

THE HOMES OF PRIVATION.

HARD STRUGGLE OF THE IMPROVED AFRICAN ISLANDERS.

Girls Who Carry Sanded Seaweed to Make a Poor Soil, in Which to Grow a Scanty Crop of Potatoes.

Perhaps in no quarter of the globe is agriculture carried on under more distressing conditions than in the Aran Islands. These islands, scattered in the Atlantic, lie about ten miles off the west coast of Ireland, in the mouth of the Bay of Galway. They are simply three limestone rocks thrown up by some convulsion of nature long before the memory of man.

During the ages a light deposit of soil has accumulated on the bare rocks in spots, particularly in the valleys, and peculiarly nutritious grass has sprung up. The blades of this grass are not as soft as those of the grass of this country, but perfectly nutritious.

But raising potatoes on the islands of Aran is quite a different thing from raising them in the State of New York. A large proportion of the arable land is reserved for necessity for grazing purposes.

The soil, which is so poor, is cultivated in an artificial way. It is made of a queer compound of sand and seaweed. The sand is carried from the seashore on the backs of donkeys and Irish girls to the spots selected for a garden.

It is a common occurrence for a young woman of sixteen or eighteen years to carry baskets sufficient to load weighing 100 pounds from one to three miles all day long and then come home and do the household work before going to bed.

It has been suggested that the study of the influence of diet and habit upon the color of the hair in different nations, may cause discoveries by which the color of the hair in the human race may be modified by judicious treatment.

Bricks boiled in coal tar are rendered hard and durable, and machine-made brick, if boiled for a long period, say twenty-four hours, become impervious.

A curious farinaceous substance is reported by M. Rene de Champagne to have fallen in Asiatic Turkey during a hail-storm, and to have been sold by the natives as a new and valuable substance.

One cause assigned by several physicians and druggists for the increasing number of victims to the opium habit is the use of antipyrine. A great number of young men, and even children, are also addicted to this habit.

Baron James Rothschild, of London, has adorned his drawing-room with the most superb electric ever made. It is composed of gilt bronze and rock crystal.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

CARAMEL CUSTARDS.

Dissolve two ounces of sugar with the juice of half a lemon and a little water; add the yolks of two eggs, then pour in about a wineglassful of boiling water; beat up the yolks of four and the whites of two eggs, add them to a pint of new milk and a few drops of essence of vanilla, and to this strain the caramel when cool.

HOW TO FOLD A SHIRT. Few things put a man in a temper more than a badly folded shirt, no matter how well it is laundered. There is a certain art in the method of "folding" that if carefully followed insures stiff collars and unruined fronts.

A great hydraulic canal is proposed to convey a portion of the water of Niagara River, and thus utilize this enormous power for manufacturing purposes.

THE LATEST INVENTION IS CLOTHING MADE OF A FABRIC IN WHICH FIBERS OF CORK ARE LATEREWEAVED WITH WOOL, WHICH renders it impossible for the wearer to sink in water.

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Professor Cohen, of Breslau, Germany, has found by careful experiment that in heating of damp hay to a temperature sufficient to cause spontaneous combustion is due to a fungus.

The distance from which a lighthouse becomes visible on board an ocean vessel depends upon the state of the weather and the color of the water.

A New York inventor has completed an air-pressure machine whereby cars compress the air which moves them, and allowing for friction this can continue long enough to be the next thing to perpetual motion.

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REV. DR. TALMAGE.

THE BROOKLYN DIVINE'S SUNDAY SERMON.

TEXT: "He came to Nazareth, where He was brought up."—Luke iv, 16.

What a splendid sleep I had last night in a Catholic convent! My first sleep within a convent since leaving my first wife, and as kindly treated as though we had been together.

At this instant the children of the boys' club are coming up from Nazareth, and the boys who were with me at the time of my first sleep in a Catholic convent.

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SAVE OLD FINNALS.

Mrs. M. H. L. writes in Orange Juice Farmer: It is a common error to destroy old cast-off flannels, or tear them into carpet rag. Don't do it! Have a basket for storing them after they are washed.

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