-faced man on the corner. "Sir," said the stout man, "can you recommend a good barber to me?" "Sir," replied the sad-faced man, "I cannot. I have my hair cut at home."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mrs. Crocker—You don't like your soup? Well, I must say, you are the hardest man to satisfy there ever was! Mr. Crocker—People who know you are my wife have quite a different opinion, my dear.—Boston Transcript.

Hiller—Was that your son I saw you with yesterday? Dale—The young chap who was giving me advice how to succeed in business and to make a place for one's self in the world? Yes, that was George.—Boston Transcript.

"Didn't I hear your wife refer to you as the human mince pie?" said the curious person. "Yes," answered Mr. Sirius Barker. "Is that a complaint?" "Not exactly. She means that I never agree with anybody."—Washington Star.

Angle—Just one question before we elope, Edwin: Are you fond of pet dogs? Edwin—Yes, yes! Bring him along, but be quick! Angle—No; it isn't that, but pa bought a bull dog last night and he's somewhere around down there, and I want you to make friends with him before I come down.—Chicago News.