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PEACH CULTURE.

The following, written years ago, has never been published. It is believed to contain true and accurate information, after years of experience and observation. The original was read before the Society for the Advancement of Knowledge, at Indianapolis, and elicited much comment and almost universal approval of its correctness. If deemed worthy of publication, with a view of preventing the culture of the peach in uncongenial soils, and promoting it in localities where oxide and sulphate of iron are known to exist, the writer believes it his duty to permit its publication.

Circumstances proving iron to be a constituent of the peach tree.

The kernel, the leaf, the flower and the bark contain Hydrocyanic (Prussic) acid in large quantities. This acid is generated by the aid of iron, and indicates the presence of it in unusual quantities in the sap.

This is the leading fact showing the necessity of large quantities of iron in the soil for the peach. And the facts hereafter mentioned are of subordinate value, confirmations, mainly, of this vital law of the plant.

So far as I know, the various localities where the peach enjoys the most healthy life and perfect seed, are iron regions. The region around Washington and Baltimore, a part of Tennessee, a part of Missouri, a part of New Jersey, and Montreuil near Paris. I might name the iron districts of Ohio and Kentucky, and also of Texas. But of them we have not heard so much.

The gardeners in the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, employ sulphate of iron as a remedy for the yellows in the peach, with success.

The stain of the peach upon white linen resembles that of iron mould.

The color of the peach stone and of the rough skin of the kernel indicates iron in a state of oxidation. The color of the wood also, the dark wood being in the centre of the stem where the sap ascends.

Iron is distasteful to worms. Peach trees in iron regions are not much attacked by the borer. An infusion of peach leaves is employed to expel worms from the stomach in children, and is said to be effectual.

All stone fruit is improved by driving a nail into the tree near the root. Also by laying blacksmith's cinders around the tree as far as the branches extend.

It is commonly remarked that the peach requires a *poor soil*. But it will be found that the oxides of iron are generally found in these "poor soils," in unusual amounts.

Iron is the coloring agent of vegetables. The peach tree contains fifty times as much "Chlorophyl" or coloring matter as the other trees. The dark color of the leaves is due to iron oxidized by the sun's light in the leaf. The wood grows darker by exposure to light, as the process of oxidation goes on.

Dr. Darwin, as long ago as the year 1800, suggested copperas or sulphate of iron, in

weak solution, as a remedy for gummy secretions in trees. No attention was paid to the suggestion because the reason of it was not seen, though the German chemists had already extracted Hydrocyanic acid from the leaves and kernels of the peach and apricot. But in 1840, a scientific farmer in France, fancying some resemblance between the coloring matter of the blood, and of vegetables administered copperas to some languishing Hortensias with remarkable success. In 1841, he repeated his experiments before witnesses, and in 1843, the Agricultural Committee of the Arrondissement of Chatillon awarded him their gold medal for the discovery.

Limestone soil is unfavorable to the solubility of iron in the earth. Lime, in the form of a sulphate, or carbonate, locks up the iron from the peach. In soils where there is too much iron, those "poor soils," where the peach flourishes, but where nothing else flourishes, lime and plaster are the best manures. Why? Because they take hold of the oxides and per oxides of iron and render them insoluble, so that they can not be taken up by the roots of plants. By thus freeing the soil from its superabundance of iron they restore it to fertility.

In compact clay loam, the feldspar, though minutely divided, is not decomposed. Its elements are not, therefore, presented to the peach in a soluble form. It is only by repeated and frequent disturbance and comminution that it decays rapidly enough for the use of stone fruit. The mineral elements most required by stone fruit, potash, silic and iron, are supplied to soils, according to chemical writers, chiefly by the decomposition of feldspathic rocks. The decomposition is hastened by the application of lime, so as to promote a general fertility, but it is said that lime converts soluble iron into an insoluble form. For stone fruits this will not do. In our lime soils they receive less than their due proportion of soluble iron, hence they are con-signed by common consent, like the grape, to the invalid department, which, in our country, is, unhappily, a very extensive department. Because we undertake to cultivate every product of the vegetable world, from Kamschatka to California, and because we possess a rich soil and sunny climate, we howl awfully if everything, from a tea plant to a cranberry, does not grow. Why does the plum vanish before the curculio, and the peach before the borer? Because the constitution of the tree is already affected by a defective soil. If you wish to know what soil is adapted to a plant, you should analyze the seed: it is the seed which tests the soil. Why? Because the plant exhausts its whole vegetative power in perfecting its seed—not its bark, nor its wood, nor leaves, which are but the means and auxiliary forces of the seed. This is a law of vital action which lies at the foundation of scientific horticulture.

I do not deny that other causes exist to damage the peach and other stone fruits. Heaven knows they have enemies enough! The scrofulous seed, the careless treatment in the nursery, the infamous digging up and planting out by reckless hirelings, and the after neglect in orchards, kill half the trees. The murderous cruelty of our spring seasons, tempting the peach to come out prematurely and then cutting it off with a frost in May—all these we know, and many more.

But if it can be proved that iron as a manure is beneficial to stone fruit such as peaches, cherries and apricots, and that it will strengthen the physical constitution of the peach especially, it is easily applied, and no one will suffer by making the experiment.

Stone fruit possesses great power to absorb iron. A plum tree will absorb it to such a degree as not only to change the color of the leaves, but to exude in yellow blotches on the stem and finally to kill the tree.

The action of iron in promoting the formation of Hydrocyanic acid, is not explained.

Cyanogen (which is a compound of carbon and nitrogen) is also a radical. It was the first compound radical discovered. Its discovery by Gay Sussac has proved more fertile in results than any other discovery yet made in organic chemistry. It acts exactly like an element, and Gregory represents it by the symbol "Cy" instead of C₂N (two parts carbon, one of nitrogen). Cyanogen is formed when animal matter is ignited along with carbonate of potash in close or covered iron vessels.

The Cyanogen being gas and combustible would be dissipated, and in open vessels burned, were it not that it enters into combination with potassium derived from the carbonate, forming cyanide of potassium, a salt not altered by red heat in close vessels.

This salt would be decomposed by the action of water, yielding carbonate of potash and of ammonia, hydrogen being set free, were it not for the addition of iron, of the sulphuret of iron, the latter of which is formed by the mutual action of the sulphate of potash (always present in potashes), carbon, and the iron of the vessel.

The iron or its sulphuret, is readily dissolved by the aqueous solution of cyanide of potassium, yielding cyanide of iron and sulphuret of potassium. The elements of the cyanide of iron then form, with cyanide of potassium, the very permanent double cyanide well known as Prussiate of potash, properly ferro cyanide of potassium, which form large and pure transparent yellow crystals.

From these compounds all the other compounds of cyanogen, and cyanogen itself are prepared. Its empirical formula is Fe Cy, 2 K Cy -|- 3 H O, or Fe K₂ Cy₂ -|- 3 H O.

At 212° it loses all its water and then contains only iron, potassium and cyanogen Fe -|- K₂ -|- Cy₂. It may be conveniently viewed as a compound of cyanide of potassium with cyanide of iron. But its rational formula is probably very different, and that it is a compound of potassium with a new radical, ferrocyanogen.

Cyanogen forms with hydrogen an acid, the Hydro cyanic, H Cy.

J. R. CHALLENGE.

Cincinnati, O.

DAIRYING IN ILLINOIS.

Stopping a day at Huntley, Illinois, during last month, the writer made some observations and inquiries, the result of which may be of interest to some of your readers.

Huntley is fifty-five miles west of Chicago and twelve miles west of Elgin, on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. The country here has been settled forty years, and this little town has seven hundred and fifty inhabitants. It has a cheese factory, feed-mill and flax mill. Farms in the vicinity average about 160 acres. Land is worth forty dollars an acre and upwards. Dairying is nearly the entire occupation of the farming population; grain being only raised for feed. Flax-raising, for seed and for paper stock, was formerly a considerable business, but this industry is very much declining. All this section of Illinois is in the dairy business; cheese and butter factories, six or eight miles apart, being everywhere established.

The factory at Huntley has a capital of about \$9,000. The building occupied is 40 by 100 feet, two stories and basement. It has an eight-horse power engine; the building being heated from the boiler. The factory now uses the milk of from eight hundred to a thousand cows—about fifteen thousand pounds of milk daily. It has a capacity for forty thousand pounds. It takes the milk of about six miles square of territory. Every farm has some cows; generally from twenty to sixty to the farm. A farm of 160 acres will support from twenty to thirty cows, affording pasturage, hay and grain for feed.

No wheat, to speak of, is raised in this section now. Corn and oats are almost exclusively raised, and are generally ground for feed, the meal being mixed in feeding with wheat bran, in the proportions of two-thirds bran to one-sixth of corn and oat-

meal each. This through the winter, with hay, corn-fodder and straw, is considered the best feed for the health of the cows and for promoting their milking qualities. Bran is brought from abroad and costs now fifty cents a hundred pounds. Feed-mills are usually connected with the cheese factories, being run by the same engine which does the pumping, churning, etc.

Corn and oats do well in this section. The land is constantly improving in fertility, from the fact that more is being added to it than is being carried off from it. Not ten car loads of grain are shipped from Huntley in a year.

Cows now are worth from thirty to thirty-five dollars. The farmers do not raise their own cows; they are brought in from a distance. Calves are not reared or fattened, but are disposed of at birth; it being found more profitable to buy the cows than to raise them. The cows have their calves in the fall, and more milk is obtained in the winter than in summer, because it pays better.

In most of the factories now butter is made the year round, and only skim-milk cheese is made. For some years past the cheese market has been uncertain compared with that of butter. Every factory has its ice, pure water and means of heating by steam; so that every condition is secured for making a uniform quality of butter the year round.

Elgin is the trade center for this business for a number of counties. A board of trade, which meets there weekly, representing the interests both of the factorymen and the farmers, is attended by purchasers from the east, and all sales of butter and cheese are made at these meetings. Cheese, last month, at these sales, brought 7½ cents, and butter 23 cents per pound. A year ago cheese was 11½ cents; butter, 27 cents.

The factorymen now are allowed two cents per pound for making the cheese and five cents for making the butter. The farmers are paid monthly whatever the quantity of milk they have delivered entitles them to.

A cow averages about twenty pounds of milk per day the year round. They are of common stock; necessitated by the mode of supply. A hundred pounds of milk makes about one pound of butter and nine pounds of cheese at the same time; so that at present prices one hundred pounds of milk nets the farmer 67½ cents. The factory at Huntley pays every month about \$8,000 to the farmers bringing their milk to the establishment. Besides, about eight hundred gallons of milk are every morning shipped from Huntley to Chicago, bringing about ten cents per gallon.

This business began in this section about twelve years ago. The writer can testify to a very remarkable apparent change for the better since that time, in the community visited. Fifteen years ago the people depended on the uncertainties attending grain-raising in that climate; and they lived poorly. Their houses were poor and comfortable; their barns were straw sheds; their fences were poor, and their land run down by over-cropping. Now almost every farm has its elegant and commodious dwelling; its capacious two-story, red-painted barn, and well fenced, fertile fields.

The labor now required is much greater than before dairying was introduced. This has been supplied chiefly by German immigration. In many instances now the Germans take the farms and dairies on shares; the tenant himself owning a number of the cows, so as to secure a proper interest on his part. Not a few of the owners of the farms have become so forehanded as to have built them comfortable homes in the towns, for the better education of their children, and better society advantages, living upon the incomes of their farms thus carried on by tenants upon shares. Everything has become so systematized that a general oversight on the part of the owner is practicable, with little trouble.

This system has resulted in effective cooperation as to the sale of the farm products. These full-handed farmers are able, of course, to buy everything at wholesale

prices. The beautiful little town which has grown up has become the center of social and educational advantages. The farmers and the business men have become allied in interest, and have in a measure come to be joined in mutual co-operative affairs.

The change for the better in the Huntley neighborhood is a very striking one. It has been due almost wholly to a change from grain-raising and its vicissitudes to dairying and its simple, systematic methods and more certain returns for labor. More labor, it is quite probable, is performed, and the constant care, attention and labor may in some cases make the business almost amount to constant drudgery. But if such drudgery is performed it is because of the incentive of the certain monthly returns.

It may be that this business is being overdone. The present prices of butter and cheese compared with those of last year, as mentioned above, indicates a great falling off in profits. Indeed the farmers of Huntley say there is no money in the business this year. It may be only a question of a little time when some of the dairymen will have to turn their attention to raising Norman horses and well-bred bullocks. But if so, the systematic and intelligent methods of their dairying experience will doubtless be carried into their new undertakings.

F. G. A.
Topeka, Kan.

THE PREMIUM HORSE.

A writer in the *Cultivator* takes off the modern prize-winning horse of agricultural fairs in the following neat manner. A striking similarity is recognizable between this first-prize horse and the champion of the prize ring:

"The same tricks are perpetrated, the same rules adopted, and there is just the same amount of gambling at the so-called agricultural fair as at the horse-race proper. When you see the horses brought out on the track you may know that the fine, handsome, stylish horse, without blemishes and full of good points, has not the least chance at winning, but a horse is brought out with his legs bandaged up, blind of one eye, two sprung knees and a spavin, with perhaps two cracked heels—a horse you would hardly accept as a gift, and in fact it would be dear at that if you were forced to keep it. As a rule, horses trained for the course are worth little on the road; they are worthless in the team or at the plow, or the harrow; in fact for every useful purpose they are worthless, and still for all this these are the horses which take the first prizes at our agricultural fairs. How does this tend to improve agriculture? It is all to afford amusement like the circus but not near so innocent; but then there is the gate-money, and that is the root of the evil."

From Elk County.

OCT. 15—I will try and give you a few items after so long a silence.

We are in the midst of wheat sowing, dry weather having caused us to be late—ground in good condition now. The acreage will be one-third less than that of last year.

Corn is two-fifths lighter than last year, and is starting at 25 cents per bushel.

Potatoes and all other vegetables cut short by the continued drought.

We have had no frost yet, and the grass is still green. There has been a great deal of sickness of a bilious type, and several deaths from congestive chills, all of which we believe to have been caused by the extraordinary wet spring and early summer, followed by the hot and dry weather of July and August.

Elk county is a splendid stock-raising county, especially for cattle and sheep. It is well supplied with water, there being springs on nearly every section of land in the county. We have no herd law, and I think never will. There has been some immigration this fall. I think men of small capital would do better to settle here than to push out to the frontier counties.

Some people are howling about hard times. I think the best way to cure them is to live more economical, curtail expenses, and redouble our energies in trying to make an honest living. The great trouble is, we have been living too fast. In other words, we have turned the leaky end of the barrel down.

T. J. M.

MORRIS COUNTY EXPOSITION COMPANY.

This is the name of a society which held last week at Council Grove one of the most successful fairs of the season.

The County Agricultural Society held their fair about three weeks ago at Parkersville, but owing to the rain was not so successful as was anticipated.

The Society hired two large tents, which held the household articles, paintings, fruits, etc. Good, commodious stalls were made for cattle and horses.

The Council Grove band was out in full force and helped to enliven the occasion with good music.

CATTLE.

The premiums in this department were quite liberal, and the show was extremely good, especially so among the short-horns.

HOGS.

In this department there was strong competition, there being thirty pens well filled with swine.

Among the exhibitors were F. M. Chase, Esq., who received five premiums; Mr. W. F. Shamleffer, who carried off six 1st and three 2nd premiums.

HORSES.

There was a better display in this department than was anticipated. Among the exhibitors who received premiums, were W. R. Terwilliger, G. Anderson, Thomas O. Neara, J. M. Edwards, J. F. Cress, D. L. Kelly, J. W. Evans, G. B. Wilcox, W. G. Collins, L. J. Woodward, W. P. Shamleffer, Robt. McPherson, John Fox, W. H. White, James Whittaker and Wm. Bayles.

SHEEP.

There were four breeds on exhibition, viz: Merinos, Cotswolds, Lincolnshires, and Shropshire Down. Those exhibiting Merinos, were Lewis Webster, Esq., of Dunlap, Mr. C. L. Knight, of Council Grove, and Mr. W. J. Thompson.

Mr. Ed. Jones, from Wakefield, Clay county, was here with samples from his noted flock of Shropshire Down. He carried off all the premiums in his class here, as elsewhere over the state.

Mrs. M. K. Littlehales exhibited some grade Cotswolds and received some premiums. Mr. L. J. Denning showed some Lincolnshire sheep, the first I had seen in the state.

In the above four classes, every lot was full, and every premium that the society offered was contested for.

VEGETABLES.

This department was crowded with the productions of the soil. The potatoes especially, were extra large, and every potato of the many bushels on exhibition, being large enough to send to the eastern land agents of our railroads.

GRAIN.

The display of grain was good as to quality, although there was hardly enough of it.

Among the exhibitors I noticed Joseph Dunlap, E. J. Marks, and D. D. Jacobs, with wheat. They received premiums. Mr. J. W. Evans, of Diamond Springs, exhibited his Hulless oats.

POULTRY.

Among the exhibitors were W. F. Shamleffer, H. C. Finney, D. L. Kelley, Arvin Dana, A. J. Hughes, all of whom received premiums.

I must not fail to mention, that I saw here the largest display of honey that I had noticed at any county fair this year.

I noticed at this fair, as I had previously at the Emporia and Peabody fairs, the "Emporia Organ." This receives a 1st premium at every fair it is shown.

This Society will pay every premium in full and have at least \$100 besides. It is not being a county fair, the Society has to depend entirely upon its receipts at the gate to pay premiums and other expenses.

Below, we publish a list of queries from a Pennsylvanian who says that many in the east are anxious to obtain definite information on these points. We offer our Kansas readers who feel competent to the task, an opportunity to give the desired information.

FARMER'S CATECHISM.

Below, we publish a list of queries from a Pennsylvanian who says that many in the east are anxious to obtain definite information on these points. We offer our Kansas readers who feel competent to the task, an opportunity to give the desired information.

Editors Farmer. Have you knowledge of a section or sections of land with permanent water sufficient for a stock farm, and at what price and in what county located?

What would be the cost to fence it with hedge or barbed wire; would it be that the purchaser must fence all around the whole section, or only one-half?

Could a party or parties be found who would break and raise a crop of wheat for the crop so that I could seed it down to grass, or if required get it farmed to a crop of wheat with a reasonable expectation that the crop would pay for the expense?

Will green grass or Kentucky blue grass hold to make a permanent pasture?

When in pasture will graze for six months one bullock on each three acres?

The Kansas Farmer quotes two-year-olds at \$20@\$25; what would be the probable weight of the \$25 steer at the time of purchase?

Would he gain 300lbs by six months, grazing on this grass?

What would be the probable advance on him, or profit for this length of time? or would a steer worth \$25 in April be worth \$35 in October?

What would be the cost to ship a car of steer from the location of your selected land, to Kansas City?

This plan contemplates grazing only; would a plan to purchase good grade heifers and raise extra stock, and full feed to heavy beef, pay a better per cent. on capital, purchasing the corn at gathering time, (at a cash price, of course?) This would require much more capital in suitable buildings and farm machinery and labor.

SELECTION OF SEED-CORN.

The matter of selecting seed-corn is a very important one, and as farmers generally are aware that corn for planting should be well dried before the frost touches the leaves; it is to be presumed that most of the seed-corn throughout the country has been secured.

Many cultivators go further and say that seed gathered and dried in the sun as soon as the kernel is out of milk has more vitality to withstand cold and damp after it is planted than when allowed to remain on the stalk until dead ripe.

The matter of selecting seed-corn is a very important one, and as farmers generally are aware that corn for planting should be well dried before the frost touches the leaves; it is to be presumed that most of the seed-corn throughout the country has been secured.

do not pretend that it is an entire preventive of the depredations of those rodents, yet the present year it proved almost entirely so.

Having gathered the best and finest seed that can be found by selecting from those stalks which have the most ears, taking the best from each stalk, the first essential point is gained. Having selected large, fair ears with kernels of a bright, clear color, choose those ears in which the rows are most uniform and regular in size.

TREE TOPICS.

It was a favorite idea of Mr. Greeley's that the thin spots on many farms in the old states could be utilized for tree planting more profitably than in any other way.

Western men are recommending Catalpa and Mulberry as about as profitable for forest culture as any species of trees known.

A Minnesota writer gives the preference to the Sagar Maple for the prairies. About twelve feet apart is suggested as a good distance for setting the trees when they are intended for a sugar orchard.

A man that would thrive, must ask consent of his wife. A man's best fortune, or his worst, is his wife.

THE DEPENDENT CLASSES.

The Massachusetts report of statistics of labor, in many respects a valuable and interesting volume, makes one extraordinary statement. In summing up the non-productive or dependent classes in Massachusetts, it counts up, together with 1,787 persons "retired from business," 5,961 "infirm" and 505,905 children under fifteen years of age, the item extraordinary of 328,198 housewives.

EASY BOOTS.

A correspondent sends us the following: Take an old pair of boots that you have done wearing, and stop up all the cracks in the uppers, and lace or button-holes, etc., by means or paper upon which a sufficient quantity of wax has been spread.

THE WOMAN-MAN'S WOE OR WEALTH.

BY JOHN D. KNOX. Modesty is the essence of purity. A man that would thrive, must ask consent of his wife. A man's best fortune, or his worst, is his wife.

A little house well filled, A little farm well tilled, And a clever wife well willed

helps a man on in the world. The wife is the soul of the house; and if the soul be healthy, vigorous and wise the household and house will feel the power of an ever present life. She is a controlling spirit.

Better be half hanged than ill wed. Be suspicious of the charms that attract the eye; but give your ear a fair opportunity to learn by conversation the charms of mind and heart, which are more valuable and enduring than beauty.

"I know a young man, a noble fellow, who carries on a successful manufacturing business. Although possessed of an abundant competence, he devotes himself with untiring assiduity to the interests of his factory ten hours every day. His eyes and hands are everywhere. Half a year ago he married a beautiful, accomplished girl, who is said to speak four of the continental languages with the fluency of natives, while she touches the keys with infinite skill.

Four months ago they began housekeeping. A week since they gave it up in utter disgust. Three servants figured conspicuously in their griefs. The coffee was execrable, the steak abominable, the crust-stand and silver not fit to be seen, and the whole house in confusion. The husband bore it as long as pride and patience could endure, and then, sacrificing everything at auction, returned to boarding, resolved never to suffer the miseries of housekeeping again.

Mother and daughter, thus arrayed, walked slowly to church, looking as serene as if no bad news had come to town, and saluting their friends with a smile and a cheery word. "Oh, bless you!" remarked one of the humbler female neighbors, "they are as safe as the church! just look at those gowns and their smiling faces! What do the Peels care for a failure?"

Truly a bad marriage is like an electric machine—it makes you dance, but you can't let go. The fit of the slipper is uncomfortable.

Mr. Talmage says: "I have seen men at the marriage altar who thought they were annexing something more valuable than Cuba who found afterwards they got an album, God's Magazine and a medicine chest." A prudent wife differs greatly from such commodities. She is a help-meet.

A bad tongue is a terrible calamity, for most men would rather be pierced by a dart than by the tongue of a wife. Scolding wives, like bad clocks, are seldom in order. Marriage is the comfort of the considerate and prudent; for a "prudent woman studies the comfort of her husband and household; whereas a scold and spendthrift thinks of parties and fashions." Virtue makes a noble woman—wisdom makes a pleasant woman—religion will make her a real gem shining in the dark evening of adversity, with the law of kindness on her lips. She is a blessing above words to describe.

A gracious woman retaineth honor.—SOLOMON.

But "a proud eye, an open purse, and a light wife breed mischief." Beware of painted women, for if your eyes are dim you may be deceived.

Women have often involved their husbands in law-suits and loss by an unwise use of their tongues. In some communities baby-bling women have been so numerous as to justify the legislature in seeking to abate the nuisance or for the distressed husbands passing an "enabling act." The following act of Assembly was passed in Virginia, in 1792: "An act for the punishment of scandalous persons—Whereas, many babbling women slander and scandalize their neighbors, for which their poor husbands are often involved in chargeable and vexatious suits and costs in great damages; be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that an action of slander by the wife after judgment passed for damages, the woman shall be punished by ducking; and if the slander be so enormous as to be adjudged at greater damages than five hundred pounds of tobacco, then the woman to suffer ducking for each five hundred pounds of tobacco adjudged against the husband, if he refuse to pay the tobacco."

It is believed that women in mischief are wiser than men, and that it is in vain to watch a really bad woman. This confirms the saying that "women grown bad are worse than men, because the corruption of the best produces the worst." But the virtuous woman, though homely, is the ornament of the house. Her smile is worth to her husband in his business, many pounds of gold. If perplexed and in gloom his wife moves about with a continual scowl upon her brow, his perplexity and gloominess are increased a hundred fold. "A pleasant, cheerful wife is a rainbow set in the sky when her husband's mind is tossed with storms and tempests; but a dissatisfied, and trefful wife in the hour of trouble is like one of those fiends appointed to torment lost spirits." Live, reflect, and it may be true that a good wife is the workmanship of a good husband. Still women have much of themselves before and after marriage. Beauty is not to be despised, still beauty in women is like the flowers of spring; but virtue is like the stars of heaven. The first is apt to be front window ornaments, and "a woman that loves to be at the window, is like a bunch of grapes on the highway." If thou desirest a wife, choose her on Saturday, rather than on Sunday. But never blame a wife for your own thriftlessness.

Some one has told a beautiful story of A Wife's Sagacity, and with it I am done:

Solomon did not utter that wise saying, "A man must ask his wife's permission to become rich." But he said something equally pithy and true: "A virtuous woman"—that is a woman of strong character—"is a crown to her husband." "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her," he continues; "she openeth her mouth with wisdom."

The wise king's words were recalled by reading an anecdote of how a wife once saved her husband from being ruined by a panic. She was the wife of Robert Peel, who was among the first to establish in England cotton-spinning works on a large scale.

One Saturday night, when Mr. Peel was away from home, news came of the failure of a large house in the trade. There was a panic, and a run was feared on the bank, with which Mr. Peel was largely connected, as soon as it opened its doors on Monday.

Sunday morning Mrs. Peel came down to breakfast dressed in her best suit. Seeing her daughter less handsomely attired, she bade her go up stairs and put on her best clothes. "Look as blithe as you can," she said "for, depend upon it, if the folks see us looking glum to-day, they will all be at the bank to-morrow."

Mother and daughter, thus arrayed, walked slowly to church, looking as serene as if no bad news had come to town, and saluting their friends with a smile and a cheery word. "Oh, bless you!" remarked one of the humbler female neighbors, "they are as safe as the church! just look at those gowns and their smiling faces! What do the Peels care for a failure?"

There was no run on the bank the next morning. The sagacious wife had prevented the spread of the panic. She was the grandmother of one of England's most practical prime ministers, Sir Robert Peel.

Topeka, Kan.

