

# MICHIGAN FARMER

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## THE HOUSEHOLD---Supplement.

### EVOLUTION PREFERRED.

As a woman standing all alone,  
I humbly hope to shine;  
I'm tired of the dreary twaddle  
Of the oak and the ivy vine.  
I've seen too many instances  
Where, nature's law declining,  
The vine did the supporting,  
While the oak did all the twining.

Before I'd marry a man and work  
For his bread and my own;  
Before I'd marry a man who'd place  
Himself upon the throne  
And claim from me, his better half,  
Allegiance blind and mute.  
I'd marry the merest ape and wait  
For him to evolve!

—*Germantown Telegraph.*

### THE WOMAN QUESTION.

"Why is it," asked a friend not long ago, "that men will never discuss seriously, in public, any matter relating to woman's higher interests?" The flippant spirit of the moment prompted the reply "Ask me something easy," but I confess that to me, too, the attitude of the average man toward the progressive woman needs a little explanation. There has been a wonderful change in the conditions and possibilities of woman's life within the past half century, and more particularly within the past twenty-five years; and between you and I, dear ladies, I don't think the average man half likes or wholly approves it. So long as the ballot appeared to be the aim of the aspiring woman, man could afford to laugh; he knew she could not get it till he said she might. But when womanly ambition took a turn in the direction of equal education, equal rights in property, and the seeking out and entering into new employments, resulting in the development of the independent, self-supporting type of femininity, the said resultant became an enigma to ordinary masculinity. I believe that even now the average man looks with suspicion upon the woman who by tongue or pen advocates, or in her life practices, an existence for woman in which she shall not be dependent for support and happiness upon him. He regards her as a dangerous iconoclast, who would pull down all the time-honored traditions existing between the sexes and inaugurate a new dynasty based upon a very hazardous equality. Do we not all know fathers and brothers who vastly prefer their daughters and sisters should stay at home, accepting shelter and clothing more as alms than as right, and doing without all the little refinements and comforts women love, rather than allow them to go out into the world to earn a

living for themselves? But this gathering, strengthening tide of woman's advancement dismays man; he sees her assuming new duties and performing them with credit; he dares not say openly she is less the truly womanly woman because of her altered place, so he takes it out in negations; he will make fun and turn the whole thing into a jest. Even Charles Dudley Warner asks if "the feminization of the world is a desirable thing for a vigorous future," and this because of the intellectual drift of women in eastern cities. Go to; let us get back to our dishwashing and pudding-making!

I have arrived at the above conclusion from observing the attitude of the average man when woman's work in any place but home—a very quiet, retired, economical home—is under discussion. His private opinion is that she is "matter out of place." Publicly, as lord of creation, he is supremely above all questions relating to the welfare of the governed, and takes refuge in the thought "Oh well, let them talk; it amuses them and don't hurt me!" or else—and I advance this solution with becoming diffidence—he says nothing on the subject because he knows nothing about it. If he gets up in public, for instance, and says in effect that the outcome of the woman question has been to make him bald-headed, it is a delicate piece of pleasantry which subtly evades the point at issue, yet leaves him in the enviable position of having "spoken to the question."

I have made up my mind that the average man—and mind you, all through I've been speaking of the average, not the exceptions—is best satisfied with woman in her onerole of housekeeper, and believes she fulfills her manifest destiny when she makes him comfortable with a well ordered house and his full quota of buttons. He wants the domestic type, who will not give him any trouble with intellectual aspirations. He has some opinions of his own on matters in general, which she can adopt if she has use for them, and save herself the trouble of thinking; it is not desirable to have too many opinions in a house anyhow. His ideal woman is of the clinging, dependent, helpless class, of the "May 1?" type, who will look "way up" to him, and whose creed is "My God and my husband;" he will feel a trifle flattered if the order named is inverted in her litany. He wants her absorbed in her house, a ready acquiescence in his will, not because his way is right, but because it is his; he would have her a satellite, shining only in reflected light. Then he will affect to pity her weak-

ness, make fun of and despise her ignorance and business incapacity, and complain she is "no companion" for him, though he sometimes waxes eloquent in public on the duties of woman in general as moulder of the sentiment of coming generations, the pure element in a wicked world, man's moral guide and counselor. I always think of that bright saying of George Eliot's, where she makes "Mrs. Poyser" say, "God Almighty made women foolish, but He made 'em to match the men," when I hear the sex spoken of with that patronizing suffering some men affect.

I once heard a young man say he would not marry a girl who knew more than he did. What was that but a tacit acknowledgement of the truth of the above indictment? And yet, less than fifteen years later, when his son had the reputation of being the worst boy in the town, his excuse was "My wife never had any control of the children!" Those conversant with the facts know the reason; he had always insisted upon being the family autocrat; his wife's opinions and wishes had no weight with him, and therefore none with the children. Another man, who "didn't want no woman meddling in his business," was suddenly stricken with a disease which prostrated him, both physically and mentally, for nearly two years. And how bitterly he blamed the wife who had only lived to nurse and care for him, because the farm had been neglected and "all run down!" The injustice of it! Tie down one's arms till the muscles forget their use, and expect the victim to lift a weight that would tax a strong man's strength!

I care most for the injustice and indifference through which men refuse by intelligent consideration of matters of vital moment to women, to recognize their importance to her, and indirectly to themselves. I do not believe in antagonism of the sexes; there should be a harmony of interests working to mutual improvement and elevation. "What do I want?" Not much; only that man shall recognize woman's absolute right to an independent, self-supporting position without insulting her by jests on strong-mindedness or "old maidism;" that fathers shall act upon the principle that their girls as well as their boys are entitled to a share in their estate, and aid in learning a business by which they may support themselves if need be; that they shall not insist their daughters shall wait in "masterly inactivity" for somebody to come and marry them; that the husband shall acknowledge the wife as an equal partner in profits, and admit in



practice that it take no more qualifications to spend his money than it does to make his home happy and train up his children; and a truce to these would-be witticisms on woman, these untimely, ill-bred sneers at her new aspirations and ambitions. The woman of the hour is nobler, broader, more earnest, more conscientious, higher in thought and ideals, through these "new departures" from the old limitations which old-fogy conservatives cannot appreciate through prejudice. She does not ask man's place, nor to invade his sphere; she only desires his gracious smile upon her endeavors to expand the limits of her own.

BEATRIX.

#### FORBIDDEN PLEASURES.

"That boy is ruined forever; with a good Christian example before him, steady attendance at the Sabbath school, and I have been strict in my home teachings, always pointed out the evils of dancing and card playing. And now as soon as he comes of age, and before too,—on the sly—he is off to dances. I am afraid he is sold body and soul to the evil one." Let us see about it. You have always forbidden his dancing; always said, "You shall not dance as long as you are under my authority and my roof." Do you remember when you were a boy, lying on the soft green grass in your father's orchard, under the big harvest apple tree? The branches bent to the very ground with the delicious fruit, but way up in the top of the tree, at the very tip of the branches, were some uncommonly large apples, that were tantalizingly tempting; you never could reach them, they were just beyond your reach. When they became ripe and you could shake them down, they fell at your feet, great golden fellows, but they were mealy when you bit into them. Or perhaps the tree was just over the fence, in your neighbor's orchard; the apples might have been the very same variety, but they did not belong to you; you were forbidden to touch them, but if you went slyly over and filled your pockets. They tasted better. Do you mind the water-melons you "cooned" when a boy? Was ever such a great red core as fell out of one as you ate it on the bank of the creek or under the straw stack? It was all the sweeter, because you had been forbidden to go after melons in that way. What is just beyond our reach is what we will work the hardest to get. It has always been so since that tree of life was planted in the Garden of Eden; that desire for what is forbidden here has come down with unerring accuracy to the present generation. One mother says "My little boy shall never know what the taste of liquor is from my cooking." No, but remember that little boy will leave his mother's side sometime, will go out from the shadow and influence of his home; he has never seen or tasted liquor in any form, but has been taught that its use is ruining to body and soul. He will fall in with young men of his own age. I will not say that there are very few young men who do not drink. I will say, there are a great many young men who do drink—some moderately, some to excess—the real first taste of liquor that boy takes, may be the ruination of him. If he has

lived to be a man grown, and never met temptation in any form, he will be an uncommon man if he have self-reliance, strength of character, and moral courage to resist. I will cite one instance I have known. I attended a select school once in western New York, and bearded in the home of an uncle. He had four boys—bright manly little fellows. Every day on the dinner table were two kinds of wine, at each plate were two glasses for it. I never saw those boys drink it, although I have heard my uncle ask them sometimes to taste of some new kind, white currant or strawberry. But suddenly we observed that directly after tea the boys were missing for a while, and my aunt found out that they went to the hotel and were playing cards. She went to the store and bought an exceptionally fine pack of cards, and the next night invited the boys to spend the evening with us. They exchanged glances and after a little demur walked into the sitting-room. The marble top center table was drawn directly under the lamps, which were turned up bright, and on the table lay the cards. My aunt gave them a nice motherly talk, and each one kissed her and voted her the best little mother in the land; three weeks from that time you could not coax them to play a game. Soon after two of the boys died suddenly. The day one of the other two is superintendent of a brass foundry, the other a student in the Theological School in Evanston, both temperate men.

Why mothers can think that dancing is such a vice, and still allow their children to play all the foolish games that are in vogue is something that I cannot understand. I was allowed to dance when I was young; I have given a great many dancing parties since I have managed a household of my own. I invite the parents and children where there are children, and I have noted a flush of pride on many a mother's and father's face as they saw the graceful manner of a daughter, the gentlemanly bearing of a son, as they passed through the changes of the dance. I have noted too, in other places, a flush of mortification on the face of a parent when a young lady fell flat on her face, or a son flew around with legs and arms akimbo, playing "snap and catch 'em," looking like the fan to a windmill. Indulging in a good civil parlor dance, each one walks to place in their best manner, there are no clothes torn or carpets worn out, there is no kissing or sitting in the dark; young and old mingle together, an expression of pleasure on each face.

Believe me, you are doing a moral wrong, when you say to your children "You shall not dance or play cards, they are bad habits, they are immoral, they should not be tolerated or countenanced by respectable people." You are sowing seeds that the harvest will be bitter tears and vain regrets. You are driving them to do secretly what if they were allowed they would soon tire of. We have all read and heard of the "stately minuet" being danced in the White House. It took a \$2,500 album to hold the pictures of Mrs. William Vanderbilt's fancy dress ball; these people would be amazed if their morality should be

questioned. Our home is our little world we can rule with firmness, but it should be tempered with kindness, always considering well what is the best thing we can do for our children; never acting hastily, to repent at leisure. The only thing we should seek or aim for, is their highest good. What may now look to us as being unreasonable, may in years to come prove the wisest course we could have taken. We do not have amusements enough in our homes, we do not take the interest we ought in our children's games and sports. While reading is necessary and should be provided for them, they want something else also. Charade parties are pleasant and instructive. We do not want all work, we do not want all play. We can combine the two and live our average number of years, realizing much of pleasure and profit from them.

EVANGALINE.

BATTLE CREEK.

#### HOUSEKEEPING AND HOME-KEEPING

[Paper read by Mrs. N. H. Bangs before the Antwerp and Paw Paw Farmers' Association March 2nd, 1887].

I have chosen this theme because it was a practical one and one to which all of us have given more or less thought, hence likely to draw out some ideas from each member, and not because it was new. Old subjects must be re-handled and viewed from every side in the light of present advantages and conditions; old things have passed away, and the same thing is a very different thing after the lapse of a hundred years, or even fifty. Life itself is old as the world, but the ideal life of to-day and that of a century ago form two distinct features.

I know that housekeeping is always spoken of as belonging entirely to the province of woman. I admit that it is essentially her domain, but when some lord of creation comes hurriedly in from the muddy yard, with two or three children only doing just as papa does, all carefully stepping around the broom and over the mat placed at the door for the protection of her nicely cleaned floors—I say when such things do occur, it often puts high flown ideas of good housekeeping to flight or crushes them under those same muddy feet, while grave thoughts arise of what a partnership business means.

Every young housekeeper can tell you just what she intends to do, and how and when and where. There is never to be a spot on her stove, but always polished until it reflects back her smiles; no dust on her furniture; no finger marks on her doors; no cobwebs from her ceilings; a nicely cooked dinner always on time, and John shall have no cause to complain; she will see to all that, and be ready to fly to the door in a white dress and pink ribbons, when he comes home. She intends to do this; the newspapers say it is the way; and she goes resolutely to work, never thinking what a great revealer time is.

The days go by, cares multiply and she takes them up one by one, bravely going on her way. Dust will gather and cobwebs festoon themselves over her head, but dinner must be ready on time, hungry men fed, and there are so many and such wonderfully healthy appetites that she begins to wonder not only how she is to get time to



read, but how that great basket of clothes will get ironed. Work is condensed, theorized, and systematized, and all three won't do it; her two hands must or it must go undone. Her ideal housekeeping has vanished. "I would liked to have had it different, and I think I could if he had only cared a little more and helped me a little now and then when he might," she thinks, and with a feeling of being defeated and thwarted she excuses as best she may. Such a pitiable excuse, "He don't think," and "He is busy," as she deftly wields brush and broom, and sighs "I must be a good home-keeper."

The newspapers say again to have a happy home, there must be beside good house-keeping an open house every day, no room too good for the family to use, plenty of sunshine, walls covered with pictures, though they be cheap ones, flowers through the house, and always wind up with advertising their own wares—plenty of books and papers—mere twaddle the most of it. The ideal home in almost every mind, whether so expressed or not, is a Christian home, where the word of God is law and the Bible is the guide; this I say is the ideal, others imitate or approach as nearly to this ideal as they may.

We see very happy homes among our day laborers and reason that wealth is not the chief corner-stone of the structure, but an unselfish devotion of each to all the rest. While children have rights, I hold to the doctrine that parents have rights that should command respect; and theirs should be first and not last, as they are put in the new order of things. The idea of respect for children's rights, while held within reason, is a good one, but has been carried to extremes and is working great harm.

Good humor and cheerfulness are essential; I have a mind to put them as a foundation upon which to build a happy home, and only that I want them for the four strong walls to guard it from the elements I would. But my subject is home-keeping, not home-building, but the latter, like housekeeping, cannot be done perfectly by the woman alone. The man claims to be the head of the family, the major part, and of course should not expect work, either physical or moral, to be well done without the co-operation of the brain with the hand; still cheerfulness and good humor play a prominent part in home-keeping, bridging over many a chasm, and piloting us around whirlpools and through rocky rapids. An impatient word in the morning often ruins the pleasure of a day.

Where the ruling idea of the home-keepers is to get great gain, they cannot reach the typical idea of home. While money may be an aid, a great aid, in the art of home-keeping; yet it is only one help and not the most important one either. Moreover, it as often disturbs the element of happiness as any one thing; one may hold a silver dollar so near the eye as to obscure everything else and gain only a distorted vision of the coin.

The parent who best instills into the minds of the family the graces of good humor, cheerfulness and contentment, of satisfaction with their position, is the best home-keeper. There is no word in the

French language to correspond with our word home; to that people our song, "Home, Sweet Home," has no meaning. Study the character of the French and American side by side and see if there be anything in a name. The dearest names to all our nation are Mother, Home, and Heaven.

#### QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

Even a well-planted calla will often delay blooming from lack of steady warmth at the roots—which in some living rooms is rather difficult to maintain—and then when the days grow mild, and the sun's rays penetrate, it will no doubt bloom, being now in a thrifty condition. Give a little liquid fertilizer from the barnyard, and set near the glass on something as high as the window ledge.

The English ivy does best in shade; although it will bear ill treatment it still responds to good care. It delights in vegetable mould mixed with sharp sand and an occasional dip from the suds on wash day. I think it a good way to give plenty of pot room and a trellis, as so much of its health and beauty depend on freedom from dust and insect pests, the scale being its worst enemy. Having a trellis it may climb and cling with all its native tenacity, and may be showered until its glossy leaves shine. It may be put in summer in the shade of a tree and will do well. I often imagine I can see it draping walls and arbors in milder climates, where its luxuriance equals our excellent Virginia creeper, *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*, often called American ivy, which we hardly appreciate because it is our own. These plants seem to have the mission to cover less beautiful objects with their own graceful drapery, enclosing as with the clasp of affection the most uncouth objects, giving protection and graceful beauty.

*Ampelopsis Veitchii* is a native of Japan and not fully, I think, acclimated here, as yet; but where a delicate climber is desired, this is when successfully grown a lovely object. It is more tender than *A. quinquefolia* and should be given a somewhat protected situation. It requires a year or more to become well established; and those having plants survive the first year after planting may take courage. I have no doubt about the possibility of success in raising plants from seed, although I have not yet tried them, and presume stronger plants may be secured in this way. I think the seed should be sown in autumn; still it is well to try either season, only we know we must usually be patient in waiting for seeds of this order. I have no difficulty with Chinese Wistaria, Bignonia radicans, perennial pea, and many others, a few weeks sufficing for them to "wake up."

In speaking of Thunbergia and canary flower in the HOUSEHOLD as being difficult to start, I failed to say as I intended that if put in a glass dish of sand or mould and set against the window pane, they would sprout in a short time.

In answer to a lady in Pulaski I will say that the specimen sent for name is *Euonymus*, a native of Japan, but is frequently mistaken for *Camellia Japonica*, which it resembles in foliage only, as its flowers are

not of consequence. There are plain and variegated varieties of this *Euonymus*, which is only grown for its foliage.

FENTON. MRS. M. A. FULLER (DILL).

[Chas. E. Parnell, a well-known writer on garden topics, says, in speaking of the propagation of the varieties of *Ampelopsis*, that plants are readily grown either from layers, cuttings or seeds. Of growing from seed, he says: "Seeds should be sown as soon as gathered. Sow thinly in a shallow box filled with light, loamy soil, cover slightly, and place the box in a cold frame, or a cool, airy cellar; as early in the spring as possible remove to a warm, moist situation, or a hot-bed, and as soon as the young plants are well up and strong enough to handle, they should be potted off into three-inch pots, and grown on as rapidly as possible until the weather becomes warm and settled, when they can be removed to their permanent places. They can also be increased by cuttings of the half-ripened wood placed in sand, and these, when rooted, should be treated precisely as advised for the plants raised from seed."—ED.]

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A young lady wishes to know what trimming will be most suitable for a wool dress intended for street wear, and later for traveling; she does not wish to use velvet, or silk with it. There is nothing more appropriate for the purpose than either the galloons or braids to be put in straight, or the passementeries of braid in patterns or gimp designs. The braids come in all colors, and are worth from 15 to 75 cents, according to width and quality; the passementeries—which are braided designs in braid half an inch wide, often combined with silk cord, cost from \$1.75 to \$3.50 per yard, according to quality. They are used on panels, and most of them are so arranged that they can be divided, and made narrow enough to be used on the basque and upon a wrap.

Another correspondent asks what she can combine with a pearl or steel-gray silk, to suit her years and complexion. This color is a trying one to any but young and blooming faces. Probably the best choice, to make a costume at once stylish and as becoming as possible, would be a cashmere of the same or a trifle darker hue, for drapery and basque, using the silk for a skirt and soft full vest. The wool goods, as it absorbs light rather than reflects it, as does the silk, would be better near the face. Softened by a scarf of black lace, with a pleating of black lace at throat and wrist, the dress might be becoming, especially if worn with a bonnet of black lace with a touch of any color except blue.

Plain white dresses are to be made in the styles mentioned for cotton dresses in the HOUSEHOLD of Feb. 21, except that the lower skirt is hemmed instead of being faced and bound. Or a plain skirt, tuckered, may be substituted, though that mounted with the wide flounce as described is more stylish. But—don't buy plain white dresses. Get cream or ecru. The crinkled seersucker at a shilling a yard makes such pretty, dainty dresses, and comes in such becoming tints we wonder any woman will



put herself into a dead white gown. Do not starch your light dresses so stiff that at every move your skirts rustle like paper. Wool goods are esteemed for the softness and ease with which they drape, and cotton dresses affect the same clinging effect.

Bess asks what baking powder is made of. Cream of tartar and bi-carbonate of soda, with as much terra alba and other adulterants as the manufacturer thinks a long-suffering public will stand. The cheap grades are without doubt composed in greater part of foreign ingredients, and the best are the purest. A gentleman of this city who was once "in the business" says that in a lot of 2,000 pounds at least 500 pounds would be adulterations. The cream of tartar is also adulterated all it will bear before mixing.

One of our correspondents asked some little time ago about the tree tomato. There is a very new sort which differs in habit from the ordinary sprawling growth of the common tomato, but it has hardly taken its actual place yet, nor is its real worth ascertained. It was obtained from a cross of the Alpha with the French Upright; a seedling in 1885 ripened fruit as early as any of the ordinary varieties. It is believed, therefore, that the upright habit will be established in a plant ripening with the earliest and this will prove a very desirable acquisition.

A lady at Imlay City wants to know something about the management of kindergartens. A kindergarten is a school designed for quite young children, where they are taught according to the ideas of Froebel, from whose teachings the system originated. Instruction and amusement are combined in a manner attractive to children, and calculated to develop the young minds gradually, systematically, and not over-tire the sensitive brain-structure. Ideas of form, color, number, are given by various accessories used, in connection with word-building. In short, primary instruction is made as pleasant to the children, who are ruled entirely by affection, as possible. They are taught various movements in calisthenics, and to sing in accompaniment. The hours of instruction are short, usually not over four per day, in a morning session, and teachers in this city charge from \$6 to \$8 per term of ten weeks. Inquiry at three of our largest book stores here failed to discover any books upon the methods of instruction, or other aids to those who are looking for information, nor are kindergarten goods kept in stock. The best way for our friend, if she wishes a practical idea of the workings of the system, is to visit such a school and witness the manner of conducting it. There are so many excursions to this city during the summer that one could pay a visit and make such investigations at small expense. BEATRIX.

#### SPECULATIONS OF A SPECTATOR.

Last Friday I, out of curiosity, attended a "ladies prohibitory amendment mass meeting" in this city. I say out of curiosity, because in the first place I had never been a spectator of one of those "wild scenes" of which I have so often read, where woman—the o-half of intelligent creation's decimal unit was the only half represented,

and I wanted to witness something of the sort. And secondly, I had taken no interest either pro or con in the amendment, having given it no thought, and not having listened to any of the multitudinous arguments advanced on either side.

But I went to the mass meeting. The G. A. R. hall was well filled with women. Earnest, zealous, hopeful working Christian women who count it gain to serve a high ideal. And I must say that I never attended any sort of a convention, society or meeting where the masculine element was the dominant and directing power that was conducted with any more easy decorum, or any more polite and graceful "parliamentary usages" if I may be allowed the term. But I can recall very many that are discounted way out of sight by the proceedings as well as by the address of this ladies' mass meeting. And ever since that day, I've been thinking more and more of the magnitude of the work that waits the heart and hand, the brain and the muscle of woman in our American politics. It can never be done without her! But will she ever rise to the level of her source, demand the privilege of her right, and in the full and free exercise of unquestioned prerogative slowly but steadily swing our social and political system round into the notch millennial? Ah, indeed; will she? FLINT. E. L. NYE.

#### CHILDREN AT SCHOOL.

An important event in each child's life is its first term at school, and there is a wide difference of opinions in regard to the age at which children should enter thereon. Some parents think they should certainly go at the age of five years, if not before, and off the mother sends them, sometimes saying, "Well, they are out of my way, and the teacher gets her pay; let her see to them." Said a person not long since: "Why, yes, let them go, they will learn just so much deviltry any way, and it don't make any difference how soon they learn it." But with this view I do not agree. It seems to me that it does make a great difference. The longer a child can be kept from evil the stronger he will be to withstand evil, if taught right. We all admire the smart, precocious child, who is quick to learn and easy to teach, but there is so much difference in children. One will learn quickly, when another is full of business and play and does not take readily to books. I do wish some of the experienced mothers and old school teachers would give their views on this all important subject, for every conscientious mother truly wants to do just the right things for her child. R.

NORTH ADAMS.

AFTER the HOUSEHOLD for the 28th ult. had gone to press we received a letter from "R." of North Adams, in favor of the prohibitory amendment to be voted upon at the April election. As the election will be over and the issue settled before this paper is in the hands of its readers, our correspondent will understand why her article is not inserted. We repeat yet once more that copy intended for insertion in any particular issue of the HOUSEHOLD must reach us early in the previous week.

#### HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

To salt butter with brine, which is now generally accepted as the best method, drain the granular butter well before adding the brine, which is made by putting into cold water more salt than it will dissolve. The butter will then be salted at the rate of one half ounce to the pound.

MOST of us were taught in our early house-keeping lessons that a frozen egg should be put into cold water and allowed to thaw in it. Even then it is not worth much, the yolk being hard, as if partly cooked. But an old farmer's wife recommends a quite contrary plan. She says put the frozen egg into a dish, turn boiling water upon it until it is covered, and let the egg remain in it five minutes. The yolk will be soft and run as if it had not been frozen, and the egg can be kept several days.

S. B. MANN, of Adrian, in a letter on the evaporated fruit industry, says: "In preparing fruit for drying slice the apples across the grain (or core, say) very thin; spread the slices thinly on a plate or clean board; cover this with a thin muslin cloth and expose it to the hot sun and it will give you a dried apple quite equal to any made by the evaporator. The point is simply this, to draw out as rapidly as possible the water without coating over the surface as is done if exposed to the sun or artificial heat direct. The vapor thrown off from the fruit is held by the cloth, making the same humid atmosphere around the apple that is made by the methods used by the evaporator. The drying in a moist atmosphere keeps open the fruit cells, and the water is allowed to pass out freely from center to outside of the slice."

MANY thanks to Mrs. M. C. M., Sister Lakes, for the photographs of herself and husband, and two handsome boys, for the HOUSEHOLD album.

#### Contributed Recipes.

BRIDE CAKE.—Whites of twelve eggs; one teacupful granulated sugar, sifted four times; one and a half teacupfuls of flour, sifted four times; add one teaspoonful cream of tartar in sifting the fourth time; two teaspoonfuls vanilla; a little salt; stir lightly; bake forty minutes; frost. Delicious.

PERFECTION CAKE.—Whites twelve eggs; three cups sugar; one cup butter; one cup sweet milk; one cup cornstarch; three cups sifted flour; three teaspoonfuls baking powder; flavor with rose.

BANANA CAKE.—One egg, yolks of two; one cup sugar; butter size of an egg; one cup sweet milk; two and one-fourth cups flour, sifted; two teaspoonfuls baking powder. Bake in two cakes. Filling.—Beat the whites of two eggs stiff; add half cup sifted sugar; mash four bananas fine, and add to half of it which put between the cakes; frost the top plain, and lay two bananas sliced in two on top. Very nice. EVANGALINE.

BATTLE CREEK.

#### FLOWER SEEDS FOR 1887.

I will send one package of choice pansy seed, mixed sorts, for 25c, or in collection with carnation, verbenas, pinks, dahlia, geranium, stocks white or mixed colors, forget-me-not, *cobaea scandens*, and canary-bird flower, for 50c. Seeds from over 100 choice varieties of perennials, everlastings, annuals or herbs, six packets for 25c; 13 for 50c or 80 for \$1. Send stamp for list. MRS. M. A. FULLER (DILL), Box 297, Fenton, Mich.