

The Home Circle.

MRS. HARRIOT T. CLARKE, Editor.

THE BORG OF THE HEN.

A minstrel am I of a single lay, But I sing it the whole day long. In the crowded coop or the breezy way I warble my simple song. Only an egg, with its clear white shell— The sea hath no pearl more fair— And over that spheroid I cackle and yell, And halo and wrestle and rear.

VISITS AND VISITING.

When a lady is doing her own work to the extent of a visitor adds to the burden of cares even if it be a familiar friend. One of the pleasant things in life is this interchange of hospitality, yet if we make trouble of having company in the house it ceases to be a pleasure.

An excellent vinegar is made, by putting clippings and parings of apples—fresh or dried—in a crock, covering with soft water, and setting in a warm place. Do not think you have too few of these clippings. Try it; and add the rinsings of sugar-bowl and molasses jug occasionally.

Pressed Beef.—Boil beef of any good kind till the bones fall out; pick it over carefully, removing all gristle, chop it fine, season with salt and such herbs as taste suggests, press in a pan with a heavy weight. When cold, cut in slices and serve.

last the farmer gets his share of what he purchases, instead of letting it go to merchants and speculators. Excuse this little offshoot.

A FARMER'S WIFE.

CHOICE RECIPES.

Muffins.—Mix with one pint warm milk, two well beaten eggs, one-half teaspoonful melted butter, teaspoonful salt, enough flour to make a thick batter, and yeast to make it rise—yeast cakes are the most convenient in the country; set it in a warm place to rise. Then grease the muffin rings, set them on a hot greased griddle, and half fill them with the batter, and bake them. When they are done break them open and butter them hot and serve at once.

Boiled Suet Pudding.—Stir corn meal into a quart of boiling milk to make a thick batter; add a teaspoon of beef suet chopped fine and a teaspoonful of salt. Tie it loose in a bag or put in a mould and boil two hours. A few raisins added to it is an improvement. Serve with syrup or a sweet sauce.

Crullers.—Take one-half pint sour milk or buttermilk, one teaspoonful of butter and two of sugar beaten together, three well beaten eggs, and one small teaspoonful of soda dissolved in a little hot water; add a teaspoonful of salt, a little nutmeg for those who like it, and a little ground cinnamon. Work in flour for a smooth dough, work well, roll out thin, cut into shapes and fry in a deep vessel of boiling hot lard.

Baked Custard.—Beat six eggs light stir them into one quart of milk, sweeten to taste, flavor with nutmeg and vanilla. Butter a pudding dish, set it in a pan of water and put into the oven. Bake one hour.

Apple Dumplings.—Peel, quarter and core the apples, make a pie crust, or rich buttermilk dough, roll it to one-half inch thickness, cut it in round pieces the size of a tea-plate, lay in each, as many pieces of apples as it will contain, gather up the edges and press them together to enclose the apple. Then drop them into a pot of boiling water, cover the pot and boil gently for nearly an hour. Or put them in a covered steamer over the fire. Eat with a rich, sweet sauce.

Potato Scallops.—Boil and mash the potatoes soft with a little milk or cream. Beat up light with melted butter—a dessert-spoonful for every half pint of the potato—salt and pepper to taste. Fill some patty-pans or buttered scallop shells with the mixture, and brown in the oven when you have stamped a pattern upon the top of each. Glaze white hot, with butter, and serve in the shells.

Two Patterns for Lace. Diamond Lace.—Cast 10 stitches. 1st row—Knit 2, thread over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, knit 2.

Scalloped Lace.—Cast on 20 stitches. 1st row—Knit 1, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, knit 10.

1st row—Knit 1, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, knit 10. 2d row—Knit 1, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, knit 9.

3d row—Knit 1, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, knit 8. 4th row—Knit 1, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, knit 7.

5th row—Knit 1, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, knit 6. 6th row—Knit 1, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, knit 5.

For The Children.

A LEGEND OF THE STORK AND THE BABIES.

Have you heard of the valley of babyland. The realm where the dear little darlings stay till the kind storks go, as all men know, And oh, so tenderly bring them away? The paths are winding and past all finding By all save the storks, who understand The gates, the highways, and intricate byways That lead to Babyland.

All over the valley of Babyland Sweet flowers bloom in the soft green moss, And under the blooms fair, and under the leaves there, Lie little heads like spoils of floss, With a soothing number, the river of Slumber Flows over a bed of silver sand.

The path to the valley of Babyland Only the kindly white storks know. If they fly o'er mountains or wade through fountains— No man sees them come or go.

But an angel, maybe, who guards some baby, Or a fairy, perhaps, with her magic wand, Brings them straightway to the wonderful Gateway that leads to Babyland.

And here in the valley of Babyland Under the mosses and leaves and ferns, Like an unfolded starling they find no daring For whom the heart of a mother yearns, And they lift him lightly and tuck him tightly In feathers as soft as a lady's hand.

As they go from the valley of Babyland Forth into the world of great unrest, Sometimes weeping he awakes from a sleep Before he reaches his mother's breast.

Ah, how she blesses him, how she caresses him! Bonniest bird in the bright home heard, That o'er land and water the stork bro's her From far off Babyland.

—Ella L. Wheeler in Good Cheer.

OUR LETTER BOX.

Another little girl says that she has committed 477 verses. We are glad if there are only two who have taken up Aunt Hetty's offer. Daisy was the first to write and tell us. We are waiting to see if there are others.

Jennie says she is eleven years old. These verses will be a great comfort to her in all coming years. Yes, Jennie shall have a book too.

Next comes a letter from Iowa, from Charley, a real boy's letter. To answer father's question? Yes, there is some, though the best land is all taken up in the Willamette valley; there is good land to be bought, as many people have more than they can cultivate, and are glad to sell these hard times. Tell mother there is a difference in locations; near the towns there are not many wild animals that kill chickens, but out towards the foothills and mountains there are of course troubles of that sort; chickens here do not have the diseases we read of in Eastern agricultural papers.

We are paying thirty-five cents a dozen for eggs now, and five or six dollars a dozen for grown chickens. The Chinamen are very fond of chickens and ducks and they are the best customers, especially at this season. To-day commences their New Year, and they all quit work, shave their heads clean and braid up their queues all fresh and nice and then they spend three or four days in eating and visiting each other at their wash-house—they do all the washing for the towns and cities; no woman anywhere ever thinks of "doing up a shirt," all starched clothes are done by Chinamen. It is not possible for any white person to do as nice work as they do. Children who are not accustomed to see Chinamen would be amused to see them and watch their peculiarities; they sometimes wear our sort of boots and shoes, and they seem to like "Melican men" pantaloons better than their own baggy ones, but they stick to their own costume otherwise, as a rule they are honest and they are not afraid of doing enough work for the pay; so if lazy white men find Chinamen taking their places they ought not to complain.

Etta has been silent so long that we did not believe she would write again. Aunt Hetty is glad to have a page for children, though she hears sometimes that there are people who do not like it at all, to let so much space be taken up by children; some say that the letters are all alike. Now dear children, each one of you try next time and see if you can't think of something different to write about, tell a story about anything that happens; if you are observing you can always see the intelligence of animals, even dogs and cats do things that will look as if they understood, anecdotes of animals are always read with interest. When I was a little girl we had a cat that would open a door and come down stairs—putting her hind foot on the thumb latch and pushing it down; she would steal meat, and we gave her away to some gypsies, who took her miles away

in a basket in the night, but she was home to breakfast, and got the best of the breakfast before we found her at the kitchen door.

Frank writes a good letter, in a real businesslike way, only he forgot to be put on the Temperance Roll. That is all Frank lacks to commence the world. He is an industrious and wide awake fellow, we are sure.

Next week we give letters from some California girls.

HUBBARD, Jan. 15, 1884.

Editor Home Circle: I read in your paper a year ago that you would give a nice book as a prize to the one who learned the most verses in the Bible. I am a little girl eleven years; I go to Sunday School, Mrs. Goodale is teacher of our class, I like her very well, she gives prizes to the one who learns the most verses, I gained two of them. For the year 1883 I learned 477 verses. I like to read the letters in the Home Circle. Pa has taken the FARMER for eight years. I will close by wishing Aunt Hetty a Happy New Year.

Your young friend, JENNIE ABBOTT.

KILLDEEF, Jasper Co., Iowa.

Editor Home Circle: This is my second letter to the FARMER; we take five papers but we like the FARMER the best. We have had awful cold weather, the thermometer stood at 34 degrees below zero. I have two brothers and myself that raised 82 acres of small grain and 100 acres of corn. I am eleven years old and plow with a mule team all summer. How much could we plow and tend in small grain in your country? We pay two cents to thresh oats and four cents a bushel for wheat.

What do they charge for threshing in Oregon? What do they sell the Studebaker wagon at in Salem? Mother has about ten dozen chickens, they are all the Bluff Cochins; I wish we had them all close to Salem, we would have fine fun raising eggs and chickens for the Salem market. Is there any vacant land in the Willamette valley that is worth taking up? This is father's question. Mother's question is: Does anything bother in raising chickens there? Our trouble is rats and skunks.

Yours truly, CHARLIE F. SMISER.

DEXTER, Or., Jan. 9, 1883.

Editor Home Circle: As I have not written the Circle for some time I will try and write again. We are having a good deal of rain, but I guess it is almost over with, for awhile anyway. I will be 13 years old the 17th of this month. My brother who was staying at Comstock's running the telegraph office, has come home on a visit. I have two sisters going to school in Eugene City, one goes to the university and the other to the public school. I think I can answer Florence's conundrum, it is a well. We had a very nice Christmas tree at our school house; I got a box of writing paper, a card receiver and a Christmas card. I think Aunt Hetty is ever so kind to have a page in the FARMER just a purpose for us little folks.

ETTA HANDSAKER.

UMATILLA Co., Jan. 7, 1884.

Editor Home Circle: As I have not written to the FARMER I will write some. We are having mild weather now, it seems like spring. I live on a farm three miles from Weston, on Wild Horse creek; my father owns one section of land; he was offered \$5,000 for the home place. We had to feed our stock three days this winter so far; they are all doing well now on bunch grass. I have sowed 110 acres of wheat this fall, it is all up nice; we have not plowed much yet, I went out to plow this morning and plowed till noon, when it commenced to rain, and that was all that I plowed. Well, I will close for this time, as it is the first time and will try and think of something more the next.

Very respectfully, FRANK C. KING.

The old saying that liars should have long memories finds new exemplification in the circulation of a neat little "Lincoln story" which first appeared in a Boston paper and is now traveling on its mendacious mission. The tale is that "a reliable gentleman" called on President Lincoln "just after Jeff Davis had been captured," and asked what would be done with the rebel President. To this, says the narrator, Lincoln replied with a story about a 'coon which a boy had captured and which he could not sell, or kill, or keep at home. The only weak point about this historical anecdote is that Lincoln died April 15, 1865, and that Jefferson Davis was not captured, until May 11, of that year. Otherwise the intense realism of the tale might deceive the very elect.—New York Times.

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