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Published every day except Sunday at 4 o'clock p. m. Price, in advance, $10.00 per year, $5.00 per six months, $2.50 per week, payable at delivery.

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A FLUCTUATING FAITH.

OTHER KINDS OF FAITH; WEAK, BUT GOOD SO FAR.

The Intellect Alone Will Never Guide to a Saving Faith; the Heart Must Be Warmed Before There Can Be Spiritual Life.

There is a kind of faith which was produced by the Saviour's testimony, and had much of hope in it, and yet it never came to anything. There is a temporary faith which holds on Jesus in a sense and after its own way of understanding him, or rather of misunderstanding him. A great deal of doubtful and unbelief is current at the present day. We are encouraged by certain persons to include in our churches all that have any sort of belief; and, indeed, the line is to be more inclusive still, for those who have no belief at all are to find an open door. The church of Christ is to be a menagerie of creatures of every kind. I fear if they come into this Noah's ark with bonds they will also go out with hoofs. Only those who enter by the door of regeneration and spiritual faith will in very deed be within the kingdom of the Lord.

Ah, my beloved hearers of that faith which is a mere intellectual assentment, which does not control the heart and the life. To come to faith through a cold argument, and to feel no spiritual life is but a poor business. You want a faith that leads you to an entire reliance upon the person of Jesus, to the giving up of everything to him, to the reception of him as your Saviour and king, your all in all. You have not believed unless you have believed on him that you make him the foundation and corner stone of your hope.

Our Lord takes notice even of the lowest sort of faith. When he saw that those people believed him in a measure, and were willing to accept his testimony as far as they comprehended it, he looked upon them hopefully and spoke to them. Out of a weak and imperfect faith something better may arise. Saving faith in its secret beginnings may be contained in this common and doubtful faith. It is written, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Certainly he can find it if any one can. He has a very quick eye for faith. He deals with little faith as we used to do with a spark in the tinder in the days of our boyhood. When we had struck a spark and it fell into the tinder—though it was a very tiny one—we watched it eagerly, we blew upon it softly, and we were zealous to increase it, so that we might kindle our match thereby.

When our Lord Jesus sees a tiny spark of faith in a man's heart, though it be quite insufficient of itself for salvation, yet he regards it with hope, and watches over it, if, haply, this little faith may grow to something more. It is the way of our compassionate Lord not to quench the smoking flax nor break the bruised reed. If any of you have only a little faith now, and that marred by ignorance and prejudice, it may be like a connecting thread between you and Jesus, and the thread may thicken to a cable.

Our Lord addressed himself especially to those questionable believers. He turned from his assured disciples to look after those who were more in danger. It is clear that he encourages them, but he does not flatter them. He says "if." A great "if" hovered over them like a threatening cloud. Wisely does our Lord consider his word to those with "if." "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." Continuance is the sure test of the genuine believer. Our Lord does not say, "Hold your way. You are not my disciples." But he in effect says: "I stand in doubt of you. The proof of your discipleship will be your persevering in your faith." If we say that we have faith in Christ we must prove it by abiding in believing and by still further believing.—Dr. Talmage in Christian Herald.

Look Up—Look Up!

Oh, doubting soul, bound to and fro with fears and questionings, lest thou board hire thyself? Today thou art coaxing about for a faith, or searching for anchorage. It may be thou dide once believe because of another's testimony, and when the life contradicted the testimony thy faith perished. Or then didst believe because of another's saying, but when death stilled the voice of the witness whispers of earthly doubt entered into thy soul and thy faith failed thee. Today thou cannot for faith, for rich assurance; thou wouldest have the voice of doubt silenced, the unrest of years changed to peace; thou seekest a faith that is simple, sublime, immovable. Such a faith must be found at Christ's feet; it is found where he abides; it is granted to those who hear Him themselves. "Arise! The Master is come, and calleth for thee."—Churchman.

As a man advances in learning he becomes impressed with the meagreness of his attainments. Its humility will mark true progress in the Christian life. Where there is advance there will be a clearer perception of our own shortcomings and unfulness. The more earnest and continued our struggle the more sensitive shall we be of our own accomplishments to temptation and the necessity of vigilance and effort to overcome evil. Paul when he had made great progress felt more than ever the necessity of pressing forward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.—Christian Inquirer.

"His allowance was a continual allowance given him of the king, a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life." (II Kings, xxv, 30.)

Change not your lot, be it good or ill, O child of the Master, but trust and obey. Change not the place for the service appointed, For that is ever the place to be happy in.

Dost not thou serve Lord in yonder lonely hut? Then may it dwell thee that to thy presence God, "daily," saith he, calls to thee.
"Take up thy cross and follow me."
—New York Observer.

WOMAN AND HOME.

ARRANGEMENT OF ROOMS.

Some Facts About the Division of a House for Comfort and Health.

The dining, living and sleeping rooms are wanted to be cool in summer. If they faced the hot afternoon sun they would be unbearable in the summer time. Therefore, living rooms should not look west, or have west, if the sun be behind. As old Thomas Fuller says: "A north window in the summer is a chimney with a fire in it, and yields the sweeter of a carcass. In a south window in summer time, toward night, the sun grows low and over brighter with more light than daylight." Our weather-boarded houses, on the wind-ward, should be on the south or southwest side of the house, because it is desirable that those apartments should have the morning sun.

"An east window welcomes the infant beams of the sun before they are of any strength to do any harm, and is offensive to none but a sluggard." A library, however, should have a west aspect, because it is likely to be used most in winter and bad weather, when the sun's rays will be against it. A larder, on the other hand, should be on the east side of the house, otherwise the provisions will not keep. "A north wind is best for butteries and cellars, for the best will be sure if the sun enters on it." Altogether, we may accept the following scenery of the situation:

"A house with a southern aspect is very often damp and very often bleak and cold; a southerly aspect is so warm, dry and bright as to be bad in the situation. An easterly aspect is cold, especially in the winter morning, but is a very healthy one. A westerly aspect is warm and inclined to damp, and likely to be exposed to wind and rain."

The condition of a house has much to do with its comfort. Before everything else it should not be damp, for "a damp house is a dreary house," says the proverb. Dampness is generally caused by faults of construction, and it is very difficult to cure. In looking over houses, therefore, I advise you to take careful note of the signs of damp. They are generally discernible enough before the house is close up. Mildew stains on the walls, and the marks of damp on the floor should make you turn away from a house and never enter it more.

The arrangement of the bedrooms is a detail not to be overlooked in choosing a house. One can scarcely lay down a general rule about the aspect of bedrooms, because their number necessitates their being of all aspects. The great thing is that they should be well ventilated, and so planned that the bed may be placed somewhere close thus between the window and the fireplace, or between the door and the fireplace, or between the door and the window. The door also should on no account be made to open full on the place where the bed will be. Forgetfulness of these small details causes great annoyance.—English Illustrated Magazine.

Changing Underwear at Night.

"I'll wager my newest pair of silver bracelets that Miss B. takes off her underwear too at night," said an observing and pretty girl the other day as we stood looking at a central friend who was admiring a picture in an art gallery.

"I believe I could see through my entire circle of acquaintance and tell the style who do that. And I will by their color. No woman of delicate organization can change all of her garments every night without feeling the cross in her cheeks. It is all very well and necessary to be clean, and there are certain rules and regulations laid down on such subjects that every well conditioned woman is supposed to observe. But in the face of all such rules I don't think off my flannels at night, neither do I change them every day, whether the weather be warm or cold. And the simple reason is that I cannot do so without seriously affecting my health. The dear old doctor who took me through all of my children missteps little or not that more young women and babies are wasted to death than the world would ever believe, and quite as many have their vitality sapped by this practised changing the clothes one after, which is decidedly a barbarous.

"Three or four years ago I was rooting down and grow pale and nervous and full of chills and shivers, and began to fear that I was getting to be an invalid. I couldn't do anything without getting feverishly tired, and my sleep didn't seem to do me any good.

"One day I went to see the doctor, and after asking me all manner of questions, without arriving at any conclusion, he spoke of the bath. I had been drilled about two weeks for that, but had never heard of the injury of changing flannels too often. I wear knitted socks of silk and have been in the habit of sleeping without them and changing them every day. But I stopped short, and in less than a month I had my color back again and could sleep like a child. I really haven't had a sick day since. I change twice a week in winter and three times in summer. At first it didn't seem nice at all, and I admit that it isn't a specially romantic thing to say, but it's a fact, and I wish every delicate or nervous person understood it.

"I have studied the subject up some and have taken some observations, and I assure you that there are hundreds of men, women and children who are suffering from too many clean clothes. Every clean garment absorbs just as much of the wearer's vitality as it will retain, and the person who is so trifling matter. Try it, girls, and see which you like better, roses in your cheeks or clean garments every day."—New York Ledger.

A Queer Method of Courtship.

The marriage ceremony of the Australian savages consists often in the simple process of stunning a stray female of a neighboring tribe by means of a club, and then dragging her away as unresisting captive, just as the mists of the larger species of owl are said to attack and temporarily disable their intended mates.

Another still uglier analogy with the brute creation is their indifference to the comfort of their wives, which, indeed, they have once outgrown the age of absolute barbarism. An Australian mother will nurse her baby with apparent fondness, and hardly ever let it stray out of sight for the first four years, but as soon as the toddling little imp seems able to take care of itself its debt of gratitude to its parents has to be paid by the worst kind of slavery.

At the first sign of insubordination a half grown boy is apt to be kicked out, if not killed, by his own father, while the older sparks indicate not every pretty girl as a possible rival, as much as, indeed, than the appearance of a old or ugly female more often be welcomed as an agreeable exercise party. The marriage of best relations is discouraged with a severity not often found among barbarians, and polygamy, though sanctioned by public opinion, is restricted by the difficulty of providing for the wants of a large family. As a distance from the only overgrown settlement becomes not unfrequent, and the natives have developed a faculty for enduring or half starving, for weeks without permanent injury, and rely on the casual come that sooner or later nature will resent the supply of spontaneous food.—Professor Peter L. Oswald in Good Words.

He who receives a good turn should never forget it; he who does one should never remember it—Charron.

MIXED ENSLAGE.

Additions to the Stock of Knowledge About the Silo.

Mr. H. B. Weeks, of Commonwealth, Wis., is one of the best silo men of our state, and the interior from his late honored father, Dr. Weeks, of the first silo of any magnitude and solidity that was built in Wisconsin.

During the past season, Mr. Weeks says, he tried putting some clover in the bottom of the silo at regular haying time, covering it a foot deep with green marsh hay, on which he put planks, and weighted it some besides. As corn harvesting time the clover enslage was in fine condition, save some twelve or eighteen inches on the top that had a little mold, but not to a seriously damaging amount. It was all eaten by the cows. He filled the silo full of corn-cut to half inch lengths.

He is now confident the clover was a little too ripe, and so failed to settle as compactly as it should to exclude all air. He will cut the clover into the silo next time, as well as the corn, and will scatter the clover more than he did last season. He says he finds—contrary to what we think is the common belief—that the cows prefer corn silage instead of the clover. He also says that he favors the planting of half the field with corn that will mature ears, and the other half of the large southern variety, and then in harvesting cut so much the ears, as to thoroughly mix the corn with the whole of the stalks.

We see no objection to this, unless it be that the later variety would not be ready to harvest when the earlier maturing kind would be. How does Mr. Weeks overcome this difficulty?

We have had a dream that a mixture of a variety of mixed crops might be harvested, cut in its season, and at the time of its very best development, and put into a long, deep, narrow silo, one top of the other, till made full by the last cantering kind of corn. Then use the "bias cut" in feeding out. This would give a toothsome variety to the ration that the animal would relish, and give a chance to put in all the per cent. of ripened corn that is needed to make a ration "balanced" so far as corn could do it.—Hoard's Dairyman.

Useful Points About Poultry.

Experience has taught me that clean, warm houses and good healthful food is the best medicine for chickens. When I commenced the business I used every remedy that I heard of and fed red pepper liberally. My hitherto remedies were large. Red pepper and a little sulphur fed once a week is good for fowls, especially during the moulting process. Corn meal and wheat bran made damp but not wet, and well mixed, is better than sloppy food. It is better dry than too wet. Plenty of warm drinking water in very cold, and cold in warm weather is indispensable.

Another question with most persons is, Where can I get the cheapest stock? I would respond, where you get the best, regardless of price. I would explain that I do not mean that it is necessary to pay the high prices asked by the prize winners for their stock in order to get good stock for the farm, but it is necessary that we who advertise our stock get from such breeders and keep our stock up high in the standard. In order to do this we must pay very high prices, and in turn cannot afford to sell stock for the low prices we often see advertised—much of it worthless of the very best at one dollar each. A moment's reflection will show that no breeder of first class stock can sell at such prices. In one community any farmer's wife who keeps pure stock can sell cockerels at her door for one dollar each. All breeders know that when we have got the very best stock possible, when shipping time comes we find we have many culls, and these we can of course afford to sell at reduced rates.

Very few persons engage in any business enterprise for pleasure alone. The American people especially are a people who ask the question, before embarking in any business ship, Will it pay? So with regard to cheap poultry. I can say cheap stock never pays for an advertiser, and there is certainly no pleasure in anything that does not give satisfactory results. One thing in making inquiries is better to be stated: whether you breed for market or shipping to other breeders. Often you can get just what you want much cheaper by so doing. For instance, one raising Plymouth Rocks for market alone need not be so particular about the penciling of the plumage, the set of the comb, etc., but if he gets a good hen, good style and shape, he will have just as fine and as early chickens for market as if he had paid a much higher price for his cockerel. What is true of one in this particular is true of all the breeds.

Another question often asked is: Can you furnish stock in pairs not akin, and how can I do this if I commence in business? Yes, I can. Get the stock and get some one who is anxious to go into the business to take an share, and when he or she gets a start pay them a good price for this stock and you will never have any trouble in furnishing stock in pairs and trios not akin. Breeders should make it a point to do this, as we all advise this in breeding. Another way I manage is to buy eggs and marketing fowls, hooking the marks, and this will often be satisfactory as any way.—Mrs. D. G. Mateer in Journal of Agriculture.

Women are hereafter to be admitted to the examinations for bachelor of medicine at the English university of Oxford. They only received this privilege, however, by a majority of one vote, and that does not confer the right to a degree, only a certificate of knowledge enough to get a degree.

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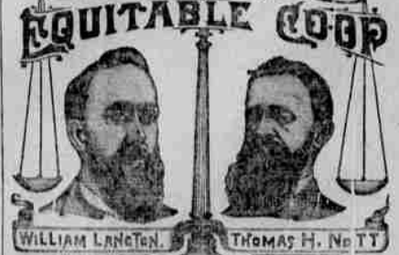

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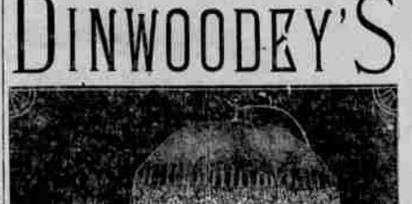

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