

# MICHIGAN FARMER

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DETROIT, MAY 16, 1887.

## THE HOUSEHOLD---Supplement.

### THAT DREADFUL BOY.

I'm looking for a dreadful boy  
(Does anybody know him?)  
Who's leading all the other boys  
The way they shouldn't go in.  
I think if I could find that boy,  
I'd stop what he's a doin'—  
A-bringing all the other boys  
To certain moral ruin.

There's Tommy Green, a growin' lad,  
His mother does inform me,  
The way that he is getting bad  
Would certainly alarm me.  
She feels the blame should rest upon  
John Brown—a recent comer—  
For Tommy was a lovely lad  
A year ago this summer.

But when I spoke to Mrs. Brown  
Her inmost soul was shaken,  
To think that Mrs. Green could be  
So very much mistaken.  
She did assure me Johnny was  
As good a child as any,  
Except for learning naughty things  
From Mrs. Whiting's Benny.

And Mrs. Whiting frets because  
Of Mrs. Blackham's Freddy;  
She fears he's taught young Benjamin  
Some wicked tricks already;  
Yet Fred is such an innocent,  
(I have it from his mother),  
He would not think of doing wrong,  
Untempted by another.

Oh! when I think I've found the boy  
Whose ways are so disgracin',  
I always learn he's some one else,  
And lives some other place in.  
And if we cannot search him out  
He will (most dreadful pity!)  
Spoil all the boys who otherwise  
Would ornament our city.

—Babyhood.

### DOMESTIC HELP.

The question of domestic help is becoming one of paramount importance to women in the country. The girls who work out are gregarious, and flock to town, where they can have the society of their kind; this is a natural and inevitable result of the feeling which makes them a class or caste by themselves, dependent upon each other for society. My correspondents universally complain of the impossibility of securing even the most inefficient help, while a really good girl is a domestic treasure and can command the highest wages and almost anything in the way of "privileges." At a recent farmers' club meeting in one of the wealthy counties of the State, the discussion turned on the "help" question, and a number of those present expressed the opinion that husbands and sons must give a helping hand in the kitchen on occasion, since it was much more easy to get hands for farm labor than for kitchen

work. Some of the points made were amusing, to say the least, particularly the emphatic negation of a sturdy German, who said he got his wife to be a helpmate to him, not to turn about and help her. But the fact remains that, taking into account the time spent in hunting up the often "impossible she" to preside in the kitchen, and the wages, and the board, and the waste and the breakage, farmers are looking within their families for relief, rather than to "the girl." Happy indeed, the woman who can take into her home the neat and tidy daughter of a neighbor, whom she can make one of her family. Happy too the one who has her kitchen arranged so conveniently that she can accomplish the necessary work with the least outlay of strength. There is an imperative need of more labor-saving devices in the farmers' kitchen. I don't really wonder "the girl" prefers to work in town kitchens, with their stationary tubs, ranges, water at a hand's turn, dumb waiters, and the like. In the one item of water alone, what a saving of muscular energy is effected by having it at hand, without a trip to well or cistern! The stationary tubs, filled from one faucet and emptied by the turn of another, save an immensity of heavy lifting and carrying.

I would urge upon our farmers, who are many of them far more thoughtless than unfeeling or hard-hearted, the necessity of planning to save the strength of the women indoors, and providing every labor-saving appliance which can be advantageously employed. It is a duty a man owes to his wife, to make her work as easy as he makes his own, and every hired man on the farm means just so much extra work in the house.

I have no remedy to suggest for this "girl-less" condition, but I wish to remind our readers that the dearth of domestic help is the legitimate and the inevitable outcome of the popular feeling which ranks housework as "not far from degrading," and classes those engaged in it in the lowest scale, socially. Conditions can and never will be different, so long as our daughters are tacitly taught that housework is a despicable occupation. We can talk to the girls who must earn their own living, and tell them how much more money and time, and better homes they might have—it is all a waste of breath as long as it is "more genteel" to work harder for less wages in other avocation. It is the hardest of all tasks to fight a foolish prejudice. The sword which can cleave linked steel armor falls harmless on feathers. It is only in

America that work in factories and shops is considered as superior to housework. In England, the house servant must be respectable and of respectable parentage, or she cannot obtain a situation in a good family. The girl who secures such a place is congratulated by all her friends, though she may receive in money not over \$40 per year. The Empress Augusta, of Prussia, gives every woman who completes her fortieth year of unbroken service in one family, a gold cross and diploma, and in eight years she has conferred such medal upon 1,856 servants. Bob Burdette says if Her Majesty were to bestow the same decoration on each girl who has forty places in a year, in this country, it would bankrupt the national treasury. But in "the land of the free and the home of the brave" two or three years' service is thought to be quite phenomenal. It is a pity that in the prevailing Anglo-mania which leads us to ape everything English, we could not adopt the English idea which ranks domestic service as above working in a tobacco factory, or picking rags in a warehouse. I can conceive of no employment more distasteful to a girl of any refinement whatever, than either of these last named occupations. The odors of the weed which cling to the person in spite of change of clothing, or the sorting the filthy rags coming from no one knows where, would make such work a last resort, one would think. Yet young and pretty looking girls, in neat dress, disappear behind the doors of such factories, change their street dresses for "old duds" a servant girl would be ashamed of, work continuously all day, eating a cold lunch on the premises, and at six o'clock join the great army of laborers who fill the streets, "just as good as anybody," and ready to elevate their noses at the idea of going into service! Well, truly, "there's no accounting for tastes."

BEATRIX.

### HOME DECORATIONS.

A very pretty table, like those which are for sale at quite high rates in our bazars here, can be made at home by any one who has time and ingenuity, and some money to spend upon its construction. The table is made as follows: Two squares of ordinary deal or white wood, say about two feet square, or three feet if a larger one is liked, are to be set on four square legs of the same wood, forming a top and a lower shelf; the lower one must have a two and a half inch square cut out at each corner to accommodate the square legs, which should be of that thickness; fasten this lower shelf



to the legs by means of screws passed through two sides of the leg and run into the shelf. Strengthen the table by running one and a half inch square crosspieces between the legs below the lower shelf. A clever lad can easily construct this table. Cross-pieces between the legs, set about four inches below the top shelf, will also make it prettier and stronger. Now proceed to cover every part of the table with either the best quality of double-faced canton-flannel, of an old red or old blue shade, or with flax-velours or any pretty figured stuff of good coloring, drawing it smoothly and tightly over the shelves and tacking it at their edges with furniture tacks; it would be well to cover the bottom of the top also, as it is liable to show. Cover the legs and cross-pieces also, and to give a pretty finish use small polished brass-headed nails. Complete the table by tacking along the edges of both shelves a pretty worsted fringe of old blue, olive and old red coloring, and having a pretty braid edge at the top; tack with plain gimp tacks or use the brass-headed ones, and you will have a very stylish table. Some tables made as above were shown here which were covered with plush, and instead of the fringe were edged with fancy balls. A pretty variation is to take more care in the construction of the table, and then ebonize it, and use a pretty scarf as a spread. These little tables are very pretty and useful; some are round and others cut in a tre-foil, like a clover-leaf.

In every city there are shops where old furniture may be newly upholstered, or men may be found who will come to the house and do the work there at moderate cost. But in the country, or in small villages, often there is no one who can be trusted with the task, and the housekeeper must do her own renewing, or let it go undone. To re-upholster any piece of furniture, remove the tacks, and taking off the old cover use it for a pattern to cut the new material. Do not disturb the stuffing, unless repairs are needed. Make up your mind you have a task to accomplish which requires patience and neatness, and cannot be done in a hurry. Lay the cover on the chair, and begin by tacking it across the front and a little way up over each arm; now take an upholsterer's needle, and a stout twine, and tie it down in the old places, using the old buttons if they have been preserved, if not, others as nearly like them as can be found; draw each place very tight, and tie securely on the back side, then fit the covering and tack down the edges a little further; now tie in more places until it is all done in as neat a manner as possible. On the back tack on one large piece smoothly fitted; across the front and sides fasten down a gimp with gilt tacks; if no gimp is to be had, a fold of the material will answer if neatly put on.

#### BAY VIEW ASSEMBLY.

Of all the educational agencies and recreative retreats which give so much brightness and beauty to the moral atmosphere and natural landscape of our country, none possess greater advantages than the Bay View Assembly, the Michigan branch of the

Chautauqua Assembly, located at Bay View, one mile north of Petoskey.

The best musical and literary talent is here brought into requisition, and to the unusually interesting programme for the coming season will be added several lectures by Peter Von Finklestein, of Jerusalem, on life and customs in Palestine.

Among the many noted lecturers at the coming Assembly, are John Dewitt Miller, of Philadelphia, whose lectures are sparkling with wit, and replete with good common sense, and Congressman Horr, of Saginaw, who last year at Chautauqua swayed an audience of ten thousand people at his own will, at times holding them spell-bound with his eloquence, at others sending them fairly wild with laughter over his witty sayings. Henry H. Ragan will give several lectures, illustrated by his wonderful stereoscopic views, which cover a canvas thirty feet square, and are so real and natural, in their coloring and contour, that one can hardly restrain the impulse to rush to the pictures, to take a walk in the grand building, or a drive amidst the glorious scenery represented. Prof. Dickie, of Albion College, will be on the Assembly Grounds with one of the best telescopes, to reveal to Chautauquans the wonders and glories of the stars, while Prof. Stowell and his wife, of the University, with several microscopes of large power, will reveal the no less marvelous formation of the tiny creatures of this lower world. Pres. Hunting, of Kalamazoo, will also be present, and it is expected Prof. Winchell, of the University, and author of one of our C. L. S. C. books, will lecture several times.

Dr. Pierson, formerly of Detroit, will conduct the Missionary Congress, and Dean Wright, of Boston, the Ministers' Institute. The latter is the Principal of the Chautauqua School of Theology and New Testament Greek, and will have charge of a class in Greek at Bay View. This will afford a rare opportunity for study of this wonderful language, under the tutorship of the best Greek scholar and teacher in the country.

There will be a School of Music, Cooking School, Kindergarten, School of Art, etc., while the Sunday School Normal Department will hold high rank among the interests at the Assembly. To the lovers of music, the Assembly offers a rare treat, as the famous Schubert quartette, the University Glee Club, and other musical societies will be there, as well as several eminent soloists, and the gifted violinists, Misses Hattie and Mattie Reynolds.

There will be several special days of great interest. Y. M. C. A. day, W. C. T. U. day, in charge of Mrs. Benjamin, so well known in this State, and the red letter day of all days will be Recognition Day, when the enthusiasm and inspiration of the season will receive its crowning glory. Several receptions will be given, and the brightness and eloquence of the day will be supplemented by illuminations and fire-works in the evening.

Many improvements in the Assembly Grounds will be made this year. Seventy-five new cottages are being built, and a Chautauqua Hall, with tower, broad ver-

andahs and artistic details will also be built. This will consist of a spacious reception room, and a parlor nicely furnished with musical instruments and a library reading table. This is to be built by subscription, and any one wishing to help forward this good work, and who would enjoy a feeling of ownership in "Our Home, can forward any amount of money, from twenty-five cents and upward, to J. M. Hall, Flint, Superintendent of the Assembly.

The trustees also propose to erect an amphitheater capable of seating 2,500 people.

The Assembly opens July 27th and continues three weeks. Excursion rates may be obtained on nearly all the railroads, and board is very reasonable.

The natural beauty of the scenery at this charming retreat is unsurpassed, indeed it has been favorably compared to the scenery at the Bay of Naples, and the glowing accounts of tourists are more than realized by an actual sojourn there. Air the purest, skies the brightest, intellectual feasts the richest, all conspire to tempt the busy toilers to hie to this refreshing, peaceful retreat, and receive fresh vigor for tired brains, and weary hands and feet.

HOWELL. MRS. W. K. SEXTON.

#### WALL PAPER AND HOW TO CHOOSE IT.

In the renovation of the house at the yearly cleaning, wall-paper and paint bear an important part. They are cheap and effectual aids in making rooms look fresh and pretty. Paper is very cheap, now, in even very good qualities; ready mixed paints may be bought of any dealer in such supplies, and a few dollars thus expended will yield most excellent returns. There are, however, some important things to remember in choosing fresh paper and the new paint, one of which is the correspondence with the carpet and furniture of the room. The paper and paint must harmonize with the furnishings; one must not "kill" the other. The walls are the background of the room, their decorations should not be so pronounced that they seem closing in upon us, but rather of a quiet color, subdued, neutral, making a background for pictures, etc. Therefore avoid pronounced colors, and patterns which are large and showy. A paper in two tones of the same neutral color is excellent, especially if the woodwork is painted to match one of the shades of the paper. White paint, once so highly esteemed, is quite out of favor; it is crude and cold, and ruins the effect of many pretty papers. A soft grey, olive, yellowish brown or drab are much better.

I think it is hardest of all to furnish a room in blue; I shall never furnish a "blue room" in my house. It is a "cold" color, but the effect of coolness is more beautifully produced by delicate grays, brightened by a touch here and there of red. An artist's eye is needed in the combination of colors, and the new wallpaper should be carefully considered, not so much for its own beauty, as for its harmony with other appointments. Sometimes it looks very differently when hung than in the roll, and you feel it "don't suit." Well, sacrifice a roll, if need be; take it back and try again. It is a trouble



of course; but better than hurting your eyes by constant dwelling on a discord to save a little trouble.

I think papering is too hard work for women to do, yet where paper-hangers are not to be had, or money is scarce, many women feel compelled to do such work. Very often they have no conveniences, and the task is made doubly hard for that reason. Wherever women are accustomed to paper, it will pay large dividends in saving time and strength, to have the men provide a board long enough and wide enough to paste a strip of paper the height of the walls, two wooden "horses" to support it, and a step-ladder, which last will cost seventy-five cents or a dollar, and is something "handy to have around" for many purposes. Make the paste the day before you are to paper and let it get perfectly cold; your paper will not be half as apt to crack and peel off. Use a whitewash brush without a handle to apply the paste to the paper. Hold the paper up to the wall, arranging it so the pattern will show evenly at the top and bottom, measure it carefully to the wall, and cut it off square; use this strip for a measure and cut the other lengths by it, being careful to match the pattern. A small patterned paper will waste much less than a large one. Paste the paper, not using much, but being sure that the edges are well pasted. Lift the strip to the wall, keeping it clear of the wall till you have it in position at the top, and are sure it hangs square; then with a clean cloth rub it down carefully, getting out all the wrinkles. Make the next strip match the figure. Don't try to turn corners without cutting the strip. Begin to paper somewhere where a discrepancy will not show, if the pattern does not come out exactly even at the finish. If your walls are low, do not use wide bordering; it will make them appear lower.

Ceilings are now almost universally papered, and very pretty they are made to look. The paper used for the purpose is invariably light in color and of small pattern. The centre space receives this paper, and a fancy border half a yard or over is added around the edges. Sometimes, where walls are low, the wall paper is cut long enough to run out on the ceiling overhead for twenty inches, the center space is papered and a pretty border conceals the joining. One of the favorite papers for ceiling decoration is known as "mica paper;" it has bright particles which look like frost crystals sprinkled on it in patterns; the substance is similar to the "frosting" seen on snow scenes in a popular line of Christmas cards. Ceilings and walls, decorated with the modern papers, chosen with good taste, can be made very handsome and not cost very much. Good taste and an eye for artistic effect in colors is necessary.

I saw in the window of a Detroit paper house not long ago, some of the cylinders on which wall-papers are printed. They are very curious affairs, but as I could not convey any adequate idea of their appearance, I will only say that every line and point of color has its corresponding altitude or depression on the metal surface.

DETROIT.

L. C.

#### "FOR AS HE THINKETH IN HIS HEART SO IS HE."

[Paper read by Mrs. Chas. Rogers before the Webster Farmers' Club, April 12, 1837.]

(Concluded.)

Whatever be the work the hands find to do, it may be so dignified by intelligent thought and a cheerful spirit, that prejudiced people may finally forget the kind of work in contemplating the real worth of the individual. Much has been written of late in the HOUSEHOLD of the MICHIGAN FARMER on the subject of girls working out at housework, and many are the opinions expressed therein in regard to the subject. Now I believe these girls, if they live in intelligent families, where books and newspapers are plenty, may find, if they will, a number of hours each week which they may devote to useful reading, and by so doing, in time, gain a fair knowledge of that which is written. No kind of employment is entirely free from unpleasantness and care; these seem to be incident to human life, and therefore cannot be avoided.

The successful school-teacher finds hard work to do; he not only needs to be well versed in the text books from which he teaches, but has to learn of what each pupil is capable. What might prove a difficult task for one, might be easily accomplished by another. I do not approve of prizes being given in school for different things, for this very reason. The child who stands at the head of his class the greatest number of times, may not be the one who deserves the prize. I think he is apt to be the one who has to do the least studying to learn his lesson. Am I grumbling when I say our common school system does not keep pace with the age in other things! It seems to me it could and should be improved in various ways. In the first place, our school rooms and grounds should be made more home-like. Then, by offering a proper remuneration, we might secure teachers who have a natural talent, and have been trained for the work; and we should keep the same teachers as long as possible. If all such teachers wish to do missionary work, they can find a chance for it in the common schools. I believe these schools could be so conducted that the farmers' sons and daughters need require no help from the graded schools at least. This would keep them in their own homes until they would be old enough, if they wished to enter college, to be less liable to yield to the many temptations which the cities offer. The more general knowledge we have the better we can do any one thing. An eminent clergyman not only has a thorough knowledge of theology, but understands human nature as well, and by having this knowledge he will better know the needs of all who may come under his influence. If he is blest with good health, his sermons will have no dyspeptic flavor; he knows he is not to preach to the moon or the stars, but to human beings of differing dispositions. Instead of talking to us any more than he thinks necessary about "hell fire," as the Englishman would express it, he will rather show us how to follow the example of the one perfect being in whose image we are all created; He by his example while upon

earth taught us to do right, through love, not fear.

Our creed should be broad enough to include all who try to follow Christ's teachings. Perhaps you may all have heard of John Wesley's memorable dream; if so you will remember that he thought he stood at the very gates of heaven, and he asked first for the denomination he loved above all others, "Are there any Methodists there?" and he received the answer "No," and thus he asked after the other denominations, to which he received a similar response. Finally in despair he called out, "Who then are there?" And the answer came back, full of melody and love, "Christians." Thus through Christian unity we may all see the dawning of the millenium.

After considering all the advantages which cities offer us, for myself give me a home among the hills. Without money we can have but few advantages anywhere; with it we may enjoy many of the privileges of the city and still live in the country. True, in our rural homes we require considerable physical strength, but our brains will teach us how to use it; if we compel them to, and thereby we may gain as much time for travel, study and other pleasures, as we would in almost any other profession. A certain amount of energy used in accumulating property is right; we need enterprise, but we should not let our perceptions become so dulled that we are pleased with nothing which we do not possess; we may be somewhat isolated from our kind, and "our home in the country may not be that of a Whittier, nestled among the grand New England hills, from whose flower-fringed paths over which the willows bend, we can see a picturesque ravine below." We may not dwell on the "little meadows above the clouds" as the plateaus on the Alps are called by the Swiss, where we may see the scenery of those mountains as reflected by the full moon, the peculiar light of which, caused by the perfect atmosphere, is said to make the scene beautiful beyond description. But we are surrounded wherever we are, by the beautiful in nature, which in her ever varying moods furnishes us an interesting study. "The whole earth may be compared to a vast conservatory, blooming and fragrant with the spirit of loveliness." And we can learn from the different authors of "whatever lies beneath each changing zone, and see when looking with their eyes, better than with our own."

#### A FEW WORDS OF CAUTION.

Mrs. Fuller desires to call the attention of those who order seeds, bulbs and plants, to a few little items which greatly aid the busy florists in their task of filling orders. First, write your full name and postoffice address at the top of the sheet, with amount of money enclosed. Not over half a dollar can be safely sent in change. Buy a postal note, or send stamps rather than trust silver in a letter. Address letters legibly; some of Mrs. Fuller's mail wandered off to Trenton, because the postal clerk could not tell F from T without his spectacles. Our "flower lady" further says:

Those who send for dahlias before the



ground is fit to receive them,—it should be thoroughly warm—may plant them in a box in the house, giving plenty of air and light, and of course plenty of room, then remove carefully when ready into the bed.

*Ipomœa Bona Nox* and *Calonyction Speciosum* are the same, and both "Moon-flower." The great specialty of one of the prominent florists of New York, not long ago, was *Akebia*, which has been an old favorite many a long year under the name of Mountain Daisy and Cemetery plant, but is honestly entitled only to *Achillea Ptarmica*; it is a variety of yarrow. The greatly advertised and illustrated "Fairy lily" is only a common wilding in Florida, but with care and cultivation may be in time worthy of a place.

P. T. Barnum once said people like to be humbugged. Perhaps he was right.

#### THE OTHER SIDE.

I have seen a good deal in the HOUSEHOLD about the husband's duty to his wife, how he ought to treat her and all that, while as yet no one has even insinuated that a woman may fail in her duty as wife, and be the cause of unhappiness and misery at home. My experience in life leads me to believe all women are not angels, and though I do not go so far as to say with some that there is never anything wrong "without a woman at the bottom," yet I do not believe in putting too much responsibility on one side, and making the other party out martyrs and victims.

Of course there are men who are crabbed and cross at home, who neglect their wives, who spend money for drink which ought to go for the support of their families. And such men nearly always have good women for wives, who are made to suffer through them. But have you not known a few cases at least where good men had poor wives? Cannot you recall some wife who spends all her husband's earnings for finery and fashionable dressing, who neglects her home and children, or whose care for the Hottentots is so absorbingly tender that her husband has to sew on his own buttons? My business takes me into families where I see and hear, unavoidably, much of the inside workings of the "domestic machine." I make it a point of honor not to carry tales, but at the same time I cannot help making observations and drawing conclusions. I know a woman whose sealskin sack last winter was bought with the money which ought to have paid for an overcoat and flannels for her husband. He needed them, but she needed the sealskin more, and she got it "to keep peace in the family." I know of cases where the wife's fondness for fine dress, and her determination to have things in her house "as good as Mrs. Blank's" tempted her husband into dishonesty to satisfy her constant demands. I know homes where the children find themselves locked out when they come home from school at four o'clock, and have to play in the streets till dark, because their mothers are off down town, and where the man comes home from his work to find no wife and no supper. I might mention an instance where the wife of a laboring man who lives so far away from his work that he does not go home to dinner, lies abed and

lets him get up and make ready his own breakfast—when he has time to get any—and put up his own lunch out of anything he can find. And yet she is very exacting where her own comfort is concerned. You see that my experience does not incline me to put all the blame for unhappy homes on the men. I think there are just as many cases where the wives fall short of doing their duty as the husbands. There are a good many women who make hardships of everything they have to do; they grumble because they cannot have everything to their mind, when like as not what they do have is much more and better than what they were accustomed to before they married. If intemperance ruins homes, extravagance and fashion ruin their share. Let us be fair, and put the blame where it belongs, not accuse one of all the derelictions and make the other out blameless.

PORTLAND.

CRAB-APPLE.

#### HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

It is said water in which potatoes have been boiled is good to clean delicately colored woolen or worsted goods. Use no soap, rinse in warm water and press while damp.

THE mattress has quite effectually supplanted the feather bed, at least in cities and towns, and the forty and sixty pound beds on which our grandmothers prided themselves, have followed the spinning wheel and the flax "hetcheler." People unaccustomed to mattresses and who find them uncomfortable, should spread one or two thick comforts on top, and they will find the bed much softer. A cheese cloth comfort, just the size of the mattress, is nice.

SOAP-BARK is highly commended as a detergent, especially in cleaning silk or wool goods. A half teacupful of the bark, steeped for half an hour in a quart of boiling water; and strained, will cleanse one dress. To clean silk, use while the liquid is warm, dip a piece of white flannel into it and rub the goods till it seems clean, then pull straight and hang out to dry; do not iron. To clean a wool dress, dip it into the liquid and rinse in clear warm water; if necessary press before quite dry.

BEN. PERLEY POORE says: "The most abominable mode of cooking is by frying. By this process the meat is exposed to a very high temperature, and the fibres become completely steeped in fat, so it is quite impossible for the gastric juice to attack them. More of our soldiers died in the late war, in my judgment, in consequence of eating meat and bread fried in grease than were killed by rebel bullets. If people will persist in cooking in this unphysiological manner, the meat should first be coated with crumbs or batter, which will prevent, to some extent, the penetration of the fat."

A VERY fine cabinet photograph of Evangaline, of Battle Creek, also one of Baby Evis, who looks very wise for his eighteen months of life, are the latest additions to our HOUSEHOLD collection. Many thanks for them.

THE publishers of the FARMER have secured a large quantity of the paper upon which this and the preceding issue of the HOUSEHOLD is printed. The paper is of superior quality and uniform in color, and a great improvement upon that heretofore used, which evidently "had the blues."

CONTRIBUTIONS for the HOUSEHOLD have been much fewer than usual for a couple of weeks. Of course it is house-cleaning time, and the garden and the spring sewing keep everybody's hands full; and how lazy and languid most of us feel in this warm spring weather! But we hope as soon as the hurry is over, we shall hear from you all again, and that you will have some good things for our little paper.

#### Contributed Recipes.

FRIED BANANAS.—Peel and slice lengthwise and fry in butter; sprinkle with sugar and serve with cream or without. Nice for dessert.

PIEPLANT SHORTCAKE.—Make shortcake same as for berries; split and butter nicely; pour over stewed pieplant, made very sweet, and flavored with slices of lemon. Many prefer this to pie for dessert.

BOILED FISH.—Fill the fish with a rich dressing of rolled crackers, seasoned with butter, salt, pepper and sage; wrap it in a well-floured cloth; tie closely with twine and boil ten or fifteen minutes, according to size and thickness, in salted water. Serve with drawn butter, gravy, or egg sauce.

TOMATOES AND TOAST.—Have the tomatoes seasoned and hot. Toast the bread a deep brown, and allow one slice for a person. Place the toast on small plates and pour a liberal amount of tomatoes over. Nice for supper.

CININNATI CAKE.—Chop one pound fat salt pork fine, like lard; pour over this one pint boiling coffee. After it is thoroughly dissolved pour through a colander, rejecting the particles of meat. When cold add one cup molasses; two cups sugar; one glass brandy; one nutmeg; two tablespoonfuls cinnamon; one of cloves; one of allspice; two pounds seeded raisins; two pounds currants; half pound citron; seven cups sifted flour; three teaspoonfuls baking powder. Bake two and a half hours. It keeps well and is excellent.

RELIABLE DOUGHNUTS.—Two cups butter-milk; one cup sweet milk; two cups sugar; yolks of two eggs; one teaspoonful soda; one of baking powder; one nutmeg. Mix soft; roll a little thinner than usual; fry quick in nice fresh lard.

POTATO SALAD.—Nine boiled Irish potatoes; three onions, sliced thin; place them alternately in a deep dish. Mash the yolks of three hard-boiled eggs; one raw egg; one tablespoonful melted butter; one of prepared mustard; one teaspoonful black pepper; one of salt; one of celery seed; one teacupful of vinegar. Lay lettuce leaves around the dish for a garnish; pour over the dressing, and cut the whites of the boiled eggs in rings and lay over the salad. Nice for supper.

BATTLE CREEK.

EVANGALINE.

#### FLOWER SEEDS FOR 1887.

I will send one package of choice pansy seed, mixed sorts, for 15 cents. Dahlias, any color, 12 cents each; five for 50 cents; 12 for \$1. Seeds from over 100 choice varieties of perennials, everlastings, annuals or herbs, six packets for 25c; 13 for 50c or 30 for \$1. Send stamp for list.

MRS. M. A. FULLER (DILL),

Box 297, Fenton, Mich.