

Auburn Bulletin.

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NELLIE HARWELL'S HOUSE-KEEPING.

By the time this was cleaned she espied a second spot, located on the sleeve of her dressing-gown, and this must undergo the same elaborate process as the former blemish.

"Now the pudding must be mixed for certain," said she, assuming an air of pretty importance, which, unfortunately, no one was there to see.

"Let me read that receipt over again. Pick it clean of all impurities. I wonder if that means the water, or the rice. It can't mean the rice, surely, for that is as clean as it possibly can be; it is the double refined—no double distilled—merely strange that I should forget the label on the box!

Well, it is pure rice, that don't need any picking, anyway. How much rice will it take? Goodness! I wish the cook book was a little more definite. Sometimes I'll write one myself, that'll give all the particulars to a teaspoonful. Well, we shall want the large white dieb full; I'll measure it and see how much it holds."

And away flew Nellie to gauge the pudding-dish, in order to calculate the quantity needed for the pudding. She found the plate capable of containing two quarts, and from this she concluded that two quarts of rice would be quite enough.

The extravagant item was measured out, and committed to a tin pan full of water to undergo the soaking process, and Nellie surveyed with dismay, what remained in the box.

"Dear me! it must be a terrible expense to keep house (here's every bit of that rice gone for a pudding); and Horace only having seven hundred dollars a year. I must try to be very saving. I won't use so much sugar as I intended to; and the receipt says a little nutmeg—and I won't put in so much as that. Economy is a real virtue.

Soliloquizing thus to herself, Nellie mixed the rice, water and all, with a cupful of milk, a tea-cupful of sugar, two unheated eggs, a half a cup of salt, and a few grains of nutmeg. This precious compound she put into the oven of the stove and then proceeded to examine the fire.

"Never mind," said Nellie in a consolatory tone; "I guess it will kindle; there seems to be a small blaze underneath."

The potatoes were brought next, and having carefully peeled them, she placed them in a kettle with some water, and put them over the stove. Then she cut the steak—and her finger at the same time; and the extraordinary gyrations which she made under the influence of the pain upset the flour bucket into the elop-pail, and entangled her crinoline in the hooks of the steelyard which depended from the wall.

It was a long time before she could break clear from these tenacious intruders; the steel frame work of her skeleton held on like true metal, and the hooks of the steelyards were bound not to let go; so a compromise was made, and Nellie divested herself of the war-like garment, and disengaged the combatants at her leisure.

Nellie had heard her mother's cook say that pounding meat made it tender; and, in pursuance of this knowledge, she put the pieces of steak into a mortar, and pounded them until the perspiration streamed down her face and her arms ached with the exertion. As for the meat, it is best not to say much regarding its appearance; but it more strongly resembled a poultice than anything else.

"Here, boy, here! I'll give you nintepence to do a little job for me." The boy's eyes glistened at the prospect, and he obeyed her call with alacrity; but when she told him to make a fire, he laughed in her face. However, he was a capable lad—as Nellie thought—and ere long, by his skillful application of kindlings, a brisk fire was in progress. The stipulated price was paid, and Nellie considered it a good bargain.

The pudding was in the oven, the potatoes in the pot, the steak on the gridiron upon the top of the stove; everything was in train. By and by the dripping from the fat began to smell rather unpleasantly; it filled the room with smoke so dense and stifling, that poor Nellie's eyes grew red and tearful; and the tortured meat sizzled and hissed, and turned black as a bear's skin. Nellie threw open the doors, and stuck to her task of turning the gridiron, resolved in vain, though expressive parables, to grin and bear it.

The pudding boiled over a continual stream; the potatoes bounced up and down in the kettle like the cockle shells in a stormy sea; the steak groaned and spit; and in the midst of it all the clock struck three. Punctuated to the hour, Henry's step sounded in the entry; the kitchen door was flung open with a lover's impetuosity, and that individual invaded the smoke room.

"Good gracious, Nellie! is the house on fire? Come here this moment, darling. What under the canopy sits your face? It is blacker than the ace of spades—begging your pardon for the comparison. Do look into the glass, Nellie!"

Washington, Jan. 16.—The appointment of a committee by the House of Representatives on Friday to look after the timber thieves on the lands reserved by the Government for naval purposes has caused a great deal of uneasiness in certain quarters here, as it no doubt has by this time various points in Florida, Alabama, and the other States in which these lands are located; and if the committee discharge their duty fearlessly, a system of robbery equal to anything yet developed under the present administration will be brought to light.

The act of Congress by which these lands were reserved for Government purposes was passed in 1831, and provides for the punishment of offenders who cut, destroy, or remove live oak or other timber. This law, however, has been a dead letter so far as the provision relating to timber thieves is concerned, although evidence of robbery and the names of the culprits have repeatedly been furnished by the Government.

These naval reserved lands are located in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, and were selected by commissioners appointed at different times for that purpose. They are covered with the finest quality of red cedar, yellow pine, and live oak to be found in the country, and were selected for this very reason.

The largest of these reservations are located in Florida, and in consequence of the facility with which timber can be shipped from the Gulf coast and the neglect of government officials, or else their complicity with the rascals, the depredations there are by far the most extensive. In Volusia county, near Mosquito Inlet at Silver Spring, on the Hillsboro, Suwanee and Withalacoococh rivers, on Pease creek, and St. Andrews, Choctawatchie, Santa Rosa, Escambia, East, and Perdido bays, are reservations of the finest timber to be found in the South, which is rapidly disappearing under the lawless axe of the timber thieves.

The depredations confine their largest operations to the valuable red cedar trees in the Gulf sections, and it is estimated that the quantity stolen in a single year, if it out and sold by the government, would pay for the expense of caring for these lands for a good many years. Large quantities of this wood are sold to the different pencil manufacturers in this country, while thousands of feet are annually exported to Germany, France and England, as these establishments have agents at regular points on the coast, who are ready to purchase from any seller.

The yellow pine woods on the reservations are rendered worthless by the turpentine gatherers, who box the pine trees for the sap, continuing the process until the trees are often scarified to the height of fifteen feet, drawing the life all out of them.

The Navy Department, the Bureau of Construction and Repair having special supervision. Those along the Gulf coast are supposed to be looked after by the naval constructor on duty at the Pensacola Navy Yard, but they get no attention whatever from him.

The agents who are paid to look out for these lands are charged with being in league with the thieves, and from the fact that the business of carrying off the timber is carried on with impunity it is pretty good evidence that the charge is not groundless. Some three years ago one agent who was too honest to allow himself to be used by the rascals made a thorough inspection of the reservations, and found large quantities of timber out ready for shipment, but reports of which, with the names of the depredators, were sent to the Navy Department, as may be seen by reference to the records. Nothing, however, was done about it, and the thieves were not only encouraged in their nefarious business, but they finally succeeded in having the honest agent removed.

Captain J. C. Trebher, U. S. N., was detailed by the Navy department to examine these lands, and he made an exhaustive and thorough report after completing his labor, recommending the abandonment by the Navy department of the worthless and the appointment of competent and honest agents to take care of the most valuable of these lands, but no heed was paid to his recommendations.

An agent located at Pensacola was at one time removed for himself being engaged in plundering the government of this timber. A salary of \$1,200 per annum, a house, all the lands he desired to cultivate, orange grove, and boat and hoistmen to attend him, were not enough to minister to his pleasures, so he decided to have a yacht, and in a very short time his friends were invited to sail in the "Little Silas," which was constructed of government timber and material from the navy yard, and afterward used for carrying stolen timber from various points to Pensacola for sale and shipment.

For the past two years the Navy department have appointed as agents to look after these lands a number of ignorant negroes, most of whom can scarcely read or write, and not one of whom could find a surveyor's mark in the woods to locate a section, range, or township; and if one of them did succeed in overhauling trespassers he would not dare to arrest or prosecute them. These worthless representatives of the Government receive from \$500 to \$1,000 per annum, and do nothing but protect the thieves.

Hot Springs on Mount Shasta. [From the Shasta (Cal.) Courier.] A very remarkable feature of Mount Shasta is the collection of hot springs 200 feet below the top. The extreme summit is a steep ridge not more than 200 or 300 feet through on a level with the springs, and composed of shattered lava, which looks as though any water falling in rain or formed by melting snows upon it would immediately run out through the cracks. There is in the material nothing which, when brought in contact with the air or moisture, would cause heat by chemical action. Yet at the bottom of the steep ridge, which at the foot is not more than 200 yards through, there is a little flat of half an acre, full of hot springs, most of them very small, and the largest not more than three feet across. They have a temperature of one hundred degrees, and their water is strong with sulphur and various minerals. In some the water bubbles up violently, and there are openings from which hot steam rushes out with great force and considerable noise. One of these vents sends out a jet of steam two feet in diameter. These springs and the earth around them retain their heat through winter as well as summer, notwithstanding the severe cold that may prevail there. On the 1st of October the thermometer was below the freezing point at both sunrise and sunset, and the temperature of the year there is probably—for we have no long series of observations—not higher than thirty degrees, possibly below that figure. Immense masses of snow lie on the southern side of the mountain through the summer, and on the northern side there is a glacier. Notwithstanding the almost cold resulting from the snow, ice and high elevation, the great heat supplied from the heart of the mountain does not give way. The waters of these springs must be forced up by a power, which, although small in comparison, still suggests the mighty forces that piled up this cone to a height of eight thousand feet above the adjacent craters poured that covered hundreds of square miles with desolation.

The Speed of Railway Trains.—Trains are now run at the rate of forty miles an hour, sometimes much faster, and generally somewhat slower. The fastest trains in England run at sixty miles an hour. To run at this rate, the piston or driving rod of the locomotive must travel at the speed of 800 feet per minute, or so rapidly that it can not be seen to move at all. George Stephenson, the first to claim that the locomotive could run at twelve miles an hour, was killed insane until he proved it. It was but a few years after this that prominent engineers said that railway trains could be regularly run at the rate of 100 miles an hour; and Stephenson was again called insane because he

said that fifty miles an hour was as fast as trains could be regularly and safely run. But it is now discovered that he was nearly right, and locomotive makers are no longer building engines to run faster than at this rate.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS. In virtue of an order of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, the undersigned, Clerk of said Court, do hereby give notice that the estate of JOHN J. HENRY, late of the County of Albany, deceased, is now open for the settlement of the same, and that all persons having claims against said estate are to present the same to the undersigned, at the office of the Clerk of the Court, in the City of Albany, N. Y., on or before the 25th day of February next, to wit: August 10, 1915. HENRIETTA B. HENRY, Clerk.

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