

DIPLOMACY.

BY FREDERICK LANGBRIDGE.

I doted on tiny Dora. That sweet little queen of days: And I knew that the darling loved me, In spite of her teasing ways.

I could not get on without her; I paced in my lonely room, And thought how her magic presence Would brighten its drowsy gloom.

I bought in despair a license, I caught her and held her fast; "Oh, Dora, look here, my darling, The license has come at last."

THE STORY OF ROLF.

Rolf was a collic. There was nothing remarkable about his appearance. He was a handsome animal certainly, but I have seen handsomer. He was simply a purely bred, good-sized, well-formed black-and-tan shepherd dog.

Rolf was a present from my father. I began his education almost immediately; and he soon showed himself endowed with rare intelligence. He speedily became as fond of sport as his master. I had him under thorough command and in a very short time he came to understand and obey my slightest wish.

On my way, it occurred to me how much more convenient it would have been, if I could have sent Rolf home for the caps. It might often be useful to be able to send him home with a message, and I forthwith resolved to add another accomplishment to the many he had already acquired.

Our house, which was on a large island, was situated at the head of a fine bay or fjord, which ran inland some three miles. Right across the mouth of the bay there stretched a small narrow island, which formed a complete natural breakwater, and effectually protected the bay itself from the fury of the ocean waves.

been my good fortune, to shoot one of these birds, and I at once gave chase. It is useless to fire at any of the divers when swimming, unless they are very near; for they are certain to "dive on the fire," as the phrase goes,—it is a trick they all have.

As by this time I was fully half-way round the island, and the light wind, which was off shore, was slightly on the quarter, and the sea perfectly smooth, I kept sailing on, with the intention of circumnavigating it. Gliding smoothly and silently along, and just as I was passing a small rock called Skarta Skerry, I caught sight of an otter on its top, busily engaged in discussing his dinner.

I sat down and tried to think. For a few terrible moments, no hope of rescue or means of escape presented itself to my mind. I dare say some audible expressions of despair burst from me, for I was roused by Rolf laying his paw on my knee and looking up wistfully in my face, as if to inquire what was wrong.

Two bounds, an impatient bark, as though he meant to assure me he knew it was a case of life or death, a plunge, and Rolf was cleaving the water toward the nearest shore. I sat still and silent on my dismal perch, and watched his rapid progress. I saw him approach and gain the rocky shore. I saw him shake himself hastily. I saw him scramble up among the boulders, up the sloping path at the head of the creek, and reach the brow of the cliff.

became unreadable? But, even should none of these things happen, would Rolf be noticed as soon as he reached home? It would need to be as soon. Men, I knew, could not be got at a moment's notice; they must be sent for from some little distance; and, after manning the nearest and handiest boat, fully four miles of sea must be traversed ere help could reach me.

The flood tide had been running for an hour. In three hours at most, the Skerry would be covered. What should I do? I was no coward. I had often been in positions of utmost peril, when coolness of head, readiness of resource, or promptitude of action had carried me through; and I rather prided myself on my presence of mind in circumstances of difficulty or danger.

I well remember the horrible fascination of watching the water rising, inch by inch, creeping with a slow persistency, higher and higher every moment. It was the very valley of the shadow of death through which I was passing. Then thoughts and memories of another kind—of the home and friends I should never see more—thoughts, too, of a more solemn kind, bearing upon the future which comes after death—reflections, retrospections, regrets, hopes, prayers, came thick and fast.

Thus two and a half long hours slipped past. Long they seemed, almost a lifetime, and yet all too short. The tide was rapidly rising. Only a small space of the top-most point of the rock now remained above water, and still there were no indications of rescue.

Not a sound was to be heard but the ripple and splash of the water, or the wild scream of the sea-gulls overhead. If all had gone well with Rolf, and he had been expeditious, it was full time—it was something more than time—that succor should have come. I sprang to my feet with a despairing groan. I looked at the cruel sea, the black, frowning rocks, and the bright sun and blue sky. "Oh, horrible! Will no help come! Must I thus miserably die? So young and strong, too! Ah, Rolf! you have failed me in my need!"

My darling Rolf lived to a good old age. He has long passed away to the "happy hunting grounds." Since those days of my youth, he has had several successors, but never one to equal him in intelligence and fidelity, never one I loved so well, and never one that so well deserved to be loved and cherished.

Query:—What is the best family medicine in the world to regulate the bowels, purify the blood, remove costiveness and biliousness, aid digestion and tone up the whole system? Truth and honor compels us to answer, Hop Bitters, being pure, perfect and harmless.—Ed. See another column.

THE MILD WINTER

Has caused us to have AN OVERSTOCK On quite a number of goods.

WE DESIRE TO CLEAR THEM OUT!

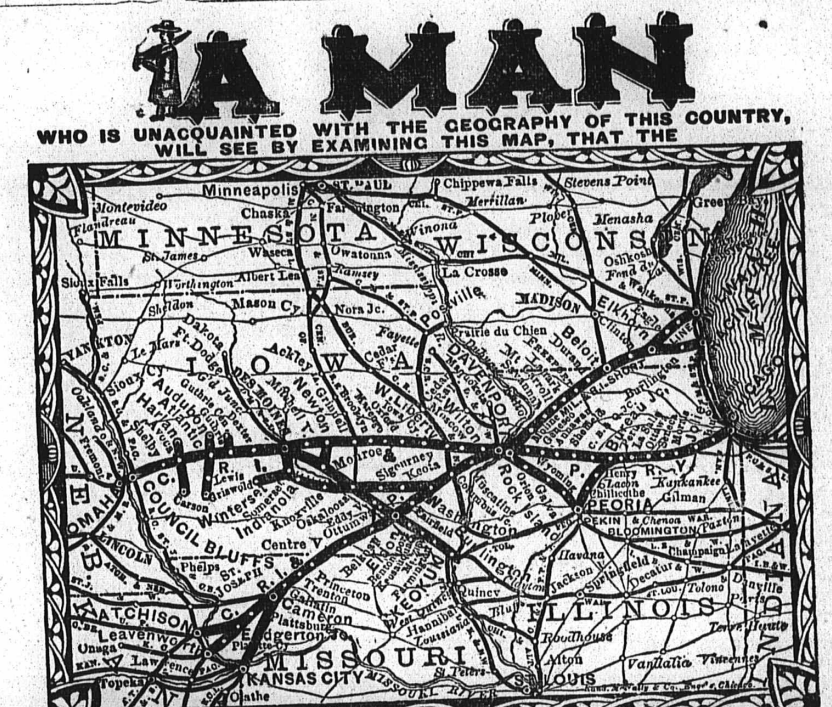
Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price. Items include Gent's Arctic, Ladies' Arctic, Misses' Arctic, and Flannel-Lined Shoes.

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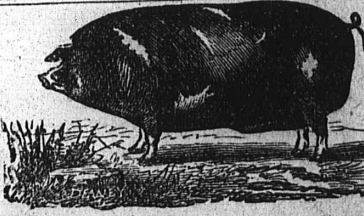


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Castor Bean Culture.

Correspondence to THE SPIRIT OF KANSAS.

EDITOR SPIRIT:—The past two years the corn crop has been fearfully depleted by the ravages of the chinch bug.

The castor oil bean extensively cultivated will be the death knell of the ever dreaded chinch bug. Then the plant is almost as good a fertilizer as clover.

Brother farmers, while you are making out your card for the crops you are going to raise this year, consider the castor-oil bean, and give it at least a trial.

Readers of THE SPIRIT, let us have your experience; let us throw some spirit into this castor-bean matter.

Correspondence to THE SPIRIT OF KANSAS. A CORN CROP WITHOUT FAIL.

BY J. W. CLOCK.

EDITOR SPIRIT:—I had my "piece" in my head and had made up my mind to write you soon, before your note came.

"I have been in Kansas twelve years, have planted corn every year, and have never failed of a fair crop."

"What," said I, "did you not fail in 1860?"

"No, not even in 1860!" Of course I plied the earnest questions as to how and why?

The secret was besides good culture he had always planted as early in April as the season would at all allow.

When we all wake up to these things we are going to have the grandest country in the world.

TECUMSEH, Kans., Jan. 21, 1882.

Wool Growers in Annual Council.

The second annual meeting of the Kansas Wool Growers' Association met on the 17th inst. at Topeka.

Hon. J. S. Coddling, president of the association, gave an able address, full of practical thought and useful hints on wool growing.

We would like to publish his address in full, but have only space to make a short extract, which will serve as a specimen brick.

Our sheep have increased in two

years, 200 fold, and our wool clip the present year will not fall far short of 10,000,000 pounds, and can be sold readily on its own merits in any of the leading markets of the country.

Farm Notes.

From the New York Weekly Tribune.

Mr. Artemus Fisher, Keota, Iowa, sold this year, it is said, \$800 worth of farm crops from his fifty acres.

The manure of the celebrated Jersey cows is, Mr. Olcott has ascertained, "no better in milk than that of any other breed."

Iowa's butter and cheese factories number 450, one-third of them having been started during the present year.

Mr. J. R. Dodge is very cordially welcomed back by the farm journals to his old place as statistician of the department of agriculture.

Mr. W. F. Brown, Oxford, Ohio, shows his appreciation of sawdust as an absorbent in the cow-stable by sending six miles for it and paying twenty-five cents per load.

Professor C. V. Riley expresses the opinion that the Rocky Mountain locust will become less and less an evil in the valley of the Red River in proportion as the country is settled.

Some of the "current jelly" of commerce is the fearful and wonderful product of old bones from garbage boxes, flavored and colored with the wastes of gas works. Great is chemistry.

In an experiment at the Illinois Industrial University, corn cultivated six times gave 8 per cent. more profit than that under same conditions, but cultivated only three times.

Dr. J. B. Lawes says the use of salt as a manure has almost entirely ceased in Great Britain, the rain water there being competent to furnish all that is required for vegetation.

Professor M. A. Scovell, of the Illinois Industrial University, has recently taken part in a series of experiments which are said to demonstrate that good crystallized sugar can be made from sorghum.

Colorado has formed a state beekeepers association—president, D. S. Grimes; secretary, R. L. James. Most of the present members live in Denver, and represent, to start with, a total of 429 swarms.

Mr. T. Jones remarks that the desires of the Shorthorn breeders to have control of the publication of the record of their pedigrees is so obviously just and reasonable that it ought not to be opposed.

Professor J. P. Stelle, of the Mobile Register, remarks that cherry wood is "worth more to the cabinet maker, foot for foot, than mahogany," and he advises its culture in that part of the South where the tree is "a great success."

Mr. Charles A. Green writes from western New York that "dandelions were in blossom on the road-side December 30," and that with alternate freeze and thaw, "it is a hard winter thus far for small fruits on wet land that had not been covered."

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One of the large sewing machine companies has erected at Cairo, Ills., an establishment with capacity for 800 hands, to work the "red gum tree wood indigenous to all the Mississippi valley."

Professor George E. Morrow, of the Illinois Industrial University, says in The Chicago Tribune, that he never saw a breed with which he was before comparatively unfamiliar that so favorably impressed him as did the polled cattle, two years ago, at leading British shows.

Mr. A. White, our venerable correspondent at Keosaupee New York, writes thankfully of the good year 1881; extra quality and price, and a ready home market, more than made up for decreased yield of crops.

An English potato grower, who says he has cultivated during the past twenty years "nearly every variety that has been brought out," and "never yet tasted an Early Rose that was eatable," declares in The London Journal of Horticulture, that the tubers never ought to be cooked with skins on, but peeled and steamed.

Dr. E. Lewis Sturtevant's appointment to the directorship of the New York state experiment station and farm at Geneva appears to give very general satisfaction to the agricultural press. He is a scholarly, thoughtful, earnest gentleman of scientific tastes and acquirements, and withal practically familiar with the varied processes of husbandry in this country.

Education of Horses.

Horses can be educated to the extent of their understanding as well as children, and can be as easily damaged or ruined by bad training. The great difference of horses in regard to vicious habits comes more from their wrong management when young than from innate disposition. Horses of high mettle are more easily educated than those of dull spirit, but if ill trained they become the most vicious of beasts.

The Care of Sheep.

From the Breeders' Gazette. The man who seeks to become a flock-owner, because he expects to escape the care and hard work to which he has been subjected in looking after the details of some other business, will certainly meet with disappointment in one or two ways. He will either find that negligence here, as everywhere else, will bring disappointment and disaster, or he will meet the requirements of the situation, and put in all the time and

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A FEW BOOKS AND STATIONERY ALSO ON HAND

SEEDS FOR THE GARDEN, FARM & FIELD OUR ANNUAL SEED CATALOGUE 1882. Containing Description and Prices of Reliable Vegetable, Field, Tree and Flower Seed, Seed Grain, Novelties, Seed Potatoes, Seed Drills, etc., will be mailed free on application.

labor necessary to success. The merit of sheep husbandry is, not that it can be successfully prosecuted without hard work and liberal expenditure, but that it will pay for these with so much certainty, and in such liberal returns, as to give it merited prominence among industries. The man who seeks to demonstrate to himself and others the minimum requirements of the flock, may succeed until mistaken economy becomes manifest cruelty, and even then may "gather where he has not sown," but the highest capabilities of the flock will be left to the demonstration of the man who supplements the well-filled trough and teeming pasture, with a careful scrutiny and foresight into the comfort and convenience of every animal. He will have provision against inclemencies of cold and heat, wet and drouth; will have winter and summer food convenient and plentiful; will carefully guard against danger and disturbance from every source—knowing from experience that these will insure a compound return for the time and money required for their consummation. Parsimony never pays the sheep husbandman. In proportion to his liberality, "Such will the harvest be."

ment that on the 29th and 30th of December, 1881, his cow, without any recorded pedigree gave respectively six and three-fourth and seven quarts of milk (thirteen and three-fourth in all) from which he obtained two full pounds of first-class butter. If any one has a cow registered in any herd book that will do better than this let him show the record. It is proper to state that the above named cow had no extra feeding on or previous to the two days that the test was made. The richness of the milk in butter making quality, and not the quantity, is remarkable.

If our dairymen would take a little pains to report to us their work we should not have to go out of our own state for such items of interest as the above. A farmer in Ogdensburg, New York, according to the Journal of that town husked and shelled his corn by one passage through a threshing machine, taking up at the rate of forty-five shelled bushels per acre, and leaving the stalks in a "fine-out state" for feeding. The experiment was so satisfactory that he declares he has got through with the tedious old-fashioned way of caring for this crop.

From the South Bend Evening Register. When certain powers are claimed for an article, and everybody testifies that it does more than is claimed for it, to gainsay its worth is useless. This is the substance of the St. Jacobs Oil record.

Young Folks' Department.

THE BOYS.

There come the boys! Oh, dear, the noise! The whole house feels the racket;

Behold the knee of Christie's pants, And weep o'er Bertie's jacket!

But never mind; if eyes keep bright, And limbs grow straight and limber,

We'd rather lose the tree's whole bark, Than find unsound the timber.

Now hear the tops and marbles roll! The floor—oh, woe betide them!

And I must watch the banisters, For I know the boys who ride them!

Look well, as you descend the stairs; I often find them haunted

By ghostly boys who make no noise, Just when their noise is wanted.

The very chairs are tied in pairs And made to prance and caper

What swords are whittled out of sticks; What brave hats made of paper.

The dinner bell pounds loud and well, To tell the milkman's coming;

And then the rush of "steam-car trains" Sets all our ears a-humming.

How of I say: "What shall I do To keep these children quiet?"

If I could only find a good receipt, I certainly should try it.

But what to do with these wild boys, And all their din and clatter,

Is really quite a grave affair— No laughing, trifling matter.

"Boys will be boys"—but not for long; Ah, could we hear about us

This thought; How very soon our boys Will learn to do without us.

How soon, and tall, deep-voiced men Will gravely call us "Mother,"

Or we be stretching empty hands From this world to the other.

More gently should we chide the noise, And when night quells the racket,

Stitch in but loving thoughts and prayers, While mending pants and jacket.

DEAR EDITOR:—I go to school, I am eight years old, I read in the second reader.

I have three sisters, their names are Nora and Maggie and Ellen; I have five brothers

their names are James and Joe and Willie and Tommie and Johnny.

I have two brothers that are too little to come to school,

and one sister that is too little to come to school. My teacher's name is Miss Oliver.

MARY CUMMINGS. Lecompton, Kans., Jan. 20, 1882.

DEAR EDITOR:—I would like to see you and I would like to tell you all I can.

We have seven horses, twelve cows and three dogs. I am eight years old

and my brother Joe is five years old, my brother Mark ten years old.

I have a sister and her name is Nettie and I have a brother and he is ten months old, he is the baby.

I carry the wood into the house, Mark and my cousin feed the horses; my cousin is thirty years old.

JOHN MIGLIARIO. Lecompton, Kans., Jan. 20, 1882.

Letter from "Children's Friend" Correspondence "Young Folks' Department."

DEAR CHILDREN:—How glad I am to see you are not all dead.

I've been thinking we would have to ask the editor to sound the death-knell and drape your department in mourning.

THE LATEST MARKETS.

Table with columns for 'Produce Markets' and 'Kansas City, Jan. 24, 1882'. Lists prices for flour, wheat, corn, oats, rye, butter, cheese, eggs, lard, and hay.

Table with columns for 'St. Louis, Jan. 24, 1882'. Lists prices for flour, wheat, corn, oats, rye, butter, cheese, eggs, lard, and hay.

Table with columns for 'Chicago, Jan. 24, 1882'. Lists prices for flour, wheat, corn, oats, rye, butter, cheese, eggs, lard, and hay.

Table with columns for 'Live Stock Markets' and 'Kansas City, Jan. 24, 1882'. Lists prices for cattle, hogs, sheep, and pigs.

Table with columns for 'Lawrence Markets' and 'The following are to-day's prices'. Lists prices for butter, eggs, chickens, turkeys, and potatoes.

Table with columns for 'Tecumseh Items' and 'Special Correspondence SPIRIT OF KANSAS'. Lists prices for various goods.

MR EDITOR:—I wish you would if possible secure a correspondent from every township and village within the bounds of your circulation.

I will see if I can get a subscriber or two and remit in a few days. I have taken THE SPIRIT since it became the grange paper.

Administrators Notice. TO ALL THE CREDITORS AND ALL other persons interested in the estate of Mary Blanton, deceased.

Politically I would like to see it squarely "National." Politically I was a Republican—am to-day if by their making an administration of law they will show at least as much care for the interests of the many as of the few.

MONMOUTH, Kans., Jan. 21, 1882. From Osage County. DEAR SPIRIT:—I don't like to brag (Kansas never do), but really the last number of our paper was the best number we have had.

There I have got my paper about full and not one word of what I intended to write in it; I intended to say a little about how we poor farmers are over-worked and under-paid.

And now, friends of THE SPIRIT, don't forget these postals and if you cannot find a pen, or the ink is froze and bursted, why just write with a PENCIL.

FROM every part of the state comes the demand for more dwelling houses. Kansas is evidently "chuck full" of people this winter.

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See Here. You are sick; well there is just one remedy that will cure you beyond possibility of doubt. It's liver or kidney trouble, consumption, dyspepsia, debility, Walle health renewer is your hope.

Administrators Notice. TO ALL THE CREDITORS AND ALL other persons interested in the estate of Mary Blanton, deceased, that I will, on the eighteenth day of February, A. D., 1882, make final settlement of the business of said estate with the probate court of Douglas county, state of Kansas.

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