

The Home Circle.

MRS HARRIOT T. CLARKE, Editor

OUT ON THE PLAINS.

Room! Room to turn around in, to breathe and be free, And grow to be giant—to sail as at sea With the speed of the wind on a steed with his mane...

YAKIMA'S FIRST AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

The Fair was gotten up without premeditation, only ten days notice being given to the public by the Yakima Agricultural Association that "a two days Fair would be held in Chappel's Hall, Yakima City."

The WILLAMETTE FARMER was fortunate to have a reporter at hand to take notes of this initiative fair, held in the center of a wide stretch of new country, of sage brush and sand. It seems strange to a new comer to see what is produced in this seemingly desert waste, with the aid of irrigation, and often indeed, without water, only with deep cultivation vegetation thrives.

There was considerable enthusiasm throughout the country and much fine blood stock was brought in. Even the Indians were interested in the white man's show, and came into the city with their squaws, gay with bright new blankets just from hop picking.

The success of the Fair and the interest taken warrants the association in making permanent improvements. A race track will be improved near the confluence of the Natches and Yakima rivers, where stock can be easily unloaded from the cars and near accessible water.

A Curious Exhibit.

The Pacific Rural Press gives a lengthy description of a fanciful exhibit of some ambitious dry goods firm at the late State Fair at Sacramento. This dry goods firm erected a castle, 26 by 30 feet, and 45 feet high. The frame was of lumber, but so designed that it was apparently of goods in bulk; the illusion was perfect; there were towers, battlements and portals for entrances.

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CHOICE RECIPES.

Brown Bread.—Four cups cornmeal, one cup flour, three cups sweet milk, one cup sour milk, two tablespoonfuls—very small ones—each of salt and soda, one cup molasses. Steam three hours in buttered mould.

Breakfast Dish.—Stale bread crumbs softened in sweet milk, seasoned with a little salt, pepper, bit of butter, and a dust of powdered sage, or even a hint of onion if liked, made into little cakes and browned in hot fat.

Baked Onions.—Peel large onions, and boil one hour in plenty of water, slightly salted. Butter a shallow dish or deep plate and arrange the onions in it. Sprinkle with pepper and salt, put a teaspoonful of butter in the center of each onion, and cover slightly with crumbs. Bake slowly for one hour. Serve with cream sauce.

Green Tomato Pickles.—Three pounds dark brown sugar, seven pounds of tomatoes, one pint of good vinegar, one tablespoonful allspice, cloves and cinnamon. Boil the vinegar, sugar and spices together for twenty minutes, put in the tomatoes, which have been sliced, salted and drained, and boil until soft. Put in a stone jar.

Chow-chow.—One peck green tomatoes, one quart small white onions, chop together very fine, then add two quarts vinegar, one pound sugar, one tablespoonful each of ginger, cloves, allspice and mustard; use only ground spices; two tablespoonfuls salt; boil together till very thick, which takes about four hours, as it must be boiled slowly.

Grape Marmalade.—Pick over and stem ripe, well flavored grapes. Cook over a steady fire half an hour after they have come to a boil. Dip out most of the juice, and rub the grapes through a colander. Return to the fire and add sugar in the proportion of pound for pound unless the grapes are exceptionally sweet. In this case three-quarters of a pound of sugar to each one of fruit may be used.

Cream Puffs.—One pint boiling water; while boiling stir in one cupful of butter, two heaping cups of flour and eight eggs, yolks and whites beaten separately. Stir until well mixed, then take off the fire. When cool, stir in one teaspoonful of soda. Now drop in gem pans and bake in hot oven. Cream: One quart of boiling milk, mix together four tablespoonfuls of cornstarch, five tablespoonfuls of sugar and four eggs, pour into the milk, stirring constantly. Cut the puffs in half and fill with the cream.

One-Egg Cake.—A very simple cake recipe quickly made for tea, which we like to eat warm. One teacupful each of sugar and cream, 1 egg, 2 1/2 teacupfuls flour, 2 teaspoonfuls baking powder, a pinch of salt. Flavor with nutmeg or lemon, beat thoroughly, and at once put it in a buttered cake pan and bake in a moderately hot oven. This also makes a good layer cake. If one has not cream, take 1/4 cup of sweet milk and butter the size of an egg.

Frosting without Eggs.—Mix one cup of sugar with one-fourth of a cup of sweet milk, put over a slow fire, stir until it boils; then boil five minutes without stirring; set the saucepan in cold water while you stir it to a cream. Spread on the cake while it will run. It will keep longer than when made of eggs, and will not crumble when you cut it.

Suet Pudding.—One cup suet, chopped fine; one cup raisins, one cup zante currants, one small cup black molasses, one tablespoonful soda, one cup sweet milk, one teaspoon cinnamon, one teaspoon ground cloves, a little salt, three cups flour. Steam four hours, or until you can run a broom straw into it without any of the dough sticking to it.

School Books.

In California a law is in force under which some educator is selected to prepare school text-books instead of buying Eastern publications for use in the public schools of the State. These books are printed and bound by the State, and the price and sale are under the supervision of State authority. The series of readers now in use in that State cost \$1.05 against \$2.90 for the Appleton series, \$3.10 for the Swinton series, \$2.60 for the Bancroft series, and \$2.50 for the McGuffey series. It will be seen that the series prepared by the State costs less than half what the other standards mentioned costs. This is an enormous saving to the people of the State, if the books are equal in merit to Eastern publications. What do our readers think of this?

For The Children.

TO-MORROW AND YESTERDAY.

It is better to lean toward to-morrow Than to weep over Suns that are set; The Future holds hope that we borrow, The Past only offers regret.

From the past we can gain no concession— It is voiceless and clothed like the night; But the far distant Hills of Progression Are crowned with a glory of Light.

To-morrow's white, beautiful pages Are yours to write on as you may; But with the closed ledgers of Ages Are Yesterday's leaves locked away.

To the Future let NOW be beholden, And not to a day that is gone; There was never a sunset so golden But lovelier still is some dawn.

No recompense, no satisfaction, Reward those who seek for the Past, But the soul that is restless with action Will find all it longs for at Last. —Ella W. Wilcox.

OUR LETTER BOX.

While traveling on the cars not long ago, away in Eastern Oregon, we happened to sit by a lady from Iliia. We had a very pleasant visit together, and got out of the cars, together with other travelers, to visit Multnomah falls, where fifteen minutes are allowed, which was time enough for the swift-footed and young to rush up to the steep mountain side and cross the rustic bridge, which is close by the road where the down coming water dashes into foam before it finally reaches the bed of the creek. This fall of water is very beautiful in summer, but is even more weird and beautiful in winter, when the very spray is frozen into fantastical shapes. Eastern tourists rush out to gaze upward, and many of them say that famous places in Europe are eclipsed by our mountain scenery. But to return. We told our friend that it seemed as if Iliia was a familiar name. It soon brought to mind one of our graceful correspondents, and we were glad to find that our new acquaintance knew almost all our young friends on Snake river. We hope some time to find it possible to get up there. Frequent trips to the land of sage-brush has given us a liking to the country, while all others who have once lived in that climate wish to go back again. While the ice was an inch thick on a pail of water left out doors up there, still we did not feel cold until Portland was reached. The dry atmosphere in the upper country during the winter months is favorable to raising stock.

A good letter from May comes, just while we were thinking about her. We shall have to write to her and tell how it came that it should be so. We are a bit ashamed, but must tell her it was. Only yesterday we, like old "Aunt Cloe," in Uncle Tom's Cabin, was having a "cleanin' out time," when, away behind some books in a huge book-case, was a package tied up and directed to May Parker. On opening it, there was the book which we had promised so long ago, and which we thought had been received by her two years since. The same day we opened a letter from May asking about the book. Was not that a coincidence?

As for White Spanish chickens, we think they are not a distinct breed—only a "sport." We once set a dozen pure Black Spanish eggs, and two of these eggs brought perfectly white fowls—one hen and one rooster. They had every characteristic of the Spanish, but that hen often hatched black chicks. We think there is no fowl so good for eggs as the Spanish, yet as for table use we have no doubt but that a big black crane would taste as well.

May sets a good example to our girls of the Home Circle by getting breakfast for the dear mother who has sacrificed so much for her. Smilax cannot visit the Circle too often. She has given ever so many topics to write about. Not one of our girls and boys but can write after reading those questions. We hope to have many letters after this.

FOSTER, Or., Oct. 9, 1886.

Editor Home Circle: I expect that you think I have forgotten you all, but have not. Cheer up boys and girls, do not forget the corner so quick. All write and fill the corner with letters. I like to write letters and also read them. Aunt Hetty, I saw a piece in the FARMER that you wrote about your nieces and I liked it real well. I think it is nice to help my mother in every way I can, because she took lots of pains with us when raising us from babyhood to young ladies and we now ought to take all the work off from their hands that we can. I generally get up and cook breakfast and let

mother sleep. Does anyone know where there is white Spanish chickens raised, if they do will they please let me know? I have not kept any account of the chickens and eggs this year, although we have sold a good many eggs. Aunt Hetty, I have never received that book yet for keeping account of the chickens and eggs. I have looked and looked for it, but it has not come yet and I thought I would remind you of it once more. I will close for this time with good wishes for the FARMER and the writers to it. Yours truly, MAY PARKER.

Editor Home Circle: Will you please grant to me space enough to ask the little girls a few questions? Thanks, I knew you would. Then to commence with. Will some little girl please tell me a good recipe for nice plain cake? Now be sure you try it and know that it is really good. Next, will some little girl tell me where our best oranges come from and how they grow? Will another one be kind enough to tell me about the most important thing they saw at the State Fair this year, with full particulars? And now, will some little girl please tell me all she knows about the life of poor Enoch Arden, and then I must hear how you all intend spending Thanks, giving day; tell me when it is and why we observe it? And can some little girl tell all about Helix, Oregon, giving a full description of it with a little of its history? Can some little girl tell me George Washington's age, and who he was? One little girl near me says that he chopped a cherry tree down, but was that all he ever did? No, I think not, I think some little girl not far away can say something else. And why is Autumn the saddest time in the year, and yet the most beautiful? What are nature's teachings? Nature, of course, has a great many teachings, so only wish you to give them their due of thought; then tell me what you think about it. Perhaps you will think at first that these are silly questions, but give them a little serious meditation and you will find that they contain a vast deal to fill our minds with. Nature as a teacher has no equal, and yet we slight the greater portion of her lessons, which only cause those we cannot slight to be the harder for us. Is there a work more noble than nature's, and still slighted as much by us? What painting inspires us with more grateful ideas than an hour or so of gazing at and admiring the beautiful autumn leaves in their golden and crimson coloring? Their lives are such that their brightest days are their last. And is it so with us? Is the average person the happiest in the decline of life. But there, I must not be too severe a critic, so I will now ask the name, location and history of the oldest city in the United States? These questions, my dear little friends may at first seem a little hard and yet there is nothing too hard for you to study up a while. In answering any of the questions after you have finished all you can say about them sign your name, giving age and address in full.

Read good literature. I mean good sensible reading matter, not the cheap, trashy novels and magazines that are continually thrust before us. Give us something that we will profit by reading and something that will serve as food for the mind, to amuse and instruct. For magazines take something on the style of Century or Harper's and you have a good work both for history and fiction. Avoid trashy literature above all things for they are evil companions. Reading is an instructive as well as pleasant pastime, but be very careful about what you read. SMILAX.

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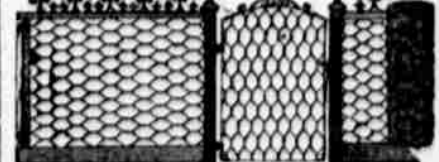
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