

Selected Poetry

THE MORNING RACCOON

The noblest men I know on earth
Are men whose hands are brown with toil
Who, bled by no ancestral grove,
How down the wood and hill to roam;
And with their own proud hands
Than follows king or warrior's name.

The working men, whatever the task,
Who carve the stone or bear the load,
They bear upon their honest brows
The sweat and toil of their own trade,
And neither the king nor the noble
Can claim a more illustrious name.

God bless the noble working men,
Who rear the lot of the poor,
Who dig the mines, who build the ships,
And drive the common engines of life,
God bless them; for their noble deeds
Have wrought the glory of all lands.

CARE OF THE HORSE

It is not the amount of food and care given to the horse that insures his health and good condition, but the times and manner of application. There are times when a horse should have a full feed, and other times when he should have a small one. The heaviest feed should be in the evening after his day's work is done. His appetite is then gratified, he lies down to rest and will most likely lie till morning. By this time his food has digested, his system is rested, he gets up refreshed with a good appetite. His morning meal should not be an over full one—not so full as that of the previous evening. He should be driven or worked moderately for the first hour or two. After that his speed or labor may be increased if there is any urgent necessity for it. His midday feed should be smaller than that of morning or evening—it should be the smallest meal of the day, and he will travel or work on it during the afternoon with more vigor and less exhaustion than he would have done on a full feed, and will enjoy his evening meal with a greater relish.

If a horse is thirsty do not give him over two gallons of water. He will perhaps want four or five, but such a drink would do him more harm than good. He will be more refreshed and better able to perform his duty after drinking two gallons than he would have been after drinking four. It is necessary, sometimes, to restrain the appetite, even with water, and this requires some judgment and discretion.

Never suffer a horse that has been driven or worked through the day to spend the night without first having been well cleaned and his ribs well rubbed down. This is especially if he performs his work in a feed—it is worth more to the owner than the price of many feeds. A good operation should be performed again in the morning. In fact a horse should never be taken out of the stable to either work or travel, without first having his limbs well rubbed down. It stimulates the circulation, and opens the pores of the skin—the horse then feels that he has limbs and enjoys a pleasure in using them.

Always talk to your horse in friendly terms with him—talk to him with a kindly tone of voice, pat him on the neck, and even sing and whistle to him, for he is fond of music, and these little attentions are not lost on him. Pull a handful of grass by the roadside and feed it to him. If he is tired and worn down, it is astonishing how these little attentions will encourage and cheer him up.

Now let me tell you what to do. Do not swear at your horse. Do not whip him. If he has faults, try to coax him out of them by kindly treatment; but if you try to whip him out of them, you will whip him the deeper into them. He has a spirit of resentment, if you raise it in him, as well as you; and you, having the greater reasoning powers, ought to show the best example.—North Western Farmer, no. 10, 1900

THE SPECTER

The Specter and the Spaniards have hitherto divided the credit of possessing the largest store of proverbial wisdom, but, were the literature of Russia more widely known, she might prove a formidable rival either to the land of oatmeal or that of oranges. We give a few specimens, which, on account of their pointed terseness, their quaint, homely vigor, and dry, Spanish-Panache satire, scarcely need the aid of rhyme to recommend them. They are, indeed, more fully than words can express, the faithful mirror of the Spanish, simple, dogged, humorous, Russian mind, ever veiling the natural kindness under a mask of hostility and never betraying its stolidity. Every one who reads his own tale. "Go after two wolves, and you will not even catch one. A good beginning is half the work." "Trust in God, but do not stumble yourself." "With God, even across the sea; with Him not even across the threshold." "Money is not God, but it shows great mercy." "The deeper you hide anything the sooner you find it." "If God don't forsake us, the pigs will not take us." "A debt is a debt by payment." "Rogues are the best of God's creatures; they take the crooked path while you can see a straight one." "Fear not the threats of the great, but rather the tears of the poor." "Ask a pig to dinner, and he will not be there to eat of it." "Disease comes in by hundred weights, and goes out by ounces." "Every little frog is great in his own bog." "An old friend is worth two new ones." "Be praised not for your ancestors, but for your virtues." "When fish are rare, even a crab is a fish." "A father's blessing is not to be drowned in water, nor consumed by fire." "He who honors his parents shall endure forever." "A mother's prayer will draw up from the depths of hell."

FOR CORNED BEEF

Mr. E. Folsom, of Bloomington, Illinois, is sure that whoever tries the following plan will never want any other: For one hundred pounds of beef, three buckets of water, or enough to cover the meat, four pounds of brown sugar, with as much salt as will dissolve. Boil and skim. Put in the meat, white boiling, boil 90 minutes; take out and put in a barrel and turn on pickle when cold. Beef packed after this recipe may need a little more salt after the month of March.

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