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FROM POORHOUSE TO PALACE BY MARY J. HOLMES

CHAPTER II.—(Continued.)

At last Frank, pulling the old blue jacket from under his arm, said to Billy: "Take it to Billy Bender—he offered me a shilling for it, and a shilling will buy milk for Alice and crackers for mother—take it."

CHAPTER IV. Scarcely three hours had passed since the dark, moist earth was heaped upon the humble grave of the widow and her son, when again, over the village of Chicopee, floated the notes of the tolling bell, and immediately crowds of people, with seemingly eager haste, hurried toward the Campbell mansion, which was soon nearly filled.

ble, gazing fixedly upon the marble face of her mother. Alice was not present, for Billy had not only succeeded in winning his mother's consent to take the children for a few days, but he had also coaxed her to say that Alice might come before the funeral, on condition that he would remain at home and take care of her.

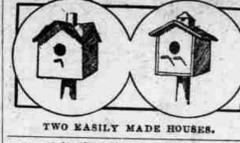
FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS

Homes for Summer Visitors. Spring and summer are times of long, glorious twilights when the birds seek to rival each other in song, or grand concerts in the mornings before many of us are awake. It is a time best fitted for nature study, and that is what this article is about.



HOUSE-HUNTING TIME.

of that fact. The collecting of birds' eggs is not only a good practice, but it works injury to all whom the birds help. This means the farmer, the gardener and indirectly every one, either in town or country.



TWO EASILY MADE HOUSES.

my nest in that rickety old pump stalk again. The people around here surely like me. Here are some neat but simple styles of birdhouses that will be easy to make, but will please the tenants as well as if each house were lined with gold and had electric fans inside.

This Boy Was Plucky. As Chester, Pa., a few days ago, a mad dog was terrorizing the neighborhood. Men and boys watched the brute's antics form a safe distance, but took the occasion to stamp himself as a hero by capturing the animal in a bag.

Why Girls Cannot Throw. A great deal of fun is poked at the girls because they cannot throw a stone for all he was worth. Then I got a big stone and tied it to the bag and threw it over. Then the jig was up.

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Clever Soapmaker. Friend—Why do you dump all the dirt into your soap kettles? Soap Manufacturer—If folks don't find the water dirty after washing' they think the soap is no good.—New York Weekly.

arm rigid, whereas the boy's arm is relaxed. The reason of this difference is one of anatomy, the femoral collar bone is longer and is set lower than in the case of a male. The long, crooked, awkward bone interferes with the free use of the arm. This is the reason that girls cannot throw well.

A Young Globe Trotter. A boy 11 years of age, Edward H. McMichael, has traveled 63,000 miles. The boy was born in Shanghai, and has crossed the Pacific Ocean and the American continent seven times. He spent last summer with his uncle, Dr. Robert F. Adams, in Syracuse, and entered St. Paul's School, at Arden City, Long Island, a few weeks ago.

Willie Anticipated Trouble. "Mamma," said 5-year-old Willie, "I wish you would not leave me alone with the baby when you go out this afternoon."

Case for Reluctance. "How poor, and clever you are, mamma," exclaimed little Edith. "Do you really think so, dear?" rejoined her mother.

Johnny's Modesty. Papa—Who is the smartest boy in your class at school, Johnny? Johnny—Well, Willie Jones says he is.

Papa—But who do you think is? Johnny—I'd rather not say. You see, I'm not as respected as Willie Jones is.

Teacher—What made you chalk your name on the top of your desk, Johnny? Johnny (aged 9)—Cause I didn't have no knife.

Makers of Cashmere Shawls Are Happy at The Looms. A recent traveling incident in India tells an interesting story in connection with a visit which she made to one of the rude little homes in Cashmere, where the world-renowned India shawls are made.

However, upon entering a little room she found ten or a dozen men sitting on the floor patiently weaving the richly hued threads in and out and evidently happy, since, notwithstanding the heat and general dinginess, they were chanting together some pleasing little melody.

Another remarkable thing I observed," she adds, "is that on the slopes of the Himalayas the native women have a most curious plan of disposing of their babies and keeping them quiet while they are engaged at work in the fields during the greater part of the day. Before the mothers set out to work in the morning they wrap their babies in swaddling bands, leaving nothing but their little faces exposed. Then the babies are taken and laid under a ledge of rock from which water is falling, and by means of a bamboo the water is made to drip gently on each baby's forehead. The effect of the dripping water is most soothing, and soon the little ones are all asleep, and remain quite motionless until taken up by their mothers on their return from their work, when they are carried off to be unwrapped, dried and fed. Very few of the little ones treated on this hydropathic system seem to be any the worse for it, and as a rule they grow up strong and healthy men and women."

Something New in Mining. He—I saw our old neighbor, Mr. Skinner, to-day. She—Did you? What is he doing now? He—He's interested in one of these wild cat mining companies. She—The idea! I never knew you had to mine for wild cats.—Philadelphia Press.

Pennsylvania and New York. When the first census was taken in 1790 Pennsylvania's population was 2,423,369 greater than that of New York. By the census of 1900 New York's population leads that of Pennsylvania by 965,897.

Easy-Running Plows. We are not sure but that a plow would be better if it had one handle instead of two. The plow which requires a man to exert both hands to use it is tiresome to both man and team. Even in stony ground we have guided the plow with one hand and not put out as much strength on it as we did on the best form of plow, as potash is often needed, but it is not easy here to buy good wood ashes.—American Cultivator.

Usually, said the Cheerful Idiot, breaking into the conversation, "The man that is a good liver hasn't." Indianapolis Press.

AGRICULTURAL



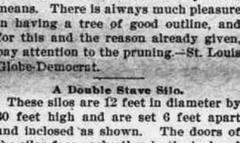
Pruning the Orchard in Summer.

Besides the thinning out and shortening of fresh growth in summer, such as has been referred to several times in these columns, it would often be well to close together branches which should have been cut out in winter, but which were neglected. It is often a good deal easier to see when to cut in summer than it is in winter, as the requirements of the tree can be better understood. But few fruit growers keep their trees open enough. The trees are so dense that the branches cannot perfect themselves and neither flowers nor fruit can be looked for.

When branches are but small one is apt to forget the future and permit too many of them to form. It is well to keep in mind that a lot of inside branches to which the sun never gets will not bear fruit. They are useless and should come out, but the sun may reach what are left. In summer time it is easy to see at once when enough has been thinned out. Besides this advantage, there is another, viz, the scars quickly heal when cut while the sap is active.

Besides the thinning out and shaping of the tree, summer pruning of cherries, plums, pears and like fruits has the effect of making them fruit bearing in a short time. A young shoot of a cherry cut back within a few eyes of its base, will form fruit buds on the spur left. A pear shoot shortened in one-half will often form a fruit bud at the point where cut off. Very often a tree which has not fruited will be made to do so for the first time by these means. There is always much pleasure in having a tree of good outline, and for this and the reason already given, pay attention to the pruning.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Double Silo. These silos are 12 feet in diameter by 30 feet high and are set 6 feet apart and inclosed as shown. The doors of the silos face each other in the inclosed alley. They are filled from the windrows shown in the gables. They are



DOUBLE SILO.

built of 2 by 6 Norway bill stuff dressed on a bevel to fit a 12 foot radius. It takes 80 pieces of 2 by 6, 12 feet long, and 80 2 by 6, 18 feet long, a total of 2,400 feet of Norway bill stuff, to build one of these silos. It also takes about 100 pounds of No. 9 steel wire, which will make about 50 hoops, put on in groups; shingled roof; the silos painted three coats on outside and a coat of raw linseed oil on the inside.—Ohio Farmer.

Liming Soil. If we thought we had soil that needed more lime in it to sweeten it, we would prefer the phosphate of lime either as an acid phosphate or in the very fine ground phosphate rock, or basic slag, such as are usually called floats. In any strong soil, rich in humus or decaying vegetable matter, or where a green crop had been plowed under, we think either of these would dissolve quickly, while the cost is not much greater than that of sulphate of lime or common land plaster. Then we should get the benefit of the phosphoric acid as well as of the lime. But to get the full advantage of the lime we would put the field in cabbage, cauliflowers, turnips, wheat or other small grains, or in corn. Lime is of little advantage for grass, and on potatoes it is said to increase the scab and decrease the value of the crops if not the quantity. With a strip of litmus paper it is easy to ascertain if the soil needs lime, as the paper put in wet soil will turn red if there is too much acid, but if it is still blue the soil is sweet or has lime enough. Wood ashes also contain lime, mixed with potash. In some soils this is the best form to apply lime, as potash is often needed, but it is not easy here to buy good wood ashes.—American Cultivator.

Notes from the Piggery. Salt and ashes aid digestion in swine. A clean feeding place for swine is a prime necessity. Lice rarely infest hogs that have plenty of sulphur. Rusty old straw is one of the worst materials for bedding swine. Cholera in the herd travels swiftly from one animal to another. The healthy hog's stomach is as regular as clockwork in demanding food. When feeding for fattening always watch for signs of indigestion. Obey the first sign by reducing rations. Cholera will be prevented if sulphur be mixed with the salt and ashes. The sulphur may be mixed with slop also. When a pig refuses to eat and thumps with his hind turned the wrong way, trot him out and give him a dose of ax. Make the dose a big one. Remember that stuffing and cramming and jamming food into a pig to fatten it in a short time is a wholly abnormal, unnatural performance. We must expect it to wreck some of the forced animals.—Rural World.

The Early Bee Pollinates the Fruit. Experiments made some time ago at the Michigan Agricultural College showed that the bees were at the time the earliest insects out; that on the average fruit tree is in bloom it is too early in the spring for other insects to be of any value for fruit pollination.

STRANGEST OF ALL FISH.

Denizen of the Deep that Angles for the Food It Devour. Most remarkable of strange fishes is the angler fish, whose very name seems a paradox. The fishing fish is nevertheless a reality, and a stern one to all that approach these awful jaws of his.

"Before you go anywhere, suppose you stop at Mrs. Howard's and comfort poor Mary, who cries all the time because she and Alice have got to go to the poorhouse."

"Of course they'll go there, and they're to be thankful they've got so good a place."

"I want to ask you," said Billy, "can't we—couldn't you take them for a few days, and perhaps something may turn up."

"William Bender," said the highly astonished lady, "what can you mean? A poor, sick woman like me, with one foot in the grave, take the charge of three pauper children! I shan't do it, and you needn't think of it."

"But, mother," persisted Billy, who could generally coax her to do as he liked, "it's only for a few days, and they'll not be much trouble or expense, for I'll work enough harder to make it up."

THIS BOY WAS PLUCKY.

As Chester, Pa., a few days ago, a mad dog was terrorizing the neighborhood. Men and boys watched the brute's antics form a safe distance, but took the occasion to stamp himself as a hero by capturing the animal in a bag.

"You see," said he, "the dog was coming down a splutterer for all he was worth, and I knowed something would have to be done. I was standing near a grocery store where they were loading up, and I thought to myself here comes my opportunity. It's an old trick, but only them what's used to it can do it."

"I opened the bag's mouth wide as I could, just when the dog was comin' hardest. I expected every minute he'd snatch me leg, but as luck would have it he didn't. He made right for the bag, and when he got part way in I showed him further, and then gathered it in at the end, and the dog was fast."

"Then the other feller came, and wanted to help, but I held on to the bag, and the grocery man let me take it away. I got some string and tied up the end, and after I got some twine I hauled the animal down to the river. He was still a splutterin' and growling for all he was worth. Then I got a big stone and tied it to the bag and threw it over. Then the jig was up."

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HARVESTING KAFFIR-CORN.

In the recent quarterly report of the Kansas Department of Agriculture is a most excellent article on Kaffir corn, prepared by J. G. Haney of the State Agricultural College, upon request of Secretary Coburn. Concerning the harvesting of the crop he says: Kaffir corn remains green until frost and the seed does not shatter; so, if grain is the only consideration, there is no great hurry to harvest; it can stand until after frost and the stalk is dry. But generally the fodder is a consideration, as well as the grain, and then the problem is to cut when the best results from both may be obtained. The longer the fodder stands the harder and less palatable it becomes, while if cut too early the best yield of grain is not secured. After the grain is hardened so that it is difficult to mash between the thumb and finger, and there is little moisture apparently in the seed, there will be very little shrinkage in the grain. This would perhaps be called "just past the hard dough stage." If cut earlier the fodder will be better feed, but there will be considerable shrinkage in the grain.

One thing that has kept this crop from being more generally raised is the problem of harvesting. There are a number of methods and they all have their merits. If the fodder is desired for feed it is perhaps best to cut the stalk and all and leave in the shock until dry. The best machine for accomplishing this is the corn binder, which leaves it in bundles of convenient size for handling, and the fodder is held together. The common method, however, is to cut with a mower, and the crop should be left to cure well before raking. Ordinarily it is put into large shocks or small ricks containing from a ton to three tons each. This is done with a hay gatherer, "duck rake," or "go-devil," and saves a great deal of handling. It keeps in excellent condition when treated this way and can be hauled when needed. It is ready to harvest in about 100 days after planting, and this should be before frost, as freezing while green is detrimental; besides, the hay will not cure so well in cool weather, and it is essential that it be as perfectly cured as possible.

Raising Young Turkeys. There is neither luck nor tact in raising young turkeys, but simply good care and the right kind of food, says a Field and Farm writer. One of the first steps is to have good eggs from well-mated fowls. Set the eggs under a chicken hen. Be sure not to give her too many or she will wear them when too young, or as soon as they get large enough to crowd. Five or seven are enough for one hen. It takes the eggs about four weeks to hatch and every thing should be in readiness for the poults. It is necessary to have a good coop. Make it without a bottom and set it on the ground. Confine the hen and let the little turkeys run in and out at their pleasure. Put the coop away from the chickens, and with planks about twelve inches wide and eight or ten long make them a small park as they cannot wander away from the mother hen. The coop should be moved to a fresh place every day and the little park every other day until the little turkeys are old enough to follow the hen mother. Young turkeys that run with old ones will grow faster and are far less trouble, but they are likely to wander away and get lost.

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