

"Average" People.  
The genius soars far to the fountain  
That feeds the snow-caps in the sky;  
But though our wing break in the flying,  
And though our souls faint in the trying,  
Our flight cannot follow so high;  
And the eagle swoops not from the mountain  
To answer the ground-bird's low cry.  
The world has a gay question ready  
To halt the feet of the race;  
But on the dull highway of duty,  
Aloof from the pomp and the beauty,  
The stir and the chance of the chase,  
Are toilers, with step true and steady,  
Pursuing their wearisome pace.  
False prowess and noisy insistence  
May capture the garrulous throng,  
But the "average" father and brother,  
The home-keeping sister and mother,  
Grown gentle and patient and strong,  
Shall learn in the fast-nearing distance  
Wherein life's awards have been wrong.  
Then here's to the "average people,"  
The makers of home and its rest;  
To them the world turns for a blessing,  
When life its hard burdens is pressing,  
For stay-at-home hearts are the best.  
Birds build if they will in the steeples,  
But safer the eaves for a nest.  
—[May Riley Smith, in Harper's Bazar.]

### THREE BANKNOTES.

"Well, George, you ought to be satisfied. You have won three thousand francs!"  
"Yes," said the other slowly, "but—well—I have made up my mind never to play again, never to touch another card, and, as for this money, I shall give it away."  
"I don't understand you!"  
"You needn't. The fact remains that I have done with gambling. It is a contemptible way to pass the time, respectable theft, sanctioned robbery. And these ill-gotten gains shall be distributed as they were won—by chance."  
"What do you mean?"  
"This: I shall scatter these notes along the boulevards. Who finds them may keep them."  
"A good bone is very seldom found by a good dog," returned Leon doubtfully.  
"We shall see. This is my last game of chance. It may prove amusing, possibly even instructive. See! I lay this banknote down here, where the gaslight falls on it. Now! hidden in the shadow we shall watch the individual who picks it up, to find out what he will do with it. For my part I believe in human nature."  
His friend looked amazed and, having nothing better to do, agreed.  
After some minutes' waiting the young man, well hidden in a dark doorway, saw a poor, ragged fellow stumbling along with his eyes fixed on the ground. Would he pass the note or not?  
"Poor creature," thought George, "he is probably hungry, half starved perhaps. What joy this sum is going to carry to his wretched home. Ah! he sees it! he stops! he picks it up! Bravo! Now we shall follow him home."  
"Come then," said Leon, still skeptical.  
The ragged man stood motionless under the lamp post. His face flushed, then turned haggard, and he seemed stupefied. He threw furtive glances around him, as if he feared some one might appear to claim his treasure. Suddenly his face cleared.  
"Try to find an owner," he sneered, "not much! I'm too thirsty. A man who drops a thousand francs must have plenty more or he wouldn't be so careless."  
He pulled down the formless, torn, lamentable object, that he probably called a hat, drew it well over his eyes and hurried down a neighboring street.  
"Was I right?" exclaimed George, triumphantly. "The poor man is hurrying home to cheer his family with this piece of luck."  
"Wait a minute," replied his friend, "don't rejoice so soon. There! he has turned into a wine-shop; just what I expected."  
"Yes, so he has," murmured George sorrowfully; then, obstinately: "He probably means to ask them to change the note."  
"He means to spend it, mon cher, and on absinthe. In an hour or two he will be uproarious, he will display his money and be marched off to the police station like the rascal he is, for remember this, objects found on the public streets do not belong to those who find them."  
"Well, he did not merit his good fortune. So much the worse for him. Now for the next one."  
"You persist?"  
"I persist. I feel sure that we shall find one honest man."  
"Optimist!"  
The second banknote, placed on the same spot, was almost immediately plucked up by an elegantly dressed young man who stood for an instant gazing at it with delight.

"Why!" whined George, "that is young Maria! Poor fellow, this time hazard brings about a veritable restitution, for I won just about that amount from him tonight. Fate owed him this good fortune. After tonight's experience over bacarat he will be wiser. He has no income to speak of, and once cured of his gambling mania he may set to work, thanks to this thousand-franc note so miraculously laid in his way."  
"You believe that! A gambler is never cured. Maria did not hesitate an instant about appropriating the money—which proves that his honesty is less than that of the wretched drunkard who found the first note: for that miserable creature had a struggle between vice and duty. Besides, we are following Maria, and look at him! he has turned back to the club. In fifteen minutes he will come out again without a coin left and—will be as passionate a player as before. Give the other banknote to some charitable bureau, Don Quixote of optimism, that will be better than continuing your experiment."  
"No, I shall carry out my idea," cried George, with some vexation, and he tossed up the third and last bank note in the air, letting it fall where it would.  
For a moment the note hovered uncertain, then carried by the breeze it fluttered down at the feet of a passer whose attire, without denoting extreme want, yet gave evidence of a decent, self-respecting, but unmistakable poverty.  
The man started back as the paper fell, then bent and picked it up. He gave a stifled cry as he saw what it was, then he looked around and stood for a little while motionless as if lost in thought. After that, very slowly, as if his feet were made of lead, he tottered toward a bench and sat down.  
The two friends, affecting to saunter carelessly by, turned and sat down near him. As they did so the man moved restlessly, as if to take flight, but changed his mind, and burying his head in his hands he seemed to think deeply. Presently, forgetting the presence of others, he began to mutter:  
"She is dying . . . My children are hungry . . . I am faint for want of food . . . This money would be life and health to my wife . . . bread for my little ones . . . who could have lost it? . . . At this hour . . . it could not have been a wretch like me . . . who would hesitate in my place?"  
George and Leon had risen quietly and were standing behind him. He was too desperate to notice that he was not alone. Poor fellow, his face was pale and thin, even bony; his cheek bones jutting out with leanness; his eyes shone with fever; although he was still young his beard was almost white. He had suffered cruelly, that was evident; want and privation had aged him prematurely. He was crying now, the tears fell fast, and he was shaken by his sobs. Then he rose abruptly.  
"The temptation and struggle lasted longer than with the others," said Leon; "but he has yielded as they did, Strange to say, I feel ruffled at this confirmation of my worst theories."  
"Still we may as well follow him," replied George; "the wife and children are interesting."  
The man walked fast, he turned the corner of the Faubourg Montmartre, and walked straight on with a fixed gaze that saw nothing.  
"I feel sure he is suffering atrociously," said George, with emotion.  
"Nonsense!" replied Leon, "if he suffers at all it is because he found only one bank note."  
All at once the man stopped and the two friends were almost thrown against him. Above the door of the building before which he stood hung a red lantern marked: "Police station."  
As the man was entering George laid his hand on his arm. "Where are you going?" he asked.  
"I want to see the commissary. Are you an agent?"  
"What do you want with the commissary?"  
"I have something to give him—something I found."  
"You may keep it," said George, smiling kindly.  
"Keep the money? Never!" exclaimed the man indignantly.  
"Why not?"  
"Because this banknote burns my fingers; because a little while ago it made me doubt my own honor; because this little time that I have held it has been enough—almost enough to make me cancel an honest past; because it is evil money and nearly made me a thief."  
"You are right," said George, approvingly, while he raised his hat respectfully; "you are right. The

thousand franc note that I lost on purpose was won at bacarat. I give it to you; take it for your children."  
And as the poor man, blushing with shame made a slight gesture of refusal: "Pardon me," added George, "I expressed myself so badly; allow me to—lend you this money."  
"Well," said Leon, later, "and what have we learned from your experiment? That only one man in three is honest?"  
"Is it not rather that we must never despair of human nature?" replied George, hopefully.—[From the French, in the Voice.]

### Fishes That Build Nests.

"One of the queerest fishes in the world is the 'gourami,'" said an ichthyologist to a reporter. "It is native to the fresh waters of Cochin China, farther India, Java, Sumatra and Borneo. Specimens have been known to attain a length of six feet and a weight of 110 pounds. The flesh is so delicious that efforts have been made to acclimatize the creature in many other countries, but thus far these attempts have been successful only on the island of Mauritius. About 30 of them were imported into the island of Cuba and planted in ponds some years ago, but, although they grew and were healthy they did not breed. Accordingly, after a while, the prospects for propagating the species became so hopeless that the governor had them served up one by one upon his table upon state occasions. The same difficulty has been met with elsewhere."  
"The 'gourami' are chiefly remarkable for the fact that they build nests like birds. At the breeding season they pair off, each couple selecting a spot among water-plants and forming a nearly spherical nest, composed of a peculiar kind of floating weed, which grows in tufts on the surface of the ponds and plastered with mud. The nest is usually about six inches in diameter, its construction occupying the fishes for five or six days. Where they are propagated their task is made easier by placing in the water branches of bamboo, to which bunches of the grass referred to are attached. The gourami take this grass and with it make their nest in the submerged branches of bamboo. When it is finished the female deposits her eggs in it to the number of from 800 to 1000."  
"While the eggs are undergoing the process of incubation the parents guard the nest watchfully, rushing fiercely at any intruder, and this care for the safety of their young is continued after the latter are hatched. During infancy the young ones find refuge in the nest from a thousand dangers which would otherwise threaten them, and the grass composing the nest furnishes them with their earliest food. When they are a few days old the small fry begin to make short excursions from the nest, always in charge of their parents and swimming together in a shoal. This is continued until they are able to look out for themselves."—[Washington Star.]

### Laborers in Alaska.

The working-man need not complain in Alaska. Three dollars a day, with board and lodging provided by his employers, are miner's wages. Indian workmen in the mines receive two dollars a day, and "find" themselves. The cost of provisions adds a dollar a day for each white employe to the expenses of the mining company, and with these items in the operating expenses, any fractions of dividends sufficiently prove the richness of the mines. Hydraulic mining begins in May and lasts until October; and unless they are situated in snow-choked canons, difficult of access, the quartz-mills can run all the year round. The great Treadwell mill on Douglas Island thunders night and day, winter and summer, grinding out in the twelve months ending with last May \$769,765.80—sufficient to answer to all that has been said against Alaska's being or becoming a great mining country.—[Harper's Weekly.]

### An Inherited Attitude.

Father—Your school report is generally good, but you are marked very low in deportment. Why is that?  
Boy—I always forget and stand on one foot and rest the other on a railing or something when I recite, and teacher marks me for that. I told her I couldn't help it, and she said maybe I inherited it.  
"Inherited it?"  
"Yesir. She said that's the way men stand when they are talking over a bar."—[Good News.]

### Grapes at Brisbane, Queensland.

bringing very low prices and are not a paying crop.

### FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

#### PRESERVING EGGS.

The best time to pack eggs is in March, April or May, and again in the months of September, October or November. The safest and most popular plan for preserving eggs is the one known as liming, and the usual formula for the lime solution is twenty pounds of fresh lime and one pound of salt to ten gallons of water. This amount will cover half a barrel of eggs.

#### DON'T HURRY THE COWS.

Cows should never be hurried, over-driven or ill-treated, especially in hot weather, because that seriously injures the milk and renders it liable to sour. Milk taken from an over-driven cow would sour sooner than under ordinary circumstances. Milk of good, wholesome quality is necessary for the production of fine butter and cheese. To have good milk the cows must receive good, wholesome food and water, and must be treated kindly. Upon the quality of the milk largely depends the quality of the product made therefrom. The most skilled butter or cheese maker, crammed with all the scientific knowledge available, could not turn out a fine quality of butter or cheese from an inferior quality of milk.—[American Dairyman.]

#### POULTRY FOR ORCHARDS.

While it is an undisputed fact that an orchard is one of the best places in which to establish a poultry yard, we have found poultry to be excellent for fruit trees. We have sixteen Shockley apple trees, now seven years old, standing in and around our poultry yards. Some of these standing directly in the run of the fowls, have had as many apples as any five of the trees on the outside. This is conclusive evidence that the one is beneficial to the other. The chickens destroy all bugs and other insects that prey upon the trees and fruit; at the same time they keep down all grass and weeds, and keep the surface of the ground scratched up and in a mellow condition, thus promoting the health and vigor of the trees. Some have been literally hanging with nice apples, and so heavily laden that we were compelled to keep the limbs well propped to keep them from breaking down. Shade is one of the indispensables about a poultry establishment during the summer months, and it is certainly better and more profitable to have some variety of fruit. We, at the same time, get the needed shade, while we get a bountiful supply of delicious fruit, if of the right kind. We would certainly advise all to have orchards for poultry and poultry for orchards, for the one will be greatly benefited by the other.—[Poultry Guide.]

#### JUMPING HORSES.

The most effective cure for a jumping horse is a good fence. Low or weak fences are the cause of this trouble. If a fence is made of ten heavy rails with one on top stout enough to hold the animal, and staked so that it cannot be pushed off, no horse but a professional jumper will go over or through it. Jumping horses have been cured of the bad habit by inclosing them with such a fence until they have found trying to get over it useless, and have afterward been quiet inside of a fence that they could have easily jumped over previously. A poke is unsightly and mostly useless and dangerous, while a barbed-wire fence is a means of simply inviting the loss of a horse. If any kind of wire fence is used for horses it should have alternate boards with the wires and a heavy board on top. A "horse-high" fence is not less than six feet. It is a great protection to a fence to plow a deep furrow inside of it so as to throw the horse's feet in it when in the act of jumping. This is equal to raising the fence two feet, if properly placed, which is about two feet from the bottom of the fence. Another effective and safe protection is a smooth, twisted band wire, stretched on the top of the fence one foot above, or, if a rail fence, along the middle of it, so as to prevent the horse from rising to the jump.—[New York Times.]

#### SCAB IN WHEAT.

One of the great staple products of America is wheat. The wheat crop is seriously reduced in quantity and depreciated in quality by four distinct diseases—rust, smut, smut and scab. We shall talk about the last one in this article, because there has been less written about it, and it promises to be of great importance. Last year seems to have been the first year that this disease came into prominence. The experiment station of Indiana is the

only one that has published a bulletin on the disease, and this simply gives a short article describing the effect and probable source of the plant. The loss in this section from the disease was great. My attention was first called to the fact that about a week or two before harvest a great many heads were seemingly ripening too early and looked withered. I visited a field and found one in every six or seven heads that had the fungus upon it. The whole head is seldom destroyed. Generally toward the middle or top of the head the grains wither, and before the ripening of the unaffected part the glumes are covered with the fungus, and the ripening spores give them a red color at the base. All the farmers here know the disease. There has been little written about it because little is known of its peculiarities.  
The spore probably lights upon the grain while in bloom and germinates, sending out little threads that resemble roots, which penetrate the grain and suck from it the nourishing matter that should mature the fruit. Finding an abundant supply of food these little hair roots branch off and multiply themselves till the grain is filled with them. The diseased part may extend to the stem and thereby injure the part of the head above. It is important to know whether they pass the winter in the spore or whether they enter the stem at the time of germination of the wheat.—[St. Louis Republic.]

#### GUINEAS.

For the cost and trouble required in raising them guineas are among the most profitable fowls that can be raised on the farm. They prefer to seek their own food in the meadows and fields, and so long as they can find plenty themselves, they will not come home to get it. In this they eat up a great number of worms and grubs, and keep down bugs and beetles to a great extent. A good flock of the birds need a large range, and every farm of any size should be blessed with a few at least. It is not profitable to attempt to raise them on small ranges, for they will not thrive when cooped up the same as the other barnyard fowls.  
A flock of about 20 will forage over a farm of 50 to 100 acres, and by their persistence they will keep down all the bugs and insects. They will do more. They will help keep down many noxious weeds and wild plants. The guineas are also the most "rust-worthy" watchdogs. If taught to roost in the henery or close to it, they will give the loudest alarms as soon as an enemy approaches. Dogs, foxes and human beings alike attract their attention, and they keep up the shrill cries until the enemy has left the place. A great many poultrymen try to keep a few guineas in their flocks simply for this one purpose of giving the alarm when chicken thieves come around.  
The hens always hide their nests, and often in very obscure places, but if one watches them carefully in the breeding season they are easily discovered. They always make a shrill noise when they come off the nest, and these always betray them to those on the watch. All the hens of a flock lay in one nest, and in such a place it is not uncommon to find from 150 to 200 eggs.  
Each guinea hen that is good for much will lay about 125 eggs a year, and these can generally be sold for prices that range a little less than chicken eggs. It should be remembered, however, that the cost of feeding the guineas has practically been nothing, while the hens of the common fowls have required heavy feeding all the year round. One guinea hen will bring into the world a big brood of young ones, and these can generally be sold at a fair price. The eggs can be hatched under the hens in the poultry-house or in the incubator. It takes about four weeks for them to hatch.  
In robbing the nests care should be taken not to touch it with the hands. The guinea hen can tell immediately if the hands have touched the nest, and she will leave it immediately, seeking another place. But if the eggs are removed with a stick she will never desert the nest, even if the eggs are taken out nearly every day or two.—[Boston Cultivator.]

#### FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

On a mild day every now and then open and thoroughly air the cellar.  
Farmers as well as other folks should take time to eat, drink and sleep.  
Good shorts with bran and a little corn make a good milking ration for sows that are suckling pigs.  
Many girls, whose parents are in moderate circumstances, might obtain an income by raising poultry and eggs.

### FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

#### KUMYS AT HOME.

A scant quart of new milk, one-fourth of a yeast cake, one tablespoonful of sugar. Dissolve the yeast in some of the milk; dissolve the sugar in one or two tablespoonfuls of hot water. Mix all together and put into pint bottles with patent stoppers; set in a warm place four or five hours, then cork and put in a refrigerator twenty-four hours, when it will be ready to drink.—[New York Press.]

#### ENGLISH MUTTON CHOPS.

To broil mutton chops after the English fashion: Salt and pepper one side and, putting the chops between the bars of a folding gridiron, put that side first over a very clear, hot fire. Allow them to remain two minutes till colored; pepper and salt the other side and reverse the gridiron; broil two minutes and turn again; repeat this process without the salt and pepper, eight times, shortening the time to one and a half minutes after the first round. When the chops are soft to the touch, open the gridiron and take them out with the fingers, never touching a fork to them till they are on the table. Serve on a hot platter with melted butter.—[New York Times.]

#### SHIRRED EGGS.

Butter an earthen pie dish, and break into it as many eggs as required. It will be well to adapt the dish to the number of eggs you are going to use as they should lie closely, but without crowding. Drop a bit of butter and shake a little pepper and salt on each and place in the oven until the whites are set. The dish should be hot before it goes in the oven, and two minutes' cooking will generally suffice, as the heat of the dish cooks them a little more after they are removed to the table. Cooked in this way, they are far more digestible, and, therefore, preferable to fried eggs which, through improper cooking, are so often served tough or scorched, crisp and horny. There are little individual shirred egg dishes with covers and short handles which are most convenient and furnish a pretty addition to a breakfast table. Keep the covers hot and put them on after the eggs are taken from the oven.—[American Agriculturist.]

#### HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

To keep lemons fresh put them in cold water.  
Salt, if applied immediately, will surely prevent wine stains.  
In whipping cream, don't let the beater touch the bottom of the bowl.  
Boiling lard smokes in the center when it is sufficiently heated for use.  
In cooking tough meat or an old fowl, add a pinch of soda to the water to make it tender.  
White spots can be removed from furniture by holding a hot iron over but not on the place.  
The purer the tea, the more distinctly will the brown color of the leaf strike your attention.  
Never leave a spoon in anything required to boil quickly. The spoon conducts heat away from the liquid.  
A good handful of salt should be added to the water in which matting is washed. The salt keeps the matting in color. Do not use soap.  
Damp salt will take off the discolorations on cups and saucers caused by tea and careless washing.  
Dates are quite another article when cut in two, the stones removed and the fruit soaked in boiling milk, with some shreds of lemon peel.  
However good baking powders may be, if a recipe calls for the use of soda and you do not have it on hand, do not attempt to use baking powder instead, for the result is ruin.  
Take one pound of copperas and eight ounces of crude carbonic acid, dissolve in a gallon of water, sprinkle the places infested with insects and it will effectually drive them away.  
It is a very common mistake to mend gloves with sewing silk. Thread of different shades, made for the purpose, and glove needles may be bought at small cost. Manufacturers never use silk.  
It is well worth remembering that if after dust and dirt are removed from boots and shoes they are rubbed with a soft cloth and a very little vaseline before blacking they will look better and last longer.  
The following recipe for icing will be found inexpensive and good. Three tablespoonfuls of milk. Let it come to a boil. Then set it aside. When cool add one teaspoonful of vanilla or other extract, stir in confectioners' sugar until thick enough to spread without running.