

Humors of the Week.

How Amasa Lost the Bet.

Not a thousand miles from Jamaica Plain, L. L. Reed, Lem Seaver, Mr. Emmons, and Amasa May, Lem was fond of shooting and could shoot well and was rather proud of it. It happened on a bright October day that he had been hunting the cover on the Newton side of the pond, and came out to the old barn where Bob Emmons was at work. After a little talk, Lem left his gun and things standing outside, and went into the barn to look after the cut, and finally passed through to the cider-mill, which stood just beyond; for a half day's tramp in the woods makes a man dry, you'd better believe. While he was gone B.B., who was always at the bottom of all the deviltry done in the vicinity, dropped an extra charge of shot into each barrel of the gun and stood by waiting for him. Presently Amasa came up the road with a new hat on the half-formed plan that floated in the brain of Bob was instantly completed and put into action as follows: Hailing Amasa, "Come quick!" says he, "let's have some fun with Lem. We'll draw out his shot, and bet he can't hit your hat."

"Capital, good idea," replied Amasa. "Lem thinks he can shoot; we'll open his eyes!" Bob carefully drew out all the shot he had just put in, and put the gun back where he found it. Just then Lem came back, having sucked cider enough to make himself comfortable, and prepared to go. "Hallo! Lem," said Amasa, "what are you totting that shooting iron about for?" "Oh, it's a way I have," replied Lem; "sometimes I get a chance to shoot, and then I most always hit."

"Bet you can't hit my hat—six rods!" exclaimed Amasa; bet an oyster supper for the boys to-night!" "Done," says Lem; "set it up!" Amasa put his hat on a post, and measured the six rods, almost bursting with suppressed laughter at the imaginary idea of Lem's looks when he should find that he couldn't hit the hat at six rods; Bob, also chuckling at the prospect of the success of his plan, and Lem pleased with the idea of winning the bet. He brought the gun up to his face to fire. "Double your bet, and give it both barrels!" says Amasa. "Aye! eye!" replied Lem, and he let drive right and left in quick succession. Before the sun he rooled away Amasa jumped forward, with a shout and laugh, to show Lem that he couldn't hit a hat in broad daylight. But where was it? Bis of fur here and there, and a miserable, dilapidated wreck of a hat that looked as if all the wood-cocks in Norlok county had stuck their bills through it, was the sight to greet his eyes. The sudden and instantaneous change of his countenance told Bob who had lost the wager.

SEAGUE'S DICTIONARY.—It is said that Seague, the breacbiast of promises, is about to issue a new dictionary, in which he will advance some of his peculiar ideas of spelling. The New York World quotes from advance sheets: "Seagues, of promise, a De Vis of the naval to chest a Mann out of his own nunny. Tary, a Lac of literat ignoramusis to help the A feared dravil. The origins of sive which I mean to cease here Rafter. Kat, a Anymal witch gits out of the scene um Tims. Spoling 1 of the Least Avts. Cressus, A Scllebraid crishan Born in the yer one.

"Alon ore," said a proconsion litle boy, who against his will was made to rock as a cradle of his waly brother. "If the Lord has any more babies to give away, don't you take 'em. A certain wealthy patrician, intending to treat the Roman people with some theatrical entertainment, publicly offered a reward to any one who would produce a novel spectacle. Indited by education, artists arrive from all parts to contest the prize, among whom a well known witty mountebank gave out that he had a new kind of entertainment that had never yet been produced on any stage. This report being spread abroad, brought the whole city together. The private could hardly contain the number of spectators. And when the artist appeared alone upon the stage, without any apparatus, or any assistants, curiosity and suspense kept the spectators in profound silence. On a sudden he thrust down his head into his bosom, mimicked the squeaking of a young pig so naturally, that the audience insisted upon it that he had one under his cloak, and ordered him to be searched; which being done, and nothing appearing, they loaded him with most extravagant applause.

A countryman among the audience, observing what passed,—"Oh!" says he, "I can do better than this," and immediately gave out that he would perform the next day. Accordingly, on the morrow, a yet greater crowd was collected. Prepared, however, in favor of the mountebank, they came rather to laugh at the countryman than to pass a fair judgment on him. They both came out upon the stage. The mountebank grunts away first and calls forth the greatest applause. Then the countryman pretending that he concealed a little pig under his garments—and he had in fact really got one—pinched its ear till he made a squeak. The people cried out that the mountebank had imitated the pig much more naturally, and hooted to the countryman to quit the stage; but he, to convict them to their faces, produced the real pig from his bosom. "And now, gentlemen, you may see," said he, "what a pretty sort of judges you are!" It is easier to convince a man against his senses than against his will.

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Vol. I The Farm. "Thorough Cultivation" [The following is the substance of a paper read before the Andover Society, by our correspondent, Mr. Barlow.] If there is one fact in horticulture more than another, that is being pressed on my mind, it is the necessity of the thorough cultivation of the soil—a term often used, but not properly understood. A thorough cultivation with sufficient depth, and another man calls it a shallow one. When I first commenced to cultivate soil, I thought I could easily get a certain number of acres with a certain amount of labor forces. The year saw an increase in the year's capital, and a decrease in the number of acres; and every year since we have felt the necessity of hiring more without increasing the area under cultivation. It is estimated that in a long operation, ten men will work an acre as it ought to be done, and it may be, perhaps, more than we feel able to meet at present; but must come to this if we expect to succeed. To thoroughly cultivate is, in the meaning of the term, the constant stirring of the soil, not only with the weeds, but with a plow or cultivator, so that the soil will be constantly stirred, and the weeds and the fruit of the plowing will depend, on circumstances, on the quality of the soil, and the character of the crop. "One advancement of the crop is the idea of simply to kill weeds is ridiculous; but in the frequent stirring of the soil, a millow silt, with open pores, eagerly taking from the soil an abundance of plant food, the soil is not stirred from the air than from the rather the soil, in a proper place, takes from the atmosphere the food which it gives to the plant. We have weeds, we must, of course, prevent their growing, but it is better to have weeds, and a double at our case and wait for the grow. In order to prevent cultivation we must have steady rows both ways, and in these points are all important more so than level culture, especially where it is a hill-side. Good culture implies soil, a moderately deep soil, so long as the roots are not disturbed by the open deep culture implies horse, this suggests the checker-board which we have spoken of, and constant motion in the ground. There is work, also, for all various kinds of weeding system of thorough doing. Agricultural. A Disposition of Property I found Neighbor Simpson morning in his barn skin months, calf. I noticed that was not cut, and concluded not a case of slaughter for the flesh did not look for bones were a little to call "the fattest calf." Simpson tried hard to raise the he not make it out. She rounded the barn, didn't last night she died. It is a very mysterious disposition. I shall lose ten months' labor, and get nothing by it. By pumping Simpson found it another case of hay and cold. The animal a poor pasture through and came to the fodder thin flesh. Mouldy food had been the bill of fare fed out upon the snow with no shelter but this and two ways of looking action, as he was pleased thought he was not at all ill. The treatment that received, and laid the horse. It is just possible that Simpson's horse was not as well as this night.