

The Home Circle.

OLD FARMER JOHN.

Old Farmer John is more perplexed—
Nay, Farmer John is sore vexed;
He labors early, labors late,
Yet ever finds an adverse fate.
For all his toils and sweat and pain,
Of needed clothes to pay the price.

The summer comes, the summer goes,
The spring showers melt the winter snow—
The white, from dawn to close of day,
Receiving nought but smiles for pay,
His good wife boils, and anxious care
Has faded lip and cheek and hair.

Areas on acres stretch away,
Of woodland, corn, of wheat and hay;
His cattle roam o'er many a hill,
His brooklet turns the grinding mill;
Yet this abundance nothing yields,
To pay the mortgage on his fields.

Four sturdy sons, four daughters fair,
Claimed at his hands a father's care.
He gave them labor without end,
And strove their souls like his to bend
To the narrow groove of thought;
Interest to be earned, clothes to be bought.

No books, no pictures on the wall;
Carpenter's room, and dressy hall,
Why think it strange such farmer's boys
Should seek the city's pomp and noise?
Should learn to loathe the sight of home,
Where nought or grace or joy may come?

Yes, Farmer John is growing poor!
You feel it as you pass his door.
His old brown horse is small and mean;
The roof is warped by crack and seam.
The leaning bars, the half-hinged door,
Proclaim old John is very poor.

Why think it strange his poor old wife,
Who coined for him her very life,
Should pause at last 'neath fortune's frown,
And lay her weary burden down,
In J. to walk the streets of Heaven,
Where nought is sold, but all is given?

Old Farmer John still tills the soil,
Trains lone subsistence by his will,
While 'way Kites in wealth may roll
From Transportation's heavy toll;
But, with the Grange, a ray of light
Is dawning on the farmer's night.

—Industrial Age.

More About Hired Help.

[From the Pacific Rural Press.]

HEALDSBURG, Feb. 21st.

EDITORS PRESS:—I am thinking that you will become tired of this subject, but you invite all to write for the PRESS, and when you think this train has run far enough please put down the breaks, and I will not complain.

I know by experience, and observation that many who hire help are imposed upon in a shameless manner, but this does not prove that all are mean, and low, who "smell their bread by the sweat of their brow" on the farm. I think there are far too many in the various callings in life who "walk disorderly, and obey not the truth."

For example: look at some of the Lawyers, (and who are they but hired men?) they do some very dirty work too, for cash. They would not steal a pair of blankets, not they; but they strip the widow and fatherless of that which would buy many blankets, and have made the farmers of California more trouble than all the hired help put together.

And yet as they pass by in style, men bow very low, and say: "smart fellows; getting rich too."

But if honest poor men pass by, they stand erect and think, at least, "God I think that I am not as other men are."

I have often noticed that men, and women who have worked out, are the hardest to please; not that working out necessarily makes them disagreeable, but it seems natural for some to show their authority when they can.

While this is true, it is also a fact that many of the best men in our land began poor.

In families where there are several boys, and the farm does not afford employment and support for all, some of the sons, go out to work until they get a start in life. Then again misfortunes fall very heavily upon many, and it becomes needful, for a time at least, that they should work wherever they can find an opening.

"Fossils off are fit for Princes
And Princes fit for something less."

I think every person should be prized according to their intrinsic worth. There is no other true standard. I like the sentiment of the "Grangers' wife" in your last issue, but as I have read "Ranchero's" article, I thought I would like to add my humble opinion to hers.

R—would have every one around him, feel inferior. Is this the best way to elevate man? Does it help them to live better lives?

"Man's inhumanity to man
Makes countless thousands mourn."

I wonder if R— ever learned the "golden rule"?

If all employers should follow his advice, it would not be long until every young man of intelligence would seek some other occupation, where he would be received as "a man among men." This would leave none but the poor and helpless. The same is true indoors; it is nearly impossible to get a good girl. And why? because girls who have education enough to obtain a third grade certificate, go to teaching school; then they mingle in the best society, and somehow the public does not see that they are "hired."

I beg pardon for writing so long an article, but the interest I feel in the moral, social, and financial prosperity of our land, is the only excuse I have to offer for writing at all.

S.

[We have already given a large space to this subject, and will conclude with the following extracts from other correspondence.—EDITORS PRESS.]

SAN JAS. Feb. 10, 1874.

EDITORS PRESS:—"Ranchero" in the PRESS of the 7th inst. in endorsing the views of "A Granger's wife" in a former number, rather in my humble opinion, goes beneath the well known hospital characteristic of California farmers, when they thus tightly and unbecomingly (pardon the word) draw the lines of demarcation between employer and employee.

It is reasonable to presume that labor and capital are absolutely essential to each other's existence, and in order to develop to the fullest extent the complete capacities of both, they must harmonize and not clash. There should be no such thing as oppression or proscription of the part of either towards the other. What employers want is intelligent laborers. Now, how can you think of ever increasing the knowledge of the individual who gives you a fair equivalent for your money, with his services, if you deny him the small but blessed privilege, after his days toil is accomplished, of improving his mind from the perusal of books from your shelves, or elevating his moral temperance by listening at least, to intelligent conversation from your family circle? What interest do you suppose a hired man can take in your affairs if he is continually reminded by you of his mental condition? Do you see nothing human nor intellectual in your hired man. It is to your interest, and should be your office to elevate, not trample upon those less fortunate than yourself.

The most successful farmer I ever knew was one who associated with his workmen, who did

not seem to consider himself any better than they. His men liked him, and his interests were completely subserved. His was a model farm, and he often remarked as his years ripened, that he owed it all to the industrious hand of the common laborer, and felt proud to have them sit by his fireside and enjoy themselves in his company.

I would that there were more like him, and that our friend Ranchero would copy him, and take a deeper and more earnest look down in to the great well of human nature.

AEMILIUS KAMP.

ELMIRA, Solano Co.

EDITORS PRESS:—I as a farm laborer, would like to give my ideas concerning the treatment that is due to a "hired" man. Why is not a man that is good enough to work for you not good enough for your family circle, table and house?

Now I contend that your hired man should be treated with kindness. He should be allowed the privilege, after his day's work is done, to seek what little recreation your family circle may offer. If he be ever so wicked elsewhere, the society of ladies will always be a means of restoring him to a sense of honor and respect.

You hire him at so much per month and board. You should give him good board, and that is part of his salary. If you deprive him of good, substantial food, you rob him of his salary. You should not put him out in the barn to sleep, or any place where you would not willingly go yourself. You must not give him to eat scraps from your table, and coffee that looks as if some dirty sock had been washed in warm water, and given to men to drink. Your hired man should have free access to books and papers, whereby to cultivate his mind. He should in all cases be treated with respect; for he is a man, as good as you, for has not God created all alike?

A FARM LABORER.

UKIAH VALLEY, Feb. 12, 1874.

EDITORS PRESS:—Hired men are not the only class to which tyrants belong. We find those who owe to tyrannize over their fellows in every class, from the prince to the beggar. In our own experience, we have known hired men who were scholars and gentlemen in every respect. Then why, I ask, exclude them from our tables and our firesides; for no other reason than that they are hired to labor?

I think that it is this very same aristocratic idea which makes it so difficult to get a girl to do housework. I imagine that there are plenty of girls who would be glad to earn their own living, if it were not for the fear of being looked down upon.

In my opinion it is far more respectable for man or woman to go out to work than to spend their time in idleness, depending upon their relatives for support.

BERTHA.

TOMALES, Feb. 22d.

It is not our province as Grangers to endeavor to create an aristocracy, as we see its bad effects all over the world; but we should, to the utmost of our abilities, strive not only to elevate ourselves socially, morally and politically, but we should also assist our fellow man. The time is fast approaching when we shall need the assistance of our hired help to fight the great battle of reform; and their influence can now be either gained or lost, according to the treatment they receive. Kindness begets love, respect and a cheerful, honest performance of duty.

A TOMALES GRANGER'S WIFE.

Man—His Past and Future, and the House Wherein he Dwelleth.

BY ELIENNA.

ARE ALL MANKIND OF THE SAME ORIGIN?—Can the Caucasian race have given birth to all the others? The answer to this by any one who had not reflected on the subject, and who had nothing but his own limited experience, would be invariably "no!" That is, if he had not learned from the Bible that God made all men that dwell on the earth of one blood. Universal experience would be against it. But universal experience can not here be taken as a safe guide; for it does not know of the changes that may be produced by removal from one country to another. All it proves is that the same race, in the same country, preserves the same characteristics, unvaried from age to age, and from century to century. Thus, the Caucasian of Europe is the same to-day that he was in the days of Solomon; and the negro still preserves the same color, and the same lineaments which were given to him three thousand years ago, by the artists of the Pharaohs, on the rock-hewn tombs of Egypt.

Experience shows that removal from one country to another is attended by a change in physical characteristics. In all European colonies, in hot countries, there is a marked difference observable between the new comers and the one who has dwelt 'neath the rays of a tropical or semi-tropical sun for a number of years. Thus, the Australian and African colonists are bronzed looking; many shades removed from the fresh, fair color of their kindred in Europe. The change becomes more marked in their children; and, in New South Wales, in Australia, and in Natal, in Africa, a saw color is prevalent, and those who are obliged to work under the sun, have a Mongolian, and, in some instances, a mulatto tint.

English officers, who have seen hard service in India, come back all with darker complexions; some not to be distinguished from Hindus, or mulattoes. The saw color of the so-called white people, of the Spanish-American countries of Cuba, Jamaica, and Brazil is well known. There are hundreds of Chinese in San Francisco fairer than the Creole inhabitants of these countries. There is a marked difference between the Canadian and the Louisiana, between the New Englander and the Texan.

Some, however, think inhabitants of Brazil, or tropical Africa, do not become absolutely black like the negro inhabitants of those countries; the theory that the black race is descended from the Caucasian is untenable. And so it might well be held to be if these children lived as the colored natives of these regions live. Place a pair of white people, male and female, in Brazil or tropical Africa without clothes to shelter their bodies from the rays of the burning sun; let them live by the chase or by a precarious agriculture; let their children run about naked, and let this continue for two or three centuries—and is there anyone who believes that they would preserve their original color and conformation? They could not. They would either die away, or their physical constitution would change to suit the physical conditions surrounding them. They would most infallibly become black, and the color would become hereditary after a few generations. There are many circumstances that tend to show the probability of this. We have mentioned some already. It is well known that there exist black Jews in Cochim, India, who claim to be of pure Hebrew blood and to have settled there ten centuries ago. In form and feature they are like all other Jews, the national character is plainly stamped on their

physiognomy, but they are black. Have they been intermixed with the natives? They may have, but owing to the rarity of marriages of Hebrews outside of their own people and owing to the strong caste system of India, there is room for doubt. But the same difference is observable amongst these remarkable people, even where there can be no suspicion of marriage outside of their own race, at least not to any appreciable extent. What a difference there is between the light hair, blue eyes, and fair skin of an English Jew, and the black hair, black eyes, and olive complexion of a Spanish Jew, and the Mulatto complexion of a Morocco Jew. The Arabs are another widely distributed race. Some are fair as Spaniards; others are darker even than Negroes. But they are not Negroes. Every thing, features, build, hair, speech is Arab, all but the color. The fair Arabs dwell in the northern part of Arabia in Palestine, Persia, and northern Africa. The colored live in southern Arabia, the black in the upper valley of the Nile. The Abyssinians are coal-black Caucasians. They speak a language akin to the Arabic. Are they of mixed negro blood? It is not likely. A Mulatto shows Negro features and characteristics an Abyssinian or a black Arab does not. All black people are not Negroes.

The fact that climate changes color may be seen by an inspection of a world map, to be a universal law, not only in man but in the beasts; even in the vegetable kingdom. The nearer you approach the Equator the darker the people become; the farther you recede from it the lighter. And there are no startling transitions, but the shades of color merge into one another by almost imperceptible gradations. The fair Englishman, German and Scandinavian give place to the olive Spaniard and Italian; these are succeeded by the Mulatto, colored Moors and Kabyles, the latter by the yet darker Tibboos and Turicks, inhabiting the wide deserts of the Sahara; then come the Fellatahs, darker yet, and last of all the black Negroes of the coast of Guinea. South of the Equator the skin again grows lighter until we find the Bechuanas and the Hottentots, in South Africa, with complexions which are only saw, resembling those of the Mongols. Here again we find, as in Abyssinia, Caucasians with dark skins—the Kafirs of the South. Here we find five shades of color between the white and the black skinned people. The shades are not the same all through. The northern Spaniard is fairer than the southern, the northern Moor than the southern, and each shade of color passes to the other at its geographical limits, without any sensible gradation.

Through fifty degrees of latitude, all the shades between the extremely fair and extremely dark complexion are found. It is the same among the aboriginal inhabitants of America, although here the dark color of Africa, or Southern Asia is never approached—circumstances not favoring it. Amongst the Mongol nations the same changes are noticed. The Mongol proper is no darker than a Spaniard or a Texan, and the northern Chinese has red cheeks, and skin as fair as the Italian. But proceeding from north to south the natives of the province of Quang Tong, though indisputably Chinese, are almost Negro in features and complexion. So also in India. The natives of Northern India and the hill country are fair, those of the South though Caucasian in form and features, excel some of them, the Negro in darkness of skin.

WAYS OF CARRYING BABIES.—In the Vienna exposition are a number of models illustrating the style in which women of different nations carry their babies. The Asiatic Indian woman carries hers in a blanket hanging in front somewhat below the waist; the Bengalee woman, with the child astride low down upon her left hip, and her left arm supporting its back. The figure seems quite indifferent as to the difficulties in this style of carrying, which must be a highly artistic performance if done cleverly in reality. The Egyptian woman carries hers in a stately manner, the child sitting astride her shoulder with its hands upon her head, and without any clothing to speak of. The Brazilian woman carries hers in a somewhat similar manner, also in full undress, it sitting astride her neck. The Chinese baby is carried upright upon the back in a blanket, and the South African in a bag in front, formed by a blanket about the hips of the mother. The lower Austrian woman carries hers by swinging it in a blanket over one shoulder upon her back, while the northern Austrian carries hers bound upon a board, after the style of candy models in confectionery stores. The Lapland baby is carried in a sledge-shaped coat, made of leather. It seems to have been checked in, feet foremost, and then a frame tied over the opening of its face, whether to prevent it from crawling out or to keep the dogs from kissing it, is more than can be imagined. The most unique style of all is that of the Esquimaux women, who wears wide, high-top boots, and puts the baby, right-end foremost, down in the outside of one of them, and doubtless, according to Dr. Kane's description of her style, carrying her cooking and heating utensils in the other. The North American woman carries her papoose strapped to a board, and that strapped upon her back a band over the forehead.

THE BEAUTY OF HEALTH.—How cheering and ennobling is the young girl, full of life and energy, with rosy cheeks, pearly teeth and sparkling eyes. It does not lay her upon the sofa for a day to take a morning's ramble. Her complexion tells of wholesome, nutritious food, and you know by the rosy redness of her lips that her breath is as sweet as the new mown hay. That invalid wives very often lose all influence with their husbands is a notorious, yet not a singular fact, much as it is to be regretted. Nothing will so soon outweary patience or cool the warmth of affection, as the complainings and disagreeable accompaniments of ill health. Girls, if you would be valued, cherished, beloved, attractive and useful wives, cherish good health.

CLEANLINESS.—A neat, clean, fresh-aired, sweet, cheerful, well arranged house, exerts a moral influence over its inmates, and makes the members of a family peaceable and considerate of each other's feelings and happiness. The connection is obvious between the state of mind produced, and respect for others, and for those higher duties and obligations which no laws can enforce. On the contrary, a filthy, squalid noxious dwelling in which none of the decencies of life are observed, contributes to make the inhabitants selfish, sensual, and regardless of the feelings of others; and the constant indulgence of such passions renders them reckless and brutal.—Saturday Evening Post.

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Precocious Children.

The Lyons (New York) Press says: "At the annual election of officers of the Presbyterian Sunday-school one year ago, the superintendent, Colonel Kreuzer, offered three prizes to the scholars who would commit to memory the greatest number of verses from the Bible, and recite them in the school. The prizes were \$5, \$3, \$2. At the expiration of the year the prizes were awarded as follows:

"First—Willie Young, who repeated 4,600 verses.

"Second—Thaddeus W. Collins, Jr., 3,629 verses.

"Third—Willie Collins, 2,927 verses."

To which the New York Observer administers the following mild and sensible rebuke:

"It is very well to encourage children to commit to memory portions of Holy Scripture, but there is danger of overdoing the matter, and injuring the child by such rivalry: We would not give premiums to the one who would learn the most; we would recommend to all to learn a moderate portion weekly, but we would not have them attempt to beat one another in Bible lessons."

CHARMING CANDOUR.—Not long ago the youthful Mr. C— was engaged to manipulate the ivory on a church organ not far from the Hub. At the same church and upon the same occasion a Unitarian clergyman was engaged to officiate in the pulpit. Both of these gentlemen left town the following morning by the same train, and both occupied the same seat, the young organist recognizing the clergyman, but himself unknown to the cloth. Passing the compliments of the morning, the cloth queried whether the young man attended the Unitarian Church on the preceding day. Organ said he had the pleasure, and asked Pulpit how he liked the music. Pulpit said the music would have been excellent if the organ had not been played in so loud and boisterous a manner. Then old Pulpit asked young Organ how he liked the preaching. Organ said, "Not at all; the preacher was too loud and ranting." A gentleman in the next seat who had listened to the conversation, and knew both parties, turned about and kindly introduced the clergyman to the organist.

DISAPPOINTED MEN.—It is a sad and dreary thing to trace the history of the public men of this nation, and our best public men. They have chafed after vain show, most of them. I think some of the greatest men that have died in my day died disappointed in the best end and ambition of their life. And young men who are growing up, and may be called to public trust, ought to look upon these things and see what men sow and reap. They who build their lives on virtue and truth and the higher elements of manhood, are strong and indestructible; but they who do not build their lives on these things are, as a class, weak and easily destroyed. There are men who practice upon appearances, and whose success is surreptitious; and in the end they come back to disaster. There are honorable exceptions, and they are noticeable because they are exceptions.—Beecher.

Young Folks' Column.

STRENGTH OF SMALL THINGS.—Among curious experiments recorded, are some trials of the strength of beetles. A dark tube is made of card, closed with glass at one end. This glass is hung on a pivot, like the swinging glass in a church window. The beetle makes for the light, and pushing to get out, lifts from four to ninety times his own weight. The smaller the creature, the greater his power. The mole, or the rabbit makes burrows in which the little ant would be lost, yet the ant's strength is relatively much greater than that of the mole. The excavating power of the latter is, however, most wonderful. We once saw a mole turned out of his track with a spade. The little creature fell upon a gravel walk, and in less time than it takes to write down the fact, the four-footed engineer was out of sight again. An African ant-hill is thousands upon thousands of times larger than the builders. The pyramid of Cheops is but ninety times the height of a man. If a lion had the power of a grasshopper he could leap over a mile; and it has been asserted that if a man could leap like a flea, the misstatements of the celebrated "Moon Hoax" might be corrected by notes taken on the spot.

TROUBLES FOR THE TANTALIZER.—Repeat the following half-a-dozen times quickly without stopping:—
Gig-ship.
She sells sea-shells.
Billy Button ate a buttered biscuit.
Did Billy Button eat a buttered biscuit?
If Billy Button ate a buttered biscuit, where's the buttered biscuit Billy Button ate?

"INVISIBLE" WRITING.—A solution of cobalt nitrate may be used to write with upon unglazed paper, and the characters will be invisible. Hold it before a fire, and the characters will be distinct. A solution of sulphate of copper will also be invisible, if weak enough, and may be plainly seen if washed with a little ammonia.

Country Children.

Little fresh violets,
Born in the wildwood,
Sweetly illustrating
Tune-scent childhood;
By as the antelope,
Brown as a berry—
Free as the mountain air,
Rumping and merry.

Blue eyes and hazel eyes
Peep from the hedges,
Shaded by sunbonnets,
Frayed at the edges;
Up in the apple trees,
Headless of danger,
Manhood in embryo
Stares at the stranger.

Out in the hilly patch,
Seeking the berries—
Under the orchard trees,
Friscoing on the grass;
Trampling the blossoms,
Down 'mong the grasses,
No voice to hinder them,
Dear lads and lassies.

No grim propriety—
No interdictions:
Free as the little ones,
From city restriction!
Celebrating the pure blood,
Strength 'ning each muscle,
Donning health armor,
'Gainst life's coming bustle.

Dear little innocents!
Born in the wildwood:
Oh, that all little ones
Had such a childhood!
God's blue spread over them,
God's garden beneath them;
No sweet-herb attire
Could we bequeath them!

Reconstruction of Agricultural Fairs.

[From the Pacific Rural Press.]

The Patrons of Los Angeles have undertaken a good thing in the reconstruction of the agricultural fair of that district. It has long been apparent that many of our agricultural fairs have been far from what such exhibitions should be. Instead of being devoted to competitive exhibitions of agricultural products, and the exchange of intelligent ideas on farming, they have degenerated, so far as their main feature is concerned, into trials of speed for fancy horses. Speed is an excellent quality in a horse, and trials, within reasonable limits, are proper and right. But when owners of race-horses go from district to district, with the view of making money by betting, the business descends to a point not recognizable in any legitimate agricultural enterprise, and should be left severely alone.

The object of agricultural fairs should be the illustration and exhibition of all that is best in agriculture—the best seeds, the best samples of products, the best methods of culture, the best implements to be employed, the best stock of various kinds and a proper show of their qualities. Fleetness in trotting and running horses, should, of course, be shown and emulated, but speed in working, and capacity for draught are far more important qualities to be studied and cultivated; yet how little attention is paid to the two latter, while the former is too often made the chief attraction of the entire exhibition, and calls for the chief outlay of money from both the Association and State. The reformation of this abuse should, and will be, made one of the matters to which the Patrons of Husbandry will devote their special attention. The work commenced in Los Angeles should be taken up in every district where the above has been introduced, and the management of the State fair in this connection should also receive their special attention. The Patrons have it in their power to reconstruct these fairs, purge them of all such abuses, whenever they exist, and restore them to the legislative scope and purposes for which such exhibitions were originated. In so doing we feel confident that the great mass of the people will sustain them; and when a proper standard is set up and maintained, we believe there will be no difficulty in making most, if not all our fairs,—state, district and county, self-sustaining and productive of far more good to the agricultural and mechanical interests of the State, than they have ever been in the past.

The State Board of Agriculture has issued a call for a convention of agriculturists, to represent the several districts and other agricultural societies throughout the State to meet at the rooms of the State Society on Tuesday next, March 3d, to consult as to the best means to assist in the development of the agriculture of the State generally, and especially to agree upon such legislation as will best promote the interests of agriculture. The Viticultural Societies are also invited to a representation in this convention.

The move is a good one, and reformation in the particular, alluded to above, should form one of its leading features of favorable action, we think that alone will amply repay all the trouble and expense of holding such a convention. The Sacramento Record, in calling attention to the convention says, in this relation: "We have no doubt that the general management of our agricultural fairs, the selling of pools on the grounds, and the proper rules for the divisions of premiums offered, between the different interests, will be discussed, and perhaps the matter of appropriations to agricultural societies will be considered."

Since the above was in type we have received the resolutions upon this subject passed by the Healdsburg Grange, which were published in our last issue. We have no doubt but those resolutions would be endorsed by every Grange in the State, were they presented for action.

NEW AND WONDERFUL INVENTION FOR FARMERS—SEAMLESS GRAIN BAGS.—We called attention some time since to an improved loom for weaving seamless grain bags, which had just then been introduced by Wm. Laird & Co., of Furber, Scotland. The machinery by which such bags had previously been made was far from perfect, and did not turn out an article any stronger than sewed bags; but the new loom comprised some essential improvements by which much additional strength was secured; in fact, the seamless bag, made by this loom, when filled with wheat and dropped from a given height would stand perfect, without a tear, while it is claimed that ordinary sewed bags, made of the same material and dropped from the same height, would burst nearly or quite every time. The advantage of this additional strength is very important to both the producer and shipper. The extreme liability of the sewn bag to burst and to spill a large portion of its contents when in the field, on the wharf, or in the ship's hold, is well known to the farmer and the shipper.

Some forty bales of the new bags are now on the way to this coast. They can be supplied either in separate sacks or in endless coil, which can be cut to suit convenience. It will be seen by reference to our advertising columns that Messrs. Bradley, Marsh & Co., of Portland, Oregon, have been appointed agents for this State.

THREE questions to be put to ourselves before speaking evil of any man:—First, is it true? Second, is it kind? Third, is it necessary?