

The Home Circle.

MRS HARRIOT T. CLARKE, Editor

A Talk to Farm Boys.

Farm boys you need not envy the young men who stand behind the counters of the city shops. You need not envy the young men who are making ready to take the places of the great army of lawyers and pettifoggers who are subsisting by the litigations of quarrelsome and contentious clients. And certainly you ought not to envy the boys who have no employment at all; those who are growing up to manhood without acquiring industrious habits upon which to rely in times of great need and pressing emergencies, whose idleness invites to temptations which so often lure to mental and bodily ruin. Your clothes may not be so finely spun and made as the city boys, but you are the peers of them all, with your bronzed faces and horny hands, however pretentious their employments. Your business is one which ante-dates every other vocation in the world. The farmer was plowing and sowing and reaping long before a merchant, or lawyer or doctor was known; and he still stands foremost at the gate whence issue to the millions of the world the steady, never-failing streams of plentifulness and life. A generation or so ago the brightest boys of the farmer's family were assigned to the professions. The dull fellows were sent to the fields. Now-a-days a different order of things prevails. Once the idea was popular that only muscular strength was necessary on a farm—the strength to guide a plow, to wield an ax, a hoe or a scythe—the endurance to go through with the sweltering tasks of summer or the exposing duties of winter. These important requisites given, a body might fill the place just as well as any one. So some folks used to think, but what say you, working farmer boys? Do you not place a higher estimate upon your skill, and upon the value of your services? Look up, then, and vindicate yourselves. You are getting health and strength from the wholesome exercises of the field, and that you may have the necessary intelligence to combine with this strength for the proper prosecution of your calling, apply yourselves diligently to acquiring knowledge whenever respite from labor shall give you the opportunity.

Letter Writing.

It is too often the case that women who have much housework to do, and very often those who have little, are very poor correspondents. They do not mean to be so, nor are they wilfully neglectful, but they have an idea that they must have so much time in which to answer a letter received, and they keep putting off writing, expecting every day to make that time, until both writer and letter are only remembered at odd times. Frequently you hear such women say, "I ought to answer So-and-So's letter, but I can't seem to get time to do it. I want to write a good long one when I do write, and I must have time to do it properly. I must manage to make time somehow to do it." It is not a very easy matter for such women to make time, and generally the time is never made. To make time something must be neglected, and there are so many things that it is necessary that they should do at just such times, that it is difficult to determine just which of them to neglect. There are some things that can be put off and the neglect hardly noticed, and the housekeeper knows which are the least important, and which ones she can neglect, but she does not want to put off anything, and works on thinking she will get time somehow, without any slighting of her work. Such a woman will seldom get the leisure she desires for writing, and very often her correspondence remains for years unanswered.

All women will, I think, admit that the earlier a letter is answered after its receipt, unless there are good reasons for delay, the easier and pleasanter it is to accomplish, while the longer it is kept waiting the more difficult it becomes to answer it. What at first would have been a pleasure becomes in the end a bugbear and annoyance, and the longer it is put off the more it is avoided. Answer a letter as soon after its receipt as possible. Don't put it off thinking you will have more time in the future to write a long letter full of news. It will need to be of an endless length, and a veritable budget of events, to make up for the time lost in getting it ready, if at all like the majority of deferred correspondence. Instead of waiting to write a long letter, commence to answer as soon as you can get the time, and after you have once begun there is little chance that you will not finish it, for to most people in regard to letter writing, "a thing begun is half done." If not finished at once, it can be dropped and taken up and completed at another time soon after, and you will be surprised at the length and newness of your letter, and be better satisfied than if you had waited as at first you had intended to do.

Dock or dandelions in the dooryard may be killed by cutting off at crown and putting a few drops of kerosene on the crown.

CHOICE RECIPES.

CHERRY PIE.—A cherry pie or pudding loses half its value if the stones are left in. With the "cherry-stoners" now so common and cheap, it is possible for all to have them; so in making a pudding first stone a pint of cherries, then to pint of sweet milk, two well beaten eggs, one tablespoonful butter, one teaspoonful salt and two teaspoonfuls baking powder, add enough flour to make a stiff batter, dredge a little flour over the cherries and stir them in; put into a buttered mould and boil steadily one hour, or place it in a basin in a steamer, and cook the same length of time.

BAKED HAM.—For a change in this season of the year, we sometimes have a ham baked instead of boiled. We choose a small one, weighing 8 to 10 pounds. Let it soak over night in cold water. In the morning trim off all the rusty parts, cover with a common crust and the rind, and you will have a sweet and palatable dish. Another mode is to cook it slowly until tender, letting it afterwards cool in the cooking liquor, then remove from the water, take off the skin, and strew over the top some fine bread crumbs mixed with a little sugar. If the fat is thick cut off some of it. Set it in the oven and bake half an hour, or until it is nicely browned.

ANGELS' FOOD.—To make angels food in perfection the eggs should be fresh and cool. The ingredients are: The whites of 10 eggs, 1 tumblerful flour 1 1/2 tumblerfuls fine granulated sugar, 1 teaspoonful each of cream of tartar and extract of lemon. Stir together and sift the flour, sugar and cream of tartar four or five times. Beat the whites to a stiff froth, and add them with the extract. Bake in an unbuttered pan—one with a center pipe is preferable. If the pipe extends above the pan turn the cake when done upside down, and let it rest on the pipe and cool before removing it, otherwise set on corks or anything that will keep the cake up from the table, while it cools. It requires forty minutes for baking. If the oven is too hot, cool it by setting in a small pan of cold water. This will very soon reduce the temperature.

POTATO BALLS WITH CREAM SAUCE.—Pare any number of potatoes, and cut balls from them with a vegetable scoop. From a dozen potatoes you should get about sixty balls. Cover them with boiling water, and cook twelve minutes without salt. Pour off the water; add to the potatoes one pint of boiling milk, into which stir two tablespoonfuls of butter, mixed with one of butter, one level teaspoonful of salt, one-third of a teaspoonful of pepper, and, if liked, a teaspoonful of chopped parsley. Use white pepper altogether. This sauce is for a quart of balls.

KIDNEYS SAUTE.—Cut three kidneys each into five pieces; put an ounce of butter into the saute pan (frying pan); when very hot put in the kidneys, stir round for a few minutes with a spoon till they are set. Add a teaspoonful of flour, a quarter of one of salt and the third part of that of pepper. Mix well; add half a gill of broth and a few mushrooms. Do not let them boil; a few minutes is enough to do them.

BAKED PIE PLANT.—Cut two pounds of pie-plant into a pudding dish, sprinkle over it half a cup of sugar and two tablespoonfuls of flour, or what is better, half a cup of rolled bread crumbs. Add water until the plant is two-thirds covered. Bake in a quick, warm oven thirty or forty minutes. This method of preparing rhubarb or pie-plant removes the medicinal taste and makes an acceptable spring dish.

ICE CREAM.—Three quarts of milk, nine eggs, four tablespoonfuls of arrow-root and three cups of white sugar. Set the dish containing the milk in a kettle of water, and when hot add the arrow-root previously wet in milk, the sugar and eggs. Cook a few minutes and flavor when cold. This will fill a gallon freezer. Less eggs may be used, but your cream will not be so nice.

BREAD GRIDDLE CAKES.—Soak a small bowl of bread over night in milk. In the morning mix half a cupful of flour, into which is put 1 1/2 teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, with one quart of milk, three well-beaten eggs and a little salt. Beat up the bread with this batter until it is very light and fry a delicate brown. The batter should be thick.

CREAM CAKE.—One-half cup of butter or one cup sweet cream, 1 1/2 cups sugar, four eggs (one beaten separately), one-half cup sweet milk, two teaspoonfuls of tartar, one teaspoonful soda. Bake in a long pan. When done, cut open and spread between one pint whipped cream, one cup sugar. Flavor with lemon.

The Work-Box.

Cast on 11 stitches and knit across plain.
1st row—Knit 4, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, knit 1.
2d row—Knit 3, seam 1, knit 2, seam 1, knit 2, seam 1, knit 4.
3d, 4th and 5th row knit plain.
6th row—Bind off 3, knit 10.
Begin at first row to repeat.

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For The Children

OUR LETTER BOX.

Aunt Hetty is really glad once more to have the opportunity to talk to the circle once more. There has been no letters lately, therefore no incentive—no text upon which to build any talk to the young folks. But we shall not be severe, for Aunt Hetty herself makes mistakes of omission too, now in looking this morning for some paper on which to write, she found a most excellent letter from Edgar Waldron, hidden away among some envelopes. It is such a good one too, it is well written and spelled correctly too, with all the capital letters in their proper places. This is why it is that we wish to encourage the "Farmer's Boys" to write letters—it's so that they may be able when grown up to write properly.—how it looks to see a grown up man or woman unable to spell. We saw not long ago a grown up lady write "Beenes"—she did not imagine how funny it looked. Those horses that Edgar tells of were no doubt well cared for or they would not count so many years. It's so cruel to work a horse all summer, and then let them shiver in the cold rains all winter. O! the cruelty that is done to dumb animals, how they suffer and cannot tell their wants, even kind people do not always understand them. Our "old Bunch," that we lately bought, would act so lazy, and would go one side and then another of the road, till we concluded to sell him. But we had him shod all around and then there was the greatest change in his ways—we did not have to whip him—he no longer "wobbled" all over the road to find the softest ground, and we would not now part with the faithful, willing old fellow, so now we feel sorry for the sufferings of the past, and how he must have been hurt in his feet. We would like to hear if any one can tell a better thing on old horses, than Edgar. Then too, we hope he will excuse our mistakes, and write again very soon.

Millie writes from Eastern Oregon, a very good, long letter, which is carefully done. All these little incidents of home life are good to read. We believe it requires some care and trouble to cultivate plants in that part of Oregon. Yes we shall like so much to see the roses bloom. Aunt Hetty dearly loves flowers, and does much hard work to have them, then she gives them away too. Its better for plants to gather blossoms, they bloom better for it, you will see that stinging people's plants never thrive as well.

That pony and side-saddle must give much pleasure, and it will give Millie some rosy cheeks—we are sure pony's comfort is looked after, and the saddle is put on with care to its ease. Poor little birds, it is true that canaries will sometimes be so cruel, and will even pick all the feathers off the little ones—you must not let her sit again.

Now Millie, you must give the Circle another letter soon.

We are glad to get so good a letter from one of the many nieces we claim. How strange it must be to go always in a boat. We say, "go, hitch up the horse," while Florence will say, "hurry up, the tide is right, unloose the rope and ship the oars." We are not sure, but this is the best way; no horse to feed; no wheels to grease; no stables to clean—only to jump in and out of the boat, going swiftly, along with the tide. O, how we should like to go down hunting, and to smell the bracing sea breeze. We will try and go to visit Florence, if she will only tell us how to get there. Florence need not be at all ashamed of her new way letter. Try, try again.

WESTON, Or., June 6, 1887.

Editor Home Circle:
Well as I have nothing to do I will try and write to the FARMER once more as I have not written for a long time. I am not going to school now I quit a week ago and there is one more week of school yet. We have not had any rain for a long time but it looks quite rainy now, I think we will have some rain tonight. Crops looks nice now but would look nicer if it would rain on them and most of the gardens look nice. Mamma has got about 100 little chickens nine turkeys and four goslings. I have got one little niece and she is just as sweet as she can be. I was 15 years old the 1st day of June, I got a gold ring and a penknife and a Jersey for my birthday presents. Papa and my brother and another gentleman have got the 12 1/2 cent store in Pendleton. Our roses are beginning to come in bloom and are awful pretty. Aunt Hetty I would like for you to be up here when they are all in bloom.

and I know you would think they were pretty. We are all going over to the Umatilla river fishing next Sunday. All of our fruit trees are just loaded with fruit of all kinds; we milk five cows, mamma gets 25 a pound for butter. I have got a nice pony and side-saddle and am going riding when ever I want to. I expect we will move to Pendleton this fall. I go to church nearly every Sunday. We have got an organ and my sister and brothers play on it. Our baby bird has layed two eggs but guess she will lay more she layed five the last time and hatched two birds and starved them to death. We have got a good many house plants and some of them are in bloom. Well as I can't think of anything else to write I will close by sending my best regards to Aunt Hetty.
Yours Truly,
MILLIE KING.

OREGON CITY, Or., May 17th 1887.
Editor Home Circle:

I am a little boy nine years old my papa has one horse twenty five years old and another one twenty-eight years old and he knows that they are that old for he raised them both, and can any of you little boys beat that, and he brought their mother across the plains. And my papa has one cow that is nineteen years old and can any of you little boys beat that. My papa has twenty-eight little ducks and about thirty little chickens, and we have got two little calves, we did have four but we sold one cow and calf and sold one calf for veal. Well I am going to school now, I have two miles to walk each way. There are two little creeks close by and I go fishing some times; well I guess I will close for this time. Your Friend,
EDGAR WALDRON.

ACME, Or., July 20, 1887.
Editor Home Circle:

Dear Aunt Hetty, I have been wanting to write to the children's column for a long time, but I was afraid I could not write well enough. I never went to school much; I always have to study at home. I live on tide water on the Siuslaw river. They have no wagon roads here, they go and come in boats. The tide runs down six hours and runs up six hours; they come and go with the tide; there is two steamers on the river that runs from head of tide to Florence in one day; there is going to be two more steamers here soon. Aunt Hetty, if you were to come down here, I would take you out sailing on the glittering waters. I will take you down to the beach to gather shells and pebbles, catch crabs—I dig clams—have a picnic. We had a clam bake here, the Fourth of July; the steamer Mink made an excursion in the afternoon, down to the mouth of the river and out on the bar. The little girl that wanted some quilt patterns, if she will write to me, I would be very happy to send them to her. I am learning to crochet; will you please tell me some easy patterns to learn? I would like for the little girls that are telling about crochet, would write to me and send me some of their patterns, as I would like to make some like it when I learn well enough. I guess Aunt Hetty will think I have written enough already, and I had better stop. Aunt Hetty you must please excuse mistakes and bad writing, if you don't throw this in the waste basket and think this good enough to print, I shall write again, and try very hard to do better next time; so I will close, hoping to see this in print before long. Your loving niece,
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