

MYNHEER JOE.

BY ST. GEORGE RATHBORNE.

CHAPTER VIII.
(Continued.)

"It shall be as you say, Mynheer Joe, only I must give him to understand that the next similar offense—"

"Yes—the next similar offense—"

"Will not be followed by discipline, but something more lasting."

"You need never fear that this unhappy wretch will ever offend again in the same way. I can guarantee that, Miss Molly. It was all a mistake, anyhow, which I can explain. You see, he had a positive idea."

Unfortunately for his peace of mind, Mynheer Joe gets no further than this. They are interrupted. The baron and a companion come up and introduce some subject that all Cairo is talking about.

Molly looks annoyed, while Mynheer Joe is secretly fuming. He silently curses his wrath, hoping that some time the chance may come when he can take it out upon the baron. Depend upon it, he will no longer stand between the other and any vengeance he may invite; indeed, it would do him good to watch a man of about Sumner's build use the baron nearly as he would a dog.

His ideas have changed, you see. Then Sandy makes his appearance, and Joe presently finds himself tete-a-tete with his valuable newspaper friend.

There are times when one desires a confidant; even a man likes to pour his woes into a sympathetic ear. Mynheer Joe's life has been such that, as a general thing, he has been deprived of this privilege; but he has the feeling deep down in his heart all the same.

In Sandy he sees the friend who may help him out of the hole. A suggestion will do it, for his brain, usually so clear, seems strangely muddled just at present.

Besides, the war correspondent knows Molly and her father very well, having met them in various places. Perhaps he can discover a loophole of escape, whereby Joe may crawl out of his awkward scrape with honor.

Having made up his mind to trust Sandy, he first of all draws a pledge from him that he will not reveal a word of the story or hint at it in any of his correspondence; all of which Sandy, duly impressed with the gravity of the situation, solemnly promises.

Then Joe relates the difficulty into which his impetuosity and love of fair play have led him, nor does he forget to lay due emphasis on the fact that he fancied and truly believed he was defending the dear old governor himself.

Sandy holds in as long as he can, and at last, doubling up, shakes all over with laughter. It is silent, too, all but the gurgling sounds of water bubbling down a rocky ravine.

Mynheer Joe appreciates the situation, knows he has made a consummate donkey of himself, and although naturally tempted to make use of his head firmly refrains. Two mistakes do not make a right. Sandy has reason to be merry. And, besides, Joe realizes that he has need of advice from this sagacious writer—this little man who has, figuratively, waded knee-deep in gore at battles, searching for news.

The great obligation under which he has, this night, placed Sandy, by giving him the story of Khartoum's downfall and Gordon's death, must serve as a lever to lift him from the slough of despond. Back of it, of course, is Sandy's personal regard for his fellow-citizen. That goes a great way. He patiently waits till the other has had his laugh out.

"I must beg your pardon, Joe. Awful trick, that of yours. Too impulsive by half, my dear boy. If you had known the baron as I do—"

"I would have danced to see him knocked out!" cried Mynheer Joe, indignantly.

"Ho! You're come to it already, eh? Thought it would be that way. Expect pistols for two between you and the baron yet. Sly fellow, that man. They do say he's divided half a dozen men in affairs of honor, with sword or pistol."

Mynheer Joe snaps his fingers.

"To the duce with the baron! If he ever comes my way, I'll ring his beastly neck as I would that of a chicken!" he mutters.

"Good! Glad to hear you say so! Despire the fellow myself. And yet, Joe, he's a power in the land, protected by a hired gang that is paid by Russian gold. When the time comes, if it ever does, for you to lay that plotter out, remember that the moment your hand touches him it will be a signal for several desperadoes to leap into the game, armed, and ready to take life, if necessary, in order to save the emissary who is worth so much to Russia."

Mynheer Joe gives a low whistle.

"The duce! Do you happen to know these men, Sandy?" he asks in a low tone.

"Two of them I am sure of. There is another who baffles me. Without any apparent motive, cast your eyes across the room. Do you see that tall, elegant-looking man in full evening dress? He is known here as Colonel Taylor, an ex-Confederate officer. In reality, he is a Russian spy, and one of the things he is paid for is to be always at the elbow of the baron, so that a signal will fetch him up. I've seen the baron in many places since coming to Cairo, but never has Colonel Taylor been more than fifty feet away."

"And the other shadow?" pursues Joe, whose mind is working upon a subject.

"He is a dark-skinned fellow—a native of India, I believe. You know the baron leaves Cairo for Bombay or Calcutta soon, and this man will be of great use to him there."

"See here," says Joe, quietly, "I re-

cently in my man at a sofa at such work.

"Most remarkable case. Never heard such a story. What a miserable show he has! You think the kid probably look at him over if you were not here; but, then, there's no accounting for the taste of our American belles. I'm sorry to say," leaving a sigh as he catches a glimpse of his own diminutive person in a glass.

"Many a sower, you know, Sandy, is born to bluish unseen," says Joe consolingly, "and who knows but what some day you may jump in and save an heiress from a watery grave, to be rewarded with her hand?"

"All very good," groans Sandy, with mock despair, "but I can't swim a stroke."

"Then I advise you to take lessons in the Nile at once. Every man should be prepared to accept his fate as it comes and be ready to rescue a drowning maiden."

"Oh, to do it!" said Sandy, impulsively. "No, not just now, I hope?" as the other moved off.

"Hardly, my boy. I notice that the baron has left Miss Molly. She stands there looking disconsolate. I am off to cheer her up—to whisper words of consolation in her gentle ear that will warm her heart toward a certain person of my acquaintance."

"Thanks, my fine fellow, and don't forget to pray for me."

"Eh—what now, Joe?"

"Because, while you enjoy your tete-a-tete with an angel, I shall be engaged with—well, hardly the Old Nick, but at least, the governor. I go now to beard the lion in his den, and fate holds the scales in the balance."

BOOK II.
The Duel Under the Palms.
CHAPTER IX.
"MYNHEER JOE, AWAKE—DANGER!"

It is little trouble for Mynheer Joe to find out where Demosthenes Tanner is quartered. One of the English servants of Shepherd's gives him the information, and is tipped immediately in a way that warms his heart.

As Joe passes by a window, on his way to the quarters of the great American orator, he is given a last glimpse of the drawing-room or parlor of the hotel, and avails himself of the opportunity to take a look in the direction where he saw Molly standing. She is still here, but seated upon a Turkish divan, and at her side is the little war correspondent, talking earnestly. Joe's heart gives a bound of pure delight when he notes the look of pleased surprise spreading over her fair countenance as she hears Sandy's marvelous tale; for the latter is used to making the most of any news; it is his daily business, and surely time has never given him a morsel he can enlarge upon with more pleasure than the valor of his dear friend Joe.

"God bless him—he's a comrade worth having. In battle brave as a lion, despite his size; in time of trouble a wise counselor. I hope the day will come when I can do as much for Sandy."

Thus muttering Mynheer Joe moves along the corridor until he finally reaches the door to which he has been directed. He makes a survey and finds that the light flows from the windows, which is a pretty good indication that the inmate has not retired. Boldly he knocks—this thing has to be gone through with, and the sooner he starts at it the better. Besides, Joe has a pretty good idea that he holds the trumps and can beat Demosthenes Tanner as readily at argument as he did in the duel.

"Come in!" roars a voice that would scare a crocodile half to death.

Mynheer Joe opens the door and pushes through into the room, surprising the giant in the act of saturating a handkerchief with the extract of hammers, as Joe instantly recognizes the odor. His back is toward the door, and he does not even turn his head to see who it is.

[To be Continued.]

Birth Notice by Code.

A Nuncheon doctor raised some merriment in the Divorce Division yesterday, says the London Mail, by describing an arrangement he had made with a client for the secret announcement of a birth by telegraph.

If the expected child proved to be a boy, the client—Charles William Turner, a cycle agent, living at Lutterworth, was to wire to the doctor, "Gentlemen's safety bicycle arrived;" if it were a female, "Lady's safety bicycle arrived" was to be the formula. The latter was the signal that the event called for.

Transvaal Gold.

The ambitions of the Transvaal mine owners and the possibilities of their mines do not halt at mere restoration to the results shown in 1899, says the New York Sun. The owners wish very naturally, to double their output. To do that would increase the present annual world supply of available gold about one-third. With an abundant supply of cheap labor, easily obtainable from China, these seem no reason to doubt that this could be done. The influx of so considerable an annual increase could not fail to have some influence on the market price of commodities whose value is measured in gold. Bankers and national treasuries would feel its effects. The present annual supply may be fairly adequate for the world's requirements. The result of so very marked an increase in that supply presents a topic for interesting consideration.

Zebras as Beasts of Burden.

South African native traditions have it that in the long-forgotten days the zebra was a domesticated animal and was held in complete subjection by its master, man. In modern times several attempts have been made to train this hardy beast. Experiments at the London zoological gardens indicate that zebras can be readily made serviceable. There are innumerable herds of zebras running wild in South Africa and if they could be broken to domestic use their subjection would solve a problem which for generations has been a puzzle to the best experts. For the zebra of South Africa are immune from the tsetse fly and the horse sickness which has lately been ravaging Rhodesia and other portions of the continent.

AGRICULTURAL.

Name the farm and hang the name board in a conspicuous place at the front entrance. Make the farm worth having a name, too.

Faithful Fowls Wanted.

There is one economic merit in poultry keeping that many farmers do not take into consideration, and that is the large amount of waste grain that they pick up and convert into meat and eggs that would otherwise be wasted, says an exchange. It does not cost much to keep fowls on a farm, and no class of people can produce eggs and fowl flesh as cheaply as the farmer.

Alfalfa For Eggs.

Wallace's Farmer says alfalfa hay, when fed to brood sows in winter should be cut fine and fed with a little meal. For two years now we have wintered our brood sows on plain alfalfa hay without cutting, and they eat it up clean. Not a spoonful of grain is given them until they farrow. The effect of alfalfa is seen in the splendid quality of the pigs produced and the abundant yield of milk by the sows.—Hoard's Dairyman.

When to Dig Potatoes.

Potatoes are ready for digging as soon as the tops fall down. It is best to dig them early in the day and allow them to remain on the ground for a few hours, when they should be taken to the barn and stored in a cool, dark, dry place; but it is not advisable to place too many in a single heap. All diseased or injured potatoes should be removed from the lot, or they will have more or less effect upon the whole, as they will be the first to decay. Potatoes may be stored in mounds during the winter, but are not easily utilized in that condition.

Mutton vs. Wool.

It is claimed that mutton at five cents a pound will pay better than wool at thirty-five cents. Such claim depends upon conditions. A good merino will pay more in wool than can be derived from common sheep, while a breed of mutton sheep will give a greater profit than can be derived from sheep that are not bred with an object to be attained. Farmers who keep sheep also make a profit in the manure and in the utilization of the waste materials consumed, but sheep require feeding as well as other stock, and should not be expected to seek their food entirely at any season of the year.

Disease Spots on Fruit.

Writes a farmer to The Epitomist: "I have found that from trees with their roots deep in the soil, even if they fruit freely, neither apples nor pears satisfy, because disease spots develop in the fruit when they are on the verge of ripening, if not before, rendering them of no value, because decay so quickly sets in. To have good fruit, either of apples or pears, the roots of the trees must be active surface, fibrous ones, otherwise the crop will be much reduced in value. Some sorts are greater offenders than others, it is true, but even the best can be readily spoiled if the conditions are not right."

Fattening Hogs.

Those who are fattening hogs on corn as an exclusive diet should try an experiment in feeding a variety. Take two lots of hogs, allowing one lot corn only and the other lot a variety, which may include corn, bran, scalded chopped clover, skim milk or ground oats. The hogs will grow much faster and increase more in weight on the mixed food than on corn, while the quality of the flesh will be improved and the cost per pound of pork will be less than if corn is used exclusively. The reason is that a variety promotes digestion and is more "balanced" in the elements required by the animals.

Incurable Diseases.

Scrofula is liable to exist as a disease in a flock, and to permit such birds to exist is to incur the liability of having the disease transmitted to succeeding generations as well as to become contagious. It is cheaper and better to obtain better fowls, first destroying those in the yard. When tumors appear they indicate a diseased condition of the fowls, which places them outside of the uses of the farmer. Tumors, warts, sores and affections of the skin are peculiar to fowls as they are to some human individuals, and come from the same causes, being almost as difficult to cure. There are those who attempt to make cures of such cases, which is wrong, as such fowls should be destroyed.—Mirror and Farmer.

Ringworm in Cattle.

This troublesome difficulty is apparent during the winter more than at any other time, and is due to a vegetable parasite. It is not a dangerous disease, but is far from pleasant, and as it is contagious, considerable effort should be made to overcome it. It usually appears on the neck of the animals, working toward the face, and soon leaving bare spots. If the trouble is noted on the calves, treat them at once by taking one part of carbolic acid, four parts of glycerin and six parts of olive oil and mixing thoroughly. Rub thoroughly into the skin about the parts infested after first washing the parts thoroughly with warm water made soapy with carbolic soap. Other animals in the barn, especially calves, should also be washed with the mixture to prevent contagion. Wash every other day for ten days.

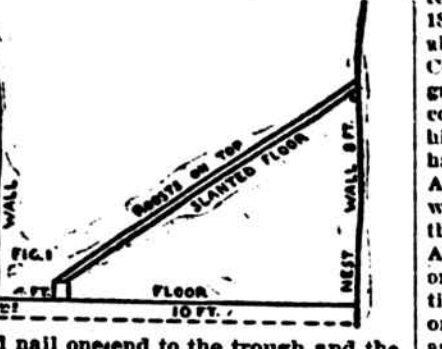
Where to Place the Incubator.

There are good places for the incubator and bad places. Much depends upon the atmosphere of the room in which the incubator is placed. The kitchen is said to be a good place for incubators, since the air in that room is usually moistened by the steam of pots and kettles upon the kitchen stove and can be kept at about the right temperature. But remember that the insurance company which insures your farm house will probably

object to your placing an incubator in your kitchen. Whenever you make changes in your buildings or additions thereto, or desire to put an incubator in your cellar or any part of the house you must get permission of the company who insures your buildings, otherwise you will make your insurance policy invalid and thus secure nothing on insurance in case your buildings should burn.

A Good Chicken House.

We built a chicken house last spring like this one and find it gives entire satisfaction. Size ten by sixteen by eight feet high, from sill to eaves. We have a window in each side and back end and door in front. Now for the roosts. Take a two by four scantling and spike it above one of the side windows, then take some boards and make a trough about fourteen feet long and let two feet project out at the back end of the building; put trough two feet above the floor. Now take matched lumber or some that will fit up clean



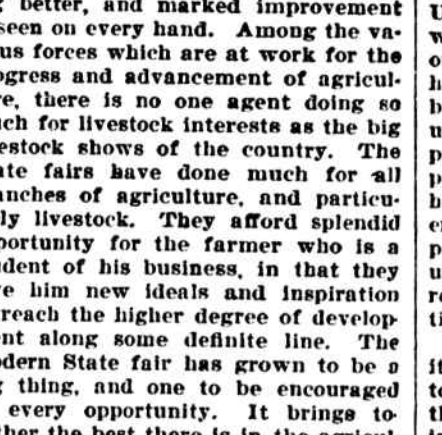
and nail one end to the trough and the other end to the two by four scantling and make it full length of trough, then take boards that will reach from trough to the two by four and cut notches in them for the roosts to lay in and put upper end on hinges. When you want to clean the house, rake the droppings down into the trough and then rake them out the back end into a box or something that can be hauled away. The roosts will be high enough to walk under them. Fig. 1 is end of trough. Floor is fifteen inches off the ground.—Fred E. Denny, in The Epitomist.

Increasing Demands For Livestock.

The large and rapidly increasing city population of this country demands a large supply of meat each year, and farmers are coming to realize the importance of livestock as never before. Small farmers are breeding and feeding more animals, and everywhere we see manifest interest taken in the important branch of agriculture. In our agricultural schools young men are eager to study livestock with untiring interest. The State Livestock Association meetings and short courses in stock judging at the various agricultural schools are well patronized, and only go to show the attention that farmers are giving to this subject. Several factors figure prominently in the advancement and improvement shown along this line. Through our county and State fairs, and larger expositions, farmers are coming to recognize the difference between superior and inferior animals. The agricultural press has come to be a mighty potent agent in the work of education. Farmers and stockmen, particularly, read and study. The agricultural colleges and experiment stations are putting much important information in livestock work. American farmers are coming to recognize the value of improved blood in herd flock and stud. Breeders are breeding better, feeders are feeding better, and marked improvement is seen on every hand. Among the various forces which are at work for the progress and advancement of agriculture, there is no one agent doing so much for livestock interests as the big livestock shows of the country. The State fairs have done much for all branches of agriculture, and particularly livestock. They afford splendid opportunity for the farmer who is a student of his business, in that they give him new ideals and inspiration to reach the higher degree of development along some definite line. The modern State fair has grown to be a big thing, and one to be encouraged at every opportunity. It brings together the best there is in the agriculture of the State.—Indiana Farmer.

Maple Syrup Making.

Concerning the niter or malate of lime nuisance in maple syrup a New England Homestead writer has said: "It is well under way where a reversible current evaporator is used. By having the evaporating pan constructed with partitions extending lengthwise instead of crosswise and with a syrup faucet on both sides at the back end, as shown in the illustration, then by changing the regulator gate from side to side and thus changing the current or flow of sap every few hours,



and by so doing bringing the syruping off first on one side and then on the other, the niter will become burned on the bottom of the evaporator.

It will come out with the syrup as a precipitate and can be entirely removed by the use of a thick felt filter. The filtering must be done while the syrup is boiling hot, and in order to have all the niter form in a precipitate it is necessary to bring the syrup to 210 degrees F. If it is filtered before that degree is reached much of the niter will still be in solution and appear in the syrup if boiled afterward to standard weight and in the sugar if sugared off. If syrup is boiled to eleven pounds weight and then "settled" without filtering, it usually has a cloudy appearance, and if put up for market in pans or bottles will deposit a sediment in the bottom after awhile.

The result of a cricket match in Melbourne was cable to London, 17,000 miles, through nine relays, in two and a half minutes.

Good Roads

An Elegant Plan.

SENATOR Lattimer, of South Carolina, has come to the front as one of the leading champions of road improvement. In fact, he was elected to the Senate mainly on that issue. Last fall he introduced into the Senate a bill for National aid similar to that which Congressman Brownlow introduced into the House, and he has defended it ably and eloquently. In an address recently delivered at the Beacon Society dinner at Boston he said:

"The improvement of the common roads of the country engaged the attention of our ablest statesmen from 1802 to 1832, and during that period about \$14,000,000 was appropriated by Congress for road purposes. All the great minds of that period were one in conceding this question to be of the highest importance in determining the happiness and prosperity of the American people. It is to-day, as it was then, a question which demands the earnest consideration of every American citizen. The sad condition of our people by the miserable condition of the common roads, is the most onerous that we have to pay. It will astonish you to know that it costs the people of the United States every year more to transport the surplus products of the farm and forest to the shipping point, than the total cost of transporting all the freight, passengers, mail and express over all the railroads of the United States. In 1896 the railroads received from all sources a little over \$700,000,000. Every dollar of this was returned to the people in the employment of labor, payment for material, in taxes to the States, and in interest on invested capital. The one billion dollars or more spent in cost of transportation over the dirt roads was a total loss, not one cent being returned to the people in taxes or as interest on invested capital. And yet this is only a portion of the loss caused by the poor condition of our roads.

"In this enlightened age no one questions the stupendous advantages which follow a complete system of improved roads. The cost of the work would be paid by the savings of one year. On the improved roads of Europe the cost of transporting a ton a mile is from eight to twelve cents, while in the United States the cost averages twenty-five cents. A reduction of this cost by one-half would save to the American people \$500,000,000 per annum.

"The practical question which confronts us to-day is how in this condition to be met and overcome? Upon whom must the burden of this great undertaking fall? We have tried the present system which was inherited from England, which has not resulted in much improvement in the past 100 years, and in my judgment, will never prove a success.

"It is evident that some change in our method of road improvement must be adopted. The local community is not able to construct roads unaided. Many of the States are not able to do so, and even if they were, there is a feeling, which, in my opinion, is justly founded, that it would be unjust to require them to bear the whole burden. The consumers of raw material and food products throughout the United States are equally interested with the producer in lowering the cost of transportation, as they, in the end, have to pay this heavy tax. As this burden cannot be equitably distributed except by placing it on all the people, and as the most remunerative powers of raising revenue, originally held by the States, are now in the Federal Government, it is only by an appropriation out of the Federal Treasury that the improvement of our roads can be accomplished with justice to all the people.

"The next question which presents itself is as to the power of Congress to make such an appropriation. I think that the power exists by express grant in the Constitution. Being my opinion on the views of such eminent men as Madison, Monroe, Gallatin, Webster, Calhoun, Clay and Adams, and taking into consideration the legislative history of the country, I hold that the power is clearly established. The power has been exercised whenever Congress thought it wise to do so, and the only question which is really important is, whether or not this is a proper subject for Federal aid. All that is asked by the bill introduced by me is the appropriation of a fund for road purposes. The States are to furnish the right of way, maintain the roads after they are built, and pay one-half the cost. Congress is not asked to invade the States, but simply to appropriate money for the aid to an object for the general welfare and happiness of all the people. There could be no better investment of the public funds than in road improvement. It would enhance the value of farm lands from ten to fifty per cent. An increase in value of \$5 per acre would add three billion dollars to the wealth of the country in this item alone. The congestion of business during the winter months would disappear, and our people could go to the markets at all times. In fact the material advantages which would follow are too numerous to mention and too great to estimate.

"What will we do with the proposition? Will we go on for the next one hundred years as we have during the past, or will we arouse ourselves and make this question a burning issue before the people until the result is accomplished?"

Good Roads For New Hampshire.

Governor Bachelier, of New Hampshire, has appointed an engineer who is at work mapping out the highways of the State. When this has been done a comprehensive system of road improvement will be begun. It is intended that every section of New Hampshire shall be provided with a first-class gravel road and the cost is expected to be from \$800 to \$1500 per mile. The State is to appropriate \$100,000 a year for this purpose, and the governor thinks that in six years 600 miles will have been completed.

PRACTICAL GARDENING

TRIMMING FRUIT TREES.

Trim the fruit trees, so as to have the tops open and free, not allowing any of the limbs to touch or cross each other. Much depends upon the first trimming of a young tree, as its shape is then fixed, and the cutting away of the small limbs can be done with less injury to the tree when it is young than at any other time.

TREATMENT OF HEDGES.

When the hedge plants begin to die out the cause may sometimes be traced to lack of plant food. There is considerable wood removed from hedge plants every year when the hedges are trimmed, and this annual loss cannot be sustained by the plants unless they are assisted. Apply wood ashes freely every fall and early spring.

PRUNING.

Few of the old orchards have been properly pruned. The chief trouble has been that the pruning has been spasmodic. The farm orchard is usually pruned but once in several years and then so severely that the trees for a year or two are thrown out of balance, a condition manifested by a great growth of water-sprouts. The proper way to prune is to begin when trees are young and prune only enough to train and head the tree to the desired form. And then as the trees come into full bearing, little pruning is needed, if done yearly, aside from heading in long growths, training the branches, and removing crossed, crooked and weak branches. Late winter, February and March, is the best time to prune. The wounds should be made as near as possible to the tree trunk and parallel with it and not beyond the branch, as is so commonly done. An old and a good rule is, "prune strong-growing trees lightly and weak-growing ones severely."—Detroit Free Press.

GIANT GLACIER LETTUCE.

There is considerable profit in growing lettuce for market when one can produce heads of large size which are solid and if located near a large town it will hardly pay to grow much more space to lettuce than is required to produce that needed for the home table. The Giant Glacier, illustrated



GLACIER LETTUCE.

this week, is one of the most promising of the newer sorts which has been fairly tested.

On the grounds of the writer it did not produce the results claimed for it by the introducers, yet had sufficient merit to warrant further and more extended trials. The heads are large and solid, crisp and tender, while the plant stands the heat of summer well, thus greatly extending the season. One of the peculiarities of the variety is the tufted leaves and these, with the large and solid head, makes the variety exceedingly attractive to offer to the market.

HUMUS IN THE ORCHARD.

It is an important point in farming to preserve the humus in the soil where there is no humus. Humus has a value distinctive from that of the fertility it contains. It holds moisture in the soil and also holds some forms of fertility. To increase it in the orchard a good way is to grow legumes of some sort and plow them under at stated seasons. Not only does the cultivator thus increase the humus in the soil, but the nitrogen is increased as it has been caught from the air by these plants. Some follow the practice of not plowing or spading under the green crop, but of mowing and leaving it on the ground. But to our minds this is a very inferior way of getting the good of decaying humus. The air must in that case rob the crop mown of a part of its fertility, especially the volatile portions. Moreover, the roots in the ground cannot get hold of this decaying vegetation, and we see little chance of their benefiting by it. We believe that by all means the crop should be turned under in some way. The soil will then grow more perfect in mechanical structure from year to year and the roots will always be able to get into touch with the humus and the fertility and the moisture in it.

No Inventors Among Animals.

It has been said by a writer of nature books that a coon will amputate its wounded foot and treat it stump in a rational way to allay the inflammation. If one coon will do this, then all coons will do it under like conditions. The same writer avers that he has seen a woodcock with a broken leg mend the leg with a cast made of clay and dry grass. Then will all woodcocks with broken legs do the same thing? Exceptional intelligence of so extraordinary a character does not occur among the animals. If one fox has been known to catch crabs with his tail, then will all other foxes, under the stress of hunger, where crabs abound, fish with their tails. An animal will not do anything which necessity has not taught its progenitors to do.—John Burroughs, in Independent.