

THE HOME CIRCLE.

Holiday Greeting from "Mary Mountain."

My dear, busy friends, do allow me to greet you with holiday blessing and wishes for luck.

For my Editors, Editor, no gift is too gracious, and I would send them a big redwood tree.

The voice of the brooklet is fresher and newer. Since I wish, bright rain-drops have quickened the song.

The Ruins at noon-day are cold and forsaken. No gay winter sunshine can soften the rock.

I cannot reply lest my rhyming should fail. And the muse in a flutter comes tumbling towards earth.

No accept from the Backwoods a simple heart-greeting. For oldsters and youngsters who work for the Press.

A Poetical Harvest Report.

A Bremenian ("Observer") correspondent of the Galveston News says: "Observing that your correspondents in these parts confine themselves mostly to sober prose.

You want to know about the crops? Up here what the subscriber stops? Well! now! If anybody knows.

We've had a little too much wet, but maybe we may break up yet.

I think on cotton we are sound, if the worm don't come cavorting round.

Corn, you say? Yes, corn. Well, that Old West has lately made it tell.

I tell you, and you bet your pile, that corn grows heavy on our side.

Next month may give my words the lie. But this I'll say, from what I see.

Lulu's Christmas.

Written for the FARMER by MRS. VAN.

"Come here, Lulu! I have something to tell you," said Aunt Edith to the little motherless child who sat playing with her doll.

After dinner Lulu and Amy went in to see Jenny and her playthings, and did not return till dark. They were met at the door by mamma, who, with a smiling countenance, led them into the parlor.

The candles burned low and the tree was stripped while the little folks, laden with gifts, tripped into the brightly lighted parlor.

"My dear," said Aunt Edith slowly, "your Papa says he will be home on Christmas day without fail, and will bring with him for you a well mamma that won't have to lie on the bed and have the doctor every day?"

The days passed on, and every time Lulu found her aunt alone she would question her about the "new mamma."

An hour later, as they sat at dinner, Lulu said, "Papa, Santa Claus has sent a box to you; may I and Amy and I see you unpack it and put the things upon the tree?"

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Luxury and Criticism.

In the occasions of extravagance and luxury so generally current, it should be remembered that luxury is not a positive but a relative matter.

The table is not so loaded with viands as in former times; there has been a growth of fastidiousness in regard to dishes, but luxurious eating, like excessive drinking, has quite gone out of fashion.

There's no such thing as money in this country! was the exclamation of an Englishman a few years ago after a brief sojourn in New York.

It happened in this way: The Englishman, in the course of his business, found it necessary to obtain an advance on some merchandise.

There are many ways in which a young wife can assist her husband in getting along in the world; for instance, a young housewife recently reported the following as the product of a barrel of flour.

CANNING AND FROGS.—In a memoir of Frere the following anecdote is given to show that great men are sometimes astonishingly deficient in their knowledge of facts supposed to be generally known, even to common minds.

ANSWER YOUR CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS.—Education is erroneously supposed only to be had at school. The most ignorant children often have been constant in their attendance there.

TO TEST THE PURITY OF ATMOSPHERE.—First, a simple method of ascertaining the presence of impurity (carbonic acid) in the atmosphere, is to nearly fill a glass tumbler with lime-water.

PROTECTION OF IRON FROM RUST.—The following mixture is stated to be an excellent brown coating for protecting iron and steel from rust.

A NEW METHOD OF COLORING LEATHERS.—By an invention recently patented, leather, and other substances used in hats, are claimed to be colored, elegantly and cheaply.

USEFUL INFORMATION.

A Perfect Water Proof.

A writer in an English paper says: By the way, speaking of water proofs, I think I can give travelers a valuable hint or two.

CONSUMPTION OF TIMBER IN TIES.—Estimating the railways of the United States as equal, including sidings, double tracks, etc., to 60,000 miles of single track, the aggregate number of ties would be 150,000,000, at the rate of 2,500 to the mile.

SOFTENING AND TANNING.—Steam is the usual agent, but where practicable, boiling in water is the very best means.

PRESERVATION OF HAIR FOR THE HATTER.—A method of treating animal hair for the use of the hatter, which has been kept secret for a long time, is now known to consist in the application of a solution of the nitrate of mercury.

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DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

How To Cook Potatoes.

There is probably no daily food which is capable of yielding us such a variety of healthful and tasteful dishes as the potato; and yet many respectable families seem to have but one mode through the entire year and that with as little care as possible—namely, boiling.

Care should be taken to select from the bins all alike in size, being sure to allow them just sufficient time to become nicely crisp and brown at the hour the remainder of the dinner is ready.

The boiled potatoes, left after yesterday's dinner, are very good chopped fine and warmed for breakfast in good milk and butter, with salt and pepper.

During the damp and cold season, says Dio Lewis, deficient dress of the feet and legs is a fruitful source of disease.

My dear madam, have you a headache, a sore throat, palpitation of the heart, congestion of the liver, or indigestion?

I must not forget to say that a thin layer of India rubber cement upon the boot sole will do much to keep the bottom of the feet dry and warm.

COOLING RAILWAY CARRIAGES.—A totally new way of cooling railway carriages has been lately designed by Mr. Daniel Reid, of the East Indian railway.

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