"THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET."

The "Old Oaken Bucket" was written by Samuel B. Woodworth, while yet he was a journeyman printer, working in an office corner of Chambers and Chatham street, New York. Near by, on Frankfort street, was a drinking house, kept by one named Mallory, where Woodworth and several particular friends used to resort. One afternoon the liquor was pronounced superexcellent. Woodworth seemed inspired by it, for after taking a draught, he set his glass upon the table, and smacking his lips, declared that Mallory's eau de vie was superior to anything he had ever tasted.

"No," said Mallory, "you are mistaken; there was one which, in both our estimations, far surpassed this as a drink."

"What was that?" asked Woodworth, dubiously.

"The draughts of pure, fresh, spring water that we used to drink from the old oaken bucket that hung in the well, on our return from the labors of the field, on a sultry day in summer."

The tear-drops glistened for a moment in Woodworth's eyes. "True! true!" he replied; and shortly after quitted the place. He immediately returned to the office, grasped a pen, and in half an hour the "Old Oaken Bucket," one of the most delightful compositions in our language, was ready in manuscript to be embalmed in the memories of succeeding generations.

A MURDEROUS SEA FLOWER.

One of the exquisite wonders of the sea is called the opelet, and is about as large as the German aster, looking indeed very much like one. Imagine a very large, double aster, with ever so many long petals of the most delicate shade of light green, glossy as satin, and each one tipped with rose color. These lovely petals do not lie quietly in their places, like those of the aster in your garden, but wave about in the water, while the opelet himself generally clings to a rock.

How innocent and lovely it looks on its rocky bed! Who would suspect that it could eat anything grosser than dew or sunlight? But those beautiful waving arms—as you may call them—have another use besides looking pretty. They have to provide food for a large open mouth, which is hidden deep down amongs them—so well hidden that one can scarcely find it. Well do they perform their duty, for the instant a foolish little fishlet touches one of their rosy tips, he is struck with poison, as fatal to him as lightning. He immediately becomes numb, and in a moment he stops struggling, and then the other beautiful arm wrap themselves around him, and he is quietly drawn into the huge, greedy mouth, and is seen no more. Then the lovely arms unclose and wave again in the water, looking as innocent and harmless as though they had never touched a fish.

PLAIN bran or ship stuff, says *The Stock Journal*, is one of the very best kinds of food to increase milk. It is not fattening. A steer could not be fattened on bran alone, and a cow, if fed on the best of hay and bran alone, might fall off in her year, unless her strength and condition were kept up by Indian meal, or stronger food. If there is anything in which there would seem to be no strength, it is bran—the mere hull of wheat. It is not stimulating, like brewer's grains, and can certainly do no harm, if it does no good; and yet any farmer who will make the experiment will find—or, at least we have found—that a cow being otherwise kept in a proper condition, her yield of milk will be very considerably increased by giving her, twice a day, a feed of pure bran. The fact is patent, although we are not able to explain it. If there is any one article, which while keeping up the health and strength of the cow, will also increase the supply of rich healthy milk, in our experience it is cotton seed cake meal. We have found this to have a great effect on the milk secreting organs. The cows, at first, do not seem to relish it, and it should be mixed with some other feed, but they soon come to like it, and we have never seen any bad effects in any way. [Ex.

A plain unlettered man from the back country, in the State of Alabama, came up to Tuscaloosa, and on the Sabbath went to church. He selected a seat in a convenient slip, and waited patiently the assembling of the congregation. The services commenced. Presently the music of a full-toned organ burst upon his astonished ear; he had never heard one before. At the same time the gentleman who owned the slip came up the aisle, with his wife leaning upon his arm. As he approached the door of the slip he motioned the stranger to give place to the lady. The movement he did not comprehend, and from the situation of the gentleman and lady, associated as in his mind with the music, he immediately concluded that a cotillion, or a French contra dance, was intended. Rising partly from his seat, he said to him: "Excuse me, sir—excuse me, if you please; I don't dance!"

THE DYING NEVER WEEP.—It is a striking fact, the dying never weep. The circle of sobbing, agonizing hearts around produces not a tear. Is it that he is insensible and stiff already in the chill of dissolution? That cannot be; for he asks for his father's hand, as if to gain strength in the mental struggle, and leans on the breast of a mother, brother or sister, with still conscious affection; and just before expiring, at eve, after a long day's converse with the angel of summer, he says to his oldest brother—last audible "good night" of earth—"Kiss me, kiss."

It must be because the dying have reached a point too deep for our earthly crying and weeping. They are face to face with higher and holier things, with the Father in heaven and his angel throng, led on by the Son himself, and what are griefs of a mourning, tears of a dying farewell, be it that they are shed by the dearest on earth, in the vision bright of immortal life and everlasting re-union.

RUST IN WHEAT.—A correspondent of *The Rural Gentleman*, writes strongly in favor of ashes to prevent rust in wheat. As to the effects of ashes, he says they have, like Shakspeare's "sherry sack," a "three-fold operation."

1. The ashes operate as a manure upon the wheat, even in the limited quantity of eight bushels per acre.

2. They push the wheat forward several days, and in time to escape the hot, sultry days which often prevail about the time of the "heading out" of the wheat; and

3. They strengthen the stem, giving it substance and solidity.

I may add one or two more properties of the ashes, beyond the "sherry sack;" they afford just that kind of pabulum or food, which is best for the developement and perfection of the grain, and will, in my opinion, also prevent the ravages of the fly in wheat. I would here venture the remark, that whoever once tries this experiment will thereafter spread his wood ashes upon his wheat, as above indicated; and, in so doing, he will effectually guard against and prevent "the rust" in his wheat.

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