

Crowded.
Secretary Taft was, on one occasion, in consultation with Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania. The Secretary is gigantic, and the Senator is taller and weighs more than any member of the Senate.

While these two statesmen were in earnest conversation, an aggressive politician endeavored to enter the room, but an alert secretary politely interfered.

"What are they doing in there?" asked the politician, inquisitively.

This impertinent question nettled the secretary, and he answered, tersely: "Holding a mass meeting, I presume."—Harper's Weekly.

Speaking of Thaws.

"Thaw—" began Mrs. Stubb the other morning.

"Thaw!" snapped Mr. Stubb, irritably. "Now, look here, Maria, if you begin to talk about the Thaw trial I will leave the house. I am sick of hearing about it and—"

"Thaw—" "Didn't I tell you to stop? This Thaw argument is a nuisance and—"

But Mrs. Stubb was rapping on the kitchen table with the rolling pin.

"Ignoramus!" she hissed. "Will you give a poor, weak woman a chance to get in a word? I am not talking about the Thaw trial. I was merely telling you to go out and thaw the pipes. Of all the—"

But Mr. Stubb had fled with the kettle of hot water.

Awful Break.

The man of the house had shown the caller the leaky roof, the insecure foundation, the unfinished upper rooms, and the generally wretched condition of the premises.

"Now," he said, "I think you ought to make the assessment about half what it was last year."

"You must have misunderstood me, Mr. Gimpawitch," remarked the caller. "I didn't say I was the assessor. What I said was that my name is Elsworth. I am thinking of buying some property in this neighborhood."—Chicago Tribune.

His Chance.

Young Prof. McGoozie was calling on Miss Gurgle.

"Duckie," said her younger brother, who happened in, "you don't get your hair all tousled up now like you used to do when Mr. Kleengawn was comin' here."

"You impudent boy!" exclaimed his sister, indignantly, but retaining her self-possession. "You go right back to the sitting room, and stay there!"



Baked Custard Pudding.

A pudding of this description is frequently spoiled by being too soft, too dry or lumpy. In frugal cookery, the bread is soaked in boiling water for half an hour, squeezed dry in a cloth, and then all the lumps are beaten with a fork till quite smooth. Mix with three breakfastcupfuls of the soaked crusts, a teaspoonful of currants, a teaspoonful of cinnamon, the same of ginger, two tablespoonfuls of flour, three tablespoonfuls of sugar, one of treacle, two of dripping, two eggs beaten up, and a pint of skim milk. Stir all thoroughly, put into pudding dish. Place a little dripping of shred suet all over the top, and at once put the pudding into the oven. Bake slowly for an hour and a half. If this is nicely made and baked, it will, when cold, eat like cake.

Apple Meringue.

Peel and core a half a dozen fine apples; put them in a porcelain-lined dish and pour around them a thin sirup made by boiling together one minute half a cup of sugar and half a cup of water. Flavor strongly with lemon and let them boil in the sirup until partly tender; then set closely covered in the oven, and let them become perfectly tender, but do not let them break. Baste them often with the sirup. When done, cool and set away for half a day, until the jelly in and around them is firm. Then cover with a delicate meringue and brown in the oven. Dredge lightly with powdered sugar and serve as a dessert.

Circle Eggs.

Separate the yolks and whites of four eggs. Without beating the whites turn them into a small pan in which is a bit of boiling lard. Fry the white thoroughly on one side. Meanwhile beat the yolks light, adding half a saltspoon of salt and a dash of pepper. Turn the beaten yolks into a hot pan and stir until they are firm. Then add two tablespoonfuls of finely chopped ham, bacon or chipped beef. Take up the fried white with a large cake turner, pile the scrambled yolks upon it in a circle and serve hot. This makes a very attractive-looking dish.

"Pot Holders."

Every stylish cake pan has a little hook on the side by means of which it can be drawn from the oven. But in case all are not provided with these new pans, there can be had "pot holders" of felt, curiously shaped, so as to resemble a rooster, and even decorated with feather-stitching in silk. The folded wings of the rooster you slip over the edge of pot or pan. Price, 10 cents.

Glazed Sweet Potatoes.

Five sweet potatoes, one egg, half cupful of sugar, half teaspoonful of salt, one tablespoonful of butter. Pare and cut the potatoes in strips; steam until nearly done. Remove from the fire and cool. Dip in egg beaten with the salt, then in the sugar, coating each strip thickly. Place in the pan with the butter and bake a rich brown.

Rabbit Pie.

Clean and joint two rabbits. Soak in salted water for two hours, wash in fresh water and put into a pie dish with a handful of chopped parsley, an onion with ten cloves stuck into it, a dash of grated nutmeg, pepper and salt to taste. Fill the dish with hot water, cover with a good paste and bake for one and one-half hours.

Graham Bread.

Scald two cups of milk, add two level teaspoons of sugar and one level teaspoon of salt. When cool add one-half yeast cake dissolved in one-half cup of lukewarm water, two cups of white flour and a little more than three cups of graham flour. Cover and let rise; shape into loaves, let rise again, and bake thoroughly.

Cookies.

Cream together one and one-half cups of light brown sugar and one-half cup of butter. Add a half cup of sour cream, one egg beaten light, a teaspoonful of baking soda dissolved in a little boiling water, lemon flavoring and flour to make a dough that can be rolled out. Roll thin and bake.

Concord Grape Pudding.

Allow two tablespoonfuls of rice flour, moistened with four tablespoonfuls of cold water and four tablespoonfuls of sugar. Stir into it one pint of boiling grape juice. Stir until thick as blanc mange; pour into mold, put on ice. Serve with whipped cream.

Zenda Pudding.

Two ounces of flour, two ounces of breadcrumbs and two of suet; mix with 4½ ounces of grated coconut, two ounces of sugar, the yolks of three eggs and half a gill of milk. Steam one hour and serve with foamy sauce.

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Stay-at-Home Laborers.

Farm laborers in England are not migratory. A certain farm in Wiltshire has a regular staff of six men and two boys who have served for the following periods: Forty-six years eight months, forty-four years eight months, thirty-two years eight months, twenty-six years seven months, fourteen years eleven months, four years eleven months, five years six months, three years nine months. There is thus an aggregate period of 179 years of service.

Price of Proficiency.

Herkimer James, the well known scientist, was talking in New York about the bill of \$25,000 that Dr. Frank Billings presented to the Marshall Field estate.

"It seems a big fee," said Prof. James. "But whenever physicians' fees seem extortionate I think of a certain famous eye specialist."

"A patient of this specialist's coming to pay his bill, growled:

"Doctor, it seems to me that \$500 is a big charge for that operation of mine. It didn't take you over half a minute."

"My dear sir," the other answered, "in learning to perform that operation in half a minute I have spoiled over eleven pecks of such eyes as yours."—Philadelphia Record.

Ox Wagons Against Freight Trains.

In the Cape of Good Hope colony many of the short railroad branches and extensions do not pay on account of ox wagon competition. In the report for the year 1905, recently issued, the traffic manager of one of the lines reports in regard to a new nineteen-mile branch that as there was a very plentiful supply of wagons and an abundant supply of grass during the season ox wagon rates ruled low and the railroad secured little general traffic.

Signs of Coming Earthquake.

Can an earthquake be "felt" approaching as a shower of rain can be felt and a fall of snow? On the Riviera in 1887 the horses laid their ears back and gave every sign of uneasiness. In Chile the birds have been observed to fly inland just before a convulsion. In Talcahuano in 1835 all the dogs fled from the city. These actions, of course, as a scientist who has collected a valuable list suggests, may be mere coincidences, for birds will fly inland and kittens become nervous when no earthquake is nigh. On the other hand, as the lower animals are singularly sensitive to any changes of weather and to pressure of the air they "may even be conscious of subterranean movements which do not come within human ken or are even not detectable by the most delicate instruments."

Demoralized.

Friend of Candidate—Bingo, how are you getting along with your campaign? Famously?

Candidate—No; infamously. Haven't you seen the opposition papers?

Force of Habit.

"Poor fellow! He studied the French language for three years."

"You don't say?"

"Yes, and then he went over to Paris and tried his best to pass as a native Frenchman."

"Was he successful?"

"No, he was tripped up on one word. When he had occasion to write 'sou' he forgot and wrote 'sloux.'"—Chicago News.

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