# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1867. NO. 26.


## FLOWERS.

"Flowers are Love's truest language."—Park Benjamin.

It is as Moore has said: "many tender thoughts beneath the silent flowers are lying;" there is something touching in their speechless oratory, in the unobtrusive way in which they breathe out their lives among the "common herbs of pasture." Their daintiness "touches one like poetry;" their perfumes come over us like strains of delicious music—like an enchanting dreaminess.

"In Eastern lands they talk in flowers,
And they tell in garlands their loves and cares;
Each blossom that blooms in their garden bowers,
On its leaves a mystic language bears;
Then gather a wreath from the garden bowers,
And tell the wish of thy heart in flowers."—Percival.

We should all cultivate flowers; we will think all the better thoughts for it; they bring their delightful award, yet make but a trifling draft upon our purse or time. Pretty it is to see the climbing plants festooning the doors and windows of the humble cottage, draping the eaves in gorgeousness and perfume, and more than making amends for the want of architectural display. Hardiest among the climbing plants are the Convolvulus Major, or Morning Glory, the Cobea Scandens, and the Ipomea, or Cypress vine.

Then among the annuals, requiring no extraordinary care, are the Phlox Drummondi, ranging from the most brilliant crimson and scarlet to the most delicate rose; the China Asters, among them the New Crown, with leaflets red without and of a creamy white within, very attractive, and the Dwarf Boquet, each plant forming a pyramid of flowers, the leaves being almost consumed by their bloom. The Golden Bartonia, unfolding its beauty only in the brightest sunshine, until every branch is radiant with gold—so metallic like the lustre of the inside of its petals that we imagine that they must be composed of something more endurable than such delicate, perishable tissues. The Mirabilis Jalapa, or Marvel of Peru, with its variety of colors and beautiful markings of white, pink and yellow. Then there are the Larkspurs, the Gillardias, the Ten-weeks, etc.

All grass borders should be carefully clipped, if a regular, rich looking sward is desired, and nothing hardly is more unsightly than straggling, ill-kept borders. They indicate a sad neglect, and want of taste and neatness. One great fault with most persons who have gardens is, that they do not exercise sufficient taste in the arrangement of their plants, so as to produce the most pleasing effect when they bloom. We have seen plats where verbenas, geraniums, petunias, zinnias, &c., were crowded together in a promiscuous heap, as if no effort had been made to place them so as to display a pleasing contrast, and the rich, varied hues which would have been so beautiful if tastefully arranged, looked blurred. A miscellaneous collection looks well, but plants arranged with some reference to color look better. A circle of white verbenas, for instance, would look very pretty with scarlet ones grouped in the center.

Our engraving represents the Rose Aster.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## FARM NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR JULY.

The peculiarity of the present season will be very likely to throw much of the necessary farm work into a very narrow compass; and unless extra help is had some of the work will drag, or have to be done out of season, if done at all. It is better to employ extra help at extra cost and make thorough work among all our crops than to let them suffer from neglect. Weeds neglected and allowed to grow now, among the corn and grain crops, will very greatly injure the growing crop and seriously diminish the yield; not only so, but ripen their seeds and cause much hard labor to subdue them another season. A soil often stirred, kept loose and mellow, will allow the roots of plants to find their way through, imbibing moisture and plant food at every step; air and moisture penetrate more freely, keeping the soil better fitted and capable of preparing and digesting the necessary plant food; drouth affects such a soil less, and plants will continue to grow during a drouth that would greatly injure a crop standing in a compact, unbroken soil. Haying will commence in earnest and should be prosecuted with vigor, as fast as the grass comes into proper condition to be cut,—just what that stage is remains a disputed question among farmers and others; some advocating cutting early—just how early they do not tell us. Others specify, "just as the grass comes to flower." Some others—"when the seed is formed, and in the dough state"; and still others, "not till the seed is ripe." Undoubtedly much depends upon the variety and use it is designed for in feeding—different degrees of ripeness being best fitted for different purposes and stock. There is much of the labor of haying and the hayfield that is pleasant, while other kinds are less so, if not disagreeable—all of which is admired or dreaded according as the individual is inclined. Coming in hot weather it demands much endurance; but where advantage is taken of improved implements and machinery much of the more irksome part, to some, is avoided being done by manual labor. The mowing machine enables us to cut the grass at the right time without that tiresomeness of hand mowing—although for my own individual part, I never found hand mowing very disagreeable; on the contrary, it is the most agreeable part of haying to me, having learned young, and taking to it naturally; but the good old days of the like have given place to greatly improved facilities for accomplishing the work. The iron muscle of the mower and the reaper, the horse-rake and pitch-fork, are more profitable and easily managed than human laborers. At no time of the season is there more care needed to prevent the loss of health by over-work or exposure and improvidence than during the hot season; and true economy would dictate, that, wherever possible, enough help should be secured so as to prevent any danger from overdoing. Health is of the first importance, and should be our first study to preserve; for once lost, it is irrecoverable.

*Bees* will need attention in looking after the surplus honey and supplying boxes. Do not let any be lost for the want of boxes now, as this is the harvest season. A good yield may be lost by failing to be prompt in supplying the necessary boxes. The greatest and best collection of honey will be made early in the month, when white clover is in its prime. Keep a supply of boxes on hand to replace the *full* ones as fast as filled.

*Buckwheat.*—Sow early in the month—"when chestnut trees are in blossom" is the rule in New England, as I have heard old people remark, and which I have found to be about the right time. A few acres of this crop will add much to the profit of the farm, requiring but little attention in producing—usually too little is given; for it is as grateful for good treatment as other crops, and should have the soil well prepared before sowing. The grain makes excellent feed for stock when ground, mixed with other grain, as provender; or it is valuable fed whole to sheep and hens. It sells readily, and at good prices, either in the grain or made into flour. In domestic economy, in New England, it needs no eulogy. A crop of buckwheat, on muck land, is better than a Summer fallow, as it is an excellent subduer of foul weeds, &c.

*Cattle*—for fattening next Fall should have the advantage of good pasture during the Summer, that they may have a good start. Good, pure water, with access thereto, is highly important, as is also a regular allowance of salt, or, what is better, constant access to it—no need to fear of their eating too much, as instinct will guide them in their wants. Milch cows should be cared for not to let them fall off in their milk late in the month. A feed of cut grass, clover, corn, millet, &c., morning and evening, will tend to keep up a generous flow.

*Draining.*—Dry weather will show any wet spots that need draining; observe where they are, and prepare for draining as soon as practicable. Some of the low, marshy portions of our farms contain the most valuable land, if properly reclaimed. Dry weather is the most suitable for draining when help is to be had to attend to it. Surplus capital can at any time be profitably invested in this improvement with certainty of good dividends.

*Grain.*—Harvest wheat and rye as the grain is passing from the milk—when the grain, mashed between the thumb nails, yields no milk—cut in this stage the grain is heavier, and yields the most flour to the bushel, or by weight. For seed it should be allowed to get fully ripe, be saved, and threshed by itself, and with the hand flail.

*Hay.*—Cut when the grass contains the most nutriment, and different varieties as they come into condition. Cure without drying out all the juices, or sun burning, and secure under cover when practicable. "Stacking out," in this climate is a very risky business, besides all the waste and inconveniences to be submitted to in feeding out. If compelled to stack any out, build a good foundation, not less than a foot high from the ground, and a suitable

stack, pole, or chimney in the center; lay up true and secure from leaning or rain beating in, and finish off with a good thatch well put on and firmly secured with a suitable hay or straw rope.

*Manure.*—Gathering materials for the manure heap should not be neglected during the press of other work. The droppings of the stock yard or stable should be thrown under cover, and have other matters to compost therewith. A top-dressing of the meadow, after cutting the grass off close, with fine, well-rotted manure will prevent damage to the roots from exposure to a burning sun, and also stimulate a new growth for a second mowing, &c.

*Oats.*—Adopt the same suggestions for cutting as for wheat and rye. Cure the straw thoroughly and store immediately, if you would have a nice lot of most excellent fodder. Thresh as soon as convenient after harvesting, and market. They then meet the greatest profit, and waste less than when allowed to remain long in the mow, &c.

*Potatoes.*—In the vicinity of market, early are more valuable than late. Dig and market as soon as of suitable size, while high prices rule. The natural increase in size, after attaining a fair growth, is more than compensated by the extra price obtained. The ground after clearing off may be devoted to cabbage, turnips, or other late crops. All hoeing of later sorts should be finished before blossoming. Give a good, liberal, broad and flat hill.

*Swine.*—We prefer to keep them in pens and close yards, and at work making manure. They furnish us with the greatest profit in this way. A liberal feed of skimmed milk and slops, with a little shorts or meal, will keep them thriving and gaining, so that a little increase in the Fall will soon fit them for the knife. They are fond of green food; give them an occasional feed of clover, corn stalks, or other succulent food.

*Squash.*—A field crop too little cultivated in proportion to its value for market or feeding. Hoe till danger of injuring the vines. The borer, squash, and striped bugs are to be encountered as enemies, and hand picking in the early morning is the surest remedy.

*Tools.*—Again allow me to call your attention to the importance of having good tools, and all that may be needed for haying and harvesting. Examine all machines and implements before using to see that every bolt and other part is in perfect order; and when using, keep the bearings well oiled, cutters, &c., sharp. After using, clean and shelter, if possible—certainly from effects of sun and rain.

*Turnips.*—The old people's rule in New England is, "sow turnips the 25th of July, wet or dry." Purple Top Strap Leaf, and perhaps some other varieties, should be sown from the middle to the last of the month. Give a good dressing of super-phosphate, harrowed in, or in the drill. Drill culture gives a much better crop than broadcast and is convenient for hoeing the crop, and freeing from weeds.

*Weeds.*—A little neglect now will cause you much future trouble; therefore do not neglect them and let them go to seed. Cut and subdue all before any seed is formed; for if added to the compost heap, or allowed to lie after being cut and seed formed, the juices remaining in the stalk are often sufficient to mature the seed. H.

*My Riverdale Farm, July*, 1867.

---

Horticultural Indelible Pencil. — The Northampton Indelible Pencil Company manufacture a "Horticultural Pencil" for writing on tree, shrub and garden tags. We are indebted to them for a specimen. From the satisfaction given by their other pencils, we think this will be found to fill a common want among horticulturists.

---

The canker-worm is committing great ravages in the Massachusetts orchards. In the neighborhood of Boston, thousands of apple trees are blighted as if a fire had swept over them. Every leaf is destroyed, and the crop in many places is ruined. The farmers grieve over the loss of apples, to say nothing of cider.

## Crop Prospects.

[From the New York Tribune of July 1.]

### THE HARVESTS.

From Southern Georgia to the line of 38 degrees of North latitude, or of St. Louis and Cincinnati, a distance of about 650 miles, the wheat has been put in shock. The yield was good, the quality excellent, and undoubtedly there was a larger breadth than ever was sown before. But through much of this region, particularly within the influence of the Atlantic and below the Blue Ridge, there have been heavy and protracted rains, and as barns are uncommon, the wheat must have suffered some damage, but how great has not yet been reported. Southern wheat is decidedly superior to that generally grown in the North, and is usually a surer crop.

The condition of the cotton plant is various. In some of the Louisiana parishes the overflow has destroyed it, and when the waters subsided it was too late for anything but corn. In other sections, the cold, wet weather in April made much re-planting necessary; while, where the soil is rich and light, the moisture has given the quack grass a start, and much labor will be required to eradicate it. Still, the planters have met these adverse conditions with energy, and now all the cotton fields are cleared, and the plant is pushing forward with great rapidity. In the extreme South bolls are already formed, and the fields are gray with the broad green leaves and the white and pink blossoms.

Of course corn is backward for the same reasons, but as it is a tougher plant, and can stand much, it has received its last plowing, and is laid by. In Kentucky it is knee high. Everywhere it is a good color, and a large yield may be expected. In many places there is a complaint that the tobacco plants are small. Of other crops, such as field peas, beans, sweet potatoes, and the like, there was full planting, for it was desirable that everything that could make food should be tried. Garden patches are larger, and will yield more than ever before. This is owing to the new condition of the freedmen. In most cases the colored women have taken this branch upon themselves, and already they have good supplies of Irish potatoes, beans, and some roasting ears.

North of 38 degrees, for 60 miles, and from Kansas to Southern Maryland, the farmers are in the midst of the wheat harvest. The last four days of almost continuous rain will be likely to do much damage if it extended thither. The quality of the wheat grown there is next to the very best, and it is liable to be injured in the shock, for there are few barns. With few exceptions the yield will be fair, but as the soil is not very rich, and as much of it has become thin from frequent cropping, the amount per acre will not be large. The corn here is very good, and in the warm, damp weather, is making a good growth. Fruit is reported better than in many sections further South. Peach and apple trees are very full.

Between 39 to 41 degrees lies the great corn region. The protracted wet weather was a formidable obstacle, and up to the first week in June, thousands of acres were completed. By the use of two-horse sulky cultivators, very large fields were prepared and the corn planter followed. Here, that is to say in Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa, very little Winter wheat is raised. In regions East, including Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and a part of New York and New England, the wheat still is promising; fruit is abundant and the corn crop is coming on well. Still, on heavy clay soils favorable for grass, it has been almost impossible to work the crop. On dryer soils it has been plowed and hoed and it is in fine order. In this whole belt there will be more peaches than for several years. Even in the prairie regions, where they raise the tree for fuel, not expecting much fruit, they will have fair supplies. In Illinois and Iowa, the potato bug is making frightful ravages, and unless the farmer either catches, or with brush drives the pest from the fields, this crop will be ruined. In other sections the potato promises well as yet, but of late years so uncertain has this root become, that it is too early to predict much. In Kansas, Southern Nebraska, and Western Missouri the grass-hopper is making a clean sweep in many fields; still, this is not to be said of the whole face of the sections named, for there are many counties unvisited. In Idaho and Colorado we also hear of its ravages. North of the 41st parallel, the wheat crop is in good condition. Corn is doing well, and is generally clean. In many parts there has been much less rain than further South; indeed, in the latter part of May, there were fears of drouth.

California farmers were greatly encouraged by their large crops of wheat last year, and by the extraordinary prices they obtained, and they have sown largely. We hear no complaints that their harvest will not be abundant. Of other crops, including grapes, they will produce largely. In Nevada, Colorado, and Idaho, there will be as much grain as the people will need.

In the New England, or Eastern States, including New York and New Jersey, there has been a surplus of rain, except in Northern New York, and farmers have been very much embarrassed in working their ground. Wheat so far looks uncommonly well, and an unusual breadth was sown. Of grass, here, as well as elsewhere, the stand of course is good, and only favorable weather is required to secure the largest crop of hay the country has ever produced.

---

The Crops at the South.—A gentleman of this city who has just made an extended tour in the Southern States speaks in the most encouraging terms of the prospects of the crops in that section of the country. He says that hardly any one in the prominent cities there speaks of the cotton crop as being less than three millions of bales. The wheat and other grain crops are very prolific and will yield an immense harvest. The feeling for the future, growing out of the prospects of the crops, was very hopeful, and the business men were looking for an active season.—*Boston Journal.*

---

The Peach Crop.—Some idea of the extent of the peach crop this season in Delaware may be obtained from the estimates now being made by the railroad company, which is preparing to carry them to market. It is thought that the yield in Kent county alone, will be 800,000 baskets. This is exclusive of that portion lying along the bay and creeks, which has its natural outlet by steamboat and sailing vessels. In 1864, the year noted for its heavy crop, there was shipped from Smyrna, 70,000 baskets. This year the railroad company give the quota of Smyrna at 500,000.—*N. Y. Com. Advertiser.*

---

The Crops in Minnesota.—A St. Paul correspondent of the Chicago *Journal* writes very discouragingly of crop prospects in Minnesota, owing to continuous heavy rains. He says:

"With the single exception of corn, everything has looked most encouragingly for a magnificent yield, and still looks encouraging, if these everlasting rains would but stop. But for the last two weeks they have increased in frequency, as well as in volume, and if they continue much longer, a virtual failure of the entire crop of cereals will be the inevitable consequence. The land is being drowned out. Corn, in most instances, is already past recovery, which involves the almost total abandonment of the hog crop. Minnesota will pretty surely be obliged to import pork for her coming year's necessities. Wheat, barley and potatoes when planted upon the light soil which constitutes the majority of the cultivated lands of this State, can recover from the deluging they have already received; but a few days more of the reign of Jupiter Pluvius will prove their virtual ruin. The rains are so frequent and heavy, and the intervals of hot sunshine so hot and rare, that but little growing time is allowed. On the character of the weather for the next two weeks hangs all the great interests of this State, and if no change occurs we shall for the next year witness nearly as close times as in 1858 and 1859, which were the "blue years" of our people's remembrance."

## The Apiary.

### BEE MYSTERIES.

The ways and workings of bees are mysterious enough to baffle the most scientific observers. There is no doubt much nonsense written about them. For instance, the queen is popularly known as a very "swell" individual, very much larger than the common bee, and of brighter colors; this is very poetical, but quite incorrect. The queen bee is of precisely the same color as her subjects, is scarcely any larger, and can be distinguished from them only by being a little longer in the body.

But there is sufficient of the marvellous about the bee kingdom without necessitating any romance. Take the act of swarming, for instance; the highest flight of science—the electric telegraph—is simplicity itself compared with this extraordinary process. The first swarm usually alights on a bush or a branch of a tree. Before swarming, however, some of them collect on the front board of the hive, to the edge of which twenty or thirty of them cling; the others pass over them and hang on by each other in clusters till the ball is often as large as a man's two fists. When all is ready and the royal command is given, they all come pouring out in a stream as thick as a man's wrist, and take a turn through the air. Suppose them to settle on a thorn three inches in circumference, their weight, for the cluster is as big as a boy's head, will bend the thorn stick nearly to the ground. Comparatively few of them have hold of the branch; the rest all hold on by each other. How can those who have hold bear the weight of the mass? How long would a man hold on by the branch of a tree if the weight of 300 men were attached to him? And yet we suspect every bee with a hold sustains a much higher proportion of weight in the cluster below. This is one of many mysteries of creation that mocks at human science.—*Ayr Advertiser, (Scotland).*

---

Smoking Bees.—A writer in the American Bee Journal—a useful publication just entering its third year of publication—says that for taming or subduing bees with smoke, he uses rotten wood, such as can be broken to pieces with the fingers. He objects to the use of tobacco, puff ball or old rags, as the smoke from them is too sickening and disgusting. But the rotten wood has no bad effects, costs nothing, and is in abundant supply. His method of using it is to take a common fire shovel with a little fire on it, and lay some of the rotten wood on it, and then blow the smoke into the entrance of the hive. It will soon quiet the bees, but will not stupefy them, If the first trial does not quiet them, blow more smoke into the entrance of the hive. We would suggest to those who have one of Hutchin's Fumigators to use it for this purpose by filling the tube with rotten wood, and then placing a live coal within, previous to blowing the smoke. This method is much handier than the one given above, and gives another use to this useful article.

---

A novel way of taming Bees.—A writer in a recent number of the Scottish Gardener, says:—"To tame vicious bees, we have only to accustom them to the form of human beings. A scarecrow, or what my Scotch friends call "a potato bogle," placed in front of the hives of stinging bees, is a great help. It can be shifted now and then, and, to provoke a general attack, place a loose waving rag or handkerchief in the hands of the bogle. I have been told that vicious, kicking horses have been completely cured by hanging bags of hay behind them in the stalls. They kicked and plunged at the bags till their strength was exhausted, when their vice and folly left them, so that they quietly tolerated the bags to dangle by their sides, and grooms to do as they liked. In like manner the bees attack the waving, provoking handkerchief, and sting it till their vice leaves them. That which scares crows tends to domesticate bees.

---

Something about Eggs.—The farmer's saying that "eggs is eggs" must find apt expression in the markets of Paris. In that city, according to an English paper, eggs are sold in baskets, which ought to contain one thousand and forty good specimens. These are examined and counted by the official agent, the *dechet*, or loss, verified, at the wish of the purchaser, and the size of each egg further gauged by being passed through a ring. For these several processes there is a charge of twenty-five, sixty, and fifteen sous per thousand, respectively. In California, by-the-by, they have an easier and far quicker way of arriving at a similar result in egg valuation. They sell them there by weight—so much per pound avoirdupois; and as a bad egg is rather lighter if anything than a good one, there is less temptation to foist an unsound article upon the customer.

# The Fireside Muse.

## ON THE FERRY.

BY MRS. NARY OLEMMER AMES.

On the ferry, sailing over
To the city, lying dim
In the mellow mist of evening
By the river's further rim;
On the ferry, gazing onward
To the ocean calm and cold;
While the blue bay dips its waters
In the sunset's fleeting gold.

On the ferry, gazing outward,
O thou ocean deep and wide,
Every pulse is beating measure
With the rythm of thy tide!
Loving waves kiss warm and eager;
Motionless the great ships stand,
While above each pendulous pennon,
Lures me with a beckoning hand.
Calm on the uneasy waters
Lean the sunset bars of flame,
Leans the legendary ladder
On which angels went and came.

In another Summer evening,
On a little way before,
I shall reach another ferry,
Seeking swift a dimmer shore.
I shall cross a wider ferry,
Crossing to return no more,
Sailing for a fairer city,
Waiting on a lovelier shore.

Will God's sunshine beam around me,
Fusing every wave in gold?
Gently will you row me over
Charon, boatman, calm and old!
When these life-airs cease to chill me,
When my meagre day is done,
Boatmen, bear me through the splendor,
Falling from the setting sun!
Bear me outward to the mystery
The Eternal will unfold,
To the unrevealed glory
Shut within your gates of glory.

Life may touch the soul so gently
We can hardly call it rough;
Yet we'll all say in its closing
Our brief day's been long enough.
Thus I stand with gathered garments,
Ere the deeper shadows fall;
O, my heart! drop thy last idol,
Listening for the boatman's call.
Come! and by my spirit's sinking,
By my shrinking fears untold,
Bear me gently o'er those waters,
Charon, boatman, calm and cold.

# Sketches of Travel.

## MUSINGS BENEATH THE ARCH OF TITUS AT ROME.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY HON. JAMES W. WALL, NEW JERSEY.

It was a lovely afternoon in the early Spring time of Rome, that I stood musing beneath the far famed Arch of Titus. I had just the moment before descended from the Tower of the Capitol, on whose lofty summit I had been tracing with deep interest the boundaries of the ancient and modern city. That view united in a most remarkable degree the charm of a magnificent landscape, with that which springs from historic association. Through the cloudless and transparent atmosphere a large part of the Latian plain was visible—its luxuriant pasturages and thickets fading away on one side into the faint line of the distant sea, and rising on the other into the stately amphitheatre of mountains steep and lofty, studded on their verdant slopes with towns and villages, and towards the more southern extremity clothed with beautiful woods. The classic Tiber, stained to a deep yellow by the fertilizing soil washed away from its banks after entering the Umbrian and Etruscan vales, lay glittering like a belt of gold along the plain, in that bright sunshine which irradiated with Italian clearness the sward, the scattered trees, and the shadowy hills. In the distance were spots hallowed by classic memories. There was Tivoli, and that glittering space beyond, the far famed Sabine farm of Horace, where the poet found a calm retreat from the heat, the dust and the noise of Imperial Rome. There too, but very faintly, the white fronts of the buildings that now occupy the site of Tusculum, the country seat of Cicero. Towards the South-east stretched the long line of the Appian Way, with its fragments of ruined tombs—that highway, whose worn stones were the same as those pressed by the sandalled foot of the great Apostle when he approached the city where he was to die, accompanied by the brethren, who had gone out to meet him "as far as Appii Forum, and The Three Taverns." To the South-west stretched in eloquent desolation the Campagna, as far as Ostea and the sea. History had consecrated that mighty waste by the memory of noble deeds. Imagination had hallowed it by the spell of poetry, and superstition with her most graceful fantasies. Rome in her infant greatness had filled that vast plain with her shadow, making it the bloody stage on which to practice for the subjugation of a world.

Descending from the elevation of the Capitol, I passed downward through the Forum, by the fragments of ruined temples and basilicæ, until I passed beneath the graceful Arch of Titus that spans the way leading down to the kingly mass of the Coliseum. The field upon which I had been gazing was wide, and crowded with historic incident, and every foot was alive with stirring memorials of the past. Before passing beneath the Arch, I had read the old Roman inscription that tells the simple story how the Senate and the Roman people had erected this Arch in honor of the deified Titus, and I remembered—for the inscription is silent here—that it was to commemorate the triumph of Titus, when General, over Jerusalem.

I had been reading that very morning in Deuteronomy, the prophecy so sublime in its conception, and so majestic in its language, in which it is declared—"The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth, a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the persons of the old, or show favor to the young. And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until the high and fenced walls come down. * * * * And thou shalt eat the flesh of thy sons and daughters in the siege. * * * And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from one end of the earth even to the other."

And here, upon that beautiful Spring afternoon in the noon of the nineteenth century, was I standing beneath the very structure that, unwittingly to its Pagan builders, commemorated the commencement of the prophetic denunciation, and still stands a most eloquent witness of its perfect fulfilment. The Roman General himself was blind to the great results he was accomplishing. Little did he think when he left not one stone upon another of the magnificent Temple of the Jews, that he was only an instrument in the hand of "the King of Kings and Lord of Lords." Nor did he discern the mighty Hand leading his captives, as they crowded with trembling, shrinking hearts behind the sacred vessels of the Temple, as the long procession swept upward and onward over the very ground now spanned by this most graceful Arch. Their fathers madly had invoked that fearful curse, as the trembling Pilate washed his hands of the blood of the Just One—"His blood be upon us, and upon our children." And oh, how lamentably had the sins of those fathers, and the full weight of that terribly invoked curse been visited upon these their children! History has no tale of horror equal to that told of the siege of the Holy City by Titus. Truly, in the very words of prophecy, uttered centuries before, "was the eye of the tender and delicate woman evil towards the husband of her bosom, and towards the young one that cometh out from between her feet, and towards her children she shall bear, for she shall eat them for want of all things in the siege." Dreadfully was this prophetic denunciation fulfilled, fearfully was that self assumed curse expiated.

As you stand beneath this memorable Arch, on the right interior wall as you enter, is a bas-relief, representing Titus celebrating his triumph over the Jews—while on the other side of the Arch are those famous representations of the sacred vessels, torn from the great Temple of Jerusalem itself. Tertes, a standard bearer, leading the way beneath a triumphal Arch, while Roman soldiers, with wreaths about their brows, bear onward the table of the shew bread, the golden candlesticks, the vessels of incense, and the two trumpets used to proclaim the year of jubilee.

The sacred Temple of the Jews from which these vessels were most sacrilegiously torn, has long been overthrown, so that there is not one stone left upon another, that has not been thrown down. The ruin of that land of which it was the pride, has long been what prophecy declared it should become, "powder and dust," and her people have been for centuries "a bye-word and reproach among the nations." But the time cannot be far distant, when Jerusalem shall cease to sit desolate, mourning her banished ones, and trodden down of the Gentiles—when, in accordance with that sublime prophecy of Isaiah, a voice shall yet say to the prostrate nation and city—"Arise, shine, for thy light hath come, and the glory of the Lord hath risen upon thee. The sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee; for in my wrath I smote thee; but in my favor I will have mercy upon thee."

*July*, 1867.

# Miscellany.

## FEMALE BEAUTY.

Dean Swift proposed to tax female beauty, and to leave every lady to rate her own charms. He said the tax would be cheerfully paid, and very productive.

Fontenelle thus daintily compliments the sex, when he compares them to clocks—the latter serve to point out the hours, the former to make us forget them.

The standards of beauty vary with those of taste. Socrates called beauty a short-lived tyranny; Plato, a privilege of nature; Theophrastus, a silent cheat; Theocritus, a delightful prejudice; Carneades, a solitary kingdom; and Aristotle affirmed that it was better than all the letters of recommendation in the world.

With the modern Greeks and other nations on the shores of the Mediterranean, corpulency is the perfection of the form of women; and those very attributes which disgust the Western European, form the attractions of an Oriental fair. It was from the common and admired shape of his countrywomen, that Rubens in his pictures delights so much in a vulgar and odious plumpness. When this master was desirous to represent the "beautiful," he had no idea of beauty under two hundred weight. His very graces are all fat. But it should be remembered that all his models were Dutch women. The hair is a beautiful ornament of woman, but it has always been a disputed point which color most becomes it. We account red hair an abomination, but in the time of Elizabeth it found admirers, and was in fashion. Mary of Scotland, though she had exquisite hair of her own, wore red fronts. Cleopatra was red-haired, and the Venetian ladies to this day counterfeit yellow hair.

After all that may be said or sung of it, beauty is an undeniable fact, and its endowment not to be disparaged. Sidney Smith gives some good advice on the subject. "Never teach false morality. How exquisitely absurd to teach a girl that beauty is of no value. Her whole prospects and happiness in life may depend upon a new gown or a becoming bonnet. If she has five grains of common sense she will find this out. The great thing is to teach her their just value, and that there must be something better under the bonnet than a pretty face for real happiness. But never sacrifice truth."

Hard to Beat.—Last Summer, with two boys, eighteen and twenty years old, and two teams, Mr. Washington Brooks, Waterford, Blackhawk county, Iowa, raised 1760 bushels of wheat, 400 of corn, broke forty acres, put up two or three miles of board fence, put out three acres maple grove, and cultivated an orchard, &c.

The Crops in Virginia.—The Richmond Enquirer says it has made a careful examination of exchanges from all parts of Virginia and comes to the conclusion that the wheat crop promises to be an unusual success, and it feels encouraged to hope that oats, corn and tobacco will be at least equal to the average.

## UNSUCCESSFUL AGRICULTURISTS.

An English journal says: "In the year 1860 a number of gentlemen, foremost among whom was Mr. J. J. Mechi, established the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, for the relief of British farmers who, by uncontrollable circumstances, have been reduced to a state bordering upon indigence. The funds of the society are applicable to the relief of farmers of sixty years of age or upwards, who during twenty consecutive years, have occupied, as an exclusive means of support, holdings of at least fifty acres, or at rentals of at least £100 per annum, and who, by reason of circumstances beyond their control, have been so reduced as not to possess an income from all sources exceeding £20 a year. The widows and children of deceased farmers are also entitled, under certain circumstances, to a share in the benefits conferred by the society. The annual pension granted to every married couple (of which there are at present six on the books of the institution) is £40; to every male recipient (of whom there are now seventeen,) £56; and to every female (of whom there are thirty on the books,) £20. There are also a few others who receive smaller amounts: and the only reason why the benefits of the society have not yet been more widely extended is that it has been thought wise and prudent to invest £16,000 in government securities, with the view of placing the institution on a safe and permanent basis."

Cobs for the Curculio.—The Williamsport (Pa.) Bulletin says Mr. Evenden, the well known gardener of that city, says the following has been tested and found to be a sure preventive of the attack of the curculio on plum trees. It is simple and easily tried: Take a quantity of corn cobs, wind a wire around them, terminating in a hook at the end of the cobs; then dip them into gas tar until they are well saturated. Hang a dozen or more on a tree, and the curculio will not disturb the tree. Try it.

The Mainspring.—Here is one of Spurgeon's best sayings, illustrating the fact that there may be morality without religion, but cannot be religion without morality:—"Teaching men morals is as though I had a clock that would not go, and I turned round one of the cog wheels; but faith takes the key and winds up the mainspring, and the whole thing runs on readily."

Prayer by the Alphabet.—A devout, ignorant, Spanish Papist felt the need of adding private prayers of his own to the pater nosters; but he did not know how to do it. So every morning, humbly bending his knees, he would devoutly repeat the alphabet, and then add: "O Good God! put the letters together to spell syllables, to spell words, to make such sense as may be most to Thy glory and my good."

Mangy Hogs.—A correspondent of the Country Gentleman believes mange is induced by improper food, and remedies the disease by feeding oats, sometimes dry, and sometimes scalded by pouring boiling water on them three or four hours before feeding. He also feeds corn and oats ground together, scalded just before feeding. Continues this feed until the mange disappears.

Missouri is taking rapid strides toward development. An exchange from that State says the day is not distant when Missouri will heat the world in her stock. The Hannibal Courier reports that a drove of two hundred merino sheep passed through there last Saturday for the interior of the State. The Missouri farmers are rapidly improving their stock of cattle, horses and hogs, and agricultural enterprise is placing that State among the most prosperous.

A Quaker lady recently explained to her new domestic that washing day came on every Second Day. The girl left in high dudgeon. She didn't go to be washing every other day. Not she.

Butter in California.—The dairymen of California are making extensive preparations to send a large stock of butter to the Northern States. This indicates a larger stock of cattle on dairy farms, and more attention to the dairy than we were prepared for, although aware of the rapid agricultural development of the State. The total milch cows, returned by the census of 1860 were 905,407; the pounds of butter manufactured at 3,095,035. One firm, in Maria county, have seventeen dairies, milking 2,000 cows which are grazed on 57,000 acres. They employ 200 men in herding the cattle and making the butter. There are other large dairies in other counties, making about 5,000 firkins per month in the season. One firm has a building in San Francisco expressly adapted to its business, and keeps thirty coopers making firkins.

# Field and Farm.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## THE INDIGENOUS GRAPE.

When a plant, or an animal, is indigenous in a certain district of country, it may be taken for granted that it will flourish there. It should, at least, grow vigorously and mature its seeds or fruits for the perpetuation of its species within the limits where like peculiarities of climate prevail; beyond this, that is where a marked difference of climate, extremes of heat or cold, or great inequalities of surface prevail, there its vigor may be checked. The boundaries of climates, however, are not marked, as are political lines on the earth's surface. We can follow parallels of latitude, increasing from the equator to either pole; but along these lines the climatic conditions are by no means uniform. Hence the necessity of marking out, by many observations, lines or belts of equal temperature, or *isothermals*. If, then, we follow these isothermal lines, are we any more certain that certain plants will mature, by reason of uniformity of temperature? Are these, then, the climatic districts, along which a given indigenous plant will be at home? We are led to these inquiries from the conflicting statements respecting the rusticity of the so called American grapes, or varieties raised from the so called indigenous species; and not being professionally a climatologist, desire more information from those whom we know are liberal of their more accurate knowledge.

We are told, for instance, that within a certain zone or belt the vine flourishes on both continents; that it must not be expected to do so beyond a certain line where a mean temperature of 67 degrees prevails during the growing season. This is sufficiently definite so far as theory goes; but unfortunately for the theory it does not hold good. From the recorded experience of cultivators of the wine grape, (known as *vites vinifera*,) both in Europe and elsewhere, we find that the varieties, multitudinous as they are, which have been originated from that so called species, vary much in character and development in very similar localities. That in climates very distinct in their characteristics and changes, they differ very little, under similar judicious treatment; that, in fact, the species under "domestication," as Darwin says, is by no means uniform in its diagnostic characters, and that no well defined limits have, by any botanist, been set to its variation in fruit, foliage or constitution. This is confirmed by all observations made in our own region. Here the many cultivated varieties of the *vites vinifera* under glass, are wonderfully uniform in their foliage, fruit and growth; but just so soon as the seeds are sown in our open air, and subjected to our peculiar climatic conditions, they vary so as to be no longer defined varieties of the *vites vinifera*, not even recognizable by botanists well qualified to detect specific characteristics.

So with our indigenous grape and the varieties obtained from it; transfer these to cultivation under glass, and the result is analagous to the results obtained in the opposite case; the peculiar characteristics of the so called American species are gradually modified, and they approach more or less the appearance and quality in fruit, of the exotic varieties. How far this has been carried, as yet, we cannot say. That some progress has been made in thus assimilating these supposed distinct varieties of marked species, we do affirm. Let us, then, continue careful experiments, sow the seeds of the foreign grape out-doors, and the indigenous in-doors, and follow the results carefully and attentively, and some useful information must be acquired. This need not be done in the view of profitable operations, in the hope of obtaining new and valuable varieties to put into the market already glutted with worthless "half breeds," to quote a functionary of agricultural fame in our region. Let it be done solely with the view of acquiring knowledge from experience, rather than vague generalization from what is already known of the botanical and physiological characteristics of the cultivated grape here and elsewhere. *

*July*, 1867.

## THE CROPS IN THE EASTERN STATES.

From a summary of statistics of the condition of the staple crops of the various States we extract the following paragraphs relative to New England:

*Maine.* Twelve counties of Maine report about the same acreage of Winter wheat, but six per cent. advance in condition of crop over same date last year. Spring wheat shows 10 per cent. less both in acreage and present condition. Oats 3 per cent. decline in acreage, and 5 per cent. in condition. Rye 1 per cent. more acreage, and 4 per cent. increase in condition. Apples not so promising as last year, though the acreage is 5 per cent. larger than last year.

*New Hampshire.* Seven counties show that Winter and Spring wheat, oats and rye, present about the same condition as last year, with 15 per cent. increase of the acreage of Spring wheat. Apples 10 per cent. less than last year in acreage, and 5 per cent. decrease in condition, while peaches report 10 per cent. increase both in acreage and condition.

*Vermont.* Vermont seports 3 per cent. increase in acreage, and 12 per cent. advance in condition over last year. Spring wheat 15 per cent. more acreage, with condition about the same. Rye same acreage, but 12 per cent. better in condition. Oats 7 per cent. increase of acreage, but 6 per cent. decline in condition. Apples 5 per cent. decline.

*Massachusetts.* Ten counties in Massachusetts report seven per cent. increase in acreage, and 20 per cent. in present condition over last year. Spring wheat 10 per cent. more acreage and seven per cent. better in condition. Rye six per cent. increase of acreage and 20 per cent. in condition. Oats, a slight increase of acreage, but about the same average condition. Apples five per cent. better in condition, and peaches 15 per cent. better, with about the same percentage increase in acreage.

*Rhode Island.* No reports of wheat in Rhode Island. Rye is reported about the same as last year in condition, with seven per cent. increase in acreage. Spring barley three per cent. less in condition, but about the same increase in acreage. Oats seven per cent. more acreage and three per cent. less in condition. Apples reported the same as last season, while peaches show an increase of fifteen per cent. in acreage and ten per cent. in condition in comparison with last year.

*Connecticut.* Slight increase of acreage of Winter wheat while the averaged condition is reported at 15 per cent. better than last year. Spring wheat, five per cent. more acreage and 10 per cent. better in condition. Rye, eight per cent. increase of acreage and 15 per cent. in condition. Oats, six per cent. more acreage and four per cent. better in condition. Apples, four per cent. better in acreage and condition. Peaches, 20 per cent. increase in acreage and as much better in condition.

## DAIRY BREEDS OF COWS IN ENGLAND.

Our principal cows are the Shorthorns, the Ayrshire, the Channel Islands, the Suffolk and the Kerry, says an English contemporary. Some statements of two dairies of Ayrshire cows, give the annual milk produced per cow at 650 and 632 gallons, respectively. Three annual returns of Shorthorn dairies show 540, 630, and 765 gallons, severally, or an average of 625 gallons per annum for each cow. In two dairies, grade Shorthorns, half-bloods, the yield was 810 and 866 gallons, severally, per annum. In 4 dairies in Ireland, where pure Kerry, and crosses with Shorthorns and Ayrshires were kept, the annual produce was 500 gallons, 600, 675, and 740, respectively, or an average on the 4 of 630 gallons per annum, per cow. A dairy of pure Kerry, [a remarkably small native Irish breed, some of which are found in Massachusetts] gave an average of 583 gallons a head, per annum. In the great London dairies, lately nearly extinguished by the cattle plague, these returns are greatly exceeded. The cows kept are large-framed Shorthorns and Yorkshire crosses, which by good feeding gave nearly 1000 gallons per annum per cow: no cow is kept in those establishments when her milk falls below 2 gallons a day.

The maximum milk produce recorded is that a cow, which in 8 consecutive years, gave 9720 gallons, or at the rate of more than 1210 gallons per annum. In one year, in 328 days, she gave 1230 gallons, which yielded 540 lbs. of butter or at the rate of 1 lb. of butter to 22¾ lbs. of milk. Last year a cow in Vt. produced a butter yield of 504 lbs., at the rate of 1 lb. of butter to 20 lbs. of milk. It is recorded of an Ayrshire in England, that produced 399½ lbs. in 10 months; another cow of the same breed, in 1864–5–6 produced respectively, 269 lbs., 282⅛, and 274½ of butter.

The proportion of butter varies with the season, the feed, and the breed of cows; the milk of the Ayrshire is generally richer in butter than that of the Shorthorn or Suffolk, but not so rich as that of the Kerry, or the Channel Islands breed. As a rule it is found that the best returns are obtained in the later Summer and early Autumn, when, says our English contemporary, "We have returns of 1 lb. of butter to 20 lbs. of milk of Ayrshire cows; 1 to 19, breed not stated; 1 to 19½, Irish breed; 1 to 18½, Ayrshire; 1 to 17½, Ayrshire; 1 to 16½, pure Kerry; and even 1 to 16, Shorthorn. In all probability, the average butter yield of our dairies is about 1 lb. of butter to 30 lbs. of milk, ranging between 25 to 35 lbs. of milk to 1 lb. of butter," says Prof. John Wilson in a late Official Report.

## SOILING VS. PASTURING.

Let me recite the experience and practice of a friend of mine. Coming into possession of about nine acres of land, in the neighborhood of a good market, made by the demands of a large literary institution, he cast about as to what was to be done. Two cows and a horse was the stock in trade for neat cattle. He was obliged to pay, per season, men for pasturage what they thought it was worth, and at the same time it was no small labor to drive his cows back and forth. That determined him to keep his cows in the barn. The greatest trouble was the rapid accumulation of manure. By good husbandry he properly secured that; he kept feeding it to his crops. Finding his crops increasing, he added another cow. Another cow only made more manure. More manure husbanded in the same way made more crops, and the third year he added another cow. Now began another serious difficulty. His barn was too small. Still, at the end of the fourth year he put in another cow, and set himself to work to get up a new barn, and when I last saw him he had a new barn with modern improvements, of good size, a horse, a pair of cattle, and five cows, and yet had not thought of buying more land, but wanted one more cow. Now people who do not want a large accumulation of manure and a gradual increase of crops, should not adopt that style. But it seems to me that in our valley towns, where homesteads are in small lots, and not easily procured, no better course could be pursued than soiling the cows, and at the same time fattening the soil.—*New England Homestead.*

The Flat Turnip.—Perhaps the least expensive root grown is the flat turnip. It comes to maturity in less time than other roots, and hence is often raised successfully as a second crop with corn, or after peas or early potatoes. When the crop is to be grown with corn it is usual to sow broadcast in the cornfield at the time of the last hoeing of the corn in July. When raised in this way it will be seen no labor is required with the crop except in the harvesting. They make a good fall feed when grass begins to fail, or may be fed to good advantage in early Winter. Crops of from 300 to 400 bushels per acre are often raised in this way, and are regarded by many as quite equal in value to an average crop of corn.

# The Horse.

## CHRONIC DISEASE OF THE AIR PASSAGE OF THE HORSE—NASAL GLEET.

Nasal Gleet is the name applied to a chronic discharge from one or from both nostrils. This is not an uncommon disease amongst horses in Canada, and it is also a disease in which gross mistakes are often committed by practitioners who are not thoroughly versed in the anatomy of the parts affected in this complaint. Many a good and valuable horse has been destroyed because supposed to be suffering from glanders, when the affection was simply nasal gleet. There are other affections of the sinuses of the head, and particularly of the frontal sinus, giving rise to a chronic discharge of matter from the nose, but at present we intend to confine our remarks chiefly to that kind which supervenes upon an attack of catarrh. Instead of the nasal discharge ceasing, as it usually does in the course of eight or ten days, it increases and alters in color; the lining membrane of the frontal sinus becomes thickened and enlarged, and assumes an unhealthy condition. The lining membrane of the nose is also altered in color, and instead of its natural clearness it soon acquires a pale leaden hue, but does *not* exhibit the *ulcerative* patches characteristic of glanneas. The discharge alters both in quantity and quality. At one time it may be thin, whilst again it is thick and creamy-looking, in some cases the discharge is continuous, whilst in others it is retained for a considerable time within the sinuses, and comes away in large quantities, especially after exercise. There is often a watery discharge from the eye, and the frontal bones are tender when tapped with the finger; and if there is much matter within them, a dull heavy sound is also produced. If the disease is of long standing the bones bulge out, at first very slightly, but gradually increasing. In those cases the bones are greatly diseased and a large amount of pus is collected within the sinus, which very soon interferes with respiration and produces laborious breathing. In ordinary cases, where the bones are but little affected, it is a long time before it materially affects a horse in his working capacity. In some cases the sub-maxillary glands are enlarged and hardened; but they have not the same fixity to the jawbone as in glanders: the general appearance of the horse is that which generally accompanies that disease. This, although a very serious affection, is a complaint which in most cases can be satisfactorily treated, though in severe cases it is generally necessary to have recourse to an operation before a complete cure can be established. As we intend shortly to notice other causes of chronic discharges from the nose &c., we shall defer noticing the more important treatment at present, and merely add, that in all cases the animal must be cared for and have a regular and generous diet.—*Canada Farmer.*

Grass for Horses.—Many think that horses that are kept in the stable all Summer should not be allowed to eat grass. They think it will make the horse soft, wishy-washy, and that it will throw him out of condition for hard work. This is particularly the case with some of the trainers of trotting and running horses. And horses that are kept up for farm and other work are refused grass because their drivers think they will not eat hay so well. This was formerly the case, more than it is now. But these are all erroneous opinions and practices, and are giving away, gradually, to a more reasonable and natural system of feeding.

Grass is the natural food of the horse. It is cooling and healthful food. It keeps the bowels open and sharpens the appetite. It promotes digestion and removes fever from the system. Therefore, by all means, let the horses nip grass fifteen or twenty minutes daily. Whether training for trotting or running it will be attended with the highest benefit. The horse will lose none of his speed by such a course of treatment. Horses that are kept up the year round for farm work should certainly be allowed a nice nibble at grass every day.

Unsound Horses.—N. Smith, Richford, N. J., writes the Stock Journal on the subject of the increasing prevalence of unsound horses, asserting that not more than one-third of the horses in the country at the present time are what may be called *sound* ones. The increasing deterioration in this class of stock is accounted for in this way:—"if a man owns a really good mare, with her natural parts intact, he considers her too good to be put to raising colts, and the responsibility of propagating the species is thrown upon some decrepid animal that is good for nothing else. Horses with inherited ring-bones, spavins, &c., circulating in their veins, will locate them at the least mishap—often whilst at pasture or standing in the stable. I think that if farmers really understood this matter, they would be careful in selecting healthy stock to breed from."

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1867.


Agriculture feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—Daniel Webster.

## TO SIX MONTHS' SUBSCRIBERS.

All persons who subscribed for six months only, to the Farm and Fireside, must renew their subscriptions before July 1st, otherwise their papers will be discontinued.

## INDUCEMENTS TO CLUBS.

The second half yearly volume of the Farm and Fireside will commence on Saturday, July 13th. To any person who will send us $3, we will send four copies for the remainder of the year; or six copies for $4. 50; or ten copies for $7. 00. Please send in your orders at once.

We appeal to the farmers, horticulturists and lovers of rural affairs in Rhode Island and adjoining States, to give the Farm and Fireside a more generous support. It needs it. We are doing what we can to aid these classes, and we think we have good claim to ask their patronage.

## PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture is a slothful art. Its growth can be observed only by the aid of the most powerful optics. Its progress, from the feudal ages to the commencement of the nineteenth century, would task the magnifying abilities of the sharpest microscope. While other arts made rapid progress, and retained a controlling influence over the early races of men, agriculture slept. A pastoral life, dependent on the spontaneous productions of the soil, suited the nomadic tribes of the East. In the palmy days of the Roman Empire, when each citizen was alloted a certain number of acres for cultivation, it made a spasmodic effort at vitality; but when conquest called the husbandmen from their fields, it culminated and declined. Virgil, Seneca and other writers attest this fact; while Hallim, Gibbon and contemporary authorities corroborate it in later history.

There was no positive advance of agriculture in Great Britain for several centuries. In France, Spain and Germany, and other European nations, no improvement in the cultivation of the soil is recorded for three hundred years prior to the eighteenth century. They improved the vine—nothing else. In the Low Countries, the Dutch improved root culture; also advanced the dairy interest. It was not till Lord Bacon's time that even *gradual* improvement was noticed in the rural pursuits of Great Britain. Before that era, the character of soils, atmospheric gases, elements of fertility, natural phenomena, &c., were a sealed alphabet. At a later period we find the names of Lord Kames, Sir John Sinclair and Jethro Tull among those who attempted to awaken a better interest in agriculture. The first Board of Agrioulture was organized by Pitt, in 1793. That institution employed Sir Humphrey Davy to lecture on agricultural chemistry, and he demonstrated to the benighted farmers of England that the productions of the soil were indebted to the agencies of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen; that the process of vegetation depended on certain chemical affinities—stimulated by moisture, light and heat. Those fundamental principles existed from the dawn of creation; yet the stupidity of those who followed the pursuits of agriculture would not have discovered them to the present day. It required the lamp of Davy to illuminate the agricultural midnight of Europe.

Farming in America moves slowly, even with the light of Anglo-Saxon science flashed upon us across three thousand miles of sea. Notwithstanding we have a virgin soil—not exhausted by centuries of ignorant cultivation, as was the case in England—we are plodding along in almost primeval darkness. We have invented a great many agricultural implements; we have done a little at underdraining; we have tried sub-soil ploughing; we are making artificial fertilizers; a few of us have improved cattle; one in fifty thousand of our farmers understands something about agricultural chemistry, vegetable physiology and scientific husbandry, but the forty-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine others are blind Cyclops, striking in the dark at *promiscuous farming!* They are lucky enough to torture a scanty crop from the soil, but how much more could they do if they possessed a thorough agricultural education and a knowledge of those sciences which are the handmaids and assistants of their profession? There is no occupation so closely connected with the natural sciences as farming; yet why are these auxiliaries to increased production and success over-looked?

There is no use for farmers to talk about "poor crops," "an up-hill business," and "a hard way to earn money," while they are uneducated in the first principles and rudiments of their profession. Nor is there any use for an agricultural editor to tickle his readers with anodynes of praise about the nobility of agriculture, the progress of farming, the prerogatives of the lords of the soil. This nation is, and must continue to be, a great agricultural republic; and our prosperity will always depend on the productions of the soil. Hence, the importance of intelligent, progressive, scientific agriculture. The seat of Empire, a hundred years from this date, will be America. No other nation will then have the resources, the population, the material wealth compared with ours. With a soil embracing the diversities of all the geological formations of the earth—with a climate favorable to the production of nearly every kind of fruits, vegetables and cereals—with three-fourths of our population engaged in cultivating fields and tending herds, ought not our agriculture to be progressive? We have a weak presentiment that we shall advance the art within a century, but present indications are wonderfully faint and marvelously dim.

## EARLY RISING.

"Place a basin of cold water by the side of your bed; when you first awake in the morning, dip your hands in and wet your brow, and sleep will not again seal you in its treacherous embrace."

The above paragraph is travelling the round of the newspaper press, and from the advice given, was probably written by some sleepy-head who imagined he had discovered a panacea for early rising. Cold water dashed over one's face, would unquestionably awaken the mental forces which radiate from the brain—might increase the pulse and add vigor to the nerves. But the man or woman who requires "a basin of cold water by the side of the bed," is not, constitutionally, an early riser; and all the water that flows over Niagara Falls for a century would not baptize them into the habit of rising at early dawn.

In the working hours of life, natural daylight, most of us have a certain amount of vitality. We exhaust this by labor, or pleasure; and when night comes, our vital forces are at a low ebb—the tide has run out. Experiments have been made by medical men to show that the average vitality of the human system "culminates about mid-day, and dwindles lowest near midnight." Here is the great secret, one which is but partially known, but should be instilled on every mind. After mid-day our systems are running down, like a clock; and if our labor, either mental or physical, has been excessive, our vitality is *used up.* Fatigue absorbs it, and it cannot recuperate until that "sweet restorer, balmy sleep," gathers it up again. This it does if we go to bed early; for all medical authority tells us that early sleep, sleep before midnight, rests us twice as much as sleep in the latter part of the night—towards morning.

A certain amount of sleep is indispensable to perfect health. Yet how many people, especially in cities, do not heed this fact until their health is broken down. They don't know, or will not learn this great truth until general debility, nervousness, partial insanity, or some disease brought on by long protracted labor, study, pleasure or dissipation, informs them of it, and the doctor kindly tells them "death is at the door." No constitution, no matter how strong and powerful, can cheat Nature. She has a subtile, positive, unchangeable way of doing things and will not accommodate those who "burn their candle at both ends"—who steal so many precious hours from sleep—who imitate owls and bats—turning night into day, perhaps in study, labor, or more generally in pleasures that destroy the vitality of their systems. But a few years tell all, even the strongest, that it is certain death to defy Nature's eternal laws.

Our rural friends, farmers and others who follow rural pursuits, are generally early risers; they follow Nature more closely than people of the towns and cities. Consequently they enjoy better health, have more strength, physical vitality, and live to greater age. The pleasures of the country, the song of the birds, the odor of field and forest, the cheering rays of day-break, the refreshing vigor of the Summer breeze, are appreciated only by the *early risers.* We have always noted this fact; people who rise early are never indolent or lazy. We cannot say as much for those who waste the best portion of the day in sleep, or who require "a basin of water" to keep off the treacherous influence of the drowsy god.

## REVENUE FROM TOBACCO.

The revenue derived from the article of tobacco, constitutes a very important source of the public income. There are, perhaps, but few persons, comparatively speaking, who are informed of the real extent of the production and the commercial value of this staple, and the revenue which is reaped from it by the general treasury. The records on file at Washington, relating in detail, to this source of internal income, exhibit many instructive and interesting facts, and induce profitable reflections upon the subject of the cost, in the aggregate, of those luxuries which are indulged in by a nation, at small expense perhaps to an individual, and which are commonly regarded as trifling in importance by a community.

The receipts from cigars and cheroots, for the fiscal year of 1866, was nearly three and a half millions of dollars. The revenue realized from chewing and smoking tobacco for the fiscal year 1866, amounted to more than twelve and a third millions. The taxes returned upon snuff for the fiscal year 1866, reached seven hundred thousand dollars. This amount may seem trifling, but it really represents a large valuation of this branch of the tobacco manufacture.

An adequate idea of the extent of the growth of this great staple, within the limits of the United States, may be formed from the fact that the taxable tobacco produced in the fiscal year 1864, was more than sixty millions of pounds, being a very large increase over the crop of the previous year, which returned for tax a little over twenty-three and a half millions of pounds. In following years, however, this prosperous yield very largely declined, and the entire crops for the fiscal years 1865 and 1866, did not equal the excess even of the crop of 1864 over that of 1863, which amounted to about thirty-five millions of pounds.

So prolific did the Committee of Ways and Means deem this specific source of revenue, that in framing the tax-law of June 30, 1864, it increased the rate upon smoking tobacco from five cents to twenty-five cents per pound, which will indicate the strength of this trade in successfully bearing such a heavy and sudden enlargement of the weight upon it. At the same time, fine-cut chewing and plug tobacco, which had previously sustained a tax of fifteen cents per pound, were subjected to the advanced rate of thirty-five cents, up to March, 1865, when the rate was still further advanced to forty cents.

These figures will serve to show our people, from whence the revenue of the country comes. They will also exhibit the extent of indulgence, and the trade-value of one of our many national luxuries.

Summer pruning of the pear is recommended by the Magazine of Horticulture, which says:—"Commence by cutting or pruning off laterals to the second or third leaf, allowing the terminal branches, or those wanted to supply vacancies, to extend awhile. Manure liberally, if not already done, and dig lightly around each tree."

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

A contributor to the Prairie Farmer, of Chicago, writes an interesting article on "the Wool Market," in which he takes ground against consigning wool to commission houses. He says these firms always work in favor of the manufacturer, and *against* the producer of wool. He advises wool-growers to dispose of their own wool. "The best time, generally, is to sell at shearing time—when the tide is up." In nine times out of ten, wool will net more cash, sold at home than consigned. In the latter case the freight, insurance, commissions, storage, drayage, sale-tax, &c., eat up one quarter to one third of the wool. This contributor says "the present is a dark time for wool-growers. Even at fifty cents a pound, many farmers in Illinois will lose money."

The Turf, Field and Farm, of New York, thinks there is a marked advancement in the science of cheese making in this country. Factories are multiplying rapidly, and the quality of our cheese is improving annually. It thinks we are now making better cheese than the farmers of Great Britain. This, if true, is gratifying to our pride, and exhibits a degree of excellence in our dairymen worthy of encouragement. English farmers are in advance of us in scientific knowledge of agriculture, and have superior dairy cows; hence, if we excel them in manufacturing cheese, we shall nibble it, hereafter, with greater auction.

The theory and origin of the prairies, is discussed by a writer in the Iowa Homestead, Des Moines. The common idea is that prairies are formed by the destruction of timber by fire; while Baron Liebig attributed it to the absence of carbon in the atmosphere! The Baron is good authority on agricultural science, generally, but his idea that the absence of carbon caused the prairies to be treeless, is absurd. The Homestead Geologist believes "the nature of the soil, alone, is the prime cause of the absence of forest and the predominance of the grasses."

The comparative merits of fine wool, and mutton sheep, comes up for decision in the Country Gentleman, of Albany, N. Y. The Spanish Merino breed is acknowledged to be very valuable, but preference is given to Cotswolds, both for mutton and fleece. Farmers who breed for wool, alone, and who are great distances from markets—as at the North-West—have long since made up their minds in favor of the Merinos. But it is manifestly unfair to decide upon the merits of either breed unless the feed, attention, &c., are considered. We are all satisfied on one point—namely: that the fine wooled sheep of Vermont have brought extravagant and unwarrantable prices for three years past. Paying $1000 to $5000 for bucks, is "pulling the wool over our eyes" too much entirely.

The cost of living in California—where gold and silver dollars exist—contrasts strangely with the extortionate rates of produce in the East. The California Farmer, of San Francisco, gives the following quotations. Wheat $1.70 per 100 pounds; Rye $1.25 per 100 pounds; Flour $5 to $6 per barrel; Hay $7 per ton; Salmon 5 cents a pound; Beef, tenderloin 10 to 15 cents a pound; Butter 20 cents; Cheese 12 cents; Wool 17 to 20 cents a pound, and other articles of living in like proportion. If our green-backs were to be displaced by a specie currency represented the law of value, we might have prime necessities of life as reasonable as they are in California.

The editor of the Gardeners' Monthly cites the fact that shortly after a storm, the snow will be seen to have melted away from the trunks of evergreens, leaving an open circle around them. It is said, and no doubt truly, that this decomposition of snow is attributable to the heat given out by the body of the evergreen, hence a good supply of these trees and shrubs will tend to mitigate the rigors of the Winter in places where they abound.

Factory Girls in France.—At the woolen manufactories in Rheims, a large number of female operatives are employed, and they are said to present a striking contrast to the same class of workwomen in this country and in England. Instead of the well dressed and intelligent factory girl, to be found in the great manufacturing cities of America and England, these poor French women are described as being but little better than working animals, and they receive even less consideration from their employers than the brutes. Their clothing is of the scantiest description, and their faces seem to indicate that all intelligence and the softer feelings of the sex have been obliterated by the hard labor which they have to undergo in order to obtain the scanty wages which are no more than enough to barely support existence.

## The Fireside Muse.

### GOING HOME.

We said that the days were evil,
  We felt that they might be few,
For low was our fortune's level,
  And heavy the winter grew;
But one who had no possessions,
  Looked up to the azure dome,
And said in his simple fashion,
  "Dear friends, we are going home.

"This world is the same dull market
  That wearied its earliest sage;
The times to the wise are dark yet,
  And so hath been many an age.
And rich grow the toiling nations,
  And red grow the battle spears,
And dreary with desolations
  Roll onward the laden years.

"What need of the changeless story
  Which time hath so often told.
The spectre that follows glory,
  The canker that comes with gold,—
That wisdom and strength and honor,
  Must fade like the far sea-foam.
And death is the only winner?—
  But, friends, we are going home!

"The homes we had hoped to rest in
  Were open to sin and strife,
The dreams our youth was blest in
  Were not for the wear of life;
For care can darken the cottage,
  As well as the palace hearth,
And birthrights are sold for pottage,
  But never redeemed on earth.

"The springs have gone by in sorrow,
  The summers were grieved away,
And ever we feared to-morrow,
  And ever we blamed to-day.
In depths which the searcher sounded,
  On hills which the high heart clomb,
Have toil and trouble abounded;
  But, friends, we are going home!

"Our faith was the bravest builder,
  But found not a stone of trust;
Our love was the fairest gilder,
  But lavished its wealth on dust.
And Time hath the fabric shaken,
  And Fortune the clay hath shown,
For much they have changed and taken,
  But nothing that was our own.

"The light that made us baser,
  The path which so many choose,
The gifts there was found no place for,
  The riches we could not use;
The heart that when life was wintry,
  Found summer in strain and tone;
With these to our kin and country,
  Dear friends, we are going home."

## Fireside Reading.

### THE GORILLA.

I remember well the first time I got a glimpse at the gorilla. We had reached a place where once a village had been built, and where a degenerate kind of sugar cane was growing, in the very spot where the houses had formerly stood, when my men perceived what at once threw us into the greatest state of excitement. Here and there the cane was beaten down, torn up by the roots and lying about in fragments which had evidently been chewed. My men looked at each other in silence and muttered the word "Nguyla," which is the name they give to the gorilla. We followed the traces, and presently came to the footprints of the so long desired animal. It was the first time I had ever seen these footprints, and my sensations were indescribable. Here was I now, it seemed, on the point of meeting face to face that monster of whose ferocity, strength and cunning, natives had told me so much—an animal which since the days of Hanno had not been seen in its wild state by a white man. My heart beat until I feared its loud pulsations would prove fatal. By the tracks it was easy to see that there must have been several gorillas in company. We prepared at once to follow them. The women of our party, who carried the food of their husbands, were terrified, and we left them an escort of several men. Then the rest of us looked once more carefully to our guns, for the male gorilla gives you no time to reload, and your gun must not miss fire, for then woe to him whom he attacks! We were armed to the teeth, and we departed from camp and left the people there with fear written on their faces.

Slowly we pressed on through the dense bush, lest we should alarm the beasts. Makinda was to go to the right of the rock, while I took the left. Unfortunately, he got in advance of me. The wretched animals saw him. Suddenly I was startled by a strange, discordant, half-human, devilish cry, and beheld four gorillas running past in the thick of the forest. We fired, but hit nothing. Then we rushed in pursuit; but they knew the woods better than we did, and could run faster than we did. Nevertheless, I caught a glimpse of one of the animals again; but an intervening tree spoiled my aim, and I did not fire. When we could pursue no more we returned slowly to our camp, where the women and men were anxiously expecting us. As they ran on their hind legs, these gorillas looked fearfully like hairy men. Their head down, their body inclined forward, their whole appearance was like men running for their lives; and I ceased to wonder that the natives have the wildest superstitions about these "wild men of the woods."

One of the stories was that two Mbondemos women were walking together through the woods, when suddenly an immense gorilla stepped into the path, and catching one of the women, bore her off in spite of the screams and struggles of both. The other woman returned to the village and related the story. Of course her companion was given up for lost. Great was the surprise, therefore, when, a few days after, she returned to the village. She related that she had eventually escaped from the gorillas. "Yes," said one of the men, "that was a man that had turned into a gorilla," which explanation was received with a general grunt of approval, for these people believe that some men have turned into gorillas. Such gorillas, the natives believe, can never be killed, and the possessed beasts are, according to them, endowed with the intelligence of man united to the strength and the ferocity of the beasts. Another man told me how, some years ago, a party of gorillas were found in a field of sugar cane, tying up the canes in regular bundles, preparatory to carrying them away. The natives attacked them, but were routed, several being killed, while others were carried away by the gorillas; but in a few days they returned home uninjured, with this horrid exception—the nails of their fingers and toes had been torn off by their captors. Finally, the story, which is current among all the tribes who are at all familiar with the gorilla, was related, that this animal lies in wait in the lower branches of the trees, watching for people who go to and fro, and when one passes sufficiently near, grasps the luckless fellow with his powerful feet, and draws him up into the tree, where he generally chokes him.

Suddenly, as we were yet creeping along in a silence which made a heavy breathing seem loud and distinct, the woods were at once filled with the tremendous barking roar of the beasts. Then the underbrush swayed rapidly just ahead, and presently before us stood an immense gorilla. He had gone through the jungle on all fours, but when he saw our party he erected himself and looked us boldly in the face. Nearly six feet high, with an immense body, huge chest, and great muscular arms, intensely black face, with fiercely glaring, large, deep, gray eyes, and a hellish expression of face, which seemed to me, like some nightmare vision, thus stood before me, the king of the African forest. He was not afraid of us, but stood there and beat his breast with his huge fist till it resounded like an immense bass drum, which I found to be his mode of offering defiance, meantime giving vent to roar after roar. This roar of the gorilla is the most singular and awful noise heard in these African woods. It begins like a sharp bark of an angry dog, then glides into a deep bass, which literally and closely resembles the roll of distant thunder along the sky. So deep is it that it seems to proceed less from a mouth and throat than from the deep chest and vast paunch. His eyes began to flash fiercer fire as we stood on the defensive, and the crest of short hair which stands on his forehead began to twitch rapidly up and down, while his powerful teeth were shown as he sent forth a thunderous roar, and now truly he reminded me of nothing but some hellish dream creature—a king of that hideous order, half man, half beast. He advanced a few steps, then stopped to utter that hideous roar again and beat his chest, and finally stopped when at a distance of about six yards from us; and here, just as he began one of his roars, beating his breast in rage, I killed him. With a groan which had something terribly human in it, and yet was full of brutishness, he fell forward on his face. The body shook convulsively for a few minutes, the limbs moved about in a struggling way, and then all was quiet—death had done his work, and I had leisure to examine the large body.

The animal lives in the loneliest and darkest portion of the African jungle, preferring deep-wooded valleys and swamp soil. It is a restless or nomadic beast, wandering from place to place, and scarcely found two days in the same neighborhood. This restlessness is caused by the struggle it has to find its favorite food. For though the gorilla possesses such immense canine teeth, and though his vast strength doubtless fits him to capture and kill almost every animal which frequents the forest, he is a strict vegetarian. It does not live on trees, indeed, its enormous weight would prevent it from doing so. Some of the males must weigh from 300 to 400 pounds. By examination of the stomachs of the many specimens I have had, I was able to ascertain with tolerable certainty the nature of its food, and I discovered that it had no need to ascend trees. It is fond of the heart of some trees, also of a kind of nut with a very hard shell.

After my first explorations, I said that the gorilla was not gregarious. My last journey has demonstrated that I was wrong, for I have seen ten of them together, but I found them when adults, almost always one male with one female. When the male becomes very old he wanders companionless. In such a case, as with the "rogue" elephant, he is particularly morose, and malignant and dangerous to approach, and woe to the man who comes suddenly upon one of these old ones, and the hunter who tracks them must be on his guard. I found sometimes bands of four or five gorillas. When in bands these are very shy and difficult to approach, as their hearing is acute.

Sometimes, like the lion, the gorilla to amuse himself roars and roars, and in the far distance I mistook this for a muttering of thunder. One day I found that it was a male gorilla roaring to its female, who, after a while, could be heard with a weaker cry. The echoes swelled and died away from hill to hill, until the whole forest was full of the din. As I approached, I could hear the deep drum-like sound caused by beating his breast with his huge fist. Presently I heard trees cracking, and saw through the woods how, every few minutes a sapling was swung about and then broken. The gorilla has no other roar than that I have described. There is beside, the scream of the female, when alarmed, and a low kind of chick with which the watchful mother seems to call her child to her. The young ones have only a cry when in distress, but their voice is harsh, and sometimes is more a moan of pain than a child cry. The female gorilla has never more than one young at a time.

The gorilla walks in an erect position with greater ease than the chimpanzee. When standing up, his knees are bent at the joint outward, and his body stoops forward. The common walk of a gorilla is not on his hind legs, but on all fours. In this position, the arms are so long that the head and breast are raised considerably, and as he runs his hind legs are brought far beneath the body. He can run at great speed.

The adult gorilla is, I think, perfectly untamable. The young ones, so far as my experience goes, I have never been able to tame. In no case could any treatment of mine, kind or harsh, subdue these little monsters. Constantly the enemy of man, resenting their captivity, young as my specimens were—refusing everything in the shape of civilized food, and attacking me with tooth and nail, even though I was in most constant attendance upon them; finally dying without previous sickness, or starving themselves to death, or dying without other ascertainable cause than the restless chafing of a spirit which could not suffer captivity nor the presence of man.—*Du Chaillu.*

### BONAPARTE'S LOVE-LETTERS.

The great Napoleon, when absent on his campaigns, used to write the most tender love-letters to his wife Josephine. Here is one of his short war-notes:

"I write very often to you, my dear love, but seldom hear from you. You are a fickle, ugly, wicked creature. Perfidious! to deceive a poor husband and ardent lover! Must he forfeit his rights because he is far away, burdened with difficulties, cares and fatigue? Without his Josephine—without the assurance of her love, what remains for him on earth? What can he do? A thousand loving kisses."

The next is curiously tender:

"I don't love you a bit; on the contrary, I detest you. You are an ugly, wicked hussy. You never write to me, and you do not love your husband. You know the delight your letters afford me, and yet you send me only half-a-dozen hurried lines. Pray, madam, what do you do with yourself all day? What important business is it that prevents you writing to your fond lover? What affection stifles and puts aside the love—the tender and constant love you promised me? Who can this new wonder be?—this new lover, that absorbs all your time, tyranizes over your days, and prevents you from thinking of your husband? Take care, Josephine, some fine night, the doors closed, and I'll surprise you. But, seriously, I am very uneasy, my dear love, at receiving no news of you. Write me four pages immediately, full of those charming things that fill my heart with tenderness and delight. I hope to embrace you before long; then I shall cover you with a million kisses."

Fashions in Hair.—Celia Logan, in a recent letter to the New York Citizen, presents some very excellent ideas about female fashions. Here is what she says about "Waterfalls" and "Coils:"

Should waterfalls be placed on the top of the head? No; they would have a prettier effect if worn on the tip of the nose, like the black pudding in the fairy tale.

What is a coil? It was known to the ancients, *vide* "Romeo and Juliet." Juliet places her hand on the back of the nurse's head and says, "Here's such a coil," thinking by this little flattery to coax the old grumbler into telling her what her young man said.

"Snapps, and snails,
And puppy dogs' tails,
And that's what big coils are made of, made of."

What do they most resemble? A decomposed door-knob smashed on the crown of the head, rolled into three sausages somewhat lower down; frizzled hair looks like a door-mat in a fit.

We agree with Celia.

In Illinois the Osage-orange hedge is planted, cultivated and warranted for one year, at thirty cents a rod. In two years it will keep out all stock, and it is said to last five hundred years.

The peach trees in Maryland groan under their loads, and many have already been crushed beneath their enormous burden.

A lady took her little boy to church for the first time. Upon hearing the organ, he was on his feet *instanter*. "Sit down," said the mother. "I won't," he shouted, "I want to see the monkey."

A Scientific Education teaches us to think, and a literary education to express our thoughts; hence we require both.

"Have your cabbages tender hearts?" asked a woman of a costermonger. "They can't have anything else, marm," was the reply, "for they've been with me crying about the streets all the morning."

Cabbages.—It is probable that most persons with a garden spot at command have planted cabbages for Autumn and Winter use. If any have failed to do this they should hasten to supply the omission. The cabbage, though not as nutritious as the bean, is a palatable and healthful vegetable, a rapid and hardy grower, and very desirable for Winter and Spring use. There are often nooks and corners abandoned to weeds and brambles which would produce good cabbages were the ground prepared and the plants set out. If any of our readers have such neglected nooks about their premises there is yet time to improve them in the way suggested. It will prove a profitable operation—because it will supply otherwise valueless ground with an opportunity to materially enrich the Winter stores of the family. It is a plant easily cultivated and highly remunerative of the labor bestowed upon it.

# Various Matters.

## RHODE ISLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The twenty-third Summer Exhibition of this society was held at City Hall, Providence, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 26th and 27th. The display was varied and attractive, though the attendance on Wednesday was not commensurate with the efforts the management had put forth to secure a success.

The display of small fruits was extensive, strawberries preponderating largely. Among the latter we noticed the following varieties:

Triomphe de Gand, Agriculturist, Russell's Prolific, Wilson's Albany, Jeeundu, Austin, Great Austin, Early May, Lening's White, La Constant, Scarlet Magnate, Hovey's Seedling, Boston Pine, Brighton Pine, Brooklyn Scarlet, Trollope's Victoria and Cutter's Seedling.

The display of Flowers and Leaf Plants was also very attractive, the principal contributions being entered by Charles Wright, gardener for George W. Chapin, Esq.; by J. Greenwood, gardener for R. C. Taft, Esq.; and by Thos. Hannay, gardener for Hon. J. Y. Smith. Among the Caladiums were the Bellequeenia, Agyrites and Pictoratum; among the Azaleas, were the Burlingtonii and the Rosea Elegans. We also noticed some fine specimens of the Maranta Zebrina, Cyprus Alternifolia and the Vinea Alba.

Quite a variety of Cut Flowers, in bottles, boquets and baskets, were on exhibition.—W. B. Spencer, of Phenix, contributed sixty varieties of cut flowers; and Miss Francis, of Spring Green, twenty-two varieties of the Sweet William.

The vegetable department was meagre, both in quantity and variety.

### AWARD OF PREMIUMS.

*President's Premiums.*—Best thirty plants in pots, Charles Wright, $25; Floral Design, Robert Flemming, $5; best basket of Cut Flowers, C. Wright, $4; best exhibition of Fruit, all classes, John F. Jolls, $8.

*School Children's Premiums.*—Best Boquet wholly arranged by scholar under fifteen years, Clara W. Gadding, $2.50; 2nd best do., Lulie S. Manchester, $1.50; best school child's basket, Abby P. Cunliff, $2.

### PLANTS AND FLOWERS.

Best 20 Green House and Store Plants, Thomas Hannay, $15; 2nd best do., Charles Wright, $10.

Best display of Ornamental Leaf Plants, Charles Wright, $5; 2nd do., Thos. Hannay, $4; 3rd do., John Greenwood, $3.

Caladiums, best 6 pots, John Greenwood, $3; 2nd best do., Chas. Wright, $2.

Ferns, best 6 pots, Thos. Hannay, $4; Chas. Wright, $3.

Orchids, best 6 plants, John Greenwood, $4; Lycopadiums, Chas. Wright, $3; Gloxinias, Chas. Wright, $3; 2nd best do., Thos. Hannay, $2; Cacti, Thos. Hanuay, $3; 2nd best do., Chas. Wright, $2; Begonias, Charles Wright, $3; Geraniums, Robert Flemming, gardener to David Duncan, Esq., $3; 2nd best do., Chas. Wright, $2; Fuschias, John Greenwood, $3; New Plants, Chas. Wright, $3; 2nd best do., Thos. Hannay, $2.

### CUT FLOWERS.

Best basket of cut flowers, Chas. Wright, $4; 2nd best do., Mrs. J. A. Church, $3.

Table Boquets, R. & W. J. Hogg, Florists, $2; 2nd best do., Hettie Richardson, $1.

Cut Flowers, best display, Robt. Hogg, $5; 2nd best do., W. P. Spencer, Phenix; 3d do., P. Reynolds, $3.

Wild Flowers, Amy B. Windsor, $2.

Roses, 12 specimens, P. Reynolds, $2; 2nd best do., Robert Hogg, $1.

Best Specimens of Roses, R. Hogg, $1.

### STRAWBERRIES AND GRAPES.

Hot House Grapes, E. D. Pearce, $3; Strawberries, best 5 varieties, Capt. C. B. Manchester, $5; 2nd best do., J. F. Jolls, $4; Strawberries, best 3 varieties, E. M. Cloyd, $4; 2nd best do., W. D. Davis, Elmwood, $3; Dish of any varieties, 2 qts. each, Jas. N. Allen, $3; A. Bricknell, $2; E. D. Pearce, $1; Varieties not before exhibited, J. F. Jolls, $5; E. D. Pearce, $3. Agriculturist, Thos. Hannay, $2; E. D. Pearce, $1. La Constant, Thos. Forsyth, $1. Wilson's Albany, P. Reynolds, $2; Thos. Hannay, $1. Great Austin, Capt. Manchester, $2; J. F. Jolls, $1. Triomphe de Gand, A. Bicknell, $2; E. D. Pearce, $1; Jucunda, Ezra Lyon, $1. Lady Finger, J. F. Jolls, $1. Downer's Prolific, Capt. Manchester, $1. Russell's Proilfic, E. D. Pearce, $1. Cutter's Seedling, Capt. Manchester, $1. Boston Pine, J. F. Jolls, $1. Seedliug Strawberry, J. F. Jolls, $3.

### VEGETABLES.

Rhubarb, Jas. Bradley, $2; Cauliflowers, Robert Hogg, $2; Jas. Bradley, do., $1; Cucumbers, Chas. Wright, $1; Lettuce, Thos. Hannay, $1; Peas, Willie C. Arnold, $2; Early Potatoes, Jas. Bradley, $3; Tomatoes, Chas. Wright, $1; best display of early vegetables, Jas. Bradley, $3.

### GRATUITIES.

Cherries, Mrs. M. K. Newell, Stephen C. Arnalet, Miss C. F. Hubbard, Ephraim Richards, R. G. Cunliff, $1 each.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

A farmer in Pleasant Valley, Iowa, kept fifty cows last year, which earned him on an average $100 each.

Fifteen hundred head of cattle in Monroe county, Missouri, have recently been sold to traders at 6¼ to 6½ cents per pound, to be delivered during the Summer.

A strong solution of alum with some whisky mixed in it, is said to be a most excellent remedy for the galled shoulders of horses. Apply it three times a day until the wound is healed.

Illinois agriculturists are more confident of the success of beet sugar making in that State, and a consignment of 30,000 pounds of the article, just received at Chicago from the manufactory at Chatsworth, confirms their expectations.

The prospect for an abundant harvest of apples in Iowa is good wherever there are trees old enough to bear.

Delaware is a small State, but reports from it indicate that it will this year lead the list in the production of peaches.

The people of the South are this year using for the first time machine reapers to gather the grain crops, and they are astonished to see with what facility they do it.

The future product of wine in California is attracting much attention from thoughtful and observant minds.

The Florida correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial says that Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe has 300 acres of land near Jacksonville which she planted with orange orchards. She has been offered twice its cost. The orange crop is said to be the most profitable of any in the Gulf States.

Dr. A. M. Johnson, of Illinois, states that hog cholera does not prevail in localities during the existence there of Asiatic cholera.

# Marriages.

In Burrillville, June 29th, by Rev. A. A. Preshrey, Mr. Jonathan Sheldon, of South Kingston, to Miss Elizabeth Bailey, of Burrillville.

In North Providence, June 25th, by Rev. D. Otis Kellogg, Jr., John J. Mason, of Thompson, Conn., to Alice M. Grosvenor, daughter of the Hon. William Grosvenor. 27th, Mr. George H. Spring to Miss Hannah B. Westcott, both of Smithfield.

In Greenville, 16th ult., by Rev. R. Woodworth, Mr. Emery Peabody to Miss Abby Cook Whipple, both of Smithfield.

In South Providence, 1st inst., by Rev. Nelson Lulher, Geo. L. Hill, of Scituate, to Susan W. Steere, of the former place.

In Medway, June 20th, by Rev. W. A. Noltnge, Mr. E. J. Pond to Miss H. E. Whiting, all of M.

In Putnam, Conn., June 19th, by Rev. Robert Clark, Mr. Auzman H. Davis, to Miss P. Emma LeRoy, both of P.

# Deaths.

In this town, June 29th, Henry F. Reinewald, aged 20 years, 10 months and 13 days.

In Cumberland, 27th ult., Alfred A., infant son of George H. and the late Mary A. Bellows, aged 3 months and 12 days; 22d ult., Mrs. Lucinda A., wife of John M. Bryant.

In Smithfield, 27th ult., Christopher C. Dexter, in the 58th year of his age; 29th ult., Albert L. Austin, in the 31st year of his age.

In Pawtucket, 24th ult., Mrs. Charity, widow of the late Alexander Osge, in the 57th year of her age.

In Franklin, Mass., June 30th, Lucia Adelaide, daughter of Horatio and Dnta A. Stockbridge, aged 24 years and 1 month.

In Milford, 21st ult., Hannah L. Pond, aged 21 years, 3 mos.

In North Killingly, 17th ult. Ruth Smith, aged 81 years.

In Pomfret, Conn., 29th ult., Mrs. Lydia W. Davis, aged 63 years, relict of the late Robert Davis.

Within forty years, 51 000 miles of steam railways have been built in the United States, costing $1,502,594 000 New England has 3851 miles in use, costing $199,071,483; New York State 3025 miles, costing $152,579,769; Pennsylvania, which built the first railroad in the country in 1809, 3037 miles, costing $210,680,000.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending July 5, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $35 | Wood ₩ cord | $5a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 15c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $10 00a12 00 | Potatoes | 1.10 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.00 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $16, 18 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 20 | Molasses ₩ gal | 60a95c |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 20 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 64c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 24c | Fluid ₩ gnl | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 35a38c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs lb doz | 30c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 25a50c | Lard ₩ lb | 16ac18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a18c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 25a30c | Hams | 16a18c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 20a28c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 18c |

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

During the early part of the week flour and wheat were very active and prices advanced rapidly. Since then, with a desire to sell and less demand for consumption, prices declined and are nominal. Provisions have also been much excited, advancing rapidly but subsequently declining and closing tame.

FLOUR—The moderate receipts of flour, and unfavorable weather for growing crops early in the week, prices advanced daily, reaching a dollar and a half a barrel for most grades. The favorable change in the weather, with more liberal receipts, soon checked the demand, and prices are now very irregular and nominal, with a strong tendency downward at the close.

WHEAT—With a very active demand early in the week, advanced 30 to 40 cents a bushel. This checked milling, and since Thursday part of the advance has been lost, the market closing lame, and prices nominal. The accounts of the crop are somewhat variable, but on the whole favorable for a large yield.

CORN has fluctuated daily, and with moderate arrivals prices have been very well sustained. The quite large supplies in prospect beyond the break induce buyers to hold off, and very little is done for export. At the close the market is tame. The prospects of this staple crop are good.

OATS—Under a large prospective crop and large arrivals in prospect, prices have declined and close very heavy.

RYE has also been very freely offered, and sold slowly at a very material decline. The market closes very heavy. The prospect is good for a very large crop of this grain.

PORK was active early in the week, prices advancing twenty-five to thirty cents a barrel. Since Wednesday prices have declined under a limited demand and a strong effort to depress the market.

BEEF is held higher, with a moderate inquiry. The stock is extremely light.

# Special Notices.



# Advertisements.



THE ATMOSPHERE OF A SICK-ROOM.—To purify the atmosphere of a sick-room, keep always on the shelf of the washing-stand, or on the mantelpiece or table, or in a corner of the floor, a saucer or small sauce-pan, or a shallow mug, filled with a solution of chloride of lime in cold water, stirring it up frequently. The proportion may be about a tablespoonful of the powder to half a pint of water. Renew it every two or three days. If the room be large, place on it more than one vessel of the chloride of lime. On stirring it, any unpleasant odor will be immediately dispelled. The onion is a superior disinfectant. Two or three good-sized ones, cut in halves, and placed in a plate on the floor, absorb the noxious effluvia, etc., which are generated in the sick-room in an incredible short space of time. They should be changed every few (say six) hours.

# Farming Miscellany.

## CARE OF FARMING TOOLS.

Every teamster who is fit for his business, when he puts up his team after a day's drive, will take care not only to see that they have a suitable supply of feed and water, but will rub them down, clean and dry, and make them *externally* comfortable, because he knows it to be essential to their health, vigor and continued usefulness. The engineer, when he stops his engine, will pursue much the same course with the iron muscles of his machine. He will rub them dry and bright, and forestall the mischievous tricks of old oxygen by oiling every part exposed to air or water. The carpenter does the same with the implements of his art, and the mason never lays down his trowel for a single hour without first wiping it dry, and putting it in a dry place.

Of all the implements of human effort, none are so commonly and so sadly neglected as those of the farmer, while none need more vigilant care in order to secure their durability and efficiency. Most commonly the hoe is left with the blade covered with damp earth, and resting on the damp earth for days and perhaps weeks together, and the same with the spade and shovel. The plow is left at the end of the last furrow in the field, half beam deep in the ground or thrown out beside the fence, or left out in the yard, until it is next wanted. Scythes and pitchforks, reapers and mowers, drills and cultivators, wagons and carts, too often fare the same, and their metallic portions left to oxydize, and the wood parts to crack in the sun and rot by the moisture to which they are exposed, and when next wanted are in wretched condition for use.

Let any one take a hoe or a spade, for instance, that is black and rust-eaten and work with it for an hour, and then try one that has been kept bright and clean, and he will see the difference. When an implement of this kind has once become rusted over, it may be partially recovered by scouring in use at a great expense of extra labor, but it will never be what it once was. A saw or a trowel, when once badly rusted, is as good as ruined. You may scour it as long as you will, it will never again work smoothly and easily, as one will that has been kept bright and free from rust. It is just so with any polished metallic surface used in farming. It is eaten full of little cavities which will secrete dirt and moisture, and keep up a corrosion which defies all efforts at arresting or rubbing it out, and it is a heavy, dragging tool forever afterwards; no matter whether the surface be that of a hoe, a spade, a ploughshare or a journal and box, it will ever be a drag on man or beast, as the case may be, Every thing of this kind should be cleaned and wiped dry every night when in use, and not left exposed even to the dew of a single night without being first rubbed over with fresh grease, and when done with, for a time, should be oiled and stored in a dry place.

Especially is it unpardonable to leave the more expensive kinds of machinery exposed to the weather. They are liable enough to injury by unavoidable exposure in use, but when they are left to stand out for months, exposed to sunshine and rain, it seems like a reckless waste of money. The wood and unpolished iron work of all valuable machinery on the farm should frequently receive a fresh coat of paint, as from the nature of the service, it is liable soon to wear off, and whenever a machine is laid by for the season, every journal and box should be carefully cleaned and supplied with fresh oil. An occasional coat of linseed oil upon hoe, fork, spade and shovel handles will have nearly the same preservative effect as paint, and add much to their agreeableness to the hand.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*

---

A Fine flock of 300 merino sheep are owned by Mr. Eben Burr, of Walpole, N. H. He has ten bucks of a high grade of excellence. From one of them he sheared a fleece of eleven and a half months' growth, which weighed 25½ lbs.

## WHEN IS TOBACCO RIPE.

Most tobacco raisers think they can answer the above question, and yet it is noticed that hardly any two of them will agree as to the exact time when it has matured sufficiently to cut. Each planter forms his opinion as to the condition of the leaf from indications which are conclusive to him, and yet the same signs would fail to convince his neighbor probably that the crop was ripe enough for the knife. Many crops which would have been valuable if cut at the right time, have been seriously injured by being allowed to remain a few days too long in the field, for after the plant has matured, there is no time to be lost by the planter. Time is precious then, for when the plant has perfectly ripened, it begins to decay, and unless there is prompt action on the part of the grower, his crop will speedily become too worthless to repay the trouble of planting.

We find in the Tobacco Leaf some remarks, with directions as to cutting, which will be interesting to those of our readers who are engaged in raising tobacco.

The ripeness of tobacco is generally known by its color, but there are other signs having reference to the general appearance of the plant. All things being favorable, tobacco can be *primed* and *topped* in six or seven weeks after planting; and may be *cut* in as many weeks, after topping, as there are leaves left on the stalk.

When a plant begins to ripen, it will gradually assume a "piebald" or spotted appearance. As the ripening advances the spots become more distinct and individualized. When the spots can be distinguished at the distance of ten steps, and the leaves of the plant turn down, become stiff to the touch, and their ends curl under, the plant is ripe, and should be cut. From the moment it has arrived at maturity it begins to decay.

Cutting.—Remember that all the plants in your crop are to be *hung* after they are cut—hung *on* something, and *by* something. Prepare a knife—a butcher knife answers well—have it sharp—enter it at the top of the plant, where the top was broken off. Enter it centrally; press it downwards, dividing the stalk into two equal portions. Continue it downwards until within five inches of the ground. The plant is now cut. Lay it on the ground with the lower end towards the sun. The plants should be placed in rows as they are cut, in order to facilitate the labor of gathering them. There is one caution to be heeded in cutting tobacco, and that is, do not let it be burnt or *blistered* by the heat of the sun. In some varieties of tobacco this will be effected in one hour; in others not so soon. But this danger can be evaded in two ways; first, by cutting late in the evening; second, by throwing it in the shade, or covering it so as to weaken the power of the sun. Some varieties of tobacco will wilt (that is, become soft or limber) in two hours; others, in a longer time, according to the degree of sun-heat.—*Tobacco Leaf.*

---

Keep the Calves Thrifty.—A calf kept, Winter and Summer, in thrifty growth, at two years old will make as much, and more beef, than one neglectingly kept, at twice that age. The profit will be found on the side of the two year-old, and the loss on the four-year-old; yet the owner of the latter has pursued his system, if system it may be called, with the idea he was saving money. Keep the thrifty animal two years longer in the same way, and something very handsome in the way of beef, will be the result—while the starveling can never pay the expense of its rearing and feeding.

---

No Grindstone should be exposed to wet weather, as it not only injures the wood work, but the sun's rays harden the stone so much as, in time, to render it useless. Neither should it run in water, as the part in water softens so much that it wears away faster than the other side; and many a soft place in a stone has arisen from this cause alone, and not from any inequality in the grit.

# Advertising Department.

## Pennsylvania.



## Massachusetts.



### TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the Farm and Fireside. Price, fifteen cents a line each Insertion. Advertisements are set up in a uniform style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

### COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the Farm and Fireside may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

### IN MONTHLY PARTS.

Hereafter the Farm and Fireside can be had in Monthly Parts, in neat covers, at twenty-five cents each. Those for January, February, March and April are now ready. For sale by all newsmen. Bound at the close of the year they will form a neat and attractive volume.

# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1867. NO. 27.


## HYGIENE ON THE FARM, NO. 2.
## GENERAL REMARKS ON FOOD.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY REYNELL COATES, M. D.

In my introdnctory article, some weeks ago, (see p. 162), I hinted at the differences of diet required for the maintenance of health in persons of various ages, sexes and occupations. By the kindness of Providence, man, in common with other animals, is endowed with instincts which regulate, to a certain degree, his desires in the choice of food and the use that he is disposed to make of it; and in savage life these natural guides may prove sufficient without the special exercise of reason, except when he is drawn into voluntary and conscious error by criminal indulgenee, as when the Indian comes in contact with the fatal "fire-water" of the trader. But the refinements of civilizatiou have modified, to a great extent, these natural instincts, both in man and the domestic animals, producing artificial wants, desires and tastes that render him and them alike dependent upon human reason for safety, even in the simple matter of eating and drinking.

The wild horse on the prairie does not need a groom to wash out his mouth before he plunges his nose into the cold spring, or to keep him from gorging himself while hot from the race, for fear of a fonnder; and the Indian child is free, like his father, to stuff himself with venison when he can get it. He never wishes to eat too much, even when stocking himself for a three days fast, and he langhs at regular meals. Again, a hunter in the wilderness, after long practice, acquires to a considerable extent the habits and instincts of the savage, and may imitate, though he never fully rivals him with impnnity. But were the civilized farmer to treat himself, his blooded horse, his working ox, or his Alderney cow upon Indian principles, what would he the consequence? Illness, a broken constitution, or more immediate death.

With a due exercise of his reasoning powers, a proper knowledge of his own orgauization, and a close attention to his feelings, man might find, perhaps, a sufficient guide in his natural instinets for the healthful regulation of his diet—each *for himself*, though certainly *not for his neighbor*—but, unfortnnately, experience and observation prove that these prereqnisites are too frequently found wanting, even among those who are misealled the educated in modern society; and, for this reason the promotion of human health, comfort and prosperity demands a far wider diffusion than has ever yet been given to the first principles of HYGIENE—*the science that treats of the prescrvation of health.*

And now, let us descend, for a while, from the region of long words and learned lauguage to have a little plain talk together, so that every body may know just what we mean. What is the use of eating at all, when we are sure to get hnngry again in a few honrs? A man is not made up of arms and legs, a head, body, stomach, lungs, brain, &c. These things are not *him!* They are only a part of his real estate. They are *the house he lives in*, and after the foundation is onee laid, he has to build it up, all by himself. He is his own mason, carpenter, plasterer and hod-carrier, and if he does not choose and manage well his stone, brick, mortar, lumber, shingles, &c., and unless he follows very closely the plan that the great and kind Architect has laid down for him to work by, a sad, crooked, leaky concern he is likely to make of it. And theu, again, even while he is building it, every thing he puts into it is wearing ont, all the while, a great deal faster, in most places, than those thiugs of whieh he makes up his farm-house, harn or cattle-shed; so that he is always kept quite as bnsy in *repairing* as in building. Let him remember, also, that there are a thonsand times more chambers, closets and cellars about this two-legged living palace of his than are to he fonnd in the Treasury Department and Pateut Office combined, and that for all these strnctures, even to the paint and the polish, he must find the material in his food. How, then, shall a man support life on one kind of food alone? Can he huild a snbstantial dwelling all of briek, all of mortar, all of shingles? If not, what beeomes of the nonsense of the Grahamites or Vegetarians, who would feed a man as Nehuchadnezzar fed, when he ceased to be man—on the food of an ox! Is it a whit more natural to feed an infant upon the food of an adult? Do men lay a foundation of shingles and cover in the roof with stone? I formerly knew a highly edueated (?) gentleman of more than eighty years—once a distinguished editor—who, mourning over the loss of two talented sons, assured me that he never denied his children any luxnry, at any age, which came upon his owu liberally provided table, where the best wiues always flowed freely. One of the sons died early of *mania a potu;* the other, of "good living" and other vices, as he, himself, would have done, had his parents practieed npon his doctrine—"it always agrees with me; *eat it!*"

A natnral appetite or a natural loathing in a healthy individnal, is generally a snre gnide to a correct diet; but an artificial appetite, the result of habitual indnlgence, is almost always promotive of ill health, and if carried too far may permanently ruin a constitution, or lay the foundation for incnrable disease. For example—in the feehleness of decided old age, as in the temporary debility of convalesence, a strict adherent of "total abstinenee" may feel a strong desire for his daily glass of good wine, and he had better gratify it to that extent—no more! It will unqnestionably prolong life in some sueh cases; bnt of all indnlgences, except, perhaps, the use of opinm, canabis indica, and tobacco, nothing is so prone to induce a controlling or incnrable and often fatal habit. But I am convinced, by long observation, that no yonth in seeming health, and not enrsed by a vice of his ancestors with a hereditary failing, ever approaches his first glass of wine or whisky without a feeling of disgnst, however he may relish the after excitement it prodnees. It is this excitement, coupled with the false idea that it is manly to drink, that soon eonqners the distaste and brings thonsands of nohle yonng men to ruin and disgraee. There is no fact in dieteties more fully estahlished than that any use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage, by persons in health, hefore they have passed middle life, is directly injurious to hrain, heart and stomaeh, while it deprives the individual of the advantage of au invaluable cordial in extreme old age, when nothing but the most unwarrantahle exeess will rouse the energies of the regular drinker, with every fibre blunted in sensibility by habitual stimnlation.

Now, if my friend, Mr. Burly, has taken my former advice, and ceased the crnel practiee of punishing his daughter's snpposed "squeamishness," as sailors do their sea-sick novices, with "a swah of fat pork," I will ask him just to step down to the harvest field, and take that whisky jug from the lips of his jolly son and heir. This may save the boy, in after life, from an exceedingly unpleasant acquaintance with certain creatures with horns, hoofs and tails, that have no legitimate place among the farm stoek.

It is said that "there is no rule without exceptions," and I cannot properly close this artiele without noticing three remarkable exceptions (the only ones at present in memory) to the rule that it is dangerous to health to endeavor to force really good food npon any one who has a truly natural, and not a simply edueational disgust for it. There are very few persons who attempt to eat their first tomato or their first olive without evident signs of very deeided dislike; yet almost every one hecomes extremely fond of them in a very short time, and, as they are among onr most wholesome articles of food, it is highly desirahle that this unaccountahle dislike should he conquered. The same distaste is felt even for the odor of hoiled green Indian corn by Europeans from those countries in which the culture of maize is unknown; and it is prohable that the only reason why we have no recollection of similar sensations, is the early age at whieh such an antipathy is overcome, throngh the influence of example and the universality of the use of this delightful esculent at onr tables.

In my next article, I will continne these remarks on the healthfulness of eertain artieles of food.

*July*, 1867.

---

MOLES.—A mnnicipal council in the State of Zurich took it into its head to he very zealous in talpaeide, when M. Weher, a naturalist, intervened and imparted to the council the results of many experiments. He carefully examined the stomachs of fifteen moles canght in different localities, and discovered no vestige of roots or plants, but abundant evidence of earthworms. He shut up several moles in a hox with sods of turf, and a smaller case of gruhs and earth-worms. In nine days two moles ate 341 white worms, 193 earth-worms, 25 caterpillars, and an entire monse. He then placed meat eut small with vegetables. The moles ate the former and left the latter; then he gave them vegetahles only—in twenty-fonr honrs they were dead of starvation.

## GREEN SAND MARL, AND ITS ORIGIN.—ARTICLE FIRST.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY J. S. LIPPINCOTT, HADDONFIELD, NEW JERSEY.

Our great grandsires brought with them from Britain many practices and notions from which they found it hard to part. They met in their new homes with many novelties to which they applied the olden-time names, bnt in their ignorance were often wide of the mark. They were innocent of any accurate knowledge of nature, a hranch of learning then, indeed, in its infancy, as any one may discover, who will turn over the pages of the early travellers, or even of the "Transactions of the Royal Society," the representative of the utmost then attained by the wisest of the age. They were a little crednlous, too, and took mnch upon faith, a most abnndant commodity in those days of primitive simplicity, and cared not to inquire very closely.

The earliest of onr natnralists, "John Josselyn, Gent," who visited this country in 1638-9, published his impressions, and called his learned work "New England's Rarities Discovered;" and did, indeed, discover "rarities" or thonght he had done so, such as none of us have ever met with in onr circum-ambnlations. Among others, he says frogs were known to become "as large as a child a year old, and to sit erect a foot in height;" barley was known to turn into oats; and that chimney swallows were "always in the practice, when they left in the Spring, of throwing down one of their young hirds at least, into the room below," as a token of their gratitude for hospitahle entertainment!

Minds so scrupulously exact in their descriptions of animated nature, wonld of course be very careful in the use of terms when applied to other branches; and accordingly, we find them equally cautious when they attempt the minerals and earths. "Green sand marl" is one of the substances to which our early fathers applied a term with which they were familiar in the old country, without heing aware that this material is totally different, in composition, from the English marl. English marl, it is trne, is a fertilizing snbstance; but here the analogy almost ends. True, marl is a mixture of calcareous and argillaceous earths, that is, contains carbonate of lime, or hroken down limestone and clays, and effervesces with an acid. This calcareous portion is often made np of fragments of shells, and as the heds of our green sand or glauconite, also eontain shells, this partial resemblance was supposed to render it a marl. It is, however, a totally different substance, and though derived from shell animals, eontains but few of their remains in the original condition; has little or no lime in its eomposition, and owes its virtues to suhstances not found in marl as known in England, in any valuahle qnantity. In short, the English farmers had acquired the careless hahit of calling any earth that readily fell to pieces on exposure to the air, a "marl;" hence the confusion that has arisen in nsing this term for earths to which it is not at all applicable, and among them our green sand, or glauconite.

Tbis remarkable mineral is found througbout a belt of country in New Jersey, stretching obliquely across tbe State from Sandy Hook to Salem. Its length is about ninety miles, and at its Eastern extremity it extends in breadth over fourteen, and at its South Western termination over about six miles. Its area is about nine hundred square miles; and as its benefits are sbared by a district extending much beyond its borders, the area benefited hy its application to the soil is much greater tban the above named amount. To the extensive use of this valuable fertilizer much of the progress of New Jersey is to be attributed, both directly as the material from wbicb increased productiveness bas resulted, and indirectly as the cause of renewed enterprise and in awakening and fostering a highly commendable spirit of agricultural improvement.

The composition of this mineral has been frequently determined hy chemists, but its origin has not been clearly comprehended by the geologist until quite recently. Composed of distinct green colored grains, which, when freshly dug are so soft as to he easily crushed by tbe nail, and which present under tbe microscope uot the angular forms of sand, but a uniformly rounded outline, and of a chemical composition quite complex, it hears no resemhlance to a true sand in any particular except in its granular appearance; and differs still more from the material of other geological formations; while from its position and the remains of shell fish, sea turtle, and corallines, and similar relics, its origin is unquestionahly marine.

Late researches have led to the interesting and satisfactory conclusion that this deposit of green grains, vast as it is, is but a bed or beds of minute sea organisms, still found living along the coast of the State, at the bottoms of our bays and inlets as well as at greater depths in the open ocean. A remarkable change has, however, come over the original animal or its envelope, and in the green sand these minute creatures occur as fossils.

Ehrenherg, a distinguished microscopist of Germany, was the first to point out, in 1854, (from a specimen of green sand ohtained in Alabama,) that these grains had resulted from the alteration of the minute shells of marine animals known to the naturalist as Rhizopods. These many chambered shells, sometimes known as Foraminifera, or pore-bearers, in allusion to tbe numerous minute perforations in their shells tbrough wbich protrude long delicate threads, like tbe tender rootlets of plants, which again has caused the name of Rhizopods, or root-footed, to he given to them —bave become filled by a kind of petrifactive process with solid matter derived from the sea. Our readers will not be alarmed at the high sounding pretentious names, nor be deterred from reading our paper hecause these words sound like Greek to them. Rizd means root, in the Greek, and pous a foot, poudos of a foot, and the compound is an excellent handle for the tiny creatures, though it must he learned by the English student, and does sound strangely. Such terms often repel the reader, but they ought to incite him to learn their origin and meaning, which would increase his interests in the inquiry, while it forms an excellent discipline.*

The observation of Ehrenberg was soon afterwards corroborated by the late J. W. Bailey, an eminent American microscopist, the founder of this hranch of research in tbis country. His delight, from a boy, was to examine every minute organization in stagnant waters, mud and fossil deposits, in guano, or wherever they may be found, which is indeed almost everywhere around us. So ardent was he in his enquiries that he made for himself globules of glass for magnifying lenses, and with these made his earliest researches. He made many valuable contributions to science, demonstrated the vegetable nature of anthracite coal, showed that by examining the mud hrougbt up by the sounding-lead, that it migbt be possible to determine in many instances a ship's place in fogs and darkness, and made many investigations into the origin of our green sand. He found upon examining specimens from many localities, not only the altered shells of the minute Rbizopods, hut also their unaltered shells in the green sand of Mullica Hill, Timber Creek, and at Mount Holly in New Jersey, but in marl, properly so-called, from Virginia, South Carolina and Tennessee, as well as from the limestone and other rocks containing green sand from North and South Carolina, Alahama and Texas.

Thus this suhstance which occurs over vast areas in Europe as well as in this country—though not always as available as is the New Jersey deposit—has heen produced hy tbe individual alteratiou of minute shells at the hottom of the ocean. All doubt as to the nature of this substance under notice must be removed when we state that the process of converting these shells into grains of green sand is now going on, and a bed of this suhstance is in course of formation off our Southern coast. But we must reserve for another paper the interesting evidence to be adduced from the Report of the United States Coast Survey of 1858.

*July*, 1867.

*Note.- The "Comprehensive Medical Dictionary" of that learned philologist, Dr. Joseph Thomas, of Philadelphia, is an excellent book to have at one's side when reading, as it contains the pronunciation, etymology and signification of the terms made use of in medicine and the kindred sciences, in a most happy manner.

# The Farm and Garden.

## HOW THE DUTCH GROW CAULIFLOWERS.

Of all tbe esculents grown for market, few pay so well as cauliflowers. They are somewhat difficult to grow, but when they are well grown, the products of the crops repay largely all the outlay and trouhle. The Dutch are famous for the size and delicacy of their cauliflowers. Their method of culture is as follows: In the Autumn they dig deep some ground that has not been manured. At the beginning of May they sow the large English cauliflower upon a hed of manure and cover it with straw mats at night. When the young plants are three or four inches high, they harrow the ground that had been prepared the Autumn before, and with a woodeu dibble 18 inches long, they make holes about 10 inches deep, at proper distances apart, and enlarge them by working tbe dibble round until the hole at the top is about three inches in diameter. Tbey immediately fill these holes with water, and repeat this three times the same day. In the evening tbey fill them with sheep's dung, leaving only room enough for the young plant, wbicb they very carefully remove from the hed of manure and place in the hole with a little earth. Directly afterwards they give them a good watering, and as soon as the sun begins to dry them, they water them again. When the head is forming, they pluck off some of the lower leaves of the plant, and use them to cover the head.—*Culturist.*

Bark Lice—Apple Trees.—The hark louse is a difficult thing to dislodge from an orchard, as there are usually so many sections of the tree affected with this pest. As safe a thing for killing them as we know of is leaf tobacco boiled down to a pulp, with soft soap, made cold, and mixed to the consistency of paint. Apply with a brush to the affected limbs and twigs. It is a tiresome process, but is said to be effectual in killing the lice. What will prevent their reappearance is more than we can tell unless it he to wash tbe trees every Spring with the material used for killing them.

Deodorizers and Disinfectants.—As the Summer advances we see a great many substances recommended for purifying ill-smelling places. Some of these are costly, some troublesome, and some dangerous to use. Now it has been ascertained hy careful experiment, that common copperas is not only the cheapest, hut the most powerful deodorizer and disinfectant known. About two pounds, dissolved in a bucket of water, makes a good solution.

It is estimated that there are 16,000 acres devoted to hop-growing in the United States.

## CULTURE OF CELERY.

Celery is a wholesome and nutritious vegetable which ought to be found in every garden. By raising an abundance of plants in a seed-bed or cold-frame, they will he ready for setting out in June and July, as fast as the early crop of vegetables is removed from the soil. For an early crop tbe plants must be raised in hot-beds and "pricked out" as fast as they begin to crowd each other. Hot-bed plants are not so suitable for the general crop as those which bave been raised in the open air, as they are liable to failure from various causes.

In New Jersey, where celery is produced in large quantities for the New York market, the plants are grown in the open ground, in drills nine inches apart, tbe soil having been deeply tilled, and enriched by a liberal dressing of well rotted barn-yard manure, wbich is thoroughly mixed with it hy plowing and harrowing. After the last harrowing, the hed is raked until it is fine and level, and then the little drills for the seed are opened with a marker, a kind of drag with one row of teeth, nine inches asunder. The seed is sown thinly in order that the plants may have room to spread and grow stocky. As soon as the plants are well up, the soil between tbe drills is stirred witb a hoe in order to keep it mellow and to destroy weeds. Hand-weeding will be necessary if the weeds cannot he reached with the hoe. If the plants have come up too thickly in some places, they are tbinned, and those which are taken up are pricked out in thin spots. By this mode of treatment, fine, healthy, stocky plants are ready for setting out by the first of July.

The market gardeners generally make celery a second crop, planting it as a succession to early cahhages, onions, heets, etc., on land which has been heavily manured in the Spring. When manure is applied especially for celery, it is spread over the whole ground, instead of heing confined to drills or trenches, as in the old method. By this arrangement the roots will reach the manure gradually, instead of exhausting it in a short time. The plants for tbe Fall crop are set out in drills four feet asunder, the plants six inches apart in the drills. Planting in deep trenches has been discarded, as the plants so placed, heing below the general surface, are liable to be filled with sand and mud during rain storms, and when tbe hearts are covered, the growth of the plants is retarded very much. The crop intended for Winter and Spring use, is set in drills three feet apart, plants six inches asunder in the drills. In eight or ten days after planting, a drill harrow is run between the rows to keep down weeds and make the soil mellow. The soil between tbe plants should also be stirred with the hand, or a very small hoe, in order to hreak the crust which forms at the surface, and to keep down weeds.

From tbe middle of August to the middle of September slight earthings are given in order to make the plants incline to an upward growth, thereby lengthening the stems and putting them in proper shape for blanching. After this the leaf-stems of each plant are gathered and held compactly together with one hand, while with the other, the soil is pressed tightly around them, so as more effectually to secure an upright growth. After this the "banking" process takes place on such parts of the crop as is intended for use in the Fall. The soil hetween the rows is dug and pulverized, and hanked up against the rows of celery until it reaches within a few inches of the top of the plants. In September the plants will be blanched in about three weeks after hanking; in October more time will be required. Banking up the soil retards the growth of the plants considerably, and on this account the operation should not be performed until the celery is nearly full-grown. When a small number of plants are transplanted from the beds into the drills, they may he shaded from the sun with boards or leaves, or a mulch of newly cut grass, frequent waterings being given until the plants have taken root. When large plantations are made, it will be impossible to shade them; it will, therefore, he best to set them out in showery weather. If any failures take place, the gaps in the drills must be filled up with strong plants from the bed. Celery should be secured in its Winter quarters before the middle of November.

## TO PROTECT CORN FROM THE CUT WORM.

There seem to be different opinions about the advantages of soaking corn in gas tar, previous to planting. Our own experience is unless the season is very wet, the gas tar acts upon a grain of corn as it does when applied to roots and fences to preserve them, hy preventing the access of moisture. The coating of tar interferes with the absorbtion hy the corn of the necessary moisture for germination. Ours has laid in the ground for weeks in the same condition as when planted, the tar first and then the plaster it was rolled on, covering it completely, and apparantly preventing its sprouting. A far better plan to keep off the cut worm is to drop a tablespoonful of coarse salt on the top of each hill, soon after planting. Tbis is carried down hy the rains, and acts as a fertilizer, besides destroying the cut worm. *Salt* is peculiarly obnoxious to this class of insects, and perhaps all classes.—*Practical Farmer.*

Agricultural Report for June.—It is stated in the June report of the Agricultural Department, that in some parts of the South there have been complaints of rust in the wheat, hut it has been mainly confined to the leaf, while the grain was so nearly ripe as to he little liable to attack. The harvest has been gathered in Georgia and other Gulf States with a very gratifying result. The average of the Winter wbeat is as large as in the majority of States last year, though it is less than in a few of the principal wheat-growing States.

Texas, Kansas and Ohio report diminished averages, and Virginia, Georgia, Arkansas and Tennessee a largely increased breadth. The New England States show a slight increase. The Middle States report a similar advance, not exceeding 6 per cent. The Southern wheat-growing States show an average increase of 20 per cent.

If conditions continue favorable, at least 200,000,000 of hushels of wheat may be expected in all the States and Territories.

Other cereals are represented to be in good condition.

Grain from California.—California expects to compete hereafter with the Eastern States in supplying the grain markets of Europe. The Alta California says: "This year the greatest want has been sufficient shipping to carry away the surplus crop to foreign markets. Hereafter we shall not he troubled on that account, as the shippers and grain-dealers of the Eastern States and Europe now understand that we have a large trade upon which they can rely. With a lively competition in shipping, San Francisco, even by way of Cape Horn, can always reach the markets of Europe with her grain a little cheaper than Chicago, so that our farmers will have the advantage of those of Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa in price, and double or treble the advantage in production to the area planted.

Boys that ride horses to plow are advised by the Maine Farmer to remember that a horse does nearly all the stepping when he turns, with the fore feet. He makes use of the hind feet chiefly as a pivot. Now just take care of his fore feet and keep them away from the hills and pay no attention to his hind feet and you will succeed nicely.

Raspberries.—As soon as the fruit is off, cut down old canes and thin out new ones. Three or four canes to a stool is sufficient; keep well hoed without disturhing the roots.

Of 13,000,000 hottles of champagne annually exported from Rheims and its vicinity, the United States gets 2,000,000.



The Lettuce.—The Romans esteemed this vegetable a clearer of the senses. They were anciently eaten at the conclusion of their supper; but in the time of Domitian, they changed this order, and served them with the first entries of their feasts. The wild lettuce, as well as the cultivated, was used medicinally by the Romans. We find no attempt made to cultivate the lettuce in England, until the fourth year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, 1562; hut in 1597, Gerard gives us an account of eight kinds of lettuce that were then cultivated in England. He says, "It is served in these days, and these countries, at the heginning of supper, and eaten before any meat; hut, notwithstanding, it may now and then be eaten at hoth those times, to the health of the body; for, taken before meat, it doth many times stir up appetite; and eaten after supper, it keepeth away drunkenness which cometh hy the wine.

# The Fireside Muse.

## SUMMER.

Lo! lazy Summer, swarthy, in the sun
  Lies panting, with bare breasts, upon the hills,
Swathing her limbs in hazes warm and dun,
Where splendors into dusky splendor run,
  And sultry glory all the heavens o'er fills.

Not a white dimple stirs amid the corn,
  Not a low ripple shivers through the leaves;
Since wrapped in gold and crimson gleams unshorn,
Came flashing through the East, the regal morn,
  No throated twitterings gurgle round the eaves.

Flooded in sunny silence sleep the kine;
  In languid murmurs brooklets float and flow;
The quaint farm-gables in the rich light shine,
And round them jasmined honeysuckles twine,
  And close beside them sun-flowers burn and glow.

Amid the glowing heat I lie me down,
  And into visions swarms the moted air;
Gleams up before me many a famous town,
Pillared and crested with a regal crown
  Or shimmering in an orient purple glare;

Lo! lowly Tadmor, burning in its sands—
  Baalbec and Babylon:—I see slow streams
Gliding by mosque and minaret—see the gleams
Of seas in sunset—slips of shining strands,
  And drowsy Bagdad buried deep in dreams.

See swarthy monarchs flushed in purple rings
  Of silken courtiers; through half open doors
Catch the spice-odors, and the cool of springs
Leaping forever in a maize of wings—
  See light forms dancing over pearly floors;—

Sleeping seraglios, spire and tremulous dome
  Winking in drowsy splendor all the day,—
See the forest haunts where thick the lions roam,
See thirsty panthers splashed in bloody foam
  Leap terrible as lightnings on their prey;

Or stand with Cortez on a mountain peak
  Above the Aztec city, see unrolled
Gem-threaded shore of Montezuma weak—
See the white temples swarming thick and sleek,
  And sunny streets stretched up by towers of gold;

See silken sails float by, ambrosial,
  Laden with spices up a Persian glen;
Or stand on Lebanon, 'mid the cedars tall,
Or hear the soft and silver fall
  Of water down a jut of Darien.

But lo! a waking shiver in the trees,
  And voices 'mid the hay-cocks in the glen;
The sun is setting; and the crimson seas
Are shaken into splendor by the breeze,
  And all the busy world is up again!

## THE SONG OF THE MOWERS.

We are up and away, ere the sunrise hath kist,
In the valley below us, that ocean of mist;
Ere the tops of the hills have grown bright in its ray,
With our scythes on our shoulders, we're up and away!

The freshness and beauty of morning are ours,
The music of birds and the fragrance of flowers;
And our trail is the first that is seen in the dew,
As our pathway through orchards and lanes we pursue.

The helmeted clover in serried array,
Like a host for the battle, awaits us to-day;
Like a host overthrown, rank by rank, shall it lie
Ere the heats of the noon-tide are poured from the sky.

Hurrah!—here we are!—now together as one,
Give your scythes to the sward, and press steadily on;
All together, as one, o'er the stubble we pass,
With a swing and a ring of the steel through the grass.

Before us the clover stands thickly and tall,
At our left it is piled in a verdurous wall;
And never breathed monarch more fragrant perfumes
Than the sunshine distills from its leaves and its blooms.

Invisible censers around us are swung,
And anthems exultant from tree-tops are flung;
And 'mid fragrance, and music, and beauty we share
The jubilant life of the Earth and the Air.

Let the merchant and lawyer grow pale in their shades,
And the slender young clerk keep his skin like a maid's;
We care not, though dear mother Nature may bronze
Our cheeks with the kiss which she gives to her sons.

Then cheerily, boys, cheerily!—together, as one,
Give your scythes to the sward, and press steadily on;
All together, as one, o'er the stubble we pass,
With a swing and a ring of the steel through the grass.

# General Miscellany.

## AN OLD-FASHIONED SUNDAY.

A new book on "American Rural Life," is just published. It faithfully pictures the old homestead, as known to many of our readers; its quiet country roads, sequestered green lanes, cart-tracks through dim woods, hill-side pastures, rippling brooks, blossoming clover fields and venerable orchards. The following sketch of a Sunday, in the inland towns of New England, is life-like:

In the Summer time, when the sun gets up and looks in at the East windows, not far from 4½ o'clock of a Sunday morning, the good farmer-folk bestir themselves right early. In place of setting the pitcher in the dingy area for the milk-and-water man, they turn out to fill their own frothy pails as soon, certainly, as sunrise, and send off the dewy-coated cows to pasture again. The children are all brought up to the kitchen sink, and scrubbed and rubbed till they take on a shine like new furniture. Pretty soon old aunts slip out into the garden and snap off a spike or two of lilac blossoms from the bush close by the gate, which they stick into broken-nosed pitchers about the mantles and hearth. The farmers themselves, in snowy shirt-sleeves, are everywhere about the barns, greasing up the wagon-wheels, tinkering at the harnesses, and indulging in a general fuss of preparation for the hour of meeting.

Not a home in the whole breadth of quiet landscape but is at that moment all ready to send forth its own swarm. And the white wooden meeting-house is big enough to collect and hold them all safely together.

Breakfast being done, and the children having taken off their long tires, a tedious spell—to them—intervenes till church time. Where the family is a pious and well-ordered one, the restless young folks are seated around the room in a silent circle, generally with Testament in their hands, and there they keep them fast, sitting stiffly, primly and uncomfortably, until *the* hour comes laggingly around. No matter if a golden-ringed bumble-bee does fly in at the open window; or a lady butterfly shakes the yellow dust from the velvet of her gorgeous cloak, just over the window-sill; or a bird comes and sings on a low bough hard by, to let the boys feel how unspeakably joyous out-door liberty must be, of a Sunday morning; there must they sit all in a row, with faces as rigid as the copies of Miles Standish's, and spirits crowded back into the pit of youthful despair, till the old clock in the corner rings out ten, and perhaps a little while after.

After the country wagons begin to stir the dust on the roads, they do not stop to let it settle again. One family party closes behind another; a white horse pulling up behind a red one, and a lean beast chasing after a pot-bellied one; a loitering line of sturdy young fellows, honest and lusty, whose necks and hands have been tanning all the week in the hot corn fields; now two maidenly women in bonnets to match their years—now a hobbling old man who is not able to keep a horse, turning about all the time to let the wagons pass him; girls crowded in on the back seats at the cost of much of the starch in their Sunday attire—these are the sights that give a new face, on that day, to the landscape. You see nothing like it near the cities; you would hardly think that such pictures could be sketched from life anywhere.

Almost every country meeting-house has a plat of green grass before and around it, and, occasionally, a few trees, old elms, or vigorous growing maples. Commonly, too, a sign-post—the magnet for knots of men before services open within, whereon they attentively study the probate, town, and society's proclamations.

It is painfully clear that nobody feels at his ease in his Sunday clothes; the efforts to appear so only make the fact more apparent. This one is in a sorry state of doubt about the best place for his hands, and you guess he wishes he could have left them at home. That one puts little faith in his feet, thrusting forth first one and then the other, as if they were in conspiracy to play him false and let him down. A third betrays a slight personal acquaintance with the hat he wears that day, continually tipping it back and pulling it forward upon his head. Still another goes round offering his hand to everybody, as if he thought there must be some magic in the town's palms. The uneasiest and unhappiest one of all laughs when he catches anybody else laughing, though he can give no sort of reason why he should. If one of the other sex chances to pass him on her way in, he begins with throwing a glance at her sneakishly, and ends with a square and courageous turn-about, studying the motions of her shoes till they take her up the steps and out of his sight.

## CANNING FRUITS.

As the season of fruits is just commencing, anything that will enable it to be successfully canned at a small expense, will very much prolong the season. Only those who have tried it know the satisfaction derived from eating a dish of strawberries or peaches in mid-winter as fresh as when gathered. The annexed method of canning fruit was furnished at the New York Farmers' Club by Mr. Powers of Oswego Co., New York:

"I will suppose your fruit and glass cans all ready. I prefer cans with glass covers. I scald the fruit in a large tin pan with juice or water to cover it. Put half a teacup of cold water into every can, and fill up with hot water. Put the covers and rubbers also into hot water. Now empty a can and fill up with hot fruit, and then another. Let them stand open till the hand can be held upon them without burning. As soon as filled cut writing paper the size of the can, one for each, and when cool slip one over the fruit entirely, and fill up the can on the top of the paper with boiling juice, and seal at once. Ladies, try this way; the fruit will never mould, and keep any time, if you don't eat it. The papers keep the fruit from rising to the top of the liquid. There is no use of setting cans into water to heat them, or of putting them into quilted bags; it is too troublesome. I let the fruit shrink, and then fill up to the cover as close as possible. Ladies must be governed by their own common sense. Men attempt to give directions, but their wives have to tell them, and they are likely to forget."

Hard and Soft Water.—The boundary line between hard and soft water is six degrees of hardness. Below this assumed point water is soft, and above it it is hard. This quality of hardness depends upon the presence of a lime salt, either sulphate or a bicarbonate, in the proportion of a grain to a gallon. The lime antagonizes the soap used in washing, and every degree of hardness neutralizes an ounce of soap in every forty gallons of water. Hence the greater adaptation of soft water than of hard water for washing purposes; and the commercial or economical advantage of the former may be estimated at the worth of two ounces of soap in every forty gallons of water for each degree of its hardness.

Precious Stone.—The largest topaz known has been deposited in the Bank of France. It is of Brazilian origin, and measures seven and one quarter inches in length, by four and three-fourth inches in width, and about the same in thickness. It weighs more than three and one-half pounds. However valuable this stone may be from its brilliancy and size, it is still more so from its artistic merit, as on one face is engraven a half-length Christ breaking bread at the Last Supper. This composition was executed with the burin and diamond dust by the owner of the gem, Andre Coriello, formerly director of the Naples mint.

After the Solons of the New York Farmers' Club had gravely decided, at a recent debate, the only practical means of protecting fruit from the fatal sting of the curculio was to jar them upon sheets and destroy them piecemeal, Mr. Robinson said: "Nothing but thunder and lightning would jar my apple trees, for they are fifty feet high. Nor could I hire help enough for $200 to catch the curculio among the thick grass, $100 worth of which would be destroyed; but even if I should go into all this business, I do not see what good it would do, for they would come from my neighbors' trees, and then where would I be?"

A Little Hint.—Housekeepers, especially in hotels and large boarding houses, are sometimes compelled from necessity to use milk for tea and coffe after the cream has risen. As a consequence, one boarder will have the benefit of all the cream, and the others of the skim milk from the cream pitcher. When several quarts are to be used this may be easily remedied by running the milk through a common tin strainer, when the cream will be thoroughly broken up and mixed with the milk.

Whitewash, as ordinarily made, rubs off the walls after it becomes dry, soiling clothes and everything coming in contact with it. This may be obviated, it is said, by slaking the lime in boiling water, stirring it meanwhile, and then applying, after dissolving in water, white vitriol (sulphate of zinc) in the proportion of four pounds to a barrel of whitewash, making it the consistency of rich milk. A pound of white salt should be thrown into it.

Western Eloquence.—"But as I said we have now proven to you where the town line is. Yes, gentlemen of the jury, there it is, and there it will remain forever; and all the ingenuity of my learned brother can never efface it, can never wash it out. No, gentlemen, he may plant one foot on the outermost ring of the planet Saturn, and plant the other on Arcturus, and seize the Pleiades by the hair, and wring them dry, but he cannot wash out that town line—never, never."

The True Landlord.—There is no man more independent than the owner of a well cultivated farm. He is less beholden to popular sentiment than any other calling, he has always a sure support before him, without consulting the opinions or relying upon the custom of any. There is a constant market for all the surplus he can produce, and he obtains for it the current price without any one demanding to know of him his religious or political faith.

An Ancient Clapboard.—Mr. David Stevens of this city, exhibited to us a white pine clapboard taken from the wall of the house in Stroudwater village, in which Admiral Tate was born. The clapboard was placed on the house in 1754, and is, therefore, 113 years old. It is in a perfectly sound condition. The wrought nail, with which it was fastened, had rusted but very slightly.—*State Press, Portland, Me.*

Thebes, in Egypt, presents ruins twenty-seven miles round. Athens was twenty-five miles round, and contained 350,000 citizens and 400,000 slaves. The Temple of Delphos was so rich in donations that it was plundered of $50,000,000, and the Emperor Nero carried away from it two hundred statues. The walls of Rome were thirteen miles round.

An editor who resolved to rebuke his foreman for typographical errors, accordingly "set up" sundry comments of his own on the subject, which ended thus:

TaLɥ aqonT puiʌʃinƃ haIug hArp—iɟ ɹs jnSɟ ʊs ʇasʃ ʊs rOljuƃ oɟ A l ○ Ƨ.

A Wise Man once said: "There are three things which will surprise us when we get to Heaven: First, to find many there whom we did not expect. Second, not to find many there whom we did expect. Third, the greatest wonder will be to find ourselves there."

A Young Lady school teacher was last Sunday endeavoring to impress upon her scholars the terrible effects of the punishment of Nebuchadnezzar. She told them that for seven years he ate grass just like a cow. Just then a small boy asked: "Did he give milk?"

A Kiss on the forehead denotes respect and admiration; on the cheek, friendship; on the eyelids, tender sentiment; on the lips, love. The young men of our acquaintance haven't much "respect" for the young ladies.

Dryden was so fond of reading, that his wife one day exclaimed, "I wish that I were a book that I might always be in your society." "I wish you were an almanac," he replied, "so I could change every year."

A Wise little boy said—"I can understand how chickens get *out* of eggs—'cause they break the shells; but I can't think how they get *in* in the first place, without breaking anything."

Air and Water.—Set a pitcher of water in a room, and in a few hours it will have absorbed nearly all the respired and perspired gases in the room, the air of which will have become purer, but the water utterly filthy. The colder the water is, the greater the capacity to contain these gasses. At ordinary temperatures, a pint of water will contain a pint of carbonic acid gas, and several pints of ammonia. The capacity is nearly doubled by reducing the water to the temperature of ice. Hence water, kept in the room awhile, is always unfit for use. For the same reason, the water in a pump stock should always be pumped out in the morning before any is used. Impure water is more injurious than impure air. This shows the economy as well as the convenience of a modern ice pitcher, a splendid invention, which, as it seems, is more than ornament and show.

## Correspondence.

### LETTERS FROM FLORIDA.—NUMBER ONE.

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA,
July 1, 1867.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside :

HERE, if anywhere on the American continent, is the place for a poor man to live. Here is the land that has been trodden by Sebastian Cabot, A. D. 1497; again by Ponce de Leon, in 1512; a quarter of a century afterward by Ferdinand de Soto; in 1609 by Sir Walter Raleigh; and in 1702 by D'Iberville, the distinguished French explorer. Afterwards, in 1722, came General Oglethorpe with a colony from Georgia. Antecedent, and cotemporary with these adventurers, there lived and roamed among the semi-tropical forests and savannahs of this land of plenty and beauty, the poor children of Nature—the Seminole Indians. Thus, you must acknowledge that Florida possesses a classic soil; identified with American civilization, and ere long will be known as the most productive semi-tropical fruit region in the United States.

I have stated that Florida is the place for the poor man. I do not mean by this that he can live without labor; that the indigenous and spontaneous fruits of the earth will sustain him; nor that roast-pig or broiled venison can be found hanging on the pendent branches of our live-oaks, palmetto or magnolia trees. But the climate is so mild and genial; the native fruits so numerous and manifold; the fish in our streams so abundant; the game in our forest-wilderness so plentiful, and the fertility of the soil so extraordinary, that life can be sustained with trifling effort. If you examine your map you will find Florida located between latitude 24 ° —30 ° —an oblong peninsula, with an area of 54,000 square miles; its Eastern shore kissed by the billows of the Atlantic, and the Western boundary laved and fanned by the waves and winds of the Gulf of Mexico.

The extreme Southern portion of the State is an extensive marsh, which during the rainy season is generally under water. The balance of the State is almost a dead level, with small sections undulating, interspersed with vast forests of yellow pine, hummocks and prairies. These prairies, or savannahs, consist of our best land—forming natural pastures on which graze tens of thousands of cattle and horses. Even our forests are unlike those of the Northern States. Here we have no underbrush; the pine trees, some times eighty feet high, have no limbs for twenty to thirty feet from the ground. Excellent wild grasses, of extraordinary nutritious quality, carpet our forests; while wild flowers, of rare beauty and fragrance, cover our prairies. To add to this attractiveness we have gaudy and musical tribes of birds, such as parrots, paroquets, mocking-birds, curlews, plovers, robins, marsh-hens, wild turkeys, millions of water-fowl, and eagles as thick, almost, as crows at the North. For game we have deer, bears, foxes, rabbits, raccoons, fox-squirrels, (the size of half-grown cats,) and alligators. The latter cannot be called legitimate *game;* but they are so numerous that I cannot omit mentioning them. In the rainy season, when our low lands are flooded, they travel all through the woods—making over-land trips from river to river. They are quite harmless, and in a forty miles journey through the forest, last April, I think I saw a dozen or more.

All our rivers, the St. Johns, St. Marys, Coloose-Hache, Suamee, Apalachicola, and the smaller streams abound with fish. Up North, you know nothing about fishing. You go out with rod and line, considering yourselves lucky to catch a small basket full in half a day. Here, we take them by the boat-load. In the St. Johns, above Picolata, I have taken bass, tautog, sheep's-head, trout, mullet, and other varieties, as fast as I could bait my hook. One rainy afternoon, last May, I caught over two hundred pounds, in less than three hours. Think of that! poor, hungry, unlucky fisherman of the North. From the Suamee, and St. Marys, I have seen eat-fish taken that weighed from twenty to thirty pounds. They are a coarse fish, and I never waste bait for them. The *Crackers*, (our very poor, and very lazy people,) catch them and salt them down for Winter use. "Talking of fish," said GEN. TRUMAN SEYMOUR, (as we talked the night away, three years ago in camp,) "I was, in the Seminole war, located on Indian River, near the Bar; and the fish made so great a noise in getting over, at low water, that my command could not sleep!" I thought it a thundering story at the time; but the truthfulness of the General, and my recent experience, leave no doubt of that fact. It is well known that the Indians of East Florida lived principally on fish—and were a *scaley* race.

But I began this series of letters for the *Farm and Fireside*, to inform you of our agriculture, and the peculiarities of Florida farming. I was born in Massachusetts, (which like all the New England States is a good place to be born—provided you emigrate early!) and for this reason I cannot omit mentioning the general and physical peculiarities of this State, for they differ so widely from the Northern and Middle States. The salubrity of this climate is remarkable—owing, unquestionably, to the fact that our whole State is *ventilated*, alternately, by the salt winds of the Atlantic and Mexican seas. The change of season is hardly felt, except in the Northern parts, and vegetation receives no check, scarcely, from January to December. We have no snows, and often no frosts; and the coldest month is generally March. In that month we kill our hogs and make bacon. By the way, our porcine herds run wild in the woods, living on roots, wild cabbage and mast, and are rarely fed on grain. As they banquet on moccasin and rattle-snakes, lizards and *jiggars*, (a kind of worm,) they have a "gamey taste," which the contrabands like much better than myself. We kill our hogs with the rifle—never sticking them with a knife, and our slaughter-house is the open field or forest.

Alachua county, (formerly written Latchaway,) is located some thirty miles West of the St. Johns' river, and is by far the best portion of East Florida. I have lived here since the close of the Rebellion, and am well pleased with my purchase of four hundred acres—three-fourths of which is not yet under cultivation. The air is very salubrious, some days hot, but we generally get a fine breeze from the Gulf by ten o'clock in the morning, which continues throughout the day, and often all night. My dwelling is shaded by three magnificent magnolia trees—one of them over seventy feet in height. Then, I have an orange grove of one-and-a-half acres, now overloaded with fruit. In fact, I consider my new home a kind of terrestrial paradise—located in the heart of the most fertile and luxuriant savannah in the State. The soil is a sandy loam, producing corn, sugar-cane, cotton, sweet potatoes and pea-nuts abundantly. Wheat, rye and oats do not thrive—as this is too far South of the grain zone, or belt. Of fruits, I have oranges, pomegranates, olives, grapes, peaches and apricots. Apples and pears none. As to growing water-melons and cantaloupes, I can beat the world. If you doubt it, come and try them. But the chief value of this part of Florida, at present, is its splendid grazing land. Here we have the most luxuriant of native grasses, sweet, nutritious, and on which cattle and horses thrive remarkably. As we rarely have frost in the whole year, we graze our stock continually. Before the war, Charlestou, Savaunah, and even Cuba, were almost wholly supplied with Florida beef—a great deal of which went from this county. There were planters here, then, who owned the princely number of *five hundred to five thousand cattle!*—all roaming together on the savaunahs or prairies—each one branded with the owner's mark, and these recorded in the records of the county. This statement may seem large to you, but it is correct. In future letters, I will write more in detail of Florida farming.

SEMINOLE.

## Horticulture.

### PEACH TREES, HOW AFFECTED BY COLD.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY J. F. WOLFINGER, MILTON, PA.

MANY of our old peach trees in this part of Pennsylvania are dead, or nearly so, while most of our younger peach trees have a very feeble and sickly look. They threw out their first-formed leaves very slowly last Spring, and after a while those leaves assumed a yellowish, or reddish yellow hue, and finally withered, turned black and fell off, leaving the trees without leaves. Many people were afraid that all of our peach trees were going to die. But our frequent rains gradually made the most of our younger trees throw out a *new* supply of leaves, and the leaves are now beginning to look healthy. This is a fair picture, I presume, of peach trees all over our State.

Now, what is the cause of this poor condition of our peach trees? I am inclined to think it is mainly the result of a weakened and diseased state of their bark, wood and sap, produced by our last Winter's unusually long and severe cold. I have two peach trees of small size that stand close to the wall and under the projecting roof of the brick Lutheran church, on the West side of my garden, and these trees have exhibited no such signs of weakness and diseased sap this Spring, but have retained and still retain their first-formed leaves, and look very healthy and of a rich green color. And this fact confirms me in the opinion that our peach trees need *more shelter from the Winter's cold* than they usually have, to do well.

There is another peculiarity about the peach tree that deserves passing notice. We all know that our *natural* peach trees (and by natural, we mean such as grow up from the stones of themselves) have a harder and tougher wood, and live longer and bear fruit with more certainty than those trees do that are obtained from our tree-growers or nurseries. But their fruit is harder, smaller, and much poorer flavored, as a general thing, than that of our nursery trees. It seems to be a law of nature that the bark and wood of our peach trees become softer and more liable to disease, and shorter lived in proportion to their fruit's increased size, beauty and superior flavor. And hence our nursery peach trees, that produce such extra-fine peaches, die off soon and require frequent renewal. Most of our other fruit trees, grown in our nurseries for transplanting, undergo a like change, but in an inferior degree. Our coldest and bleakest grounds should, therefore, always have a moderate intermixture or supply of peach, cherry, and other fruit trees of our own native and natural growth to secure us fruit. And to make their fruit-bearing still more certain, we should plant belts of evergreen and deciduous trees upon their Northwestern, and partially on their Eastern sides, to screen our fruit trees against the cold and piercing winds that usually blow from those quarters of the horizon.

*July*, 1867.

HELLEBORE FOR THE CURRANT WORM.—The currant and gooseberry bushes will richly repay good care. No fruit is more grateful in hot Summer weather. Where the currant worm infests them remember that the *best* remedy is white hellebore, powdered and sifted on the bushes when wet with dew. It can be obtained at any of the druggists, and should be applied as often as the worms appear.

CURRANTS.—If particularly large specimens are desired, pinch off the ends of the shoots just beyond the bunches, and thin and give plenty of water or liquid manure. They will begin to ripen during the month; when fully ripe, pick for jelly, preserves and canning. Prune and cut out old canes as soon as the fruit is gathered. The currant worm and other insects should be looked after and destroyed by all practicable means. Powdered helledore is recommended to destroy the worm, &c.

## Field and Farm.

### MONOPOLY OF LAND IN ENGLAND.

THE extent to which the land is monopolized by a few of the great families in England and Scotland, is forcibly illustrated by the following facts:—Mr. Emerson rode on the highway twenty-three miles on the estate of the Duke of Cleveland. The Marquis of Breadalbane rides out of his house one hundred miles in a straight line to the sea on his own property. The Duke of Sutherland owns the county of Sutherland, stretching across Scotland from sea to sea. Besides his other estates, the Duke of Devonshire owns ninety-six thousand acres in the county of Derby; and the Duke of Richmond forty thousand at Goodwood and three hundred thousand at Gordon Castle. Even the park of the Duke of Norfolk, in Sussex, is fifteen miles in circuit. The Earl of Lonsdale's possessions virtually give him a fee simple of eight seats in the house of commons; for no one among his tenants would dare oppose his nominees. And, all the while, these immense domains are growing larger and more valuable. The Duke of Bedford's London property, which used to be chiefly fields and farms and common lands, now occupies a mile square in one of the most densely populated parts of the metropolis. The Marquis of Westminster built a few years ago splendid streets and squares on a lot of waste ground, transforming a wilderness of marsh into what is called Belgravia—the most fashionable quarter of the West End—and himself into the richest man in Europe. In Ireland monopoly is carried to the same extreme, and is productive of far greater evils. The late Lord Palmerston was reported to hold twenty Irish estates, and where the Fenians were lately in force in the county of Tipperary, the country is mostly the property of England's present Premier, the Earl of Derby.

COMMERCIAL MANURES.—In a recent number of the Southern Cultivator was a communication from David Dickson, on the commercial manures best adapted to the cotton and corn grounds of the South. He says: "You will see some guanos advertised as *permanent manures*. I want to avoid that kind, for I think that it is true of some of them, at least, that when I use them my crops do not remove them. *I prefer the kind that will come to me* the first year, and bring a large interest in the form of cotton, corn, wheat, &c. The true system in manuring is to get the manure back the first year, with a living profit, and rapidly to improve the soil up to its original capacity." The manure he uses is a compost per acre of Peruvian guano 100 pounds, dissolved bones 100 do., salt 100, and plaster 50 pounds. This is well mixed and deposited in the cotton drills. For corn a kindred process is pursued, with excellent results in both cases.

IN Niagara county, Western New York, the army worm is committing dreadful ravages among the orchards. In places, the whole population turns out to battle to save their fruit and gardens. The worms attack a tree in such numbers as to cover the leaves and fruit, which they utterly destroy. If the trunk of a tree is covered with tarred paper they cannot ascend it, and they start for another orchard. It is doubtful whether this is the real army worm of the South, but it is probably the caterpillar of New England. If it is the army worm its progress can be stopped by plowing furrows and then digging ditches eight inches deep, with straight sides. Into this they will crawl, and only with great difficulty can they get out; then strew straw over them, set it on fire, and their day is done.

MANURE THE ONE THING NEEDFUL.—Without plenty of it, very little can be accomplished in this part of the country at farming; but with a plenty almost anything can be done that may be desired, provided it is properly applied to the soil.



SCOLDING.—If laughter begets fat, it is no less true that scolding is the parent of meagerness. Who ever saw a plump termagant? The virago is craggy—cragginess is the badge of all her tribe. It would seem that the attrition of a fierce, exacting temper gives sharpness to the human frame as inevitably as a gritty grindstone puts a wiry edge on a broad axe. Artists understand this fact, and govern themselves accordingly. They invariably represent ladies supposed to be given to "the rampage" as remarkably high in bone. Shrews are thus depicted, and all the illustrations of "Curtain Lectures" have presented the "rib" of Mr. Caudle without a particle of fat. Lavater referring to female fire brands, says, flatly, that their noses are sharp. We have a dim idea that he mentions some exceptional cases of ladies with snub-noses, who are given to snubbing their husbands, but these form a mild variety.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## SEEDS—THEIR VITALITY, &c.

Every perfectly matured seed contains an embryo plant of its parent kind. This embryo contains within itself all the elements of vegetable life. Action is started in the embryo by warmth, moisture, etc., and this process is called germination. The degree of heat requisite to produce germination varies in the different species. The chickweed will develop at a temperature but little above the freezing point; while, on the other hand, most of the tropical plants require from ninety to one hundred and ten degrees to call them into action. Heat, ranging in intenseness above one hundred and thirteen degrees is fatal to the vitality of grains, peas, beans, &c. It is said that direct light, though so essential to subsequent vegetation, is unfavorable to germination.

The time required for germination varies in the different species. Wheat, rye, oats and millet will germinate, under favorable circumstances, in one day; beans, turnips, radish and mustard, in three days; lettuce, in four; melon, cucumber, squash and pumpkin, in five; barley in seven; cabbage in ten; and parsley, in fifteen. The almond, peach and peony require one year, and the hawthorne two years. Soil, climate, degrees of moisture, &c., have much to do in these several estimates.

The time that seeds will retain their vitality also differs in the different species, and depends very much how they are protected from moisture, &c. Peas, carrots, parsnips, and rhubarb seeds are supposed to lose their vitality at the end of one year, but have been known to germinate after being kept much longer. Instances have not been wanting (as in the case of those found in the mummy swathings) in which seeds have germinated after a lapse of thousands of years. From "Henderson's Gardening for Profit," we make the subjoined classification, believing that he derived his knowledge from years of practical experimenting:—

To be sown the first year: Parsnips, onions and leeks.

Safe for two years: Beans and peas, peppers, carrot, egg plant, okra, salsify, thyme, sage and rhubarb.

Safe for three years: Asparagus, endive, lettuce, parsley, spinach and radish.

Safe for four years: Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, celery and turnip.

Those possessing the greatest vitality: Beet, cucumber, melon, pumpkin, squash, and tomato, ranging in time from five to ten years.

If there is one thing of paramount importance in vegetable gardening, it is purity of seed. The safest plan is for persons to raise their own seed so far as possible. No gardener should risk his crop on purchased seeds without testing them, unless he has implicit confidence in the source from which he purchased them. There are some seedsmen of the most responsible character, who understand their business, and make reliability the test of their success; but there are also others who are not only quacks, but knaves also. It is of much importance to select seeds from the purest specimens of each variety, and of keeping plants that are of the same family as far apart as the limits of the grounds will admit. If earliness is an object, seeds should be saved from the first five specimens that mature.

"A failure to germinate," says Mr. Jacques, "is doubtless often attributed to bad seeds, when the fault is entirely in the planting." They may be insufficiently covered in a light, dry soil, and perish for want of moisture; or they may be buried too deeply, and fail to germinate for want of communication with the atmosphere. There may not be sufficient warmth in the soil at the time of planting, or a cold spell thereafter may cause the seeds to perish. Gardeners have also discovered that the success of their vegetable yield, in connection with the planting of pure, vital seeds at a proper time and in the proper soil, is governed much by the recognition of the following facts:

1st. Plants of the same family should not be planted to succeed each other.

2nd. Plants which occupy the ground for a number of years, such as rhubarb and asparagus should be succeeded by annual plants.

3d. Crops grown for heads, such as cauliflower and cabbage, should be succeeded by crops grown for their bulbs and roots.

This is in recognition of the law that different kinds of plants subtract different elements from the soil. Deep culture and heavy manuring may do away in a measure with systematic rotation. Mr. Henderson considers the onion as an exception to the above rules, having grown onions successively on the same ground for ten years, the last crop being just as good as the first.

---

Trial of Mowers at the Paris Exposition.—A correspondent of the Prairie Farmer gives a long and interesting account of the international mowing match held on the 23d of May. Nineteen mowers were entered, and the Wood, McCormick and Perry, all American machines, gave the best satisfaction. There is to be another trial, and the competition to be confined to eight machines, the American machines first on the list in the order named. The Perry mower broke part of its gearing in the early stage of the trial, and might have perhaps headed the list. The mower used on the occasion was built by the Ames Plow Company, Worcester, Mass., and was exhibited by the inventor, Mr. John G. Perry, a Rhode Island man. The correspondent speaks of the Perry mower in high terms, describing it as a two wheeled machine—both of which are drivers—and as being novel and simple in its construction.

## OUR BOOK TABLE.

Rural Studies, with Hints for Country Places. By the author of "My Farm of Edgewood." New York: Charles Scribner & Co.

This is a volume of three hundred pages, devoted to the subjects named in the title page. It abounds in rural sketches captivatingly told and liberally sprinkled with hints of the most valuable character. Its perusal will afford both instruction and entertainment. The author is Donald G. Mitchell, who has written half a dozen books that have met with rapid sales and made him popular with the people.

---

A New Fertilizer.—A correspondent writes us from the sea-side of New Jersey, that he has used, for the past five years, thousands of tons of muscles in manuring his land. They are easily obtained along the coast of that State, and, when applied, give a remarkable fertility to the soil. Muscles furnish a large per centage of nitrogenous and phosphatic matter, and are good for any crop—especially corn and grass. Sea-weed is also a good fertilizer, and can be obtained all along the Atlantic coast.

---

Obituary.—Richard C. Kendall, a contributor of the *Farm and Fireside*, died at Atco, New Jersey, on the 2nd instant. He was a writer of ability, not only on agricultural topics, but of general literature. His versatility was remarkable, his style quaint and his reading full and scholarly. He was born in China, although of American parentage, and had been an extensive traveller. As a companion he was exceedingly genial, and could tell a capital story as well as write one. We announce his death with unfeigned sorrow.

---

Accounts from the interior of North Carolina give very discouraging prospects for the crops. A letter from Langsburg says it has rained for nearly two months.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

Liming hay that is put into barns in a partially cured state, has been recommended by numerous agricultural writers within the past three years. A contributor of the "Prairie Farmer," Chicago, gives corroborative testimony in favor of air-slaked lime for preserving clover hay which had been imperfectly cured. He says he applied a peck of lime to the ton—sprinkling each layer as it was put into the mow. The result was it came out bright and green—all stock eating it greedily, and thriving well upon it. Clover and some other grasses lose much of their nutritive properties by being cured overmuch, or if left in the field too long, exposed to sun, rain and dew.

---

The "Cottage Gardener," of London, asserts that Game Fowls are indigenous to the British Islands. If this statement is correct, most naturalists are in the wrong. Most authors on poultry claim that the game fowls originated from the Jungle fowls of India; some that they came from the Island of Rhodes, and that the Romans introduced them into Britain. Probably they sprang from a mixture of various breeds. Not long since we read an argument to prove that they originated from a cross of the common barn-yard fowl of England and the English pheasant.

---

L. L. Fairchild, of Rolling Prairie, writes to the "Iowa Homestead," his experience in raising dwarf apples—a perfect failure—none of them bearing fruit. His neighbors, who have tried to cultivate the dwarfs, were equally unsuccessful. Authors on fruit culture, so far as we have read, recommend the different varieties of apples—grafting them on the Paradise stock; but we have never seen half a dozen productive trees. They may grow and produce wood, but very little fruit.

---

The "American Agriculturist," for July, advocates "A National Tax on Dogs"—says they are a luxury, from the white-haired poodle, down to the bull dog that shows his teeth and holds on—perhaps to your posterior, if you excite his ferocity. The Agriculturist says our dog population is seven millions—not counting the short tailed ones—and pronounces them an expensive nuisance. There is some sense, some philosophy, also some *dog*-matic ideas in the article of our contemporary; but when it advises the Government to tax dogs—when all our politicians are rabid—we think it will be taxing the lawmakers themselves. That would be "cruelty to animals."

---

A Belgian Agricultural journal says milk is largely adulterated in that country with chalk and borax. The use of the last mentioned article prevents souring and curdling of the milk. Many materials are used to adulterate milk besides pure water; but chemical tests invariably detect all artificial dishonesty in this line.

---

Raising sheep and growing wool in the Southern States was ignored in the prosperous days of King Cotton; but since the close of the Rebellion, many planters, especially in the mountainous districts of Georgia and Tennessee, are turning their attention to sheep husbandry. A contributor to the "Southern Cultivator," of Athens, Georgia, writes of the natural advantages of this branch of agriculture on the denuded and abandoned slave-cultured plantations. The great obstacle has been heretofore, that there were no indigenous grasses; but the writer says the Bermuda and Mesquit grasses can be acclimatized, and will thrive throughout the South. Further, he says he can raise a thousand pounds of wool cheaper than the like amount of cotton—and the former will net twice the amount of money. Then, go ahead, and make your broomsedge fields and old pine barrens into sheep-pastures.

---

The Country Gentleman says many otherwise good apple orchards are allowed to become defaced, as well as seriously injured, by allowing a profusion of suckers to grow at the base of the trunks. Attempts are sometimes made to get rid of them by cutting them off down to the surface of the ground, and leaving considerable portions below in the form of short stumps. These sprout again, and they soon become as bad as ever. A better way is to wait until they are in leaf, at which time they are loosened more readily, and taking each sprout separately in the hands, and placing a thick boot upon it near the tree, they are quickly separated. If done at this time of the year, they will not be likely to sprout again.

---

The time has not yet come when farmers appreciate, as they should, the value of grass. Every year dairy products are becoming dearer, because the grass region is limited, and only a few years will be required to give any farm natural for grass a value which now would be thought excessive. If I wished to buy a farm for my posterity which would continually increase in value, I certainly should choose it in the region of grass. For I do know that during the course of one's life, a grass farm will bring more money and comfort and with less work than any other farm, whether on the Scioto, the Wabash, or the Mississippi bottoms, nor can a farm of equal value be selected and made anywhere within the belt formed by the tropics, the whole world round.—*N. C. M., in N. Y. Tribune.*

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

A farmer in Cumberland county, Penn., has a sow that has given birth to *sixty-four pigs* within the past eighteen months.

The Colorado potato bugs are doing very great damage in Iowa and other Western States. No effectual prevention has been made public.

A farmer in Orleans co., N. Y., in one year sold 1,600 pounds of butter from eight cows and supplied his own family.

If you will dust your rose bushes with unleached wood ashes, early in the morning for two or three times, you will most likely kill the white lice and save the rose bush.

The editor of the Wisconsin Farmer has raised 700 bushels of ruta bagas per acre, for two or three years in succession, on unmanured prairie land.

Mr. Thomas Brown, the founder, and for a number of years editor and publisher of the Ohio Farmer, died at Brooklyn, N. Y., on the 13th ult.

In the year ending May 1, 1867, there were 45,000,000 pounds of cheese exported from this country. The average price received by the factories was over 17 cents per pound, in currency.

Budding will be timely as soon as you can procure well formed buds and the bark of the stock parts freely from the wood. Look out for good varieties to select from.

Air slaked lime is a sure remedy for the turnip fly. It should be put on as soon as the plants make their appearance, and as often as is necessary. It should be sprinkled when the dew is on the ground.

Newly planted trees should have the soil around their stems stirred up and pulverized. If a mulch of compost, or newly mown grass, is placed around them, as far as the roots extend, the soil will remain moist even in dry weather.

Clear away early peas and potatoes and plant celery. Plant it in a slight furrow made with the hoe. It may be planted near other crops which will be removed in time to give room for earthing up.

The States of the Pacific coast are as populous and as wealthy as were the whole Colonies in the time of the Revolution.

At a sheep shearing festival in Genesee county, N. Y., it was stated that the sheep of that section will shear double the cleansed wool in 1867, that they did in 1860—a gain unparalleled in any other department of farming.

The investigation into the causes of abortion in cows, for which an appropriation was made by the late legislature of New York, has been commenced by Prof. John C. Dalton, aided by scientific assistants.



Buckwheat and Witchgrass.—We have been informed of several instances where a heavy crop of buckwheat had completely killed out the witchgrass in a single season. One of the most important desiderata among farmers is a feasible mode of destroying this pest of most farms. Witchgrass is very sensitive to shade. If its tops are overshadowed any length of time the roots will surely die. If a piece of ground should be well cultivated in the Spring with a good coating of manure, and then sowed with buckwheat and well harrowed in, we should think that under favorable circumstances it might be completely eradicated. The broad leaf and thick foliage of buckwheat is well fitted for this object. We should like to hear from any of our readers of any experiments that are at least two years old on this subject. We welcome any method that will easily get rid of this nuisance.

## The Fireside Muse.

### OLD FOLKS.

Ah, don't be sorrowful, darling,
And don't be sorrowful, pray;
Taking the year together, my dear,
There isn't more night than day.

'Tis rainy weather, my darling,
Time's waves they heavily run;
But taking the year together, my dear,
There isn't more clouds than sun.

We are old folks now, my darling,
Our heads are growing gray;
And taking the year together, my dear,
You will always find the May.

We have had our May, my darling,
And our roses long ago;
And the time of year is coming, my dear,
For the silent night and snow.

And God is God, my darling,
Of night as well as day,
And we feel and know that we can go
Wherever He leads the way.

Ay, God of the night, my darling—
Of the night of death so grim;
The gate that leads out of life, good wife,
Is the gate that leads to Him.

## Fireside Tale.

### A MAN'S TEMPTATION.

BY LOUISE CHANDLER MOULTON.

John Osgood let down the bars, for the tired oxen with which he had been plowing all day to go through them, and seek on the cool hillsides their night's pasturage. They turned their heads and looked at him with their great mournful eyes, as if expecting a word, for they were used to the sound of his voice, the slow, patient creatures, and liked it, as such dumb beasts always do the voice of a kind master. But to-night he had no word for them. He put up the bars again when they had gone through and leaned heavily against them.

A May sunset was flushing earth and sky. The new springing grass looked fresh and green. A light, feathery leafage was on all the trees, and a few of them, pear and cherry trees, had put out white blossoms. The Western sky was piled high with crimson clouds, with close to the horizon, a bar of fiery gold. A reflected brightness flushed the East with a soft, roseate hue which spread up to the zenith. All was still, as the new birth of a new world. A sense of wonderful beauty and mystery thrilled John Osgood's uneducated perceptions. He had no words for such a scene, no clearly defined thoughts about it, even; but it moistened his eyes, and quickened his pulses, and seemed to flood his life with a rush of dreams and longings.

How beautiful this world was! There were some men, he had heard, who painted such scenes as these—others who wrote poetry about them—others who set them to music, like the songs of birds, or the soft wash of waves. What was *his* part of all this? Plowing to-day,—planting to-morrow! Was that all life held for him? There must be some other use, some other meaning, if he could only grasp it. If he had no part or lot in all this beauty why did it move him so?

Just then he heard the sound of horses' feet, and looked in the direction whence it came. Angeline Wilmarth was sweeping down the hill, with a gay gallant beside her. How like a part of the sunset beauty she looked, with its rose upon her cheek, its radiance in her eyes and hair. Her long, blue habit falling low, and swinging to the motion of her cream-colored horse, her white feather streaming back on the wind, her little hands with the dainty gauntlets on them—so much youth, and grace, and beauty. And the "city chap," as John Osgood called him, by her side, did not mar the picture. A handsome, cavalerish looking man, there was no denying that he showed well beside Angie; but what was he here so much for? They swept by, Angie's low, silvery laugh tinkling a response to something her companion was saying; and a little cloud of dust which the hoofs of the horses beat up behind them filled John's eyes, and choked his throat, and added bitterness to his mood.

He glanced down at his hard, horny hands, his coarse, toil-stained clothes. How well *he* would look at Angeline Wilmarth's side! And yet he had loved her in a vague sort of way, whose meaning he had just begun to find out, ever since he could remember. Life would not have much savor, he thought, without her. And yet, she would be no fit farmer's wife, and that was just what he was—a farmer. Then the question came again which had haunted him before—*could* he be nothing else? Did fate doom him, did God ask him always to go in and out on these old ways—to plow and plant, and make hay, and reap grain, all Summer, and go back and forth between the homestead and the woodlot all Winter? If his father and mother *were* getting old, if he *was* all they had—did that settle the matter? Some one could be hired to do as well for them, and he—he believed he had enough in him to go away and make a career which Angeline Wilmarth would not scorn to share.

The crimson had died out of the West, the rose hue out of the East. A low wind had risen and blew mournfully and slowly across the fields. John Osgood's mood changed with the face of the night. The exaltation forsook him, and something hard, stern, sullen, alien as it seemed to his generous, hearty nature, entered in and took possession of him. He went home, slowly, with heavy footsteps.

"Tired, Johnny?" his mother said, cheerily, as he came into the kitchen. Somehow, the words vexed him. She had said them often enough before, but they had never struck him just in this way till now. Johnny! If she would only remember that he was twenty-two years old!

"Yes, I'm tired," he answered doggedly.

"Well, draw right up to the table. I've got a nice hot cup o' tea all ready for ye. That'll rest ye, and brighten ye up a little."

John Osgood threw down his hat impatiently. Tea! What notions of life women had! He looked at his mother as he had never looked at her before.

"Mother," said he, with a bitterness he hated himself for afterwards, "I wonder if you ever had a trouble that a good cup of tea wouldn't cure? Things don't go any deeper than that with some folks."

His mother's eyes clouded, but she answered him very gently. She felt that to-night for some reason, he was not responsible for himself.

"I've had troubles that went deep enough, John. Five children that have played round my knees sleep yonder, behind the old meeting-house—and to bear, and nurse, and then lose—there's none knows what that is but just mothers with mother's hearts. Yes, I've had troubles that creature comforts wouldn't help much; and yet I don't despise this world's good things. *You* haven't any graves, where you feel as if your heart was shut in and smothered, and for bein' tired and mopin' I do think there's virtue in a good cup o' tea."

Her patience and gentleness touched him. He drew up his chair to the table, where his father was already sitting, and answered her in a softer tone.

"I s'pose you're right, mother; but I'm not just myself to-night."

Then he ate his supper in silence, and after it was over sat for a few moments thinking, still silently. At last he took courage and opened the subject of which his mind was full.

"Father, James McCormick is wanting a place. Don't you think, with you to oversee him, he could do the work on the farm this Summer?"

Mrs. Osgood did not speak, but the cup she was wiping fell to the floor with a crash. For a full minute it was the only sound which broke the stillness. At last the old man answered.

"I don't know, John—may be he could. I never liked to have any strangers working on the old place in my time. I did it all myself till you was old enough to help me, and every thing has prospered under your hands, John. Still, may be James McCormick could; may be he could. Did you think of leavin', John?"

"I don't feel satisfied, father, to be a farmer in this small way. I want to do something more with my life. You could hire a man to do all I do for twenty dollars a month, and I want to see what I'm worth somewhere else."

Then there was another long silence. The mother finished washing up her dishes, and came and sat down between her son and her husband, her face very white, and her hands shaking a little. After a while the old man reached out and took one of the trembling hands into his own.

"We mustn't blame John, mother," he said, trying to speak cheerfully. "What he feels isn't unnatural. Other young men say the same. Very few of them are contented now-a-days to live their father's lives over again. Only, it's come sudden. Don't think we blame you, boy. It's all fair and right—only sudden."

John got up and went up stairs. His mother's pale silence, his father's attempt at cheerfulness, seemed more than he could bear. He went away to his own room and sat down by the window. Over across the fields a light burned steadily. He knew it was the lamp in Angeline Wilmarth's parlor. Was she worth all this that he was making these two old people suffer? Would she ever love him as they did? Was he sure that she would ever love him at all? And in this untried life, this great world where so many failed, how did he know that he should succeed? What was he going to do? How vague all his purposes were—just a dream, born of a soft Spring night and Angie Wilmarth's fair face! And for it he was going to overturn the whole fabric of his life. No he would not be so mad. This Summer, at least, all should go on as before. He would take time to consider. By Autumn he should know better what he could do, and whether he could bear to leave that old father and mother—five of whose treasures the church yard held, and whose all he was—quite alone. He began to think that this very fact that he *was* their all laid on him an obligation that was not to be evaded—that no success purchased at such selfish expenditure would be worth having. At any rate he would wait. And so sleep came to him, and the morning brought him strength and calmness, and seemed to give him back his old self again.

"Will you see James McCormick to-day?" his father asked, at breakfast, with an anxiety he strove to conceal. John smiled cheerfully.

"Not to-day, father; not at present. My plan was sudden, as you said—too sudden to be wise. I have given it up, for a time, at least. I will carry on the place awhile longer."

The old man's face cleared, but he did not speak—only John Osgood's mother got up and silently kissed him. No young lips could have been more fond—could any be more dear?

Two weeks after that news came to him of Angeline Wilmarth's betrothal to her cousin—the city-bred young man whom he had seen riding beside her in the May twilight. This was an unexpected blow, something which, knowing the man was her cousin, he had never feared. The news sank into his heart with a dull, dumb pain. She never would have cared for him, then—never had. It was well he had not gone away and left those two who did love him to mourn. After all, perhaps this existence of plowing and planting was all he was good for. Fate had placed him rightly—gauged his capacities better than he could have done himself. So he settled back into the old groves with a grim resignation which was not yet content. Still he felt himself at odds with the life which did not offer him what he wanted.

When Autumn came and it was time for him, if at all, to make the change he had planned in Spring, he was surprised to find that the inclination to make it was gone. Some healing ministry, call it of nature or of grace, God knows, had been at work in his soul; and, unconsciously to himself, through the long Summer days and swift, short Summer nights, he had been learning the sweetness of duty pure and simple—duty done for its own sake. He had begun to ask himself, not what he wished, but what he ought, to do; and he felt that in the very fact of his being to those two who loved him their all on earth, God had called him to certain duties on which he would never again feel tempted to turn his back. Reconciled at last to the appointment of Heaven, he was at peace also with his own soul; and a new light came into his eyes, a new vigor and manliness into his life.

He could think of Angeline Wilmarth in these days without pain. There would always be in his heart for her the tenderness a good man feels toward a woman once beloved; but whether she was his or another's, he could reckon her loss or gain among the "all things" he was content to leave with Heaven.

He had heard in the Summer that she was to be married at Christmas, but he heard no more about it afterwards. Her preparations were going on, he supposed, but he seldom saw her. He had never spoken with her for more than a passing good-day since her engagement.

One afternoon in November he brought home from the village post-office a bundle of papers, his Boston daily among them. Sitting by the fire and turning them over, his eye was caught by the heading in large letters—

ANOTHER CASE OF DEFALCATION.

He began to read the article, with the kind of careless half interest people in the country feel in the excitements of the city which cannot touch them, personally; but suddenly he started up, clutching the paper tight, and straining his eyes over it as if he doubted his own vision. The name of the defaulting and runaway bank-teller was that of Angie Wilmarth's cousin and betrothed lover. Thank Heaven that no mean selfishness stained his soul in that hour. He was honestly and heartily touched at the thought of Angie's sorrow. Poor girl! If there were only any thing he could do to aid or comfort her. He took his hat and went out, with some vague purpose of offering his help, which the Fall winds scattered, as it blew across his brow. Of course there was nothing he could do—he could not even speak to her on such a subject. Her grief would be sacred—and he, had he not been used this many a month to the idea that he was nothing to her any more?

Still he went on, in a purposeless sort of way, toward her house; went on, until he saw a slender figure coming as if to meet him, under the leafless elm boughs, over the dead and rustling leaves which lay thick upon the foot-path. Like one in a dream he moved forward. He had meant to pass her with just a good-evening, but when she put out her hand to him, and he looked into her fair, still face, the words came before he knew it to his lips—

"I have seen it all in the paper, Angie, and I am so sorry."

"Yes," she said, gently, "it will ruin him."

"And you? *I* thought most of you. You were to have been married so soon."

"Not to him," she said hurriedly, "never to him. That was done with two months ago. I had never loved him. It was vanity which made me consent to marry him. He was handsome and gallant, and he promised me all the good things of this life. But I found, after awhile, that none of them would pay me for myself; and I told him the truth."

Something in her hurried, earnest tones, or the swift color that stained her cheek, or her shy, half-veiled eyes, or all together, gave John Osgood courage, and he said, holding her hand still—

"It was because *I* had none of the good things of this life to promise you, Angie, that I dared not tell you how dearly I loved you, and always should. You seemed too bright and fair to settle down here, just as the wife of a Ryefield farmer."

"But if I liked that best?" she said, softly, and her hand stayed in his.

And so John Osgood won his heart's desire. There are some souls I like to think of, dear children of the Heavenly Father, who learn easily the lessons He sets them; who do not need over much chastening. Ready to take the lowest seat at feast or synagogue, there is a Divine and approving tenderness in the voice which says, "Friend, come up higher."



RULES FOR COW MANAGEMENT.—Cows should run dry six weeks before calving; if milked closely toward calving, the calves will be poorer. A cow newly come in should not drink cold water in cold weather, but moderately warm slop. Calves, intended for raising, should be taken from the cow within a few days, and they will be less liable to suck when they are old. Feed them first on new milk for awhile, then skim milk. Hearty eaters are desirable for cows, and may usually be selected while calves. A dainty calf will be a dainty cow. Heifers dried up too early after calving, will always run dry about the same time in after years—therefore milk closely the first year, until about six weeks before calving. Spring cows should come in before they are turned to grass, which will be more likely to prevent caked bag and milk fever.

### INDUCEMENTS TO CLUBS.

THE second half yearly volume of the FARM AND FIRESIDE commences with this number. To any person who will send us $3, we will send four copies for the remainder of the year; or six copies for $4. 50; or ten copies for $7. 00. Please send in your orders at once.

We appeal to the farmers, horticulturists and lovers of rural affairs in Rhode Island and adjoining States, to give the FARM AND FIRESIDE a more generous support. It needs it. We are doing what we can to aid these classes, and we think we have good claim to ask their patronage.

## Various Matters.

### CROP PROSPECTS.

As an evidence of the promising character of the crop prospects, it may be stated that Messrs. McCormick, of Chicago, have manufactured ten thousand reapers and mowers the present season, which they believe will fall at least one thousand short of meeting the demand for them.

IN New England, hay, in almost every instance where it has been cut, has turned out well. On lands in good "heart" it is expected that the second cut, will be almost equal in amount to the whole of last year's crop.

THE wheat crop of Western New York will be heavier than it has been for years. The hay crop will be large. Corn is very backward.

### AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

GOVERNOR CRAWFORD, of Kansas, is building a stone fence around his farm, the entire length of which when finished will be one thousand two hundred and eighty rods.

The Albany (Ga.) News has been shown an ear of corn, by J. R. Hill, Esq., measuring one foot in length, and containing 800 grains. This is but a sample from a field of forty acres. It is called Pennsylvania yellow corn.

Shafter and Howard of Point Reyes, Marin county, Cal., are the biggest butter makers on the Pacific coast at present. They have seventeen dairies, milking 2000 cows, which are pastured on ranches containing 57,000 acres of land. They employ nearly 200 men to herd and milk cows, make the butter, etc.

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society has awarded its silver medal to George Jacques for the discovery of the tobacco soap as an effective specific for the destruction of vermin on greenhouse and garden plants, of cockroaches and water bugs, and ticks on sheep, fleas on dogs, etc.

There is a very remarkable apple tree on Himan Werton's premises in Westminister, Vt., which is three feet in diameter, and nine feet and six inches in circumference. It has five branches starting from the trunk on a level, all of them measuring seven feet in diameter, with a circumference of twenty-one feet, and nearly equal in size.

The accounts from the agricultural districts are more encouraging in regard to the crops of the Southern States, especially in the uplands.

CHARCOAL FOR TURKEYS.—A California paper says a recent experiment has been tried in feeding charcoal for fattening turkeys. Two lots, of four each, were treated alike; except for one lot finely pulverized charcoal was mixed with mashed potatoes and meal, on which they were fed, and broken pieces of coal also plentifully supplied. The difference in weight was one and a half pounds each in favor of the fowls supplied with coal, and the flesh was superior in tenderness and flavor.

THE English Cattle Plague during the week ending June 15th, attacked but five animals. During the previous week two were attacked. The total number of cattle reported to have been attacked in Great Britain is 278,696, and 56,834 healthy cattle have been slaughtered to prevent the spread of the disease.

PINE APPLES in Paris are made from turnips, and are said to be delicious. The turnips are saturated with an appropriate syrup, which confectioners know very well how to manufacture, and the French journals say the pine apple "is destined to become a success."

### FAST HORSES.

HON. W. G. BECKWITH, President of the Michigan Agricultural Society, in his address at the recent meeting of the Executive Committee of that Society, discussed the question of the value of running and fancy trotting horses as follows:

"Heretofore too much attention and too large premiums have been awarded to running and fancy trotting horses. I would recommend that this class be left in the hands of the different Societies in this State who make the horse a specialty. They are better prepared for trials of speed, and better understand the rules of the Long Island Course, than the majority of farmers from whom our viewing committees are selected. In a large majority of cases the running horse is a small, nervous, sinewy animal, but poorly calculated for a roadster or for labor on the farm, lacking as he does size, weight, and other valuable characteristics of the carriage or farm horse. For the turf merely he becomes valuable after his qualities have been determined by actual trial, yet after subjecting this class of horses to the ordeal, nine-tenths of their colts fail to come up to the expectation of breeders as fast horses, and are, to use a common expression, weeded out. The horses thus rejected, in the main, are poorly calculated for use on the farm or road, for reasons already mentioned. Besides, I do not believe that trials of speed for money, at our State Fairs, should be longer tolerated, for the reason that they amount to no more nor less than a species of fashionable gambling, prejudicial alike to the interests of the Society and the moral sense of a large and respectable portion of our people. We would hardly consent that our boys should patronize the race-course, on account of the bad influence it would have upon them. Then why should we, as a State organization, throw over the practice the mantle of morality, and give license to do that, on a large scale, which we heartily condemn in a small way? The desire to breed fast running and fancy trotting horses, without regard to their qualifications, has had the effect of lessening the value or lowering the standard of horses in this State. In my opinion we should rather encourage the introduction of horses of fair size, weight and form, that come up to the standard of the horse of all work, and the breeding from a class of mares that will give the size, weight and action that are so desirable in the first-class carriage horses."

## Marriages.

In Woonsocket, July 4th, by Rev. J. Boyden, Mr. Richard C. Bartlett, of W., to Mrs. Emeline W. Hall, of Rockland, Me.

In Smithfield, June 27th, by Rev. E. Hayden Watrous, Mr. Charles E. Polsey to Miss Hannah B. Boss, both of Smithfield.

In Lonsdale, July 3d, by the same, Mr. Robert Blayney to Miss Agnes Moore, both of Lonsdale.

In Smithfield, 2d inst., by Rev. C. P. Walker, Mr. George A. Gleason, of East Douglas, to Miss Mary R. Claflin, of Smithfield. On the 4th inst., Mr. Fredd Demon, of Pawtucket, to Miss Annie Campbell, of Providence.

In Providence, 2d inst., Mr. David A. Cash to Miss Helen Stewart, both of Central Falls; June 23d, Henry Williams Barnes, of South Scituate, to Abbie Maria Corpe, of South Providence.

In Blackstone, July 2nd, by Rev. E. W. Porter, Mr. Andrew J. Clarke, of Southbridge, Mass., to Miss Ellen A. Bacon, of Webster.

In Leicester, Mass., June 18, by Rev. R. B. Stratton, Col. Percy Daniels, late of Woonsocket, to Miss Eliza A. Eddy, daughter of Leonard Eddy, of Leicester.

In Franklin, Mass., 4th inst., Mr. Henry E. Ballod, of Cumberland, R. I., to Miss Frances E. Williams, of West Medway, Mass.

In Milford, June 27th, Mr. Joshua Downing, of Grafton, to Miss Sarah A. Peters, of Milford; June 12th, Mr. Geo. Thayer to Miss Agnes L. Cook.

In Webster, June 30, Mr. Emory Humes, of Webster, to Miss Laura A. Davis, of Oxford; June 26th, Mr. Carl Th. Olsson, of Stockholm, Sweden, to Miss Alice M. Bixby, of Webster.

In Putnam, Conn., June 17th, G. D. Bates, of Worcester, Captain in the late 7th R. I. Regiment, to Nellie A., youngest daughter of B. F. Hutchins, Esq., of Putnam; June 23d, Mr. William A. D. Winslow to Miss Emily May, both of Putnam.

## Deaths.

In this village, 9th inst., Mr. James Verry, aged 53 years. Funeral this day, at 11 o'clock, at his late residence. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

In this village, July 9th, of inflammation of the bowels, Nathan C. Lazelle, son of John and Elmira Lazelle, aged 30 years, 2 months, 24 days.

In this village, 8th inst., of consumption, Mrs. Flora, wife of James Proctor, and youngest daughter of Willis Wales.

In Mendon, Mass., June 20, Mr. George Southwick, aged 83 years.

In North Providence, 30th ult., Nicholas Power White, aged 77 years; 6th inst., Owen Hughes, aged 67 years.

In Grafton, June 23, Jerome Judd, formerly of Clinton, aged 44 years; June 27th, Nellie A., daughter of Perley and Ellen A. Goddard, 8 mos.

In Milford, July 1st, Andrew Rennekan, aged 52 years.

In North Windham, Ct., Betsey Kimball, aged 86 years.

## The Markets.

### WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending July 12, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $20 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 15c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $10 00a12 00 | Potatoes | 1.10 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.00 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $18, 25 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 20 | Molasses ₩ gal | 60a90c |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 20 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 64c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 24c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 35a38c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 30c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 25a50c | Lard ₩ lb | 16ac18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 25a30c | Hams | 16a18c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 20a28c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 18c |

### BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

July 10, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1287; Sheep and Lambs 6382. Swine, 1980. Western cattle, 1174; Eastern cattle, 5; Working oxen and Northern cattle, 50. Cattle left over from last week, 61.

PRICES. Beef Cattle—Extra, $13.50@ $14.00; first quality, $13.00@$13.50; second quality, $12.50@$12.75; third quality, $11.50@$12.25 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 9½@18c ₩ lb. Country Tallow 6½@7½c ₩ lb Brighton Hides, 10@10½cts. ₩ lb; Brighton Tallow, 8@8½c ₩ lb.

Lamb Skins, 50c each; Wool Sheep Skins, $2 25@ 2 75.

Calf Skins, 20 @ 22c ₩ lb. Sheared Sheep Skins, 25c each.

The supply of Beeves in market is not large, and the quality not so good as that of last week. The trade has been active and prices were about the same as those of last week.

Working Oxen—We quote prices at $220a260 per pair.

Milch Cows—Sales extra at $85a110; ordinary $65@$80.—Store Cows $44a55 per head. There is not many extra cows in market; we quote sales of two at $50, two at $55n60, one at $65, and one at $100.

Sheep and Lambs.—The trade is dull, and drovers have sent their stock in some instances to be slaughtered at a commission. We quote sales of Lambs at from $3.00 to $4.50 per head; old Sheep at 5½, 7a7½c per lb.

Swine—Wholesale, 0 cents ₩ lb.; retail, 7@8 cents ₩ lb. Fat Hogs—1800 at market; prices, 7@7½c. per lb.

### WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

DEPRESSION IN THE FLOUR MARKET.

New York papers record a marked depression in the flour market during the week. Holders of old have been very anxious to realize. Wheat has been quite irregular with more new offering. Corn has declined materially with large offerings at the close.

Rye and Oats, under a more active demand, have advanced materially. Favorable reports early in the week, in regard to the crops, depressed the market, but subsequently they have been less favorable, and prices generally, with the exception of Corn, tend upward. Pork has been quite active and has fluctuated rapidly. Lard, under heavier receipts, declined materially.

Flour—We have had a more general demand for flour during the week at a concession, and have to note a considerable demand of the ordinary grades for export to Europe. Old flour has been pressingly offered at a large abatement, especially that of doubtful character, while really good old closes very strong and is held with increased confidence under a more active demand.

Corn meal has slightly declined, with a good inquiry at the concession, and closes steady.

Wheat early in the week was pressingly offered, and prices declined from five to ten cents a bushel. Subsequently, with moderate receipts and a more general demand, prices have rallied from five to ten cents.

Oats have fluctuated, but closed with an active demand at the improved prices. The stock of sound is very light.

Rye has been in good request and has rapidly improved.

Corn has fluctuated materially, but with large arrivals towards the close of the week prices declined from 4 to 5 cents a bushel—closing quite heavy.

### WOOL MARKET.

The market continues dull, and prices are in favor of buyers. Sales of 110,000 lbs. new unwashed at from 31@35c. ₩ lb. Small sales of old are making at from 61@62c. for double extra; 55@57c. for extra; 55@58c. for fine; 48@52c. for medium; 43@45c. for coarse; 55@57c. for good tub washed; 42@45c. for inferior do.; 45@47c. for extra Western pulled, and 32@35c. per lb. for No. 1 Western pulled.

## Special Notices.

MOTHER BAILEY'S QUIETING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN TEETHING, makes sick and weak children strong and healthy, gives Mothers rest day and night. Large bottles only 25 cents. Sold by druggists.

[4w-27] GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., BOSTON, Mass.

## Advertising Department.

### Rhode Island.

FOR SALE.—A fine black mare, 7 years old, weighs 9 hundred. Perfectly sound and gentle in any harness. Sold for no fault. Enquire at this office.

July 13, 1867.

W. E. BARRETT & CO.,

Proprietors of the

RHODE ISLAND AGRICULTURAL WARE HOUSE,

are now prepared to take orders for

500 Premium Horse Hoes, the best in the world.

100 Kniffins, new, one and two horse Mowing Machines, which are unsurpassed by any in the market, and warranted.

50 Union two horse Mowers, warranted.

10 Perry's new Gold Medal Mowers.

100 Whitcomb's Wheeled Rakes, improved.

100 Horse Forks, all good kinds.

10 Garfield's new Hay Tedders.

100 Mounted Grindstones.

500 doz. Hand Rakes of various kinds.

400 " Scythes, from the best makers.

200 " Snaths, new and old patents.

200 " Hay Forks, Batcheller & Sons' make.

100 Revolving Horse Rakes, and all kinds of first class Farming Tools and Seeds. Send in your orders early and they shall be filled promptly.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

May 25, 1867. tf-20

FOURTH ANNUAL FAIR OF THE

NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

*Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry,*

ON THE GROUNDS OF THE

*NARRAGANSETT PARK ASSOCIATION*

CRANSTON, near PROVIDENCE, R. I.,

On Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

SEPTEMBER 3d, 4th, 5th and 6th, 1867.

THE PREMIUM LIST WILL AMOUNT TO NEARLY

**$10,000.**

Arrangements have been made with the various Railroad Companies, to run their Cars, containing Stock, &c., directly to the Fair Grounds.

There are ample accommodations within the grounds for Horses and Live Stock, and one of the best Mile Tracks for fast time in the world.

A large number of the most celebrated horses in the country have been promised as competitors for the very liberal premiums that will be offered, and the best breeders of full blood cattle and horses have determined to make this the finest and most extensive exhibition of Live Stock that has ever been held in New England.

A detailed Programme of Premiums, &c., will be distributed at an early day.

GEO. E. LORING, of Salem, President,
DANIEL NEEDHAM, of Boston, Secretary,
of the N. E. Agricultural Soc'y.

WILLIAM SPRAGUE, of So. Kingston, R. I., President,
WM. R. STAPLES, of Providence, Secretary,
of the R. I. Society.

THE NARRAGANSETT PARK,

which has been projected and laid out by Col. AMASA SPRAGUE, is an enclosure of about eighty acres of land, beautifully located in CRANSTON, near PROVIDENCE, R. I., and accessible both by Steam and Horse Cars. The grounds are surrounded by a substantial and ornamental fence, twelve feet high.

THE GRAND STAND

is unsurpassed in architectural beauty, by any structure for similar purposes. It is about three hundred and fifty feet in length, and contains Drawing Rooms for both Ladies and Gentlemen; Restaurants, with cooking apparatus attached; Committee Rooms; Exhibition Rooms; Club Rooms; and accommodation, UNDER COVER, for seating over five thousand persons.

THE STABLES.

Forty commodious and airy stables have already been erected, and others, together with good and substantial sheds for all live stock that may be received for exhibition, are in process of completion.

WATER.

An ample supply of pure Spring Water will be provided for every department; and the best of hay, grain, &c., for feeding.

THE TRACK

has been constructed on the most improved plans, under the supervision of skilled engineers, and is precisely one mile in length, three feet from the pole, and it is pronounced by the best judges to be in all respects superior to any track in the country.

May 17, 1867. 19tf

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares's Patent Harrows and Horse Hoes, Cultivators, Seed Sowers, Hay Cutters, Garden and Railroad Barrows, Shovels, Spades, Forks, Iron Bars, &c, Holder's Block, Main Street.

Woonsocket, R. I.

### Massachusetts.

THE MOST CONVENIENT AND EFFICIENT GREEN HOUSE SYRINGE, GARDEN SPRINKLER AND LIGHT FIRE ENGINE ever known. "In our opinion excels anything of the kind heretofore invented."—Editor N. E. Farmer. Price $5. Agents wanted in every town in the United States. NEW ENGLAND PORTABLE PUMP CO., 51 Hanover St., Boston.

July 13, 1867. 2w-27

THE LAMB

FAMILY KNITTING MACHINE.

THE MOST USEFUL AND MOST PROFITABLE INVENTION OF THE TIME!

THE BEST FAMILY KNITTING-MACHINE EXTANT.

THE LAMB KNITTING MACHINE AGENCY, Philadelphia, Penn., holds the exclusive right to sell and use this machine for the following territory, to wit:—all that part of the State of Pennsylvania lying east of and including the Counties of Bedford, Blair, Centre, Lycoming and Tioga.

The Lamb Knitting-Machine is endorsed and recommended to the public by the highest and most disinterested authorities! It has taken First Premiums at all the State Fairs in the Northern and Western States. It knits any desired size, from one to the full number of needles in the machine. It knits the single, double, plain and fancy-ribbed flat web, producing all varieties of fancy knit goods in use, from Afghans, Shawls, Nubias, &c., to Wicks, Mats, Tidies, Watch Cords, Gloves, Mittens, &c.

Any woman can knit from fifteen to twenty pair of Socks per day. On fancy work much more can be made. Machines work easily, not liable to get out of order, and will pay for itself in a month's work. County Agents wanted, to whom liberal terms will be given. For the above mentioned territory, either for Agencies or Machines, apply to LAMB KNITTING MACHINE CO'S Agency, 63 North Eighth St., PHILADELPHIA, Pa.

For all other Sections, address "LAMB KNITTING MACHINE CO.," Springfield, Mass. 3m-pe-17.

### Pennsylvania.

NEW CROP TURNIP SEEDS.

The subscribers would call attention to their superior stock of

TURNIP, AND RUTA BAGA SEEDS,

for Fall sowing, all grown from selected roots—as grown by

MAUPAY & HACKER, 805 Market Street, Philadelphia.

P. S. General catalogues on application. A full assortment of other seeds always on hand.

July 13, 1867. 6w-27

### New York.

BELLS!

MENEELY'S WEST TROY BELL FOUNDRY,

(ESTABLISHED IN 1826.)

Bells for Churches, Academies, Factories, &c., made of genuine Bell-metal, (Copper and Tin) mounted with Improved Patented Mountings, and warranted. Orders and enquiries addressed to the undersigned, will have prompt attention, and an illustrated catalogue sent free, upon application.

E. A. & G. R. MENEELY,
WEST TROY, N. Y.

June 22, 1867. 6m-24

GENIUS STRUGGLING WITH POVERTY.—The *Round Table* brings to the notice of the public a sad, and we hope a rare instance of fine poetic genius, struggling with poverty and misfortune, such as seldom fall to the lot of any. Mrs. Howarth, living in New Jersey, who has written many most beautiful and striking poems, has supported for many years by her manual labor, and the scanty pay received for her writings, a blind husband and five children. She has struggled with the greatest possible fortitude through this severe ordeal until quite lately, when a stroke of paralysis has completely disabled her, and deprived her and those dependent upon her of all means of livelihood. Some of her friends are preparing a volume of her poems for publication, "but meantime," says the *Round Table*, "her destitution is extreme."

# Domestic Economy.

## FLAVOR OF CHEESE.

We publish the following extracts from a circular issued hy Mr. Weeks to the patrons of the Week's cheese factory in Verona, N. Y. Mr. W. is the secretary of the American Dairymen's Association. Its suggestious are applicable to private as well as to factory dairying.

1. Never, under any circumstances, send a can of milk to the factory that has not been strained. A tin strainer pail is best, but a clean, carefnlly scalded cloth, stretched upon a neat little frame, which may he placed directly over the can, will answer. This I deem all-important, and any one who will examine the contents of the strainer at any factory will he convinced of it.

2. See to it that the milkiug be performed in a cleanly manner, and never tolerate filthy habits in milkers. It is nnjust to the purchaser and to the consumers of onr cheese.

3. Pay more attentiou to the cans, especially to the seams, covers and fancets. In hot weather be particularly vigilant. A thorongh rinsing at night, and a rinsing, washing, scalding and sunning in the morning, will suffice, though it is very desirable that in hot weather the cans and faucets he scoured with salt twice a week.

4. When it is possible, avoid the use of all wooden vessels. *Tin is the only fit article for pails*, &c. When wood is nsed, extra care must be employed in cleansing. Beware of freshly paiuted pails, for their use is dangerons.

5. See to it that when the cows are driven from the pasture, they he not chased by dogs, nor in any way hurried and heated.

6. Always have leaky cans promptly repaired.

7. Iu portions of the year, when milk is sent to the factory only ouce daily, always put the night's milk into the can, into two if you have them, leave the cover off, set in a cool place, and stir the mass with a dipper several times during the evening.

## HOW TO MAKE COAL LAST.

An exchange gives a recipe for one species of economy recommended to those who desire to practice it. Some housekeepers act npon the suppositiou that an addition of the fuel will cause increased combustion, and consequently develop additioual warmth. This is an expensive mistake. It is only smothering and retarding the fire to pnt in a thick layer of coal, or, as some do, fill the fire-box from a layer of two inches of ignited coal to its utmost capacity with fresh fnel.

No more coal should be pnt upon a fire at one time than will readily ignite and give off a pure white flame—not a blue flame, as that denotes the presence of unconsumed gases.

In cleaning the grates of coal-stoves in the morning, there is always to he found a quantity of unburnt coal, which has been externally snbjected to combustion. It is covered with ashes, and looks like cinders. It is often dumped into the ash box.

The fact is, that the lump is only roasted on the outside, not even cooked, and it is in a better condition for igniting than the green coal. Never waste it. Attention to these few hints, it is stated, will save many dollars iu a Winter. The experiment is at least worth trying.

Currant Cake.—1 cup of hutter; 2 of sugar; 3 eggs; 1 cup of water or milk: ½ teaspoonfnl of saleratus; a little grated nutmeg, and 1 cup of currants; flour to make a thick batter.

Ocean Cake.—2 cups of powdered sugar; ½ cup of hutter; whites of 5 eggs; 1 cup of sweet milk; 3 cups of flour; 2 teaspoonsful of cream tartar; 1 of soda; flour to the taste.

Corn Starch Cake.—One cup cach of corn starch, flour aud butter, rubhed to a cream; the whites of 7 eggs beat to a froth; mix in 1½ cups of white sugar, and flavor. Stir all thoroughly together.

California Sponge Cake.—1 cup of sweet milk; 1 cup of sugar; 1 egg; 1 spoonfnl sour cream; 2 teaspoonsful cream tartar; 1 of soda; flour to make a thick batter. Season if you like, aud bake twenty miuntes.

Nice Fried Cakes.—Take 1 pint of hutter-milk; 1 egg; 1 cup sugar; a piecc of hutter as large as a hen's egg; a little ginger; 1 teaspoonful of soda. Knead as soft as you can roll out.

Ginger Snaps.—1½ cups molasses; ½ cnp sugar; ⅔ cup hntter; 1 teaspoon soda, dissolved in a half-eup of hot water; 1 teaspoon ginger. Mix stiff; roll thin.

Excellent Cookies.—1 cnp sour cream; 1½ cups sugar; a piecc of hntter uearly as large as a hen's egg; 1 teaspoon soda. Season with caraway seed or nutmeg.

Boilen Innian Pudding,—1 qt. sweet milk; 1 pt. corn meal. Heat half the milk, scald the meal, thin and cool with the rest. Add 4 well-beaten eggs, salt, fruit—dried or fresh, or raisins, to yonr taste. Boil in a hag three honrs; have the water boiliug when put in. Eat with cream and sugar.

To Keep Lemons Moist, for Weeks, in Warm Weather.—Cover with huttermilk or sour milk. I have lemons fresh and nice for lemonade, one year old, that I sliced into a can and covered with plenty of white sugar. If one is sick in winter, they are so nice.

Cream Pie.—Plaee a pint of milk where it will heat. Then beat together one cnp white sugar, one-half a cup of flour with two eggs, and stir it into the milk when it is nearly boiling. Stir rapidly until it is cooked thoronghly—add essence of lemon, and ponr npon the crust; which should be haked before the cream is put in. This will make two pies. If yon wish it extra, make a frosting of the whites of two eggs and three tablespoonsful of sugar—spread this evenly cver the pies, and set again in the oven and brown slightly.

Exoellent Cough Remedy.—Boil one teacup of honey, remove the scnm, and add one ounce of pnlverized wild turnip—hottle for use. Take a teaspoonful five or six timcs a day, and oftener if the cough is trouhlesome.

Sponge Cake.—Take three eggs; two cnps of sugar—beat together; half cup hnttermilk; half cup sour cream; one teaspoon of saleratus; three cups of flonr.

Coooanut Cake.—One ponnd of sugar, ¼ pound of flour, ¼ of a pound of hutter, teacup of sour milk, 4 eggs, ⅓ teaspoon of salt, teaspoon of soda—mix thoroughly. Then add one grated cocoanut.—*Country Gentleman.*

## SCALES AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

*Le Moniteur Universal*, the official journal of the French empire, says:—"Among the expositions of the American section which attract the greatest interest, it is necessary to specially mention the collection of weighing instruments exhibited by the house of Fairbanks & Co., of St. Johnsbnry, Vt., which has, for a long time, sustained a great reputation in this branch of manufactures. This collection embraces the most complete assortment of balances, from a single gramme to thirty thousand kilogrammes capacity. The same house manufacture scales capahle of weighing five hundred thousand kilogrammes. These weighing instruments, nniversally used iu America, are adapted to all the different systems of weights and measures in use in every country. This exposition deserves to he recommended to all our mechauics and farmers, and to every body interested in perfect weighing instruments."

A dispatch hy Ocean Telegraph announces the fact that these celehrated scales take the *First Premiums*, (two medals) at the Paris Exposition, and are mentioned in the award as the *Standard Scales.*

# Advertising Department.

## Pennsylvania.



## Massachusetts.



## TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited numher of advertisements will he published in the Farm and Fireside. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a uniform style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkahle rapidity, and will he found an excellent advertising medium.

## COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the Farm and Fireside may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

## IN MONTHLY PARTS.

Hereafter the Farm and Fireside can he had in Monthly Parts, in neat covers, at twenty-five cents each. Those for January, February, March and April are now ready. For sale hy all newsmen. Bound at the close of the year they will form a neat and attractive volume.

# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1867. NO. 28.


THE INFANTADO RAM. BRED BY MR. ROLLIN GLEASON, BENSON, VERMONT.

## BONE DUST AND ITS ACTION.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

I SEE from the columns of some of our agricultural journals that the comparative value of raw, and burned or boiled bone, is still being discussed, and seems no nearer a solution than when it first was started. Not having the vanity to suppose that what I may say will do much towards settling the question, I merely wish to offer a few words with regard to the matter in hand, hoping more than anything else to start thought in others, as it has been started with me.

Pure bone contains two distinct kinds of matter which may be distinguished as animal and mineral; a considerable portion of the mineral or earthy portion is phosphate of lime, which forms one of the most desirable manures for the farm; and which in any other form would be too expensive for general use. If the bone is burned, the animal matter is destroyed; and hence burned bone usually shows a much larger per centage of phosphate of lime than *raw* bone.

Burned bone is slower in its action than raw bone, because the first action in the latter is from the animal matter which it contains, and which in the former has been destroyed. From this cause, fresh ground raw bone often produces a great effect on the first crop, but afterwards falls off in its effect to the burned bone standard; consequently in buying raw bone we get a considerable amount of animal matter, in the form of oil, cartalege and marrow, which will produce immediate action, but which will not continue that action much beyond the one crop to which it is applied. Those who use or favor the use of boiled or burned bones contend that they can buy this animal matter at a lower price than those who use raw bone have to pay for it.

After what has been said it is evident that where equal weights are taken, the boiled bones will produce the most prolonged and permanent action, but that the first effect will not be so great as it is in the case of raw bone.

In many cases the bones are boiled to extract the oil which they contain, and in such cases absorb nearly or quite as much water by weight as they lose of oil, and hence he who buys freshly boiled bones is paying for water at the market price of bones, which can certainly be furnished at a cheaper rate. One thing is certain, viz: that the boiling or steaming of the bones does much to lessen the cost of grinding them, and if they can be made perfectly dry afterwards, would form the cheaper article to the farmer who puts it on his land.

In several experiments in which I have used these kinds of bone dust, viz: from freshly ground raw bones, from boiled bones in a moderately dry state, and burned bones or bone black, applied in equal values, I am best satisfied with that of the raw bone and least satisfied with that of burned bone or bone black, which I believe is made by burning bones in retorts from which the air is excluded: the first effect of the raw bone was the greatest, and its present effect after the lapse of four years is quite as visible as that of the boiled bone, and much more plain than that of the burned bones. I am inclined to believe that the action of the burned bone will be most permanent, and that the action of the boiled bones will be more prolonged than that of the raw bone.

In the consideration of the practical farmer, this would seem to narrow the controversy down to one question, viz: can the farmer afford to wait for the action of the manure, or would it be best to have the whole of the action in a few years, or to wait for twice that length of time? If we wish soonest to get the benefit of the bone, it seems evident that we should make use of the *raw bone*. With the merchant it is most profitable to make "quick sales at small profits," than to keep the goods for a much longer time for a larger advance on first cost. Will not the same rule apply to the farmer? Is it not more profitable for him to apply that manure which will yield him its whole effect in a few years, than to buy one which will give the same effect, but will require two or three times as long to make the return?

After a fair trial of both, I have settled down in favor of pure raw bone, as free from fermentation as possible. Put on a liberal quantity, which will ensure a quick return of the capital invested, with the ability to make another application either to the same or other land, and leave a good profit for the pocket of the farmer.

*July*, 1867.

---

THE strawberry growers of Vineland, New Jersey, during the season just ended, raised nearly 278,000 quarts of strawberries, valued at $39,000. Of these, 68,000 quarts were consumed or canned at home, and the balance were shipped to Philadelphia, New York and other points. On the Vineland tract some 10,000 people live, and have raised this valuable fruit, which has produced, it is estimated, an average of at least $20 ready money for each family.

---

TO REMOVE STAINS FROM SILK.—Stains produced by vinegar, lemon juice, oil of vitriol or other sharp corrosives, may often be removed from silks by mixing a little pearlash with soap lather, and passing the silk through them. Spirits of hartshorn will also restore the color.

---

The Practical Farmer says that the silver or soft maple can be made to assume a close and compact form by being cut back two or three times while the top is being formed. It bears pruning well, grows rapidly, and is generally free from worms and parasitic nuisances.

# Field and Farm.

## THE HAY HARVEST.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY ALEXANDER HYDE, LEE, MASS.

JULY is the month for harvesting the grass crop, New England's great staple, and a few suggestions on this harvest cannot be untimely. Providence has blessed us with an unprecedented growth of grass, and now it is our duty to secure it effectually and economically. On no point do farmers differ more than in the time and mode of securing this most important of our crops. Corn, rye, wheat and oats must be cut at the proper time, and carefully handled and stored; but the impression seems to be that grass may be cut at any time, and it is often harvested as if it was designed for bedding and making manure, instead of being used as food for animals. In securing the grain crops, the object mainly arrived at is the seed, hut in securing grass, the object is forage; therefore grass should be cut before the nutriment has passed from the stalks and leaves into the seed. If left to stand till the seed is mature, the stalks lose most of their starch and other nutritions compouuds and become mere woody fiber; and as the seed is mostly wasted, a ton of such hay is worth little more than a ton of straw. "There is a tide in the juices of grass which taken at the flood leads on the fortune" of a good hay crop. There is no question but that this flood tide is when the grass is in full bloom, when the pollen of the stamens is most vigorously fructifying the pistils. The grass is now in its mature vividity. It has attained its growth, and the juices are in the most active circulation, and if cut now will make good green tea, having more theoric and volatile oil in it than most of the black tea that we import from China. Our mothers understood this and always gathered their hops and herbs when in bloom, and the infusions made from these herbs had genuine nervine power, refreshing the weary, strengthening the weak and stimulating to renewed exertion. Hay is merely a dried herb and should he cut when the pollen is most abundant, for the same reason that hops are picked when in full blossom, as the narcotic, stimulating influence is then at its maximum. It is a mistake to suppose that all the virtue of hay lies in its starch and gluten. There is a stimulating, strengthening influence from early mowed hay, which haymakers feel through their olfactory nerves, and would feel more if they should drink a decoction of it, and which cattle doubtless feel as they masticate hay timely cut and properly cured aud stored. If grass is left till the seeds are mature and the stems and leaves are dry, there is little of the peculiar aroma which is so pleasant and refreshiug to the haymaker. Most farmers acknowledge this, hut say, "we can't cut all our grass when in bloom, time and means are not sufficient." This excuse merely shows the power of habit. What is the necessity of protracting the haying season for two months? Why should not the hop grower protract his harvest in the same way for the same reason, and thus lose half the value of his crop? All kinds of grass do not mature at the same time. Clover, and June and Orchard grasses require to he cut first, generally in June. Timothy and Fescue are mature for forage early in July, aud Red-Top brings up the rear. With mowing machines and other facilities for the hay harvest, there is no necessity for spinning it out two months, and thus losing half the value of the crop.

Another objection we have heard urged to early mowing is that it requires more time and labor to cure the grass when cut full of its juices. We grant there is some force in this objection, but it holds equally against everything good. "We can't have something for nothing." Providence has kindly ordained that excellence in anything is the result only of persevering labor, and the farmer who is unwilling to put forth effort to secure his hay in the best possible condition, had better let it stand till it needs no curing, and the rake can follow immediately after the scythe.

The mode of harvesting hay is not less important than the time. Then let us continue the idea of green tea and cure our grass as our mothers cured their herbs. If we remember rightly, the sage and boneset were spread on the garret floor, and when sufficiently dry were tied up in paper bags. A good mode for the herbs, and we may take a hint from it in curing hay. After the grass is cut no dew nor rain should fall upon it. Grass partially dry and then soaked with rain, is about as good for hay as Young Hyson at a second steeping is for tea. The virtue is gone out of it. The gluten may be left, but the stimulus is wanting. Neither should the grass be permitted to lie in the sun till all the aroma is dissipated, and the color bleached out. When wilted it should be put into cocks, and covered with hay caps which will exclude both sun and rain, and retain the volatile oil, which gives hay as well as tea its pleasant flavor and much of its nervine effect. If thoroughly wilted before being put into cocks, the grass will cure in a day or two, and the cocks will only need to be turned over and slightly aired before being carted to the barn. Hay thus cured looks green, but will not heat or mold in the mow, and the larger and tighter the mow, the better will the hay be preserved. The larger the body of hay in one mass the more solid it is, and less the exposure to air and the escape of its virtues. All the central portions are sealed up air tight, and green grass even, could not ferment in the center of a mow, any more than do fruits when canned. We have seen many barns with large seams between the boards, left purposely to admit the air and cure the hay. This is killing not curing. We have visited a famous stone barn, excellent in all its appointments, except that a ventilator came down in the center of the large mow "to let off the steam of the hay," as the proprietor expressed it. As well might a tea chest have a ventilator. In passing, we wish here to say that it is a great mistake to move hay from one barn or mow to another, or to throw on the barn floor at night the hay which is to be fed in the morning. Keep it as compact as possible till required for feeding, and its virtues will be retained.

Many farmers are careless as to the neatness of their hay, stowing it away in bays without a flooring, or covering with old musty hay, sure to contaminate the layer next to it. It is a good plan to whitewash the sides of the bay, or at least to brush off the cobwebs and all filth. Cattle have senses as well as men, and though hunger may compel them to eat dirty hay, they do not relish it and will not thrive upon such fodder. We have seen some stock feeders wade through their dirty barnyard, and then jump on the mow and wipe their boots on the hay as though it was a mat. Cattle will surely turn up their noses at such polluted food, or if compelled to eat it, the owner will be compelled to participate in the bad flavor communicated to the milk and beef. Neatness may be one of the minor virtues, but is very important in securing and storing the hay crop.

*July*, 1867.

## EXPERIMENT WITH SUPER-PHOSPHATE.

PROF. BOOTH, of Philadelphia, read before the "Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Agriculture," an essay on the value of Super-phosphate, as tested by him on a sixty acre farm in Montgomery county, Pa. He said:—

Upon calculating the cost of buyiug and hauling stable manure from the city or vicinity (five or ten miles) I found it would be cheaper to buy and haul a so-called super-posphate. I, therefore, determined to attempt improving my miserably poor farm by the latter alone, trusting to increasiug the stock with the increasing produce, so as to render it at least independent of the purchased manure.

The table subjoined will present all the necessary facts in relation to the farm, from its briefly poverty in 1861 to its plethoric falling down of wheat and clover in the rains of 1867. It contains about 60 acres, of which only 40 have been in cultivation. The gross sales of everything that could be scraped by industry in 1861 was $219,36, showing the poverty of the farm. The rotation system, common in our vicinity, was followed, viz:—1. Corn; 2. Oats, potatoes, turnips, &c.; 3. Wheat; 4 and 5, or 4, 5 and 6, clover and timothy. Of course we used the little stable manure made at first as judiciously as we could, but two or three cows fed from poor land only covered an acre or so with a delicate gauze of manure. This was subsequently improved, as inercased production and of better quality increased our stock, so that in the Spring of 1867 the six acres in corn and potatoes covered with manure, looked jet black, leaving the ground scarcely visible.

The starting point of the improvement, its main source to this moment, is a phosphate of lime. The composition of the phosphate I used was about 20 per cent. phosphoric acid, of which 5 to 8 per cent. were soluble in water, and 1 to 2 per cent. potential ammonia.

The quality I aimed to get into the soil has been about half a ton per acre, trusting to the immediate action of the soluble phosphoric acid, and the gradual development of the insoluble by cultivation during many years, but designing to add a little of the same manure in each subsequent rotation. The best method of using the phosphate, according to my experience, is to harrow in some four hundred or five hundred pounds, sowed broadcast upon the land, when plowed for corn, and to put two or three hundred pounds more in the lots, together with a little wood ash. Then two or three hundred pounds more should go on the root crop of the next year, and two hundred or four hundred pounds more be harrowed in, after plowing for wheat, in the Fall of the same year. I have thus put 1000 to 1200 pounds on every acre, as it came in the order of rotation.

My conclusion as to the best method of improving farms at a distance from cities, which are, or which should be, the great sources of fertility, is this:—To improve the soil by the liberal use of phosphate, introduced into the usual rotation system, and then keep as much stock as the farm can be possibly made to bear. The phosphates commence the fertility, the stock sustains it. The produce of stock may vary according to the proximity to a town—milk, butter, cheese, or raising stock for sale.

The advantage of the butter produce is that nothing of mineral value is sold off and removed from the land, except the trifling amount in wheat flour, and in the flesh and bones of the hog. For this reason I have had a butter dairy for several years, with the exception of one year, when a milk dairy was tried.

The following table of the gross sales of produce of all kinds in successive years will show the influence of phosphates alone to improve farming land:—

| | 1862. | 1863. | 1864. | 1865. | 1866. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gr'ss. val. of sales..... | $235.23 | $1019.46 | $1019.41 | $1353.98 | $1448.96 |
| Cost of feed and seed..... | 40.00 | 19.61 | 175.96 | 224.61 | 410.77 |
| Net profit on sales,..... | 195.23 | 512.85 | 843.45 | 1129.37 | 1038.10 |
| Stock cows and a bull. | 4 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 12 |

At the present time, June, 1867, there are fifteen cows and one bull. From thirteen milking cows we have obtained, during June, an average of 5½ pounds of butter per cow per week. The grass on which these cows have fed has been almost exclusively produced by phosphates, and the cows are but the ordinary country breed.

In order to have a fairer view of the improvements resulting from the liberal use of phosphates, I should add that the value of the above stock should be added to the profits of the year. The whole farm is so improved that it would continue to yield largely for some years to come without further improvement.

There is nothing remarkable claimed for Hilltop Farm, and I have merely thrown the above thoughts together at the suggestion of some of the members of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, to show how a poor farm may be made productive, and even profitable, by the liberal use of phosphates as manure, applied in the usual rotation system to common farming by a plain farmer.

## FIRE BLAST OR SMUT ON CORN

THIS curious vegetable growth—plant it can be hardly termed—familiar to farmers and sometimes destruetive to their corn crop, is of the order *Cryptogamia* or *Thallogens*, as termed by recent botanists. The smut on other cultivated grains, truffles, mushrooms, puff-ball, lichens, and those curious spongy excrescences found on trees and decaying wood, familiar to all observers, belong to the same order. They constitute the lowest order of vegetable life, and are supposed by some to have been the source of all vegetation, and to have produced vegetation by their decay, which afforded nutriment for a higher order of plants. Their reproductive organs can generally only be distinguished by the aid of a microscope; they are simple eells without pistil or stamen, no ovary or flower in the ordinary sense of the word. Yet they multiply themselves to infinity and with prodigious rapidity. There are some mushrooms that produee sixty thousand cells a minute. Probably various mildews and blights which are so pernicious to the interests of the cultivator are hut forms of this vegetable growth.

The eause of this blight or fungus appearing on corn is not clearly known. Doubtless the plant must be in favorable condition, or the spores of the smut which float invisibly in the air are harmless. This condition may be a diseased state, eonsequent on bruises made by careless cultivation, or it may he a want of vitality aud health of the plant, due to a poor or uncongeuial soil, but oftener, perhaps, the exciting cause exists in the atmosphere and unfavorable weather. Various remedies or preventives have been recommended for smut on grain. Most farmers are familiar with them; washing the seed grain in brine, chamber ley, or mixiug it with brine, ashes, &c., have all been extensively tried,—sometimes with apparent success, often times without. The use of sulphur on the viue fungus is probably the most uniformly successful application of a destructive agent to this vegetation.

## HOP PROSPECTS.

I HAVE examined the hop yards for a distance of one hundred miles East and West of Rochester, N. Y., and am happy to be able to make a very favorable report of their condition. Crops generally are looking very well. Indeed there is a prospeet of au abundant erop of everything except peaches. So far, I have discovered the *aphis* but on one hop vine. For the first time I have found the *aphis*, which has so extensively damaged hops during the last three years, upon fruit trees. The cherry trees were in some places covered with them, and the apple trees were swarming with the fly. Both on apple and cherry trees, the color of the insect was darker thau when found upon hops—but the insect was the same. Its color depends upon the nature of the plant upon which it preys.

Hop growers should, at this season of the year, bear in mind the remedies to be used in case their yards are attacked with the *aphis* or flea, and be prepared with the ingredients and means of using them. It is comparatively an easy process to destroy them when they first make their appearance. Strong tobacco water applied with a common hand syringe to hops on stakes and strings will destroy the *aphis*. It should be applied with a force pump to hops on poles. The under sides of the leaves, as far as possible, should receive the liquid, as it is there that the flies congregate. A sprinkling muzzle should be fitted to the end of the syringe, or to the hose from the engine or force pump. Strong soap-suds, with a pound of eopperas to ten gallons of the suds, applied in the same way as the tobaceo-water, will kill the vermin. Sometimes saltpetre is added to the water.—*American Farmer.*

THE wet weather has produced a fearful disease among poultry in aud around Hanover, Pa. One farmer lost 30 turkeys in three days, and others have lost more or less chickens and turkeys.

A FRENCH actress never would tell her age, and of course the more she refused to tell it the more curious people were to know it. By good luck—as the multitude then thought—she was summoned as a witness on a trial. The gossips rubbed their hands and chuckled. "Aha! we shall know it now. She must tell, or go to prison for contempt of court." The lady was ushered in, raised her right hand to heaven and took the oath to speak the truth. "Your name?" asked the president. "Angelique Toujoursfleurie."—"Your profession?"—"Artist dramatique."—"Your age?" You might have heard a pin drop in the court, and every eye was hent ou the lady. She was driven into a corner at last! Angelique rose, walked to the president's desk, and whispered the secret in his ear. He nodded and made the entry. The public retired with mingled feelings of disgust and admiration.

# The Fireside Muse.

## "THE MILLER OF HARZ."

A miller of Harz, on a long Summer's day,
Fell asleep in the shade of his mill,
And dreamed of a sure and speedy way,
His coffers with riches to fill.

A cracking old wheel that his forefathers built,
And the force of a stream turned round,
For a century past had driven the mill,
And the grain for a century ground.

But it happened this day that the brook was low;
And the noisy old wheel stood still;
So the miller, for lack of something to do,
Fell asleep in the shade of his mill.

As soon as he woke he at once began
To follow the plan of his dream,
And in spite of all that his friends could say,
He turned the course of the stream.

The Summer had passed, cold Winter was nigh,
Still the miller could grind no corn,
And the neighbors who laughed at his useless work
He answered with bitter scorn.

The dam was finished, but not that year,
And the people had ceased to go
To the little mill, whose idle wheel
Was buried beneath the snow.

To the miller's joy, the Spring time came,
And the torrents poured into the glen,
Filling up to the brim the pond he had made,
And turning the wheel again.

But one night as the villagers, safe at home,
Heard the sobs of the driving rain,
The dam gave way, and down the stream
Went the miller, the mill and the grain.

How many a man, in every land,
Like the miller, has followed a dream,
And sooner or later, with mill and grain,
Like the miller, gone down the stream.

# General Miscellany.

## FATTENING FOWLS.

All Summer long the farmer and his family have fussed with the poultry; the young chickens and turkeys need care in the long rain storms, and protection against nocturnal depredators. Just as they are fully grown and out of danger, the shrewd huckster makes his appearance, buys, fattens, and prepares them for market, and pockets the profits for his smartness.

Obviously the farmer had better fatten his fowls and send them to market himself. He can do it with less trouble, perhaps, than he imagines. Feed liberally at all times, so as to keep them growing thriftily, but about twenty days before being slaughtered feed them in this way: make a coop for one dozen fowls; more should not be put together. The coop should be three feet long, two wide, and two and a half high. Make the sides of bars, and about three inches apart, the bottom of round poles two inches apart, and the top of a board. Place this in a comfortable room, elevated two feet from the floor, in the barn or poultry house, where the cold winds will be kept away, and where the light will be dim. Attach feeding troughs all around the outside. Commence feeding very light, giving little but water the first day. Then feed regular three or four times per day with the richest food, as oat meal mixed with milk, boiled barley or corn. Observe the utmost cleanliness, and give a supply of fresh water. In twenty days the poultry should be killed, and for such the farmer would find plenty of greedy buyers, willing to pay the highest price.—*Rural New Yorker.*

The crop advices from all sections of the country are of the most favorable character, and it is now almost certain that the harvest of 1867 will exceed in quantity and quality anything ever known. This bright prospect may be darkened, but such is the appearance of things at present, taking the concurrent testimony of careful and experienced judges.

Soot.—Twelve quarts of soot in a hogshead of water, will make a powerful liquid manure, which will improve the growth of flowers, garden vegetables, or root crops. In either a liquid or solid state it makes an excellent top-dressing for grass or other cereal crops.—*Practical Farmer.*

## SUN STROKE.

This is an instantaneous inflammation of the brain, occasioned by the sun's rays communicating their heat to the structures with such intensity and rapidity as to cause dizziness, headache, and nauseau or vomiting; the patient then falls breathless, turns black in the face and dies, unless proper assistance is given on the spot; which is, to be taken to the shade. The neck should be instantly freed from all that binds it; pour warm water on the head and dash it upon the body—the Arabs pour it in the ears, this may also be done. It is sometimes an hour or two before relief is obtained, which is ascertained by the patient becoming more conscious and more able to help himself. Let him drink as much water as he desires, if he can swallow it.

Sun stroke is prevented by wearing a silk handkerchief in the crown of the hat, or green leaves or a wet cloth of any kind; but during an attack, warm water should be instantly poured on the head, or rags dipped in the water and renewed every minute. The reason is two-fold; the scalp is dry and hot, and the warm water not only removes the dryness, but carries off the extra heat with great rapidity by evaporation. Sun stroke is more common in the temperate than in the torrid zones. It is more frequent and fatal in New York and Quebec than in New Orleans and Havana. Day laborers are most liable to sun stroke, especially in proportion as they use stimulating drinks. It is doubtful if any strictly temperate person ever becomes a victim to this instantaneous life destroyer; but excessive exposure to the direct rays of the Summer's sun, may occasion sun-stroke in an individual, in the proportion as he is of a sedentary occupation or of delicate health. Such persons, if compelled to be out of doors under a hot Summer's sun, should wear a soft, loose hat, with some light, loose cloth in the crown; have the neck and throat bare and unconfined; should eat but little meat and live mostly on coarse bread and butter and berries, ripe, raw and perfect, without sugar or milk; keep regular hours and have abundant sleep. Laborers should wash the whole scalp in cold water several times a day, and keep the surface of the body clean by rubbing it with a damp towel every night before going to bed. Let the friction be sufficiently vigorous to cause an extra redness of the skin. It is being between two fires that makes sun stroke common in cities and uncommon on small islands or at sea, because the brick and stone pavements give back almost as great a heat as comes from the sun.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

## PREVENTIVE AGAINST THE TURNIP FLY.

The North British Agriculturist gives the following methods for the prevention or mitigation of damage from the turnip fly: "Various methods have been suggested to prevent the attacks of the turnip fly, when the plants are newly hrairded. Steeping the seeds in oil, and afterwards dusting the seeds with sulphur preparatory to sowing, has been found to be of considerable service. There is, however, a still more certain method of prevention. Newly slaked lime, strewn thinly along the rut made by the seed-coulter of the sowing machine at the time of the brairding the plants, proves a protection. We have also found a mixture of lime and soot very effectual in protecting the young plants as they put out the first leaves. When a small quantity of white turnip seed is sown in the hollows of the drills, the insects resort to the white turnip plants, preferring them to the Swede. This method of protecting the latter is more expensive than top-dressing the seed rows with lime previous to the brairding of the plants. After the rough leaves are formed, little damage is caused by the turnip fly, but other insects feed on the leaves, the black beetle being the most common. The most effectual means to combat all insects is to push forward the growth of the plants by manures applied at the time the seed is sown, and after the plants come up to stir the surface frequently, but without injury to the turnip plants."

## HOW TO MAKE WINE.

Not according to this receipt or that. It seems as though there were a thousand ways to make wine. This is all wrong. Such multiplicity only perplexes. The simplest thing in the world is to make wine; or rather, wine is not made—it makes itself. Simply express juice, and let it stand. That makes wine; that is the whole of it.

For domestic wines, which people will drink, treatment is required. Here sugar must be added—that is all. Were there sugar enough in the berries—currants, rhubarb, etc,—it would come under the head of grape wine. Each man may judge as to the amount of sugar he wants. Some people like sweeter and some sourer wine. Make to suit the taste, and the sugar is your criterion. For wild, sour grapes, a pound of sugar to a quart of juice is the rule. Some have a quarter or even a third less. The more sugar, the sweeter will be your "wine." All wines are alike in one respect—in the general wine taste. The difference is made by the flavor of the fruit. Thus the strawberry wine is different from the blackberry wine, and these different from the grape. The reason why the grape is best (to a cultivated taste,) is, that its sugar is better—differing from cane sugar. A fruit should have its own sugar. But the grape flavor also is excellent. Flavor and sugar unite in the grape; and hence it makes the best wine—so good that it is called the only wine.

But a man can help to make wine—help just as he does in anything—that is, he can see that only pure, ripe grapes are used; that vessels are clean; in a word, that everything is done in a workman-like way. This will improve the article just as any article is improved by care in the production. Give then, the grapes a chance to ripen *thoroughly* their fruit, and a good chance for fermentation in clean vessels. If the temperature is low (in the long stage of fermentation), the wine will be the better—but it will take the longer to make it. In Europe, casks are sunk 60 feet in the earth. That gives uniformity, as well as a low temperature.—*F. G., in the Rural World.*

The Bob-o-Link.—The gay young rascal, the Bob-o-Link, is in his glory just now—in the high tide of his musical dissipation. What a gush and gurgle of song it is that pours out of his little throat! "Bob-o-link, bob-o-link! Blink-blink, chitter-wink! Cherry-me, up in a tree! Out in the sun—clover tops—tall grass—look at me now—what d'ye think?—happy fellow—can't stay-ee—on the wing—wife's at home—good-by!" Was there ever so charming a field companion for a morning stroll in June? The meadows would not seem one-half so delightful, in this early stage of Summer, were his gleeful chatter not rained down in this showery way all over the grass. In certain favorite meadows he makes his annual appearance punctually on the 11th of May. It makes no difference, rain or shine, windy or calm, one never listens in vain for the prompt presentation of his tinkling notes. He keeps his little promise, year by year, with wonderful faithfulness; and one can hardly keep back the thought, half fancy as it is, that if his wife of the new season, like some other housewives, was behind hand in the packing of her trunks for a start on her northern Summer tour, he would leave her and come on alone, rather than blemish his fresh song by offering it a single day later. The happiest, jolliest, most scatter-brain of all the birds of the open field, his tipsy song reels on from one grass-spire to another, from daisy-head to thistle-top, and his gay little coat sinks and rises with the fragile perch he has found, as the still lake of the morning air is broken into circles with his rattling jollity.

The Newburyport Herald (Mass.) says that both the English and salt hay crops in that vicinity are surpassing the previous high expectations, and that more hay will be cut than for many years past. English hay is selling in the fields at $15 to 20.

A Summer Picture.—"Talk of pictures as we may, there is no fairer sight than this; a field of grain full ripe on a bright day, with a little breath of wind in it; woods, old woods, on two sides of the fields, to "set off," the dull gold; woods lying like three plied velvet, tint above tint, oak and maple and elm, edgings of willows, and lettered in silver with flowers of sweet elder; the wind just turning out the white lining of the poplars, and lightly touching the grain here and there, till it brightens and darkens all over the field, as if an April face smiled and grew sober again two or three times in a minute; the sun shining aslant the picture; the sun just ready to set; the tree tops afire, "burning bushes" along the fences—and no Mount!—the grain looking here as if splashed with fresh gold, and there as if day had died on it and stained it through with red glory. Not a reaper in sight, not a cradle's wooden fingers thrust stiff and stark through the fence, not a suggestion of bog or bin anywhere; only a zig-zag flash of a squirrel along the rails, that "takes his pay as he goes!" only a bird that "dipped" in the yellow and skimmed singing away; only a butterfly flickering like a pair of hickory leaves in the Autumn wind."

The Value of Fruit in California.—We learn from an article in the San Francisco Times, the main facts were furnished by the San Francisco fruit dealers, that next to the grape the apple yields the largest receipts. Last year the apple crop of California realized some $400,000, of which San Francisco consumed $120,000. Next to the apple comes the peach, the total production of which reaches within the neighborhood of $300,000. The consumption of San Francisco is about 82,000 boxes, which bring an average price of $1,25 per box of forty pounds, making the value of the quantity consumed, $102,500. The plum production reaches $160,000, of which 40,000 is consumed in San Francisco. Cherries yield about $100,000, of which San Francisco consumes $30,000. Apricots yield $60,000, San Francisco consuming $20,000. Pears amount in the aggregate production to $70,000, of which San Francisco consumes $19,500. It will be seen that, according to these estimates, San Francisco consumes nearly one-third of the fruit sold in the State.

Ground for Turnips.—The sweetest and best turnips for family use are those grown upon new land—if burnt over, like that newly cleared—all the better for the juiciness and flavor of the turnip. If any of our readers have waste places or old and tangled brier patches, neither good for berries nor anything else, mow them down and let the stuff be on the ground and dry. A few days will suffice to prepare it for ignition. Let the fire run over it—the cleaner it burns the better. Plow and harrow it well as the case may require, and sow turnip seed broadcast or in drills as fancy may dictate. Such ground so dealt with will repay the labor many times over in the luscious turnips it will supply for Winter use. Sow about the middle of July, or earlier if more convenient or desirable.

Calfy.—A fellow at a cattle show was making himself ridiculously conspicuous by an evident intention of finding fault with everything. At last he burst forth with, "Call these here prize cattle? Why, they aint nothing to what our folks raised. My father raised the biggest calf of any man round our parts!" "I don't doubt it," was the timely remark of a bystander; "and the noisiest."

A Fair Bargain.—A Western farmer, being obliged to sell a yoke of oxen to pay his hired man, told him that he could not keep him any longer.

"Why," said the man, "I'll stay and take some of your cows in place of money."

"But what shall I do," said the old farmer, "when my cows and oxen are all gone?"

"Why, you can work for me then and get them back."

A woman has no natural gift more bewitching than a sweet laugh. It is like the sound of a flute on the water. It leaps from her in a clear sparkling rill, and the heart that hears it feels as if bathed in a cool, exhilarating spring. Sometimes it will come to us in the midst of care and sorrow, or irksome business, and we turn away and listen to hear it ringing through the room like a silver bell, with power to scare away the evil spirit of the mind. How much we owe that sweet laugh. It turns the prose to poetry; it flings flowers of sunshine over the darkness of the wood in which we are travelling; it touches with light even our sleep, which is no more the image of death, but is consumed with dreams that are the shadows of immortality.

# The Stock Yard.

## NEAT CATTLE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY JOHN DIMON, POMFRET, CONN.

In my last, I gave you my views and experience in selecting and managing dairy cows. In this I shall give you my views and experience in feeding milch cows in Winter; also on soiling, stall feeding, and rearing calves.

Feeding and Managing Cows in Winter.—Feed early in the morning on good hay (uncut), oats in the straw or millet, about a common foddering, or what they will readily eat up clean. Then give each cow a mess of four quarts or so of good, new, sweet shorts mixed with oat meal, at the rate of one part oat meal to three of shorts, well moistened with water, so that it will pour, and salted. When they are through with that, turn them to water, and see that each cow has an opportunity to drink all she wants of good pure water—if the chill could be taken off so much the better. While they are drinking, clean and litter stables. At noon give each cow one bushel cut meadow hay, corn fodder, or straw, with one quart oil meal and one quart Indian meal salted slightly. Water, clean, and bed stables at three, p. m. At sunset feed liberally on good hay, millet, oats in straw, or cut corn fodder; give what they will eat clean during the night. Roots may be substituted for cut feed at noon occasionally, or given at night, at the rate of half a bushel of beets or turnips to each cow, with less shorts and meal than when roots are not given. Have the barn for milch cows warm and kept clean. Card each cow, at least once every day. Treat them kindly and gently. Have steady and *good* milkers; then if there is profit in making milk in Winter, you will surely reap the benefit of it, if you have cows that were well selected. Keep none but the best.

Soiling Cattle.—If you have unruly cattle that are troublesome, (as most unruly cattle are), I would recommend *soiling*—i. e., keeping in the barn through the Summer, and feeding on green feed, such as oats sown early in April, (4 bushels per acre), and oats or barley sown about April 20th, (4 bushels seed per acre). Early in May sow either of the above grains in like manner. Between the 10th and 20th of May, sow Southern corn in drills, (3 to 5 bushels per acre). About the 25th of May sow corn in like manner. About the 5th to the 10th of June, repeat the sowing of corn as above. About the 15th or 20th of June, sow millet or barley as suits your land best, and sow barley from June 25th to July 5th. Barley is the best qualified to resist the early frosts. That gives a succession of green feed through the Summer. Clover is also very good for soiling. The only objection to the general practice of soiling that I know, is the labor. We usually want to employ all our time in raising and securing crops during the soiling season. Where land is cheap and labor high—as here in Connecticut at present—I doubt if soiling can be made profitable. I shall only try it on unruly cattle.

Stall Feeding.—The way to begin is by obtaining *good* animals and putting them in fair order on grass, or purchase cattle in the Fall that are in fair condition to start on. It is generally poor economy to commence with poor cattle in Autumn. Begin to feed moderately and increase gradually as fast as they will bear; but be very careful not to cloy them. I like to commence on pumpkins, two feeds per day—if I have them plenty—and one of meal mixed with cut hay. Give plenty of coarse fodder. After pumpkins, I like French turnips, one or two feeds per day; then beets, the same, with other feed as above, and would care to give no water while feeding beef cattle on pumpkins, turnips or beets. It will pay to feed cattle until well fattened, unless you can find a purchaser who will take them on the foot, partially fattened, at a good price, which is sometimes the case when beef is scarce and high. It is an excellent plan to have scales handy and weigh occasionally while feeding, and note their progress. By so doing you will be posted and ready to sell on the foot at any time. Fattening cattle should be kept cleaner than they usually are, to insure the greatest degree of thrift.

Raising Calves.—My way is to let the calves suck the cow till from three days to one week old, or until the milk is good and the cow's bag is all right. I then take them entirely away from the cow, and teach them to drink new milk. I then substitute milk porridge for new milk, and teach them to eat hay, oats and oil meal, and drink skim milk or whey. They should be well cared for after being turned to grass, and not allowed to become lousy, or to get poor. Attempt to raise none but the very best. The first Winter they should be liberally fed with rowen-hay, corn-stalks, &c., with a little oil meal, and a few oats or carrots. Heifer calves should invariably come in at two years old. In raising steer calves for oxen great care should be taken to breed from cows of about the same size and build, and to have calves intended for mates to be sired by the same bull; also to be just the same color, build and size. It costs no more to raise a pair of steers worth $300 than a pair worth $150, (or in that proportion, as the price of cattle may be), if you but start right. Hence you see that very much depends on the right start. Steers intended for the yoke (and none others should be raised here in Connecticut or Rhode Island) should be well accustomed to the same at two years old.

*July*, 1867.

## SALTING STOCK.

"So far as I know" writes a retired farmer, but an attentive reader of our paper, "the stock growers are very generally following in the footsteps of their forefathers, by occasionally giving a stinted quantity of salt to their stock. In the Summer they often throw it on the ground, in the pasture, and being so starved for salt, the stock will often eat the ground because of its being impregnated with the salt. One of the greatest errors now practiced by our stock growers, is the neglect to give their stock the requisite amount of salt. I should as soon think of stinting my stock with water as salt.

My mode of salting for a number of years has been to keep a sufficient quantity of salt in a trough in my pastures and yards, so that my stock may have free access to it, and eat of it as often as they wish, and as much as they wish, always keeping up the supply. I think our stock know better than we do when they want salt and how much they need. They as well know when they want salt as they do when they want water, and when they have eaten all they crave, they will eat no more. When they have grass in the Summer they will eat salt every day. Cows will give more and better milk by having free access to salt than when deprived of it. A great share of the diseases among stock, is in consequence of their being stinted with salt. I would caution not to give free access to salt at once, but increase the quantity by degrees for about two weeks, otherwise they may be starved for salt and eat so much as to injure them."

Straw Shelter for Stock.—Very good and durable sheds may be made from straw with a little care and pains-taking. A good thatched roof, well laid on of good straw will shed rain and wet equally as well as shingles, and last nearly as long; and the expense is nothing compared with shingle roofs. A thatched roof may be made something as follows: Put up the rafters as for sheeting, on these place ribs, which may be split poles, nailed one foot apart. The straw may be straight. Winter rye, threshed by hand, is the best; lay it on straight and even, without binding; fasten by laying on thin split poles, fastened to the ribs by splits or strong, tough bark; lay the courses thick and even, and finish off the top by doubling the straw over the ridge, and fastening by poles stretched on the top. This will make a roof that will not leak, and will be serviceable.

# Horticulture.

## DWARF PEARS.

Many persons have been disappointed in their experience with dwarf pear trees. They have grown very well, it may be, for three or four years, and then, when most was expected of them, have suddenly died. There are two causes of such disappointment, which ought to be understood; because, if they are, they are very easily avoided. They are shallow planting, and starvation.

In the first place, dwarf pears should always be set so deeply in the soil that the point of junction between the pear and quince stock may be three or four inches below the surface. If this is not done; if the quince stock is allowed to appear above the soil, the tree is liable to be destroyed by borers. These destructive insects will penetrate the quince as readily as the pear. But if the quince stock is entirely covered, as well as three or four inches of the pear, we not only escape the ravages of the borer, but also secure a much larger root for the tree. The quince roots so readily that it will soon, if in congenial soil, form roots throughout its whole length, and very frequently the pear will throw out large strong roots, which will give the tree the size and permanence of a standard, without interfering with its early fruitfulness as a dwarf. Care must be taken when purchasing to get those only that are budded so near the quince root that they can be planted the required depth without being smothered and killed.

The second cause of disappointment is starvation. The quince has small roots which can travel but a short distance in search of food, and if the tree is compelled to depend entirely for nourishment upon what the quince roots alone can furnish, they must be kept constantly supplied, or the tree will die of starvation. There is less danger of that when the tree has been set at proper depth, for then very commonly the pear will send out roots which will range far and wide in search of needed food. But as a general rule dwarf pears demand high culture. Give them every Fall a coating of manure, two inches in thickness and six or eight feet in diameter, and in the Spring fork it lightly, and they will express their gratitude by continuous and bountiful crops.

## WINDOW PLANTS.

These suffer much at this season from the high and dry temperatures at which it is necessary for human comfort to keep our dwellings. Air can seldom be admitted from the lowness of the external temperature. Saucers of water under the plants do much to remedy the drying from which room plants suffer. In such cases, however, so much water must not be given to these plants as those without saucers. The water is drawn up into the soil by attraction, and though the surface will appear dry, they will be wet enough just beneath. The more freely a plant is growing, the more water will it require; and the more it grows, the more sun and light will it need. In all cases, those which seem to grow the fastest should be placed nearest the light. The best aspect for room plants is the southeast. They seem like animals, in their affection for the morning sun. The first morning ray is worth a dozen in the evening. Should any of our fair readers find her plants, by some unlucky miscalculation, frozen in the morning, do not remove them at once to a warm place, but dip them in cold water, and set them in a dark spot, where they will barely escape freezing; sun-light will only help the frost's destructive power.

But, besides the aridity of the atmosphere, a more dangerous enemy to room plants is the fumes of burning gas. Many a lady, who grew plants while the family was poor, and they lived in cozy rooms by old wood-stoves, wonders why, when rich enough to "get the gas introduced," she has no more "luck" with plants. Where plants are grown in gas-lighted rooms, especial cabinets must be provided to inclose them from the space in which the gas-burners operate.—*Gardener's Monthly.*

## MANURE FOR BERRIES.

The best vegetable manure for berries, is decayed leaves and vegetable mold that has not been leached and deprived of too much of its soluble saline matter. It should be remembered that nearly all the juices of fruits contain potash or soda, generally the former, in combination with an acid peculiar to the fruit, although generally the acid is not all neutralized. In the grape, for instance, we have tartaric acid in combination with potash. In addition to the vegetable mold and decayed leaves, we may, therefore, almost always apply wood ashes with advantage, or some material containing potash salts, unless the soil originally contains enough of this alkali. I do not believe that the strawberry, when it is supplied with sufficient potash, requires as great a supply of vegetable mold or other organic manures as many people suppose. It is too apt to make them grow to vines. Decayed leaves contain a good deal of potash, and it is probable that the benefit derived from them is more owing to this fact than to the amount of organic matter contained in them. The strawberry feeds to a great extent on the air, and derives a great part of its purely organic matter from it. I have seen fine strawberries growing in soil which was almost totally devoid of vegetable mold.

## OLD FRUIT TREES.

If you have any old apple, pear or cherry trees, which formerly bore good fruit abundantly, but which now are barren and mere cumberers of the ground, reflect whether you are willing to make a little sacrifice of labor and time to restore them to fruitfulness. If you are so disposed, try what kind and generous treatment may do for them. Perhaps they have given you various crops of rich fruit, and you have made no return but neglect and indifference. Perhaps they have been choked with weeds and starved with briers; perhaps, like the persecuted Israelites of old, you require them "to make bricks without straw," or expect them to bear fruit while they are not fed with that nourishment by which alone fruit can be produced.

Go to work, then. Dig or fork around them. Apply old manure to the surface, with a mixture of old lime, plaster or turnpike dust, and the sweepings of the poultry house. Thin out all those small branches which shut out the sun from the interior of the tree; but do not cut out any large branches. Scrape off the old moss, and wash or paint the trunk and large branches with strong ley or soft-soap. Remove all that crowd of suckers which spring from the base of the stem, and finish by a good mulching of old rotten straw, corn-stalks, or some similar material, and our word for it, the old tree will repay in the next favorable season by a return to its pristine fruitfulness.

## PLOWING UP OLD ORCHARDS.

A Question frequently arises as to the best course to be pursued with an old neglected orchard, which has become covered with a dense sod of grass, and this often of an inferior character, and full of disagreeable weeds. Orchards that have been widely planted, and which have gaps from the decay of trees, especially when these have been trimmed up with high stems and long, naked branches, do not cast sufficient shade upon the ground to prevent the growth of grass and weeds. These intruders occupy the surface soil to the disadvantage of the roots of the fruit trees, and we may wonderfully improve the health of such an orchard by plowing the ground, and at the same time severely pruning the branches and cleansing the bark of these old trees. These good results may be continued by shallow culture of the soil, with suitable applications of manure where needed. By giving a dose of lime, or marl and ashes, we shall infuse a new life and growth and productiveness that will astonish and delight us, and reward us for our labors and outlay.

The Theory of Drainage in a Nut-Shell.—The draining away of superabundant water, especially upon stiff soils, has always been the chief difficulty in English agriculture. Hitherto the means employed for getting rid of it were imperfect. Now, however, the problem is completely solved. "Take this flower pot," said the president of a meeting in France lately: "what is the meaning of this small hole at the bottom? To renew the water. And why to renew the water? Because it gives life or death: life, when it is made only to pass through the bed of earth, for it leaves with the soil its productive principles, and renders soluble the nutritive properties destined to nourish the plant; death, on the other hand, when it remains in the pot, for it soon becomes putrid, and rots the roots, and also prevents new water from penetrating." The theory of drainage is exactly described in this figure.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## INDUCEMENTS TO CLUBS.

THE second half yearly volume of the FARM AND FIRESIDE commenced July 13th. To any person who will send us $3, we will send four copies for the remainder of the year; or six copies for $4. 50; or ten copies for $7. 00. Please send in your orders at once.

We appeal to the farmers, horticulturists and lovers of rural affairs in Rhode Island and adjoining States, to give the FARM AND FIRESIDE a more generous support. It needs it. We are doing what we can to aid these classes, and we think we have good claim to ask their patronage.

## POULTRY FOR FARM STOCK.

THE rearing of poultry, as a special branch of rural economy, is not followed with the intelligence and perseverance which it demands. In Europe great improvements have been made in the different breeds of fowls; while for eggs and food for the table, it has become one of the staple industries of the French and English farmer. As a rule, they are ahead of us in market fowls, producing them of a superior quality and at a less average cost. Then for ornamental varieties, for the lawn and the rural homestead, they are a long ways in advance of us. Their beautiful and stately Dorkings, Hamburghs, Houdans, Crevecoeurs and La Fleche birds are unequaled by anything we can exhibit.

Some twenty years ago a poultry fever broke out in the New England States and extended over a wide range of country. We imported from China the Shanghai and Cochin fowls; from Asia the Malay; from Poland the Silver-Crested; from Spain the Black Spanish, and from Holland the Hamburghs. This epidemic awakened public attention to the value of these various breeds; but the extravagance which the mania produced disgusted the farming class, and the speculation "died out" after the city savans had fleeced each other with poultry at twenty-five to fifty dollars a pair. We cannot say how much money was made, or how much lost, by poultry speculators at that time; nor whether they warranted hens to lay three eggs a day, like the Illyrian fowls which Aristotle wrote of several centuries ago. In the Seventeenth century, a rooster was "buried alive in the public square of Baden, Germany, because it laid an egg!" Not one of the Shanghai or Cochin-China roosters of American speculation notoriety, ever attempted a thing so impudent and audacious as that.

In regard to the most profitable breeds of fowls for the farm-yard, there is a great variety to select from. If the main object is eggs, we would not recommend the larger kinds, such as the Shanghais, the Cochins or the Malays; but would prefer the Bolton Grays, Black Spanish, the Game fowl or Dominiques. These are smaller birds; are also industrious enough to seek a large portion of their food; and are remarkably productive in eggs. For the table, or for the poultry market, the larger varieties may be more profitable—especially for capons. There is this fact which farmers should keep in mind: the smaller varieties do best for the supply of eggs, and when kept for that purpose should be kept pure, distinct breeds—rather than crosses and mixtures with the common barn-yard fowl. With proper care and management no branch of farm industry will pay better than poultry, either for their eggs, or as fowls for the market.

Whether the breeding of poultry on a large scale can be made profitable is questionable—that is, the raising of several hundreds or thousands on one farm. Repeated experiments in England and France, on this scale, have been failures. The reason of this is attributed to disease, which invariably follows the keeping of large numbers of fowls together. It is a well established fact that poultry require a certain range and freedom of action to be healthy; also that they must have a considerable quantity of animal food. The latter could be supplied, but artificial food, such as meat, induces disease where large numbers are kept in confinement. A gentleman in Belgium tried the experiment of keeping two thousand fowls in an inclosure of twenty-two acres; but diseases of the digestive organs, vertigo and roup, carried off more than half of them in eight months. This failure is only one of many others on the same extended scale.

The varieties of fowls now most popular in Europe are the Buff Cochins and White Dorkings among the wealthy landowners of England; while in France the Houdans, Crevecoeurs and La Fleche rank among the fancy breeds. The first mentioned are large, heavy, short-legged, five-toed fowls, with mottled plumage. Their merits as table fowls are of the highest character. The Crevecoeurs originated in Normandy, are remarkably large, with black plumage, and are prone to great fatness. They are remarkably handsome—the males having two-horned combs and large crests. It is from this breed that the French raise their celebrated *poulardes*, which possess delicate flesh, and also great precocity in fattening. The La Fleche are large, turkey-like birds, lay enormous eggs, but are not hardy. They have been introduced into England, and a few in this country, but we have no knowledge of their merits or success. How profitable these French fowls would be on our farms will have to be settled by actual experiment. We shall be able to speak for them next year.

STATE AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.—The following is a correct list of State Fairs, with the time and place of exhibition, as far as they have been announced:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| New England | Providence, R. I. | Sept. 3- 6 |
| California | | Sept. 9-14 |
| Michigan | Detroit | Sept. 10-13 |
| Vermont | Brattleboro | Sept. 10-13 |
| Amer. Pomological Soc. | St. Louis | Sept. 11-14 |
| Kentucky | Louisville | Sept. 17-20 |
| Ohio | Dayton | Sept. 23-27 |
| Wisconsin | Madison | Sept. 23-27 |
| Kansas | Lawrence | Sept. 24-27 |
| Pennsylvania | Pittsburgh | Sept. 24-27 |
| Iowa | Lyons | Sept. 22-27 |
| Canada West | Kingston | Sept. 23-27 |
| Indiana | Terre Haute | Sept. 30-Oct. 4 |
| Illinois | Quincy | Sept. 30-Oct. 5 |
| New York | Buffalo | Oct. 1- 4 |
| Minnesota | Rochester | Oct. 1- 4 |
| Missouri | St. Louis | Oct. 7-12 |
| Maryland | Baltimore | Oct. 29-31 |

THE INFANTADO RAM.—Mr. Gleason gives the following as the pedigree of the Infantado Ram, an illustration of which we publish in this number of our journal:

"My four year old ram was bred by myself; got by Mr. E. Hammond's Silver Mine; grand sire bred by Mr. Hammond, and got by his ram Sweepstakes. Dam bred by myself, and got by Sweepstakes, as above; grand dam purchased of W. R. Sanford and got by Hammond's Wooster. He sheared 26 lbs. of wool last Spring."

THE first term of the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst will open on the 2d of October next. It is said applications have already been received from a larger number of students than the college arrangements for food and lodging will accommodate; and that it will be necessary to provide lodgings in the village till the deficiency can be supplied. The college farm, covering about four hundred and fifteen acres, has been already much improved, though it has not been liberally stocked as yet. Five buildings are in process of construction,—the dormitory located near the center of the farm; the laboratory, to contain lecture rooms for experiments, and a hall for students' meetings; a club house, under the general direction of the trustees, to be supplied from the farm; a plant house, or conservatory; and a botanical cabinet, or museum. The course of study includes all branches which have a bearing upon practical agriculture.

A GOOD HEIFER.—Mr. Green H. Capron, of Smithfield, R. I., has a two-year old heifer, of the Hereford breed, which gives fifteen quarts of milk per day. Can this be beat?

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

THE Editor of the "Cultivator," Boston, in referring to cheese-making in Massachusetts, says the quantity of cheese now accumulating in the factories in Worcester county, is very large; also that in the towns of Hardwick, Barre and Petersham, not less than 75,000 pounds are made each week.

A Paris correspondent of the "Economist," New York, says:—A return just issued, shows that the quantity of beet-root sugar made in France, in 1866, was 274,514 tons—an increase of over one hundred thousand tons on the preceding year. These figures prove that foreign and colonial sugar may be entirely driven from the French market, by and by.

The Cultivator has a timely suggestion with reference to transplanting evergreens when young. In the early stages of their growth the limbs are low down, rendering it difficult to dig them up and plant them out again. To obviate this, it is proposed to raise the branches upward and fasten them to the trunk by means of a strap and buckle. This permits ready access to the roots—greatly facilitating the labor of raising the trees and replanting them.

A writer in the Cultivator tells how he disposed of currant worms on his bushes—currant and gooseberry. He says:—"Having a mixture already prepared for top-dressing corn, of one-third each of plaster, wood ashes and slaked lime, I covered my bushes with it, shaking over and under them from my hand, and in one day's time every worm had fallen off upon the ground, dead or dying."

The California Farmer says that oranges, much superior in flavor to those grown upon the islands, are being plentifully produced in many sections of that State. The business promises to be a highly remunerative one.

There seems to be but little difference of opinion among the better educated class of farmers relative to the superior quality of early cut grass. The "Utica Herald" reports a discussion before the Herkimer County Farmers' Club, where a decided majority were in favor of cutting grass when green and in blossom—firmly believing it more nutritive, and better for all kinds of stock. One farmer said he had cut his grass on the 20th of June, for three years past; then cut a second crop in August, and his hay averaged four tons per acre, at both cuttings. Another farmer said he had been very successful in treating hay with a mixture of salt and lime—had used it for seven years, and in that time had not a sick horse or cow. Hay can be put in green, and will cure in the mow. Horses fed on limed hay never have "the heaves."

The "Prairie Farmer," Chicago, takes a gloomy view of the Cattle market. Prices continue to decline—each week being more favorable to the buyer. Many drovers, not being able to sell without loss, turned their stock out on the prairies, there to remain until the market improves. Prices, last week, ranged at Chicago as follows: Choice Steers of 1200 to 1500 pounds, average $8 to $8,50; good second class steers, well fatted, weighing 1100 to 1400 pounds, average $7 to $7,75; medium third class, in good flesh, of 1000 to 1200 pounds, $6 to $6,50; inferior stock $4,25 to $5,25.

New Jersey Journals—South Eastern part of the State—represent the Cranberry crop very promising. Where the fields have been flooded—which has a tendency to kill the worm—the vines are full of young fruit, and look remarkably healthy. It is estimated that not less than twelve thousand acres of cultivated berries will come into bearing this year. The production of this fruit is extending rapidly.

THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.—This excellent farm journal for July contains sixty pages of reading matter especially interesting to farmers and horticulturists. The illustrations are good and the press-work excellent.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

THE whole number of cattle in England, Wales, the Islands, Scotland and Ireland, is 8,316,690; of sheep, 25,794,708; pigs, 3,800,399. Ireland has more cattle than England proper.

Ex-Governor Audersou, of Ohio, recently purchased 10,000 acres of grazing land, in Lyons county, Ky., and is now stocking it with choice sheep.

A Mr. Blenkiron, in England, is said to be the largest breeder of thoroughbred horses in the world. He has 124 breed mares which will be bred to fifteen horses.

It is no uncommon thing in Scotland for farmers who enter upon a lease of nineteen years to invest some $50 to $75 per acre on drainage, lining and other improvements.

In England there are many farmers who more than support themselves and large families on the product of six acres, besides paying heavy rents. Agriculturists in Germany, who are proprietors of five acres, support themselves on two, and lay up money on the product of the remainder.

Burdett Loomis, Esq., of Windsor Locks, Ct., lately sailed for Europe, to make selections from the English herds to add to his collections of Cotswold Sheep and Short-Horned cattle.

The Cleveland Plaindealer says that at a constable's sale in that place, a horse was sold on execution for *four dollars!* The cost of keeping the horse, while the suit was in progress, was forty-two dollars.

The agricultural editor of the Tribune mingles philosophy and agriculture in his articles in about equal proportions. Among other things he says: "Sheep and girls are domestic animals. Neither will do well out of sight."

Break steers while young, if you would have them gentle, and you can do many small jobs with them that would otherwise require a team.

A remarkably fat grade Durham cow was recently slaughtered in London, England. She weighed, when killed, 1,950 pounds, and the carcass gave 340 pounds of rough tallow. The price paid for the cow was $140.

The price of wool is low in Canada. At Toronto, 27 cents is the highest price that has been paid on the street market. The farmers are generally holding back their wool.

AMOUNT OF RAIN IN SIX MONTHS.—A meteorological correspondent sends a carefully prepared statement of the amount of rain which fell in Central New Jersey, in the first six months of 1867. From this record it appears that during June last *nearly ten inches of rain fell*—a quantity greater than has fallen in any Summer month for many years. During the first half of the present year—ending June 30th—30 51-100 inches of rain fell; being far more than during any previous half year within our memory.

"YELLOWS" IN PEACH-TREES.—A Maryland correspondent gives us his opinion relative to the *yellows* in peach trees, which he thinks is caused by allowing too much wood to grow on the tree. He says: "the roots cannot furnish sap enough to support the superabundant branches. The plan I pursue is to thin out the branches, letting in sun-light and air."

NEW SEEDLING RASPBERRY.—Mr. Daniel J. Freas, of Woodbury, New Jersey, has furnished us with specimen fruit from a new raspberry propagated by him, from the Hornet, Imperial, &c. The berries are of fine size, the flavor superior, and the vines are said to be extremely hardy—having stood the last four Winters remarkably well.

John Jonson, of Geneva, N. Y., it is said sows about five bushels of salt to the acre, at the time he sows his wheat. He finds it gives stiffness to the straw, prevents rust and causes the wheat to ripen several days earlier.

SCRATCHES IN HORSES.—Ashes of corn cobs mixed with lard and applied to the affected part, are said to be a sure cure.

It is estimated that Sauk Co., Wis., will yield $2,000,000 worth of hops this year.

THE BED OF THE OCEAN.—It is stated that soundings have been made in the North Atlantic to so great an extent that it is now possible to map out its bed quite accurately. This ocean is a long trough of varying depth, extending, probably, from pole to pole. Its bed follows the general structure of the land. Here and there rocky peaks, like that of Teneriffe, or huge mountains of sand, such as the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, reach up to or beyond the surface. Between Ireland and Newfoundland there exists a remarkable plain, known as the telegraphic plateau, which is evidently a continuation of the great watershed which, between latitudes 40 deg. and 50 deg. north, surrounds the earth, and divides the waters flowing North from those flowing South.

## The Fireside Muse.

### THE OLD HOMESTEAD.

When the skies grow warm and bright,
And flash with gold the hours,
And in her pale, faint robes, the Spring
Is calling up the flowers;
When children, with unslippered feet,
Go forth with hearts of glee
To the straight and even furrows
Where the yellow corn must be;
What a beautiful embodiment
Of ease devoid of pride,
Of the good old-fashioned homestead,
With the doors still open wide!

But when the happiest time is come,
That to the year belongs,
Of uplands bright with harvest gold,
And meadows full of songs;
When fields of yet unripened corn,
And daily garnered stores,
Remind the thrifty husbandman
Of ample threshing floors—
How pleasant, from the din and dust
Of the thoroughfare aloof,
Seems the old-fashioned homestead,
With steep and mossy roof.

When home the woodman plods, with axe
Upon his shoulder swung,
And in the knotted apple-tree
Are scythe and sickle hung;
When light the swallows twitter
'Neath the rafters of the shed,
And the table on the ivied porch
With decent care is spread—
Then hearts are lighter and freer
Than beat in the populous town,
In the old-fashioned homestead,
With gables sharp and brown.

When the flowers of Summer perish,
In the cold and bitter rain,
And little birds with weary wings
Have gone across the main;
When curls the blue smoke upward
Towards the bluer sky,
And cold, along the naked hills,
And white the snow-drifts lie—
In legends of love and glory
They forget the cloud and storm,
In the old-fashioned homestead,
With hearth-stone large and warm!

## Fireside Tale.

### PARSON SURELY'S EXPERIMENT.

A SKETCH FOR WEATHER GRUMBLERS.

The small parish of Fallowdale had been for some time without a pastor. The members were all farmers, and they had not much money to bestow upon the support of a clergyman; yet they were willing to pay for anything that would promise them any due return of good. In course of time, it happened that the Rev. Abraham Surely visited Fallowdale, and as a Sabbath passed during his sojourn, he held a meeting in the small church. The people were pleased with his preaching, and some of them proposed inviting him to remain with them, and take charge of their spiritual welfare.

Upon the merits of this proposition there was a long discussion. Parson Surely had signified his willingness to take a permanent residence at Fallowdale, but the members of the parish could not so readily agree to hire him.

"I don't see the use of hiring a parson," said Mr. Sharp, an old farmer of the place. "He can do us no good. If we've got money to spare, we'd better lay it up for something else. A parson can't learn me anything."

To this it was answered, that stated religious meetings would be of great benefit to the younger people, and also a source of real good to all.

"I don't know 'bout that," said Sharp, after he had heard the arguments against him. Sharp was one of the wealthiest men in the parish, and consequently one of the most influential. "I have learn tell," he continued, "of a parson that could pray for rain and have it at any time. Now, if we could hit upon such a parson as that, I would go in for hiring him."

This opened a new idea to the unsophisticated minds of Fallowdale. The farmers often suffered from long droughts, and after arguing a while longer, they agreed to hire Parson Surely upon condition that he should give them rain whenever they wished for it, and on the other hand that he should give them fair weather when required. Deacons Smith and Townsend were deputed to make this arrangement known to the parson, and the people remained in the church while their messengers went upon their errand.

When the deacons returned, Mr. Surely accompanied them. He smiled as he entered the church, and with a graceful bow, he saluted the people there assembled.

"Well, my friends," he said, as he ascended the platform in front of the desk, "I have heard your request to me, and strange as it may appear, I have come to accept your proposal; but I can do it only on one condition, and that is, that your request for a change of weather must be unanimous."

This appeared very reasonable, since every member of the parish had a deep interest in the farming business, and ere long it was arranged that Mr. Surely should become the pastor of Fallowdale, and that he should give the people rain whenever they asked for it.

When Mr. Surely returned to his lodgings, his wife was utterly astonished upon learning the nature of the contract her husband had entered into; but the pastor only smiled, and bade her wait for the result.

"But you know that you cannot make it rain," persisted Mrs. Surely; "and you know, too, that the farmers here will be wanting rain very often when there is none for them. You will be disgraced."

"I will teach them a lesson," quietly returned the pastor.

"You know you cannot be as good as your word; and when you have taught it to them, they will turn you off."

"We shall see," was Mr. Surely's reply, as he took up a book and commenced reading.

This was a signal for his wife to desist from further conversation on the subject, and she at once obeyed.

Time flew on, and at length the hot days of mid-Summer were at hand. For three weeks it had not rained, and the young corn was beginning to curl up beneath the effects of the drought. In this extremity the people bethought themselves of their pastor, and some of them basteued to his dwelling.

"Come," said Sharp, whose billy farm was suffering severely, "we want some rain, you remember your promise."

"Certainly," returned Mr. Surely. "If you will call for a meeting of the members of the parish, I will be with you this evening."

With this the applicants were perfectly satisfied, and forthwith they proceeded to call the flock together.

"Now you will see the hour of your disgrace," said Mrs. Surely, after the visitors had gone. "Oh, I am very sorry you ever undertook to deceive them so."

"I did not deceive them."

"Yes, you surely did."

"You shall see," responded the pastor.

"So you shall see," responded the lady.

The hour of the meeting came round, and Parson Surely met his people at the church. They were all there—most of them anxious, and the remainder curious.

"Now my friends," said the pastor, arising upon the platform. "I have come to hear your request. What is it?"

"We want rain," bluntly spoke farmer Sharp, "and you know you promised to give it to us."

"Aye—rain—rain," repeated half a dozen voices.

"Very well. Now when will you have it?"

"This very night. Let it rain all night long," said Sharp, to which several others immediately assented.

"No, no, not to-night," cried Deacon Smith. "I have six or seven tons of well made hay in the field, and I would not have it wet for anything."

"So have I got hay out," added Mr. Peck. "We won't have it rain to-night."

"Then let it be to-morrow."

"It will take me all day to-morrow to get my hay in," said Smith.

Thus the objections came up for the two succeeding days and, at length, by way of compromise, Mr. Sharp proposed that they should have it rain in just four days. "For," said he, "by that time all the hay which is now cut can be got in, and we need not cut any—"

"Stop, stop," uttered Mrs. Sharp, pulling her worthy husband smartly by the sleeve. "That is the very day we have set to go to Snowhill. It *mustn't* rain then!"

This was law for Mr. Sharp, so he proposed that the rain should come in one week, and then resumed his seat. But this would not do. Many of the people would not have it put off so long. "If we can't have rain before then, we'd better not have it at all," said they.

In short, the meeting resulted in just no conclusion at all, for the good people found it utterly impossible to agree upon a time when it should rain.

"Until you can make up your minds upon this point," said the pastor, as he was about leaving the church, "we must all trust in the Lord." And after this, the people followed him from the place.

Both Deacon Smith and Mr. Peck got their hay safely in, but on the very day that Mr. Sharp and his wife were to have started for Snowhill, it began to rain in right good earnest. Sharp lost his visit, but he met the disappointment with good grace, for his crops smiled at the rain.

Ere another month had rolled by, another meeting was called for a petition for rain, but this time the result was the same as before. Many of the people had their muck to dig, and the rain would prevent them. Some wanted the rain immediately—some in one, some in two, and some in three days, while some wanted it put off longer. So Mr. Surely had not yet occasion to call for rain.

One year rolled by, and up to that time the people of Fallowdale had never once been able to agree upon the exact kind of weather they would have, and the result was that they began to open their eyes to the fact that this world would be a strange place, if it had only its inhabitants to govern it. While they had been longing for a power they did not possess, they had not seen its absurdity, but now that they had in good faith, tried to apply that power, under the belief that it was theirs, they saw clearly that they were getting beyond their sphere. They saw that Nature's laws were safer in the hands of Nature's God than in the hands of Nature's children.

On the last Sabbath of the first year of Mr. Surely's settlement at Fallowdale, he offered to take up his connection with the parish; but the people would not listen to it. They had become attached to him and to the meetings and they wished him to stay.

"But I can no longer rest under our former contract with regard to the weather," said the pastor.

"Nor do we wish you to," returned Sharp. "Only preach to us, and teach us and our children how to live, and help us to be social and happy."

"And," added the pastor, while a tear of pride stood in his eye, as he looked for an instant into the face of his now happy wife; "all things above our proper sphere we will leave with God, for 'He doeth all things well.'"

## Natural History.

### THE ANIMALS OF AUSTRALIA.

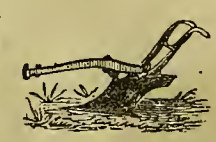
It is said that the birds of Australia do not sing, that they merely chirp and chatter. Some of them chant most hilarious notes, like the tinkling of bells. The "laughing jackass" is a prodigy, giving out unexpectedly a low, uproarious noise, sufficient to awaken the "seven sleepers." Many of the birds are of the same type as those of Great Britain; some, however, varying a little in their plumage. There is the domestic pet, the robin, with the wren, wagtail, crow, cerlew, plover and snipe. There are also the harbingers of Spring and Summer in the several varieties of swallow and the cuckoo. The cuckoo is only heard at night. There are hats, owls and hawks in great abundance; and the mountain pheasant or lyre bird, which, however, is rare. The eagle hawk is very large and destructive to young lambs; there is one species of a pure white color. There are many varieties of pigeons; one is very small, being about the size of a house sparrow. It is seldom that more than two or three are seen together; and there are no large flocks of them, such as are seen in the forests of New Zealand. The fleshy berries with which the pine trees are there covered, furnish them with the greatest abundance of food, and they do not appear to have the enemies there which they have in Australia.

The macaw, a large black parrot, and the quail, seem to be the only two birds alike in both countries, with this remarkable difference—the macaw in New Zealand is very tame, permitting one to come near and kill it; at least I know that one permitted me to approach it; but in Australia it is exceeding wild—said, indeed, to be untamable. There are some large birds in New Zealand which do not fly, and some of singular habits, as the mutton bird, which burrows holes in sandy places in the ground. The natives have their seasons for catching them, and adopt ingenious methods for preserving them when killed, for future use by the use of their fat and aromatic herbs. There is the robin, too, in New Zealand, where it is very tame. Whilst traveling, one perched itself on my shoulder. There are many other birds of hallowed associations, which make the forest resound with mirth and melody. The most remarkable, perhaps, is the "tui," or "parson bird," the latter name having been given it in consequence of its being jet black, and having two small white feathers, like a clergyman's bands, hanging out from its breast. It is of the same size as the blackbird, and is the most noisy of all the New Zealand birds. There are parrots in New Zealand, but not in any proportion to the very great variety which exist in Australia.

The climate in Australia being so widely different, there is a corresponding difference in animal life. Among the birds the most prevalent are parrots. The large white parrot cockatoos are always seen in flocks, and are great pests to the farmers. The greatest favorite is the magpie, which may always be observed hopping about the door of a dwelling, piping out a long carrol of friendly salutations. Of the wild turkey, more properly the bustard, one seldom sees more than two together. The brush turkey, very like the Norfolk, but much smaller, and found in the scrubs in hot districts, is very remarkable for laying a large quantity of eggs, for covering them with leaves and sand, and leaving the sun to batch them. The emu is nearly as large as an ostrich, to which it bears some resemblance, but it is dark in color. It lays about a dozen eggs, and hatches them in the same way as domestic fowls. Large numbers of them may be seen together; they do not fly, and owe their safety to their fleetness in running. A stroke from one of their feet will stun, if not kill, a dog which may attempt to seize it. The native companion is a gigantic crane, which is very easily tamed, but it is dangerous for children who may come near, as it has been known to make a sudden dart with its long narrow beak at their eyes. It evidently takes great delight in companionship, and flocks of them may be seen often together, where there is plenty of water, employed, as one would very readily say, in amusing themselves, fluttering about, chattering and performing antics. The pelican and black swan are often seen sailing with great gravity amongst numbers of other water fowl in the sheets of water in the courses of the rivers in the interior. Wild geese are of migratory habits, and are only seen occasionally.

Wild ducks are very plentiful, and abound everywhere in the rivers, creeks and lagoons. The aborigines adopt a curious method of catching them, which borders strongly on the ridiculous. Covering his head with a green sod, a native quietly swims towards and drops in amongst a flock, lays quickly hold of one's feet, pulls the fowl under the surface of the water, dispatches it there, and carries on the work of death in this way till naught remains save the dead bodies floating on the surface.—*Australia as it is.*

The Beauty of Old People.—Men and women make their own beauty or their own ugliness. Lord Lytton speaks of a man who "was uglier than he had any business to be;" and if he could but read it, every human being carries his life in his face, and is good-looking or the reverse, as that life has been good or evil. Beauty is not the monopoly of blooming young men, and of white and pink maidens. There is a slow growing beauty which only comes to perfection in old age. Grace belongs to no period of life, and goodness improves the longer it exists. There is the beauty of youth, and there is also the beauty of holiness—a beauty much more seldom met, and more frequently found in the arm-chair by the fire, with the grandchildren round its knees, than in the hall-room or promenade.



# Various Matters.

## MANAGEMENT OF COWS.

I never have any trouble from caked bag, no matter how fat the cow may be at the time of calving. I keep the best cows that I can get, and find it the most profitable for my purpose to have them calve only once in eighteen months. I feed moderately on grain—generally oats and corn mixed, with the addition of roots during the Winter—so that my cows, though they may milk down thin during the first six or eight months, will make up again in flesh before I dry them off. I never let them go dry less than two months; three is better if it occurs in Summer, and I always take away the grain as soon as they are dry, and sometimes before, if they are too much inclined to milk. For two or three weeks before calving I keep them on a spare but laxative diet—if in Winter early cut hay or corn fodder and hay, with a few roots, but no straw.—After calving, give one pound of Epsom salts, and a few hours after, a warm bran mash—scalding the bran with boiling water—commencing to feed a little hay in twelve hours from calving, and gradually increasing to full feed after two or three days. Since I have adopted this course I have had no trouble with the bag but what would readily yield to a few applications of hot water followed by dry rubbing.—*J. H. Humphrey to New York Farmers' Club.*

Feather Pillows.—If a person sleep upon the back, no pillow is needed. If one sleeps upon the side, a pillow should be used thick enough to support the head in a direct line with the body. No more. Curled hair is one of the best materials for pillows. Feathers should never be allowed about a bed in any form. For pillows they are especially injurious, as they partly surround the head and keep it over-heated, which weakens the scalp and produces a tendency to falling out of the hair, congestion of the head and headache. Then again, the effete emanations which are always being thrown off from feathers are taken directly into the lungs with the inspired air.—*Herald of Health.*

The editor of the Bucks County Intelligencer has a "brag cow" which he calls "Daisy," and of whose milk producing qualities he speaks as follows: "On Friday last she gave 63 pounds of milk at three milkings—morning, noon, and evening. On Saturday she gave 60 pounds, and on Sunday 65½ pounds—making 246 pounds in four days. This week we design trying her as a butter producer, Last year she gave 44 pounds of milk per day, and made 11 pounds of butter in a week, and on the strength of this she received the second premium at the Doylestown exhibition. "Daisy" is a grade Durham, six years old. She came in profit about six weeks ago."

To Make Calicoes Wash Well.—Infuse three gills of salt in four quarts of boiling water, and put the calicoes in while hot, and leave them till cold; in this way the colors are rendered permanent, and will not fade by subsequent washing. So says a lady who has made the experiment herself. Nothing can be cheaper or quicker done.

The rush of immigrants to Minnesota this year is unprecedented. Every steamboat and train is loaded with them, very generally carrying their teams, horses, cows, sheep, &c., with them. Two thousand have passed over one track alone, bound for the Sank valley, since the opening of navigation.

The Piscatiquis (Me.) Observer says potatoes are selling in that market for 20 to 25 cents per bushel. There appears to be an abundance, and many who had a large surplus in the Fall, waiting for high prices in the Spring, have actually got bit.

## A BAD PRACTICE.

It is a very common practice among farmers who have kept butter all winter, packed down in firkins or crocks to take it up and work it over into balls in order to sell it for fresh made butter. There may be no intention in this to wrong the purchaser, as good butter well packed and excluded from the air is nearly as good at a year old as when first put down; yet so little is thus put down and kept, that the presumption is against it, however good it may be, and hence the inducement to work it up into fresh made butter.

But this process will spoil the best butter that ever was made, no matter if, when taken up, it is as sweet as it was the day it was put down. Good butter has what is called a *grain*, that is, it is made up of well defined and somewhat coarse particles which give the mass a degree of solidity, a porous texture and a brittleness, all of which qualities it retains even under a degree of temperature which would reduce poor butter to a shapeless mass of grease.

Now the working over of old butter destroys this grain, inevitably, by mashing the particles, and reduces the mass to a salvy, flavorless substance, which, like a poor soldier, will "run at the first fire." Every one knows how it affects butter to melt it or work in more salt after it has been made a few days and found on trial to be too fresh. It never retains its original granular texture and fine flavor. It is just the same with packed putter when taken up and worked into balls—the butter is spoiled in the process, and the consequence is that the purchaser is wronged and the seller loses credit as a good butter maker.

If you have old butter that is good, you need have no fears that it will not sell. Any good judge of butter, in selecting at the grocer's, will frequently leave the fresh made and take old butter from the crock. We have done it many a time; and even if, on account of the uncertainty of the quality, you have to sell for a cent or two a pound less than good fresh butter will bring, you will save many times the amount in reputation.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*

Beautiful.—When the Summer of youth is slowly wasting away into the nightfall of age, and the shadow of the past year grows deeper and deeper, and life wears to its close, it is pleasant to look back through the vista of time upon the sorrows and felicities of our early years. If we have a home to shelter us, and hearts to rejoice with us and friends gather around firesides, then the rough places of our wayfaring will have been worn and smoothed away in the twilight of life, while the sunny spots we have passed through will grow brighter and more beautiful.

The Silkworm Disease.—The silkworm disease has shown itself in France under a new aspect, principally in the arrondissement of Grenoble, where it has been disastrous for the breeders. The worm does not present, as in former years, any traces of the malady, such as blackish spots, &c.; but where it has arrived at the third change it cannot go any further, and dies of exhaustion. This is attributed to the yellowish leaves of the mulberry, which do not furnish sufficient nourishment. Too much rain, it is known, proves injurious to the nutritive qualities of the mulberry leaf.

Whitewashing Chestnut Roofs.—Some shedding to a meeting-house having been built in this place some twenty years ago, one of the builders white-washed his roof. The shingles on the other sheds are worn out, while the one that was limed *after shingling*, is smooth and good to this day. That simple experiment has told its little story to this whole community, and now scarcely a man shingles without whitewashing the roof. Such wood will not last ten years without rotting of its own acids. Lime corrects that acid, and makes the shingles last over twenty years.—*Exchange.*

The Chicago Republican says that the wheat harvest in Illinois and Wisconsin is going on finely. There will be large crops.

The Scottish Farmer, in alluding to the fact that most insects have a strong repugnance to onions, suggests that a wash of onion juice, or of water in which onions have been bruised, might prove useful as a wash for plants infested with insects.

The Kansas Commissioners of Immigration publish a card denying the stories about the ravages of the grasshoppers in that State. They say that these pests "may be fairly said to have left the State." They ask Eastern papers to publish this statement as an act of justice.

The City Council of Cincinnati have recently prohibited the market folk from selling vegetables in the pod or husk, and affixed a severe penalty for the infringement of the law. The object is to prevent deception.

# Marriages.

In Lonsdale, 11th inst., by Rev. W. W. Sever, Thomas Warnock, of Providence, to Sarah, daughter of John Burke, of Lonsdale; 12th inst., by the same, John Kirk to Annie, daughter of Thomas Jackson, both of Lonsdale.

In Burrillville, 3d inst., by Rev. A. A Presbrey, Mr. Frederick Smith to Miss Amelia Tucker, both of Burrillville.

In Pawtucket, 10th inst., Mr. James Gallagher, of Georgiaville, to Miss Ellen Masterson of Pawtucket; 7th inst., Mr. John D. Beckwith to Miss Eliza J. Preble, both of Pawtucket; 4th inst., Mr. Elias M. Wood to Mrs. Almy G. White, both of Blackstone, Mass.

In Putnam, July 4th, Mr. David H. Chaffee to Miss Diantha R. Bosworth, both of Putnam.

In Killingly, 4th inst., Mr. Nelson Bates to Miss Lydia Adams, both of Killingly; 7th inst., Mr. Charles Whitehouse, of Mansfield, Ct., to Miss Holly Davis, of Killingly, Ct.

# Deaths.

In this village, at the residence of John Currier, on the 12th inst., Miss Ellen Joslin, daughter of Ezra and Mary Joslin, aged 20 years.

In Georgiaville, Smithfield, 10th inst., Patrick White, aged 71 years.

In North Uxbridge, 3d inst., of consumption contracted in the army of U. S., Mr. Benjamin Hall, aged 40 years.

In Providence, 12th inst., Lemuel Grosvenor Perry, only son of Mr. Thomas W. and Caroline D. Perry, aged 19 years; 13th inst., George E. Curtis, late Captain Co. F. 4th R. I. Volunteers, aged 34 years.

In West Millbury, 10th inst., suddenly, Solomon Gwinnell, aged 83 years, 7 months, 16 days.

In Blackstone, July 11th, Paul F., son of John and Mary C. Hopkins, aged 4 months.

In Olneyville, 14th inst., John Brayton, in the 61st year of his age.

In Upton, July 6th, Melita A. Holbrook, daughter of Nahum W. and Mary A. Holbrook, aged 25 years.

In Milford, July 8th, Stella M. Fletcher, aged 2 years.

In Killingly, Ct., 9th inst., Charles E. Cartwright, aged 19 yrs. 5 months.

# Special Notices.



# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending July 18, 1867.]

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.** | | | |
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 14c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $10 00a12 00 | Potatoes | 1.10 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.00 |
| **GROCERIES, &c.** | | | |
| Flour | $18, 19 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 20 | Molasses ₩ gal | 60a90c |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 20 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 64c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 22c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 35c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 30c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 25a50c | Lard ₩ lb | 16a18c |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |
| **MEATS, &c.** | | | |
| Beef Steak | 25a30c | Hams | 15a18c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 20a22c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 18c |

## BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

July 17, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1729; Sheep and Lambs 7700. Swine, 1530. Western cattle, 1574; Eastern cattle, 5; Working oxen and Northern cattle, 150. Cattle left over from last week,—

Prices. Beef Cattle—Extra, $13.50@ $14.00; first quality, $13.00@$13.25; second quality, $12.50@$12.75; third quality, $11.50@$12.25 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 9½@10c ₩ lb. Country Tallow 6½@7½c ₩ lb. Brighton Hides, 10@10½cts. ₩ lb; Brighton Tallow, 6@6½c ₩ lb.

Lamb Skins, 50c each; Wool Sheep Skins, $2 25@ 2 75.

Calf Skins, 20 @ 22c ₩ lb. Sheared Sheep Skins, 25c each.

There is a larger supply of Beeves in market than there was last market. Prices remain about the same, but the quality is not so good. Trade has been active. A few of the best cattle sold at 14½@14½c ₩ lb.

Working Oxen—We quote prices at $020a240 per pair.

Milch Cows—Sales extra at $25a120; ordinary $80@$80.—Store Cows $43a55 per head

Sheep and Lambs.—The trade is quicker than it has been some weeks. We quote sales of Lambs at from $3.00 to $5.00 per head; old Sheep, 9@5c per lb.

Fat Hogs—1350 at market; prices, 7½@7¾c. per lb.

## WOOL MARKET.

The market, as we have noticed for some time past, continues dull, and prices favor buyers. About 100,000 lbs. sold at 31a35c. for unwashed, and 50a55c. ₩ lb. for fine, according to quality. Woolen Yarns sell at 70c. for 18 cut; 72c. for 20 cut, and 75c. per lb. for 24 cut.

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF BREADSTUFFS.

Trade in all branches of business has been more active during the past week.

The accounts of the wheat crop, from the South and Southwest, have been less favorable than previously reported. There has been some disappointment in the yield of wheat.

Flour—There has been a more animated demand for Western State flour and the market has been in decided contrast to the feelings of that reported in our last. The inquiry has been more general and notwithstanding the fair receipts we have had a decided advance in all grades, especially family brands.

The improvement since last Saturday is from $1.20 up to $1.75, and the tendency is still upward. California and Oregon flour has been in demand, and with a rapid reduction in our stock, prices have advanced from $1.50 to $1.75. Canadian flour has been extremely quiet. Prices, however, have improved and close firm.

Rye Flour has improved, with a fair inquiry and limited arrivals. Prices have advanced, closing strong.

Corn Meal has ruled quite steady, but with more liberal arrivals prices have declined. Toward the close there was rather more steadiness.

Wheat—The market during the past week has presented a decided contrast to the preceding one. Since last Saturday we have had much animation and great buoyancy. The receipts have been moderate, and with a stock much reduced and strong unfavorable accounts from the South and Southwest in regard to the yield of Winter wheat, prices have rapidly advanced. The tendency is still upward.

# Advertising Department.



Selling Vegetables by Weight.—Among the subjects up for discussion before the N. Y. Farmers' Club, was that of buying and selling vegetables by weight instead of by measure, as now practiced. On this point P. T. Quinn made a long argument in support of the proposed change, adducing sundry cogent reasons in favor of it. The State Agricultural Society of New Jersey took action on the subject in the shape of a memorial to the Legislature of that State, asking for the enactment of a law making the change imperative in that State. Dr. Smith stated that all farm produce was weighed in the markets of California and the practice was found much more satisfactory than the old one of measuring. It had the merit of honesty to recommend it, which the old method had not.

# Entomology.

## CURRANT BUSH WORM OR SLUG, AND ITS REMEDY.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY J. F. WOLFINGER, MILTON, PA.

The currant bush worm is a green, or greenish-yellow colored worm, covered with small black dots, and is about an inch long. It stations itself on the under side of the leaves of the currant bush, where it eats away at the leaf until the whole leaf is consumed, after which it crawls along the stem to another leaf for more food. The worm adheres to the under side of the leaves, very probably for two reasons: 1st, to escape the light and heat of the sun and falling rain. 2nd, because the under side of currant, and, indeed, of all other leaves, is softer and more succulent than the upper side of the leaf that is fully exposed to the sun and air.

For some years past I have noticed a few of these worms on my currant bushes. Their ravages, however, were so trifling as to cause but little if any injury to my bushes. But this Summer (June 25th,) I find them so very abundant and voracious that they have stripped off all of the leaves of a long row of my bushes, leaving me nothing but the bare limbs and currants that turn red and ripen earlier than common, for two reasons, I suppose: 1st, their diminished supply of sap or food, and 2nd, their thorough exposure to the sun's light and heat. On examining the under sides of my currant leaves I found them pretty thickly covered with these worms, twenty or thirty of them being at times on one small leaf, and my neighbors' bushes are just as full of them as mine are.

And, now you may ask me what is the best remedy for this pest? Towsend Glover, of the United States Agricultural Department, in his Report on Entomology, for 1864, says:—

"The currant or gooseberry worm so much complained of at present, is the larva state of another saw-fly. Turpentine will kill the worm, but will also injure the plant. Fresh air-slaked lime or coal ashes is said to be beneficial, when dusted over the leaves while the dew is on; also syringing with whale oil soap and tobacco water. The Cultivator recommends placing a large tin can under the plants, and jarring the larvæ into it, when they may be destroyed. The powder of white hellebore (veratrum) is highly recommended for this pest. It should be dusted over and under the plant so as to come in contact with the insects. It can be blown upon the under side of the leaves by means of a peculiar kind of bellows having the nozzle pierced with small holes like the nose of a watering pot, and bent upwards. A late agricultural paper states that two pounds of sulphate of iron (copperas) dissolved in two gallons of hot water, and then diluted with ten or twelve gallons of cold water, and sprinkled over the bushes with a watering pot, will destroy the insects. Both these remedies are poisonous and should be thoroughly washed from the fruit (currants) before it is used. Perhaps gas lime sprinkled over the slugs might prove beneficial."—[U. S. Ag. Report, 1864, page 547.]

I tried none of these remedies mentioned by Mr. Glover, but one of my own that I just happened to think of on finding my bushes infested with this pest. And that consisted of *salt-fish pickle*, the remains of a barrel of mackerel standing in my cellar. After procuring three or four of the worms on a leaf, I, by way of experiment, let some of the pickle drip down on them from a small goose feather dipped in the pickle, and soon found that it killed the worms. My next idea was to sprinkle this pickle over my currant bushes, but I discovered that this would not do, for two reasons: 1st, because I would not have pickle enough to sprinkle all of my bushes, and 2nd, because, if I even had, sprinkling the pickle over the tops of the leaves would not reach the worms on the under side of the leaves, and so would do but little or no good. My next plan was to put several quarts of the pickle into a wooden swill bucket and dip the worm-infested bushes and leaves into the bucket, but I soon saw that this would be a very slow and troublesome process. I then put my bucket immediately under some bushes, and with a strong little stick stripped the worms off the leaves into the bucket. I found I could do this pretty quickly, although it required some patience. The worms, on falling into the salt-pickle, would squirm and writhe about for a minute or so and then die. And it is very probable that scalding or quite hot water would kill the worm or slug just as readily; at all events it is worthy of trial in the absence of fish-pickle. I killed some thousands of worms in this way. The worms made their first appearance on my gooseberries, and after eating off its entire mass of leaves, they attacked my currant bushes, where they have nearly all met their fate in the way I have described. I send you this new and simple remedy for destroying the currant worm, for the common benefit of all those who are fond of currants—a small fruit of so much excellence that it deserves universal culture all over our land, from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Pacific.

*July*, 1867.

# Advertising Department.

## New York.



### TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the FARM AND FIRESIDE. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a uniform style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

### COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the FARM AND FIRESIDE may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents; or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

### IN MONTHLY PARTS.

Hereafter the FARM AND FIRESIDE can be had in Monthly Parts, in neat covers, at twenty-five cents each. Those for January, February, March and April are now ready. For sale by all newsmen. Bound at the close of the year they will form a neat and attractive volume.

# Farm And Fireside.

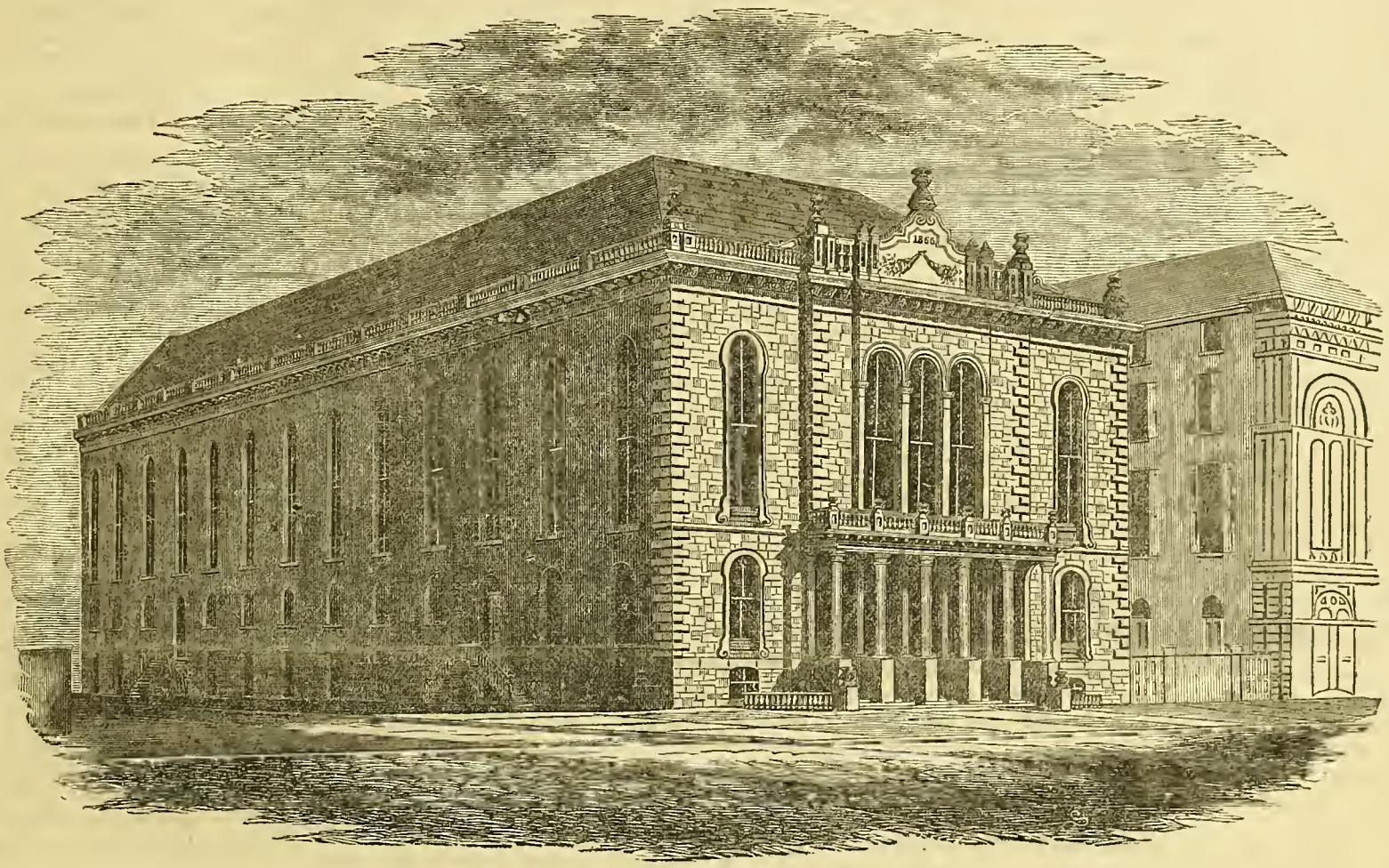
A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1867. NO. 29.



PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA.

## THE ORIGIN OF GREEN-SAND MARL.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY J. S. LIPPINCOTT, HADDONFIELD, NEW JERSEY.

In our last paper on this subject we stated that we would explain in our next the manner in which our beds of green sand marl have been produced by animalcules, each so small as to be almost invisible to the naked eye. Some of our readers may find it difficult to give a willing assent to this proposition. We would refer such to the authorities,* who have abundantly proved that not only minor beds of earth had their origin in the labors of simple animalcules, but that many very large portions of the earth's crust, and even long chains of mountains, some of them the highest on the earth, have been in a great measure formed by the agency of these insignificant creatures. The highest summits of some of the Swiss Alps, 10,000 feet above the level of the sea, the Carpathians, the Pyrenees, and even the Himalayas, the loftiest of earth's mountain masses, bear witnes to the labors of the Foramifera, or Rhizipods, whose remains are often found therein, compacted together as closely as are grains in a bushel of wheat.

Not only "forty centuries look down from yonder pyramids," but forty times forty; for there, older than old Nilus, or his sands, or his draining sea, the Khizopods have built their monument, and there lie entombed in the mummilitic limestone, the remains of forms, whose die now broken, have ceased from our waters.

These mountain chains, and the limestone of the pyramids, once rested as calcareous mud at the bottom of a sea which extended from the Atlantic, across Southern Europe and Northern Africa, Persia, and Northern India, to the borders of China; and the beings to which they owe their origin, lived and died therein long before the heights were raised above the waters, or the dry land made to appear.

The coral polyps, whose combined labors have raised from the ocean the bases of many islands, in which millions of human beings find a happy existence in the Elysians of the far Pacific, are familiar to our readers. These coral reefs extend over wide areas. The great Australian reef has a length of 1000 miles, all of which has been drawn from the calcareous matter in solution in the waters of the ocean—solidified into the skeletons of these tiny beings and deposited, stage by stage, on the subsiding rocks to which they adhered, while in their ceaseless efforts to sustain themselves near the surface, they have builded upwards towards the light.

"As big as a piece of chalk," a phrase once thought accurate, has since failed to convey a very definite idea of magnitude; but our readers may rest assured that a piece of chalk, if we but ascertain its dimensions, may be properly employed to illustrate the almost infinitely diminutive. With this substance they are all familiar from their school days; but how few of them then learned that it was anything else but a piece of chalk, instead of being taught the history of this useful material—that it had its origin in the depths of the ocean; that each of the minute specks of dust which soiled their fingers was the calcareous case of hundreds of tiny beings that had sported in the ancient sea ages before man had appeared; had died and descended to the bottom to form the soft ooze or mud, such as is now forming in the depths of the Atlantic,† and had in the fulness of time arisen by subterraneous forces, such as are now at work, to the light of day, to form a solid barrier against the ocean surges that lash the shores of Albion, to give color to her cliffs and a name to her strand.‡

The marl, properly so called, of the Southern States, is another example of accumulated remains of minute organisms which have undergone but little alteration. This substance, which occurs over thousands of square miles, is found sometimes in beds of great thickness, and consists mainly of carbonate of lime, the reliquiæ of microscopic animals. Charleston, South Carolina, is built upon a bed of animalcules, hundreds of feet in thickness, every cubic inch of which is filled with perfectly preserved microscopic organisms, mostly Rhizopods, the lowest of the low in the scale of animal existence. These shells are often in a state of surprising perfection, the most delicate markings having been perfectly preserved. The animaeules to which South Carolina owes a large part of her territory, are still at work in countless thousands on her coast, filling up her harbors more effectually than fleets of old whalers, forming shoals, and depositing their shells to record the present state of the sea margin, as their predecessors had done on the border of the ancient ocean. Truly, without a metaphor, might the inhabitant of the Palmetto State exclaim with the poet,

"The dust we tread upon was once alive!"

The foregoing recital of the origin of sundry rocks may prepare us to credit the relations of those who describe the formation of our green sand to the labors of similar organisms. That the ocean now abounds in animalcules is attested by the narratives of numerous voyagers, who inform us that its color is often to be ascribed to their existence therein in countless numbers. A large proportion of these belong to the Foraminifera, or Rhizopods, which, it should be borne in mind, are but simple round atoms of jelly-like matter invested with an exquisitely thin shell of carbonate of lime, sometimes simple, sometimes made up of many chambers in a row, straight, or curved, or spiral, as though nature would

* Dana's or Lyell's Manual of Geology.

† The mud brought up by the grappling irons of the Great Eastern when searching for the lost cable in 1865, in water 10,690 feet deep, abounded in complete shells of Foraminifera.

‡ Albion, the ancient name of Great Britain, is said to have been given to it on account of the white chalk cliffs on the South shores of the island.

play at moulding these apparently insignificant atoms into forms rivalling in beauty and design every pattern she has presented to us in her larger creations, and which leave the best efforts of imitative art infinitely behind.

There are few parts of the ocean where these Rhizopods do not occur. Some species are found from the Arctic to the Antarctic sea, and at every known depth; but they are especially abundant where the Gulf Stream crosses the Atlantic. Here their accumulating shells constitute masses of unknown extent and thickness, almost unmixed with earthy materials or any other organisms. They are the raw material for the construction of beds of limestone rocks, similar to those which formed the Alps and Himalayas, ages ago; similar, also, to the chalk cliffs of England, and in some instances to our own Green Sand Marls. And there they are now forming beds of Green Sand, as may be shown by the researches of Count Pourtales, an assistant in the United States Coast Survey. In his report to Professor Bache, in 1858, he says that the sea bottom on the border of the Gulf Stream, about 200 miles East of Charleston, and nearly 1000 feet deep, consists almost entirely of Green Sand, produced by an incrustation of the cells of Foraminifera, by a silicate of iron, leaving, after the decomposition of the shell, a beautiful cast of the cells and connecting tubes, &c., in the substance of the shell. These are found in various stages of transformation; some are of a yellowish appearance, and on being opened are found filled with an opaque, ocherous substance; others have turned greenish, and the shell has become cracked, and at length drops away piece-meal; finally, all trace of shell is removed, and the nucleus, at first greenish, becomes black and polished, and conglomerated into smooth pebbles which have lost all traces of their origin. But if one of these pebbles be ground and polished into a thin plate, transparent enough to be viewed under a microscope by transmitted light, the spiral succession of chambers exhibit the Foraminifera, and prove it the result of a putrifactive process around the original minute Rhizopod.

THE ACREAGE IN WHEAT.—Returns received at the Bureau of Statistics in Washington show that the acreage in wheat this year is 10 to 15 per cent. larger than that of last. The estimated improvement in the crop over last year is shown by the following table:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ohio | 160 per cent. | Missouri | 30 per cent |
| Indiana | 73 do | Kentucky | 53 do |
| Michigan | 80 do | Virginia | 100 do |
| Wisconsin | 22 do | N. Carolina | 40 do |
| Minnesota | 7 do | Tennessee | 53 do |
| Illinois | 15 do | | |

CANADIAN CHEESE FACTORIES.—Cheese making is carried on to a greater extent than is generally supposed in Eastern Canada. The following details show the number of cows which supply the milk and the quantity of cheese made every day:

| | Cows. | Lbs. daily. |
|---|---|---|
| Dunham Village | 1,065 | 1,800 |
| East Dunham | 540 | 900 |
| West Dunham | 465 | 800 |
| West Brome | 500 | 910 |
| Benham's Brome | 680 | 1,235 |
| Wells', East Farnham | 280 | 540 |
| Buck's, East Farnham | 600 | 1,050 |
| Total | 4,130 | 7,235 |

In additiou, there are in the county of Missisquoi two other factories, viz.: Oue in Stanbridge, 600 cows, and one iu Clarenceville, 400 cows. Besides those mentioned, there are only four other cheese factories in Lower Canada, one in Compton, one in Stanstead, one in Melbourne, and one at South Stukely.

NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF HORSES.—The officers of the "National Association for improving the breed of horses," announce a Horse Show or Fair at Kalamazoo, Mich., on the 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th days of October, 1867. Cash premiums to the amount of $40,000 are offered by the Association.

A MR. RICE of Fredisburg, Ind., was stung by a bee on the upper lip on the 3d inst., and though a remedy was speedily applied, he became speechless in half an hour and soon after was a corpse.

# The Horse.

## LAMENESS IN HORSES.

### RINGBONE AND SIDEBONE.

RINGBONE, as its name indicates, consists of a ring or circle of bony matter exteuding round the coronet. Most commonly it is laid down around the lower part of the large pastern bone, but in all bad cases the small pastern bone is likewise involved. The swelling is very distinctive, and can hardly be mistaken for anything else. It is hard and unyielding, and although at first occurring in separate points, it gradually extends rouud the sides and front of the coronet. Sometimes it passes downwards, implicating the lateral cartilages, and coustituting sidebone. It is always apt to increase, especially when the horse continues at work on the road, and sometimes becomes of large size, interfering with the movements of the joints. Out of one hundred and fifty ossific diseases in the region of the fetlock, Mr. Percival found sixty-three cases complete anchylosis, including five of the fetlock joint, forty of the pastern joint, and eighteen of the coffin joint; whilst the remainder consisted of bony incrustations of various degrees of severity. When the horse is much used on the stones during the early development of ringbone, the fetlock is apt to become hot aud tender, and the auimal goes lame. In the larger proportion of cases the bony matter is laid down gradually without causing much pain or any notable lameness. A certain degree of stiffness is, however, usually observable. Whether causing lameness or uot, ringbone constitutes unsoundness. As it is apt to be hereditary, animals with such exostoses should be avoided for breeding purposes.

Like most other bouy deposits, ringbones geuerally result from concussion. When this is frequent or continued, inflammation is set up in the periosteum and underlying bone, giving rise to the out-pouring of plastic lymph, which is gradually converted into bone. The jar is obviously greatest where the pasterns are short aud upright, and underbred animals of such conformation furnish a large proportion of cases of ringbone. It is common in the fore limbs of heavy horses, and of high-stepping hacks and carriage horses; but it likewise occurs iu the hiud limbs partieularly of the lighter description of horses. Professor Spooner states that horses with small feet are espeeially subject to ringbone. From a blow, tread, or other such injury, inflammation of the periosteum is sometimes established, leading, like the concussion of hard work, to bony deposits. When depeuding upon such eases, ringbone is apt to be confined to one limb.

A deposit of bone once formed caunot be removed by any treatment short of excision. When, therefore, an old ringbonc has become hard and unyielding it had better be let alone, especially if it be free from tenderness, and docs not cause lameness. Irritauts may re-excite inflammatiou, and increase the evil. A ringbone of recent growth, in which the newly-formed deposit is yet soft and spongy, may, however, be greatly reduced by simple remedies. Any tenderncss or heat should be combatted by soothiug measures, such as cold wet swabs, total immunity from work, a half dose of opening medicinc, and laxative cooling diet. After a few days, when the parts are become cool, some ointment of the red iodide of mercury should be well rubbed in, and the blister repeated several times at intervals of a week or ten days. Firing is often resorted to, but has the disadvantage of blemishing, and is not more effectual than the iodide of mercury ointment. After the first few days' rest, unless the limb is hot and tender, moderate farm work on the soft land will do no harm. When the horse goes to work his shoes must be light and nicely fitted; whilst the jar may besides be somewhat abated by the use of leather soles.

Sidebones consist in ossification of the elastic lateral cartilages situated immediately above the horse's heels and quarters. From work on the hard roads or stones, these cartilages, which in young sound horses are distinctly felt to be yielding and elastic, gradually become converted into bone, forming irregular, lumpy, hard, unyielding, swellings, which extend backwards along the upper part or the hoof crust, outside and behind the lower pastern bone. Sometimes sidebones become of such large size as to be visible to the eye. Sometimes they extend upwards, becoming continuous with ringbones with which they often co-exist. Occasionally they get fractured from a kick or other accident. Lameness is seldom present except when the long deposit is in course of rapid formation, or when from work on the hard roads the adjacent soft parts are bruised between the unyielding bones. Tenderness, however, will generally be evident when the horse with sidebones is smartly trotted on the stones. As with the somewhat analogous ringbone, sidebones are most common in heavy cart horses, and high-actioned hack and carriage horses, and especially where the pasterns are short and upright. As weight and concussion in most horses fall rather towards the inside of the foot, the lateral cartilage on the inside is apt to be more frequently and extensively ossified.

Where the parts are inflamed, hot, and tender, local bleeding ofteu affords prompt relief; blood may bc taken either by scarifying the skin above the heels, or by opening the vessels at the toe. Cold water cloths kept constantly moist and cool should be diligently applied. After the inflammation has been reduced by perfect rest and cold water, a few dressings of ointment of the biniodide of mercury as recommended for splint or ringbone, will reduce the size of the deposit. Various so-called specifics are vended for the "certaiu cure" of such exostoses; but, as has been already remarked, long matter once deposited cannot be removed, and the most that can be hoped for is its condensation and hardening so that it shall interfere as little as possible with the movements of the limb. Horses with sidebones require careful shoeing; the shoes should be light, well fitted, and easy at the heels; the nail holes as few as possible, and kept well towards the toes; the crust at the heels kept moderately low, but the frog and bars allowed to grow uucut, the hoof kept soft by frequent oiling, and jar reduced by leather pads.—*North British Agriculturist.*

## CONSTIPATION IN HORSES.

IN this condition of the bowels the horse has difficulty in voiding his excrement.

*Causes*—It may be produced by feeding plentifully with oats, beans, etc., by giving an insufficieut amount of water, combined with a defieieney of exercise. The abuse of a stringent medicine, by producing irritation of the intestines, is very apt to lead to this condition; so those persons who are in the habit of administering tonic balls, without knowiug their composition, much less their effects, should beware of a practice which is very apt to lead to dangerous results.

*Treatment*—The horse should be sufficiently exercised, and should get a bran mash, instead of his usual feed of oats, two or three nights a week. If the constipation is obstinate, a dose of aloes may be given, aud injections must be given every hour. Cases of constipatiou, if neglected, are apt to terminate fatally, by the excrement becoming hardened, and thus producing inflammation of the iutestines.

Newly-born foals occasionally suffer from constipation produced by the accumulation of the meconium or excrement which has collected in the intestines before the birth. An ounce or two of castor oil should be given, and injections or warm water used until the eonstipation is removed.—*Dr. Murray in Western Rural.*

## HORSE REMEDIES.

HEAVES.—There have been various opinions expressed by veterinary surgeons in relation to the heaves, but we believe it has become a settled question that it is a disease, however, which cannot be completely cured. The severity of the disease, however, can be materially mitigated, and the following will be found worth trying: Mix equal parts of pulverized borax and saltpetre, and give diseased horses a table-spoonful twice a day; and every other day, a spoonful of sulphur. Give also half a spoonful of copperas twice a week. Continue this mode of treatment five or six weeks.

WOUNDS ON HORSES.—One of the best washes that we know of for ordinary wounds on horses is to take one quarter of a pound of saltpetre, half a pint of turpentine, and put them into a bottle; shake up well before using; apply to the wound three times a day with a feather. This we have heard highly recommended from reliable sources.

SALT AND ASHES FOR HORSES.—Those keeping horses should, twice a week, throw iu a handful of salt and ashes. Mix them by putting iu three parts of salt to one of ashes. Horscs relish this, and it will keep their hair soft and fine. It will prevent bots, colic, etc. A little ground sulphur mixed with salt and ashes, and given once in two or three weeks, is also benefieial. All domestic animals will be thus benefited.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

## HOW TO TREAT BALKY HORSES.

IF you have balky horses, it is your fault, and not the horses', for if they do not pull true, there is some cause for it, and if you will remove thc eause, the effect will ceasc. When your horse balks he is excited, and does not know what you want him to do. When he gets a little exeited, stop him five or ten minutes; let him become ealm; go to the balky horse, pat him, and speak gently to hiu; and as soon as he is over his excitement, he will, in nine cases out of ten, pull at the word. Whipping and slashing and swearing only make the matter worse. After you have gentled him awhile, and his excitement has cooled down, take him by the bits; turn him each way a a few minutes as far as you can; pull out the tongue; gentle him a little; unrein him; then step before the balky horse and let the other start first; then you can take them anywhere you wish. A balky horse is always high spirited and starts quick; half the pull is out before the others start; by standing before him the others start too. By close application to this rule, you ean make any balky horse pull. If a horse has been badly spoiled, you should hitch him to the empty wagon, and pull it around a while on level ground; then put on a little load, and increase it gradually, caressing as beforc, and in a short time you can have a good work horse.—*American Farmer.*

BOTTS IN HORSES.—A correspondent from Berkley county, West Virginia, sends the Department of Agriculture a specific for botts in horses. He says: To tell whether it is an attack of colic or botts, take some fiue salt, and blow a mouthful into each nostril; if it is colic, water will begiu in a few moments to drop from the nostrils; if not, it is botts. In the latter case, drench with a pint of melted hog's lard, and in a few hours repeat the dose.

HOW CARROTS AFFECT HORSES.—The carrot is the most esteemed of all roots for its feeding qualities. When analized it gives but little more solid matter than any other root, 85 per cent. being water, but its influence iu the stomach upon the other artieles of food is most favorable, conducing to the most perfect digestion and assimilation. This result long known to practical men, is explained by chemists as resulting from a substance called *pectine*, which operates to coagulate or gelotinate vegetable solutions, and thus favors digestion in all cattle. Horses are especially benefited by the use of carrots. They should be fed to them frequently with their other food.

CANADA AGRIOULTURAL SOCIETIES.—The Canada Farmer publishes a list of Agricultural Societies, township, county and district, in what is familiarly known as Canada West. It numbers three hundred and twenty-nine. This is a respectable show for that section of the "New Dominion."

PROPAGATING AND GROWING DAPHNE INDIOA.—As soon as the shoots are two or three inches long, slip them off with a bit of heel, and plunge in a stove or cucumber-bed: they will soon take root. Then pot them off, and keep close for a few days; and, when the plants are well rooted in their pots, piuch out the top of each, and place them in a house, or, better, a pit. They will soon shoot out; and, when they have grown three or four inehes, pinch off the leading bud of each shoot. By doing this twice or thrice, niee bushy plants can be secured the first season; and these will always bloom in the following year, if the wood be properly ripened. By following the same plan a second year, the plants will be quite large. This system does not seem to weaken them, as their leathery leaves and strong shoots indicate that they are in good health.

# The Fireside Muse.

### A COUNTRY HOME.

[Shenstone, one of the most beautiful of the rural poets of England, thus sings about his home upon a farm.]

My banks they are furnished with bees
Whose murmur invites one to sleep;
My grottoes are shaded with trees,
My hills whitened over with sheep.
I seldom have met with a loss,
Such health do my fountains bestow,
My fountains, all bordered with moss,
Where the harebells and violets grow.

Not a pine in the grove can be seen
But with tendrills of woodbine is bound;
Not a beech's more beautiful green,
But a sweetbriar twines it around.
Not my fields in the prime of the year
More charms than my cattle unfold;
Not a brook that is limpid and clear
But it glitters with fishes of gold.

I have found out a gift for my fair,
I have found where the wood-pigeons breed;
But let me such plunder forbear,
She will say 'tis a barbarous deed,
For he ne'er could be true she averred,
Who could rob a poor bird of its young;
And I loved her the more when I heard
Such tenderness from her tongue.

# Horticulture.

### HARDY PEARS.

The selection of fruit trees adapted to the soil and climate is an important requisite to success. Many farmers expend considerable sums in setting pear trees, and after the most assiduous trials and best culture find them dying out or producing no fruit. The varieties are of the tender sorts, which are not able to withstand the severity of our climate, or perhaps unadapted to the soil on which they are set. It often takes years of experiment and considerable losses to convince men that the esteemed varieties of one locality do not succeed in another. Almost every fruit grower will tell you that the want of knowledge as to varieties has been the great stumbling-block to success. Many who have visited the great nurseries of the country are at loss to know how these establishments are kept up, and are surprised to learn that the demand for trees increases from year to year. The question becomes easier of solution when it is known that only about one tree, in one hundred which are set out, stands the test and becomes useful. Many trees die from want of proper care and culture; unavoidable accidents destroy a large number; some are girdled by mice or killed by the borer, while vast numbers are unadapted to the climate and perish from the severities of our Winters.

A writer from among those excellent farmers at the Oneida Community, makes some pertinent remarks in the *Circular*, which are of value to those preparing to enter upon pear culture in this latitude. He says: "On the morning of the 21st of December last, the mercury fell to 28 deg. below zero. This low temperature undoubtedly killed the buds of some of the more tender varieties of pears and perhaps fatally injured many of the trees. The majority of the buds, however, appeared to be all right up to the 2d inst., though the wood of the fruit spurs was more or less discolored. But the severe frosts of the 2d and 3d inst., when ice was formed half an inch in thickness, finished up the pear buds with the exception of the following varieties, which I think may be relied on as being perfectly hardy in this climate:

*Winter Nellis.*—The hardiest in wood and bud of any pear that I am acquainted with, and a first rate fruit; but unfortunately is subject to leaf-blight in this season.

*Gansel's Bergamotte.*—Nearly as hardy as the preceding; fruit first quality, not as good a bearer when the trees are young, but improves by age.

*Compte de Lamy.*—A good pear and sure bearer.

*Marie Louise.*—Fruit somewhat inclined to be variable when the tree is young, but generally of superior quality, and worthy of a more extensive cultivation.

*Seckel.*—A well known pear.

*Easter Beurre.*—An excellent Winter pear, but wants a long season, in order to perfect its fruit.

The buds of the *Flemish Beauty* and *Belle Lucrative* standing in the higher grounds, have partly escaped. Some other varieties may have a few blossoms, but the six named are all of many varieties that can be said to have passed through the ordeal in safety, and with a fair show of healthy looking blossom buds.

Had I known sixteen years ago what I now do in regard to pears, we might, in all probability, have had a pear orchard that we could point to as a success, even in this rigorous climate."

The last paragraph, no doubt, expresses the sentiment of a large number of persons in the State who have attempted to grow many varieties of the pear.

A gentleman in Herkimer county, who has been experimenting with the pear for a number of years, and who has now several thousands of trees just coming into bearing, finds the Fleurish Beauty and Louise Bonne de Jersey among those that succeed best in his locality. Doubtless, much could be done to promote success in fruit culture by selecting eligible sites for the orchard and planting hardy trees in such a way as to form a screen to serve as a protection against bleak, cold winds. In England, we found many tender varieties of fruits grown successfully by training the trees to high walls which had been specially erected for that purpose.—*Utica Herald.*

---

Pretty Plants for the Kitchen.—Take a common tumbler, or fruit can; fill it nearly full of soft water. Then tie a bit of coarse lace or cheese sacking over it, and press down into the water; covered down with a layer of peas. In a few days they will sprout, the little thread-like roots going down through the lace into the water, and the vines can be trained up to twine, or what is prettier, a frame may be made for the purpose. The tumbler or jar should be set in a window where the sun shines. It requires no care, and you will have a delicate, pretty vine to rest your weary eyes upon.

You can make another pretty thing with as little trouble. Take a saucer and fill it with fresh green moss. Place in the center a pine cone, having first wet it thoroughly. Then sprinkle it thoroughly with grass seed. The moisture will close the cone partially, and in a day or two, the tiny grass spires will appear in all the interstices, and in a week you will have a perfect cone of beautiful verdure. It only wants a plentiful supply of water to be a "thing of beauty" all Summer.

---

Thin the Fruit.—If large, choice, well-flavored fruit is wanted of any kind, it must be thinned out, removing a few at a time from every part of the tree, so as to leave the residue pretty evenly distributed. The work cannot be all performed at once, and it therefore should be commenced early in the season, the operator going over his trees, or vines from time to time, as the eye meets it, and the evidence appears of the advantage obtained by its removal. Early thinning, before the strength of the tree or vine is taxed in the stoning or seedling, will avail much more than the same course afterward.—*Horticulturist.*

---

A Correspondent of the Wisconsin Farmer, discussing the question of pruning, says that all trees should be pruned at or about the close of their first growing stage. This period, with most of our trees, occurs in the months of June and July, and may be detected by examining the substance between the old wood and the bark. If about the thickness of a knife blade, and having the appearance of tender flesh, the tree is in a right condition. At such time no amount of pruning seems hurtful. One main object is to prepare the tree for the extreme cold of Winter. Pruning at this season causes the wood to ripen in time to endure the freezing. Root pruning he regards as producing the same results as top pruning. The hardiest trees make but one growth. Pruning at the right time tends to prevent a second or third growth.

# Miscellany.

### NAPOLEON'S MOTHER.

The maiden name of the mother of Napoleon was Letizia Ramolino. She was born in Corsica, of a respectable but not opulent family, and was married in her sixteenth year to Carlo Bonaparte, a Corsican gentleman of her own rank.

In due time, Madame Bonaparte became the mother of thirteen children—the youngest of whom was born when she was but thirty-four years of age. Of these thirteen children, eight lived to maturity.

It was from his mother that Napoleon Bonaparte derived the force if not the talent which enabled him to become the conqueror of Europe. He himself said of her: "She had the head of a man on the shoulders of a woman; she administered everything with a degree of sagacity not to be expected from her age or sex. Her tenderness was joined with severity. She punished, rewarded, all alike; the good, the bad, nothing escaped her. Losses, privations, fatigue, had no effect upon her; she endured all, braved all. Ah! what a woman! Where look for her equal?"

Almost all the life of Madame Bonaparte was a storm. When the French Revolution was raging, the people of Corsica instigated by the venerable Paoli, declared against the republic of Robespierre; and Ajaccio was the only town on the island which refused to lower the French colors. The Bonapartes sided with the republic. When Paoli and his followers marched on Ajaccio, the elder sons of the family were absent from the island; but the mother proved herself equal to the occasion. Roused from her slumbers at midnight, she found her room filled with armed men from the mountains of Corsica, who had come to warn her of the approach of the patriot army, and to convey her to the mountains. The mother and her children rose from their beds, and were soon on the march. By daybreak they had reached a place of safety in the mountains, which commanded a view of the ocean and of the city they had left.

From a mountain height, two days after, a French frigate was descried; and the Bonapartes hastened to the shore and went on board of her, where, to their inexpressible relief, they found Joseph and Napoleon. The frigate changed her course, and landed the family of exiles at Marseilles, destitute of resources, but rich in health and in the indomitable courage of the mother. Joseph and Napoleon had only the pay of lieutenants, which was barely sufficient for their own support, and the exiles were so poor that they were glad to receive the rations of bread distributed by the City Government to the Corsican refugees. The Abbe Fesch, the brother of Madame Bonaparte, whom Napoleon afterwards made a Cardinal, had accompanied the family from Corsica. As no people were so abhorred by the Republicans as priests, the abbe was compelled to conceal his priestly garb, and to earn his livelihood as a keeper of military stores. Such was the condition, in 1793, of a family which, six years later, gave a chief to France. Even then, while Madame Bonaparte was receiving alms from the Corporation of Marseilles, Napoleon was at Toulon, where he gave the first proofs of his military genius, and where he performed the deeds which led to his promotion.

When Napoleon was appointed to command the army of Italy, he assigned to his mother a portion of his pay, sufficient for her decent maintenance, and thus raised her at once from indigence to dignity and comfort. Soon after this she removed, with her little children, to Paris; and there she was residing in the family of her son Joseph, when Napoleon seized the supreme authority.

Her bearing on that decisive day, which she knew must either bring her son to the scaffold or raise him to a throne, has been described by a lady who was with her during the critical hours: "She appeared calm, though far from easy; for her extreme paleness, and the convulsive movements she made whenever an unexpected noise met her ear, gave her features a ghastly air. In these moments she appeared to me truly like the mother of the Gracchi. She had three sons under the stroke of fate, one of whom would probably receive the blow, even if the others escaped. This she felt most forcibly. My mother and myself remained with her a part of that tantalizing day, and only left her on the restoration of her confidence by Lucien's messengers, who were frequently sent to calm her disquiet."

For our part, we do not believe that this strong and far-seeing woman ever fully believed in the fortunes of her brilliant son. No one knows a son as a wise mother knows him. As if foreseeing his downfall, she was always preparing for the evil day; and, as we all know, her prognostications proved to be correct. In 1814, when the Allies banished Napoleon to Elba, she was allowed to retain her title and part of her income—£10,000 a year. Before leaving Paris, with the Empress, Marie Louise, she prudently drew from the French treasury her arrears of revenue, amounting to £16,000. At Rome she heard the news of Waterloo, and sent to offer the defeated Emperor the whole of her immense wealth to assist in restoring his fortunes. So said Napoleon at St. Helena.

"And for me," he added, "she would without a murmur have doomed herself to live on black bread. Loftiness of sentiment still reigned paramount in her breast; pride and noble ambition were not subdued by avarice."

It was she also who, 1819, when Napoleon expressed a wish to have the assistance of a Catholic priest, bore the expenses of sending two priests to St. Helena, who were selected by her brother, Cardinal Fesch.

Madame Bonaparte lived to the venerable age of eighty-six. At Rome, whence she never removed after her return from Elba, she maintained an unostentatious establishment. Even in her eightieth year traces of her former beauty appeared in her majestic countenance. The last years of her life were spent in retirement, to which only a few intimate friends were admitted; and she died, as she had lived, a devout and zealous member of the Catholic church. Her death occurred at Rome, in the year 1836, and at Rome her remains still repose.

---

Queer Baggage.—Among the toilet articles which the Sultan has brought with him into the countries of the infidels is an immense tank of Nile water. His highness is forbidden to bathe in any less sacred water. The transportation of this tank from Egypt to Paris must have cost somebody a very pretty sum of money.

Another of the Sultan's accessories is a kind of screen which he uses at meals. It enables him to see the other people at table without being seen himself. Tradition directs that profane eyes shall not be able to note either the appetite or the abstinence of the Father of the Faithful—doubtless a convenient regulation.

---

An Irish boy, trying hard to get a place, denied that he was Irish.

"I don't know what you mean by not being an Irishman," said the gentleman who was about to hire him, "but this I do know—that you were born in Ireland."

"Och! yer Honor, if that's all, small blame that. Suppose your old cat had kittens in the oven, would they be loaves of bread?" The boy got the place.

---

It is asserted that the Chief Secretary for Ireland, who is the owner of a fine ostrich which was recently safely delivered of an egg, received the following dispatch from his steward: "My Lord, *as your lordship is out of the country*, I have procured the biggest goose I could find to sit on the ostrich's eggs."

---

"A Lawyer," said Lord Brougham, in a facetious mood, "is a learned gentleman, who rescues your estate from your enemies and keeps it himself."

---

Old Folks.—The entire number of persons who, according to the census, have attained the great age of 100 years and upward, is just 1,200. Of these there are, white, 440; black, 688; mulatto, 46; Indians, 26. Women attain high longevity in greater numbers than men, and black people more than white. There are white—males, 184; females, 256; black—males, 295; females, 393. The proportions are about the same in the different years above a hundred, as in the aggregate. The oldest persons are a white woman in South Carolina, and an Indian woman in California, aged 140 years. The oldest blacks, two males and three females, are 130 years. At 110, there are 29 white, and 113 black; at 120 there are two white and 31 black. Twelve times as many blacks as whites exceed a hundred years of age. The average duration of human life is greater in the United States than in any other nation.

# Field and Farm.

## SALT AS A MANURE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

It has often seemed to me that farmers do not set sufficient value on the use of common coarse salt as a manure; or at least, such is the case if we are to judge by their practice—which in most cases is a good criterion. It may be used with advantage upon all kinds of land, and for all crops except flax and other crops which are raised for their fibre; on crops of flax raised specially for seed it will materially increase the crop.

In my own experience the crop upon which it will produce its greatest effect is wheat. If applied to this crop, either in the Fall at sowing time, or in the Spring before the rains commence, it will usually increase the grain, both in yield and weight, and will stiffen the straw and prevent lodging.

It may be applied in any amount from two to five bushels per acre to wheat, or grass, and to corn at the rate of one handful to three hills. For the latter crop I prefer to mix it with an equal amount of common plaster, and use a large handful of the mixture to every two hills. I have thought that some of the hills have sometimes sustained injury by the mixture not being scattered enough around the hill: a small amount of rain will dissolve the salt, and if too close to the roots of the young plant, it may injure it seriously.

This is also very often the case in applying our common phosphates to corn in the hill, for not a few of them contain strong alkaline salts, which produce an effect on the plant similar to that alluded to above, in the case of common salt. In no case would I advise the use of salt in the hill before covering: or in any way in which it would be likely to come into direct contact with the grain.

In England, great use is made in some sections, of salt in various forms, and as far as the reports reach us the result has been satisfactory. In one experiment with wheat at Barochan, the addition of one hundred and sixty pounds of salt increased the yield from twenty-five to thirty-two bushels per acre. In another experiment in Essex, it was applied at the rate of five bushels per acre to a light gravelly soil, and increased the crop from thirteen and a half to twenty-six and one fourth bushels per acre.

In Suffolk, it is usually applied in larger amounts, and is the usual manure for barley. If applied at the rate of five to seven bushels per acre, it usually increases the crop from twenty to twenty-five bushels per acre.

At Aske Hall, near Richmond, when applied to a light gravelly soil, or a heavy clay subsoil, at the rate of six bushels per acre, it added twenty-four hundred pounds to the hay crop.

In a long list of the results of various experiments it is noticeable that all the greatest results have been where the salt has been applied to light gravelly or sandy soils, and seems to do best over a retentive clay subsoil; its failure on land near the sea shore, is also noticeable from the list, which may be accounted for by the fact that the wind in such situations carries more or less of the saline moisture inland, and hence the soil is supplied with it in sufficient amount.

That there have been several cases wherein its use has not given satisfaction, cannot be denied; but no doubt many of these may be traced to a continued use of the same article on the same land. Like many other special manures now in the market, it is the first application which produces the greatest effect, and any after application will produce much less, and sometimes no effect whatever. For instance, as I have proved more than once in my own experience, if salt is applied in the Fall to wheat, and again after the wheat is taken off, to the grass, the last application will not produce any visible effect at the time; though in all probability it will act as soon as the first application is exhausted.

Experiment alone can demonstrate the economy for each one, and of course should be commenced on a small scale at first, and gradually increased if found advisable. But as a top dressing for the garden, even the most cautious will not need to make experiments for different soils and different crops, as all past experience has demonstrated its efficacy, not only as a manure or stimulant, but also as a preventive for grubs in radishes, turnips and potatoes.

*July*, 1867.

## HOW TO MAKE TURKEYS USEFUL.

In Normandy where the Creve-Cœurs are principally raised, they have a curious fashion of hatching the eggs. As the hens are seldom inclined to set, and are at best only ordinary mothers, the good women of the peasantry have a fashion of pressing young hen turkeys into the service. This they do in the following way: Take a female turkey of the preceding year that has never laid and put her in a basket containing plaster eggs. Cover this basket with a strong linen cloth. It will be from four to six days before she will overcome her natural disinclination to set, and become attached to the eggs, or as the French have it, "take an affection" for them. When the prejudice is entirely overcome they place the real eggs under, she easily covering 18 or 20 of them. The covering is removed and the innocent turkey accomplishes the task assigned her without further trouble, save that it is necessary to remove her once a day that she may partake of refreshments. If this is not done these "setters" sometimes starve to death, rather than voluntarily leave their charge, so great is this forced affection. After hatching, the little chicks are placed in charge of another turkey that may not have all she can raise and which is kept for bringing them up, and the original turkey mother supplied with a new lot of eggs, continues her "mission." These young turkeys are thus made to hatch three or four "litters" in a season.

## THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Established orchards, on thin or impoverished soils, may be renovated in the following manner: If a tree has been planted, say fifteen years, and attained the size we might expect in time—get, say ten feet from the trunk, and dig a circle two feet deep all around it, and fill in with a good compost; the effect the next season will be quite marked. If the tree is older or younger, the distance to start with the circle from the trunk will of course be proportionate. A top-dressing will also be of great assistance, as well as a vigorous pruning out of all weak or stunted branches. Moss and old bark should also be scraped off, and if the trunk and main branches can be washed with a mixture of sulphur and soft soap, much advantage will follow. Old decayed bark on fruit trees is always a sign of a want of vigor. When a tree is growing thriftily, it cracks this old bark so freely as to make it easily fall off; but when the tree is weak and enfeebled, the bark often becomes indurated before it has got cracked, and in this state the tree becomes what the gardeners call "hide bound," and artificial means must be afforded to aid the tree to recover. In the cherry and plum trees, this is easily done, by making longitudinal incisions through the bark with a sharp knife. In the peach and apricot, also, this process has been employed with advantage, in spite of the learned theories which have attempted to show up the absurdity of the practice.

Sometimes fruit trees are unproductive from othes causes than poverty of the soil, or neglect of the orchardist. They often grow too luxuriantly to bear well. In this case root-pruning is effectual, and is performed by digging a circle around the tree, with the circle made close to the trunk of the tree. A fifteen year old tree, for instance, may be encircled at five feet from the trunk. No rule can be laid down for this; judgment must be exercised. If cut too close, the tree may be stunted for years, and if too far it will not be effective. The aim should be to reduce the roots about one-third.—*Gardener's Monthly.*

## HILL-SIDE PLOUGHS.

I have been using the revolving beam side-hill plough for all purposes, and in every character of surface, for the past sixteen years. I use no other; and find them preferable to any other plough for many reasons.

This plough does not turn over like the old Randolph plough, but is a double plough; or both a right hand and a left hand plough in one. It has double the durability of the single plough. It enables the farmer to till in any direction he desires, and always to turn the furrow down hill, and each of the teams alternately in the furrow, which is much easier for them than to continue one constantly in the furrow. By casting the furrow with the slope the draft of the plough is much less than where it is cast against the slope, and it covers vegetation and manure much better. There is often fifty per cent. difference in favor of the furrow turned down the slope in tillage of hoed crops, as the growth of grass and weeds is not prevented when the sward is only partially inverted, which is unavoidable when there is an attempt to turn the furrow against the slope. The custom with the best farmers, who use the plain right or left-hand plough, is to lay out the field in lands, and plough a portion of it by turning the furrows together, and the balance apart, producing the open furrow. This method is decidedly preferable to ploughing around the field, but it does not compare in economy with the use of the right and left-hand plough, which I have described, by which we can commence on one side, and turn the furrows all in one direction, and that with the slope. There is no loss of time in going around the ends; by calculation, it is found, in tilling in lands of say twenty yards in width, and back furrows of the same width, that a team and ploughman travel, in ploughing a square of twelve acres, eleven miles more than they would in the use of the right and left-hand plough. This amount of travel is certainly worth saving, to say nothing of other advantages in the use of this plough, which I have enumerated.

I have a right and left-hand sub-soil plough which I use with it, and I can perform thorough tillage with these two, plough with greater ease both to the team and the ploughman, and at less cost than with any other plough that I have seen used.—*Maryland Farmer.*

## GROWING CLOVER SEED.

Clover seed is frequently a very remunerative crop to the farmer, considering only the amount of trouble and labor required to produce it. But the practice of taking a crop of hay and then one of seed is exhaustive to the soil, especially when it is followed by immediate plowing for a grain crop. To sustain fertility under this system, heavy applications of barnyard manure are necessary. Still, we believe it is the common opinion of farmers that a clover seed crop is nearly clear gain at least; that it does not particularly diminish the productive capacity of the soil. But that honored farmer, John Johnson of Geneva, says that though he has grown large and many crops of clover seed, yet he could not have done so with profit had he not made more manure than farmers ordinarily do, wherewith to replace the elements which the seed had withdrawn.

We advise farmers to grow clover seed, both for home use and market, but not to regard it as a non-exhaustive crop. The field should receive a good dressing of manure, or at least be turned to pasture the succeeding year. At present the season is one of good promise for this crop. Clover generally stands well; it is heavy and thick, so the foundation for the seed crop is good; then the seasonable rains will start the second growth quickly. The best way to harvest clover seed is with a self-raking reaper, throwing it off in large gavels, presuming, of course, that the stalks are ripe and somewhat dry—then let it sun a few hours, and load with barley forks without raking or otherwise disturbing the gavels. This course saves the waste of seed by shelling, as occurs when it is frequently handled.—*Rural New Yorker.*

## BEST TIME TO SOW GRASS SEED.

I have an impression that experimental knowledge is the most valuable for the farmer. For more than half a century I have been experimenting to find the best time to sow grass seed. For more than thirty of the first years of my farming, I did as my neighbors did; we supposed that the Spring months were the only proper ones for that purpose. But later in life, by reading agricultural papers, I discovered that some enterprising farmers were successful in sowing their grass seed in August or September. I tried the experiment with complete success; that being the season it would naturally fall, it appeared evident to my mind that it was the right one. But still later I have not been particular, and have sowed grass seed at any season when my ground was prepared to receive it, and if the seed was good it has uniformly vegetated and done well.

Last Fall, after harvesting our potatoes from the low wet soil, which would not admit of seeding down in early Spring, sowed herd grass and red-top seed on the 14th and 15th of October upon said potato field, doubting, but still hoping, for the best: and now, the 8th of July, it bids fair to give us the best crop of hay produced on any of my farm lots. This grass, probably, will require two weeks longer to grow than that which has been seeded down longer. I think I never saw seed vegetate better at any season. Grass seed will vegetate a long time after being sowed. In the Spring of 1852. I seeded down a lot of good ground, but rather dry, with red-top seed; the months of June and July were uncommonly dry, and at the middle of August there was no appearance of grass sprout on the place. On the 10th of August, the same year, it began to rain profusely, and continued raining for several weeks till the ground was saturated. In September, more than four months after the seed was sown, every seed seemed to vegetate, and the ground appeared like a beautiful lawn. And on the whole I have concluded that any time when our land is in a good state of preparation to receive the seed is the best time to sow it.—*S. Brown, in Boston Cultivator.*

Inducing Bees to Work in Supers.—We believe that much depends upon a happy knack of hitting the right time at which to give bees access to a super; if the communication be opened too soon, i. e., long before the stock-hive becomes inconveniently warm and crowded, scarcely a bee will enter, and they often seem ultimately to regard the empty apartment as one with which they have nothing to do. If, on the other hand, giving additional room be too long delayed, i. e., until royal cells are formed and tenanted, it is frequently impossible even to delay the issue of a swarm. When the right moment is happily selected, the bees frequently take possession with a rush, and if swarming is delayed or prevented, do not again quit until expelled by the Apiarian. Nothing attracts them so readily into a super as finding it ready furnished with so much clear worked comb as the bee-keeper can appropriate to the purpose. Failing, or in conjunction with this, it is well to smear the inside with a little honey.—*Bee Gazette.*

Recipe for Cleansing Wool.—Take one pound of saleratus for twelve pounds of wool, dissolve in water not quite boiling hot, then put in the wool and stir occasionally for one hour; take it out and squeeze it thoroughly, or what is better, run through a clothes wringer, rinse in cold water, and spread on grass ground to dry. This process will remove all gum and dirt from any kind of wool and make it much better for custom work.—*Vermont Farmer.*

Succession of Crops.—The crops that have matured in the garden, as salad, peas, early potatoes, radishes—should be cleared away and the ground planted with other vegetables. Celery, cabbage, turnips and cucumbers are yet in order. Old strawberry beds should be turned over, the ground manured, and put to immediate use.

One Glass of Wine.—The Duke of Orleans, the oldest son of King Louis Phillippe, was the inheritor of whatever rights the royal family could transmit. One morning he invited a few companions with him as he was about to leave Paris to join his regiment. In the conviviality of the hour he drank too much wine. He did not become intoxicated; he was not in any respect a dissipated man, but he drank a glass too much, and lost the balance of his body and mind. Bidding adieu to his companions he entered the carriage. But for that extra glass he would have kept his seat. He leaped from the carriage. His head struck the pavement; he was taken into a beer shop and died. That extra glass of wine overthrew the Orleans dynasty, confiscated their property of one hundred millions of dollars, and sent the whole family into exile.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## DULL TIMES.

It is amusing to look over the political and commercial journals and read their views on the origin, extent and prevention of the present *Dull Times*. Most of them conclude that the depression is simply the reaction incident to the great struggle through which the nation has recently passed; that business will revive and prospects brighten after the harvest of the immense grain crop which the husbandman is now gathering. This is one way to cultivate hope in the commercial community; but we don't want the politician, the merchant, the financier and the manufacturer to depend wholly on agriculture. The wheat crop of 1867 will unquestionably be very large—giving us cheaper bread—and if there is an export demand, will help turn the balance of trade in our favor.

Diminished agricultural products did not cause the present stagnation in business, neither will an unusual crop of cereals bring us prosperity. The evil lies in our gigantic debt—a debt of twenty-five hundred millions of dollars—the interest of which has to be paid by the children of toil. This we must earn by labor, and we must pay it by increased cost of food, clothing, rent, and all incidental expenditures of living. *This enormous burden is what causes dull times;* and we shall never witness the return of prosperity if we depend on our increased agricultural productions. We must inaugurate more rigid economy; we must reduce national debt and national currency; we must cease legislating for parties and make laws for individual prosperity—then we shall be on the highway of better times, renewed confidence and new-born prosperity.

Farmers, generally, do not bother themselves with the question of national finance. But it is a matter of vital importance; and, at this time, is closely identified with their prosperity. When we consider that our national debt exceeds two thousand and five hundred millions of dollars; that our national bank-note currency is three hundred millions more, we can understand that the interest on these enormous sums is literally eating us up! Who pays this interest?—the laborer, the hard toiling millions—not the idler, the speculator or the spendthrift. Our paper money is so abundant and cheap that it has destroyed the former laws of value, making us pay extortionately for all we eat or wear. Besides, this inflation of the currency aids no branch of industry; it incites profligacy, extravagance and speculation. Instead of invigorating business and building up industrial avocations, it demoralizes trade, and adds to general stagnation. A cheap or inflated currency always does this.

Our whole banking capital is based on usury. It draws interest from the government, (which the people pay,) and another interest from the circulation of their notes. Thus we are paying double, or compound interest, on our circulating medium of three hundred millions. Here is where a portion of our hard-earned pittance goes, into the pockets of our money lenders. The banker rolls in affluence, but the laborer starves—the Government staggers under a mountain of debt, but the usurer waxes fat and kicks. There may be other methods of restoring this country to its olden prosperity, but the best, shortest and most advisable way is to curtail our debased, inflated, double-interest currency. Reduce that, and the national debt, and lethargy and depression will be superseded with activity and industry.

---

CALIFORNIA promises to export fifteen million bushels of wheat this year, to twelve million last.

## VALUE OF ASHES.

There are few fertilizing agents more active or more permanent than wood ashes. Wherever applied they benefit the soil and crops for many years, never failing to produce good results even on poor and worn-out land. But there is a wide difference in their value; some contain more mineral and fertilizing agents than others. Hard wood, like oak, hickory and maple, make superior ashes—rich in potassa, lime, magnesia, sulphuric and phosphoric acid. Pine and other soft wood is less valuable. From experiments made several years ago, we found that well-dried hard wood produced about three pounds of ashes from every hundred pounds of wood. Pine yielded not one third of that amount, nor was it as caustic or so valuable in its composition.

For improving and sweetening a naturally cold and sour soil, we find nothing better than ashes. This is accounted for from the quantity of potassa, lime and soda which they contain. But unless such land is thoroughly drained, the benefit is small. For hastening the decay of organic matter in the soil, also the vegetable matter in compost heaps, ashes are equal to anything we have ever used. Leached ashes are inferior to unleached, as a large percentage of the soluble matter is carried off in the lye. But these are more valuable than most commercial manures, as they retain considerable soda and potassa, with some phosphoric acid.

Ashes from anthracite coal have been recommended by some English, as well as American agriculturists. They contain a certain percentage of lime, alumina, silica and sulphates; but a trifle else of much fertilizing value. On a close, compact clay soil, coal ashes would tend to increase aerification, make it more porous, and thus admit the solar heat. As a dressing around fruit trees it is also recommended. As a top-dressing for grass land, wood ashes often produce remarkable results, as they contain those elements of fertility so greedily taken up by all our grasses.

## PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL BUILDING.

The finest structure erected in Philadelphia, the past year, is that of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, on Broad Street. It is 75 feet wide, and 200 feet long; built of brick, and is a credit to the architecture of the Quaker City. The main hall is one of the largest in the country, and is capable of seating two thousand people. This is used for the annual and monthly meetings of the Society; it is also frequently used for lectures, concerts and other public purposes.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society was organized in 1827, and is perhaps the oldest society of its kind in America. Its members comprise many of the wealthiest and most intelligent citizens; and its influence on horticulture has been progressive and decided—not only in its vicinity, but throughout the country. The Fairs of this association are very attractive, and have greatly advanced the culture of fruits and flowers—leading us forward in those arts, and increasing our natural love of the beautiful and useful plants of this and other lands.

The engraving which we use in this issue of our journal, presents a faithful view of the new Horticultural Hall—a credit to Philadelphia, and a monument to the enterprise and liberality of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

---

The Wheat Harvest.—We have favorable reports from the Middle States in regard to the crop of wheat just harvested. In New York it is the largest for several years; in New Jersey above the average; in Pennsylvania double the crop of last year, while in Delaware and Maryland it is reported good. The Southern States have gathered the largest harvest since 1860; enough to furnish their own bread and a large surplus to spare. At the West there was not so much Winter-wheat sown, but the yield is very large. The crop of Spring-sown wheat is really enormous. From present indications the wheat crop of 1867, will reach *two hundred millions of bushels.*

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

Additional testimony comes up every Summer in favor of early cut grass for hay. A contributor of the "Country Gentleman" says the folly of allowing grass to become ripe, or nearly so, is not alone in the spoiling of the hay; but that "grass, after a week's standing in bloom, takes more from the soil than all previous growth—thus robbing the next year's crop." We believe there is no exaggeration in this statement. We have experimented in cutting grass early, and late; and, on the field where Timothy or Herd's grass was permitted to stand until fully ripe, there was a decided decrease of grass the following year.

---

The "American Farmer," of Baltimore, recommends a sprinkling of bone dust on grape vine borders, to be washed in by the rains. Bone is certainly a good fertilizer, and for this purpose is better than guano, or other highly concentrated manures. It is more lasting, and renders the vines prolific as well as vigorous. We have also found super-phosphate a good fertilizer for the grape.

---

Roup is a very destructive disease among poultry in some sections of the country, and, owing to its being infectious, often destroys half the young poultry on the farm. It generally attacks the mucous surface of the nostril, obstructing respiration, and causing blindness and death. A writer in the "Southern Cultivator," says sulphuric, or nitric acid, applied to the diseased parts, is a certain cure. This specific is very powerful, and we should advise caution in its application.

---

California farmers are increasing their sheep stock—finding wool and mutton more profitable than the raising of cattle. The "Farmer," of San Francisco, says Robert Blacow, of Alameda county, sheared from ninety-six Merino sheep, 1985 pounds of wool—averaging 20 3-4 pounds each. Good clipping.

---

The "Delaware Tribune," of Wilmington, reports the sale of the peach crop on the farm of a Mr. Parrish, near Dover, at $10,000. Complaints are reported of large quantities of peaches falling from the trees—caused by recent heavy rains.

---

Doctor Randall expresses his views in the "Rural New Yorker," on the wool product of 1867. He thinks it will not exceed that of 1866; to corroborate which he says an unusually large number of sheep died from disease last Winter. This mortality extended to Spring lambs—one third of which died in some sections.

---

The "Utica Herald" reports further decline in the price of cheese, with prospective dull markets. It says: "Farm dairies of good quality sold from 10c. to 13c. A few may have got a trifle over the last figure, but the bulk went at from 11c. to 13c. With a prospect of a further decline the dairy business begins to "look blue," especially for those who have been buying lands at $200 per acre and cows at $90 per head." Factory cheese sells higher, and is quoted at 13½ to 15¼ cents a pound.

---

The tide-water sections of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia offer great inducements to cultivators of fruit. Land can be purchased there from ten to thirty dollars per acre, which will yield annually many times their cost in the production of peaches, cherries, strawberries and other small fruit. "The Turf, Field and Farm," of New York, advises fruit culturists to look at the section referred to—which we heartily endorse. The soil is well adapted to fruit, and the climate, tempered by surrounding bodies of water, renders it one of the best horticultural sections in the country.

---

Mowing in the Moon.—A ruralist writer in the Cultivator says that he has "proved by actual experiment that the easiest and safest way to destroy Canada Thistles is to mow them in the old of the moon in August. Once mowing, often has the desired effect, but generally they will want to be mown the second year."

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

W. J. H., Providence, (R. I.) sends us the following which is worth remembering:

"This is the way I destroy the bugs on my squash and other vines. It is simple but sure, especially for the striped bug, and good for the plant, sal nitre being a powerful fertilizer:

Dissolve two ounces of sal nitre (salt peter) in a pailful of water and pour a pint of the solution close around the roots of the plants, more sal nitre will do no harm; it is impossible to injure the plants with it."

---

T. N., Centredale, (R. I.)—You state that your plums are all dropping off your trees, and ask us for a remedy, but have not given us any of the attendant circumstances. We suspect your trees have been attacked by the curculio. The best known remedy is to spread sheets under the trees and jar down the insects, when the plums are beginning to set, and are not larger than peas. The trees can be saved against a similar attack by allowing the swine to eat the plums as fast as they drop, and before the larvæ escape into the ground. Some pave the ground under their plum trees and sweep up the fallen fruit daily.

---

A correspondent asks for some information about the Creve-Cœur poultry. The breed originated in Normandy. They are the first chickens that reach the Paris market, arriving in April and May. The Creve-Cœur (heart-breaker) has rather short legs; its body is long, plumage black, head ornamented with a thick tuft mixed sometimes with white feathers. Its early crest often presents the horned appearance of the Fleche; the whiskers are thick, and the cravat very decided. Weight of mature female, six to seven pounds. The male of this breed, most precious in the eyes of amateurs, has a black plumage, tinged with green, very lustrous. They may have the collar and tips of wings a little pale or red, and yet be pure. After the second moulting, the tuft of the male bird should always contain some white feathers.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

Jacksonville, Florida, is rioting in watermelons at ten cents and peaches by the cart-load.

The crop prospects, as reported by the press of the interior, are still of the most encouraging character. From some localities poor and medium results are announced, but the great mass of territory favors a crop which, for management and good quality, has never been surpassed.

Peas for seed should always be picked as soon as they attain full size, before the pods begin to turn. Put them away in the pod to dry. Peas dried in this manner will bring peas the next season from ten days to two weeks earlier than if allowed to ripen on the stalk, and the same rule applies to beans, corn, and almost all garden vegetables.

To preserve peas from bugs, a correspondent of the Country Gentleman puts the peas into wide-mouthed bottles or jars, with about half an ounce of gum camphor to each gallon of peas, and corks tight.

In long Summer days, between the Atlantic and Pacific coast, our farmers have daylight for 21 hours and 40 minutes.

A correspondent of the Rural New Yorker says that has known a horse that went for twelve months on three legs, from ringbone, made perfectly sound by the application, once a day, of an ointment composed of half an ounce of red precipitate; half ounce blue stone; half a pint of turpentine, thoroughly mixed. Keep the hoof greased.

From the Southern Cultivator we learn that half bred Merinos are considered much better adapted to the latitude of Georgia than any of the English breeds that have been tried there.

The New York Tribune thinks the hay crop this year will be the largest ever produced in the country.

Hungarian grass frequently yields as much as four tons to the acre, and about half a bushel of seed should be sown per acre.

Old nails, at present prices for these necessary articles on a farm, are worth saving. Not a board or a rail, that has been used, should be laid away without drawing from it the nails. Then straighten them some rainy day, and they will be ready for use when wanted.

The Milwaukee Wisconsin thinks that the breadth of land in that State sown to wheat will be one-third larger than was ever before put in.

---

Raspberries.—The canes of this, as well as other similar small fruit, will now require attention. Soon after the crop is gathered, the old canes should be thinned out—leaving three or four new ones—so that the wood may become hardened. Mulching the ground, on light soils, with old hot-bed manure, leaf mold, and even straw, will be found beneficial.

Fall Flowers.—The *Horticulturist* says: To produce an elegant effect in the flower garden in October and November, sow new seed of the double white wall-flower-leaved stock. As soon as the plants are large enough to be transplanted, put each one separately into a seven-inch pot and plunge the pots to the rims in any out-of-the-way place. They will need no care until September, when they will commence to bloom. Reject those with single flowers as soon as they are discovered. If the seed is good, nearly all the plants will prove double. Early frosts do not have the slightest effect upon this stock. In October they may be turned out into any of the beds where the plants have been killed, and their masses of double white flowers will attract attention from every one. In our own garden we had a fine show until the 10th of December, last year, long after every other bedding plant was destroyed.

# The Fireside Muse.

For the Farm and Fireside.

## RAVENS-HALL.

BY F. H. STAUFFER.

A pretty, simple grange is Ravens-Hall,
With orchards fleck'd with fruitage in the Fall;
With fields of drowsy grain and bearded rye,
And other rnral things to please the eye.

Into the dormant windows on the top
The poplars their oily buds in season drop;
The sunlight lies in patches on the floors
And vines are climbing round the narrow doors.

The old barn, with thatched and shelving roof,
Stands some twenty yards or so aloof;
The vane upon its peak unfailing shows
Which way the wind has shifted when it blows.

The yellow corn shines through the claphoard bin,
And new mown hay fills all the mows within;
I have stood for hours by the open door
To watch the threshers beating on the floor.

The swallows 'mid the rafters build their nest,
Or stop awhile from mazy flights to rest;
So loud their titter and so great their din,
That TWO of them would surely "make a Spring!"

Among meadows stretching out of sight
The fences glimmer with a ghostly white;
More tasty where they line the dusty road
O'er which the stage creeps daily with its load.

And the pines! 'mid groups so grand and tall as they
Ariel might improvise his soul away!
'T was there the ravens met in ebon flocks
To talk about the tardiness of crops;

Or with flapping wings and deafening caws,
Extend their system of aggressive laws.
OTHER Senates have met, we must confess,
WHO MADE MORE NOISE AND YET ACCOMPLISHED LESS!

I will not say a ravens right to vote
Consists in great capacity of throat;
That from choice, or fear of being cuffed,
Their judges see the boxes are well stuffed!

Though such things DO occur, as each one knows,
In other republics than those of crows!
'T were better that offices went once again,
Like Diogones, IN SEARCH OF MEN!

The spring house standing by the brook alone,
Its tiles with green and yellow moss o'ergrown;
The well, with oaken bucket by the draw;
The lye dripping from the tubs of matted straw;

The fish-nets hanging by the jutting eaves;
The porch roof stock'd beneath with scythes and sieves;
Such simple things as these comprise the charms
That linger round our Pennsylvania farms.

It is true, that in part, for things like these,
I love the grange, soft cradled in the trees;
Yet, were it built upon a dreary moor,
With no bright landscapes sloping from the door,

With no ripening fruits nor herbage green,
Nor welcome face of stranger ever seen,
I feel I could not help but love it some,
For there the record of my life begun.

We love the homestead of our earlier years,
Sacred to our memory and our tears;
The hearth at which, with bible on his knees,
Our father read of brighter skies than these.

The attic room, where in white gowns we knelt,
To breathe the childish prayers which we felt;
The fields, the shady nooks, the waterfall,
Association weds us to them all.

# Fireside Tale.

## THE WIDOW'S MITE.

It was the last night of the year. The widow Burgess sat alone in her apartment—for she rented but one, and that was a small and scantily furnished room, though she managed to make it look quite spacious and comfortable by the disposition of its furniture—gazing into the embers, which, though they were fast expiring, still sent out a genial warmth.

Her work—a bit of nice embroidery—had dropped into the clean white handkerchief which was spread over her lap, and her head was resting on her hand; her task was so nearly completed that she indulged herself in a luxury she was but little accustomed to—a moment's cessation from toil. The light of the lamp which fell partially on her face revealed a countenance deeply marked with sorrow and care; but that face was youthful still, and grief had not banished beauty from those features—it had but thrown over them a veil which concealed their sparkling brilliancy, while it made their loveliness more charming. The pensiveness and quiet submission revealed in the depths of those large, lustrous black eyes, the calmness and deep thought of that white brow, and the smile of benevolence which played around that mouth—it was hard for those features to learn thus to look; the soul was almost crushed before it could forget its pride; but now heaven's seal was impressed upon that countenance so deeply that it could never be obliterated.

Alone, no the widow was not alone in her apartment. On the humble couch lay a child of seven years, sweetly slumbering. The little girl did not much resemble her mother in her features, though to the heart of her parent she was only the more dear for that; for in that sweet, little face she had ever before her the miniature of him whom she loved so well, but so unwisely. She loved her the more fondly for that; for though there had been moments when she invoked heaven's bitterest curses on him who had squandered her wealth at the dram shop and the gambling table, and had cruelly neglected, and finally deserted her and her babe—she had long ago buried the remembrance of his crimes, and thought only of the few brief years when they were happy together.

The widow sat resting her head on her hand and gazing into the dying embers. The night was cold, the snow lay thick on the earth, and the wind was sweeping about her dwelling.—She thought of the hundreds in that great city who were that night suffering from hunger and cold, and her heart went up to heaven in gratitude for the mercies with which it had surrounded her. It was true, all the money she possessed on earth was a bit of silver lying on the table beside her; and that she had promised little Annot should purchase her, on the morrow, a New Year's gift. But then her rent for the next quarter was paid, she had fuel and provisions enough to last her for the next fortnight, and the work she had so neatly completed would bring her a scanty, but sure pay. The widow was thankful, for she knew what utter destitution was.

The wind moaned more loudly and sadly about her dwelling.

"Heaven have mercy on the poor to-night, and may not the cry for charity fall upon a deafened ear."

As her lips murmured the prayer, there was a heavy footfall behind the window, followed by a quick rap at the door; and as the widow opened it, a man wretchedly and thinly attired and with an old hat drawn down over his eyes, stood before her, and begged for a night's shelter, or something which would procure him one.

The former, Mrs. Burgess could not give; and the latter——. She looked up the narrow alley where she lived, to the wide street which run along at its head. The dwellings of the wealthy were there. She saw the costly edifices, through whose richly curtained windows the brilliant light was gleaming, and thought how easily the dwellers beneath those roofs could make the poor creature comfortable.—But she hesitated only for a brief instant, and then, stepping back into her apartment, she picked up the bit of silver lying on the table.

Poor little Annot, she had fallen asleep while talking of the pretty present mamma would buy for her to-morrow; she could not remember ever having received one before, and she had kissed the piece of silver a thousand times during the day in anticipation of what it would bring her. The widow glanced on the coin on which the child had with a sharp pointed instrument, scratched her name in quite legible characters; and she brushed a tear from her eye as she thought of the disappointment in store for her.

The hand that was outstretched to receive the pittance sensibly trembled.

"It is the poor widow's mite," said Mrs. Burgess. "Do not spend it for what will make you more wretched than you now are."

The fingers closed over it, and the man turned away and walked rapidly down the street, though now and then he checked his speed for an instant and muttered indistinctly to himself. At the end of a few minutes he stood before the door of a miserable rum-shop and looked through the torn window curtain into the room, where a drunken, half idiotic group was gathered around an old rickety table, busied with a game of hazard.

The man was now sober, and as he gazed on those bloated faces, tottering forms, and wildly staring eyes, and listened to the deep oaths and fiendish laugh uttered by those tremulous voices, his better feelings awoke. His uplifted hand fell from the door latch, and he averted his eyes from the wretched group, but the face of their comrade was seen through the window—and before he had quite decided to turn from the spot, two or three of the more sober of the company were dragging him into the shop.

The man did not go very reluctantly, but when he had entered the room he slunk away into a corner, and sat down by himself. His cheek, habitually so pale, was crimsoned with shame, not because the eyes of those miserable men were upon him, but awakened conscience was whispering in his ear in tones which sent his blood like a fiery torrent through his veins.

For half an hour he sat there silent but writhing in bitter agony, while his companions who had forgotten his presence continued their drinking and play—that is, those of them who had not fallen to the floor, overcome with their deep potations. At length the man shook off those terrible thoughts, his appetite had conquered.

He took from his pocket the bit of silver which the poor widow had given him. It was an old coin and its inscription was very nearly obliterated, and he drew near the light to ascertain its value. For an instant his eye gazed upon it with a strange expression, and then it fell to the floor, while an exclamation such as silenced the noisy group in the shop, burst from his lips, but before they had time to inquire the cause of his sudden emotion, the man picked up the silver, and rushed out of the shop.

In an incredible short space of time, considering the distance he had to walk, the same individual stepped into one of the largest dry good stores in the city. A half suppressed titter was heard among the younger clerks as he made his appearance, but the man did not seem to hear it; he walked on with quick firm step till he reached the counting room, where the owners of the establishment were arranging their accounts. He paused then and a look of shame and degradation stole over that face which nature had made noble and handsome, as the blue eyes of the senior partner were fixed on his countenance.

"Why are you here again? I have told you already we cannot employ you!" There was pity in the old gentleman's tone, but his voice was firm. "If you would promise what we require there is no one we would sooner trust!"

"I will promise," said the man quickly; "I will sign the pledge, Mr. Compton."

The old gentleman drew forth from his desk a paper, on which was a list of names, which his own and those of his partner headed; the name of every man in his employ was there. The man took the paper, and in large hold characters, added his name to the list, while Mr. Compton looked over his shoulder.

"George, you will never break that pledge, there is something in your look and manner which assures me of it. Take this," and drawing from his pocket-book a small roll of bills he placed them in the man's hand—"and get you some clothing;" and when the man, who could only grasp with fervor the hand so kindly extended toward him, left the room, he added, addressing his partner, "I will be surety for him. He is a reclaimed man."

Half an hour afterwards, the individual stood again at the door of the widow Burgess.

He had approached the dwelling with a more cautious tread than before, but perhaps the sound of his step reached her, for as he stood on the threshold she came to the window, and lifting the curtain, looked out into the street. She did not observe him, but he obtained a glimpse of her face and figure. That tall, delicate form, that white brow and that raven hair—it was she! and as she again let fall the curtain, he pushed open the unbarred door and stepped within the apartment.

The widow was startled; she raised her head suddenly, for it had bowed over her sleeping child, but she uttered no shriek. There was something in that figure which stood before her, and which she recognized as the same who two hours before had solicited her charity—that held her silent and spell bound. Did her eyes deceive her or was she dreaming?

The man pushed his hat from his head and brushed the hair from his high, broad brow; and then he sank on one knee before the lady, and murmured in broken tones:

"Annot, can you forgive me, and will you be mine again?"

The widow, Mrs. Burgess, was no longer a widow, for it was her husband who was kneeling before her, the report of his death which had reached her years before, was unfounded—Mrs. Burgess wound her arms around her repentant husband and pressed her lips to his.

"Do you see how wretched I am?" asked the man, striving to check her caress. "Do you know that for my base desertion the law will release you from me?"

But the wife drew him to the couch of their sleeping child and whispered—"Dear George, my heart tells me, and your countenance confirms it, there is more happiness in store for us than we have ever yet known."

The little Annot awoke, but her half-opened eyes saw only her mother.

"A happy New Year, dear mamma!" she said, extending her arms. "It is morning is it not? and you will go out and buy me the pretty present. Oh, you have got it already, mamma, you look so pleased."

"Yes, here is your present, darling!" exclaimed the mother, putting the child in the arms of her husband. "Yes, here it is—good, dear father, the same I told you of so often!"

The child opened her eyes in wonder, but the father kissed so fondly the little face, neck, and hands, and her mother looked so happy, that she at length put her arms around his neck and whispered, "I thought it would bring me something very good, because I wrote my name on it."

"Yes, yes," said her father, "it was your name which brought me here!"

Five years have passed away. Mrs. Burgess no longer occupies a single room in a dirty alley. She resides in a handsome tenement in a respectable part of the city, and she is so happy now that she is fast forgetting the sorrowful past. It is doubtful, however, if it is ever quite obliterated from her memory, for in a beautiful vase which occupies a conspicuous place in her parlor, lies an old silver coin, on whose smooth face the name of her eldest child is rudely scratched, and her husband, now a partner in the firm of which Mr. Compton is still the senior, points almost daily to the bit of silver which he called the widow's mite, and blesses the hand which bestowed the pittance on the poor inebriate.

## WALKING.

FEET were made for use, and yet immense numbers of sensible people seem to think walking on them is a hardship. Those who ride in carriages habitually have degenerated limbs. The muscles become attenuated in consequence of not being constantly active.—Rope dancers, horseback riders, and indeed all who use their legs as they were designed to be, have them finely developed. The more they are exercised the stronger and more symmetrical they become. But another great gain results from walking more than when one rides. It brings into harmonious play the whole muscular cordage of the body. A healthy condition of all the internal organs follows, and the secretions are admirably conducted by pedal extremities. It is a pleasant condition of eminent civilization to ride any way, but particularly luxurious to bound off in one's own soft-cushioned carriage; but there is a penalty positively following too much comfort of that kind. Digestion becomes impaired, the legs diminish in size, and the individual who rides when he can, and rarely walks, is soon weary when the attempt is made. Longevity is the compensation for free outdoor walking, without much reference to weather, when business or duty requires it. We were created for use, not altogether for ornament.

NEW JERSEY is under a high state of cultivation. About one-fourth of the value of the yearly crops, say five million dollars, is spent for fertilizers. The State is fortunate in having a great bed of marl, ninety miles long and eight wide, which is "the best fertilizer in the market." In round numbers there are four million acres of land within the State limits, one-third of which is not in cultivation. This unoccupied land was pronounced quite equal to that on the Delaware, which has been called the garden of the United States. Her zinc mines are the richest in the world. Besides, there are mines of copper and manganese. The State has also a great deal of latent wealth in her unused water-power. The Delaware River falls four hundred feet between Port Jervis and Trenton. This is a greater driving power than that of the Merrimack at Lowell.

# General Miscellany.

## ABOUT DOGS—THE DIFFERENT VARIETIES.

Few persons are aware of the value and variety of dogs, varying as they do in weight from 180 pounds to less than one pound, and in value from about $500 to less than nothing. A description of the different varieties may not be uninteresting:

The Siberian bloodhound weighs about 160 pounds, and measures 40 inches in girth, and is worth nearly $500.

The St. Bernard dog, which is of a buff or light lead color, is very large and valuable.

The Newfoundland dog, when pure, is entirely black, and its pups are worth from $10 to $20.

The shepherd dog, or Scotch colly, is wonderful for its patience, fidelity and bravery. It is worth from $50 to $100.

The English mastiff, a good watch dog, is worth from $15 to $25.

Of terriers, the black and tan is most admired. It varies in weight from 1 pound to 25 pounds, and increases in value as it decreases in weight. A member of the bar in this city has one which weighs less than a pound, and is the smallest we have ever seen. It could not be bought for $150. Terriers are often crossed with the Italian grayhound, producing a very delicate but extremely useless dog. The Scotch terrier is the hardiest of dogs, is very courageous, and is worth from $10 to $30.

The Scotch deerhound is the rarest and most valuable of hunting dogs. They are very rare, and are owned principally by the nobility of England. They are worth $100 each.

The beagle is the smallest of the hound kind, of superior scent and endurance, and is the best sort of a rabbit hunter.

English greyhounds, the fleetest of dogs, are worth from $25 to $100 each. The Italian grayhound is merely a parlor dog. The pure breed is rare and valuable, a fine one being worth $150.

There is a great variety of pointers, setters and spaniels. The Prince Charles variety is the most valuable of spaniels. He is supposed to have originated in Japan, where a similar breed exists. He has a round head, short nose, long, curly ears, large, full eyes, black and tan color, and never weighs over ten pounds. They have been sold at auction in England at $2000 each. The coach dog is from Denmark, and is not of much value.—*Phila. Ledger.*

---

Experiments in the propagation of shad, now being made at Holyoke, Mass., are attracting considerable attention from the lovers of pisciculture. The experimentalist, according to the Rochester Union, "takes the spawn of from fifty to one hundred and twenty shad every night. Each shad produces about one hundred thousand eggs. He has succeeded in hatching ninety per cent. of the spawn. From one hundred shad handled each night he brings out nine millions of little shad. He states that the egg shows the form of the fish in twelve hours, shows life in thirty-three hours, and is batched in fifty hours, in water at a temperature of 76 degrees." At this rate of multiplication all our rivers may be stocked with valuable fish in a short time, and at comparatively little expense. There seems to be no doubt of the success of the experiment.

---

Human Affairs are like husbandry. They have their sowing, and seeming burial, and death. They have their germination, and resurrection, and growth-struggle. And then, in some strange year with unlooked-for haste, affairs that long have dragged culminate, and in a twelve-month more is gained than has been gained before in a century, apparently. We forget that all the years are one process, and that the end is part of the beginning, and of the immediate stages. Providence, like Nature, hides its work. The leaven pervades the batch. It has done its work before you know that it is working.

---

Over twenty-one millions of dollars are spent every year by the Parisians in restaurants.

## CROP PROSPECTS.

In Tennesee, the hearts of the farmers are made glad by a prospect of most bountiful crops; and cotton and corn are luxuriant.

The army worm, that terrible enemy of the cotton crop, has begun its ravages in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The Denver Tribune reports crops looking finely in Colorado, although grasshoppers have done considerable damage and rain is needed.

In Ohio, the splendid weather of the past two weeks has rapidly matured the wheat, and saved it from the insects. There is a grand report of wheat, corn and oats, from the larger portion of the State. The wool crop is estimated at ten millions of pounds.

The "Veteran Observer" of the New York Times thinks the absolute money value of the crops this year will be four hundred millions of dollars greater than in 1866.

---

Coal Ash.—The ashes of coal are by no means as valuable as those of wood, and the chemical analysis shows that they are very deficient in the phosphates and alkalies so useful for manures. They contain an abundance of calcined clay, with oxides and sulphides of iron, magnesia and lime. Notwithstanding this, they have been found very effective as fertilizers for certain clayish soils, making these soils lighter, more porous and easier to work; but the coal must be applied in sufficient quantities. Coal ash is better still in moist but not marshy grounds, principally when mixed with some slacked lime. The quantity of coal ash required is about fifteen to twenty cubic yards per acre, and experience has proved in Europe that coal ashes give much better results than a chemical analysis would indicate. They appear to have an absorbed power for nitrogen, and the sulphur and iron they contain are valuable as fertilizers.

---

Dropping a False Tongue.—Mr. Edward Hotchkiss, of Smithfield, has left at this office a colt's tongue, a false tongue, which was dropped by a colt of his, a few days since. It is the second instance of the kind that has happened on Mr. Hotchkiss's farm. Can any of our readers tell us why a colt should have a false tongue?

---

# Special Notices.



---

# Marriages.

In Bellingham, Mass., 22d inst., by Rev. J. T. Massey, Mr. James A. Joslin to Miss Lydia L. Parker, both of Woonsocket.

In Manchester, N. H., 15th inst., Mr. Hial C. Gove, of Slatersville, R. I., to Miss M. Jennie Brown, of Weare, N. H.

In Pawtucket, 15th inst., by Rev. Francis Smith, assisted by Rev. Charles E. Smith, Mr. Charles P. Davis to Miss Ellen Hands, all of P.

---

# Deaths.

In Smithfield, 22d inst., Lewis Dexter, in the 74th year of his age.

In New Boston, Ct., 14th inst., of consumption, Nellie M., only child of Rufus F. Young, aged 23 years, 2 months and 7 days.

In Quidneck, 22d inst., Mr. Horace F. Briggs, in the 53d year of his age.

At Riverpoint, 23d inst., Genella E., daughter of Benjamin and Maria Pierce, aged 13 years, 3 months and 28 days.

In Johnston, 18th inst., very suddenly, Mrs. Marcy Waterman, wife of the late John Waterman, 2d, in the 80th year of her age.

In North Providence, 17th inst., of consumption, William Henry, son of Elizabeth and the late John Royle, aged 23 years and 4 months.

In Fall River, 21st inst., John Bennett, aged 47 years; 29th, William Murphy, aged 38 years.

In Milford, 12th inst., Elizabeth, wife of David Buffington, aged 44 years, 4 months and 6 days.

In Hopkinton, 12th inst., Mr. Abraham Ellery, aged 70 years.

In Taunton, 21st inst., Mrs. Sarah L., widow of the late Dan Wilmarth, aged 78 years; Mrs. Leah Watson, aged 50 years; 22d, Mrs. Lydia Maria, wife of Mr. B. Henry Walker, aged 36 years.

In Webster, 16th inst., Mary Lizzie, daughter of Rev. E. S. and Lizzie C. Best, aged 1 year, 6 months and 20 days.

In Dudley, 15th inst., of consumption, Mrs. Harriet A., wife of J. Q. A. Johnson, aged 38 years.

In Foster, 10th inst., Dean Burgess, aged 63 years.

In Putnam, 12th inst., Annie L. Barr, aged 3 years, 9 months and 2 days.

At East Thompson, 17th inst., Matilda, wife of Jonathan Richardson, aged 74 years, 3 months and 3 days.

The wheat crop of Mississippi is now being harvested. The yield is large.

---

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending July 25, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6@9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 14c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $10 00@12 00 | Potatoes | 1.10 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.00 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $18, 19 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 20 | Molasses ₩ gal | 60a90c |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 20 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 64c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 22c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 35c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 35c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 25a50c | Lard ₩ lb | 16ac18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 25a30c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 20a28c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 18c |

## BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

July 23, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1668; Sheep and Lambs 2200. Swine, 600. Western cattle, 1659; Eastern cattle, 4; Working oxen and Northern cattle, —. Cattle left over from last week, —.

Prices. Beef Cattle—Extra, $13.50@$14.00; first quality, $13.00@$13.25; second quality, $12.50@$12.75; third quality, $12.00@$12.25 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 9½@10c ₩ lb. Country Tallow, 7@7¾c ₩ lb.

Brighton Hides, 9½@10 cts. ₩ lb; Brighton Tallow, 8@8½c ₩ lb.

Lamb Skins, 50a62c each; Clipped Skins, 25@37.

Calf Skins, 20@25c ₩ lb. Sheared Sheep Skins, —c each.

Working Oxen—We quote prices at $150a325 per pair.

Milch Cows—Sales extra at $55a100; ordinary $60@$80.—Store Cows $43a55 per head

Sheep and Lambs.—The trade is quicker than it has been some weeks. We quote sales of Lambs at from $3.00 to $4.00 per head; Spring Lambs, 350a 500.

Fat Hogs—500 at market; prices, 7½@7¾c. per lb.

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

The flour market is irregular. Western is lower, except for choice family extras, which are scarce and firm. State is less active and heavy, without quotable change in prices.

Sales at $7.00a8.20 for superfine state; $8.25a11.70 for extra state; $8.95a10.80 for the low grades of spring wheat western extra; $9.65a10.90 for shipping Ohio; $11.30a13.20 for trade and family brands of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, and $13.25a19 for St. Louis extras.

California flour is firmer and fairly active; sales of packages at $1,320a1,550, the latter rate for choice.

Canadian flour is inactive and nominal at $10a11.75 for the low grades of extra, and $12a14 for trade and family brands.

Southern flour is more active. Sales at $9.00a11.50 for common to fair Baltimore and country extras, and $11.60a17 for trade and family brands.

Rye flour is unchanged. Corn meal is quiet. Sales at $5.40 for city, $5.85 for Fairfax and $6.10 for Brandywine.

Grain—The wheat market is 3a10c. lower, the decline being most marked on new. The receipts are larger and the demand moderate and confined to millers.

Sales $2 25 for good No. 2 Milwaukee club; $2 82½ for white California; $2 80 for white Southern; $2 60 a 2 72½ for amber Georgia.

Oats are strong with a good inquiry. Sales Ohio at 92 a 93½ cts., old Western at 82c, and new do. at 83 a 85c; State at 91½ cents in store.

Rye is steady but quiet. Sales Western at $1 45a1 47; Canadian at $1 53 a 1 55.

Corn opened lower, owing to the large arrivals, but before the close choice improved about ½c per bushel, while common closed dull and heavy.

## WOOL MARKET.

Wool.—The market, as we had noticed for some time past, continues dull and prices are weak and unsettled: small sales are making at 31 @ 35c. for unwashed, and 50@55c. ₩ lb. for fine, according to quality.

---

# Advertising Department.

## Rhode Island.



Envy and Courage.—The envy that grudges the successes for which it lacks the courage to contend was well rebuked by the French Marshal Lefevre. One of his friends, expressing the most unbounded admiration at his magnificent mansion, exclaimed at the end of every phrase, "How fortunate you are!" "I see you envy me," said the Marshal. "But come, you shall have all that I possess at a much cheaper rate than I myself paid for it; step into the court-yard. You shall let me fire twenty musket shots at you at the distance of thirty paces, and if I fail to bring you down, all that I have is yours. Before I reached my present eminence I was obliged to stand more than a thousand musket shots; and by my faith, those who pulled the triggers were nothing like thirty paces from me."

# Farming Miscellany.

## HIGH vs. LOW BARNS.

The introduction of the horse-fork for pitching off hay not only enahles the farmer to save time in handling, but makes high harns both convenient and desirable. The argument for the prevailing custom of building low barns, was hased on the inconvenience of pitching higher than could be reached with the hand-fork. It was readily admitted that a harn with fourteen or sixteen feet posts would not hold as much in proportion to heigbt as with twenty to thirty feet posts. Hay in the mow settles in proportion to height or pressure. A barn with twenty four feet posts will bave as much capacity over a stahle eight feet higb as one having only sixteen feet posts without auy stable. The higb barn also gives abnudant room for graiu, after settling, when filled to the ridge with hay; hesides, hay will come out sweeter from a high than a low mow. The gases aud moisture from a mow of hay pass off at the top, and if any is injured it will generally be found at the top. Height also improves ventilation for auimals stabled. Snow will lodge less on a high than a low roof. And lastly, a bigb barn is much cheaper in proportion to its capacity. The foundatiou aud roof cost the same. The only additon in the expense is in length of posts, boards, one tier of girts and a few nails. The iucrease of labor is very little. But the increase in capacity is at least sixty per cent., wbile the expense does not exceed ten per cent.

But we hear some one say, "the roof will blow off, and the barn very likely blow down." The roof may, perhaps, be exposed to a little stronger wind hy the elevation, but with a little atteution to the manner in which wind lifts off roofs, a remedy will be found. Roofs, wheu blown off, part at the ridge and sometimes fall both ways, but do not raise at the eaves and end over. Without observiug this fact, harn-builders sometimes anchor the foot of the rafter, leaving the ridge without security. It only requires each pair of rafters to be collar-beamed under the ridge to render the roof secure against any wind not strong enough to carry off the barn hodily. The foot of the rafter may be anchored also, but this is of less consequence. It is necessary to prevent the barn racking with a strong wind, to put in a pair of long braces on each end, reaehiug from the sill near each corner post to the top of the center post. A four by twelve inch joist will give the reqnisite stiffness. If the harn is long, a pair should also be placed in the center hent. The long braces will hold the barn more securely than all the small braces. We have a barn with twenty feet posts, standing on a wall seven feet high, presenting a broad side twenty-seven feet high and eighty-four feet long to the wind, wbich has withstood mauy gales that have blown off roofs from small, low barns in the vicinity.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Economy of Mowing Machines.—A gentleman of expcrience gives as his opinion that a good mowing machine will save a farmer, upon an avcrage, one-eighth of his crop of grass, aside from the fact tbat "haying is done" much sooner, and thereby a great saving must be made. He says the average height of grass is about sixteen inches, and that a machine mows, upon an average, two inches closer than the scythe, thus saving two inches of grass over the whole surface. If a man cuts forty tons of hay with a mowiug machine, he saves five tons of hay, as he would have got but tbirty-five tons witb the scythe. Calling hay worth, upon the average, $8 per ton, there is a saviug of $40 a year in bay, to say nothing of labor.—*Vermont Farmer.*

The Potato Bug.—Pulverized charcoal, sprinkled on and about potato vines, will prevent the pugs eating them—so it is said; and here is another remedy: "Take eqnal parts of eommon salt and sulphur, mix them well together, and sprinkle about a teaspoonful of the mixture on each vine."

## SETTING FENCE POSTS.

Fence posts may be set expeditiously by pntting up two stakes and plowing a furrow on the line where the fence is to staud. Theu stretch a line, and with a rod as long as the distauce you wish betweeu the posts, mark off along the line and stick a little stake at the center, where every bole is to be made, spade up a circle around these stakes, digging the hole large enough to admit the rammer freely about the post where it is set. The earth should be put ahout the post a little at a time aud rammed down alike, care beiug taken that the bottoms of the posts are made firm.

If the earth about the posts is raised a little above the level of the ground, it will operate advantageously in keeping the posts from becoming loose. When the ground is soft and of suitable character, the lahor of setting posts is often lessened hy driving them in the bottom of the holes after they have heen dug a couple of feet deep. If they can be driven down with a maul in this way, a foot, they will be sufficiently deep, and will be very firm.

Smeariug the lower part of posts with potash or coal tar, is an excellent and cheap preservation. They render the timber durahle, hy excluding moisture. Some say that reversing the post when settiug it, or placing the top end of the wood in the ground, renders it more durahle. But this question is not settled, as others affirm that a post so set, decays sooner.

In soils that are apt to throw the posts out of their place by the action of frosts, a remedy against their beaving out in Winter is to bore a hole through the post near the bottom and drive in a hard wood pin, so that it will project on either side. Then in setting the post, hy placing a stone on each end of the hin and ramming the earth firmly down about it, will hold it in positiou. A notch is sometimes cut in the post near the hottom and stones fitted against it, for the same purpose. Either way is a very good remedy for heaving of posts by frosts.—*Utica Herald.*

A Crusade against Ground Squirrels.—The Sacramento *Bee* is declaiming in genuine Peter-the-Hermit style against the ground squirrels and gophers of California. It asserts that in the Alameda and Santa Clara valleys the farmers have actually heen driven by these little pests from some of their best lands; that after the grain has been reaped and shocked it is not at all nnusual to see from two to three hundred of them running about in a single field; that their settlements, like those of the prairie-dog, extend for miles, each burrow sheltering from one to six inmates; and that it would hardly he an exaggeration to say that they eat one-fourth of the annual wheat crop. It calls upon the State Agricultural Society to offer at once a liberal reward for the best and cheapest method of extermination.

The failure of the rice crop in South Carolina appears to be beyond a doubt. A Charleston paper says: "The reports from the various districts are very gloomy. The rivers have risen to a great height in consequence of the recent floods. The local rains were sufficient to do considerable damage in swelling them, and we understand they have been steadily rising from the immense fall of water in the up-country. The rice crop of the up-river planters is completely drowned out, and the greatest gloom and despondency prevail." Rice, next to cottou, has been the great staple of the South, and the limited area and conditions for its cultivation, make its failnre peculiarly nnfortunate. East Indian rice is largely imported, but its quality is inferior to that of the Carolinas.

Honey from Buckwheat.—A German writer estimates that an acre of buckwheat yielded fourteen pounds of honey daily. Single hives gathered three pounds on favorable days.

The annual wool product of Indiana is valued at $6,000,000.

# Advertising Department.

## Pennsylvania.



## New York.



## New Jersey.



## Massachusetts.



## Rhode Island.



### TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the Farm and Fireside. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a uniform style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

### COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the Farm and Fireside may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

### IN MONTHLY PARTS.

Hereafter the Farm and Fireside can be had in Monthly Parts, in neat covers, at twenty-five cents each. Those for January, February, March and April are now ready. For sale by all newsmen. Bound at the close of the year they will form a neat and attractive volume.

# Farm And Fireside.

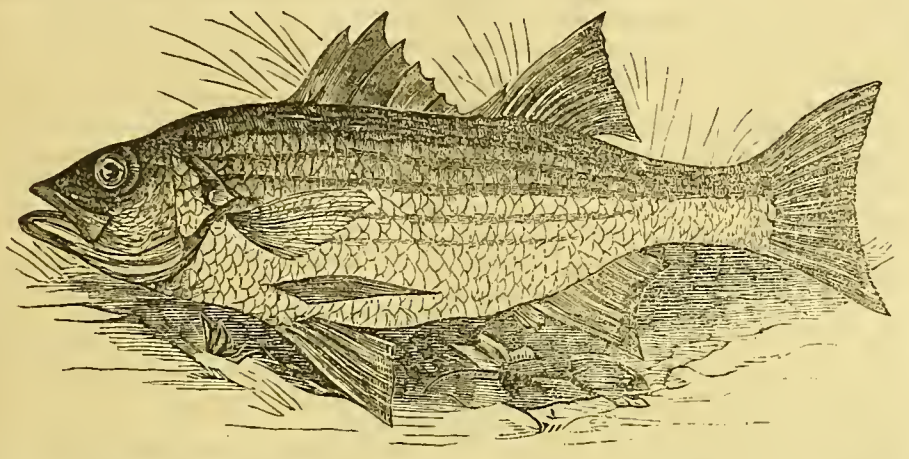
A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1867. NO. 30.

### THE STRIPED BASS, OR ROCK FISH.

ABOVE we present an engraving of the Striped Bass, a fish known in almost every region of the globe, and found in abundance in the waters of North America—frequenting the rivers, bays and lagoons from the Capes of Florida to the head of the St. Lawrence.

The run of the Striped Bass is quite singular. As soon as shad, herring and smelt enter the mouths of our rivers and estuaries, the Bass immediately follow them. In the Penobscot, Connecticut and Delaware rivers, they commence ascending in March; pushing up to the cool spring waters near their origin. The favorite haunts of this fish are stony, rocky reefs, old piers and dams. In such localities we have often taken them with a gaudy fly; although shad-roe is the most fatal bait. They are bold, free biters, and when they take the bait do it with avidity. When they find themselves hooked, unlike the trout and salmon, they do not leap from the water, but swim off with great velocity.

Frank Forester says this species of Bass do not go up our rivers to spawn, but simply to obtain food. They are very destructive to shad-spawn, and are always found in streams in which shad deposit their roe. About the first of July the Bass descend our rivers, and from that time till Autumn frequent the bays along the Atlantic coast. Sometimes in late Autumn, often after October, they take another run up the rivers, but for what purpose, we know not. A friend living on the head waters of the Delaware, says he has caught them as late as November first, and that they were remarkably fat and well conditioned at that period. In the Winter these fish retire to the deep, still coves at the mouths of rivers and estuaries, where they lurk until Spring. The Sea Bass, which is of the same order and family, is purely a sea-fish, never entering our rivers, but frequenting the bays and outer bars of the coast from Florida to New Foundland—in fact, their geographical range is around the entire globe.

---

FARMERS in Wisconsin say that before the end of the present year wheat will be selling in that State for fifty cents per bushel. But what will that amount to if it requires $2 per bushel to bring wheat to the coast?

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

### FARM NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR AUGUST.

ALTHOUGH the farmer is never at loss for immediate work, yet there are times in the season when there is a little "let up;" the great work of the season being accomplished; such is now, it is to be hoped, the case when the farmer has a brief respite from severe toil. The hot strife upon the hay and grain field has been accomplished, and the husbandman has borne the abundant products in triumph to the storehouse. If any are entitled to a relaxation of strained nerves and energies, the farmer certainly is, and should enjoy himself by a brief season of rest and recreation. As a general thing farmers as a class, although surrounded by the most favorable conditions for enjoyment in life, are the last to improve, or take full advantage thereof. It is without any question an unwise course, this constant universal strife for acquiring, without recreation and relaxation. Occasionally we find a farmer whose countenance is open, beaming with sunshine, showing that the mind within is appreciative of life and its surroundings; and that recreation and enjoyment are mingled with his labors. A constant tension of the string finally wears out the elasticity of the bow; so also, all work without recreation we think may be found, in a great measure, the reason why farming is held in the low estimate it has been, and why so many of our young men have shown that eagerness to leave the farm for other occupations. Home has lost its attractions from having been the center of constant toil and money making; recreation and pleasure being considered entirely an outside matter, foreign to the *one* object of life. Let us then in these seasons of toil, enjoy ourselves by some light recreation wherein all can participate, the old and young; let the old renew their age in the enjoyment of the young; make home attractive by adding to its enjoyments, lightening toil by seasons of relaxation, excursions, family visits, &c. A single day's recreation will furnish pleasant memories for weeks or months, and be like a fountain spreading its spray over the beaten track of every day life. Another means of enjoyment, which is taken too little advantage of is, that of eating; our food should be in the highest measure enjoyable, and in the culture of simple tastes the greater the variety we have the better; this shows us the advantage and duty of having a good vegetable and fruit garden, where we can have a constant succession and variety from early Summer till Summer comes again; prolonged and seasoned products of the field, dairy, flock, &c.—During this season of comparative relaxation and leisure, our attention may be profitably occupied till Fall-sowing, with making improvements, such as repairing buildings, ready for Winter; draining, getting out muck, and all other little jobs, which in the hurry and busy season have been accumulating and neglected. Needed purchases of stock can now be made, or sales effected where desirable.

Buildings where grain and hay are stored should be examined to see that ventilation is sufficient to carry off all foul or close air; also that too much dampness is not admitted. Good stables or shelter for stock in Winter go far towards saving fodder, and keeping stock thriving and comfortable; warm ones, covered with straw, may be made if more expensive ones are impracticable.

*Bees.*—In the vicinity where buckwheat is grown, honey will begin to be collected therefrom by the middle of the month, or before; boxes filled, or partly filled with clover, should be removed previous to buckwheat honey being collected, as the latter is much darker and will detract from the saleable value of the former. Destroy moths by furnishing dishes of sweetened water to trap them in.—Keep the under side of the hives free from dust and filth where the colonies are weak; these may be strengthened and benefited, where the movable comb hive is used, by giving them a comb filled with sealed brood from a strong colony.

*Butter.*—See that all the appliances, &c., in butter making, from the milking of the cows to the marketing or packing down of the butter, are scrupulously clean and neat. Keep the cows from being worried or heat, as it affects the milk and butter more than one would naturally think. Churn with a gentle, constant agitation till the butter comes, drain off the butter milk and work the butter free of milk, and salt to taste; do not wash the butter, as it is unnecessary where the cream and milk have been kept cool, and the washing injures the quality and flavor of the butter. Salt with fine ground rock salt, and after cooling work into shape and make ready for market, or pack in clean sweet tubs, to be kept in a cool cellar for use or sale.

*Corn.*—Early varieties will furnish supplies for the table, while the surplus may be dried or canned for Winter use. Many are unsuccessful in canning for want of proper cooking; they either cook too much or not enough.—The best way is to boil about 15 minutes on the cob, shell it and partly dry and salt it, then put in tin cans with a small quantity of water, solder tight, except a small vent, and then boil 40 to 50 minutes, when the can is soldered perfectly air tight while hot. Pull out or cut all weeds from the main crop.

*Draining.*—The dry season is found the most appropriate, and that usually at this time of the year. The advantages to be derived from draining have been in part set forth in this journal heretofore, and cannot be entered into in these notes. Try a small spot of wet unprofitable ground, if only by making open or surface drains, and see the effect. Underdraining will show to the best advantage the good effects of draining.

*Fences.*—The great expense of erecting and keeping in repair fences, will teach us to economise as much as possible in the arrangement of our fields, and of looking after the smallest break before it becomes large. Keep the corners and sides free from bushes or rank weeds.—Good feeling and kindness is engendered by keeping all division and road side fences in good repair as well as much vexatious litigation prevented.

*Manure.*—The farmer never can provide too much. Save all by yarding the cattle and stock nights, scraping and placing under cover mixed with good muck, loam, or sods. Provide a sufficient quantity of peat, muck, &c., to use in the stables, and mix with the manure made next Winter. Keep the hog pen supplied and the hogs at work; they are fond of rooting; give them a chance to help you and please themselves by working over materials supplied for manure.

*Meadows.*—Now is a good time to top-dress with fine manure, giving a protection to the grass roots from a burning sun, and furnishing a stimulus to start a good aftermath. Millet is better for feeding, cut before the seed is ripe; cut as soon as the seed begins to form, or before even, if you would have a safe, good feed, after curing.

*Pastures.*—Remove all rank weeds, bushes, &c., by cutting close to the roots, or digging and pulling by the roots. Prolong and save the feed by feeding green corn stalks, or other green fodder; especially should milch cows have one or two feeds a day, as soon as the pastures begin to grow short.

*Swine.*—Keep them growing and thriving by good feed, so that at the beginning of cold weather they will answer for the knife; it takes much less feed to make the same amount of flesh when kept thriving and in warm weather, than when allowed to get a stand-still till cold weather. Early made pork is usually the most saleable at satisfactory prices. But the great source of profit in the Eastern States, from hogs, is in the manure they will help make when judiciously cared for.

*Tobacco.*—Encourage its growth early in the month by hoeing and keeping the ground loose and clean of weeds. When the plants have pretty generally run up and show blossom, top to where the leaves are about six inches in breadth, which will induce the growth of the leaves in size, and also the sending out of suckers at the axis of the leaves; all these should be kept broken off as fast as they may make a growth sufficient to be taken hold of by the thumb and fingers. Keep the green worms off by close hand picking. Be careful not to injure the leaves in any way.

*Winter Grain.*—Prepare the ground for early sowing by thorough plowing and fining the soil; giving a dressing of manure or commercial fertilizer where needed. H.



R. I. Soc. for Enc. Domestic Industry

## THE REVELATIONS OF VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY.—NO. ONE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY HON. JAMES W. WALL, NEW JERSEY.

When you examine the world in which you live, you find it divided into organic and inorganic substances. The first have life, the second have none. Auimals and plants constitute the first; and stones, water and earth the latter. The peculiar characteristic of the first is, that they are in possession of organs, and all these organs possess different functions—while the latter have none, and are only an homogenous mass. Hence the appellation organic and inorganic. All organic bodies have their origin from previously organized bodies, and tbat organization is kept up by a constant assimilation and appropriation from surrounding matter, until death. This is alike true of animals as well as plants. Animals constantly increase in size, and animals keep up their bulk, although daily castiug from them a large part of their structure, and both are constantly receiving fresh supplies of these elements. The sap of the vegetable then, as well as the blood of the animal, must receive fresh supplies of all these elements—the vegetable takes this in by means of the roots and leaves—the animal by the mouth and lungs, and all this food must be drawn in the case of the vegetable from the iuorganic world, and in that of the aniual from the organic. Directly or indirectly, every created being originated from, and also returns to, the inorganic world. Plants then derive their sustenance either from the soil, or from the atmosphere. Originally there was no soil, and the earth, or rather the solid surface of the earth, was a collection of various hard rocks which were combinations in different proportions of the various elemeutary bodies. If at the present day we remove the soil we come to these same hard rocks. If the surface of any of these be exposed to the air, particularly if moisture be also present, its elements form unions with the oxygen present in the air and water, and instead of a hard surface, a crumbling mass is produced. This happened to the rocky surface of the young world, and was the first step in the formation of soil. Geology revcals to the intelligent husbandman, that the solid earth whose surface he tills, which bears upon its stalwart breast the cyclopean masonry of the granite and limestone mouutains, was once held in aqueous solution, and its substance as impressible as the sand from which the ocean wave has just retired. She points him to the delicate markings, the footprints and impressions hardeued into the solid rock, as proof of this once soluble conditiou of the surface of the earth. Sbe huilds up for him the great globe itself by a regular succession and continuity of strata, each presenting its own particular organisms, establishing the important fact that there has been a systematic and progressive succession of life in the ancient world. Geology sbows this earth with its huge mass, resting on its primary strata, where the granite and the gneis, the limestone and the slate have their beds. It points to the transition period, when tropical vegetation under influence of tropical heat gave birth to the ancient flora of the earth, rank and luxuriant, wi.ose decay accumulated the vast amount of carbonaceous matter uow ministering so much to the comfort, convenience and prosperity of man.

Those immense coal deposits, out of whose subterraneous treasure houses come the substance that enlivens our hearthstones, prepares our food, furnishes light for our dwellings, and is fast becoming the essential agent of steam, upon which modern locomotion, the increasing value of the products of our farms and manufactures so much depend. With unerring certainty geology teaches the agriculturist; these rocks whose disintegration thus lays the foundation for a soil, consist of sandstones, limestones or clays—that, is rocks in which silicon, calcium, or aluminum respectively preponderate. If a soil consist principally of the first, it is called a sandy soil; if of the second, a calcareous; and if of the third, a clayey. A mixture of sand and clay, with a small portion of lime, is called a loam; aud a clayey soil with much lime, a calcareous clay. These rocks also contain, though in smaller quantity, other elementary bodies—as magnesia, iron, potasium, sodium, chlorine, sulphur, phosphorus, &c. These are oxidated, form combinations, and are mixed up with the crumbling mass. That the earths which constitute the basis of soils, and form the ground work of agriculture, were derived from the original primary rocks beneath, is so apparent that no one seriously thinks of controverting it as a fact. The repeated changes and disintegration large masses of them have been subjected to since that time, have so mingled the original constituents, as to destroy in a great degree, their original character, while at the same time they are much better fitted for the purposes of the agriculturist, than they could otherwise have been.

Here, then, a rudimentary soil is formed, which from its mechanical conditiou can allow the roots of a plant to penetrate it and fix in it; and which from its chemical constitution can supply plants with their inorganic elements. Plants are then placed in this rudimentary soil, and their roots take up the lime, sulphur, phosphorus, &c., which they require for their structure. Then their leaves obtain carhon from the atmosphere, and fix it in their structure. From the atmosphere also, and from water, they obtain a supply of oxygeu and hydrogen.

## CHEWING THE CUD.

Ruminating animals gather their food rapidly, give it a few cuts with the teeth and swallow it. It goes to an interior receptacle where it is moistened. This is very essential if it be dry hay. When the animal has filled himself, he masticates the food thus stored away in his stomach, raising it cud hy cud. When a portion is completely masticated it passes to another receptacle aud the process of digestion goes on. Tuus an ox, if left to himself, will raise and masticate all his food thus stored away in his stomach. If he be pushed aud worked hard, and does not have time to masticate, he falls off in flesh, his health is poor, his digestion is incomplete. The horse, on the contrary, however much in a hurry he may be, must masticate each mouthful beforc he swallows it. A hungry ox, let into a meadow, will fill himself in twenty minutes, while a horse would want at least an hour and twenty minutes to take the same amount of grass. The ox, the deer, sheep, goat, chamois aud rabbit, heing the natural prey of ferocious beasts, are endowed with the extra stomach in which to hastily storc away the food without mastication; this perhaps may he regarded as a wise provisiou of nature, enabling them to sally forth where the food is plenty, and in a short time fill themselves and retire to ruminate their food at their leisure.

Blackberry Wine .—The Dayton (Ohio) Journal prints the following rules for making blackberry wine:

Measure your berries and hruise them; to every gallon add one quart of water. Let the mixture stand twenty-four hours, stirring occasionally; then strain off the liquor into a cask, to every gallon adding two pounds of sugar; cork tight, and let it stand to the following October, and you will have wine ready for use, without further straining or boiling.

If sheep are kept in the same lot with cows or fat cattle, no dog will disturb them. As soon as the dogs approach the sheep, they run to the cattle, who drive off the dogs. A farmer for thirty years, by adopting this plan, never lost a sheep by dogs, although in the same night the same dogs killed sheep in the farms North and South of him.

We saw a venerable looking cow yesterday, says the Cincinnati Herald, eating pine sawdust, under the impression that it was bran. She didn't find out her mistake until night, when it was found that she gave turpentine instead of milk.

## SCIENCE IN THE DAIRY.

There are many dairymen who persist in thinking it a foolish whim, that the milk last drawn from the udder of a cow contains more cream than the first obtained. Yet careful analysis have fully proven the correctness of the assumption. Schubler says the milk last drawn contains three times as much cream as that first procured. Dr. Andersou, in "Dickerson's Practical Agriculture," asserts tbat he found, by actual analysis, in one instance, that the last cup of milk drawn from the udder contained *sixteen* times as much cream as the first cup. The separation of cream from the milk takes place, in part, in the udder of the cow, particularly if the cow is suffered to stand at rest for some time previous to milking.

The exercise required of a cow that is driven a considerable distance, just before milked, causes an increased play of her respiratory organs. The excess of oxygen thus respired unites with a portion of the butter, of which the cream is largely composed, and consumes it. The same is the case when a cow is harrassed, or in any way seriously annoyed, just previous to being milked. It should be a great care of all dairy farmers, to keep their cows as free as possible from every kind of annoyance, and thus prevent them from inhaling an excess of oxygen.

The animal heat evolved in the consumption of an excess of oxygen, more than is sufficient to act properly on the blood, besides destroying the cream, also decreases the volume of milk, and elevates the temperature of the same to such an extent that acetous fermentation is induced, which cannot be arrested even after the milk is taken from the cow; hence the milk is diminished in richness, and speedily bccomes sour. For the above reasons, stall-fed cows, as a geueral thing, give richer milk than those suffered to run in the fields. For tbe same reason, morning's milk is richer than night's milk. The quietness of night is favorable to the formation and preservation of cream. Repeated aualysis have proven all the above facts. There is more philosophy in the dairy business than most people are aware of.

There are so many changes which are constantly occuring to dairyman that cause variations in the value of his milk, even when the feeding are the same, as to render a chemical knowledge, or at least ready access to chemical experiments in this direction, of the most ecouomic and practical importance. It is true that the animal body is not a mere chemical laboratory, in which the chemist may operate as he pleases; for there is a power there—a vitality superior to his science, but hy his intelligent concurrence with, and proper regard for that vitality, the changes and conditions which he desires can very generally he effected.

Tile or Stone for Drains.—A farmer asked me to-day, as he was riding past, whether it was better to use tiles or stones for underdrains, and which was the cheapest. I think a stone drain can be made just as efficient as a tile drain, no better and no worse; and then in regard to the cost of making the drains with stones or tiles, I told him that it depended on the men he got to dig the drains. If he could get men that knew how to dig narrow drains, no wider than is necessary for the tiles, using narrow spades and a scoop to clean out the bottom, a drain might be dug in less than half the time required to dig a drain wide enough to lay stones in. But if he got men who could not be persuaded to dig a narrow drain, and who would persist in digging them just as wide for small tiles as for stones, he might just as well use stones, if he had them near by on his land.—*Genesee Farmer.*

The State of North Carolina now offers for sale all her public swamp lands, amounting to about 1,500,000 acres. These lauds are very fertile, and well adapted for grazing purposes. Some of them have already been drained, and the remainder are susceptible of drainage at a moderate expense. The lands are sold to aid in developing State resources, and to support the common schools.

## CROP REPORTS.

In the middle of Illinois the wheat has been harvested. The crop is magnificent. Oats were never better. Of the hay crop it is scarcely necessary to speak. The ground is literally oppressed witb its burden. Growing corn needs a shower or two. There will be a larger yield of corn than ever before in Central Illinois.

The oat harvest in Virginia proves to be the largest for several years. The wheat harvest is over, and is regarded as the best ever raised in the State.

The cotton crop in Georgia is somewhat damaged by tbe late heavy rains, causing shedding of polls, by worms. The prospects are still fair for a two-thirds crop. The rice crop is reported badly damaged.

The Maryland farmers are thresbing their wheat, which in the upper couuties, promises a fair crop; in the lower counties the prospects of the crop are different. Coru promises well. Tobacco prospects are very unfavorable; the season is altogether too wet.

In Arkansas, notwithstanding the overflows and heavy rains, the crops are now in far better condition than was anticipated a month or two ago. The cotton sowed late in the season has outgrown the earlier plants, and is in superior condition. Corn is unequalled, and wheat yields abundantly.

The Houston (Texas) Telegraph of the 7th says that cottou has been injured by excessive rains, and corn has not beeu kept as clear of grass and weeds as was desired; but the report of the crops throughout the State are very encouraging. An immense corn crop will undoubtedly be raised.

The Yarmouth Register says the fire worm is making havoc with the cranherry vines. Almost all that were not flowed in the Spring are sufferiug more or less. Many lots are entirely destroyed. Those that were thoroughly flowed are looking well.

Poultry in Towns.—The following conditions I consider necessary: A warm, clean house; small grass yard to run in; at all times a supply of pure water; best grain in variety, wheat mixed, and so given in a self-feeding hopper, that they may feed whenever they wish—I have a small one, holding two hushels, sufficient to supply thirty or forty chickens, proof against rat or mouse, and so coustructed that no food can be wasted—lime screenings, gravel, ashes, a quantity of pressed gravies, obtaiued at the candle-chandler's, to be given once or twice a week. It stands as a substitute for worms, hugs, flies or meat, which are all esseutial to secure good laying and health. Have a stock to begin with free from disease and hardy. I consider Grey Dorkings the best.—*Cor. Canada Farmer.*

Flies Killing Cattle.—Accounts from Austria are to the effect that swarms of poisonous flies have appeared in Transylvania, by which large uumbers of cattle have been killed. Farmers are compelled to house their stock closely, while large fires are kept burning night and day around barns and sheds to warn off this new and unwelcome pest. The guards have great trouble in avoiding their venom.

Slobbering in Horses.—A correspondent of the Boston Cultivator says tbat this is a disease in horses. Saltpetre—a tahlespoonful for a dose—he has fouud to cure the worst case he ever had, and has not found it necessary to give another dose. He gives a tahlespoonful in the morning, and iu three days, if not free from it, he gives another dose.

It is certainly a curious chemical fact that the substances required to form common salt are both of them poisonous—chlorine aud sodium. No one can use either of these articles separately with safety, and yet combiue them together and they form a substance necessary to health and one found upon every table.

A Mooking-bird was sold in Nashville, Tenn., for $200.

Christian Egotists.—Some of the most disagreeable persons that you meet in the world are those Christian people that are considering everything in the universe from the standpoint of their own culture. One of the most blessed tbings in this world is to be unconscious of self, and conscious only of God, the eternal spherc, and the great truths of the divine government and human life. Happy is he before whom these things are so eminent that his own conscious self is gone. And yet how many well meaning persons there are who are forever treating you to the various dish of their sensibilities, their struggles, their temptations, and their wants; with whom it is continually I, I, I, me, me, me, my, my, my; whose life is one everlasting habit of egotism, only basted and served up in religion.

# The Fireside Muse.

## A RAMBLE IN AUGUST.

BY MISS POWER.

Come, let us leave the city's din,
The dry and dusty town,
And wander forth to pastures fresh,
And meadows newly mown.

We'll gather many a flowering shrub
Along the old stone-wall,
The speckled lily in the swamp,
And snowy button-ball:

Where interlacing boughs conceal
The entrance of the wood,
And mystic shadows tempt to trace
The sylvan solitude;

We'll rest beneath the spreading oak,
Among its gnarled roots;
The blackberry clambers o'er the rock,
And proffers us its fruits.

The blackberry clambers o'er the rock,
And many a flowering wreath
Hangs o er the alders by the brook
That darkly glides beneath.

The hardhack springs beside the road,
The fern beside the stream,
Where cool, beneath the rustic bridge,
The limpid waters gleam.

We'll wander round the ruined mill,
Far down the quiet vale,
Where many a farm and sheep-cote lone
Lie scattered o'er the dale.

'Till twilight gray the rural scene
In tranquil beauty blends,
And slowly o'er the eastern hill
The August moon ascends.

# Natural History.

## THE ROBIN.

At a meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, a communication was read from Professor Treadwell, of Cambridge, giving a detailed account of the feeding and growth of this bird during a period of thirty-two days, commencing with the 5th of June. The following is the substance of this report:—

When caught, the two were quite young, their tail feathers being less than an inch in length, and the weight of each about twenty-five penny-weights—less than half the weight of the full-grown birds: both were plump and vigorous, and had evidently been very recently turned out of the nest. He began feeding them with earth-worms, giving three to each bird that night. The second day, he gave them ten worms each, which they ate ravenously. Thinking this beyond what their parents could naturally supply them with, he limited them to this allowance. On the third day, he gave them eight worms each in the forenoon; but in the afternoon he found one becoming feeble, and it soon lost its strength, refused food, and died. On opening it, he found the proventriculus, gizzard, and intestines entirely empty, and included therefore that it died from want of sufficient food; the effect of hunger being increased, perhaps, by the cold, as the thermometer was ab out sixty degrees.

The other bird, still vigorous, he put in a warmer place, and increased its food, giving it the third day fifteen worms, on the fourth day twenty-four, on the fifth twenty-five, on the sixth thirty, and on the seventh thirty-one worms. They seemed insufficient, and the bird appeared to be losing plumpness and weight. He began to weigh both the bird and its food, and the results were given in a tabular form. On the fifteenth day, he tried a small quantity of raw meat, and, finding it readily eaten, increased it gradually, to the exclusion of worms. With it the bird ate a large quantity of earth and gravel, and drank freely after eating. By the table, it appears that though the food was increased to forty worms, weighing twenty pennyweights, on the eleventh day the weight of the bird rather fell off; and it was not until the fourteenth day, when he ate sixty-eight worms, or thirty-four pennyweights, that he began to increase. On this day, the weight of the bird was twenty-four pennyweights; he therefore ate forty-one per cent. more than his own weight in twelve hours, weighing after it twenty-nine pennyweights, or fifteen per cent. less than the food he had eaten in that time. The length of these worms, if laid end to end, would be about fourteen feet, or ten times the length of the intestines.

To meet the objection, that the earth-worm contains but a small quantity of nutritious matter, on the twenty-seventh day he was fed exclusively on clear beef, in quantity twenty-seven pennyweights. At night, the bird weighed fifty-two pennyweights, but little more than twice the amount of flesh consumed during the day, not taking into account the water and earth swallowed. This presents a wonderful contrast with the amount of food required by the cold blooded vetebrates, fishes, and reptiles, many of which can live for months without food, and also with that required by mammalia. Man, at this rate, would eat about seventy pounds of flesh a day, and drink five or six gallons of water.

The question immediately presents itself, how can this immense amount of food, required by the young birds, be supplied by the parents? Suppose a pair of old robins, with the usual number of four young ones. These would require, according to the consumption of this bird, two hundred and fifty worms, or their equivalent in insect or other food, daily. Suppose the parents to work ten hours, or six hundred minutes, to procure this supply; this would be a worm to every two and two-fifths minutes; or each parent must procure a worm or its equivalent in less than five minutes during ten hours, in addition to the food required for its own support.

After the thirty-second day, the bird had attained its full size, and was intrusted to the care of another person during his absence of eighteen days. At the end of that period, the bird was strong and healthy, with no increase of weight, though its feathers had grown longer and smoother. Its food had been weighed daily, and averaged fifteen pennyweights of meat, two or three earth-worms, and a small quantity of bread each day, the whole being equal to eighteen pennyweights of meat, or thirty-six pennyweights of earth-worms; and it continued up to the time of the presentation of the report. The bird having continued in confinement, with certainly much less exercise than in the wild state, to eat one-third of its weight in clear flesh daily, the Professor concludes that the food it consumed when young was not much more than must always be provided by the parents of wild birds. The food was never passed undigested; the excretions were made up of gravel and dirt, and a small quantity of semi-solid urine.

He thought that every admirer of trees may derive from these facts a lesson, showing the immense power of birds to destroy the insects by which our trees, especially our apple-trees, elms, and lindens, are every few years stripped of their foliage, and often many of them killed.

---

Sheep as a Means of Improving our Farms.—"To pursue sheep husbandry most successfully," says the Homestead, "roots must be raised and fed; grain, either raised or bought, will be consumed, and oil meal have to be purchased for food. Their manure, then, is better for the farm than the purchase of superphosphate or guano."

---

A Singular Accident.—An ox belonging to Mr. Daniel Tainter died Saturday night; and on investigating for the cause of his death, a piece of hoop-skirt steel about six inches in length was found imbedded in the right side of the heart, and forming an abcess between the heart and the lung. The indigestible substance had been taken with its food.—*Worcester Spy.*

---

The moths have succeeded in shutting up one of our most fashionable churches for the season. It seems that these troublesome little creatures have been multiplying in the new and elegant meeting-house on Boylston street (Dr. Gannett's) until it has become necessary to close the house and strip it of all its upholstery, in order to save it from utter ruin, to say nothing of the clothing of the attendants.—*Boston Traveller.*

# The Poultry Yard.

## HENS AND CHICKENS.

The well ordered henery should now be in the full heat of incubation, or to put the case more plainly—the setting hens should be upon their nests, unless they are already off with their first broods. April chickens make the nicest fowls, both for the table in the Fall, and next season's layers. Early chickens get the start of vermin and other Summer troubles, which are a great drawback to late comers, and though they will require careful attention during cold nights and stormy days, yet they soon grow up to be robust birds, capable of taking care of themselves, while the little peeping things which do not get out of the way of October frosts, seldom pay for the trouble of raising. Some people, and especially some women folks, always have "good luck" in raising chickens, and the reason of this good luck is because of those little attentions which are bestowed at just the right time, by a person who knows just what is needed to keep the chicks in order. It is the simplest thing in the world to a person who is willing to look after such little things, and who has chicken sense.

In the first place, keep the nests clear of lice. This may be done by a dust of dry wood ashes or a sprinkle of dry cut tobacco; and fowls may at all times be kept clear of lice by furnishing them dry sand and ashes to wallow in.

Wherever the hens and chickens can have a range of fresh ground, they will pick up enough insects and green vegetables to keep their crops in a healthy condition. A sick chicken is a troublesome little customer, and the best way to cure him is to keep him from getting sick. To this end the skillful hen-wife has little doctor stuffs which are given in the chicken feed. One says she puts a tablespoonful of powdered sulphur in two quarts of dough feed, twice a week, beginning when the chicks are about two weeks old. This is said to be an effectual preventive of the gapes. Another preventive of the gapes is to put fine salt in their corn meal dough. Others still would use powdered red pepper pods in their chicken feed. We suppose either of these prescriptions will prove effectual, if properly administered. —*Ohio Farmer.*

---

Precocity of a Game Pullet.—During the twenty years that I have been a breeder of poultry, I have not had an instance of such precocity as the one I am about to mention. On the 10th of March this year the fowl referred to was hatched. In July she showed signs that she would soon begin to lay eggs. I had her and a cockerel put into a room, out of which they have not been since then. On Aug. 12th she began to lay, and in twenty-eight days laid twenty-three eggs. On the 11th of September, I set her with ten eggs, seven of which were fruitful. She has now six fine chickens, and although not yet eight months old, she looks as matronly as her grandmother. —*Cor. London Field.*

---

Selecting Poultry Meat.—A young turkey has a smooth leg, and a soft bill, and if fresh, the eyes will be bright and the feet moist. Old turkeys have stiff scaly feet.

Young fowls have a tender skin, smooth legs and the breast bone yields readily to the pressure of the finger. The best are those that have yellow legs. The feet and legs of old fowls look as though they had seen hard service in the world.

Young ducks feel tender under the wings and the web of the foot is transparent. The best are thick and hard on the breast.

Young geese have yellow bills, and the feet are yellow and supple. The skin may be easily broken by the head of a pin; the breast is plump and the fat white. An old goose is unfit for the human stomach.

Fowls are most easily picked if scalded, but this renders the skins liable to be torn, and consequently they will not look so nice.

## HEN'S NESTS.

The nests should be on the ground—if possible, on the earth—and not in the same place where laying hens have access to them. An exception must be made to the ground, if farmers set eggs while hard frost is still in the earth. In this case you must be more careful not to forget to moisten the eggs with water when the hens come off to feed. I prefer in cold weather to lift the hen off, wet the eggs, and put her on again. There is less risk of a chill. Many complaints are made of eggs not hatching, though there are birds in each. This is entirely caused by their being too dry. Unless moistened, the inner membrane of the egg becomes so hard and dry that the chick cannot break through. This is especially the case with the Cochins, and I have often had to hatch half the eggs myself (by breaking the shell with my finger, not by sitting *a la poule*) and let them out.

When a hen steals her nest, she goes out early in the morning for food, before the dew is off the grass, and returns with wet feathers; so that by damping the eggs we imitate this natural process. The eggs of ducks and geese will still more require attention.

I have found the most convenient way to set hens was to get a common tea-chest or box, put a portable sloping roof to it, made of a few pieces of board. Cut a hole at one end, like that for a dog-kennel. In front of this put a wire pen or frame made of lathes. Provide the hen with food and water daily, and you need not be under any anxiety about your hen leaving her eggs; she cannot get out, and will return on the eggs, if really broody, in a very short time. In this way you would have them entirely under your command. When the chickens are hatched, I find these same boxes answer every purpose; only in wet weather if a shed cannot be had, they must have the frame covered with canvass or boards.—*Col. Hassard's address before Canada Poultry Association.*

---

How to make Hens Lay.—Many persons feed hens too much for laying. To keep twenty hens through the Winter, give three pints of corn and two of oats or buckwheat per day; also, about twice a week, give them shorts or bran wet with warm, sour milk, of which they seem very fond; make it quite wet and put in a large spoonful of ground black pepper. Give them all the green stuff that can be had, such as cabbage leaves, parings of apples, cores and all, &c. So fed, with comfortable quarters, they will lay all Winter. Keep only early Spring pullets. Change cocks every Spring. In proof of the above, we will merely observe that a neighbor had among a lot of hens, one that would *not* lay under any circumstances, and as such hens are not profitable to keep, she was considered a fit subject for the pot. On dressing, she was found to be literally filled with fat, instead of egg *ovaries.—Country Gent.*

---

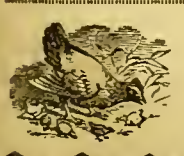
Charcoal for Turkeys.—A California paper says a recent experiment has been tried in feeding charcoal for fattening turkeys. Two lots of four each, were treated alike, except for one lot finely pulverized charcoal was mixed with mashed potatoes and meal, on which they were fed, and broken pieces of coal also plentifully supplied. The difference in weight was one and a half pounds each, in favor of the fowls supplied with coal, and the flesh was superior in tenderness and flavor.

---

Feed for Hens.—A correspondent of the Massachusetts Ploughman recommends the following feed for hens, as a good preparation to make them lay:

"Take one quart of corn, and boil it in clear water, to which add, while boiling, a tablespoonful of black pepper, or half the quantity of cayenne; this quantity to be allowed to every nine hens daily, then the water to be drained off for them to drink when sufficiently cool, or to be mixed with one-third lime water."

---



Old Versus New.—A verification of the proverb that "there is nothing new under the sun," has recently occurred in Ohio, by the discovery that "a modern improvement" in mechanics was in use a century or more since. The invention, supposed to be an American one, was the gimlet-pointed screw-nail or wood-screw; and the discovery we speak of was made in this way: A Mr. Goodrich, organ builder, took to pieces an old grand piano, made in London about a century ago, from which he took various sized screws, all of which were almost identical in form with the gimlet-pointed screws now made in Connecticut and elsewhere. A telegraphic apparatus may yet be found in some Indian jungle, and a sewing machine unwrapped from the cerements of an Egyptian mummy-case.

# Horticulture.

## PEAR CULTURE.

The pear is a most delicious fruit, and its culture is worthy of more attention than it has ever received in this State. Its intrinsic importance is second only to that of the apple, and in its adaptation to various uses, and its duration, by the successive ripening of its varieties from August to midwinter and even later, it bears considerable resemblance to that fruit.

In order to be worthy of general cultivation, a pear should possess a certain combination of requisites. First of all, in this climate, it must be hardy enough to withstand severe Winters; next, we desire productiveness, vigorous growth, a healthy constitution, and adaptation to a variety of soils, in the tree, and it is well also if it be not too tardy in fruiting. In the fruit we desire fine flavor, size, beauty, and good keeping qualities. Out of the thousand or more of varieties which have been introduced in the last thirty years, there are few in which all these are found in a desirable degree. One is lacking in this, another in that; a great many are wanting in a majority of these requisites. In proportion as they prevail, or are missing, is the value of any given variety for general cultivation. Practically, it is found that hardiness, vigor and productiveness in the tree, connected with tolerably good quality of fruit, are of greater value than superior flavor connected with deficiency in the other requisites. For home use, some varieties may be very desirable and almost indispensable on account of exquisite quality, while from small size or unattractive appearance in the fruit, or feeble growth or scanty bearing in the tree, they would prove unprofitable for market.

For various reasons it is more difficult to arrive at a conclusive decision regarding the value of a new pear, than with an untried apple. The pear is not so uniform in quality during a series of years in the same soil and location; one year it may give promise of high excellence, and the next prove quite poor. In one soil and location it may be all which can be asked, and in a less favorable one quite inferior. The first few years of bearing do not usually develope its full excellence,—for this we must wait until the tree has attained a good degree of maturity. In the apple the effect of an over-abundant crop is chiefly manifested in the requirement for a season of rest, while in the pear a too heavy crop is often connected with small, inferior fruit, so nearly worthless that a few dozen large perfect specimens will give greater satisfaction and will command more money than bushels of the same sort imperfectly grown; and hence the necessity and profit in many cases of severe thinning out of the fruit.

Unless the proper conditions are fulfilled, pear culture may be expected to result in failure; when they are fulfilled, a high degree of satisfaction and of profit may be confidently anticipated. Like everything else which is really desirable and valuable, pears cost something, and they readily command a price fully commensurate with the cost; usually a good deal more from their scarcity.

The more opportunity has been enjoyed to compare the prospects of pear culture in Maine and in other sections, the more favorable do ours appear. There are obstacles in both cases, but they are very unlike. In the Middle and Western States, they can grow young trees with great facility—whether they be of sorts which we call tender or hardy, and they suffer few losses from Winter killing, or from crushing snows breaking them down; but when the trees come to bearing, and in fact as soon as fit to transplant, then comes the blight—fire-blight it is usually called, and sometimes "frozen sap blight"—though nobody knows either cause or remedy. Suddenly, without any premonition whatever, a limb or a whole tree blackens and withers; being a hopeless case, if it be only a limb, it is amputated; if a whole tree, it is dug up and removed. This blight is an awful scourge, sometimes sweeping whole orchards, and more or less thinning almost every orchard. Here, the case is very different; our troubles are almost if not wholly past when once the trees survive the hazzards of infancy and early youth, and come to a bearing state.—*S. L. Goodale.*

## MORE ORCHARDS WANTED.

The demand for fruit has been constantly increasing for the last two or three years, notwithstanding the fact that a great many young orchards have come into bearing within that time, and added their quota of fruit to the general supply. Every farmer should set apart five or ten acres of his land for growing fruit. He can make use of the land for various purpose while the trees are growing. Indeed it is probably the better plan to set the trees so far apart that they will never meet, and overshadow the ground so much, that a crop of some other kind cannot be raised between them.

After all that has been said and written against raising crops in the orchards, the opinion appears to be gaining ground that it is better for the trees and also for the proprietor to keep on cultivating the soil, and raising tillage crops, than to lay it down to grass. Some crops are more suitable for orchards than others.—Hoed crops of any kind are beneficial, because the soil is kept in a fine state of tilth, weeds are banished, and the surface of the soil, being shaded by the crops, retains moisture which is grateful to the minute sponge-like mouths of the fibrous roots of the fruit trees.

By a little economy in saving manurial liquids and solids, which are generally allowed to go to waste, enough manure can be collected about the farmer's house to enrich the orchard and garden, without encroaching much on the barn-yard manure, which is generally required for field crops. Soap-suds and liquid manure of various kinds will turn a large heap of muck into a rich manure. The poultry house may be made to contribute largely to the manure heap by keeping a plentiful supply of dry muck under cover, for spreading over the floor from time to time to absord the droppings of the fowl. When the house is cleaned out in Spring, and the contents well mixed, it will be found that there will be enough of this compost to manure a large portion of the orchard and garden.

Bones are specially adapted for manuring fruit trees, because they contain a large proportion of phosphoric acid, an ingredient which is necessary for building up the framework of nearly every kind of fruit tree, and also for adding bulk and vigor to the fruit. Large quantities of bones are allowed to go to waste every year, or are thrown into places where their ingredients are not available for crops of any kind. If they were collected and crushed, or broken into small pieces, and kept in barrels with wood ashes, they would be so much decomposed as to be in a fit state for application to the orchard or garden.

The cost of fruit trees, even of the best varieties, is comparatively small, and the land need not be idle while the trees are coming to a bearing age, for the orchard, by proper cultivation, may be made to produce excellent crops of various kinds. When an acre of apple trees is in its prime, it will produce about 400 bushels of fruit, and if these are of the best varieties they will be worth one dollar a bushel. There will be windfalls and inferior fruit which will be of much use for feeding hogs or cattle.

Some orchards, it is true, produce crops only every second year, because having borne a very heavy crop, they need recuperation. It is a common saying: "One year for wood and one for fruit," but it also is a well-established fact, that by proper management, such as judicious pruning and the application of special manures, the trees may be caused to yield a crop of fruit every year.

Peaches and plums are uncertain fruits, as the former are liable to destruction from frost, and the latter from the curculio; yet, if proper precautions are taken, fine crops may be obtained. If peach trees of the best varieties are planted in suitable soil, and in favorable aspects, they will bear almost every year. They do best when shaded from the morning sun, and exposed to that of noon and evening, as in this case the frozen branches thaw gradually, and the slender tissues of the wood are not fractured by rapidly thawing after being frozen. The best of all the remedies for the curculio is to remove the soil to the width of three feet and to the depth of six inches, from around the plum trees, scattering it thinly over the surface of the orchard or garden, so that the pupæ of the curculio may be exposed to destruction. This should be done when the trees are beginning to blossom. The cavity around the trees should be filled with rich muck or compost.—In every large orchard a considerable portion should be set apart for growing peaches, plums and pears, as these fruits are more valuable than apples, and, when they succeed well, are very profitable.

## PROPAGATING BLACKBERRIES.

The blackberry propagates itself by suckers; and if these are taken up in Autumn or early in Spring, cut back and set out for growing another season, they will make well rooted plants by Autumn. Another mode is to cut off the roots, by means of a long sharp spade, around the growing plants in Spring, to induce the formation of suckers. This cutting should be done a few inches from the main plant in circular form, and repeated again a few inches further out, so that the young plants may not have long, one sided roots. A third mode is to take up cuttings of the roots in Autumn or early in Spring, say three or four inches long and as large as a quill, or larger, and set them out in open ground in an upright position, leaving the top a little below the surface. If the soil is rich and mellow they will do well. A fourth and the best mode, when practicable, is to use cuttings with bottom heat; they need not be more than an inch or two long, and should either have the heat of a hot bed, or a propagating house. They should be taken up in Autumn, so as to be started very early in Spring. In the early part or by the middle of Summer, they will do to set out in open ground, and will make good plants the same season. By this mode there will scarcely be a failure. The soil for these bottom-heat cuttings, should be a mixture of about two-thirds of clean sand thoroughly mixed with one-third of leaf-mold, with a portion of finely diffused old manure.—*Country Gent.*

How the Japanese Train Cucumbers.—The manner of cultivating the cucumber was to me somewhat novel, and it appeared in some respects superior to our mode. Instead of sowing the seed in hills, it is sown in double rows, as peas are frequently done, only at a greater distance apart, both between the rows and the plants, say three feet between the first. The vines are supported by placing brushwood along each row, forming an arch, over which they may grow. The advantages this method presents are, that the fruit is always clean and straight, of a uniform color on all sides, and can be gathered without incurring the danger of injury to the vines by trampling on them.—*Hoggs' Gardening in Japan.*

The Banana—A San Francisco paper announces the late importation to that market of the banana plant from Central America, with a view to its cultivation in California. This is a very valuable experiment, and has every chance of success. The climate of the California valley lands, such as Los Angelos, Santa Clara and Solano, is well adapted to the banana, and its production as a staple would confer an immense benefit on the country.

It is said by the best authorities that the banana will furnish more food to the acre than any other crop capable of growth in a tropical climate. It is a very wholesome and nutritious food, too, when in good condition.

The crop of huckleberries this season in New Jersey, it is estimated, will amount in dollars and cents to more than the combined crops of strawberries, raspberries and blackberries.

The Borer Remedy.—A writer in the Prairie Farmer, after giving the history of the various transformations of the apple tree borer, says:

"I will give my plan of exterminating him. I will suppose that I have a young orchard of any number of trees, say a thousand; the second season after planting, about the last of July, or during the first half of August, with a common hoe, I take all the weeds and other trash, and about an inch of soil, from the crown of the trees; then any time from the first to the middle of September, with a pocket-knife, examine carefully the stem of each tree; the borer can readily be found by the refuse thrown out of the hole made on entering; this refuse of a borer, of the same season's growth, will be about the size of a pea, and, being of a glutinous nature, sticks around the mouth of the hole, and can readily be seen; older ones throw out coarser chips that fall to the ground. When one is found, take the knife and cut him out. If an orchard is carefully examined in this way each year, there need be but few, if any borers missed, and as they are more easily found the second fall of their growth, and can have done but little at that time, we would never receive any serious injury from them. A man will clear the litter and soil from around a thousand trees, in a day, and can take the borers out in another day.

Cabbage and Cauliflower.—The cabbage requires a deep, rich, mellow soil, and thorough working. If these requirements are met, and good seed obtained, there is no difficulty in obtaining good solid heads. For early use, the plants should be started in a hot-bed or cold-frame, but seed for Winter cabbage should be sown in a seed-bed, early in the Spring. Some varieties seem to do best if the seed is sown in hills where they are to remain, and this is particularly the case with the Marblehead varieties. Sow two or three seeds where each plant is desired, and then pull all but the strongest. When a seed bed is made in the open ground, instead of selecting a warm situation, choose a cold, damp place, on the north side of a board fence, as here the black fly will not trouble the plants, and they will come early enough for Winter cabbage or cauliflower, for we have often found the early varieties treated in this way to form fine flowers during the cold, damp weather of Autumn. Cauliflower requires a very rich soil, and plenty of water, and the earth should be drawn well towards the stems, especially late in the season, when the flower is about to form.

A Way to Produce Blueberries.—A large tract of woodland which was burned over in the vicinity of New Bedford, a year ago, is now, according to a newspaper of that city, covered with blueberry bushes on which thousands of bushels of the finest and largest berries are found and gathered for the market.

The New Bedford Journal adds that this production of blueberry and whortleberry bushes is a natural result of burning over such woodland. If this is the case, there are thousands of acres through the country which had better be fired at once, notably the tracts of scrub woodland in New Jersey, along the line of the Camden and Amboy Railroad.

Fruit Flavored at Will.—A gardener of Gand has, after many trials, succeeded in giving any kind of fruit the flavor he pleases while it is still on the tree. Let us take an apple for instance; he pricks it rather deeply in four or five places with a large needle, and then lets it dip for a while in a bowl containing a liquid possessing the flavor he wishes to communicate. After a few seconds this liquid will have penetrated into the pulp; and this operation being repeated two or three times, at intervals of eight or ten days, the apple is left to ripen on the tree, and will subsequently be found to have acquired the taste either of strawberry, raspberry, cloves, etc., according to the liquid employed.

Training for Business.—The need of a practical training for business, by which young men are fitted for some definite sphere in life, is severely felt in dull times like the present, when the incompetent are often displaced by those who are better qualified, and find themselves a useless waif on the world's surface. The Philadelphia Ledger suggests that some advantage might be derived from a collection of statistics giving the number of persons who are vainly applying for situations. They would at least impress parents and guardians with the necessity of teaching their children how to labor. The failure to bring up boys indentured to trades and business is "one of the vital defects in our present social economy, and one that deserves the profoundest attention of the thinkers of our country."

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## TO OFFICERS OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

A great difficulty in awarding small premiums, at Agricultural Fairs, is to present something of REAL VALUE to those who are awarded small prizes. We will furnish to any agricultural society, the FARM AND FIRESIDE, (to be given as premiums) at ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS A YEAR—mailing them to any address, either in bundles, or single.

An annual subscription to our journal would be more acceptable than almost any other small gift, and would be a permanent gain to our agriculture.

## SORGHUM.

The introduction into this country of the Chinese sugar-cane, called *Sorghum*, and an African variety, termed *Imphee*, dates back only a dozen or fifteen years. Its cultivation in Northern China has been carried on, probably, for centuries; but so little is known of Chinese agriculture that no satisfactory record of its history can be obtained. Our first seed came from France, where it has been cultivated for two years, rather unsuccessfully, by the Geographical Society of Paris. This seed sold for a franc, each,—about twenty cents in our currency. The African variety was brought from the Zulu Caffres country, by a Mr. Wray, as late as 1857. This seed was presented to Governor Hammond of South Carolina, who distributed it among the planters to test its value as a sugar-producing plant. The experiment met with a decided failure; not because the cane would not grow, but that the process of manufacturing sugar from naturalized Southern cane was not applicable to sorghum or imphee.

The Department of Agriculture next took the matter in hand and distributed the seed broadcast over the country. From that period its cultivation has been tried in all the Eastern, Middle and Western States; generally with decided success, so far as producing the cane is concerned; but in manufacturing sugar, we have not made much progress. This is not a positive discouragement. To manufacture sugar, without experience, art or science, would be impossible even with the best tropical cane. Our cultivators of Sorghum have been plain farmers; without the aid of science, and without capital to produce machinery suitable for the manufacture of sugar. No intricate or difficult art can be tested in this way. Not that we endorse or assume any remarkable saccharine wealth for sorghum, except for the manufacture of syrups or molasses.

Some writers state that sorghum will yield seventy-five per cent. of saccharine matter; yet we have no general testimony to prove how much crystallized sugar can be extracted from it. The Creole cane of Louisiana yields about sixty per cent. of juice, but only six to seven per cent. of crystallized sugar. In the British West Indies, and in Cuba, sugar-cane yields from fifty to sixty per cent. of syrup, and averages ten per cent. of manufactured sugar. Grinding the cane at a very slow speed, in all countries, gets the largest product. The only actual test of the sugar producing character of sorghum, that we know of, was the experiment of Mr. Joseph H. Lovering, of Philadelphia, in 1857. Being an eminent sugar refiner, the utmost reliance can be placed in his statement. From one acre of well-grown sorghum, he manufactured 1221¼ pounds of crystallized sugar. This experiment was tried by Mr. Lovering out of mere curiosity; simply to test the presence of cane-sugar in the juice of sorghum. Data for the average yield of syrup, per acre, in the United States, is about one hundred and forty gallons.

The geographical belt for tropical sugar-cane is quite limited. The extreme limits of its distribution appear to be the parallels of 30° on each side of the Equator. The regions from which the world is chiefly supplied are the East and West Indies, British India, and the island of Mauritius. In the United States, the limits of its profitable growth is a small extent of territory along the Gulf of Mexico. At the present time, owing to the almost utter bankruptcy of the Southern sugar planters, there is a general prostration in the business. Consequently, we are almost dependent on foreign countries for our sugar and molasses. It is estimated that we consume, annually, about eight hundred million pounds of sugar—more than any other nation in proportion to our population. Before the Rebellion, two-thirds, nearly, of this enormous amount of sweetening was imported.

At this juncture, when Southern sugar culture is prostrated, is a favorable time to test the value of sorghum. The middle latitudes of the United States are well adapted to its culture. This line extends through Southern Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri; and thence down to the cotton-growing zone or belt, of the South. The temperature here will admit of the cane maturing; although not all of that territory will grow it to the fullest perfection. Its Northern boundary of growth will reduce its profit, unquestionably. Yet we have seen it growing luxuriantly in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Soils differ in their chemical constituents; hence, every soil has its influence on the crop it produces. On this rule, we may calculate that land along the Northern limit of sorghum culture will fix the quantity and quality of all saccharine growth. Therefore, we venture an opinion, that in this latitude, we can profitably cultivate sorghum *for its syrup*, but not for its sugar. Yet our opinion is not worth much—certainly not important enough to deter or discourage experiment. Let sorghum have a fair trail, by agriculturists, throughout its wide geographical limits.

## OUR BOOK TABLE.

THE AMERICAN CONFLICT: A history of the Great Rebellion in the United States of America, 1860–1865. By Horace Greely. Hartford, Conn., O. D. Case & Company.

No period in the history of civilization excels, in interest and importance, that which embraces the origin, progress, and final culmination of our Great Rebellion. Other periods, remarkable in revolutionary events, and memorable in the magnitude of contending armies, will exist in history; but while the eras of Hannibal, Napoleon and other great soldiers will be remembered by us as periods distinguished mainly by violence and bloodshed, our sanguinary struggle will be perpetuated in memories of five hundred thousand American citizens sacrificed on our own soil—on battle-fields which we shall hereafter cultivate and gather therefrom plentiful harvests.

A history of our great drama would not be a complete and perfect record without an explanation of its origin, of the chief cause, of the mainspring which brought on the greatest fratricidal crime of all history. Hence, Mr. Greeley goes back to the political divisions, feuds and antagonisms of our institutions; clearly showing slavery to be the origin, and the ignis-fatuus that precipitated the Rebellion. We have read this portion of his work with more interest than the record of "battles fought and victories won;" chiefly because it is an honest summary and abridgement of events that preceded the war. This feature of his history must render it of more value to posterity than to us; yet no genuine history could avoid it—notwithstanding some books, facetiously termed "Histories of the Rebellion," entirely ignore the commencement of the great strife.

Cotemporaneous history is generally crude, imperfect and unjust. Hence, historians had better be born one or two centuries after the events they record. But Horace Greeley would not be born again, even if he could. He is wise in this determination—he is living at the right time for himself—a fellow laborer in the Rebellion, and a liberal philosopher at its close. The military portion of this history is unquestionably as fair and honest a record as the present generation will ever see. We followed the changing fortunes of two of our armies, nearly three years—a greater portion with the Army of the Potomac, in Virginia, the balance in the Department of the South—and we find the accounts of the various campaigns mainly correct. The battle of Olustee, in Florida, is an exception; the colored troops did not "save the day," nor did they earn any laurels in that unfortunate contest. Both armies fought with desperation—both exhausted themselves—both retired from the battle-field, and true as Gospel, one retreated East, the other West.

We cannot close this review without recommending it as the most correct, full and valuable history of the Rebellion yet written. It is profusely illustrated with portraits of military and naval officers, and with maps and diagrams of battle-fields. Its typographical execution is also creditable to the publishers.

LITTLE DORRIT: By Charles Dickens. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia.

This is the sixth volume of the "Green Cloth" edition, issued monthly, in beautiful style and sold at $1.25 per volume. The cheapness and excellence of this edition will commend it to the collectors of Dickens's works. This volume has thirty-eight illustrations by H. K. Browne.

The same publishers have just issued a capital novel by Mrs. Wood, entitled "Orville College." Like "East Lynne," and other volumes of this authoress, it is ingeniously written and marvellously full of plot and incident. A book of quite a different style is "The Rebel Chief,"—also just out—by Gustave Aimard; a tale of guerilla life in Mexico. Recent revolutionary events in that Republic are not recorded in this volume; but others, equally romantic, but less sanguinary, are. Good for a railway journey.

THERE now remain undisposed of, 1,455,460,000 acres of U. S. public lands.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

"THE Ohio Farmer" reports the wheat crop of that State remarkably good; and hopes there will be no necessity of "eating bread made from rotten No. 2 Chicago Spring wheat the coming Winter." The same journal reports the grape prospect, on the lake-shores, better than usual—the only danger is that the vines are over-burdened with fruit.

In an editorial on poultry, a fortnight since, we referred to the now popular French breeds—the La Fleche, Creve-Cœur and Houdans. The Cottage Gardener, of London, says its experience with these fowls prove that the Houdan is much the hardiest bird. The other two breeds have been subject to disease, and great mortality, wherever introduced into England. Of the La Fleche, it says:—"they require more food than any fowl we ever saw—especially the male birds."

Crops in Illinois are good. The editor of the Prairie Farmer says:—"Having visited a large number of the counties in the State during the week past, we are pleased to record a very promising condition of the crops, generally. The wheat South of Springfield to St. Louis is all cut and in the stock. The yield, both in quantity and quality, is satisfactory. The oats crop is large. Corn is less promising; few fields can be called first-rate, and are very uneven. Without a *very* favorable Fall, much of the crop will be injured. The hay crop is very large. Fruit prospect fair, except apples—the yield will be less than anticipated, the young fruit having dropped from the trees."

Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture says the promise of a large pear crop in New England, is not flattering. The trees were full of blossoms and young fruit, but the weather destroyed most of them. The Bartlett will yield, perhaps, half a crop; Louise Bonne de Jersey looks well, but other varieties will be a failure.

A contributor of Colman's Rural World, advocates thorough pruning in peach trees, and is in favor of low heads. He says this policy makes the tree more hardy, gives more exposure to sun and air, ripening the fruit earlier, and is more favorable to gathering the crop. Cultivating the ground in peach orchards is also recommended. This partially destroys the curculio.

BUDDING FRUIT TREES.—From about the middle of July to the last of August is considered the most favorable time to bud fruit trees. It is a simple operation, requiring no special art, and is performed in a brief period. To the novice, we will explain the process—well knowing that old fruit culturists need no instructions. Budding is the introduction of the bud of one tree beneath the bark of another. This should be done when the new wood is in its most vigorous growth. A bud is taken from a branch of this year's growth, with a small portion of the bark, cut lengthwise. This is inserted beneath the bark of the tree intended to be budded—a slight incision being made to receive it. The edges of this bark are then raised and the bud pushed in. A bandage of cloth, bass or corn-husk, is then wrapped round, and the job is completed. Care should be taken not to bruise the bud, or bark. Some of our best fruits are propagated in this way.

ATTENTION TO STRAWBERRIES.—We are rather late in our advice about strawberry beds, in garden and field culture. But it is not too late to say that plants are benefited by raking and cleaning off old beds, removing the weeds, and if the vines have run and matted together, to dig out alternate strips. Plants in hills or rows, should have the runners clipped off, unless you want to propagate more plants. A dressing of bone-dust, or a very light one of super-phosphate, will be beneficial on poorish land.

IN TEXAS the caterpillar and army worm are doing great mischief.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

MINNESOTA's wheat crop, this year, is estimated, by a paper of that State, as high as 20,000,000 bushels. It is said that the early pioneers of Minnesota doubted whether the soil was capable of producing wheat in large quantities.

The sugar production is increasing in Liberia. One planter made last year 40,000 pounds of sugar, 5000 gallons of molasses and 2000 gallons of syrup.

The Kentucky peaches look unusually promising, and the growers expect large prices and heavy profits.

A single county of Ohio yields 700,000 bushels of wheat, valued at $1,000,000.

There are over twenty thousand acres of land in Alabama planted in sweet potatoes this year, which will produce eight hundred thousand bushels.

The wheat harvest is over in Missouri, the whole crop being considerably above the average and the quality superior.

A single firm in Southern Illinois has sold during the season, in six counties, no less than 400 new reaping machines. These, with all the old machines in those counties, have been busy for some time in cutting the abundant grain harvest of that granary State.

In Southern Nebraska the grasshoppers are committing serious ravages. Entire fields of wheat in Cass, Otoe, Nemaha and Richardson counties have been utterly destroyed, others are seriously damaged. They first attack the gardens, and scarcely a vegetable escapes.

Major General Howard, through the Freedmen's Bureau, reports the crops of Tennessee this year to be the best and largest ever raised in that State.

Much attention is now being paid in the interior of Louisiana to the propagation of Hungarian grass, which yields two tons to the acre on bottom lands.

They have corn in Maine, which is just "spindling out," too, which is five feet nine inches high. It has been forty-six days only from the seed, showing a growth of nearly an inch and a quarter per day.

A New Jersey paper says daily huckleberry trains are run over the railroads leading to New York and Philadelphia.

A valuable peat bed of large extent has been discovered in Alameda County, California.

The potato trade of central Maine is so lively that one of the Penobscot steamers at Bangor was unable to take all that was offered on a recent trip.

A gentleman near Peoria (Ill.) has five thousand grapevines, which, it is estimated, will produce fifty bunches of grapes each, weighing a pound apiece.

There is, this season, an extraordinary abundance of cereal crops in Egypt. Prices of grain have fallen nearly two-thirds since harvest ended.

Gen. Pillow estimates the corn crop on his plantations near Helena, Arkansas, at two hundred thousand bushels.

The money value of the crops this year, as estimated by a writer in the New York Times, will be $400,000,000 greater than last year, so large has been the increase.

The rye and grass crops in Connecticut are said to be large and good beyond all previous precedent. The heads of rye are six and seven inches long; and the reapers say they never thrust their cradles into such rye before.

The Governor of Kansas has officially announced the departure of the grasshoppers from that State.

A Massillon, Ohio, paper quotes butter at twelve cents a pound at that place, and eggs at fourteen cents per dozen.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.—Among the names favorably mentioned for the position of Commissioner of Agriculture, made vacant by the death of Mr. Newton, are Hon. S. L. Goodale of Maine, Hon. F. Holbrook, Ex-Governor of Vermont, Hon. Horace Capron of Illinois, and Orange Judd of New York. They are all well qualified for the position.

ANECDOTE OF EUGENIE.—A French journal tells an anecdote of the fidelity of a porter to his charge. The Empress Eugenie recently presented herself at the Isthmus of Suez gate of the Exhibition before the hour of opening. The porter refused to admit her Majesty, although she named M. de Lesseps as her friend. "Ah! they all say that," retorted the gatekeeper. The Empress insisted that the great canal-maker would instantly admit her were he there, but could not prevail. She then played her last card—"But if I were to tell you that I am the Empress?" "I should not believe you," was the rejoinder. A lady of honor, however, at length convinced the porter that the applicant was the Empress; and then the gate opened. Some officious person proposed to dismiss the faithful man, but the Empress intervened and saved him.

## The Fireside Muse.

### THE SWING IN THE APPLE TREE.

The sunbeams come, the sunbeams go,
The boughs droop gently over;
I hear the breezes laughing low,
Among the bloomless clover.
A-swinging to and fro, I pass
Through leaves that Autumn dapples,
And watch upon the fading grass
The fall of russet apples.

I listen for the babbling creek
That stirs the noonday quiet;
Of Summer gone, its quavers speak,
Of flag flowers running riot.
O lonely creek, your shallow brink,
Another Spring will grow them,
For flowers bloom full sweet I think,
Where'er the angels sow them!

I hear across the meadow lots
The sheep bells softly tingle—
They crop the tender daisy plots,
That frosts begin to wrinkle.
I cannot see one katydid
Of all that makes this wrangle,
I wonder if they haven't hid
Amongst the love-in-tangle?

A killdeer cries above my head;
The branch beneath him quivers,
And downward through the sunlight red,
A golden apple shivers.
My swing goes up, my swing comes down,
The zephyrs hurry after;
And hope and youth, triumphant crown
The day with joy and laughter.

## Fireside Tale.

### A NEW MEANS OF GRACE.

BY MRS. JULIA P. BALLARD.

Edith and Ethel were twin sisters; but as unlike in taste, dress and every essential quality as a Russet and a "Seek-no-further." And, since there chances to be a preference in names, Ethel was the "Seek-no-further." Neat as a primrose, punctual as a town clock, orderly as a drill-sergeant, and yet merry as a music-box, she was always where she was wanted, and often wished for where she was not.

Her face was seldom snarled, either in babyhood, girlhood or womanhood. "Sunbeam" and "lark" were her father's favorite epithets when she was around.

Poor Edith! She could not see why everything came so easy to Ethel; or how she could always have patience enough and time enough, not only for her own annoyances and cares, but for those of half a dozen people about her. There was some secret about it; whether internal or external, Edith was sure she could not tell. Her face was as handsome as Ethel's; her curls as glossy and long and golden, and their dress as nearly alike as her mother's purse and impartiality could make it. And yet, while Ethel was always loved and courted at school—in little parties everywhere—something was sure to go wrong with Edith.

Both were finally married, and equally well, so far as love, looks and money were concerned; but here the difference in the two grew wider in proportion to the increased wideness of their new spheres. Edith's home was disturbed, unsettled, hurried. There was chafing, restlessness, worry—something that broke the charm of the word Home. She "was sure she tried her best." She worked early and late—was always "doing" or "overseeing," but usually, like her elegant parlor clock, "a little behind time."

It almost provoked her, in visiting Ethel, (whose home fortunately or unfortunately was some hundreds of miles from her own) to see the cheerful air, the quiet, restful, leisure look that rested over everything. Why, even to stand at the door of her "sitting room" or "Winter parlor," and take a good look in, was almost as refreshing as an afternoon nap. It rested one; the perfect neatness, the blending of soft colors—the few fragrant plants—the neat willow basket-stand for sewing—the attractive book-shelves, sunny pictures, and chaste, well-filled brackets; and now and then, the music coming through the half open door, of children's happy voices from their play-room adjoining, sweeter than any notes she could wake from her own piano, and in striking contrast with the peevish wail or boisterous mirth too often making discord at her own home. Edith noted it all, and still wondered what could make the difference.

One day, some months after her return from a flying visit to sister Ethel's "nook," as she was pleased to term her elegant but no less genial and cozy home, Edith received from Ethel a letter of earnest invitation for her oldest daughter, Ruth, to spend the coming Winter at her home. Ruth was a charming girl, now seventeen, and with a beating heart she awaited the decision which in turn awaited consultation with her father, who was out of town for a few, now interminable days. At their close Ruth was delighted to know she was actually to realize a joyful little hope that had long awaited a future "sometime" in her quiet heart—a visit to aunt Ethel.

The visit was made; and never did four months pass to eager maiden with swifter or more silver-footed hours. And when, the visit over, Ruth reached her own home again, it was easy to see that the pleasure expressed from time to time in her letters had been vastly conducive to her improvement in every possible way. And keener-eyed than her mother, Ruth had discerned the secret which had made the contrast in characters and homes, and brought with her the key which should unlock it for her mother.

"Order is Heaven's first law," were the words, which, if not on her lips, yet lingered in her heart, and were hummed over to herself, as she began, soon after her return, to put in execution the change she had so long been eager to commence. And from the attic to the cellar there was ample room to illustrate the proverb, so that even Edith must come to "see," at last, what the life-long trouble had been. Ruth did not say "Mother, I see a great difference here and at Aunt Ethel's. She has everything in apple-pie order, and it makes things go on so much easier—can't we have it so?" and then go on "practicing," and crotcheting, and embroidering, and spinning (street yarn), and leave order to take care of herself "out in the cold." No, she said nothing; but she went first and looked, so as to be sure her field for labor was as fair as she had thought. And first in the cellar. Here she found a large bin of potatoes—many half decayed—some, tired of their old life, striking out for a new, toward the light; and among them, turnips, onions, a few carrots, and now and then a poor, spindled beet, intermingled in a sort of millenial harmony. A barrel of greenings and another of russets stood near, but on pushing the apples about a little with her resolute finger, an eye of an inquisitive potato peered at her here and there, and an occasional onion lifted its head now and then above the doubly fragrant grecnings, while a sprig or two of celery had fallen in for company. On an empty barrel, near, sat a large old basket, where walnuts, ears of "pop corn," clothes pins, empty fruit cans and junk bottles held loving concert. A large pool of dark looking liquid lay near, and, peering into the board-covered tub, she discovered that the soft soap had taken advantage of a loosened hoop, for escape, and was settling itself lovingly near the base of a half-emptied cider barrel.

"Here, Bridget, where's Tom?" she called. Tom was an Irish boy of about thirteen years, whose business it was to wait upon Bridget, or any one else who needed him, but who made it his business between whiles to lower the walnut basket or apple barrel at pleasure.

He was soon found, and surprised at the sudden order from Miss Ruth, held himself in readiness to obey.

"Tom, I want you to put this cellar in perfect order."

"An sure an it's as it has been all the Winter. What's the order ye'd like it, Miss Ruth?"

"First this bin of potatoes. Take everything out of it, sweep the boards clean, and put back nothing but potatoes, and none but good, sound ones. Then look up some empty barrels, put the turnips in one, and the onions in another; right up these leaking casks, and sweep the cellar floor clean; and if, at six o'clock this evening, when I come to look at it, I find your work is well done, you shall have half a dollar."

Tom's eyes went security for the money, and Ruth went into the kitchen, where Bridget received a similar impulse with regard to her closets, pantry, table-drawers and wash-room. Then Ruth went up stairs, first to her mother's linen chests. Everything in these was taken out, and here the apple-barrel style prevailed. Fine linen and coarse sheets, old and new; pillow cases, plain and ruffled, new and fresh, and ragged and rumpled, lay promiscuously together, and showing plainly that when company had come, and the best ones been wanted, all had undergone opening, shaking out and re-folding to get at those which were needed. So with the linen Ruth closed her first day. And the best, second best, and those needing repair, neatly folded, assorted and placed in three different chests, was the result. The next day her mother's wardrobe, and bureau, and baskets of work, underwent the same supervision. And then the children's room. The one bureau, which had answered for Charlie, Fanny, Ethel and the baby, and which had long been literally used to "good measure, pressed down, and running over," was emptied of its contents, one-half of it given to Charlie exclusively, with all his own articles of clothing neatly arranged and laid in, and the other half to Fanny. A new bureau was ordered, and none too much room found in its two upper drawers for little Ethel, while the baby could not reasonably get along without the remaining two. So, at a week's end, from attic to cellar, everybody saw that something had happened.

"I declare," said Mr. Brown, on Saturday night, as he took his dressing gown from the new row of hooks appropriated to his own need on one side of the wardrobe, and drew his slippers from a pocket of a neat chintz shoe-case, "I declare, wife, it's a means of grace to me—these new arrangements. No confusion anywhere. You look twenty years younger, and I feel forty, at least. If this comes from Ruth's visit it was money well spent. "A place for everything and everything in its place" is certainly one way of making "a little heaven to go to heaven in!

And Edith was sure she repeated the words "like a Paradise" often enough for an echo to his words, as she had gone from room to room and closet to closet that day, and wondered she had never understood it before.

## Miscellany.

### THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

A Native of Australia, Mr. J. E. Evans, recently gave an exhibition of remarkable strength, at the Spa Hotel, in Chesterfield, England, to establish his claims as the strongest man in the world. He held a fifty-six pound weight in various positions, at arm's length, and increased the number until he raised four fifty-six pound weights above his head, holding them at arm's length, and, at the same time, standing upon four tumbler glasses. He also held the weights on the top of the glass, and allowed a glass of water to be placed upon the top of the weights. He laid flat upon the floor, and let a fifty-six pound weight fall a distance of about a yard on to his bare chest, and the weight rebounded as though it had come in contact with a piece of india-rubber. A piece of stone, four inches thick, was next placed upon his chest, and Mr. Hinch, blacksmith, smashed it with two blows into fragments. Mr. Hinch and Mr. Turner then cut a piece of two-inch iron in two across his chest with the hammer and chisel. The feats concluded by Professor Hercules lying flat upon the floor, and allowing Mr. Hinch to strike him, with all his strength, with a sixteen pound sledge-hammer. The blow was met by the Professor, and the hammer rebounded without leaving a scratch upon his body.

An awkward man attempting to carve a goose, dropped it on the floor. "There, now," exclaimed his wife, "we've lost our dinner." "Oh, no, my dear," answered he, "it is safe—I have got my foot on it."

### FOOLS.

I Love a fool as naturally as if I were kith and kin to him. When a child, with childlike apprehensions, that dived not below the surface of the matter, I read those *Parables*—not guessing at the involved wisdom—I had more yearnings toward that simple architect that built his house upon the sand than I entertained for his more cautious neighbor. I grudged at the hard censure pronounced upon the quiet soul that kept his talent; and—prizing their simplicity beyond the more provident, and, to my apprehension, somewhat more *unfeminine* wariness of their competitors—I felt a kindliness that almost amounted to a *tendre* for those five thoughtless virgins. I have never made an acquaintance since that lasted, or a friendship that answered, with any that had not some tincture of the absurd in their characters. I venerate an honest obliquity of understanding. The more laughable the blunder a man shall commit in your company, the more tests he giveth you that he will not betray or over-reach you. I love the safety which a palpable hallucination warrants, the security which a word out of season ratifies. And take my word for this, reader, and say a fool told it you, if you please, that he who hath not a drachm of folly in his mixture hath pounds of much worse matter in his composition. It is observed that the "foolisher the fowl or fish, woodcocks, dotterels, cod's-heads, &c., the finer the flesh thereof;" and what are commonly the world's received fools but such whereof the world is not worthy? And what have been some of the kindliest patterns of our species but so many darlings of absurdity, minions of the goddess and her white boys?—*Charles Lamb.*

The Ocean County (N. J.) Courier relates the following good joke: In the Fall of 1866 one of our Ocean county cranberry growers packed several casks of choice cranberries and shipped to some of his English friends in Liverpool. In due time they were received, and their receipt acknowledged, saying: "That the cranberries had been received, and tendered their profound thanks; but they had spoiled in the transit, as they were so sour that they could not be eaten."

There is an old farmer in Northern Ohio who gets up at daylight, builds a fire, puts on the teakettle, dusts the furniture, goes out to the stable and feeds the horses, then calls up the folks. Having a taste for reading, he goes to a room where he keeps his books, builds a fire, sweeps out, and reads till breakfast time. This is Ben Wade, Vice President of the United States.

An old gentleman recently attempted to remove a large bug from the bonnet of a lady, who sat in front of him at the theatre. The result was, he unrooted all her back hair. Deeply chagrined, he hastily apologized, but soon learned that the bug was artificial, and was used to *hold the head and hair together.* A scene was the consequence.

Dr. Durbin, the great Methodist orator, once attempted to preach from the text "Remember Lot's wife," and made a failure. Afterward, remarking to Dr. Bond that he did not know the reason of his failure, the venerable Dr. replied that he had better thereafter let other people's wives alone."

A Lady who had read of the extensive manufacture of odometers to tell how far a carriage had been run, said she wished some Connecticut genius would invent an instrument to tell how far husbands had been in the evening when they just step down to the Post Office.

A dying West India planter groaned out to his favorite negro servant: "Ah, Samho, I'm going on a very long, long journey!" "Never mind, massa," said the negro, consolingly, "him all down hill."

How to do Good.—"He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do anything." Life is made up of little things. It is but once in an age that occasion is offered for doing a great deed. True greatness consists in being great in little things. How are railroads built? By one shovel of dirt after another; one shovel at a time. Thus, drops make the ocean. Hence, we should be willing to do a little good at a time, and never "wait to do a great deal of good at once." If we would do much good in the world, we must be willing to do good in little things, little acts one after another; speaking a word here, giving a tract there, and setting a good example all the time; we must do the first thing we can, and the next, and then the next, and so keep on doing good. This is the way to accomplish anything.

# General Miscellany.

## VARIETIES OF GRAPES.

A. S. Fuller, an author on grape culture, expresses his opinions, as follows, on some of the new varieties of grapes.

Grape culture is to-day upon a firm basis, and its progress as a whole, certain. Whether we have any variety or varieties that may be relied upon for general cultivation, and which will give general satisfaction in all sections, is at least doubtful.

For a market grape, the *Concord* is probably the most popular variety known, and the award of the Grecley prize to it will make it more sought for than heretofore. The Concord is superior in some respects, to anything we have, but in others it is very inferior. It is very hardy; very productive; leaves tough and firm; seldom affected by mildew; fruit large and handsome, but not best in quality, and skin so tender that it frequently breaks in handling.

*Catawba.*—This has long been, and still is, a favorite in regions where it can be successfully grown. It has few superiors in beauty or quality, and is well worthy of an extra care and cultivation.

*Delaware.*—No new developments in regard to this variety have appeared. It is still the very best in quality, requires the best of cultivation, and liable to mildew in many locations, while in others it is entirely exempt. Well worthy of a trial everywhere.

*Ives' Seedling.*—This is much praised at the West as a wine grape; and, judging from the several specimens which we have received from that section, we think it deserving of all the laudations that it has received. It makes a dark red wine of much body. The vine is an excellent grower, and so far has been free from disease. Promises to be a superior variety for the West and South.

*Iona.*—This is still claimed to be the best of the newer varieties, and probably is one of the best where it succeeds; but that it will thrive over a wider range of country than many others is very doubtful. We hear of just about as many failures as we do of successes, therefore we conclude that it is one of those kinds that may do admirably in one garden and soil, and fail with equal care in another near by.

*Rogers' Hybrid, Israella, Adirondac, Creveling*, and similar varieties, appear to maintain the position they occupied a year or two since; that is, they succeed better in New England and through eastern and central New York, and in portions of Pennsylvania, than elsewhere. They do not appear to be planted extensively anywhere, the vineyardist preferring to experiment more before planting in large numbers.

---

The trade of Russian America in 1866, amounted to $1,500,000 in skins and furs. While Russia owned the territory whalers were not allowed to land on the coast for business purposes, but this restriction is now removed. As an evidence of the prosperity to result from the acquisition of the territory by the United States, it may be stated that a fur company, with a capital of $1,000,000, to operate in the new territory, has been organized in San Francisco. The charter of this company is said to be in the hands of some of the principal business men of the Pacific slope.

---

The growth of Texas in material prosperity is gratifying. The population of the State has increased at least 300,000 since 1860, and is being daily swelled by immigration from Europe, and from the Southern States East of the Mississipi. Texas is the land of promise for agriculturists and stock raisers. It affords within its boundaries the products of both the temperate and tropical zones. Provisions are abundant and cheap, and the people desirous of encouraging immigration.

---

An Ohio editor has received a cake of sugar made from the sap of the black walnut tree. He pronounces it superior to maple sugar.

## PICTURE OF AN IRISH CABIN.

As we passed along the dreary road from Skibbereen, a sudden turn opened the whole Bay of Bantry to our view in the far off distance. On the back ground are the Killarney mountains, and the Caha mountains, among which Timothy informs me are 365 lakes—suggesting the legend that some saint, of aqueous propensities, prayed for a pool for each day in the year. Within the bay are many small islands; the prettily situated town of Bantry commanding a view of the whole bay, whose length is twenty-one miles. I entered a great many way-side cabins, and was always well received,—in fact there is a natural politeness underlying the Irish character.

Almost invariably is a mud-puddle in front of the cabin, for the hog to wallow in if they are so fortunate as to have one. The floors of the hut are all of mud, trodden down hard. The furniture generally consists of a few deep plates, a bowl or two, an iron kettle, a bench near the fire, or stones placed there for seats. A fire of turf in a fire corner, but no regular chimney to allow the smoke to pass out, which finds egress through the open door. Then there is usually another mud building attached to the main cabin, as a sleeping place.

I took a piece of lighted turf from the fire and entered. I found it built in the shape of a bake-oven. The length of the place was about twelve feet, and about the same breadth, while the beigbth was not five feet, as I could not stand upright in it. There was no window or any other place for light or ventilation. The door led into the main cabin, and the floor was covered with a small quantity of straw. In that hole sleep nightly an old man and wife, two girls about the ages of 18 and 20, three boys of about 12, 15 and 22,—besides the pig. —*Letters from Ireland.*

---

Drying Rhubarb.—It is said that the best and most economical plan of drying rhubarb is to peel the foot-stalks, cut them into lengths of about an inch, and expose them on boards or plates, etc., to the sun, or in a dry-house, with temperature too low to scald. September is said to be the best month for drying in the open air, because, at that time, continued fair weather may be expected, and insects will be less numerous. When fully dried, rhubarb may be kept in paper or cotton bags, or in kegs or boxes. It is very easily prepared for use, and preserves its flavor remarkably well.

---

Early Potatoes.—Mr. Willaby Mason, of Masonville, left at our office last week some fair-sized Zebeck potatoes, raised by him in *fifty-six* days from the seed. He employed surface manure, but no manure in the hills. We are also indebted to him for a peck of new Goodrich potatoes, fine samples.

---

A Flirt resembles a dipper attached to a hydrant. Every body is at liberty to drink from it, but nobody desires to take it away.

---

A man, named Schram, while binding wheat in a field near Buchanan, Mich., last week, gathered up in a sheaf a rattlesnake, which bit him on the finger. With remarkable coolness he immediately took his pocket knife and cut open the end of the finger through the wound made by the snake's tooth, quickly wound a horse-hair tightly around the finger to prevent as much as possible the circulation of the blood, and drank a glass of liquor. Next day he was nearly well, having suffered little inconvenience except being very sick for a short time.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending August 2, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 14c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $10 00a12 00 | Potatoes | 1.10 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.00 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $18, 19 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 20 | Molasses ₩ gal | 60a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 20 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 64c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 22c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 35c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 35c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 25a50c | Lard ₩ lb | 16ac18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 25a30c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 20a28c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 18c |

## BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

July 31, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1429; Sheep and Lambs 10,926. Swine, 2300. Western cattle, 1164; Eastern cattle, 7; Working oxen and Northern cattle, 150. Cattle left over from last week, 108.

Prices. Beef Cattle—Extra, $13.50@$14.00; first quality, $13.00@$13.25; second quality, $12.00@$12.50; third quality, $10.50@$11.50 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 10@10½c ₩ lb. Country Tallow, 6¼a7¼c ₩ lb Brighton Hides, 10½@11 cts. ₩ lb; Brighton Tallow, 6@8½c ₩ lb.

Lamb Skins, 50a60c each; Clipped Skins, 25c.

Calf Skins, 20 @ 22c ₩ lb. Sheared Sheep Skins, 25c.

The supply of Beeves in market is not so large as that of last week, and the quality is poorer. The market closed at a decline in prices equal to ½ to ½c per lb. from the prices obtained in the fore part of the week.

Store Cattle—There is but few in market.

Working Oxen—We quote prices at $200a260 per pair. But a few pairs in market, and not much call for them.

Milch Cows—Sales extra at $85a110; ordinary $65@$75.—Store Cows $42a55 per head

Sheep and Lambs.—The trade is duller than it has been for some weeks. We quote sales of Lambs at from $2.50 to $4.25 per head. Old Sheep 5a5½c per lb.

Swine—There is a few Store Pigs in market; prices, wholesale 8 cents per pound; retail 8½ to 10 cents per pound.—Fat Hogs—2200 at market; prices, 7½@8c. per lb.

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

Flour, &c.—The market for western and state flour is less active, prices are 10 to 15 cents lower on fresh ground and 22 to 25 on new flour. The demand is mainly for home use.

Sales at $6.30a7.25 for superfine state; $7.60a11.15 for ordinary and common extra state; $8a9.25 for the low grades of spring wheat western extra; $9.90a11.85 for good to choice do; $8.90a10.10 for shipping Ohio; $10.60a12.60 for trade and family brands of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, and $15.50a18.50 for St. Louis extras; the latter is scarce at previous prices.

California flour heavy and rather lower. Sales of 1,100 bbls. at $12.70a15.50. Canadian flour rather quiet. Sales of 50 bbls. at $10.50. Southern flour unchanged. Sales of new at $13.50a16.50 for good to choice extras.

Rye flour steady but quiet. Sales at $6.75a0.

Corn meal is without change. Sales of 300 bbls. at $5.90 for Fairfax, and $6.15 for Brandywine.

Grain.—The wheat market is lower in sympathy with the decline in flour. Millers buy cautiously, awaiting a further decline.

Sales at 2.05 for No. 2 Milwaukee club; $2.70a2.75 for white Californian; $2.70a2.75 for new white southern; $2.45a2.60 for new amber do.

Oats are heavy and we hear of few sales.

Rye is quiet. Sales of western at $1.45.

Corn opened steady. Sales unsound at 93c.a$1; damp at $1 a1.02; mixed at $1.03a1.05, closing at $1.03a1.04; western white at $1-12; kiln-dried at $1a1.03.

## WOOL MARKET.

The market continues very dull, and prices favor buyers at 31a35c. for unwashed, and 50a55c. per pound for fine, according to quality.

# Marriages.

In South Scituate, July 21st, by Rev. B. B. Cottrell, James A. Tucker, Jr., to Miss Mattie E. Havole, all of North Scituate.

In Providence, July 2d, by Rev. H. H. Ela, William H. Esty to Miss Phebe A. Darling, both of Woonsocket.

In Lonsdale, July 30th, by Rev. W. W. Sever, Mathew Harrale, of Manville, to Janette, daughter of the late John McAllister, of L.

In Centreville, 28th ult., Mr. Frank M. Tucker to Miss Julia M. Arnold, both of Warwick.

In Milford, July 24th, Reuel B. Clark, A. M., Principal of the Fitchburg High School, to Idella R., daughter of Cyrus Noyes of M.

# Deaths.

In Burrillville, 31st ult., Huldah M., wife of Abaz Mowry, Jr., and daughter of Duty Smith, aged 66 years, 4 months and 11 days.

In Providence, 29th ult., Isabella H., daughter of Hugh and Margaret Donnelly, in the 23d year of her age; 28th ult., Willie Oscar, only child of Henry O. and Ellen H. Carpenter, aged 4 months and 8 days.

In Newport, July 28th, Mrs. Mary M., widow of the late Deacon Peleg Sanford, in the 75th year of her age.

In Worcester, July 27th, S. Lizzie Kendall, aged 14 years, 11 months and 9 days; the 27th ult., Michael Teehan, aged 29 years and 6 months.

In Fall River, 27th ult., Agnes Wardrop McNaughton, aged 25 years; 28th ult., Matilda Frances Lyon, aged 17 years, 11 months and 4 days; the 28th ult., James Hewd, aged 4 years; 29th ult., Margaret Taylor, aged 59 years.

In Milford, 23d ult., Mrs. Salina Torrey, aged 86 years and 3 months; 25th ult., John Connors, aged 60 years.

In Southbridge, July 23d, Miss Mary Plimpton, aged 81 years.

In Hopkinton, July 24th, Mrs. Betsey P. Rockwood, aged 82 years.

In Holliston, 19th ult., Mr. John Smith, aged 86 years and 3 months.

# Special Notices.



# Advertising Department.

## Pennsylvania.



Clover.—Clover differs entirely from the cereal plants in this respect, that it sends its main roots perpendicularly downwards, when no obstacles stand in the way, to a depth which the fine, fibrous roots of wheat and barley fail to reach; the principal roots of clover branch off into creeping shoots, which again send forth roots downwards. Clover seed, on account of its small size, can furnish from its own mass but few formative elements for the young plant, and requires a rich arable surface for its developments; but the plant takes comparatively but little food from the surface soil. When the roots have pierced through this, the upper parts are soon covered with a corky coating, and only the fine root fibres, ramifying through the subsoil, convey food to the plant.—*Liebig.*

# Entomology.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## INSECT-PLANTS.

A Remarkable Tree.—Dr. Stanley L. Haynes, in a short pamphlet entitled "A Ramble in the New Zealand Bush," tells the following remarkable tree story: The pata tree is said to have a most remarkable mode of commencing its existenee. The young plant takes root in the head of a caterpillar, which buries itself before it dies (or is killed by its strange parasite), and so enables the young plant to obtain a legitimate and radical nourishment from the soil. Dr. Haynes possesses four specimens of this *lusus naturæ*; in three of them the stem grows from the top of the caterpillar's head; in the other it grew straight forward between the eyes; on one of them two stems arise from the head. The caterpillars are three inches long and half an inch in diameter, and are quite dry and brown, without indications of having been at all decomposed. On the contrary, the true and false feet and the eyes and mouth are well preserved.

The foregoing, clipped from the columns of the Public Ledger, although very "remarkable," if true, yet is not nearly so remarkable as a case recorded on the 257th page of the "Family Magazine" for 1840, published at Cincinnatti, O., by J. A. James & Co.

According to the account there recorded, a strange insect-plant was procured in Plymouth, North Carolina, preserved in alcohol, and brought to Cincinnati by some individual, not named in the communication. This strange insect-plant or plant-inseet, is represented as being fully one inch and-a-half long; of a brownish color; with two filliform *antennæ;* and with a pair of auterior palmated feet, similar to those of a ground-mole. It has also two posterior feet; and after the insect is matured, it burrows into the ground, and these two feet become developed as a plant, or plants, resembling trefoil, growing about six inches or more in height. The extremity of these branches bear a bud, not of a leaf or a flower, but of an insect in embryo. As this embryo develops, the insect falls to the ground and feeds upon the leaves of the mother plant, and as soon as it is matured, it, in like manner, goes into the ground, and a new plant comes up, and so on during the season. No more was said upon the subject *then*, because a gentleman of Philadelphia was cultivating a quantity of them, for the purpose of furnishiug museums. According to the illustration of this rare animal-plant, which accompanies the article in the book, the insect bears some resemblance to the common mole-cricket—*Gryllotalpa*—differing very much in this respect from its congener in New Zealand.

These accounts need authentication and confirmation, and perhaps if ever "a gentleman in Philadelphia," has been experimenting on this subject, these remarks may bring him out, I hope, for I have long been looking for his report. That a hard seed might get into the body of an insect, and therein germinate and grow after the insect had buried itself in the ground and died, is not remarkable; but that the plant growing therefrom should bear a bud producing a like insect, requires special demonstration for any one to believe, unless coming from the most unquestionable authority.

*Lancaster, Pa.* S. S. R.

## THE WHEAT MIDGE.

The common Wheat-midge, (*Cecidomyia Tritici,*) is an insect which was introduced into this country some twenty or thirty years ago from Europe, and which, according to returns from the different counties of the State of New York, which were thoroughly sifted and footed up by the Secretary of their State Agricultural Society, destroyed in one single year in that single State the enormous amount of fifteen million dollars' worth of wheat.

In England the largest amount of wheat it was ever known to destroy in one single year was one-twentieth of the entire crop. Such a small per centage as that, American farmers would not think worth talking about; but here the Wheat-midge often takes over half the entire crop.

The reason is simple. In England there are no less than three parasitic insects preying upon the Wheat-midge; in this country there is not one, because it wisely emigrated here without its parasites.

The Wheat-midge itself in its perfect or winged form, is a small two-winged fly, shaped much like a musquito, but considerably smaller, and with an orange colored abdomen. It comes out in June from under the ground, where it has lain all winter, the time varying a little according to the latitude, and lays its eggs upon the ears of wheat when they are in blossom. These quicly hatch out into the orange-colored little maggots which do all the mischief, sneking out the life-blood of the future kernel so that it shrinks up to nothing.

When well fed they mostly go underground and construct a very filmy cocoon which adheres strongly to the surrounding earth, and inside which they transform next Spring into the pupa state. But a few remain in the ear and construct their cocoon there, which fits so closely to their bodies, that it is only visible where it projects a little at each end, the cocoon itself being transparent and finer and more filmy than the most delicate gold-beaters' skin.

# Advertising Department.

## New York.



## Pennsylvania.



## New Jersey.



## Massachusetts.



## Rhode Island.



### TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the Farm and Fireside. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a uniform style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

### COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the Farm and Fireside may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

### THE FARM AND FIRESIDE

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

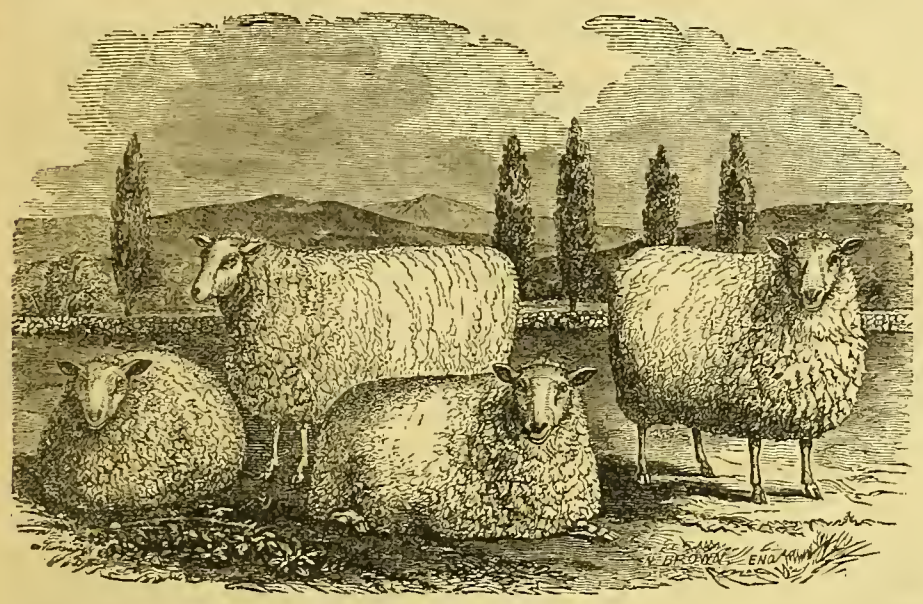
# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1867. NO. 31.



## THE COTSWOLD SHEEP.

Our illustration for this week is a group of the Cotswold Sheep. They belong to the long-wool breeds, and are profitable and hardy. Their hardiness is well illustrated by the fact that they live and thrive as far North as the Ohio river without other food, Summer or Winter, than the natural grasses of the meadows and forests. The shrinkage in the scouring of their wool is but from 18 to 20 per cent., while the waste in merino wool ranges from 40 to 70 per cent. A pound of average Cotswold fleece will produce as much scoured wool as two and a half pounds of merino fleece which shrinks 68 per cent. Not a few farmers, estimating both the mutton and wool, consider the Cotswolds the most profitable breed to raise.

The long-wool sheep, among them the Cotswolds, have increased in value ever since the introduction of the llama wool from Peru. The length and fineness of this material enabled the manufacturer to make a kind of fabric entirely new to the British market, namely, those light gossamer stuffs so much prized and worn by our fair countrywomen. The success of this material set the manufacturers to work to attempt imitations of it from the long wools of British growth. In this they succeeded, especially since the invention of combing wool by machinery, about fourteen years since, which greatly improved the operation as well as the uniformity of the material upon which it is employed. By the use of this machine wool can now be combed of two and a half inches in length. The Cotswolds have much increased in value since the introduction of the llama and alpaca wool.

---

All cultivation in the orchard should now cease, as it tends to stimulate late Fall growth and endanger the life and vitality of the trees during the cold weather. Good cultivation in the orchard is essential to healthy growth of trees and good quality of fruit, but it should always be done in the Spring and early Summer; no crop should ever be grown in the orchard that requires late stirring of the soil.

## DELAWARE FARMING—PEACH CULTURE.

### THE YOUNG TREES, HOW THEY ARE RAISED, AND WHERE THEY COME FROM.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY J. ALEXANDER FULTON, DOVER, DELAWARE.

In former years we obtained our young trees from New Jersey nursery-men, but now this is all changed, and the trees are produced on our own soil. The causes, operating to produce this result, were first, "the yellows" in that State, which led our orchardists to dread their introduction here, and to seek every means of preventing it. Secondly, the expenses of transportation were considerable, and, as the business increased, became more burthensome. Thirdly, it was found, upon trial, that our soil and climate were even better adapted to their cultivation than those of our sister State. Fourthly, this was *the market* for the trees, and the wants and wishes of the consumers had to be consulted, and it was soon found that trees produced at home had a better sale than those brought from other places. Consequently the nursery-men transferred their business to the spot where their productions were wanted, and now we have millions of trees produced annually at home, while very few are imported.

#### FORMING A NURSERY.

The first thing to be attended to is procuring the seed. This must be of the natural fruit, as that only will produce a fine, healthy and vigorous stock. Nearly all our fruit in Kent county being of the choicest budded varieties, very little seed can be procured here. Hence the nursery-men send agents in the Fall into the lower counties of the peninsula to engage it in time. And the quantity required being so large, and the competition so great, high prices are often paid for it. The ordinary average price may be stated at one dollar per bushel, but it often brings only fifty cents.

When the seed is procured and at hand, a small piece of dry ground is selected for a seed bed. Care must be exercised in the selection to secure a spot that will not collect or retain water, as this would rot the seed. When the ground is selected, some time late in the Fall, say the middle of November, the seed is spread uniformly over it, about two inches thick, and then spaded in to the depth of six inches. Here it lies and freezes until planting time the next Spring.

Early in the Spring, when the weather begins to get warm, and the water is well out of the ground, a suitable spot is selected for a nursery. This is no difficult matter, as nearly all our land is well adapted for this purpose; and, provided it is not swampy, any will do. But there are other points to be considered by the nursery-man besides the mere production of the young trees. It must be accessible, both on account of getting fertilizers *to it*, when required, and the young trees *from it*, when put in market. And as by far the greater quantity will be shipped, it should be near a railroad station to avoid much hauling. And as a *good* nursery—to have which is the aim of all in the business—is a living advertisement, some public place, in view of this, should be, and is, generally selected.

When the proper spot is thus selected, the ground is prepared precisely as for a crop of corn. It is plowed, harrowed, and furrowed out one way, as for drills, about three, or three and a half feet apart. Being a light sandy loam, if the weather has been favorable, it is now in a very fine condition, "light as an ash heap."

When all is ready "the force" is brought on the ground, usually consisting of from ten to twenty hands, men, women and little boys, with an overseer, who directs and superintends the whole. A number of peach baskets, of the last season's use, are brought out, spades are produced, and the seed bed is thoroughly overhauled, and the seed gathered up. Most of the pits have bursted; but those that have not are cracked with a hammer, and thus prepared for planting. Some few, lying near the surface, will have started to grow. These are placed by themselves to be "set," and not covered up as the others are to be. The baskets are filled, placed in a cart, and "carried" to the nursery, and a start is made, and "the force" divided, some remaining at the bed to take up, sift, and separate the seed; others following the cart to the field to drop, cover, and set.

And here, as with other crops, the artificial fertilizers are liberally and profitably used, bone dust and superphosphate of lime being the favorites. Whatever it may be, it is placed in the bottom of the furrow, and in close contact with the seed, in the same way as with corn. The dropping now commences by one passing along the row with a basket of pits, and depositing them in the bottom of the furrow, about two and a half or three inches apart. The dropper is followed by a coverer with a hoe, who covers them up about two inches deep. Where the ground is quite clean and loose, the covering is done by a man and horse, with a regular corn-cover. The pits which have sprouted are treated somewhat differently; and, instead of being covered, are set, or planted, like any other small plants.

The seed commences to grow at once, and in a favorable Spring, makes rapid progress. The after tillage is the same as of corn in all respects, and quite as easy, the cultivator being the principal implement used. Indeed, all that is necessary is to stir the ground between the rows, and keep the weeds down, and performing the first nearly always secures the last. The young plants grow apace, and by the last of June are usually from eight inches to a foot high, and very thrifty. A month or six weeks later, say the tenth of August, they have attained the height of two and a half feet, and a diameter of one-fourth to half an inch.

#### BUDDING

Now commences, and continues until the cold weather checks the flow of sap in the Fall. The budders come principally from New Jersey, and are very expert in their business. They bud with great skill and rapidity; and although budding a thousand trees a day is regarded as a fair day's work for one man, yet many of them will exceed this by fifty per cent.; and a few will even double it. The ordinary price paid for budding small lots is three dollars and fifty cents a thousand. But large nursery-men usually make better terms. When I now speak of budding, I do so of budding strictly so called. "Stripping" and "tying" are other parts of the same work, but they are performed by unskilled labor, and consequently at ordinary wages. Three hands to each row are required in budding, and two of them, after a little practice, may be boys. The first in request is the "stripper," who sets in at the end of the row, and strips off the leaves and small latteral shoots from the stock to be budded, for a space of six or eight inches above the ground.

The "budder" follows with his budding knife, and by a rapid stroke, a vertical incision about two inches in length, close above the ground, on the north side of the stock, is made, separating the bark smoothly and completely to the wood. Then, by a transverse stroke, a little space below the head of the first incision, he makes another; then by a peculiar and instantaneous twist of his knife, loosens the bark at the intersection, so that the bud may be introduced with facility. The bud is now cut off from the scion. If the wood inside can be shoved out with the thumb and finger, it it said to "slip," but if not, it is then "quilled," which is done by running a prepared goose-quill between the wood and bark. This latter manner is more tedious and only resorted to late in the season, when the flow of sap is tardy. The bud is now inserted, and the budder's part of the work done. The "tyer" follows. A small, active boy makes as good an one as any. He is supplied with a twist or hank of the matting used by nurserymen for this purpose, and cut into suitable lengths. With one of these every bud is firmly bound. This is done by placing the flat side of the center of the tie on the newly inserted bud, drawing both ends around to the opposite side, crossing them, bringing them back and tying them. The budding is now complete.

The bud is set on the *North side*, rather than the South, because experience has taught that the North or Northwest winds are the most in-

jurious, and the young twig is much more hardly blown *over* the stump of the stock, than *off* from it.

THE BUDS.

These are sometimes procured out of the orchard, but, more frequently, out of last year's nursery. The reasons for preferring the nursery are several. First, it is much more convenient, as the lateral branches of the young trees are just at hand, and quite abundant. Secondly, the danger of *fruit buds* is avoided. And, thirdly, there is greater certainty of procuring the variety sought. The buds are cut every morning, so that they may be fresh and sure to grow. The manner of preparing them is by cutting off the leaf at its base, and putting the twigs into a bucket of water, where they remain until wanted. When inserted in the stock they are taken fresh from the twig.

If the bud has been set early, and tied tightly, the stock will grow considerably during the Fall, and the band ought to be loosened. But a skillful tyer will so guage the tension that the knot will yield to the force of the swelling growth, and render this unnecessary.

Early the next Spring, the top of the stock is cut off about an inch above the bud, and the entire strength of the roots thus forced into it. Care should be exercised in cutting not to cut too close to the bud, for by doing so the fibres of the wood may so dry up as to stop the flow of sap to the bud itself: nor so far above it as to make re-cutting necessary: or, otherwise, leave an unsightly stool. As soon as the stocks are thus topped, the exuberance of sap will force the bud forward rapidly: but it will do more than this; it will start other buds below the one inserted. These must be carefully watched and rubbed off: otherwise they will take the nourishment from the artificial one and greatly retard its growth, if not destroy it altogether. After this is done, and a fair start is made, the new bud will grow with great vigor and rapidity, and the trouble is nearly over. All that is necessary afterwards is to cultivate the rows as you would corn or potatoes. There is no more labor, there is no more trouble. By Fall the young trees are fit to plant, and are put into market. They have now attained a growth of from four to six feet. They should never be allowed to stand over one year in the nursery.

MARKETING.

Late in the Fall, when the leaves begin to fall off, or can be easily stript off with the hands, the trees are taken up. This is done with spades. They are then wrapped in straw, in bundles of twenty-five, fifty, and one hundred each, and shipped to those who have engaged them. If any are left unsold they are "heeled-in" to meet the next Spring's demand. But for several years past, those who want peach trees have had to secure them in the Fall, as the stock has generally been exhausted before the following Spring. Some orchardists prefer planting in the Spring, but in order to secure the trees, buy them in the Fall and heel them in themselves. This is done by digging a trench, on some high, dry piece of ground, about two feet wide, and eighteen inches deep. Into this the roots of the young trees are put, the tops inclined to the South, and the whole covered over with soil about a foot deep, and two-thirds of the length of the trees. Here they remain safely and in good condition until wanted the next Spring.

In my next number I will follow them into the orchard, and see what is done with them there.

*August*, 1867.

## RETARDING THE BLOSSOMING OF PEACH AND APPLE TREES.

It has long been known that if peach trees can be retarded in blossoming, some ten days, at the North, where crops of this fruit cannot usually be grown, the result will be a moderate crop. We also notice that apple trees thus retarded, have borne fruit, while those by their side, not retarded, bore no fruit. The way to retard the blossoming of peach and apple trees, is to spread a heavy mulch under them, as far as their roots extend, which becoming saturated with water in the Fall, or Winter, freezes, and thus keeps back the sap in the trees for the required time. Tan-bark, sawdust, the bagasse (refuse cane or pomace) from sugar cane mills, or anything else that will retain water and freeze solid in Winter.

Peach trees grown on the northern slopes of hills are much more liable to bear fruit in a cold climate, then when set on a level plain, or southern slope; therefore, it is good policy, in the climate of New England, Northern and Central New York, and like climates, to set peach trees on northern slopes, if set at all, or on the north side of buildings, when but a few trees are grown, as an experiment.

But we are inclined to believe that the system of training peach trees low, and near the ground, so that the branches can be protected easily in Winter, will enable us to grow peaches in this climate, without the retarding of their blossoms, beyond what the protection given them in Winter will do. In fact, where the thermometer falls frequently from 25 to 28 degrees below zero, it is impossible to grow peaches, without an effectual protection of the trees in Winter.

Set the trees in an inclined position, and keep them so, by tying them down to stakes if necessary, so that their branches will mostly be close to the ground. They will grow in this position, if properly attended to from the setting out. In November surround each tree with hemlock, or other evergreen boughs, and over them throw some corn stalks, or poor refuse hay, or straw, that will stay in its place, and not be blown away, and leave this protection on till about May 1st, or even later, and the blossoming of the trees will be sufficiently retarded, and the buds will not be destroyed by the frosts of Winter, and the result will be peaches that will astonish you in size and quality, even in Central New York, where it is seldom that a peach is now grown.—*Rural American.*

## WHY IT IS THAT POTATOES YIELD LESS THAN FORMERLY.

A CORRESPONDENT in a late number of your paper, wishes to be told why the yield of potatoes is less than formerly. The reason is not difficult of discovery. It exists as a law of nature, embracing animal as well as vegetable organisms. These all have excretory as well as secretory functions. All throw off effete matter, and this effete matter is hateful to the secretory vessels on which vegetables depend for their development. If many crops in succession, of the same vegetable, are grown, the effete matter increases in proportion to the nutritive, and finally overcomes all efforts at successful cultivation. The food decreases and the poison increases, with every crop. If manure, general or special, is added to the soil, it increases the food, but does not necessarily diminish the poisonous effete matter. One hundred years ago potatoes were but little cultivated, and most grounds were left fresh for their production. Then and long afterwards, 400 bushels was not an extraordinary yield. Now the increased taste for its use, and the great augmentation of our people, in number and ability to purchase, have made it necessary that great breadths of land should be used for its growth. In consequence of this, much of the land has become weakend to a degree that invites destructive enemies to feed on its substance—to take advantage of its weakened organization. Hence the rot, so called, and other ailments. Mother earth is a good mother, but like her sex generally, she has a taste for variety in outer adornments. She will change her dress, even the most durable of her fabrics—her forests. These are ever varying in composition, and finally thrown off altogether for grasses. These, again, have their round of varieties, and in a long course of years give place to other plants. Mother earth will have her way, and those of us, her children, who best understand her requirements, will partake most largely of her bounties.—*Correspondence in Country Gentleman.*

# The Stock Yard.

## POINTS OF A GOOD HOG.

It may not be amiss to group together what is deemed desirable under this head. No one should be led away by mere name in the selection of a hog. It may be called a Berkshire or a Suffolk, or any other breed most in estimation, and yet, in reality, may possess none of this valuable blood. The only sure way to avoid imposition is, to make name always secondary to points. If a hog is found possessing such points of form as are calculated to insure early maturity and facility of taking on flesh, one needs to care but little by what name he is called; since no mere name can bestow value upon an animal deficient in the qualities already indicated.

The true Berkshire—that possessing a dash of the Chinese and Neapolitan varieties—comes perhaps, nearer to the desired standard than any other.

The chief points which characterize such a hog are the following: In the first place sufficient depth of carcass, and such an elongation of body as will insure a sufficient lateral expansion. The loin and breast should be broad. The breadth of the former denotes good room for the play of the lungs, and, as a consequence, a free and healthy circulation, essential to the thriving or fattening of any animal. The bone should be small and the joints fine—nothing is more indicative of high breeding than this; and the legs should be no longer than, when fully fat, would just prevent the animal's belly from trailing upon the ground. The leg is the least profitable portion of the hog, and no more of it is required than is absolutely necessary for the support of the rest. The feet should be firm and sound; the toes should lie well together, and press straightly upon the ground; the claws, also, should be even, upright and healthy.

The form of the head is sometimes deemed of little or no consequence, it being generally, perhaps, supposed that a good hog may have an ugly head, but the head of all animals is one of the very principle points in which pure or impure breeding will be most obviously indicated. A high-bred animal will invariably be found to arrive more speedily at maturity, to take flesh more easily, and at an earlier period, and, altogether, to turn out more profitably than one of questionable or impure stock. Such being the case, the head of the hog is a point by no means to be overlooked. The description of head most likely to promise—or, rather to be the accompaniment of—high breeding, is one not carrying heavy bones, not too fat on the forehead, or possessing a snout too elongated: the snout should be short, and the forehead rather convex, curving upward; and the ear, while pendulous, should incline somewhat forward, and at the same time be light and thin. The carriage of the pig should also be noticed. If this be dull, heavy and deducted, one may reasonably suspect ill health, if not some concealed disorder actually existing, or just about to break forth; and there cannot be a more unfavorable symptom than a hung down, slouching head. Of course a fat hog for slaughter and a sow heavy with young, have not much sprightliness of deportment.

Color is, likewise, not to be disregarded. Those colors are preferable which are characteristic of the most esteemed breeds. If the hair is scant, black is desirable, as denoting connection with the Neapolitan; if too bare of hair, a too intimate alliance with that variety may be apprehended, and a consequent want of hardihood, which—however unimportant, if pork be the object—renders such animals a hazardous speculation for stock purposes, on account of their extreme susceptibility of cold, and consequent liability to disease. If white, and not too small, they are valuable as exhibiting connection with the Chinese. If light, or sandy, or red with black marks, the favorite Berkshire is detected: and so on, with reference to every possible variety of hue.—*Jennings.*

## TREATMENT OF COWS.

If cows are worried by any cause, as fright, or over-exercise, or are in heat, the milk is lessened in quantity and deteriorated in quality, and sours much sooner. Unnatural, rough or harsh treatment affect the mental and physical condition of the cow, and react directly upon the dairyman, by lessening the quality and quantity of milk: consequently, he should realize that not only humanity, but self interest demands that his treatment of the creatures under his care be marked by kindness, gentleness, and consideration for their comfort. Domestic animals are not naturally vicious, and if a uniform law of kindness is observed towards the cow, she becomes attached to her milker, and yields her milk generously and trustingly. The cows should be milked by the same milker, and at regular intervals, else she becomes restive and impatient, and the process should be gently but rapidly performed.

Milk very readily absorbs any taint from vessels in which it is placed, and from odors, contained in the atmosphere: hence to secure a good quality of butter, every surrounding of the diary room should be in a condition of the utmost purity. Too little pains is taken in raising and selecting stock with reference to the milk-producing quality. The common stock might be vastly improved in this respect by judicious treatment. The Jersey breed probably excels in richness of the milk, and the Devons perhaps come next, but the Ayreshires yield a large amount of milk, and are the best for cheese making. The Kerries are small and pretty, and are good milkers; while the Herefords are large, but are usually poor milkers.—V., in *Rural American.*

## THE MANGE.

Is a cutaneous disease, and contagious. If in a large herd, a single animal is attacked, it is seldom that any escape. The diseased cattle should be removed to some distant stable at once, where there can be no possible communication with the others.

The symptoms are a dry dandruf or scurf about the roots of the hair, attended with severe itching and inflammation, inducing a violent rubbing. It is first seen about the tail, and thence spreads in every direction.

The causes are various. Over-feeding or under-feeding will produce it. A sudden change from the lowest diet to the richest will bring it on in its worst form. Filthy stables and want of cleanliness about the animals themselves will produce it, but not so readily as improper feeding. The treatment to effect a cure is simple. Prepare an ointment of three gills of spirits of turpentine, three-fourths of a pound of flour of sulphur, and oil enough to reduce the whole to a thin plastic unguent. Rub this in gently with the hand or a soft brush—the hand is best, and there is no danger in doing it. Whale oil is disagreeable to use on account of its smell, and linseed oil is of too drying a nature. The best oil, perhaps, would be new butter, before being salted: this would be sweet, soft and penetrating. This mixture could be kept in a tight vessel for years, and would prove an excellent remedy for the "mange," as well as for several other cutaneous and contagious diseases to which cattle are subject.—*New England Farmer.*

WHY SOWS DESTROY THEIR YOUNG.—A writer in the American Stock Journal thinks that costiveness and its accompanying evils are the main causes of sows destroying their young, and proper food the preventive and cure. He says he has never known a sow to eat her pigs in Autumn, when running at large with plenty of green food; but, with hardly any exception, sows littering early in the Spring are troubled with costiveness, which is frequently so severe as to be accompanied with inflamed eyes, great restlessness, and other signs of suffering. This restlessness sometimes increases till it amounts to frenzy. I have had them become so savage as to attack me fiercely. Potatoes, turnips, or any vegetables that have a tendency to open the bowels are recommended.

ARTLESS SIMPLICITY.—A sweet incident which shows the effect of early training, assisted by a pure and undefiled imagination—is thus related:—A lady visited New York city and saw on the sidewalk a ragged, cold and hungry little girl, gazing wistfully at some of the cakes in a shop window. She stopped, and taking the little one by the hand, led her into the store. Though she was aware that bread might be better for the cold child than cake, yet desiring to gratify the shivering and forlorn one, she bought and gave her the cake she wanted. She then took her to another place, where she procured her a shawl and other articles of comfort. The grateful little creature looked the benevolent lady full in the face, and with artless simplicity, said: "Are you God's wife?" Did the most eloquent speaker employ words to a better advantage?

# The Fireside Muse.

## "FLITTING."

There's sunshine on the meadows,
And sunshine on the road,
And through the brightness toils my horse
Beneath a weary load:
And as I stand beside my gate, with hands before my eyes,
I hear the children laugh to see the household gods I prize.

There was a time when this old home
Was full of mirth and glee,
But one by one the household went
And left it all to me—
A quiet house of vacant rooms, each made a sacred place
By echo of a missing voice, or dream of vanished face.

Ah, how I used to pause before
The mirror on the stair,
And shake my long bright ringlets out,
And fancy I was fair!
I took that quaint old mirror down, and packed it up last night,
And never stopped to trick my hair—for what is left is white!

In later years I used to sit
And watch the long green lane,
For one who came in those old times
But cannot come again,
And somehow, still, at eventide, my chair is turned that way;
I sit and work where once I watched—I sat so yesterday.

My new house is a pleasant place,
But yet it grieves me how
Its small completeness seems to say
My world is narrow now.
'Tis far too small for any one with festivals to deck,
But for my funeral large enough, for few will come to weep.

Good-bye, old house, a long good-by;
My hand is on your gate;
Though tears are gathering in my eyes,
I may not longer wait.
Good-bye, old house, and after all, the love which makes you dear
Awaits me in that heavenly home which I am drawing near.

# Field and Farm.

## ATMOSPHERIC PLANT FOOD.

David Dickson of Sparta, Ga., a planter as masterly and successful as he is intelligent, writes to the Southern Cultivator that "land may be improved and eventually made rich under a system of proper culture, by atmospheric agencies alone." His experience is, that the better the soil, the better drained it is, and the deeper plowed, the more rapidly the land can be improved. Mr. Lawes' English experiments fully prove the truth of this theory; he raised 15 bushels of wheat to the acre year after year by a good and deep tillage without any manure. But on an acre of the same conditioned land, by the addition of 200 pounds of the sulphate of ammonia alone, he got 30 bushels of wheat. Mr. Dickson is a strong advocate of Peruvian guano for plantation crops. It takes about 300 pounds of guano to supply the ammonia of the 200 pounds of sulphate; yet the phosphoric acid, soda, &c., of the guano is not supplied by the sulphate of ammonia.

The best evidence that the Agriculture of the Cotton States is at this time in the high road to permanent improvement, is the present great increase in grass growing, and the leguminous green crops, cow peas, red, yellow and crimson clover, &c. One planter who has made successful experiments with Bermuda grass and the clovers, avers that "grass growing is to be the salvation of Georgia. His programme is, 1st, grass; 2d, cattle: 3d, manure; 4th, everything that any other country produces, and all the cotton required by a hemisphere." He pastures on Bermuda grass from March until Christmas; but the biennial yellow clover it seems makes good pasture in February, and the crimson clover, *trifolium incarnatum*, an annual, makes still better pasturage and hay. Although the leguminous do not stand the dry hot weather of a Southern Summer like Bermuda and Guinea grass, they are invaluable both in early Spring and in the late Fall months to early Winter.—*Rural New Yorker.*

The Prairie Farmer recently contained a communication in which the writer stated that he had been entirely successful in excluding the bug from his potato fields by covering the rows several inches deep with straw immediately after planting. His crop was not disturbed by the bug, while the fields of his neighbors, upon which no straw was used, were completely destroyed. He reasons upon the subject thus:—"The young bugs come to perfection in the ground. After hatching and living a week or so on the potato tops, they fall off on the mellow soil and bore smooth, round, perpendicular holes in the ground to the depth of several inches, and remain several days undergoing their transformation, and then come out to lay their eggs by scores, and thus go on multiplying indefinitely. Straw seems to prevent their entrance into the ground, and it seems well worth a trial. The straw would at least pay as manure, and assist in keeping down weeds—and in a dry season is of great value as a mulch."

The Year of Great Plenty.—The agricultural department at Washington reports that there has never before been so favorable a prospect for uniformly good crops, since the establishment of the statistical bureau. The average production of wheat has been five bushels for each individual in the country, but the promise for the present year is about six bushels. The statistical returns for July show an improvement in the condition of Winter wheat over last year in every State but Texas, Nebraska and Minnesota, the diminution in the latter case being 4 per cent. The highest improvement is in Ohio, 160 per cent. West Virginia 78, Georgia 96, Tennessee 72, Indiana 54, Kentucky 53, Michigan 25, Vermont 25, New Jersey 25, New York 17. All the States except Vermont, New York, and Pennsylvania show an increase of Spring wheat on last year. The average of corn is unusually large, and other grains show an improvement over last year, though not so great as in wheat. Other productions generally of July reports show a largely increased yield. In fact the reports received from all sections, except in certain limited localities, are most encouraging and indicate highly remunerative results for agricultural labor.

A New Idea for Housing Poultry.—A correspondent of the American Agriculturalist gives a novel plan for a poultry house. It consists of a light building 4 by 9 feet, and 4½ feet high, without floor, and set upon wheels or rollers. Three feet at one end open lath work, and the remaining six feet partitioned off—the partition coming down within a foot of the ground enclosing 3 by 4 feet. The enclosed portion is for the roosts and nest boxes. The house is designed for fifteen hens, and is to be set on the grass and moved its length every day. The writer states that such a house is in practical operation, and works well, the advantages being that the fowls get fresh grass every day, that they thrive better in small than in large flocks, that they can thus be kept more cleanly and in better health, and that by moving the house in any locality on the premises, so that it may be sheltered or exposed in warm or cold weather, a more even temperature can be maintained. The house is to be provided with windows and doors, and can be made ornamental or otherwise, to suit taste.

The following treatment of a kicking cow is recommended by C. L. Hubbs, of Oronoco, Min., in a letter to the New York Farmers' Club. First, tie her by the head; then take a rope the size of a clothes line, and place it around the cow just back of the fore legs and tie loosely; then put in a small stick; now commence milking, and when the cow kicks, twist up the rope, and renew the twisting process every time she kicks. You will soon have it tight enough so that she cannot raise her hind foot more than four inches from the ground; when she stands quiet, loosen up a little. A few doses of this will cure a cow so well that she may be milked anywhere in the yard without trouble.

To Make a Stack Settle True.—There are two things to do this; keeping the center up; and pitching on from all sides. This last will make the stack settle evenly. Pitching on two sides will balance it; but it is not so good, as it does not make it evenly solid all round, but leaves some parts lower, where the water is apt to settle. By keeping the stack high in the center, as it is built up and sloping outward, the rain will be unable to penetrate, as, like a roof, it will ward it off. Keep high in the middle from bottom to top, and pitch on all sides to make equally solid.

# Various Matters.

## PISCICULTURE.

Numerous experiments now clearly establish the fact that fish have a peculiar aptitude for domestication. When reared in artificial lakes they do not fear the approach of man, and will even feed from his hand. When placed in aquariums and exposed to public gaze, they grow bold and betray no evidence of fright at objects around them. The French naturalists, in their enthusiasm, believe that the time will come when we shall witness the formation of marine species of animals as much subject to the dominion of man, as those terrestial species over which he has exercised control from the beginning of the world. But little effort has been made to domesticate the inhabitants of the sea, therefore the French theory may be something more than a chimera. Man knows not his power until he attempts to exercise it; and all experiments with fish give color to the wildest dreams of the future. Pisciculture, wherever diligently and judiciously pursued, has been attended with the most satisfactory results; and enterprises of the kind we trust will become more numerous in the United States. We have learned to depend too much upon our fine streams and magnificent lakes; the supply furnished by these will diminish as the country grows older, for civilization preys remorselessly on the resources of nature. Fish can be, and are raised with profit, for which reason their culture should receive greater attention and be carried out on a more extensive scale. And while we are engaged in pisciculture, we should make the rearing of lobsters one of its branches. They belong to our greatest delicacies, and in France their domestication is not overlooked. Basins are constructed for crustacea, which are divided into three compartments, two being for lobsters of all ages. These basins have afforded scientific men many facilities for studying the nature of the lobster, and the act of copulation is minutely described by Coste and Gerbe. "The lobster, it is known, towards Autumn copulates immediately after moulting. The female generally excites the male by caressing him with her antennæ; he turns her on her back and remains in contact with her about three minutes. After from eight to ten days she lays her eggs and fixes them successively to her false claws. In this state they are incubated for six months, so that they are hatched about July or August. The eggs of the lobster are not only hatched in great abundance at Concarneau, but the young lobsters are reared and observed up to their twentieth moult, that is, during four years." They do not require an expensive diet, as they will subsist on a fish of little value, and even will feed off the heads of sardines that have been preserved in oil. They are quiet in nature, leading a sedentary life, generally reposing under stones or in holes among the rocks. They can be reared without much trouble and at little expense. Immense quantities of crustacea are heaped in a single basin; and multitudes of lobsters, according to well attested experiments, live and thrive in close confinement. This branch of pisciculture we believe can be made profitable in certain sections of the United States. The enterprise is certainly worthy of attention.—*Field, Turf and Farm.*

A convivially-disposed gentleman, retiring late, walked independently and somewhat noisily up stairs and along the corridor to his room. "Why, what a noise you make," said his wife, who heard with some anxiety the heavy tread of his boots. "How heavily you walk!" "Well, my dear," was his gruff response, "if you can get a barrel of whiskey up stairs with any less noise, I should like to see you do it."

John Johnston writes to the American Farmer that sheep fatten more rapidly in October and November, if they have first-rate pasture, than at any other season of the year. In fattening sheep during the Winter, it is of special importance that they be in good condition before being put on their Winter feed.

## LAMARTINE'S OPINION OF WOMEN.

Woman, with weaker passions than man, is superior to him in soul. The Gauls attributed to her an additional sense, the divine sense. They were right. Nature has given women two painful Heavenly gifts which distinguish them, and often raise them above human nature—compassion and enthusiasm. By compassion they devote themselves; by enthusiasm they exalt themselves. What more does heroism require? They have more heart and more imagination than men. Enthusiasm from the imagination, and self-sacrifice from the heart. Women are, therefore, more naturally heroic than men. All nations have in their annals some of those miracles of patriotism of which woman is the instrument in the hands of God. When all is desperate in a national cause we need not despair while there remains a spark of resistance in a woman's heart, whether she is called Judith, Celia, Joan of Arc, Victoria Colonna in Italy, or Charlotte Corday in our own day. God forbid that I compare those I cite! Judith and Charlotte Corday sacrificed themselves, but the sacrifice did not recoil at crime. Their inspiration was heroic, but their heroism mistook its aim; it took the poniard of the assassin instead of the sword of the hero. Joan of Arc used only the sword of defence; she was not merely inspired by heroism; she was inspired by God.

## THE WOOL MARKET.

We read in *the* Book, that there is time for all things, and it is our settled conviction that the present is not the time to sell wool. Dull as the market has been for the last four months, prices are now at their lowest ebb. Some wool growers may be under the hard necessity of taking whatever price the market offers; and it is a hard necessity which can compel such a sale. We do not intend to encourage the idea that there will be any *immediate* improvement in the wool market; enough wool is going forward from the West to keep the mills going for the present. Last week half a million pounds of wool passed through Cleveland on its way East. With gold at $1,40, and wool at 40 to 45 cents in Ohio, we have the most anomalous condition of the market ever known, especially since the whole country produces only two-thirds of the domestic wool required to supply our own manufacturers, and a tariff which the manufacturers declare is a prohibition to the importation of foreign wool, and which the importers declare is a prohibition to the importation of foreign woolen goods. Has everybody stopped wearing out clothes, that there is no demand for material? As we do not believe that the great equipoise of trade in this article can be permanently deranged, we say to the wool growers, keep a sharp lookout to windward, for a breeze that shall ere long fill your sails and bear you on a prosperous voyage. Of all times, now is the least auspicious for becoming frightened and making a sacrifice of a staple product which does not spoil in keeping.—*Ohio Farmer.*

Swelled Legs in Horses.—Many horses are subject to swelled legs. In old horses it arises from congestion of the legs, which depend on the weakened action of the heart incident to old age. There is not much to be done for cases of this description. Another class of cases occurs in horses of a lymphatic temperament, and the exciting causes are high feed and want of exercise. The proper treatment for such cases is low diet and laxative medicine. In severe cases I have sometimes scarified the affected leg, but this is only advisible in the early and acute stage of the attack. Half an ounce of nitrate of potash may be given once a fortnight to horses that are subject to swelled legs, and where it recurs frequently, once a week. The swollen leg sometimes attains enormous dimensions, and the swelling may become permanent. I have seen a horse's leg swollen nearly as thick as a man's body, produced by the effusion of lymph between the skin and subjacent tissues.—*Prairie Farmer.*

Household Hints.—Under this head, an exchange imparts the following useful information: Keep your meat in a dry, cool place, your fish on ice and your vegetables on a stone floor free from air. Cut your soap when it comes in, and let it dry slowly. Keep your sweet herbs in paper bags, each bag containing only one description of herb. They should be dried in the wind, and not in the sun; and when ordered in a recipe should be cautiously used, as a preponderance in any seasoning spoils it. When oranges or lemons are used for juice, chop down the peel, put it in small pots, and tie them down for use. Apples should be kept on dry straw, in a dry place; and pears hung up by the stalk. A stair carpet should never be swept down with a long broom, but always with a short-handled brush and a dust-pan held under each step of the stairs.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## IN AND ABOUT VINELAND, N. J.

I will preface the following account of my observations in West Jersey, by remarking that few writers are sufficiently explicit in their details of what is seen and learned, that would interest the stranger and enquirer after facts. I shall endeavor to anticipate the questions which an interested reader might ask, and answer them from the best of my information. I presume there are thousands of men like myself, who, tired of city life, and disgusted with the ever varying fluctuations of trade, who after delving for years have heen scarcely ahle to make ends meet, would like to withdraw from the excitement and strife, and locate a home. It was with this feeliug, nursed to maturity, that I set out for West Jersey. I expected to find a tract of country made up of sand chiefly, with a scattered growth of scrub oak and pine, into which a few, or perhaps quite a number of "poor devils," had found a temporary rest at least, from sheriff's writs; a few "hard nuts," who had ventured to pioneer and grub out a burrough; at best there could be but a very small proportion of the small population that were really euterprising farmers. I leave the reader to judge my surprise after reading the facts.

We left Philadelphia on the morning of July 10th, and crossing over to Camden, took the West Jersey Railroad for Crane's station, changing cars at Glassboro (fare 80 cts.) No noticeahle feature would seem to attract the eye save the general cultivation of the soil, uutil we arrive at this point. Here are located some of the most extensive glass work in this county; it is a village of some importance; perhaps from one to two thousand inhabitants. Soon after leaviug this point we begin to see a change in the lay of the country and charaetcr of the soil. It bccomes more level, yet sufficiently rolling to relieve it of all surplus water, if iudeed this was necessary. The soil appears from a casual glance, to be a dark slate colored sand; not so upon examination, however. This neglect to *examine* the soil, I apprehend, accounts for the false and mistaken reports current from travellers.

Barnesboro, a station on this road, has a beautiful surrounding country. Travellers would do well to halt a few hours at this point. At Cranes station, near Franklinville, we made our first stop, and accepted the previously tendered hospitalities of one Isaac Leonard, an entire stranger to us, by whom we were made welcome, generously fed, and comfortably lodged. Mr. Leonard is an Eastern man, with 25 years experience as a farmer in Eastern Iowa. He came into this part of Jersey to recover his health and coutinue his chosen pursuit. He purchased some two hundred acres, about 75 acres of which is a natural cranberry bog. He inteuds to make this give a good account of itself in a few years. During his first year he set ahout 500 pear trees, 500 peach trees, and 3000 grape vines, the latter hrought from Iowa, and mostly Concord.

The soil in this section is a clay loam, with a good proportion of dark sand mixed. The crops besides fruits, growing, are wheat, rye, oats, grass, corn, potatoes, (common and sweet) and all garden vegetables. The timber land is quite heavy, aud made up of oak, cedar aud pine. Farms can be bought here of almost any size, and suited to nearly every product—cleared from wood and stumps, ready for the plough and directly on the line of the railroad, for from $35 to $150 per acre. The prices vary according to the amount of improvements on them; as for instance some are merely fenced, others have a house, good, fair or poor, &c. Timber land sells at $65 to $70 per acre; with the timber cut off, and the uuder brush remaining to be grubbed out, $25 per acre. Marl and shell lime, the two principal fertilizers used, are delivered at *any* point on the Railroad; the former at $1.87 per ton, the latter at 11 cts. per bushel. Seven tons of marl and ten bushels of lime to the acre is considered a liberal and *lasting* application. We saw on Mr. Leonard's farm heavy erops of corn and grass that had not been treated to a particle of manure. This style of farming, however, is not that generally accepted and adopted here; in this particular case, want of time in a new settler was the excuse.

From Cranes station to Vineland, niue miles, country and soil all the same thing. Arriving at Vineland, we collected our carpet bags, and presented ourselves at the office of the hotel close to the Railroad landing. We were furnished with clean, airy rooms, good beds and excellent food during our stay here, at $1.75 per day, cheap euough we thought. The hotel is conducted on the make yourself at home sort of principle.

I need hardly inform the readers of our agricultural journal, that this Vinelaud has generally been uuderstood to be simply a speculative movement of one Chas. K. Landis, a sort of hair-braiued individual, who had conceived the idea of getting rich hy disposing of worthless lauds to ignorant purchasers at fabulous prices. All these impressions are unfounded; true, no doubt, Mr. Landis expected and intends to make a handsome little fortune out of the move, but there is abundance of evidence all around one in Vineland to prove that while *he* lives, he wants others to live, aye, and enjoy themselves, too. He is one of those little, nervous, wiry, stirring, large-hearted, social-loving, public-spirited men. He conceived the idea (soon after the Railroad was huilt through to Cape May, about seven years ago) of building a small town, and its surroundings, by inducing people of the right stamp to come in and settle a home, from a town lot with 50 feet front by 150 feet deep, to a farm of 40 aeres, buyiug anywhere one may ehoose betweeu these sizes. The uncleared portions yet unsold are $25 per acre, onc quarter cash, the balance within two or three years, according to amount of purchase. Improved lots of land like those above mentioned, vary iu price, according to the amount of work or labor that has been put on them, with a little difference as to location, &c. In the purchase of wild lands, certain improvements are required to be done or commenced, at least within twelve months after purchase. As a oonsequeuce of this excelleut regulation, or deed provision, we see a village regularly laid out iu squares, with wide aveuues and streets, bordered with double rows of shade trees, (forest or fruit, as one pleases); some of them 6 and 8 miles iu a direct line. Within a square of some six miles we see a population of about eight thousaud persons. The town proper or immediate village, has probahly 2,500 or 3,000 people. The various trades are represented, such as carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, masons; as also dry goods, grocery, markets, druggists, hardware and agricultural tools—in short, every kind of trade that usually pertains to a live and flourishing New England people located together. They have seven churches, twelve sehools and one academy; some eight or ten associatious aud societies, oue lodge and chapter of F. & A. M. In addition to other wholesome regulations (noue of which are in the least grievous to those loving good order and pleasant society) no intexicating liquors are sold iu the place. It will be seen they have no use for jails or poor-houses; in a word, the people are principally from the New Eugland and Northeru States, and appear to be perfectly happy and contented.

*Soil, Products and Markets.*—The first is that same clay loaiu, with a decided mixture of dark sand, and lays to a depth of some fifteen or eighteeu iuches; then we have a subsoil of clay loam, with a still larger amount of a coarse saud or gravel, of a reddish-yellow color, and lays to a depth of from two to twenty feet. This appears to be thoroughly impregnated with the elements of fertility, as fruit trees may be seen growing most luxuriantly in bodies of it throwu out of cellars. It is the composition of this subsoil, evidently, that retains the moisture necessary to the life and growth of plants; as directly after a heavy shower or long rain (we experienced one while there as fortune would have it) the surface is immediately settled, so that in two hours ploughing may be done without inconvenience from wet, &c; and yet the surface does not appear to suffer from long continued dry weather. Thus it will he seen that it is extremely easy of cultivation; in fact, a hoy who can go aloue can cultivate it successfully. In the wild state the land is generally covered with quite a large growth of oak, cedar and pine. The expense to elear this off for ploughing, is from ten to fifty dollars per acre. The wood is used for locomotive burning, and is said to sell for enough to pay the expense of clearing. This I doubt, as I was unahle to see the evidence of the statement. There are plenty of small streams with good fall, which are said to contain plenty of fish. The timher abounds with game, rabbits, quails, &c., not forgetting mosquitoes, if they may bc properly classed under this head; he it said however, to their credit, they gave us very little anuoyance. The chief products of the soil are the various fruits, and that it is a fruit growing country oue has only to visit it to become a believer. Their thriftiness is surprising, almost spontaneous. Apples, pears, peaches, grapes, blackherries, raspberries, strawberries, &c., by the hundreds of acres. The Summer long and Winters mild, enables them to eultivate the most delicate sorts with perfect success. Their markets are Philadelphia (30 miles and may be reached twice a day), New York, (130 miles) and Boston. Yet it may be said their markets are at homc, as shippers are eonstantly ou the ground, prepared to buy your erops on almost any terms. They will buy the crop in bulk or by the quart, and pick or gather it for the producer; or the producer eau pick it himself, or they will ship them, returning the highest market priee for them, deducting 10 per cent and freight; or the producer cau take them to market himself. One poiut is clear here; there is no lack for a market. I was informed by the differcnt shippers as to the amouut of strawberries sent forward to markct by them, which footed up about 150,000 quarts, exclnsive of the amounts consumed at home, canned, &c. The price paid for them was 8 ceuts per quart on the viues, 10 cents per quart if picked; the Wilson's Albany is the most generally grown.

I should say, before closiug, that the dwellings iu and ahout Vineland are generally of a superior character, costing from $2,000 to $10,000 cach, some more and some less. To sum up, I conclude that in West Jersey they have a superior climate, mild and healthy, with a soil equally as fertile as that of the Western States, and a sure and enduring market close at home. And any man of energy and enterprise and a fair amount of intelligence can, with from $2,000 to $3,000 economically expeuded, locate and build up around himself and family a home, away from the evil influences of the city, and yet surrounded with all the society and civilization that makes one happy, joyous aud contented; and hecome edueated into the reality of a practical christian, that while he lives for himself, he should also live for others—that while he sceks enjoyment as the highest aim of this life, he should seek at the same time to advauce and heighten the enjoyment of others, who perhaps are less fortunate in the possession of this world's favors than himself. C. Sidney Smith.

*Providence, R. I., July 27, 1867.*

---

Ancient Farms.—The farm of the eclebrated Roman, Cincinnatus, eonsisted of only four acres, the other three having bcen lost by becoming security for a friend. Curius, who was celebrated for his frugality, who was three times ehosen Consul, and thrice honored with a triumph, on returuing from a successful campaign, refused from the people a grant of fifty acres, declariug that he was a had citizen who would not be contented with the old allowance of seven.

---

A Statement was made at a late meeting of the New York Farmers' Club, of complete success iu raising plums on trees planted on the edge of a pond; not a plum being stuug that would fall into the water, while all of those haugiug over dry ground bore the crescent mark of the curculio.

### THE LARCH—(LARIX AMERICANA.)

The larch is classed hy hotanists among the Coniferæ or coue-bearing trees, which are chiefly evergreen; but as this sheds its leaves in Autumn, I have placed it here among the deciduous trees. The leaves are very small and thread-like, resembling some of the pines. The seeds are horue in small ovoid coues; ripe in Autumn. They should be treated the same as evergreeu tree seeds—i. e., sown in a half shady situatiou or in frames; tree a tall, slender grower; wood valuable, where light, straight tiuber is required. It is also valuable for fuel, but burns rapidly. The trees should always be cut in Winter or early Spring, and the bark taken off; unless this is doue, it will deeay very rapidly. Grows naturally in low grounds, in nearly all of the Northern States, as well as iu the Canadas.

The European Larch is a much more valuable tree, and should be planted in preference to the native species, as it thrives on dry soil, and grows to a larger size, and the timher is mueh better. A volume might be filled with aceounts of the many plantations which have been made of the English or Scotch Larch. Thousands and tens of thousands of acres have been and are still being planted in Scotland and other portions of Great Britain with this tree. These plantations have proved to be valuable investments, and in many cases—in fact, we might say in most of them—land that was of no value iu ordinary farmiug has beeu used for this purpose.

Thousands of acres are now lying waste near our seaboard cities, on which Larch would grow rapidly, and every tree is, and ever will be, wanted in every seaport. The Larch makes excellent spiles for docks, or for the fouudations of buildings which are huilt in low, wet grounds. That it will last for ages when covered with water, or driveu in wet ground, we have ahundant proof. Larch spiles have beeu taken up in Europe, where it is positively known that they were driven more than a thousand years ago, and yet they were souud and uninjured. Who will be the first to make a plantation of Scotch Larch on the barrens of Long Islaud or New Jersey? The seeds can be obtained of any of our seedsmen, and aluost any quautity, if the order for them is given a few mouths in advance of the time they are wanted.

I have uoticed the Larch at leugth, and more particularly for the purpose of calling the attentiou of those who owu large tracts of the sandy soils of our Eastern States, than for Westeru men, as there is more demand for it here than at the West; besides, we have such an abundance of land on whieh very few other varieties would grow rapidly enough to be as profitable as this. It should also be remembered that a plantation of Larch would improve the land instead of impoverishing it, as the annual crop of leaves deposits more nutriment than the tree takes up, a fact well known in countries where this tree is exteusively cultivated.—*Fuller's Forest Tree Culturist.*

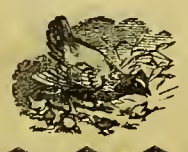
---

The Flat Turnip.—Perhaps the least expensive root grown is the flat turnip. It comes to maturity in less time than other roots, and hence is often raised successfully as a second crop, or after peas or early potatoes. When the crop is to be grown with corn it is usual to sow broadcast in the cornfield, at the time of the last hoeing of the corn iu July. When raised in this way it will be seeu no labor is required with the crop except iu the harvestiug. They make a good Fall feed when grass begins to fail, or may he fed to good advantage in early Winter. Crops of from 300 to 400 bushels per acre are often raised in this way, aud are regarded by many as quite equal in value to an average crop of corn.

---

A California letter, speaking of the crops in that State, says: "At least 33⅓ per cent. more land has been put in cultivaiton this year thau ever before, and the crop will be fully an average one per acre. We shall have all we want for home consumption, and a large balauce for transportation to the East, Europe, China or Japan, as the markct may warrant."

---



Some ten years ago I planted an ear of corn to test the difference between the product of the kernels of both ends and the middle of the same ear, and will give you the result. The soil was just alike, the cultivation the same, and the crop very diffcrent. I plauted the first two rows from the large end of the ear, the next two rows from the tip or small end; aud planted all the same morning. The large end produced fair sized ears, with irregular rows, much as you will find them at the end of the ear. The middle kernels produced large ears, mostly straight rowed and fair. The tips brought forth *nubbins only.* There was not a fair ear on the two rows of corn. I have raised corn, more or less, for forty years; and now plant only about half of the kernels on each ear of corn, and generally raise good crops. Save your seed corn and haug it up in the fall.—*Cor.*

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

### TO OFFICERS OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

A great difficulty in awarding small premiums, at Agricultural Fairs, is to present something of REAL VALUE to those who are awarded small prizes. We will furnish to any agricultural society, the FARM AND FIRESIDE, (to be given as premiums) at ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS A YEAR—mailing them to any address, either in bundles, or single.

An annual subscription to our journal would be more acceptable than almost any other small gift, and would be a permanent gain to our agriculture.

### DRAINING LAND.

THE dry weather that follows the closing of Summer is a favorable time for draining low, or naturally moist lands. At this season the natural springs are diminished, the ground is settled, and other labor on the farm permits attention to such work better than at any other season. Thorough draining, as a means towards the successful improvement of wet soil, is an acknowledged fact. But the expense, with the uncertainty of immediate profit, frightens many farmers from a judicious system of ditching and draining lands which would be the most productive and valuable of their estates. Again, there are lands convenient for outlet and full of water, which would cost little, save labor, to render the drainage perfect. Yet these lands frequently remain in their natural state year after year, producing crops of little value, and passing from one proprietor to another, without improvement.

There is no data, or estimate in general, whereby to ascertain the net cost of draining per acre. Everything will depend on the nature of the soil, the cost of labor, material, depth and extent of drains, &c. Brick tiles of the horse-shoe, sole and pipe varieties are unquestionably the best, although more costly. Stone drains are cheaply constructed where the material is close at hand. Board and brush drains answer a temporary purpose; but we would advise either of the first mentioned where land is valuable and capital is in hand. Underdrainage, unlike some farm improvements, never pays if done in a cheap, unskillful manner. It must be executed with some engineering art, with the object of permanency, and of rendering the soil better adapted to plant growth.

There are fields on almost every farm that have too much water, a surplus of which retards vegetation by preventing the free access of the atmosphere; also preventing the decomposition of food on which the crops, either grass or cereals, depend. Such land is cold, inert and sour. If under cultivation, it cannot be ploughed in Spring, until most other lands are planted; then, if the season is cold, or wet, the crop is invariably light—frequently not above the cost of cultivation. If in grass, such lands yield coarse, sour hay, or indifferent pasturage. Manure, rotation of crops, and even the best cultivation, fail to bring remunerative returns. The only remedy is drainage. Sometimes undue moisture is caused by rain-fall only, which can be obviated by open ditches, where the right fall, or descent can be reached. More frequently we find wet land underlaid with an impervious stratum, along which spring water flows, seeking an outlet on the surface. This water, and its evaporation, make the top soil too wet for cultivation or the maturity of the crops.

Scientific agriculture teaches this great truth: Drainage increases the temperature of soils. It makes the soil dry, porous and friable. It then absorbs the atmospheric air, the solar heat and other plant food. It also aids the decomposition of manures and all vegetable matters that produce fertility. Here is the great mystery of drainage explained. You dig the trenches, lay the tiles, and Nature finishes the operation. The superfluous water passes off through your drains, the land produces a more rapid vegetation, the temperature is increased, and large crops follow each returning season. Instead of a cold, sour, ungenerous and unfruitful soil, you have the best land on the farm, reclaimed, improved and made profitable by drainage.

There are several other facts, not generally known, connected with drainage. Experience has proved that undrained lands are more liable to suffer from drought than those thoroughly drained. The former, in a dry time, become baked and compact, and do not readily absorb moisture from the atmosphere; but a well drained soil, open and friable, receives into its pores, absorbing like a sponge, the dew and aqueous vapor in the air. This moisture is thus taken down through the soil to the roots of the plants. Another evil of undrained land, it is more subject to frosts—Arctic Jack visiting it earlier than fields that are naturally dry. Again, Winter grains, and even grasses, are badly injured by freezing and thawing, (in the Winter months), on moist, wet lands. The roots of both grass and grain are frequently "thrown out" on this undrained soil, and the crop destroyed or materially injured. Undrained land, under peculiar circumstances, also engenders fevers and agues—proving that health is sometimes periled and lost by living in close proximity to low lands that are always saturated with moisture.

### ESTIMATE OF CROPS.

EDITORS who throw the entire burthen of high prices on diminished agricultural productions, (an immense fallacy), are now figuring up the crops of 1867. We know, from authentic data, that all crops will be larger than last year; yet all estimates of production, at this time, are mere "guess work." The following table, exhibiting the crop of 1860, and the *estimated* crop of 1867, may come near the mark.

| Crops in 1860. | | Estimated Crops 1867. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cotton, bales | 4,676,000 | Cotton, bales | 2,500,000 |
| Wheat, bush | 173,104,924 | Wheat, bush | 232,500,000 |
| Corn | 838,792,740 | Corn | 1,300,000,000 |
| Rye | 21,101,380 | Rye | 27,000,000 |
| Oats | 172,643,185 | Oats | 230,000,000 |
| Barley | 15,825,898 | Barley | 21,000,000 |
| Buckwheat | 17,571,818 | Buckwheal | 23,000,000 |
| Potatoes, bush | 111,148,866 | Potatoes | 155,000,000 |
| Butter, lbs | 450,681,372 | Bulter lbs | 542,000,000 |
| Cheese | 106,663,927 | Cheese | 142,000,000 |
| Rice | 137,167,032 | Rice | 50,000,000 |
| Tobacco | 435,200,464 | Tobacco | 350,000,000 |
| Cane sugar | 230,982,000 | Cane sugar | 69,000,000 |
| Hay, tons | 13,838,612 | Hay, tons | 31,000,000 |

BONE MEAL FOR CATTLE.—In many sections of the country, where old fields have been pastured for many years, cows are frequently attacked with a disease called "cripple aile." This is caused by the soil being deficient in phosphate, or phosphoric acid, and can be counteracted by feeding the stock with bone meal. All cattle, especially cows, are extremely fond of it, and if a small quantity is given them once or twice a week, "cripple aile" will be unknown. This disease is more frequent in New England than in the Middle States; yet is found to exist in Northern Pennsylvania and New York to some extent. Clean bones ground into a coarse meal will be found a complete remedy.

### CROP PROSPECTS.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette says wheat through Central Indiana is all harvested and nearly hauled in. The yield per acre never was better.

Corn has fallen in Texas from two dollars to seventy-five cents a bushel. One paper even reports that new corn can be engaged at twenty-five cents a bushel.

The farmers of Long Island are suffering this season from the potato rot. The losses from disease last year are renewed this season on a much larger scale. In some places fields embracing many acres are wholly blasted. The Mercer variety appears to be most infected.

Farmers in Wisconsin say wheat will be as low as 50 cents a bushel before the end of the year.

Good hay sold at Athens, Ohio, last week for five dollars a ton.

The wheat crop of Indiana is substantially gathered, and is one of the largest ever reaped.

### SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

THE "Cottage Gardener," of London, says "earthing-up potatoes diminishes the produce and retards the ripening of the tubers. Long experiments in England have proved this fact: that hilling-up the potato will reduce the crop one-fourth." If such is the effect in England, why do they raise large crops in Ireland, where potatoes are "earthed-up" from twelve to twenty inches?

The "Western Rural," of Chicago, has a review of fruit prospects in the West. It says the apple crop will be light; pear crop thin; peaches along the eastern shore of lake Michigan, and in southern Illinois, very abundant; grape vines are generally overloaded—the Concord retaining its position as the best grape for that section. Plums a general failure; but where plum trees are planted in poultry yards the fruit is abundant, and not touched by the curculio. Here is an idea that should be remembered by fruit growers. Try plum trees in the poultry yard.

"Different breeds of hogs," is the subject discussed in a contribution to the same journal. The writer claims that the pure Suffolk will make more pork from a bushel of corn than any other hog. He has known them to net, when killed, eight-ninths of their gross weight. In fattening he had known them to gain over three pounds, daily. In his opinion the "Chester County Whites" are not a distinct breed. This, most of us knew "long time ago."

The editor of the "Cultivator," Boston, in referring to cheese-making in Massachusetts, says the quantity of cheese now accumulating in the factories in Worcester county is very large; also that in the towns of Hardwick, Barre, and Petersham, not less than 75,000 pounds are made each week.

The "Carolina Times" mentions a case where a friend threw a branch of a wilted peach tree to a cow, the leaves of which she ate with avidity. This was in the evening. The following morning she was found dead in the stable. Another cow also ate a portion of the leaves, and came near dying too. Eaten in a fresh state, these leaves are not dangerous, neither are those of the sorghum plant, but in a wilted state both are dangerous food for stock. Why this is so is a question for solution.

Mr. Z. E. Jamesou writes to the "Country Gentleman" that Mr. S. K. Locke, of Irasburg, Vt., has a hop yard of two acres that is very flourishing, the vines are four feet above a twelve-feet pole, and if insects or lice do not come, he is likely to have a good crop. The skunks have often been of great benefit in digging grubs from among the roots. He trains only one vine to a pole, and thinks it better to have four poles and four vines, than three poles and six vines. In most yards there are many hills missing, and some parts plowed up.

The "Iowa Homestead" recently published a communication on timber growing on the prairies. The writer thinks the soft maple as good as anything, as it is a nice tree and grows rapidly. He raises from seed, and says the trees are as easily grown as corn. Produced young ones last year from seed, from six inches to four feet in length, and sold them last Spring at $5 per thousand.

The immense granary of the North Western States will be full, and "running over," this year. The same exchange says the crop of wheat in that section will be the largest for many years; in fact, such as farmers in Iowa never raised before. The weather for harvesting was favorable, and the crop was secured in good order. The oat and barley crop, good. Corn, although late, promises well.

THE keeping of goats among cattle is recommended by Dr. G. M. Brown, of Cumberland, Va., as a prevention of infectious diseases.

### AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

BLACK ASH, and indeed other species of the ash, grow readily from the seeds, and as they produce an abundance of fibrous roots the first season, they are easily transplanted, even after they become of considerable size. It succeeds best on low, wet soils.

A commission fruit dealer in New York sold one bushel of apricots from Delaware, put up in quart baskets, for $32.

A Mr. Lussac has proved, by experiments, that milk, placed in a vessel from which the air is excluded, will keep perfectly sweet for months. The air should be exhausted, and the vessel be sealed up till its stores are wanted for use.

The California Farmer says that oranges much superior in flavor to those grown upon the islands, are being plentifully produced in many sections of that State. The business promises to be a highly remunerative one.

It is estimated that Sauk county, Wis., will yield $2,000,000 worth of hops this year.

Accounts from the various counties of North Carolina state that the corn crop will only be an average one. Reports from the Southern counties of Virginia are more favorable.

The Southern people are reported to be very anxious for the introduction of white immigrants. Land is very cheap, and its fertility surprises Northern men.

A leading cotton factor in New Orleans gives the most encouraging assurances concerning the crop on the Mississippi. On the lower Mississippi the prospect is improving daily and nobody has seen a cotton worm. On the Yazoo the same is the case.

The crops in Minnesota, says the Milwaukee Wisconsin, never looked more promising than now. The Milwaukee News gives an equally favorable account of the crops in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

The Alabama Times learns from a gentleman who has recently traveled over the greater part of Middle Alabama, that the corn crop is magnificent. The entire country looks like a land of promise. There is no doubt that the corn crop this year will be one of the finest ever raised in Alabama.

The Cape Cod Gazette says that upwards of a thousand bushels of blueberries have been picked in Sandwich this season. They sold for about $4000, which has been distributed among the poorer members of the community.

A farmer near Rochester, N. Y., sold $70 worth of cherries from one tree.

The quantity of apples and other fruit going North from Norfolk is so great that ordinary freight is rejected.

California has found a peat bed. This was about the only useful article which that State was not previously known to possess.

Ordinarily, the milk which produces two and a half pounds of cheese will yield one pound of butter.

In 1817 John Ansfachs removed from Berks Co., Pa., to Reading township, Perry Co., Ohio, carrying with him some cherry stones. One of these, of the Black Heart variety, was planted, and has grown to be a tree of mammoth proportions. It is now 80 feet in height, and 4 feet and 1 inch in diameter. The largest limb is 42 feet in length.

Wilson's Early Blackberry is attracting considerable attention among the fruit growers at St. Joseph, Michigan, and its cultivation is being quite largely extended; its early character seems fully established there.

M. Comaille, of the Paris Academy of Science, tested for a year the laying capacity of three ducks and three hens, under the same conditions, with this result: hens, 257 eggs; ducks, 617 eggs.

An expedition is about to be sent by the French to the North Pole, to make scientific observations. It is got up under the auspices of the Geographical Society, and by some savans of the Institute, and the expenses are to be provided by private contributions. It is to be under the direction of M. Lambert, a traveler of some note.

THE DEPTH OF TREES.—There has recently sprung up some controversy as to the proper depth that trees should be transplanted, and as is usual in controversies of this kind among practical men, there is not the least hope of there ever coming to a common opinion on the question. And this is natural and perhaps as it should be. Different kinds of trees frequently require different modes of culture, beginning with the planting. For instance, dwarf pears should be planted deep, two or three inches below the union of the quince with the pear, in all soils where a dwarf pear ought to be. A fir or spruce should be planted shallow, and so, as a rule, should standard pear and apple trees, as well as most of the grape family. This exception should however be made; in light, porous soils they may be gauged deeper than in clay moulds.

## The Fireside Muse.

### IN SUMMER TIME.

The jessamines in starry bloom
Are ever climbing higher,
Sweet odors fill the morning air
From roses and sweet briar;
Upon the purple clover-heads
A thousand diamonds glisten,
The robins sing their morning songs,—
You cannot choose but listen.

The snowy lilies, silver bells,
My lilies, how they blossom!
The sweetest saint in Paradise
Might wear them on her bosom.
Oh holy lilies, angel pure,
To pure for my caressing,
A weary, weary human heart,
Comes unto you for blessing.

The Savior's lilies! shed your light
On this day's weary duty,
And breathe into my restless heart
Your faith, your love and beauty!
Such whiteness—see the silver leaves,
Unstained amid the staining;
Behold the lilies, how they grow,
Then wither uncomplaining.

Oh golden, golden Summer months,
The time of blooming roses;
As each sweet bud on yonder spray
Its tender grace discloses,
So may the Summer be a sign
Of that fair home of ours,
Where God's sweet Summer ever smiles,
Where bloom unfading flowers.

## Fireside Tale.

### LOST IN THE WOODS.

A TOUCHING LEGEND OF VERMONT.

About ninety years ago, I suppose, the events of my story commenced. It was in Vermont, within the limits of the township of Rockingham or Springfield, it is impossible to say which, that the log cabin which was the home of the heroine, stood surrounded by a forest. The real actors in this tragedy of the woods have passed our of the legend, and I therefore substitute the names which come to my mind.

"I have finished my spinning, Robert, and I shall carry the yarn home to-day. I think I will spend the day with Mrs. Green, and wish you would come aud meet me and bring the baby home," said the young wife, taking the linen yarn in her apron and the baby on her arm.

"Very well," replied the husband, giving the crowing child a kiss as he started off with his hoe over his shoulder for the wheat fields. His lot had beeu burned over and sown with wheat, but the huge stumps of the old trees, and the thick, under-ground roots in the new land prevented the use of the plow.

All day he worked busily in the fresh soil, with the strange wood sound about him, eating his lunch at noon from his little basket, until the lengthened shadows of the forest arouud his clearing betokened sunset. Then he started off to meet his wife. A mile or two in the forest his neighbor Green had made his clearing. He went on without meeting his wife and baby until he got to his neighbor's door.

"Why," said Mrs. Green, iu answer to his inquiries, "didn't you meet her? She hasn't been gone long—only a few minutes."

"Can she possibly have missed the marked trees?" asked Robert Harris, aghast.

"Do not be alarmed, neighbor Harris," said Mr. Green, "I will go along back with you."

The two men went together through the forest, which every moment grew darker and drearier. They called Mrs. Harris's name loudly at intervals, but there came no reply. They kept saying to each other. "We may find her at home," but they were heavy at heart.

The log house was reached, but the mother and baby were not there. The cow lowed to be milked, and the pigs, which ran in the woods and came home at night, clamored for their usual feeding, but the men took no notice of them. Back again, through the woods with a lantern, calling and hallooing.

Then they went to the next clearing, and the next. "A woman lost!" What telegram in the exciting days of battle ever fell more thrillingly on human ears than these words, going from mouth to mouth, among the home nests of a new country? With iron muscles and determined wills, the warm-hearted settlers started out. "We will scour the woods; we will find them, never fear." According to a custom they had at such times, they blew dinner horns, built fires, and shouted until they were hoarse. No tidings of the lost ones on that night. All the next day they searched, and day after day as long as possible. Fires were left smouldering among the trees, men, who knew the woods, kept resolutely to the search, but the budding April forests had their own secrets.

When Mrs. Harris started with her baby in her arms from Mrs. Green's, expecting momentarily to meet her husband, she went on carelessly, her attention being directed in part to the child, and suddenly looking up, she discovered no white scars of the axe on any tree in sight. But she fancied she had only stepped out of the track, and might in a moment regain it. A vain fancy! She went on, but nothing familiar met her eyes.

The night came on. The little birds went to rest, and the owls commenced a doleful hooting. She was alone with her infant in the great sea of forest where never woodman's axe had echoed. She was lost. She sat down, faint and tired, and woman-like, began to cry. Hark! That was certainly a human shout. She arose, and holding her course, ran breathlessly towards it. And now she thought she heard it again, farther off. Many hours in the night were spent in rushing, with hysterical sobs and palpitating heart, towards the voices of her friends, so near that she could hear them, but so far away that no effort of frenzied strength could enable her to reach their protecting presence.

What a pity it was! Towards morning she slept, leaning against a tree, with the baby on her bosom. But she started nervously in her dreams, and at the first bird song awoke to full consciousness. With daybreak came a renewal of her courage. She would not weakly give up to die. Her friends would certainly find her to-day, or she would find them. She saw near her some last year's berries and tough leaves of wintergreen and a few acorns. A poor breakfast, but she ate whatever she could find, for the sake of her child more than her own. This day also she ran wildly through the tangle of dead brakes and briers, growing from the decay of centuries, over the gullies and jagged rocks, past rude branches that caught at and rent her dress, till she came to the dying embers of a fire. Here she lingered long. Her friends had been here; perhaps Robert had kindled this fire with his own hands, and for her. Hark, again! the search has commenced this morning, and echoing through the woods comes the prolonged shriek of the dinner horn. She calls with all the desperation of one drowning. She rushes forward, but the ground is rough, and, alas! how heavy the baby grows! She is giddy with the loss of sleep and the want of food. The baby moans, and will not be comforted. In this way passes the day and another dreadful night. She finds another fire; she stays by it, and keeps it burning through the night, for she is afraid of wolves. Another morning, and she is almost hopeless. O, will not Heaven pity her? The little one grows weaker; he cannot hold up his head. Another terrible night; he moans piteously; he falls into convulsions; the next day he dies. All day she carries the little lifeless body in her arms, and all night, beneath the unpitying stars, she holds it to her bosom.

She carried the little dead burden day after day, until the purple hue of decay was setting rapidly over it, aud she felt, with a pang at her heart, that she must bury it. Then she looked about for a spot where she might dig the tiny grave, so deep that the wildcat and the wolf might not scent it out. Weak as she was, this was no easy task, but in her wanderings she came upon a giant tree, uptorn at some former time by a hurricane. In the soft earth where the roots had lain she scooped out the baby's resting place, and making it soft with moss, covered the cold little form forever from her sight. Then she sat down by the grave in a stupor of grief. Hour after hour passed, how many she knew not, when she arose to her feet to commence her dreadful pilgrimage. Then she noted everything about the spot. Here was a rock, there stood an immense hemlock. Yes, she would know the place. She could find it easily with Robert. Then began again the struggle through the wilderness.

Day after day, week after week she passed on. Her shoes were worn to fragments and fell from her feet. Her garments were torn to tatters. But the days grew warmer, and the fever that was burning in her veins made even the soft showers that fell upon her, welcome. First she ate the buds of trees and the bark of birch. Presently she began to find the young checkerberry leaves, and now and then she came upon the partridge's nest, and greedily sucked the eggs. After a time there was red raspberries and black thimble berries in the woods, and then she knew it was July. The trees had uow put on afresh their beautiful garments. But for the delicious poetry that one finds in the woods, sauntering out from the busy life for an hour, she cared nothing. She saw nothing but trees, trees, trees, in interminable succession. It seemed years, yes, ages ago, that she swept the hearth with a birch broom and sung the baby to sleep in Robert's cabin. Her mind grew bewildered, still she went on, on, on. When she came to a large stream she went up towards its source till she could wade across it. So she said; and she affirmed that she never crossed a stream wider than a brook. She paid no attention to sun and moon as a guide or indication of the points of the compass, but she must have taken a northwesterly direction. There was Black River, Mill River, Waterqueechy, White Wait's Wells, flowing into the Connecticut from the Vermont side; but she constantly asserted that she saw none of them. Through July and August there were berries of various kinds, and by meaus of these she sustained what little life was left her.

And now the maple began to take on the gorgeous crimson, and the silver birches to wear the pale gold of September; the birds were leaving the forest. Occasionally she had glimpses of bridled fur among the branches, or a black bear turned out of the path, afraid of the human form; but no human being did she ever meet, and long before human voices had ceased to call her name.

Was she alone on the earth, and was the earth one vast wilderness without outlet, without a clearing or settlement? Had God taken all life but that of the brutes, aud forgotten her, or ordained her to wander forever? Tramping, tramping, with her feet bleeding and cracking at first, and afterwards calloused; naked or nearly so, knowing nothing of time or place, she was fast becoming idiotic. When she was hungry she sought for food, but the great idea lingering in her mind was that of pressing on. Since the luxuriance of Summer had filled the forest with ferns and a new growth of brier and underbrush, there was more trouble of passing through. But she had become quite accustomed to the rough work, and the frenzy at last became a steady, constant habit, almost the labor of life to her.

One day in October the inhabitants of the village of Charleston, N. H., were startled into the wildest excitement, by seeing a nearly naked, emaciated woman, with her hair streaming upon her shoulders, walk with bewildered gaze along the street. She told them she was Robert Harris's wife and she was lost.

"Robert Harris's wife who disappeared from the opposite side of the river in April!" exclaimed the villagers. "How had she crossed the Connecticut? Where had she been all this time? But she told them that she had never crossed the Connecticut. And she had been lost in the woods all this time. There was no lack of hospitality; the wanderer was immediately clad and fed and cared for to the utmost. Volunteers went at once and brought her husband, for the story of his bereavement was well known on the Charleston side of the river. We can only imagine the meeting and what tears were shed at the little forsaken grave by the uprooted tree. But it is said that joy bells were rung in the village, and the poor woman, a living skeleton, was nursed and petted—every body vieing with her neighbor to lavish every good thing upon her, until her weakened mind received its tone again. As she constantly asserted she had never crossed the river, it is supposed she wandered into Canada, and going round the Connecticut at its source, or crossing where it was a brooklet, passed down on the New Hampshire side, till she reached a location just opposite that from which she started.

When she began to grow strong again her mind recurred constantly to the grave in the wilderness. She described to her husband its surroundings, and he went out to look for it, but without success. As soon as she was able, she went out with her husband and other friends to search, but the baby's grave was never found. It was thought very strange that she, in all her wanderings, never met a roving Indian, but so it was. The Indian tribes had, perhaps, mostly disappeared from New England since the French aud Indian war, but, however that may be, the first human being she met, after the burial of her infant, strange as it may seem, was in Charleston. This singular legend has descended to the writer from a descendant of hers, who was the third child born in the town of Rockingham, Vt., and the story is an undoubted fact.

### INTRODUCING ITALIAN BEES.

A writer in the Canada Farmer says:

"About two years ago, I adopted a plan of introducing Italian queens to black stocks, based upon this pecularity in the nature of bees—that when filled with honey they will not sting; and since that time I have not failed to make a successful introduction in every case. Having, as I think, fully tested this method, I now give it for the benefit of my bee-keeping friends. As soon as you receive your Italian queen, remove from its stand the stock into which you wish to introduce her; smoke them a little, then remove the comb-frames; find the queen and take her away. Now set the stock on its stand again, that the bees which were in the field and have returned may enter, waiting say ten or fifteen minutes; then remove again; smoke them, and rap on the hive until the bees have filled themselves with honey, which they will do in a few minutes. Next remove each comb frame, shaking or brushing off the bees into the hive, setting the frames down outside, or place them into another hive. The bees being filled with honey, and deprived of their queen and combs, will cluster ou the sides of the hive, and no longer manifesting any disposition to sting. Now introduce the Italian queen and the bees sent with her, by opening the box and letting her out in the hive. The comb frames may uow he replaced and the hive returned to its stand. This plan has advantages over all others, as it is safer, and there are no queeu cells to cut out, and the stock is no longer deprived of a laying queen than the short time you are introducing the new Royal Bee.

How to Stop the Flow of Blood.—Housekeepers, mechanics and others, in handling knives, tools and other sharp instruments, frequently receive severe cuts, from which blood flows profusely and oft-times endangers life itself. Blood may be made to cease to flow as follows: Take the fine dust of tea and bind it close to the wound—at all times accessible and easy to be obtained. After the blood has ceased to flow, laudanum is advantageously applied to the wound. Due regard to these instructions would save agitation of mind, and running for a surgeon, who probably would make no better prescription if he were present.

Once after Sheridan had lost at play all the money he had last borrowed, and was passing out into the street, feeling in a very bad humor, he saw a poor fellow stooping down to tie his shoe. So what should he do but kick the man over on his face, with the remark, "Darn you, you are *always* tying your shoes!"

Contraries.—Steele wrote excellently on temperance—when sober; Johnson's essay on politeness is admirable, but he was himself a perfect bear; the gloomy verses of Young give one the blues, but he was a brisk, lively man; the "Comforts of Life," by B. Heron, was written in prison, under the most distressing circumstances; "Miseries of Human Life," was, on the contrary, composed in a drawing room, where the author was surrounded by every luxury; all the friends of Sterne knew him to be a selfish man, yet as a writer he excelled in pathos and charity, at one time beating his wife, at another wasting his sympathies over a dead monkey. Seneca wrote in praise of poverty on a table formed of solid gold, with millions lent out at usury; some of Hood's comic effusions were written in bodily pain and mental distress.

# General Miscellany.

## CURRANT WINE.

Currants are now in order for wine making, and we publisb the following approved method of manufacturing:

"The currants sbould be fully ripe when picked; put them into a large tub, in which they should remain a day or two; then crush with the hands, unless you have a small patent wine-press, in which they should not he pressed too much, or the stems will he bruised and impart a disagreeable taste to the juice. If the hands are used, put the crushed fruit, after the juice has been poured off, in a cloth or sack and press out the remaining juice.

"Put the juice back into the tub after cleansing it, where it should remain about three days, until tbe first stages of fermentation are over, and remove once or twice a day the scum copiously arising to the top. Then put the juice in a vessel—a demijohn, keg or barrel—of a size to suit the quantity made, and, to each quart of juice add three pounds of the best yellow sugar, and soft water sufficient to make a gallon.

"Tbus, ten quarts of juice and thirty pounds of sugar will give you ten gallons of wine, and so on in proportion. Those who do not like the sweet wine can reduce the quantity of sugar to two and a half; or who wish it very sweet, raise to three and a half pounds per gallon.

"The vessel must be full and the hung or stopper left off until fermentation ceases, which will be in twelve or fifteen days. Meanwbile the cask must be filled up daily with curraut juice left over, as fermentation throws out the impure matter. When fermentation ceases, rack the wine off carefully; either from the spiggot or hy a sypbon, and keep running all the time. Cleanse the cask thoroughly with boiling water, then return the wine, hung up tightly, and let stand four or five months, when it will be fit to drink, and can he bottled if desired.

"All the vessels, casks, etc., should be perfectly sweet, and the whole operation should he with an eye to cleanliness. In such event, every drop of hrandy, or other spirituous liquors added will detract from the flavor of the wine, and will uot in the least degree increase its keeping qualities. Currant wine made in this way will keep for an age.

"We see it recommended to take one-third juice and two-thirds water, also four pounds of sugar to the gallon. This is rather syrup than wine."

To Prevent Cattle from Jumping Fences.—The following singular statement was made at a late meeting of the American Institute Farmers' Club at New York:

"To prevent steers from jumping fences, clip off the eye lashes of the under lids, with a pair of scissors, and the ability or disposition to jump is as effectually destroyed as Sampson's power was hy the loss of his locks. The animal will not attempt a fence until the lasbes are grown again. Of this we are informed hy Samuel Thorne, the great breeder of Dutchess county, who assured us that he had tested it upon a pair of hreechy oxen. As it was of great value to him, he hopes it will be tried by others."

Fanny Fern says, to her eye, no statue that the rich man places ostentatiously in his window, is to be compared to the little expectant face pressing against tbe window pane, watching for father, when his day's work is doue.

Timothy and herd's grass have been found in the Mississippi swamps, the former of which was five feet three in. high, with heads eight in. long. The herd's grass was four feet three inches high. The seed was from forage scattered during the war.

Probably the best and most simple preventive of grub in the head of sheep, is tarring their uoses during the time they are annoyed by the fly that lays the egg.

Pennsylvania Farming.—A Cumberland county, Penn., farmer writes as follows: "I plough clover seed in Autumn or Marcb, and lime 50 bushels to tbe acre, and plant with corn. This I harvest by cutting close to the ground, putting in shocks to cure. It is husked at the shocks, the stalks tied in bundles, hauled near the barn and stacked. In the Spring the corn stubble is ploughed for oats. The oat stubble is dressed with barn-yard manure, ploughed and harrowed, and left until it is time to sow wheat; then go over with a large cultivator, and afterwards drill in the wheat. If inteuding to make tbe field into mowing-land, I sow three pecks of timothy seed (per ten acres) with the wheat, and in the Spring one bushel of clover seed. Our farms in Cumberland county are generally so divided that we have two parts for corn, two for oats, two for wheat, two for mowing, and one for pasture. This is our regular rotation. Our grass crops are heavy, and generally 40 to 50 bushels of corn to the acre, 40 to 50 bushels of oats, and 15 to 25 bushels of wheat.

The newspapers of Texas say it is becoming difficult to decide wbether bees or cottou hold a supremacy in Texas. That great State raises large quantities of both, and having been but little affected by the war, continued to grow in prosperity whilst the rest of the Southern States retrograded.

Milch Cows need regular feeding with some green fodder as the pastures get dry.

# Marriages.

In this village, July 28th, by Rev. S. L. Holman, Mr. Edgar H. Metcalf to Miss Francena A. Werden, both of Wrentham, Mass.

In Worcester, June 23d, by Rev. Dr. Hill, Mr. Wm. H. Brayton of New Zealand, to Hattie S. Davis, of W.

In Farnumsville, July 21st, by Rev. G. W. Wallace, George M. Bullard, of Webster, to Helen E. Granger, of Grafton.

In Whitinsville, August 1st, by Rev. L. F. Clark, Thomas Lilley to Annie Leonard. At the same time, James Topping to Eliza Walker, all of Whitinsville.

# Deaths.

In Woonsocket, 2nd inst., Rev. Francis J. Lenihan, pastor of the Catholic church, aged 33 years.

In Smithfield, 31st ult., Huldah M., wife of Abaz Mowry, Jr., and daughter of Duty Smith, aged 66 years, 4 months, and 11 days. [Corrected.

In Smithfield, 3d inst., Mr. Edward Smith, in the 83d year of his age.

In Whitinsville, August 5th, Olney Keach, aged 76 years.

In East Webster, Mass., at the residence of her nephew, Washington L. Taylor, Mrs. Elizabeth Buckley, aged 74 years, a native of Leeds, England.

In Oxford, August 3d, Josiah Russel, aged 63 years.

In North Attleboro', Mass., 26th ult, Mrs. Harriet R., widow of the late Wallace Goodwin, aged 39 years.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending August 8, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 14c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $10 00a12 00 | Potatoes | 1.40 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.00 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $18, 19 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 17 | Molasses ₩ gal | 60a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 64c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 22c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 35c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 25c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 25a50c | Lard ₩ lb | 16ac18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 25a30c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 20a25c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 18c |

## BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

August 7, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 2066; Sheep and Lambs 8893. Swine, 1900. Western cattle, 1800; Eastern cattle, 21; Working oxen and Northern cattle, 125. Cattle left over from last week, —.

Prices. Beef Cattle—Extra, $13..50@$14.00; first quality, $13.00@$13.25; second quality, $12 00@$12.50; third quality, $10.50@$11.50 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 10@10½c ₩ lb. Country Tallow, 6½@7½c ₩ lb

Brighton Hides, 10½@11 cts. ₩ lb; Brighton Tallow, 6@6½c ₩ lb.

Lamb Skins, 62c each; Calf Skins, 18a20c.

Sheep Skins, 40 @ 50c ₩ lb.

Prices remain unchanged from our last quotations.

Working Oxen—We quote prices at $160a220 per pair. There is more in than there has been for several weeks.

Milch Cows—Sales extra at $90a110; ordinary $60@$85.—Store Cows $45a55 per head Light supply and not in active demand.

Sheep and Lambs.—The trade is duller than it was last week. We quote sales of Lambs at from $2.00 to $4.00 per head. Old Sheep 5a6½c per lb.

Swine—There is a few Store Pigs in market; prices, wholesale 7¼ cents per pound; retail 7½ to 8 cents per pound.—Fat Hogs—1600 at market; prices, 8@8½c. per lb.

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

The excitement during the previous week still continues in flour and new wheat, and the latter is held firmly at the advance. New Southern wheat is inferior in quality, while Western is superior. The receipts are much larger than last year. The demand is more active for export at the decline.—Pork remains steady, notwithstanding the lateness of the season. The Oat crop is abundant; the supply of new has increased materially.

Flour—Low grades have been more active for export at better prices. This is a new feature in the trade.

Wheat—There is some inquiry for new wheat for future delivery. No sales have been made public. Inferior spring has sold for export to some extent at $1.65, in part to arrive.

Corn—Corn has fluctuated considerably, and sold quite freely, in part for investment. The stock has accumulated considerably. At the close choice is scarce and better. Ordinary is plenty. Prospects for the growing crop at the West are good. Any opinion expressed in regard to the yield will be premature at present.

Oats—Oats have been fairly active. The supply of new has increased materially, and is selling at much lower prices. Old is scarce, and rates are well supported. This crop promises well.

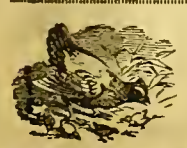
Rye—Rye has ruled quiet. The supply of choice is very light. This is wanted by millers. The crop in the Middle States is moderate, but at the West is better.

Pork.—The market has been quite active, but with very changeable prices. The stock is diminished somewhat, but is large for the season. The ice-house packers are doing a large business; this keeps up the supply. We have had a moderate business for future delivery—in August and September—confined to mess. This has been sold to some extent at $24 a barrel. At the close the market is dull and heavy.

Beef has ruled firm, with a good demand, in part for repacking. The stock is very moderate.

Cheese.—There has been a falling off in the receipts, on account of less favorable news from Europe. Prices close heavy.





Summer Pruning of Glapevines.—Dr. John A. Warder writes to the American Journal of Horticulture as follows:—"Pinching of the ends of some of the shoots is a very important part of summer pruning; but it is one which has been very much abused in practice, and still more so in the criticisms of those who theoretically condemn the practice. It is well for us to consider that, in all pruning of vines, we must remember the necessity of keeping the plant in due shape as to its wood, and that we desire to have this properly distributed. We want the new growth, which goes to form the canes for the next year's fruitage, formed low down on the stock, and not at the ends or higher parts of the vine, which would soon give us high, naked stocks, and bare, empty trellises, such as may everywhere be seen."

# Natural History.

[The following contributions, in some unaccountable manner, were mislaid. They are as seasonable as ever, though referring to a communication which appeared in one of the earlier numbers of our journal.—*Eds.*]

## DESTRUCTION OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside :

Although I saw no notice in the prospectus of your journal of devoting a portion of its columns to Natural History, yet in Number 4, I am gratified to find an article, from a Rhode Island correspondent, on the destruction of insectivorous birds; therefore a few remarks in regard to a much abused animal, may not be out of place.

Destruction of the few wild animals yet among us seems the almost universal custom. The question seems rarely to be asked are they useful, or what part do they perform in the economy of nature? If according to Darwin,* the amount of clover seed may depend upon the number of cats in a given locality, then, of course, we must increase the latter, to insure the former. This position is a strong defence for a very much abused, and sometimes offensive animal.

The skunk. (*Mephitis Americana*), which occasionally destroys some chickens and eggs, and in self-defence supplies too profusely its perfume, is very useful in destroying mice and innumerable insects, particularly night-flying beetles, many of which, as larvæ and perfect bugs, are injurious to farm and garden. Those inveterate stinging pests, yellow wasps—"a horde of thieves and brigands"—whose nests are mostly under ground, and a great annoyance to ploughmen, are destroyed by this animal. It is true, they feed also upon birds and their eggs; but like our poultry, these constitute only a small portion of their subsistence.

But should one be caught, and its destruction desired, a hint as to the best method to avoid too much of the offensive secretion may be useful. The trap may be handled without exciting or frightening the animal, and carried to water deep enough to immerse it. If, in its last agonies, the secretion be discharged, it is washed away and is scarcely perceptible. At least, such has been my experience in procuring specimens for dissection. The secretion, being lighter, rises to the surface of the water, displaying a most beautiful iridescence. T. Kearney informed Dr. Godman "that on one occasion, before daylight, the fluid discharged was rendered perfectly visible by a distinct phosphorescent light."† Would that iridescent appearance on the water, if in the dark, assume the appearance of phosphorescent waves? This phenomenon, so far as I have been able to discover, has not heretofore been observed.

It was my intention to have said something of the anatomy of parts concerned in the expulsion of the secretion; but will only add, that, contrary to the popular or vulgar idea, it is entirely independent of, and isolated from the urinary apparatus. E.

*Chester County, Pa.* 1867.

* The Origin of Species, Darwin, pp. 71, 72.

† American Natural History, by J. D. Godman, pg. 219.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

Being, I think, a friend to the *birds*, I read with considerable interest an article on that subject, on the first page of your fourth number of the *Farm and Fireside*. I think I have a real appreciation of the writer's solicitude for the preservation of our charming little feathered friends, because of the almost universally unappreciated services which they render to mankind in many ways; and, perhaps, not the least of these, the destruction of noxious and other insects. It is true they are charged with an indiscriminate destruction, and also with the destruction of fruit, but then, has any thinking man ever reflected upon what the condition of things would be if there were no birds at all? For instance, in the early Spring-time, before there is fruit, or flowers, or out-door vegetation of any kind visible, and few seeds accessible remaining of the former season, we are checred by the presence or the blue-bird, the robin red-breast, and others. The stomachs of birds, shot at this season, are generally found to contain *insects*, although we may be unable to find them elsewhere, and although these same birds may appropriate a portion of a different kind of food later in the season. The destruction of a single caterpillar, or cut-worm, or the chrysalid or moth, into which these would be ultimately transformed, may prevent the procreation of from fifty to five hundred, and even more of the same species, at a later day.

I can make some allowance for the destruction of birds, in reasonable numbers, at the proper season, for the purpose of scientific investigation; although I doubt the propriety of the wholesale scientific trafic alluded to by "G," in the communication referred to. This is however not all of the case, nor yet the saddest aspect of it. Professor Townend Glover, Entomologist and Ornithologist of the Department of Agriculture at Washington city, in his last report, says: "So conscientiously law-abiding were the officials, that I could not even get a permit to shoot specimens for examination preparatory to making this report. Yet, notwithstanding this, the markets here, in the Spring, are literally overstocked with strings of robins, thrushes, cedar-birds, and even blue-birds, which are brought in and sold for food." An excessive manifestation of "ornithology on the brain," is no doubt bad for the poor birds; but in my humble opinion it is not half as malignant in its effects, as "ornithology on the stomach." Yours, truly,

S. S. R.

*Lancaster, Pa.*, 1867.

## A BIRD'S PERTINACITY.

The unsurpassed attachment of the spotted fly-catcher to places suited for its business is well known, frequenting the same hole or naked spray or projecting stone year after year and generation after generation. Unseen herself, the spotted fly-catcher likes to see her prey. The following illustration, from a new English volume on birds, is, perhaps, the most striking example of the pertinacity of this instinct on record:

About the end of June last a spotted fly-catcher began to build a nest over the door of the lodge at the entrance of my grounds. The woman who lives in the lodge, not wishing the bird to build there, destroyed the commencement of the nest. Every day for a week the bird placed new materials on the same ledge over the door, and every day the woman removed them, and at the end of a week placed a stone on the ledge, which effectually baffled the fly-catcher's efforts at that spot; but the bird then began building at the latter end of the ledge, from whence it was driven, and three stones being then placed on the ledge, the bird relinquished the attempt to build at either end of it, and commenced building a nest on a beech tree opposite, which it completed, and laid two eggs in it. When the bird was thus apparently established in the beech tree, the stones over the door were taken away, when the fly-catcher immediately forsook its nest and eggs in the beech, and again commenced building over the door, on the part of the projecting ledge which it had first chosen. The nest was again destroyed and two slates placed over the spot. The bird contrived to throw down one of the slates from a slanting to a horizontal position, and then began to build upon it. The nest was again destroyed, and the three stones replaced and kept there a fortnight, after which they were again removed, and immediately when they were taken away the bird again began building. The nest was subsequently destroyed several times in succession. The bird was twice driven away by a towel being thrown at it. A stone, wrapped in white paper, was placed on the ledge to intimidate it, but the fly-catcher still persevered, completed a nest and laid an egg in it. On hearing the circumstances, I directed that the persecution of the poor bird should cease, after which it laid two more eggs, hatched all three, and successfully brought off its brood.

# Advertising Department.

## Pennsylvania.



## New Jersey.



## New York.



## Massachusetts.



## Rhode Island.




TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the Farm and Fireside. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a uniform style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

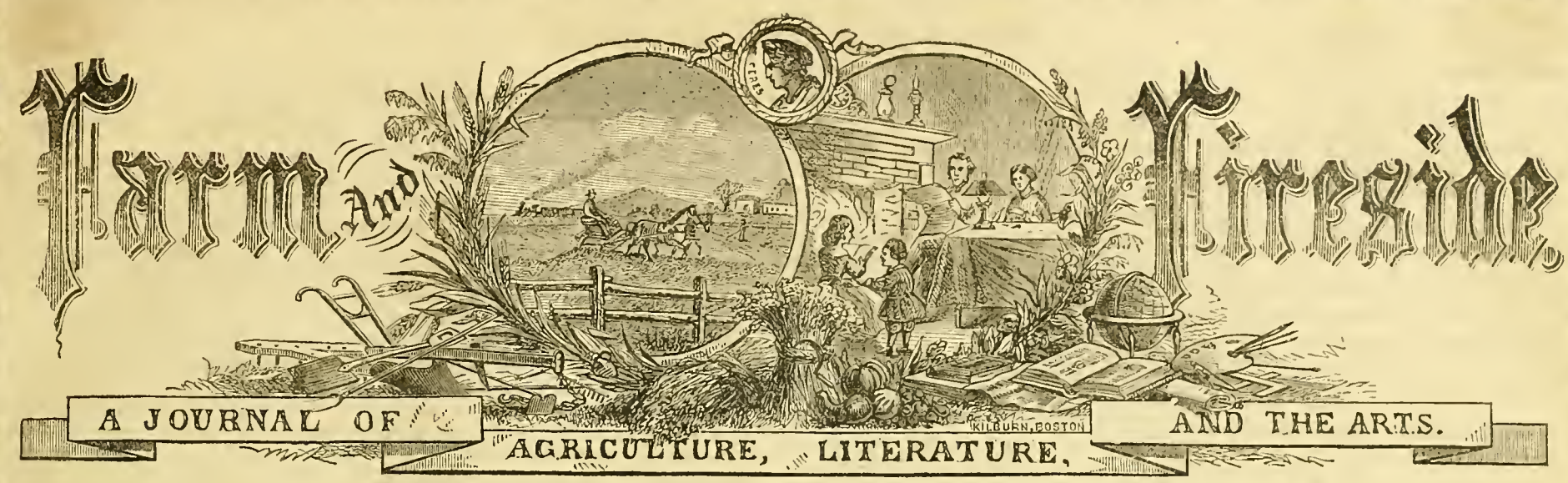
COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the Farm and Fireside may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

# Farm And Fireside.



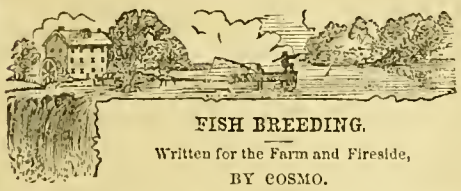
A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1867. NO. 32.

## FISH BREEDING.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY COSMO.

THERE is so little of mystery, and so few difficulties in the way of breeding by artificial mean, as fine fish of various kinds as Nature herself can produce, that it is almost a wonder so little attention has been given to the propagation of fish, not only as a luxury for the tables of the rich, but as a more common diet on the tables of all classes—cheaper and more wholesome, taking the place to a wider extent of beef, pork, and other meats.

Wherever the experiment has been made, under reasonable conditions, of restocking streams and ponds exhausted of fish, or newly stocking such as have never been supplied by nature, or of breeding fish in artificial ponds, results have been invariably satisfactory—almost always beyond anticipations. In all sections of the country wherever there are spring-brooks, or clear, running streams, fish may be artificially introduced, and their propagation made a source of not only pleasure, but a profit fully equalling that of any other investment of a like extent. Pensylvania, Northern New Jersey, New York and New England, are pre-eminently adapted to the artificial introduction and breeding of several of the finest varieties of our fresh water fishes. Abounding everywhere in springs, brooks, creeks and natural ponds of pure water, such as many stream-fishes multiply fastest and thrive best in, it only requires the will to do, the simple knowledge *how* to do it, and a very moderate expenditure to stock our States abundantly with as fine fresh water fish as ever flirted fins, and provide our tables everywhere in all the rural regions, at all seasons, with excellent fish, fresh from the water, and at cost less than a quarter of our lowest market rates for stale, and frequently, stinking material.

The State of New York, two thirds of all New England, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, have all the requisites, and natural facilities for domestic fish breeding; the course of procedure being the same, though in many localities varieties would change places, and in some, species unsuited to our waters, would take the leading place in artificial propagation. With us, the bright, speckled beauties, native to all our mountain streams, should stand first favorites. Next, after Trout, *S. Fontinalis*, the Yellow Pike Perch, *L. Americana*, of the North American lakes, and Northern rivers, popularly known as "Glass-Eye," and Yellow Pike. Then the American Yellow Perch, *P. Flurescens*, common in almost all fresh water ponds and streams in the Northern, Eastern and Middle States. After these, Pickerel—the short-nosed Pickerel, *E. Fasciastus*, common in the majority of New England streams. The common Carp, *C. Carpio*. This fish breeds prodigiously, and grows rapidly, frequently attaining the length of two feet or more, and is an excellent fish for cooking fresh. Somewhere about the year 1832, H. Robinson, Esq., of Newburgh, N. Y., introduced the carp into his pond, where left to itself it soon became so unmerous that besides using all that was required for his own, and supplying the tables of his neighbors, Mr. Robinson, finding his pond fast becoming overstocked, caught and transferred to the Hudson a great many carp, where they have so multiplied that they are now frequently caught by river fishermen.

Having these, as standard sorts, for the table, for variety, and also to serve as food for the larger fishes, the Red-Fin, *Hypsolepis Cornutus*, the Shiner, *Plargyrus Americanus*, the pretty Chivin or Dace, *L. Pulchellus*, and the Black-headed Dace, *L. Atromaculatus*, may be advantageously introduced.

So very easily are all the above varieties of fresh water fishes bred and propagated, that almost any farmer, country gentleman, or man of business in town, having his country residence a few miles out, may at all seasons have their tables supplied with fine fresh fish, ten times better, and at infinitely less cost than they can be obtained in the market, and in thousands of instances where they cannot otherwise be obtained at all. And besides the advantage of having fresh fish at will, and at all times, there will be the others of having the fish-pond in Summer, a pretty, picturesque lake, as ornamental as you will, and in Winter a skating park for the young people and a convenient ice pond.

[The above was written for us by RICHARD C. KENDALL, and was designed as the first of a series of articles on that topic from his pen. But they will never appear; God in his infinite goodness called him from his earthly sphere of usefulness.—*Eds.*]

## LETTERS FROM FLORIDA.—NUMBER TWO.

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA,
August 2nd, 1867.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

WERE it not for the dense pine forests of this State, and the cool winds which blow alternately from the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, Florida would be unendurable in mid-Summer. Even now, with the deep, umbrageous shade of our pines and live-oaks, and the cool, bracing gales from the ocean, I am reminded that here is an almost tropical climate. For a week past the weather has been unusually hot and sultry; and man, bird and beast have experienced that inertia and langour so peculiar to Southern latitudes. One day the heat was suffocating—my thermometer indicating 106 degrees—not a breath of air, the trees motionless, the birds silent, the cattle half submerged in the creek, vegetation wilted and all animal life asleep, and Nature dead! Unless you have experienced a day like that, in the recesses of some primeval forest of the tropics, my description will not be appreciated.

But what a thunder-gust and wide-awake hurricane visited us that evening! Dense black clouds rolled up from the South-west, "terrible as an army with banners." The wind howled and rioted across the *pampas*, leveling the coarse, tall grass like a mowing machine; the lightning crashed and splintered the great pines around us, while the continuous thunder drowned all the minor voices of the elements. Talk of thunder-showers up North! Why, you cannot even imitate our storms; and as to rain-fall, nobody, except those who *enjoyed* the Deluge, could fully appreciate a Summer tornado in the tropics. The monsoons of the African coast, the typhoons of the Chinese sea, the siroeco of the Mediterranean, barely surpass in magnificence and terror these thunder-gusts along the isothermal line of the peninsula. The quantity of rain which descends in one of these showers is immense. Our annual rain-fall is from ninety-five to one hundred and ten inches; while at the North you get only thirty-five to forty inches. It is this large amount of rain that causes the humidity of our atmosphere; but the evaporation is far more rapid than in higher latitudes.

The climate, soil and other peculiarities of this State are favorable to semi-tropical fruits. Oranges and lemons are already cultivated to a considerable extent; bananas have not been thoroughly tried, but there is little doubt of their success. The palm, or date tree, thrives on the Eastern coast. This fruit resembles in form large acorns, but is covered with a thin, yellowish membrane, containing a soft saccharine pulp of a vinous flavor quite agreeable to the taste. Whether we can make palm-oil from this fruit, I cannot say. The papaw grows luxuriantly in all our swamps. Its fruit is not unlike the banana, when fully ripe; and is a great favorite with birds and game. The olive tree is indigenous, and can be found throughout the entire peninsula. Wild grapes abound throughout the State, and some of them produce fruit of remarkable flavor. The vines, in size, surpass anything that I have ever seen elsewhere. I measured the trunk of one in a swamp on the St. Mary's river, that was fourteen inches in diameter, and its branches extended over three trees that were fifty to sixty feet in height. The pomegranate, so often mentioned in the Bible, is cultivated by almost every planter. No garden is complete without it. It grows from five to six feet high, has red blossoms, and the fruit is palatable, though not agreeable to me. It allays heat, mitigates thirst, and is a powerful astringent—often being employed in diarrheas and dysenteries.

The cultivation of the orange in Florida dates back more than two hundred and fifty years. When Sir Francis Drake captured St. Augustine from the Spaniards, in 1586, he pillaged the town, taking, among other things, "twenty barrels of oranges, good as those found at St. Catherines in Brazil." A friend of mine, Surgeon Meyer, U. S. A., has an estate at St. Augustine, on which are orange trees more than one hundred years of age—still producing fruit. The longevity of the orange is known to all readers of vegetable history. Its cultivation is very simple; no preparation of the soil is required beyond that of planting an apple orchard at the North. The propagation is generally by sowing the seed of the native orange in nurseries, and stock grafting on the young trees in the second year, using grafts of either Sicilian or Havana fruit. Another method is to transplant the native trees—found in great abundance on the islands of the upper St. Johns—and then grafting in scions; cutting off the native branches as the young scions make a good growth. Old settlers, however, say the fruit is best from Havana grafts. The wild orange, which grows in our woods, along the Gulf regions, is large and handsome, but bitter. An orange grove, to me, is a magnificent spectacle—the pride and glory of the tropics. The fruit ripens very unequally; while on some parts of the tree are ripe fruit, on other branches are blossoms—presenting an object of great beauty, and perfuming the air with fragrance.

As a commercial enterprise the cultivation of the orange promises immense wealth to this State. The trees will fruit in four or five years, but full grown trees produce the best fruit. I have trees in my orangery, eight years old, from which I can pick from two to four hundred oranges, averaging nearly a pound each; sweet and delicious as ever grew in Cuba or the West Indies. The orange area of this peninsula is not limited, like the orange parishes of Louisiana and Texas, but we can grow them on all upland portions of the State. Our *hammocks* are peculiarly adapted to them; the soil being a light loam, rich with vegetable mold, underlain with clay. The orange tree produces annually; in fact has no unfruitful seasons; and unlike the apple, pear and peach at the North, has no insect enemies inimical to its productiveness. Large orangeries have been put out since the close of the war; most of them on the bluffs of the St. Johns. Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe is reported to have the largest orangery in the State; and I suspect that Henry Ward Beecher will come down here, if Divine Providence permits him, to finish that story in the New York Ledger.

Sugar-cane is not cultivated to much extent here, although the soil and climate are admirably adapted for it. Before the war our planters turned their attention to stock, chiefly, as beef could be made without labor. We are on the same line of latitude with the sugar regions of Louisiana, and the cane grows vigorously in most of our State. The period of planting is in February, which is our rainy season. The roots strike perpendicularly into the soil, but the stalk does not advance until towards Spring. The cane propagates from the top stalks, which are laid in layers from three to six feet apart—the richer the soil the wider the rows. It grows luxuriantly through the Summer, often to the height of eight feet. Drought and hot weather accelerate its maturity. If the cane is yellow, it is an infallible indication of good quality for sugar. The distance of the joints, on the stalk, is also a criterion of good cane. I have a small patch of cane, this season, that is remarkably good. The great drawback to sugar culture is our want of capital. Mills and machinery cost money; and just now the people of Florida are poorer than Lazarus—with but few crumbs under the table! SEMINOLE.

THE price paid for wool in Maine is from 40 to 50 cents per pound. The price last year was 65 cents.

# Farming Miscellany.

## TURNING IN GREEN CROPS.

Probably there is no method by which *humus* can be so speedily and economically supplied to an exhausted soil, as by *turning in green crops*. For this purpose the buckwheat plant is very valuable, as it flourishes on lands which are too far reduced to produce any other grain, and as it decomposes rapidly, even where there is but a limited supply of moisture in the soil.

It is an oriental production, having been brought from the East during the Crusades, and has not lost its sensibility to cold; it therefore succeeds best on dry, sandy soils, where there is a good degree of heat. It will, however, thrive on lower lands, if previously drained, and on dry clays: so that, as a green crop for supplying *humus*, it is tolerably well adapted to every variety of soil on which it is desirable that such a crop should be grown.

On these light sands, and especially on hillsides, the labor of carting manure is a serious obstacle to their permanent improvement, and where, also, the wash of the Autumnal and Spring rains deprives the surface of everything in the condition of resolvable humus, no process of manuring can exceed the one now recommended, either as regards efficiency or slight vegetation which is rarely worth the expense of harvesting, but which may be of service if turned down and followed by a green crop.

When this course is adopted, plough when the grass growing upon the land has obtained its *maximum* growth—say, just in blossom. Then roll thoroughly, and after giving the surface a good working with the harrow, sow the seed, and roll again. The latter rolling will facilitate the germination of the seed, and also render the labor of turning in more easy.

When the wheat makes its appearance, a good dressing of lime should be applied, and the crop turned under as soon as it is in bloom. The roller must now follow the plough, and another application of lime, with a dozen bushels of wood ashes to the acre, would improve the next crop exceedingly.

It is an error to suppose by adopting this process of enrichment, we neeessarily return no more to the soil than the crop turned in takes from it. The aliment of buckwheat, as well as the aliment of all other crops, is derived, in part, from the atmosphere; so that we not only, in this process, obey literally a fundamental principle of good husbandry, in returning *all* to the land which we take from its vegetative powers and resources, but a considerable amount besides. Were the crop to restore only what it derived from the land—allowing the land to receive nothing from the atmosphere in the meantime—the turning in of green crops, now so universally recognized as a judicious means of enrichment, would be abandoned, or rather would never have been devised or practised.

In order that the reader may comprehend more fully the fertilizing capabilities of buckwheat, we annex the following analysis. It may be proper, however, to remark that the quantity of silica, which appears large in proportion to the other constituents, may have been increased by the dust adhering to the grain in this case:

| | |
|---|---|
| Silica, | 7,06 |
| Earthy phosphates, | 57,60 |
| Lime, | 0,14 |
| Magnesia, | 2,66 |
| Potash, | 23,33 |
| Soda, | 2,04 |
| Sulphuric acid, | 7,30 |
| Chlorine, | 0,20 |
| | 100,33 |

Plain lands that possess but little fertility, and which consequently require manuring before they can be profitably cropped, may be prepared for producing good crops of rye by a crop of buckwheat. Rye is the only product which alternates favorably with this grain, and may be grown after it on any soil of ordinary richness. As a preparatory crop for the former, it is perhaps the most valuable that can be suggested.

For sowing, from half a bushel to three pecks of good seed is the proper quantity for an acre. It should be sown as evenly as possible, for on this will depend the uniformity of amelioration, in a great measure. No previous preparation of the seed is necessary, as it germinates readily in soil that is too dry to insure the vegetation of most other grains, and is so hardy that no ordinary privation of moisture is capable of seriously affecting its development while young.

As it is one of the class of lime plants, it is more essentially benefited by calcareous matter—that partaking of chalk or lime—than any other crop; consequently the application of that mineral, unless the soil be calcareous, tends greatly to promote its growth and value, both as regards the plant and seed.

Professor Johnston says, "a green crop ploughed in is believed by some practical men to enrich the soil as much as the droppings of cattle from a *quantity of green food* three times as great."—*New England Farmer.*

## HOW TO MILK COWS.

The first process in the operation of milking, is to make the cow's acquaintance; give her to understand that the milker approaches her with none other than friendly intentions; for if he swears, scolds or kicks her, she may give the milker the benefit of her heels, which in my opinion he is justly entitled to.

Before commencing to milk the cow, she should be fed, or have some kind of fodder; in the enjoyment of mastication of the same, her attention is withdrawn from the milker's operations; and the milk is not "held up," as the saying is, but is yielded freely.

The milker should not set off at a distance like a coward, but his left arm should come in contact with the leg of the cow, so that she cannot kick. Before commencing to milk, the teats are to be washed with cold water in warm weather, and in warm water in the Winter.

The best milker is a merciful man. The udder and teats are highly organized and very sensitive, and these facts should be taken into consideration, especially when milking a young cow; the teats are sometimes excessively tender, and the hard tugging and squeezing which many poor sensitive creatures have to endure, at the hands of some thoughtless, hard-fisted man, are really distressing to witness.

A better milker than even a merciful man is a woman. The principle part of the milking in private establishments, in foreign countries, is done by women; and in the United States there are thousands of capable women out of employment who might be advantageously employed, in private dairy establishments, as milk-maids.

An indolent person—slow coach—should never be suffered to touch a cow's teat. The process, to say the least of it, is painful, therefore, the best milker is the one who can abstract the milk in the quickest time.

Finally, milk the cow dry. The last of the milk is the most valuable, yet Mr. Hurry-up cannot find time to attend to this matter, consequently he loses the best of the milk, and actually ruins the cow as a milker.

[The above excellent counsel from Dr. Dadd, the celebrated Veterinary Surgeon and author, should be carefully heeded by all who have dairy stock.]

In Australia a peculiar epidemic has seized upon and is killing the fowls. They are dying in all quarters, and a correspondent of the Melbourne Age, who has lost some of his stock, attributes their death to being choked with the wings of flying ants, which had been swarming in myriads all over the ground, and were eaten greedily by the fowls. On opening the gizzard of one of them it was found to be quite filled with the ants, the wings of which were sticking in the gullet in great quantity.

In the forks of a large elm tree at Amherst, Mass., eight or nine feet from the ground, a currant bush is growing thriftily, on which are several bunches of ripe currants.

## HORSE-SHOEING.

Robert McClure, V. S., of Philadelphia, read an essay before the Agricultural Society, on the 7th inst., on the best mode of shoeing horses. The following abstract gives the most essential points of the lecture:

The shoe should be a plain one, equally broad and thick from heel to toe, and put on without seating; for why bring a concave shoe in contact with a concave foot? The toe should be slightly turned up, and not too short at the heel; the hind shoes to be provided with heels. The nail-holes should be about four on the outside and three on the inside, and made straight through the iron, and not inclining inwards, and the shoe fitted to the foot, and not the foot to the shoe.

Dray horses should have tips on the toes and heels of shoes, which insure firmness of tread, and greater power when drawing heavy loads on smooth streets.

Feet with corns, weak, flat feet, convexed sole and sand or quarter-cracked feet, should have shoes well seated, and it is advisable to throw some extra weight upon the frog, and for this purpose the bar shoe should be used.

Leather soles are useful in weak-soled feet, and when the horse steps high are much used upon paved streets. One-sided nailing answers well for weak heels. Ring-boned animals should be shod with easy-fitting shoes, to avoid jarring.

Horses having a tendency to navicular, or coffin-joint disease, should have shoes turned up a little at the toe, with the ground surface at the wall of the foot cut away, and the frog undisturbed.

Such, then, is but a synopsis of our idea of how horses should be shod, but nevertheless we also think that by combining the future substitution of India-rubber for most kind of horses' shoes for the present inflexible iron ring to the feet of our horses, then the heyday of horse-shoeing will have dawned, no more complaints be heard, and the art of farriery be complete.

Southern newspapers continue to report favorable crops throughout the South and South West. The Georgia Enquirer, in reviewing the prospect says:—"From all parts of the South east of the Mississippi river come the welcome report that such fine crops of corn have not been seen for many years, if ever before. The wheat crop, already gathered, has turned out above the average, and the pea and potato crops are promising. The cotton crop has yet difficulties and perils to encounter, and is not now in a condition promising a very large yield. We have seen, however, by the experience of the last few years, that a small general crop will sell for nearly as much money as a large one; and we may therefore congratulate our planting friends on the fact that the crop will probably bring them in the neighborhood of $200,000,000, whether the whole crop be 1,500,000 bales at $130 per bale, or 5,000,000 bales at $100 per bale, or 3,000,000 bales at $70 per bale."

Grapes on Elms.—At the Winter meeting of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, the Hon. John B. Turner, a successful grape grower, during a discussion on the grape, advocated the growing of grapes on elms. He said:

"When, years ago, I taught Latin to boys, we used to read of the ancients letting their grape vines clamber on elms, but I thought little of the statement, as a practical suggestion. But I find that I cannot keep my vines out of the elms. If I plant near an elm the vine goes up into it. I have one vine that, despite my remonstrances, insists on going into the top of one of my elms. From it I sold, during the past year, $100 worth of grapes. I am therefore tolerably well satisfied with its willfulness; for these grapes did not cost me a cent for culture or care. I am now planting live stakes in my orchard; and elm stakes they are. Such stakes will save the annual cost of training and pruning, and judging from my experience, they will insure fruitfulness."

## SOWING WHEAT ON CORN STUBBLE.

It is a practice with some farmers, on the rich lands of Ohio, and other States, to sow land to wheat in the Fall, on which corn has been grown the same season. A sod is turned over for corn, upon which manure is spread, if the land is not rich enough without it, and as soon as the corn is cut and stooked in the Fall, the land is harrowed to level the corn rows, and the wheat is drilled in. The stooks of corn are placed in rows as far apart as possible, and the drill runs close to them, leaving unseeded the space occupied by the stooks, which are set in as straight rows as possible, so as to leave as little land unseeded as possible. The land is seeded down to such grasses as are desired at the same time the wheat is sown.

It is said that good crops of wheat are grown in this way, but only on lands that are in good fertility, and where the corn has been well cultivated. It saves one season in time, and one plowing, which are objects of importance, but the unseeded strips where the corn stooks are placed, make this system less satisfactory than it would be, if the entire field could be seeded down at once. The unseeded strips, however, may be harrowed early in the following Spring, and seeded down to the same grasses that were sown on other parts of the field, and after harvesting the wheat, the entire field would be uniform.

Killing and Dressing Poultry.—Open the beak of the fowl, then with a pointed and narrow knife, make an incision at the back of the roof, which will divide the vertebræ and cause immediate death; after which hang the fowl up by the legs till the bleeding ceases; then rinse the beak out with vinegar and water. Fowls killed in this manner keep longer and do not present the unsightly external marks as those killed by the ordinary system of wringing the neck. When the entrails are drawn immediately after death, and the fowl stuffed, as they do in France, with paper shavings, or cocoa-nut fibres, to preserve their shape, they will keep much longer fresh. Some breeders cram their poultry before killing, to make them appear heavy; this is a most injudicious plan, as the undigested food soon enters into fermentation, and putrefaction takes place, as is evidenced by the quantity of greenish, putrid-looking fowls that are seen in the markets.—*Geyelin's Poultry Breeding.*

Hasty Tanning.—Many attempts have been made to shorten the process of tanning leather. The report of the Commissioners having charge of this department of the Paris Exposition, have arrived at a conclusion which will meet the approval of practical chemists regarding the various processes for rapid tanning, namely: That no definite advantage has yet been found in these processes, and the period required remains about the same as before.

Large Poultry Establishment.—We are gratified to learn that a project is on foot by honorable and responsible parties, well fitted for the undertaking, to test the question of the profits of a large poultry farm. It is proposed to locate the farm near New York, and attention will be given to raising pure breeds for sale, and also eggs and poultry for market. We think the success of this enterprise would put the trade in fancy poultry on a reliable basis.—*American Agriculturist.*

S. S. Bellows, who is purchasing wool West for manufactures, writes that the best Ohio clips can be purchased for 50 cents, Michigan from 40 to 45, Wisconsin 35 to 40. He purchased one lot at Dresden, Ohio, of A. Adams, consisting of 10,000 fleeces, 39,212 lbs., for 53 cents, the whole amounting to $20,782.36. This clip of Mr. Adams' is the largest one in Ohio.

Our old contributor, Mr. Alexander Hyde, of Lee, Mass., has become associate editor of the Valley Gleaner, of that town.



Watches at the Paris Exposition.—Among many beautiful watches at the Paris Exposition is one that exhibits a dial which shows the time at Paris Mexico, New York, St. Petersburg and Constantinople, and the famous chronograph or time-keeper for races, etc., which, by means of a complicated arrangement too long to describe, prints to the tenth of a second on its face the time at which great events are begun, and at which they end. A repeater exhibits on its face an engraving of a dog chasing a swan. The dog is an exquisitely trained animal, and his passions are perfectly under control, for he restrains his anger until he feels a slight pressure on the spring of the repeater, and then he barks the hour to the flying swan.

# The Fireside Muse.

## RAIN UPON THE ROOF.

BY MRS. FRANCES D. GAGE.

Long ago, a poet dreaming
Weaving fancy's warp and woof,
Penned a tender, soothing poem,
On the "Rain upon the roof."
Once I read it, and its beauty
Filled my heart with mem'ries sweet;
Days of childhood flitted round me,
Violets sprang beneath my feet;
And my gentle loving mother
Spoke again in accents mild,
Curbing every wayward passion
Of her happy, thoughtless child.
Then I heard the swallows twitt'ring
Underneath the cabin eaves,
And the laughing shout of Willie,
Up among the maple leaves.
Then I blessed the poet's dreaming—
Blessed his fancy, warp and woof;
And I wept o'er mem'ries treasured
As the rain fell on the roof.

Years ago I lost the poem,
But its sweetness lingers still,
As the freshness in the valley
Marks where flowed the Spring-time rill,
Lost to read, but not to feeling;
For the rain-drop never fails
O'er my head with pattering music
But it peoples mem'ry's halls
With the old familiar faces,
Loved and treasured long ago—
Treasured now, as in life's Spring-time,
For my heart no change can know.
And I live again my childhood,
In the home far, far away;
Roam the woodland, orchard, wildwood
With my playmates still at play,
Then my gray hairs press the pillow,
Holding all the world aloof,
Dreaming sweetly as I listen
To the rain upon the roof.

Every pattering drop that falleth
Seemeth like an angel's tread,
Bringing messages of mercy
To the weary heart and head—
Pleasant thoughts of years departed,
Pleasant soothings for to-day,
Earnest longing for to-morrow,
Hoping for the far away;
For I know each drop that falleth
Comes to bless the thirsty earth,
Making seed to bud and blossom,
Springing all things into the birth,
As the radiant bow, that scattereth
All our faithlessness with proof
Of a seed-time and a harvest,
So the rain upon the roof.

# General Miscellany.

## ABOUT HUMOR.

Humor will often dispose the best of enthusiastic or frantic fanatics. In Dean Swift's time a tailor near him took it into his head that he was divinely called to interpret the prophecies, especially Revelations. One night he received the commission to declare the word of the Lord to the Dean, and bright and early the next morning he was on his way to do it. Through his glass door the Dean saw him coming, and at once surmised his errand. Putting on a grave, studious air, and opening his Bible to Revelations X., with fixed attention he awaited the prophet's approach. The door opened, and in an unearthly voice it was announced: "Dean Swift, I am sent by the Almighty to———" "Come in, come in, my friend," said the Dean, "I am in great trouble, and no doubt the Lord has sent you to help me out of my difficulties."

The prophet was cheered by the welcome. He was all ears in more senses than one. "My friend," said the Dean, "I have just been reading Revelations X., and am greatly distressed with a difficulty, and you are the very man to help me out. Here is an account of an angel that came down from Heaven, and was so large that he placed one foot upon the land and the other upon the sea, and lifted up his hands to Heaven. Now my knowledge of mathematics has enabled me to calculate the form and size of this angel; but I am in great difficulty, for I wish to ascertain how much cloth it will take to make him a pair of breeches; and as that is your business, I have no doubt but the Lord has sent you to show me." The poor tailor was confounded. He felt as if struck by an electric shock. He rushed back to his shop; a revulsion of feeling came over him, and he was fully satisfied that his calling did not lie in the line of prophetic interpretation.

## MAKING WATCHES IN AMERICA.

What is the time? American, decidedly.—Ten years ago it was Swiss, or English, or French. Now, ask your nearest live, progressive, patriotic neighbor. The watch he pulls out in reply is labeled, not "Geneva," nor "Liverpool," nor "Versailles," but "Waltham, Massachusetts." What has wrought the change? And what were earliest modes for measuring the pace of that old Mower whose scythe is always sharp and whose barns are never full?

The sun-dial was the first. It is among the oldest of human inventions. Chaldean kings used it in Babylon. Charming old Herodotus found it in Egypt, while taking notes to depict "the small as well as the great estates of men." Next came the clepsydra. It was a glass vessel from which water ran out through a little aperture at the bottom. It was a sort of household tide. The height of water told the hour. Sand is more convenient and less variable than water; so the hour-glass crowded out the clepsydra. Good King Alfred burned candles to mark the hours. Linnæus had a more royal luxury. The great botanist wooed Nature till she whispered him his closest secrets, and showed him her shyest habits. He so arranged a circle of flowers that one opened every hour. He could always tell the time by fresh blossoms!

In Europe clocks first appeared in monasteries 800 years ago. Monks attributed their invention to the Saracens; people, to the devil. Two centuries later they were common, for sad-eyed Dante sings of their striking.

The watch is a lineal descendant of the clock. It was born in Nuremburg 400 years ago.—Henry VIII., of wife-killing memory, carried one. So did his cotemporary Charles V., who

> "Cast crowns for rosaries away,
> An empire for a cell."

These watches were of rude construction and large as our dessert plates. In Shakespeare's time they had become common among private gentlemen.

During the war of 1812, while our foreign trade was stopped, a few excellent watches were made at Worcester and Hartford. No others were ever manufactured in America, until within the last dozen years. We could not compete with the low prices of European labor. So we imported all our watches—sometimes to the amount of $5,000,000 a year.—Fifteen years ago, two sanguine, plucky Bostonians, who made watches by hand, originated a project for making them by machinery.—Infusing their own zeal into neighbors, they formed a stock company, obtained $100,000 in subscriptions, and, in 1854, the daring enterprise practically began. It was up-hill work; little capital; no experience; no protection; everything to learn; every slave of steel and iron to be created and fashioned before it could do their bidding. They toiled on till 1857, and failed; their establishment was sold under the hammer. But they had solved the problem; they *were* making watches by machinery.

Mr. Royal E. Robbins, on behalf of other parties, bought the establishment, and afterward, to secure himself, had no alternative but to carry it on alone. There were many dark days. Existing machines were imperfect.—New ones, too, must be invented, for much work was still done by hand. Many mutations occurred; but Mr. Robbins, with unfaltering faith, invested his every dollar in the enterprise, and adhered to it through all changes. He converted it into a stock company called "The American Watch Company," and he is still its treasurer and business manager.

Foreign watches are made by hand, no two exactly alike; each an individual; each subject to the nerves, caprice, idosyncracies of the maker. But our manufacturers began by making a watch like a steam-engine—solely by machinery, and with exact uniformity of parts. They have advanced steadily, learning, improving, perfecting, year by year. Their idea was purely American; their machines have all been invented, made, and run by Americans. All have originated with their own *employes*, just as the most ingenious improvements in California and Idaho quartz-mills spring from the working mechanics and miners. Indeed the Company are satisfied that the reason why we can make watches by machinery while no other nation can, lies in *the average native ingenuity of the American mind.*

The nice minuteness of these machines is incredible. It is the crowning miracle of modern mechanism. The little scales in our national mints will weigh 1-5,000th part of an ounce of gold; but these automaton watch-makers are greater marvels. Here are instruments cutting threads, *invisible to the naked eye*, in screws of which 300,000 weigh only a pound! Here are exquisite sapphire knives, cutting metallic shavings of which 5,000 are required to make one inch in thickness! Here are microscopic diamond drills, boring into jewels, holes like a needle point! Here are inventions for *measuring* as well—machines which determine the 1-10,000th part of an inch, in pivot or jewel-hole, as easily and unerringly as the carpenter's rule measures one foot on a stick of timber!

The factory in Waltham is in a quiet inclosure of 70 acres, far from noise and dust. It is an immense structure, more than 300 feet long, with wings and cross-wings, inclosing great quadrangular courts. Its rooms are light and cheery, like parlors rather than the old close, foul quarters of operatives. Three-quarters of a mile of work benches. Seven miles of steam, gas, and water pipes. 750 employes, under the ten-hour system. One third are women.

The American watch has some obvious advantages. It is American, from Alpha to Omega. It is cheaper at first cost than foreign competitors. It is simpler; it contains less than half as many pieces, and every new piece involves a new liability to break. It is easier of repair. Beside, the higher grades are warranted perpetually against all mishaps arising from any original defect or weakness. And it bids fair to be more durable.

The business, which was bankrupt in 1857, has grown so rapidly that eight years later the Company manufactures 80,000 watches annually. It turns out a complete watch during every two-and-a-half minutes of the working day! The single factory in Massachusetts, under one roof, one supervision, produces more watches annually than all the watch-makers of old England combined!

This tells the story. The laws of demand and supply are unfailing registers. Other watch factories are beginning to spring up, East and West; but the American Company of Waltham is the pioneer and thus far, practically, it has occupied the field alone. Its history marks the origin and growth of an interesting and important branch of our national manufactures. It not only proves that Americans alone can make watches by machinery; but watches which are cheaper, simpler, more durable, and keep better time, than the same foreign grades. It is American skilled industry, working by machinery and well paid, steadily displacing European skilled industry, working by hand, and ill paid.

Most American watches are consumed at home, though orders begin to come in from Cuba and South America. But sooner or later we shall furnish pocket time-keepers for the world. It is Manifest Destiny.

---

Heliotropes.—August is the month to propagate this fragrant and favorite flower. It can be done in pots or in the open ground. In both cases it should be protected from the sun, except a couple of hours in the morning, and watered thrice a day until it has firmly taken root. The heliotrope is one of the most tender flowers; the least touch of frost will wither it; but secured from this and placed in a genial warmth, either in the green-house or sitting-room, where the temperature is pretty uniform, will flower beautifully all Winter to the shame of many others with greater pretensions.—*Exchange.*

---

A Texas paper says the increase of beeve in that State much exceeds the home demand.

---

The crop will furnish six bushels of wheat to each inhabitant this year.

## AUGUST.

There is no month in the whole year in which nature wears a more beautiful appearance than in the month of August. Spring has many beauties, and May is a fresh and blooming month, but the charms of this time of year are enhanced by their contrast with the Winter season. August has no such advantage. It comes when we remember nothing but clear skies, green fields, and sweet smelling flowers—when the recollection of snow and ice and bleak winds has faded from our minds as completely as they have disappeared from the earth,—and yet what a pleasant time it is! Orchards and cornfields ring with the hum of labor; trees bend beneath the clusters of rich fruit which bow their branches to the ground; and the corn piled in graceful sheaves, or waving in every light breath that sweeps above it, as if it wooed the sickle, tinges the landscape with a golden hue. A mellow softness appears to hang over the whole earth. The influence of the season seems to extend itself to the very wagon, whose slow motion across the well-reaped field is perceptible only to the eye, but strikes with no harsh sound upon the ear.

As the coach rolls swiftly past the fields and orchards which skirt the road, groups of women and children, piling the fruit in sieves, or gathering the scattered ears of corn, pause for an instant from their labor, and, shading the sunburnt face with the still browner hand, gaze upon the passengers with curious eyes, while some stout urchin, too small to work, but too mischievous to be left at home, scrambles over the side of the basket in which he has been deposited for security, and kicks and screams with delight. The reaper stops in his work, and stands with folded arms, looking at the vehicle as it whirls past; and the rough cart-horses bestow a sleepy glance upon the smart coach team, which says as plainly as a horse's glance can, "It's all very fine to look at; but slow going over a heavy field is better than warm work like that upon a dusty road, after all." You cast a look behind you, as you turn a corner of the road. The women and children have resumed their labor; the reaper once more stoops to his work; the cart-horses have moved on; and all are again in motion.—*Dickens.*

---

Young Chickens.—One of the most scientific and successful poultry breeders of Germany, whose experiments we have personally examined, says, in a recent number of the Poultry Journal, that young chickens should never be fed with boiled eggs, nor should they have access to water, otherwise than mixed with their food, until several days old.

Many people on the farms with us are in the habit of mixing dough with cold water. This is wrong. The Indian meal ought to be cooked, or at least scalded. Many lose their young chickens from neglect to scald the meal, and wonder what the matter was. Poultry is worth too much now to afford to neglect it.

---

The gray old monks, who had an eye open to the good things of life in their day, were the first genuine cultivators of flowers and fruits, and around their solitary keeps of learning slept securely many a productive garden and blossoming orchard. They had the true relish for what those things brought them, and tended a tree or a flower with the same zeal with which they wore the pavement smooth with their frequent devotions. They taught us horticulture, and we are thus become their debtors for more than the mere learning they were instrumental in handing down.

---

Apricot Growing.—The apricot tree when young is a rapid grower, and if left to itself will produce long, naked branches, in consequence of its growing only from the terminating buds, and those near the top of each year's growth, leaving the lateral branches and fruit spurs feeble. In order to obviate this and develop the fruit wood all through the tree, there should be only branches enough to form a nice, open head, and these shortened every season.

---

Concerning Costume.—An English journal is very caustic on the ladies' costume of our period. It says: "But it is in evening costume that our women have reached the minimum of dress and the maximum of brass. We remember a venerable old lady whose ideas of decorum were such that in her speech all above the foot was ankle, and all below the chin was chest; but now the female bosom is less the subject of a revelation than the feature of an exposition, and charms that were once reserved are now made the common property of every looker on. A costume which has been described as consisting of a smock, a waist-band and a frill, seems to exceed the bounds of honest liberality, and resembles most perhaps the attire mentioned by Rabelais, 'nothing before and nothing behind, with sleeves of the same.'"

# The Stock Yard.

## YOUNG STOCK vs. OLD STOCK.

There is no part of rural economy in which the farmers lose more money, than that of the management of the domestic animals. Some keep inferior stock of every kind, because they are easily procured, and with them a cow is a cow, and a horse, a horse, and so long as they can keep the requisite number, they don't trouble their heads about improvement. Old animals of every kind are unprofitable, and should be got rid of before they become so deteriorated in value as to be difficult to sell even at a very reduced price. Old horses are about the worst stock a farmer can have, for they become year after year less able to work, and more difficult to be disposed of. A thrifty farmer never keeps old horses, he manages to get them off his hands in some way before they show any symptoms of decline, and fills their places with young ones. In France an old horse, after he is past his labor, may be turned to some account by being fattened for the shambles, but as yet, the people of the United States have not been educated into a taste for horse-flesh.

Old cows are not so suitable for the dairy as those which are in their prime, for their milk is deficient both in quantity and quality, and their calves never make first-rate animals, although they may be of the most improved breeds. A dairy-farmer who has been a long time in the business, has many advantages over him who is just commencing. One of them is that he has had time to breed from his best cows, and to have a succession of desirable young ones ready, to fill up the places of those which being no longer serviceable in the dairy, have been fattened and sold off. In all places where the stall-feeding of cattle is practiced, young animals are considered more profitable to feed than old ones, and heifers or steers of three to four years old, are preferred to older or younger stock, not only on account of fattening sooner, but also for producing a superior quality of beef.

It is well known that old ewes are not so suitable for breeding purposes as young ones, for their progeny are generally small and unthrifty, and their fleeces light. The wool of old sheep is much easier torn off by brush and briars than that of young ones, and their constitutions being impaired, they become more liable to disease according as they advance in years.

The mutton of old ewes is known to be of inferior quality, but a great deal depends upon the way in which they are made up for the butcher. In the aristocratic demesnes of Europe, South Down and Leister wethers are sometimes fed until they are six or seven years old, and by that time they have accumulated an enormous quantity of fat on and in their bodies, and the flesh tastes like venison. The art of fattening sheep is in its infancy in the United States. When old ewes lose their teeth they are not able to pick up sufficient food, and unless provided with succulent provender, they fall away very fast.

In several parts of England, farmers make a practice of fattening their culled ewes, by turning them into turnip fields late in the Fall to eat the tops, having first chiseled out their front teeth, to prevent them from eating the bulbs. Every breeder who has attained any celebrity for producing good stock, has made it a point to keep no animals for breeding purposes, but such as are of superior quality and in their prime.

The most successful breeders of swine, fatten their hogs for market at an early age, managing so as to have the pigs come in February or March, and to have the hogs fit for market in November or the beginning of December. They know that hogs are easiest fattened in mild weather, and that such as are in good condition in the Fall, lose rapidly, if kept through the Winter, so that the work of bringing them into good condition must be re-commenced the ensuing Spring. Well fed hogs of good breeds, will weigh heavier at the age of nine or ten months, than neglected ones of inferior breeds will at double that age.—*Western Rural.*

## WEANING LAMBS.

There is nothing gained by allowing the lambs to run with the ewes after they are about three months old. On the contrary, the ewes will not cut so much wool the following season, and the lambs will not do so well late in the year as if taken from their dams early in the Summer. If the lambs are left in the pasture where they have been lying, and the ewes are taken far enough away to be out of hearing, there will be much less bleating, and it will be better for parent and offspring, or should there be no field at a sufficient distance, the ewes might be shut up in their Winter quarters for about three days, by which time uneasiness will have abated, and by feeding them sparingly with dry fodder, the milk will pain them less, and die away quicker; however, where fences are good, and there is attention paid to the udders, there need be no trouble either way. In the course of a week afterwards it is a good plan to put the lambs on pastures which have been well grazed, with cows and horses, as far as convenient to have them lie in small numbers together, or give them a good range in proportion to the quantity.

By early weaning the mothers are relieved of the drain from their bodies, and they get strength in constitution, growing good fleeces even if made to graze close, and finish off the grass after young stock have had the first run, besides which they will breed better by coming altogether with their lambs next Spring. If the lambs, as they become tegs, (which is next Fall,) can commence to have roots, as the grass fails, they will cut more wool at their first clip than older sheep, and it is worth more per pound. In many parts of this country, those lambs which are fat, and come first to perfection, are sold to the butchers, and the unthrifty ones kept to add to and made up the flock, the females being sold too, if good and ripe; thus an unkind and unprofitable flock is obtained, and by continuing this way, even in some instances using a ram which was not good enough for lamb or mutton, a set of meagre animals are shown and argued on to prove that sheep husbandry will never pay in the East, however well it may do to breed and shear out West. On the weaning of and saving the best ewe lambs, depends success, taking care to have grass that will force their growth, and, as stated, good roots, &c., after, to carry them on in one uniform, thriving condition. Then the flock may yearly improve, and become superior to the originals. At the same time it will be necessary to use no ram but what is descended from really good ancestors. Kill all the forward and fat ewe lambs; wean and merge into the flock the refuse, and what can be expected?—*Country Gent.*

## IMPROVED STOCK.

A Contributor to the "American Stock Journal," thus sums up the advantages and profits of farm stock:

It is estimated that in February, 1866, there was in twenty-two States and Territories (the Southern States not counted), a total of 63,136,811 horses, mules, cattle, sheep, and swine, valued at $1,102,884,344. If now, by introducing improved breeds of these animals, an increase in their value of only ten per cent. could be obtained, the country would be richer by $110,288,434.

But, although the mere increase in value might not be any special benefit, the increased annual income would be a direct addition to our wealth. Of the number of animals given, 5,779,644 were cows. Suppose the improved breed would each give an increase in milk of four quarts per day; reckoning the year at 250 days, and the milk worth only three cents a quart, there would be an annual increase of $173,389,320.

Of sheep there were 32,695,797; these might be made to give an increase of two pounds of wool each, which, at 50 cents per pound, would amount to $32,695,797. But the wool would not be the only profit; the improved breeds fatten more easily and cheaper than the "natives." Mutton could, doubtless, be produced one cent per pound cheaper by the saving of food. Reckoning the sheep to average 100 pounds each, and one-half of the whole number to be killed each year, the amount saved would be $16,347,898. The same would be the case with cattle and swine. By raising such breeds as require less food to produce the same amount of meat we would have a larger surplus for exportation.

Averaging cattle at 1000 pounds each, the saving would be $10 each. The whole number of cattle is 12,674,968. Probably two and one-half millions of these are slaughtered annually; at $10 each, this would amount to $25,000,000.

Of 13,686,876 hogs, about one-half is the annual consumption; averaging them at 200 pounds each, there would be another gain at $4.00 each, of $27,233,752.

# Horticulture.

## GRAPE SOILS.

Dr. John A. Warder, President of the Ohio Pomological Society, has, in the report of the Society, made some very interesting remarks on grape soils, from which it appears that grapes may be grown on almost every variety of soil in a suitable climate, but that each soil has its peculiar kind of grape, which is better adapted to it than to any other situation.

It follows, therefore, that the great secret of success in grape culture, is to select those varieties best adapted to the peculiar soil on which it is destined to plant, and this must be decided by the rigid test of experiment.

"Geologically," he says, "these plants appear to be equally diverse in their selection, for they are found upon the granites of Arkansas; upon the trapperan rocks of Europe and Asia; upon the modern volcanic scoria of Italy, and of the Western Islands; upon all limestone formations of whatever age and character; upon the shales and sandstone of the coal measures; upon the chalk prairies of the Southern States; upon the tertiary sands and clays of the Atlantic coast, as well as those of the great western plains; and upon the half-formed tufaceous rocks; gravels and sands and clay diluvians, also have their grape vines."

The Catawba, Diana, Iona, &c., are adapted to clays, and the majority of the vine planters upon the lake shore prefer stiff clays. No matter how stiff, no matter how close, even if it be poor hard white clay, the successful cultivators in this region pronounce it good grape land, needing only thorough drainage to grow abundant crops, especially of the Catawba variety.

The Doctor remarks, that it is the very common opinion after many years experience, of those who have been eminently successful in the culture of the vine, that the clay cannot be too hard and compact for the roots of the grape to penetrate. Among the plants which are an indication of good grape lands is the blue grass or *Poa compressa*, which always takes possession of such clays, particularly if they contain lime.

He says that the pioneer planter of the lake region, even declares, that those vineyards which were prepared in the most thorough manner by trenching, always heretofore recommended, are the most unsatisfactory in their results, and that the best and most productive are heavy soils, that were merely plowed, and the roots were placed in holes dug into the hard and previously undisturbed clay, and then firmly trodden in at planting. Drainage, however, is necessary, it being preferred that the tiles be laid sixteen feet apart, or between the rows. To show that the variety of grapes which we chiefly cultivate love a clay soil, an instance is given of the vineyard of Mr. Buchanan, of Cincinnati, where a pit was opened among the vines in the hard clay below the trenched soil. The clay was so hard as to be loosened with difficulty with the pick, and yet after reaching a depth of four feet an abundance of grape roots were found forcing their way into the unpromising soil.

These facts are interesting and suggestive to those who are looking forward to the culture of the vine.—*Utica Herald.*

## THE PEACH CROP.

A Reporter for the New York Tribune, has been among the peach growers of the Atlantic districts and estimates the Jersey peach crop at about 200,000 baskets. (A basket containing about 20 quarts.) The general estimate among growers is, that there is only about half a full crop. In June the cold wet weather caused the curl of the leaf, and a fall of large quantities of peaches.

The best peach orchards in Jersey are put in corn till they begin to bear, after that they are plowed and harrowed without the planting of any crop, and bone dust applied, in one instance at the rate of four tons to 25 acres.—Some say it is better than any other manure, while others deny this, and say they use the bone that they may have their manure to put on ground for wheat. When cultivation is not attended to, and where a system of trimming out dead wood is not pursued, the yield of fruit is unsatisfactory, and the business unprofitable. The varieties raised are generally as follows: Early Red, Large Early York, Old Mixon, Late Rare Ripe, Late Crawford, Prince's Rare Ripe, Smock, Morris White, and Beer's Smock. The last is an October peach, and is highly valued. We could not learn that Hale's Early is yet much in bearing, though many young orchards of this variety are planted, and will come on in a year or so.

The next regions visited were on the line of the Delaware Railroad as far south as Dover. In comparison, the Jersey peach region sinks into insignificance. It was found impossible to get anything like a corret estimate of the number of acres; but in answer to inquiries made of the railroad company, the crop on this line is estimated at fully a million of baskets. On the Maryland shore it is supposed that the yield will be nearly as large, though some of their extensive orchards have died out. Thus we have as a total of the peach crop to be sent to Philadelphia, New York, and other Northern cities, 2,200,000 baskets or 733,000 bushels.

Only about 100 trees are planted to an acre in Delaware. They are larger and generally more thrifty than the Jersey trees, and the business is conducted in a more scientific manner. In fair orchards the average is estimated at three baskets to the tree, while very many trees will yield ten baskets each. The size of the orchards varies from ten acres to 500, and even 700 acres each. In addition to the varieties named above, the Delaware growers cultivate the Susquehanna, and Early York, Serrate, the first of which is a shy bearer, but when it does bear, very profitable, while the latter is unsatisfactory. So is the Tillotson.—Hale's Early is in many orchards, and already bearing. It is hardy, fruitful, and more profitable than any other, since none is so early.—Several have new late varieties, highly, esteemed, but they are not yet generally introduced.

The best cultivators manage as in Jersey, but they do not continue cultivation later than into July. If an orchard which has been neglected should be brought into cultivation, it is quite certain to throw its fruit the first year, and late cultivation has this tendency. Here, also, a large number of peaches fell in June, and here also they cannot say whether the curculio did a part or all of the damages. The general estimate is that there will be no more than half of a full crop, but it is certain that the fruit will be fine, and perhaps the growers will realize more money than if the trees had borne full.

Renewing Grapes.—People hear much about the "renewal system" in grape-growing, and from the high-flown tone in which professional writers speak could never understand what it means. It is simply growing fruit every two or three years or less from new vines, sprouting out low from the parent vine, and removing the latter. Undoubtedly larger and better grapes can be obtained by this system than from the old method of depending on the old vine.—*Selected.*

Pears are, almost without exception, improved by early picking and ripening in-doors.



True Literature.—Whether one is an eagle or an ant, in the intellectual world, seems to me not to matter much; the essential thing is to have one's place marked there, one's station assigned, and to belong decidedly to a regular and wholesome order. A small talent, if it keeps within its limits and rightly fulfils its task, may reach the goal just as well as a greater one. To accustom mankind to pleasures which depend neither upon bodily appetites nor upon money, by giving them a taste for the things of the mind, seems to me, in fact, the proper fruit which nature has meant our literary productions to have. When they have other fruits, it is by accident, and, in general, not for good. Books which absorb our attention to such a degree that they rob us of all fancy for other books, are absolutely pernicious.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## TO OFFICERS OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

A great difficulty in awarding small premiums, at Agricultura Fairs, is to present something of REAL VALUE to those who are awarded small prizes. We will furnish to any agricultural society, the FARM AND FIRESIDE, (to be given as premiums) at ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS A YEAR—mailing them to any address, either in bundles, or single.

An annual subscription to our journal would be more acceptable than almost any other small gift, and would be a permanent gain to our agriculture.

## AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.

THE period of our State and County annual exhibitions is near at hand, and we cannot permit the opportunity to pass without a few words on the present character of agricultural fairs. That they are a benefit to our agriculture, even with their manifold errors and mismanagement, is plainly evident; but that they are susceptible of far greater benefit, if differently managed, is obvious to the dullest spectator who pays his quarter to see the show, but somehow gets muddled with the idea that he has been to "a horse race" rather than to an agricultural exhibition.

The first great error is in the premium list. Instead of giving the largest award for speed, to a trained trotting horse, (rarely ever owned by farmers), the first premium, in value, should be for the best cultivated farm, taking into consideration the nature of the soil, the amount of fertilizers used, the labor expended, together with the net product per acre. This would be a direct reward to agriculture, a premium to skillful husbandry, a diploma to intelligent farm labor. Next should come *adequate premiums* for all kinds and descriptions of farm products. It must not be expected that farmers will labor to produce extra crops; go to the trouble of preparing them for exhibition; taking them several miles to the fair, and then, after running the gauntlet of favoritism, receive a cheap diploma, or "honorable mention!" Such awards, meagre and valueless, are not appreciated by the class to whom they are distributed—especially when large cash premiums are lavishly bestowed on owners of fast horses—on men who have no interest, direct or otherwise, in agriculture.

For twenty years past the race-course has overshadowed every other interest at our State and County fairs. Beef cattle and animals of the dairy are placed in pens in an out of the way part of the grounds, where they are visited by a few honest farmers, but always slighted or over-looked by the crowd. So of the sheep, hogs, poultry, grain, vegetables and other products of the farm. These are so systematically ignored in the premium list, and their presence over-looked by the spectators, that exhibitors of the best and most valuable portions of our fairs have little encouragement to contribute the productions of the field, the orchard, the stable or the garden. Thus the legitimate object of an agricultural exhibition is ignored; the premiums for farm products are not sufficient to bring out exhibitors, and the whole thing dwindles down to a "horse race," empty cattle pens, unfrequented vegetable stands, a few oyster and lager-beer tables, and "outside-shows," clouds of dust and a disappointed crowd of people.

We are not disposed to wholly exclude the race track, at our fairs, for human nature tells us that it is a legitimate portion of the show. We are all horse-proud, and like to witness the speed of that noblest of all brute friends. But racing should be a subordinate, rather than a leading attraction; and the money so lavishly given to owners of fast horses should be judiciously distributed to the more legitimate objects of all agricultural fairs. Unless we do this, we shall lose the co-operation of the better class of agriculturists; also forfeit the name under which these fairs are designated. We must increase the premiums to *bona fide* farm contributors; make our exhibitions thoroughly and honestly agricultural, and let race horses and horse jockeys go to other markets.

THE PEACH CROP.—As everybody is interested in this fruit, and is curious to know the aggregate of the crop in the Middle States, we publish the following additional testimony:—

In New Jersey, the general estimate among peach growers is that there is only about half a crop. The whole product of the State is set down at 200,000 baskets.

In Delaware, the Sussex Argus says:—New Castle county has been estimated at 800,000 baskets, Kent, 700,000, and we estimate Sussex county at about 650,000, but as the facilities for shipping are not as good as in Kent and New Castle, probably not over one-half of that amount will be shipped, thus we make a total of 1,825,000, for the whole State. A much larger estimate has been made, but we think it has been exaggerated, and are of the opinion that this will cover the whole amount that will be shipped.

DEAD.—"The Farmers' Register," a monthly journal published in Philadelphia, expired with the August number. Farmers have come to the conclusion that a *monthly* paper is of little or no value to them. Nothing published less frequent than a weekly journal will answer the demands of agriculture in this day and generation. For instance, what are *monthly* reports of the produce market worth to the farmer, when the price of all articles fluctuate daily? So of *monthly* advice about farm and horticultural crops, that is needed once a week. The monthly agricultural press is a slow coach—behind the times—valuable only to line trunks and bandboxes, and "do up" savory herbs.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL FAIR.—We are in receipt of the Premium List for 1867—for the fifteenth annual exhibition of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, which is to be held at Pittsburg, on the 24, 25, 26 and 27th of September. Judging from the generous list of premiums offered, and the character of the various committees, this exhibition will be an immense success. Every farmer who has fine stock, or extra farm products, should send them to this exhibition. Pennsylvania can make as large and as creditable a Fair as any state in the Union; and her agriculturists should contribute all they can to that end.

WHAT IS IT?—We notice an advertisement in the Utica Herald, of the "French Liquid Fertilizer," which, the advertisement says, "requires but one quart to manure one acre of wheat, rye, oats, corn or any cereal—and costs but three dollars a quart." If such a fertilizer exists, and fulfils its recommendation, we should all have it. We might then befriend the bottle, and with immense crops, "go to bed mellow."

THE experimental farm, at Washington, for the Agricultural Department, has been established, the soil having been already put under cultivation so as to yield handsome crops of corn, clover, fruits and vegetables. Among the improvements is the erection of suitable buildings for the use of the Department, the contracts for which have already been awarded, and the plans determined upon. The main building will be 171 feet long and nearly 70 feet high, and promises to add another to the fine public edifices of Washington.

NEARLY all our agricultural exchanges give discouraging accounts of the apple crop. In New England there is a general failure; in New York, except on the lake-shores, very little Winter fruit; at the West, in favorable localities, a small crop of Summer apples, but Fall and Winter varieties are an almost total failure. Our cider-loving friends will hardly get "a nip" for Christmas and New Years.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

THE "Farmers' Home Journal," of Kentucky, says hemp is not looking as well as usual, and the promise is not flattering for a large crop. The same journal thinks the yield of wheat, in that State, will not be as good as was anticipated early in the season. A like deficit is reported in Maryland.

An interesting experiment in top dressing grass land, by some one connected with the Agricultural College of Michigan, is reported in the American Agriculturist, for August. It says: "two bushels of plaster per acre gave an increase of 4,153 pounds of hay." If this statement is true, a bushel of plaster is equal in value to a ton of hay. Rather too large "a story for hay-time."

A contributor to "Coleman's Rural World," Missouri, advocates the importance and advantages of stacking wheat. He says in stacking wheat it goes through a sweating process which makes the berry plump, and adds at least three pounds to the bushel, and also makes better flour. If correct, farmers had better stack their wheat, rather than to thrash it out as soon as harvested.

The Editor of the "Gardener's Monthly" advocates planting asparagus in Autumn, rather than in the Spring. He says: "The ground is prepared for the crop as at any other season, and after cutting off the green tops of the young seedlings, the roots are set precisely as in Spring planting." Asparagus thus planted produces a fair crop the next Spring.

The "Monthly" also favors the cultivation of pears on grass-land, even the dwarf pear. Our best fruit culturists have uniformly advocated "clean surface culture" for pear orchards—especially for the dwarf varieties. Soils and localities have much to do in this matter—hence, "sauce for the goose" will not invariably answer as "sauce for the gander."

"Beet-Root Sugar in Illinois," is the subject of an interesting article in the "Western Rural," of Chicago. It states that a large manufactory is now in operation at Chatsworth, Livingston county, that State, that has a working capital of $163,000. This season they have six hundred acres in beet culture, two hundred hands employed, and eighty mules. On the company's farm there are also six hundred acres in wheat, two hundred and fifty acres in oats, and two hundred and fifty in corn. To consume the pulp of the beets, after manufacture, from eight hundred to one thousand head of cattle are fed. The machinery, both for cultivating and manufacturing the beet, is imported from Europe, and the establishment, it is said, promises to become a financial success.

A contributor to the "Farmer's Advertiser," published at St. Louis, says that by feeding young colts a considerable amount of grain, in conjunction with hay and other light articles of food, they thrive better, and their limbs become better knit than when fed only on light food. It may, indeed, be assumed as an axiom, that there is no greater error in rearing any kind of animals, than the too common one of stinting them during the early period of their growth. It is at this time that they require the most nourishment, and if a proper supply of food be withheld while an animal is young, it will be injured in its constitution, and consequently in its value to a far greater extent than any saving that can be effected in its feed.

The August number of the "American Farmer" gives its views on the preparation of land for sowing Winter wheat. It says deep ploughing is injurious to the future crop; that the young plant needs a "firm under-stratum not far from the surface to imbed its roots." This advice may apply to some soils, but experience will not warrant its application to all localities. The same journal is not in favor of ploughing in manure for wheat. We are, also, half inclined to think it better to harrow it in—especially on heavy soils.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

THE gross aggregate of the last crop of wheat raised in California was equivalent to 12,000,000 of bushels. Of this amount there were exported in wheat, 3,650,000 sacks; and in flour reduced wheat, the bulk of 1,500,000.

A correspondent of the New York World says that England is now paying from £10 to £12 per cwt. for hops—equal to 70c to 80c per pound in our currency.

Dispatches from Chicago say that the Winter wheat has all been harvested, and that the Spring wheat of Illinois and Wisconsin is now being gathered. From all points West the harvest is equal to the sanguine expectations so generally entertained.

In Northern Alabama corn in the field is offered at from thirty to forty cents a bushel.—The prospect is that the yield of grapes this year will exceed that of any year since 1859.

The crops in New Hampshire are all looking well, with the exception of the fruit crop.

The Jonesboro' (Illinois) Gazette gives the amount of strawberries shipped from that station the present season at 92,529 pounds, making 63,076 quarts, and selling at $12,601.

The income from the tax on dogs in Indiana this year will amount to nearly $160,000. This is applied to reimbursing sheep owners for sheep killed by dogs, and the surplus is devoted to the school fund.

There is a farm in Burton county, Indiana, which contains 24,000 acres.

The Clinton (La.) Democrat suggests that planters return to the cultivation of Indigo, which it says was in the early existence of Louisiana, a staple production of the State, and a very profitable one, too.

The potato rot has attacked the farms on Long Island. It is reported that in some places fields, embracing many acres, are wholly blasted. The Mercer variety appears to be the most infected.

The hay crop in England has been an immense one this season, and has been cured under the most favorable circumstances. Harvest prospects are otherwise unusually good.

In considerable districts of Indiana the wheat crop will average seventeen bushels per acre. Throughout the State there will be a larger yield of peaches than for many years.

The Salt Lake Vedette says:—"From all quarters of Utah we hear that the crops promise splendid results. There will be a fine yield of fruit also."

Corn has fallen in Texas from two dollars to seventy-five cents a bushel. One paper even reports that new corn can be engaged at twenty-five cents a bushel.

The reports of the grape crop in Ohio are very favorable, and the Cincinnati Wine Growers' Association have cheering intelligence from all quarters. They announce officially, that the prospect is "that the yield of grapes this season will be unprecedented by any year since 1859. Such is the report all over the country. In most localities the fruit hangs in heavy and perfect clusters."

Many farmers of Niagara county, N. Y., have contracted to deliver the new crop of amber wheat to the Lockport millers at $2 per bushel.

The prospect for a full crop of hops in Van Buren county, Michigan, is said to be very good. The estimated value of the crop, in the county, is $100,000.

The heifer calf of any breed, that at four or five weeks old, shows a heavy shoulder, thick, bull-neck, square, unfeminine muzzle, fore legs set wide apart, and girths considerably larger around the chest than the loins, will never make a profitable milker.

Seven hundred thousand vines are cultivated for wine at present in the township of San Gabriel, California, and twenty-five thousand acres of good land lying waste. This is said to be the "garden of Southern California."

THUS far the present season 5851 dogs have been slaughtered in the city of New York, and over $3000 have been paid for them. Only 25 cents is paid for them, instead of 50 cents as heretofore.



THE TRAP-DOOR SPIDER.—The trap-door spider inhabits many parts of the world, but the best specimens are to be found in Jamaica and Australia. It makes a tunnel in a sloping bank, and to this it fits a lid, so constructed that it closes without giving any evidence of its existence. The hole is beveled inward as truly as though it had been turned, and the lid fits with a nicety that could not be beaten by the cleverest human workman. The hinge by which the trap is fastened exactly fits the mouth of the trap. The creature, which is very large-bodied, sits at the entrance, with the lid open wide enough to let it see anything near, and immediately it does so, out it rushes and drags in its victim, and shuts the trap-door with a loud click.

## The Fireside Muse.

### A MAN-OF-WAR IN THE ACORN.

An oak-tree, wrestling with the wind,
Shook down an acorn where I stood,
I turned aside, I would not crush
That little orphan of the wood.

It was as smooth as the brown egg
That prisons in the nightingale,
By fairy files was notch'd and barr'd,
Its cup symmetrical as frail.

In bowls like this the moonlit dew
Elves gather from the violet flowers,
Or from the hawthorn shake the drops
Remaining from the noonday showers.

A spirit showed me, hid within
The dusky acorn's dusky shell
A floating tower, perhaps to ride,
Three centuries hence on waves that swell,

Around the iceberg's sapphire cliffs,
Or the rough Baltic's storm-swept strand;
Perhaps to threaten with its fire
Some bastion of the Eastern land.

Yes! see above the bulwarks smile
Frank sunburnt faces, as the guns
Vomit their thunder-burst of flame—
Those cheers are from old England's sons!

See, down go colors, spars, and mast,
Blood-spouting like a dying whale,
The rival ship has struck, and now
The dear old flag flaunts in the gale.

Then once more rings the lusty shout,
And once more wrings the stirring cheer,
O'er the dark blue rolling waves,
That smite the proud foeman's heart with fear.

Sail on, brave ships, spread nobler faith,
A truer creed, a wider love;
For on your sails, from opening skies,
Glance rays of glory from above!

Sail on, sail on, ye winged towers!
Far by your angry thunders bul'd,
And hear our Heaven lighted flag
Around a subjugated world.

The vision fades. Now let me plant,
With reverent hand, the acorn seed,
Deep in the kindly English soil,
On which the oak loves best to feed.

May happy Summers nurse the bud,
And April's brightest, softest showers,
Widen this germ to nobler life,
And give its limbs a giant's powers.

Rock, but rend not, ye Winter storms!
Spare, spare the helpless little tree;
Earth, nurse it kindly till it float,
Bulwark of Home and Liberty!

## Fireside Tale.

### THE CRISIS OF A LIFE.

Theodora Nelson stood in the center of her room. She was doing nothing. It seemed to her, she was thinking of nothing. But a kind of soundless voice within her kept repeating over and over again the last words which Mr. Granger had said to her:

"It is an offer, Miss Nelson, which you would do well to give some thought to."

By-and-by she began to think of the time at which she had first entered that house. Homeless, friendless, almost helpless, she had applied to Mr. Granger for a situation as governess to his little daughter, just left motherless. She had no faith that she would obtain the situation, for she brought with her no intercession from others, she had no introduction; she possessed nothing but her capability and earnestness.

She had been shown into the library just at dusk Through the glimmer of picture-frames and the shine of polished walnut, she made out that the room was unoccupied, and sat down to wait. The faint firelight only showed how rich the place was, and it was very quiet. There was a study chair drawn upon the hearth-rug, a book open in the reading-rack, a profusion of papers on a table near by, and a watch ticking among them. The comfortable ticking of the watch sounded with the wailing wind beyond the window drapery's warm folds. She listened to both in a half stupor, caused by the weariness of breasting the rough weather.

Suddenly, without a sound, the door swung open softly, and a gentleman entered, went across the soft carpet, and turned up the gas. Then he turned to her, saying courteously:

"Do you wish to see me?"

"Mr. Granger?"

"Yes."

She was impressed as never before with the utter gentleness of a gentleman. She made known her errand and waited patiently under the kind but comprehensive eyes.

Looking at Theodora Nelson, Mr. Granger thought that there was one woman at least, who had not thought of his being rich, eligible. It was a relieving thought after experiences he had known during the past month. He said,—

"I think we will try each other, Miss Nelson."

The words were a shock of pleasure to Theodora, she was so tired, the place was so restful, and she was not sure where she would lay her head that night. It was a comfort and peace opening before her, a place where she could drop her burden of care, and be kindly enfolded in an atmosphere of peace. She did not know that Mr. Granger saw her eyes full of tears as they parted.

How much had happened since that night! Episode after episode swept across her mental vision. The first beautiful served meal which she ate in the pretty breakfast room, the first glimpse of Dora Granger's fair little face, the dainty chamber assigned her, in which she could not at first sleep for comfort. Many a night she had lain watching the play of the red firelight upon the white ceiling, unwilling to go to sleep, because no dream could be so happy as the waking revery. She never lost her pleasure in these things, familiar as taste and luxury became to her daily life.

She thought of the first Christmas that she had lived there, and of the grateful pleasure which swelled her heart when Mr. Granger put into her hand a tiny Florentine watch; while the next instant little Dora sprang forward with a beautiful cut cameo—her gift. Why, she had never had a Christmas present before in all her life!

She thought of a night when Dora had been taken dangerously ill with the croup, and how, as if the child were her own flesh and blood, she had watched and prayed with her father.

She remembered the evening in the beautiful old library so quiet and bright, morning drives, pleasant forenoon study hours, music lessons given in the long parlors, where Mr. Granger walked the floor buried in deep thought, an agreeable supernumerary. He had roused up sometimes to see what they were laughing at, but he was usually absent minded.

That his thoughts were not always pleasant, Theodora came to know.

There was a sore place in his life which he brooded over. At first she believed it to be the loss of his wife, but respectfully as he mentioned to Dora her dead mother, he never showed for the child nor for himself a sense of great loss. In a man fine natured and tender hearted as was Curtis Granger, this was strange.

Theodora did not know how it was that she came to understand that she was capable of bringing pleasure to Dora's father. But she felt that he was happiest in the evenings when the three were alone, and she was in the mood to laugh and talk freely. In those times Mr. Granger would kindle into a quiet brilliancy utterly alien to him at all periods.

A sympathy had grown up between them which not one person in a hundred would appreciate rightly. Theodora felt a desire to please Mr. Granger. With the utmost frankness she consulted his tastes. Silently discovering that whatever his evening engagements were, he liked to chat with her for an hour after tea, she made it a point to be at leisure then.

Once, in a half absent way, he told Dora that when she was a woman she must wear her hair as Miss Nelson had arranged hers that day, and herself liking the artistic effect of the soft loops, they became Theodora's habit. Knowing that he admired the white cameo he had selected for Dora's gift, it clasped the throat of her wrapper always of a morning. Observing that his eye expressed approval of a soft gray silk she possessed, she often wore it.

The motive in all this was gratitude and an unconscious love. She would have cut off her right hand if it would have given Mr. Granger any pleasure. His gloom was the sorrow of her life. When she won him from it for an hour she was happy.

So two years had passed, and no daughter in a happier home than this orphan girl.

Then a certain guest came often to the house. He was a Dr. Lamington, one of the ablest practitioners of the city—a man of talent who was rapidly amassing a fortune. He had seen Theodora at first at the bedside of little Dora, when the child had an attack of sickness. He became interested in her, paid court to her—finally offered her his heart and hand. Then it was that Mr. Granger had said:

"It is an offer, Miss Nelson, which you would do well to give some thought to."

How gravely and coolly he said it—and what a shock to her there was in his quiet words. Theodora started from her stupor, and cast herself down upon a lounge. It was the crisis of her life. Alone in her chamber she commenced that struggle which should decide her destiny.

She faced the bare, painful fact that she loved Mr. Granger. She loved him as the source of all her life's happiness. And his words had shown her the gulf between them. How kindly his gentleness met hers, they were socially at a distance. She never thought of such things, but she knew that Mr. Granger did, that he valued his patrician blood—patrician in the highest sense of the word; it was blood kept pure from a taint of vice through a dozen generations. A hot flush came to Theodora's cheek as she thought of her father. No, her ancestors were not her benefactors, and Mr. Granger would not marry his governess, even if he loved her.

The fine, grave, dark face came up before her. She dropped her face upon her arm, murmuring—"I would die for him! ah, I would die for him!"

Her happiness was all past. The late event had broken apart the invisible ribbons which bound her to her love. It would never be the same again. She could not stay there.

Where should she go?

For the first time the thought came—"Why not Dr. Lamington?"

The pretty chamber was still but for the ticking of the watch which had been her Christmas gift. The red firelight played upon the wall, a tiny marble yantho glimmering in a corner. Theodora lay still and thought.

Night came and pressed a heavy blackness against the windows; the fire died down. Theodora arose shivering. Two hours had passed.

"I have decided," she said.

A certain lightness was upon her, though she had decided to go out into the world, homeless, upon the next day.

She went down stairs and softly opened the library door. Mr. Granger looked up from his book.

"Well, Miss Nelson!"

"About Lamington? Well, how may I ask?"

"I shall not marry him."

Mr. Granger sat looking quietly at the anthracite on the grate.

"Are you sure that you comprehend the advantages of his offer?" he said at last.

"I am sure that I do not love him. I do not need to know any more."

There was a silence.

"Mr. Granger?"

"Well!"

"I find it desirable to change my position. My quarter is finished to-morrow, and I shall be obliged to leave you then."

He bowed; she spoke in a tone which required no more. Then she turned to the door. She had opened it when she heard her name pronounced as she had never heard it before.

She looked back.

"Will you come here?" Mr. Granger said, putting out his hand.

Unconsciously she went to him. He took her hands and drew her down to a little footstool at his side.

"Theodora," he said, softly, "will you not stay here as my wife?"

"Do you love me?" simply.

"So help me God, as I never before loved in my life."

The blessed words! she clung to him with a little cry.

"Do you know how happy I am?" he said. "Do you know what you have done for me? I will not talk of the past, Theodora—it is not a pleasant subject; but for so long I have needed an assurance! My sweet child, how many times I have wished that you loved me, my life has been so bitter and barren! I had dreams sometimes, but I would not yield to them; why should you love me, a gloomy, middle-aged man? Yet you were such a comfort! Then this offer of Lamington's came. I made the decision that if you did not love him, and withstood the advantages of his offer, that I should know yours to be more true than any heart I ever before found in my life. Then I would win you if I could. Ah, my darling, your frank eyes betrayed you to-night, when you made your voice so cold. You love me as I love you, my gift of God."

The crisis of her life was passed, and she was at rest.

## Miscellany.

### AN UNFORTUNATE PROMPTING.

The new book, "The Bench and Bar," tells the following good story of Senator Wade and the late Mr. Giddings as opponents of the har:—

"In the early part of his practice, Wade was defending a man against an action of slander, and after having concluded a very effective speech to the jury, sat awkwardly leaning hackward, his feet on the counsel table, and facing Giddings, who was attempting to be eloquent in behalf of his slandered client. 'Old Gid,' as he was familiarly called, knew a little smattering of Shakspeare, and now determined to hrin that great author to his aid.

"'Gentlemen of the jury," said he, with much ardor,

'He that steals my purse, steals trash;
But he that robs me of my good name—'

["Ahem!"]

At this point, to his great discomfiture, Shakespeare deserted him. He repeated,

"But he that robs me of my good name—"

[Another pause.]

"Takes that I never had," whispered Wade, as if prompting him, and so distinctly as to be heard by all in the room.

Amid the laughter and his own confusion, Giddings brought his speech to such a "lame and impotent conclusion" that his client recovered but six and a quarter cents for his lost character."

Destruction of Barns by Lightning.—A writer on electricity says the reason that so many barns are destroyed by lightning, soon after they are stored with hay, is that the sweating process produces a column of moisture, which is constautly ascending from the barn. This moisture is a powerful conductor—hence the danger from thunder showers. The only protection, then, is a good lightning rod, with copper points, put up in a thoroughly scientific manner. It should be remembered, also, that all lightning rods should terminate in the earth, deep enough to be in the presence of *constant moisture*—otherwise they are of little or no value.

"Tommy, my son," said a fond mother, "do you say your prayers night and morning?" "Yes, that is, nights, but any smart boy can take care of himself in the day-time."

"Have you not mistaken the pew, sir?" blandly said a Sunday Chesterfield to a stranger who had entered it. "I beg pardon," said the intruder, rising to go out, "I fear I have; I took it for a Christian's."

He who sets up a carriage at the suggestion of his vanity, generally sets it down at the suggestion of his creditors.

A Seasonable Question.—Fanny Fern asks a question in the following: "Every Summer vacation I ask myself why people who have no relish for country life doom themselves to yawn through six or eight weeks of it? People who never move from a certain chair on the piazza save to migrate to their beds or to the dining table; who have neither eyes to see earth's glory, or heart to be grateful for it, or ears open to its myriad musical voices—living discords amid all its harmony. If invalids, I can understand and pity their misfortune; but your fat, well-to-do, buxom men and women, who have no earthly impediment to their locomotion, and yet who live weeks in the vicinity of grand natural objects, and are just as dead to them as the ox in the meadow—why do they travel thousands of dusty miles to get to them?"

## Various Matters.

The Woonsoeket Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Fair will be held at the Citizens Union Park, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 10th, 11th and 12th. The managers are sparing neither time nor money to make the occasion a complete success, and we have every reason to believe that the exhibition will be a most creditable one. For partieulars our readers are referred to their programme, published in our advertising department.

When were Watehes Invented.—Many inventions of the greatest value are sometimes the most diffienlt to trace to their origin. It is so with clocks and watches. Neither the preeise year or their inventors can he confidently stated. Till the close of the tenth century, no other mode of measuring time than by the sundial or the hour-glass appears to have existed; and then we first hear of a graduated mechanism adapted to the purpose, this invention being nsually aseribed to the monk Gerbert, who became Pope in 999, under the name of Sylvester II. These clocks were cumbrous machines; and it is not till the fonrteenth century that we hear of portable clocks. In the succeeding century they were mnch more common, and were part of the neeessary furniture of a better class home. They were hnng to the wall, and the movements regulated hy weights and lines, like the cheap kitchen clocks of the present day. The invention of the spiral spring as the motive power, in place of the weight aud line, gave, about the middle of the fifteenth eentury, the first great improvement, which went on rapidly, aud resulted in the invention of the watch—a time-measure that might be earried about the person.

Strange Conduet of a Hog—A Snake in His Stomach.—On the farm of Mr. George Reems, near Greenbrier, Tenn., a porker now lies in his grave, whose melancholy life and tragical death have excited the euriosity and wonder of all lovers of astonishing stories. In February he began to quarrel with all the hogs on the place, refusing to let them feed ont of the same trough. He finally drove them out of the pen altogether. Abont this time he began to swell, and soon was a size whieh may properly he called enormous. On one oecasion he chased a dog for half an hour, and three or four negro men aver they have seen him frequently this Spring lying under the trees and charming birds; on which, they say, he has feasted ever since the season came on. About two weeks ago he became dangerously ferocious, howling night and day, like a bull, and wallowiug constantly in the water. On the 16th inst., he was found dead near the farm spring. A doctor who had heard of the strange freaks of the dead hog, cut him open, and found—wonderful to relate—a live snake, three feet loug and as thick as a man's wrist. The stomach appeared to be terribly inflamed, and mortifieation ensued immediately after the parts were exposed. The snake has beeu preserved in aleohol, aud will be sent to the medical faculty at Nashville for examination.—*Cairo Democrat.*

Ammonia in Manure.—In a ton of well-rotted manure there is a trifle over a pound of free ammonia, and in fresh manure, three-quarters of a pound, while of ammonia in the form of salts, whieh can be decomposed by lime, there is in the same rotted manure a trifle over a pound and a quarter, and in fresh barnyard manure, nearly two pounds. If spread on the ground in dry and warm weather, the free ammonia would no doubt eseape, hut the loss from this cause late in the Fall would be extremely slight. Suppose that 20 tons of manure are applied to the aere, and the free ammonia to eseape, we shonld lose 15 pounds of ammonia from the fresh manure, and 20 pounds from the rotted, which would amount to more than the war tax. Couldn't afford it, anyhow.

☞ Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard, of Washington, D. C., will deliver the annual address before the New England Agricultural Society and the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestie Industry, at the Fair to be held in September next.

## Marriages.

In Centreville, 11th inst., by Rev. Jobonthan Brayton, Mr. George I. Bennett to Miss Elnora L. Adams, both of Centreville.

In Allenton, 11th inst., by Rev. C. L. Frost, Mr. Daniel G. Wightmao to Miss Abby F. Fones, both of North Kingstown.

At River Point, on the 8th instant, by Rev. B. F. Byram, Thomas M. Holden, of Green Oak, Mich., to Sarah L., daughter of Cyrus Harris, Esq., of River Point.

In Webster, 4th inst., George Leach, of Putnam, Ct., to Miss Rhoda Hodge, of W.

## Deaths.

In this town, on the 9th inst., Mrs. Jane E., wife of Owen Barbour, aged 25 years.

In Hamlet Village, on the 20th ult., Jennie M., daughter of Asa and Sarah F. Bennett, in the 18th year of her age.

In Providence, 9th inst., George W. Packard, aged 79 years.

In Pawtucket, 11th inst., Herbert S., son of Simeon D. and Hannah S. Cole, aged 10 months.

In Killiogly, Ct., 24th ult., Edward Tickwood, nged 14 years.

In South Woodstock, Ct., 1st inst., Mrs. Susan H. Bently, nged 70 years.

In Putnam, Ct., 4th inst., Miss Sarah C. Clark, aged 39 years.

In Fall River, 11th inst., Captain John Burns, aged 73 years.

In Dudley, 11th inst., Miss Rosamond Robinson, late of Oxford, aged 70 years.

In Barre, 8th inst., of heart disease, Mrs. Harris, aged 61 years.

In Milford, July 25th, Margarett, wife of Daniel Pratt, aged 60 years; July 28th, Charles, son of Stephen Mathewson, aged 10 years; July 30th, Arthur Thomas Shaw, aged 1 year, 3 months and 22 days.

In Southbridge, 2nd inst., Sarah J. Walker, aged 25 years.

## The Markets.

### WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending August 16, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 14c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $10 00a12 00 | Potatoes | 1.40 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.00 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $18, 19 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 17 | Molasses ₩ gal | 60a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 64c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 22c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 35c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 35c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 25a50c | Lard ₩ lb | 16a18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 25a30c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 20a28c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 18c |

### BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

August 14, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 2172; Sheep and Lambs 9424. Swine, 2471. Western cattle, 1800; Eastern cattle, 42; Working oxen and Northern cattle, 300. Cattle left over from last week, —.

Prices. Beef Cattle—Extra, $12.75@$13.00; first quality, $12.00@$12.50; second quality, $11.50@$12.00; third quality, $9.50@$10.50 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 10@10½c ₩ lb. Country Tallow, 7a7½c ₩ lb

Brighton Hides, 10@10½ cts. ₩ lb; Brighton Tallow, 6½@6¾c ₩ lb.

Lamb Skins, 62c each; Calf Skins, 18a20c.

Sheep Skins, 40 @ 50c ₩ lb.

There is a large supply of Cattle at market, but the quality is not so good as that of last week. Prices have fallen off from 50 cents to $1 per cwt. from our last quotations. Most of the best lots were sold at prices ranging from 12½ to 13c per lb.

Working Oxen—We quote prices at $175a270 per pair. There is a good supply in market and a fair demand.

Milch Cows—Sales extra at $70a100; ordinary $60@$70.—Store Cows $45a55 per head Considerable many cows in market, mostly of ordinary grades.

Sheep and Lambs.—The trade is better than it was last week. We quote sales of Lambs at from $3.12 to $4.50 per head. Old Sheep 4½c per lb.

Swine—There is a few Store Pigs in market; prices, wholesale 6a7 cents per pound; retail 8 to 10 cents per pound.—Fat Hogs—2100 at market; prices, 7¾@8c. per lb.

### WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

During the past week breadstuffs have been quite active, both for home use and for export, at improved prices. Corn has been much excited and fluctuated rapidly. The accounts from the interior are less favorable for the Winter wheat crop. This has exerted a considerable influence here.

Pork is quite active, opening better and closing heavy at 23 to 25 cents cash, for mess. At the close the inquiry was good and the market steady. Lard ruled firmer early in the week, since the prices have yielded, and close weak. There is a large stock of butter and no want for it.

Indian Corn.—This has fluctusted with great violence. The home and export inquiry has been fair, and we have had an active speculative demand, induced by the falling off of the receipts at the West; this, together with the very rapid advance at Liverpool has given a decided impulse to our market.

Barley has been entirely overlooked. The accounts from the interior are very conflicting for this staple. Oats have been in fair demand, and with limited receipts for old, these have improved. New have been offered more freely, and have fluctuated. We learn from the West that this crop is good, and the quality unusually fine, generally closing dull. Rye has been in limited demand, though we are without any stock of prime.—At the close the market is firm, but quiet.

There has been quite an active trade in Wheat during the week, but prices have fluctuated materially. The more favorable private advices from Europe, the less favorable news from Ohio and Indiana in regard to the yield of Winter wheat, and the limited supplies known to be on the canals, have induced a very general demand. Early in the week prices declined 10 to 15 cents per bushel, but since Wednesday this falling off has been fully recovered, and with a brisk demand for middling prices at the close are well sustained. Winter wheat, however, is hardly so firm.

## Special Notice.



## Advertising Department.

### Rhode Island.



Manuring Trees.—Too many, in applying manure to their fruit trees, forget the position of the roots and apply within a foot or so of the body. If they were carefully to remove the soil, they would find that trees of vigorous growth, and from seven to ten feet high, have roots, that are really the main sources of nourishment, varying from six to ten feet from the body. The application of manure, therefore, to give the best results, should be distributed around the tree, at a distance of from five to eight feet from the trunk. In positions where the turf is desired to be maintained, cut and roll it back, put on the manure, fork it in lightly, and then replace the turf. It is conceded by all that the productiveness of fruit trees is much accelerated by the application of manures.

# Field and Farm.

## THE EFFECT OF LIME ON OUR CROPS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

It is usual to apply lime at hap-hazard, to any and every crop, at any time most convenient; and we seldom pause to consider or experiment, in order to find ont what crops are most benefited by it. It is for us a fortunate thing that we have but one class of plants which are not benefited by it; and also that this class, in our system of agriculture, does not form a very important crop. In fact, plants cultivated for their fiber are so little cultivated among us that we might as well omit them from the list, in considering the effect produced upon our various crops by this manure or stimulant.

As far as weeds are concerned, it has been found to eradicate some, and encourage the growth of others. It may be laid down as a rule that it will prove noxious to those plants which naturally seem to belong to silecious soils, and to moist places. In our corn fields it proves noxious to the corn marigold, (chrysanthemum segetum), while if put on in very large quantities it is said to encourage the growth of the red poppy and coltsfoot. This peculiarity of destroying some kinds of vegetable growth, and encouragiug others, is no where more plainly shown than in the application of lime to low, moist meadow land. If applied at the rate of fifty or seveuty-five bnshels per acre, it soon eradicates moss and other plants nsually found in such places, and in a short time causes a good growth of nutritions grasses. Whether it accomplishes this by forming the growth of these kinds of grass, or whether by destroying their predecessors, it only gives them an opportunity to grow, I am not prepared to say; but all have noticed that such is the effect produced by lime ou this kiud of land.

Lawes, and other distinguished experimental English farmers assign to hay, straw and other fodder crops, grown on well limed land, a great advantage over those in which lime has been more or less deficient. When applied to grain crops the effect nsnally is that it increases the weight of the grain, which has a much thinner skin and consequently yields a greater percentage of flour, and less bran, and it is generally admitted that the flour is better, from the fact that it contains more gluten.

Potatoes are more likely to boil dry and mealy, when grown in a soil newly limed; and it will nsually be found good economy to apply lime for this crop, not only on account of the increased quality, bnt also on account of the increased yield; for, with this exception, I think any manure applied to this crop, with a view to increase the yield, does so at the expense of quality, which forms quite an important item with some.

English turnip feeders consider that one hnndred bnshels of turnips, from newly limed land, will go as far to fatten a flock of sheep, as one hundred and thirty from land not limed for ten years previons to raising the crop; and if we except carrots, this seems to be the nniversal opinion of root raisers, either for stock or for market. Some consider that carrots form an exception to this rnle; but this is denied by other growers, so that the exception is not fully sustained.

It is generally admitted that peas aud beans yield a better crop, of a better quality, and are much less liable to run too much to vines, on newly limed land, than on land deficient in this constitnent; the prodnce is said to be more likely to boil soft.

The main exception from the benefits of lime seems to be in flax, hemp and other fibers. The Belgian flax raiser will not sow flax until at least seven years after an application of lime; and in Holland the period is much longer, and considerable difference in price is made between samples grown on limed land, and that grown on a soil comparatively free from lime. In the former case the fiber is injured, but the amount of seed is increased, and in some cases doubled.

Those who are compelled to grow buckwheat late, will be glad to know that a very moderate dressing of lime will hasten its maturity from one to two weeks, and thus will often save the crop from early frosts; bnt as a usual thing, the amount of grain is not materially increased, while the yield of straw is considerably decreased.

There can be no doubt that if we wonld pay more attention to the effect which lime produces on our common crops, that we would learn that which, if properly used, wonld prove of great use to ns and to others interested in agricultnre.

## CULTURE OF SPECIAL CROPS.

One of the marked features in the way of agricultural improvement is the special cnlture of certain crops which require care and attention, aud more than ordinary skill in order to insnre success.

We have known considerable snms to be realized by farmers from the special cnltnre of some crop, as "a side business" to their general farm operations, but then, they understood thoronghly the nature of the crop, and did their work systematically. Experience shows that he who has bnt few articles which he raises for market, and who confines his attention entirely to them, is more likely to cultivate nnderstandingly than in the nsnal system of general husbandry.

It is a question whether onr dairymen wonld not get better returns by making a specialty of some crops in connection with their general bnsiness. Those who have lands adapted to hops, to tobacco, or some crops which may be readily marketed, will find after selecting and steadily cultivating such as special crops, that a considerable sum may be added to the income of the farm.

Among market gardens the labor and manure expended upon a single acre of cabbage is on an average not less than one hnndred dollars, and a good crop the inevitable resnlt of the expenditure and accompanied with reasonable skill pays a handsome profit. Four or five thousand cabbages are not nnfreqnently grown npon an acre for which there is always a ready market at from six to ten dollars per hnndred. This, at the lowest figures, would give a profit of $140 per acre.

We have seen statements from the most reliable sonrces, giving the average profit npon onion crops of from $200 to $300 per acre, and here the expenditure in manure and labor was large. From eight to ten cords of manure to the acre was nsed, worth from six to eight dollars per cord, and the labor of weediug alone $40 per acre, although labor-saving implements were freely nsed. We refer to these crops to show what may be done with some of the commonest vegetables, which farmers generally suppose can not be grown at any considerable profit.

Of late years the potato has in some sections proved very remunerative. The culture of varions kinds of fruit may be mentioned as another specialty which returns large profits.

We were never more impressed with the value of these "side issues" to the farmers' gains than when in England, last year. The profits realized in many instances seemed to us almost incredible.

We are now convinced that this subject does not receive the attention from our farmers that it deserves, especially at this time, when it is desirable that the income from lands shonld be increased to meet the reqnirements of high taxes and necessary expenditure.—*Utica Herald.*

---

The Utica Herald pronounces the apple crop a failure through Central New York. Along the lakes, in the Northwestern part of the State, the trees are full; elsewhere the Spring promise is not fulfilled. Grain crops exceed those of last year.

---

The hay crop in England has been an immense one this season, and has been cured nnder the most favorable circumstances. Harvest prospects are otherwise nnusually good.

# Advertising Department.

## Pennsylvania.



## New York.




**TERMS OF ADVERTISING.**

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the FARM AND FIRESIDE. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a uniform style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

**COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.**

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the FARM AND FIRESIDE may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

**THE FARM AND FIRESIDE**

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1867. NO. 33.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## AMERICAN AGRICULTURE.

At the time of the Revolution, the science of agriculture was but little understood, though its value and importance were fully recognized. The stock and tools were poor, and, strange as it may seem, no attempts were made to improve either. Jared Elliott, a clergyman of New England, published a series of essays on the matter, and he may justly be styled the father of American agriculture.

The necessity of communicating the improvements that were gradually adopted became evident, and South Carolina and Pennsylvania established Agricultural Societies in 1784; New York in 1791—but not incorporated till 1798; and Massachusetts in 1797. General Washington was a great patron of all branches of this art, and kept up a constant correspondence with Sir John Sinclair, and carefully published all that could be made available.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the great men of the day agriculture advanced but slowly. Some of the German farmers in the Empire and Keystone States were unable to read. Book learning was derided, and the old customs which had been brought from the fatherland thought sufficient; but other influences were working which would soon awaken the ignorant from their prejudices. Large landed proprietors were willing to devote both time and money to any scheme which enhanced the value of their acres. Immense tracts of land were thrown into the market, which required labor and science to render them exceedingly productive. Emigrants crowded the seaboard cities, whose population was thus doubled. Food was necessary for such a host, and mechanics turned their attention to agricultural implements. Two ploughs were then extensively used: 1st, the Rotheram or Dutch plough, brought over from Holland to England in 1730, patented in 1730, and manufactured under the direction of Walter Blithe. This plough was all wood, "but the coulter, draught-rods and share; the mould-board was plated with iron." This was then, and for a long time after, the best plough that could be made, but as there was no regular pattern, every blacksmith added or subtracted from the material at his pleasure.

2nd, The Carey plough, introduced some years after the first mentioned, "with a wooden mould-board, plated with tin, sheet-iron, or sometimes with saw-plate, wooden land-side, and standard, and clumsily wrought iron share." In this connection, the "har-side plough" may also be mentioned; this had a wooden mould-board, and was, when first known, greatly used. All these were poor workers, required the greatest labor, and were constantly out of order. The necessity of a more efficient and economical instrument was keenly felt, and cast-iron ploughs were first manufactured by Small, in Scotland, in 1763. This was the parent of all the cast-iron ploughs used since that date in the United Kingdoms. Newbold of New Jersey patented the first cast-iron plough in the United States, in 1797. About this period, and the commencement of the nineteenth century, hoes, rakes and spades were better constructed, and adapted more to the wants of the community.

The manufacture of agricultural implements is a vast and constantly increasing source of profit in the United States. The agricultural fairs, the exhibitions of the Franklin and American Institutes, have been of immense service to the cause of agriculture. Within the last thirty years, these improvements have rapidly advanced; as an instance of which the reaper and mower may be quoted. The first reaping machine, consisting of a cart, with knives set in the end, and propelled by oxen, was known eighteen centuries ago, and was commonly attributed to a Greek peasant, and though it worked badly, still no great alteration was made till the invention of the present machine. Its use was advocated by all the journals, and some scientific farmers who clearly demonstrated its economy and value. Repeated experiments satisfied even the most timid, and the demand for these instruments was greater than the supply. In 1859, one establishment alone, in Chicago, supplied four thousand reapers and mowers. Between 1856 and 1864, more than two hundred patents were granted for mowers and reapers in the United States, and at a trial at Syracuse, in New York, one hundred different patterns were entered for competition. The various alterations made in horse-hoes, horse-rakes, seed and corn sowers, broad-cast seed sowers, improved subsoil and trenching ploughs, straw and root cutters, cultivators, and threshing and winnowing machines, have enabled the farmers of the United States and Great Britain "to accomplish double the amount of labor, with the same number of teams and men." In an economical point of view these machines more than repay their first cost, and annually save millions to the agricultural mechanic.

Chemistry as a science was known to the ancients, though their ideas were exceedingly crude. Some valuable discoveries were made by the alchemists of the middle ages, in their researches after the "philosopher's stone," but like other sciences its improvement was gradual. The discoveries of Guy Lussac, Tomicelli, Black and Scheele, have been of lasting service to the arts and mankind in general. Still no one thought of applying chemistry to agriculture. Sir Humphrey Davy and Saussure had thrown out some hints, but farmers had not thought the matter of sufficient consequence. This distinction was reserved for Justus Liebig, a German chemist, born at Darmstadt, in 1803, who, after a proper course of preliminary study, graduated as a physician in 1822. Two years were passed, by the kindness of the Grand Duke, at Paris, in the study of chemistry, where, in 1824, he read a paper before the French Institute, which at once gave him a prominent position before the scientific world, and particularly won the admiration of the Baron Humboldt, through whose influence its author was appointed Professor of Chemistry at Gressen, where he established the first practical laboratory in Germany. Lyon, Playfair and Gregory were among his pupils. In 1838, Liebig visited England, and proved before the British Association for the advancement of Science, that the composition of urea was well known, and that it could be artificially prepared. The Association also requested the eminent German to prepare two treatises; one on isomeric bodies, the other on organic chemistry. Both duly appeared; the latter in 1840, entitled "Chemistry, in its Application to Agriculture and Physiology." Almost simultaneously with its publication in German, a translation was given to the public, both in England and the United States, by Professor Playfair. In his preface, the author sets forth, with great simplicity and clearness, "that his object in the work was to develop the resources of chemistry, as applied to agriculture," thus covering a wide field, the causes of fermentation, decay, putrefaction, vinous and acetic fermentation; and other matters which do not directly come under our province, and which our present limits do not permit us to notice. To agriculture he has rendered most signal service; as no chemist since Davy, but himself, had studied the application of chemistry to the growth of vegetables and the organic processes. He went still further, and consecrating his whole time to the task he had undertaken, determined the constituents of plants, the sources whence they came, by what manures furnished, and how obtained from the atmosphere. Liebig contended that the valuable qualities of animal manure were entirely due to ammonia, "and that from this substance, as existing in the atmosphere, the nitrogenous qualities of plants owe their origin." Some of these positions were controverted by chemists, and others have been abandoned by the author. The work was, however, extensively read, and its perusal induced the foundation of new professorships in the Universities of Gottingen and Wuntsburg. To ascertain the relations of chemistry to physiology, medicine and agriculture, several other works bearing on medical science came from Liebig's pen, but none on agricultural chemistry, till the appearance of "Letters on Modern Agriculture," in 1859, and of which translations were speedily issued in London and New York. In this work the learned author dwelt upon the sewerage of cities, and the constant loss of fertilizing materials. To the refuse of cities he looks for restoratives when guano is exhausted.

Honors and titles have been lavished on the great chemist, but he has constantly refused to quit his native land for lucrative Chairs elsewhere. In 1860, he was appointed President of the Academy of Sciences at Munich. Liebig cherishes and inculcates the idea that sulphuric acid (the vitriol of commerce) will dissolve neutral phosphate of lime, which, in this form, would exert a powerful influence on the soil.

Guano is also of great value as a fertilizer, and to Sir Humphrey Davy and Baron Humboldt the civilized world is indebted for this discovery. This valuable substance has only been used since 1840. Twenty casks were then imported on trial, and the result was so satisfactory that 2000 tons were imported in 1841, and in 1845, over 200,000 tons, 679 vessels being employed in the trade. Nitrate of soda is also extensively employed, and Professor Way has shown that all fertile soils can absorb and retain alkaline substances. Chemistry has also exhibited the properties of plants, the best methods adapted for their culture, and their nutritive qualities.

These improvements have been of immense value to the farmer. In New England, one of the oldest sections of the country, where the climate is cold and the soil sterile, the general yield of Indian corn to the acre is about 35 bushels—crops of 50 and 60 are by no means uncommon, and even 100 have been obtained by careful tillage. In Massachusetts an agricultural bureau is established as a department of the State government, to collect and arrange all the information on the subject, and distribute the same gratuitously among the people. A similar policy has been adopted in New York.

The Western States are almost exclusively agricultural. The soil is fertile, and highly productive. There is a continuous net-work of railroads, and the large, fresh water inland seas furnish the means of navigation. Chicago, now a city of palaces, which in the beginning of the century was scarcely known even as a village, has risen to its present opulence by the agricultural enterprise of Indiana, Illinois and the adjoining States. This is now the greatest grain depot in the world; its exports are double those of St. Petersburg. St. Louis, Buffalo, Rochester, and Cincinnati also, are great centres for the sale of cereals.

The general government has not been unmindful of the great claims of the farmer on its support; a Department of Agriculture, with a Commisioner, has been organized at Washington, reports are issued, which are freely circulated, and neither pains nor expense have been spared to collect and arrange the matter in a readable form; illustrations are also added when the subject requires them. The Consuls and Ministers abroad are also instructed to send to the Department seeds and cuttings, to observe methods of agriculture, and report the same, should they deem fit. Agricultural colleges have been established in different parts of the Union. The boundless regions of the Western territories, not yet recognized as States, will afford employment and homes to millions, and be the sources of fabulous wealth. The Southern States freely produce the cotton, sugar, rice and tobacco; and a few words on these important substances may not be out of place.

Cotton is the downy, fibrous wool attached to the seeds of the gossypium, which was known to the ancients before the Christian era, and in the manufacture of which the Hindoos have long excelled. This plant was first cultivated in 1736, on the Eastern shore of Maryland and Cape May county, New Jersey. It was, however, but little known, except as a curiosity, till after the Revolution, in 1748. Some bags were sent to England from South Carolina, valued at £3. 11s. 6d., each. Another small shipment was made in 1754, and a third in 1770. In 1786 sea island cotton was raised on the coast of Georgia, and in 1790, the first heavy crop was raised at Hilton Head. The cultivation gradually increased, and in

1857, a bale was sent from Edisto, South Carolina, which sold in England at $1,35 a pound. In 1858, the estimated production was 3,113,962 pounds. South Carolina, in 1850, produced 320 pounds of cotton and seed to the acre; Georgia, 500; Florida, 250; Tennessee, 300; Alabama, 525; Louisiana, 550; Mississippi, 650; Arkansas, 700; Texas, 750.

Sugar, which was known to the inhabitants of mediæval Europe, and which was introduced hy the Saracens into Rhodes, Crete, Cyprus and Sicily, thence to Venice as early as 966, and in the provinces of Murcia, Valencia and Granada by the Moslem dynasty, was first brought to Madeira and the Canary islands in the fifteenth century. It is not supposed that the sugar cane was indigenous to the New World, hut that it was hrought there by the Spaniards and Portugese. Sugar was first made in the recently discovered continent at St. Domingo, hetween 1493 and 1495. In 1518 there were twenty-eight works for making sugar, and untill 1793 this furnished a profitahle crop. Some writers have asserted that the cane was brought to Louisiana hy the Jesuits in 1751; but De Bow is of opinion that the cane was not cultivated till 1764. When Louisiana was ceded to Spain, the culture languished, and was not revived till 1791, when the first sugar-house was erected in St. Bernard's Parish, and another in 1796. When the State was purchased in 1803, the number of sugar estates was small, but indnstry and enterprise soon revived the culture. In 1822, steam power was introduced. Since 1859 no returns of the sugar crop have been made. Louisiana then prodnced 221,840 hogsheads, containing 256,115,750 pounds. Maple sugar is produced in some of the Northern and Western States, and constitutes an important item, but it is not so much used as that made from the cane.

Tobacco, a plant of the genus Nicotiana, was first carried to Europe by the discoverers of the New World, and cultivated extensively in Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio and Missouri. The varieties grown in Massachusetts and Connecticut are used for covering segars. The cultivation of this plant is troublesome and requires the greatest attention. In 1860, the United States exported tobacco to the value of $110,587,435. In all the governments of Europe this is a crown monopoly. In England damaged segars and tobacco are consumed in a large kiln called the Queen's smoke pipe.

Rice.—This most important cereal is the food of at least one half the human race, and ranks next to wheat as an article of diet. It has been cultivated from time immemorial in all the Eastern countries. It was first cultivated in Virginia in 1647, by Sir William Bakely, who, from half a hushel of seed, raised sixteen bushels of rice. A vessel from Madagascar, in 1694, furnished the first seed rice to South Carolina, and in 1698, 60 tons were shipped to England. In 1850, 215,313,997 pounds of rice were produced in the United States. An alluvial swamp, with a deep soil of decomposed vegetahle matter, and liable to an overflow, is best adapted for its growth. The apparatus for its preparation is costly, and much care is requisite ere the produce of the swamps be ready for market.

A few words about buckwheat and maize will be acceptable to all. Maize or Indian corn ranked, according to Jenver, in the genus Zea. The origin of this valuahle plant is uncertain. Some of the earlier writers affirm that it is of Eastern origin, and that it was found in all parts of the New World. In 1608, the colonists at James river, practicing the methods used hy the ahorigines, raised large crops, and in 1621, the Pilgrims at Plymouth fouud quantities in the possession of the Indians. This abounds in all parts of the known world. The Canada corn is the best. Seventy-five bushels to the acre have been raised on the bleak promontory of Nahant. For the food of poultry, cattle and hogs this grain is invaluable, and the meal is made into many delicious preparations for the table, both in Europe and America. In some parts of Italy, Polenta, a preparation of meal, is a standing dish at every table. Buckwheat is a native of Asia, and was brought to Europe by the Saracens. This thrives best on poor soil; is exceedingly sensitive to cold, but may be planted so late, and reaped so early that this danger can be avoided. When flowering it exhales a most exquisite perfume. This does not exhaust the soil, but prevents weeds, and leaves the soil free for another crop.

Great Britain has expended large sums in the promotion of agriculture, and there are Societies in all the kingdoms. In England, France, Belgium and the United States, agricultural journals are widely diffused, and much good is effected by their perusal. The science of agriculture is carried to very great perfection in Holland. In many parts of France, agriculture is still in its infancy; but the government has schools of agriculture and veterinary establishments, where the student may gratuitously acquire a knowledge of the anatomy and surgery of the horse, and, also, accurate information of the diseases of that valuable animal. A Minister of State presides over the Department of Agriculture, and several journals on the same subject are circulated throughout the empire.

### PRUNING THE GOOSEBERRY AND CURRANT.

In the culture of the gooseberry and currant three distinct modes are adopted. The first, which is quite common in this country, is to plant the bushes along garden fences, where they often grow up with grass, and being neither cultivated nor cared for, the fruit becomes small and of little value. This is the worst mode.

The next is to cultivate but not prune them. The fruit on such bushes is fine while they are young, but as they become filled with a profusion of old bearing wood it diminishes in size.

The third and best mode is to give them a good, clean cultivation, and to keep up a constant supply of young hearing wood, yielding large and excellent crops.

The currant and gooseberry, like the cherry, bear their fruit on shoots two or three years old; and it is important that a succession of strong young shoots be maintained for this purpose. The branches of the heads should, therefore, be distributed at equal distances, and the old bearing spurs cut out when they become too thick, or enfeebled, and new shoots allowed successively to take their place.

When the young gooseberry or currant bush is set out, all the buds or suckers below the surface of the ground should be previously cut off clean, so as to form a clear stem. It is often recommended that this stem be a foot high before branching—which does well for the moist climate of England, but under our hot sun it is better that the hranches hegin near the surface of the ground.

Old currant bushes, such as have grown up to a thick mass, may be greatly improved, and will increase the fruit several times the size, by thinning out clean all the old crooked wood, and leaving a sufficient number of stems at equal distances to bear the future crop.

The English gooseberry, in this country, will remain free from mildew only so long as it is kept in a vigorous, growing condition, by frequent and judicious pruning, so as to give a constant succession of strong shoots.—*Hammonton Culturist.*

Potato Fields in Europe.—The extent of land under potato cultivation in France is 2,040,364 acres; in Anstria it is 1,308,148 acres; in Ireland, 1,050,419 acres; in Bavaria, 649,735 acres; in Great Britain, 498,843 acres; in Belgium, 369,850 acres; in Sweden, 334,000 acres; in Holland, 265,987 acres; in Wurtemberg, 167,948 acres; and in Denmark proper, 69,176 acres.

Sixteen Thousand Prizes.—The total number of prizes awarded at the Paris exhibition was as follows: 64 grand prizes, 883 gold medals, 3,635 silver medals, 6,565 hronze medals, and 5,801 honorable mentions.

## The Poultry Yard.

### A DISSERTATION ON HENS.

Do hens need lime? Probably not, when they can get proper food, that is, in the Summer season; but in Winter, when they are compelled to take what is given to them, then, that they require lime appears evident from the efforts they make to obtain it. I feed my hens all the corn they will eat; also, rye, bran, mashed potatoes, scraps, pounded bones, &c., yet almost any day in Winter they may he seen wading through the snow some six or eight rods to a plastered out-building, after lime. That it is not sand or gravel that they are after is certain, for they are ahundantly supplied with them in their own quarters. Sometimes I place a box of air-slacked lime, the remains of the white-wash kettle, within their reach, and there is scarcely an hour in the day when one or more may not be seen eating it. If they do not need it, why do they eat it? I have no recollection of seeing the rooster eating lime. When I kept geese I always knew two or three weeks beforehand when they were thinking of laying, for they would he seen daily nibhling plaster from the aforesaid out-building. But I never saw the gander eating plaster.

Do hens have the sense of taste? Yes. Present to a pet hen, when her crop is full, and she has leisure, say when on the roost at night, a ripe pared apple, and see her grate it with her hill, thrusting her tongue back and forth with an evident relish, and you will be convinced, as I have heen, that the pleasure she finds does not consist in the amount of the apple she gets into her crop. Or, hold by the stem of a ripe strawberry, and see her pick it to pieces, making a dozen bites of what she could swallow at a single gulp. I have a flock of young ducks; at first I fed them Indian meal; at length I mixed mashed potato with it, which they did not like, but I starved them to it. Next I added sour milk; this they abominated. I cannot believe that their dislike of potato and sour milk was determined solely by the sense of feeling. I once gave a teaspoonful of kerosene oil mixed with half a pint of meal to some chickens afflicted with the gapes. All pitched in greedily, but after taking two or three mouthfuls, the mother hen smelt, or rather *tasted*, mischief, and immediately sounded the alarm. The chickens all ceased eating, and the old hen hurried away as fast as possible. If lard oil, or any other animal fat, had been substituted for the kerosene, would the result have been the same? Probahly not.

In the selection of their food, hens rely mainly upon feeling and sight. Give a hen some new or unusual food and she will first try it with her bill, then drop it and look at it, then try again, before deciding whether or not to swallow it. But these senses sometimes deceive her. I once had a rooster that would catch corn, when thrown to him, a distance of several feet. After throwing to him several kernels of corn, I would substitute a small bean, which he would generally swallow without detecting the cheat, though a small piece of coh, or two heans in succession, he would refuse to catch. It was a long time before I could teach my hens to eat red corn. They would pick up all the yellow kernels, but leave the red ones untouched; and I now have some chickens which will not eat red corn when thrown to them, yet they will eat it reluctantly out of my hand, after they have picked out all the yellow kernels.

Hens are sympatbetic animals. A hen swallowed a clover leaf, but found to her dismay that it was attached to a coarse, woody stem, a foot or more in length, which would not go down. In vain she flirted her head and fiddled with her feet—she could not get rid of the stem dangling from her mouth. She then commenced backing up, but the stem followed her. She then ran forward, which only made the stem rattle ahout her head and ears. The case was becoming serious, and I was about to lay down my burden, to relieve her, when another hen, noticing her distress, ran up to her and deliberately picked the stem from her mouth, and dropping it, stood looking at her to see if she was all right.

Hens are very neat in their habits, and appreciate beauty in the matter of dress. I had a hen of black shiny plumage, and used to amuse myself occasionally by spitting upon her to see her clean herself. She soon became so exquisitely refined in her ideas of cleanliness, that if she heard me spit anywhere in the barn, she would look herself over from head to foot and pick off any little speck which she thought did not helong to her feathers.

That birds of a feather flock together is true of hens as well as other birds. I have noticed that hens which resemhle each other in color generally sit together on the roost. Such hens are also less disposed to quarrel with each other than those of dissimilar plumage.

### DUCKS.

I could never understand why our farmers do not keep ducks; as a matter of profit they are more profitable than hens. It may be that the impression that in order to keep ducks, a person must have a pond or stream of water near hy, has deterred many from keeping them; hut there is no need of anything of the kind. It is true that it is better to have a pond or stream, but you can raise ducks just as well elsewhere. I know of parties that are very successful in raising them, that have only a shallow tub set in the ground and filled from the pump occasionally. In fact, the trouble of raising ducks and about the only one, is letting the young go into the water too soon after they are hatched; they should not be allowed to go into the water for a week or ten days after they leave the nest.

When I speak of the profits from ducks, I do not have reference to the common duck that is seen every day. I mean a breed of ducks that will weigh twelve pounds to the pair, alive, such as the Rouen and Aylesbury, and both excellent layers, easily kept and reared, and being very large and excellent for the market, and it costs no more to rear them than the common ducks that will weigh on the average about eight pounds to the pair.

The Rouen is a very handsome duck in plumage; the drake has a glossy green head down to a white ring on his neck, the lower part of the body is a beautiful mixed gray, the wings are of a heautiful green hrown gray, and shaded with hrown on the hack. The duck is of a heautiful hrown with about every feather shaded on the outer edge with black. They are acknowledged the hest of the varieties, laying very early, and continuing the season, except in moulting season, and late in Winter.

The Aylesbury is pure white, both the ducks and drake, and about the same size as the Rouen. Both become very familiar and being large and heavy, do not care to roam as much as the common kind.—*Maine Farmer.*

Vermin in Hen Houses.—You should keep your hen houses clean and sprinkle lime or asbes upon the floor, and you will not be troubled with lice, unless they are bred elsewhere, and brought in upon the fowls. Sitting hens often, in June and July, when allowed to sit so late, breed lice in their nests, and we have destroyed them by sprinkling powdered sulphur in the nests and under the hens' wings, and also among their wings. Their perches should be cleaned, when the house becomes infested with lice, and whitewashed, and a general cleaning and application of sulphur to nest boxes will cause the vermin to disappear.

Poultry Manure.—The productive power of the droppings of the hennery are very great as compared with ordinary barnyard manure, yet many farmers with a score or two of fowls, take little or no pains to preserve and apply it to the purposes of vegetable production. It is an excellent dressing for gardens, and will repay, a hundred fold the care and expense of preserving and applying it.

Forbearing to one Another.—Who has not observed how much harmony and good feeling depends on not pushing things to extremities, not contending for every trifle? Whether the relation be that of parents and children, masters and servants, partners in business, or councillors or directors of public companies, it is forbearance that oils the wheels and enables the machinery to work smoothly, and at the same time efficiently. Of course "forbearing," like "bearing," must have its limits. But no small point is gained when the necessity of this quality in some extent, is apprehended by all; when people, and especially young people, come to see if they are to get on comfortably with their fellows, there must be some forbearance in pressing their opinions, or even urging their rights; some consideration for the infirmities and unreasonableness of others.

## The Fireside Muse.

### LIFE LEAVES.

The day with its sandals dipped in dew,
Has passed through the evening's golden gates,
And a single star in the cloudless blue
For the rising moon in the silence waits;
While the winds that sigh to the languid hours
A lullaby, breathe o'er the folded flowers.

The Idlers nod to the sound of the stream
That winds along with a lulling flow,
And either awake, or half in a dream,
I pass through the realms of long ago;
While faces peer with many a smile
From the bowers of Memory's magic isle.

There are joys and sunshine, sorrows and tears,
That check the path of life's April hours,
And a longing wish for the coming years,
That hope ever wreaths with the fairest flowers:
There are friendships guileless—love as bright
And pure as the stars in the halls of night.

There are ashen memories, bitter pain,
And buried hopes and a broken vow,
And an aching heart by the restless main,
And the sea-breeze fanning a pallid brow;
And a wanderer on the shell-lined shore
Listening for voices that speak no more.

There are passions strong and ambitions wild
And the fierce desire to stand in the van
Of the battle of life—and the heart of the child
Is crushed in the breath of the struggling man;
But short the regrets and few are the tears
That fall at the tomb of the vanished years.

There's a quiet, and peace, and domestic love,
And joys arising from faith and truth
And a love unquestioning, far above
The passionate dreaming of ardent youth;
And the kisses of children on lip and cheek,
And the parent's bliss which no tongue can speak.

There are loved ones lost! There are little graves
In the distant dell, 'neath protecting trees,
Where the streamlet winds and the violet waves
And the grasses sway to the sighing breeze:
And we mourn for the pressure of tender lips,
And the light of eyes darkened in death's eclipse.

And thus as the glow of daylight dies,
And the night's first look to the earth is cast,
I gaze 'neath those beautiful Summer skies,
At the pictures that hang on the hall of the past;
Oh, sorrow and joy chant a mingled lay
When to memory's childhood we wandered away.

## Fireside Tale.

### A GOOD MATCH.

There was a very nice smell in Mother Gatty's kitchen—not of night-blooming cereus, nor balm-of-a-thousand-flowers, but of warm gingerbread, new bread, and hot apple-pie. There they sat in a fragrant row on the red swing-table, covered over with a white towel. And there sat Mother Gatty in a yellow rocking-chair that squeaked when she rocked—busy with her embroidery, which happened to be "blue-mixed" and more useful than ornamental.

"I declare for't if you ain't going to the donation after all;" and the closing door and loud cheery voice started Mother Gatty from *some* pleasant reverie as she turned quickly toward the new-comer, who was already lifting the white towel—regular descendant of Eve as she was—to see where all this nice smell came from and inquire where it was all going to.

"Why, Martha Seaver! I do say! Well! ain't they *nice* enough for any donation-table; but I haven't altered my mind a bit—they're not for the parsonage, I assure you—not but that I'd be willin' to do that and plenty more for good Mrs. Spencer; but something else is in my head now, I can tell you. Look a-here," and, rising, she went to a wall-basket, bright with roses and daffodils, hung by a green cord to the wall, and taking out a yellow enveloped letter, directed in a bold, manly hand to Mrs. Mehetable Gatty, and post-marked New York (as eyes less used to close scanning than Martha Seaver's might have easily seen), drew out, with evident satisfaction, the secret of her morning preparations. "Only to think of it! I wondered my head wasn't so turned that I should have burned up my cake and spoiled my pies entirely. My Jimmy come to something at last! and I a-grieving and mourning myself to death like good old Jacob, not knowing he was alive or dead."

Martha Seaver's eyes were wide open with expectation and curiosity. Hadn't Jimmy Gatty gone off months before just as this same Martha Seaver was secretly beginning to hope he was "coming to something" as far as *she* was concerned. But Mother Gatty knew less of this than her son Jimmy even, and *he* hadn't *much* more than *suspected* it; while in Martha's own mind had since lain a little hidden quaking fear that his sudden leave-taking of a good old mother might possibly have borne some relation to such a surmise on his part.

"Well, what of the letter!" exclaimed Martha at last, somewhat weary of the long silence, as Mother Gatty's eyes slowly ran down the one filled page as if the contents after all were a little too good to be shared by even one other person.

"Oh yes, sure enough! Well, it's so *near* I suppose it's hardly worth while to make you promise to keep a secret," said Mother Gatty, provokingly tantalizing in her way of keeping tight hold of her good news as long as possible. "And she a rich girl and used to nice things, but *sensible*, and not likely to be ashamed of anything in my old home. Coming to-night, I declare, and I a-sitting here. I ought to be a-doing, I hardly know what, this blessed minute?"

"You don't mean to say that Jimmy's married, and going to be *here*, with a *bride, to-night!*" exclaimed Martha Seaver, rising, and endeavoring to appear a little less surprised than she was able; "and a rich girl, too; and—and are they to live here with you?"

"Live here, goodness no! Did Joseph leave his gold chains and purple to go back and live with old Jacob? Live here? when he's got a good clerkship in a grand city, and going to have a home fit for a king, I'll venture! And though he don't say it, I'm more'n persuaded it'll be *me* that'll make the next move. I think I could stand it right well; a little rest and comfort in my last days!"

"Well, as Van Brunt says, 'there is something happening most days,' and this seems like a tremendous happen," said Martha, rising, and pinning her shawl carefully. "I hope they'll get here without any air-castle getting ruined; and that's more likely than that Jimmy will be able to stand all the temptations of a city life and ways, especially when sprung on him in so sudden a manner."

Did you ever happen, in a Summer's walk in a forest, to pluck a beautiful wax-like Indian pipe, and feel any surprise after the warmth of your hand had sheltered it a moment to see it suddenly growing black beneath your touch until you were glad to leave it with the refuse and mould where it grew? Then you can have a faint idea of the change which Mother Gatty's placid countenance underwent at Martha's slight insinuation with regard to Jimmy's powers of hearing promotion with due safety.

"Temptations! and what are they? Don't talk to *me* of temptations! It's envy! sheer envy! I've seen it many a time before! Some people are very good to *sympathize* in trouble; but I tell you it ain't every one can obey the Scripture rule, 'Rejoice with them that *do rejoice!*' But I won't waste words, and I must go to work. Call in to-morrow and we shall see," was her parting call, as, softening a little, she opened the door Martha had rather hastily closed after her; and then she hurried back—once more to read over the letter—and then to put the old house in the very best order. And in the very best order it was, and Mother Gatty too, that evening at precisely 7 o'clock, when, after jumping up for the twentieth time, she was at last "certain sure" the old stage, with two heavy trunks behind, was actually stopping before her own green-painted and time-worn front gate.

First of all jumped out such a very tall young man that one could not help thinking of Jack's bean-stalk; and that was Jimmy Gatty. Jimmy Gatty all over from the enameled tips of his blue gaiters to the tassels on his traveling-cap. In one hand he held a fiddle-case and a lady's straw basket, and with the other lifted with easy grace the lady herself from the coach. A little blue-eyed doll of a thing, with a good deal of scarlet ribbon, gossamer veil, and glittering buttons about her. And this was Jimmy Gatty's wife; and it is to be hoped she believed in her husband as heartily as he did in himself. One could ask no more than that.

Mother Gatty wavered a moment in the porch under the hop vine, looking out with proud and tender eyes, while shawls and boxes were handed from the coach which swayed and groaned as though in a hurry to go on with its precious mail-bags and express. At last she wavered towards the ribbons and buttons.

"How do you do, *Mis' Gatty?*—I s'ppose I must call you," said she, reaching out her honest brown hand with some uncertainty.

She wanted to take the little creature up close to her motherly heart, kiss her a little, and love her a good deal; but she was not sure whether it was proper to do those things to a city lady. However, at that instant the stage started on a creak and a crack, and Jimmy had leisure to look around.

"Holloa, mother! You look all right! This is *me*, and this is my *wife*, Mathilde; but *Matty* is her name; that is what you must call her," said he, cheerily, managing for all his boxes and bundles to hold out one hand and touched his mother's cheek with his lips. Whatever faults he might have, Jimmy Gatty had always a warm heart.

Then in a flash everything seemed changed, and Mother Gatty drew the little wife close up in her kindly arms, feeling as though she had rocked her in her cradle and known her like one of her own ever since. From that instant Jimmy Gatty's marriage was a success, so far as his mother was concerned. And little Mrs. Mathilde herself, who had hardly been out of New York before, and knew nothing about bare floors and hard work, followed her new mother in her flowered chintz gown, which was short for convenience and not for fashion (and that made *such* a difference in effect!) into the clean, painted kitchen, which was dining and living and reception room; and ate the warm gingerbread and new apple-pie, seasoned with caraway, with a childish delight and relish.

"I never saw any thing so perfectly sweet! I wish we might always live here, Jamie!" cried she, pouring some cream, warmed with tea into her saucer, for a white and brown spaniel she had brought all the way from New York in her arms. Mathilde Gatty had such a pretty, affectionate way that nobody could help loving her, but it seemed she could be of no more real use than a flaxen-haired wax doll when it came to helping on her husband, who, weak himself, needed help in meeting bravely and firmly what was coming to him with swift, sure feet.

"Jim Gatty's wife will never set the great river a-fire, but she is sweet and pretty, and if she is rich, as they say she is, I wonder she couldn't do better than to take up with such a poor stick as Jim," said Martha Seaver, who never fully approved of anything which did not and never could belong to her.

This was at a little tea-party Mother Gatty had given in honor of her guests, and Martha was wiping dishes after supper with Sarah Juniper, out in the sink-room.

"Jim is handsome, and when he sets up about anything there is no getting rid of him; he will have his way, any how," returned Sarah, with the air of a philosopher, as she dropped a spoonful of soap into the dish-water.

Just then Mrs. Jim Gatty herself flew in, dressed in white embroidered muslin and blue ribbons.

"Oh, please do let me help you! Do you know I am going to have you both to see me in New York at Christmas. If you don't like to take the journey alone Jamie shall come for you. There! Let me carry those custard-cups away: I know just where they belong," said she, flitting away like an animated doll, and not thinking afterward of her invitation, or the girls either, till they came in her way again.

This was only two days before the visit was coming to an end, and the next day Jimmy had packed the trunks and sat playing with his fiddle, while Mathilde on the floor by his side played with Tiny, the brown-and-white spaniel; and Mother Gatty, in the creaking yellow chair, sewing a binding on Jimmy's coat.

"Mother!" said Jimmy, suddenly, putting down his fiddle.

Mother Gatty looked up from her binding wistfully.

"I was only making up my mind to ask you about—about how things went on *here* after I left you some time ago."

Mother Gatty gave a keen look over her spectacles at the little Mathilde, which did not escape Jimmy notice, and he remarked:

"Oh! Mathilde knows every thing. If I had not gone away as I did I should never have been here with her now. But we will not go into that at present. I had many a troubled hour about you those first weeks, I assure you, and I made up my mind fully never to see you again unless I could come in some *better* shape than when I left. I'm afraid I have more pride than the Prodigal Son. At any rate, it wasn't *husks* that made *me* desirous of returning homeward;" and he bestowed a loving look on Mathilde as he spoke.

"Better than husks, I'll be bound!" said Mother Gatty, looking in the same direction, in token of her appreciation of Jimmy's remark.

Just here the conversation was interrupted by a farewell call from Martha Seaver, who, having "understood the bride was about to leave could not let her go without a good-bye; and soon all the good-byes were said, and Mother Gatty was alone again. But before that time came something else was said; something which Martha Seaver's call interrupted before it was well begun.

"Mother," said Jim again, following her on the last morning into the buttery, where she stood skimming off cream for the codfish, "have you got such a matter as fifty dollars or so by you that you sha'n't want to use for a few weeks? You see it is just here. Matty's father is doing a tip-top business, with a clear profit of forty dollars a day, and I am getting in with him, taking half the risks (which are really *none*), and having half the profits after six months. It is a capital chance for me, but as I haven't put in anything I sort o' hate to begin to draw out at the start, and if you could let me have a fifty or so I should like it first-rate. I shall be in a condition to pay you back that and all the rest of the money I have had of you very soon; but you can understand, I feel a little delicate about it now. You have worked hard in your day, Mother, and I have been something of an anxiety and expense to you; but that is all over now; I am going in for the almighty dollar after this, and I intend *you* shall dress in black silk every day, and just sit and fold your hands."

Mother Gatty smiled to think how wretched she should be if anything so uncongenial ever happened to her, but I don't think she felt there was really any danger of it; and putting down her basin of cream, she reached a broken sugar bowl from the top shelf of the buttery cupboard.

"I've got just that much money here, Jimmy. I've been saving it up to buy an Alderney cow; but I don't much mind if I get along with the dairy I have this Summer. Two cows will be as much, perhaps, as I shall care about attending to," said she cheerfully.

"I don't *want* you taking care of so much milk, mother. But if you need the money for anything else any time, let me know at once," replied Jimmy, slipping it into his pocket with the air of a landlord taking his dues.

He would not have felt as though he had been home if he had gone away without that little episode.

Then he went away with his wife and his fiddle, and Mother Gatty was left alone to wonder over and over, day after day, while she rocked and builded air-castles, about her Canaanitish future—why the direct, tangible, immediate invitation to the Promised Land was so long delayed. Letters came, month after month, from the little housewife, until the bright-flowered wall-basket was plumped up like a Thanksgiving turkey; but no special word saying "*Come*" could be constructed from their loving, indefinite pages. Neither could she quite make up her mind as to *how* they were living. "Cozily housekeeping on a fourth-floor, with two rooms," was the most definite idea that they had given her.

(Concluded on page 262.)

The California wine region, it is estimated, now produces about 3,500,000 gallons of wine, worth on an average 35 cents per gallon, or $1,250,000 in the aggregate. This is the estimate of the vintage of 1867, which, in spite of the late frosts and cold, and backward Spring, curtailing the yield, will it is reported, be in considerable excess of the crop of 1866. In addition to this California expects, this year, to produce about 100,000 gallons of pure brandy, worth $2.50 per gallon, or an aggregate of $250,000. So rapid is the increase of vineyards that the increase of the annual vintage, it is said, may safely be estimated at 25 or 50 per cent. on that of each preceding year. The Alto California says: "The child is born who shall yet see California producing 100,000,000 gallons of wine annually."

## THE REVELATIONS OF VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY.—NO. TWO.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY HON. JAMES W. WALL, NEW JERSEY.

Vegetables perform two very important functions. Carhonic acid gas is continually issuing from man and all animals iuto the atmosphere. This gas is exceedingly poisonous, and if, by the kind provisions of nature, it was not speedily removed, every thing that has life would be speedily destroyed. Now vegetahles are eoutinually absorbing this deleterious substance, and couverting the carbon that is in it into parts of their own structure. Then, again, vegetables convert the iuorganic matter placed upon the surface of the earth into a state which can serve for the food of animals. Thus guano and farm-yard manure contain nitrogen, phosphorus, soda, lime, &c., and properly prepared soil eontains all the elements whose comhinations form the differeut structures of plauts. Now when these substances are hrought to the roots of plauts, these roots, which are analogous to the mouths of animals, take them in, and so combine them as to form the stem, leaves and flowers. Animals, however, eannot digest inorgauic matter, that is, they cannot eonvert inorganic matter into their own structures. There are also certain conditions, without which plauts and animals could not live. In the first place all living beings have a nourishing fluid, called sap iu vegetables, blood iu animals, which is uecessary for the maintenance and inerease of their frames. As this uourishing fluid is constantly being used and consumed, it must evidently receive fresh supplies. The sap of vegetables receives fresh supplies at the roots, ascends from tbe root, through the stem, to the leaves; here it is exposed to the air, aud then it flows through all parts of the plant. The first remark to be made upon the nourishing fluid of plants is, that it always contains a substanee of the nature of gum or sugar. This gum consists of carbou, hydrogeu and oxygen. But tbe nourishing fluid of plants must also contain the other elements, which, although iu much smaller quantities, make up the structure of vegetahle heings. Many parts, for instance, of plants contain nitrogen, and all plants contain some of the followiug elementary bodies: potassium, calcium, magnesium, sodium, silicon, aluminum, iron, manganese, sulphur, phosphorus and chlorine. The nourishing fluid of every plant must and does contain all the elements of which the structure of that individual plant is composed.

Besides providing for their own structure, plants lay up a store of nutriment for the young embryo that springs from them. This must likewise be formed from the nourishing fluid. This substance is always insoluble in water, and is known hy the name of starch. It is obtained in abundance from potatoes and other roots, from flour, and many other vegetable products. It is this gluten that abounds so in the wheat of Italy, out of which macaroni is made.

That portions of this nourishing fluid of plants, and of the blood of animals, are being constantly applied to the formation of their tissues, is very certain. We see, for example, that a plant or a young animal regularly increases in bulk; and it is clear that they must derive their nourishment from without. All products of nutrition aud secretion, in both animals and plants, may be divided into three great classes. The first is the saccharine or sugary, the compounds included in which consist of carbon, oxygen and hydrogen. The next class is the oleaginous or oily. Its compounds likewise consist of carbon, oxygen and hydrogen. Animal fat, oils, ureas and rosins belong to this class. The last class is called the albuminous or fleshy. The objects composing it consist of carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and uitrogen.

Now the end of all good cultivation of the soil is two-fold—to place plants in such a situation that they can have perfect health, and to supply them with as much food as they can possibly consume. If either of these be neglected; if the plant be placed in such circumstances as to render it unhealthy; or if it have not a due supply of food, hut is starved—then it is impossible that a large crop can be secured.

When a rudimentary soil is formed, which, from its mechanical condition, can allow the roots of a plant to penetrate it aud fix in it, and which, from its chemical constitution, can supply plants with their inorganic elements, plants are theu created and placed in the soil, and their roots take up the lime, sulphur, phosphorus, &e., which they require for their structure. From the atmosphere and from water, they obtain a supply of oxygen aud hydrogen. When it thunders, nitric acid is formed in the air. This is washed down by the rain and brought to the soil. Then, when plants are decaying, a portion of the hydrogen unites with the nitrogen of the air, and when they decompose, in contact with hoth air and water, they take the oxygen of some of the water, and the hydrogen of this decomposed water unites with the nitrogeu of the air. In both these cases ammonia, which is a compound of nitrogen aud hydrogen, is formed. It is noticed that the ammonia is more readily formed in these two modes, when the oxygeu of the air does not gain very ready access. And one use of ditch draining and sub-soil ploughing is to induce the roots to penetrate deeply, and to fill the suh-soil with vegetable matter, which, by its decay in the confined atmosphere of the sub-soil, generates ammonia. Theu ammonia is often driven iuto the air from volcanoes, and washed down to the soil by the rain. Lastly, very probably the soil extracts nitrogen directly from the air.

*August*, 1867.

# Field and Farm.

## BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF LOOSENING THE SOIL.

The following extract from "Fuller's Small Fruit Culturist," may he read with profit, at this particular season. The matter of stirriug the soil is an important one, and we fully endorse all that the writer so graphically portrays:

"Deepening the soil is not wholly for the purpose of furuishing more plant food, nor to facilitate the downward growth of roots, hut it is principally for the purpose of disintegration, and making it of such a consistency that it will be capahle of retaiuing a suffieient amount of moisture at all times to uourish and snpply the plants growing thereiu, but not enough to be detrimental. Rain water, as is well known, contains gases that are beneficial to plants, and if the soil is in a condition to allow it to pass through it, a large portion of these gases will be retained, but if the surface is hard, the water ruus off, or remains until it evaporates.

Again, a soil that is loose and friable, admits air, and with it moisture. To prove this fact, we have only to take a piece of glass or polished steel, or any similar substance, and place it in an iee house where it will become cold; then carry it into the open air, and in a moment it will be covered with water coudensed from the atmosphere. Now, we know, that this moisture did not exude from the glass, therefore it must have come from the air. By stirring the soil, and placing that which has become heated underneath to warm the roots, and bringing the cooler portions to the top to condense the moisture, two objects are obtained: besides loosening the earth that it may be more easily penetrated by the rootlets, it at the same time admits the air charged with moisture for their nourishment. The benefit derived from frequent stirring of the surface soil in dry weather, especially if it be of a compact nature, is mainly derived from the admission of air containing moisture. Many cultivators appear to think that all that is required of them is to keep the weeds from growing among their plants, and they never stir the soil except for this purpose; but our best cultivators have learned that frequent moving of the soil is very beneficial to all crops, especially in time of drouth. If any one doubts that soil can be made moist hy frequent stirring, let them select a piece of ground uuder some open shed, where no rain has reached for a year or more, break up the soil and pulverize finely; then stir it and turn it over every morning for a week or two, and it will become quite moist, while a similar soil in the open field, which has not heen stirred, will he parched and dry. Mulchiug the surface with straw, leaves, or similar materials, is often very beneficial, especially to plants whose roots do not penetrate deeply. The mulch not only assists in preventing evaporation, but insures condensation of moisture from the air, which passes freely through it to the soil."

## LAYING LAND TO GRASS IN AUGUST.

As the grass crop is an important one, it should be a matter of constant care to see that the land devoted to it is in a proper condition for its growth, by drainage and depth and richness. A considerable portion of the lands which are mowed are suffered to remain until they are so much exhausted that the crops they produce will scarcely pay for going over the ground. This may he prevented hy a light annual top-dressing of fine manure, but it must be commenced while the roots are in a vigorous condition. There is no better time, perhaps, to renew old grass land, or to reclaim low lands, than the month of August. If properly managed, it requires but a single year to change a hard and unproductive field into a productive one.

In order to accomplish this, no more must be undertaken at once than there is team and time sufficient for the work, and manure enough to give the grass a vigorous start, and sustain it well until the field gets a top-dressing. The work is often attempted with teams too weak and plows too light. In trying to get a sufficient depth, *one* gets broken and the *other* tired, and then come the doubts whether it will ever pay to reclaim an old meadow, or plow deep and subsoil upland

Plow eight to twelve inches, harrow thoroughly, level with great care with hoe and spade, then enrich with fine manure, sow seed plentifully, say eight quarts of herdsgrass, one bushel of redtop, and early next April eight pounds of clover per acre. In a soil thus prepared, the seeds find all things necessary for a quick and healthy germination and rapid growth. The air, light, heat and moisture are admitted in such proportions as the seeds require to give them a sure and early start. Thus by deep plowing, fine manure, and thorough preparation, little or no loss is sustained in seed, while a good crop is quite certain, let the succeeding season be wet or dry.—*New England Farmer.*

## LIME AROUND APPLE TREES.

We have known farmers to make it a regular practice, for a succession of years, to throw caustic lime around their apple trees in the Spring and Summer. We once noticed that a tree standing in the immediate vicinity of our dwelling had, all at once, put forth with renewed energy, and we were at a loss for some time to define the cause. On examination, we found that a quantity of lime, which had accidentally heen spilled, and rendered worthless by becoming mixed with the refuse on the stable floor, had been thrown at the foot and around the tree, and to this, as the principle cause, we immediately accredited the revivescence and renewed fructification of the tree.

Taking the hint from the accident, we purchased twelve casks of lime, and applied hal a bushel to each of the trees in our orchard, and found that it produced immediately beneficial effects. Not the health of the trees only, but the quality of the fruit also was greatly improved. This application will be especially beneficial in soils where there is a redundancy of vegetable matter. We would advise our farmers, in some places, especially in new forest lands, to make the experiment, and see if it is not deserving of the high recommendation it secures.—*Selected.*

## HOGS IN ORCHARDS.

The belief is gaining ground that hogs are of great service in orchards, especially during the season in which defective fruit is falling from the trees. The special advantage claimed is that they devour the abortive apples as fast as they fall and so destroy the worms which usually infest them and which are the cause of the apples dropping off—thus preventing their reproduction and continued depredations.

Some deny that the removal of the fallen fruit has any tendency to run out the worms, because, they say, the worms leave the fruit and burrow in the ground before the fruit falls. This may be so to some extent. We do not suppose that the escape of the gnat is dependent upon the fall of the fruit, for many specimens that are badly worm eaten do not fall at all until the whole crop upon the tree is fully ripe, long after the worms are all laid up for the Winter. Besides, nature has provided the apple worm, at least, with the means of descending to the ground without either crawling or incurring the risk of injury by falling when disengaged from the apple. Cut one out from a fallen apple, take it on the point of a stick and shake it off (not too violently,) and it will suspend itself hy a web, and if the grub is about matured, it will require a very violent shake to prevent its doing so. Nature never permits such aparatus unless it is sometimes to he used, and hence we conclude that they do often leave the apple and descend by this web before the apple falls.

But this is not always the case, nor do we believe that, in the fore part of the season, it is the general rule. This season, we have examined a great number of specimens soon after they dropped, and about three out of four contain the grub. We conclude therefore, that while removing and destroying the fallen fruit will not exterminate the insect, it will greatly mitigate the nuisance, whether the defective fruit he removed by swine or by human hands. It has been demonstrated by actual experiment in a number of instances we have noticed of late in our exchanges, that hoth swine and fowls will abate the ravage both of the apple worms and the curculio among the plums.—Swine, of course, must be excluded from the orchard when the fruit begins to ripen. But the services of hogs in orchards must preclude the cultivation of the ground in crops, and where this is done, the wormy fruit should be carefully gathered by the young folks every morning and fed to whatever animals will eat them.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*

Potato Rot—How to Stop it.—At a late meeting of the Institute Farmer's Club, New York, James Warren, of Monroe, Iowa, read an essay on the cultivation of the potato.—This naturally brought in the subject of the rot, which he imputed to carelessness in not selecting seed from such hills as produce fully ripened potato halls. The absence of these, on a potato vine, is a sure sign of immaturity, and although these potatoes will germinate and produce others, the yield will diminish yearly, become diseased from weakness and finally die out from exhaustion. To bring back the potato to its former productiveness, the seed must be selected from those hills or stalks producing balls and these only. In this way the tendency to rot will he checked and the old-fashioned productiveness restored. This is a sensible view of the subject, and probably a correct one. Vitiated seed will maturally he followed hy an immature and diseased progeny. Plant only perfect tubers, and the potato disease, it is assumed, will soon be among the things of the past.

A Useful Hint to Milkers.—A lady correspondent of the Ploughman recommends the application of a strong decoction of tannin as a speedy and effectual cure for soreness in the teats and udder of a cow. It may be obtained at the drug stores, and a few cents' worth is sufficient. In places where the prepared drug cannot be readily obtained, a strong tea made of oak or hemlock bark and applied twice a day for a few days in succession, will be found to answer the purpose nearly as well.

Fertilizing Plants.—Few entomologists are aware what an important part is played by insects in fertilizing certain kinds of plants. The old idea among Botanists was, that hermaphrodite flowers shed their own pollen upon their own stigmas, thus, as stock-raisers term it, "breeding in-and-in." But it has recently been shown, that there is an almost infinite variety of contrivances in nature to prevent this, and that in many such cases bees and other insects, flying from flower to flower, convey the fertilizing pollen from one flower to another, and that without their agency either no seed at all, or seed inferior, both in quantity and quality, is perfected. It is remarkable that almost all flowers which are fertilized by the aid of insects are gaily colored, so as to attract insects.—*Practical Entomologist.*

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## TO OFFICERS OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

A great difficulty in awarding small premiums, at Agricultural Fairs, is to present something of REAL VALUE to those who are awarded small prizes. We will furnish to any agricultural society, the FARM AND FIRESIDE, (to be given as premiums) at ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS A YEAR—mailing them to any address, either in bundles, or single.

An annual subscription to our journal would be more acceptable than almost any other small gift, and would be a permanent gain to our agriculture.

## ORNAMENTAL TREES.

THERE is a better and more widely diversified taste for rural ornament about our homesteads than formerly. Yet there is a sad neglect among some farmers relative to the cultivation of ornamental trees. Many farm-houses have no shade, whatever; and the Summer sun renders them very uncomfortable, besides giving a naked, rude, uncultivated appearance to the farm. The artist who should paint a landscape without trees, or a sky without clouds, would know but little of his profession. So with the farmer who neglects the ornamental part of his homestead—he knows little of the art which makes the old farm attractive, valuable and home-like.

We admire the taste and education of those who have the good sense and refinement to plant trees about their rural dwellings. What is more pleasing, in mid-Summer, than the verdure, shade or fragrance of well developed trees in the lawn or landscape? What looks better along the garden walks than well pruned shrubbery, sentineled with an occasional evergreen, such as the *Arbor Vitae*, Norway Spruce or even our native Hemlock? A few of these around a cottage or farm-house exhibit good taste and cultivation in the proprietor; and while they cost little, add to the comfort, pleasure and well-being of the household. A rural home, thus ornamented, is associated with intelligence, thrift and home-sought comfort; just as architectural show impresses us with wealth and independence.

And yet how few realize the beauty, the pleasure and value of ornamental trees? How few bestow any thought on rural adornment? Yet all farms are thus made attractive, and always sell more readily, and for more money with well-grown ornamental trees. Farmers, if you would leave enduring monuments to your taste—leave something for posterity to thank you, plant your vacant spots, the door-yard, the road-side and by-places with trees. It will pay.

## OUR BOOK TABLE.

DOMBEY & SON. *By Charles Dickens*, Philadelphia; T. B. Peterson & Brothers. Book making, before the Rebellion, had become a gigantic business, and the competition among publishers in this country had reduced the prices of books to a mere nominal value. But through the war, paper, printers' wages and publishing expenses advanced books to a high price; so much, in fact, as to greatly diminish sales. Messrs. Peterson & Brothers are first among publishers to offer books at "the old price;" and here we have "Dombey and Son," a fine duodecimo volume of 996 pages, handsomely printed and bound, and with twelve original illustrations from designs by H. K. Browne—all for $1.50. This edition of "Dombey and Son" is the second volume of Dickens's works, to be followed by other volumes, monthly, in the same style and at the same uniform low price.

TOBACCO needs constant attention, worming, and suckering, to throw the whole growth into the leaves until they are ripe. Cut for curing when the leaves have a turgid and swollen appearance.

## MANURING GRAPE VINES.

WITHIN the past ten years we have had numerous new books on "Grape Culture," each one generally recommending some special manure for different kinds of grapes. The majority tell us to use guano, poudrette or superphosphate; others rely on a generous supply of barn-yard manure, dead animals, and other highly concentrated fertilizers. We know that grape vines are liberal feeders, and require an annual dressing of some kind. We also believe in frequent applications, but not in the large quantity that is often applied. Fruit is often injured in flavor by too much manure.

We have experimented with nearly all of the natural and manufactured fertilizers, and have received more benefit from ground bone, than anything else. This does not act so quickly as guano, but is far better and more lasting.—It seems to be a natural stimulant for the vine, giving it healthy food and not affecting the flavor of the fruit. We apply a small dressing of bone, on the surface, two or three times through the season, hoeing it in. We also keep the soil about the vines open and mellow, frequently stirring it with the rake or hoe.—With this treatment, with proper training and pruning, we find no difficulty in obtaining generous crops of fruit on the out-door varieties of grapes.

## PRACTICAL FARMING.

WE have repeatedly invited our readers to contribute to the columns of the *Farm and Fireside*. What we desire is their experience in cultivating any kind of field crops, in the management of their farms, together with anything of general interest connected with agriculture. We submit the following inquiries, and trust that we shall have numerous answers from different sections of the country. Remember, practical farming, the experience of farmers, is what we desire.

Have you tried the new varieties of potatoes? If so, which do you prefer and why? What kind of soils have you and what treatment do you give them? What preparation do you give your corn ground? When do you plant? What variety? How do you cultivate? What is your system of rotation of crops? Do you top-dress your meadows? What crops pay best for the capital and labor invested in your vicinity? What is the average yield of corn per acre? Of wheat, potatoes, or rye? What sheep are the most profitable with you, both for mutton and wool? What breed of cattle make the best milkers, the finest beef, or are the most prolific? What do you feed your horses? Have you tried a mixed diet of potatoes, ect. for them, and how does it affect them? Are you underdraining, and if so, does it pay? What are you doing in fruit culture? How about the new varieties of fruits—which do you find best in your locality? What treatment do you give your orchard? Your strawberries?

## HOW TO FRIGHTEN HOGS.

The "Southern Cultivator," of Georgia, tells how a planter who was troubled with his neighbor's hogs, managed to frighten them so badly that they never came back to destroy his crops. Finding his corn-field depredated upon by a drove of hogs, whose owner lived five miles away, he one day caught one of the largest, a long-legged, big-boned fellow, and shut it up in a pen. The next day he found the same drove of hogs in his corn. Having a large bear-skin, he called in the aid of his negroes, and sewed the bear-skin on to the captured hog—then let him out. The hog, in great disgust and fright at his "new coat," started off, with long jumps, to join his companions, who seeing their mortal enemy coming after them, started at a "two-forty-gait"—fearing the bear or the d—l would get the hindmost. The last heard of these hogs they were six miles off, tearing through the fields and woods with heads and tails "up." They never returned to depredate on that corn-field.

BUDDING may still be done if the stock runs freely, and good buds can be obtained.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

GEO. HUSMANN says, in an article on "American grape growing," published in the Journal of Horticulture "We have *no* wine grape for the *whole country*, nor do I think it likely that we shall ever have one which will meet all the requirements in *every location throughout this vast territory*. * * * I am confident we have grapes already equal to the Riesling, Traminer, Burgundy, and Oparto, but we must not persist in forcing them upon an uncongenial soil and climate. Let us drop the "universal" Yankee when it comes to varieties; but let us make grape culture *universal* throughout the land by making experiments, and planting only such varieties as are suited to each locality."

A correspondent of the Ellsworth (Me.) "American," whose farm is about three miles from the village, uses its bells and its bridge as a barometer or storm signal—the more distinct the sound the nearer the storm. He says, "Sunday evening last, myself and family distinctly and unmistakably, heard the carriages pass and re-pass the Ellsworth bridge. Early on Monday morning I commenced to 'set' my hay field 'in order' for the great storm thus signalized, which delayed its coming until Wednesday, then made good its delay by a five days storm, to the great discomfiture of Sunday hay-makers. Two days before *that* great rain last year we heard for the first time the Trenton bell,—a village several miles farther distant."

Commenting on the mania for fast horses, the "Farmer's Advertiser" counsels its farming readers to turn their attention to raising those "that are of some use, large enough and strong enough to do the work of the farm, and fast enough to carry the produce to market or the family to church." This is sensible advice, and seasonable withal, since the clearing up of the country has rendered the use of oxen less common and necessary than was formerly the case. Serviceable horses should be the main consideration with farmers, unless they breed expressly for other than farm purposes. It is not expected that fast horses or fast men will become obsolete very soon, but it should be the aim of the mass of farmers to prevent the strong and useful race of horses from becoming so.

After admitting the superiority of coarse wooled sheep for mutton, generally, and especially for raising early lambs for which butchers pay large prices, a correspondent of the "Prairie Farmer" claims that "one hundred bushels of corn fed to good *full aged* Merinos will produce as much value in meat as in any other breed." Four years is regarded by him as the earliest age at which Merino sheep are fit for the feed yards. No good mutton comes from any sheep under four years.

The "Maine Farmer" among other suggested improvements in the interior of stables, advocates low cribs. The horse is naturally a grazing animal. Summer and Winter all his food is obtained by cropping it from the ground. In doing this his fore feet are often extended sideways, and his teeth brought on a level with them. Now how contrary from all this, and how unnatural is his confinement in the stable and the position of his head and neck when getting his food from a high rack or crib, elevated above a feed box that comes in contact with his breast in every effort he makes to procure it. Should not this matter be remedied at once, and may we not expect that every person owning a horse will see to it that hereafter a crib or feed box is provided, *at least on a level with the breast of the horse*, if circumstances do not admit of its being placed lower. The objection that in a low manger the horse wastes a great deal of hay, need have no weight, as if fed regularly, and given each time no more than he can eat, the horse will get very little under his feet.

Two correspondents of the Boston Cultivator say they have each milked twenty cows in an hour. One averages five minutes to each cow.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

THE Savannah Republican says that the general average of the Sea Island cotton crop this year will be far ahead of last year's yield.

The blueberry crop of Maine this year is estimated at about half a million quarts, and the marketed berry crop of the State from wild vines will put at least $100,000 in the pockets of Maine people. Shippers and dealers will realize about an equal sum.

In some parts of Missouri the people are beginning to cultivate rice in the woods without clearing off the trees, and, in fact, without deadening them. The dead leaves are turned under with a bull-tongue plow wherever it is practicable to do so, and the rice planted.—Fair crop are raised in this way.

In Utah the gulls are making a vigorous campaign against the grasshoppers. The Mormons say that they were once before saved from famine in the same way.

The Minneapolis Tribune states that a party in that city has contracted with responsible persons for 100,000 bushels of wheat deliverable at that point for $1 per bushel.

Last year red squirrels, cut worms, and caterpillars were remarkably plenty in Maine; this year farmers are almost entirely exempt from their ravages.

No man so well understands farming as he who has made poor land rich, and he will keep it rich. He is like one who has earned a thousand dollars.

Much less tobacco than usual will be raised this season in the Connecticut river valley.—The farmers who have two or three crops on hand have not planted the usual breadth this year.

Accounts of the corn crop in Mississippi and Arkansas are very encouraging. Most of the planters will realize corn enough to last for two years.

The continued wet weather causes serious apprehensions of potato rot. The disease is reported as making its appearance in many places.

The Wallingford, Ct., community of Perfectionists made a profit of $2299 this year upon their strawberry crop of 932 bushels. The crop averaged a hundred bushels to the acre.

The Mariana (Fla.) Courier says the crop prospect in Jackson County is much better than it was last year at this time. Cotton is of good size and vigorous. Corn is growing finely, and the season is too far advanced for any casualty to prevent a full crop from being made. Cane and other food crops are doing well.

A part of the rice crop has already been lost in some sections of the South, in consequence of wet weather and low temperature; but such as remains is reported to be in a favorable condition, and the harvest will probably begin about the end of the present month.

There are said to be indications of the rinderpest in Bucks county, Pa.

Sauk county, Wisconsin, had, in 1866, 888 acres of land devoted to the cultivation of the hop vine, the yield being 1,022,782 pounds.—This year 2,548 acres are to be picked, and it is estimated that in 1868, 5,588 acres will be devoted to the cultivation of this plant. This attempt to diversify the agriculture of a portion of the great West, therefore, appears to have been remarkably successful.

POTATO ROT.—The extraordinary fall of rain in the Middle States, within the past six weeks, has caused potatoes to rot to a considerable extent. We have complaints of this from New York, New Jersey and Pensylvania. The varieties most injured are the early kinds; of the late crop no disease is yet reported.

TOBACCO PROSPECTS.—From Southern newspapers we learn that the prospects of an average tobacco crop are not flattering. Most of these journals estimate the product at two-thirds of a crop. This result has been caused by unfavorable weather, and by the lateness of planting.

PRUNING THE BLACKBERRY.—We know of no plantation that, if left to itself, will become a greater nuisance than one of blackberries. We often see the bushes having their own way, with the fruit up out of reach, or the unsupported, long canes bent over and entangled in an almost impenetrable mass. By proper pruning, the plants may be kept under control, and rendered productive. When new canes get to the height of four or five feet, their upward growth should be stopped by pinching off the tops. They will then throw off lateral branches freely, which, in turn, are to have their growth checked by pinching, when they reach the length of 18 inches. Bushes thus treated will have their wood better ripened, and will be much more likely to pass the Winter in safety.

(Concluded from page 259.)

Ah, Mother Gatty! could you but have looked into the second and smaller of those two rooms now and then, you would no longer wonder about delayed invitations. Your hopes of reaching Canaan would fail, even as did the Prophet's on Mount Nebo, when he knew that he was taking his farewell look of the glory beyond. In that second small room was a closet, and on one shelf there stood—never full and sometimes emptied—a large flask bottle, the contents of which, when poured into the cup beside it, knew how to "give its color aright," and the results of which were daily becoming more manifest, and hastening on the time when they should prove the adder's sting and serpent's bite to one dearer to her than any other on earth. "Jimmy," in his short and happy home-visit, had carefully abstained from relating the occupation of his intended father-in-law; nor could she, poor soul! once suspect that Mathilde's wealth was not won wisely.

Two slow Winters had come and gone, two Springs had wept and smiled themselves away; and when the second Summer came to wither the May flowers and open the roses, James and Mathilde Gatty came home again. This visit was entirely unexpected to good Mother Gatty, who was chopping cheese-curd in the back stoop when the stage stopped.

"One more pinch of salt," said she to herself, tasting the curd, and reaching out her hand toward the wooden salt bowl.

But that last pinch never went in, for just then a pair of soft arms stole around her waist, and turning her head quickly, she saw Mathilde's face, sweet and girlish as ever! Mother Gatty looked into it an instant, then she looked an instant at the ceiled roof overhead.

"I don't see any *hole*," said she, gravely. Then she dropped two or three tears on Mathilde's curls, while Mathilde cried a little on her shoulder; and this was the reason one of Mother Gatty's fat yellow cheeses went to press a little too fresh.

And this time, instead of the brown-and-white spaniel, Mathilde brought in her arms a bundle which was half made up of dainty embroidery and half of baby, with yellow fuzz on its head. This baby—this "golden-haired Gertrude"—was all the outward sign of change in the Gatty family; but one cannnot judge always what the song of a bird may be by seeing the egg-shell.

The next morning after their arrival, while Jimmy was fiddling the baby to sleep up-stairs, Mathilde came out to Mother Gatty, picking peas in the garden.

"Bless her heart! she is just as pretty as a sweet-pea blow," thought Mother Gatty, looking out from her green berage sun-bonnet at the pink and white face above it.

"I've come to help you," said Mathilde, beginning to strip off the pea-pods, "and to ask you if you will let me stay and help you always," she continued.

"What *do* you mean, my dear child?" exclaimed Mother Gatty, astonished enough to turn into a pillar of salt then and there.

"I'll tell you, mother, all about it," replied Mathilde, settling down among the vines, and falling to picking leaves instead of pods. "Perhaps you know, and perhaps you don't know, my father is a wine merchant, wholesale and retail, and Jamie is in with him. Now I have never thought until very lately, but *that* business is as good as any other, and may be it is for some people. I am only a little thing and can't judge. But I know it never will do for *Jamie;* he is getting fonder of wine than he is of me, and growing unsettled every way; so I have just made up my mind that the best place for us is out of sight and hearing of New York. Jamie is as kind-hearted as he can be, and I am sure you and I and the baby together can do anything with him if we can just keep him here. So if you will only say you can't do without us any longer, I am sure, mother, it will be his salvation; and I know I'll like housework, if you'll teach me how to do it."

A wood-pecker tapped, self-invited, to breakfast, at the door of a worm's nest in one of the trees of the bit of woodland which came up close behind the garden; a partridge on a mossy log drummed, with his body for drum-head, and his wings for sticks; a tree-toad trilled out his crying for more rain; and, mingling with these Summer sounds, James Gatty's fiddle made soft harmony, floating out from the open window, where he sat looking into the garden at the pretty picture of the pink and gray gowns among the green vines, with a bright border behind of hollyhocks and poppies, marigolds and red roses, French pinks and tiger lilies; and on this moment, consequent and peaceful as it seemed, James Gatty's future depended.

"Father won't like to have Jamie leave him, I know that; but you have the first right, and you *need* him, don't you, Mother Gatty?" pleaded Mathilde, with no look of a doll, but of an earnest human soul in her blue eyes.

There was no need though of pleading to the mother to reach out her hand to save her boy. And it was not very difficult, here in the midst of these sweet home influences, to induce Jimmey, whose worst fault was infirmness of purpose, not to return to New York.

So he staid and made terraces and fountains, and duck-ponds and bird-boxes, persuading himself and the loving hearts of the women that he was carrying on his mother's small farm, and taking the burden of life from her shoulders to his. While little Mathilde flitted about the live-long day, busy and beautiful as a butterfly, but of more value than a whole generation of butterflies; for the untried, unformed child, weakened to the duties of life by being mated to one weaker than herself, developed into a brave and useful woman who has saved a soul from drifting on to utter ruin. Because Jamie, though he was never worth a row of pins for taking care of himself alone, now hemmed in and upheld by the strengthening force of tender family cares, while he is removed from outward evil temptations, makes a very good husband and father—as husbands and fathers go— and quite a harmless, respectable man among men.

"I *said* Jim Gatty's wife would never set the great river afire, and she never has, but she turns out to be just the right sort of a person for Jim. You never know for sure who will be a good match for you until you have *tried* it," commented Martha Seaver.

A Curious Calculation.—An exchange says: "What a noisy creature would a man be were his voice, in proportion to his weight, as loud as that of a locust. A locust can be heard at the distance of one-sixteenth of a mile. The golden wren is said to weigh but half an ounce; so that a middling sized man would weigh down not short of four thousand of them; and it must be strange if a golden wren would not outweigh four of our locusts. Supposing, therefore, that a common man weighs as much as sixteen thousand of our locusts, and that the note of a locust can be heard one-sixteenth of a mile, a man of common dimensions, pretty sound in wind and limb, ought to be able to make himself heard at the distance of one thousand six hundred miles; and when he sneezed 'his house ought to fall about his ears!' Supposing a flea to weigh one grain, which is more than its actual weight, and to jump one and a half yards, a common man of one hundred and fifty pounds, with jumping powers in proportion, could jump twelve thousand eight hundred miles, or about the distance from New York to Cochin China."

Keep the Calves Thrifty.—A calf kept, Winter and Summer, in thrifty growth, at two years old will make as much, and more beef, than one negligently kept, at twice that age. The profit will be found on the side of the two-year old, and the loss on the four-year old; yet the owner of the latter has pursued his system, if system it may be called, with the idea he was saving money. Keep the thrifty animal two years longer in the same way, and something very handsome in the way of beef will be the result; while the starveling can never pay the expense of its rearing and feeding.

## The Fireside Muse.

### SUMMER IDLENESS.

Under "a roof of pine,"
To hear the ringdove brood,
With the sorrow of love long past,
Thrilling the listening wood;
Deep 'mid the clustering firs,
Where the nightingale sings all day,
To hide in the darkness sweet,
Where the sunbeam finds no way.

To ramble from field to field,
Where the poppy is all on flame,
All but the little black coal
At its core, that's still the same;
And where the "speedwell" blue
Cheers with its two kind words,
And the wild rose burns with a blush
At the flattery of the birds.

To bask on a grassy cliff,
Lazily watching the sail,
The blue plains of the deeper sea,
And the shallows emerald pale;
The breezes' rippling track,
And the sea birds flickering white
Athwart the rosy cloud,
And under the golden light.

In the haycock sweet and dry,
To lazily nestle down,
When half the field is gray and shorn,
And half the field waves brown;
'Mid the clumps of purple thyme,
When the evening sky is red,
To lie and rest on the flowers
One's epicurean head.

Or better, amid the corn,
To turn on one's lazy back
And see the lark upborne
Over the drifting track;
To hear the field-mouse run
To its nest in the swinging stalk;
And see the timorous hare
Limp over the hedge-side walk.

Such are the Summer joys
That epicureans love;
Men with no morrow to heed,
Heeding no cloud above;
Grasshopper men, that sing
Their little Summer through,
And when the Winter comes,
Hide from the frost and dew.

Happy the man whose heart
Is granite against Time's frost,
Whose Summer of calm content
In Autumn's never lost;
Who, when care comes with clouds
That gather from East and West,
Has still a changeless heart
And sunshine in his breast.

## General Miscellany.

### OLD FASHIONED GARDENS.

In all the old fashioned gardens one finds a double row of currant bushes, almost as inevitable as the lilac or the white rose bush, at the garden gate. A charming alley is thus opened up for nearly the length of the plat. They maintain their lines as faithfully as appointed metes and bounds; and, spread over the green ruffles of their leaves, may be seen, all through the season, a white crop of old ladies' caps, that tells of the grandmother whose hand planted the purple morning-glories under the windows, whose head now and then shows itself between the verdurous walls of the bean-vines. A man would as soon think of tearing a true sentiment out of his heart, if such a thing could be done, as of pulling up the currant bushes that are so well rooted in the garden.

How the red beet-tops glisten in their long rows, as if some pains-taking hand had varnished them, one by one! How crowded stand those carrots, boring each its long yellow finger into the mellowed sub-soil! With what a Dutch-like and dogmatic air the swelling cabbages erect their pulpy heads in the performance of the useful work they are set to do.

At the further end of the plat stands the summer-house,—a sort of Pomona's shrine, in its way, as well as a moonlight resort for lovers; a contorted grape vine wearing a lattice of leaves below and a canopy of green over-head, whose purple tributes you may sit and pluck in the dreamy afternoons of September, while the yellow finches are clustering on the bushes and the poultry are wallowing in the soft garden mould.

Live within your means if you would have means within which to live.

### THE DIET OF MOLES.

The mole is generally considered a deadly enemy to vegetation, and everywhere throughout agricultural communities a war of merciless extermination is waged against the species—everywhere, that is, except in Zurich, Switzerland, where they have been taught better, it seems, by one of their *savans*. This gentleman—a Mr. Weber—on a recent occasion, when the municipal mole-catcher's appointment was under consideration by the councils of that canton, laid before them the following facts:

He had carefully examined the stomachs of fifteen moles, caught in different localities, but failed to discover therein the slightest vestige of plants or roots; whereas they were filled by the remains of ascaris or earth-worms.

Not satisfied with this, he had then shut up a number of moles in a box containing earth and sod, with growing grass, and a smaller case of grub and earth worms. In nine days two moles devoured three hundred and forty-one white worms, one hundred and ninety-three earth worms, twenty-five caterpillars, and a mouse, skin and bones, which had been enclosed while alive in the box. M. Weber next gave them raw meat, cut up in small pieces, mixed with vegetables; the moles ate the meat and left the plants. He next gave them nothing but vegetables; in twenty-four hours two moles died of starvation.

These experiments would appear conclusive as to the carnivorous appetites of the Swiss moles, and Zurich is lucky to possess and appreciate such a distinguished naturalist.

But it is by no means sure that the American moles are equally anti-vegetarians. They certainly do take an occasional nip out of our fine bulbous or other roots and herbs, though it may be only by way of sauce to their meat.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

Read an Hour a Day.—There was a lad who, at fourteen, was apprenticed to a soap-boiler. One of his resolutions was to read an hour a day, or at least at that rate, and he had an old silver watch, left him by his uncle, which he timed his reading by. He stayed seven years with his master, and said when he was twenty-one he knew as much as the young squire did. Now, let us see how much time he had to read in, in seven years, at the rate of an hour each day. It would be 2,555 hours, which, at the rate of eight reading hours per day, would be equal to three hundred and ten days; equal to forty-five weeks; equal to twelve months; nearly a year's reading. That time spent in treasuring up useful knowledge would pile up a very large store. I am sure it is worth trying for. Try what you can do. Begin now. In after years you will look back upon the task as the most pleasant and profitable you ever performed.

An Elopement "Headed."—An Ohio paper tells a novel love story. A young couple planned an elopement, the girl descending from her room upon the traditional ladder, but at the gate they were met by the father of the girl and a minister, by whom the young couple were escorted to the parlor, where to their surprise they found all their relatives collected for the marriage ceremony, which took place at once. It was a neat paternal freak.

Cigars and Tobacco in Austria.—The consumption of home-made cigars in Austria amounted in 1866 to very nearly 1,000 millions, while of imported cigars less than 9,000,000 were consumed. The consumption of snuff was 40,000 lbs., and of tobacco 63,000 cwt., the receipts of the government for all this amounting to 52,000,000 florins.

During the Louisana campaign, a party of soldiers, marching through a swamp, were ordered to form two deep, when a corporal exclaimed, "I'm too deep, already; I'm up to my middle."

It is our main business in this world to secure an interest in the next.

The probability of capital finding its way from Europe to this country in consequence of the glut of gold there continues to be a subject of discussion. It is an interesting fact that the present is only the third time on which the Bank of England rate of discount has been reduced to two per cent., the former occasions having been in 1852 and 1862. In 1852 it remained at that point for eight months and a half, and in 1862 for three months and a half. The coin and bullion in both departments amounted on the 17th of July to £22,686,726—a larger sum than it ever held before, although the bank of France has the equivalent of more than thirty million sterling. The extreme rate of 10 per cent has only been reached twice in the history of the bank, namely, in November, 1857, and again last year during the financial crisis.

# Miscellany.

## THE HISTORY OF THE MURRAIN OR CATTLE DISEASE.

It is not generally known that the murrain or cattle disease, which is now ravaging Europe, has, at irregular periods, desolated the earth, from the earliest records of history. A hundred years ago, when it ceased in England, it did not visit America. Our country was sparsely settled, our cattle, few in nuumbers, found their pasturage in their native forest. Our condition is now different, and we may look confidently for its appearance, its ravages, and its desolation. To reason about it is futile. It is one of the agencies of Providence to lessen the number of men and animals by disease, more or less destructive of life.

Our earliest record is in Exodus, of the destruction of the cattle of the Egyptians, 1491 years before Christ; 600 years later the Greeks and their cattle perished by pestilence at the siege of Troy. Plutarch speaks of a pestilence in the reign of Romulus, attacking first the cattle, and then extending to men. Virgil, in his Georgics, Book 3d, describes the disease, that in his day desolated Italy.

Anno Domini 376, it desolated the whole of Europe.

In 1810 it destroyed the cattle of the army and dominions of the Emperor Charlemaguc.

In 1514 and 1599, it ravaged the Venetian States to such a degree as to cause an edict of their Senate prohibiting the slaughter of beef or veal.

In 1632 it ravaged most of the Province of France.

In 1711 it appeared near Padua, spreading from a Dalmatian ox abandoned from a drove.

In 1714 it reached Piedmout, France, Germany, Holland, and England, with terrific destruction.

In Holland 200,000 perished. It continued lurking in dispersed districts until 1731, when the pest of 1632 seemed to have returned; the horse faring worse than the ox.

In 1743-44, it reappeared in France and Germany with increased fury.

In 1745 it again desolated Holland, destroying 200,000 head of cattle. It uow reached England, which it ravaged for twelve years. The government determined to pay for the immediate slaughter of all cattle attacked with the disease. In the third year they paid for 80,000 head; in the fourth year they were destroyed at the rate of 7000 per month; these were in addition to those that died of the disease. In 1747, 40,000 perished in two counties; in another, 30,000 in six months.

In 1757 it again appeared in France, spreading from cattle to horses. The jackass perished in great uumbers, sheep and deer of the forest did not escape.

In 1758 it reached Fiuland, and thence to Russia, where it was said to have heen very destructive.

In many of the attacks in Europe, serious apprehensious were entertained of the entire extermination of the cow kind.

The attention of every people aud government was called to it. Legislation, science and medical skill were utterly valueless. On, on marched the pestience, until it exhausted itself and disappeared a huudred years ago, amid the wastes of Russia.

Since that time, veterinary colleges have been estahlished throughout Europe; much has been hoped from them; we do not, as yet, know with what success.

Doubtless, the pest has often occurred in ages and countries in which no record has reached us. It is traceable for more than 3,300 years, and its occurrence morc frequently noted as we approach a period of better historical records. The inference is that it is a disease occurring and likely to appear at irregular periods in every country.—*J. T. Randolph, in Richmond Farmer.*

---

Life and the love of liherty are given together; and the latter is the hetter gift of the two.

# Marriages.

In Woonsocket, on the 7th inst., by Rev. E. Douglass, Beriah T. Hillman, of Chilmark, Mass., to Miss Abby B. Pierce, of Woonsocket; on the 15th inst., by the same, Chas. H. Nye to Miss Carrie Heppenstall, both of Woonsocket.

In Whitinsville, on the 15th inst., by Rev. W. A. Braman, Joseph Andrew to Miss Mary Ann Sutton, all of Northbridge.

In Pawtucket, 18th inst., Mr. Edgar F. Cobh to Miss Vianna Walden, both of Mansfield, Mass.

In Newport, 15th inst., Mr. James Fleming to Miss Mary E. Carpenter, both of Providence.

# Deaths.

In Smithfield, on the 6th inst., Frances, wife of William Bliss, aged 31 years; 19th inst., Ehnora, infant child of William Bliss, aged 9 weeks.

In Nasonville, Burrillville, August 13th, William E., infant son of Willian V. and Mary Gardiner, aged 5 months.

In Burrillville, August 16th, Ellen, daughter of Uavid and Abigail Bartlett, aged 1 year and 7 months.

In Glendale, August 17th, Mary D. Taft, daughter of the late Benoni and Nancy Taft, aged 43 years.

In Blackstone, on the 2nd inst., Annie Frances, daughter of James M. and A. F. Bacon, aged 9 months and 22 days.

In Uxbridge, on the 16th inst., Mrs. Mary A. Wheelock, in the 56th yenr of her age.

In Wanskuch village, June 20th, George Franklin, son of James and Eliza Sands, aged 22 days; on the 15th inst., of cholera infantum, Matilda Eva, daughter of James and Eliza Sands, aged 1 year, 1 month and 24 days.

In Mendon, on the 16th inst., Luke Aldrich, aged 87 years.

In Fairfield, Iowa, July 31st, Sukey P., wife of William Lindly, aged 72 years, 8 months and 15 days.

In Providence, 18th inst., Mr. William Simester, aged 63 years and 11 months; 17th inst., Schuyler Lyon Carroll, aged 53 years.

In Pawtucket, 18th inst., Mrs Jerusha, wife of Asa Hill, aged 67 years.

In Warren, 18th inst., William, youngest son of the late Hon. John R. Wheaton.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending August 23, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $20 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 14c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $10 00a12 00 | Potatoes | 1.40 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.00 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $16, 18 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 17 | Molasses ₩ gal | 80a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 64c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 35c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 35c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 25a50c | Lard ₩ lb | 16ac18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 25a30c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 20a25c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 18c |

## BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

August 21, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1783: Sheep and Lambs 8318. Swine, 1773. Western cattle, 1361; Eastern cattle, 92; Working oxen and Northern cattle, 300. Cattle left over from last week, 30.

PRICES. Beef Cattle—Extra, $13.00@ $13.50; first quality, $12.50@$12.75; second quality, $11.75@$12.25; third quality, $10.00@$11.00 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 10@10½c ₩ lb. Country Tallow, 7a7½c ₩ lb Brighton Hides, 10½@11 cts. ₩ lb; Brighton Tallow, 6½@6¾c ₩ lb.

Lamb Skins, 62c each; Calf Skins, 18a20c.

Sheep Skins, 40 @ 50c ₩ lb.

There is not so large a supply of Cattle in market as there was last week, and the quality is better. Prices have advanced 25 to 50c per cwt. from last quotations.

Store Cattle—There are more in market than has been offered before this season. Holders are selling 2 year olds at $35a45, and 3 years olds from $50a60 per head.

Working Oxen—We quote prices at $200a320 per pair. There is a good supply in market and a fair demand.

Milch Cows—Sales extra at $80a110; ordinary $65@$75.—Store Cows $43a55 per head Considerable many cows in market, mostly of ordinary grades.

Sheep and Lambs.—The trade is better than it was last week. We quote sales of Lambs at from $2.50 to $4.50 per head. Old Sheep 5a6c per lb.

Swine—There is a few Store Pigs in market; prices, wholesale 7a7½ cents per pound; retail 8 to 9 cents per pound.—Fat Hogs—1623 at market; prices, 7¾@8c. per lb.

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

Trade in the city for the week ending to-day has been quite active. Receipts of merchandise, however, are somewhat larger, and prices of many articles, which have heretofore been somewhat nominal, are steadier. Old wheat flours have been in more active demand for local trade, and have improved, while new flours, of doubtful character, have declined, and open very irregular,

Provisions have met with a fair demand throughout the week. Pork has fluctuated violently, closing rather heavy.

Cottou has been somewhat unsettled. Petroleum has been only moderately active. There has been a decline in crude, under a reduction in railroad freight from the oil regions.

There has been a fairly active and very irregular flour market. The arrivals of new had been large; considerably in excess of the demand. Much of the new offered has proved to be soft; this has been very unsalable, and has contributed largely to the depression.

Old wheat flour has been in brisk demand for shipment to the West Indies and Central America. Millers have found it impossible to supply the demand, and the low and medium grades of spring wheat extras have improved

At the close the demand for flour is more active, and prices, especially for the spring crop, have improved. There is a good inquiry, in part for export.

Southern flour has been more abundant, and has been pressingly offered at much lower and irregular prices. The supply is fair. It closes dull and very irregular.

Oats have been in good request, and with limited arrivals prices improved, until Friday, when new declined and closed in moderate request at lower figures.

The Indian corn market has been at times much excited and has fluctuated rapidly; a speculative movement, understood to be for Western account, has unsettled values, and the less favorable news from Europe has limited transactions. It closes firm and strong.

# Special Notice.

MOTHER BAILEY'S QUIETING SYRUP, the Great Quieting Remedy for Children Teething. Large Bottles only 25 cents. Sold by Druggists.

4w-31] GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., Boston, Mass.

# Advertising Department.

## Rhode Island.

THE WOONSOCKET

AGRICULTURAL, HORTICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL

—AND—

## HORSE & CATTLE FAIR,

TO BE HELD AT THE

*CITIZENS' UNION PARK,*

WOONSOCKET, R. I.

On TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY,

September 10, 11 and 12, 1867.

### FIRST DAY.—EXHIBITION OF CATTLE.

ADMISSION 25 CTS.; CHILDREN UNDER 12, 15 CTS.

### Second and Third Days.—Exhibition of Horses.

Admission 50 Cts.; Children under Twelve, 25 Cts.; Horses not Entered for Premium, 25 Cts.

### PROGRAMME.

**FIRST DAY.—Tuesday, September 10th,**

EXHIBITION OF CATTLE, SHEEP, SWINE, FOWLS, ETC.

A. M. 10.30.—Oxen exhibited on cart.
11.30.—Three Years old Steers exhibited on cart.
12.30.—Two years old Steers not on cart.
P. M. 1.30.—One year old Steers not on cart.
2.30.—Class No. 12. Horses that never trotted better than 2.50.
3.30.—Plowing Match.

**SECOND DAY.—Wednesday, Sept. 11th.**

A. M. 9.00.—Grand Cavalcade. All horses entered for exhibition will assemble on the track for procession.
10.00.—Class 1. Brood mares exhibited.
10.30.— " 2. One year old colts.
11.00.— " 11. For horses that never beat 3 minutes.
11.00.— " 3. Two years old Colts.
11.30.— " 7. Stallions six years old and over.
P. M. 1.00.— " 4. Three years old colts.
2.00.— " 15. Fastest trotting horse under saddle.
3.00.— " 14. For horses that never beat 2.40.
4.00.— " 10. Gentlemen's pairs Driving Horses.

**THIRD DAY.—Thursday, September 12.**

A. M. 9.00.—Class 6. Stallions under 6 years.
10.00.— " 9. Family Horses.
11.00.— " 5. Colts 4 years old and under 5.
11.30.— " 16. Fastest pairs Trotting Horses.
P. M. 1.30.— " 13. For horses that never beat 2.45 to wagon.
2.30.— " 17. Best Lady Riders.
3.30.— " 8. Running Horse, under saddle.
4.00.— " 18. Fastest Trotting Horse, open to all.

### RULES AND REGULATIONS.

All entries of Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Fowls, etc., must be made at the office of the Corresponding Secretary before 9 o'clock a. m., September 10; and all stock must be on the grounds by 10 o'clock a. m., Tuesday, September 11.

All members of the Society may enter Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Fowls, or articles for premium free of charge, and are entitled to a season ticket and receive premium in full. All other competitors entering the same will receive a ticket for the first day, and be subject to a discount of twenty per cent. on all premiums awarded.

Entries of Horses may be made by personal application, or by addressing the Corresponding Secretary, with money enclosed, on or before 9 o'clock a. m., Wednesday, September 11, except Class 12, which must be made by 12 o'clock Tuesday, September 10. Premiums will be awarded on the grounds, and paid by CHARLES E. ALDRICH, Treasurer, at his office, on Friday, between 9 and 12 a. m. Premiums not claimed in thirty days after the fair will be considered as gratuities to the Association.

The Judges may withold premiums when the horse or horses are unworthy, whether there be competition or not.

All horses will be subject to the call of the Marshal during the hours of exhibition, and it will be necessary for exhibitors to have their horses ready according to the advertised programme; and if any horse does not appear when the class is exhibited in which he was entered, he shall be deemed to have withdrawn from competition in such class.

Persons desiring to secure stalls or other accommodations for horses, may address the Corresponding Secretary, Box 68, Woonsocket, R. I.

The gates will be open for the admission of the public from 8 a. m. until 6 p. m. each day.

Owners or agents presenting horses for exhibition will receive tickets of admission.

☞ Gambling and the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors will be Strickly Prohibited on the Grounds.

### THE WOONSOCKET AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

WILL HOLD THEIR

SECOND HORTICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION,

*At Harris Hall, in Woonsocket, on*

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY,

September 10, 11 and 12, 1867.

*J. P. CHILDS, Superintendent of Halls.*

All entries to be made with the Secretary, on or before TUESDAY, September 10th, at 11 o'clock A. M.

All persons contributing articles other than Fruit and Flowers, are requested to bring them in on MONUAY, September 9.

EXHIBITION WILL COMMENCE ON

**Tuesday, September 10, at 1 o'clock P. M.**

### FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

All Fruit must be arranged on the tables, on TUESDAY, September 10, by 12 o'clock, M.

All Fruits offered for competition must be grown by competitors.

Fruits receiving a premium in one class, cannot compete in another.

Articles once placed on the tables, are under the control of the judges, and cannot be removed until the close of the Exhibition.

Judges may withhold Premiums, when fruits or other articles not of sufficient merit are presented.

Exhibitors must give personal attention to their articles at the close of the Fair, and attend to their removal.

Any article not herein enumerated, and deemed worthy, will be awarded a gratuity by the judges.

No person who is an exhibitor can act as Judge, on the class in which he exhibits.

All premiums not called for within thirty days, will be considered as donated to the Society.

**OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.**

*STEPHEN N. MASON,* - *President.*

**Vice Presidents.**

H. S. MANSFIELD, JOHN CURRIER, | D. B. POND, JOHN A. BENNETT.

CHARLES E. ALDRICH, Treas., WM. H. S. SMITH, Sec'y., | JOHN CURRIER, Auditor, A. S. ARNOLD, Cor. Sec'y.

**Executive Committee.**

Bradbury C. Hill, Jason B. Adams, Arnold Wakefield, Wm. H. Jenckes, A. S. Arnold, Levi T. Ballou, Otis D. Ballou, Charles Nourse, | Wm. Lapham, Wm. Sherburne, jr., Perry Wood, Ansel Holman, Eli Bates, Ellas S. Ballou, jr., S. W. Razee, Libeus Gaskill, S. A. Bailey, | J. P. Childs, Arlon Mowry, Thos. Carpenter, Reinalier Jillson, R. P. Smith, Alfred M. Aldrich, Alvin Cook, Eugene Mason.

WM. H. S. SMITH, Sec'y.

Woonsocket, Aug. 16, 1867. 4w-51

FOURTH ANNUAL FAIR OF THE

### NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

*Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry,*

ON THE GROUNDS OF THE

*NARRAGANSETT PARK ASSOCIATION,*

CRANSTON, near PROVIDENCE, R. I.,

On Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday,

SEPTEMBER 3d, 4th, 5th and 6th, 1867.

THE PREMIUM LIST WILL AMOUNT TO NEARLY

**$10,000.**

Arrangements have been made with the various Railroad Companies, to run their Cars, containing Stock, &c., directly to the Fair Grounds.

A detailed Programme of Premiums, &c., will be furnished on application to UANIEL NEEDHAM, Esq., Secretary, Boston, Mass., or WM. R. STAPLES, Esq., Secretary, Providence, R. I.

GEO. B. LORINO, of Salem, President, DANIEL NEEDHAM, of Boston, Secretary, of the N. E. Agricultural Soc'y. | WILLIAM SPRAGUE, of So. Kingston, R. I., President, WM. R. STAPLES, of Providenee, Secretary, of the R. I. Society.

Aug. 17, 1867. 3w-32

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares's Patent Harrows and Horse Hoes, Cultivators, Seed Sowers, Hay Cutters, Garden and Railroad Barrows, Shovels, Spades, Forks, Iron Bars, &c, Holder's Block, Main Street. Woonsocket, R. I.

## Massachusetts.

PIANO AND SINGING FOR TEACHERS.—MRS. PAIGE is very successful in fitting Teachers of Piano-forte and Singing by her new method. Time required from three to six months. Pupils can fit by correspondence after remaining with Mrs. P. two or three weeks. No one is authorized to teach this method except by permission of MRS. PAIGE, who is the inventor and sole proprietor. New circulars can be obtained at the Music Stores of Messrs. Ditson & Co. and Russell & Co., the Cabinet Organ Warerooms of Mason & Hamlin, the Piano Warerooms of Messrs. Chickering, and Hallet & Davis, and at Mrs. J. B. PAIGE'S Musical Studio, over Chickering's Concert Hall, 246 Washington St., rooms 4 and 9. Send for circular, and enclose stamp.

Boston, July 6, 1867. 6t-eow-26

THE OLD STAND;

ESTABLISHED IN 1845.

CONNOLLY & POWER,

Successors to Israel M. Rice, Retailers in and manufacturers to Order of all Styles of Gentlemen's FINE FRENCH CALF BOOTS, SHOES, TOILET SLIPPERS, OVER-GAITERS, &c. No. 10, School Street, Boston.

July 20, 1867. 3w-28

RELIABLE! CHEAPEST! BEST!
DON'T PAY $1. SAVE 50 CENTS.

KINGSLEY'S WONDERFUL HAIR REVIVER

CHANGES GRAY HAIR. Promotes its growth. Prevents its falling. Keeps it moist. Be sure and try it.

A FEW HOME RECOMMENDATIONS.

From Proprietor of Payson's Indelible Ink.—"Your Reviver gives the Hair an appearance of renewed youth, and leaves it healthy and soft."

From Prof. Hitchcock, Amherst College.—"I have been trying your Reviver, and am satisfied that it imparts a dark color to Gray Hair."

From W. B. Welton, Clerk of S. L. Hospital.—"I find it all you claim for it, and would say to all, try it."

From the Springfield Republican.—"One of the best Hair Revivers known."

Prepared by C. B. KINGSLEY, Northampton, Mass. Sold by Druggists and Merchants. Price only 50 cents.

GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., and REED, CUTLER & CO., Wholesale Agents, Boston.

June 15, 1867. 3m-ls-23

## Pennsylvania.

FAIRBANKS'

STANDARD

SCALES,

OF ALL KINDS.

FAIRBANKS & EWING, 715 Chestnut St.,

☞ Be careful to buy only the genuine. PHILADELPHIA.

July 27, 1867. 3m-29

## New Jersey.

PEMBERTON MARL COMPANY.

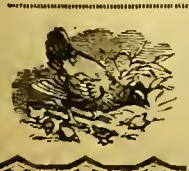
This company is now prepared to furnish their GREEN SAND MARL, in quantities of from four tons, (one car load), upwards. And at any point where railroad or water navigation will carry it.

Both practical use and scientific investigation, have proved Marl to be one of the best and cheapest of fertilizers.

Address all orders to JNO. S. COOK, General Traveling Agent, Mount Holly, New Jersey; or to the Sub-Agent, nearest where parties wish Marl delivered.

☞ Circulars, with particulars, FURNISHED FREE, on application to J. C. GASKILL, Supt., Pemberton, New Jersey.

March 9, 1867. tf-pe-9



Editorial Duties.—Mr. Hunt, in his volume on the "Fourth Estate," thus sketches the peculiar duties of a journalist: "The man who once becomes a journalist, must almost bid farewell to mental leisure. If he fulfils his duties truthfully, his attention must be ever awake to what is passing in the world, and his whole mind must be devoted to the instant examination, and discussion, and record, of current events. He has little time for literary idleness, with such literary labor on his shoulders. He has no days to spend on catalogues, or in dreamy discursive researches in public libraries. He has no months to devote to the exhaustion of any one theme. What he has to deal with must he taken up at a moment's notice, be examined, tested and dismissed at once; and thus his mind is ever kept occupied with the mental necessity of the world's passing hour."

# Farming Miscellany.

## ROTATION OF CROPS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY A NEW YORK FARMER.

A proper rotation of field crops is of the highest importance to successful farming.—And yet a rotation adapted to one section of the country may be entirely injudicious for another. It must be particularly adapted to the place where it is tried, so as to suit the soil, the climate and the market. As these vary in different localities, every farmer must exercise his own judgment—arranging the rotatiou so as to secure the best means of enriching the farm, and to take that course which will yield the most profitable returns for his labor.

One principle never to he overlooked is this: every plant obtains a part of its support from the soil, and a part from the atmosphere; and hence every crop diminishes the fertility of the soil when it is removed from the field. Bnt if allowed to remain on the soil they enrich it; for what they draw from hoth soil and atmosphere is returned. Hence the fertility of lands on which the accumulated succession of vegetables have decayed many years. But from our farms the crops are generally removed; so we must resort to mannring to prevent utter sterility. By constant eropping the most fertile fields on the earth will become unproductive and barren. Again, different plants do not take from the soil the same elements; hence a successiou of the same crop will soon deprive the soil of certain parts which are essential to its growth; while another crop, requiring different food, will flourish luxuriantly.

We all know that some crops require a larger application of manure than others. Broad-leaved plants demand abundance of manure.—Corn, beets, and turnips are of this class; likewise grass, and other plants which produce an annual growth of succulent food. The small grains, such as harley, wheat and rye will not bear too large an amount of manure—else you get a large and luxuriant growth of straw at the expense of the grain. Corn and oats will thrive on coarse manure; hut wheat requires it well decayed. My general practice is to manure heavily in the Spring with green manure from the barn-yard, for a corn crop, then follow with wheat the next season. I always spread, and thoroughly mix the manure with the soil. This is all important to insure abundance of food for the growing crop.

Farming, properly conducted, is a continnal succession of exhaustion and replenishing.—Most farmers understand how to exhaust land; not all of them how to replenish it. The crop which brings the most cash, is eonsidered the hest. Future fertility is nearly always disregarded. We take all we can from our fields, but return as little as possible. We forget that soils wear out, that they exhaust their vitality, and become poorer by constant cropping. We must avoid these errors by sueh rotation of crops, with the application of fertilizers, that will increase, rather than diminish the maximum fertility. In forming a rotation, on my farm, I adopt the following plan: First, to exhaust the soil the least that can be done.—Second, restore back to the soil as much manure as practicable. Third, take that course which will prepare the field for a future crop. Fourth, prevent the growth of weeds and the increase of insects, if possible. Fifth, adapt the application of manure to the respective crops which are to follow. Sixth, select the several crops so as to adapt them to soil, climate, and market.

Many of your readers will doubtless say tbat I have not said anything new. Of course not: but I hope I have interested them in the matter of "Rotation of Crops," sufficient to apply their own ideas and try experiments in rotation. Our farms in North-Western New York are running out annually—an inexplicable and mysterious fact to many—but not to me, when I witness the negligent method of farming.—Fields are cropped without being replenished—exhausted by the same crop year after year—exhibiting sterility where once was the most luxuriant land on this continent. But if we manured generously, and followed a rotation of crops judiciously, we should have no worn-out lands to grumble about.

*Ontario County, New York.*

PLACE FOR THE PIG-STY.—Desirable as it is to have a pen within easy reach from the kitchen, it is yet a harbarous custom to have it so near that its noises and offensive smells will penetrate the house. Wherever it is, there should be a good walk provided, for convenience in carrying slops to it. Nor should it be too close to the horse-stable. There is a foolish notion ahroad that a horse stall next to a pen is hurtful to the pigs, especially to the breeding sows. The only conceivable harm would be to the horse and his master, arising from the foul smell of the hogs.

Common sense says, let the pig-sty he arranged on one side of the harnyard, so as to allow the pig manure to be mixed with that of the horse and cow, as tbey severally accumulate. One apartment of this pen should open into the yard, so as to allow the hogs to run out and work over the horse manure, and to feed on such grain as they may find among it. The pig pen should, of course, have its sleeping room well provided with straw, and the whole establishment should be kept clean.—*Rural American.*

## ALSIKE CLOVER.

THIS new species of clover originated in the parish of Alsike, in Upland, Sweden, where it grows in great abnndance. It has pale and red flowers, with oval, obtuse leaves, smaller and of a lighter green than those of red clover; and, so far as tested in this country, would appear to be valuable for permanent pastnres and mowing grounds. It does not reach its full luxuriance till the seeond or third year, and seems to thrive on moist, and even wet lands, which red elover does not. In foreign journals we see it spoken of as doing hetter for mixing with other grasses than growing alone. It wonld be well to sow some of it with red clover, so that when that is running out at the end of two years, the Alsike is established, and can take its place. Its habit of growth is more like the white clover than the red.

In the Experimental Grounds at Washington, we saw a plot of Alsike elover growing, which, the Superintendent informed us, was mown three times in the season of 1866, yielding over four tons to the cutting. It would appear from this as if our climate was more favorable for it than in Sweden, where it is spoken of in the hand hook of Swedish agriculture "as one that no second crop can be expected from."—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

## ABOUT PLOWS.

IT is frequently the case that a farmer will buy two plows of the same make and pattern, and one will prove to be a much easier running and holding plow than the other. Why? It may be that the castings are warped and do not fit together well; but far more generally, because the iron in the two mouldboards is not of the same temper—the plow with the softest mouldhoard being the poorest of the two. The furrow adhering more closely to the soft mouldboard, makes the draft of the plow heavier, and likewise pulls the plow around to the right, away from the land, therefore making it run unsteady. As an illustration take two pleasure sleighs; the one having on hard cast shoes and the other soft cast shoes. When these two sleighs run over a piece of bare ground, the one with soft shoes draws very much the hardest, and has the most side draft. It is quite difficult for furnacemen to make their mouldboard always of the same proper temper, and especially is it so where they melt soft machinery iron at the same heat with hard plow iron. As a general rule the best and most uniform plows come from those firms who make that particular tool a speciality and a study. Their mechanics become familiar with selecting and melting iron for that purpose, and their castings are apt to be fitted together with extra care.—*Plow Maker.*

# Advertising Department.

## Pennsylvania.



### TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the FARM AND FIRESIDE. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a uniform style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

### COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

WE wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the FARM AND FIRESIDE may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

### THE FARM AND FIRESIDE

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1867. NO. 34.

## HALLETT'S PEDIGREE WHEAT.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

In a recent number of the *Farm and Fireside*, I notice a short paragraph in relation to the above mentioned wheat, and thinking that a more minute account of what Hallett has been doing may be of value to the readers of the *Farm and Fireside*, I would offer the following, based upon my own experiments for the last three years, and an extract from correspondence with Hallett himself. Let me first state that Hallett can write his name with several affixes and one prefix, and has not done what he has for profit, but simply to carry out his idea that "plants, like animals, may be made to perpetuate and increase any desirable peculiarity which may by chance exist in an individual."

Over his own name I have the following outline of his experiment: His first idea was to increase the tillering power of wheat so that less seed would be needed. This he proposed to accomplish by early sowing; next to increase not only the length of the head, but also the number of grains on each circle or "row of chests" around the head. This he proposed to accomplish by careful selection, and by what he has styled "careful breeding." How far he has been successful the result clearly shows.

As a starting point, in the Fall of 1857, he selected two heads of "nursery wheat," coming as near as possible up to his standard of what a head of wheat *should* be. The grains of these two heads were kept separate and carefully dibbled in, one grain in a place nine inches square. Of one head the best grain produced ten stalks, with heads varying from seventy-nine to fifty-five grains, or a total of 688 grains. The *finest* ten ears, selected from the product of the other head, contained from seventy to fifty-one grains, and a total of 598 grains. Of the two original ears, one contained 43, and the other 44 grains, showing a gain of from 30 to 36 grains.

Next year the best head from the first mentioned ear was planted as before. From this the best grain produced 21 heads, containing from 91 to 55 grains per head, or in all 1190. The best *random* head of the other ear was also planted, but it was thrown out as being evidently inferior to the others.

From this Hallett deduces the first proof of the correctness of his idea that careful breeding and cultivation was correct, and not the random selection of good specimens.

During the Fall of 1859, the best head as above, containing 91 grains, and the worst, containing 65 grains, were separately planted. The best grain of the former produced 39 ears, containing 2145 grains, but owing to the extraordinary season of 1861, they were so injured by the wet that the two best ears, containing respectively 74 and 71 grains, were the only ones sufficiently uninjured to carry on the experiment; so that the head containing 74 grains was selected to carry on the experiment, not because of the number of its grains—for there was a falling off in this respect from the previous year—but because of the increased tillering power.

As before stated, in 1859, the worst grain from the best ear was also planted. It yielded 15 ears, containing from 87 to 61 grains or 1086 in all. In 1860 the best ear of this sample was taken, and produced 1909 grains from 24 heads, containing from 123 to 50 grains. This brings our account up to 1860, and as the original stock had been injured, Hallett started afresh from the last mentioned head, the best grain of which produced 24 ears, the best one of which contained 123 grains. In 1861 the best grain produced 80 heads, the best one of which contained 132 grains.

Let us now note Hallett's improvement: In 1857 his shortest head was 4⅜ inches long, contained 44 grains, and gave 10 ears from the best stool. In 1862 his best ear was 9¼ inches long, contained 132 grains, and the best grain produced 90 heads or stalks on one stool. At some future time I propose to give my own experience and also some extracts from Hallett's writings with regard to his plan of planting. One peculiarity in his culture is the small amount of seed used. In his field culture, where the planting is necessarily done by machinery, he uses but *four bushels on ten acres.* In his large experimental plots he uses seed at the rate of but one bushel on ten acres, and plants by hand in squares of nine inches. He is a strong advocate of *early* seeding, and puts his field crops in, in September; 4 bushels on 8 acres, for the first half of the next month, and 4 bushels on 6 acres for the latter half; 4 bushels on 4 acres for the month after, and 4 bushels on 3 acres for the last month in the year. If used as a Spring wheat he advises that it should be put on at the rate of 4 bushels on 2½ acres. These directions are for drill culture, and is much heavier seeding than he practices when planting by hand on his own estate.

His experiments clearly show the tillering power of not only his own wheat, but of any wheat, where space is allowed for it to accomplish this important part of its growth. One grain from the best ear of 1861 was planted by itself on well prepared ground, so that its tillering powers should be unimpeded by competition. The result was that after the produce of this *single grain* was removed, the stubble covered an area *five feet in diameter*, with 84 ears averaging 7⅛ inches in length.

In order to show how soon the product of a single grain of wheat may be increased, I make the following extracts from Hallett's pen:—"From one grain planted September 1859, I shall this year, September 1861, drill forty acres. A whole ear in 1859 would have planted eighty times as much."

"I can show you a field of seven acres now up, which was in *one grain* two years ago, and one acre which was in *one ear* this day, *one* year ago. In September last (1861) I drilled thirty acres with *thirty pecks* of seed. This is now, September 30th, well up, and the plants as thick as I could wish."

Inasmuch as Hallett's success in England is very different from a trial in this country, I will give the result of my own trial for three years past: In 1864, two weeks before the end of the year, I received my seed direct from Hallett's farm at Brighton. It should have arrived sooner, but owing to causes over which he had no control, it was delayed. The next day a thaw ensued, and I was enabled to stir up the *mud* in one corner of my garden to the depth of three inches, when I came to frost. A small portion of the wheat was put in one grain in a place, six inches square. Of course it made no show until Spring, when it came up early, but not very thickly, though it tillered out so that the number of stalks varied from eleven on the best, to five on the worst stool. It did not all grow, and future experiment demonstrated that about sixty-five per cent. was injured in its passage across the ocean. The remainder was planted in the Fall of 1865, just before our regular seeding time, and one quarter of an acre planted came up in about the above proportion, that is about thirty-five grains out of every hundred grew. This was truly a dull prospect, and was made more so, from the fact that the midge injured the grain of what did grow. Early in the Fall of 1866, we planted some of the best of our own seed as thinly as our drill would put it on—say one bushel to four acres; and having some of our imported seed left, we put a portion of it in, alongside of that of our own growth, at the same rate, without any allowance for injured grains in either case. At this time the difference is in favor of our own seed, it being quite as thick as our regular wheat on another part of the farm, while that from the imported seed makes but little show, nor should we reasonably expect much from wheat seeded at the rate of sixteen pounds per acre, and but thirty-five per cent. of this to grow. Upon the whole I am satisfied with my attempts to acclimatize this wheat, and should I be able, will carry on the experiment and report further in the future. Those who have tried to acclimatize foreign wheat know that it cannot be done in one or two years. Thus far my experience confirms Hallett's idea that by "breeders" he has *fixed* the peculiar type of his wheat, for under the unfavorable circumstances of our first trial the best head was 5¾ inches long, and in the second one 6 inches long.

*August*, 1867.

## BEANS AS A FIELD CROP.

Beans as a field crop are quite profitable. They can be grown on very poor, light lands, but the yield will be small in comparison with crops grown on good soil. Some have the impression that only poor soils are adapted to beans. They thrive best on strong rich soil, and under good cultivation they make a much more remunerative crop than is generally imagined. The bean contains much more nutritive matter than most other vegetables. From the analysis by Sir H. Davy, more than half its weight consists of principles fit for nutriment. Ripe beans contain, according to Einhoff, 81 per cent. of nutritive matter, of which 50 is pure farina, the rest chiefly gluten and mucilage.

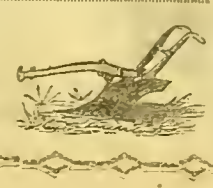
In England, the horse bean is largely cultivated in fields for fattening domestic animals, for which they are admirably adapted. On strong, clay soils, heavy marls and deep loams of a moist description, the produce is often from 30 to 60 bushels per acre. The variety is not cultivated with us to any very great extent. White, or garden beans, are grown most profitably in drills, sufficiently wide to admit of being worked with cultivator or horse-hoe. The land should be rich and in good tilth. A bushel to the acre on ordinary land, or three-quarters of a bushel on very rich land, is about the quantity of seed requisite. The drills may be made about two inches deep, and from two to three feet apart, the seed being two or three inches in drills. The one-horse drill, common at all our agricultural warehouses, is well adapted for putting in beans. It has a roller which rolls or presses the earth upon the seed, which is of advantage. When the plants are two or three inches high, they should be cultivated out, care being taken not to work among them when they are wet.

We have seen accounts where considerable crops of beans have been grown with corn, by planting the seed of both in the hill at the same time. The beans in this way get a good start, and mature before the corn attains sufficient height to affect them injuriously by too much shade. The double cropping of land in this way, however, is of doubtful utility. Generally a special piece of ground to each crop will be found most profitable.

One of the objections urged against a more general culture of beans, is the labor of harvesting. Beans are usually pulled, and this should be done when the latest pods are full grown, but not dry. This back-aching operation of pulling, is now obviated by a handy little machine, called the bean harvester. It is worked by a horse, and pulls the plants, delivering them in a row with the roots all one way in good order. If the weather is dry they need not be moved until time to draw them in, but if the weather is damp they should be stacked loosely around poles and covered with straw to shed rain. It will be better to avoid stacking if possible, since in moving them there is apt to be loss from shelling. The weather, however, is often imperative, and if bad will necessitate stacking. When this happens to be the case, a good way of making the stack will be to set two stakes in the ground, about five inches apart, and fill up with two layers of beans, so that the buts, or roots will be between the stakes in the center, then draw the stakes together at the tops and tie, capping with straw.—*Utica Herald.*

The Food Crop of 1867.—According to the Department estimates, the wheat crop of the present year is equal to about six bushels for every man, woman and child in the United States; of corn, 35 bushels; rice, 2 lbs.; beans and peas not estimated. Rye, barley, and buckwheat, about 2½ bushels. Of provisions, the estimate includes only butter, 16 lbs; cheese, 4 lbs. Of root crops, potatoes only are considered, giving 5 bushels to each person. Taking into account the various other sources of supply, meat and vegetables, it is safe to assume that a scarcity of food for the ensuing year is not to be apprehended.





# Field and Farm.

### RETENTIVE POWER OF SOILS.

Soils are divided or classified according to the preponderance of their constituents of sand, clay, lime, and animal or vegetable remains or humus.

*Sandy soils* contain over 80 per cent. of silicious sand. *Calcareous soils* contain over 20 per cent. of lime. *Clay soils* contain over 50 per cent. of clay. *Vegetable moulds* contain over six per cent. of organic matter or humus. *Marly soils* contain more than 5 per cent. of lime, but not over 20 per cent. of the weight of dry earth, and from 20 per cent. to 50 per cent. of clay.

*Loamy soils* are those in which the proportion of clay varies from 20 to 50 per cent., and which at the same time hold less than 5 per cent. of lime, and so on.

Now it is found that the power of retaining or holding moisture depends on the composition of the soil. Thus an experiment designed to show the retentive power of these different soils resulted in the following manuer:—

In 100 lbs. of dry soil water will begin to drip, if it is a

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Quartz sand, | when it has absorbed | 25 | lbs. | water. |
| Calcareous sand, | " | " | 29 | " |
| Loamy soil, | " | " | 40 | " |
| English chalk, | " | " | 45 | " |
| Clay loam, | " | " | 50 | " |
| Pure clay, | " | " | 75 | " |

Those soils which absorb the greatest amount of water hold it with the greatest tenacity. Dark-colored soils absorb and hold a greater amount of the heat of the sun's rays than light-colored ones, but the light-colored retain the rays longest. Many circumstances, besides the chemical composition of a soil, exercise an extensive influence upon its productive or fertilizing power.

The absorbive power of soils is so great, that they separate ammonia from its various solutions. If liquid ammonia is passed through a quantity of soil, it loses its ammonia, and the odor which indicated its presence. But there is a limit to this power. If the quantity of soil is too small, the ammonia will not all be taken out.

Soils also have the power of absorbing potash in solution. A stiffish subsoil, when simply thrown out and exposed to the air and rains, would become, to some extent, impregnated with these salts, and hence their value as absorbents in the yard, or mixed in the manure heap. But all cultivated soils have the power of separating the potash, ammonia, and other alkaline substances, from their various combinations, differing only in degrees.

### GRAZING PASTURES AND MOWINGS.

Much has been said the last year or two, about the folly of allowing grass to stand till it is too old, which the more intelligent portion of agriculturists are convinced is a fact, and they are beginning to mow early. But it is full time some of our best graziers and stock raisers, opened the subject of the way to graze land so as to keep a thick, sweet sward, that will be palatable at all seasons of the year, and instead of wearing out, improve and become permanently established, the same as the fine feeding land in Leicestershire and other parts of England. There is really very great misunderstanding with respect to eating the grass bare on pastures, for it ruins them entirely to stock so lightly as to have great quantities growing long and in bunches, over perhaps half or more of the surface. This has been known for a century at least, in Europe, and I can adduce plenty of instances in this country to satisfy any reasonable being that there might be as good pastures and mowings here as in England, if they were treated the same. Last year I daily saw a pasture that was never long enough, some people would say, for a cow to live on; yet whether cows, horses, or sheep were on it, they all did well. It supported more stock in proportion, per acre, than any land in the United States, and was so thick with fine herbage, white clover, &c., that the point of a nail could not be placed to the ground without touching two or three sorts of grass; and this was brought to this state of perfection by being constantly kept short, for it never had any seed sown on it, and was never manured excepting by the animals' droppings and urine. In Winter, too, sheep were tearing up every blade, each day that the snow was thawed enough for them to get at it. During March and April of this year, I was on a miserably poor tract of land, half the surface covered with rocks, which a flock of about 2,300 sheep, (1,850 sheep and 450 lambs,) ran over. The face of this is most luxuriant this season—and any one may guess whether this was not eaten bare when they are told it is a positive truth, that these sheep had nothing given to them, and pawed the snow off the surface to get to the ground, and suffered so during the severe weather, that there died from sheer starvation, 798 sheep, besides almost all the lambs—which latter did have something given to them when too late to be saved.

At the present moment I am on the side of a mountain tract hundreds of miles from the former mentioned, and here again, out of many thousand acres, the closest grazed is the best pasture; and if some thousand goats were put on to it, the cow and horse stock that is now on it, might be doubled another year, and then do better.

If the mowing was done early, when the grass was quite young, I am quite certain in my own mind, the grazing of the "aftermath" with all varieties of stock, would be beneficial. When it is seen that good and close feeding act the same on pastured fields in America as in Europe, why should not the effect be similar on the land where hay has been made, if the grass did not stand till the roots were weakened?—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

### MANURE.

The largest and best stables have a central alley passing through them, wide enough for a wagon or a horse-cart to pass and carry out the daily cleanings of the stalls. Smaller stables may be cleaned by wheeling out the manure daily by hand. There are different modes of managing manure in Winter—if not very strawy, it may be drawn at once and spread over the fields. On grass land thus treated it will produce a much better effect than if applied in Spring, the rain soaking the soluble portions well into the soil and among the roots; an equally good effect is produced if the sod is to be plowed for corn. No fear need be entertained of the manure washing away, except in the beds of streams, as the soil, as soon as thawed, and especially if of a loamy, clayey nature, instantly absorbs the soluble manure. If the manure is quite strawy, it should be placed in large, square piles that it may rot down; and when the central portion is decayed, the edges should be cut down with a hay knife and thrown on the top. Manure containing little fiber, or litter, should be kept under shelter to prevent waste, but coarse and strawy manure should be exposed to rains to hasten decay. Muck, which has been shovelled out and dried last Summer, may now be drawn and applied to yards and manure heaps.

### MATURING POULTRY.

Wheat screenings and cracked corn, I find to be the best adapted feed for chickens; this should be fed to them as often as twice a day; while in the interim something should be placed at their pleasure to pick at. I dissent from the idea that fowls should ever go hungry in order to grow fat or to lay eggs. I have never learned how to fat or bring fowls into a parturient condition by feeding little or nothing. Broom-corn seed, well ripened, affords my fowls a constant supply of wholesome and cheap provender for lunch, between their regular feedings of screenings or corn; and I find my corn and buckwheat, etc., do not disappear so quickly by voraciousness as where they have to rely wholly on stated feedings.

Good authorities have laid down one rule among many good ones, which I appeal from to the good sense of my brother poulterers, so far, at least, as it regards growing chickens, that is: "Never keep feed before them all the time." Working on the system of human physiology, this sounds very well; but an infant receives its sustenance when it cries for it. I believe our infant chickens being able to help themselves, without crying for it, should be permitted to do so. Boiled feed, such as potatoes and meal, with small or large pieces of meat, as can be afforded, hasten the growth of poultry very much; use as much pepper, and a little more than would be pleasing to our palates as seasoning; but it is almost useless to say to any one, *use no salt.* Farmers who make their own butter, and have sour milk, should remember to divide a part of this refuse material with the hens, for, while pigs make the ham, we cannot have ham and *eggs* without the hens.

There certainly is a great difference in fowls about maturing, and without stating any particular preference in this article, I will remark: that for early market uses, the Asiatic varieties are the best. Yellow meated poultry, on account of its rich appearance, always brings the highest price in market; and the reverse of this is the case, in many markets, with eggs. In the case of the meat, the only difference is in the imagination; while, in the case of eggs, imagination is greatly at fault in making choice of white shelled eggs, for the yellow shell is a mark of greater nutriment as really as yellow corn contains more oil than the white flint variety.—*Cor. Country Gent.*

# Natural History.

### THE AMERICAN SQUIRREL.

Of this most beautiful, active and graceful of all the furred denizens of our woods and plains, there are no less than sixty known varieties, and the number will probably be increased when our Pacific possessions are more fully explored. To the sportsman east of the Rocky Mountains the most interesting species are the gray, the fox and the pine squirrel, called on the tide water of Maryland and Virginia the cat squirrel. The gray squirrel frequently migrates in vast numbers, and is then very destructive to the corn crop. To such an extent did their depredations reach in the colony of Pennsylvania, in the year 1749, as to excite the alarm of the authorities, and a bounty of three pence was offered for squirrel scalps; and the colonial treasury was depleted to the extent of eight thousand pounds, and rendered nearly bankrupt, six hundred and forty thousand scalps having been paid for in a single year. In view of this great fecundity, it is fortunate the squirrel has so many enemies, and probably the least destructive of them all is man. The black snake ascends to his nest, and at one fell swoop will destroy a whole litter; the rattlesnake, we are told, will paralyze poor bunny by the glitter of his eye, and draw him on, an unresisting victim into the jaws of death. But the owl is his greatest and most desructive enemy, as towards the close of day he flits on noiseless wing through the darkening woods, and pounces on his unsuspecting prey. The red-tailed hawk is another of his foes, but he is an open enemy, and wages war magnanimously.

Choked Pheasants.—The gamekeeper serving under an English gentleman, who has during the last six weeks lost upwards of three hundred young pheasants, from no apparent disease has at last discovered the cause of the evil, which is as follows: The young pheasants had been placed in a meadow in which a large number of sheep had preceded them; while there the sheep had shed a quantity of their wool and the pheasants had swallowed it. The keeper writes: "I have opened forty or fifty young birds, and found the gizzards quite full of wool, and the passage stopped up so that no food could pass. After the birds are dead they turn quite black. I never had a better lot of young birds, and now I have lost nearly all of them."

### HORSE-SENSE.

A Horse's sense is good common sense. Many a man does not know half so much about some things as a horse, and there is a great difference in horses. The horse is not naturally suspicious, but he is timid when young. He learns very soon what his weapons are—teeth and heels—and in what his security lies—flight. His boldness and "the glory of his nostrils" come when "he rejoiceth in his strength." With his age comes the knowledge of his powers, and if he has never been mastered—never made to yield to any will but his own—if he is to be made useful, the struggle must come sooner or later, and man's-will or horse-will must triumph. We think it is best to begin quite young with colts to control them. So advise to halter a colt while it runs with the mare, and to do it after feeding it with carrots and sugar, until it thinks it will get only caressing from mankind, and has no fear of any man. The colt submits easily, because it is the easiest and pleasantest thing he can do, provided he is not frightened, and would as lief he led as to run loose if the curtailment of his freedom is made up by sweets or carrots. The sense of smell in horses is very acute, and if they are suspicious of anything they always approach it cautiously and smell of it. They should be indulged in this, and harness, saddle, etc., should all be investigated by the nose as well as by the eye, before a more intimate acquaintance is forced upon the horse. A horse-ring of 40 to 50 feet diameter is one of the greatest aids a horse trainer can have. In this a horse too restive and spirited to take a lesson may be tired out, so as to be very docile, and a tired horse is much more suseeptible to favors and instruction than one full of *vim*, and fire and play.

Instinct of the Pigeon.—Sir John Ross, the Arctic voyager, despatched a pair of young pigeons, on the 6th or 7th of October, 1850, from the Assistance Bay, a little to the west of Wellington Sound, and on the 18th of October a pigeon made its appearance at the dovecote in Ayrshire from whence Sir John had the two pairs of pigeons which he took out. The distance direct between the two places is about two thousand miles! The dovecote was under repair at this time and the pigeons belonging to it had been removed, but the servants of the house were struck with the appearance and motions of this stranger. After a short stay, it went to the pigeon-house of a neighboring proprietor, when it was caught and sent back to the lady who originally owned it. She at once recognized it as one of those which she had given to Sir John Ross; but, to put the matter to the test, it was carried into the pigeon-house, when out of the many niches it directly went to the one in which it had been hatched. No doubt remained in the mind of the lady of the identity of the bird. By what extraordinary power did this interesting bird find its way, and by what route did it come?

A Horse Heaven.—Beecher's appreciation of horses crops out in this extract from his novel "Norwood":—

"What do you think becomes of horses, Hiram, when they die?" said Rose.

"Wal, Miss Rose, it's my opinion that there's use for horses hereafter, and that you'll find there's a horse-heaven. There's Scripture for that, too."

"Ah!" said Rose, a little surprised at these confident assertions. "What Scripture do you mean?"

"Why, in the Book of Revelations! Don't it give an account of a white horse, and a red horse, and black horses, and gray horses? I've allers s'posed that when it said death rode on a pale horse, it must have been gray, 'cause it had mentioned white ones already. In the ninth chapter, too, it says there was an army of two hundred thousand horsemen. Now I should like to know where they got so many horses in heaven if none of 'em that die off here go there? It's my opinion that a good horse's a darned sight likelier to go to heaven than a bad man!"

Contentment.—Rothschild, with all his wealth, must be satisfied with the same sky that is over the head of the poor man. He cannot order a private sunset, that he may enjoy it with a select circle of friends, nor can he add one single ray to the clear, bright beams of the queen of night, as she sails magnificently through the heavens. The richest banker cannot have more than his share of the air to breathe, and the poorest of all men can have the same. Wealth may buy a brilliant bracelet, dazzling with diamonds and rubies, but wealth cannot buy a graceful and well-turned arm on which to display its splendor. God only can give that, and to many of the poor he has given it. Wealth cannot purchase health, nor can it give a contented mind. All that is most valuable can be had for nothing.

## The Fireside Muse.

### DRIVING HOME THE COWS.

Out of the clover and blue-eyed grass
He turned them into the river lane:
One after another he let them pass,
Then fastened the meadow bars again.

Under the willows, and over the hill,
He patiently followed their sober pace;
The merry whistle for once was still,
For something shadowed the sunny face.

Only a boy! and his father had said
He never could let his youngest go;
Two already were laying dead
Under the feet of the trampling foe.

But after the evening work was done,
And the frogs were loud in the meadow swamp;
Over his shoulder he slung his gun
And stealthily followed the foot-path damp.—

Across the clover, and through the wheat,
With resolute heart and purpose grim,
Though cold was the dew on his hurrying feet,
And the blind bat's flitting startled him.

Thrice since then had the lanes been white,
And the orchards sweet with apple bloom;
And now, when the cows come back at night,
The feeble father drove them home.

For news had come to the lonely farm
That three were lying where two had lain;
And the old man's tremulous palsied arm
Could never lean on a son's again.

The Summer day grew cool and late,
He went for the cows when the work was done;
But down the lane, as he opened the gate,
He saw them coming one by one.

Brindle, Ebony, Speckle, and Bess,
Shaking their horns in the evening dim;
Cropping the buttercups out of the grass—
But who was it followed close behind?

Loosely swung in the idle air
The empty sleeve of army blue;
And worn and pale from the crisping hair,
Looked out a face that the father knew.

For Southern prisons will sometimes yawn,
And yield their dead unto life again;
And the day that comes with a cloudy dawn,
In golden glory at last may wane.

The great tears sprang to their meeting eyes;
For the heart must speak when the lips are dumb;
And under the silent evening skies,
Together they followed the cattle home.

## Fireside Tale.

### THE BETTER WAY.

The last fretful child was in bed, and a hushed quiet reigned through the house. With feet that stirred no echoes in the silent air, Mrs. Lawrence glided from the chambers, and returned to the room where her husband sat reading. He did not look up from the page on which his eyes were bent, nor seem to observe her entrance.

There was a weight on the heart of Mrs. Lawrence, as she sat down by her work-table under the gas-light, and took a small basket in her lap—a weight, and also a sense of relief. Her active, restless, noisy, and too often turbulent and contentious brood were asleep and safe from outward harms; for this a sentiment of thankfulness lay unspoken on her lips. But with the stillness that succeeded came troubled memories, self-reproaches, questions as to the right and wrong of her own life among her own children, doubts, fears, anxieties.

Not in sweet peace, like the passage of a Summer day, had closed the twilight hours in Mrs. Lawrence's home on the evening of her introduction to the reader. They had fallen in the rain of passion. Tired, fretted, and ill-natured, the children met a like state in their mother; and angry authority chafed against blind wilfulness. So the day had closed in storm; and now, in the brooding hush that followed, Mrs. Lawrence sat down with the pressure of misgiving on her heart.

"What *am* I to do with these children?"

The words leaped out suddenly, giving Mr. Lawrence a start. He did not, however, let his eyes fall away from the page he was reading, nor, beyond a slight change of position, intimate a consciousness that his wife had spoken. Mrs. Lawrence went on after a brief pause:

"I am out of all heart with Johnny!"

Mr. Lawrence let his book fall, and his eyes rest upon the shadowed countenance of his wife.

"And Lydia is such a trial! So fretful and irritable. Johnny keeps her in trouble all day long. You don't know what a time I have with them."

Still Mr. Lawrence did not answer. Not that he was indifferent; not that his thought was on his book, or away from the present. His thought was with his wife and children, and on his mind lay a pressure of concern. But what was it best for him to say? That question perplexed and kept him silent. He did not wish to blame his wife, and hesitated on even an intimation that the fault might lie at her door. She was very sensitive, and could not bear to have him say a word that involved disapproval.

"What am I to do?" Mrs. Lawrence looked steadily at her husband, and paused as though expecting him to answer. "You saw how it was a little while ago?"

"Yes."

Something in the voice of her husband, as he uttered this single word, chafed on the feelings of Mrs. Lawrence. She was not ignorant of the fact that she had lost temper, and dealt rather harshly with Johnny before sending him to bed, and that something in the voice of her husband sounded like accusation or rebuke.

"What am I to do?" She repeated the question with just a touch of asperity in her tones.

"There are two requisites of good government," said Mr. Lawrence, raising the book to his eyes, and to read—"self-government, and a wise administration. Without the former, the latter is impossible."

He let the book fall into his lap, and looked calmly at his wife. The quick blood was already mounting to her face. She understood him thoroughly.

"I wish you had the trial of them for a week or two!" Mrs. Lawrence spoke with considerable sharpness.

"I am not desirous of changing places, Ruth," answered the husband, in a calm, soothing voice. "The difficulty of yours I fully understand; and I know that you are filling it far better than I could. Patience, forbearance and self-control, are above all things needed; and these are not my special virtues."

"I do the best I can," said Mrs. Lawrence, her tones softening a little, but expressing more discouragement.

"Are you certain about that?"

The blood which had commenced receding from the face of Mrs. Lawrence, went flushing back again, mounting to the very temples.

"Yes, I am certain," she spoke emphatically, and then shut her lips with a close pressure.

"If we were all doing the best in our power, Ruth, our lives would be far nearer perfection than they are. Heaven knows, my shortcomings are a continual reproach. So take that back, my dear, and think it over a little."

There was something so impassioned and so kind in her husband's manner, that the excitement in Mrs. Lawrence's mind began to die away, and thought grew clearer in consequence.

"I might do better, I suppose," was her answer, in a falling tone; "but no one is perfect."

"Of course not. If we were perfect there would be no occasion for trial and discipline. But one thing is certain, we might all come a great deal nearer to perfection than we are in the habit of doing. Isn't that so?"

"Yes." The admission came half reluctantly.

"It is so in my case," said Mr. Lawrence. "Not a day closes, in which I do not look back and sigh over shortcomings. The great source of all our troubles in life, Ruth, lies within ourselves. I see this more clearly every day. If I could always be right with myself—if I could always possess my soul in calmness—I could deal with events as they touched me, and rarely experience a jar. It is from an undue reaction against the circumstances of life that I experience so many disturbances. And as it is with me, so it is with you and others. This getting right with ourselves is the great achievement."

Mrs. Lawrence dropped her eyes away from her husband's face, and sat silent for some time.

"Without self-government," said Mr. Lawrence, seeing that his wife did not reply, and wishing to turn her thought exactly into the true channel, "it is impossible rightly to govern others. We must be calm ourselves if we wish to produce calmness in other minds; patient, if we would produce patience; just and discriminating, if we would produce like conditions. It is the disturbance we ourselves feel that so often creates disturbance in those we seek to influence. Now, let your thoughts go down into your own consciousness, Ruth, and see how it has been with you in this and other days of more than ordinary trial with our restless, impulsive, hard-to-govern children. From some cause your nerves were unstrung, and you were not able to possess your soul in patience. In almost your first contact with your children there came a jar, and after that everything went wrong."

Mr. Lawrence ceased speaking, and an expression of pain went over his countenance, for suddenly his wife dropped her face into her hands and commenced sobbing. The truth he wished her to see had gone home. From any other lips she could have taken the admonition calmly, but nothing gave her such deep grief as the knowledge that her husband saw in her any fault. She was not angry, but hurt and humiliated. It was plain, from his language, that he thought her government in the household exceedingly defective—so at least it seemed to her—and the impression that this judgment was correct went profoundly into her convictions.

Only a few moments did Mrs. Lawrence sit sobbing; then she arose, and passing from the room went up to the chamber where her children were asleep, and throwing herself in half abandonment of feeling, across a bed, let the tears flow at will. Ah, that was indeed an hour of bitterness! But the lesson had gone home.

Mr. Lawrence sighed as his wife left the room, and then turned to his book, but he knew as little of its contents an hour afterwards as then.

On the next morning, with a prayer on her lips for strength and patience, Mrs. Lawrence left the pillow where sleep had been sweet for at least a portion of the night. An angry cry from one of the children sent a shiver along her nerves, and gave her heart a quick throb. She understood its meaning, Johnny, her oldest boy, had wilfully annoyed his sister. Usually on such occasions, which were of daily, and sometimes of almost hourly occurrence, the mother would come down like a storm on the offender, and she felt impelled to do so now. But conscious of her own disturbed state, and aware that, if she gave way to her feelings, all self-control was gone, she stood still for a little while, to collect her thoughts, and then went, with slow steps and a repressed manner, into the room occupied by the children.

"What is the trouble here?" she asked, but in a voice so strange to them under the circumstances, that they all grew silent, and looked at her in mute inquiry.

"What is it, Johnny?" There was no threat of punishment, no anger, no excitement in the mother's tones, but a tender concern that was almost sad.

"There it is," said the boy, drawing his hand from behind him, and reaching a doll's head to Lydia. He had just snatched it from her. "I was only in fun."

"Do you think that the right kind of fun, Johnny?" asked Mrs. Lawrence, in a calm, serious voice. Then she added: "Come, Lydia, I want you to dress quickly this morning. You're almost always late in getting ready."

There was something so unusual in the way their mother spoke to them, that the children moved to the work of dressing themselves with an alacrity and good temper that surprised Mrs. Lawrence. In lacing one of his shoes, Johnny broke the tie, when a word of impatience fell from his lips. On the very last occasion of a similar accident, the snap of the tie had been responded to by Mrs. Lawrence in the sentence, angrily spoken, "There it is again, you careless boy! I believe you break your shoe strings on purpose!" Of course, such a speech did not improve Johnny's temper. Now, with the impatient word, his eyes went up to the face of his mother, half fearfully, half deprecatingly. He had felt the pleasant warmth of her sunnier mood, and did not wish it changed. It was grateful to his young heart. The old impulse stirred the mother's feelings at the sound of the breaking cord; but she was in the better way, and not easily to be pushed aside. So, forcing back the wave of passion, she said kindly:

"Is it broken so badly that we must throw it away?" And stooping to examine the cord, she answered her own question, in a cheerful way: "Oh, no. A knot here will make it all right. Shall I tie it for you?"

"Oh, no, mother, I can do it myself," replied Johnny, in a bright, brave voice, and he bent over the shoe with the earnestness of a right purpose.

"Don't pull quite so hard, dear," said Mrs. Lawrence, as she saw Johnny begin the work of lacing his boot again after the tie was mended.

"No, ma'am, I'll take care."

How quickly kind, thoughtful dealing with this impulsive, self-willed child had wrought a change in his temper; and his mother, in seeing the effect, saw the cause also—and she felt both encouragement and rebuke. What had wrought this almost magical change? It was self-discipline! She perceived and acknowledged the truth.

At the breakfast table, Mrs. Lawrence noticed that the children appeared to regard her with a half-curious interest. Johnny took his place quietly, instead of in the noisy, dashing way peculiar to that young gentleman; and Lydia, freed from his annoyances, forgot herself so far as to give sisterly attention to a little brother who occupied a high seat by her side.

But an incident occurred that came near destroying the harmonious balance of things thus far maintained—a common incident, and one with which few mothers exercise patience. A cup of milk and water was overturned, and the contents left upon the table cloth. It was Johnny's work, carelessly done.

"You!" Only that one word escaped the lips of Mrs. Lawrence; but the flash in her eyes, and the color in her face, betrayed the irritation that was near overmastering her. Instead of smarting reproof, however, there came a kind remonstrance, and the startled boy looked grieved and grateful at the same moment.

"I didn't mean to do it, mother. It was an accident," he said, with a troubled air, instead of the defiant or indifferent one usual on these occasions. "And I'm sorry."

A grave quiet followed this incident, for all felt how narrowly they had escaped a scene of passionate disturbance, which, contrasted with the harmony that prevailed, made them shrink from its bare imagination. Peace, order and a spirit of mutual kindness were felt to be so sweet, that the danger of losing them gave an impression of pain. By none were the means of escape more vividly realized than by Mrs. Lawrence. She saw that on her successful effort at controlling an impatient spirit everything was due.

When had a meal passed before this one, free from strife among children, or angry reproof from the mother? The occasion was memorable.

"How well the children behaved this morning," said Mr. Lawrence, as he stood drawing on his overcoat, preparatory to going out. There was a tone of pleasure in his voice; and something beyond this, also, not to be concealed—approval of his wife, and encouragement to persevere. He would not have ventured in words all that he wished voice and look to convey.

"Better than usual," she simply replied; then, after a pause, added, "If it would only last."

[Continued on page 270.]

Red Ants.—An inquiry in an exchange for a remedy to destroy red ants brought out the following: "The writer of this, while on a visit at a farm house, saw thousands of the pests destroyed in the following manner: by placing lard on a plate, and setting it where the places are infested. As soon as they come in contact with the lard, they belong to the "can't-get-aways." Another contributed the following: "In reply to an inquiry for a receipt for the destruction of small red ants, I have found the following to be very efficacious: Equal quantities of the oil of cedar and turpentine, mixed. Saturate pieces of cotton or flannel and put where they congregate. I have made use of this and never was troubled with them afterwards."

# Horticulture.

## AFRICANIZING FRUIT TREES!

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside :

You reminded me, the other day, of a little anecdote I related in your hearing some years ago; and, as it has some agricultural bearing, requested me to repeat it on paper for your valuable journal.

"The time is long past, and the scene is afar;"

So as no living person can be startled by its publication, I willingly comply; for the incident may prove economically suggestive to some of your readers on the farm, who value their orchards and small fruits.

More than forty years ago, in my anatomical days, I found myself embarrassed by the remains of *a subject*, (about one half of a negro, whose wooden representative reposed vicariously and without a name, in one of the public grounds); and having no more convenient place of deposit, I concluded to bury it in the garden of the institution to which I was then attached.

There was a deserted corner on the premises, deeply shaded by several forest trees, and rendered less fitted for vegetation by the fumes of a kind of chemical laboratory, where medicines were compounded. In this unfavorable situation stood a venerable pear tree, lichen-covered, ulcerated, with a few ill formed, straggling leaves and roughened bark, infested with such a variety of parasites that it would have been invaluable to an entomologist. A few knobs, about half the size of a good walnut, knotted and divested of all peculiar shape or flavor, annually made their appearance on its branches, and vindicated the *species*, but threw no light upon the variety.

Well, at the foot of this desolate fruit-tree (?) I directed the old gardener to dig a hole, three feet deep, among the roots, and there interred all the "contraband" remains that were not destined for the anatomical museum.

Just as I was quitting the garden, an old school-mate hailed me through the paling, with:—"R.——! would you not like to go to India?" "Certainly," I replied, "if I can be cleared of my engagements here, and get the consent of parents." "I am off as supercargo of the F—— for Calcutta, the day after to-morrow. Will you go as surgeon?"

"I will answer you to-morrow at 12." And in 72 hours, I was on my way over Delaware Bay, to the broad Atlantic and the Antipodes.

Three years passed. I was at home; and some ladies from Boston wishing to visit the institution of which I had been an officer, I consented to chaperon them. In passing through the richest part of the flower garden, I observed the old gardener and his boy, digging. As we passed, the man nudged the boy, and looking admiringly at me, said to him:

"Do you know that man?"

"No!"

"That's Dr.——; and I tell you, *he does know something!* He knows as niggers *is* good for pears!"

The strange remark set me to thinking, and recalled to mind the remains of the subject planted so long before; so I led the company round to the deserted corner, and, to my utter astonishment, found the old, decrepit tree endowed with new youth—smooth, clean, verdant and loaded with a full crop of luscious Sikle pears! And it continued to be a most productive and profitable tree, without additional care, till "the march of improvement" trampled down laboratory, tree, garden and all; and left the greener grass of the lawn alone to show where the remains of the "contraband" repose.

And now, Mr. Farmer!—Go, grumble at the decline of your orchard, and order "Pat" to drag out that dead horse into the woods or into the common, to

"Waste its sweetness on the desert air."

Tell Bill to throw those dead rats to the dogs, and Biddy to leave the drowned kitteus rotting in the mill-pond, while your gooseberry and currant bushes and fruit trees are languishing and crying for food! But let me, with all due respect, ask you one civil question. Do you not think you might benefit society by making a different disposition of these bodies, *and even your own*, after death, although the suggestion be a legacy from a departed negro?

SOLOMAN SOLITARY.

## HOW TO RIPEN ISABELLA GRAPES.

It is quite seldom that the Isabella grape is thoroughly ripened in this locality, but Mr. Sylvester S. Chamberlain, of Chester, N. H., has had unusual success, having grown them for sixteen years. In a letter to the New England Farmer, he says: "My buildings face to the East, on which are trained two Isabella vines. From one I have taken, by weight, 500 pounds; from the other 300 pounds of merchantable grapes. On the South side of the barn I have two Isabella vines which average 100 pounds each, and usually ripen about the middle of September. In my garden, trellised to the fence and upwards eight or ten feet, I have four vines, all Isabella, which yield in proportion to the others, the whole of which take up little or no ground that could be put to any other agricultural use.

These vines are never pruned simply to please the eye of the passer-by. In November or the first of December, I take them down and prune them thoroughly, even to half of the wood if it is required; then they are coiled up and laid on the ground until the Spring is well opened; then with strips of leather and tacks they are firmly nailed to the house and roof, clean to the ridge-pole. Every branch is separated from two to four feet if possible, and that of course is easily done, if it is properly pruned out. I never prune a leaf or check a shoot in Summer or Fall, as my experience is, the bunches are the largest and ripen the quickest where the foliage is the most dense, provided the branches or runners are separated from two to four feet. I am satisfied that these vines would often fail to ripen their fruit by the frost striking them, if they had been out in my fields. But when placed against a house or barn, the frost does not have a chance to injure them so early by three or four weeks. A wheelbarrow load of old barn manure once in two years, with a half bushel of ashes about as often, spread around them, and a weekly washing of suds in hot weather, will, I am confident, force the vines to new wood, and large and luscious grapes, well and early ripened, will be the reward for our industry."

THIN THE FRUIT.—If large, choice, well-flavored fruit is wanted of any kind, it must be thinned out, removing a few at a time from every part of the tree, so as to leave the residue pretty evenly distributed. The work cannot be all performed at once, and it therefore should be commenced early in the season, the operator going over his trees, bushes, or vines from time to time, as the eye meets it, and the evidence appears of the advantage obtained by its removal. Early thinning, before the strength of the tree or vine is taxed in the stoning or seedling, will avail much more than the same course afterward.—*Horticulturist.*

STRAWBERRY plants can now be set at any time. The bed should be in a damp situation or the soil heavy. Till deep, pulverize fine, and manure heavy with barnyard manure. Let the divisions be about three and one half feet in width, and as long as desirable. Set the plants about ten inches apart, insert them firmly and well up to the crown, and then keep the bed clear of grass and weeds.

ONE beet sugar establishment in Germany has a capital of $16,000,000, employs 3000 operatives, and occupies buildings which cover twelve acres of land. European makers annually dispose of 400,000 pounds. The importance of the attempts, in this country, to encourage this branch of industry is illustrated by the statement that during the year ending July 1, sugars valued at $39,595,677 in gold, were imported into the United States.

AT this season save seed of Petunias and Portulacas, as leaving the pods stand, you are apt to lose good varieties.

# The Crops.

## CONDITION OF FARM CROPS IN JULY.

NEVER has the department been able to report so favorable a prospect for uniformly good crops since the establishment of the statistical division. While exaggerated statements have been made in influential papers, especially of the so-called failure of the wheat crop of last year, and the importation of wheat, in the face of the fact that twelve millions of dollars' worth of breadstuffs were exported in the first four months of 1867, immense numbers of immigrants were fed, a much larger amount of wheat used for seed than usual, with a surplus still remaining over sufficient to break numerous speculators and several banks, it is gratifying to know that we shall have a surplus to more than make good the deficiency—not the "failure," for there never was a failure of the wheat crop in this country. Instead of a deduction of fifty per cent., or ninety millions of bushels, which would at least have threatened a famine, scarcely more than a third of that deduction should be made. For three years past the product has been but about five bushels to each inhabitant. The crop of 1859, if the census returns are correct, was but five and a half bushels to each person. The promise for the present year is about six bushels.

*Wheat.*—The statistical returns for July show an improvement in condition of Winter wheat over last year, in every State but Texas, Nebraska, and Minnesota, the diminution in the latter case being but 4 per cent. The highest improvement is in Ohio, 160 per cent.; Georgia, 96; West Virginia, 78; Tennessee, 72; Indiana, 54; Kentucky, 53; Michigan, 35; Vermont, 25; New Jersey, 25; New York, 17, &c. Spring wheat was a far less variable product last year, and there is consequently less variation in the figures used in the present comparison. All the States, however, except Vermont, New York, and Pennsylvania, show an increase on last year.

*Corn.*—The acreage in corn is unusually large, every State showing a material increase, except Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and South Carolina. In the Southern States the increase ranges upwards to 102 per cent., as in Arkansas. The condition, as reported, is a little deficient in the Northern and Western States, on account of the lateness of the Spring. With the continuance of the present weather there is ample opportunity to make up the entire deficiency, in which case the yield will be unprecedented.

*Rye.*—A glance at the tables will show the fine condition of this grain, and the remarkable uniformity of the improvement.

*Barley.*—The condition of this grain promises an increase of from ten to twenty per cent., in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Indiana, and 42 per cent. in Ohio. Most of the other States show some increase.

*Oats.*—The condition of oats points to a full average in the West, particularly in Wisconsin and Minnesota, also in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, and the South; slightly less than last year in Maine, Vermont, New York, and Kentucky.

*Pastures and Hay.*—These crops are almost universally large, from an average up to 15, 20, and even 30 per cent. above.

*Potatoes.*—The report of acreage of potatoes indicates a larger area planted in every State, except Maine and New York. The condition is also above average with a few exceptions, among which are New York, Ohio, and Indiana.

*Fruits.*—Peaches are so exceptional in their successful seasons and localities that estimates for States can scarcely be made with accuracy. New Jersey, as indicated by very general returns, shows 63 per cent. improvement over last year; Maryland 25; Delaware 50; Virginia 35; Michigan 227. In other States estimates are given upon whatever data was received, generally showing a considerable increase over last year. Apples are promising in portions of New England, the Alleghany region, and the West. Grapes are more uniform in averages of States, generally appearing unusually well. It has been a more successful year for strawberries than usual, as a study of the tables will show.

*Sorghum.*—The sorghum crop is generally returned in comparatively poor condition, with lower figures than any other crop. Ohio and Indiana indicate a deficiency in acreage of 14 per cent., and in condition of 10 per cent. All the principal sorghum-growing States show a similar state of facts.

*Tobacco* is much like sorghum, manifesting a decline in acreage and generally in condition.

*Cotton.*—There is an increase of acreage in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Arkansas. Texas, 10.1; Mississippi, 9.4; Louisiana, 8.1. The average is about the same as last year. There is a slight difference, as reported, in favor of the present crop. The department estimates made last October, of 1,835,000 bales, proved to be singularly accurate for approximate calculations of so early a date, though they were severely criticised by northern and southern speculators, some of whom publicly acknowledged their error after the crop was sold. It is too early to predict the successful avoidance of all the numerous enemies of cotton. Had the last crop been a good one it would have yielded 2,500,000 bales; a very good one would have realized 3,000,000. Such results are possible this year.

*Wool.*—An examination of this item of the tables will show that losses of sheep, unthrifty condition, and a wet Spring have had an influence both upon numbers and weight of fleece, and will lead to the conclusion that our wool clip of the present year is not materially larger than that of last year.—*Agricultural Report for July.*

[Correspondence of the Farm and Fireside.]

## CROPS IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT.

I TELL you no news when I say that we have had a very wet Summer. In a period running back thirty years, I do not recall a season of so much rain. We had a wet Spring, which retarded planting; we had a wet mid-Summer, which interfered with field work; and now we have a wet Autumn, which gives promise of injury to the crops. The hay harvest, which was very abundant, has been much injured in gathering. Such a catching, trying "hay-time" is not within the memory of your correspondent. Two good "hay days" a week has been about the average, and as one of these has generally been Sunday, you must not blame the farmers if they have been Sabbath breakers.

Well, with such a mizzly, drizzly, fizzly season, what of the crops? Better than I could have hoped, thus far; but unless the next few weeks are dry, we shall have a poor corn crop, and poor potatoes, too. The early varieties of the latter have suffered severely already. The tops are dead, while the tubers have begun to rot. Oats are fair—or rather *were*—but great quantities have been spoilt in harvesting.

Of fruit there is far less than we had promise of early in the season. Cherries were blasted. The apple trees blossomed full, yet the crop of apples will be quite small. As this is the third season of scarcity, the supply of vinegar is about exhausted, which makes wry faces upon others than cider drinkers.

Corn, as intimated, is late—say two or three weeks—and if we should have early frosts, as is apt to be the case in wet seasons, much of the corn will be cut off in this section of country.

The "feed" of grass is of course abundant; so there is promise of butter-making and the fattening of beef.

If, Messrs. Editors, I have given you a rather gloomy letter, it is chargeable to the "powers that be" rather than to any idiosyncrasy of your correspondent.

In closing, permit me to say that your "Farm and Fireside" is a welcome visitor at our homestead, and deserves a very generous patronage from the tillers of the soil. FARMER.

*Mansfield, Conn., Aug. 27.*

AN examination of the vines along the Lake Erie shore shows that the prospects for a good crop of grapes were never better at this season.

CORNS CURED.—Hall's Journal of Health gives us this mode: "The safest, the most accessible, and the most efficient cure of a corn on the toe, is to double a piece of thick, soft buckskin, cut a hole in it large enough to receive the corn, and bind it around the toe. If, in addition to this, the foot is soaked in warm water for five or more minutes every morning and night, and a few drops of sweet oil, or other oily substance, are patiently rubbed in on the end after soaking, the corn will almost infallible become loose enough in a few days to be easily pricked out with a finger-nail; this saves the necessity of paring the corn, which operation is sometimes followed with painful and dangerous symptoms. If the corn become inconvenient again, repeat the process at once.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great exlent il clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## TO OFFICERS OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

A great difficulty in awarding small premiums, at Agricultural Fairs, is to present something of REAL VALUE to those who are awarded small prizes. We will furnish to any agricultural society, the FARM AND FIRESIDE, (to be given as premiums) at ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS A YEAR—mailing them to any address, either in bundles, or single.

An annual subscription to our journal would be more acceptable than almost any other small gift, and would be a permanent gain to our agriculture.

## CANADA CHEESE CONVENTION.

THE rapid progress made in the manufacture of cheese, by the factory system, in this country, has excited the dairymen of Canada to start similar factories in order to compete with us in the European market. Last month a convention of dairymen, representing twenty thousand cows, (honorable constituents), was held at Ingersoll, Oxford county, Canada, where the merits, statistics, &c., of the American cheese system were discussed.

Among other items of interest developed at this Convention was the statement of H. A. Willard, agricultural Editor of the Herald, Utica, New York, who was a delegate. He stated that the first cheese factory erected in the Empire State was in 1851. At the end of nine years twenty companies were established, and at the close of 1866, over five hundred were in successful operation in that State. Mr. Willard said more cheese was now manufactured than was needed for home consumption; hence, the surplus went to supply the foreign market. Prices, at present, are low, and afforded no profit. (We notice the last sales of factory cheese, in Oneida county, New York, were 11 to 13 cents.)

The Secretary of the Canada Convention said the number of cheese factories already established, in the two Provinces, was about two hundred and twenty-five. Estimated amount of cheese manufactured annually, in Canada, was 25,000,000 pounds. Price of cheese (in gold) was now 10 to 10¼ cents a pound. The delegates to this Convention discussed the different methods and features of cheese making. All were unanimous on one point—cleanliness in connection with the manufacture. Wooden pails were condemned for milk pails, and tin ones recommended. The practice of feeding hogs on the whey, at the factories, was strongly condemned, as much of the bad flavor of cheese was accounted for by the proximity of the swine to the factories. Mr. Willard advanced an idea relative to utilizing whey—one of its principal constituents being the sugar of milk. He estimated that at a factory of a thousand cows, there was a yield of 800 pounds of sugar per day, which was lost in the whey. This may be a practical idea, but neither Yankee nor Canadian science will develop it for years to come.

## THE NEW ENGLAND FAIR.

THE fourth annual Exhibition of the New England Agricultural Society will be held, in connection with the Exhibition of the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, at Cranston, R. I., on the 3d, 4th, 5th and 6th days of September. Both Societies have made extensive preparations and a most generous outlay of money for this Fair, which promises to surpass any previous exhibition of the kind held in the Eastern States. The premiums amount to upwards of ten thousand dollars, and are offered for the encouragement of those things which seem most conducive to Agriculture. The premiums on live stock are such as will bring out the best horses, oxen, bulls, cows, sheep, etc., that are kept east of the Hudson river; and in numbers to form very attractive herds. All admirers of choice stock will find themselves well repaid by an examination of the animals. Of the products of the soil there will be a creditable display, but it is not to be expected that distant States will contribute largely to this department.

The Fair will be held on the new Narragansett Park, upon which has been expended an almost fabulous sum of money by its wealthy and liberal proprietor, Col. Amasa Sprague. The grounds alone are well worthy of a visit.

Altogether, the attractions of the New England Fair for 1867 will bring together an immense number of people, many of whom will come from distant States. Let us hope that the Fair will prove to be something better than mere holidays for the thousands who will attend. The mass, of course, will be satisfied with the mere gratification of the show; but we trust the real friends of an improved Agriculture, whether practical farmers or otherwise, will gather knowledge and experience that will benefit themselves and the country at large. This, we take it, is the prime object of the Exhibition; with this view we commend it, and wish it a success without a parallel.

## HOW GRASS LAND IS IMPROVED.

BUT very few farmers, comparatively speaking, realize or get any correct idea of the amount of fertilizers which are removed from their meadows, in every ton of hay they make. Chemists tell us that in a ton of good hay, there are one hundred and fifty pounds of mineral matter, and twenty-five pounds of nitrogen, which is equivalent to forty-six and a half pounds of ammonia, and is of great value in promoting the growth of grass or of any other crop. The mineral matter alluded to is composed of forty-three pounds of potash, twenty-five pounds of lime, and eight and a half pounds of phosphoric acid, besides several other ingredients not enumerated.

Now, as these elements become scarce in the soil, the quantity of a crop will be diminished, unless special care be exercised to return to the soil an equivalent for the amount that has been carried away in the hay. The question naturally arises then, *how* can this be done in the most economical manner, so as to maintain the fertility of the soil?

There are several ways of doing it. But the farmer needs to understand the most *economical* way of performing a task so important and desirable. One of these ways is, to supply the waste by scattering ashes, lime, bone dust and gypsum, over the meadow, after every crop of hay has been removed. In this manner a meadow may be made to yield a heavy crop of grass every season for a very long time. The ashes will furnish the necessary potash, as that ingredient promotes the growth of grass very much, as may be proved by observing the rank and luxuriant growth of timothy or clover, in the bed of a log heap, or where brush has been burned A top dressing of bones and lime will supply the other ingredients that have been removed in the hay.

Another way of maintaining the fertility of grass land is, by the application of guano or superphosphates, which contain all the elements of fertility which are necessary to secure a heavy crop of grass. These two ways are rather expensive modes of maintaining the fertility of grass land, but when the grass is all removed from the farm, either in a green state or in hay, one or the other must be resorted to, unless the proprietor has access to peat, marl, or to stable manure.

Another way of maintaining the fertility of grass is, by barn-yard manure and home-made compost. This is the most economical, and in fact the true way, for farmers in general to keep their meadows and pastures in a good state of productiveness. By saving with care all the manure that can be made from animals, while they are consuming a ton of hay, by mingling a little muck with the manure, and by feeding some grain and oil meal, and applying the manure judiciously, the quantity of grass per acre may be increased a little from year to year, for years to come.

A correspondent of the "Scottish Farmer" gives his experience on the effects of the application of nitrogenous phosphatic manure, and sums up as follows:

1. That top-dressing grass land with artificial manure pays.

2. That the general result of Lawes' experiments on top-dressing grass land, are borne out on soils resting on the limestone formation.

3. That for the permanent improvement of pastures, superphosphate of lime is better adapted than guano.

4. That in proportion to the coarseness of the herbage the per centage of phosphatic manures should increase, and *vice versa*.

5. That from the effects which I have observed, it would appear that not only did the superphosphate indirectly check the growth of the finer sorts, but that it directly impeded their growth, and evidently disagreed with them almost from the period of its application.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

THE inconsistencies in the premium lists at Agricultural Fairs are being pretty well shown up by the press. After a classification of premiums in "apposite," offered by the New England Agricultural Society, the "Maine Farmer" adds the following: "To stimulate the dairy products of New England, the Society offer fifty dollars in premiums for butter, and thirty dollars in premiums for cheese, while at the same time they offer the liberal sum of *five thousand seven hundred dollars* in premiums for trotting horses!" The "Watchman and Reflector," on the same subject says: "It is a complete absurdity for a Society for promoting agriculture to offer more than half the sum appropriated for premiums, for horse-racing, when success as often depends on the skill of the jockey as on the excellence of the horse; and in what way this course is going to stimulate agricultural productions is beyond our comprehension." We expressed our own opinion on this topic a week or two ago.

—

The "North British Agriculturist," in an article on the Turnip Fly, says that sprinkling the young plants with a mixture of lime and soot proves a protection. The most effectual means to combat all insects is to push forward the plants by manures, applied at the time the seed is sown, and, after the plants come up, to stir the surface frequently, but without injury to the turnip plants."

—

The "Farmer's Advertiser," of St. Louis, in an article on "Fallen Fruit," says that "if the destruction or consumption of the fallen fruit is thoroughly practiced by all, it is doubtful whether hay bands or curculio catchers will be needed." Insects injurious to fruits are rapidly increasing in the West; much good can be accomplished in the manner named, but it is of little use for one grower in a neighborhood to destroy these insects, while his neighbors continue to breed them.

—

The "Massachusetts Ploughman" says that farmers who have muck convenient should be now getting it out for compost. Carbonaceous manures are essential, and muck is one of the best of the class. The light and spongy kind gives quicker results than other varieties. All turf or peat is more or less nitrogenous or ammoniacal, and the stronger it smells in burning, the richer it is in nitrogen, and the more fit it is to be used as manure for corn and grass. Owing to the quantity of nitrogen that peat contains, animal manure becomes less necessary, and in many instances a heavy top dressing of the land with peat or muck has produced a marked and permanent effect when no manure was used.

—

Rye belongs more properly to cold, heavy highlands, where Indian corn is in yearly danger from frosts at both ends of the season, and grass is the main crop. If grown exclusively for the grain it is an unpleasant and somewhat expensive crop to handle, on account of the bulkiness of straw, and the grain itself does not bring a comparatively high price in the market. The "Rural New Yorker," in speaking of rye as a farm crop, remarks that "the straw is far more valuable than that of any of the cereals. The farmer has many uses for it. For thatching purposes it excels, and a roof of this material well put on will last twenty-five or thirty years. Why should not farmers use straw roofs in preference to expensive ones, or humbugging patent rights? Rye straw is excellent for cutting and mixing with more nutritious food, and for many purposes around the farm it is convenient. It makes cheap and good protection for fruit trees. But the paper makers will pay the most money for it, and farmers will find it profitable to grow rye straw to supply their demands wherever paper mills are in operation within convenient distances."

—

The N. H. "Mirror and Farmer" contends that "suckers should not be broken from the corn, it being according to nature, which knows as much about growing corn as the wisest farmer."

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

Accounts from the Russian grain crops are extremely favorable, and indicate a very heavy yield. There will be an immense surplus for exportation.

A house in Philadelphia has orders for 100,000 peach-crates, each of the capacity of a bushel. An immense crop of this fruit is anticipated in the Middle States.

The Alta Californian thinks "the child is born who shall yet see California producing a hundred million gallons of wine annually."

One hundred and six million pounds of wool will be clipped in Buenos Ayres this year. It bids fair to be finer, cleaner, and of better color than ever before. The rise in the United States tariff is troubling the wool growers there.

A Maine farmer has been very successful in grafting the green gage plum into the common black cherry tree.

There is an Isabella grape vine in Indiana, Pa., which has produced this Summer 1700 bunches of perfect grapes.

Toledo is fast becoming a rival to Chicago in receipts of wheat, one hundred and sixty-seven thousand bushels being received there in the week ending Aug. 3. Milwaukee beat Chicago last year about four million bushels.

A bale of new hops was recently received in New York from Petersburg, Va. This is the first consignment of the kind ever made from a Southern State, and is the result of a late experiment. A half acre was planted with hops, and 450 pounds of the popular material was picked. It may be added that the quantity obtained is fair, and the quality excellent.

The insect known among entomologists as the three lined potato beetle is damaging the potatoes considerably in the vicinity of Ellsworth, Maine.

The Galvestou Civilian thinks that, in spite of all the unfavorable reports, a respectable cotton crop will be gathered in Texas.

Cotton is maturing rapidly in Central Mississippi.

A Kentucky peach-grower has sold his entire crop as it hangs on the trees, to a house in Cincinnati for $14,000, or about $2.75 per tree.

There is, this season, an extraordinary abundance of cereal crops in Egypt. Prices of grain have fallen nearly two-thirds since harvest ended.

The season in Maryland and Virginia has been too wet for tobacco, and the prospects of that weed are unfavorable.

The crop reports from Central Illinois are the most cheering. A splendid wheat crop has been harvested, and there is promise of a larger yield of corn than was ever before known.

Thomas Affleck, a well-known citizen of Texas, writes to the Agricultural Department in strong commendation of the acid of coal-tar, known as carbolic acid, as a cure for scab in sheep. Its use has proved very successful in England.

Accounts from Louisiana, Georgia and the Carolinas, in regard to the cotton crop, say that the crop has suffered from heavy rains, and that a two-thirds yield is about all that can be expected. There are also depressing accounts from the Sea Islands as to the condition of the long staple cotton.

WINDOW PLANTS.—These suffer much at this season from the high and dry temperatures at which it is necessary for human comfort to keep our dwellings. Saucers of water under the plants do much to remedy the drying from which room plants suffer. The more freely a plant is growing, the more water will it require; and the more it grows, the more sun and light will it need. In all cases, nearest the light. The best aspect for room plants is those which seem to grow the fastest should be placed to the southeast. The first morning ray is worth a dozen in the evening. Should any of our fair readers find her plants, by some unlucky miscalculation, frozen in the morning, do not remove them at once to a warm place, but dip them in cold water, and set them in a dark spot, where they will barely escape freezing; sun-light will only help the frost's destructive power.

[Coneluded from page 267.]

"And why not?" Mr. Lawrenee ventnred to say.

"Children are very nneertain. Their moods change like the changing wind, or like the skies of April."

"Be a sun in their April sky, dear," said Mr. Lawrence, kissing his wife tenderly, and then, not waiting to see the effeet of his words, turned off and left for the day's business.

Mrs. Lawrence stepped into the parlor alone, and sat down with tears in her eyes. Very clearly opened her duty before her. She saw the way in whieh she should walk; but had she strength to keep her feet therein? Self-conquest first! Yes, that was the requirement now. How easy had been the control of the childreu thus far, after self-eontrol was gained. How clearly she had seen what was best to be said and done, and what a power had dwelt in mildly spoken sentenees. Obedience had seemed spontaneons. Act followed word as by enchantment. Ere yet her thoughts ran clear, came a uew occasion for prompt work. Left only a few minutes to themselves, the natural tendeucies of the children had borne them away into strife. Johnny, the master of discord among them, forgetful of the pleasant breakfast season, was at his old tricks again; and the sign thereof was a passionate screaun, followed by loud accusations from Lydia.

Mrs. Lawrence sprnng to her feet, under the usual angry impulse felt on these occasions, aud, with the will to punish in her heart, strode aeross the roon, and was in the hall before thought and memory had arrested her steps.

"No—no—no! This is not the way!" And, as she said this, she drew both hands lightly against her breast and stood still for some moments, the strife between the children yet going on. Then, with a deliberate movemeut, she wcnt up stairs to the nursery, where the children had gone after leaving the breakfast-room. Her usual way of coming upon them when they were in trouhle among themselves, was with a loud, imperious demand, and a hurried execution of punishment on the one that appeared, at the first glance, most in fault. Nearly always a certain degree of injnstiee was involved in these punishments, and their effects were, in cousequence, evil instead of good. Of this she was often painfully conscious.

So quietly did Mrs. Lawrence now enter the nnrsery, that the children were not aware of her presenee nntil she was half across the room. Suddenly the strife ceased, and Johnny aud Lydia, who were in angry contention, hushed their discord and stood with a rebuked shame-facedness before their mother, in a marked contrast with their usual dogged defiance or shrinking fear on these unhappily too frequent occasions.

"This is very sad,—children," said Mrs. Lawreuce, with grief instead of anger in her voice. And then sitting down among them, with calmness and patience, went to the real cause of the trouhle, and succeeded in gaining what she had never gained hefore, a mutual, penitent ackuowledgement of wrong, and promise to be kinder and more forbearing, one towards auother.

It would require mauy pages to give all the incidents, trials, self-discipline and self-conquests on that day; aud they would be found deeply interesting to every true mother. By the strength of genuine love for her children, in which flowed a heaveuly power, Mrs. Lawrence kept the halance of her mind; and when the evening shadows fell again, and her husband came home, there was sweet tranquility, order, love and peace in their dwelling.

"How pleasant the children are with oue another," said Mr. Lawrenee, in a low voice, leaning towards his wife, as she sat sewing, after tea, and glaneing at Johnny aud Lydia, who were reading together from the pages of the same book.

"Yes." She answered no further, hut afterlooking towards the children a few moments, with a calm, almost serious, yet not troubled face, let her eyes fall again upon her sewing. Bnt the eyes of thought were looking away down her own soul, and conning the lessons of that day's experience written in strong eharacters.

"You must have diseovered a new method of government," said Mr. Lawrenee.

The eyes of his wife were again lifted to his face.

"I have" was her simple answer.

"Indeed! Well it seems working to a charm. Does it involve any seeret?"

"No." Her eyes, in which light and feeling began to play, were still upon his faee.

"On what is it founded?"

"On self-government." Her eyes lingered on those of her husband for a moment, and then fell down upon her work—lingered just long enough for him to see tears beginning to suffuse them.—*Arthur's Home Magazine.*

# The Fireside Muse.

## THE LOVED AND LOST.

The following poem from the Church of England Magazine, will come like a "Song in the night" to many a stricken heart:

"The loved and lost"! Why do we call them lost?
Because we miss them from our onward road?
God's unseen angel o'er our pathway crost,
Looked on us all, and loving them the most,
Straightway relieved them of life's weary load.

They are not lost! They are within the door,
That shuts out loss and every hurtful thing—
With angels hright, and loved ones gone before,
In their Redeemer's presence, evermore,
And God himself their Lord and Judge and King.

And this we call a "loss"! O selfish sorrow
Of selfish hearts! O we of little faith!
Let us look round, some argument to horrow
Why we in patience should await the morrow,
That surely must succeed this night of death.

Aye, look upon this dreary desert path,
The thorns and thistles wheresoe'er we turn,
What trials and what tears, what wrongs and wrath,
What struggles and what strife the journey hath!
They have escaped from these; and lo! we mourn.

Ask the poor sailor, when the wreck is done,
Who with his treasures strove the shore to reach,
While with the raging waves he struggled on,
Was it not joy, when every joy seemed gone,
To see his loved ones landed on the heach?

A poor wayfarer, leading hy the hand
A little child, had halted hy the well
To wash from off her feet the clinging sand,
And tell the tired hoy of that hright land
Where, this long journey passed, they longed to dwell.

When lo! the Lord, who many mansions had,
Drew near and looked upon the suffering twain,
Then pitying spoke, "Give me the little lad;
In strength renewed, and glorious heauty clad,
I'll hring him with me when I come again."

Did she make answer selfishly and wrong—
"Nay, hnt the woes I feel, he, too, must share!"
Or rather, hursting into grateful song,
She went her way rejoicing and made strong
To struggle on, since he was freed from care.

We will do likewise; death has made no hreach
In love and sympathy, in hope and trust;
No outward sigh or sound our ears can reach,
But there's an inward, spiritual speech,
That greets us still, though mortal tongues he dust.

It bids us do the work that they laid down—
Take up the song where they hroke off the strain;
Go journeying till we reach the heavenly town,
Where are laid up our treasure and our crown,
And our lost loved ones will be found again.

# General Miscellany.

Josh Billings gives a most ridiculons account of a visit to an Agricultural Fair, and closes with the following sly "dig" at the paucity of the display:

"I forgot to say that there was tew yoke ov oxen on the ground, hesides several yokes ov sheep, and a pile ov carrots, aud some worsted work, bnt they didn't seem to attract enny sympathy.

The people uanker for pure agricultural hoss-trots."

A Wonderful Calf.—A farmer named H. Metler, living near Phillipsbnrgh, N. J., has, it is said, a twin calf, with a head containing four eyes and three jaws. In the center of its forehead is a large soeket with two perfeet eyes, also it has an eye on each side of the head. The three jaws are arranged in a row ahout the lower end of the head, eaeh one containing a tougue. The calf is growing finely. Its mate is not remarkable in its coustruction.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR WASHING-DAY.

The evening previous to washing, all the clothes should be gathered up and assorted; woolens, colored clothes, unbleached eottons and linens and fine clothes, into their separate bundles. Except woolens and colorcd clothes, all other kinds should be put to soak ovcr night, the very dirty parts having soap rubbed on them. If you use a washing fluid, it is usnally mixed in the soaking water; if you use no wash mixture, the next morning wring out the clothes and proceed to wash them carefully through two warm lathers, then boil them in clean lather briskly, bnt not longer than a half hour. Wash them out of boil, rinse through two waters. The last rinsing water should have a delicate tinge of hlue, likewise a small quantity of starch for all cottons or linens; reserve those yon wish stiffer for the last, and mix more starch in the water. Shirt bosoms and colars, skirts, in short, anything you wish very stiff shonld be dipped in stareh while dry. Swiss and other thin muslins and laces are dipped in starch while dry, and then clapped with the hands nntil they are in the right condition to irou. Calicoes, brilliants, and lawns of white grounds are washed like any other white material, omiting the boiling until the yellow tinge they acquire makes it absolutely necessary. Unbleached cottons aud linens follow the white clothes throngh the same waters, but must in no case be boiled or washed with them, as they continnally discharge a portion of their color, and so discolor the white clothes. In direeting the preparations for washing finids, we give the process employed with them, hnt colored clothes, in our experience, can be washed in none of them without injury to the color. Calicoes, colored lawns, and colored cottons, and linens generally, are washed throngh two suds and two rinsing waters; starch being nsed in the last, as all clothes look better and keep clean longer if a little stiffeued. Many calicoes will spot if soap is rnbbed on them; they should be washed in a lather simply. A spoonful of ox-gall to a gallon of water will set the colors of auy goods soaked in it previous to washing. A teacup of lye in a bucket of water will improve the color of black goods. A stroug, clean tea of common hay will preserve the color of those Freuch linens so much nsed in Summer by both sexes. If the water in which potatoes are cooked is saved and boiled down, it stiffens black calicoes as well as starch, and saves them from the dnst and smeared look they so often have. Vinegar in the rinsing water for pink or green calicoes will brighten them. Pearlash answers the same end for purple and blue. Colored and white flannels must be washed separately; and by no meaus wash after cotton or linen, as the lint from these goods adheres to the flannel. There should be a little blue in the rinsing water for white flannel. Allow your flanuels to freeze after washing in Winter, it bleaches them.—*Montreal Witness.*

Keep the Hogs Growing.—Now is the time to keep the hogs growing. Angust is sometimes a mouth when many farmers have less to give them. The old potatoes are gone, the corn has fallen short, and there is a disposition to shorten their allowance till the uew corn and potatoes and pumpkins come along. This is a great mistake. There is no time when a hog will grow so fast on so little food as in August and September. The weather of these months seems hetter adapted for tuem thau any other. Make a little extra effort for the hogs now, aud you will see the beuefit next November. We think a bushel of meal fed to them now worth more than a bushel and a half in cold weather.—*Maine Farmer.*

"It is very difficult to live," said a widow with seven girls, all in genteel poverty. "You must husband yonr time," said a sage friend. "I'd rather husband some of my daughters," answered the poor lady.

Feeling is a truer oracle than thought; heuce women are oftener right than men.

## POISONS IN DAILY USE.

Pickles are often poisoued hy being scalded in brass or copper kettles; it makes them look green, bnt that green renders them poisonous. Brass or copper vessels ought not to be used for any purpose, unless they are scoured very bright; it is better for health to avoid their use for cooking purposes. Brass wash dishes ought never to be used; they canse sore eyes, etc. Water is poisoned by being conveyed in lead pipes, or standing in pails painted on the inside. Milk is poisoned hy using sueh pails for milking. Cheese is often poisoned in this way, and hy nsing in its manufacture brass, copper, or wooden tubs painted inside.

Ignoranee places a deadly weapon in our articles of food, but selfishness often conceals a greater. It manufactures poisons for others in many temptingly disguised forms. Cake ornamented with colored dust, candies colored in such nice style, toys so highly attractive to children, cause decayed teeth, canker, intestinal inflammation, nauseating headache, colic, spasms, and often convnlsions. Confectionery may he prepared without coloring materials so as to be wholesome.

Wall-paper, ornamented with beautiful green, pretty yellow and lively red, often diffuses throngh sleeping and sitting-rooms, an atmosphere impregnated with poisonous vapor, that causes headaehe, nausea, dryness of the mouth aud throat, congh, depression of spirits, prostration of strength, nervous affections, boils, watery swellings on the face, cutaneous affections and inflammation of the eyes. These occur in more serions forms in apartments that are not constantly and thoroughly ventilated.—*Home Journal.*

Result of Manuring.—It is not uncommon to see the effects of manuring by the rank, heavy growth of grass which succeeds a crop of barley sown upon corn ground, in places where the manure was applied to the hills, while in other parts of the field the grass will be very short and thin. Very ofteu one can trace the rows and hills of a corn-field, in a field of grass two years after it was applied to the first crop.

We lately passed a field of grass growing near the road side, which, from its uneven appearance looked like the waves of the sea. It was not a hard matter to account for this somewhat strange condition of the field. It had been top-dressed last Fall, and where the heaps of manure were dropped from the cart before heing spread, the grass was tall, of a dark green color, thick and growing; while, receding from the place of the heap on all sides, it grew shorter aud thinner, and in consequence of its weak, thin growth, was somewhat dried up. In the former location the grass would probably yield one and a half tons to the acre, and upon the latter not half as much. Had the entire field received as much manure as the places where the heaps were left, it would have shown the benefits of top-dressing completely—and it did as it was.—*Maine Farmer.*

Evil Company.—The following beautiful allegory is translated from the German:

Tophronius, a wise teacher, would not suffer even his own grown-up sons and danghters to associate with those whose conduct was not pure and upright.

"Dear father," said the geutle Eulalia to him one day, when he forbade her in company with her hrother, to visit the volatile Lucinda, "dear father, you must think us very childish, if yon imagine that we should be exposed to danger by it."

The father took in silence a dead coal from the hearth, and reached it to his daughter. "It will uot burn you, my child; take it."

Enlalia did so; and behold! her delicate white hand was soiled and hlackened, and as it chanced, her white dress also."

"We cannot be too careful in handling coals," said Enlalia, in vexation.

"Yes, truly," said her father; "yon see, my child, that coals, even if they do not burn, blacken. So it is with the company of the vicious."

Blackberry Wine ann Cordial.—To make a wine equal in valne to Port, take ripe blackberries; press the juice from them; let stand thirty-six hours to ferment, lightly covered; skim off whatever rises to the top; then to every gallon of the jniee add one qnart of water and three pounds of sugar, let it stand in an open vessel for twenty-four hours; skim and strain it, then barrel it; let it stand eight or ninc months, when it should he racked off, bottled and corked close—age improves its quality. For a cordial, take three pounds of ripe blackberries and add onc pouud of white sugar; let them stand twelve hours, then press out the juice and strain it; add onc-third of good spirits; to every quart, add one tea-spooufnl of finely powdered all-spice. It is at oncc fit for use.

## Various Matters.

### PLASTER.

Plaster, or gypsum, is composed of 46 parts of sulphuric acid, 33 parts lime, and 21 parts of water, and furnishes a medium by which ammouia is conveyed to plants. It is extensively distributed over the earth's surface, and is thought by geologists to owe its existence to the decomposition of the sulphuret of iron in contact with limestone, or the agency of sulphurous vapor upon the rocks. The precise action of gypsum has not yet been determined, but it doubtless unites in close affinity, the atmosphere and vegetable kingdom, taking up the uitrogen and ammonia and other substances from the air, and the variety of salts aud acids held in solution by the rain and suow. It, donbtless, also draws largely from electricity and decaying vegetable and animal matter. Many question the action of plaster, from the fact that, while wheat, rye and oats require the largest amount of nitrogenous manures, gypsum has the least effect upon these cereals, while its results have heen far more appreciable, and its application more frequent on crops requiring less nitrogenous matter. They forget that the above meutioned cereals draw from and flourish upon vegetable moulds to such an extent, as to need hut little of the constituents of gypsum. It is a well established fact that, on all soils where carbonate of lime abounds, the further applicatiou of gypsuin is witbout perceptible advantage to the growth of crops. Many scientists hold that the principle stimulant afforded to plants by gypsum is coutained in its sulphur, that undoubtedly furnishes one of the mineral elements esseutial to animal aud vegetable growth. This element is not conveyed to plants through the atmosphere, but they derive it from the soil, and animals derive it from plants on which they feed. A soil which contaius sulphur in excess would not be benefited hy gypsum, while the application of lime would increase the fertility.

Colic in Horses.—We are informed by a gentleman who has given much attention to the diseases to which horses are liable, that the following remedy is a safe and effective one. It is certainly simple, and if administered with proper prudence, we are not aware that it wonld do any harm to the animal, if it did not effect a cure. We give it more readily because it is a remedy always at hand, namely:—

Dissolve as much salt in a quart of pure water as may be required thoroughly to saturate the liquid, and drench the patient with one half of it. If symptoms of relief are not noticed in fifteen minutes or half an hour, give the remainder. He states that this remedy has proved entirely successful in very severe cases where other more complicated medicines had failed.

There are two kinds of colic, flatulent colic, and spasmodic colic. In the first, it is occasioned by the enlargement of the intestines by the food passing through the process of fermentation, instead of digestion. Gasses are largely generated, and hence the distention and pain.

Wheat Crop in Europe.—It is stated in correspondence from London and Paris that the wheat crop has been badly injnred all over Europe by prolonged wet weather during the harvesting period. These reports embrace England, France, Holland, Germany, Hungary, Odessa, Gallacia, and Russian Poland.

Dogs.—In England the dog tax yields a good sum. Up to the end of June last, licenses were taken out for 695,624 dogs, against 394,837 on which the tax was paid in the year ending March, 1866. In Scotland the nnmber of dogs taxed has increased from 36, 365, to 80,000.

O. Aylworth, Fabius, N. Y., wrote to the New York Farmers' Club that a teaspoonful of turpentine placed in a barrel of water will kill the wigglers which hatch into mosqnitoes.

Foreign Agriculture.—The last published report of the Agricultural Commissioner gives some interesting statements in regard to foreign agriculture. In Great Britain, last year, with seventy-seven millions of people, eleven millions of acres were devoted to cereals. France has one hundred and seven millions of acres and thirty-seven millions of people, and she had thirty-nine millions of acres devoted to grass growing and grazing. In Austria, with one hundred and forty-five millions of people, there were twenty-six millions of acres of cereals cultivated last year, while Italy, with twenty-four millions of people, devoted twenty-seven million acres out of sixty-eight millions to cereals. The cultivation of the potato is carried on most extensively in France, that country having produced two million bushels last year, while England produced four hundred and ninety-eight thousand, and Ireland produced one million bushels.

In all the Southern States the cereal crops are more than enough for home consumption.

## Marriages.

In Providence, 22d inst., Mr. Lewis E. Remington to Miss Sarah J. Howard, both of P.

In Hopedale, Mass., 12th inst., Mr. A. S. Gifford, of Providence, to Miss Nellie Walker, of H.

In Newport, 14th inst., Mr. Joseph Barron to Mrs. Mary A. Barlow; 26th ult., Mr. George H. Sherman to Miss Kate D. Helmes.

In Nantucket, Mass., 18th inst., Mr. William Johnston to Miss Mary J. Mackin, both of N.

## Deaths.

In Woonsocket, on the 26th inst., Elisha Gaskill, in the 73d year of his age.

In Blackstone, 11th inst., Mr. Gilbert Gaskill, aged 45 years.

In North Uxbridge, 20th inst., by drowning, William R. McRobbie, aged 7 years and 12 days. [Boston and Lawrence papers please copy.

In Burrillville, on the 5th inst., Tabitha, wife of Rufus Williams, aged 71 years and 3 days.

In Millville, 27th inst., Emma, only daughter of Henry and Caroline Wister, aged 6 months.

In Paducah, Ky., 9th inst., Lieut. Walter Comstock, of the 25th U. S. Infantry, youngest son of Nathan Comstock, late of West Wrentham, Mass.

## The Markets.

### WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending August 30, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 14c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $10 00a12 00 | Potatoes | 90c. |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.50 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $16, 17 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 25 | Molasses ₩ gal | 60a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 64c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 35c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 35c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 25a50c | Lard ₩ lb | 16ac18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 25a30c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 20a28c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 18c |

### BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

August 28, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 2687; Sheep and Lambs 15,829. Swine, 1638. Western cattle, 1251; Eastern cattle, 283; Working oxen and Northern cattle, 250. Cattle left over from last week, 5.

Prices. Beef Cattle—Extra, $13.00@ $13.25; first quality, $12.50@$12.75; second quality, $11.50@$12.00; third quality, $9.00@$11.00 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 10@10½c ₩ lb. Country Tallow, 7a7½c ₩ lb

Brighton Hides, 11 cents ₩ lb; Brighton Tallow, 8@8½ cents ₩ lb.

Lamb Skins, 50@75c each; Calf Skins, 16a18c.

Sheep Skins, 50 @ 75c ₩ lb.

There is a larger supply of cattle in market than has been in before this season in any one week.

Store Cattle—Prices—Yearlings $20a25; 2 year olds $30a45, 3 year olds $50a60 per head.

Working Oxen—We quote prices at $165a270 per pair. There is a good supply in market and prices not so high as last week.

Milch Cows—Sales extra at $85a100; ordinary $60@$80.—Store Cows $45a55 per head Considerable many cows in market, mostly of ordinary grades.

Sheep and Lambs.—The trade is duller than it was last week. We quote sales of Lambs at from $2.25 to $4.45 per head. Old Sheep 5a6c per lb.

Swine—There is 400 Store Pigs in market; prices, wholesale 6a7 cents per pound; retail 6½ to 8 cents per pound.—Fat Hogs—1230 at market; prices, 7¼@8c. per lb.

### WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

There was great depression in flour early in the week, and prices declined from fifty cents to one dollar a barrel. At the close there was a better demand and more steadiness. Old flour has declined from fifty cents to seventy-five cents a barrel, and closes heavy.

Wheat has fluctuated somewhat, and closes lower, with more doing for export, New samples of wheat, exhibited during the week, have been of very excellent quality, especially Milwaukee and Chicago. The crop is said to be below an average, but the quality was never surpassed.

Corn has been in speculative request, and has fluctuated violently. The stock is increasing materially. There has been quite a panic under large receipts and large prospective arrivals. The crop proves to be the largest and best ever raised in this country.

Rye has also fluctuated rapidly and closes nominal. The crop is said to be very fine, and the largest ever produced.

Provisions.—There has been a good business in mess pork during the week, and prices close steady under an improvement. The business has been mainly for consumption.

Beef is scarce and firm at former quotations. Lard has been in good demand for export, and closing quiet at the improvement. Bacon has sold freely at extreme prices, and closes firm at our former quotations.



Little Things.—Springs are little things, but they are sources of large streams; a helm is a little thing, but it governs the course of a ship; a bridle bit is a little thing, but see its use and power; nails and pegs are litle things, but they hold the large parts of large buildings together; a word, a look, a frown—all are little things, but powerful for good or evil. Think of this and mind the little things. Pay that little debt—it's promised, redeemed it—if it's a shilling, hand it over—you know not what important event hangs upon it. Keep your word sacredly—keep it to the childen, they will mark it sooner than any one else, and the effect will probably be as lasting as life. Mind the little things.

# The Stock Yard.

## THE BRITTANY COW.

USEFUL TO THE RICH—A BLESSING TO THE POOR.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY ROBERT M'CLURE, V. S., PHILADELPHIA.

The several well considered articles that have lately appeared in your journal on the relative value of different breeds of cows, induces me to say a few words in favor of the Brittany breed.

It is well known to breeders of cattle throughout the world that there are some breeds requiring, to insure health to the animal and profit to the owner, a rich feed, and plenty of it, together with careful housing, etc. In the Brittany cow is found an animal having few wants; it is satisfied with little, and of an indifferent kind, and yet maintains a high standard of good health, and at the same time yields a large quantity of milk of superior quality. The Brittany cow stands at the head of all breeds for productiveness under the most adverse circumstances. Her many good qualities have led her to be justly recognized as "useful to the rich and a blessing to the poor;" or as M. P. Bellany says: "*La vache Bretonne utile au riche, providence du pauvre.*" Brittany is in the North West of France, and is divided into five departments, viz: Cotes du Nord, Illette Villanne Loire, Inferieure, Morbihan and Finisterre. It is a bare country, and particularly the Morbihan, where the Brittany cattle are in their most natural state.

The true Brittany breed is small; color, black and white, and is the smallest breed of cattle in France, but the very best for milking qualities. The breed is believed to have descended from the Dutch cattle; but others say from the India. The latter view is believed to have originated the peculiarities of cows at Bordeaux; having been imported from Asia, which are both large and small, and are derived from Brittany. In France there is no breed which can be compared with that of the Morbihan. England possesses the Kerry breed, (Irish), which is believed to be descended from the breed of the Morbihan. There is no breed of cows known which presents so many, and distinct indications, according to M. Guenon's method.

At one period these cows were not exported, and were abandoned in the low country. But of late years, the people of the Morbihan have learned that the better their breed the more money is realized; consequently their stocks have been multiplied, and improvements have been effected by crossing with well selected animals, and a good deal, we think, by better feeding and care. For these reasons the breed is now somewhat larger than formerly; averagiug in height about 35 inches; but many persons, notwithstanding this improvement, still prefer the smaller ones.

From inquiries, in the Morbihan, as to the yield of their cows, you are assured by being pointed to this, or that cow, as giving or rather making so many pounds of butter—this one gives 4 lbs., that one 6 lbs. and the other 7 lbs. in the week, and so on.

Is it not worthy of remark here that in these days of epizootic diseases and of abortion in our herds, that the Brittany breed thrive and do well in countries, situations, and localities where other more favored breed can scarcely maintain an existence, not to speak of yielding a profit. Very rustic, always healthy, highly endowed with milking properties, yielding much butter and fattening readily—are adapted for rough usage, with a free, outdoor life, yielding always the largest return—the greater the profit the less they are pampered and protected—are hardy by nature, do not require rich feed, or careful keeping, give less milk the more they are kept in confinement. The Brittany cow is an ornament on the grounds of the gentleman, and is useful in the cottage of the poor; always yielding an abundance in return for a small outlay and poor accommodations.

*August*, 1867.

## BREEDING AND FEEDING SWINE.

In breeding, I would recommend a careful selection of both boar and sow. The boar should be less rather than larger than the sow, and more compact in form; the sow should have a broad, deep chest, broad loin, large ham, good length of body, and fine bone. Always avoid breeding in and in. I always avoid letting my sows have pigs until one year old, as I am satisfied that allowing sows to breed too young, not only checks their own growth and vigor, but that of their progeny also. I prefer a boar one year old, or older, to breed from. I think both continue to do better for raising fine, large pigs until four to six years old, unless the sow gets too heavy and fat. She should be fed sparingly, on light food, for a day or two after she has had her pigs, then as much nourishing food as she will eat, for no sow can furnish milk enough for a large and growing family with scant feed. If you wish the pigs to become properly developed, they must be supplied with milk, or other food, as soon as they will eat. Pigs treated thus will pay 20 per cent. better than those that are neglected. Care should be taken to have each sow separate sometime before pigging, and not allowed too much bedding, as there is less danger of smothering her pigs than when much litter is allowed. I prefer letting them have a range of pasture; it tends to their health and comfort; but when I wish to fatten, a clean, dry pen is preferred. I also prefer ground food, cooked or scalded, for pigs at all times. For young pigs, corn and oats ground together is the best. In short, let us have the best breeds, the best breeding, and the best feed to insure a good stock of any kind.—*C. McCully.*

Hungary Hay for Sheep.—My experience in feeding Hungarian hay to sheep is rather limited; however I have made close enough observation to conclude that it is injurious, unless great care is taken, as it affects sheep as it does many horses. If it is fed cautiously, perhaps it could not hurt them, but I fed several tons of it last Winter, to my sheep, twice a day, and they looked well, but after a while quite a number of them began to get stupid, and would not keep with the flock, and lingered along for several days, and a number of them died. Not having any idea of the cause of their death, I made a post mortem examination and found them the fattest sheep that I ever dressed. When I came to the intestines I found them in a very bad condition; apparently under the inner lining of the intestines there had formed hard balls of various sizes, which proved upon examination to be Hungarian seed, and I came to the conclusion that that occasioned their death. Many of them would linger along for a week or ten days and finally recover. My Hungarian was ripe when I cut it.—*S. M. Y., in Prairie Farmer.*

Flies on Horses and Cattle.—The annoyance of these Summer pests to animals can be greatly mitigated by the use of a mixture of one third kerosene oil and two-thirds lard oil, applied to the legs of the horses, oxen or cows, with a feather or brush, or, what is better, but more objectionable to the applier, with the hands, rubbing it well in. A farmer in this neighborhood used it last Summer on his oxen, having it applied twice a day, on their going out to work—morning and noon. His cattle gained in flesh during fly time. I have used it on horses and two cows. Its benefit is immediately observable. A horse, uneasy, fretting and stamping, becomes, after the application, at once quiet. Those who sympathize with the noble animals in the constant teasing endured by them from these pests, will be glad to use any harmless remedy which will spare incessant work when not called to labor in harness. Horses will keep better on a less supply of food for the repose thus obtained. Cows will give better and more milk from the rest that they will get from this mixture.—*New Haven Courier.*

Vermont is just now sending butter to Boston by the hundreds of tons.

# Advertising Department.




TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the FARM AND FIRESIDE. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a uniform style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the FARM AND FIRESIDE may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1867. NO. 35.


THE PANSY OR HEARTS-EASE.

### DIRECTIONS FOR GROWING PANSIES.

The best season for sowing the seed is about the 20th of September, making another sowing about a month later for a succession. Where plants are desired for blooming in the Green House during Winter, the seed must be sown in August. Sow the seed carefully in shallow boxes or seed pans; the soil should be rather light and sandy; keep the boxes in a cold frame or green house, shading them from a hot sun; be careful not to over-water, as the young plants are very liable to damp off; as soon as the plants are large enough to handle, they should be picked out of the seed pans or boxes, into other boxes, setting them about two inches apart each way; they can remain in a cool green house or sheltered frame until about the first of February; they are then potted into four inch pots, and kept upon the front stage of a green house until they are sufficiently established, and the weather becomes mild enough to remove them into cold frames, where they should be protected from the cold with sash, observing to give them plenty of air when the weather is pleasant. Where extra fine flowers are desired, it will be necessary to give them another shift into five or six inch pots. Two things are absolutely necessary in the growing of fine Pansies, *first*, to secure *good reliable seed*, without which all your efforts will be unavailing; the other is to give them the very best of cultivation; the soil to grow them in must be a rich compost of decomposed cow manure, leaf mould, and good garden loam, or sods well rotted. The plants, when coming into bloom, must be frequently watered with clear liquid manure, which can be made of a solution of Peruvian Guano or stable manure with water, well stirred up, and allowed to settle before using, observing not to make it too strong, as a weak solution frequently applied will be the most beneficial. Where plants are desired for planting out of doors, and later blooming, they can be left in the boxes, and set out early in the Spring in well manured and deep dug ground, setting the plants about one foot apart each way.

(Henry A. Dreer, seedsman and florist, Philadelphia, keeps a large stock of pansy, and other choice flower seeds for sale.)

---

It is well for us to dwell with thankfulness on the unfolding flower and the falling of the dew, and the sleep of the green fields in the sunshine; but the blasted trunk, the barren rock, the moaning of the bleak winds, the roar of the black, perilous whirlpools of the mountain streams, the solemn solitudes of moors and seas, the continual fading of all beauty into darkness, and of all strength into dust, have these no language for us? We may seek to escape their teachings by reasoning touching the good which is wrought out of all evil; but it is vain sophistry. The good succeeds to the evil as day succeeds the night, but so also the evil to the good.—*Ruskin.*

---

Thirty-four vessels are loading with wheat at San Francisco, for foreign ports.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

### FARM NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER.

September is the month when the farmer commences to prepare for another year and might with propriety be placed as first in his calendar. The farmer commences to sow his seed for a crop the coming year during this month; and upon his labors therein in a great measure depends his success and the prosperity of the nation. If the farmer is unsuccessful, his failure is felt to influence all departments of industry and trade to a greater or less extent, so greatly are all other branches of industry, &c., dependant upon agriculture. The entire failure of our wheat crop for a single year would result in untold consequences, not only to us as a nation, but it would affect all other civilized nations of the globe, so greatly are we dependant upon this most important cereal. It should then be the study of the farmer to keep up and increase the yield of so important a bread crop. There is little danger, for the year to come, of a crop being raised so large that the price per bushel will fall below a remunerating profit in its production.

It should be borne in mind that for two or three years past we have had rather a light crop and that most of the old wheat has been consumed; in fact, so close consumed has it been in some parts of the West and wheat producing sections, that it has been imported from abroad and unheard of prices paid for flour. From all sources of information we are led to conclude that there is a good crop the present year, but that it will reach the estimate of newspaper writers and speculators there is great reason to doubt. After a season of scarcity and high prices there is generally great reason to take the estimates and speculations of most writers, disconnected with farming, who are not personally well informed by inspection and observation, with a good degree of allowance as to the abundance of a crop, the speculation being father to the wish rather than of the actual facts. Even if we have the extra yield estimated we have an increased influx of population, which will demand a large quantity of breadstuff before they can by a possibility raise it from the ground; and then our empty granaries are to be replenished to the maximum, which it will be impossible to do with the present crop, aside from furnishing the usual demand for home consumption and export; so that with all our grain there will not be sufficient to depress the prices below a fair remuneration for production. The farmer need not then hesitate in sowing his seed, for his productions will all be needed, if not the coming year, perhaps the following, when there may be a scarcity in some sections to make an unusual demand. Formerly there was considerable wheat raised in New England, without any doubt just as much can be raised at the present day at paying profit as formerly, would farmers but take the pains in preparing the ground and sowing. We have not the enemies, to the extent, to contend with that those of the wheat growing sections of the West have.

We can raise a greater average number of bushels per acre than they, and we have the advantage of a home market without the expense of long transportation that those more remote are obliged to incur. There are but few farms, comparatively, in most of the N. E. States but what have more or less land that might produce a fair yield of good quality, sufficient certainly for family use, and who of us cannot raise five bushels of wheat that will make a barrel of flour more easily than he can earn $20 to pay for one, as many have had to pay the past season? It is more profitable to direct our efforts in securing increased returns from a given number of acres by improved culture, than to enlarge the area and spread the same fertilizers, labor, &c., on the enlarged area. Often one half the cost of more land, laid out in improvements, underdraining, subsoiling, &c., will give to the less area a greater productiveness than the whole, including the increase, unimproved. The farmer need look for but little leisure during this month, for what with the usual rain and wet he will find his time fully occupied in preparations and in putting in his grain, digging potatoes, cutting up his corn, harvesting his tobacco, and all other seasonable work, so that he will not lack employment. Very much labor and vexation will be saved in having all necessary implements and buildings in readiness for each succeeding crop, so that no time may be lost in making preparations when the crop is waiting to be harvested. It is also the farmer's duty to watch the markets, to take advantage of the same in disposing of his grain, wool, and other produce. As a general thing, taking one year with another, it is safe to sell when we can realize a price which will give a good profit on capital and labor invested in production. A few notes like the following will serve to call to mind some of the necessary and important duties of the month.

*Agricultural Fairs and Cattle Shows.*—No observing farmer can fail to gain something in one way or another by attending these, of which there are a number in different places that come off during the month. They afford means of interchange of thoughts, as well as exchange of stock, seeds, &c.; they are thus made the means of recreation and improvement as well as profit. Do not then fail to attend one or more, and take along some of your stock and productions, as well as your wife and children. Take an interest in sustaining good agricultural fairs, and elevating the business of agriculture.

*Beans.*—A good deal depends upon the value of this crop, in the harvesting and curing; if allowed to mold, mildew, &c., before being threshed, their value will be greatly lessened. The haulm well cured and saved makes good fodder for sheep or milch cows. Good, well cleaned beans are always saleable, and generally bring good prices; better always than a less clean, or less good article.

*Buckwheat.*—If allowed to get too ripe or frosted, shells badly in harvesting. Cut as soon as fit for the grain cradle, and set in small bunches so that it will cure soon for threshing.

*Butter.*—Unusual care will be needed in making butter that will keep this Fall, unless we have different weather from that of the first half of August; so much wet will give the feed a poor quality for making good butter, where grass alone is depended upon. Make

and put down for Winter use, this, and next month.

*Cattle.*—See that they have a sufficiency to eat, good pure water to drink, and access to salt at pleasure; especially should this be the case with milch cows; a feed of meal to cows will pay where the feed is so watery, as in many places at present. If pastures are short, feed green corn stalks, &c., to keep up the generous flow of milk.

*Cisterns.*—Where well-water is hard, cisterns for rain-water are a great convenience and should be provided on every farm, furnished with pump, &c., and kept clean of trash or other dirt. If you have none, build one this Fall and observe the saving.

*Corn*—will be ripening, so that to save the fodder in the best state it should be cut up by the ground and securely shocked so that it will cure without injury, by being blown down, or penetrated by rains, &c.

*Grain.*—Thresh as fast as possible, and take advantage of markets in selling, if for sale. Good, well ventilated, dry bins, secure from vermin, will prove more secure in keeping grain than the mow.

*Harvesting*—is as important in farming operations as any other department. Good crops poorly harvested, are often less profitable than poor ones well harvested.

*Plowing.*—Where the ground has a crop of weeds come up, if well plowed down they will equal a coat of manure, aside from preserving the ground from being stocked with foul seed. A thin stratum of subsoil turned up adds new acres to the farm which will be tilled without additional labor.

*Potatoes.*—Dig when ripe, without leaving them through the Fall rains, dry them, spread under cover till cold weather, and then store in cool cellars, in not very large quantities in bulk.

*Rye.*—Put in what will be needed for home consumption. Good rye is equal, and by many preferred, to superfine wheat flour for bread. Sow by the middle or the 20th of the month. It will pay for putting the soil in *good* order.

*Sorghum.*—Strip and cut before hard frosts freeze the canes; bind in small bundles with two hands near each end. It makes the best sirup. Cut when the seed in the middle of the panicle is in the dough and store under cover, or away from freezing, where it will not mold for some two weeks before making up.

*Tobacco.*—Finish up succoring and worming, and cut as soon as it is ready. It is best not to let it get dead ripe; cut before fully ripe. Look out for rust, and if coming on cut at once, hang and give good ventilation.

*Wheat.*—Get the seed in early, having first thoroughly prepared your ground by plowing, manuring, &c. A good coat of superphosphate of lime harrowed in with the seed will usually pay well in increased production. Wash the seed in a pickle of salt and water strong enough to bear up a potato, with a small quantity of blue vitriol added in solution; this will tend to prevent smut and give strength to the straw; skim off all light or foul seed and dry off with air-slaked lime before sowing. Take particular pains to obtain good seed, and then clean it well. If we sow clean wheat, and there be no cheat seed in the soil, we shall not be likely to reap chess, although there be some who would endeavor to teach that wheat turns to chess. When you find rye and wheat springing from an oat seed, then we may look for chess from wheat.

*My Riverdale Farm, Aug.*, 1867. H.

*Blackstone, Mass., Aug. 31st*, 1867.

Messrs Editors:

I saw in the *Farm and Fireside* a request of farmers to make statements of the different varieties of potatoes, their yield, &c.

Last Spring I planted three varieties of early potatoes, the Sebec, Jackson White and the Chili. The Sebec variety were about two weeks the earliest, the Jackson Whites the next. I commenced digging the Sebecs the last of July, and they were clear from disease, but in two weeks were about half diseased. They were manured in the hill, and a spoonful of Peruvian guano thrown on to the potatoes after they were dropped.

Last Spring I planted one acre of corn, spread on manure and plowed it in, and manured with guano in the hill, one large spoonful in the hill; and it looks now as though I might raise as much corn from that acre as I usually have done from two or three acres.

I wish to recommend to farmers who wish to raise early potatoes to plant the early Goodrich. My neighbor, M. A. Daniels, planted one bushel of this variety last Spring, and raised from them 31 bushels of good sound potatoes, which remain sound, for I saw them yesterday. He has put them into a corn bin in the corn-house, there to be kept until cold weather, then to be put into the cellar for planting next Spring. E. Chase.

## TRANSPLANTING HOP SUCKERS.

Since the missing hills of a large number of the last year's planted hop-yards are destined to be filled with suckers from the remaining hills of the same yard this season, and the time for setting is at hand, for the benefit of the inexperienced, a few hints are herewith suggested.

Those shoots putting forth below the top of the crown, and further down, and in nearly a horizontal course, reaching the surface ten and twenty inches from the main root, are the ones to be selected for planting. The time of planting must not be deferred till the tops of the shoots have reached a growth of more than four or six inches—from one to four inches being the best age. Within this period the tops are in the process of leafing, are pulpy, bulky at the base, and taper symmetrically to the ends; the bodies of the roots portly, juicy, of a healthy whitish color, supplied with a germ of rough fibres on the most fleshy parts, near the base of the tops, with a diminutive, shrivelled, rusty appearance at point of juncture with the main roots, denoting but a feeble connective circulation; explaining the fact already learned by experience, *i. e.* that the suckers within this age are in the best condition for forming self-sustaining roots, and that after having grown twelve to thirty inches, according to the length, the roots become smaller and tougher, less juicy, and more vigorous and thicker at the point of connection with the main roots, the root fibres weaker, the tops leaner and wiry; and accordingly, the plant more nearly approaches the nature of the bearing vines; becomes more dependent on the main plant for support, and proportionately loses its root-germinating powers. From this evident fact will be seen the necessity of transplanting the suckers at their earliest age.

Carefully removed from the main root by cutting or breaking, without bruising, when the tops are not more than one or four inches long, and planted early in a damp time, suckers are superior to seed roots planted in the Spring, and with nice care, planted soon enough, will bear half a crop the first season. The older suckers having materially lost the inherent property of establishing a healthy, self-supporting root, when transplanted will grow and often do very well; but will seldom attain a mediocrity, and most generally amount to nothing. Those missing hills that have been filled out with aged suckers, with an idea that the older they are, the better, has proven this fact at a dear cost to the owners of the yards.

In planting, dig, four or five inches deep, two longitudinal holes leading away from the center of the hill, in opposite directions, and put one good plant in each place, with the tops near together at the center, and roots leading away; and first cover with a tier of fine fresh dirt, and then fill up and press with the feet.—*Dell Polot, in Prairie Farmer.*

Pegged Boots, it is stated, if occasionally dressed with petroleum between the soles and the upper leather, will not rip. If the soles of boots or shoes are dressed with petroleum they will resist wet and wear well. The pegs, it is said, are not affected by dryness after being well saturated with this liquid.

## PEACHES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The editor of the New England Farmer gives the following account of a peach orchard he visited in Wendham, N. H., owned and managed by Mr. Samuel Wilson:

"He has seven acres in peaches, grapes and currants. On these seven acres there are eight hundred peach trees, set one rod apart each way. Those having stood there the longest are seventeen years old, and from that down to those six years old. Of the 800 in all, there was not a single tree without peaches! and on most of them there were altogether too many.

On entering the orchard the first thing that struck us with surprise was, that with the exception of a few among the oldest trees, there were no dead twigs or branches to be seen. The trees were about eight or nine feet high, very uniform in height, and were clothed with a remarkably high-colored and vigorous foliage.

"Why are not these trees winter-killed?" we enquired; "is *that* the reason?" pointing to a liberal mulching of hay around each tree.

"That is the question usually asked by observing persons on entering the orchard," he replied.

He said the *base* of the tree, and the roots near it, must be protected from sudden changes, and in accordance with that belief he hauled *four tons* of meadow hay and straw into the orchard and placed it about the trees.

In connection with this practice, he heads the branches in annually; not merely clipping off the ends of the twigs, but cutting off the upright branch just above where two side limbs push out, even when the upright branch is half an inch or more in diameter. This induces other lateral branches to push out below, which soon gives the tree a low and compact form.

The soil of the whole seven acres is ledgy and stony, and has a sort of yellowish color. When worked it is extremely light and friable, very productive, and Mr. W. says, sustains a drought better than heavy clay loams. All the plants growing upon it gave evidence that it contained highly fertilizing elements. Do those elements come from the stones, in a considerable degree? When the land is in grass he states that the crops are usually abundant."

## THINNING TURNIPS.

The most common mistakes made in the thinning of the crop are, first, in not beginning to single till the plants have attained a considerable size, and second, in not singling them so regularly that the plants left are at equal distances. When the plants have leaves that measure one inch across singling should commence, the person overseeing the workers being strict, so that the plants are singled at equal distances, and that only one is left. There have been various experiments in the cultivation of Swedes to ascertain the most suitable distance between the plants. It has been repeatedly shown that when the conditions were favorable, Swedes singled at the distance of 14 inches produced a heavier weight of bulbs than where the plants were 10, or where they were 12 inches apart; the greater distance yielding the heaviest crops. But as all conditions cannot be usually secured, it is advisable to regulate the distance between the plants so as to suit the several conditions which influence the growth of the turnips. Singling by hand is always advisable where the plants are weak, sickly and irregular, either owing to the surface of the drills being rough, the ravages of the turnip-fly, or from other causes. The plants of the Swedish variety are more liable to be injured by singling with the hoe than either yellows or whites; and some farmers prefer to single the Swedes by hand. The plants thus sustain no check from the operation of singling, and grow more vigorously than where the plants have been disturbed by the hoe.—*North British Agriculturist.*

The loss by the rot of the Ohio grapes this year, it is said, will not be so great as was expected. Only the Catawbas have suffered at all, and the Isabellas and Delawares are fully as good as usual.

## SIDE BONE IN HORSE'S FEET.

Side-bones consist in ossification of the elastic lateral cartilages situated immediately above the horse's heels and quarters. From work on the hard roads or stones, these cartilages, which in young sound horses are distinctly felt to be yielding and elastic, gradually become converted into bone, forming irregular, lumpy, hard, unyielding, swellings, which extend backwards along the upper part of the hoof crust, outside and behind the lower pastern bone. Sometimes side-bones become of such large size as to be visible to the eye. Sometimes they extend upwards, becoming continuous with ring-bones, with which they often co-exist. Occasionally they get fractured from a kick or other accident. Lameness is seldom present except when the long deposit is in course of formation, or when from work on the hard roads the adjacent soft parts are bruised between the unyielding bones. Tenderness, however, will generally be evident when the horse with side-bones is smartly trotted on the stones. As with the somewhat analogous ring-bone, side-bones are most common in heavy cart-horses, and high-actioned hack and carriage horses, and especially where the pasterns are short and upright. As weight and concussion in most horses fall rather towards the inside of the foot, the lateral cartilage on the inside is apt to be more frequently and extensively ossified.

Where the parts are inflamed, hot and tender, local bleeding often affords prompt relief; blood may be taken either by scarifying the skin above the heels, or by opening the vessels at the toe. Cold water cloths kept constantly moist and cool should be diligently applied. After the inflammation has been reduced by perfect rest and cold water, a few dressings of ointment of the biniodide of mercury as recommended for splint or ring-bone, will reduce the size of the deposit. Various so-called specifics are vended for the "certain cure" of such exostoses; but, as has been already remarked, long matter once deposited cannot be removed, and the most that can be hoped for is its condensation and hardening so that it shall interfere as little as possible with the movements of the limb. Horses with side-bones require careful shoeing; the shoes should be light, well fitted and easy at the heels; the nail holes as few as possible, and kept well towards the toes; the crust at the heels kept moderately low, but the frog and bars allowed to grow uncut, the hoof kept soft by frequent oiling, and jar reduced by leather pads.—*North British Agriculturist.*

The Chewing of the Cud is a process which has no doubt been noticed by all who have watched cattle. Ruminating animals gather their food rapidly, give it a few cuts with the teeth and swallow it. It goes to an interior receptacle, where it is moistened; this is very essential if it be dry hay. When the animal has filled himself, he masticates the food thus stored away in his stomach, raising it cud by cud. When a portion is completely masticated it passes to another receptacle, and the process of digestion goes on. Thus an ox if left to himself, will raise and masticate all his food thus stored away in his stomach. If he be pushed and worked hard, and does not have time to masticate, he falls off in flesh, his health is poor, his digestion is incomplete. The horse, on the contrary, however much in a hurry he may be, must masticate each mouthful before he swallows it. A hungry ox let into a meadow will fill himself in twenty minutes, while a horse would want at least one hour and twenty minutes to take the same amount of grass. The ox, the deer, sheep, goat, chamois and rabbit being the natural prey of ferocious animals, are endowed with the extra stomach in which to hastily store away the food without mastication; this may perhaps be regarded as a wise provision of nature.

Two thousand merino sheep have lately been imported into Spottsylvania county, Virginia.

If you try to compel a boy to an occupation which he seriously dislikes, you not only discourage, but perhaps prevent the life of usefulness which he might lead in another. Lend him a helping hand in whatever calling he may prefer, showing him that although your own favorite pursuit is not his choice, you are yet willing to assist him in attaining usefulness and honor in another. There should be a mutual confidence between parent and son. Let the father listen patiently to the boy's plans and hopes, and encourage him to speak of them. What if they are chimerical? What if a ripe experience sees that they can never be realized? Let the father be in no haste to dampen the ardor of the boy, but by degrees unfold the subject in its proper light, and by cautiously changing the current of his mind, lead him, not drive him, from his unwise purpose.

## The Fireside Muse.

### THE MUSIC OF THE SEA.

The gray unresting sea,
  Adown the bright and belting shore,
Breaking in untold melody,
  Makes music evermore.

Centuries of vanished time,
  Since the glad earth's primæval morn,
Have heard the grand unpausing chime,
  Momently new-born.

Like as in cloistered piles,
  Rich bursts of massive sounds upswell,
Ringing along dim lighted aisles,
  With spirit-trancing spell;

So on the surf-white strand,
  Chants of deep peal the sea-waves raise,
Like voices from a viewless land,
  Hymning a hymn of praise.

By times, in thunder notes,
  The booming billows shoreward surge;
By times a silver laugh it floats;
  By times a low soft dirge.

Souls more enobled grow,
  List'ing the wordless anthem rise;
Discords are drowned in the great flow
  Of Nature's harmonies.

Men change, and "cease to be,"
  And empires rise and grow and fall;
But the weird music of the sea
  Lives, and outlives them all.

That mystic song shall last
  Till Time itself no more shall be:
Till seas and shores away have pass'd,
  Lost in eternity. —*Once a Week.*

## Fireside Tale.

### THE TOWN LOT.

Once upon a time it happened that the men who governed in the municipal affairs of a certain growing town in the West, resolved, in grave deliberation assembled, to purchase a five-acre lot at the North end of the city—recently incorporated—and have it improved for a park or public square. Now, it also happened that all the saleable ground lying North of the city was owned by a man named Smith—a shrewd, wide-awake individual—whose motto was, "Every man for himself," with an occasional addition about a certain gentleman in black taking "the hindmost."

Smith, it may be mentioned, was secretly at the bottom of this scheme for a public square, and had himself suggested the matter to an influential member of the council; not that he was moved by what is denominated public spirit—no; the spring of action in the case was merely "private spirit," or a regard for his own good. If the council decided upon a public square, he was the man from whom the ground would have to be bought; and he was the man who could get his own price therefor.

As we have said, the park was decided upon, and a committee of two appointed, whose business it was to see Smith and arrange with him for the purchase of a suitable lot of ground. In due form the committee called upon the landholder, who was fully prepared for the interview.

"You are the owner of these lots?" said the spokesman of the committee.

"I am," replied Smith, with becoming gravity.

"Will you sell a portion of ground, say five acres, to the city?"

"For what purpose?" Smith knew very well for what purpose the land was wanted.

"We have decided to set apart about five acres of ground, and improve it as a kind of park, or public promenade."

"Have you indeed? Well, I like that," said Smith, with animation. "It shows the right kind of public spirit."

"We have, moreover, decided that the best location will be at the North end of the town."

"Decidedly my opinion," returned Smith.

"Will you sell us the required acres?" asked one of the councilmen.

"That will depend somewhat upon where you wish to locate the park."

The particular location was named.

"The very spot," replied Smith promptly, "upon which I have decided to erect four rows of dwellings."

"But it is too far out for that," was naturally objected.

"Oh, no. Not a rod. The city is rapidly growing in that direction. I have only to put up the dwellings referred to, and dozens will be anxious to purchase lots and build all around them. Won't the ground to the left of that you speak of answer as well?"

But the committee replied in the negative. The lot they had mentioned was the one decided upon as best suited for the purpose, and they were not prepared to think of any other location.

All this Smith understood very well. He was not only willing, but anxious for the city to purchase the lot they were negotiating for. All he wanted was to get a good round price for the same—say four or five times the real value. So he feigned indifference, and threw difficulties in the way.

A few years previous to this time, Smith had purchased a considerable tract of land at the North of the then flourishing village, at fifty dollars an acre. Its present value was about three hundred dollars an acre.

After a good deal of talk on both sides, Smith finally agreed to sell the particular lot pitched upon. The next thing was to arrange as to price.

"At what do you hold this ground per acre?"

It was some time before Smith answered this question. His eyes were cast upon the floor, and earnestly did he enter into debate with himself as to the value he should place upon the lot. At first he thought of five hundred dollars per acre. But his cupidity soon tempted him to advance on that sum, although a month before he would have caught at such an offer. Then he advanced to six, to seven and to eight hundred. And still he felt undecided.

"I can get my own price," said he to himself. "The city has to pay, and I might just as well get a large sum as a small one."

"For what price will you sell?" The question was repeated.

"I must have a good price."

"We are willing to pay what is fair and right."

"Of course. No doubt you have fixed a limit to which you will go."

"Not exactly that," said one of the gentlemen."

"Are you prepared to make an offer?"

"We are prepared to hear your price, and to make a report thereon," was replied.

"That's a very valuable lot of ground," said Smith.

"Name your price," returned one of the committee men, a little impatiently.

Thus brought up to the point, Smith, after thinking hurriedly for a few moments, said,

"One thousand dollars an acre."

Both the men shook their heads in a very positive way. Smith said it was the lowest he could take; and so the conference ended.

At the next meeting of the city councils, a report of the town lot was made, and the extraordinary demand of Smith canvassed. It was unanimously decided not to make the proposed purchase.

When this decision reached the landholder he was considerably disappointed. He wanted money badly and would have "jumped at" two thousand dollars for the five-acre lot, if satisfied that it would bring no more. But, when the city came forward as a purchaser, his cupidity was subjected to a very strong temptation. He believed that he could get five thousand dollars as easily as two; and quieted his conscience by the salvo—"An article is always worth what it will bring."

A week or two went by, and Smith was calling upon one of the members of the council, to say that, if the city really wanted the lot, he would sell at their price, leaving it with the council to act justly and generously, when a friend said to him—

"I hear that the council had the subject of a public square under consideration this morning."

"Indeed." Smith was visibly excited, though he tried to appear calm.

"Yes; and I also hear that they have decided to pay the extravagant price you asked for a lot of ground at the north end of the city."

"A thousand dollars an acre?"

"Yes."

"Its real value, and not a cent more," said Smith.

"People differ about that. However, you are lucky," said the friend, "the city is able to pay."

"So I think. And I mean they shall."

Before the committee to whom the matter was given in charge had time to call upon Smith and close with him for the lot, that gentleman had concluded in his own mind that it would be just as easy to get twelve hundred dollars an acre as a thousand. It was plain that the council were bent upon having the ground, and would pay a round sum for it. It was just the spot for a public square; and the city must become the owner. So, when he was called upon by the gentlemen, and they said to him—

"We are authorized to pay you your price," he promptly answered.

"The offer is no longer open. You declined it when it was made. My price for that piece of property is now twelve hundred dollars an acre."

The men offered remonstrances; but it was of no avail. Smith believed that he could get six thousand dollars for the ground as easily as five thousand. The city must have the lot, and would pay almost any price.

"I hardly think it right, Mr. Smith," said one of his visitors, "for you to take such an advantage. This square is for the public good."

"Let the public pay, then," was the unhesitating answer. "The public is able enough."

"The location of this park at the North end of the city will greatly improve the value of your other property."

This Smith understood very well. But he replied—

"I'm not so sure of that. I have some very strong doubts on that subject. It's my opinion that the buildings I contemplated erecting will be far more to my advantage. Be that as it may, however, I am decided in selling for nothing less than six thousand dollars."

"We were only authorized to pay five thousand," replied the committee. "If you agree to that sum we will close the bargain on the spot."

Five thousand dollars was a large sum of money, and Smith felt strongly tempted to close in with the liberal offer. But six thousand loomed up before his imagination still more temptingly.

"I can get it," said he to himself; "and the property is worth what it will bring."

So he positively refused to sell it at a thousand dollars per acre.

"At twelve hundred you will!" remarked one of the committee, as they were about retiring.

"Yes. I will take twelve hundred the acre. That is the lowest rate; I am not anxious, even at that price. I can do quite as well by keeping it in my own possession. But, as you seem so bent on having it, I will not stand in your way. When will the council meet again?"

"Not until next week."

"Very well. If they then accept my offer all will be right. But understand me; if they do not accept, the offer no longer remains open. It is a matter of no moment to me which way the thing goes."

It was a matter of moment to Smith, for all this assertion—a matter of great moment. He had several thousand dollars to pay in the course of a few months on land purchases, and no way to meet the payments except by mortgages or sales of property; and it may naturally be concluded that he suffered considerable uneasiness during the time which passed until the next meeting of the council.

Of course the grasping disposition shown by Smith became the town talk; and people said a good many hard things of him. Little, however, did he care, so that he secured six thousand dollars for a lot not worth more than two thousand.

Among other residents and property-holders in the town was a simple-minded, true-hearted, honest man, named Jones. His father had left him a large farm, a goodly portion of which, in process of time, came to be included in the limits of the new city; and he found a much more profitable employment in selling building lots than in tilling the soil. The property of Mr. Jones lay at the West side of the town.

Now, when Mr. Jones heard of the exorbitant demand made by Smith for a five-acre lot, his honest heart throbbed with a feeling of indignation.

"I couldn't believe it of him," said he. "Six thousand dollars. Preposterous! Why I would give the city a lot twice the size, and do it with pleasure."

"You would?" said a member of the council, who happened to hear this remark.

"Certainly I would."

"You are really in earnest?"

"Undoubtedly. Go and select a public square from any of my unappropriated land on the West side of the city, and I will pass you the title, as a free gift to-morrow, and feel pleasure in doing so."

"That is public spirit," said the councilman.

"Call it what you will. I am pleased in making the offer."

Now, let it not be supposed that Mr. Jones was shrewdly calculating the advantage which would result to him from having a park at the west side of the city. No such thought had yet entered his mind. He spoke from the impulse of a generous feeling.

Time passed on, and the session-day of the council came round, a day to which Smith had looked forward with no ordinary feelings of interest, that were touched, at times, by the coldness of doubt and the agitation of uncertainty. Several times he had more than half repented of his refusal to accept the liberal offer of five thousand dollars, and of having fixed so positively upon six thousand as the "lowest figure."

The morning of the day passed, and Smith began to grow uneasy. He did not venture to seek for information as to the doings of the council, for that would be to expose the anxiety he felt in the result of their deliberations. Slowly the afternoon wore away, and it happened that Smith did not meet any one of the councilmen; nor did he know whether the council was still in session or not. As to making allusion to the subject of his anxious interest to any one, that was carefully avoided; for he knew that his exorbitant demand was the town talk, and he wished to affect the utmost indifference on the subject.

The day closed, and not a whisper about the town lot had come to the ears of Mr. Smith. What could it mean? Had his offer to sell at six thousand been rejected? The very thought caused his heart to grow heavy in his bosom. Six, seven, eight o'clock came, and still it was all dark with Mr. Smith. He could bear the suspense no longer, and so determined to call upon his neighbor Wilson, who was a member of the council, and learn from him what had been done.

So he called on Mr. Wilson.

"Ah, friend Smith," said the latter, "how are you this evening?"

"Well, I thank you," returned Smith, feeling a certain oppression of the chest. "How are you?"

"Oh, very well."

Here there was a pause, after which Smith said:

"About that ground of mine? What did you do?"

"Nothing," replied Wilson, coldly.

"Nothing, did you say?" Smith's voice was a little husky.

"No, you declined our offer—or, rather the high price fixed by yourself upon the land."

"You refused to buy it at five thousand when it was offered," said Smith.

(Concluded on page 278.)

Animal Life.—One of the striking facts pertaining to animal life, and one which every tiller of the soil has noticed, whether as a gardner, an orchardist, or more general farmer, is the great multiplicity of animal life seen in one season and an almost extinction the next year. The year 1866 was remarkable for the great numbers of red squirrels in Maine, and other New England States. They abounded everywhere. Every house had its squirrels and every fence had them as occupants. This year we have not seen one. Last year the caterpillars covered the apple trees with their nests. This year we have seen but a single nest. We have not seen a cut worm the present year on our corn or in our garden. Thus by a wise provision of an all ruling Providence, these pests like the waves of the sea are bidden,—"Thus far shalt thou go and no farther."—*Maine Farmer.*

# Field and Farm.

## ORCHARD GRASS FOR PASTURE.

Chas. L. Flint, in his work on Grasses, says of Orebard Grass (*Dactylis glomerata*):

"Tbis is one of the most valuable and widely-known of all the pasture grasses. It is eommon to every eountry in Europe, to the north of Afriea, and to Asia, as well as to America. Its eulture was introdueed iuto England from Virginia, where it had been cultivated some years previously, in 1764. It forms one of the most eommon grasses of English natural pastures, on rieh, deep, moist soils. It became, soon after its introduetion into England, an objeet of speeial agrieultural interest among eattle feeders, baving been found to be exceedingly palatable to stock of all kinds. Its rapidity of growth, the luxuranee of its aftermath, and its power of enduring the eropping of eattle, eommend it highly to tbe farmer's eare, espeeially as a pasture grass.

"As it blossoms earlier tban Timothy, and about the time of red elover, it makes an admirable mixture with tbat plant, to eut in the blossom and cure for hay. As a pasture grass it sbould be fed close, both to prevent its forming thiek tufts, and to prevent its ruuning to seed, when it loses a large proportion of its nutritive matter, and it becomes hard and wiry. All kinds of stoek eat it greedily when green.

"Judge Buel said of it, 'I shouid prefer it to almost every other grass, and cows are very fond of it.' Elsewhere he says: 'American Coek's foot, or Orehard Grass, is oue of the most abiding grasses we have. It is probably better adapted than any other grass, to sow with elover and otber seeds for permanent pasture, or for bay, as it is fit to eut with elover, and grows remarkably quiek wheu cropped by eattle. Five or six days' growth in Summer suffiees to give a good bite. Its good properties eonsist in its early and rapid growth, and its resistanee of drouth; but all agree that it should be elosely eropped. Sheep will pass over every other grass to feed upon it. If suffered to grow long without being cropped, it becomes eoarse and barsh. Colonel Powel (a late eminent farmer of Pennsylvania) after growing it ten years, deelares that it produees more pasturage than any other grass he has seen iu Ameriea. On being fed very elose, it has produced good pasture, after remaining five days at rest. It is suited to all arable soils. Two bushels of seed are requisite for an aere when sown alone, or half this quantity, wheu sown with elover. The seed is very light, weighing not more than twelve or fourteen pounds to the hushel. It should be eut early for hay.'

"Mr. Sanders, a well known practieal farmer and eattle breeder of Keutukcy, says of it: 'My observation and experience have indueed me to rely mainly on orehard grass and red elover; indeed, I now sow no other sort of grass-seed. These grasses, mixed, make the best bay of all the grasses for tbis climate (Kentueky.) It is nutritious, and well adapted as food for stock. Orehard grass is ready for grazing in the Spring, ten or twelve days sooner than any other that affords a full bite. When grazed down and the stock turned off, it will be ready for re-grazing in less than half the time required for Kentucky blue grass. It stands a severe drought better than any other grass, keeping green and growing when other sorts are dried up. In Summer it will grow more in a day thau blue grass will in a week. Orebard grass is naturally disposed to form and grow in tussocks. The best preventive is a good preparation of the ground, and a sufficieney of seed uniformly sown.'

Orehard grass is less exhausting to the soil tban rye grass or Timothy. It will eudure considerable shade. In a porous subsoil its fibrous roots extend to a great depth. Its babit of growth unfits it for a lawn grass. Its seed weighs twelve pounds to the busbel, and, to sow alone, about twenty-four pounds to the acre are required to make sure of a good crop. It should not be sown alone, except for the sake of raising the seed. It is worthy of a much more extended cultivation among us."

## A PLACE FOR TOOLS.

Farmers should take good eare of tbeir farming tools and implement, and not leave them out to get wet, and to tbe influence of a hot sun, to eraek the wood. Wagons and plows will last a life-time, if well housed; but when left exposed to all kinds of weatber, a few years will suffiee to use them up.

A tool room is as important to a farmer as any building ou his farm. A work-beneb, with vice at one end, is very importaut. Here a bundred things can be "fixed," too numerous to mention.

In sueh a room a good assortment of *good* tools should be kept—saws, planes, augurs, bits, gimblets, files, &c. Then get a good supply of nails of all kinds, wrought aud eut, aud some made espeeially for little jobs, that require nice nails. The eity bardware dealers have tbem; tbey eome in papers like brads. You also want an assortment of serews. No matter wbetber you know of any use you ean put mauy of the screws, brads, nails, &e., to, you will be *sure* to use them all sooner or later.

You will also require a good assortment of timber, ready seasoned, to enable you to make or mend anything that ean possibly be done outside of a wbeelwright or blaeksmith shop.

Try it, farmers, and see how quiekly you and your sous can learu on rainy days to put your farm tools in order, and also do many other thiugs for the "women folks," that will save you hundreds of dollars in the end.—*Rural American.*

Book-Farming is simply the best farmiug put in books—yours, reader, if it is the best. A fool eannot write a book; an able mau must do it—not a man of mere aeeomplishments or learning—but one versed in the business he writes upon. It is thus that we have books by the hest men iu all the departments. These meu make our literature—and to be opposed to tbem, is to be arrayed against knowledge, against sehools and newspapers. Wbat is thought of the man who opposes edueation?

And what is edueation but to learn to know a thing? If the prejudieed reader (prejudieed against book farming) knows bow to trim bis vine, he is the man, if he has words for it, to write a book on the subjeet—the very man we want, for we are after faets, after the best mode. And yet this would be ealled "book-farming." It is mere prejudiee, depend upon it.

But there is one evil whieb gives rise to this very prejudiee; bad books foisted on tbe publie. These are read—and they lead into error; and forthwith good and bad are eondemned.

Our best men eertainly are not the fools. Our ablest men, who lead in their departments, are men qualified, if any, to impart iustruetion. Shall we heed them? or shall we follow after our own half-formed, inexperienced notions? We have our prejudiees, and tbey make us believe we are right, without eonsulting the faets of the case.—*Rural World.*

A Kansas Farmer's Profits.—The Lawrenee Journal tells wbat the farm of a man liviug near that plaee has yielded this year. He raised eighty aeres of eorn, twenty aeres of wheat and ten aeres of potatoes. The eorn yielded eighty bushels, the wheat thirty bushels, and the potatoes three hundred aud fifty busbels per aere. The value of the entire erop, from one hundred and ten acres of land eultivated, is $5,435—a handsome income for a farmer. It should be borne in mind, however, that the crops in Kansas are unusually good this year, and that, in all probability, the owner of this farm is an exceptionally good farmer.

A method of making use of fowls, reeently devised in Erance, is said to be of great agricultural value. An old omnibus is fitted up with nest-boxes and perebes, and it is proposed that such a machine sbould be kept on every farm well filled with fowls, and should be transferred every day to the spot wbere the most aetive farming operations are being carried ou. The fowls would then follow the plough and harrow, clear the land thoroughly of fly and worm, piek up all the stray grain after harvest, and keep themselves high in health.

# The Stock Yard.

## FOOT ROT IN SHEEP.

The many heavy showers and long continued storms with wbieh we bave been visited sinee the openiug Spring, having kept low lying pastures, particulaily, soft and marshy, it is a matter of some surprise that tbus far sheep have eseaped, so generally, tbe foot rot. Fearing tbere may be farmers who have not taken this state of the weather into eonsideratiou and therefore have negleeted to make the necessary investigations we propose, in a brief mauner, to eall their attentiou to tbe importanee of being on the alert, and prepared to meet sueeessfully the enemy, whom we have good reason to suspeet, is lurking among our floeks. Experience having demonstrated how exeeedingly infeetious the disease is, notwithstanding tbe assertions of many writers to tbe eontrary, adds another iueentive to prevention if possible, otherwise to speedy treatment. The varieties of foot-rot are quite numerous, but the true indieations more frequently oeeur, from above than below. Tbe horn by exposure to wet beeomes more luxuriant, softer, and, eonsequently, weaker; inflammation is exeited within the foot by its being eonstantly wet and eold, frequeutly endiug in suppuration, and thus eausing in many eases troublesome and offeusive uleers. Apparently tbere ean be hut little wear and tear of the foot in soft ground, yet wben we take into eonsideration the unsouud and spongy eondition of the horn, it will be seen how easily small partieles of sand or gravel may be introdueed into the softened mass, aud in a short time peuetrate the quick. Tbis, it is true, may oeeur independeut of the foot-rot, and iu sueh eases is mueh more susceptible of treatmeut hy similar meaus.

Large or fat sheep are more subjeet to the disease than the small or lighter oues, the born uot being proportionately strong. The symptom first notieed, where the proper attention has not been bestowed, is lameness in tbe sheep; an examination will exhibit the morbid growth deseribed above. The foot is hot and painful, more partieularly so iu the eleft beween the two hoofs; and there is usually a notieeable enlargement about the eoronet, as also a wound diseharging a thin offensive fluid —always an increased secretion. Preeeding the dropping off the hoof, there is a separation of the horn from the parts beneath, although sueh separation is not neeessarily an indieation of tbe loss.

In a few eases the toe of the hoof appears to be worn to the quiek, and being unable to walk, the sheep is obliged to move about upon its kuees until the pain experieneed becomes so great, and the diffieulty of ruminating so severe, that the poor ereature dies from irritation and starvation. All this suffering may, however, by simple remedies, be prevented, and will never be found among the floek of a eareful and attentive farmer. In the first stage of the disease, those portions of horn separated from the parts beneath should be removed, and an applieation of diluted oil of vitriol, sulphuric acid, or any preparations of tbis nature made with a leather to the ulcerated surfaee. Dipping the foot in very hot tar, as near the boiling point as is bearable, and the use of a plentiful supply of turpentime, are also very often successful remedies. In its most virulent form, tbe disease is only mastered by the most attentive reatment, aud a thorough removal of all tbe horn covering the ulcerated parts is a primary necessity previous to any applications, as is also the cleansing of the foot from all the grit and dirt. The chauge to higher and dryer ground has often been found to effect a cure, aud is certainly benefieial in all cases; some farmers have wholly eradicated the disease by driving their sheep over dusty roads, or a barn floor, daily.

Others again suggest as an admirable plan that a few bushels of lime be placed about tbree inches deep near the bars through which the sheep pass to and from tbe pasture, or at any point where they will be obliged to pass over it. In referring to the disease an autbority says, "In grounds that are disposed to give the foot-rot, the farmer would find it advantageous to bave the hoofs of his sheep rasped or pared onee every fortnight or three weeks. This is not often done, but it appears reasonable, and would not be very expensive. In uninclosed or mountainous eountries, wbere the sheep have partieular tracts, gravel migbt be seattered in suffieient quantities to wear and harden the born." A floek of sheep having eontraeted the foot-rot and received successful treatment are in but little danger of a reeurrenee of tbe disease, and are consequently considered more valuable than those whieh have never had it. Tbis eertainly sbould be the ease, yet the experienee is a usually expensive one, not to be wished for.—*American Stock Journal.*

## SHEEP IN MICHIGAN.

Some time sinee Messrs. Holmes & Brothers, wool dealers in Detroit, addressed letters to township supervisors tbroughout Micbigan, requesting from tbem a statement of the number of sheep returned upon the tax rolls for this year. Returns were reeeived from 109 towns, in twenty eounties, ineluding tbe principal wool-produeing eounties of the State. Tbe numbers returned are eompared with tbe number in these same townships in 1864, and from this a basis is obtained from whieh to ealeulate the number of sheep in the State. It is found that the net increase sinee 1864, iu these townships, is about fifteen and a half per eent. The State authorities, in the offieial statistics for 1864, gave tbe whole number of sheep in the State as 2,053,363. To this add fifteen and a half per eent. and 2,371,634 is bad, as the present estimated number of sheep in tbe State.

This number is considerably below tbe usual estimates—very mueh below the estimate made by the Agrieultural Department. It follows that, aeeording to these statements, tbe elip of wool in Michigan is considerably less than has geuerally been supposed. Estimating the average weight of fleeee at four pouuds, which is above tbe average usually taken, and 9,486,536 pounds is the amount of the elip of the State. It has been stated that tbe wool produet of tbe State, for tbe present year, was 12,000,000 pounds—even higher estimates have been made.—*Western Rural.*

## HEALTH OF COWS.

Good health in domestic animals is always a matter of primary importanee. As bad health in parents transmits a tendeney to disease in tbe offspring, it is important that every kind of animal we desire to eontinue on our farms should be kept vigorous and healthy.

As domestie animals are a source of human food, it is of great importanee to preserve them in a healthy eondition. Diseased meat carries its qualities into the stomach of its eonsumers. It is a serious objection whieh vegetarians urge agaiust the use of animal food, tbat the artificial eircumstances in whieh animals live, and tbe had treatment they reeeive, render them unhealtby. As au unhealtby animal does not eonsume food to as good advantage as a well one, it is economical to avoid disease. As eomparative misery and discomfort aceompany disease, it is humane as well as eeonomieal to see that the animals under our care enjoy as far as possible their creature comforts.

Eaeh of these circumstances is a sufficient reason for guarding, with serupulous care, the health of tbe animals we feed; but when we derive milk from animals, it is doubly important that they are kept free from every objectionable taint. A sickly eow not only yields a dimished profit, but she yields a sickly milk, and sickly in a higber degree than her flesb.

If a cow eats anything that has a strong or disagreeable odor, it appears in her milk. If a cow eats anything medicinal, it comes out in her milk. If she is feverish her milk shows it. If she has sores about her, pus may be found in her milk. If she is fed upon decayed or diseased food, her milk, since it is derived from her food, will be imperfect.—*Little Falls Farmer.*

The Hunting Leopard.—In Persia tbe leopard or panther is trained to hunt gazelles just as a faleon will hunt herons. The huntsman provides it with a hood, and seats it on his saddle-bow. The moment he sights a deer or gazelle he uncovers the leopard, and lets it down from his borse. In one or two bounds the leopard springs ou the baek of its prey, which it seizes by the neek and brings to tbe ground. The huntsman then comes up, and after earessing the leopard, whieh has already begun to make a meal of the quarry, and giving it a bit of meat to divert its attention, be puts ou its bood and restores it to its place at his saddle-bow. When the leopard misses its prey, which very rarely happens, it hides itself, and can only be persuaded to renew the chase by repeated caresses. A trained leopard costs in Persia twelve thousand francs.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, SEPEMBER 7, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.

Since the death of Hon. Isaac Newton, the Department of Agrieulture is without a head. Of course, there is an acting Commissioner, (an old friend and a good fellow), but the Department is not represented by an offieial appointee. This vaeuum causes a great deal of anxiety among aspirants for the offiee; and the applicants are about as numerous as blaekbirds in a corn-field. We have not a personal aequaiutanee among all of them; consequeutly what we may say will have no personal applieation to those who generously offer their services to the Government and to the great agricultural class who look to that Department for knowledge, eneouragement and proteetion.

The late Commissioner was a praetieal agriculturist. He was born on the farm, and spent nearly three seore years in the pursuits of the oldest and noblest of human arts. The period of his life compassed all the growth, improvement and progress of our agrieulture. Heuee, his experienee and practiee, coupled with iutelligenee and judgment, well qualified him for the position he oeeupied. Yet he failed to meet the expeetations of large numbers of the agrieultural eommunity. This was owiug, partially, to a want of executive energy; chiefly, however, to the faet that he presided over a new, half organized, and badly appointed Department. These faets should have been weighed by the eritics and assailants of Mr. Newton, and due allowance giveu to the imperfeetions, perplexities and difficulties of a uew, untried Department.

Another faet—one of great weight and entirely overlooked—is that the Goverument was engaged in eivil war through nearly the whole period of the late Commissioner's admiuistration. The whole eivil and military powers of the Republie were required to put down the Rebellion. More than half of the purely agricultural section of the country was iu revolt; while half a million of loyal soldiers were called from the plough on our Northern aud Western farms. A little reflection would show that an Agricultural Department organized amid the throes aud sufferings of a fratricidal war, with half of its territory in Rebellion, and the farmers of the other half turned into soldiers, could not be a suceessful or prosperous institution. Had the Republie remained in peaee, out of debt, her yeomanry tranquil, her agriculture prosperous, her industry unburthened with taxes, all of us produeers instead of consumers and destroyers, then our Department of Agriculture might have flourished and given entire satisfaction from the start.

The agrieultural resources of this nation are almost beyond comprehension. Few of us know anything of its capaeity to feed aud elothe the human family. Our soils embrace the best of the earth's surface. Our elimate, though subject to extremes, is nevertheless more genial and productive than any other in the temperate zone. For agricultural and horticultural erops the world eannot surpass, nor probably equal us. But our great empire of cereal and vegetable wealth is undeveloped. We are advancing gradually, pushing the ploughshare through the fertile valleys, guiding the mowing maehine over the prairies, and building storehouses for grain in all our eities and marts of trade. Hence, the value aud importance of an Agrieultural Department well organized, ably officered, and with a practically edueated and first-class Commissioner.

We want no politieian for that offiee. We want no decayed gentleman of fortune to oeeupy it. We want no Lazarus of party to gather erumbs for the Agrieultural Bureau. But what we do require and insist upon having, is a live, praetical, scientific agriculturist. We care not what his politics are, who his friends are—nor whether he has any friends or politics at all. Give us a good man, one who will eonfer honor and progress on the Departmeut, rather than that the Department bequeath fame and pocket thrift to some miserable pensioner of offieial patronage. Here is the seat of agricultural empire, and no political dwarf or pigmy of party should oeeupy so valuable and distingnished a position as that of Commissioner of Agrieulture. Give us "the right man in the right plaee," then we may antieipate development and progress for American agriculture.

## JUDICIOUS PREMIUMS.

We have previously expressed our disapprobation of makiug agricultural fairs mere exhibitions of horse speed; or rather iguoring the legitimate object of agrieultural improvement for that of horse-raeing. We are not alone in the opiuion that these fairs have sadly degenerated within the past few years, aud that they have failed to meet the views of the more honest aud intelligent portions of the agrieultural eommunity. Consequently it gives us pleasure to eommend the Penusylvania State Soeiety for a judicious list of premiums for essays on the various branches of farming.

The following liberal awards are to be distributed at the State Exhibitiou at Pittsburg, ou the 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th of September:—

For the best report or history of the exhibition, published in any newspaper or periodical, or furnished the Society in MSS., within thirty days. If published in a newspaper, four copies to be furnished the Secretary..... $50

An entry must be made by the competitors for the following premiums, as in all other cases, and the papers furnished the Secretary of the Society on or before the LAST DAY OF OCTOBER, 1867, so that sufficient time may be had for the committee to make a proper report at the meeting of the Society in January, 1867.

To the Farmer who shall present the best essay upon the causes of failures of crops and in farming.....Silver Cup.

To the Farmer who presents the best and most approved form of farm accounts, for the year.....Silver Cup.

Best essay on the use of Agricultural Periodicals..Silver Cup.

Best essay on Grasses.....Silver Cup.

Best essay on Veterinary Science.....Silver Cup.

For an approved Report of Experiments in the saving, preparing and applying liquid manures.....$50.

The reports for this premium must give plans and specification of the cisterns or vats for securing the manure, the cost of the same, and the materials used in the construction—also, drawings and descriptions of the implements used for the distribution and application of the manure, and the method and time of applying the same, with the results as applied to grass lands and grain crops, of not less than three acres.

Best essay on preparing and saving seeds.....Silver Cup.

Best essay of practical observations and description of experiments on the Diseases of Cattle, a premium in the discretion of the committee, not to exceed.....$50.

Best essay on Sheep Breeding and Rearing Silver Cup or $25.

Best essay on the Bee and Saving of Honey..Silver Cup or $25.

Best essay on Improvements in Farming Implements and their economical use.....Silver Cup or $25.

No limit can properly be fixed for essays, but they need not exceed 12 pages of cap MSS., written on one side of the paper.

The Foreign Grain Market.—The large surplus of grain raised in this country led to the belief that we should ship vast quantities to Europe. Reports from aeross the ocean do not confirm this opiuion. The wheat erops promise abundanee in all seetions of Europe. In Eugland there is no deficieucy. Franee has an over-supply, and is eveu shipping to British ports. Iu Poland and Austria are fair crops. The harvest in the Southeru part of Russia is the best for several years, large exports being reported from all the Black Sea marts of trade. From these faets we must eonclude that the foreign demand for grain will be eomparatively small. Our foreign iudebtedness must be paid in cottou or speeie.

Hops.—Gather before frosts, dry and preserve in boxes or barrels for use. It is better to remove them without cuttiug the vine till fully dry, as the viue will bleed and injure the root for furture beariug. In Maine the erops were harvested last week, the yield being nearly a quarter better than last year.

☞ The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will hold its aunual exhibitiou in Philadelphia, on the 24th, 25th and 26th of September. This Society has now oue of the finest halls in the country, and the eouiug exhibition promises to be one of great merit and attraetiveness.

The great Canada cheese, which was exhibited at the New York State Fair, at Saratoga, weighing 7000 lbs., has recently been tested, and found to be uniform in eolor and excellent in texture, with a sharp flavor, resembling the "brandy-cheese" so popular with many.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

The origin of the Brahma Pootra fowls eomes up for discussion in the agricultural press, now and then, but the question seems to be as undecided as the authorship of the Junius letters. S. M. Sauuders eontributes an artiele to the "Couutry Gentleman," in which he endeavors to traee their origin to India, somewhere on the river Brahma Pootra. This authority eomes from the "Cottage Gardner," of London for 1865—a magazine which has reeently denied that the Brahma Pootras were a distinet breed of fowl. This question of origin still remains in the fog.

A eorrespondeut of the same journal (Country Geutleman) writes a letter from Illinois on the grain, eattle and hog market, in Champaign eouuty. The yield of wheat is estimated at an average of only thirteen bushels, although instauces are reeorded of some Spring wheat yielding 25 to 30 bushels per aere. Corn, hogs and eattle are represented "on the advanee," aud many eattle feeders eouut on only half a eoru crop in that seetion.

The "Western Rural," of Chicago, is in favor of having the roots of grape viues "well shaded," and refers to the wild vines of the forest whose roots are imbedded in the moist leaf mold, and in close proximity to water. It instanees a viue that had not growu much for two years, but an arbor, for a rustic seat, was built over it, and since then it has growu vigorously. This faet, amoug numerous others, is quoted to show the utility of protecting grape roots from the scorching rays of the sun. That moisture and shade are beneficial to the roots of the grape is generally well known. An old gardener, of long experienee in grape culture, called our attention to this subject twenty odd years ago.

The grain crop in California for 1867 is admitted to be much larger than last year. The "Alta Californian" asserts that wheat will be fully one hundred per cent. above last year, and that the quality is very superior. The "Farmer," of San Franeiseo, is not so sanguine of a double erop for this harvest, but estimates it as one third larger than last year. Wheat is uow selling at San Franeiseo at one dollar and sixty eeuts per hundred pounds. Twenty-two vessels were loadiug at that port, at last adviees, with wheat for Europe.

"The Farmers' Home Journal," of Lexington, Kentueky, gives additional reports of a failure iu the hemp erop. Prices are eonsequently advaneing, as the old crop is nearly eonsumed and a scarcity is auticipated.

The Osage Orange is used extensively in the North-west for hedging iu farms on the prairies. It makes a good protection for erops, and is said to answer the purpose of fencing. "The Prairie Farmer," of Chieago, gives a description of the farm of W. H. Maun & Brother, in Mc Lean eounty, who are largely identified with the introduction and cultivation of the Osage Orange. This year they have two hundred and fifty aeres, iu one field, of the Osage Orange. These are in rows, eight inches apart, with a spaee of two feet betweeu the rows. The seed was sowu with a wheat drill, and the erop is cultivated like corn. It is estimated that this field has *fifty million* plants. The demand equals the supply, and the business is said to be profitable.

The "Wiscousin Farmer" says prairie chickens are searce in that seetion. It is thonght the heavy rains, duriug the early part of the season, killed the young broods. New England papers report a searcity of quails from similar eauses.

The Northern Farmer (Wis.) states that plaster sown upon laud not ouly promotes the growth of vegetation, but teuds to avert the injurious effeets of drouth upon farm erops. Besides its fertilizing properties it is an exeellent absorbent for use arouud outhouses, stables, yards, and mauure heaps, destroying the effluvia arising from decaying matter.

The "Rural New Yorker" speaks well of the Diehl wheat. It has seen some heads with over eighty kernels in each. Two New York farmers last year harvested 300 bushels from ten aeres, and this year's erop was more promising.

The "Ohio Farmer" says that eorns in horses' feet are the cause, in most eases, of sprung knees. In order to relieve the heels sore with corus, the animal throws his weight mainly on the toe, thus relaxing the tendons and suspensory ligameuts of the leg, eontraction of which naturally follows. Corns are mainly produeed by improper shoeing, which contracts the heel. Instead of bevelling from without inward, making the foot to rest in a eoncavity, which resists the natural expansion of the hoof and forees the heel inward, the shoe should be made level.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

The potato rot is festering the murphies and pestering the farmers in Connecticut.

Gen. Q. A. Gillmore, who so long and patiently besieged Charleston, S. C., owns the largest vineyard on Lake Erie.

The cattle plague returns show that during the week ending August 3d, no cases of cattle plague were reported from any part of Great Britain.

A farmer in Randolph co., N. C., estimates the cost of keeping sheep there at 40 cents per head a year, and the yield of wool one and a half pounds per head. Sheep are more numerous than before the war.

Recently published statisties of Ohio give the number of different kinds of live stock in the State as follows:—Horses, 680,349; cattle, 1, 413,935; mules, 23,930; sheep, 7,611,338: hogs, 2,060,476; dogs, 183,992.

The erops are promising in Russia. Accounts from all parts of that couutry coueur in stating that the year 1867 will be noted as a year of plenty. The erops of hemp, wheat, millet and oats are in a prosperous condition. An unusually large erop of beet-root is expected.

In the viciuity of Monroe, Michigau, farmers and gardeners have planted withiu three years 37,000 vines. Many of the vineyards are now bearing and the yield, both in quantity and quality, surpasses the expectations of the most sanguine.

Nevada counts on 1,000,000 pounds of barley as her contribution to the agricultural wealth of the nation for 1867.

The cultivation of Sea Island cotton is extending at Honolulu. 11,000 pounds of this cotton, grown there, has been received at San Francisco.

Fourteen cashmere goats have just arrived in Wisconsin, imported at a cost of $2,500. They are the only ones in the State.

The sales of cattle at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago, in July, amounted to $2,065,280.

Kelly's Island, on Lake Erie, is expected this year to produce grapes enough for 240,000 gallons of wine.

The Chicago cattle yards have 150 acres floored with plank. There are pens for 75,000 cattle, 20,000 sheep, and 20,000 hogs.

The prospects for a good hop crop in Central New York continue favorable.

A farmer in Illinois sold wheat from three acres for $287.

Michigan has 2,381,634 sheep.

The wine crop of California this year is estimated at 35,000,000 gallons, and the brandy at 500,000 gallons.

The potato crop of the farmers of Eastern Pennsylvania is being rapidly and severely injured by the rot. Thousands of bushels are being daily destroyed by its rapid ravages.

The Rochester Union says that the grape crop in Western New York promises well. Unless early frost intervene there will be a large yield.

At Salt Lake City the grasshoppers have stripped the fruit trees.

Corn.—The earliest ripe ears should be saved for seed for future use. Braid them up in tresses, by the husks, and hang in an airy, dry place.

Fannie Fern thinks it ought to be cousidered a disgrace to be sick, confidentially adding: "I am fifty-five, and I feel half the time as if I was just made. To be sure, I was born in Maine, where the timber and the human race last; but I don't eat pastry, nor candy nor ice-cream. I don't drink tea—bah! I walk, not ride. I own stout boots—pretty ones too. I have a water-proof cloak, and no diamonds. I like a nice bit of beef steak and a glass of ale, and anybody else who wants it may eat pap. I go to bed at 10 and get up at 6. I dash out in the rain, because it feels good on my face. I don't care for my clothes, but I will be well; and after I am buried, I warn you, don't let any fresh air or sunlight down on my coffin, if you don't want me to get up."

[Concluded from page 275.]

"I know we did, because your demand was exorbitant."

"Oh, no, not at all," returned Mr. Smith, quickly.

"In that we only differ," said Wilson; "however, the council has decided not to pay you the price you ask."

"Unanimously?"

"There was not a dissenting voice."

Smith began to feel more and more uncomfortable.

"I might take something less," he ventured to say, in a low, hesitating voice.

"It is too late now," was Wilson's prompt reply.

"Too late! How so?"

"We have procured a lot."

"Mr. Wilson!"

Poor Smith started to his feet in chagrin and astonishment.

"Yes—we have taken one of Jones's lots, on the West side of the city. A beautiful ten acre lot."

"You have!" Smith was actually pale.

"We have; and the title-deeds are now being made out."

It was sometime before Smith had sufficiently recovered from the stunning effect of his unlooked for intelligence, to ask:

"And pray how much did Jones ask for his ten acre lot?"

"He presented it to the city as a gift."

"A gift! What folly!"

"No, not folly, but true worldly wisdom; though I believe Jones did not think of advantage to himself when he generously made the offer. He is worth twenty thousand dollars more to-day than he was yesterday, in the simply advanced value of his land for building lots. And I know of no man in this town whose good fortune affects me with more real pleasure."

Smith stole back to his home with a mountain of disappointment on his heart. In his cupidity he had entirely over-reached himself, and he saw that the consequences were to react upon all his future prosperity. The public square at the West end of the town would draw improvements in that direction, all the while increasing the wealth of Mr. Jones, while lots in the North end would remain at present prices, or, it might be, depreciate.

And so it proved. In ten years Jones was the richest man in the town, while one half of Smith's property had been sold for taxes. The five acre lot passed from him, under the hammer, in the foreclosure of a mortgage for one thousand dollars.

Thus it is that inordinate selfishness and cupidity over-reach themselves; while the liberal man deviseth liberal things, and is sustained thereby.

### STRINGHALT IN HORSES.

This blemish in horses has been defined to be "a nervous affection for which there is no cure." Until recently this definition would have been accepted as genuine. A more thorough knowledge of the veterinary art, in connection with a closer anatomical knowledge of the horse, has rendered that version obsolete. This affection is now shown to be, not one originating in nervous debility, but one arising from the strain and consequent inflammation of an elastic cord, extending from the hock to the hoof joint. This cord lies immediately under the main, middle vein, and in case of strain, the inflammation which ensues may affect the nerves and other parts in sympathy, calling off the mucous secretions, rendering this cord inelastic, and thus causing the britch or halt. If the skin is slit by a skillful and steady hand, four inches above the hoof of the affected leg, and this cord be carefully drawn out with an awl and severed, it will relieve the horse of all lameness as soon as the wound is healed, and experience has shown that no injury results from the operation. The incision should be washed often with warm castile soapsuds, and anointed with sweet oil, or some healing ointment, and the horse kept quiet till the cure is effected.—*E. P. Vail, in Rural American.*

## The Fireside Muse.

### SITTING IDLE.

'Mid these breadths of English meadows,
Sitting idle, you and I,
What beside the lights and shadows
Is there round to fill the eye?
Dells, where the wood-pigeon's calling,
Like a dreamy old romance;
Streamlets playing, streamlets falling,
In their indolent advance;

Butterflies as fair as fickle,
Hovering round a flowering steep;
Corn-fields ripening for the sickle;
And the broad sea smooth with sleep:
Purple heath-bells, covering over
Every solitary place;
Grass, and rosy-tinted clover,
Through which sun-burnt children race;

Gardens filled with languid flowers,
Waiting, longing for the breeze;
Cottage-homes, and rustic bowers,
Church-yard ground, and church-yard trees.
Hark! a lisping voice is coming:
"Do they know who slumber there?
That the honey-bee is humming,
And the earth and sky are fair?"

Circled with its living splendor,
Fades the landscape from my sight;
Memory brings me scenes more tender,
Though their hues are not so bright;
And my dreaming heart goes sighing,
Through departed smiles and tears,
O'er the budding and the dying
Of those withered leaves—past years!

## General Miscellany.

### INDIAN CORN.

One of the most interesting features of the recent report of the Agricultural Bureau is its statement with reference to the production of Indian corn in the various States.

By this report it is seen that while the general average of the whole crop is unusually large this year, there is a decrease in several of the Northern and Western States, and a counterbalancing increase in the Southern. This increase ranges in the South from ninety to upwards of one hundred per cent. This is important as showing the changes of production occasioned by the revolution in the system of labor at the South, owing to the war and the emancipation of the slaves. The slave cultivated cotton, rice and sugar, per force, for his master. The freedman cultivates corn for himself. The capitalist finds the cereal crop a quicker and more remunerative one under the present system, and though the former special staple may continue to be grown, there will be a vast and steady increase in the grain production of the South for the future, and we believe a corresponding increase in its commercial prosperity and enterprise.

When it is considered that the average crop of corn in this country is more than double the aggregate amount of all the other cereals put together, some estimate may be formed of the value of this staple to the districts capable of producing it. The variations in this production during the last twenty-five years, in the different States, furnish a suggestive theme for speculation to the economist. In 1840, for instance, Tennessee was the greatest corn-producing State in the Union. In 1850 Ohio gained the lead. In 1860 Illinois took it. Kentucky was second, and Virginia third in 1840. In 1850 Illinois stepped ahead of both; and in 1860 Missouri advanced to the third rank, leaving Virginia and Kentucky behind. Illinois now produces one-seventh of all the corn raised in the States and Territories of the Union.

In New England there has been a decrease in this production during the past ten years, averaging one bushel to each inhabitant; and, even before the war, the production of corn in the Southern States, in proportion to population, was ten times the amount of that grown in New England.

The corn crop in Western Virginia promises magnificently.

### A BLACKBERRY STORY.

The author of "Ten Acres Enough," (Edmund Morris, of Bennington, New Jersey), contributes the following to the Journal of Horticulture:

"The blackberry having latterly taken its place among horticultural staples, is attracting the attention of hundreds of acute and persevering seekers after further novelties. Its commercial value has been satisfactorily determined. It fully equals the raspberry in productiveness, and, as a general rule, far outstrips the strawberry. In this section, where the two great city markets are within a few hours of us, the profit from a well managed acre will pay the fee of the land annually. A gentleman within two miles of me, by way of interesting his son (a young lad) in agricultural pursuits, gave him the free use of an acre to cultivate as he pleased. The shrewd boy located a half-acre on one side of his father's barn-yard, and the other on the opposite side. He could thus trundle out a dozen barrow-loads of manure upon his ground whenever so disposed. He planted his acre in Lawton blackberries; cultivated them himself; and last year his gross sales of fruit amounted to six hundred dollars. The year preceding his clear profit from the same acre was four hundred and fifty dollars. I have walked through this magnificent creation of juvenile care and shrewdness, and must confess that no engineering of my own in that same line has been able to equal it. The contents of the convenient barn-yard told powerfully on the quantity and quality of the fruit. The fee of the land, though in the best location, was much less valuable than the annual crop. Within gun-shot of this field are ten acres of the same berry which last year yielded a net profit of four thousand two hundred dollars—more than the land would sell for.

"The father of the lad referred to was engaged in mercantile business in Philadelphia; but never realized such profits as he thus saw his enterprising son to be annually securing. The example set before him by the lad inflamed his ambition to drop some one or two branches of agriculture, and take to raising briers also. He began his plantings several years ago—for the son has long been harvesting very paying crops—and has been planting annually from the increase of his own fields, until he now has thirty acres of Lawton's. Last Winter he cut down an apple orchard of large bearing trees to make room for more briers. The profit from the latter far outstripped the best orchard in the county."

The Microscope in a Woolen Factory.—The following is an extract from a private letter in the Journal of Commerce:

While at Vernon I stepped into a woolen factory. The most interesting object was a machine for "napping" cloth—a cylinder, provided with teeth like a carding machine, which, revolving against the cloth, "naps" it. It was however, in the construction of the machine, and not in the mechanism, or use, that I was interested.

The teeth referred to, instead of being of wire as one would expect, are formed by placing in juxtaposition in iron frames great numbers of teasels, gigantic huckle-burs, the spears of which all curved in the same direction, are sharp, strong and elastic. Upon inquiry, if the use of those burs was novel or economical, I was told that they had been used a hundred years, and no article substituted for them had been devised.

The revelations of the microscope explain the superiority of the teasel over the handiwork of man. Under the microscope, all nature's points, the points of the thistle for example, are absolutely sharp, appearing as sharp under a magnifying power of 6000 diameters as to the naked eye; whereas the finest points made by man, as those of cambric needles, under the microscope are seen to be blunt. It is impossible for man to make points as sharp as the teasel. We may presume, therefore, that these *organic* cards will be found in factories so long as cloth is napped.

### BIRD MOUND BUILDERS.

Among the most remarkable of the feathered tribe are the birds of Australia, which construct large mounds, and then leave their eggs to be hatched in them, not by the birds themselves, but by the fermentation of the assembled mass of materials. The heap employed for this purpose is collected by the birds during several weeks previous to the period of laying; it varies in size from two to many cart loads, and in most instances is in a pyramidal form. The construction of the mound is either the work of one pair of birds, or, as some suppose, the united labors of several years in succession, the birds adding a fresh supply of materials each succeeding season. The materials composing these mounds are accumulated by the grasping a quantity in its foot and throwing it backwards to one common center; the surface of the ground for a considerable distance being so completely scratched over that scarcely a leaf or a blade of grass is left. The mound being completed and time allowed for a sufficient heat to be engendered, the eggs are deposited in a circle, at the distance of nine or twelve inches from each other, and buried more than an arm's depth, with the large end upward; they are covered up as they are laid, and allowed to remain until they are hatched. Mr. Gould, from whose "Hand-Book" we derive this description, says that it is not an unusual thing to obtain half a bushel of eggs at one time from a single mound. Some of the natives state that the females are constantly in the neighborhood of the mound about the time the young are likely to be hatched, and frequently uncover and cover them up again, apparently for the purpose of assisting those that may have appeared; while others relate that the eggs are merely deposited, and the young allowed to force their way out unassisted. One point has been clearly ascertained, namely, that the young from the hour they are hatched are covered with feathers, and have their wings sufficiently developed to enable them to fly up to the branches of trees, should they need to do so to escape from danger. They are equally nimble on their legs.

Use of Distilled Water.—The Pacific coast of South America, between the 18th and 28th parallels of South latitude, is a rainless region. All the seaport towns, for a distance of 900 miles, are supplied with fresh water for drinking and cooking purposes from sea-water which is mostly distilled by means of imported coal. Not only cattle, but locomotives and stationary steam-engines are supplied with distilled water. The few natural springs within from 30 to 50 miles of the ocean contain so much saline matter as to be rendered unfit for quenching thirst.

Cure for Scratches on Horses.—An exchange paper says: Feed horses one or two tablespoonfuls of sulphur per day (in order to cleanse the blood) for three or four days; wash the feet in clean, soft warm water; then put on dry sulphur, and wind a linen cloth around the sore, and twice or three times a day drop in dry sulphur between the cloth and the sore. Be careful to keep the feet dry, as it is of no use to doctor the feet unless the blood is put in order. This seldom fails in the worst of cases.

Storing Potatoes.—The surest protection against rot in the potato, after being harvested, is air-slaked lime. Let the lime be sprinkled over the bottom of the bin before filling, and repeat the application at each foot of potatoes as the bin is filled up. The quantity is what a farmer would call a good sprinkling. Potatoes should be excluded from the light, and covered with old carpet, &c., when convenient. When buried out of doors a high, dry spot should be selected, which can be thoroughly drained, and then pursue the same plan with the lime as before. A vent must be left for the escape of the confined air.

The new potato bug, which first appeared in Colorado, has got as far East as Illinois.

The practice of sowing rye amongst corn early in autumn is adopted to a considerable extent in some portions of the West. If the cornfield is tolerably free from weeds and grass, and the cultivation has left the surface flat, the rye will do better than if these conditions were lacking, and in covering the grain with the cultivator the corn crop receives benefit by the stirring of the soil and the smothering and uprooting of weeds. Although the rye is sometimes left to mature its grain the next season, yet the main use of a crop sown amongst corn—and the most profitable use we think—is to furnish Fall and Spring feed for stock and manure to enrich the land. As a general rule we cannot plow too much vegetable matter into the soil, and every opportunity should be improved to turn under a green crop.

# Fairs.

## NEW ENGLAND FAIR.

The fourth annual exhibition of the N. E. Agricultural Society, in connection with the Rhode Island Society, commenced on Tuesday, at Cranston, R. I. The weather was all that could be desired; the new Narragansett Park was in complete order; and the Fair commenced under very favorable auspices. The number of spectators on the first day was not large, or the broad acres of the Park made three or four thousand seem uot a large number. Senator Sprague made an opening address in the the morning, welcoming the New England Society to Rhode Island, and congratulating the friends of Agriculture on the flattering prospects of the Fair. To this an eloquent response was made by Dr. Loring, the President of the Society. Among the notable listeners were Chief Justice Chase, Maj. Gen. Howard (who delivers the address on Friday), Baron Gerolt, the Prussian Minister, and the Governors of several of the New England States. The music for the day was furnished by the Union Band of Slatersville.

The display of live stock is both very large and very fine. It is said to exceed that of any previous exhibition of the Society, except in the class of sheep. Of cattle there are three to four hundred, including the best and most notable specimens of Ayrshires, Jerseys, Devons, Dutch, Short Horns, Grades and Natives ever gathered in the Eastern States. Of swine there is a good display, principally Chesters, Suffolks and Essex. Of sheep, though not so numerons as last year, when the Fair was held in a sheep-raising region, the quality is equal to that seen anywhere. Messrs. S. & W. S. Allen, of Vergenues, Vt., exhibit Merinos valued at $1000 each; while Burdett Loomis, of Windsor Locks, Conn., presents Cotswolds that are as handsome as pictures. One imported specimen, "His Royal Highness," weighs four hundred ponnds. Of fowls, the exhibition is large and noisy. The Messrs. Allen of Vermont have over fifty coops on the grounds.

In a general article like this, it is not to be expected that we can notice more than a fraction of the exhibitors' favorites. Of the notabilities we recall the following:

Among the fat cattle are a pair of grade Durhams, the property D. Goodell, of Brattleboro, Vt., which are estimated to weigh 4,000 lbs. each. They are as comely as large.

Winthrop W. Chenery, of Belmont, Mass., exhibits his full herd of Dutch or Holstein cattle, which make an attractive show. Among them is "Texelaar," a cow that has given thirty-five quarts of milk per day. Her picture, which has adorned these pages, will be recalled by our readers. The Dutch cattle are of great size, and uniformly black and white in color. His bull is the largest on exhibition.

Henry M. Clarke, also of Belmont, exhibits about twenty head of superior Short Horns, Jerseys and Burmese. The latter are a novelty, and attract much attention. Their shape is not unlike the dromedary, while their size but little exceeds that of the Newfonndland dog.

The Short Horns, Alderneys and Southdown Sheep of H. G. White, of South Framingham, Mass., are equal to anything upon the grounds. Mr. White is an enthusiastic admirer and successful breeder of the bovines.

Thomas Fitch, of New London, Conn., we believe has the largest herds upon the grounds, comprising both Jerseys and Ayrshires. It is a famous display for one exhibitor.

Joseph Hodges, of Barrington, R. I., contributes handsomely in Ayrshires, including noble imported specimens.

Our friend John Dimon, of Pomfret, Conn., has Devons and Jerseys that proclaim him a judge of good stock. He is a large contributor in various departments. Harvey Dodge, of Sutton, Mass., and E. H. Hyde, of Stafford, Conn., also exhibit fine Devons.

Wm. Birnie, of Springfield, Mass., E. D. Pearce, of East Providence, R. I., and George A. Dresser, of Southbridge, Mass., make a good show of Ayrshires.

Of working oxen, the number is not large. Among them are those of Wm. Crozier, Warwick, R. I.; Stephen Knight, Smithfield, R. I.; H. G. Bates, Mendon, Mass.; and Grosvenor Aldrich, Uxbridge, Mass.

Of working horses, the magnificent teams of Messrs. A. & W. Sprague are worthy of special attention. In size they compare with the celebrated dray horses of England, and are exceedingly comely.

The products of the field, dairy, etc., on exhibition, are more meagre than they should be. Of agricultural implements, Messrs. W. E. Barrett & Co., of Providence, make the largest and finest display, and will doubtless tempt many farmers to part with their greenbacks.

The number of celebrated horses at the exhibition is quite large—we think there are between seventy and eighty entries. Most of them are trotters. There are trots each day, and they attract more interest from the mass of spectators than anything else. Nevertheless we shall say little about them, for, legitimately, they ought to occupy a far less prominent position at an *Agricultural* Exhibition. Do farmers need fast trotting horses? Do farmers own those on exhibition? Do farmers pocket the large premiums (generally three-fourths of the whole) given to this class of animals? Are not Agricultural Fairs in general degenerating into horse-races?

The award of premiums will be published in our next issue.

## WOONSOCKET FAIR.

The second Annual Exhibition of the Woonsocket Agricultural Society will be held at the Citizens' Park on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week. Complete preparations have been made by the Committee of Arrangements, and the Fair promises to be highly creditable to the Society and the farmers of Northern Rhode Island. We are informed that the applications for stalls for horses and cattle indicate a larger and better display than was witnessed last year. Some of the animals will be from the New England Fair held at Cranston this week.

Mr. J. P. Childs, the Superintendent of the Horticultural and Industrial portion of the Exhibition, which will be held in Harris Hall, expresses the opinion that this department will be as attractive and successful as it was last Autumn. Our citizens and the residents of all the surrounding towns, including those of the adjoining States of Massachusetts and Connecticut, are invited to become contributors both at the Park and Hall.

Arrangements have been made with the Providence and Worcester Railroad Company and the Boston, Hartford and Erie Company, for a reduction of fares, and late home trains in the evening.

---

Six months ago, a Boston house sent out a cargo of 500 hoop skirts to Japan as a venture. The Japs put a cover on them and used them for umbrellas.

---



# The Markets.

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

DECLINE IN THE PRICE OF FLOUR.

There was a marked decline in the price of flour early in the week, owing to large receipts. There is more steadiness at the close. There has been more activity in wheat, with regular prices; and there has been an active speculative movement in corn at much higher rates. There have been rapid fluctuations in oats, and the market closes heavy. Rye has declined.

Business generally has been very active, and all branches of trade are greatly improved, caused by the movement of the crops to the seaboard and the revival of the export trade. The favorable weather for the growing crops has also contributed greatly to this revival of trade.

The sample of new wheat offered from the West are indicative of the finest crop ever raised in this country. Although the yield is below the average, still the superior quality contributes much to make up for quantity.

FLOUR—The receipts of flour have been largely in excess of the demand, chiefly confined to low and medium grades. We have had much irregularity, and prices have declined from 50 cents to $1 a barrel. At the close a better tone and more steadiness is noticeable in most grades. The export trade has been moderate, owing to the limited supply of shipping brands.

WHEAT has fluctuated considerably. The offerings of new have been moderate.

RYE—Soon after our last report became very scarce, and prices rapidly advanced. Later in the week prices declined; and the market closes very tame, with large prospective arrivals. This crop is very large and of a superior quality.

OATS have fluctuated rapidly. The prices have been unsettled, and there has been some excitement in the market, in consequence of large maturing contracts and light arrivals. Since the settlement of these contracts the market is very flat.

INDIAN CORN has been very active, under a large speculative inquiry, owing to the reports of a serious injury to the crop by the drought at the West. Prices have advanced about 7 or 8 cents a bushel.

PROVISIONS.—Pork has been in good request, but at very variable prices, in part for future delivery. At the close the market is heavy.

# Special Notices.



# Marriages.

In Wilkinsonville, August 31, by Rev. Samuel S. Spear, Mr. Samuel A. W. Arnold, of Cumberland, R. I., to Miss Mary Jane Fuller of Northbridge.

In North Attleboro', on the 26th ult., by Rev. George Cooper, Mr. Edwin B. Hall to Miss Addie F. Briggs, both of North Attleboro.

In Webster, August 20th, by Rev. E. S. Best, Mr. James Wood, of Newport, R. I., to Miss Francella Wood of W.

In Thompson, Conn., Mr. Charles E. Hill, of Danielsonville, to Miss Frances E. Weaver of Thompson.

# Deaths.

In Chepachet, 29th ult., Lucy S, Ballou, wife of John P. Ballou, in the 45th year of her age.

In Pawtucket, 27th ult., Mrs. Anna Hood, wife of Mr. Joseph Hood, aged 76 years.

In Whitinsville, August 31, Carrie Belle, daughter of O. B. and Lucy W. Moulton, aged 1 year.

In Sutton, Sept. 1st, Linus Thompson, aged 64 years.

In Milford, 23d ult., Mr. Abel Clark, aged 72 years; 25th ult., Mary E. Keefe, aged 31 years.

In Attleboro', 25th ult., Mrs. Nancy Robinson, widow of the late Richard Robinson, aged 72 years.

In West Millbury, August 31st, Ann Eliza, only child of Dea. Leonard Dwinell, aged 16 years.

In Webster, 26th ult., Wm. Sherratt, aged 79 years.

In East Thompson, Conn., 26th ult., Mrs. Simeon Shepard, aged 88 years.

In West Woodstock, Conn., 26th ult., Sarah A. Potter, aged 19 years, 4 months.

In Windham, Conn., 27th ult., Lucretia, widow of the late Thomas Gray, Esq., aged 65 years.

At Galveston, Texas, of yellow fever, in the 31st year of his age, Major Raymond H. Perry, oldest son of James DeW. Perry, Esq., of Bristol.

# Advertising Department.

## Rhode Island.



The hall of a dwelling gives you the first impressions. Sometimes on entering you fear that by some mistake you have got into a clothes closet; at others, you enter upon a space so small that it is only by a dexterous interchange of civilities between yourself and the door that you can get in or the door be shut. In some halls, so called, a man sees a pair of corkscrew stairs coming right down upon him, and fears lest by some jugglery he be seized and extracted like a cork into some upper space. Often the doors are so arranged that what with the shutting of the outside door and the opening of inside ones, the timid stranger stands a chance of being impaled on the latch or flapped front and rear; for, vigorous springs attached to the doors work with such nimbleness that one needs to be expert.—*Beecher.*

# Horticulture.

## PROFITS OF CRANBERRY CULTURE.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside :

Being an attentive reader of your journal, and learning much that is valuable from it—both as regards agriculture and the cultivation of small fruits—I conclude to give you my experience in the cranberry business. I purchased, in 1860, a tract of low meadow, in the Southern part of this county, containing seventy-two acres. I bought it exceedingly cheap, $6 per acre; but there were no buildings, or fences, or any kind of improvements. One half of it was a natural cranberry meadow that produced fine berries, but were never gathered by the owner—swamp angels, or some other kind of folks, managed to steal them long before the fruit was ripe, or ready for the market.

My purchase of this wild swamp was strongly opposed by my family; also joked at by my friends. They were all unanimous in one thing—"it would never pay," and that I had bought the "best nursery for frogs and snakes in all New Jersey!" But I was not discouraged by the advice of friends. I had read considerable on the cultivation of the cranberry, and had visited Cape Cod, where the business had become one of large extent and of remunerative profit. I was convinced that the soil and climate of this State was peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of this fruit, and I therefore went into the experiment with full confidence of success.

My cranberry tract had a gradual descent to the South, with a small stream dividing it nearly in the center. It was covered with light grass and moss, also with some straggling bushes. My first labor was to dig out the bed of the stream for more perfect drainage. I then cut cross ditches, and put men to work clearing off the turf, cutting out roots and in building a turf wall on two sides of the tract, and on the other sides a good cedar fence. The first season I cleared up twelve acres, and set three-fourths of it in wild vines. This cost me, inclusive of all labor, $65 per acre. The next Spring and Fall I "grubbed over" some thirty acres more, and set out the vines—but at an increased cost per acre. The balance of the tract, some thirty acres, I concluded to treat in a different manner, and with less expense. Instead of turfing it, I cross-ditched it, and carted sand over it, giving some parts a heavy dressing; other, and higher portions, a very light coat of white drift-sand.

Now let me tell you the result. The second year, from the twelve-acre patch, I gathered 1062 bushels of cranberries, which I sold for $3,75 a bushel—netting me, after the expense of picking, $600. The third year my crop was light, but I sold the berries for $925. In 1865, being the best season I have had, (my vines yielding largely, and the crop through the country being light), I reaped a generous harvest. My entire crop that year amounted to 1942 bushels, which I sold to a New York firm at $4 a bushel—netting me over $7000. Last year, with a partial crop, I sold on the vines for $3500—the entire crop. Consequently, you will see that in six years I have sold twelve thousand dollars worth of cranberries, and have a prospect for at least a thousand to twelve hundred bushels of berries this year. Of course, I expect the price of berries will be less than last year; but even at $3 a bushel, I am safe to say that few farms, in this State, will show a larger profit than my wild cranberry farm.

E. B. W.

*Ocean County, New Jersey, August*, 1867.

Protecting Fruit Trees with Earth.—The rule should be to work the dirt from the trees in the Spring, while the weather is cool and moist, and as the heat of midsummer approaches reverse this operation, turning the plowshare towards the trees, and heap the soil over their roots. This wards off the intense heat of the Summer sun, and, left in this position, protects the roots, in a great measure, from the effects of Winter frost.

## PRUNING DWARF PEARS.

At a late meeting of horticulturists at Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Elliot said that the public generally wanted tall, straight trees, and in conformity to this, the nurserymen had got to trimming up the stems, leaving a few lateral branches so as to form a little top. And again, they grow them so thick in the rows that they had but little chance to form that bushy head which was desirable. However, taking the tree as it came from the nursery, getting thrifty one year old trees, if possible, he would cut back all the laterals to one or two buds, and cut the top down enough to make the dormant buds in the stem near the ground start; this would leave nearly a naked stem about two feet high.

The first year he would do no more to it; the second Spring he would cut back the last year's growth to two or three buds leaving the tree in a round, bushy shape, getting the head as low and near the ground as possible. This process of Spring pruning was to be continued until the head was formed, with perhaps some exceptions, to wit: as one of them, if a tree grow very strong, as was sometimes the case, throwing up shoots four, six or seven feet long, he would leave them until about the 20th of July, and then cut away about two-thirds of the previous year's growth. The reason of this is, that if cut in the Spring, the vigor of the tree would cause a new growth of strong, thrifty shoots; while, if left till the 20th of July, the growth would be checked; and the formation of fruit spurs induced. For the same reason he would do much of his pruning by pinching in the buds of the limbs.

## THE APPLE WORM.

We gave some notice a few weeks since of the successful application of the hay rope as a trap to catch the larvæ of the apple worm or Codling moth, as shown by specimens of the bark and trunk covered with the cocoons of the insects which had crowded beneath these hay ropes as a hiding place to effect their transformation. Having since had an opportunity of visiting Dr. Trimble's grounds at Newark, N. J., he pointed out a number of experiments in the course of trial on his own grounds and those of his neighbors. In these instances the ropes had been placed around the trunks about a week previously, and had already caught large numbers—some of which had changed to the pupa state, and others had just reached their hiding place, and were yet larvæ. The whole number of insects thus caught on one tree in a single season, had in extreme cases, amounted to about a thousand—proving conclusively the value of the remedy. In some cases the number of pears on young trees which were infested with the worm, had been carefully counted when the ropes were applied. The same, or very nearly the same, number of insects had been subsequently caught in the trap set for them, affording satisfactory evidence that the remedy might be relied on for effecting their general destruction. Trees which formerly lost all their fruit, were now, under this treatment, bearing tolerably fair crops—a complete extermination could not, of course, be expected while the neighbors entirely neglected the remedy.

These hay ropes should be long enough to pass two or three times about the trunk of the tree, and should be applied as early in the season as the young fruit is observed to be affected at the blossom or calyx end. Dr. Trimble applies two belts of the kind—one, two or three feet high, and the other higher—insects are found under both, and he thinks those under the higher belt descend the tree before the fruit drops, and those found under the lower, crawl up from the fallen fruit on the ground. As formerly stated, we have been less successful in several trials of this remedy, but we intend to repeat it under varying circumstances, and perhaps may learn the cause of the partial failure. As applied by Dr. Trimble, nothing appears simpler or easier, and to be attended with more uniformly favorable results. —*Country Gentleman.*

# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1867. NO. 36.

## LETTERS FROM FLORIDA.—NUMBER THREE.

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA,
September 5th, 1867.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

I HAVE heard of trees so tall in Wisconsin that it took a man and a boy to see to the top of them. "One looked until he got tired, and the other commenced where he left off." Well, we have similar monarchs of the forest in Florida, primitive trees that have battled with the elements for ccuturies. The loug-leaved pine, which grows in all parts of the State, is a magnificent tree, "straight as an arrow," and when full growu is from four to five feet in diameter. I have seen logs of eighty aud ninety feet in leugth, from which lumber enough could be sawed to build a comfortable dwelling. This piue is cbiefly valued for the quantity and quality of turpeutine it produces. We are so far in the interior, away from navigable streams, that our timber forests are only valuable for rosin and turpentine. Large quantities of these are manufactured, but as the priee is downward and labor advancing, even this enterprise will not be very remuncrative this season.

Before the Rebelliou, farm and forest labor was all done by the slaves in this section. The white population eomprised two classes; the wealtbier planters and graziers who were above work, and the miserably poor *Crackers* who lived by hunting, fishing and finding other people's property before it was lost. They never returned from a day's shooting unless they *found* a stray bog or bullock—which invariably died a few yards in advanee of their rifles. Their liberality to the owners of such unfortunate stoek was always manifested by appropriating only a leg or shoulder of the animal—leaving the balancc to the birds and beasts of prey. This class of citizens exhibit no improvement in the way of industry. The war made little impressiou upon them. But few voluntarily joined the Confederate armies, and the conscription laws were powerless in three-fourtbs of the State. They evaded the reeruiting officers and spent their time then, as now, in gaming and fishiug and depredating on distant neighbors.

The home of the Florida *Cracker* is as simple and primitive as that of tbe Indian. His dwelling is a one story log cabin, frequently with but one room, and his furnitnre comprises a bed, table, perhaps three chairs, a few cooking utensils, a rifle and a whiskey jug. His live stock enumerates his wife and children, a small marsb pony, two cows, half a dozen goats, poultry, and frequently four to six hounds. This last mentioned stock is considered the most valuable, as three-fourths of their master's time is passed in the forest in pursuit of game. Deer, wild turkeys, quails, partridges, rabbits, raccoons, opossums, fox-squirrels, wild geese and ducks are abundant in their season, and as the *Cracker* is a dead sbot, his family is always supplied with game. Generally he has a small patch of eorn and sweet potatoes, anotber of ground nuts, perhaps a garden; wbile his pasture extends from sunrise to sunset. Now this is not a flattering view of Florida civilization, nor of an American's home; yet few of your Northern farmers or city residents eujoy life more thau the *Cracker*. Like the aboriginal be likes the solitude of the eternal forest, the shade and gloom of the great swamps, and the ripple and moan of the uufrequented rivers. He will not labor, and notwitbstanding land is eheap and the soil productive, he is eontented with gaming, fisbing and the cultivation of a small garden patch.

The only agricultural workers here are a few enterprising Northerners and tbe ex-slaves. The old planters who survived the war have no energy or enterprise; they seem stupefied with the result of the Rebellion, which deprived them of their slaves, aud cannot reconcile the present situation, nor hope for prosperity in the futnre. In regard to the "contrabands," of which there are sixty thousand in this State, I can report favorably, as far as my observations extend. They are generally industrious, far more so than the whites, and are proud in the ownership of a few acres of land, a log-cabiu and a "five dollar horse." Not wishing to depreciate the horse-market, I will state that we have a breed of small horses called "Marsh ponies," the value of which is about $25. When unsound, or venerable with age, their traditionary valne is $5, and then they are monopolized by the negroes. The enfranchisement of this class (the uegro) is looked upon with intense anxiety. That they will require political instruetiou is evident from this fact: I have fourteen contrabands in my employ, and I am daily amused with their "talk" about voting for the next President. They are equally divided on the uilitary abilities of Grant aud Lee, but are unanimously in favor of voting for "Gineral Washington—de best man by a heap!"

A great number of Northern emigrants have settled in Florida since the close of the war; a majority of whom are in the Eastern portion of the State. Those who prefer the culture of fruit, such as oranges, apricots, grapes, peaches and the like, are on the St. John's river, where the soil, temperature and the facilities for marketing their productions are better than in the interior. That all will prosper and beeome wealthy cannot be expeeted; but those who are industrious must reap a liberal return for their labors. Frnit, of the above mentioned kinds, thrive wonderfnlly here; and the day is not far distant when Florida will supply your Nortbern citizens with as delicious fruit as ever grew in the tropics. But there is a wider and far more profitable field of enterprise than fruit culture. I refer to garden products for Northern cities. Our Winters are merely nominal. Frequently we have no frosts in the whole year. Wc can plant vegetable seeds in December and January, and have peas, beets, potatoes, melons and tomatoes to supply your markets in April. This is a business that will pay; and, if proper and proportionate enterprise is applied, in ten years Florida will become the Winter garden of this Republic.

Tbis county, which is an immense savannah of more than fifty miles in eireumferenee, with an exuberantly fertile soil, is principally a grazing territory. Herds of cattle, from one to five hundred in number, can be seen in all directions. You can mount a horse aud ride all day and not get out of sight of cattle. These are owned by planters in different parts of the State. The cattle are all "branded" with the owner's "mark," and the number of bead with "mark," are recorded in the county records. The herds are tended by men on horseback, who, with their families, camp out on the savannahs or open forests all through the grazing season—following the herds wherever they go. The salubrity of the air is remarkable, and the seenery is beautiful—in some portions almost a fairy paradise. Imagine a level plain, or prairie, as far as the eye can reaeh, eovered with luxuriant grass and wild flowers, with au occasional lake of transparent water, and the far horizon fringed with the towering magnolia or the transceudent palm.

By the way, these lakes are iuhabited by a speeies of fish unknown to Northern anglers. They are not even mentioned in any work of piscatory knowledge in my possessiou. The negroes call them "flat-heads," and "grass-fish." This singnlar speeies is furnished with a membrane over their mouth, in which they carry a supply of water sufficient to keep their gills wet during their travels. They journey by night, generally in stormy weather, and have a lizard-like motion. They seem to be gnided by a wonderful sagacity, for they travel by a direct course from one lake to another. I have never seen one of these *land-fish*, but people of unquestioued veracity assure me that they have seen them and captured them. In their next running season I hope to obtain one for my piscatorial and zoological eabinet.

SEMINOLE.

---

COST OF A POUND OF TEA.—It is instructive and sometimes profitable, as well as curious, to examine the way in which the cost of a commodity is piled up between produeer and consumer by freights, handling, duties, exchange and the commissions and profits of middle uien. Tea, for example, is sold by the growers in China and Japan at various prices, from about fifteen to thirty cents a pound. With freights added, it is said to eost, when laid down in any of our principal seaports, an average of fifty cents in gold a pound for superior brands or "chops." Taking this as a starting point, the additional before it reaches the table of the eonsumer are said to accumulate as follows: Original cost of tea, imported, 50 cts.; disconnt on currency to pay for it, 20 cts.; duty on gold, 25 cts.; discount on currency to make up the gold, 15 cts.; contingencies, 10 cts.; profit of importer, 12 cts.; profit of jobber, 13 cts.; profit of retailer, say 28 cts.

Total, $1.74. Of this, fifty-four cents are compromised in three profits, thirty-five ceuts in exchange for gold, twenty-five eents in duties and ten cents in eontiugencies; iu all one dollar and twenty-four cents, in addition to the eost on board ship at our wharves. Before the war the cost would have been about as follows: Orlginal eost, imported, 50 cts.; ten per cent for contingencies, 5 cts.; profit of importer, 5 ets.; profit of jobber, 6 cts.; profit to the retailer, 14 cts. Total, 80 cts.—*Phila. Ledger.*

## WALKING HORSES.

THE best gait a horse can have for every-day use is a good walk. It is a gait that not one in ten possesses. Colts are not trained to walk in all the Eastern States. Young America wants more speed. Keutueky has more good walking horses than any other State; for there horseback travelling has long been in fashion for men and women, over a country where muddy roads, at some seasons, rendered any other gait impossible, and so horses have been bred for the saddle and trained to a walkiug gait. This is also the case in all the Western States, and perhaps might have been so in New England, when our grandmothers rode to meeting on pillions behind our grandfathers. But one-horse wagons have put horseback riding out of fashion, aud now a good walking horse is more rare thau one that ean trot a mile in 2.40.

At the Springfield (Mass.) Horse Show of 1860, the writer was oue of a committee to award prizes to the two best walking horses. Out of seventeen entered, the committee found but ouc which was considered a first-rate walker. This was a Morrill mare, which walked five miles an hour with ease. Two others were fair walkers, and the others knew uo gait that could be ealled walkiug. At the New York State Fair the same state of facts was agaiu developed. A letter from Wiseonsin says: "I think horses trained to walk fast would be a greater benefit to farmers in geueral than fast trotters, as almost all of his work has to be done with a walk." I onee knew a man iu Massachusetts, who, before the railroads were built, kept from two to four teams at work ou the road, and uever allowed them to trot at all, and made the distance in quicker time thau his neighbors, who made their horses trot at every couvenieut place. He said that when a horse commenced to walk after a trot, he walked much slower than his eommon gait, if kept on a walk, and thereby lost more than he gained. Will farmers think of this, and pay more attention to walking horses?—*Solon Robinson.*

---

MICHIGAN has beeome a great sheep-raising State. A careful estimate of the nnmber of sheep in that State this year, it is said, shows that there are 2, 371,634. Allowing the average for each sheep to be four pounds, the quantity of wool will be niue million four hundred and eighty-six thousand five hundred and thirty-six pounds, the product from a single State, and that one which but lately has had the attention of its people turned to any great extent to wool-growing.

---

NEEDLES were first made in Loudon by a negro from Spain, in the reign of Queen Mary. He died without imparting the seeret of his art. The art was recovered in 1565. Elias Growse first taught the English to make uecdles, but the same art was again lost for nearly a century, when it was again reeovered by Christopher Greening, who settled at Long Crendon, in Buckinghamshire. English uecdles are now chiefly made at Redditeh, Hetherage, and Birmingham. Some years ago, 100,000,000 needles a week were made in Redditeh.

# Agricultural Fair.

## WOONSOCKET FAIR.

The second Annual Exhibition of the Woonsocket Agricultural Society commenced on Tuesday, and continued three days. The weather looked inauspicious on the opening morning, but before meridian the clouds broke, and a very comfortable day followed. For weeks the officers of the Society and special committees have been busy and indefatigable in the work of preparation, and the commencement of the Fair gave evidence that ample success had crowned their efforts. Previous to Tuesday the entries of speed horses numbered thirty to forty, and early on the morning of that day the cattle began to arrive in large numbers. By 10 o'clock the herds in the pens presented a very attractive appearance. The number and variety were larger than were seen last year. Of working oxen there were thirty to forty yokes; of bulls, cows, heifers and calves, upwards of one hundred; of sheep and swine, a very creditable display, both in number and quality; while of the feathered tribe, the exhibition was the largest and finest ever gathered in this vicinity.

The Fair was formally opened by some appropriate remarks by the President, Hon. Stephen N. Mason. Col. S. W. Razee, the Chief Marshal, then announced the programme for the day.

The music on this and the subsequent days was furnished by the Woonsocket Cornet Band, Emory Paine leader.

### CATTLE.

Of cattle, the largest class were Grades, but close to them in number were the Jerseys. It is the best possible evidence of the excellence of the latter that they are constantly increasing in the public estimation, as is evidenced in their enlarged number at every Fair. A few years ago they were a novelty. Now they equal and often exceed in number any other distinct breed. Next after them come the Ayrshires.

Among those who exhibited the various breeds on Tuesday were the following:

### JERSEYS.

E. K. Ray, of this village, had the largest herd, and all handsome. Very fine specimens were exhibited by M. Feely, Amasa S. Arnold, Edward Harris, John A. Bennett, Albert D. Wheeler, Social Manufacturing Co., F. W. Whitaker, Chas B. Aldrich and G. W. Hart. Others worthy of mention may have escaped our observation.

### AYRSHIRES.

Edward Harris, Charles B. Aldrich, Daniel Hendrick, Abel Paine, Henry Aldrich.

### DEVONS.

Albert D. Wheeler, Providence, E. W. Scott. There were several yokes of fine oxen, among the comliest of which were those of Mr. Wheeler. A finer yoke is seldom seen.

### GRADES.

Levi T. Ballou, Henry Aldrich, C. B. Adams, Leprelet Miller, Alfred M. Aldrich, G. W. Comstock, C. H. Weatherhead, C. H. Capron, N. A. Boutelle, W. M. Whitaker, A. N. Jenckes, F. Stearns, A. Hawes, G. W. C. Jenckes, Wm. H. Andrews, D. B. Todd, Blackstone Manufacturing Co., Jonathan Farnum, Oren A. Ballou. Some of the exhibitors had several head, and the Grades, taken together, were very creditable.

### NATIVES.

John R. Hayward, C. H. Weatherhead, L. Miller, Washington Remington, Osman Fuller, Willing Vose, W. H. Lapham.

### SWINE.

Most of the swine were of the Improved Suffolk, with crosses of the same. Pure specimens were exhibited by Levi T. Ballou, Jefferson Aldrich and Ezra Whitford. There were fine crosses by the Social Manufacturing Co., Edward Harris, Henry Aldrich, Whipple B. Mowry and N. L. Pickering. Daniel Hendrick exhibited the Essex, perhaps with a slight cross.

### SHEEP.

This not being a sheep rearing country, the display was not large. Frank Ballou exhibited a fine flock of Cotswolds and South Downs. There were good specimens of South Down and Leicester by Levi T. Ballou, Jason Adams and J. B. Bartlett.

### FOWLS.

So extensive and fine an exhibition of fowls was never before seen in Northern Rhode Island. There were one hundred and twenty coops. Fifty coops were exhibited by S. & W. Allen, of Vergennes, Vermont. The next largest displays were by Henry Richardson, of North Attleboro, Mass., and Joseph Mellor and N. A. Boutelle of Woonsocket. The other contributors were A. L. Southwick, Chas. B. Aldrich, Wm. Miller, A. J. Barber, jr., Jno. Farnum, B. C. Mowry, H. S. Mansfield, N. J. Pickering, Walter B. Peck, H. O. Arnold, H. C. Lazell, Wm. Bartlett, Frank Childs, Chas. O. Arnold, Benj. Bently, and David F. Harris. Mr. Harris made a splendid show of pigeons, which were generally admired.

Tuesday's afternoon programme consisted of a trot for horses that never made better time than 2.50, and the plowing match.

The horses entered for the trot were "Frank" by John Henry; "Kate McGowan" by J. E. Taylor; bay mare by R. S. Flanders; "Eastern Queen" by W. S. Briggs; "Ben. Smith" by Walter Smith. Ben. Smith took the first premium of $50, and Eastern Queen that of 25.

The plowing match was well performed. There were seven or eight entries. The awards will be found below.

For best performance of Working Oxen, single team, plowing not less than six inches deep.—First premium, $15, Henry G. Bates; second premium, 10, Grosvenor Aldrich; third premium 8, Perry Wood; fourth premium 6, Erastus Hill; gratuity to Martin Inman.

For best performance Working Oxen, double team, to plow not less than six inches.—First premium, $15, Lewis Bates; second premium, 10, Eli Bates.

For best performance of Working Oxen, not less than four on loaded cart.—First premium, $15, Erastus Hill; second premium, 10, Eli Bates; third premium, 8, Albert Wheeler; fourth premium, 6, Henry G. Bates.

For best performance of three year old steers, on empty cart.—First premium, $6, J. H. Angell; second premium, 4, Lewis Bates; third premium, 3, J. W. Metcalf.

For best performance of matched two years old steers.—Premium, $3, Herbert Joslin.

For best pair of yearling Steers.—First premium, $4, Julius Ballou; second premium, 3, Erwin Bates.

For best Jersey Bull, two years and over.—First premium, $5, Edward Harris; best Grade Bull, Levi T. Ballou, premium 5.

For best Bull one year old and under two.—First premium, $3, Ayrshire, Edward Harris; first native, 3, J. B. Bartlett; first Jersey, 3, Albert Wheeler.

For best Bull Calf less than one year old.—First premium, Devon, $2, E. W. Scott; first premium, native, 2, Andrew N. Jenckes; first premium, Ayrshire, 2, Chas. B. Aldrich; first premium, Jersey, 2, E. K. Ray; first premium, Durham, 2, Welcome Ballou.

For best pairs matched Working Oxen.—First premium, $6, Albert D. Wheeler; second premium, 4, Albert C. Jenckes.

For best Milch Cow, Ayrshire, three years and over.—First premium, $6, Charles B. Aldrich; second premium, 4, Daniel Hendrick.

For best Milch Cow, Alderney.—First premium, $6, M. Feeley; second premium, 4, Amasa S. Arnold.

For best Devon Cow.—First premium, $6, E. W. Scott.

For best Grade Cow.—First Premium, $6, Francis Stearns; second premium, 4, Chas. B. Aldrich.

For best Native Cow.—First premium, $6, C. H. Weatherhead; second premium, 4, Andrew Jenckes.

For best Alderney Heifer, 2 years.—Fist premium, $4, Albert D. Wheeler; second premium, 2, E. K. Ray.

For best Grade Heifer, 2 years.—First premium, $4, Alfred M. Aldrich; second premium, E. K. Ray.

For best Native Heifer, 2 years.—First premium $4, Henry Aldrich; second premium, 2, E. K. Ray.

For best yearling Heifer.—First premium, $3, C. B. Aldrich; second premium, 2, Albert D. Wheeler.

For best yearling Ayrshire.—Second premium, $2, Edward Harris.

For best Grade yearling.—First premium, $3, C. H. Weatherhead; second premium, 2, Geo. Comstock.

For best Native yearling.—First premium, $3, John R. Haywood; second, 2, Wm. F. Comstock.

For best Heifer Calves, Jersey—First premium, $3, A. S. Arnold; second, 2, C. B. Aldrich.

For best Grade Calf.—First premium, $3, Wm. Lapham; second, 2, G. W. C. Jenckes.

### SWINE.

For best Fat Hog.—First premium, $4, Daniel Hendrick; second, 3, John R. Hayward.

For best Shoats, not less than six months.—First premium, $3, Henry Aldrich; second, 2, N. J. Pickering; third, 1, Edward Harris.

For best Boar, one year old.—First premium, $5, David Wilkinson; second, Levi T. Ballou.

For best Boar less than one year old.—First premium, $3, Jefferson Aldrich; second, 2, Social Manufacturing Company.

For best Sow with pigs at her side.—First premium, $5, Arnold Carpenter; second, 4, Levi T. Ballou; third, 3, Social Manf'g. Co.

### SHEEP.

For the best Sheep.—First premium, $4, J. B. Bartlett.

For best flock of Sheep, not less than five.—First premium, $6, Frank Ballou; second, 4, Jason Adams.

### FOWLS.

For best collection, different varieties.—First premium, $4, S. & W. S. Allen, Vergennes, Vermont; second, 2, H. Richardson, Attleboro, Mass.

For best trio Golden Hamburgs.—First premium, $3, Joseph Mellor; second, 2, Henry Richardson.

For best trio Silver Hamburgs.—First premium, $3, Joseph Mellor; second, 2, to same.

For best trio Leghorns.—First premium, $3, H. Richardson; second, H. C. Lazell.

For best trio Chittagongs—first premium, $3, Frank Childs; second, 2, S. & W. S. Allen.

For best Black Spanish.—First premium, $3, S. & W. S. Allen; second, Joseph Mellor.

For best trio Shanghae.—First premium, $3, H. Richardson; second, 2, N. A. Boutelle.

For best Game.—First premium, $3, Walter B. Peck; second, 2, S. & W. S. Allen.

For best trio Dorkings.—First premium, $3, S. & W. S. Allen; second, 2, H. Richardson.

For best Black Polands.—First premium, $3, S. & W. S. Allen.

For best trio Bantams.—First premium, $3, S. & W. S. Allen; second, 2, Frank Childs.

For best pair Turkeys.—First premium, $3, S. & W. S. Allen; second, 2, C. B. Aldrich.

For best pair Geese.—First premium, $3, S. & W. S. Allen; second, 2, H. Richardson.

For best pair Ducks.—First premium, $3, S. & W. S. Allen; second, 2, H. S. Mansfield.

### SECOND DAY—AT THE PARK.

The sun arose cloudless on Wednesday morning, and a magnificent day followed. Spectators flocked to the Park at an early hour, and by mid day the number was very large.

The opening scene was a general cavalcade of all horses in harness. There were some fine turn-outs, and the scene was enlivening.

Dexter Clark exhibited a pair of fine draft horses; but, unfortunately, as we think, there was no premium offered foy this useful class.

Brood Mares were next exhibited.—Seven entries. Mason May, Wm. Ellsbree and Adams Carpenter were the judges. The premiums were awarded as follows: First $10, Chas. H. Whipple, of Burrillville; second, 6, David Nelson, Milford; third, 4, Levi T. Ballou, of Cumberland.

One year old Colts were then brought before the stand. Judges, same as on Brood mares. Entries were made by C. H. Whipple, A. C. Jenckes, J. H. Hero, Geo. W. Foster, S. A. Pickering and Alonzo W. Vose. Premiums—First, $8, C. H. Whipple; second, 4, S. A. Pickering; third, 2, J. H. Hero.

### TWO YEARS OLD COLTS.

Judges, Alvin Cook, Uxbridge; J. F. Brown, Fitchburg; Wm. Ellsbree, Cranston.

Premiums—W. S. Briggs, of Taunton, took the first and second, $6 and 4, and G. W. Foster the third, 3.

### THREE YEARS OLD COLTS.

Four entries. Premiums, $15, Lewis Bates; 10, M. B. Knapp; 5, Daniel Whipple.

### A TROT.

The class of horses that never beat three minutes, were now introduced upon the track.—There were nine entries, as follows: Dixie, by Moses Dollen; Katie, by J. B. Tallman; Dave, by George N. Smith; Buckskin Mare, by R. L. Flanden; Kate McGowan, by J. E. Taylor; Eastern Queen, by W. S. Briggs; Norwood, by A. S. Eaton; Sharon, by G. & J. Campbell; Bay Stallion, by John Heny; Gen. Sherman, by Thomas Carpenter.

This was an exciting race, on account of the number of competitors. The teams filled the width of the track until some were distanced. In the second heat a thrilling incident occurred. One of the gigs run into that of Mr. Dollen.—He was thrown out and run over, but fortunately, not seriously hurt. His horse run three times around the course, when he was caught without injury to persons. Mr. Briggs's horse, Eastern Queen, took the first premium, $30, and Thomas Carpenter's horse, Gen. Sherman, the second, 15.

### SUMMARY.

Citizens' Union Park, Sept. 11.—Purse of $45—$30 to first horse, $15 to second horse; open to all horses that never trotted in public faster than three minutes; mile heats, best three in five, to harness.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W. S. Briggs enters Eastern Queen, | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| T. Carpenter enters Gen. Sherman, | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| John Henry enters Bay Stallion, | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | dr |
| A. S. Eaton enters Norwood, | 7 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Moses Dollen enters Dixie, | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | dis |
| R. L. Flanders enters Buckskin Mare | 5 | dr | | | |
| Geo. N. Smith enters Dave, | 6 | dr | | | |
| G. & J. Campbell enters Sharon, | 8 | dist | | | |
| J. E. Taylor enters Kate McGowan, | 9 | dist | | | |

TIME.

| | Quarter. | Half. | Mile. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st heat, | 42 | 1.23 | 2.48¾ |
| 2d " | 42 | 1.25 | 2.50 |
| 3d " | 43 | 1.25 | 2.50 |
| 4th " | 43 | 1.22 | 2.50 |
| 5th " | 45 | 1.26 | 2.50 |

Class 7.—Stallions six years old and over were next introduced, speed tested, and awards made as follows: $50 to A. J. Richardson's horse "Columbus Navigator;" 25 to W. S. Brigg's horse "Taconic."

### SUMMARY.

Citizens' Union Park. Sept. 11.—Stallions for general use, 6 years and over, speed to be considered, 2 in 3—Purse of $75—$50 to first and $25 to second.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. J. Richardson enters Columbus Navigator, | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| W. S. Briggs enters Ticonic, | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| B. B. Baker enters Blackhawk, | 3 | 3 | 3 |

TIME.

| | Quarter. | Half. | Mile. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st heat, | 41¾ | 1.23 | 2.45¾ |
| 2d " | 41¾ | 1.22¾ | 2.44 |
| 3d " | 40 | 1.22 | 2.43 |

Class 15.—Fastest trotting horses under saddle. Premiums—$75 to Walter Smith; 25 to Thos. Carpenter.

### SUMMARY.

Citizens' Union Park, Sept. 11.—Fastest trotting horse, under saddle, best 3 in 5, for premium of $100—$75 to first horse, and $25 to second.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Walter Smith enters Kingston, | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Thos. Carpenter enters Jack Lewis, | 2 | 2 | 2 |

TIME.

| | Quarter. | Half. | Mile. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st heat, | 43 | 1 30 | 2. 58 |
| 2d " | 40 | 1.30 | 2.58 |
| 3d " | 40 | 1.20 | 2.38 |

Class 14.—Horses that never beat 240.—First premium, $75 to Walter Smith; second, 25, to J. B. Lawton.

### SUMMARY.

Citizens' Union Park, Sept. 11.—Purse of 100 for gentlemen's driving horses, in harness, for horses that never trotted in public better than 2.40, best 3 in 5—$75 to the first horse, and $25 to the second.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Walter Smith enters Ben. Smith, | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| J. B. Lawton enters Fly, | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| A. S. Bailey enters Sleepy David, | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| E. W. Marble enters Old Jim, | 4 | dist | |

TIME.

| | Quarter. | Half. | Mile. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st heat, | 42 | 1.23 | 2.46 |
| 2d " | 41 | 1.21 | 2.42 |
| 3d " | 40 | 1.20 | 2.40 |

Gentlemen's pairs driving horses came as the last class for the day. First premium, $25 to Jas. B. Tallman; second, 15, to John A. Bennett; third, 10, to S. W. Razee.

## LAST DAY AT THE PARK.

Thursday, like its predecessor, was a delightful day, making a fitting close to the Fair. The attendance was very large, and the interest was well kept up to the closing scenes. Among the distinguished spectators was Senator Anthony. Gov. Burnside was expected, but was unable to attend. The following were the classes and entries:

Class 6—Stallions for general use. C. Molten entered "Dictator," and B. D. Godfrey "Patchen Third." In the trial of speed, Dictator took the premium of $40, and Patchen the second, $20.

Glass 9—Family Horses. Entries by C. H. Whipple, Christopher Vaughn, E. Douglas, J. E. Taylor, A. S. Arnold. First premium, $20, Christopher Vaughn; second, $15, Rev. E. Douglass; third, $10, C. H. Whipple.

A voluntary trot was here sandwiched between D. F. Harris and B. B. Baker. Mr. Harris's horse was the winner, which caused some merriment.

Class 5—Colts four years old. Entries by J. B. Lawton, H. S. Mansfield, C. Molten, W. S. Briggs. J. B. Lawton's horse Thos. Patchen, took the first premium of 25; W. S. Briggs's horse Norwood, took second of 15. Time, 2-57¾—2.57—2.53.

Class 16—Fastest pair Trotting horses. Entries by J. E. Taylor, E. W. Marble, Thomas Carpenter (Kingston and mate), W. S. Briggs, (Ticonic and mate). Kingston took first premium of 75; Ticonic second of 25.

Time—3.01—2.59—3.55.

Class 13—Horses that never beat 2.45, to wagon. Thomas Carpenter entered "Helene Smith;" A. J. Richardson, "Columbus Navigator;" E. W. Marble, "Old Jim;" Walter

[*Continued on page* 283.]



Those who call themselves practical men are too apt to undervalue the thoughtful and studious men, and to sneer at them as mere bookmen. The practical navigator, with a little skill in the use of instruments and a knowledge of common arithmetic, by the help of certain printed formulas and tables, can guide his ship safely through the perils of the pathless deep. But he should not sneer at book-learning, for those charts and tables and instruments by which he makes his observations and solves his problems were the result of deep and profound study and thought. It is wrong to class among the non-producers all who do not labor with hands. But for studious men, what would be the present condition of agriculture? It would indeed be blind and toilsome. To produce great results the brain and arm must move together—the ideal to be wedded to the practical.

[*Continued from page* 282.]

Smith, " Ben. Smith." Ben Smith took premium of 60, and Columbus Navigator that of 25. Time 2.42¼—2.58—2.47.

Class 17—Best Lady Riders. None.

Class 8—Running horses under saddle. First premium of 40 dollars to Adams Carpenter's "Irene ;" second of 20 dollars to C. H. Barber's "Georgia."

Class 18—Fastest Trottting Horses, open to all. Entries—Thos. Carpenter, " Jack Lewis ;" W. S. Briggs, "Garibaldi;" Wm. Elsbree, "Unknown." First premium of 350 dollars to Garibaldi ; second of 140 dollars to Jack Lewis.—Last heat in 2.34, the quickest during the Fair.

Class 19—Entries—S. A. Bailey, "Sleepy David ;" Walter Smith, " Helene Smith ;" W. S. Briggs, " Taconic ;" T. Carpenter, " Jack Lewis." One heat was won by Carpenter's horse, and the race postponed till to-day, at 10 o'clock.

## HORTICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL FAIR.

These two interesting departments were held in Harris Hall and Institute Hall. Both were well filled, presenting exhibitions of great attractiveness. Taken together, the articles were of greater value than last year, though possibly not so numerous in some classes. The Halls were under the superintendence of Mr. Joseph P. Childs, assisted by Mr. Geo. E. Byron, whose efficient and courteous management added much to the exhibition. The attendance was large on each day, in which the ladies predominated, as here were their contributions which added so much to the general interest.

### Harris Hall.

The display in the main exhibition room is large and interesting, and the arrangement exhibits much taste on the part of the management. The vast number of entries and our limited spaee necessitate a condensed report, and we hope such contributors as may be overlooked will not consider themselves purposely slighted. Where the residence is not named, Woonsocket may be understood.

Mr. John Currier adds much to the adornment of the room by the tastety display of his fine selection of dry goods.

Bryant, Stratton & Warner's Commercial College, of Providence, occupy a portion of the hall with specimens of penmanship.

One table is devoted to the exhibition of confectionery from the manufactory of M. B. Arnold & Co., Central Falls.

A long stretch of tables is filled with goods from the various factories, especially illustrative of home industry and thriftiness. The display of Cotton Goods by the Hamlet Company, Social Company, Blackstone Company and Forestdale Company, is very large. No better goods are made in New England. In Woolen Goods, the Lippitt Company, the Harris Company, of Woonsocket, and Evans, Seagrave & Co. of Waterford, make a magnificent exhibition. Those of the first named two Companies are splendid cassimeres, in addition to which line the Harris Company display a new style of ladies cloaking, which good judges say is not equaled in the United States.

#### GOODS, WARES, &c., IN CASES.

Cutlery, Sewing Silks, Faber's Pencils, &c., D. M. Cook & Co. ; Perfumery, C. B. Chapman ; Silver Ware, B. S. Farrington ; Shoes, B. A. Slocomb ; Feather Work, H. A. Bigelow ; Hair Wreath, Jennie Law ; Hair and Needle Work, Mrs. Reinwald ; Insects, Austin Cook ; do. Henry Pierce ; fine collection of do., D. D. Farnum ; stuffed birds, Ellen Barnes, Smithfield ; do. Mrs. Ellen M. Lazell, do. Frank Haigh ; shell work, Mrs. A. B. Jillson ; flower work (very beautiful), Mary J. Cochrane ; wreath skeleton leaves (superb) Mrs. L. G. Currier, Cumberland ; shirts, W. Griffin.

H. E. Bigelow also makes a fine display of gentlemen's furnishing goods in cases, together with choicest samples of Hudson Bay, Royal Ermine, Mink and Squirrel Furs ; Wax Vase, and case ornamental hair work, most superb, Miss Nettie Sherman.

#### MANUFACTURED CLOTHS, &c.

This department is well represented both in extent and variety, embracing cassimeres, silks, woolen goods, shirtings, &c. &c. The contributions are from the following factories : Lippitt Woolen Co. ; Evans, Seagraves & Co., Waterford ; Harris Woolen Co. ; Social Manf. Co. ; Forestdale manf. Co. ; Blackstone Manf. Co. ; Hamlet Mills.

#### COUNTEAPANES, QUILTS, AFGHANS, RUGS, &c.

The large display in this department shows the interest manifested in the Fair by the ladies. Among the contributors are : F W Furman, Patience B. Ross, Lydia D. Willard, Anna W. Remington, Mrs. G. A. Smith, Etta E. Remington, Smithfield ; James Greenhalgh, Glendale ; J. S. Blaisdell, Miss Lizzie Bates, Mrs. Timothy Tyler, M. M. Howard, Jane Henry, Mrs. E. Chase, Mrs. O. Kelly, Forestdale ; Mrs. W. G. Baker, M. S. Wade, Mrs. Thos. E. Kelton, Mrs. R. G. Metcalf (75 years old), Mrs. Ellen M. Lazelle, Mrs. Haigh, Mrs. Redfern, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Fenner, and others. Afghans especially worthy of mention are those deposited by Mrs Warren Ballou, Cumberland Hill, Miss Sarah F. Andrews, and Mrs. David F. Harris.

#### NEEDLE-WORK, EMBROIDERY, BEAD WORK, &c.

This display is full and ereditable, a fine compliment to the deftiness of woman's fingers. The contributors are : Emma P. Paine, Phebe E. Cook, Mrs. Cyrus Arnold, Dorcas A. Burbank, Jane Moore, Smithfield ; Ellen E. Brook, Slatersville ; Mrs. Willard B. Scott, Bellingham ; Ada E. Blaisdell, Miss Sarah Cary, Providence, fine display ; Miss Aggie Mowry, Miss Luey Burlingame, Isabel C. Slocomb, F. W. Furman, Mrs. Sabine Evans, Etta E. Taylor, Mrs. B. A. Slocomb, Mrs. Fred. Webber (fine display) Lizzie W. Snow, Miss Gertie Nourse, Emma A. Harris, Mrs. O. R. Vose, Willie H. Sweatt (a beautiful Bead Basket), Elizabeth M. Jenekes, Mrs. E. R. Brown, Ida A. Cook, Julia Green, Sarah A. Knowles, Emeline Aldrich, Miss Anna Darling, Miss Emma Law, Mrs. Henry M. Grant, Abbie S. Weld, Lizzie Aiken, Mrs. Edgar M. Scott, and others.

#### PICTURES, &c.

In this department there are some beautiful paintings in needle-work by Mrs. Chas. E. Aldrich, Bernon, and Mrs. S. P. Walker. Miss Florenee Arnold contributes paintings of fruit, pastel painting, and a beautiful cross and flower wreath in wax ; C. E. Ford, Woonsocket, and Mary E. Brooks, Slatersville, crayon drawings ; Mrs. Elijah Arnold, Alfred Stephen, E. Richardson, J. Andrews, Fred. Webber, Silas Atwood, Geo. W. Smith, jun., (Slatersville), P. D. Hall, (do.) ; Mrs. Fontain, Nellie Sherman and others add to the display of oil and oriental paintings, pencil drawings, &c.

#### SMALL FRUITS.

The display of small fruits is quite creditable, embracing almost every variety of grapes, pears, apples, peaches, &c. The largest contributors are Mr. Moore, of the Eagle Nurseries, (Elmwood) Cranston, who furnished at least one hundred varieties of apples and pears ; Cyrus B. Manchester, Providence ; L. Dexter, Smithfield ; Harry S. Mansfield, Millville ; and J. P. Childs, Woonsocket. Contributions were also made by N. B. Morrison, A. J. Barber, Bellingham ; Saml. O. Tabor, Slatersville ; Thomas Bell ; H. A. Benson, Blackstone ; N. S. Collyer, Pawtucket ; N. J. Bryant, David C. Todd, Smithfield ; Thos. Bell, Mrs. Martha Aldrich, W. Remington, Isabel F. Harris, Chas. B. Aldrich, John Currier, A. J. Lewis, Dr. Jenekes, and others.

Mr. J. P. Childs has on exhibition a show case of the finest grapes we have ever seen, comprising the Syrian, Black Hamburg, Victoria Hamburg, Bowood Muscat, Black Prince and White Frontignan.

Cyrus B. Manchester, Providence, in addition to his contributions, donated 11 plates of pears and 5 plates of peaches to the Society.

#### CUT FLOWERS.

Fine displays in this department are made by W. B. Spencer, of Phenix ; H. S. Mansfield of Millville ; J. H. Brown, (rare samples) N. Providence ; Mrs. Jonas Brown, Wilkinsonville, Mass. (superior specimens).

#### BOUQUETS.

Parlor boquets, boquets of Astors, pinks, and wild flowers, basket and plate boquets, &c., were contributed by Mrs. Horace G. Cook, West Wrentham ; S. M. Wright, Bellingham ; Mrs. R. Olney, Sarah Mathewson, Mrs. N. A. Bryant, Mrs. R. C. Bryant, Smithfield ; Mrs. Trask, Cumberland.

#### HOT HOUSE PLANTS, &c.

Tables extending the length of the hall are filled with hot house plants, exotics, &c., a fine display, and contributed by H. S. Mansfield of Millville, and J. P. Childs of Woonsocket. We also noticed a fine specimen of the Egyptian Lily, contributed by Amanda Brown, of Smithfield.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Worsted Chairs—Miss. Mabel Rathbun, A. Ballou ; Worsted Ottoman, Mrs. O. J. Rathbun ; lot of vases, Mary A. Miller ; Patent Faucet, E. A. Pearce ; Clock, Spool Stands, &c., Giles Burnett ; Basket Artificial (wax) flowers, John Bloomingdale ; Shell box, Hellen Howell ; yarn reel, (a curiosity) H. A. Smith ; card mice Freddie Darling ; worsted work, Master Willie Griffin ; Feather Chairs (something novel), Lucy A. Darling ; Ladies' Cloaks, Mrs. M. A. Driscoll ; Clothing, Jos. L. Brown ; Architectural drawings, H. F. Keith ; Balmoral Skirts, D. B. Pond ; Bible, 240 years old, Lydia Mann, Smithfield.

### Institute Hall.

The northern side of this hall is devoted to a fine display of furniture from the ware rooms of Eli Pond, jr. The western end is occupied by the Bailey Washing and Wringing Machine Company, upwards of twenty samples of their machines being on exhibition. In the same locality are a steam engine and steam pump, contributed by C. C. Joslin.

A. S. Arnold occupies the centre with an exhibition of small agricultural and mechanics' tools, in the form of a high cone, with a back ground of black muslin. Around the foot of the cone are arranged churns, wheel-barrows, lifting jacks, ox yokes, &c.

Among other articles on exhibition are the following :

Stoves—H. J. Whitaker, A. Gilbert ; Prindle's Agricultural Cauldron and Steamer. W. A. Hennesy ; table with gas fixtures, miniature steam engine, &c., C. C. Joslin & Co ; Wood's Mower, model, Jervis J. Cass ; Scythe and Shoemaker's whet-stones, Hanson Arnold ; Case of shoe findings, B. A. Slocomb ; Glass model Churn, H. M. Bowen, Philadelphia ; Belting from Woonsocket Belt Shops ; Jeneks's window springs, bench hooks, &c., Pawtucket Spring Company ; Harness Wardrobe, Pond & Woodward, Franklin, Mass. ; Case hardware, L. A. Cook & Son, fine display ; Florence Sewing Machine, S. D. Church, Providence ; top rolls, A. Howland.

#### VEGETABLES.

This department is also well represented, C. B. Aldrich, Smithfield, and Milton Buffum, Cumberland, being among the largest contributors. Among the contributors may be mentioned : R. G. Metcalf, West Wrentham ; Henry Aldrich, Alfred M. Aldrich, David E. Todd, Sarah A. Daniels, Smithfield ; O. R. Vose, A. O. Razee, Thos. Carpenter, F. M. Ballou, E. D. Whipple, Cumberland ; D. C. Daniels, Blackstone ; E. Darling, Pawtucket ; J. W. Richardson, Medway, Mass. ; John Ashworth, John A. Waterman, John McLaughlin, Ed. Whitaker, W. Vose.

Butter.—Danl. Hendrick ; Mrs. A. C. Vose, Smithfield ; Erastus Hyde ; Mendon ; Mrs. Soloman Miller, Bellingham ; J. H. & G. S. Rickard.

Honey.—Jas. M. Cook, Wrentham ; J. H. & G. S. Rickard.

Cheese.—J. H. & G. S. Rickard.

## PREMIUMS.

#### VEGETABLES, &c.

Potatoes.—E. Darling, Pawtucket, 1st premium, $1 ; E. Whitaker, 2d do., 50 cts.

Beets.—Milton Buffum, 1st premium, $1 ; F. M. Ballou, Cumberland, 2d do., 50 cts.

Carrots.—E. D. Whipple, gratuity, 25 cts.

Tomatoes.—Best peck, Sarah A. Daniels, Smithfield, 1st premium, $1 ; 2d do., C. B. Aldrich, 50 cts.

Onions.—Willin Vose, 1st premium, $1 ; Cyrus A. Aldrich, 2d do., 50 cts.

Cabbage.—C. B. Aldrich, 1st premium, $1 ; 2d do., Milton Buffum, 50 cts.

Peppers.—Milton Buffum, 1st premium, $1.

Squashes.—M. Buffum, 1st premium, $1 ; Henry Aldrich, Smithfield, 2d do., 50 cts.

Sweet Corn.—Spencer Mowry, 1st premium, $1 ; H. E. Daniels, Blackstone, 2d do., 50 cts.

Musk Melons.—Henry Aldrich, Smithfield, 1st premium, $1.

Largest variety by one exhibitor.—C. B. Aldrich, 1st premium, $3 ; Milton Buffum, 2d do., $2.

Honey.—James M. Cook, Wrentham, 1st premium, $2 ; J. H. & G. S. Rickard, 2d do., $1.

Cheese.—J. H. & G. S. Rickard, 1st premium, —.

Butter.—Erastus Hill, 1st premium, $3 ; Catharine M. Aldrich, 2d do., $2.

Corn in the Ear.—Daniel Billings, 1st premium, $2 ; Washington Remington, 2d do., $1.

Rye.—Reuben Cook, Wrentham, 1st premium, $2 ; Jefferson Remington, 2d do., $1.

Oats.—Nathaniel J. Pickering, 1st premium, $2 ; James Hotchkiss, 2d do., $1.

Barley.—Spencer Mowry, 1st premium, $2 ; D. W. Wilkinson, 2d do., $1.

#### COTTON AND WOOLEN GOODS.

For best display of Sheetings and Shirtings, to Hamlet Company, 1st premium, $3 ; 2nd best do., Social Company, 2d do., $2. The Social Company also exhibited three qualities of Silecias, in which there was no competition.

The Forestdale Manufacturing Co. had an excellent display of Cottons—among them a case of linen-finished Shirtings. Given a gratuity.

The Blackstone Manufacturing Co. made a fine exhibit of Sheetings and Shirtings. Awarded a gratuity.

A good display of Balmorals was made by D. B. Pond, from his manufactory, for which he was awarded a gratuity.

Best display of Woolen Goods, quality considered, $3, to the Harris Woolen Company ; to the Lippitt Woolen Company a diploma for Fancy Cassimeres and Silk Mixtures ; to Evans. Seagraves and Co., a gratuity of one dollar for Cloakings.

#### HOUSEHOLD MANUFACTURES, &c.

Best display Boots and Shoes, $2, B. A. Slocomb ; 2d best, $1, D. McNamee.

Best Boots made by exhibitor, $2, D. McNamee ; best Shoes, $1, D. McNamee.

Best Carriage Afghan, $3, Mrs. David F. Harris ; second, Miss Sarah Andrews, $2.

Best Hearth Rug, $2, Mrs. B. S. Farrington ; second, Mrs. J. S. Blaisdell, $1.

Best Knit Counterpane, $2, Mrs. S. P. Walker.

Best Pieced Quilt, $2, Mrs. J. H. Work ; second, Jane Heny, $1.

Best Linen Hose, $1, Mrs. Peckham ; second, 50 cts., Mrs. David Wilkinson.

Best Woolen Hose, $1, Catharine M. Aldrich ; second. 50 cts., A. Cook.

Best Knit Mittens, $1, E. J. Kendall ; second, 50 cts., A. Cook.

Best Silk Embroidery, $2, Mrs. Sarah Carey ; second, $1, Ida A. Cook.

Best Cotton or Wool Embroidery, $2, Mary Brown ; second, $1, Mrs. Cyrus Arnold.

Best Toilet Cushion, $1, Mrs. F. Weber ; second, 50 cts., Emma A. Harris.

Best Wrought Slippers, $1, Mrs. R. P. Smith ; second, 50 cts., R. Aldrich.

Best Wrought Chair Cushion, $2, Mrs. O. J. Rathbun ; second, $1, Anna Ballou.

Best Ottoman Cover, $2, Mrs. O. J. Rathbun ; second, $1, Mrs. A. S. Arnold.

Best Tatteu Work, $1, Sarah Cary : second, 50 cts., Ellen Metcalf.

Best Worsted Work, $2, Mrs. S. P. Walker ; second, $1, Mrs. C. E. Aldrich.

Best Needlework, $2, Mrs. L. M. Snow ; second, $1, Mrs. G. Woodbury.

Best Shell Work, $1, Mrs. A. B. Jillson ; second, 50 cts., Mrs. Isaac Ellsbree.

Best Coue Work, $1, Sarah A. Butler ; second, 50 cts., Nettie Sherman.

Best Crayon Drawing, $1, Florence Arnold ; second, 50 cts., C. E. Ford.

Best Ornamental Hair Work, $1, Nettie Sherman ; second, 50 cts., Jennie Law.

Best Collection of Insects, $2, D. D. Farnum ; second, $1, Austin Cook.

Best Collection Birds, $2, Frank Haigh ; second, $1, George B. Arnold.

#### FRUITS.

For largest and best display of Apples, $5, Frank M. Ballou ; second best, 3, Thos. Carpenter ; third best, 2, W. Remington.

For best dish Apples, $3, J. C. Ballou ; second, 2, A. J. Barber, senior. A gratuity to Smith Aldrich.

For largest and best collection of Pears—first premium, $5, Lewis Dexter ; second, 3, N. S. Collyer ; third, 2, Thomas Bell.

For best six varieties of Pears—first premium, $3, J. P. Childs ; second, 2, C B. Aldrich.

For best dish Pears—first premium, $3, Alva Vose ; second, 2, Dr. G. W. Jenckes. Gratuity to C. B. Manchester for fine display.

For largest and best exhibition of Peaches—first premium, $3, C. B. Manchester ; second, 2, Samuel O. Tabor.

For best dish Plums—first premium, $2, Alva Vose ; second, 1, D. M. Hubbard.

For best half bushel Cranberries—first premium, $3, H. O. Arnold ; second, 2, H. C. Daniels.

For best display Native Grapes—first premium, $6, Thomas Bell ; second, 4, D. M. Hubbard ; third, 2, Thomas Carpenter. For best dish, 2, Ira B. Peck.

For best display Foreign Grapes, quality considered—first premium, $6, J. P. Childs ; second, 4, H. S. Mansfield ; third, 2, C. B. Aldrich.

[*Concluded on page* 287.]



A BIT of shrubbery in the yard, a vine climbing by a trellis, a strip of refreshing green spread from the door, are sure to make a place of greater marketable value, which, with many, is a consideration to be thought of before any other. Such need no further appeal to their sense of neatness then. But those who really love the suggestions of beauty for their own sake, will not omit the turf patch, the shrubbery, and the hedge and vine, because they make almost any home more attractive and lovely, and cause the sentiments to sprout, like the very leaves and buds themselves. How few stop to consider what a powerful association lies lurking in every simple but familiar object, like a bush, a tree, a bit of grass, or a border of flowers. They are objects that hold us almost as steadily and strongly to home as wife and children.

## PREMIUMS AWARDED AT THE NEW ENGLAND FAIR.

CLASS 1. CATTLE.

No. 3. DEVON STOCK. For Herds—To E. H. Hyde, of Stafford, Ct., first premium, $25. To Harvey Dodge, of Sutton, Mass., second premium, $20. To H. M. Sessions, South Wilbraham, Mass, tbird premium, diploma.

Sweepstake Premium for Bulls—To E. H. Hyde, for Bull Calf "Gen. Lyon," the Society's Medal. Also to E. H. Hyde, the Society's Medal for Cow "Fairy 9th." The Committee report very favorably on tbe Cow "Beauty," belonging to Harvey Dodge, Sutton.

For Bulls, three years old and upwards.—To Harvey Dodge, for Bull "Comet," first premium, $30. To E. H. Hyde, for Bull "Lyon," second premium, $20.

For Bulls, two years old and under three.—To E. H. Hyde, for Bull "Jack," $25.

To Wm. Eamcs, of Worcester, Mass., for "Young Bloomfield," $20.

For Bulls, one year old and under two.—To H. M. Sessions, of South Wilbraham, Mass., for Bull "New England," first premium, $15. To same for "Ahe 2d," second premium, diploma. To John Dimon, Pomfret, Ct., for "Uucas," 3d premium, $5.

For Bull Calves.—To E. H. Hyde, of Pomfret, Ct., for "Gen. Lyou," first premium, diploma. To P. M. Augur, Middlefield, Ct., secoud premium for "Hercules," $5.

NO. 4.—DEVON STOCK.

Cows, four years old aud upwards.—1st premium to E. H. Hyde, of Stafford, Ct., for his cow "Fairy 5th," $30; 2d premium to Harvey Dodge, of Sutton, Mass., for his cow "Jessie Dory," $25; 3d premium to E. H. Hyde, of Stafford, Ct., for his cow "Fairy 9th," diploma.

Heifers, three years old and under four.—1st premium to Harvey Dodge, of Sutton, for his heifer "Beauty 9th," $25; 2d premium to H. M. Sessions, of South Wilbraham, Mass., for his heifer "Minnie 5th," $20; 3d premiuu to E. H. Hyde, for his heifer "Nelly Bly 5th," diploma.

Heifers, two years old and uuder three.—1st premium to H. M. Sessions, for his heifer "Miuuie 11th," $20; 2d premium to E. H. Hyde, for his heifer "Aurelia," $15; 3d premiuu to E. H. Hyde, for his heifer "Beauty 11th," diploma.

Heifers one year old and under two—1st premium to E. H. Hyde for his heifer "Wiuona, 2d," $15; 2d premiuu to Harvey Dodge, for his heifer "Beauty 12th," diploma; 3d premium to P. M. Auger, of Middlefield, Coun., $5.

Heifer Calves—1st premium to H. M. Sessions, for ealf "Winona 3d," diploma.

2d premiuu to Harvey Dodge for calf out of "Jesse Dory," $5.

The committee recommend a gratuity to P. M. Auger, of Middlefield, Coun., for his cow "Mary Hurlhurt." The committee also favorably mention a cow belonging to Harvey Dodge.

NO. 14.—WORKING OXEN.

1st premium to Marshall H. Day, of Chesterfield, N. H., 1 pair of twins, 7 years old, $25.

2d premium to A. & W. Sprague, Cranston, for one yoke working oxen, 7 years old, $20.

3d premium to Geo. F. Wilson, East Providence, for two yoke working oxen, 6 years old, $15.

4th premium to A. & W. Sprague, for nine yoke working oxen, diploma.

NO. 19—CALVES NOT OVER EIGHT MONTHS OLD.

1st premium to W. W. Chenery, Belmont, Mass., $20.

2d premium to Geo. F. Wilson, diploma; and recommend for Wm. Birnie, Springfield publication.

CLASS II.—No. 25—Stallions two years old and under three.—To W. B. Smith, Hartford, Conn., first premium, $10; To Jas. T. Munroe, Lexington, Mass., second premium, $5; To Jouathau S. Kelley, Johnston, third premium, $3.

The Committtee favorably mention the stallion of S. & W. S. Alleu.

NO. 21.—STALLIONS FOR GENERAL USE.

Eight years old and upwards.—To Benj. S. Wright, of Boston, Mass., for ch. s. Fearnought, eight years old, first premium, $30; To F. S. Stevens, Swausea, for h. s. Garibaldi, ten years old, second premium, $20.

CLASS III.—FAT SHEEP.

Long Wooled. — To Sherman Hartwell, Hedge Lawn, Ct., first premium. To Burdett Loomis, Windsor Locks, Ct., second premium. To W. W. Chenery, Belmont, Mass., third premium.

Middle Wooled.—To H. G. White, South Framingbam, Mass., first premium. Thos. Buffum, Middletown, second premium. Wm. Sisson, Portsmouth, third premium.

CLASS X, No. 62.—AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

To Barstow & Palmer, Providence, for portable Apple Grinder, diploma.

W. E. Barett & Co., Providence, for three road Scrapers, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, $3.

To the same for Grindstones for jewellers', carpenters' and farm usc, complete, diploma.

To same for Stone Trucks, Nos. 1 2 and 3, diploma.

To same for Wheelbarrows, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, diploma.

To same for Grant's No. 5 Farm Mill, $5.

To same for Patent Slide Ox Yoke, diploma.

To Frankliu Olds, Providence, for Old's Graiu Mill, diploma and gratuity.

To W. E. Barrett & Co., for Trainod Ox Yoke, $3.

To same for sugar Mill for barrel, diploma.

To same for Perry's Patent Hay Cutter, $5.

To same for Hide Rolls in Nos. 0, 1.

To same for 5, 8 and 11, diploma.

To same for Yankee Corn Shellers. $5.

To same for Wallington's Vegetable Cutter No. 4, diploma.

To J. D. Burdick & Co., New Haven, Ct., Fodder Cutters, diploma.

To Edward Farnum, Blackstone, Mass., Corn Husker, diploma and gratuity.

To Whittemore, Beleher & Co., Boston, for copper weather vane, diploma; to same for 1 Graut 3 lever cutter, diploma; to R. Whitney, Providence, for chaiu, swivel hook and one pronged hog hoe, diploua; to W. E. Barrett & Co., for draft chains, ox and cow ties, trace chains, wbiffletree chaius, back chaius, eross chains, $3.

To Powill & Co., Underhill Centre, Vt., for Powill's Carriage Clips or Thill Coupling, diploma.

To Rufus Nutting, Randolph, Vt., for patent Root Cutter, diploma.

To J. P. Moore, Boston, for Moriston Carriage Jack, diploma.

To Daniels Machine Co., Woodstock, Vt., for large Straw and Hay Cutter, one horse power Cutter, stoek, hay &c., one haud ditto $5. To same for Vegetable Cutter, diploma.

THOROUGHBRED HORSES.

Stallions 4 years old aud upwards. 1st premium of $30 to Highland Chief, owned by W. W. Cheuery, of Belmont, Mass.

Stallions one year old and under four—1st preuium of $25 to Scythiau, owned by W. W. Cheuery; 2d do. $20, not decided.

Mares four years old aud upwards—1st premium of $25 to Keutucky Belle, owned by W. W. Cheuery; 2d do. of $20 to Aurica, owned by W. W. Chenery, of Belmont, Mass.; 3d premium of diploma to Belle Lewis, owned by do.

Mares 1 year old and under 4. 1st premium to Highland Maid, owned by do.

In class 26, Family Horses, the following awards were made:

First Sub-division.—1st premium of $30 to James Davis, of Pawtueket; 2d preuium of $20 to Adam Thompson, of Littleton, Mass.; 3d premium of diploma to E. F. Paige of Lawrenee, Mass.

Seeoud Sub-divisiou.—1st premium of $30 to William V. Daholl, of Elmwood; 2d premium of $20 to Thos. Fitch of New London.

WORKING OXEN.—5 YEARS OLD.

To Albert D. Wheeler, of East Providence, R. I., 1st premium, $25; to Grosvenor Aldrich, of Uxbridge, Mass., 2d premium, $20; to Marsball H. Day, of Chesterfield, N. H., 3d premium, $15; to Stephen Wright, of Smithfield, 4th premium, a diploma.

CLASS I. NO. 16.—WORKING OXEN.

Four Years Old—Best Yoke.

To Simon Carpenter, Charlton, Mass., 1st premium, $25; to Alpheus Davis, Charlton, Mass., 2d premium, $20; to Marhle Putnam, Sutton, Mass., 3d premium, $15; to Henry Putnam, Grafton, Mass., 4th premium, diploma.

SHORT HORN STOCK.—Sweepstakes premiums.

For the best Bull of any age to G. T. Plunkett, for his Bull 6th Duke of Thorndale.

For the best Cow or Heifer, to Benjamin Sumner, for his Cow, Pride of Antrim.

There were entered four herds.

The first premium was awarded to G. T. Plunkett, $25; 2d premium to A. M. Winslow & Sons, $20; 3d premium to H. G. White, diploma.

Bulls two years old aud under three. 1st premium to Burditt Loomis for 4th Lord Oxford, $25; 2d premium to A. J. Cass, 20; 3d premium to Paoli Lathrop, diploma.

Bulls 1 year old. 1st premium to H. M. Clark, 15; 2d premium to A. M. Winslow & Sons, diploma; 3d premium to H. M. Clark, 5.

Bull Calves. 1st premium to A. M. Wiuslow & Sons; 2d premium to Benj. Sumner.

SHORT HORN STOCK.—COWS AND HEIFERS.

Four years old and upwards.

To Benj. Sumner, Woodstock, Vt., for his Cow, "Smile," 1st premium, 30; to same, Cow "Twinkle," 2d premium, 20; to A. M. Winslow & Son, of Putney, Vt., for Cow "Starlight," 3d premium, diploma.

Three years old and under four.

To A. M. Winslow & Son, for Cow "Lady Washington," 1st premium, 25; To H. M. Clarke, of Belmont, Mass., for Cow "Blossom," 2d premium, 20; to H. G. White, of South Framingham, Mass., Cow "Yarico 36th," 3d premium, diploma.

Two years old and under three.

To H. G. White, for cow "Lady Susan 2d," 1st premium, 20; to A. M. Winslow & Son, for Cow "Lady Sale 10th," 2d premium, 15; to Paoli Lathrop, of South Hadley Falls, Mass., for Rosalia 3d, 3d premium, diploma.

One year old and under two.

To Benj. Sumner, for "Countess of Antrim," 1st premium, 15; to H. G. White, for Hope, 2d premium, diploma; to H. M. Clarke, for "Minetta," 3 premium, 5.

CLASS I. NO. 9.—JERSEY STOCK.

Bulls 3 years old and upwards—To Thos. Fitch, New London, Conn., for "Gen. Sheridan," 1st premium, 30; to same for "General Grant," 2d premium, 20; to same for "Gen. Scott," 3d premium, diploma.

For Bulls 2 years old and upwards—To W. H. Hopkins, of Providence, for "Comet, Jr.," 1st premium, 25; to William Crozier, of Warwick, R. I., for "Roanoke," 2d premium, 20; to H. M. Clarke, Belmont, Mass., for "Champion 2," 3d premium, diploma.

For Bulls 1 year old aud under 2—To A. D. Wheeler, East Providence, 1st premium, 15; to J. Carter Brown, Warwick, for "Charles," 3d premium, diploma; to John Brooks, Princeton, 3d premium, 5.

For Bull Calves.—To George A. Dresser of Southbridge, Mass., for "Patrick 2d," 1st premium, diploma; to Thomas Fiteh, New London, for "Geu. Burnside," 2d premium, 5.

Sweepstakes for best Bull of any size.—To W. H. Hopkius, Provideuce, for "Comet Jr.," the Society's medal. The committee consider this bull the most perfect of the breed they have seen.

For Herds.—The committee award to the herd of John Brooks, Princeton, Mass., the 1st premium of 25; to the samc, the 2d premiuu of 20; to Williaui Crozier, of Warwick, R. I., the 3d premium, diploma.

The sweepstakes premium, the Society's medal, is awarded to J. S. Munroe, of Lexington, Mass., for the best cow, "May Day."

JERSEY STOCK.

Cows, Heifers and Heifer Calves, Four years old and upwards.—To W. Crozier, Warwick, 1st premium for "Caroliue," 30; H. G. White, South Framiugham, Mass., for "Medora," 2d premium, 20; to James S. Monroe, Lexington, Mass., for "May Day," 3d premium, diploma.

Three years old aud uuder four.—To Wm. Goddard, Warwick, for "Fauny," 1st premium 25; to same for "Kate," 2d premium 20; to Thomas Fitch, of New London, Couu., for "Beauty," 3d premium, diploma.

Two years old aud under three—To Thomas Fitch for "Beauty 2d," 1st preuium, 20; to Henry M. Clark, Belmont, Mass., for "Rosa 2d," 2d premium, 15; to Hon. C. S. Bradley, North Providence, for "Daisy," 3d premium, diploma.

One year old and under three.—To C. B. Aldrieh, Smithfield, R. I., for "Lilly, 1st premium, 15; to Thos. Fitch, New Loudon, Ct., for "Fawn," 2d premium, diploma; to same for "Gipsey," 3 preuium, 5.

Heifer Calves.—To James S. Mouroe, Lexington, Mass., for "May Day 2d," 1st premium, diploma; to A. D. Wheeler, East Providence, for "Providence," 2d premium, 5.

CLASS 1, NO. 11.—DUTCH STOCK.

Herds, Sweepstakes and Bulls.

For Herds.—To W. W. Chenery, Belmont, Mass., 1st premium, 25.

Bull three years old and upwards.—To W. W. Chenery for "Van Tromp," 1st premium, 30.

Bulls two years old and under three.—To W. W. Cheuery, 1st premium, 25; to Chas. Bird, Walpole, Mass., for "Geu. Burnside," 2d premium. 20.

Bulls one year old and uuder two.—To W. W. Cheucry, 1st premium, 15; to same, 2d premium, diploma.

Bull Calves.—To W. W. Chenery, 1st premium, diploma; to Chas. Bird, Walpole, 2d premium, 5.

Swccpstakes Premium.—For bull, to W. W. Chenery, for "Midwould 7th," and to same for Cow, "Lady Midwould."

CLASS I. NO. 12—DUTCH STOCK.

For Cows, Heifers and Heifer Calves.—The Committee report that all the cattle in this class were entered by W. W. Chenery, Esq., of Belmont Mass., to whom the following premiums were awarded:

For Cows four years old and upwards.—For "Lady Midwould" 1st premium, 30; "Texelaar 3d," 2d premium, 20; "Maid of Opperdoes," 3d premium, diploma.

For Cows three years old and under four.—For "Opperdoes 3d," 25.

For Cows two years old and under three.—For "Midwould 6th," 1st premium, 20; for "Texelaar 5th," 2d premium, 15.

For Cows one year old and uuder two.—For "Texelaar 8th," 1st premium, 15; "Texelaar 9th," 2d premium, diploma.

For Heifers.—For "Texelaar 9th," diploma; for "Opperdoes 8th," 5.

CLASS I, NO. 17.—STEERS.

Pairs, Three Years Old.

To A. M. Winslow & Son, of Putney, Vt., first premium, 20; to Lindley Horton, Rehoboth, Mass., second premium, 15; to G. F. Harrington, Westboro, Mass., 3d premium, diploma.

To Master John Angell, of Cumberland, R. I., a gratuity of $8 for superior excellence in training and manœuvering a very fine pair of steers exbibited by him.

Two Years Old Steers.—To H. M. Clarke, of Belmont, Mass., first premium, 15; to Thos. Fitch, of New London, Ct., for best pair of yearling steers, the Society's diploma.

NO. 23.—STALLIONS.

Four years old and under Five.

To Chas. Moulton, Saxonville, for b. s. "Dictator," 1st premium, 30; to W. B. Smith, Hartford, blks. Tom Jefferson, 2d premium, 20; to same for b. s. Goshen, 3d premium, diploma.

NO. 24.—STALLIONS.

Three years old and over.—To Wm. B. Smith, Hartford, for g. s. "Granite State," 1st premium, 20.

CLASS II.—GELDINGS AND FILLIES.

Under Tbree Years.

To F. S. Stevens, Swansea, Mass., 1st premium, 20; to C. H. Whipple, Providence, 2d premium, 15; to Jonathan S. Kelly, Johnston, a diploma.

NO. 27.—GELDINGS AND FILLIES.

Three years old and under four.—To Wm. M. Suow. Cranston, for brown filly, 1st premium, 20; to Benj. Bosman, Providence, 3d premium, diploma.

NO. 26—MARES WITH FOAL BY THEIR SIDE.

To C R Whipple, Providence, 1st premium, 30; to W W Chenery, Belmont, Mass, for his brood mare "Vistula," 2d premium, 20; to David Nelson, of Milford, Mass, 3d premium, diploma.

NO. 49—MERINOS, SWEEPSTAKES.

For Rams to Jerome Holden, Westminster, Vt.

For Ewes to J D Wheat, Putney, Vt.

Ewe Lambs, to J D Wheat, 1st premium; to Gleeson & Joues, 2d and 3d premiums.

For Rams 3 year old and over to Jerome Holden.

For Rams 2 years old, to J D Wheat, 1st premium, 20; to Jerome Holden, 2d premium, 15.

For Rams 2 years old, 1st to Gleeson and Jones, Shrewsbury, Vt.

For Ram 1 year old to Jerome Holden, 1st premium; to J D Wheat, 2d premium.

For Ram Lambs, to Jerome Holden, Westminster, Vt, 1st premiuu; to J D Wheat, 2d premium.

For Ewes 3 years old and over, to J D Wheat, 1st premium; to Jerome Holden, 2d premium; to J Holden 1st premiuu; S and W S Allen, 2d premium.

Ewes 2 years old, to J Holden, 1st premium; Gleeson & Joues, 2d premium.

Ewes 1 year old, to J Holden, 1st premium; to Gleeson & Joues, 2d premiuu.

CLASS III, NO. 48—MIDDLE WOOLED SHEEP.

Sweepstakes Premium to Thomas B. Buffum, Newport, R. I., for best buck, the Society's Medal.

The Society's Medal the swcepstakes premium, for best pen of three Ewes, to A Beunis & Son, East Burke, Vt.

For Bucks, three years old aud over—To W T Haszard, Newport, R I, 1st premium, 25; to P T Sherman, Middletown, R I, 1st premium, 25; to Thos B Buffum, Newport, aud E S Sissou, Portsmouth, R I, each a second premium, 20; to N B Durfee, Tiverton, and T B Buffum, Newport, each a third premium, diploma.

For Bucks 2 years and under 3—To Robt H Ives, Providenee, aud P T Shermau, Middletown, each a 1st premium, 25; to A Bemis & Sou, East Burke, Vt., and to T B Buffuu, Newport, eaeh a second premium, 20; to P T Shermau and T B Buffum, each a third premium, diploma.

For yearling Bucks—To P T Shermau and A Bemis & Sou, each a first premium, 25; to A Bemis & Son aud T B Buffum, each a 2d premium, 20; to G T Plunkett, Hinsdale, Mass., and A Bemis & Sou, each a 3d premium, diploma.

Buck Lambs not less than three in number—To A Bemis & Son, two 1st premiums, 20; to R H Ives aud G T Plunkett, each a secoud premium, 15.

3 year old Ewes not less thau three in number—A 1st premium to A Bemis & Son, 25; a 1st premium aud two 2d premiums of $20 each to Thos B Buffum, of Newport.

For 2 years old Ewes, not less than 3 in number—To A Bemis & Son, and T B Buffum, each a 1st premium of 25; to R H Ives and T B Buffum, each a 2d premium of 20; to T B Buffum, a 3d premium, a diploma.

CLASS III. SHEEP—LONG WOOLED.

Cottswolds.

Sweepstakes medal on Rams to Burdett Loomis, of Windsor Locks, Ct., "Viceroy."

Sweepstakes medal on Ewes to Burdett Loomis, of Windsor Locks, Ct., (Ycarlings).

Premiums on Rams.

Threc years old and over—S. Hartwell, 1st

(Concluded on page 288.)

THE time is here when sweet corn is ready to put up for Winter use, and a few points in regard to curiug the article will not be out of place. Get the corn when the grains are in prime order for the table—when the corn is tenderest. Boil the ears a few minutes, three is better than five. Then cut and lay away to dry. A fruit dryer is best; even moderately warm will do very well; or take any method that will soonest dry your corn, being always careful not to burn it; and do not lay in lumps or too thick together when drying, or it will soon mould. Around the stove is a good place, always avoiding dampness; put in sacks and hang away iu a dry place, and your corn is fit for Winter use. In using, you are to restore it as near as possible to its originiual state. This is best done by first washing it to get out the dust and husk, and then thoroughly soakiug in water, the water retain to boil it in.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, SEPEMBER 14, 1867.


### WOONSOCKET FAIR.

For account of this Fair, see inside pages.

### ECONOMY OF NATURE.

In the great universe, to whatever part of it we turn, one controlling principle is ever apparent, one sentiment seems to pervade the whole, and that is *economy*. And so forcibly does this strike the attention of every one, that it has been expressed in a proverb, and used as a motto—"Waste not, want not."

Nature works by fixed laws, premeditated in the thought of the Creator. Who can think otherwise who investigates for himself or takes the master hand of modern science and follows nature through all the paths of life? Led by her we enter the mysterious chamber, the chosen studio of the Infinite Artist where, beneath its crystalline dome, He fashions the embryo from its formless fluids. We learn to believe that the plan of creation, which so commands itself to our highest wisdom, has not grown out of the necessary action of physical laws, but was the free conception of the Almighty intellect, matured in thought before it was manifested in a tangible external form. Modern science linked arm in arm with revealed religion points to the great Eternal, who is far more closely bound to his works than our philosophy has yet revealed—to whom matter is the method of thought and creation the vehicle of speech.

We know of no instance in the works of creation where more divine skill is displayed than is found in the wise economy of balancing the action of all the minute causes of waste and supply, and rendering them conducive to the general good. This providential adaptation nowhere appears in nature more strikingly than in the provision made for forming and preserving the soil, or the coat of vegetable mould which the Creator has so kindly spread out over the surface of the earth. The geological student will not fail to notice that this coat, which consists of loose materials and minute particles, is easily blown away by the winds, and is continually carried down by the rivers into the lakes and seas. It has been computed in some instances that the water of a river in time of flood contain earthy matter suspended in it amounting to more than the two hundred and fiftieth part of its bulk. By these admirably adjusted laws, the soil is continually diminished by removing its particles from higher to lower levels; and finally deposited in the sea, for the purpose of forming new islands, new continents and new alluviums for the future sustenance of man and beast when a more dense population will inhabit the globe.

The numerous and lofty mountains of America are not only designed to please the eye and delight the heart with their sublime scenery, but they are so many inexhaustible mountains of natural manure to fertilize the valleys and plains below. An erroneous opinion generally prevails that the rocks and mountains of a country are so much waste territory, answering no wise purpose in the economy of nature; whereas they are by far the most valuable portions of the earth's surface. For, besides the rich mountain scenery they furnish, their mineral wealth, the valuable animals which inhabit them, and the exhaustless fountains of fresh water which they contain, supplying spring, lake and river—they provide the arable land with abundant fertility. These rocks are continually pulverized by the grinding machinery of nature, by the force of the winds, by the atmosphere, by the frost, by the undermining torrent, by the thunder storm, by volcanic action. The continued supply of these rocky particles are scientifically mingled with the valleys and plains to supply the exhaustion caused by the constant action of other laws which waft and float the old soil to the ocean. Who can fail to admire this wonderful economy where Time is constantly at his work pulverizing the flinty rocks and with his stalwart arms and shivering blows is ever hewing down the cloud-capped mountains for the sustenance of ungrateful man?

### THE GREAT FAIR.

The Fair of the New England and Rhode Island Agricultural Societies closed on Friday last. The weather of the entire four days was as favorable as could be desired; the number of spectators and the general interest were kept up to the last hour; and the Fair closed with a success in every department, such as has not before been witnessed since the New England Society had an existence. The whole number of articles entered for exhibition was about two thousand, including eight hundred cattle, two hundred horses, and four hundred sheep. This aggregate number is nearly double the number ever before brought together by the New England Society, while the quality of the animals, as a whole, was also superior. Some of the animals have never been excelled on American soil.

The annual address, by Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard, delivered on the closing day, was an able production, and was listened to with great satisfaction. His subject was "Educated Labor." The dinner of the Societies followed. Dr. Loring, President of the New England Society, presided. Appropriate and congratulatory remarks were made by him, by ex-Gov. Andrew of Massachusetts, and by Gov. Harriman of New Hampshire.

In another portion of this paper will be found the premiums awarded. This list is not complete, but is as full as we could present in this issue. We regret that our limited space has not enabled us to give as full details of the Fair as it deserved. The officers of both Societies are deserving great credit for the successful management.

Crops in Oregon.—We have a private letter from a friend who is farming on the rich bottom lands of the Columbia river—seventy miles above Astoria. His farm enumerates 640 acres, on which he keeps a stock of thirty horses and upwards of three hundred cattle. This season's crop of wheat, oats, and barley in Oregon is represented as immense—the largest ever grown in that territory. Nearly all the surplus grain goes to San Francisco for a market, and from thence to Europe. Our correspondent reports the fruit crop, especially apples, abundant.

Root Grafting.—The opinion that root-grafting is the cause of short-lived fruit trees is endorsed by large numbers of practical horticulturists. These affirm that we cannot have hardy, strong, long-lived trees unless they are whip or cleft grafted. Of course, this idea is strongly opposed by the nursery interest, as fully three-fourths of all our trees are grafted at the root. The American Institute Farmers' Club, of New York, discussed this subject last week, but there was as much diversity of opinion as there were speakers. Will some of our correspondents favor us with their views on "root-grafting?"

A Great Hop County.—The Richland (Wisconsin) Observer estimates the hop crop of Sauk county, in that State, for 1867, at 3,000,000 pounds as the yield from 2,540 acres. About three times this many acres are set to hops this year as in 1866, and it estimates that in 1868 there will be two and a half times as many as in 1867.

An Old Agricultural Work.—Last week Mr. Enos White, of Woonsocket, R. I., left with us for examination, two volumes on agriculture, published in London in 1771. They aggregate about one thousand pages, are in an excellent state of preservation, and contain much useful information.

☞ The Central Agricultural Society of New Jersey holds its annual exhibition at Trenton, from the 17th to the 20th of September.

### SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

Our seaboard cities are mainly supplied with beef from the grazing farms of the Western States. In the "American Agriculturist," for September, is a sketch of one of these beef-producing establishments—the farm of Messrs Fowler & Earl, in Benton county, Indianna. It comprises 24,000 acres, and is worked exclusively for preparing cattle for market. The first cost of the land was $6 per acre—about $150,000. To fence it cost $36,000 more. As cultivated grasses are more nutritious than the wild species, the prairies were broken up, planted one year in corn, followed by wheat, and then stocked down with herds-grass and clover. Blue grass and white clover come in naturally, and a permanent pasture is the result. Only half of this tract is in grazing condition, but when the whole farm is in grass it is estimated that eight thousand head of cattle can be fattened annually. A lot of 176 steers, averaging over 1400 pounds each, were sold in July—amounting to over $18,000. Last year, on this farm, 1250 acres were planted with corn and 500 acres sown with Winter wheat. Such a farm is worth having.

Western New York takes the lead of all other sections of the country for nurseries. The "Country Gentleman" publishes an account of the number of fruit and ornamental trees shipped over the Central Railroad, (mostly from Rochester and Syracuse), during the Autumn of 1866 and the Spring of 1867. The whole number of trees weighed over five thousand tons—the net value of which was estimated at one million of dollars. The largest nursery is that of Ellwanger & Barry, which comprises between five and six hundred acres. About one hundred and forty men and twenty-five horses are constantly employed through the season in cultivating the grounds. This is probably the largest nursery in America. H. E. Hooker & Brother have a nursery of two hundred and twenty acres; Frost & Co. two hundred and fifty acres; W. S. Little, two hundred acres; T. B. Yale, two hundred acres; Gould, Beckwith & Co., one hundred acres, and C. J. Ryan & Co., one hundred more—all the above mentioned are at Rochester. In addition to these nurseries, is James Vick's floral establishment of twenty-three acres for growing flower seeds. He employs fifty persons in packing seeds and filling orders. He supplied over seventy thousand orders by mail, last year.

The Hon. Israel Diehl received a commission from the Agricultural Department, some months since, to proceed to Asia and purchase a flock of Angora goats. He writes a letter from Europe to the "American Stock Journal," that he finds the price of Angora wool on the Continent *much lower* than in this country. Very likely; but he ought to have added that there is no demand or sale for it in the United States. At Hamburg, Mr. Diehl discovered a kind of "Angora Rabbit," the fleece of which, he says, "sells for $2.80 per ounce." This gentleman will probably discover some Angora cats, in his travels on Government expense, and return with a drove of goats, rabbits and cats! It is a pleasant thing to go abroad in pursuit of zoological curiosities.

We have heard of many ways to kill the wire-worm, but the "Utica Herald" presents the following new idea, which is recommended by an eminent agriculturist: Let the land go fallow one year, ploughing it three or four times during the season so that no green thing is permitted to grow; the worm does not like this kind of diet, and it is starved out, giving you no further trouble.

The "Southern Cultivator" thinks the Scuppernong grape is the most valuable variety for the Southern States—especially for wine-making. It does remarkably well on low lands along the Atlantic and Gulf coast, but thrives every where, from Roanoke island to Texas.

☞ The Fair of the Norfolk County (Mass.) Agricultural Society will take place at Dedham, on the 19th and 20th inst.

### AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

The peanut crop is up to the average in Georgia this year.

Everything is parched or burned up by drought in the vicinity of Ottawa, Canada West.

The ichneumon fly, the great destroyer of the cotton worm, has appeared in large numbers on the Texas coast, to the great joy of the planters.

A careful review of the reports of the wheat crop in Wisconsin leads us to believe that it is larger and of better quality than any crop since the great crop of 1860.

Reclaimed lands deteriorate, and soon relapse into their original wild state and become full of sour grasses, unless the ditches and drains are cleared out frequently. Now is the time to do this work.

It is anticipated that the rice crop of Louisiana will this year reach thirteen or fourteen million pounds, which is more than double what it was before the rebellion.

There are over 20,000 acres of land in Alabama planted in sweet potatoes this year, which will produce 800,000 bushels.

The Massachusetts Ploughman says the meal of cotton seed is proving of great advantage to those engaged in the dairy business. Feeding it to cows adds largely to their flow of milk, while the quality is correspondingly improved. Several farmers in Hampshire county have used the meal with most gratifying results. It is sold in the Eastern States at about $45 per ton.

The reed birds are doing much damage to the rice crop of the South.

The Illinois State Register says: "The drought still continues, and corn, for the most part, is damaged beyond help. Even should copious rains now visit us, Illinois will not yield over half an average crop this year, and it is doubtful if matters are not even worse.

The Alabama Times learns from a gentleman who has recently travelled over the greater part of Middle Alabama, that the corn crop is magnificent. The entire country looks like a land of promise.

It is proposed to erect a monument in Berlin to the man who first introduced the potato into Europe.

The Princess Anne (Md.) Herald states that the farmers in that vicinity have become discouraged at the low prices received for their peaches, and have abandoned the idea of planting trees this Fall to keep their orchards good.

The Mount Sterling (Illinois) Record says: "Nearly two thousand bushels of blackberries were shipped from this place during the blackberry season—and it wasn't a very good time for blackberries either."

Potato Disease.—We continue to receive accounts of the potato rot from many sections of the country—from the New England States, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In some parts of the latter State, on low lands, the crop will be an entire failure.

The Oat Crop.—There was a large crop of oats this season, in the Middle States, but owing to the heavy rains which immediately followed the harvest, immense quantities were destroyed. Deducting the amount injured, or completely spoiled, we do not think the average will equal last year's crop.

Draining.—Dry weather will show any wet spots that need draining; observe where they are, and prepare for draining as soon as practicable. Some of the low, marshy portions of our farms contain the most valuable land, if properly reclaimed. Dry weather is the most suitable for draining when help is to be had to attend to it. Surplus capital can at any time be profitably invested in this improvement with certainty of good dividends.





Farmers sell too many of their beef cattle when they are in merely ordinary beef condition. In doing this there is a two-fold loss that but few consider. The animal yields a less number of pounds and the meat brings a lower price. Between ordinary beef, and really choice, fat beef, there is always a difference of two or three cents per pound, and this difference, when added to the whole number of pounds when the animal is in the best condition, will be found to be no mean amount. Nothing pays better than the few bushels of grain or the few days upon good June grass, that puts the finishing touch upon what is geuenerally denominated a good beef animal. Do not be in a hurry to market, under ordinary circumstances, until cattle are really fat. The same applies to all other market animals.

# The Fireside Muse.

### THE GOLDEN GRAIN.

The grain! the grain! the heautiful grain!
How it laughs to the hreeze with a glad refrain,
Blessing the famishing earth for her pain,
Making her smile with glee;

Lifting in praise each hright golden crown,
As it drinks the dew that the Father sends down,
Counting the sun's warm lover-like frown,
Returning it smilingly.

The grain, the grain! the heautiful sheaves!
A song of joy their rustling weaves,
For the gracious gift that the earth receives,
Given most royally.

From every hill-side, every plain
Comes the farmer's song as he reaps the grain;
And the summer hreeze wafts on the strain,
In wildest harmony;

A grateful song of rejoicing to greet
The Master, who sendeth the seasons sweet,
Giving the grain, the golden wheat,
A blessing for all to he.

He pours o'er earth his brimming horn,
That the valleys may laugh and sing with corn,
While hope, with her death trance, rises new born,
The hrighter days to see.

Our Father, we thank Thee! the heautiful grain,
Brings a hlessing like that, when the soft summer rain
Comes down on the parched earth, nor hids it in vain,
Rejoice and hope ever in Thee.

Hope ever, and trust! Thy thoughts, not like ours;
Thou sendeth drought, then bringest the showers,
Withholdeth the grain, then, with magical showers,
A glorious harvest we see.

And so for the grain! the heautiful grain!
The golden, the laughing, with glad refrain,
Blessing the famishing earth in her pain,—
We offer our worship to Thee.

# Horticulture.

### CULTIVATE THE ORCHARD.

By some the practice of cultivating the ground around orchard trees is questioned, as of, at least, doubtful propriety. Their claims as to its value are that our young orchards, under regular culture of plow and hoe, are more strong, and less injured hy insects, than those that have heen left in grass. They also claim that, by stimulating the growth of the trees by cultivation, they are more liable to blight, and destructive to the tree.

How far such views may be sustained in practice, we know not; certainly in our observation, they are not tenable. We have found the fruit in most uncultivated orchards to be small and knotty; and, when the vigor of the tree has been checked hy a close compact sod, if any growth occurs from an unusually growing season, it is generally water sprouts, filling up, choking, and diverting the vitality of the tree from its true and legitimate channel.

We do not believe in breaking the ground deeply, tearing asunder roots of half to an inch in diameter, and especially those near the crown; but we believe the ground kept light and loose, two to four inches deep, and stirred often during the season of growth with the cultivator or Share's harrow, will give a healthy growth, prevent in a measure the increase of insect life, and render the tree hardy, and capable of enduring extremes of temperature in the best manner.—*Horticulturist.*

Winter Pears.—It is a safe rule to let Winter pears hang on the tree until the time of picking Winter apples, or until the fruit begins to drop considerably. After heing picked, they should be kept in a dry, cool place; the cooler the better, if they do not freeze. Some pears will ripen up with very little trouble. The Lawrence, for instance, is a variety that may be treated just as apples are treated, heaped up in barrels, and they will ripen finely; while other varieties require very different treatment. From time to time, as Winter pears are wanted for use, they should be taken into a warm place, when a few days will suffice to ripen them perfectly. The principle involved in the patent fruit-house of Prof. Nyce is to keep the fruit dry and cool until just before it is wanted for the table, and then treat it as directed above, bringing it into a warm place.

### SUBSOILING FOR GRAPE-VINES.

Several agricultural papers have stated that it has heen shown by numerous experiments in planting grape-vines on the slopes of Lake Erie, that those vines which were put out where the soil was trenched, or pulverized with a subsoil plow to the depth of one and a half feet or thereabouts, never have succeeded so satisfactorily as where the vines were transplanted on a thin soil, only a few inches in depth, without breaking up the subsoil. Some other writers have stated that grape-vines flourish most satisfactorily on wet soils, where the roots can strike down to the water in dry weather.

Such statements, without an intelligent explanation, are calculated to do untold injury, by bringing grape-growing into great disrepute.

The grape-vine is by no means an aquatic plant; and vines never succeed on wet ground. A soil charged with an excess of water, to such an extent as to render the land too wet for the grass or for the production of bountiful crops of cereal grain, is not adapted to vine-yards, and even light crops of grapes can never he produced on wet land. It is true that grape vines like water, but they do not like to stand in a wet soil. Indeed, they cannot long survive when planted in a wet place. Therefore it should be explicitly stated that when grape-vines like water the vines must be planted in a dry place, where it can send its roots down to the water to drink. A cow, or any other domestic animal, will thrive far better when confined in a pasture on the bank of a stream of water, where it can go down and drink at pleasure, than where the pasture is so wet that the feet of the animal are always in water. Water is absolutely essential to the health and growth of both animals or grape-vines. But when more water is provided than just enough to supply the necessities of an animal or a vine, an excess of one of the very elements of life proves an instrument of death. Now, if a vine be planted on the bank of a stream of water, where it can send down a few leading roots to the subsoil that is thoroughly saturated with water, if there is a desirable location on the face of the earth where a vine will grow luxuriantly and produce a bountiful supply of fruit, it would seem that no location would be superior to such a one as this to which allusion has just been made. The point under consideration is that the vine must stand in soil that is not filled with an excess of moisture, but so near a supply of water that the roots spread to damp, or even to wet ground for the purpose of obtaining a bountiful supply of moisture in hot weather. This is substantially the secret of the eminent fruitfulness of vines planted near a water course. Now, as it is not practicable to have every vine planted on the bank of a stream of water, the next best condition for a vine is on a soil where water will not remain at the surface of the ground, hut will settle down two feet or more, and there remain within the reach of those roots that are sent down to draw up a necessary supply for the vine in dry weather. This point suggests the importance of breaking up the subsoil and pulverizing it as deep as may be practical, for the purpose of retaining the water by capillary attraction, for the benefit of the roots in hot and dry weather.

Breaking up and pulverizing subsoils which are so firm that water will not pass readily through the interstices, prepares the ground to retain moisture much longer in hot weather, when water is greatly needed to promote the growth of the vine, than the same ground will hold moisture when the impervious substratum is not broken up. Grape-vines always spread out a system of roots, like a complete mat, in many instances, near the surface of the ground. Every intelligent pomologist recognizes this fact. Other vines, bushes and fruit trees, produce roots in the same manner. Therefore certain writers, jumping hastily at conclusions, have asserted that grape-vines do not require a deep soil, as the roots always grow near the surface when a vine is allowed to grow unmolested. The observation is a correct one; yet the conclusion is entirely erroneous, as another system of roots will always be found beneath the roots that lie beneath the surface, which are designed especially for bringing up the necessary moisture from the subsoil, when the surface-soil is so parched and dry as to afford a inadequate supply of water for promoting the healthful growth of the vine and the development of the fruit. Some pomologists have trenched the entire ground where vines were to be planted, breaking up every particle of earth to the depth of three feet. Such a practice may not pay, in dollars and cents realized from the fruit, yet vines growing on such land will doubtless yield far more fruit, and be more healthy than if the subsoil had not been disturbed.—*New York Times.*

### THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Take out the canes of the Raspberry and Blackherry that have borne fruit, and thin out all suckers except those intended to produce fruit the next season. Many growers go over their rows at this season, and shorten off about one-fourth of the cane with a pair of shears. They say it increases the productiveness, which we think likely; but we would not do so till the end of the month, when there will be less danger of the eyes bursting, which will defeat the object.

Strawberries grown in hills should have their runners cut off as soon as they appear; and those grown in beds be thinned out considerably.

August and September are favorite months to plant our strawberries, with those who desire a crop of fruit the next season. In making a strawberry bed, a warm, dry spot of ground should be chosen, with, if possible, a good loamy or clayey subsoil. A moist, wet situation is very unfavorable. It is best to subsoil at least two feet deep, and if the soil is poor, let it be well enriched with well-decayed stable manure. In setting out, take care that the plants do not become dry from the time they are taken up till they are replanted, and see that they do not wither afterwards. Many persons cut off the leaves if they are afraid of their wilting under hot suns, but a much hetter plan is to shade. Inverted four inch flower pots are excellent for this purpose; they may be taken off at night. The dews will so invigorate them, that the shade will only be required for a few days. Sometime in September they may need a good watering; but this should never be attempted unless a thorough saturation of the bed is given; and in a few days after, the hoe and the rake should be employed to loosen and level the surface, which the heavy watering will, in all probability, have caused to bake and become very crusty. Where time can be spared to layer a few plants into three-inch pots, they are very successfully transplanted afterwards, and much after labor, in watering and shading avoided. —*Gardener's Monthly.*

### BOILING WATER FOR THE YELLOWS.

A correspondent of the Gardeners' Monthly says: "In the Spring of 1863, I had in my garden two or three peach trees that had the yellows very bad, so much so that I considered them dead. I poured one gallon of boiling hot water on to each of them, and let it run down the trunks of the trees. The result was surprising to me. Instead of that deathly look, in the course of two or three weeks there appeared a new growth of leaves, fresh and green, and this season they have all had peaches on them. I tried the same remedy on one this Spring, and with the same result, so far as the growth is concerned."

A correspondent of the Maine Farmer says; "I noticed in the last Farmer an extract from the Horticulturist in regard to Keyes's tomato. The writer thinks it is not what it claims to be—'thirty days earlier than any other variety.' I have this and another famous sort—both figured highly in the papers and are painted up well by seedsmen of note, who have had a large sale at twenty-five cents each, for small papers of seed—but I do not find them any earlier than our common, cheap varieties."

### THE CULTIVATION OF RHUBARB.

The soil intended for a new plantation of rhubarb should be deeply tilled and well manured. Some culturists of this excellent vegetable trench the soil two spades deep, and the return they get fully repays for the additional labor and expense. It is better to prepare the ground for this crop in the Fall than in the Spring, for there is generally more time for doing the work properly during the former season. The plants may be set out as soon as the leaves have fallen, the stools being divided so as to leave only one or two strong buds on each hunch of roots.

Great improvements have been effected in the size and quality of rhubarb during the last thirty years. The first remarkable one was made by Mr. Myatt, of Deptford, England, and wherever rhubarb is cultivated for culinary purposes, "Myatt's Victoria" is known, and highly esteemed, being of immense size, good flavor, and great productiveness. It has some imperfections, such as a thick skin, a superabundance of acid, and it is somewhat later than other varieties.

Mr. Charles Downing, of Newburg, originated a variety, called "Downing's Colossal," which is an improvement on the Victoria, being fully equal to that variety in size, less acid, and possessing a superior flavor. Mr. Myatt succeeded in producing a variety which surpasses both the Victoria and the Colossal. This he named the "Linnæus," which is now very much cultivated by market gardeners, and all persons who require a heavy crop combined with an excellent quality of vegetable. The skin of the Linnæus is so thin that it is unnecessary to remove it in cooking, and this in itself is an important advantage.

Great damage is sometimes done to the roots of rhubarb by the careless manner in which the stalks are pulled for market or domestic use. In taking off a stalk roughly, a considerable part of the crown is sometimes fractured, or removed altogether. A careful person should always be employed to gather rhubarb, as by a little dexterity in moving the leaf from side to side, and pulling gradually, it will come away without injuring the crown. It is a very injurious practice to continue pulling off the leaves as fast as they appear, for by so doing the roots are prevented from extending and laying up a store of ingredients for the future season. A sufficient number of plants should be provided to admit of letting some of them have rest while others are being used. If this is not done, strong, healthy plants cannot be grown.

In young orchards which have been properly deepened and manured for the reception of fruit trees, rhubarb may be grown for several years without any damage to the trees. The large leaves keep the ground cool, and prevent the growth of grass and troublesome weeds, and shade the lower part of the trunks and the roots of the trees from the rays of the sun. The annual mulch of manure which is applied to the rhubarb in the Fall, is of considerable protection to the roots of the trees during Winter, and they get a share of its enriching ingredients when vegetation commences in Spring. The buds or crowns of the rhubarb are protected in Winter by the fallen foliage of the fruit trees, which is much better adapted for covering them than barn-yard dung or compost, as heavy manure of any kind placed immediately over the buds, is apt to scald them.—*Western Rural.*

Dr. Trumble stated before the New York Farmers' Club that since the introduction of the English sparrow, the canker-worm in New Haven and in other places has disappeared; also that the worm has another enemy, a parasite, so small as only to be seen by the glass, that lays its minute eggs in the eggs of the canker-worm. Others ascribed the decrease of the canker-worm to the cold winds and rains of the past Spring, which occurred after the eggs commenced hatching.

The Murray Valley Australian Wine Company annually produces 20,000 hottles of first quality wine.

This is a season of the year when pasturage usually runs short, doubling the labor of cattle in searching for food and then getting but a scant supply. These facts should admonish the owners of dairy stock to supply the deficiencies of the pastures by a liberal feeding of mashes and such green or root food as may be available, till the Fall pasture shall become equal to the demands made upon it. If cows are neglected now, the *present* flow of milk will he diminished, rendering it next to an impossibility to recover the loss, no matter how abundant the aftermath of meadows may be. The great aim should be to prevent any considerable diminution of milk during the season of short pasturage, so that, when the Autumnal pastures are ready for the cows, nothing need be expended in recovering what short feeding during the dry season may have caused to he lost.

[*Concluded from page* 283.]

For best two bunches Dark Grapes, 3, J. P. Childs; best do. White, 3, J. P. Childs.

Messrs. Moore, of Cranston, were given a vote of thanks for splendid display of fruit.

A gratuity was awarded Mrs. Wm. G. Baker for apple jelly.

FLOWERS, ETC.

Best exhibition Greenhouse Plants, $5, H. S. Mansfield; second, 3, J. P. Childs.

Best exhibition Cut Flowers, $3, H. S. Mansfield; second, 2, J. H. Bourn.

Best Wreath, $3, Mrs. J. P. Childs; second, 2, A. Whitney.

Best Parlor Boquet, $2, Mrs. E. P. Reed; second, 1, S. M. Wright.

Best Wild Flowers, $2, Mrs. S. M. Wright; second, 1, Horace Cook. A gratuity of $1 to Mrs. N. A. Bryant.

Best Dahlias, $1, N. B. Spencer; second, 50 cts., Mrs. J. Brown.

Best Verbenas, $1, Frank Childs; second, 50 cts., J. H. Bourn.

Best Asters, $1, J. H. Bourn; second, 50 cts., Mrs. J. P. Childs.

Best Cut Flowers, $2, Nelson Praray; second, 1, Mrs. J. P. Childs.

Best Lycopods, $2, J. P. Childs.

For Caladiums, a gratuity to H. S. Mansfield.

Best Wax Flowers, $3, Augeline Bartlett; second, 1, L. Fisher.

Best Wax Work, $2, Nettie Sherman; second, 1, Leonard Carlton.

Best Crayon Drawing, $1, C. E. Paine; second, 50 cts., Mrs. E. Richardson, Miss S. Carlton, honorable mention.

Best Oil Painting, painted by contributor, $2, P. D. Hall; second, 1, Miss S. Andrews. Honorable mention, Miss Florence Arnold and G. W. Smith, jr.

For Penmanship, honorable mention of specimens, by Bryant, Stratton & Warner, Providence; and Walter E. Parker, Woonsocket.

Best loaf of Bread, made by a married lady, $1, Mrs. C. B. Walsworth; second, 50 cts., Mrs. S. Almy.

Best loaf of Bread, made by a lady who wants to be married, $1, Miss Jennie Hendrick; second, 50 cts., Miss Ann Shaynon.

A gratuity of $5 to Mrs. M. A. Driscoll, for Ladies Cloaks and Children's Sacks.

Best display of gentlemen's clothing, a gratuity of $2 to Joseph L. Brown.

Best display Hats, Caps and Furs, $2, H. E. Bigelow; and $2 to same for Gents' Furnishing Goods.

Best Pencil Drawing, 2, Erastus Richardson.

Best display Agricultural Tools, first premium, 5, A. S. Arnold.

Best display Hardware, first premium, 2, L. A. Cook & Son.

Best display of Cutlery, first premium, 2, D. M. Cook & Co.

Best display of Household Furniture, first premium, 2, Eli Pond, jr.

*Gratuities.*—$2 to B. S. Farrington for silver ware: 1 to Peavey Brothers for Dentistry; 1 to C. B. Chapman for Perfumes; 1 to Mrs. E. A. Clark for Tidy; 1 to Woonsocket Tape and Binding Co., for Skirts and Suspenders; 50 cts. to Mrs. L. F. Coe for Leather Work; 50 cts. to Wm. Griffin for Shirts; 1 to J. G. & J. P. Ray for Seamless Bags; 1 to B. A. Sloeomb for Shoe Findings; 50 cts. to A. Howland for Top Rolls; 2 to C. C. Joslin & Co. for Steam Fittings; 1 to W. A. Hennesey for Steam Boilers; 1 to Aquila Cook for Brushes, &c.: 1 to M. B. Holmes for Confectionery; 1 to P. B. Holmes for Fruit Cake; 1 to Hulda Childs for Domestic Carpeting; 50 cts. to Mrs. Reinewald for Hair Work.

Gratuities were made to Mrs. L. G. Currier, for Phantom Leaves; Jervis J. Cass for model of Mowing Machine; H. J. Whitaker for Cooking and Parlor Stoves; Pawtucket Spring Co.; Florence Sewing Machine Co.; C. C. Joslin & Co. for Steam and Gas Fixtures.

Honorable mention is made of Bailey Washing and Wringing Machine Co., for the great display of their superior machines; Woonsocket Belt Co. for Belts.

And thus comes to a close the Second Annual Exhibition of the Woonsocket Agricultural Society. It has been a decided success, both at the Park and in the Halls. In both departments the management has been excellent, and the attendance very large. At the Park the good order and decorum of the people were praiseworthy. The duties of Chief Marshal were well performed by Col. S. W. Razee, who was efficiently assisted by his Aids, Dr. G. W. Jenckes, Allen Thayer and David F. Harris. All the officers of the Society performed well their several parts.

We are under special obligations to the Recording Secretary, Amasa S. Arnold, and to W. E. Parker, Secretary at the Halls, for aid and courtesies rendered.

The receipts have been considerably larger than they were last year, as have been the expenses, but there will be, we trust, an acceptable balance left in the Society's treasury.

# Farm and Garden.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DRAINAGE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY HON. JAMES W. WALL, NEW JERSEY.

It has been found that drained land is ready for cultivation as soon as the frost is out. Being penetrated by air and rain and sun's rays, it is many degrees warmer, and seed will germinate ten days, and even three weeks earlier, than in cold and saturated soils. Not only so, but the surrounding atmosphere, the local climate is affected. Coldness and dampness are the result of constant and rapid evaporation. This is diminished by thorough drainage. Not only the special lot, but the farm, indeed the climate of a large area, may be ameliorated by drainage. We hear a great deal about certain spots being of a cold nature, of a cold soil, &c. Exhaust them of stagnant water, and they will become mellow and warm enough. Mr. French quotes the answer of a farmer in England, who, being asked the effect of temperature of some new drainage works, replied, "that all he knew was, that before the drainage he could never go out at night without a great coat, and that now he could do so." He considered that it made the difference of a great coat to him. As drainage is efficient in wet seasons, so drained lands stand the drought better than those which are *undrained*. This may seem a paradox; but listen to the philosophical reasons, and then determine if it is not so. If the water level comes near the surface the roots of vegetation spread and scatter above and near the water level, and the surface of the wet earth bakes in hot weather; but a small portion of the soil remains for vegetation to thrive in. Now suppose the soil drained and ventilated to the depth of two feet, so that the thousand ramifications of the roots extend to that depth; then there will always be moisture to be found, and room enough to grapple. If the land has been subsoiled and pulverized, so much the greater the advantage. Almost incredible stories are told of the extent to which roots will spread in a soil entirely prepared—as in old pits filled up, in gardens, trenches, &c. Mechi, the great English agriculturist, covered the roots of his parsnips down thirteen feet. Indian corn, cabbage and turnips will reach their roots out four feet, if you give them the opportunity. But the branches of vegetation will spread in proportion to the roots, and the wider their surface expands, the greater is their absorption of nutriment from the atmosphere. Thus the growth of root and top reciprocally aid each other, and the plant exhibits growth and productiveness. This fact alone, it seems to me, should be conclusive as to the value of drainage, deep ploughing and pulverization. If the top of the earth is kept loosened by high cultivation, the air and the dews penetrate the parched soil, and keep vegetation refreshed.

The human body, all animal life, experiences a different sensation from the heat of the sun, from what it does from artificial heat. It seems to us like a new infusion of life. So we think all vegetation growing on earth, rendered permeable to the air, the rains and the dews, and partially to light, is penetrated, warmed and invigorated by impressions more akin to nervous sensations, than to any described chemical or mechanical agency. There is a fact not known to many in regard to the drainage of roads. Mac Adam, the inventor of Macadamized roads, used to say "that he cared not what material was the foundation of a road, provided it was dry always." The great fault of road-making is the want of drainage at the bottom. Take a tight cask and fill it with any earth—sand, clay, loam, or even gravel—then pour in as much water as it will hold; then take a wooden rammer, and attempt to beat the mass solid, and the more you beat it the softer it becomes. You would not expect to make a hard shell on the top by such means. So it is with a road through a swampy and springy place; the water is at the bottom, and by attraction works up and keeps the surface wet, and no amount of gravel or of rolling can form a hard track above it. It is not the water that falls directly upon the road that does the greatest harm, for this may be easily disposed of, although with a wet foundation the rain increases the difficulty, there being no passage for it downward, as there is in a soil which is under-drained. Farmers who have practiced draining in a field or meadow understand this. They know how a line or two of tiles four feet deep, through a shaking bog, or along a springy hill-side, will change a spot, over which no beast could pass, into a solid, compact spot, that loads of hay or even of manure may pass it safely. Dry land is a capital foundation for a road, or for a building; clay drained of its moisture forms a hard subsoil, but cracks and opens sufficiently by drainage to allow water to pass through it, and even swamp mud or peat well drained to the depth of four feet would support the gravel or other material necessary to form a good country highway.

PIGS VS. NO PIGS.—In Conn., farmer A had too many pigs, and farmer B had a surplus of milk. One day A brought two pigs and put in B's pen, saying that he wished B to keep them two months, and have one of them as his share. B replied, as he had plenty of feed, he would keep them four months and have them both, as, of course, that would amount to the same thing. A left, saying that he supposed it was all right, but guessed he wouldn't bring any more.

THE wheat harvest began in Minnesota on the 12th of August. As there was an unusually large and good crop the weather was watched with the most intense interest. A few wet days would have damaged the state to the amount of millions of dollars, but the weather was propitious, and the crop has been safely gathered.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Sept. 12, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 14c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 90c. |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.50 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $16, 17 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 25 | Molasses ₩ gal | 60a1⁰0 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 64c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 35c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 35c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 25a50c | Lard ₩ lb | 16ac18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 25a30c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 20a25c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 18c |

## BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

September 11, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 3069; Sheep and Lambs 12,000. Swine, 2000.

PRICES. Beef Cattle—Extra, $13.50@ $14.00; first quality, $12.25@$13.25; second quality, $11.00@$12.00; third quality, $8.50@$10.50 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 10 @10½c ₩ lb. Country Tallow, 7a7½c ₩ lb.

Brighton Hides, 10½@11 c. ₩ lb; Brighton Tallow, 8½@9 cents ₩ lb.

Lamb Skins, 50@75c each; Calf Skins, 16a18c.

Sheep Skins, 50 @ 75c. each.

Prices upon the best grades have advanced from last week's quotations, as there were but few extra lots of Cattle among the Western drovers. Poorer qualities have declined. There is a large supply in market.

Stores—Prices, yearlings $25@34; two year olds $35@45; three year olds $45@65.

Working Oxen—There is a good supply in market, most of the Cattle from Maine being workers. We quote sales at $160, $165, $180, $200, $210, $220, $225, $230, $240, $245@$250 ₩ pair.

Milch Cows—Extra $80a110; ordinary $65@75; Store Cows $45a55 ₩ head.

Sheep and Lambs.—There is a large supply in market; many of them were taken at a commission. We quote sales of Lambs at $2,12½, $3, $4.25, 3,50@$1 ₩ head; old Sheep at 4@6c ₩ lb. Many of the Western Sheep remain unsold.

Store Pigs, wholesale 6a7c ₩ lb; retail 6½a8c ₩ lb; mostly Columbia county Pigs in market. Fat Hogs—11c0 at market prices 7½@8c ₩ lb.

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

ADVANCE IN PRICES.

There has been greater firmness in the wholesale market this week. Light receipts during the week, together with the advance in gold and the reports from the country that the crops were not so favorable as anticipated, have caused an advance in all kinds of grain. Never since 1837 has the market held so small a stock of old wheat, and the supply of new winter wheat is not up to the general expectation. The crop of winter wheat is not above that of 1863. The provision market remains steady.

GRAIN—The market for wheat is improved. The demand is more active and quite general, partly for export and milling. There is also a good speculative inquiry.

RYE is lower in the absence of sales, and the prices are nominal.

INDIAN CORN.—The unfavorable accounts of the growing crops at the West have induced a brisk speculative inquiry. The market closes in good demand, mainly for investment at advanced prices.

OATS—Are in increased demand at better prices. The inquiry is in part for investment.

FLOUR.—The demand for western and state wheat flour is fair and the market generally is stronger. Rye flour is unsettled. Corn meal is more active.

PROVISIONS—There has been an active demand in pork. Prices have advanced, but the market closes steady.

DRUNKENNESS.—It is better for a man to be subject to any vice, than to drunkenness; for all other vanities and sins are recovered, but the drunkard will never shake off the delight of beastliness; for the longer it possesseth a man, the more he will be subject to it; for it dulleth the spirits, and destroyeth the body, as ivy doth the old tree; or as the worm that engendereth in the kernel of the nut.

A LITTLE BOY asked his mother what blood relations meant. She explained that it meant near relatives, etc. After thinking a moment, he said: "Then, mother, you must be the bloodiest relation I've got."

# Marriages.

In Blackstone, 10th inst., by Rev. E. W. Porter, Albert E. Smith, of Providence, to Nettie J., only daughter of John Kenney, Esq. of B. [No Cards.

In Slatersville, Sept. 7th, by Rev. E. N. Maynard, Mr. William H. Huntress, of Manchester, N. H., to Mrs. Arlitta Tift of Slatersville.

In Glendale, Sept. 8th, by Rev. E. N. Maynard, at the house of Lyman Copeland, Esq., Mr. Robert Mellor to Miss Elizabeth Holmes, both of Mechanicsville, Conn.

In Whitinsville, Sept. 3d, by Rev. L. F. Clark, Shelley Austin, of Woonsocket, to Hattie E. Whipple, of Whitinsville.

In Hopedale, Sept. 2d, Luther Elliot, Esq., of Groton, N. H., to Mrs. Charlotte A. Buxton of Milford; J. S. Eastman, of Hopkinton, to Frances E. Tarr of Milford.

# Deaths.

In Albion, Aug. 28th, George L. Colvin, only son of George W. and Florinda Colvin, aged 5 months and 7 days.

In Chestnuthill, Blackstone, Sept. 2d, Ella, infant daughter of Samuel L. and Charlotte A. Walden, aged 22 months.

In Plainville, Aug. 26th, Edgar F., infant son of Edward and Harriet Pickwick, aged 10 months.

In Brooklyn, Conn., Mary Orilla, only child of Henry C. and Sarah A. Wilbur, of Hopkinton, Mass., aged 1 year and 2 months.

In Central Falls, 1st inst., Mrs. Mary Cummings, in the 83d year of her age.

In North Scituate, 7th inst., Mary, wife of Charles Harris, in the 86th year of her age.

In West Medway, Aug. 29th, Harry L., son of Frank N. and Laura A. Adams.

In Milford, Aug. 30, Mrs. Hattie Gould, aged 31 years.

In Hopedale, Sept. 2d, Nathaniel Swasey, age 176 years.

In Webster, 1st inst., Mrs. Betsey B. Allard, aged 76 years.

In Chicago, 21st ult., Mr. Adam Chapin, formerly of Milford.

# Special Notices.



# Advertising Department.

## Massachusetts.



## Rhode Island.



DRYING FRUIT.—Drying fruits has several advantages over canning or bottling. It is cheaper; it may be adopted on an extensive scale; the fruit may be kept with less care, and, being several times lighter than when fresh, may be sent long distances, at a moderate expense. When fruit growers shall learn that dried fruit from the highest flavored sorts is as much better than that from the poor unsaleable varieties so often used for the purpose, as the best fresh fruit of the one exceeds the other, purchasers will also be willing to pay much higher price for the article. When, superadded to this, the fruit is dried rapidly so as to retain a clear, light color, and a perfect flavor, instead of dark, half fermented fruit resulting from slow drying in weather, there will be no difficulty in finding a ready sale for all that may be offered in market.

(Concluded from page 284.)

premium; Burdett Loomis, 1st premium, "Royal Highness"; P. T. Sherman, 2d premium; E. S. Sisson, 2d premium; W. W. Chenery, 3d premium; S. & W. S. Allen, 3d premium.

Two years old—S. Hartwell, "Washington," 1st premium; H. M. Hall, 1st premium; P. T. Sherman, 2d premium; E. S. Sisson, 2d premium.

One year old—Burdett Loomis, 1st premium, "Clinton"; H. M. Hall, 2d premium; E. Hartwell, 3d premium; P. T. Sherman, 3d premium.

Buck Lambs.

Burdett Loomis, Windsor Locks, 1st premium; E. Hartwell, 1st do.: Byron Loomis, 2d premium; Wm. Crozier, 3d premium; W. Eames, 3d premium.

Ewes.

Three years and over—Burdett Loomis, two first premiums; Byron Loomis, 2d do.; H. M. Hall, 3d do.; W. W. Chenery, 3d do.

Two years old—Burdett Loomis, 1st premium; S. Hartwell, 1st do; Byron Loomis, 2d do; H. M. Hall, 2d do.

One year old—Burdett Loomis, two first premiums; Byron Loomis, 2d do; Burdett Loomis, 2d do; Wm. Eames, 3d do; W. W. Chenery, 3d do.

FAT CATTLE.

To David Goodell, Brattleboro, Vt., 1 pair oxen, 7 years, 1st premium, 30; to George Clarke, Bloomfield, Ct., one yoke cattle, 6 years, 2d premium, 20.

To David Goodell, one ox, 5 years, 1st premium, 25.

To Nathan Durfee, Fall River, 1 yoke cattle, 6 years, diploma.

To Leonard Brown, Portsmouth, R. I., one ox 6 years, 1st premium, 25.

To B. Sumner, Woodstock, Ct., one heifer 3 years, 1st premium, 15.

To H. M. Clarke, Belmont, Mass., one cow 4 years, 1st premium, 15.

Thos. H. Buffington, Somerset, Mass., one yoke steers, 4 years, diploma.

Jonathan Slade, 2d, Somerset, Mass., one pair fat cattle, 6 years, diploma.

SWINE—NO. 51—LARGE BREED.

Boars—Two Years Old and upwards.

To J. S. Munroe, Lexington, Mass., for his boar, "Brigham Young, 3d," first premium, 10; to S. & W. S. Allen, Vergennes, Vt., 2d premium, 8; to H. W. Tilton, Walpole, Mass., for boar "Moses," 3d premium, 5.

One Year Old and under Two.

To Benj. Bogman, Providence, for his Yorkshire hoar, "Joe Smith," first premium 8; to David Boynton, Pepperel, Mass., for his Chester hoar, second premium, 5; to J. S. Munroe, for boar "Alderman," third premium, 3.

sows—Two Years Old and upwards.

To J. S. Munroe, for sow "Beauty, 2d," 1st premium, 10; to same for his Cheshire sow, 2d premium, 8; to S. & W. S. Allen, Vergennes, Vt., 3d premium, 5.

One Year Old and under two.

To Wm. Crozier, Warwick, for his Chester sow, 1st premium, 8; to S. & W. S. Allen, 2d premium, 5; to Benj. Bogman, for his Yorkshire sow, 3d premium, 3.

SWINE—SMALL BREEDS.

Boars—Two Years Old and upwards.

To S. G. Hurlburt, Gardiner, Me., for his "Prince Albert" hoar, 1st premium, 10.

One Year Old and under Two.

To Tony Mellen, South Providence, for his boar, half Suffolk and half Chester, 2d premium, 5.

Sows—One Year Old and under Two.

To H. W. Tilton, Walpole, Mass., for his Essex sow, 1st premium, 8.

Pigs—Six months and under ten.

To W J Arnold, Providence, for litter of eight Yorkshire pigs, 1st premium, 10; to E D Pearce, East Providence, for litter of four Cheshire pigs, 2d premium, 8.

Under six months old.

To E D Pearce, East Providence, for litter of four Cheshire Pigs, 1st premium, 8; to T H Campbell, of Providence, for litter of six pigs, half Suffolk and half Chester, 2d premium, 5.

An extra premium of $10 is earnestly recommended by the committee to Joseph Hodges, of Barriugton, R I, for three Cheshire pigs, 8 months old. There being but three pigs, the committee were prevented from awarding the first premium.

CLASS V.—POULTRY.

Gallinaceous Fowls—For best collection—To S. & W. S. Allen, Vergennes, Vt., 10; to Henry Richardson, of Attleboro, Mass., for second best, 5; for best trio Shanghai, to Henry Richardson, 3.

For best trio Chittagong, to E. B. Perry, of Providence, 3; second best to B. F. Hopkins, of Providence, 2.

For best Black Spanish, to S. & W. S. Allen, 3; to H. Richardsou, 2.

For best trio Dorkings, to H. W. Tilton, of Walpole, Mass., 3; second best to W. Crozier, of Warwick, R. I., 2.

For the best Grey Dorkings—to H. Richardson, 3; second best to S. & W. S. Allen, 2.

For best Hamburgs—To S. & W. S. Allen, 3; second best to H. Richardson, 2.

For best Black Polands, to S. & W. S. Allen, 3; second best, " " " " 2.

Games—For best trio, to H. Richardson, 3; second best to H. W. Titton, 2.

For best Bantams, to S. & W. S. Allen, 3; second best to John L. Ives, of Salem, Mass., 2.

For best Bolton Greys, to H. W. Tilton, 3; second best to S. & W. S. Allen, 2.

For best Turkeys, to S. & W. S. Allen, 3; 2d. do. do. 2.

Ducks.—For best domestic, to Wm. Eames, of Worcester, 3; second best to S. & W. S Allen, 2; best Top Knots, to S. & W. S. Allen, 3; second best to Wm. Eames, 2.

For best Aylesbury Ducks to Wm. S. Lincoln, Worcester, 3; second best, S. & W. S. Allen, 2.

GEESE.

For best to S. & W. S. Allen, 3; second best John Dimon, 2.

DOMESTIC GEESE.

For best to Gardner Pettis, of Johnston, 3; second best to S. & W. S. Allen, 2.

CHEESE.

For best lot of 50 pounds, one year old or over, to A. A. Moore, 10; for second best to New Braintree Cheese Company, New Braintree, Mass., diploma; for third best to Moses Pollard, of New Braintree, Mass., 5.

For best 50 pounds of new Cheese to Chas. Mandell, Hardwick, Mass., 10; second best to Greylock Cheese Factory, of South Adams, Mass., diploma; third best to Willard Day, Brooklyn, Ct., 5.

CLASS X. NO. 60—AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

For best collection of Agricultural and Horticultural Implements, to W. E. Barrett & Co, Providence, a diploma and medal, 30.

For best ploughs, to Whittemore, Belcher & Co., Boston, a diploma.

For best harrow, to W. E. Barrett & Co., a premium of 3.

For best cultivator to same, 3.

For best horse hoes, to same 5.

For best potato digger, to same 2.

For best potato cultivator, to same 3.

For best seed sower, to George E. Herrick, Lynnfield Centre, Mass., 5.

To J. G. Burt, of Fall River, Mass., for grain saving and drying machine, diploma.

To Reliance Wringing Machine Co, Prov. R. I., for improved roller, premium of 5.

To V. W. Mason, Providence, for friction pulley, diploma.

To Bailey Washing and Wringing Machine Co., Woonsocket, R. I., for largest collection of washers and wringer and wool power wringer, standing bench wringers, and best family wringer, diploma.

To Olney Read, Providence, for patent top buggy, superior style, diploma.

To A. Crawford, Warren, Me., for rock extricator and elevator, diploma.

To John P Whitin, Whitinsville, Mass, for one plyer and spindle, diploma.

To W. E. Barrett & Co., Providence, for hay rake, 5; for Partridge's potato digger, manure forks and pullers, a diploma; for shovels, a diploma; for hay forks, 5; for grain cradle, 5; scythes and snaths, diploma; axes 5; Hale's meat cutters, 5; for four different sized churns and butter workers, diploma.

To Bailey Washing Machine Co., Woonsocket, for patent bib fasteners, diploma.

AYRSHIRE STOCK.

For Herds, Sweepstakes and Bulls.—The Society's sweepstakes to S M & D Wells, Wethersfield, Ct, for Bull "Alex Christie;" to E D Pearce, East Providence, for Cow "Ellen Douglas."

Herd premiums—To S M & D Wells, Wethersfield, 1st premium, 25; to E D Pearce, 2d, 20; to Wm Birnie, Springfield, Mass, 3d premium, diploma. And an honorable mention of Joseph Hodges, Barrington, R I, G A Dresser Southbridge, Mass, and B J Stone, Sturbridge, Mass.

Bulls, 3 years old and upwards—To Wm Birnie, 1st premium 30; S M & D Wells, 2d premium, 20; L Sturtevant, South Framingham, 3d premium, diploma; B J Stone Sturbridge, Mass, a discretionary premium of 15.

For Bulls, 2 years and under 3—To J S Brown, N Providence, 1st premium, 25; C S Bradley, N Providence, 2d premium, 20; John Dimon, Pomfret, Ct, 3d premium, diploma.

For Bulls 1 year and under 2—To E D Pearce East Providence, 1st premium, 15; A M Eaton, N Providence, 2d premium diploma; J B Stone, Sturbridge, Mass, 3d premium, 5.

For Bull Calves—To J Hodges, Barrington, 1st premium, diploma; B J Stone, Sturbridge, 2d premium, 5; Thos Fitch, New London, Ct, a discretionary premium of 4.

Cows four years old and upwards—To E D Pearce, E Providence, for cow "Ellen Douglas," 1st premium 30; to S M & D Wells, Wethersfield, Ct, cow called "Flora 2d," 2d premium, 20; to George A Dresser, Southbridge, Mass, for cow "Harriet 2d," 3d premium, diploma.

For cows Three years and under four—To C & S Harris for "Heather Bell," 1st premium, 25; to W Birnie, for "Topsey," 2d premium, 20; to Edward D Pearce, East Providence, for "Lillie Douglas," 3d premium, diploma.

Two years and under Three—To C & S Harris, for heifer "Belle," 1st premium 20; to Geo A Dresser for "Harriet 4th," 2d premium, 15; to S M & D Wells, for "Ada," 3d premium, diploma.

One year old and under two—To S M & D Wells, for heifer "Flora 3d," 1st premium, 15; to Geo A Dresser, for "Harriet 5th," 2d premium, diploma; to Bela J Stone, Sturbridge, Mass, for Hellen McGregor, 3d premium, 5.

For best Heifer Calf—To Geo A Dresser, 1st premium, diploma; to S M & D Wells for "Flora 4th," 2d premium, 5; Bela J Stone for "Nellie McDonald," 3d premium of a gratuity.

For Herd premium—The committee award to Obadiah Brown, of N Providence, first premium, 40; to Thos Fitch, of New London, Ct, second premium, 30; to Joseph F Brown, of N Providence, third premium, diploma; to A & W Sprague, of Cranston, fourth premium, a gratuity.

For cows three years old—To Joseph Whelden, of Providence, first premium, 40; to S E Bates, of Barre, Mass, second premium, 30; to Obadiah Brown, of North Providence, third premium, diploma; to Thos Fitch, of New London, Ct, fourth premium, gratuity.

Cows two years old—To Geo T Plunkett, of Hinsdale, Mass, first premium, 30; to Samuel Ellsworth, of Worcester, Mass, second premium, 20; to Thos Fitch of New London Ct, third premium, diploma; to Obadiah Brown, of North Providence, fourth premium, gratuity.

For Yearlings—To W Eames, of Worcester, first premium, 15; to A & W Sprague, of Cranston, second premium, diploma; to S Ellsworth of Worcester, Mass, third premium, gratuity.

MATCHED HORSES.

For road or carriage, 16 hands high and upwards—To Amasa Sprague, of Cranston, 1st premium, 30; to N E Nims, of Boston, 2d premium, 20.

Matched horses less than 16 hands high—To N E Nims, of Boston, 1st premium, 30; to L L Church, of W Lebanon, Vt, second premium, 20; to N E Nims, of Boston, 3d premium, diploma.

DRAFT HORSES.

The Committee recommend that the Society Medal he awarded to A & W Sprague, Cranston, for their entries in this class, they being the only exhibitors. The entries are the six horse grey string team, six large and six small black string teams, four horse hay and grey teams, and two grey horse team.

NO 29—MARES AND GELDINGS.

For four years old a gratuity of 30 to F S Stevens, of Swansea, Mass; of 20 to M V Herson, of Waterville, Me; of a diploma to J B Lawton, South Framingham, Mass.

Horses 15 hands high and under 16, style, action and road qualities to be considered—1st premium of 30 to Joseph H Bourn, of North Providence, for "Colonel"; 2d of 20 to L L Church, of West Lebanon, Vt, for bay gelding 7 years old; 3d of a diploma to Joseph W Robinson, of Hardwick, for "Chubb."

Horses 16 hands high and over, style, action and road qualities to be considered—1st premium of 30 to Wm V Daboll, of Elmwood, for "Royal George"; 2d premium of 20 to Thos. Fitch, of New London, Ct.

FRUITS.

Apples—To S Moore, Elmwood, best collection, 10; to A E Rockwood, Holliston, Mass, next collection 8; to E A Nichols, Manton, R I, next collection, 6; to E B Whitmarsh, Elmwood, best eight varieties, 5; to G B Pettis, Johnston, R I, next eight varieties, 4; to E S Elmer, Hartford, Ct, best five varieties, 4; to A E Rockwood, best twelve specimens of one variety, 2.

Pears—To S Moore, Elmwood, best collection, 10; to S B Whitmarsh, Elmwood, next collection 8; to E D Pearce, East Providence, next collection, 6; to S G Bennett, Cranston, best eight varieties, 5; to E. S. Elmer, Hartford, Ct, next eight varieties, 4; to S C Arnold, Providence, best five varieties, 4; to E B Whitmarsh, best dish of Bartletts, 2; to S Moore, do; Pratt 2; to G W H Richardson, South Providence, R I, do Flemish Beauty, 2; to S Moore, do, Doyenne Boussock, 2.

Peaches—To C B Manchester, Providence, best collection, 4; to Nathan B Durfee, Fall River, Mass, for Peaches under glass, 3.

Plums—To S C Arnold, Providence, for the best dish, 2; to Wm R Warner, Cambridgeport, Mass, next do, 1.

Grapes—Foreign—To Cyrus Harris, Providence, for the best two bunches of Black Hamburg, 3; to same, for the best two bunches of White Nice, 3.

Grapes—Native—To G W Chapin, Providence, for best two bunches of Hartford Prolific, 2.

Pine Apples—To G W Chapin, for 3 best specimens in pots, 4.

To H R Nightingale, Providence, for Clapp's Favorite Pear, 2.

To Mrs Fanny Sprague, Providence, for a basket of Fruit and Pines in pots, 5.

To C B Manchester, Providence, for a basket of Fruit, 2.

Clapp & King, Providence, for same, 2.

To E B Perry, Providence, for a variety of choice jellies, 3.

THE farmers in Western Massachusetts are busy harvesting their tobacco. They report only about a two-thirds crop on an average, though some fields are extra.

# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1867. NO. 37.


## HUTCHINSON'S GANG PLOW.

THERE is probably no farm implement in which more improvement has been made than in our plows. It has been truly said, "the history of the plow would afford matter for a good-sized volume; and a man of middle age can sum up the greatest part of the improvements within his own personal recollection. We can distinctly remember the old fashioned wooden mold-board plow, faced with strap iron, fastened on with nails, and with a wrought iron share and coulter.

It was stated, last month, before the New York Farmers' Club, that the first cast-iron plow ever made in this country, was cast in Cayuga county, New York, in 1823. We cannot vouch for the accuracy of this statement, but their invention is within the last half century. Great improvements have been made in the form of the plow, as the law of resistance was learned and understood. All these improvements have tended materially to lessen the labor of the plowman. But a further improvement in this direction is the "Gang Plow." It would seem that where neither stones nor stumps present obstructions —especially on the Western prairies—this kind of plow offers great advantages over the single plow.

The accompanying engraving represents a "Gang Plow," recently patented by Samuel Hutchinson, and which is owned by Augustus Winchester of Philadelphia. This plow turns three furrows in the same time required to turn one furrow with the single plow. The driver has full control of the plows—being able to elevate one or more of the shares, or all, to accommodate the "lay of the land," or to use the contrivance as a vehicle.

As seen in the engraving, the device is a rectangular frame, A, having two wheels in front, the axle of which is secured rigidly by forked bars extending down on each side of the axle. A frame, consisting of three longitudinal bars, secured in position by cross-bars, carries the plows, B. At the rear end this frame rests upon the cross-piece of the main structure, and at the other is held by a chain passing over and secured to a lifting cam, C. By means of the lever, D, the plow frame can be raised and held at any hight by the toothed segment, E. The lever, F, is employed to raise the main frame in a diagonal position, which will elevate the plows so they can be adapted to the ground which is sloping instead of level. The turning of the vehicle is readily effected by the broad wheel, G, which acts as a common furniture truck or caster, turning freely in all directions.

The depth of the plowing can also be determined by means of bolts with nuts, seen at A, by which the nose of the share can be elevated or depressed.

The engraving represents three horses abreast. In this case the off horse walks in the furrow last made. But three or four horses may be used, as desired. Farmers, who would like to try the "Gang Plow," would do well to address Mr. Winchester concerning his plow.

---

The celebrated trotting horse Dexter, now retired from the turf, made his debut on the Fashion Course, L. I., May 4, 1864. Altogether he has run forty-six races.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## THE YEAST, OR VINEGAR PLANT.

BY the term "yeast plant" is known to certain individuals, or at least imagined, an organism of one of the lower orders of the vegetable kingdom, which causes fermentation under certain conditions. While any member of the vegetable kingdom may be correctly styled *a plant*, yet this production has very few of the characteristics by which plants are distinguished by the unscientific eye.

The difficulty which besets any writer who would attempt to treat, in a popular manner, the nature and peculiarities of the lower orders of organic life, deters many from attempting to impart information to the inquiring minds of the few who desire such knowledge. The employment of plain, simple, intelligible language is also difficult, for science, which has explored these obscure topics, employs a phraseology of its own, which is essential to the student, though displeasing to the unscientific reader. Yet we would not abandon the duty of attracting the intelligent inquirer to the beauty of nature's most minute creations, for they are truly wonderful in their minuteness, and no less important to the working out of the great scheme of nature than the more imposing objects which attract and astonish the most careless observer.

Frequently of late have we noted, in our daily press, allusion to some of the forms of organic life which are spoken of as "low" in the scale of organization. They are regarded as "low" in the scale of creation because they are made up of the most simple elements; a few simple cells, branching or ramifying into delicate, thread-like tissues. Simple, however, as these plants are, they have distinct forms and characters, so that they have been described and classified by the naturalist, and appropriate names have been attached to them. This work of naming and describing species is carried at times to great extremes, and names are given by some botanists to a dozen forms, which others maintain are but various conditions of one and the same. This condition of things renders the study of such minute vegetable forms somewhat perplexing. It has been stated by some writers that the limit which separates the animal from the vegetable kingdom cannot be accurately determined; that in the lowest forms of either kingdom the distinctive marks are no longer observable; that voluntary motion is perceptible in both, and that certain phenomena are noted which are peculiar to both animal and vegetable life. The most accurate and consistent writers do not go so far, however, and relying as much on certain conservative principles, regard the line which separates animal from vegetable as well defined, though to human perception not always obvious. This being so, we are not prepared to mix up the lower animal life termed "*infusoria*" with the lower vegetable creations, known popularly as "moulds" or "mildews," of which the "yeast" or "vinegar plant" is one. It was recently stated in a daily paper of Philadelphia that a form of vegetation known as *mycoderms* gave the peculiar flavor to certain qualities of wine; that is to say, that the organism which produces fermentation in wine varies in various vintages. This idea was conveyed in very vague and unintelligible terms,

and was, we were subsequeutly informed, copied from an English work.

It occurred to us that a little definite information ou the nature of the "yeast" or "vinegar plant," as well as the tendency of certain juices of vegetable origin to produce fermentation, would not be out of place in your paper; but as you have already spoken out against "unintelligible science" we hesitate to offer any remarks into which scientific terms must necessarily be introduced. We would suggest, however, that our agriculture and horticulture teems with these very vegetable forms which are thus so little understood. Moulds, rusts, smuts, mildews, blights and various other diseased conditions of grain, plant and fruit daily meet the eye of the cultivator and perplex him. Shall we endeavor to teach him a little of what the botanist has learned on these topics, or shall we leave him to plod on, with such glimmers as the daily press at times casts on his path? *

### FALL SEEDING GRASS LANDS.

The system of fall seeding to grass is beginning to be practiced in some localities with the best results. The system to which we refer is the sowing of grass seeds separately, or not in connection with grain of any kind.

The usual practice is to seed with some crop, under the impression that the grain not only serves a good purpose in protecting the growing plants, but that the land in this way is made to yield an annual crop which would not obtain if nothing but grass seed alone were sown.

When grass seed is sown with Spring grains there is a liability of its not taking well, and we frequently get a light crop of grass the following year. This, it is claimed, can be avoided by Fall sowing.

The land is plowed in August or September, and a top dressing of well-rotted manure or compost applied, the land thoroughly harrowed and fitted for meadow. The grass seed is then sowed and covered with a bush or light harrow and the soil rolled. The September rains bring up the seeds, and it gets well rooted before the setting in of frost. The next season, about the latter part of July, a good crop of hay is taken off. Thus nothing is lost except the Fall feed, and on land requiring plowing this is of little value. The rotting sod and the compost added, make a deep tilth, which will yield several good crops, and when these begin to fail the land is treated in the same way again.

There is a great difference of opinion as to the best way of keeping up meadows, and in seeding them down. Upon stock farms many contend that no crop pays so well as grass, and that when the land needs breaking up the sooner it can be got back into grass the better. In other words, permanent pastures and meadows are sought, and no attention paid to a regular rotation of crops. When such a system prevails, the usual or common practice is to break up, putting the land the first year to corn. The second year Spring grains are sown and the land seeded to grass at the same time. It is evident, under this system, unless considerable quantities of manures be used, the land must be somewhat exhausted of its fertility. The grain crops have robbed it, and it goes back to grass less able to yield a maximum crop than when first broken up. The plan indicated of seeding in the Fall, it will be seen, economizes all the elements of fertility stored up in the soil for the grass crop, and as experience has shown, gives larger returns in grass at a less expense of manures than by the other method. But if you get a continuous crop of grass year after year, which is often of much account when the lands devoted to meadow are limited, and when any material reduction of the hay crop is attended with the inconvenience, either of reducing the ordinary stock, or the purchase of hay, or its equivalent in the other kinds of cattle food.

These considerations have led many farmers to change from the common system of feeding to this, and, after testing it thoroughly, believe it is an important improvement over the old practice.

They urge, in addition that there is more leisure in August and September for getting the ground into nice condition for meadows, and that there is less liability of having the work imperfectly done on account of the weather than there is in the Spring, when often haste is necessitated in order to get crops into the ground in season, while not unfrequently the soil must be worked when too wet, leaving the surface in a poor condition for the seed bed.

It is a good custom to roll all lands in the Spring that were seeded the previous Autumn. This presses into the soil many roots that are thrown up and would otherwise perish, and leaves the surface in good condition for the scythe and rake.—*Utica Herald.*

### WHAT GOOD FARMING WILL DO.

Dr. Geo. B. Loring, President of the New England Agricultural Society, in his recent address before that Society, told some important truths, which were aptly illustrated. He congratulated the country on the fact that, within the past few years, the farmers had done so much toward utilizing the inductions of the scientific theorists, and that the latter had so materially aided the farmers in their practical application of scientific methods of culture. He claimed that New England was destined to become the great school of agriculture for the rest of the Union. Her barren soil requires close and scientific culture, and her farmers must necessarily use not only their hands but their brains.

What can be done he illustrated by this example: "He knew a man in Massachusetts, who, in 1825, bought twenty acres of land. He has applied to it all the accurate knowledge he could get. There is no month in the year that something does not bloom on his farm; there is something green there always; and he always has some crop to send to market. You walk through it and find everything going on just as regularly, accurately and carefully as the cotton goes through the loom. He has managed his affairs with prudence, accuracy and care, and has made from his farm of twenty acres two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in forty years. There is no illegal farming, no illegitimate farming, no careless farming that will thrive in New England."

The Harvest of 1867.—The grain and other staples of the country being now nearly harvested and the yield known, the following statement, compiled by an accurate observer, may be of interest as showing the relative capacity of the different States for producing the various staples.

Illinois, according to this report, is much the largest producer of Indian corn, more than one-sixth of the whole crop of the country being grown there, and also the largest producer of oats, yielding more than 20 per cent. of the whole, and of hay more than 20 per cent. Pennsylvania takes the lead in the production of rye, giving nearly one-third of the product of the whole country, and in buckwheat over 42 per cent. New Jersey produces more rye than any other State, according to population. New York takes the lead in the production of barley; about 40 per cent. of the whole product being raised here. Virginia, takes the lead in tobacco; her crop is about 30 per cent. of the whole. New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey together produce two-thirds of all the rye. New York stands the tenth State in the production of Indian corn, exceeded by Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri. In wheat New York is exceeded by Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa. Illinois alone has in corn about 5,000,000 acres; in wheat, 2,196,000 acres; in rye, 345,000 acres; in oats, 883,000 acres; in barley, 41,000 acres.

The Southern staples—cotton, rice and sugar—cannot of course, enter into this estimate, but the statistics of these crops for this year are, considering all things, exceedingly favorable. Altogether, the harvest of 1867 is one of the most bountiful ever gathered in this country.

## The Stock Yard.

### HOW TO SELECT A MILCH COW.

There are many families that want but a single cow—and it becomes with them a matter of importance how to select one. A good cow is wanted. Not but that a good cow can almost be made out of a poor one, where but one is kept. There is such a chance to take care of one! But, the same attention paid to a good cow, will make it all the better. Purchase then a good one. And how to do that is not always so easy—in fact it is almost impossible; yet it can be done.

There is something in a breed. But this cannot always be depended upon. The best breeds vary as milkers. You have got to get at the qualities some other way. We once owned a small "Dutch" cow, quite small, and ill-shaped. The neck was a genuine camel's neck, thin as a board. The body was somewhat plump; and the hind-quarters, in connection with the udder, gave large appearance to the back part of the cow. Tail rough and long; legs short and thin, seeming like reeds bending. Frailty was depictured in every part of the creature, except the eye and the udder. The eye was full, and bright, and mild—the disposition of the cow. Her head was trim; so were her horns. She was one of the quietest of animals I ever saw; was never in a fight; would molest no one, nothing; would eat her food given, with gratitude, seeming to appreciate the kindness. Fed moderately, deliberately—and got the full benefit of what she ate.

This quiet, gentle cow was the best out of seven, all larger and handsomer than she. In her case there was not more food consumed than by the others, though she gave more milk, more butter, richer and better—better, because yellower, sweeter, and more aromatic. She seemed to get more benefit out of her food.

It so happened we had another cow which was just the opposite of this—a great fighter, strong as a bull, thick neck, heavy bones, and, on the whole, rather a shapely animal when the new coat and the Summer feed made her glossy and active. There was nothing doing but this cow must have a look at it, so great was her curiosity—and a fence would sometimes not be a barrier to prevent her. Her milk was little and blue. "Whetstone" we used to call her in consequence.

Here was a fair test to tell the points of a good cow. Yet even these points are not always reliable—only in the main. If a cow has a reputation, in addition to these points, and breed besides—or if no more than the native breed—and has withal a high price put upon her by the owner, there is only one chance better—actual test. Buy your cow, especially if the owner is honest.

We have known heavy-limbed cows to be the best of milkers, but they were quiet, docile cows, always with broad square udders with wide base, and well forward. Color, we find, has but little to do with a good cow, as we have known them of all colors—and the poor the same. The small cow, mentioned above, was a red-and-white. The rule among the Dutch settlers is—the farther the cow is removed from the bull, in appearance, the better; and the nearer she approaches the male, the worse. We think the rule holds good in general.

A straight back, is also a point given; but given most by those who favor the Devon or Short Horns. The old native cows, among which are some of the very best milkers in the world, are often crooked and ill-shaped—we may say generally so—steep rumps, tottering legs, and awkward gait. Yet this is the "Brindle" of many a household, that has been the main stay of the family; often the almost only support of the children and aged members—"worth a farm," though in those days, the days of old, bought for a dozen dollars.

Comeliness, however, is something, especially if coupled with other good qualities. Docility is a great point. Color a fancy. A good udder, with rich flowing milk, even if Brindle is homely, attaches her; and her deformity will not hurt at all those who are benefitted by her.—*Rural World.*

### FEEDING HORSES AND OXEN.

The two require different treatment. Nature has provided some animals with two receptacles to store away their food; these are the ruminants—such as the ox, the deer, rabbit, etc.

The one receptacle is intended to receive the food as it is taken in its half masticated condition. This is usually stored away—an ox filling his first stomach in a short time. Then time is required to bring this back and reduce it to a condition for digestion. This occupies a long time; and the night is often the only space allotted to working cattle to perform this operation, in which case there must be consequent suffering and falling away of flesh; for the night is not sufficient time—or if sufficient, is the time for rest. There must be chewing the cud during the day. Regular feeding, with proper intervals for mastication, are indispensable to the health and working condition of the ox. All ruminants require this.

The horse requires different treatment. His food must be thoroughly masticated at first, as it goes through this process but once. Still the horse has the advantage over the ox. What little food the horse gets will benefit him, let him be worked hard or otherwise. The ox will not be benefitted a particle unless he is permitted to remasticate his food; and he will not be permitted, if he is worked constantly during the day. A hard master will soon use him up. Give him his standing spells—or, better, let him lie down. This will save him, and a great deal of work can be gotten out of him in this way.—*Valley Farmer.*

The influence of food on the quantity of milk is very striking. A half starved cow not only yields but little milk, but what it yields is miserably poor. On the other hand, the liberal supply of food rich in nitrogenous and phosphatic elements of nutrition tell directly on the milk. Nothing, therefore, can be more injudicious than to stint dairy cows in food.

Why Potatoes should be Pared Thin.—A scientific writer says: The fact is, almost the sole value of the potato is near the surface; so near that a very thick peel would take the largest part of the nutriment. This is at once made obvious by examining a thin slice of potato with a microscope, when the starch granules will be found lying in great numbers in a belt just under the skin, and decreasing towards the center. They are placed here for the nourishment of the young sprout, which springs from the "eye," and which being like beauty, "only skin deep," is required to go no deeper for its food during the germinating process. This starch is, for all practical purposes, the entire nutriment which the potato contains—there being only 2 per cent of gluten, while 75 per cent is clear water. If it is worth while to eat the potato at all, it is obviously foolish to throw away the nutriment and save only the water cells.

One of the great English landlords that own whole neighborhoods and villages, and who has employed steam plows for seven years, stated at a late public meeting that he finds the men who are connected with the steam plow have become a species of aristocracy with their fellows, that they pride themselves on the position, and are educating their sons for the same profession.

To Preserve Cider.—We give the following recipe for preserving cider, kindly furnished us by some of our lady readers, and having recently tasted of cider kept sweet and clear by this method, can testify to the value of this recipe: To one barrel of cider put in one pound mustard seed, two pounds raisins, and one-fourth pound sticks (bark) of cinnamon. —*Maine Farmer.*

The Common People.—No statesman can afford to omit the common people from his calculation. They are the very root and core of society. Kings are only the blossomings of the national tree. The roof is more dependent upon the foundation than the foundation upon the roof. Nearly all, if not quite all, the movements which have changed the thinking, and determined the new course of the world, have been upward, not downward. The great revolutionists have generally been cradled in mangers, and gone through rough discipline in early life. Civilization is debtor to lowly cradles; and unknown mothers hold a heavy account against the world. This is God's plan of uniting all classes of the family of man.

# The Fireside Muse.

### SEPTEMBER DAYS.

BY GEORGE ARNOLD.

In flickering light and shade the broad stream goes,
With cool, dark nooks and checkered rippling shallows;
Through reedy fens its sluggish current flows,
Where lilies grow and purple-blossomed mallows.

The aster-blooms above its eddies shine,
With pollened bees about them humming slowly,
And in the meadow-lands the drowsy kine
Make music with their sweet bells, tinkling lowly.

The shrill cicala, on the hillside tree,
Sounds to its mate a note of love or warning;
And turtle-doves re-echo, plaintively,
From upland fields, a soft, melodious mourning.

A golden haze conceals the horizon,
A golden sunshine slants across the meadows;
The pride and prime of Summer-time is gone,
But beauty lingers in these Autumn shadows.

The wild-hawk's shadow fleets across the grass,
Its softened gray the softened green outvying;
And fair scenes fairer grow while yet they pass,
As breezes freshen when the day is dying.

O sweet September! thy first breezes bring
The dry leaf's rustle and the squirrel's laughter,
The cool, fresh air, whence health and vigor spring,
And promise of exceeding joy hereafter.

# Horticulture.

### THE SEX OF THE STRAWBERRY.

From the fact that there are some varieties of strawberry, which, being pistillate, require the presence of some other sort to make them fruitful, many suppose that it is necessary in all cases to plant two kinds in order to bear fruit. We have several letters asking what variety should be planted with the Triomphe de Gand and other sorts that will fruit without aid. As this matter of the sex of strawberries has been muddled so much, we will try to make it plain. The great majority of flowers with which we are familiar, are perfect, i. e., have both pistils, the organs that are to become the fruit, and stamens, the fertilizing organs, in the same flower. Other plants constantly have their stamens and pistils in separate flowers of the same plant, as the cucumber, squash, and all of that family—and the Indian corn, in which the tassel contains the stamens, and the ear the pistils, the elongated portion of which is the silk. In still another set of plants the flowers of one will bear pistils only, and the flowers of another will produce nothing but stamens. The hemp, hop, and willows are common instances of plants of this kind. The pistils, in each one of these classes are the portions that become fruit, but they only do this after they have received the influence of the pollen, a fine dust produced by the stamens. The pistils of perfect flowers, that have both stamens and pistils, may readily become fertilized by the pollen of the same flower, while in separated flowers, those in which the stamens are in one and the pistils are in another, no fruit will be produced unless pollen is brought to the pistils by some agency, such as insects or winds, from a staminate one. Some plants that ordinarily produce perfect flowers do sometimes have separated ones, the stamens and sometimes the pistils being suppressed or abortive, when the flower becomes pistillate or staminate as the case may be. This happens in both the wild and the cultivated state with both the strawberry and with the grape. In the strawberry it is usually the stamens that are wanting, and in the grape it is more common to have pistils absent, if either one. A careful inspection of a flower, will enable any one to tell a perfect—or hermophrodite, as it is called—from a pistillate flower. The conical elevation in the center of the perfect flower is the enlarged end of its stem on which the pistils are placed, and this is called the *receptacle*. The stamens are arranged around this, and outside of these the showy parts of the flower, the petals and calyx. As the pistils ripen, to produce the fruit proper—seeds we usually call them—the receptacle enlarges, becoming often of enormous size compared to what it was in the flower, and very often inclosing the seed-like fruits in deep pits or cavities, while in other cases these remain upon the surface. In several cultivated varieties of the strawberry, the stamens are altogether wanting, and then the plant is said to be pistillate. It is evident that plants of this character need the help of those that produce stamens. The general tendency of strawberry cultivators is to discard pistillate sorts altogether, though there are a very few, like Hovey's Seedling, that in some localities are so excellent and productive, that it is desirable to grow them. Where this is the case, it is only necessary to plant adjacent beds of some perfect variety that blossoms at the same time, and the insects and winds will look after the fertilization. When a perfect variety is planted to fertilize a pistillate or imperfect one, great care should be taken to prevent the runners of one bed reaching across into the other bed. It is from carelessness in this respect, that there is so much confusion in regard to varieties, and this has also given rise to the common belief that pistillate plants become changed when fertillized by another sort. While we are not prepared to assert that the flavor of a pistillate sort may not be modified somewhat, according to the variety by which it was fertilized, yet we have no proof that the plant itself undergoes any change. To answer many inquiries, we may say that, practically, as far as the value of the fruit is concerned, strawberries in proximity do not mix. As regards the seeds, the case is different; here the crossing is the rule rather than the exception. And this is apt to take place even with perfect flowers, as insects will often bring pollen and fertilize the pistils of a flower before its own pollen is ready. When the pistils are absent, making a truly staminate flower, of course no fruit is borne, and the plants are perfectly useless. They have been recommended for fertilizing the pistillate ones, but as this office can be as well performed by the perfect flowers—which produce enough pollen for their own pistils and to spare, it is a mere waste of ground to employ them. The term "staminate" is often applied to perfect flowers; it belongs to those only bearing stamens. —*American Agriculturist.*

### THE GRAPE VINE AND ITS CULTURE.

This vine is found growing in wild luxuriance in all parts of our country, from the forests of Canada to Texas. The value of grapes as an article of food is but lightly appreciated. One hundred pounds of fresh beef contains twenty-six pounds of nutritive matter and seventy-four pounds of water. The same amount of pork contains twenty-four pounds of nutritive matter, and the same quantity of grapes contains twenty-seven pounds of nutritive matter and seventy-three pounds of water. And in addition to their nutritive qualities grapes are medicinal and during the vintage in France great numbers of persons leave the city of Paris with all of its attraction and resort to the vineyards to avail themselves of this ambrosial medicine. It is pleasant to see (says one who has gazed on the scene) the French peasants partake of their simple and pretty dinner of brown bread and salad. They enjoy excellent health, and although England boasts of her prowess and her beef-fed soldiers, yet let us turn for an offset to the home army of the first Napoleon. This was in a large measure composed of those simple peasants and see what deeds of labor they performed. In the French provinces the grape vines are planted in rows of three by four feet apart, and a strong stake nine feet high is allowed to each vine. The large proprietors use the plow in cultivation and everywhere deep working is the rule. Sometimes the vines are allowed to grow eight feet high, but generally not more than three or four. Our American grapes do not succeed well under this system. If we go farther south in Europe we may find a way that will suit us. From Portugal, wine is the chief export and they have four modes of culture: First the vines are planted in rows and allowed to attain the hight of a gooseberry bush and they require no support and the extensive vineyards are cultivated between the rows with the plow. Second, the vines are planted on terraces, and are never allowed to attain more than four feet. Third, on trellisses from eight to twelve feet from the ground. The fourth mode of culture is condemned by most American vine growers, but it is one that we wish to call attention to. By this method the vines are trained upon trees which are set out for the especial purpose. They either hang in festoons from the trees or twine around the trunks. The greatest obstacle to the cultivation of the grape in this country is its liability to rot. I have never seen grapes rot either on trees or walls, but to plant trees and wait for them to grow is too slow a process to suit us. It may do for the sleepy Portugese but not for the high pressure American Nation. If the apple crop is a failure the product of the vine will not take its place, but it will go far to replace its loss.

### SHADE TREES AROUND DWELLINGS.

Shade trees near houses are beautiful, but they never should be so closely planted as to exclude the bright sunshine, and thus cause dampness in the dwellings. When trees spread out their broad arms, and prevent "old Sol" from sending his cheerful rays into every room in the house, their branches should be thoroughly pruned, or every intermediate tree cut down.

Dr. Hall, in his Journal of Health, says respecting light: "No room without the glorious sunshine is fit for any living creature—man or beast. The glorious sunshine, the free and boundless gift of a beneficent Creator, is the source of all buoyant, healthful life."

A correspondent of the Southern Cultivator states that a friend of his had a large number of barren mulberry trees growing in his yard, and casting such a dense shade that the rays of the sun never reached the ground. He called his attention to this, and advised him to remove every alternate one. This was not done; they were allowed to stand. That season he lost his wife and three children by sickness. The correspondent referred to attributed this sickness to the dampness in and around his friend's house, caused by the deep shade of the trees. His inference is probably a correct one, for a free admission of cheering light can never be excluded from any house by shade trees (or anything else) but at the peril of health. In this place we advise those who have shade trees around their houses to be very careful at this season to sweep up the blossoms and pollen which fall upon the ground and remove them to a distance, for all decaying vegetable matter in the neighborhood of dwellings engenders miasma.

Canning Sweet Corn.—Some time ago a correspondent inquired about canning sweet corn, and we were unable to give any specific directions. We have just met with the statement of a process practiced by the Oneida community in New York, which we give in our own words. Cut the corn raw from the cob, and put it into tin cans and add cold water to fill up the interstices, and seal up with solder. Punch a small hole in the top and solder that up. Put the cans in a boiler and boil them two and a half hours. Then take them up one at a time and melt the solder from the small puncture, and let the steam blow off while boiling hot, and again solder up the hole. Return them to the boiler and boil them two and a half hours longer.

A man in Western Ohio, is gathering up a flock of five hundred merino sheep to take to Wisconsin. Wool growing is not so profitable in Ohio as it was, and the excitement about merino sheep is dying out. In Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, the business is largely on the increase in spite of low prices of wool.

They are grumbling with the weather in Paris, as much as we are, almost. Rain has poured incessantly; April showers have been transferred to July, and August seems to have inherited its predecessor's ills.

# Miscellany.

### FARMER'S WIVES.

It is safe to say that on three farms out of four the wife works harder, endures more than any other on the place; more than the husband, more than the farm hand, more than the hired help of the kitchen. Many a farmer speaks to his wife habitually in terms more imperious, impatient, and petulant than he would use to the scullion of the kitchen or to his hired man.

Many a farmer's wife is literally worked to death in an inadvertant manner, from want of reflection. None can understand better than he, in plowing or sowing, or harvest time, that if a horse gets sick, or runs away, or is stolen, another must be procured that very day; or the work will inevitably go behindhand. He does not carry the same practical sense in the kitchen when the hired help leaves without warning or becomes disabled, although he knows as well as any man can know that they will expect their meals with the same regularity, with the same promptness, and with the same proper mode of preparation; but instead of procuring other help on the instant, he allows himself to be persuaded, if the help is sick, she will get well in a day or two, or a week at farthest, and it is hardly worth while to get another for so short a time. If the help has taken "French leave," his mind fixes on the fact that it is a very busy time and neither he nor a single hand can be spared, or that in the course of a week some one will have to go to town for some other purpose, and both these matters can be attended to at the same time. Meanwhile the wife is expected not only to attend to her ordinary duties as usual, but somehow or other to spare time to do all that the cook or washerwoman was accustomed to do, that is, to do the full work of two persons, each one of whom had already quite as much labor to perform as she could possibly attend to. The wife attempts it. By herculean efforts all goes on well. The farmer perceives no jar, no hitch in the working of machinery, and because no complaint is uttered, thinks that everything is going on without an effort. Meanwhile time passes, and infinite shame on some of them, they begin to calculate how much has been saved from servants' wages, and how much less food has been eaten, and because still no complaint has been made, the resolution quietly forms in the mind to do nothing until she does complain; but before that takes place, she falls a victim to her over-exertions, in having laid the foundation for weeks and months of illness, if not of premature decline and death.

God Seen in Everything.—There is no creature in the world wherein we may not see enough to wonder at, for there is no worm of the earth, no spire of grass, no leaf, no twig, wherein we see not the footsteps of a Deity: the best visible creature is man. Now what man is he that can make but an hair, or a straw, much less any sensitive creature, so as no less than an infinite power is seen in every object that presents itself to our eyes; if, therefore, we look on the outside of these bodily substances, and we do not see God in everything, we are no better than brutish—make use merely of our sense without the least improvement of our faith or our reason. Contrary, then, to the opinion of those men who hold that a wise man should admire nothing, I say that a truly wise and good man should admire everything, or rather that infiniteness of wisdom and omnipotence which shows itself in every visible object.—*Bishop Hall.*

At an evening party, Foote, the humorist, was reminded by the master of the house that his handkerchief was hanging out from his coat pocket. "I thank you, sir," said the humorist, as he thrust the embroidered cambric out of sight, "you know the company better than I do."

The New Jersey cranberry crop will be immense and yield a heavy profit to the cultivators.

Lying in Bed.—It is often a question among people who are unacquainted with the anatomy and physiology of man, whether lying with head exalted or level with the body, is the most wholesome. Most, consulting their own ease on this point, argue in favor of that which they prefer. Now, although many delight in bolstering up their heads at night, and sleep soundly without injury, yet we declare it to be a dangerous habit. The vessels in which the blood passes from the heart to the head are always lessened in their cavities when the head is resting in bed higher than the body; therefore in all diseases attended with fever, the head should be pretty nearly on a level with the body; and people ought to accustom themselves to sleep thus, and avoid danger.—*Med. Jour.*

# Farm and Garden.

## BEANS, PEAS AND LENTILS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY J. F. WOLFINGER, OF MILTON, PENN.

The leguminous plants include beans, peas, lentils, vetches, clover, lucerus, sanforn, &c., and they contain a great deal of lime and considerable sulpbur in their composition, and hence lime and gypsum (plaster) are very valuable manures for these crops. So their seeds contain a very large amount of nutritive matter. And their value as a food for man and beast is mainly owing, as chemists inform us, to the very large proportions of azote or nitrogen, or in other words, the flesh and fat forming materials contained in them. This nutritive substance of beans, peas, &c., is also called *Legumin*, which is very analagous to the gluten of wheat grains and the albumen or white parts of eggs. And, in its chemical properties, it resembles the caseine or curd of milk, which has caused Liebig, the great German chemist, to call it *vegetable caseine*, from its being in his opinion identical in its composition and properties with the pure curd of milk. And it is this legumin or vegetable caseine that makes bean and pea meal such an excellent substitute as it is known to be, for milk in raising calves. For, as the legumin contains considerable quantities of the phosphate or bone-earth, it at once furnishes not only muscle and the flesh, but the bones and fat, and indeed all the elements of animal growth.

Bechelbron, a chemist, says that beans and peas contain in every 1000 of their parts in their ordinary state the following proportions of azote, phosphoric acid, lime and bone-earth, to wit:

| | Azote. | Phosphoric Acid. | Lime. | Bone-earth. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beans | 51.10 | 10.26 | 1.53 | 9.27 |
| Peas | 38.40 | 9.03 | 3.03 | 5.83 |

Boussingault, a highly distinguished French chemist and agriculturist, in his "Rural Economy," says that every 100 parts of dried beans, peas, lentils and vetches contain the following proportions of azote, viz:

| | Azote. |
|---|---|
| Beans | 5.56 |
| Peas | 4.20 |
| Lentils | 4.40 |
| Vetches | 5.23 |

And in commenting on these and other vegetable products embodied in his analysis, he observes:—

"Judging from the equivalents, leguminous vegetables must be possessed of a much higher nutritive value than wheat; and it is known indeed that harricots, (a French kidney bean) peas and beans, form in some sort substitutes for animal food. The difference indicated is so great, however, that it may surprise those who have never thought of the subject that engages us. In a general way we are all perhaps disposed to regard the articles that habitually enter into our food as highly nutritious. The fact, however, is that tubers, roots, and even the seeds of the cereal grasses are but very moderately nutritious. If we see herbivorous animals getting fat upon such things, it is only because their organization enables them to consume them in larger quantities. I doubt very much whether a man doing hard work could support himself on bread exclusively."—*Rural Economy, p.* 408, 409.

Dr. Lyon Playfair, of England, another chemist, says that beans, peas and lentils contain in every 100 of their parts the following proportions of nitrogen or azote, to wit:

| | Nitrogen. |
|---|---|
| Beans | 38.10 |
| Peas | 39.36 |
| Lentils | 37.98 |

And also the following proportions of albumen and unazotized matter, viz:

| | Albumen. | Unazotized matter. |
|---|---|---|
| Beans | 31 | 62 |
| Peas | 29 | 51½ |
| Lentils | 33 | 48 |

Von Thœr of Germany, in speaking of beans, peas and lentils says:

"A bushel of beans weighs from 100 to 103 pounds. They contain a large proportion of nutritious vegeto-animal matter, although not so much as peas, but a larger quatity of amidine. In many places they are baked and employed as food; sometimes they are even mixed with flour and made into bread, and many assert that they communicate a most agreeable flavor to the bread thus formed; but this pulse is chiefly given to horses. They are also made use of for fattening pigs, and are exceedingly adapted for this; but they should be soaked in water.

On land of an average quality peas which have been manured are always infinitely superior in point of quantity as well as haulm to any others, and they leave the soil in a condition peculiarly favorable to the succeeding crop. It is, however, seldom advisable to manure very plentifully for peas. The weather and temperature have a greater influence on the success of peas and on their formation than on almost any other field crop. Hence it is scarcely possible to calculate the average production which a crop will yield. Damp weather during the flowering season is rather beneficial than injurious, because the conformation of the flower protects it from the introduction of moisture. In dry weather the flower very frequently dries up without setting. The lentil contains a greater proportion of vegeto-animal matter than any other vegetable, and is universally regarded as being highly nutritious. From the time of Esau to the present day it has been considered as an article of food. This vegetable fetches a higher price than peas. It does not yield much straw, but what there is, is very delicate and nourishing, and somewhat similar to the best hay; consequently it is usually reserved for young animals, as lambs and calves. As lentils require to be kept very free from weeds, the culture of this crop tends to improve and clean the soil." (Van Thœr's Principles of Agriculture, p. 435, 6, 7 and 9.)

The lentil is a small climbing plant, from twelve to eighteen inches high, with pale purple flowers, that are succeeded by short flat pods containing two or three flat round seeds. But there is a French variety of much larger growth that is much more worthy of culture, both as a food for man and beast.

Beans, peas and lentils contain more nitrogen than any other grain, except flaxseed and decorticated cotton seed. And hence the manure of animals fed on beans, peas and lentils is more valuable than that of animals fed on any other grain. And as they can be planted late and yet ripen soon enough to have the ground sown with Winter wheat and leave the soil in admirable order for wheat, the culture of beans and peas is rapidly extending in our wheat-growing regions. For, if they are planted in rows, as they ought to be, they can easily be horse-hoed and kept clean from all weeds and the soil be very nicely pulverized for the reception of the seed of our Winter grains, either wheat or rye. The cow pea of our Southern States is also a very valuable green manurial plant, but it does not succeed well North of Virginia.

### INORGANIC CONSTITUENTS OF BEANS, PEAS AND LENTILS.

According to Levi, a chemist of Germany, every 100 parts of the ashes of lentils, and according to Morton of England, the mean of three analyses of the ashes of field beans and the mean of four analyses of the ashes of field peas contains in every 100 of their parts the following inorganic substances in the following proportions, viz:

| | Lentils. | Beans. | Peas. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Potash | 27.84 | 33.25 | 36.30 |
| Soda | 6.65 | 10.60 | 7.11 |
| Lime | 5.07 | 5.77 | 5.36 |
| Magnesia | 1.98 | 7.99 | 8.54 |
| Peroxide of iron | 1.61 | 0.56 | 0.98 |
| Phosphoric acid | 29.67 | 37.57 | 33.52 |
| Sulphuric acid | —— | 1.00 | 4.39 |
| Silica | 1.07 | 1.14 | 0.52 |
| Chloride of Sodium | 6.13 | 0.81 | 2.16 |
| Chloride of Potassium | —— | 0.49 | —— |
| Ash or ashes | 2.06 | 4.00 | 3.00 |

(Morton's Cyclopedia of Agriculture.)

And from these analyses we see that wood ashes, bones, salt, lime and lime containing magnesia, are very good manures for lentil, bean and pea crops, since wood ashes contain the elements of potash, and salt contains soda, and bones furnish large amounts of phosphoric acid. And gypsum or ground plaster will supply both lime and sulphuric acid, because plaster consists of lime and sulphur combined with water.

September, 1867.

## PREPARATION OF LAND FOR WHEAT.

Much wheat is lost every year by being heaved out by frost. This seldom happens except in light soils, or in land in which the seed has been sown so late in the Fall that it had not time to become firmly rooted before vegetation was checked by frost. Shallow plowing is frequently the cause of wheat being heaved out, also the stagnant water of undrained soils, for the roots cannot penetrate deep enough to draw up those ingredients which are necessary to sustain the plants, or to acquire a firm hold on the soil. Soil saturated with water expands considerably in freezing, and in doing so, fractures the roots of plants, and loosens their hold on the soil. Wheat is never heaved out in land which has been thoroughly drained, and deepened by subsoiling across the drains.

Heavy clay lands have generally been denominated "wheat soils," yet some of the most abundant crops of this grain have been raised on sandy soils, which have been properly tilled and enriched by manure. Previous to the introduction of the turnip into the husbandry of England, stiff, clay soil was alone thought suitable for the production of wheat, and it was ameliorated by fallowing and frequent plowings, etc. The introduction of turnips produced a complete revolution in the system of cropping. Naked fallows disappeared and a regular system of rotation of crops has been established, by means of which the land is manured evenly, and weeds and destructive insects are banished. Soils so light as to come under the denomination of "blowing sands" have been consolidated by growing turnips, and folding the sheep to eat them on the fields; their trampling and droppings being sufficient to make a light soil tenacious. Heavy, tenacious soils have been ameliorated by drainage, the adoption of the drill system of husbandry, and rotation of crops.

Wheat delights in new soil, but it is necessary that the roots of the grasses and other plants should be decomposed, in order to prevent their growth, and to furnish food to the wheat plants. Land that has been for sometime in tillage and then laid down in good heart, and allowed to remain for a few years in grass, when broken up again will generally produce a better crop of wheat than "wild soil," that is soil which has never produced a cultivated crop. Nitrogenous manures are best suited for wheat. Professor Johnston proved this in his "Lectures on Agricultural Chemistry." If we take a wheat plant and examine the composition of the flour it contains, as raised on different soils, and from the application of different manures, it will be found that its gluten, which contains a large per centage of nitrogen, is invariably increased by the increased proportion of nitrogen in the manure.

The composition of wheat varies greatly according to many circumstances, such as soil, manure, climate, variety, time of sowing, and time of harvesting, etc. The following analysis by Sprengel may be taken as an average; 100,000 parts dry wheat contains 1,777 of ash or inorganic matter; the same quantity of wheat straw contains 3,518 parts of ash. They consist of the following substances:

| | Grain. | Straw. |
|---|---|---|
| Potash | 225 | 20 |
| Soda | 240 | 29 |
| Lime | 96 | 240 |
| Magnesia | 690 | 32 |
| Alumina | 26 | 90 |
| Silica | 400 | 2,870 |
| Sulphuric acid | 50 | 37 |
| Phosphoric acid | 40 | 170 |
| Chlorine | 10 | 30 |
| | 1,777 | 3,518 |

One hundred parts of wheat, in its natural state, contains, according to Gregory, the following ingredients:

| | |
|---|---|
| Albumen | 3.0 |
| Gluten | 9.9 |
| Starch | 55.7 |
| Gum, dextrine, pectine and sugar | 4.6 |
| Fibre and Husk | 11.9 |
| | 82.31 |

According to another analysis by the same chemist, the parts were thus divided:

| | |
|---|---|
| Water | 12.9 |
| Organic matter | 85.2 |
| Ash | 1.9 |
| | 99.01 |

We may understand the properties of a manure, and yet not apply it properly. If we make use of an abundance of ammonical manure, the stem and leaves of the wheat plant will become so large and succulent that the roots will not be able to support them, they will fall down and fail to produce a crop. We must endeavor to remedy this evil, by making use of a manure that will give strength to the stem as well as weight to the grain.

It has been well established by repeated analysis that silica forms a considerable part of the straw of wheat, and that potash and phosphoric acid exist in the grain, and a certain portion of lime in both straw and grain. It is evident that the soluble silica which is absorbed by the straw, should be given back to the soil by turning the straw into manure, instead of selling it in the markets. One cause of the deterioration of the wheat crop is the removal of the straw without compensating the soil for the ingredients which have been absorbed by it.

Wood ashes contain a considerable quantity of potash, and therefore are well calculated to increase the weight of the grain of wheat which contains a large proportion of potash in its composition. If all the ashes which are made in the house and on the farm, were carefully collected, spread over the wheat field, and harrowed in with the seed, a large increase in the acreable produce would be the result.

Lime imparts health and vigor to the stem and a portion of it should be applied to soil intended for wheat. It is useful for correcting acids which are injurious to the roots of plants, assists in dissolving silica and the phosphates, and in various ways improves the strength and vigor of the wheat plants. A small quantity of lime mixed with muck or rich soil, will have a much better effect as manure, a larger portion without the addition than of any other substance. Professor Johnston says:—"Lime acts in two ways on the soil, it produces a mechanical alteration which is simple and easily understood; but it is the cause of chemical changes which are really obscure, and are, as yet susceptible of only partial explanation." A good crop of wheat cannot be obtained from a soil that is deficient in lime, and on this account every grower of wheat should make arrangements for applying this indispensable manure.

Common salt is a useful manure, and a portion of it should always be applied directly, or indirectly to the soil intended for wheat. Lime and salt have a much more powerful effect when applied in combination, than when either is given singly. Liebig says, "common salt enables a plant to extract sulphur from the ground, where it had existed as sulphate of lime." The grain of the cereal crops may be much improved in size and color by the judicious application of salt. It acts well in conjunction with ammoniacal manures, the salt giving weight and solidity to the grain, while the size and luxuriance of the plant are increased by the ammonia. Immense crops of wheat have been raised by the application of salt and barn-yard dung. A farmer in England obtained 96 bushels of wheat from one acre of land by using a manure composed of salt and well decomposed barn yard manure.—*Western Rural.*

Large vs. Small Kernels for Seed.—Some ten years ago I planted an ear of corn to test the difference between the product of the kernels of both ends and the middle of the same ear, and will give you the result. The soil was just alike, the cultivation the same, and the crop very different. I planted the first two rows from the tip or small end; and planted all the same morning. The large end produced fair sized ears, with irregular rows, much as you will find them at that end of the ear. The middle kernels produced large ears, mostly straight and fair. The tips brought forth nubbins only. There was not a fair ear on the two rows of corn. I have raised corn, more or less, for forty years; and now plant only about half, or at most two-thirds of the kernels on each ear of corn; and generally raise good crops. Save your seed corn and hang it up in the Fall.—*Cor. N. Y. Independent.*

Potatoe bugs are destroying whole crops of potatoes in some of the farming towns of Illinois.

Soul Pictures.—Engraven deep upon the tablet of the soul lies some hidden picture, some loved one whose voice no longer thrills us, who has passed on to the unknown shore. Easel and pencil fail to bring out life such as is hidden deep in the recesses of fond, loving hearts. Time cannot erase these pictures; every expression lives, and they often flash across us. Sometimes we read them in the countenances of others, when the soul illumined gives life and animation to the face. It is then that the loved one stands before us, clothed in the flesh. Blessed pictures! You tell us that love is immortal and undying. You point us to the better land. You tell us of re-unions when our earthly work is done. You loosen our hold on earth and give us aspirations after things not perishable.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## DEEP PLOUGHING AND SUB-SOILING.

Experience is the great teacher in farming. Without it, successful agriculture is almost impossible. With it, we can make our business profitable and our lands productive. Past experience teaches us that *deep ploughing* is absolutely necessary on almost every farm, in order to get the highest profit from the soil. The reasons for this are plain to every practical farmer: but as some of our readers may not have considered the subject in all its bearings, we present the advantages of deep ploughing. First: the space in depth to which the roots of all crops penetrate, and from which they derive nourishment, is limited chiefly by the extent to which the plough has run. Beneath that point, especially in clay soils, the roots make but little progress. Second: the unbroken sub-soil, when composed of clay, is not easily penetrated by rain. Hence, after the ploughed soil has become saturated, the surplus water escapes from the surface, often carrying off valuable portions of fertility. Deep ploughing prevents this washing away of the surface. Third: a deeply-broken soil is a store-house for moisture, holding a portion always in reserve for periods of drought. When the sun, the air, and the growing crop have taken up the surface moisture, some of the roots are still deep down in the earth, where the supply is abundant. Again, this moisture from below constantly rises toward the top during a drought, by capillary attraction. It also brings with it some elements of fertility in solution, and as the evaporation goes on, these must enrich the surface soil.

The above statement may be regarded as scientific facts in agriculture. We have seen farms that were "run out" by thin, shallow ploughing. The plantations of the Southern States, from Virginia to the Gulf, all exhibit the sad effects of shallow cultivation. We have, also, frequently seen farms in the Middle and New England States whose fertility and productiveness were reduced fifty per cent. by ploughing thin—by merely scratching the surface to the depth of only three or four inches. The result of this evil practice is a regular and systematic depreciation of the land, with a certain decimation of crops every year. The late Professor Mapes, one of the most scholarly and practical of American agriculturists, was an advocate of deep ploughing; and his own estate, in New Jersey, is to-day an evidence of the correctness of deep cultivation. He doubled the value of his land, and more than doubled his annual crops, by *ploughing deep*.

Sub-soiling land—of which Mapes was the pioneer in this country—is also of great advantage. By this means the bottom of the furrow is thoroughly broken and pulverized, without being turned up. This being done, the surface plough then throws its next furrow upon this loosened portion of the sub-soil, and the sub-soil plough following again, breaks another portion—and so the process is continued till the whole field has its surface stirred to a depth which cannot ordinarily be reached by any one plough operating alone. The benefits of sub-soiling are similar to those of deep ploughing. It opens up a new source of fertility, for the sub-soil always contains more or less of mineral substances demanded by the growing crop. It also gives a deeper space for the circulation and retention of air and moisture, which is a perfect antidote to drought. Again, if the soil is level, and of such a character as to retain too much of the rain-fall, then the newly broken sub-soil lets it pass off more freely from the surface soil. On lands not thoroughly drained, we presume the sub-soil plough would not be of so great an advantage.

Another peculiar benefit which sub-soiling has over ordinary deep ploughing is that it gives a deeply pulverized mass, without exposing upon the surface that portion which is often not adapted to most crops. On a tenacious clay, which sometimes forms a hard crust, there would certainly be no advantage in sub-soiling; but for a majority of soils we would follow the experience of Professor Mapes—we should plough deep and sub-soil all land adapted to thorough cultivation.

## PEARS ROOTING ABOVE THE QUINCE.

Some years ago, when the subject of dwarf pear culture was warmly discussed and the abandonment of the quince stock was urged, some eminent pomologists, among whom was Marshall P. Wilder, endeavored to compromise the question by recommending the deep planting of the dwarfs, so that the pear might emit roots above the bud or junction; others opposed the unphilosophical idea, among whom was the late Wm. Reid, an experienced cultivator; yet many adopted this method, both here and in Europe. We quote the opinion of Thomas Rivers, the great advocate of dwarf pears, lately published in the "London Journal of Horticulture." He says: "No hole in any cultivated garden need be more than from three to four feet in diameter, and twenty inches deep, and the covering of the junction of the bud or graft with the stock, leads to injurious consequences; for besides placing the trees by far too deeply in the soil, it induces the putting forth of roots from the graft, by which the effect of the quince stock in giving fertility is destroyed. Great care is taken to withdraw all loose earth from the base of the tree, so as to leave a space of about an inch between the swollen junction of the graft with the stock and the surface of the ground. This mode of culture has been followed here with pear trees on quince stocks, twenty to twenty-five years old, and is the only sound method of culture."

So much for our learned doctors of pomology here, who have been urging the burying of the junction of pear and quince, so as to get rid of the quince roots, quietly, by a sort of compromise. Is the practice of the English doctor correct, and that of our doctors erroneous? Let those who have tried both answer. For ourselves we never believed in rotting out the quince by the covering process.

## HYGROMETERS IN HORTICULTURE.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

We have had recently quite a valuable lesson as to the importance of moisture to the healthy condition of our fruits, but we are still at a loss practically to take advantage of the hygrometer. Few gardeners, (or garden laborers we should say) are ignorant of the value of the thermometer, but the barometer and hygrometer have not yet been added to garden requisites. A writer in England has a similar experience. He says:

"We can generally learn from any horticultural work the temperature which will suit the plants we wish to cultivate, but we seek in vain for any definite directions as to the degree of atmospheric moisture which they require. It was recently stated that during the active season of growth, the wet bulb should stand four degrees below the dry, and during the ripening period from ten to fifteen degrees below." Can your climatological friends give us any simple directions on this point?

A Garden Laborer.

*Philadelphia, Sept.*, 1867.

☞ The New Jersey State Agricultural Society will hold its first fair since the war, at Waverley, midway between Newark and Elizabeth, on the line of the New Jersey Railroad, on the 8th, 9th and 10th of October. It is intended to make this exhibition a very interesting one, as it is not only the first since the war, but also the first ever held on the society's own grounds.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

The "Wisconsin Farmer" speaks very favorably of a new variety of Spring wheat raised by a farmer in Dane county, that State. It has a remarkably long head, well filled out, and is not subject to insect depredations. The seed was obtained from the Department of Agriculture, and came from the South of Russia.

Doubts are entertained by many intelligent agriculturists of there being such an immense wheat crop, this season, as was generally anticipated. A correspondent of the "Country Gentleman," writing from Rock Island county, Illinois, says the yield there is only from ten to twelve bushels per acre—occasionally eighteen—but the general average is only about twelve bushels. "Where the 200,000,000 bushels of wheat, which is the estimated national crop for 1867, is to come from," this correspondent "cannot see."

The "American Farmer" publishes two essays discussing the question of the best breed of cattle for the Northern sections of the country—special reference being given to quantity and quality of food required; also to the production of butter, cheese and beef. One writer gives a preference to the black, polled Galloways; the other favors the small, Irish, Kerry cattle.

The "Ohio Farmer" recently published the views of the Secretary of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture on the present condition of the wool interest. The following is an extract:—"Extraordinary importations of foreign wools since 1860; a very largely increased, if not double production of domestic wool since that period, an average increase of $6,000,000 of woolen manufactures since that date, and the country flooded with army goods. The supply of the raw material and manufactures on hand largely in excess of the demand; and as a consequence prices are depreciated, and will remain so until the excessive supply is consumed."

## CAN BONE SPAVIN BE CURED?

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

I have a very valuable horse that is spavined, and I wish to inquire, through your journal, if said disease can be cured? Some people tell me that there is no cure for it—others affirm that there is. I have employed three different veterinary surgeons, but without success. As your journal circulates among a large class of horse owners, perhaps some of them can give me the desired information.

Simon.

[Will some of our veterinary friends answer the above?—Eds.

## THE YELLOWS IN PEACHES.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

In your paper of the 14th, I notice boiling water recommended for the yellows in peach trees. I have used air-slacked lime with unfailing effect—say one quart to a tree, scattered around the trunk, covering the space within a circle of one foot from the tree. I think a solution of saltpetre, poured about the trunk, will kill the grubs so destructive to this valuable tree. Saltpetre is very destructive of animal life—at the same time most grateful to the vegetable. I shall try it myself, and hope others will also, and report the effect.

W. J. H.

*Providence, R. I., Sept.*, 1867.

☞ The corn and tobacco crops in Missouri have suffered severely from the intense and protracted drought of the Summer. The central portion of Tennessee has suffered severely from the same cause, and not more than half a crop is expected.

☞ We are indebted to J. W. Richardson, Esq., of Medway, Mass., for six new varieties of seed potatoes. They include the Early Goodrich, Harrison, Sebec, Shaker Fancy, Wachusett Seedling and Calico.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

The South has raised a surplus of corn, and large shipments are being made daily to Louisville and Cincinnati. It is twenty cents higher in Cincinnati than at Nashville.

The absence of sunny weather during the past Summer has produced a very marked effect upon fruits of all kinds. Nothing is well ripened, and probably all varieties of fruits will be found, when the season for gathering them comes round, to have suffered from the wet weather of the Summer.

The editor of the Kansas City Advertiser has seen a sweet potato about twelve inches in length and eighteen inches in circumference, weighing over five pounds. It was grown near that city.

The Harrison (Texas) Flag learns from Captain S. F. Southern, who has recently made a tour over the greater portion of Texas, that the yield of corn was never greater in that State, and that according to his judgment a good half crop of cotton will be raised.

Twelve peaches, weighing in the aggregate precisely ten pounds, were picked from a small tree in the yard of Thomas H. Lyons at Rockport, Indiana, last week.

The Toledo Blade says: "We have heard much of large returns from investments in grapes, but none equal to those given by a grower whose vineyard is located on the Maumee river, and about five miles below Toledo. His profit last year from fruit and cuttings sold from a single acre are given at $5,200.

It is estimated that the peach crop of Delaware will reach two million baskets. They are sold to shippers at Milford and other points on the railroad at from thirty to fifty cents a basket.

An Iowa correspondent of the Rural American, lays down land to grass by sowing the seed immediately after harvesting his oats, trusting to the cattle, which are turned in to pasture off the stubble, to tramp in the seed.

The chicken cholera that has proved so fatal in many places at the West, is ascribed by R. H. Murry, of Calumet, Ill., to a species of putrefaction caused by a too exclusive barn-yard diet in hot weather. He has been successful in its cure by a mixture of a small teaspoonful of cayenne pepper and a tablespoonful of charcoal with a quart of corn meal dough fed to the chickens.

Good Fall wheat, which a week ago was selling in Lexington, Mo., at $1 30 per bushel, is now sold readily at $2 and $2 10 per bushel.

Ohio has 8,160,712 sheep, and exports a wool clip this year of between twenty-seven and thirty million pounds, yielding about fifteen millions of dollars.

The Aroostook (Maine) Times says in that county the wheat crop gives promise of an abundant yield, and as there was quite a large breadth of this grain sown, the harvest will prove very remunerative.

John B. Gough has on his estate at West Boylston. (Mass.) over 2000 of the feathered tribe, consisting of turkeys, hens, ducks, pigeons and geese.

The Georgia peanut crop will be wonderfully large this year, and the product of two counties alone is estimated at 60,000 bushels.

Seventeen States were represented at the annual meeting of the American Pomological Society at St. Louis, Wednesday, over 300 members being present. One of the features of the exhibition is some pears from a tree in Danvers, Mass., planted by John Endicott, the first governor of the colony of Massachusetts Bay. The tree is supposed to have been planted a short time prior to 1628.

A profit of $1.25 is made on all baskets of peaches sold in New York. They are bought by the wholesale at seventy-five cents a basket, and retailed for $2. The farmers sell them in New Jersey for about $1 per bushel.

At Fishkill, New York, one and one-half bushels of the Goodrich potatoes, planted last Spring, have yielded one hundred and twenty-six bushels.

Music as a Stimulant.—Alfieri, often before he wrote, prepared his mind by listening to music, a circumstance which has been recorded of many others. Lord Bacon had music played in the room adjoining his study; Milton listened to his organ for his solemn inspirations; and music was ever necessary to Warburton. The symphonies which awoke in the poet sublime emotions, might have composed the inventive mind of the great critic in the visions of his theoretical mysteries. A celebrated French preacher, Bourdaloue, was once found playing on a violin to screw his mind up to the pitch preparatory to his sermon, which he was to preach before the Court. Curran's favorite mode of meditation was with his violin in his hands; for hours together he would forget himself, running voluntaries over the strings, while his imagination was opening his faculties for the emergency at the bar.

## Fireside Tale.

### THE PRESERVE CLOSET.

"Upon my word, this is about the coolest proceeding I ever knew!"

Colonel Templar sat in his bachelor sanctum, where the rays of an April sunshine shone in lines of glittering gold among the Neapolitan violets in the window, and drove the little canary half wild with silver-voiced delight—a sanctum crowded with a miscellaneous confusion of meerchaums in different stages of color, dressing-gowns, cigar-boxes, newspapers, and gorgeous velvet slippers. He contracted his brows moodily over a letter whose pink paper and delicate scent of foreign perfume betokened a troublesome lady correspondent.

"'Dear Sidney.'—Yes I'm always 'dear,' when Bertha wants a disagreeable commission executed—what hypocrites women are, to be sure—'an eligible house, somewhere, in some nice locality, it surely can be no trouble to engage one for us.' No trouble, quotha! that's just a woman's random idea! No trouble to rush from pillar to post house-hunting. Where's the indemnity of bachelorhood, I'd like to know? I might as well be a married man in good earnest, if I'm to be saddled with all the responsibility of the thing. I won't be imposed upon—I'll write to Bertha at once, and tell her—"

Colonel Templar gave his jet black mustache a savage jerk, and pulled his writing desk resolutely forward. Then a softer mood seemed to dawn athwart his mind—he hesitated, biting the handle of his pen meditatively.

"Poor little Bertha—she always was my pet cousin, and I suppose it is rather inconvenient for her to come all the way here to look for a house—and her husband will be in India till the middle of May, and—well, the upshot of the whole matter is that I'm doomed to victimize myself, and the sooner it's over the better. Heigho! where's the newspaper? I'll just look over the 'To Lets' first, and then I'll go to the estate agencies!"

The sun was peeping from behind masses of flying clouds, like a shy beauty who alternately smiles and hides her face—the air was full of faint Spring odors, even in this brick and mortar wilderness, when Colonel Sidney Templar sailed bravely forth, armed and equipped with various references, directions and addresses, to engage in the momentous business of house-hunting.

He was not a handsome man—yet you would have turned involuntarily to look after him as he sauntered by, attracted by the deep smothered fire of his dark eyes and the firm outline of his lips. No—Colonel Templar was not handsome, but he was what the ladies term "interesting." Moreover, he carried an empty sleeve where the left arm should have been—an interesting memorial of the red battle-clouds.

"It seems comical enough for me to go house-hunting," mused Templar as he strode onwards through the dusty streets. "For me, the solitary, homeless recluse of one-and-thirty years old. Four years ago things appeared differently to me—four years ago I might have dreamed of a home of my own, with Marion Caryl's bright eyes to light up its hearth-stone! Ah, me! this is a world of change! A careless word—a little misunderstanding—and here I am, a crippled old soldier, while Marion is probably making the sunshine of some other man's life. Hold on—I am getting maudlin and romantic—eh, Sidney Templar? This will never do, old fellow."

The Colonel gave his heavy black locks a backward toss, as if impatient at his own folly, and vigorously directed his attention to the list of eligible residences in his pocket-book.

"No. 41 —— street; here's the very place. Wants painting badly on the outside, but may present a more promising appearance within. At all events we'll try."

He rang the bell, and a brief skirmishing of servants in the hall, a faded lady, in dyed silk, and hair in crimping-pins, appeared.

"Is this house to let, madam?" inquired our Colonel, deferentially.

"Well, yes, it's to let, but you can't see it now."

"Can't see it now?"

"No," snarled the lady, vindictively. "Hours are between two and four."

"I'm quite sure the female in the crimping-pins is an old maid," decided the Colonel, mentally, "and I think she must have breakfasted off broken glass and cambric needles. I wonder if the people at No. 171 —— street will be any more affable?"

A pretty blue eyed woman, in a torn wrapper, and slippers down at the heel, answered the door bell.

"Can I see this house?" meekly questioned Colonel Templar.

"Could you call again in about an hour?" asked the blue-eyed one. "My husband is out, and we've been so troubled with thieves and respectable looking agents who carried keys with 'em, that—"

"Oh, I beg your pardon. Under the circumstances I will not intrude," said Colonel Templar, with a comic elevation to his eyebrows. "Perhaps, however, you will be good enough to observe that I leave the door-mat behind me, quite safe."

The blue eyed lady looked after Colonel Templar as he strode away, with a puzzled face.

"It's as well I didn't let him come in," was her internal comment. "He looks as if he might be a little crazed."

While Colonel Templar stroked his mustache and pondered dubiously within himself: "I wonder if I do look like a rogue?"

* * * * * *

"Herbert! Bertie! don't you hear the door-bell? Bertie, I say!"

The gentleman apostrophized as "Bertie" was sitting at an old fashioned mahogany desk, absorbed in a pile of blotted manuscript, with dishevelled hair, and middle finger deeply stained with ink—evidently a young author, very much in love with his profession. Directly before him stood the speaker, a young lady of twenty-three or thereabouts.

She was exceedingly pretty, with the innocent, dimpled beauty of a white kitten or a pet rabbit; blue eyed, with a complexion where faint roses seemed to glow through the transparent skin, and a mouth like a dash of scarlet velvet. While her lovely golden hair was fastened straight back, in a great lustrous twist. *En dishabille*, evidently, but quite pretty enough to excuse all defects of flour sprinkled hands, and hair half loose.

"Door bell!" repeated the young man, starting vacantly.

"Yes; some one to see the house, I suppose, and I such a figure. Do, please, go to the door, Bertie; there's a jewel. Mary has gone to the grocer's, and see what a state I'm in."

She held up both dimpled hands, and nodded archly in the glass at a huge floury patch on the peach-bloom cheek.

"There it goes again! Do make haste, Bertie, and on your life don't show any one into the kitchen. Tell 'em it's a gem of a little kitchen, but don't let 'em in, for the cake is half made and the bread half baked, and I'm half distracted; and the rolling-pin, and spice-boxes, and egg-beaters are all lying around loose, and—there"

And the young lady expedited matters with a push that left five white dots from her five finger ends on the back of Mr. Herbert's cashmere dressing-gown.

"The dear, absent-minded goose!" she pondered, as she fluttered down-stairs into the kitchen; "if there's any mistake to be made he'll be sure to make it. The more absent-minded he grows I do believe."

"Why, yes, this house is to let," said Mr. Bertie, in answer to the courteous inquiry of the tall stranger. "And I suppose you want to look at it?"

Colonel Templar smiled.

"I should like to inspect the rooms; that is, if it's quite convenient."

"Oh, quite—walk in. This is the hall, and—I believe those are the stairs, and—oh! here are the parlors."

Sidney Templar glanced carelessly around the lofty rooms, thinking they would suit his ambitious little cousin very well, when suddenly a portrait hanging over the carved marble mantelpiece caught his eye.

"Marion Caryl!"

He did not articulate the syllables, but they sounded through his brain as if a thousand silver-tongued bells had pealed them forth! Yes, it was Marion Caryl, with the bright golden ringlets floating away from her fair, blue-veined temples, and the rose-mouth ready to break into smiles that were answered by the dewy sparkle of her eyes.

"Marion Caryl!" he repeated vaguely to himself. "And this is Marion's house, and Marion's husband is leading me through the rooms. How dreamlike it seems!"

"I'm afraid you are tired," said honest Bertie, looking compassionately at Sidney's ashen pale face, and wondering that he had not before noticed how colorless it was.

"A little tired," stammered Colonel Templar, feeling the hot blood rush to his brow once more. "But no matter—don't let me detain you. I believe you said the rent was—"

"Rent? I haven't the least idea. I believe its either one hundred or eighty, or perhaps sixty. I know we paid fifty, but the landlord is going to raise it, and Marion and I are thinking of a furnished cottage in the country—somewhere."

"Marion's husband is not a man of business," thought Sidney.

"Marion's husband!" How the words cut to his heart.

"Well, I'll ask Marion—she knows," said Herbert. "Now, then, I'll take you down into the lower department."

Oh, Bertie, Bertie, had you already become obvious of the words of caution heaped on your luckless ears?

Pretty Marion, screwing the top on to one of her spice boxes, heard the advancing of footsteps with a sudden thrill of apprehension.

"It can't be possible that that goose Bertie has forgotten what I told him," she thought. "He has, though, as sure as the sun is shining, and I'm caught."

Marion dropped her box of fragrant allspice, and looked with wide open eyes of dismay at her bib-apron.

"They are coming," she stammered, turning alternately red and white. "There's no help for it. I shall have to hide in the preserve-closet."

And our little heroine, ignominiously taking refuge in flight, ran lightly across the kitchen floor and hid herself among preserved strawberries, East India ginger, and glimmering jars of cherries.

"If I don't lecture Bertie," said Marion, setting her little white teeth together like belligerent pearls, as the two gentlemen came into the kitchen, and she heard their voices discussing the relative merits of stoves and ranges.

"By the way," said Herbert, suddenly, "I believe there are some nice closets down here; at least, Marion says so, and—hallo! the door seems to stick!"

He gave it a jerk. Marion's two hands held resolutely on the door knob on the other side. Another resolute pull, full of well directed energy, and the two little hands succumbed.

The door flew open.

Bertie staggered back into the middle of the room, and Marion stood there among the preserves, wofully confused, yet laughing withal, like a marvelously pretty mouse in a novel species of trap.

"Oh, Bertie, Bertie, I——"

She stopped suddenly as her shy glance met the eyes of the tall stranger. She stopped in the middle of the floor, checked in her instinct of flight by some still stronger instinct, and blushing like a pink moss-rose down to the very tips of her tapery floury fingers that were so tightly interlaced, while the blue eyes, half hidden by their white lids, were full of sparkling tears, and the mouth was breaking into a tremulous smile; for Marion did not know whether she most wanted to laugh or cry.

"Sidney, oh, Sidney."

He bowed gravely.

"Until you introduce me to your husband, Marion, I scarcely know by what name to address you.

"My husband?" repeated Marion, wonderingly following the direction of Sidney Templar's eye. "Oh, you mean Bertie! but he isn't my husband—he's my brother! Herbert, this is Colonel Templar, who fought so bravely."

Marion's face lighted up as she spoke; she had forgotten all about the preserve closet and the bib apron now.

"Colonel Templar, I'm glad to shake hands with you," said straightforward Bertie. "Marion has talked about you many and many a time—ay, and cried, too, when she talked of you."

"Bertie!"

Now she colored indeed; deep, deep crimson, like the red heart of a pomegranate blossom opening under tropical skies.

"But your husband, Marion?"

Bertie Caryl broke into a genial laugh.

"What fellows you soldiers are for sticking to one idea. Our Marion isn't married!"

"Not married! Oh, Marion!"

He took her hand and looked wistfully into her eyes.

"Marion, we were very foolish once, but I think we are both wiser now."

She did not raise her long lashes, and he went on:

"But, Marion, the crippled, war-worn soldier dare not ask the question that the lover would have pleaded so earnestly once."

She looked up now, with tears lying brightly on her flushed cheek.

"Then I will ask it. Sidney, do you care for me still?"

"Do I care for heaven's sunshine? do I care for the blessed life that beats within my own heart? Oh, Marion—mine, mine forever."

As he murmured the tender words close into her ear, Herbert Caryl, who had been abstractedly spinning the rolling-pin round, brought it down on the snowy pine table with a bang.

"I have it! Fifty pounds a year!"

"What is fifty pounds a year?" questioned his brilliant sister.

"Why, the rent, to be sure!"

"Never mind the rent just now, Mr. Caryl," said Colonel Templar, laughing good-humoredly.

"Oh, but it really is fifty pounds a year," said Herbert, solemnly: "and——why, look here! what is this about?"

For Marion had led Sidney Templar up to him, and was smiling even while the tears hung on her wet eyelashes.

"Will you love him very much, Bertie? For—I think he is going to be your own brother."

"Exactly like the last chapter in my novel," said Caryl, sagely. "Shake hands, Colonel. And now, Marion, you take care of him, for most of my writing is shockingly behind hand!"

So it happened upon that sunshiny April day that Colonel Sidney Templar engaged not only a house for his Cousin Bertha, but a wife for himself.

"We'll take down the bill, Bertie," said Marion, demurely, "because Colonel Templar likes the house, and—and I don't exactly think showing rooms is your *forte!*"

"Don't you?" retorted Herbert. "Now only suppose Colonel Templar had gone away without seeing what a very convenient closet that was where the preserves are kept!"

But Marion made him no answer!

---

Husband and wife, who have fought the world side by side, who have made common stock of joy and sorrow, and grown aged together, are not unfrequently, even curiously alike in personal appearance, and in pitch and tone of voice,—just as twin pebbles on the beach, exposed to the same tidal influences, are each other's second self. He has gained a feminine something, which brings his manhood into full relief. She has gained a masculine something, which acts as a foil to her womanhood.

---

Sulphur for Blight on Roses.—It is said that the blight on roses may be cured by the application of sulphur, if it is used as soon as the parasite appears and before it becomes firmly established. The remedy should be applied when the day is clear and warm, for the sulphurous acid, resulting from the slow combustion of the sulphur under the action of the sun's rays, quickly kills the parasite; whereas if the application be soon followed by rain the sulphur is washed away, and it becomes necessary to apply again. The blight or mildew often appears just as the roses are ready to flower again, but a new application will remedy the evil. An application of sulphur is equally efficacious as a remedy for blight or mildew on the peach.—*Utica Herald.*

# Various Matters.

## ABOUT OYSTERS.

Oysters are of many different colors. In Spain, they are red or russet: in Illyria, they are brown, nay, black. While those of the Red Sea are of all the colors of the rainbow. That Parisian delicacy, the green oyster, is brought from Brittany; but the same hues can be induced in others by putting them in pits where the water is about three feet deep in the salt-marshes, and where the sun has great power. The propagation of the oyster is effected by self-produced eggs, which it bears within, in the form of a greenish milky juice, which it casts as spat in May. This liquor, if viewed through a microscope, will be found to contain multitudes of small oysters, covered with shells, and swimming nimbly about—one hundred and twenty of which extend about an inch. Indeed, one million of young have been discovered in a single oyster. Guarded by two tender shells, they move freely in the sea when ejected by their parent, until, by means of a glutinous substance, they fix themselves so fast to some object that they can be separated only by force. These young are very soon able to produce others—some say so soon as four months after birth—but even when as large as a crown-piece, the shell is still very tender and thin, and it is only after some years that they become fit for human food. The age of an oyster is not to be discovered like that of a horse. You may look a gift-oyster in the mouth, and indeed it is expected you should do so, but not upon its shell. It bears its years upon its back. Everybody who has handled an oyster-shell must have observed that it seems as if composed of successive layers or plates overlapping each other. These are technically called "shoots," and each of them marks a year's growth, so that, by counting them, we can determine at a glance the year when the creature came into the world. Up to the time of its maturity, the shoots are regular and successive; but after that time, they are piled one above the other, so that the shell becomes more and more thickened and bulky. Judging from the great thickness to which some oyster shells have attained, this mollusk is capable, if left to its natural changes unmolested, of reaching a great age. Indeed, fossil oysters have been seen, of which each shell was nine inches thick, whence they may have been concluded to have been more than one hundred years old.

The offspring generally remain near the mother which accounts for those huge oyster-banks in the sea, which in some places have attained such magnitude as to cause ships to be wrecked upon them. The fossil oyster-banks raised by earthquakes along the western shores of South America, measure from sixty to eighty feet in depth, are often forty miles in length, and in many cases, stretch about two miles into the interior.

Where oysters go to, after being dredged from their native element and spirited out of their natural houses and home, is well understood, but where they come from, how they are obtained, and in what numbers they are taken, it may be interesting for our readers to learn. From early historic times they have been reckoned a suitable and palatable article of diet. The Romans used them, as found in their natural state on their coasts, and also propagated them by artificial planting in beds or in pits, as is done at the present day. In no period or country, have such vast numbers of them been shipped down the human æsophagus as in our own. From May to August is the breeding season, and during that time the oysters are not believed to be edible—a popular error which we have no wish to correct, as it saves the stock from exhaustion.

Oysters are found all along the Atlantic coast, in the quiet waters of the bays and inlets, at the depth of from twelve to thirty feet. They increase at a prodigious rate, the spawn of a single oyster containing tens of thousands of eggs, or, according to some naturalists, hundreds of thousands. They are found, also, in the Pacific Ocean, in the Northern latitudes. Europe is supplied from its own waters, although large quantities have been exported thither from this country. An idea of their prolificness may be formed from the following statement: A few years ago the French supply grounds became non-productive through over-dragging, and an enterprise of propagation was undertaken. Three hundred acres, in a favorable bay, were sown with three million breeding oysters. In less than six months the bundles of brushwood sunk into the water to confine the young, and minute oysters were found, though not larger than a sheaf of wheat, to have attached to each of them not less than twenty thousand young oysters.

It is found that oysters breed better, grow faster, and are of better quality when sown artificially in beds, than when left in their native localities. The localities best adapted for the purpose, and producing the best article, are those in which the fresh water or river mingles with the brine of the sea. Thence, as the place is chosen with reference to the depth of water, the oysters are raised from the bottom by a long-handled and long-toothed iron rake, and tossed into boats. At vast packing establishments, they are summarily and rapidly unboused from their shells, and packed in cans or in kegs and sent throughout the country. How they are finally disposed of, in individual use, roasted in the shell, fried, stewed and raw, most people are well informed by personal and pleasant experience.

## HOW THE INDIANS CATCH SALMON.

During the season the Indians on the Columbia, Frazer, and, indeed, on all the principal streams, take immense quantities of salmon, and prefer them to any other for drying and winter use. At the cascades on the Columbia, and on the Frazer river, the method of taking salmon is with scoop nets. The salmon keeps close to the shore, to avoid the more rapid current, and to take advantage of the eddies to rest in during their upward run. The Indian builds, or rather hangs, a stage over the water, and lies upon it, armed with a net like a shrimping net, about four feet in diameter, fastened to the end of a long pole. He passes his net down the current, and allows it to be swept on as far as his arms can reach, then he hauls it out and plunges it in again up stream as far as possible. In this way I have seen a savage take thirty-five to forty salmon an hour. They usually fish immediately after sunrise, or late in the evening. At the north of the Frazer river and on Puget Sound, the Indian employs long poles, with sharp gaff-hooks at the end of them, then paddling about in canoes, thus hook in large numbers of salmon. Higher up the streams, at the salmon falls or leaps, the Indians use huge wicker baskets, flat on one side and bellied out on the other; these they hang in places where they well know the salmon leap; usually against the face of a rock, the flat side of the basket being towards the rock. These bakets are hung before the river begins to flood from the melting snow, for the Columbia rises at least 35 feet above its Autumn and Winter level. As soon as the water has risen sufficiently for the fish to leap the falls, at it they go, and in leaping often fall back into the baskets. I have seen from 250 to 300 taken from out one basket two or three times a day. I have likewise seen over 100 salmon in the air at one time, and often six or eight tumble into a basket together. Two Indians go naked into this huge pannier, each carrying in his hand a heavy wooden club, and, utterly reckless of the water dashing over them, and scrambling about amongst the struggling fish, they seize one after another by the gills, give each salmon a crack on the head with a club, then fling it out upon the rocks, whereon the squaws are waiting; the women pounce upon the stunned fish, lug them away, cut off their heads, split them open, take out the backbones, and then hang them up on long poles to dry, keeping a small fire always smouldering underneath the poles to partially smoke the drying fish. Salmon cured in this way I have known to keep two years perfectly fresh.—*A Home in the Wilderness.*

☞ We call attention to the great sale of choice live stock by John Dimon, of Pomfret, Conn., advertised in this paper.

Grape Exhibition.—The Rhode Island Horticultural Society will give an exhibition of grapes in the City Hall, Providence, on Tuesday and Wednesday next.

At a meeting of the Coal Dealers Association in Boston, on the 10th inst., it was voted to fix the price of coal at $8.50 per ton. The trade is much duller than usual this season.

# Marriages.

At the residence of the bride's father, on the 4th inst., by Rev. M. Phillips, Rev. Alexander B. Jack of Newburgh, N. Y., to Miss Celestia S. Sayles, youngest daughter of Whipple Sayles, Esq., of Pascoag.

In Coventry, Sept. 15th, by Rev. Thomas Ferry, Mr. G. Dennis Higgins to Miss Louisa S. Brown, both of Providence.

In Blackstone, Sept. 16th, by Rev. E. W. Porter, Mr. H. J. Neal of Worcester, to Miss Lizzie Hodgson, of B.

In Douglas, Sept. 11th, by Rev. Francis Dyer, Mr. Obadiah Morse to Mrs. Rebecca Keith, both of Douglas.

# Deaths.

In Smithfield, 12th inst., Mr. Henry S. Short, aged 66 years.

In Cumberland, 7th inst., Sabra Dexter, widow of the late Samuel Dexter, in the 78th year of her age.

In Central Falls, 4th inst., Carrie E., youngest daughter of David and Ellen Dexter, aged 7 years and 9 months.

In Whitinsville, 17th inst., James Bamfrey, aged 2 years and 1 month. [Providence papers please copy.

In Providence, 9th inst., Herbert Eugene, son of Thomas and Alice Lord, aged 7 months.

In Foster, on the 7th inst., Phebe A. Brayton, wife of David Brayton, aged 23 years.

In Franklin, Sept. 9th, Edmund Doherty, aged 65 years.

In West Medway, Sept. 6th, Willie, son of Charles S. and Mary J. Cutler, aged 13 years.

In Upton, Sept. 7th, Daniel Forbes, aged 80 years.

In Grafton, Aug. 30th, Mrs. Azubah, wife of Wm. Rogers.

In Mansfield, Ct., Sept. 5th, Lucy A. Rixford, aged 52 years.

In Killingly, Ct., 31st ult., Lucius H. Cole, aged 25 years; Sept. 6th, Ruth M. Owen, aged 20 years.

In South Woodstock, Ct., Sept. 10th, Elizabeth, wife of James Marsden, aged 47 years.

In Grosvenor Dale, Ct., Sept. 6th, Miss Hannah Booth, aged 57 years.

In Thompson, Ct., Sept. 10th, Lewis Rawson, aged 81 years, 6 months.

In Washington, D. C., Sept. 10th, Randall Holden, Esq., a native of this county—born at Providence, Sept. 3d, 1792. He was the sixth person who has borne this name—a descendant of Randall Holden, who settled at Warwick, Jan. 12th, 1642. His remains were buried in Warwick.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Sept. 20, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 14c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 90c. |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.50 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $16, 17 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 25 | Molasses ₩ gal | 60a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 40c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 38c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 16ac18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 20a28c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

## BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

September 18, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 2494; Sheep and Lambs 4371, Swine, 2250.

Prices. Beef Cattle—Extra, $13.50@ $14.00; first quality, $12.75@$13.25; second quality, $10.50@$12.00; third quality, $8.80@$10.25 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 10 @10½c ₩ lb. Country Tallow, 7a7½c ₩ lb

Brighton Hides, 10½@11 c. ₩ lb; Country Tallow, 7@7½ cents ₩ lb.

Lamb Skins, 50@75c each; Calf Skins, 16a18c.

Sheep Skins, 50 @ 75c. each.

There is a good supply of Beeves in market, and the trade for the best qualities has been good. Prices for extra Beeves remains the same as last week, but upon the poorer grades there is a downward tendency.

Stores—Prices, yearlings $23@30; two year olds $35@45; three year olds $40@55.

Working Oxen—There is a good supply in market, and the demand is active. We quote sales of pairs at $155, 160, 165, $180, $170, $200, $205, $206, $215, $220@$240.

Milch Cows—Extra $85a110; ordinary $65@80; Store Cows $45a55 ₩ head.

Sheep and Lambs.—There is a large supply in market; many of them were taken at a commission. We quote sales of Lambs at $2,at for common, and extra $4½ ₩ hd: old Sheep at 4a6c per pound.

Swine—Wholesale 6a6½c ₩ lb; retail 6½a8c ₩ lb; mostly Columbia county Pigs in market. Fat Hogs—1900 at market; prices 7¾a8c ₩ lb.

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

THE MARKETS UNSETTLED.

The Market in grain has fluctuated somewhat during the week, remaining in an unsettled state toward the close. The receipts of wheat at the lake ports have increased materially since the close of last week, and the prospect is that there will be liberal arrivals at an early day. A brisk export trade appears probable. The exports of the week are 43,871 bushels for the corresponding time last year.

Grain.—The market for wheat at the close is irregular and unsettled, winter being somewhat easier, while spring is firm and in active request, mainly for export, though in part for future delivery.

Oats are in increased demand and prices are rather firmer.

Rye is very quiet.

The corn market is improved, both in prices and demand, and closes firm.

Flour, &c.—There is considerable irregularity in the market. The demand is moderate for western and state flour, and prices are generally lower.

Rye flour is quiet; the supply fair.

Corn meal is steady, but quiet.

Provisions.—The demand for pork is less active, and prices are the same. The market closes quiet.

# Special Notices.



Cleaning Tripe.—In removing the stomach, be careful to keep the outside clean. Shake the contents well out through a small hole, and put in a quantity of unslacked lime about the size of a coffee cup, with about two gallons of water. Place it in a tub of water and agitate fifteen or twenty minutes, or until the lime is well slaked. A slight scraping will then remove the inside skin. The slaking lime takes out all odor, and makes the tripe nice and soft. After cutting up and washing well, it is ready for boiling, and may then be pickled in vinegar, or kept in salt water, to be changed daily, and be cooked like souse, or broiled like steak, buttered and peppered, or dipped in batter and fried.

# General Miscellany.

## THE ORIGIN OF POTATOES.

The annexed account of the origin of the white and sweet potatoes will be read with interest. It is from a paper read by Mr. Thomas Cavanah, of Brooklyn, before the New York Farmers' Club.

The botanical name of the potato is *solanum tuberosum* of Linnœus. The potato is a perennial plant, found growing in a wild state in South America. Humboldt thought it was doubtful if it was indigenous there, as tubers of the wild potato, planted by the side of the cultivated variety, differed very little from it. Sir Joseph Banks thought it was first brought into Europe from the mountainous parts of South America, in the neighborhood of Quito, where they were called papas. They were introduced into Spain in the early part of the sixteenth century. From Spain they were brought into Italy, where they were called tartuff, from the truffle or undergrouud mushroom. The potato was received by Clusius, at Vienna, in 1598, from the Governor of Mons, in Hainault, who procured the roots from the Pope's Legate, under the name of tartuff; it was then in use in Italy. In Germany, it received the name of hartoffel, and soon spread rapidly through that country. The potato found its way into England by a different route, being brought from Virginia by Sir Walter Raleigh, who went there in 1584. Thomas Heriot, in a report of the country, describes a plant called openauk, having roots as large as walnuts, in clusters, and says they are good food, either boiled or roasted. Gerarde, in his Herbal, published in 1597, gives an illustration of the potato under the name of the Potato of Virginia, which name it retained for some time, in order to distinguish it from the *convolculus batatas*, or sweet potato. Sir Joseph Banks says the sweet potato was used in England long before the introduction of the American potato. They were candied and sold as confectionery. The potato was known in Ireland sometime before its introduction into England. Sir Walter Raleigh having a large estate in that country, it became in course of time an article of general consumption in Ireland, and for many years Ireland was known for its fine potatoes. We suppose it was for this reason they obtained the name of Irish potatoes. Gerarde thought them a great delicacy. The tubers were roasted and steeped in wine, or baked with marrow and spices. The Royal Society, in 1663, took measures encouraging the cultivation of the potato, with a view of preventing famine; and it seems not a little singular that in our own time the extensive cultivation of the potato in Ireland produced the very evil they desired to remedy. The failure was no doubt owing to the want of fresh stock. Some writers of those early days thought they were fit food for swine. Another says they make good food for poor people. He left quite a numerous progeny; for there are a good many people just now who think potatoes almost too good for poor folks.

Evelyn, who wrote in 1699, says: "Plant them in your poorest ground; take them up in November for Winter use, and there will yet remain stock enough in the ground for the next season." This shiftless way of raising potatoes was in practice in Scotland. For many years the Irish seem to have been the only people who appreciated the true value of this esculent; for nearly 300 years the potato has been their chief staple. It has been said that a people who use the potato as their chief food soon degenerate. This theory is not well founded; for nowhere can there be found a more hardy race than the Irish. Years of oppression and misrule have done more to harm Ireland than the extensive cultivation of the potato. The tubers of the potato, having no peculiarity of taste, consisting chiefly of starch, approach nearer to the nature of a flour or the farina of grain than any other vegetable root. For this reason it is almost universally liked, and can be used longer than any other vegetable without becoming unpalatable.

## CALIFORNIA LEATHER.

The superiority of California leather is fast becoming a generally acknowledged fact at the East, and the shipments thither, especially of sole leather, have been gradually gaining for the past eighteen months, notwithstanding the great drawback in the shape of a heavy tax on the manufacture, which has cut the profits down to near living expenses. But as the tax is now removed by the new revenue bill, we may expect to see a rapid increase in the business; especially when it is borne in mind that some of the heaviest establishments have been able to sustain themselves in the past year, and pay a heavy tax, reaching in some cases as high as $35,000 for a single establishment. With this tax thrown into the balance of profit, we may expect to see the "solid, oak-tanned leather of California," forming a large moiety in the amount of that material worked up in the Atlantic States. It is much better to ship it thus than to follow the old track of twenty years ago and confine ourselves to the production of "raw hides" merely. We have enough of the raw material to supply our home market, and fill, with the balance, an important item in our annual record of exports.—*Mining and Scientific Press.*

A Thrifty Farmer.—A farmer in the province of Limburg, France, has hit upon a curious way of deriving profit from horseflesh. He keeps some two thousand fowls, which are the fattest in the country, owing to the way in which he feeds them. Every week he buys two or three dead horses, which he cuts up and boils. The broth is given to the pigs, they seem to enjoy this novel soup very well, and thrive admirably upon it. The meat thus used for the broth is hashed and given to the fowl, and what remains of the horses' carcasses is sold to the sugar refiners, who convert it into lampblack. The eggs of his fowls he sends over to England, realizing six centimes apiece for them, and the fowls go the same way when they have done laying eggs.

Our Turn Must Come.—"Generation after generation," says a fine writer, "have felt as we now feel, and their lives were as active as our own. They passed like a vapor, while nature wore the same aspect of beauty as when her Creator commanded her to be. They will have the same attractions for our offspring yet unborn, that she had once for us as children. Yet a little while, and all will have happened. The throbbing heart will be stifled, and we shall be at rest. Our funeral shall find its way, and prayers will be said, and we shall be left alone in silence and in darkness for the worms. And it may be for a short time we shall be spoken of, but the things of life will creep in, and our names will soon be forgotten. Days will continue to move on, and laughter and song will be heard in the room in which we died; and the eyes that mourned for us will be dried, and glisten again with joy, and even our children will cease to think of us, and will not remember to lisp our name."

Little Kindnesses.—Small acts of kindness! how pleasant and desirable do they make life! Every dark object is made light by them, and every tear of sorrow is brushed away. When the heart is sad and despondency sits at the entrance of the soul, a kindness drives despair away, and makes the path cheerful and pleasant. Who will refuse a kind act? It costs the giver nothing, but is valuable to the sad and sorrowing. It raises from misery and degradation, and throws around the soul those hallowed joys that were lost in Paradise.

Lord Chesterfield one day, at an inn where he dined, complained very much that the plates and dishes were very dirty. The waiter, with a degree of pertness, observed, "It is said every one must eat a peck of dirt before he dies." "That may be true," said Chesterfield, "but no one is obliged to eat it all at one meal, you dirty dog."

# Advertising Department.




**TERMS OF ADVERTISING.**

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the FARM AND FIRESIDE. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a good style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

**COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.**

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the FARM AND FIRESIDE may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

**THE FARM AND FIRESIDE**

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

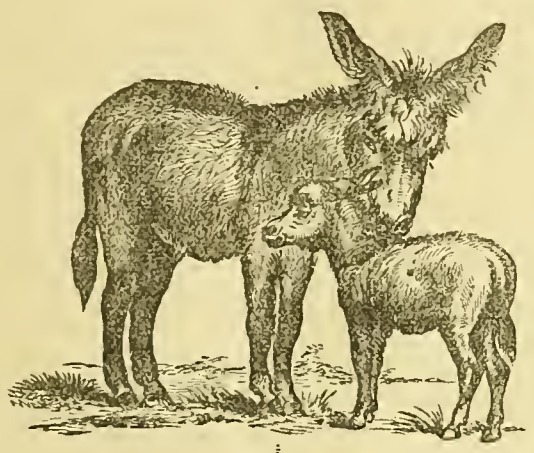

# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1867. NO. 38.



## HOW MULES CAME IN FASHION.

Few of the farmers of this country are aware what a depth of gratitude they owe George Washington for the introduction of mules into general use for farm purposes.

Previous to 1783 there were but very few, and those of such an inferior order as to prejudice farmers against them as unfit to compete with horses in work upon the road or farm. Consequently there were no good jacks, and no disposition to increase the stock; but Washington became convinced that the introduction of mules generally among Southern planters would prove to them a great blessing, as they are less liable to disease, and longer lived, and work upon shorter feed, and are much less liable to be injured by careless servants than horses.

As soon as it became known abroad that the illustrious Washington desired to stock his Mount Vernon estate with mules, the King of Spain sent him a jack and two jennies from the royal stables, and Lafayette sent another jack and jennies from the island of Malta.

The first was of a gray color, sixteen hands high, heavily made, and of a sluggish nature. He was named the Royal Gift. The other was called the Knight of Malta; he was about as high, but lighter made, black color, and lithe and fiery, even to ferocity.

The two different sets of animals gave him the most favorable opportunity of making improvements by cross breeding, the result of which was a favorite jack which he called Compound, because he partook of the best points in both of the original jacks. The General bred his blooded mares to these jacks, even taking those from his family coach for that purpose, and produced such superb mules that the country was all agog to breed some of the same sort, and they soon became quite common. This was the origin of improved mules in the United States; though over eighty years since, there is no doubt there are now some of the third and fourth generation of Knight of Malta and Royal Gift to be found in Virginia, and the great benefits arising from their introduction to the country are to be seen upon almost every cultivated acre in the Southern States. Notwithstanding the enormous increase of late years, arising from a systematic course of breeding in the Northern States for the Southern market, mules were never more valuable than at present, or more ready of sale at high prices.

Previous to the rebellion the use of mules upon the farm or the road was confined almost entirely to the Southern States of the Union, and a mule in the Northern States was regarded as a curiosity. The mule was regarded as a southern institution almost as exclusively as the negro, and for much the same reasons—he could stand the climate, bear grief, and subsist upon very coarse fare, and one of the beneficial results of the war has been to convince Yankees of the real value of this much despised animal. The immense numbers of teams connected with the movements of the Federal armies, were composed almost entirely of mules. They would live and do good service where horses would have died by thousands, and but few now realize how much of the bone and sinew of the war was furnished by mules. Indeed, we doubt whether the rebellion could ever have been subdued without their assistance. In this way northern men made the acquaintance of the mule, and learned to respect and esteem him, for his work's sake; and now we see him in all the walks of northern life as patient and enduring, and quite as much at home as he used to be in Dixie. He is an uncouth looking animal, but he will live on poorer fare, stand more grief and care less what the world thinks of him, than any other domestic animal. He has the name of being an impatient, refractory beast; but in this he is shamefully slandered. We have seen the saddle beast of a six mule team, in ascending a sharp pitch with a heavy load, slip and fall under his rider three or four times in quick succession, but would never come down further than his knees and be on his hoofs again and tugging at the traces, so quick that you could not see how it was done.

In addition to the endurance and easy keeping of the mule, his longevity is of great advantage. He does not mature quite as early as the horse, but if not abused before he is ten years old, with anything like good care, he will do service for fifty years afterwards, outwearing four of the best horses. They have been known to live nearly a hundred years. One reason of their great longevity, in addition to their hardy nature, is their freedom from those multifarious diseases which carry off a majority of our horses before they are more than half worn out. In fact, it is rather a rare thing for a horse to die of old age. But the mule is seldom sick—if he is, he does not let any one know it. For carriages, horses are more elegant and fleet, but for good, honest labor on the farm or in the lumber wagon, mules are by far the most serviceable. Northern farmers should no longer despise their long ears and Dutch accent, but cultivate their acquaintance and endeavor to avail themselves of their valuable services.

## THE VEGETABLE SHEEP OF NEW ZEALAND.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY J. S. LIPPINCOTT, HADDONFIELD, N. J.

Vegetable Sheep! indeed—what next? We have heard of the cow-tree of Cumana, which, though its leaves are dry and husky, and its roots penetrate a stony soil on which, during many months of the year, not a shower falls, yet when its trunk is pierced, gives out a sweet and nourishing milk, a perfect God-send to the children of nature, who gather at sunrise around the motherly tree; a milk, too, that possesses the same physical properties as that of the cow, and though differing chemically, therefrom, is nutricious and agreeable. Everybody has heard of the Bread-fruit tree,

> "Which, without the ploughshare, yields
> The unreaped harvest of unfurrowed fields,
> And bakes its unadulterated loaves
> Without a furnace in unpurchased groves."

So sings Byron; but we must not imagine, as his phraseology would lead us to do, that the loaves are baked on the tree, though they are the growth of a tropical climate; but we can readily believe this "aerated bread" to be truly unadulterated with any of the health-destroying chemicals, be they soda, saleratus, or any other azumeas whatever, and that it is soft and tender, white and bread-like, but not as good as a good mealy potato. With a cow-tree for milking every morning, and two or three bread-fruits, a man would find his wants, as regards their produce at least, cheaply supplied, and were not the extraordinary narrations of travellers abundantly authenticated, and the facts respecting the spontaneous product of bread and milk placed beyond doubt, we might almost believe that they had attempted to rival Baron Munchausen in his sketch of his discovery of bladders of brandy and balls of raw beef, so much enjoyed by him somewhere in Brazil, that Agassiz does not appear to have reached! But "truth is strange, stranger than fiction," sometimes.

But "*revenons a nus moutons*" to return to our subject; here, literally, to our sheep. By vegetable sheep, we do not mean the famous woolly "What is it?"—the Tartarian "vegetable lamb," once so wonderful, which grew straight up on all fours, yet was rooted in the soil, and bore a rough coating of assumed fleece, but really of moss. No, but a genuine woolly creature, a plant encased in wool, and not to be distinguished from a true sheep at a moderate distance. Well, what is it? It is described as a shaggy looking object upon the sides and tops of the mountains of New Zealand, in the South Pacific Ocean—resembling, on approaching it, a gigantic moss, but at a distance so sheep-like as to deceive the shepherds in search of their lost flocks. They are veritable plants, but of most remarkable character. They occur in masses of quite three feet in diameter, covered with a fulvous or nankeen colored wool. The leaves are crowded and broad, but completely hidden in the wool. Many species grow upon the mountains, at high elevations; some with more, some with less hairy leaves; some soft and velvety, others abounding in silky wool.

Though singular and interesting, these plants are of no economic value; but, on the contrary, certain species are a plague to the shepherds, inasmuch as they give them much trouble and annoyance to discern between the animal sheep and its vegetable imitation. To the plant itself, this woolly covering may serve a useful purpose by preventing it from drying up during a prolonged drought; for we may rest assured this extraordinary envelope has not been formed in vain. Specimens of these plants are yet very rare in England, but one has lately been exhibited at the Kew Gardens, an establishment under the patronage of the Government. Many of our readers are acquainted with the Gnaphalium, the common cudweed or "everlasting," and may derive a fair idea of these vegetable sheep from considering them but greatly exaggerated specimens of plants of this kind. They are known to botanists as Raoulia and Haastia, of many species. They would probably be worthy of introduction among us as producers of material for the manufacture of paper, or mayhap for textile fabrics of greater value.

*September*, 1867.

The Wheat Crop Abroad.—The crop of wheat in Belgium is now expected to prove rather better than had been anticipated; and if the harvest is had in Algeria and an average in Southern Russia, it is satisfactory in the Rhenish provinces, and exceptionally abundant in Hungary. At Havre business in wheat has been quiet of late. At Marseilles, on the contrary, it has been rather animated, and disposable lots of wheat have sold readily. At Odessa, after a period of great activity, the wheat market has entered upon a quiet phase in consequence of the less stimulating advices received from Western Europe; stocks are stated, however, to be much reduced at Odessa. At Petersburg and Constantinople the wheat markets were firm at last advices.

Acclimation of Honey Bees.—Dr. A. Gertsacker, in concluding a very extensive memoir on the distribution of the honey bee, observes that the most valuable kind for Europe would be the Egyptian, partly on account of their beauty, and partly because of their unwillingness to use their stings, which appear to be common to all African bees, and is also one of the recommendations of the Italian bee. The Syrian bee agrees so closely with the Egyptian that it may prove equally valuable; and next to these in value are the bees of the coasts of Asia Minor.

# Wool Growing.

## DARK SIDE OF WOOL GROWING.

A Correspondent of the Prairie Farmer details his experience and convictions as follows:

I did not buy sheep at as high figures as did many other men at the same time, but I bought better ones than many others did for the same money. I believe I have fed and handled them with proper care, but the thing don't come out as I was led to expect by "Wool Grower's" ciphering. He used to tell us that in a tolerably good-sized flock a man ought not to lose over five per cent., and in a large flock not over ten per cent., in a year. I started with 1400, which, perhaps, might be called a large flock; now I have never been able to keep my losses anywhere near as low as ten per cent. I wonder if "W. G." ever kept on paper an account of every sheep which he lost in a year?

As a fellow-sufferer and neighbor says: "Sheep *will* die in spite of thunder." During the Summer they do not go so very fast; in fact if you do not put each one down on paper the very day the carcase is discovered, you will be inclined to think, in the Fall—Oh, I have not lost many; perhaps a half a dozen. In the early part of Winter and clear up to March, you will feel as if you were getting along swimmingly, but don't lay any flattering unction to your soul until you reach the Ides of March, the same Ides which Cæsar was to beware of. About this time, perhaps, you think it well enough to begin entering in your book, dead sheep. Like an innocent, you think, once April comes in and your flock can get a bite of grass, the mortality of sheep will cease. The next two months undeceive you terribly, and you feel as if sheep laid down and died from sheer spite.

When "lambing-time"—I believe that's the word—arrives, you are expected by all good authorities, to raise 75 per cent. You are just green enough to keep a book account here again, so as to see whether you are doing what is expected of you. For awhile you feel first-rate. Your book reads, so many ewes have lambed, so many lambs living. In a week or so you have got to go back to your book and chalk out some of those set down as living, on account of the natural perversity of the whole sheep kind, which will persist in dying without any show of reason. Putting down, rubbing out and altering, you run your now badly speckled book up to the time when all have come and they are ready for "trimming." On finishing this job you proceed to count your pile of tails; as the pile diminishes, how your face lengthens! "Only so many!" in a mournful tone of voice; then you consult your hook; hook says so many; then you recount your pile of tails, and continue glancing from book to tails until your head swims. Worse than all, you reflect, they cannot be considered raised as yet, but two or three months must elapse before weaning time. At weaning time you take fresh count—have given up hook by this time—and sit down to figure your year's increase. The number of increase has to be expressed by the algebraical sign of minus before it.

But I won't particularize any farther; it is sufficient to say that in my four years' experience, I have never found anything to come out as I had been led to expect by enthusiastic wool-growers. My losses have been greater; my percentage of lambs less; my weight of clip less; the price obtained for my wool less, and I have been generally and particularly disappointed. I have discovered, among other things, that no farm will carry as many sheep as men tell (for I forget how many "Wool Grower" said a farm would carry) to the acre, and I have also learned that a pasture ought not to be stocked with half the number we meet with in agricultural papers. Especially is this true in dry seasons. Sheep bite so close that when a drought comes, it uses up a pasture much worse than when the same pasture is stocked with as many cattle as it ought to carry. I have about come to the conclusion that one sheep will eat of grass as much as two steers.

When it comes to marketing wool, (and I am glad that I can agree with "Wool-Grower" on one point,) I have found a great drawback, not as he says, "in the manner of marketing," but in the market itself. I find that I am dependent on the mere chance that one or two buyers may come to my barn, or else on the honesty of some commission merchant to whom I may send it to sell for me. Even in the latter case, there are times when, for two or three months in succession, no buyer seeking wool enters his lofts. How is it with other crops? I can sell my wheat or my corn to a dozen buyers, right at home, every day in the year; or I can send it to any large market, and sell it to a thousand buyers, on every day in the year. I can sell my cattle—either stock cattle or fat cattle, and my hogs, twenty times, where I can sell my wool crop, or a flock of sheep, once. My cattle and my hogs are not turning into "culls," every two or three years, as are my sheep.

Your sheep stock is as fragile as china-ware, and as perishable as strawberries. As to your wool market, you are not much better off than those men who have bought high-priced Cashmere goats, the wool of which is said to be worth from eight to sixteen dollars per pound—if one could only find the man who buys it. Some say it is worked by a factory in Edinburgh, some in Paris, but I have never found the man who could tell which.

I had been led to expect great things of the wool and woolen tariff passed last Winter. I expected more from it, for the reason that it went into effect immediately. We see now how much it affects the price of wool. Old sheep men tell me that I ought not to expect much from it this year, from the fact that the country was filled with woolens, previous to its passage. They say, hold on until next year and then you will see. I shall "hold on," because I have to, but I don't expect to see any benefit from the tariff, because I calculate there will be no tariff of that sort a year from now.

Next Winter the free trade interest in Congress will say, "We passed this tariff last Winter particularly to help the wool-grower; it has not benefitted him the "first continental." Mr. McCulloch will say, just so, gentlemen, nor have I been able to get any revenue from wool or woolens.

Well, I have got sheep to sell, and so have nine-tenths of the sheep owners in Illinois. If we can sell out, or give out, or kill out, or let die out, of sheep, I suppose it will be all the better, in a year or two, for those happy wool-growers who, it seems to me, keep sheep, not because they find them profitable, but because they are fascinated by, and in love with the stock.

# Horticulture.

## HOW TO OBTAIN FRUIT IN NEW PLACES.

This is an inquiry which often occurs in the minds of many owners of new places, or who have built new houses on unimproved spots. We can inform such residents that much may be done towards an immediate supply with proper selection and management, and that the assertion which they often hear, that "it will take a life-time to get fruit from a new plantation," is an absurd error.

The quickest return is from planting strawberries. If set out early in Spring, they will bear a moderate crop the same season. We have repeatedly obtained fine ripe berries seven weeks from the day they were set out. The second year, if the bed is kept clean, the product will be abundant. Wilson's Albany will safely yield, any year, a bushel from a square rod, or about two quarts a day for half a month.

Musk melons and water melons will yield their delicious products four months after planting.

Gooseberries, currants, raspberries and blackberries, all bear at about the same period from the time of setting out. Good sized gooseberry plants, say a foot and a half high, will give a good crop of berries of their size, the second year. We have had a bushel of cherry currants the third Summer, after setting out quite small plants, from a row thirty feet long. A bush of Brinckle's Orange raspberry has been known repeatedly to bear about a hundred berries the same year that it was transplanted—the fruit, however, was not full size.

Dwarf pears of the right sorts, and under right management, come quickly into bearing. The most prolific sorts give some returns the second year, and more afterwards. Among the dwarf pears which bear soon, are Louise Bonne de Jersey, Doyenne d'Ete, White Doyenne, Giffard, Fontenay, Jalousie, Josephine de Malines, etc. The following sorts bear nearly as early on pear stock, viz: Bartlett, Seckel, Winter Nelis, Washington, Onondaga, Howell, Passe Colmar, Julienne.

Grapes afford fruit soon—usually beginning to bear the second and third year. The Isabella, York, Madeira, Diana and Delaware are particularly recommended for this purpose at the North, and the Catawba may be added for the Middle States, wherever it does not rot.

Dwarf apples should not be entirely overlooked in the list of early bearers. Half a peck per tree is often obtained the third year from the most productive sorts.

A good supply of all the preceding will be sufficient to furnish a family with these wholesome luxuries from within a year or two of occupying entirely new premises, and will not only add greatly to the comforts and attractions of home, but contribute materially to the uniform health of the occupants.—*Thomas' American Fruit Culturist.*

## APPLE TREE BORER.

So much has been written on the subject of the apple tree borer and its habits, as well as on the method of destroying the grub, and thus preventing its ravages, that it is not possible to add anything new on those subjects. I would not therefore trouble you with these remarks were it not for the article in your issue of the 20th ult., from J. P. of Palmyra, and your notice of the specimen of the borer which Mr. P. sent in a letter by mail.

Having had great experience with this troublesome pest of our apple orchards, I take the liberty to send you ocular evidence of my success, during an hour's operation *this day*, and the simple instrument I use to capture the enemy. The bottle which accompanies this contains specimens of all ages, from the diminutive grub of this year to those of two and three years' growth. On the wire is one of the latter age just as taken from the tree, and which, had it been left undisturbed, would emerge from the body of the tree next Spring in the form of a winged insect, known scientifically as the *Sarpada bivitata.*

These specimens are mutilated more or less by the wire, and their color changed by the alcohol—the natural color being a yellowish white. I send also a piece of the wire to show the simple way of making the barb or hook.—The best instrument for discovering the hole in which to insert the wire, with the least injury to the appearance of the tree, I have found to be a five-eighths inch carpenter's gouge. J. P.

The wire barb used by our correspondent, which we have no doubt would prove as effectual in practice as he states it really is, deserves description. It is simply a bit of fine wire, say No. 20, six or seven inches long, the end of which is first flattened down for about a quarter of an inch. This end is then split longitudinally, so that a sharp flat barb, say one-tenth of an inch long, can be bent over in one direction, and another somewhat shorter barb in the opposite direction, and a little higher up—thus apparently giving the form best adapted for working into the borer and drawing him out. For convenience, the upper end of the wire is bent over, so as to give a short loop, instead of the rough end, to push against.—*Country Gentleman.*

## THE POMOLOGICAL CONVENTION.

The eleventh biennial meeting and exhibition of the American Pomological Society, was held at St. Louis, last week. The attendance was large and the display of fruit good.

The opening address of the president, M. P. Wilder, was a review of the history of the Society, with practical suggestions on fruit raising. We copy the following from the address:

### PRODUCTION OF NEW VARIETIES.

The great number of cultivators now raising new varieties of fruit from seed, especially of the grape, strawberry and pear, gives promise of the richest gains to our stock of fine fruits. When we consider the numerous acquisitions already obtained, the multitude of the accidental seedlings, and the thousands of hybrids produced by artificial means, now in process of growth, our most sanguine hopes are awakened, and we feel that we are on the right track.

While most of our fruits have been produced by the process of accidental crossing, the number of finer sorts has been comparatively few and far between. We would not, however, discourage the planting of seeds of our best fruits, trusting to natural fertilization; but, to secure more rapid progress and better results, we must rely on the more certain and expeditious art of hybridization. By this means we may, in a few years, produce such novel and desirable combinations as ages might not give us by accidental fertilization, or sowing seeds at random.

We are yet unable to fix the exact limits within which hybridization may be effected, but we do know that they cannot be determined by botanical classification. The rhododendron and azalea may easily be hybridized but no one has yet succeded in hybridizing with each other either the apple and the pear, or the raspberry or blackerry, which are more closely allied. The American and the European grapes are classed as distinct species, as are the apple and pear, yet the former are much nearer relations than the latter, and in the Miller's Burgundy, with its woolly foliage and hardy nature, we have a connected link between the *Vitis vinifera* and *V. labrusca.*—These considerations may aid in removing the doubts which have been entertained on theoretical grounds as to the reality of the hybrids said to have been produced between the two species.

We have learned some of the laws which control the process of hybridization, but others yet remain to be discovered; and this partial ignorance, bringing to the pursuit an element of uncertainty, gives to it also a zest and fascination as great as that of the games of mingled chance and skill which are so universally enticing to our race, but with infinitely more valuable results.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD FRUIT.

* * * To the question, what are the points of a good fruit? we answer, first, the best quality; second, durability, or the property of remaining sound after being gathered; third, size; fourth, color; fifth, form; though I regard the last two as of nearly equal importance.

So long as we raise fruit to eat, we can have no hesitation in giving the first place to its eating qualities. No combination of other properties, however valuable, can atone for any considerable deficiency in this respect. Texture, juice, flavor, aroma join in to determine the quality.

Next in importance to quality is durability, or keeping; by which I do not mean late ripening, but the property, whether early or late, of remaining sound after being gathered. A habit of decaying at the core is a very great fault in a fruit; and, for market, one which can be ripened in the house is much more valuable than one which, to be eaten in perfection, must be ripened on the tree, as is the case with the Rostiener and other pears of the Rousselet family, the early harvest and Williams apples.

The third requisite, size, is at once obvious. One of the highest flavored new pears is Di-

[*Concluded on page* 299.]

About twenty miles from Carson City, Nevada, are some remarkable mineral springs, called Steamboat Springs, from the noise they make, which sounds like several steamers discharging steam. These springs cover an area of about three acres. The water is boiling hot, and the escaping steam can be seen for several miles before sunrise, and the atmosphere in the vicinity is filled with the smell of sulphur. There are crevices in the rocks where the water can be seen boiling at a depth of thirty feet. There is also a spring which is called Breathing Spring. It is shaped much like a well. The water recedes to the depth of ten or twelve feet, and remains calm for five minutes, and then commences to boil, and rises until it shoots into the air above ten minutes, and in five minutes it begins to recede.

[*Concluded from page* 298.]

ana's Hovey, but its value would be many times multiplied could its size he doubled and its luscious character retained. Yet, while we seek for large fruit in prefereuce to small, we should not forget that a fruit may be too large for table use. We have but one dessert pear of the size of the Duchesse d'Angouleme, aud perhaps one is enough. But whether the size is large or small it should be uniform.

Beauty of color and form, though less important than the preceding points, are still of great value, and all other things equal, that fruit which possesses them will justly receive the preference. The best colored pears are those with a brilliant red cheek; next to this comes a gold or cinnamon russet, then yellow, and last green.

### THE GRAPE.

In the whole circle of Pomological progress there is no branch which excites so much interest or gives such favorable promise as the culture of the grape. At last, the vine, which has been so much neglected or persecuted, from fear of producing an intoxicating beverage, is becoming the great object of attraction. From the lakes to the gulf, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, large tracts are devoted to its growth. Throughout an extent of territory running over twenty-five degrees of latitude, and from ocean to ocean, the native vine grows spontaneously, is as hardy as the forests it inhabits, and ripens as surely as the apple or any other fruit. All localities are not alike favorable to its growth; but it may be assumed as a general law, that, where nature has planted any of our wild species, there other new and improved sorts may be raised by hybridization, either natural or artificial, which will he equally as well adapted to that territory.

The Catawba, Isabella, Concord, Diana, Hartford Prolific, Creveling, and even the Delaware, if it be not, as some have supposed, a distinct species, are illustrations of the improvement of the species, or removal from the original type. Every year adds new and valuable varieties of such as are adapted to general cultivation or to particular localities. Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, have vineyards embracing thousands of acres. Other States have less quantities; while California, in whose favored climate the European grape flourishes, has already commenced the exportation of wines and brandies to the Old World. Of the quantity of wine manufactured in the United States, or the crop of grapes, or the territory devoted to vineyards, I have not the statistics; but Mr. Husman, in his late work, estimates that, in the season of 1865, there was raised and sold in the single town of Hermann, Missouri, two million grape vines, and these were not sufficient to meet the demand. The same writer says: "I think I may assert that, ten years ago, the vineyards throughout the whole country did not comprise more than three to four thousand acres. Now I think I may safely call them over two million of acres;" and it is estimated that, at the present rate of planting, in a few years we shall have as many grape vines in the United States as in all Europe.

That this marvellous expansion of grape culture has not been without results, is shown by the fact that ninety-five tons of grapes have been shipped from a single city of Ohio in three days. In an estimate by Mr. F. R. Elliott, Secretary of the Northern Ohio and Lake Shore Grape Growers' Association, we are informed that there are seven thousand acres now set with grapes within the bounds of that association. The same region, in 1865, produced two hundred and seventy-nine thousand gallons of wine, worth, at wholesale prices, between five and six hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Elliott says: "Had the entire grape crop of that year been made into wine, the product would have been two million gallons."

In regard to the wines of our country, I may be permitted to remark that, from many comparisons made between the better samples of American wine on exhibition at the Paris Exposition, with foreign wines of similar character, as well as from the experience of many European wine-tasters, we have formed a higher estimate of our ability to make good wines than we had before entertained. And from investigations in vine culture we are now more confident than ever that America can and will be a great wine-producing country.

All that is necessary for us to rival the choicest products of other parts of the world will, with experiments and practice, be attained. We have several excellent varieties of the grape, and to which additions are being made. These are born on American soil, and suited to it—a soil and temperature extensive and varied enough for every range of quantity and quality. He, therefore, who shall discover a plat of ground capable of yielding a "Johannisberger," a "Tokay," or a "Chateau Margaut" will be a public benefactor, and somewhere between the lakes and the gulf, and the two oceans that circumscribe it, we shall find it.

Speaking of the society, Mr. Wilder said:

"Instead of fifty-four varieties recommended in 1848, our catalogue now contains the names of five hundred and sixty-one fruits; namely, 178 apples, 122 pears, 43 cherries, 55 peaches, 6 nectarines, 11 apricots, 33 plums, 3 quinces, 18 native grapes, 22 foreign grapes, 18 currants, 13 gooseberries, 12 raspberries, 2 blackberries, and 25 strawberries; and the list of one hundred and twenty-six varieties, rejected in 1849, has grown to six hundred and twenty-five; namely, 126 apples, 351 pears, 5 apricots, 32 cherries, 2 grapes, 31 plums, 3 raspberries, and 76 strawberries, making a total of one thousand and one hundred and eighty-six varieties of fruit on which the society has set the stamp of its approval or rejection."

### REMEDY FOR THE CURCULIO.

The great drawback in plum culture is the curculio. Hitherto the only effectual method of preventing the ravages of this pest has been to shake or jar the trees, over sheets, every morning for several weeks after the fruit begins to set. But this method is laborious and expensive; a better one is needed. Mr. P. S. Bush, of Covington, Ky., claims to have discovered a practical and successful plan, which he describes in a letter to the Cincinnati Horticultural Society as follows:

"About twenty-five years ago I planted a Lombard plum (now called Bleeker's Scarlet Gage) in the garden of the Branch of the Northern Bank of this city. The first year it bore, I lost the plums. The next year I covered the ground with gravel, screened in lime, and secured the crop. Having afterward succeeded so well with my chicken-yard plan, I have never, until this year, thought of repeating my first experiment. This Spring I removed to a lot on the corner of Madison and Twelfth streets, where there are two large plum trees, a Duane's Purple and an Imperial Gage. The former is twenty-five feet high, and covers the ground for nearly twenty feet square, and has been loaded with fruit for the last ten years in succession. I have never known a plum to mature perfectly sound on it—all stung by the little enemy. Finding a clear case for repeating my first experiment on an improved plan, I scraped off the grass with a sharp hoe for twenty feet square, and covered the ground half an inch thick with marble dust, which compacted down to one-fourth of an inch, making one impervious coating impenetrable to worms and insects, and representing a beautiful white surface, plainly discoverable to the eye of the curculio, and to my expectation and gratification found them to desert the premises after their first attack. They deposited their eggs in very few plums, and I have had no further trouble with them. The tree is loaded, too, full of fine, thrifty fruit, as is also the Imperial Gage, adjacent thereto, treated in the same manner.

"The plan is a perfect success, and as in the philosophy of the thing, should be expected. The curculio is provided with the means of depositing its egg in the fruit, well chosen to secure food for its young, and 'instinct being complete,' provision is at the same time made for the ingress of the larvæ to the earth, which by this experiment is rendered impossible; and hence the result. I believe that chalk land—dead lime—white bleached ashes, and probably blue clay, might answer the purpose, if pains be taken to cover the ground well and make it smooth. I ask the society to appoint a committee to visit me next week, as their report would give general confidence.

P. S. Bush."

In accordance with Mr. Bush's request the society appointed a committee to examine his trees. They report that they made such examination, and found all that Mr. Bush had stated about his trees and method of treatment to be correct.

Lilacs in Pots.—Lilacs may be successfully grown in large pots, and brought into early bloom in the green house. After the leaves have fallen, stocky young plants of the best varieties should be chosen for potting. The pots may be plunged in an open border, until the approach of severe frost makes it necessary to remove them to the green house.

## Farm and Garden.

### INDIAN CORN.

For many a mile on every side
I see the golden corn,
And hear the cricket's notes around
Sound like a fairy horn
In concert with the wild bee's drone,
In elfin murmurs borne.

Long, long ago, as legends tell,
The Indian fairy queen
Unto the ancient Delawares
Came down upon the green,
An azure glory round her head,
Her azure robes a vapory sheen.

And where she sat, tobacco soon
Its bitter fragrance flung,
And where her left hand touched, the bean
Rose flowering fresh and young;
And where her right hand swept, the maize
In golden glory sprung.

And whether you do eat it roast
Or take it baked in pone,
Or like it best as Johnny cake,
Still let its truth be known:
That corn first came from fairy land,
And was by fairies grown.

### RAISING CLOVER SEED.

This is one of the most profitable crops raised by Northern farmers. It is not generally large in quantity, but so far as it goes, yields large returns for the labor and money expended on it. From three to five bushels per acre may generally be expected, and this selling at from $8 to $12 a bushel, is a good return for the labor. The culture of clover is simple and easy. The ground should be well plowed and harrowed fine, the manuring moderate. Such lands as bring good crops of wheat, oats and barley, will produce good crops of clover. The seed should be sown early, the earlier the better. As clover does not usually last more than one year for a full crop, it is generally best to seed down the land to timothy at the same time; the latter to form the main crop of the second year. When the clover has got well established, it is the practice of many to turn in their cattle and sheep upon it. This furnishes excellent feed, and the cropping of it does no harm to the clover, but rather helps it. The stock are kept here until the middle of June, when they are taken out, and the crop allowed to take a new start. If kept on longer, the clover would not have time to mature seed before frost. By being fed down pretty closely over the whole field, the plants now start uniformly, and all blossom and ripen their seeds nearly at once, which is a very important matter. Attention to this point can hardly be urged too much. The closer and evener the feeding off, the better and more uniform the ripening of the seed. Sheep will feed closer than cattle, and they should be relied upon for finishing off. As soon as the stock are taken from the field, plaster should be applied, which will give the plants a vigorous growth. A spell of dry weather may usually be expected during the mid-summer season, and then plaster will be particularly useful. The seed will generally be ripe by the time of the first frost, and then is the time to harvest it. It is mown, and then wilted well, raked into small cocks in which it is left to dry—the cock being occasionally turned over by passing a rake handle under them, and with one hand on the top inverting them. When dry enough, let it be hauled to the barn, where it may be threshed and cleaned in a mill provided for the purpose. Or after heating the seed off from the stalks, it may be left in a heap with the closely adhering chaff to heat slightly, and then the seed is rubbed out and separated in a common fan mill.

Asparagus Beds.—The Gardener's Chronicle, referring to the cultivation of asparagus in France, says:—"In some places it is planted in trenches like celery, ridges of soil being thrown up between the rows. The trenches are about eight inches deep, ten inches wide, and four feet apart. The young plants are deposited in their places with the greatest care, the roots being spread evenly, and some well-rotted manure placed over them. They remove the soil every Autumn from around the roots, and replace it with well-decomposed manure, and the plants being in trenches the rain is constantly washing manure to the roots. Every Spring they pile up a little heap of fine earth over each crown. When the plantation has arrived at its third year they increase the size of the little heap, and pile up a small mound of light, rich soil over the crown. By this means they obtain shoots much longer than by the usual plan practiced in the United States, and it is thoroughly blanched, a condition in which it is best suited to the Parisian market.

Quality of Wool Influenced by Feed.—Sheep prefer upland pastures, and a great variety. It has been proved that the pasture has a greater influence than climate on the fineness of wool. Fat sheep yield heavier and coarser fleeces. The fine flocks of Western Pennsylvania, when taken to the prairies of Western Illinois, in the same latitude, will in a few years change their character, the quantity of fleeces and size of the increase; but the fineness of the wool will not be retained. Sweet or upland herbage is the best for fine wool.

### EYESIGHT.

Milton's blindness was the result of overwork and dyspepsia. One of the most eminent American divines has for some time been compelled to forego the pleasure of reading, has spent thousands of dollars in vain, and lost years of time in consequence of getting up several hours before day, and studying by artificial light. Multitudes of men and women have made their eyes weak for life by the too free use of the eyesight in reading small print and doing fine sewing.

In view of these things it is well to observe the following rules in the use of the eyes:

Avoid all sudden changes between light and darkness.

Never begin to read, or write, or sew, for several minutes after coming from darkness to a bright light.

Never read by twilight, or moonlight, or of a cloudy day.

Never read or sew directly in front of the light, or window, or door.

It is better to have the light fall from above, obliquely over the left shoulder.

Never sleep so that on first awaking the eyes shall open on the light of a window.

Do not use the eyesight so scant that it requires an effort to discriminate.

Too much light creates a glare, and pains and confuses the sight. The moment you are sensible of an effort to distinguish, that moment cease, and take a walk or ride.

As the sky is blue and the earth green, it would seem that the ceiling should be of a bluish tinge, and the walls of some mellow tint.

The moment you are instinctively prompted to rub the eyes, that moment cease using them.

If the eyelids are glued together on waking up, do not forcibly open them, but apply the saliva with the finger; it is the speediest diluent in the world. Then wash the eyes and face in warm water.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

What the Heart Is.—The heart is like a plant in the tropics, which all the year round is bearing flowers, and ripening seeds, and letting them fly.—It is shaking off memories and dropping associations. The joys of last year are ripe seeds that will come up in joy again next year. Thus the heart is planting seeds in every nook and corner; and as the wind which serves to prostrate a plant is only a sower coming forth to sow its seeds, planting some of them in rocky crevices, some by river courses, some among mossy stones, some by warm hedges, and some in garden and open field, so it is with our experiences of life that sway and bow us either with joy or sorrow. They plant everything round about us with heart seeds. Thus a house becomes sacred. Every room hath a memory, and a thousand of them; every door and window is clustered with associations.

## The Dairy, &c.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

### BUTTER MAKING.

To make the best butter, is an art possessed by comparatively few; else why so much fair, to poor butter, sold in market? The greatest accomplishment a dairy woman can be supposed to possess is the skill, or knowledge, how to make *good* butter. Few possess this knowledge or skill, for it is an art that comes only by study and practice; and when one possesses this skill, there are circumstances attendant, or prerequisites, which have as great, or greater, influence in determining the quality of the butter. The most skillful cannot make good butter unless she have the requisite material to make it out of; and in order to be supplied with this, *good cows*, together with good keeping, must be had, for other things being equal, all cows will not make equally good butter; neither will the same cow on different kinds of keeping, or at different times, make the same quality. The better knowledge one possesses of the constituents of milk and their properties, the better qualified they are supposed to he to make all circumstances conform to those requirements. Cow's milk, in some respects, differs from the milk of any other animal.

The compouents of milk are easein, or cheesey matter, butter, milk sugar, saline matter, and water; the proportion of these matters varies in different creatures and also at different seasons.

The milk of the cow varies with a variety of circumstances; such as, distance from time of calving, age of the animal, climate and season of the year, health and general state, time and frequency of milking, period at which it is taken during milking, the breed and size of the cow, kind and quantity of food and drink, state of preguancy, individual form and constitution of the cow; each of these circumstances have their peculiar effects upon the milk, one affecting it one way, another a different as all observant dairy men or women will have noticed.

Milk when first drawn has a slight, peculiar odor and sweetish taste, which character it loses upon standing a short time, caused by a separation or decomposition, which immediately commences after being exposed to the air. The state of the air exerts a strong influence upon this change, owing to the avidity which milk has for combining with, or abstracting from the air any odors, or peculiar qualities it may contain. So great is this avidity that often, at certain seasons, only a few hours suffice to change the entire character of milk; for instance, let a thunder shower come on in hot weather, just after setting the milk, and but a few hours will suffice to change the milk sugar into an acid; caused by the rapid absorbtion, by the milk, of ozone from the atmosphere which is set at liberty during a thunder shower.

Having the prerequisites of good cows, etc., knowledge and skill, further still is required, a good and suitable place to keep the milk and cream; a requisite too sadly deficient among most of our rural population who keep only one, or a few cows. I suspect that much of the poor butter made is owing mainly to this one want; for how often do we find the pantry connecting directly with the kitchen where the cooking and all the other housework is done, as well as frequently the smoking of tobacco by the occupants, loading the air with the perfumes of boiling cabbage, onions, etc., as well as the fragrant fumes of tobacco smoke from a coloring merchaum; these alone when all other things are supplied, are sufficient cause for poor butter; as we have stated above that milk has the peculiar quality of absorbing from the air any odors it may hold and becoming tainted therewith, these odors instead of settling into the watery portion of the milk, unite with the casein and butter portions and go into the butter, or cheese, instead of being thrown out entire, with the other portions. With such influences pervading the pantry, who can wonder that so much poor butter is made? rather, should we not wonder that butter of as good quality as we find is made at all?

To make good butter, then, we should have a milk room scrupulously neat in all respects, with pure temperate air; set the milk in shallow pans, remove the cream as soon as the milk begins to settle, or before, into a suitable cream crock, mixing it well with every addition; and churning as soon as the proper degree of sourness is attained, before so sour as to have any unpleasant taste. The temperature of the cream should be regulated by putting the pot or churn, with the cream in it, in water hot, or cold, and bringing to about 55° F. Churning should be performed with a steady, gentle agitation of the cream. As soon as the butter separates and collects draw off the butter-milk, take the butter into a suitable bowl or tray and work out all the remaining butter-milk, without working enough to break the little butter globules to make it oily, and salt to taste; no exact rule can be made absolute for all cases as to the quantity of salt to use, but about one ounce of salt to one pound of butter is the usual quantity; work this in evenly and set aside to cool and then work again, to free of any remaining butter-milk, as but a very slight quantity left, will soon decay, and give the butter a rancid taste; work with a butter stick or worker, never overworking to give an oily appearance; work into ball or cakes to suit the fancy or market.

In the foregoing I have barely thrown out a few hints, each one of which might appropriately be expanded into a respectable article; let the reader supply any deficiency; for the present I take my leave, begging all good housekeepers and butter makers, to endeavor to raise the standard of butter marketed. It is for your pecuniary interest as well as for the gratifying the palate of the consumer.

*My Riverdale Farm, Sept.*, 1867. H.

### A NEW FEED FOR BEES.

A correspondent writing from Chicago to the Bee Journal, gives an account of what he calls the American Bee Plant (*Cleome Integrifolia*) which was introduced from the Rocky Mountain region in the year 1860, and its value as food for bees accidentally discovered some two years after its introduction. The writer of the article was surprised to see the flowers covered with bees, while others, in the immediate neighborhood were quite neglected. The next year a much larger quantity of the plant was grown, and it was found that the honey stored in boxes at the time that the plant was in bloom, was of a much finer quality than any other. Every succeeding year of its cultivation confirms this, and it has been found that while this plant was in bloom, nearly all other flowers were discarded; even the buckwheat, which every one knows is a great favorite with the industrious little fellows, is quite deserted. The honey stored from this plant is said to be the finest, both to the eye and palate, of any honey ever made.

The plant is represented as of easy culture and looks well in the flower garden. It is a strong grower, and much branched like the common mustard plant, though its flowers are a bright purple, and are produced from midsummer until the frost destroys it in Autumn. It will grow on any soil, though a rich one suits it best, and it may be sown in drills, or broadcast if the ground is clean. Autumn is regarded as the best time for sowing it, as it comes into bloom sooner. Although the account savors somewhat of speculation, yet we make a note of it for the benefit of bee keepers, neither denying nor accepting all its statements.

The Wine Product of California.—Word comes from the Pacific coast that the grape vintage will be large, considerably surpassing that of last year, notwithstanding a season in some respects unfavorable. The product for 1867 is estimated at say 3,500,000 gallons, worth on an average, 35 cents a gallon, or $1,250,000 in the aggregate. In addition is a product of 100,000 gallons of pure brandy. There is every promise of California becoming a large exporter of fine wines.

## The Stock Yard.

### CARE OF HORSE'S FEET.

Nine-tenths of the diseases which happen to the hoof and ankles of the horse are occasioned by standing on the dry, plank floors of the stable. Many persons seem to think, from the way they keep their horses, that the foot of the horse was never made for moisture, and that if possible, it would be beneficial if they had cow hide boots to put on every time they went out. Nature designed the foot for moist ground—the earth of the woods and valleys; at the same time that a covering was given to protect it from stones and stumps.

The human hand has often been taken to illustrate Divine wisdom—and very well. But have you ever examined your horse's foot? It is hardly less curious, in its way. Its parts are somewhat complicated, yet their design is simple and obvious. The hoof is not, as it appears to the careless eye, a mere solid lump of insensible bone, fastened to the leg by a joint. It is made up of a series of thin layers, or leaves of horn, about five hundred in number, nicely fitted to each other and a lining to the foot itself. Then there are as many more layers belonging to what is called the "coffin-bone," and fitted into this. These are elastic. Take a quire of paper, and insert the leaves, one by one, into those of another quire, and you will get some idea of the arrangement of these several layers. Now the weight of the horse rests on as many elastic springs as there are layers in his four feet—about four thousand—and all this is contrived, not only for the easy conveyance of the horse's own body, but of human bodies, and whatever burdens may be laid upon him.

In Summer the feet of horses which are little used, or those used only upon hard pavement or dry roads, often become very dry, hard and hot, especially if they stand upon wood or stone floors. The wood floors are not only dry, but they absorb urine, which decomposes, evolves ammonia, and promotes this effect. An approved remedy for this is to take up the wood and lay a stone floor of small cobble-stones in cement, slanting slightly to the rear, then to fill in the stall 6 inches deep at the rear, with sand or sandy loam, leaving it slanting to the front. Enough of this should be removed and renewed daily to give the horse a bed of clean, dry but not drying, sand. Little bedding will be needed, and the feet will soon gain a natural moistness.

Contraction of the feet is often caused in stable-horses, by want of natural moistness. Where there is a strong tendency to contraction, the hoof should be "stopped" or plugged with a mixture of cow-dung and clay. Or, better still, a piece of thick felt, cut to the shape of the sole, and soaked in water, should be applied daily.

Horses likely to become hoof-bound, generally have small, tough, horny hoofs of rapid growth; but, with proper care, they may be kept free from lameness. If the shoe be not properly fastened near the heels, it causes the toe to incline forward, the sole becomes hard and dead, the heels contract and the frog is injured. Lameness must follow from the action of the coffin joint being retarded.

This is not so great a misfortune as some suppose. It is an unnatural condition of the hoof, but it does not necessarily produce unsoundness. If a horse has good action, and is otherwise unexceptionable, he is hardly less valuable for a slight contraction of the foot. Still, we should try to prevent it.

The blacksmith sometimes cuts away a part of the frog, which causes it to lose some of its moisture and elasticity. Then, again, he makes the shoe too much inclined inward from the outside, which prevents the natural expansion of the hoof. A pressure is thereby made upon the tender parts of the foot, and hence, come fever and lameness, corns and unnatural deposits of hoof. The shoe should be made perfectly level "on the quarters," so as to allow the natural expansion of the foot. The shoes, moreover, should be forged, not twisted into shape, as is sometimes done by bungling workmen. As a general rule, shoes are worn too long without resetting. Every three or four weeks, they should be taken off, the toe shortened in, the sole thinned, and the heels lowered.—*American Stock Journal.*

## Various Matters.

A small boy out West was assisting his father to mark sheep with paint and brush. The father would catch a sheep and say to the boy, "Mark that." After the job was done the boy started for his home, which was at some distance, and was overtaken by a minister on horseback, who, seeing the boy barefooted, invited him to ride behind him. After the boy was seated he began to catechise him thus:

"My lad, do you attend the Sabbath School?"

"No," was the reply.

"You should attend the Sabbath School, mark that! All good children should attend both church and Sabbath School, mark that!"

After many more remarks of this kind the boy replied:

"I have marked your back all over now, and it looks like thunder!"

The reverend gentleman was somewhat astonished when he examined his coat.

A Novel Business.—A man in Lee, Mass., is doing quite a business this season in marketing Italian queen bees. He sends them by express and mail throughout the country, even as far as New Orleans. In sending them by mail he uses a small cylinder of wire cloth, about as large and as long as your finger, in each end of which he places a stopple which has a large hole in it, and in the hole he places pieces of sponge filled with honey. A queen bee with eight or ten other bees are then placed within the cylinder, a wrapper put around it with several holes cut in it, and it is ready to be sent off by mail. They find a ready market at from $3 to $5 each.

Orchards and Soils.—An exchange says: "A neighbor of ours set one hundred and fifty trees eighteen years ago, on good sandy loam land, and has tended them well. They are thrifty, handsome trees, but he has not obtained fruit enough from them to supply a family of ten persons. We set as many trees at the same time, on a granite soil, have tended them well, and cropped the land heavily every year, and have gathered two hundred barrels in a season. Why the difference? Who can tell? One is a granite soil, the other a rich, sandy loam. Ours is on high land, the neighbor's is on a level between hills and low land."

Division of Land in England.—Mr. Ernest Jones at his recent lecture in Dublin gave some interesting statistics. He said there were 71,000,000 acres in the three kingdoms. In 1770 there were 250,000 owners of this land. In 1856 the number had diminished to 32,000 and was still decreasing. The Duke of Cleveland might ride twenty-three miles through his estate; the Duke of Devonshire had 96,000 acres in the county of Derby alone; the Duke of Richmond possessed 340,000 acres; and the Marquis of Breadalbane might ride 100 miles in a straight line through his property from his own house door.

The great Canada cheese, manufactured about one year ago at a factory near Ingersoll, is still in a good state of preservation, and is suspended on pivots in the factory, so as to be easily swung over for the gratification of visitors. Thirty-five tons of milk were used in manufacturing this cheese, which weighs 7000 pounds.

☞ The Vermont Farmer says the prospect of corn and potatoes, in that State, is not favorable even for an ordinary crop—the latter will be almost an entire failure. The apple crop will not be half that of last year.

Preserving Flowers Fresh.—Take a deep plate, into which pour a quantity of clear water. Set a vase of flowers upon the plate, and over the vase set a bell-glass with its rim in the water. The air that surrounds the flowers being confined beneath the bell-glass, is constantly moist with water, that rises into it in the form of vapor. As fast as the water becomes condensed it runs down the side of the bell-glass into the dish; and if means be taken to enclose the water on the outside of the bell-glass, so as to prevent it from evaporating into the air of the sitting-room, the atmosphere around the flowers is continually damp. The plan is designated the "Hopean Apparatus." The experiment may be tried on a small scale by inverting a tumbler over a rose-bud in a saucer of water.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.



## AUTUMN.

POETS have sung sweetly and pensively of Autumn; of the great change on the face of Nature; of the withered flowers and the brown hill-sides; of the dark, leaden skies and the chill, whistling winds, but they have failed to enumerate the manifold blessings and pleasures of this glorious season. They forget to tell of the golden harvests that are returned to the husbandman for his year of toil; of the great barns filled with fragrant hay for the sustenance of his cattle through the long, dreary Winter; of the quaint, angular-shaped crib-houses filled high with yellow corn; of the stacks of wheat and rye that sentinel his homestead; of the porcine herds that begin to grow lazy as they feed and fatten on their master's stores; or of the flocks of poultry that grow noisy and rebellious at Christmas time. Then, poets know little of the comforts and pleasures that belong to the farm-house—especially in the old-fashioned kitchen, as the evenings grow longer and cooler.

We look upon this season as the most pleasing, cheerful and satisfactory of the year. We now realize the profits of the Spring and Summer toil, and can see whether our labor has been well expended or otherwise. It is a good time to make improvements in the fields; the draining of low, wet lands; the construction of new fences and walls, and the general repair of buildings, if required. Many farmers neglect to repair barns, sheds and out buildings until cold weather comes, when such labor is more expensive than if performed now. Let your attention be directed to these matters and all necessary repairs be attended to at once.

The season for sowing Winter grain is partially over in some sections, but in the Middle States there is ample time yet. An important matter is to sow good seed—better pay double price for superior grain than to put in that which is of inferior quality. Let your land be well ploughed, in good tilth, and use the grain drill. We are satisfied that better crops are obtained by drilling in grain than if sown broadcast. Such advice, as the above, is not required by our more wealthy and intelligent farmers; but there is a certain class who never do anything except "in the old way," and to that class our remarks are not inapplicable.

In harvesting the corn crop there is yet a diversity of opinion as to the best method. In fact, no one plan or method seems to answer for all sections of the country. In the West and Middle States, where they grow the larger varieties, there is but one way, and that is to cut it up at the ground and put up in stooks. This is absolutely necessary where Winter grain is sown. It would be *our way* everywhere, for we are satisfied that it is the best and most economical way to harvest corn. In the New England States a majority of the farmers adhere to the old custom of "topping" their corn. By this method they make some excellent fodder for Winter use, but at the expense, we think, of the general yield of corn.

TRIMMING EVERGREEN HEDGES.—By cutting back with a knife, the foliage of the interior of any evergreen hedge is more perfectly preserved than by shearing a smooth surface like a wall, which makes the surface only extremely dense, and tends to exclude light from the interior.

## RECLAIMING SALT MARSHES.

An immense salt marsh, containing many thousand acres, lies along the route of the New Jersey Railroad, between New York and Newark. Passengers over that line of road have wondered why some enterprising capitalists did not purchase this tract and improve it for agricultural purposes. Many years ago, the noted Samuel Swartwout, the New York speculator and defaulter, purchased several thousand acres, at an average of $5 an acre, and intended to ditch and dike it, and then dispose of it to small gardeners. It is said that Mr. Swartwout did expend a large sum of money in ditching a part of the tract, but that it failed because the musk rats and cray fish destroyed the dikes—thus permitting the tide water to overflow the reclaimed tract.

Recently a new party of capitalists have purchased six thousand acres of this meadow lying between the Passaic and Hackensack rivers, and intend to drain and improve it. This association is called the "Iron Dike and Land Reclamation Company." The plan of operation is to drive iron plates, grooved into each other, some six to eight feet into the earth, and also to build dikes four to six feet in height. This will be the defence against water encroachments. In addition to this, wind-mills will be used to pump all surplus water from the tract into the rivers. It is calculated that the iron dike will cost about $1 per foot, or nearly $5000 per mile, which, with other expenses, will make the land cost $25 per acre. How long a sheet iron dike will last is yet to be tested, although the company's calculation is based on one hundred years.

These salt marshes, of which there are many thousand acres along the Atlantic coast, would be immensely valuable if they could be reclaimed. They are rich in animal and vegetable deposit, and could be made to yield vast crops, especially of early vegetables. The Passaic tract, above referred to, is so near the Empire metropolis that it must prove a successful speculation—provided it is thoroughly reclaimed.

## EX-GOVERNOR WISE ON MANURES.

YEARS ago we heard a great deal from Henry A. Wise, of Virginia, but mostly on matters relating to politics. Having contributed his share towards "firing the Southern heart," before the war, and having failed to earn any laurels on the battle-field, he now turns his attention to the improvement of agriculture. In reply to a Georgia planter, who wrote him about the purchase of fertilizers, ex-Gov. Wise sent the following recipe for the manufacture of a domestic manure. Without endorsing the value of this recipe, we present it as a novelty—as one of the "new things" brought out from the ruins of the Rebellion:

"You can't have the concentrated manures sent to you, as you propose, at five times their value. *Make your own manure!* A pit two feet deep, 8 by 10 square—the bottom made firm, and inclining to one corner; at the lower corner place a reservoir, sunk below the corner, to catch the fluid percolating through composts in pit; in that reservoir fix a hand pump; cover the pit by a roof on posts seven feet high above the ground; then in the bottom of the pit lay muck 8 inches thick; then cover the muck with the manure, 4 inches thick; then muck again, 8 inches, and then manure, 4 inches; and so on until you reach up 4 feet high or 4½, and then top off with muck—*muck at top and bottom*. On the top put a trough or shallow tray, with holes in the bottom; this tray, the same size of your compost heap, say 8 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 4½ feet high—a full cord of more than 128 cubic feet. Then dissolve *one bushel* of salt, in just water enough to dissolve it. Pour that brine in reservoir; then dissolve three bushels of lime in water to make a *strong milk of lime*. Pour that milk in the brine in the reservoir, and mix them well. Then put your tray on the compost heap, and pump the salt mixture into the tray, and let the mixture percolate through the compost. It will run back into the reservoir, and can be re-pumped, say once every two days, and in six days, you will have a *cord of manure equal to guano*."

## THE CROPS.

UNFAVORABLE reports have been received regarding the crops in various sections of the country during the last two weeks—those from the West and South being particularly so.—There has been a drouth in Kentucky and Ohio which is said to have injured the corn. But the reports on this subject were probably exaggerated with the design of causing a rise in the price of pork, and of inducing shipments of cattle to the East. From Illinois we have recent rumors regarding a short corn crop. One estimate makes it little, if any, over one-third of the average. Another says that the average yield of wheat in the older settled portions of Wisconsin and Northern Illinois will not be over twelve bushels an acre. In connection with these discouraging reports, statement has been published showing a falling off in receipts of flour, wheat, corn, oats, barley and rye at five of the chief shipping ports on the lakes.—This decrease from January 1st to September 1st, as compared with the same time in 1866, amounted to about twelve millions of bushels. But the total receipts were only a trifle less than in 1865.

Turning to the South, we find a larger number of complaints. The recent rains along the Atlantic seaboard have caused much grumbling. It is said that the rains for weeks past in the lower portions of South Carolina have been almost unprecedented for volume of water and destructive capacity. During the second week of September large quantities of rain fell along the whole coast from North Carolina to Florida, and west to Augusta. At Charleston it was estimated that the cotton crop would be reduced one-third, and that the rice crop would be almost ruined in some sections by freshets. Later reports partially confirm these gloomy anticipations. The receipts of cotton at the Atlantic ports show a falling off, and the stock on hand at shipping places is lower than at the same time last year.

The reports from the Mississippi Valley have recently been of the same unfavorable character. The cotton crop in Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee is said to have suffered from the worm. Then the yellow fever along the Lower Mississippi and on the Gulf had retarded the movement of the crop to market. Then it was reported that equinoctial weather had appeared unusually early in Louisiana, and it was feared that between the worm and the coming frost there would be a considerable loss of cotton. From Texas the latest dispatches say that the corn crop will be large, and in some sections enormous. But the cotton crop of the State is expected not to realize over one-third, and it is thought that there will be not over fifty or sixty thousand bales for shipment from the Gulf.

No doubt many of these reports are set afloat by speculators; for we cannot believe that the promise of the harvest has been so suddenly blasted. The reports come from particular sections and, at the best, are exaggerated, while nothing is heard just now from those places where the harvest is not affected by any of the evils mentioned.

THE cattle trade between Texas and Kansas has increased marvelously. This trade commenced three years ago, and has been on the increase until it has reached forty thousand head. Three years ago there were two thousand head; the next seven thousand; last year about eighteen thousand, and this year nearly forty thousand up to this time, with a prospect of reaching fifty thousand.

MILK WEEDS.—A correspondent wants to know how to exterminate the Milk Weed. He plowed and sowed his land last year, to kill the weed but this season it came up thicker than ever. Can any of our readers prescribe a remedy?

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

THE editor of the "American Farmer," has correct views on the manufacture of pork. He says: "I have no fancy for huge hogs that swelter through the Summer months in foul styes, to be converted, when cool weather comes, into meat for the use of man. Hence I have never had before my eyes the fear of tapeworm, trichinæ, or even ague, as a consequence of eating. The hog of my affections, of spare-rib and sausage memory, of chine and ham, is a hog of clover and corn, with a dash perhaps of woodland mast; a fellow of wholesome activity, sufficient to second a keen appetite for a forbidden cornfield; a cold water hog, both for drink and cooling his fat sides."

We have frequently urged upon our readers the importance of a thorough agricultural education; believing that farming cannot be successfully pursued without a correct knowledge of soils, fertilizers, botany and vegetable physiology. A contributor of the "Farmer's Home Journal" expresses similar ideas:—"The farmer has under his care brute animals whose welfare depends upon his skill and management. He should understand the structure of the animal system and the diseases to which it is liable, and the appropriate remedies. He should understand the laws of animal nutrition, that he may be able to comprehend why one class of substances promotes the development of bone, another, muscle; and another lays on fat. He should study botany and vegetable physiology that he may be able to distinguish the different classes of plants, and understand the laws of vegetable nutrition, and the substances which promote their growth and maturity."

The "Rural New Yorker" advances a new plan for the extermination of weeds. It says: "With our present system of cultivating grain crops, we have no efficient protection against these intruders. Fighting them by hand is out of the question. We must devise some means of cultivation which can be applied to the growing crop. The system of drilling grain crops in rows having wide intermediate spaces, so as to admit of cultivation between, is one worthy of adoption, if for no other consideration at least for the facilities it affords for destroying weeds. Let us drill our grain in rows one foot apart and cultivate between, and we shall secure as great a yield if not greater, than under the present system, and be enabled to fight the weeds with success. Fall plowing will sometimes start into growth the seeds of annuals, and is then a good practice; Spring cultivation will destroy them. Gardens, especially those infested with chickweed, should be treated in this way. Summer fallowing, which allows of such frequent plowing as to keep down perennial plants, as the Canada thistle, is an effective means of destroying them if the work is thoroughly done; sometimes good cultivation early in the season, followed by a crop of buckwheat, will clean the soil of weeds. But the main reliance in the struggle to master the weeds should be placed on the thorough cultivation of every crop, and work so planned and executed as will surely lessen their strength and number each year on the farm."

The "Prairie Farmer" says that we are in a fair way to obtain from Sorghum a valuable material for the manufacture of paper. It is well known that the bagasse bleaches very white, and by experiment with it, proves to be a good substance to mix with rags in the manufacture of paper. A paper mill on the Fox river is already using considerable quantities of it in the manufacture of wrapping paper, and are putting in the necessary machinery for preparing it for printing paper. When completed it will use from two to three tons of it per day. They have every confidence in the success of the enterprise.

A contributor to the "Country Gentleman" recommends the use of common salt as a special manure for wheat. The benefit of salt to this crop is explained thus: soda being a large constituent of salt, and this combining with the silex in the soil, forming silicate of soda, a large ingredient both in the straw and in the grain of wheat, as well as many other grains.

THE WILL TO BE TRAINED.—Men often speak of breaking the will of a child; but it seems to me they had better break its neck. The will needs regulating, not destroying. I should as soon think of breaking the legs of a horse in training him, as a child's will. I never yet heard of a will in itself too strong, more than of an arm too mighty, or a mind too comprehensive in its grasp, or too powerful in its hold. I would discipline and develop the will into harmonious proportions. The instruction of a child should be such as to animate, inspire and train, but not to hew, cut and carve; for I could always treat a child as a live tree, which was to be helped to grow, never as dry, dead timber to be carved into this or that shape, and have certain grooves cut in it. A living tree, and not dead timber, is every little child.

## The Fireside Muse.

### FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING.

The dew lay glittering on the grass,
A mist lay on the brook;
At the earliest beam of the golden sun,
The swallow her nest forsook.
The snowy bloom of the hawthorn tree
Lay thickly, the ground adorning;
The birds were singing in every bush,
At five o'clock in the morning.

And Bessie, the milkmaid, merrily sang,
For the meadows were fresh and fair;
The breeze of the morning kissed her brow,
And played with her nut-brown hair;
But oft she turned and looked around,
As if the silence scorning;
'Twas time for the mower to whet his scythe,
At five o'clock in the morning.

And over the meadow the mowers came,
And merry their voices rang;
And one among them wended his way
To where the milkmaid sang;
And, as he lingered by her side,
Despite his comrade's warning,
The old, old story was told again,
At five o'clock in the morning.

## Fireside Tale.

### SQUIRE BURTON'S SECOND WIFE.

BY CAROLINE F. PRESTON.

Mr. Nathaniel Burton was a widower. By a long course of domestic tyranny, he had worried his wife into the grave where, at last, she might be at rest. Meek and gentle by nature, she was ill-fitted to hold her own, against her husband's despotism.

About a year after her death, Mr. Burton began to look about him for a second wife. He sadly missed his domestic slave, and thought it best to supply her place. Casting about for a successor, he bethought himself of Mrs. Dunham, a widow, who had lately moved into the village, and who lived very quietly in a small house which she hired from Mr. Burton, himself.

"She seems a smart, capable woman," thought Mr. Burton, "and could readily do my work without a servant. Besides, as she lives without labor, she must have some property, probably three or four thousand dollars, at least. I think I'll propose."

Mr. Burton began, forthwith, to pay attentions to the widow. They were graciously received by Mrs. Dunham, who had no objection to presiding over the household of the wealthiest man in the village.

In due time, for Mr. Burton would do nothing precipitately, he offered himself and was accepted, with becoming confusion, by Mrs. Dunham. He pressed for an early wedding. She made no very strenuous objections, and after a suitable interval, Mrs. Dunham became Mrs. Burton. A female friend warned her that Mr. Burton was a domestic tyrant, and had worried his first wife out of the world. But this information did not alter her resolution. She laughed a little, and said, "I don't think he will be as successful with me."

"At any rate, I thought it my duty to warn you."

"And I thank you for it," said the widow. "It is just possible that you and he may be mistaken in me."

"She'll have a harder time of it than she thinks for," thought her informant. But, of course, there was no more to be said, since her mind was made up.

Squire Burton, for such was his designation in the village, considerately postponed the announcement of his domestic programme, to his wife, for a few days, and the assumption of his rightful authority. For this he had a motive. He wished first to secure the control of the late Mrs. Dunham's property, for which, he rightly judged, conciliatory means were best adapted.

"Mrs. Burton," he said, one morning at the breakfast table, "there is one subject which I have neglected to mention thus far, but which, considering the relation between us, it is proper that I should speak of.

"Well!" said the lady, in some curiosity.

"How is your property invested?"

"Why," laughed the lady, "it is mainly invested in articles of wearing apparel, of which you, as a gentleman, can know little. I might make out a list, though I can't conceive what good it would do."

"Ahem, Mrs. Burton, you are disposed to be jocose. I allude, not to your wardrobe, but to your money."

"Money! To what do you refer?"

"To your property, of course."

"Who told you I had any?"

"I judged that you could not live on air, Mrs. Burton," said the Squire, getting provoked.

"May I ask how you defrayed your expenses before I married you?"

"I received an allowance from my brother."

"How much?"

"You are quite curious, Mr. Burton. Three hundred dollars, if you must know."

"Well my, dear, as your husband, it is proper that the sum be paid over to me in future, and I can supply you with money, as you require."

"Bless me, Mr. Burton, you don't think that the allowance will be continued to me, now that I am the wife of a rich man. Of course, I relinquished it at once."

"It seems to me, you might have consulted me before taking such a step," said her husband, in some discomfiture.

"Why should I? I took it for granted, you were able to support a wife," and Mrs. Burton poured out for herself, a fresh cup of coffee.

This was a severe disappointment to the Squire. Though rich, he was fond of money, and felt sure of three or four thousand dollars by his marriage, which anticipation it seemed had failed.

He was more than ever resolved that Mrs. Burton should pay her way by labor, if in no other way.

"Betty will leave at the end of the week," he said. Now Betty was the maid of all work.

"Why? Isn't she a good servant?"

"With our small family we do not need a servant. Surely you can do all the work."

Mrs. Burton shrugged her shoulders.

"I don't think you will fancy my cooking," said the lady coolly.

"It would be very remarkable if a woman of your experience could not cook well," said her husband.

"O well, I have warned you," said his wife. "If you wish to try the experiment, I have no objection."

There was something in Mrs. Burton's manner that puzzled her lord and master. If she had been angry, he would have known how to deal with her. But she appeared so thoroughly mistress of herself that he could not fathom her.

On Saturday night Betty went. Mrs. Burton was aroused at an early hour next morning by her husband, with the information that it was time to get up and get breakfast.

"Very well, I will be ready by the time the fire is made," she said.

"Who do you expect to make the fire?"

"You, of course, unless you choose to employ a boy."

"You will make the fire, yourself, Mrs. Burton."

"I don't know how, Mr. Burton."

"Don't know how to make a fire!"

"The last time I tried I nearly burned the house down."

"It is all pretence," thought the Squire. "I will command her to do it. I expect you to make the attempt, Mrs. Burton."

"O very well," said the lady quietly.

She dressed quite at her leisure, in spite of her husband's attempts to hurry her, and went down stairs. Soon the smell of smoke penetrated Mr. Burton's chamber. Dressing hastily, he went down stairs, and found the kitchen so full of smoke that it was impossible to see across it. Examination revealed the fact that Mrs. Burton had stuffed the stove with green wood, and closed the damper.

"I told you, I didn't know how to make the fire," she said, quite undisturbed, "but you would not believe."

"A natural born fool could have done better than you have done, Mrs. Burton," said her husband, provoked.

"Then, suppose *you* try, Mr. Burton."

This sounded sarcastic, but Mrs. Burton looked so unconscious that her husband thought it best not to notice it. He made the fire himself, and Mrs. Burton proceeded to make some coffee and cook some beef-steak.

In due time breakfast was ready. But such coffee and such steak! The first was muddy, and about as attractive as dishwater. The last was burned to a crisp. Now the discharged Betty was a capital cook, and Squire Burton, being something of an epicure, had thoroughly enjoyed her meals. But now!

He tasted the coffee, and his face was expressive of the deepest disgust.

"The coffee is, without exception, the worst I ever tasted."

"So I think," said Mrs. Burton, sipping a little.

"Is it possible you can't make better?"

"I told you I was nothing of a cook."

Next, the Squire essayed the meat.

He threw down his knife and fork.

"It is like sole leather," he said. "It is burned and tough."

"It isn't very nice," said the lady candidly.

"You ought to be ashamed of such cookery, Mrs. Burton."

"I am," said she, "but then I told you what a miserable cook I was."

Squire Burton was hungry, and he couldn't eat what was on the table. He actually, with his own august hands, cooked some beef-steak and made some coffee, both of which were of better quality. His wife praised his work and partook heartily.

"You should have been a cook, Mr. Burton," said she.

"Was it sarcasm?" Mr. Burton didn't know.

"My first wife was an excellent cook," he said reproachfully.

"What a pity she died!" said Mrs. Burton, number two.

The worthy pair went to church, but Squire Burton didn't enjoy the services. He couldn't help thinking what sort of a dinner he should have. It resulted in his cooking some more steak, as Mrs. Burton couldn't trust herself to cook the chicken, which had been purchased.

The chamber-work fared no better. The bed was made in so ingeniously uncomfortable a manner, that Squire Burton got very little rest.

"I should like to know what you can do, Mrs. Burton?" he said savagely.

"I can make you a watch-ease," she said.

"Bother the watch-eases!" he retorted.

The result was that Betty came back, and henceforth the steak was well cooked, the coffee was good, and the beds well made.

Squire Burton was puzzled. It was quite evident that his second wife was not at all like the first.

"At any rate," he thought, "I will punish her by keeping her short of money."

When, therefore, Mrs. Burton requested twenty-five dollars to replenish her wardrobe, she was met by a blank refusal.

"I can't afford to dress you so extravagantly, madam," he said.

"Very well," said his wife, smiling incomprehensively.

"What'll she do now?" thought the Squire. "She takes it coolly enough."

The next day, as Squire Burton was walking with a gentleman of his acquaintance, he unexpectedly met his wife dressed in a faded calico, wearing an old straw bonnet, about three times as large as the fashion, and a pair of slipshod shoes.

"Good Heavens! Mrs. Burton, how came you out in such a rig?"

"I thought you couldn't afford to have me dress well," she said, smiling sweetly on his companion. "You know you refused me money, yesterday, for dress."

"How much do you want?" demanded the mortified husband, flushing as he saw the amused looks of his companion.

"If you could spare me twenty-five cents," said Mrs. Burton, meekly, "I might get a shop-worn ribbon cheap for my bonnet."

"Here are twenty-five dollars," said Mr. Burton, who would like to have boxed his wife's ears. "Take them, and don't appear on the streets like this again."

"Thank you," said his wife. "Of course, I will be guided by your wishes."

Mrs. Burton had no more trouble about financial supplies. She could always resort to the old bonnet and calico, which she kept in reserve for an emergency. So in other things, Squire Burton soon found out that, resist as he might, he must yield eventually,

"For, when a woman will, she will, depend on't,
And when she won't, she won't, and there's an end on't."

At present, he is one of the best regulated husbands, and while he occasionally makes a show of authority, it is observed that Mrs. Burton generally has her own way.—*Yorkville Enquirer.*

### THE TURN IN LIFE.

Between the years of forty and sixty, a man who has properly regulated himself may be considered in the prime of life. His matured strength of constitution renders him almost impervious to the attack of disease, and experience has given soundness to his judgement. His mind is resolute, firm and equal; all mastery over business; builds up a competence on the foundation he has formed in early manhood, and passes through a period of life attended by many gratifications. Having gone a year or two past sixty he arrives at a stand still. But athwart this is a viaduct, called the turn of life which, if crossed in safety, leads to the "valley of old age," round which the river winds, and then beyond without a boat or causeway to effect its passage. The bridge is, however, constructed of fragile materials, and it depends upon how it is trodden, whether it bend or break. Gout and apoplexy are also in the vicinity to waylay the traveler, and thrust him from the pass; but let him gird up his loins and provide himself with a fitter staff, and he may trudge in safety with perfect composure.

To quit the metaphor the "Turn in Life," is a turn either a prolonged walk, or into the grave. The system and powers having reached their utmost expansion, now begin to either close like flowers at sunset, or break down at once. One injudicious stimulant, a fatal excitement, may force it beyond its strength, whilst a careful supply of the props, and the withdrawal of all that tends to force a plant, will sustain it in beauty and vigor until night has entirely set in.—*The Science of Life by a Physician.*

Lawn Making.—To make a good lawn the ground must be properly graded in such form as the owner may deem proper—a continuous slope or a succession of them. Under-drainage is important in many cases. Deep plowing, liberal manuring, and a complete pulverization of the soil, are pre-requisites to success. The seeding is usually done with a mixture of equal proportions of rye-grass, blue-grass and white clover, pressed into the soil with a light roller. The mowing should be frequent, and a top-dressing of fine manure annually or biennially, as may be necessary. Usually a dressing once in two years will be sufficient.

Grape Soils.—Dr. J. A. Warder, alluding to grape soils, states that it is the very common opinion, after many years' experience, of those who have been eminently successful in the culture of the vine, that the clay cannot be too hard and compact for the roots of the grape to penetrate. Among the plants which are an indication of good grape lands is the blue grass or *Poa compressa*, which always takes possession of such clays, particularly if they contain lime.

A correspondent of the Iowa Homestead says he presumes that in Van Buren county alone $15,000 would not replace the trees that were destroyed by rabbits in that county last Winter.

Voltaire said: The more married men you have the fewer crimes there will be. Marriage renders a man more virtuous and more wise.—An unmarried man is but half of a perfect being, and it requires the other half to make things right: and it cannot be expected that in this imperfect state he can keep the straight path of rectitude any more than a boat with one oar or a bird with one wing can keep a straight course. In nine cases out of ten, where married men become drunkards, or where they commit crimes against the peace of the community, the foundation of these acts was laid while in a single state, or where the wife is, as is sometimes the case, an unsuitable match. Marriage changes the current of a man's feelings, and gives him a centre for his thoughts, his affections, and his acts.

# General Miscellany.

## THE DELAWARE PEACH CROP.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

The peach crop is always of the first importance in this State, and of unusual interest. This year it is very large, being estimated at from one and a half to two million baskets. The season has been very unfavorable for gathering and shipping, and prices have, consequently ranged lower than they usually do. The heavy rains nearly all through August occasioned much fruit to rot on the trees, and prevented what was good from being gathered in season and in good order. Besides this, for the same reason, the peaches do not ripen uniformly. Sometimes the one side is quite soft while the other is quite green. Of course the peach is poor. Still, with all these drawbacks, great quantities of fine peaches are sent to market, and have commanded fair prices. The poor fruit, as a general rule, is not sent forward, but to the distillery, or fed to hogs.

We commenced shipping here on the 23d of July, but several shipments south of this had been made some five or six days before that. The season will close about the last of September; but the great bulk of the crop will be in the market before then.

The weather, market, and transportation are all more satisfactory to growers than they were; although very just complaints are made against the exorbitant prices charged by the railroad companies between this and New York. But this we hope will correct itself, as a line of steamers is now established from ports on Delaware Bay to that city, with transports communicating with the principal towns on the creeks in the interior. These steamers have done a regular and good business this season, which will be greatly increased by another year. Even already shippers are hauling their peaches over the Delaware railroad to Little creek and other places. The reason of this is that by the road they pay 36¼ cents freight per basket to Jersey City, and only 25 to New York by the boat; a difference of nearly *fifty per cent.* in favor of the latter way of transportation.

DELAWARE.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

The recent frosts have injured the crops in Northern Wiscousin. The cranberry crop in some places has been entirely killed.

The late heavy rains in the Southwest have quickened the exertions of the army worm, and the planters are in a state of despair.

The Vicksburg Evening Telegraph urges the resort to sheep-raising as a business in Mississippi. The hills abound in Bermuda grass, and would afford pasturage to immense flocks.

Prof. Johnson says, "a green crop plowed in is believed by some practical men to enrich the soil as much as the droppings of cattle from a quantity of green food three times as great."

The Milwaukee Wisconsin says that the average yield of wheat this year in the older settled parts of Wisconsin and Northern Illinois is not over twelve bushels an acre.

Crop accounts from the interior of North Carolina are very favorable in regard to the cotton crop.

Complaints are made that, in the vicinity of the city of New York, turnips and carrots are rotting, as well as potatoes.

A correspondent of the Rural World uses a medicine for the eure of slobbers in horses, that though infallible, is not popular because it is so simple, handy and cheap. A dose or two of from one to two gallons of dry wheat bran has never failed with him.

The influence of the large eereal erops of the Northwest is already beginning to be felt in the revival of business in that rich agricultural sectien, though not as yet very perceptible here. The farmers are getting good prices for their products, and are generally selling freely. The railroads which eenter at Chicago and Milwaukee are over burdened with the immense grain traffic. The shipping on the lakes is taxed to its utmost capacity.

A certain insect lays 2000 eggs, but a single tomtit will destroy 200,000 eggs in a year. A swallow devours 543 insects in a day, eggs and all. A sparrow's nest was found to contain 700 pairs of the upper wings of the cockchafer, though other food was procurable in abundance. So save the birds.

The corn crop in northeastern and southern Georgia is more abundant than for many years, and the price in Atlanta is only twenty-five cents a bushel.

## A MISSING GRAVE.

"It is a strange reflection," says the London Review, "that the remains of one of the greatest of English novelists may possibly have been swallowed up by an earthquake, and carried down to God knows what strange region of volcanic fire or abyssmal darkness. Yet this may not improbably have been the fate of the mortal relics of Henry Fielding. It is well known that, in June, 1754, the author of 'Tom Jones,' then in the last stage of a complicated disease, resulting from his dissipated life, left England for Lisbon, where he died in the October of the same year, at the age of 47. He was buried in the Protestant cemetery of the Lusitanian capital; but, just a year afterward, the terrible earthquake occurred which laid the greater part of Lisbon in ashes, and the Protestant burying-ground suffered seriously. The Lisbon correspondent of the Daily News remarks that 'it is not at all certain that the bones of the great novelist lie under that heavy stone monument with the tasteless Latin inscription, which was erected about five-and-twenty years ago, by a committee of British merchants. Tradition, it is true, pointed out the locality of Mr. Fielding's grave; but the ground or its contents may have got jumbled in the great upheaval, or the remains of the novelist may have been swallowed 'full fathoms five' below the surface. 'It is astonishing,' observes the correspondent in question, 'how little is known or has been written respecting the closing scenes of the life of the father of our English novels.'"

The Rhode Island Horticultural Society gave a Grape Exhibition at Providence on Tuesday and Wednesday. There were one hundred and fifty-five contributions, including exhibitons of Pears and Peaches. The Exhibition was a fine one, and creditable to the Society. Joseph P. Childs, of Woonsocket, took the first premiums for Black Hamburg and Syrian Grapes, and Alva Vose first premium for Beurre Bose Pears.

A Good Endorsement.—We take great pleasure in presenting the following extract from a letter received from J. Lacey Darlington, Esq., President of Chester County Agricultural Society, West Chester, Pa.:

"During the Spring and Summer of 1866, I tested Baugh's Raw Bone Phosphate pretty thoroughly in my vegetable garden, and with very gratifying results; my crops of peas, beans, early corn, &c., came forward earlier, and were more productive than the same crops planted with stable manure; while my root crops, potatoes, salsify, parsnips, beets, onions, &c., grew most luxuriantly and were unusually productive.

I applied Baugh's Phosphate to my flower-beds with remarkable results. Verbenas and Petunias, which generally grow from one to three feet high, stretched up to five feet in height, under a liberal application of the Phosphate, and bloomed most profusely till overtaken by the frost."

Any One desiring to employ a Commission Produce Dealer is referred to the advertisement in this paper of James W. Edgerly. He offers to those interested, references for responsibility and promptness.



# Marriages.

In Bellingham, 25th inst., by Rev. T. J. Massey, Mr. Ichabod Cook to Miss Minerva E. Mann, daughter of Asel Mann, all of Bellingham.

In Pawtucket, 22d inst., Mr. John Skuce, of Warwick, to Miss Ardelia C. Thurber of Pawtucket.

In Grafton, 17th inst., George H. Taft to Jennie B., daughter of Wm. Robbins, all of Grafton.

In Grafton, 20th inst., George W. Ferry, 2d, to Evelyn Lee, both of Grafton.

In Millbury, 18th inst., Samuel W. Marble, of Millbury, to Carrie Billings of Cambridge.

In Hopkinton, 24th inst., Albert L. Rice, of Worcester, to Mary B. Corbett of Hopkinton.

# Deaths.

In Blackstone, 16th inst., R. Herbert Benson, only son of Rufus A. Benson, aged 22 years and one month.

In Pawtucket, 20th inst., Spencer Beers, aged 63 years.

In South Attleborough, 21st inst., Charles A., son of Stephen W. and Ellen Phillips, aged 3 years, 2 months and 16 days.

In Milford, Sept. 14th, Lovina H. Lackey, aged 70 years, 11 months.

In Mendon, Sept. 14th, Ellis Taft, aged 69 years.

In Upton, Sept. 14th, Mary E., wife of Liberty W. Nelson, aged 18 years.

In Fitchburg, Mass., 11th inst., Capt. Noah Sabin, formerly of Pomfret, Conn., aged 89 years.

In Sturbridge, Mass., 17th inst., Elias Carpenter, aged 81 years. Deceased was an invalid pensioner of the war of 1812, and one of the last survivors who fought at the battles of Chippewa, Lundy's Lane, Christy's Field and Tippecanoe.

In Putnam, Ct., 17th inst., Amey, widow of Seneca Congdon, and a member of the Society of Friends, aged 89 years and 11 months.

In Dundas, C. W., Aug. 31st, of Epilepsy, George H. Pitts, son of the late Joseph and Bathsheba Pitts of Smithfield, R. I., aged 32 years. He served in the war, in Company H., 1st R. I. Artillery, and was honorably discharged.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Sept. 27, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 14c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 90c. |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.50 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $16, 17 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 25 | Molasses ₩ gal | 60a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80cas1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 40c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 28c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 16a18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

## BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

September 18, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 3192; Sheep and Lambs 13,346 Swine, 3000.

Prices. Beef Cattle—Extra, $13.00@ $13.50; first quality, $12.25@$12.75; second quality, $10.50@$12.00; third quality, $8.00@$10.25 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 10@10½c ₩ lb. Country Tallow, 7a7½c ₩ lb

Brighton Hides, 10½@11 c. ₩ lb; Country Tallow, 7@7½ cents ₩ lb.

Lamb Skins, 50@75c each; Calf Skins, 16a18c.

Sheep Skins, 50 @ 75c. each.

The supply for the week is much larger than that of last.—Prices on the best grades remain about the same, but upon poorer qualities there is a still further decline.

Stores—Prices, yearlings $15@25; two year olds $30@45; three year olds $45@65.

Working Oxen—There is a good supply in market, and the demand is active. We quote sales of pairs at $160, 170, 180, $195, $200, $215, $225, $230, $235, 240@$265.

Milch Cows—Extra $80a110; ordinary $60@75; Store Cows $43a55 ₩ head.

Sheep and Lambs.—There is a large supply in market; many of them were taken at a commission. We quote sales of Lambs at $2a2 75 for common; extra $3.50a4 ₩ hd: old Sheep 3a5c per pound.

Swine—Wholesale 6½a7½c ₩ lb; retail 7½a8½c ₩ lb; mostly Columbia county Pigs in market. Fat Hogs—3000 at market; prices 7¼a8½c ₩ lb.

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

RAPID ADVANCE IN GRAIN.

As the Fall trade opens there is more animation perceptible, and in all departments of trade there is a general improvement.

Flour.—High grades have advanced 50 cents to 75 cents. Low grades have declined 50 cents, with more doing for export.

Wheat.—Winter wheat has advanced 5 to 10 cents a bushel. Spring wheat has declined about 5c., and closes heavy with more demand for export.

Rye has advanced 5 cents a bushel, and is more active chiefly for milling.

Oats.—There has been an active speculative advance in oats, and prices have advanced 14 cents to 15 cents a bushel. There have been very large purchases for future delivery.

Corn has also been in very active request for investment and for export, at an advance of 7 to 8 cents a bushel.

Cotton has declined under the unfavorable news from Europe, more favorable crop accounts, and large receipts.

Pork has fluctuated and declined a dollar a barrel, and is heavy at the concession.

Lard has been active at better prices.

Butter has advanced 3 to 5 cents a pound, particularly on choice.



A Fountain of Fire.—Put fifteen grains of finely granulated zinc, and six grains phosphorus cut in small pieces in one tumbler, (cut this under water;) mix in another glass a teaspoonful of sulphuric acid with two teaspoonful of water. Take the two glasses in a dark room, and there pour the dilute acid over the zinc and phosphorus. In a short time phosphuretted hydrogen gas will be produced, and beautiful jets of bluish flame will dart from all parts of the surface of the liquid, the mixture will be quite luminous, and a quantity of luminous smoke will rise in a column from the glass. A Fountain of Fire is a very apt name for the appearance that is produced. The experiment is very easily performed, and is very beautiful. Young people, however, should not attempt this experiment for fear of accidents.

# Miscellany.

## REVENUE FROM RAW COTTON.

This staple has rapidly assumed place as an important source of public income, and last year it yielded the second largest amount received from one source, on the list of manufactures and productions. During the war, of course, but little cotton could be reached, on which tax could be levied and collected, and it is, therefore, not surprising that the aggregate receipts for 1865, on cotton, exhibited an increase over those for the preceding year, amounting to over seventeen hundred per cent.

The attention of Congress was directed to the subject as early as the year 1862, and the law of the 1st of July of that year provided, that "on and after the first day of October, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, there shall be levied, collected and paid, a tax of one half of one per cent. per pound, on all cotton held or owned by any person or persons, corporation or association of persons."

In imposing this low rate it was probably believed that a much larger quantity of the article would be reached than was reached. The amount of revenue collected under this rate, between October 1st, 1862, and June 30th, 1863, was not much more than three hundred and fifty-one thousand dollars, which represents something above seventy million pounds. The law of June 30th, 1864, however, increased the tax to two cents per pound, and the total receipts on the staple for the fiscal year, amounted to considerably more than one and three-quarter millions, representing about eighty-eight and a half million pounds. The last named rate continued in force during the entire fiscal year, 1866, but during that year, the war having terminated, and the whole Southern section of the country being accessible, allowing the establishment of the excise officers therein, the revenue upon the entire crop was collected, realizing to the Government nearly eighteen and a half millions. This was yielded, too, by a partial crop, cultivation of the product having been seriously impeded by the lack of implements and laboring hands.

The law of 13th of July, 1866, declares "that on and after the first day of August, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, in lieu of the taxes on unmanufactured cotton, as provided in 'an Act to provide internal revenue to support the Government, to pay interest on the public debt, and for other purposes,' approved June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, as amended by the Act of March third, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, there shall be paid by the producer, owner or holder, upon all cotton produced within the United States, and upon which no tax has been levied, paid or collected, a tax of three cents per pound, as hereinafter provided; and the weight of such cotton shall be ascertained by deducting four per centum for tare from the gross weight of each bale or package."

It will be seen from this, that while the rate of tax was advanced from two cents per pound to three cents per pound, an allowance of four per cent. for tare was granted, which was but just and proper, and which, undoubtedly, should have been conceded from the beginning of the system.

Of the eighteen and a half millions paid into the public Treasury last fiscal year, Louisiana contributed four and three-tenth millions; Alabama, three and three-quarter millions; Georgia, three and a half millions; Tennessee, two and a seventh millions; Texas, one and four-tenth millions; Mississippi, seven hundred and fifty-six thousand; South Carolina, seven hundred and thirty-two thousand; Missouri, two hundred and forty-seven thousand; North Carolina, two hundred and twelve thousand; Arkansas, two hundred and three thousand; Kentucky, one hundred and twenty-one thousand; Florida, ninety-eight thousand, and the balance by other States.

The estimate from this source for the current year was probably twenty-five millions, and much more would have been collected had the crop of last year been a half crop, but it only averaged a one-third crop, in consequence of the ravages of the wet and the worm, and other causes.

Last November it was estimated by commission merchants and cotton planters in some quarters, that the year's crop would amount to a million and a quarter bales, averaging five hundred pounds to the bale. Others were assured the yield would reach two million bales. But the official statement made at the Department of Agriculture, based upon careful county estimates received from all the cotton producing States is, in our opinion, entitled to most consideration for accuracy and reliability. This estimate provided for one and three-quarter million bales, of four hundred pounds to the bale. This crop would be worth, at New York prices, over two hundred and thirty-five millions, allowing four per cent. tare, which is unnecessarily liberal, the true tare being about two and a half per cent. Allowing for this latter tare, the crop would be worth nearly two hundred and thirty-nine millions.

According to the accounts which are being received from all quarters, there is encouragement to believe that the crop for this year will be a very favorable one. We are led to hope that every acre of cotton soil, which could possibly be cultivated with chances for successful yield, was planted with the staple, and that the coming crop will make a heavy total.

The present condition of the South is the consequence of a violent disturbance that would have entirely broken up any other country. It is fast becoming improved, much faster than the majority of the people believed practicable.

Let her, in justice to herself, give her sincere efforts and attention to the establishment of a satisfactory labor system, and produce by that system crops that will be much more profitable than those under her old system, and speedily restore her ancient state of plenty, comfort and wealth. The garden spot of our country, she enjoys advantages of soil and clime that place within her hands the power to raise crops with one-third of the actual labor which is demanded by cultivation in less favored regions of our land. She should rise to a full comprehension of the vast interests at stake, and remember that every day lost by her, is one gained by Egypt and Brazil. These great rivals, whom she so successfully competed with before the war, have not been idle during her long absence from the markets of Europe. Stimulated by the high prices prevailing, they have made gigantic efforts to secure an advantageous position in all markets; and Egypt, who furnished Great Britain in 1860 with but nearly thirty-nine million pounds, supplied that country in 1864 with one hundred and sixteen million pounds, for which she received over sixty millions of dollars. And East India, whose supply to Great Britain in 1860 was sixty-six millions of pounds, actually furnished that kingdom in 1864 with two hundred and sixty-nine million pounds, receiving therefor one hundred and seven and a half millions of dollars. These figures will indicate something of the efforts put forth by these two nations.

But all this the South need not fear. She can, without any doubt, regain her former control, as soon as she is able to throw into the English and Continental markets the bulk of cotton that is required for consumption. Past experience teaches this fact—Egypt can never raise a very large crop, owing to the scarcity of labor. She is limited and could only go beyond a certain amount of cotton production by importing breadstuffs, of which she was once a large exporter, before all available soil and labor was turned to cotton cultivation. India has disadvantages of soil and climate.

The South has every advantage that could be desired, and the promise of a most prosperous future. Let her look to it, that no exertions may be wanting on her part to ensure the early fulfilment of that promise. The result is one of vital moment to her.—*Internal Revenue Record.*

# Advertising Department.

## Pennsylvania.



## New Jersey.



## New York.




**TERMS OF ADVERTISING.**

☞ A limited number of advertisements will be published in the FARM AND FIRESIDE. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a good style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

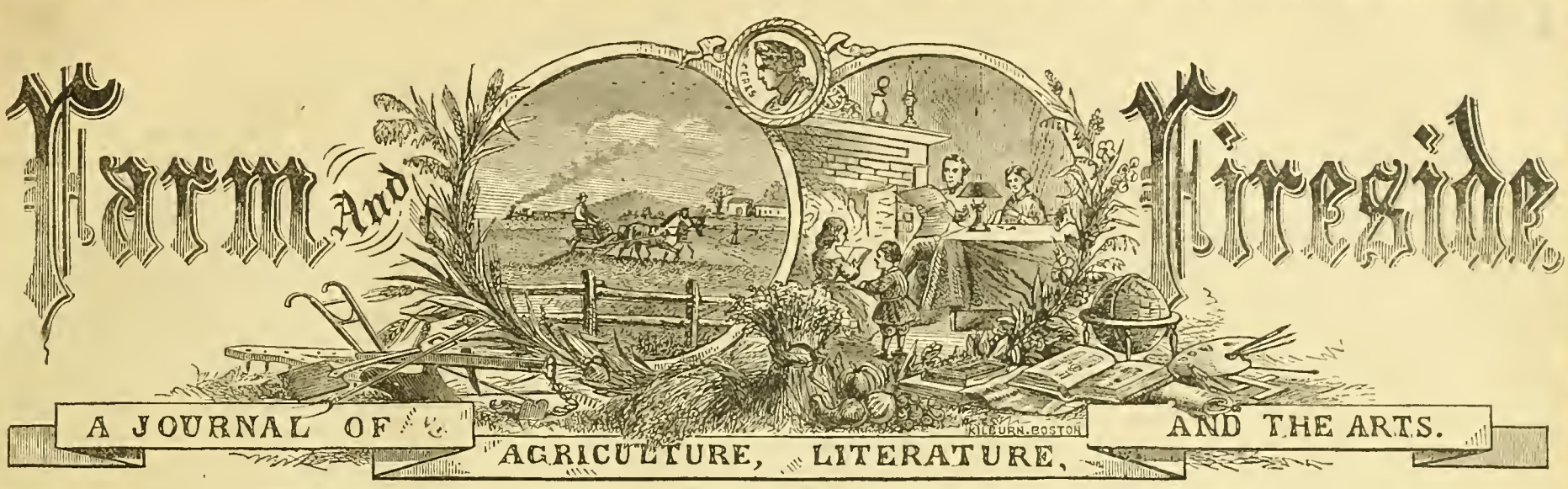
**COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.**

WE wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the FARM AND FIRESIDE may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

**THE FARM AND FIRESIDE**

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

# Farm And Fireside.



A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1867. NO. 39.


Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## FARM NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR OCTOBER.

From the lateness of the season and the great amount of wet weather along the Atlantic coast, the work of the farm will have lingered along so that the present month will show much work undone that is commonly done in September. At the present writing all nature is covered with her mantle of green, and most crops are yet growing; and unless it be some trees and vines which have begun to take on their autumnal hue, we might think it were August or early September; but we can hardly expect that October will close without the usual show and gorgeous display of colors in the woods and among all foliage, although somewhat later than usual; these will contrast beautifully with the more sober hue of the cleared fields, though it is the habitual flush that betokens the completion of the growing season and the commencement of decay which will mar the beauty of the landscape. The sun is slowly receding from his northern journey, and transferring his favors to other lands which have enjoyed their winter's repose. The birds which have made our woods and groves joyous with their music, and destroyed many insects destructive to the interest of the agriculturist, are following to enjoy the smiles of the receding orb, and continue their labors of usefulness and enjoyment of man. The husbandman's reflections will naturally turn to a survey of the season's operations, as he spends his lengthening evenings, made more genial by the side of a warm hearth and social family enjoyment. He will have cause to rejoice over well filled stores, as, although he has had many discouragements by unfavorable weather, the season in the main has brought good crops, some kinds above an average, while others fall somewhat short. The hay and grain crops have proved above the average of the past few years, also the small fruits have been abundant; but as to apples and winter fruit, the supply will be below the average. Some fields of corn and potatoes will have suffered from the excessive wet of the season, and that will tend strongly to show the importance of thorough drainage, which will obviate all such difficulty. Underdraining and thorough culture, together with high manuring, will tend largely to overcome the deficiencies of the season, although there will always be contingencies to be taken into account in estimating for future farm operations. The farmer who depends entirely upon favorable seasons, will usually be found an unskillful cultivator; he will often have occasion to complain of the inclemency of the elements. No less unwise is it to conduct our agricultural operations with reference only to the present, or a single year's operations. To be successful and highly prosperous we should lay our plans to make our lands increasingly productive. We, of the present day, can see the result of the operations of our ancestors, who merely strove to realize the largest returns from year to year, without any regard to the future fertility of the soil, in the reduced fertility of our fields, and the expense we are put to in order to bring the soil up to its maximum fruitfulness. Had our ancestors returned to the soil a substitute for the elements withdrawn in the crops, our agriculture would be much more remunerative at the present day. Few, if any, operations upon the farm are more fully justified, in view of immediate and permanent benefit and improvement, than draining. A thoroughly drained soil is provided for regulating itself, to successfully resist and withstand extremes which would destroy crops on undrained land. There is a ready outlet for any surplus water, thus preventing drowning vegetation; or, if a drouth prevail, the air permeates the cooler soil, leaving moisture which is imparted to growing plants. The importance of this subject was discussed in a late issue of this journal, and I here leave it, only advising that the fall is the favorable season for draining, and counseling the commencing this fall, at least on a small scale, on that field which suffered the most from being wet the past season. With all the deferred work, the farmer will find the present a very busy month; it will then stand him in hand to take time by the forelock to perform all his duties. In addition to gathering such crops as have not already been harvested and come in readiness, preparations may be needed for storing them. To save a crop often requires as much or more forethought than to raise it. Before the inclement season commences there should be a general clearing up and putting things in order, preparatory for the season; stables put in readiness for putting up stock, cellars arranged and prepared to exclude the frosts, and properly store and preserve the contents; manures drawn out from the yards and spread on the meadows and grain; or, if laid up in piles, be well covered several inches with soil, to shed rain and save washing and leaching; weeds gathered and burned, stock culled and the surplus disposed of, tools cleared up and safely housed, and every thing put in order and made snug.

*Apples.*—Use extra care in gathering and saving what few there may be; pare and dry all that are suitable, after selecting the best for winter; make others into cider for vinegar. Save all that will keep for winter, picking and handling them carefully, not to bruise or otherwise injure them; pack them carefully in barrels, and either carry them immediately to a cool cellar and store, or head them up and place the barrels on their side in the shade where it is cool, to lie till danger of freezing, and then store; the first is preferable.

*Buildings.*—Soon we shall have searching winds and driving storms; are all the buildings prepared to resist the efforts of entrance these will make at every crack and corner? One dollar expended now in repairs may save many dollars in damage to contents, or in fuel and feed. Shelter should be thrown up where manure is to be thrown from the stables, if none is already provided.

*Butter.*—Increase the quantity and quality by feeding the cows judiciously with good, rich and succulent feed; pumpkins, squash, beet, carrot and turnip tops will increase and keep up the flow of milk; a small feed of shorts or meal will also tell on the products of the dairy. With the price of good butter at 40 cents per pound, and advancing in market, it will pay to use a little extra care in making a good article, and increasing the quantity.

*Cattle.*—The pastures will fail of giving feed that will keep cattle thriving after one or two hard frosts; they should be fed with corn stalks or other fodder before the pastures entirely fail. Shelter nights early in the season; they will do much better than if left out. If cattle go into winter quarters in good order they are easily kept thriving, with good warm quarters, and will come through in spring without loss.

*Carrots.*—Harvest early, before freezing weather, as they are easily injured by cold, and store in the barn, cellar, or other place secure from frosts, &c., ready for winter and spring feeding to cows and horses. The tops, in good order, make excellent fodder for milch cows.

*Corn.*—Finish cutting up, if not already done, and, as soon as fit, commence husking, and store in the corn-crib for drying; save a sufficient quantity of the best, most perfect ears with two or three husks on, and braid them in trusses, and hang in the loft for seed; bind and preserve the stalks for winter fodder, as with all the abundant crop of hay, you will want them to carry your stock through and have the usual surplus of hay, as it will be found that the hay will not spend as well as in dry growing seasons, although more bulky.

*Hogs.*—Push on fattening rapidly, as they will fat much easier now than in colder weather, as what they eat tends to increase flesh, instead of keeping the body warm. Keep the pens supplied with muck and litter, to increase the manure pile.

*Ice Houses.*—An ice house, from being a luxury, has become to be almost a necessity, and especially so on a dairy farm, where it will repay cost and expense. They can be cheaply built, and answer as good a purpose as more expensive ones; the fall is the time to prepare them for winter filling with the first good ice of the season.

*Manure.*—Call into requisition every resource for increasing the deposits of the farmer's best savings bank. Provide muck, leaves, straw, swale grass, saw dust, and every thing that can be converted into manure, and use for litter and composting.

*Poultry.*—Give them good, warm, well ventilated winter quarters, feed them liberally with a variety, and keep their quarters clean, and they will repay you in eggs at 40 to 50 cents per dozen, as they are likely to be from present appearances.

*Pumpkins and Squash.*—Store those that are wanted for winter use where they will keep dry, and not liable to freeze; properly cared for and preserved they will keep good a year or more.

H.

My Riverdale Farm, Sept. 30, 1867.

---

Volatile Soap for Removing Paint, Grease Spots, etc.—Four tablespoonsful of spirits of hartshorn, four tablespoonful of alcohol and a tablespoonful of salt. Shake the whole together in a bottle, and apply with a sponge or brush.

## PROPER DEPTHS FOR COVERING WHEAT.

As appropriately illustrating the subject of wheat seeding, the Canada Farmer refers to a suit brought in Ohio several years since, to recover damages from a man who contracted to sow a certain field to wheat. The field was sown, but either from carelessness or want of judgment, the seed was drilled in from six to seven inches deep. But a small quantity of it pushed plants above the surface, and these were of so feeble and exhausted a character that very little wheat was harvested from them. Damages were claimed on the ground of improper sowing, and witnesses introduced to substantiate the truth of the complaint. It appeared that on the stony and stumpy portions of the ground, where the drill could not penetrate deeply, the yield of wheat was good, hence the claim for damage on account of improper seeding.

Among the witnesses examined was one who said:—"Eight years ago I made an experiment to ascertain the proper depth of sowing wheat—depositing fifty seeds at the depth of eight inches; a like number, seven, six, five, four, three, two, and one inches, and fifty grains I raked in on the surface. Of those deposited eight inches, two came up, but formed no heads; of those deposited seven inches about one-fourth came up through the ground, but formed no heads. Ten of the fifty seeds covered five inches deep made defective heads. A few perfect heads resulted from the four-inch planting. All the three-inch ones germinated, but the two-inch row was *best, and came up sooner than the rest.*" Another witness:—"I should prefer to deposit the seed at the depth of one inch—certainly not deeper than two. It is a mistake to suppose that deep seeding is any security from winter-killing. The roots of plants form at the surface, whatever may be the depth of the seed. But, from frequent examinations, I am satisfied that wheat, not planted deeper than two inches, will start out better than that deposited at a greater depth—that is, will produce more plants and grain."

---

On Eating Pork.—Hall's Journal of Health has a sensible article on eating pork, in which our views are well expressed as follows:—"There is no trouble in eating pork in a cold climate. It is needed—or some fatty meat, for the support of life, while at the South vegetable diet is better. But whether the hog should be eaten, depends on the manner in which he is kept. If he be kept as a mere scavenger on filth and rottenness, the meat would be unfit to eat, as its food must enter into its composition. We see this in the difference between the hogs fed on acorns and those fed on corn. Any animal that lives upon the filth and waste of cities, should be rejected as food. But if the hog can be kept cleanly and on proper food, pork is as healthy as beef, or poultry, or fish."

---

Fraud in Milk.—Simple way of detecting reduced milk. Drop a little on the thumb-nail; if the milk is pure it will remain in its place; if not, it will flow away.

# Horticulture.

## PROPAGATIONS BY CUTTINGS.

The Gardner's Monthly, for September, gives the following good practical directions for propagating ornamentals by cuttings in the open air—which may now be too late for the extreme north, but will do for the Middle States, and will answer anywhere another year.

"The best way to propagate all the common kinds of bedding plants is to take a frame or hand-glass and set it on a bed of very sandy soil, made in a shady place in the open air. The sand should be fine and sharp, and there is, perhaps, nothing better than river sand for this purpose. The glass may be whitewashed on the inside, so as to afford additional security against injury from the sun's rays. Into this bed of sand, cuttings of half-ripened wood of the desirable plants may be set, and after putting in, slightly watered. Even very rare plants often do better this way than when under treatment in a regular propagating-house. In making cuttings, it is best to cut the shoots just under a bud—they root better, and are not so likely to rot off and decay. A cutting of about three eyes is long enough for most strong-growing things, such as Geraniums, Fuchsias, &c.

"Small growing things, of course, will take more buds to the one cutting. From one to three inches is, however, long enough for most cuttings. They should be inserted about one-third of their way under the sand, which latter should be pressed firmly against the row of cuttings with a flat piece of board—not, however, hard enough to force the particles of sand into the young and tender bark, which is often the first step to decay. For a few cuttings, they may be inserted with a dibble; but where many are to be put in, it saves time to mark a line on the sand with a rule or straight edge, and then cut down a face into the sand, say one or two inches deep, when the cuttings can be set against the face like box-edging. All amateurs should practice the art of propagating plants. There is nothing connected with gardening more interesting."

## CRANBERRY BEDS.

The production of the cranberry in eastern New Jersey, is worthy of remark. In Ocean County alone, the cultivated cranberry beds cover an area of more than 1,000 acres. The most approved plan of making a bed is to select a bog or low piece of ground which can be easily flowed with water, and drained to the depth of two feet, and after turning under the sod and pulverizing the surface, to cover the whole with white sand to the depth of six inches. The plants are placed about eighteen inches apart. They must be kept clear of weeds, and in the course of three or four years the whole surface will be covered with the vine. By means of a dam the bed is kept under water about one-half of the year; this plan effectually checks the ravages of the worm. The crop may be gathered in the fall, or if covered by water during the winter, in the spring. The average yield per acre is about two hundred bushels, and the average price per bushel about $3. After the bed begins to bear, the production of the berry is attended with less care and trouble than any other crop. Unlike other berries, it can be preserved without difficulty for a long time; the market, too, is seldom over-supplied. Large quantities are used on ship-board, and the foreign demand is constantly increasing. A bed of the first quality is generally held as high as $1,000 an acre. The American cranberry—of which there are three varieties well known to dealers—the Bell, the Bugle, and the Cherry—is much larger than the English cranberry. In some of the restaurants and other places in Paris where condiments and preserves are sold, the American cranberry now has a conspicuous place.—*New York Tribune.*

Strawberries.—Mr. Pardee of Illinois, has found that lime slaked in salt brine, sown broadcast, had kept insects from strawberries.

To Protect Fruit from the Curculio.—Mrs. C. D. Salisbury of Coventry, Chenago county, N. Y., states that by applying a thick coating of whitewash made of lime slacked with water, with a broom. from the roots of a tree to the limbs, when in blossom, or soon after, will protect the fruit of the plum (and why not apples and other fruit as well?) from the ravages of the curculio. She adds: It was by accident that I found it out—happening to whitewash a small plum tree while performing the operation on some other trees. Being surprised with fruit where none had ever ripened before, I was led to try it again. I have used it three years, leaving one tree and whitewashing the rest, to see whether it was in the lime or the season. Every time whitewashed trees were laden with fruit, while the one left without whitewashing never ripened a plum. A neighbor has tried with the same result —*Rural New Yorker.*

At a late meeting of the New York Farmer's Club, Mr. Quinn gave the following directions for managing currant cuttings. Currant wood can be turned into a plant the year it is grown, by setting any time from August to November. I would make a square, clean cut, have the ground mellow, that the young rootlets may meet with no obstructions, and then push the dirt closely around the bottom of the cutting. The fall is decidedly the best time to commence operations, because in so doing one gets a two years' growth in one. If it is very dry some mulching will be required, but generally, at this season, the ground is warmer than the atmosphere, and 98 per cent. should live.

# Various Matters.

## FENCES.

The only country in Europe, we believe, in which the landed proprietor is saddled with the enormous expenses of enclosure to protect himself from trespass is England; and there the hedge has been to a great extent substituted for that other costly nuisance, the fence, in the enclosure of farms, and their subdivision into fields. We have inherited the pernicious system from our British ancestry, and in early times when the country was partially and thinly settled, when timber was not only valueless but an encumbrance to be gotten rid of by the most expeditious means, there was some reason for its toleration; but now the case is far different. When we come to consider that the cost of building and repairing the fences of the United States is enormous, almost beyond the power of computation, it becomes matter for surprise that the agricultural community does not seek, by a total or even partial abolition of the system, to rid itself forever of a burden far more onerous than the federal taxation to meet the annual interest on our billions of national debt.

The late Nicholas Biddle, in one of his able agricultural addresses, delivered some thirty years ago,—estimated the cost of the fencing for the State of Pensylvania alone at $100,000,000; *and the annual cost of repairs at* $10,000,000! An able writer on National Wealth, says: "Strange as it may seem, the greatest investment in this country, the most costly product of human industry, is the common fences which enclose and divide the fields. No man dreams, that when compared to the outlay on these unpretending monuments of human art, our cities and our towns with all their wealth, are far behind; in many places the fences have cost more than the fences and farms are worth. It is the enormous burden which keeps down the agricultural interest of this country, causing an untold expenditure, beside the loss of the land the fences occupy." We heard the late Charles Calvert, of Prince George county, Maryland, a man who, notwithstanding his hereditary wealth, was eminently practical, estimate the annual tax for fencing on a farm of one hundred and fifty acres, properly enclosed and subdivided, with post and rail of chestnut, $130. In colonial times, in the older States timber was an encumbrance, taxing the ingenuity and industry of the farmer for its removal: now the reverse is the case; it is daily getting more scarce and valuable, and the period is not far distant when, as now in France (once the best timbered country in Europe), we will be compelled to buy it by the pound for domestic purposes.—True, in many parts of the country the hedge is being substituted for the more expensive fence; but that is a mere palliative, the substitution of a lesser for a greater evil. Beautiful as the hedges are in England, the public voice is being raised against them there, because of the enormous amount of land required for their support. Each hedge is five or six feet wide at its base; and it will exhaust the land on either side to the extent of fully five feet.—Where the divisions and subdivisions of an estate are as numerous as a judicious rotation of crops will frequently require, the abstraction of arable land amounts to a serious aggregate.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

The following recipe is for making the celebrated *Stucco Whitewash*, which imparts to a house such a clear, fine, smooth color:

"Take half a bushel of nice unslacked lime; slack it with boiling water, covering it during the process to keep in the steam. Strain the liquor through a fine sieve or strainer, and add to it one peck of clean salt, previously dissolved in water; three pounds of ground rice, ground to a thin paste, and stirred and boiled hot; half a pound of powdered Spanish whitening, and one pound of clean glue, which has been previously dissolved by first soaking well, and then hanging it over a small fire, in a small kettle, within a larger one filled with water. Add five gallons of hot water to the whole mixture; stir it well and let it stand a few days covered from dirt. It should be put on quite hot; for this purpose it can be kept in a kettle, on a portable furnace. It is said that about one pint of this mixture will cover a square yard upon the outside of a house, if properly applied. Brushes more or less small, may be used according to the neatness of the job required. Coloring may be used to impart any desirable tinge to the preparation which retains its brilliancy for a long time."

Curious Fact in Natural History.—The grubs or larvæ of a kind of long-legged fly, belonging to the *tipula* family, and found in the forests of Northern Europe, are without feet, and unable, consequently, to move far from one locality. They occur in vast numbers in certain places, and when desirous of changing their abode, they attach themselves to each other by means of a glutinous secretion, so as to form a living cord many feet in length, and one or two inches in thickness. In one instance the column was more than thirty yards long, although the grubs themselves measure less than half an inch each. The column crawls slowly along at a snail's pace, but moves steadily to its goal. If an intermediate portion be removed, the remaining fragments, if undisturbed, reunite, and if the head and tail of the procession be brought together a circle is formed, which keeps going round and round, sometimes for days, before it is broken and progress can be resumed. It is probable that the resemblance to a serpent may have the effect of preventing attacks upon the column by other animals.

Recipe for Worms in Horses.—Take of powdered bark, two ounces; of powdered sulphur, four ounces; table salt, three ounces; wormseed one ounce; carbonate of soda, three ounces. Mix together the mass and give to the horse a tablespoonful every night in his food. It will remove the worms, and give tone to the digestive organs.

Disease in animals, like disease in the human body, are often rendered fatal by neglecting to notice the promonitory symptoms, and providing suitable and early remedies.

The veterinary editor of Wilke's Spirit of the Times recommends the following for scratches in a horse: Take sulphate of zinc, one drahm; glycerine, two ounces; apply every morning.

## THE CROPS OF 1867.

The crop report of the Department of Agriculture for August and September, is just issued. The August reports give a general average for several States from approximate estimates and correspondents of crops then harvested, as compared with those of 1866, together with the current condition of the growing crops; while the September tables pertain chiefly to the state of the Fall crops. The August returns show a uniform reduction in general average of wheat as compared with July figures and September estimates of the wheat harvest as compared with the crop of 1866; the figures are lower in a number of States, which is attributable to bad weather while growing and harvesting, and the crops will probably fall below the yield of last year. The leading sugar producing States show a fair increase over the crops of last year. Sorghum is evidently on the decline in most of the States, without a sufficient reason. The crop now growing is in good condition. In a few States the apple crop promises well, but in a majority the crop will be from ten to forty per cent. below the crop of last year. The hay crop shows an increase in almost every State and quite large in many.

In some sections grain found to be shrivelled and threshed out less to the acre than anticipated. Leading wheat growing States report the following per centage: Ohio, 130; Indiana, 50; Michigan, 33; Wisconsin, 17; Minnesota, 25; Illinois, 11; Iowa, 20; Missouri, 40; Kentucky, 32, West Virginia, 50; Tennessee, 40; Georgia, 80; Arkansas, 45; New York, 14; Pennsylvania, 40. Only Kansas and Texas show falling off from last year. The amount of these crops for the coming year will be more accurately shown by reports due October 1st.

The prospects of the corn crop continue to improve and if the frost holds off the general crop may be a fair one, while a number of the States return lower estimates than others, particularly the Southern States; they show a marked improvement over last year.

The cotton crop promised well up to September 1st, when the worms were appearing, and much apprehension was felt in various sections for its safety.

Of the cotton growing States, extracts from the correspondence show that Georgia promised a yield of fifty-three per cent beyond the crop of '66; South Carolina, fifty; Alabama, forty-two; Mississippi, twenty-four; Arkansas, eighteen; and Tennessee, nine, while Louisiana and Texas show considerable falling off from last year.

Rye, barley and oats exhibit no material change from previous reports, though oats are seriously injured in some sections by the extreme wet weather during the harvest, but generally the crop appears superior to that of last year.

Buckwheat shows an average, with prospects of a fair crop.

Potatoes are rotting badly in many large potato yielding sections.

The Salt Plains.—A letter from Kansas says that on the line of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, directly southwest about two hundred and ten miles from Topeka, exists the great wonder of the West—the Salt Plains. To cross them takes about twelve hours' good riding over a level surface completely covered with salt in the form of a crust, varying from one to two inches thick, as white as writing paper and of sufficient strength to bear up, without breaking or crumpling, an ordinary wagon-load. Underneath this crust, a little below the surface, there is a strata of solid rock salt, only accessible by quarrying, producing the finest specimens of crystalized salt. The supply is inexhaustible. The Atchison, Topeka, and Sante Fe Railroad will cross these salt fields nearly through their center. The Indians get their supply of salt and the Government has frequently sent trains there to get salt supplies. A railroad over them could supply the world with an article of salt not surpassed in quality by any the world ever produced.

Bread and Butter are the only articles of food of which we never tire from early childhood to old age. A pound of fine flour or Indian meal contains three times as much meat as one pound of butcher's beef, and if the whole product of the grain, bran and all, were made into bread, fifteen per cent. more nutriment would be added. Unfortunately bran, the coarsest part, is thrown away; the very part which gives soundness to the teeth and strength to the brain. Five hundred pounds of flour gives the body thirty pounds of the bony element, while the same quantity of bran gives more than one hundred and twenty-five pounds. The bone is lime, the phosphate of lime, the indispensable element of health to the whole human body, from the want of the natural supplies of which multitudes go into a general decline.

# The Fireside Muse.

## NATURE'S NOBLEMAN.

AWAY with false fashion so calm and so chill,
Where pleasure itself cannot please;
Away with cold breeding, that faithlessly still
Affects to be quite at its ease;
For the deepest in feeling is highest in rank,
The freest is first in the hand,
And Nature's own Nobleman, friendly and frank,
Is a man with his heart in his hand!

Fearless in honesty, gentle yet just,
He warmly can love—and can hate;
Nor will he bow down with his face in the dust
To Fashion's intolerant state;
For best in good breeding, and highest in rank,
Though lowly or poor in the land,
Is Nature's own Nobleman, friendly and frank,
The man with his heart in his hand!

His fashion is passion, sincere and intense,
His impulses simple and true,
Yet tempered by judgment and taught by good sense,
And cordial with me and with you;
For the finest in manners, is highest in rank,
It is you, man! or you, man! who stand
Nature's own Nobleman, friendly and frank,
A man with his heart in his hand!

# Miscellany.

## MERCY TO ANIMALS.

Some interesting experiments have been made lately at the slaughter-houses of Vincennes, as to the most mereiful manner of killing animals with the least possible suffering. At present oxen are slaughtered hy blows from heavy hammers on the head, which necessarily inflict the most frightful tortnre on the unfortunate victims of our carnivorous propensities. The idea occurred to an eminent physiologist that the section of the spine would produce more instant death. This, however, has not been demonstrated. An ox thus killed lived for twelve minutes, and endured during that time the most horrible sufferings. Decapitation was then tried with the following curious result: "A calf was hung up and decapitated in the space of a quarter of a minute. Its head was then placed on a table. In six minutes two ounces and a half of blood was lost. During the first minute the face was frightfully convulsed, the mouth opened and shut as though the animal were eating; and, strange to say, on putting the hand against the mouth and nostril, it was easy to feel the respiration continuing. Thirty animals were thus killed, and the result of the observations taken was that the committee decided that the old practice of killing hy means of hlows from a hammer should be continued."

AWAKENING INFLUENCE OF RATTLESNAKES. A family, consisting of the father and three sons, lived in one of onr Sonthwestern States, and led a very worldly life. A good, and, perhaps, eccentric minister, labored hard and long for their conversion, hut apparently in vain. They all seemed qnite obdurate and unimpressed with his appeals and warnings. He gave them up in despair. In this state of affairs he was greatly surprised on receiving a call to go to the house to offer prayer for the son Jim, who had been bitten by a rattlesnake, and who expected a fatal result. The good man attended, and spoke in this wise:

"We thank thee for all thy manifold hlessings. We thank thee for those which thou sendest against onr wishes. We thank thee for rattlesnakes. We thank thee that a rattlesnake has hit Jim. We pray thee to send another to bite Jack. And, oh, we pray thee to send the biggest kind of rattlesnake to hite the old man, for we verily believe that nothing short of rattlesnakes will ever do this family any good."

THE Dutch peasants, who snffered much by the rinderpest, have heen inspired hy their misfortunes to cultivate geese and all other sorts of poultry. Large numbers of these now occupy the fields where cattle used to graze, and hoth eggs and birds are destined for the London market.

A coating of three parts lard and one part rosin, applied to farm tools of iron or steel, will effectually prevent rust.

## HOW TO TELL A GOOD TEACHER.

A gentlemau from Swampville was telling how many different occupations he had attempted. Among others he had tried school teaching. "How long did you teach?" asked a bystander. "Wal, I didn't teach long; that is, I ouly went to teach." "Did you hire out?" "Wal, I didn't hire out; I only went to hire out." "Why did you give it up?" "Wal, I gave it up for some reason or nuther. You see I traveled into a deestrict and inquired for the trustees. Somehody said Mr. Suickles was the mau I wanted to see. So I found Mr. Snickles—named my object, introducing myself—and asked him what he thought about letting me try my luck with the big boys and unruly girls in the deestrict. He wanted to know if I really considered myself capahle; and I told him I wouldn't mind his asking me a few questions in 'rithmetic and jography, or showing my handwriting. He said 'No, never mind, he could tell a good teacher by his gait.' 'Let me see you walk off a little ways,' says he, 'and I can tell jis's well's if I'd heard you examined,' says he.

'He sot in the door as he spoke, and I thought he looked a little skittish; but I was considerahle frustrated, and didn't mind much; so I turned about and walked on as fast as I knowed how. He said he'd tell me when to stop, so I kep' on till I thought I'd gone far euough—then 'specting suthing was to pay, I looked around. Wal, the door was shet and Snickles was gone!"

"Did you go back?"

"Wal, no—I didn't go hack."

"Did you not apply for another school?"

"Wal, no—I didn't apply for another school," said the gentleman from Swampville, "I rather judge my appearance was agin me."

ANGER.—Never get angry. It does no good. Some sins have a seeming compensation or apology, a present gratification of some sort, but anger has none. A man feels no better for it. It is really a torment, and when the storm of passion has cleared, it leaves one to see that he has been a fool in the eyes of others, too. A passionate man adds nothing to the welfare of society. He may do some good hut more hurt. Heated passions make him a fire-brand, and it is a wonder if he does not kindle flames of discord on every hand. Without much sensibility, and often void of reason, he speaks like the peircing of a sword, and his tongue is an arrow shot out, and fonnd only "in the hosom of fools." Why should it be indulged in at all?

THE world owes you a living, does it? When do you expect to get paid, and how? People in the great expectation line rarely realize much of anything. Waiting for things to turn up is a turn that hrings little hut sorry disappointment. Wise folks and live people work and pnsh, and push and work, and after that with a show of sense sit down and expect a little somthing. Your indebtedness to the world is quite as mnch as it is to yon. You can get square by a long tug at downright struggle and work. The pauper houses are filled with people who insisted that the world owed them a living. The world didn't see it, and never does.

A MISSOURIAN informed a traveller who had inquired about corn, that "each stalk had nine ears on it, and was fifteen feet high." "That's nothing to our corn," replied the traveler. "Up in Illinois where I came from, we always had nine ears to each stalk, and a peck of shelled corn hanging to each tassel; but we never could raise any field beans with it." "Why?" asked the other. "Because the corn grew so fast as to pull the beans up."

THE influence of food on the quantity of milk is very striking. A half starved cow not only yields but little milk, but what it yields is miserably poor. On the other hand, the liberal supply of food, rich in nitrogenous and phosphatic elements of nutrition, tell directly on the milk. Nothing, therefore, can be more injudicious than to stint dairy cows in food.

## GENERAL WASHINGTON'S LAST VOTE.

EVERY incident in the life of Washington is full of interest. That plain, heroic magnitude of mind which distinguishes him above all other men was evident in all its actions. Patriotism, chastened hy sound judgment and careful thought, prompted all his public acts, and made them examples for the study and guidance of mankind. It has beeu said that no one can have the shortest interview with a truly great man, without heing made sensible of his superiority. Of too many who have someway earned the title of great, this is by no means true. Its applicability to the character of Washington is verified in the following interesting circumstance:

"I was present when General Washington gave his last vote. It was in the Spring of 1799, in the town of Alexandria. He died the 11th of Decemher following. The court-house of Fairfax county was then over the market-house, and immediately fronting Gadsby's tavern. The entrauce into it was hy a slight flight of crazy steps on the outside. The election was progressing—several thousands of persons in the court-house yard and immediate neighboring streets, and I was standing on Gadsby's steps when the father of his country drove up, and immediately approached the court-house steps; and when within a yard or two of them, I saw eight or ten good-looking men, from different directions, certainly without the least concert, spring simultaneously, and place themselves in positions to uphold and support the steps should they fall in the General's ascent of them. I was immediately at his back, and in that position entered the court-room—followed in his wake through a dense crowd to the polls—heard him vote—returned with him to the outward crowd—heard him cheered hy more than two thousand persons as he entered his carriage, and saw his departure. There were five or six candidates on the bench sitting, and as the General approached them, they arose in a body and bowed smilingly; and the salutation having heen returned very gracefully, the General immediately cast his eye towards the registry of the polls, when Colonel Dencale (I think it was) said: 'Well, General, how do you vote? The General looked at the candidates, and said: 'Gentlemen, I vote for measures, not for men;' and turning to the recording-table, audibly pronounced his vote—saw it registered—made a graceful bow and retired."

DEFINITION OF A MIRACLE.—Few theological definitions could bear the palm from that of the priest who, having preached a sermon on miracles, was asked by one of his congregation, walking homeward, to explain a little more lucidly what a miracle meant.

"It is a miracle you want to understand," said the priest. Walk on there fornist me, and I'll think how I can explain it to you."

The man walked on, and the priest came hehind him and gave him a tremendous kick.

"Ugh!" roared the sufferer; "why did you do that?"

"Did you feel it?" said the priest.

"To be sure I did," replied the unhappy disciple.

"Well, then, remember this: It would have been a miracle if you had not."

PARIS LETTER WRITERS think there is a good time coming in the meat market, a hope that is echoed by consumers everywhere. One of these writers ventnres the prediction that in consequence of a new and simple method for preventing taint, fresh meat will before long be sold everywhere at five cents a pound; and he bases his calculation on the fact that there are in the provinces of La Plata, South America, 27,000,000 cattle, and 40,000,000 sheep, all of which only need sufficient means of preservation and transportation to be made available for supplying the world with meat.

THE origin of all mankind was the same; it is only a clear and good conscience that makes a man noble, for that is derived from Heaven itself. For a man to spend his time in pursuit of a title that serves only when he dies to finish ont the epitaph, is below a wise man's business.

## "DON'T LIKE MY BUSINESS."

THERE is no greater falacy in the world than that entertained by many young men that some pursuit in life can be found wholly suited to their tastes, whims and fancies. This philosopher's stone can never he discovered, and every one who makes his life a search for it will be ruined. Much truth is contained in the Irishman's remark: "It is niver aisy to work hard." Let, therefore, the fact be always remembered by the young, that no life-work can be found entirely agreeable to a man. Success always lies at the top of a hill; if we would reach it, we can do so only hy hard, persevering effort, while beset with difficulties of every kind. Genius counts nothing in the battle of life. Determined, obstinate perseverance in one single channel, is everything. Hence, should any one of our young readers be debating in his mind a change of business, imagining he has a genius for some other, let him at once dismiss the thought, as he would a temptation to do evil. If you think you made a mistake in choosing the pursuit or profession you did, don't make another by leaving it. Spend all your energies in working for and clinging to it, as you would to the life-boat that sustained you in the middle of the ocean. If you leave it, it is almost certain that you will go down; hut if you cling to it, informing yourself about it until you are its master, heuding your every energy to the work, success is certain. Good, hard, honest effort steadily persevered in, will make your love for your business or profession grow, since no one should expect to reach a period wheu he can feel that his life-work is just the one he could have done hest, and liked best. We are allowed to see and feel the roughness in our own pathway, but not in others; yet all have them.

THE ODDITY OF HOLLAND.—Everything in Holland is interesting, and almost everything is queer. There is a piquant oddity in the artificial nature of the whole country; the sandy soil, which is a triumph of patient ingenuity and creative skill; the wind pitted against the water to keep the land from flooding; the canals instead of roads; the ditches instead of hedges; and the unvarying level of the broad flats, there being no such thing as a rising ground fifty feet high from one end of Holland to the other. Perhaps nothing strikes the English in Holland so much as the want of stones. You cannot find so much as a pebhle to throw at a dog—if, indeed, the Dutch dogs were not far too well behaved (which they are) ever to suggest such an outrage. You do, it is true, see in their proper places vast masses of granite and large blocks of hasalt; but all these came from Norway, and are hrought here at great expense; and are economized as elsewhere people economize porphyry and marble. In fact, stones in Holland are as much an article of import, of foreign merchandize, of purchase, as wine is in England. Countless vessels arrive, or have arrived here, laden with no other cargo.

LITTLE ALICE found an ingentous way of getting to bed in a hurry. The crib in which she slept was so low that, hy placing one foot on the inside, and taking hold of the post, she could easily spring in. "Mamma," she said to her mother, "do you know how I get to bed quick?" "No," was the reply. "Well," said she, in great glee, "I step one foot over the crib, then I say 'rats,' and scare myself right in."

AN old gentleman in Arkansas recently presented himself for registration with his two sons, and the eldest of the latter was asked by the clerk if he could write. "No, sir, chimed in the old man, "I am happy to say my sons cannot read or write. When I was a boy my parents sent me to school, and after I had got a little start in the world, I indorsed a note for a man, and it cost me all my property. I then made up my mind that no child of mine should learn to write."

A FINANCIER AND A GENERAL.—A good anecdote is told at Frankfort of the interview between Baron Rothschild and General Manteuffel. In the first place, the Baron sent up his name as "Jew Rothschild," as he had heard that he was designated in certain quarters hy this title. Rothschild represented to the General that the contribntion demanded was excessive, and that the city could not pay it. Manteuffel answered that he could surround the city and bombard it if necessary. To this Rothschild replied: "Then I shall hombard the hank of Prussia. I believe your Excellency can judge of the range of your rifled cannon, hut not of the financial power of the house of Rothschild. You see this portfolio which I have bronght with me. It contains hills for sixty millions of dollars for the Rhine Provinces and Westphalia, the trade of which I could ruin."

# Farm and Garden.

## GREEN MANURING.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

By green manuring I mean the planting of crops for the purpose of burying them in the soil at some particular stage of their growth. We all know that all plants (some to a much greater degree than others) derive the greatest portion of their support and substance from the air, and hence it is but reasonable to suppose that if we allow these plants to come to that point at which they contain the largest amount of plant food, and then bury them in the soil so that none of their constituents are lost, we must necessarily add more to that soil than the growing plant took from it, and it would be but a fair deduction to suppose that in so doing we leave it better.

I imagine that many of my readers are not aware of the amount of green vegetables which may be thus rendered available for a single crop; for instance, a good crop of turnips (tops and bulbs) will usually average about thirty tons per acre, and yields which have *been weighed* in England have reached sixty and sixty-five tons per acre. When we imagine this amount of green vegetable matter, buried to the depth of a good furrow, we cannot doubt but that it must add a large amount of plant food to the soil.

"On the continent," where green manuring is practical to a greater extent than any where else, other plants are made use of; as, for instance, the white lupine, vetch and rape. In Germany rye is used for this purpose to a great extent, and several crops are often turned under in the course of one season, amounting, in some instances, to more than *one hundred tons* of green vegetable matter *per annum*.

In Italy, the preference is almost invariably given to the white lupine, though in some cases the yellow lupine is made use of. In from three to three and one half months after planting, this crop will usually yield from ten to fifteen tons of green vegetable matter per acre, and three crops are often plowed in during a single season.

In some parts of Germany, borage is much used as a green manure. From experiments made by Lampadius it would seem that it draws nine-tenths of its substance from the air; and hence is admirably fitted for the purpose of a green manure.

Of the whole range of plants which are, or have been used for this purpose, none seem to suit our climate as well as the common red clover and Indian corn; that even on moderately good land one crop of the former, turned under, will produce a good crop of wheat or corn, cannot be doubted; and but few of us know the effect of turning under a crop of clover, and afterwards seeding down to rye, to be turned under when two or three feet high; that it will produce an immense crop of corn my own experience will show me, but never having tried the effect of such a mass of vegetable matter upon a crop of wheat, I cannot state the result. One great advantage which the common red clover possesses over corn and rye is, that owing to the great depth of its roots it is much better able to withstand our droughts, and, at the same time, their deep roots act as so many tubes for the passage of fertilizing materials from a lower stratum of soil, all to be retained in the upper one.

There is perhaps no better way to introduce clover into our rotation than to sow the seed with our oats, and after the oat crop is taken off, pasture the stubble just as we usually do, until the following Spring, when the first crop may be either cut for hay or turned under for manure for a succeeding crop of wheat. If the first crop of clover is turned under, the field may be seeded down to rye, which in turn may be turned under to give place to a regular crop of wheat, to be seeded down with clover and timothy.

Another plan which I have pursued with equal, if not better success, is to turn under a second crop of clover just about the time it is beginning to ripen, and after harrowing slightly, seed down to rye, which may be turned under next Spring just in time to plant with corn. One great advantage of this plan will be found in the fact that the cut worm is completely headed off.

As far as my own experience goes, I am satisfied that a good second crop of clover, turned under early in the Fall, is as good as a *heavy* coat of barn-yard manure for next Spring's corn crop. One great drawback to this style of rotation seems to lay in the fact that about the time you wish to turn the second crop under, there is very apt to be a dry time, and it requires a heavier team to plow, but with this exception I have no fault to find with it, and am satisfied that it will be found to work well on heavy clay land, better perhaps than it will on a sandy soil.

The best piece of "wheat after corn," which I ever cut, had no other manure than that furnished by turnip seed sown at the last hoe harrowing of the corn, at the rate of two pounds per acre. The corn was cut at the usual time and carried off the ground, and after a thorough plowing the wheat was drilled in without any further preparation whatever. The seed should be sown quite thickly in order to insure a good stand, and either raked in or covered with the hoe-harrow. It is my practice always to so treat a part of my corn field, and often have two or three hundred bushels of turnips, in a favorable season, in addition to late pasture.

## SOW TIMOTHY GRASS SEED.

The best time of the year to sow timothy or herdsgress seed to be certain of a good catch, is the Autumn. So if you wish to lay your field of Winter grain down to grass for meadow, without running any chance of failure, sow the seed liberally as soon as possible. The cool moist Autumn weather will enable it to make root enough to endure the Winter well, and the same kind of weather in the Spring will place it far enough ahead to bid defiance to any Summer drouth. Sow thickly, and repeat the operation with clover seed next Spring. One cannot grow too much clover on a farm, and the great trouble with most farmers is to grow enough.

In sowing timothy seed with Winter wheat we prefer waiting until the grain has started some before scattering the grass seed; the latter will grow enough before Winter, and will not get so rank the next season as to injure the wheat. Timothy seed sown early in the Fall alone on ground well prepared, at the rate of half a bushel per acre, will furnish a very good crop of hay or good pasture the following season. Much is lost by not sowing timothy seed in the Fall; sow it by all means now unless you intend to harrow your field in the Spring, and at the proper time put in the clover seed without heeding that you have sown herdsgrass. —*Rural New Yorker.*

## CLOVER.

Clover differs entirely from the cereal crops in this: it sends its main roots perpendicularly downwards, when no obstacle stands in the way, to a depth which the fibrous roots of wheat and barley fail to reach; the principal roots of clover branch off into creeping shoots, which again send forth fresh root downwards.

Thus clover, like the pea plant, derives its principal food from layers below the surface soil; and the difference between the two consists mainly in this—that the clover, from its larger and more extensive root surface, can still find a sufficiency of food in fields where peas no longer thrive; the natural consequence is, that the subsoil is left proportionately much poorer by clover than by the pea. Clover seed, on account of its small size, can furnish, from its own mass, but few formative elements for the young plant, and requires a rich arable surface for its development; but the plant takes but comparatively little food from the surface soil. When the roots have pierced through this, the upper parts are soon covered with a corky coating, and only the fine, root fibers ramifying through the subsoil, convey food to the plant.—*Liebig.*

## HARVESTING POTATOES.

Perhaps the greatest want of the farmer in the line of agricultural implements, which inventors and manufacturers as yet have failed to supply, is an efficient horse-power potato digger. True, there are some machines in the field that promise well, and we have great hopes of them; but none have yet proved themselves complete and reliable, though, doubtless, the coming potato harvest will give us more information, and we hope and expect more confidence, also, in their ultimate success. What we want is a machine that, drawn by two horses, will throw out four or six acres per day, in as good a shape and as clean as can be accomplished by laborers with hooks. Large vines should be no serious impediment to the working of the machine. Farmers would be satisfied with such, and it would bring a fortune to those who controlled the sale and manufacture.

In the meantime, although one of the most profitable crops which the farmer grows, and yearly increasing in importance, the potato is also one that requires great labor, which comes chiefly in harvesting. In other respects no more is required than to grow the corn crop—if as much. Every farmer must be guided partly by circumstances as to the means he can best employ to lighten and facilitate this work; the most we can do in this article is to offer a few hints which may be improved by some.

It is of considerable advantage to run a five-tooth cultivator along the rows before digging. The two rear teeth should be of the mould board form, and placed so as to haul away the dirt from the hills. This operation, which takes but little time, smooths the ground between the hills, levels the weeds and grass, and removes some of the soil from the tubers. In large fields, where many hands are employed, the labor should be systematized. On fine days the potatoes need little airing—just enough to loosen the dirt on them—as they are better if gathered without feeling much sun. The feebler hands, and even children could pick them into baskets, which should be emptied and replaced by men. Some find it economical to provide a large number of baskets, which, when filled, are loaded on a wagon fitted with a suitable rack, and drawn to the market or cellar. This course saves handling, and the potatoes look better, and are, perhaps, less liable to decay. Before being closely stored for the Winter, the crop should be under light cover until the sweating stage is passed. This may take place in lightly covered pits provided with ventilators, on the barn floor, or in some out-building. After this process is completed they may be placed safely in dry, cool cellars, or covered with an air-tight layer of earth to a suitable depth; light should be excluded from them. It is also better to store potatoes low in a cellar than near the ceiling.

In digging potatoes, the best hand implement for universal use is the hook, made of the best steel. Round tines draw through the earth easier than flat ones with their broadest sides at right angles to the handle. In all cases avoid injuring the tubers with the implements.

From appearances, we judge the price of the present crop of potatoes will rule high. In the large portion of the country which has been seriously affected by dry weather, the crop will probably fall below the usual average. In other extensive potato growing districts disease prevails. The Northwestern States are great sufferers from the ravages of the Colorado bug. Taken altogether, circumstances indicate high prices for this important staple.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Mr. E. W. Stewart writes to the American Farmer that after an experience of more than ten years, he finds two bushels of steamed hay are worth three bushels of unsteamed, and that one quart of corn-meal steamed with a bushel of straw, is equal to a bushel of hay.

A Vermonter has produced an apple five inches larger around than the trunk of the tree that bears it.

# The Stock Yard.

## EFFECTS OF GOOD FEED ON MILCH COWS.

Our cows give fully one-third more butter this year than last, due solely to good feeding and warm quarters in the Winter. They were cows I bought with the farm. They looked well, but proved to be poor milkers. They had been suffered to go dry about the first of November, under the impression that milking them in Winter would seriously injure them the coming Summer. And I have no doubt that there is considerable truth in this idea, provided the cows in the Winter have nothing but corn stalks and straw and are not stabled. But if they are fed liberally, they may be milked, not only without injury, but with positive advantage. It favors the habit of secreting milk. Till within six weeks or two months of calving, a good cow, with plenty of rich food, can give four or five quarts of milk per day, and will still be able to secure milk enough for the calf. She will eat and assimilate more food, and will get the habit of secreting more milk. I believe there is no better way of restoring the milking qualities of cows that have degenerated from poor management. I gave my cows three quarts each of corn meal a day, and an abundant supply of corn stalks and straw. Instead of letting them go dry in November, I kept them stabled in cold weather, and they gave more milk, or rather they made more butter, after we commenced to feed grain in November and December, than they did in August and September. I milked some of them to within six weeks of calving. This is perhaps, too much—ten weeks would be better. The cows, after we stopped milking, fleshed up rapidly, and many were the predictions that the corn meal would spoil them for milk. But it did not. They gave more milk than ever before, and it is certainly very much richer. The prospects now are that for the year, commencing the first of last November till the first of next November, they will give *as much again* butter as they ever gave in a year before. So much for good feeding in Winter. We weigh every pound of butter made, and I feel confident that this opinion will prove correct. I have not yet fed meal this Summer, but shall do so the moment there is any indication of a falling off in butter. In fact, I should feed meal now if I had my buildings conveniently arranged for the purpose. I have not the slightest doubt that it would pay to give each cow two quarts of corn and pea meal a day. If twenty bushels of corn a year will double, or even add one third to the amount of butter and cheese made by a cow, it is easy to figure whether it is profitable or not. I do not say they will not eat as much grass and fodder as if they were not fed with meal. The more food they will eat the better, provided it is turned into butter and cheese.—*Harris' "Walks and Talks."*

Daily Consumption of Hay.—It is hard to lay down an absolute rule of the specific number of pounds of hay to be fed to each animal; but according to the subjoined table, indorsed by the Country Gentleman, of Albany, it will be seen that the daily consumption does not vary much from three pounds to each hundred pounds of the animal.

This table will prove useful to farmers who wish to find out beforehand how long their hay will last during the Winter. One ton of timothy hay in the mow will occupy 500 cubic feet:

| | Pounds. |
|---|---|
| Working Horses, | 3,08 |
| Working Oxen, | 2,40 |
| Milch Cows, | 2,40 |
| Young Growing Cattle, | 3,08 |
| Steers, | 2,84 |
| Dry Cows, | 2,42 |
| Sheep, | 3,00 |
| Elephant, | 3,12 |

The curry-comb should not be neglected; its need on all kinds of neat stock and horses is a great preventive of disease and vermin, and is productive of health.

Kindred.—Let us count up our treasure of kindred; they are our best. Is there any tie which absence has loosened, or which the wear has fretted into the heart, until it hears something of the nature of a fretter? Any relationship we have not fully realized for want of dwelling on it? Any cup at our home table whose sweetness we have not fully tasted, though it might yet make of our daily bread a continual feast? Let us reckon up these treasures while they are still ours, in thankfulness to God. Tightly, tenderly, let us bind these blessed ties around our hearts. Let not their strength be first felt when broken. Now let us learn the full worth of our relationships, counting over, as the veriest misers, the full amount of our best wealth, that we may use it and enjoy it richly as God would have us.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. Foss, Editors.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## WOOL GROWERS AND MANUFACTURERS.

A few years ago, within our memory at least, the New England States produced the greater portion of the wool grown in this country. The farmers of the Middle States then kept but small flocks of sheep, and the wool was principally used for domestic fabrics, and made up in the homes of the farmers. The great West was then undeveloped, railroads were not constructed, and the pioneers of that section had no surplus wool to forward to the Eastern markets.

Some five and twenty years ago, when woolen mills began to spring up in the Eastern States, there arose a demand for wool greater than the New England farmers could supply. The demand reached the ears of the farmers who had settled down on the rich valley and prairie lands of the West, and in a few years that country was alive with immense flocks of sheep. Those Western farmers never do things by halves; their gigantic prairies were found to be the place for extensive sheep husbandry, and to-day the woolen manufactories of this country are mainly supplied from beyond the Alleghanies. The great West, with characteristic ambition, will continue to monopolize the production of wool, and from that section must the manufacturers look for their chief supply.

But New England, although unable to compete with the West in the production of wool, will retain her ascendancy and power as the great centre of woolen manufactures. From the last report of the National Association of Woolen Manufacturers, we glean the following statistics. It exhibits the condition of the wool manufacturing interest, and shows that New England leads all other sections in the production of our woolen fabrics. The number of mills in the United States (in 1865) was 917, and the amount of wool consumed, in nine months, was 2,252,545 pounds, and of this amount New England's share was 1,660,-313 pounds, or almost seventy-five per cent. The total value of woolen goods manufactured in the United States in 1864, was $121,868,-260; of this amount New England furnished $83,627,374, or nearly seventy per cent. It is no exaggeration, therefore, in view of these figures, to say that two-thirds of all the wool used in the country is consumed by the six New England States.

The price of wool, this season, is quite low—not much above prices before the war. The number of sheep in the country is estimated to be nearly double what we have ever had before. Consequently, the market is rather over-stocked with wool, and prices are not remunerative. Thousands of farmers in the West are anxious to give up sheep husbandry and turn their attention to cattle and grain.

---

October is a good month to transplant trees. If the leaves have not fallen, they should be stripped off. For many kinds of trees Autumn transplanting is the best, and there is often the advantage of having more time to do it than in the Spring.

---

The Drouth at the West.—A dispatch from Cincinnati of Sept. 27th, says it is still very dry, and the reports regarding corn and potatoes are most discouraging. Farmers are selling their stock. Water is very scarce, and in many cases cattle have to be driven a great distance for it. Farmers are not feeding hogs for the Winter market to any great extent, and no contracts are being made but those for early delivery.

## CULTIVATION OF SMALL FRUITS.

Within the last half dozen years the cultivation of small fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, grapes, &c. has increased to a large extent, and in some sections has proved a profitable investment. In other localities, not within close proximity to markets, it has been a losing business. Again, in many sections, even with skillful culture, genial soil and with markets at hand, there are complaints of the business not paying as well as the ordinary branches of agriculture.

We have numerous letters of regret also personal complaints from people who have settled on some of the new tracts or settlements of New Jersey. From the representations made by the proprietors of these cheap farm or homestead estates, hundreds of people left comfortable homes in the New England, the Middle, and even the Western States, and flocked to these settlements, where they supposed they could soon grow rich by the cultivation of small fruits. A few years' experience has changed the enthusiasm of many of these people, and, of course, they think they were deceived by the flattering and overdrawn picture of small fruit cultivation.

We have no charges to make against the proprietors of "new settlements," anywhere; nor are we disposed to underrate the value of their lands or the quality of their soils. But we have very serious doubts of any community—no matter where located—being able to do half as well as is represented in the cultivation of small fruits, *alone*. Where a whole community make a specialty of one branch of horticulture, the competition and over-production, in seasons of plenty, will net but a small profit to individual labor. Then, in unfruitful seasons, there is a dead loss to the whole community. We believe in a diversity of crops; and therefore, when selecting a new home, would not purchase lands adapted to one crop only.

There is another extreme to be avoided; that is the large purchase of new and untried varieties of fruits and vines. Millions of money have been expended in this country, within a few years, on new seedlings and vines that were entirely valueless. Don't be in haste to purchase all the horticultural novelties that are advertised. Remember, also, that no plant, tree or vine will thrive and do well in all sections. Soil and climate must be consulted, else failure will be met with quite as often as success.

The above remarks are not intended to discourage the cultivation of small fruits, nor to disparage horticultural settlements. But as most of our people are amateurs in fruit culture, it is well to be considerate and prudent at the start. The chances of success in all new enterprises are more certain with deliberation and reflection, than with mere enthusiasm and haste.

---

Southern Agriculture.—Under the old plantation system in the Southern States, there was little improvement in agriculture, and very few agricultural societies existed. Since the war terminated, and free labor is encouraged, the people are advising the establishment of these societies to meet the changed conditions in the system of labor. If the South depends on her agriculture, as she will to a large extent, there must be more science and intelligence applied to the cultivation of the soil. Under the old system the land became poorer and poorer; and, as Governor Wise said, "they had to chase stub-tailed steers over fields of broom-sedge for a tough beef-steak."

---

☞ At the Windham County (Conn.) Fair, held last week, our correspondent, John Dimon took the first premiums for the best Alderney, Devon and Ayrshire bulls and cows.

---

Under the Homestead law one hundred and sixty acres of land can be obtained in Missouri for $18 expense. Improved farms can be bought at from $5 to 10 per acre.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

The September issue of the Entomologist describes a new enemy to the corn crop, in the form of a beetle. In some portions of Pennsylvania and New York it has destroyed whole fields of corn. This beetle breeds in low, wet places, on the banks of rivers, where there is considerable decaying wood. The editor of the Entomologist asks:

"May it not be possible that it is sometimes carted out on to corn fields in swamp muck? It would be interesting to learn whether fields that have been manured with swamp muck are more largely infested than those which have not been so treated."

---

The editor of the Sheep Department, in the New Hampshire Farmer, is not discouraged by the low price of wool. He says there is no branch of farming in that State that pays so well as sheep husbandry. Moreover he is sanguine that there will soon be a home demand for wool. He says: "The man who starts a flock at this period will be decidedly in luck." Perhaps.

---

In the horticultural corner of the Country Gentleman is an article on the "Cultivation of Orchards," which is probably from the pen of J. J. Thomas. The experience and observation of the writer is in favor of cultivating orchards, rather than allow them to be stocked down to grass. Both old and young bearing trees are benefited by surface cultivation. The article closes with the following:—

"Where the subsoil is of such a character as to allow the roots of old trees to extend downward several feet, the hurtful effects of a heavy crop of grass are not so great as when they are near the surface; but in all instances good surface cultivation is a great benefit."

---

Colman's Rural World gives sundry reasons why stock, especially that belonging to the dairy, should be well fed and cared for in autumn. It adds:

"It is sufficient to say that good care and liberal feeding at this season fits cows to encounter the rigors of winter successfully, but more especially do they conduce to a liberal and rich flow of milk, thus improving the character and increasing the quantity of the butter product. A free use of pumpkins and roots with their tops, and an occasional mash treat, will amply repay the cost of the articles and richly remunerate the farmer for his trouble in supplying them. Autumn being emphatically the butter season, milch cows then, if ever, deserve extra care and consideration."

---

Fall ploughing is often recommended for destroying the cut-worm. "Agricola" gives his views in a recent number of the Germantown Telegraph:—

"His theory is that frost has nothing to do with destroying the eggs of the cut-worm, whether the ground be plowed in the fall or early spring; but that, done at either season, the eggs are buried so deep as to place them beyond the influence of the sun and air, hence preventing them from hatching. If these eggs are undisturbed, they will hatch between the first and fifteenth of May; and if they are, as is assumed, destroyed by being turned under, it makes no difference whether the burying is done late in the fall or early in the spring. This is probably true; still, though both are alike effective, it is safer to do the work in the fall, leaving out of view the supposed favorable action of frost upon ground turned up late in autumn, because there is generally more time to do it then, and the soil is in better order for the operation."

---

The fertilizing value of red clover is known to every practical farmer. In a discussion before the New York Institute Club, Mr. S. E. Todd advanced the following:—

"On the heavy, stubborn soils of the slopes of our northern lakes, the production of red clover has been of incalculable value in renovating and changing the character of those stubborn soils, so as to render them more productive from year to year. Under the ameliorating influences of a crop of red clover, farms that produced scarcely a remunerating crop when the virgin soil was first turned up with the plow, now yield annually heavy crops of choice wheat or other grain. The distinguishing characteristic of red clover as a renovator of the soil, is to produce vegetable mould or humus. Where humus abounds in large quantities in the soil, red clover is not the fertilizer required. But where the surface is not covered by a stratum of fine mould, red clover can be raised with eminent satisfaction and profit. Our most extensive Pennsylvania farmers understand and appreciate the excellence and efficiency of red clover. Almost our entire country has got to renovate with red clover. Old and impoverished fields will eventually be made to feel the ameliorating influences of the efficient renovator of poor and badly managed soil. And this great and desirable change will be wrought out by the production of red clover."

---

## BONE SPAVIN.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

In your paper of Sept. 21st, I saw an inquiry made, "Can bone spavin be cured?"

Having had considerable experience in that particular respect, and being intimately acquainted with some of the best veterinary surgeons in Europe, I will explain, as far as lies in my power, for the information of the inquirer, the nature and only prevention of bone spavin in horses. In the first place the spavin comes, or is thrown out, on the inside of the joint of the hind leg; when coming or growing it is thin, as is termed, in its bud or infancy, of a gristly nature, that protrudes or is forced out of the joint, and is most generally brought on from working horses too young. When this is first seen or discovered (by an experienced person) it must be immediately cauterized or "fired," as is termed in the old country. Whatever stage of stiffness or lameness the horse may then endure from the disease, will be stopped by firing. But if the spavin should be discovered in its first stage, when no lameness has taken place, by then cauterizing, the horse will be free from lameness during his life, as I have had experience of it in different instances. As I before stated, whatever stage or state the spavin is in when the horse is fired, you only arrest its progress in that particular state. The horse will still be lame, but never lamer than he was before the firing. The longer it is growing or allowed to grow, the lamer the horse gets, until it becomes ossified, and attached to the bone; then there is no cure for bone spavin.

A Constant Reader.

Milford, Mass., Sept. 27th, 1867.

---

The English Cattle Plague during the last week reported, that ending September 7th, attacked but one animal. The total number of cattle reported to have been attacked in Great Britain since the plague first appeared, is 278,927, and 56,911 healthy cattle have been slaughtered to prevent the spread of the disease.

---

The receipts of wheat at Milwaukee last week were seven hundred and fifty-six thousand six hundred and forty bushels. During the corresponding week of last year they were three hundred and forty-five thousand seven hundred and sixty-five bushels. Number one wheat brought from $1.87 to $1.94 a bushel.

---

The Milwaukee Wisconsin says that the western farmers will make more this year from a yield of twenty bushels of wheat to the acre than they did from one of thirty-one bushels to the acre in 1860.

---

An Illinois editor has seen a cornfield of seventy-five acres, in that State, in which the stalks averaged thirteen feet and a half in height.

---

A Sign of Improvement.—An agricultural fair in New York offers larger premiums for cheese and butter than it does for horse-racing.

---

Rest.—William Pitt died of apoplexy, at the early age of 47. When the destinies of nations hung in large measure on his doings, he felt compelled to give an unremitting attention to affairs of State. Sabbath brought no rest to him, and soon his unwilling brain gave signs of exhaustion. But his presence in Parliament was conceived to be indispensable for explanation and defence of the public policy. Under such circumstances it was his custom to eat heartily of substantial food, most highly seasoned, just before going to his place, in order to afford the body that strength and to excite the mind to that activity deemed necessary to the momentous occasion. But under the high pretension both of mind and body perished prematurely. Let his case be a warning.

## The Fireside Muse.

### NOW ANOTHER HARVEST STANDS.

Short years ago the hattle's hreath
Swept fiery hot across the plain;
And steadily the reaper Death,
With cruel carnage in his train,
Marched through the serried ranks that stood
Unwavering, and cut them down:
While field and farm, and hill and wood
Grew dark heneath the hattle's frown.

The cannon thundered in their wrath,
The musket rang with volleys there;
The loud shell cut its trackless path,
And hurst with fury in the air;
And thickly hy the trodden way,
In dyke and field, by level rows,
Of trampled corn, Death's harvest lay—
Friend close hy friend, and foe with foe.

But now another harvest stands
Where once Death trod the hleeding plain,
Quite ready for the gleaner's hands,
That hind in shocks the golden grain.
Afar the sheltered farm-house sleeps,
Embowered in shade; while o'er the mound,
With pitying growth the wild vine creeps,
Where rifles rang with deadly sound.

Up from her covert starts the quail,
As chancing on her hidden nest,
The farmer lad, with noisy hail,
Spies quick as thought the speckled hreast,
And low and sweet the echoes call!
While from the hlue sky overhead,
In mellow radiance flooding all,
The golden light of peace is shed.

## Fireside Tale.

### THE LAST WILL; OR MY UNCLE'S GHOST.

The seenes I am about to describe occurred about the year 1860, to a respectahle family by the name of Culverton, iu Orange county, New York.

The Culvertons had lived in the old family mansion and enjoyed the revenues of the family estate for many years, without the slightest doubt that they had a legal right to it, when suddenly there started up, from goodness knows where, au individual who laid claim to the property, and seemed likely to prove his claim to all but the Culvertons themselves.

It was certain Jabez Hardy was the nearest relative, aud certain that even Mrs. Culverton was only a grand neice of Hiram Hardy, deceased; but the Culvertons had lived with the old man for years, and he had promised, time and time again, to leave them everything. He had even declared that his will was made in their favor; and that such a document was actually iu existence, Mr. Culverton could not doubt; but diligent search had been made in vain, and Jabez Hardy, whom the old man uever saw, was to take the place of people he loved so fondly, and who had been his comfort in his last hours.

"It was a shame!" said every one.

"A cruel, wicked thing!" sobbed Mrs. Culverton.

And Mr. Culverton, who had never expected a reverse, was quite crushed as the pending lawsuit progressed.

A thousand times a day he said:

"How providential it would be if Uncle Hiram's will would turn up at this moment."

"I wonder he can rest, poor man, with such injustice going on."

But no matter what they said, or how they managed, no will was found, and Jabez rubbed his hands in triumph.

It was strange that while matters were in this condition, one so deeply interested in the subject as Mrs. Culverton nccessarily was, should dream of anything else; but dream she did, night after night, of an entirely opposite subject.

Inevitably, for a week, at least, she had no sooner closed her eyes than she found herself in an intelligence office full of employes of all ages and nations, and face to face with a girl of small stature, with white Scotch features, and singular blue eyes, wide apart and staring, who desired the situation of cook.

At first she did not like the girl, but in every dream she found her aversion vanish.

After a few moments' conversation, and invariably it had begun to melt when the girl looked at her and said:

"I'd like to hire with you, ma'am."

It was always the same office—always the same girl—always the same words she uttered, until Mrs. Culverton began to think there must be something in the dream.

"Though it can't come true," said she, "for while Johanna remains here I shall never hire another cook."

And just as she said this, there was a scream, in the kitchen, and the little errand girl ran in frightened out of her senses, to tell how Johanna, lifting the wash boiler, had fallen with it, and scalded herself.

Mrs. Culverton followed the young girl into the kitchen, and found Johanna in a wretched condition; and the doctor being sent for, she was put to bed and declared useless for her domestic capacity for at least a month to come. A temporary substitute must be had, and Mrs. Culverton, that very afternoon, went to New York to find one at the Intelligence office.

Strange to say in the bustle she had quite forgotten her dream, until she suddenly stood face to face with the very girl she had seen in it. A small young woman with very singular blue eyes, in a white face, and whose features betrayed Scottish origin. She had risen—this girl—from a seat in the office, and stood before her, twisting her apron strings and curtesying.

"I'd like to hire with you, ma'am," she said.

The very words of the dream also. Mrs. Culverton started, and in her confusion could only say:

"Why!"

The girl blushed.

"I don't know," she said, "only it seems to me I'd like to live with you."

It seemed a fatal thing to Mrs. Culverton, but she put the usual questions and received the most satisfactory answers, except as to references.

"But I can't employ you without a reference," said Mrs. C., knowing that Fate had decreed that this girl should take a place in her kitchen.

"If you can't I must out with it," said the girl. There's my lady's name, ma'am. She will tell you I'm honest and capable; but she turned me off for frightening the family."

"How?" asked Mrs. Culverton.

"Seeing ghosts!" replied the girl. "Every day I saw a little child in white playing about the house; and all said there was no such child there, though there had been once, and he was dead. Mistress said I pretended to see it for the sake of impertinence, and she discharged me; but I know by her trembling she thought I had seen a ghost. I went to a doctor, and he called it an optical illusion, and it would pass away; and sure enough I have never seen it since I left the house."

It was a queer story; but Mrs. Culverton believed it, and before she left the office, had hired Jessy to fill Johanna's place for the space of one month from that day. That evening she came and went to work with a will.

Dinner time passed comfortably and tea time came. The Culvertons never ate anything but a biscuit or sweet cake at this meal, and cups were handed about in the sitting room. Jessy came in at the appointed hour with her tray, served every one, and then stood smiling before Mrs. Culverton, as she said:

"Please ma'am, let me pass you, the old gentleman has not been helped. Yes, sir, in a minute."

"The—old—gentleman!" cried Mrs. Culverton.

"Yes, ma'am—behind you in the corner, please."

"There's no gentleman young or old there," said the lady. "I can't imagine what you took for one."

The girl made no answer, but turned quite white and left the room. Mrs. C. followed. At first she could extort no explanation, but by and by the girl declared that she saw an old gentleman sitting in an arm-chair in the corner, who beckoned to her, and she fancied in a hurry for his tea.

"What did he look like?" asked Mrs. Culverton.

"He was thin and tall," said the girl—"his hair was white and very long, and I noticed that one of his knees looked stiff, and a thick gold-headed cane was beside him."

"Uncle Hiram!" cried Mrs. Culverton, "Upon my word you've described my great grand-uncle who has been dead for twenty years."

Jessy began to cry.

"I shall never keep a place," she said. "You'll turn me away now."

"See as many ghosts as you please," she said, "as long as you don't bring them before my eyes," and went back to her tea without saying a word to any of the family on the subject, although she was extremely mystified.

Surely if the girl had never seen her uncle Hiram—which was not likely, considering that he had been dead nearly her whole lifetime—she must have seen something in the ghost line; and if, indeed, it were uncle Hiram's spirit, why should he not come to aid them in their trouble? Mrs. Culverton had always had a little superstition hidden in her soul, and she soon began to believe this version of the case.

The next morning she went into the kitchen, and shutting the door, said to Jessy:

"My good girl, I do not intend to dismiss you, so be quite frank with me. I do not believe that these forms are optical illusions. I feel sure that they are actual spirits. What do you think?"

"I think as you do ma'am," said the girl. "Our folks have always seen ghosts, and grandfather had the second sight for ten years before he died."

"If you should see the old gentleman you told me of again," said Mrs. Culverton, "be sure and tell me. I'll keep the story from the young folks, and Mr. Culverton would only laugh at it; but you described my dear old grand-uncle, and my belief is you saw him."

The girl promised to mention anything that might happen, to her mistress; and from that day an interchange of glances between them and a subsequent conference in the kitchen, was of a regular occurrence.

The girl saw her apparition seated on the sofa in the parlor, seated at the dinner-table, walking in the garden, and so life-like was it that she found it impossible to refrain from passing plates and cups and saucers to it, to the infinite amazement of people who saw only empty air in the same spot.

By and by she invariably spoke of her ghost as the old gentleman, and was no more affected by his presence than by that of a living being. If it were an optical illusion, it was the most singular on record.

But all this while—ghost or no ghost—the figure never spoke, and never did anything to help the Culvertons in their dilemma, and the lawsuit was nearly terminated without the shadow of a doubt in Jabez Hardy's favor.

In three days all would be over; and the Culvertons who had earned their property, if ever mortals did, by kindness and attention to their aged relative—whom they had truly loved and honored—would probably be homeless.

One morning Mrs. Culverton sat over her breakfast after the others had left the room, thinking of this, when Jessy came in.

"I've something to tell you ma'am," she said. "There's a change in the old gentleman."

"What do you mean?" asked Mrs. Culverton.

"I've seen him twice at the foot of my bed in the night," said the girl; "and though always before he has been kind and pleasant looking, now he frowns and looks angry. He beckons me to go somewhere, and I don't dare, in the night time."

"You must," said Mrs. Culverton. "I know he'll come again; and I'll sit with you all night and go where you go. It may be of great good to us all, Jessy."

"I shan't be afraid ma'am, if I have company," said Jessy, in the most matter of fact manner, and carried out the breakfast things.

All day they never spoke on the subject; but, on retiring, Jessy found her mistress in her bed-room wrapped in a shawl.

"I'm ready, you see," she said. And Jessy merely loosened some buttons and hooks, and lay down dressed.

Ten o'clock passed—eleven—twelve. Mrs. Culverton began to doubt, when suddenly she saw Jessie's eyes dilated in a most peculiar manner, and in an instant more the girl said:

"Why, here he is, ma'am!"

"There's no one there," said Mrs. Culverton.

"Oh, yes, ma'am! I see him," said the girl. "He's in a great excitement, ma'am; he's taking out his watch to look at it, and the chain is made of such bright yellow hair, I thought at first it was gold."

"His wife's hair," said Mrs. Culverton. "It was buried with him. You see dear old uncle Hiram. Does he look at me?"

"Yes, ma'am," said Jessy.

"Uncle," said Mrs. C., "do you know me after all these years?"

"He nods," said the girl.

"Have you come to help us—dear uncle?" said the lady.

Uncle Hiram was described as nodding very kindly and beckoning.

"He wants us to follow him," said the lady, and took up the light. The moment she opened the door, Jessy saw the figure pass through it. Mrs. Culverton still could see nothing.

Obedient to the girl's movements, Mrs. C. descended the stairs and stood in the library.

The ghost paused before a book-case.

"He wants me to open it," said Jessy.

"Do so," said the lady.

"He signs to take down the books," said the girl.

And Mrs. Culverton's own hands went to work. Book after book was taken down—novels and romances, poems and plays.

A pile of books lay upon the library carpet, and still the ghost pointed to the rest till they were all down.

"He looks troubled, ma'am. He seems trying to think," said the girl. "Oh, ma'am, he's gone to the other case!"

And so, to cut a long story short, the four great book cases were emptied, without apparent result.

Suddenly Jessie screamed:

"He's in the air. He's risen, ma'am, to the top of the case. He wants me to climb up."

"Get the steps, Jessy," said her mistress,—and Jessie obeyed.

On the very top of one of the cases, covered by cobwebs, she found an old German book, and brought it down.

"This was there," she said. Mrs. C. took it in her hand; from between the leaves dropped a folded paper, fastened with red tape and sealed.

The lady picked it up, and read on the outside these words:—

*The last will and testament of Hiram Hardy.*

For a little while she could only weep and tremble; soon she found words:

"Uncle," she said, "in the name of my husband and my dear children, I thank you from my soul. Does he hear me, Jessy?"

"Yes, he nods and smiles," said the girl.

"Will you let me see you, uncle?" said Mrs. Culverton.

"He's gone," said the girl. "He has kissed his hand and gone."

And so he had, for good; for from that moment he was never seen again by mortal eyes.

Nobody believed the story of his appearance. But the will had been discovered, without doubt, and the Culvertons were no longer in danger of expulsion from their old home. There they lived and died, and Jessy remained until she married; and all her life received every kindness from the family, who were indebted to her singular peculiarity for their comfort and happiness.

Whether Uncle Hiram's spirit really came back to earth or not, is a question; but Mrs. Culverton always asserts that it did, and quarrelled with every one who ventured to doubt the assertion.

---

Whole farms in Ohio used to be enclosed by black walnut fences. It is now a valuable article of commerce. One hundred and twenty-five cargoes of it have left Toledo this season, amounting to 19,676,300 feet.

---

A Pen Portrait of Charles Lamb.—Persons who had been in the habit of traversing Covent Garden at that time, might, by extending their walk a few yards into Russell street, have noted a small spare man in black, who went out every morning and returned every afternoon, as regularly as the hands of the clock moved towards certain hours. You could not mistake him. He was somewhat stiff in his manner, and almost clerical in dress, which indicated much wear. He had a long, melancholy face, with keen, penetrating eyes; and he walked with a short, resolute step, city-wards. He looked no one in the face for more than a moment, yet contrived to see everything as he went on. No one who ever studied the human features could pass him by without recollecting his countenance.

# Agricultural Miscellany.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

The Chicago cattle yards have 150 acres floored with plank. There are pens for 75,000 cattle, 20,000 sheep, and 20,000 hogs.

At the late New England Fair a pair of steers from Brattleboro, Vt., that weighed 8,000 pounds were exhibited.

A Mr. Sheldon, of Trumbull Co., Ohio, is reported as having a cow, part Devon and Durham, that gave 1207 pounds of milk in 30 days this Summer.

A correspondent of the Canada Farmer says that in the county of Norfolk, Canada, turnip culture is declining. Maize is raised extensively; it is considered less expensive and more certain than turnips, carrots or mangels, and is used extensively in feeding.

Two out of seven valuable horses which the Arago was bringing over for the stables of Messrs. L. W. Jerome and Cameron, of New York, died on the passage. One of them was the fine racing stallion Lochinvar, valued at two thousand guineas. He won two or three races during the present season.

A giant potato in the Paris Exposition weighs fifteen pounds. It is in the form of a barrel, and if excavated would hold five quarts of water. No small potato that.

Forty thousand cattle have been driven from Texas to Kansas this year.

All authorities concur in saying that the English harvest is a good averge one, on the whole, though the wheat crop is somewhat short.

Last week was a heated term at the West, the thermometer reaching 97 degrees, one day.

The country along the Ohio river on both sides, is suffering terribly from drouth, and there will be no more than one-half the usual corn crop. The grass in many places is entirely destroyed and the fruit trees are dying. Last week, was the hottest of the season.

W. R. McCoy &Co., of Illinois, have made a contract with the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad for the shipment over that road of upward of 70,000 head of Texas cattle, and one thousand cars are being prepared for the first shipment, while five thousand cars will be required to carry out the entire contract.

A colored man at Lawrence, Kansas, raised 1,000 bushels of potatoes from four acres of ground. They are of superior quality, and he is now selling them at eighty cents per bushel. The crop nets him $800—$200 per acre.

The Practical Entomologist says, the apple worm or moth is ruiuing the apples and pears in all quarters this year. From Pennsylvania to Iowa, all accounts agree that it was never so destructive before

Reclaimed lands deteriorate, and soon relapse into their original wild state and become full of sour grasses, unless the ditches and drains are cleared out frequently. Now is the time to do this work.

Equal parts of the tincture of per-chloride of iron and the compouud tincture of gentian, makes a capital tonic for horses suffering from general debility. One ounce of the mixture is the dose, twice, daily.

## MAGNITUDE OF THE WESTERN GRAIN TRADE.

The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser gives the following facts and figures regarding the enormous grain trade of the West, and the rapid increase:

"The unparalled development of the West in population and production will, in the ensuing thirty years, give a trade between the West and New York equal to upwards of $8,000,000,000 to go through the canals when they shall be made sufficintly capacious for its accommodation. There will be this amount of trade aside from that by the railways. A canal boat of the size now navigating the Erie Canal, two hundred and fifty tons burthen, will carry as much as one railway train of twenty-five cars. From seventy to eighty boats of this class can be laden with grain and despatched eastward in each and every twenty-four hours. If the canals should be ignored and the entire business now done upon them should be transferred to the railroads it would require four freight trains to be despatched daily by the Central and forty by the Erie, in addition to the business they are now doing.

"Twenty-five years ago the grain trade of this city was between two and three million bushels annually. It now averages from fifty to sixty million bushels annually, in addition to the flour trade. The receipts at this port of grain in one day last year were upwards of three million bushels. The receipts of grain here on Monday last were upwards of seven hundred thousand bushels, besides upwards of a million of staves and six million feet of lumber. Estimating the results of the future by the past, the time is not far distant when the grain trade at this point will be a hundred million bushels annually. A movement of sixty million bushels of grain by rail would require 6,857 trains of twenty-five cars each, equal to seventeen trains daily, by each of the two roads during the navigation season of two hundred days, and yet the grain trade is scarcely one-half the tonnage to be moved."

---

Heavy rains have visited nearly all parts of Wisconsin during the last two weeks, and the dying vegetation has been revived. Grass, which had begun to dry up, has taken a fresh start, and the pastures will hold out yet for some weeks.

---

It is estimated that the portion of the corn crops falling to the freedmen according to the sharing system, will exceed this season the whole corn crop of auy previous year.

---

Choice Stock at Auction.—We call the attention of our readers to the great sale of John Dimon, at Pomfret, Conn., on the 9th inst.



## Marriages.

In Slatersville, on the 26th ult., by the Rev. B. H. Chase, Napoleon B. Kenyon, M. D., of Greenville, to Sarah Lizzie Smith, of Slatersville.

In Providence, on the 22d ult., Mr. Jerome Burlingame to Mrs. Martha A. Ballou, both of Smithfield.

On the 26th ult., Mr. Edward P. Bahlitt to Miss Rachel Little, both of Central Falls.

In Mendon, Lorenzo S. Wheelock to Miss Nancy L. Staples, both of Grafton.

In Medway, William Stalker, of Medway, to Miss Sarah M. Cobb, of Holliston.

In Milford, Sept. 26, Mr. William M. Wires to Miss Hattie A. Pond.

In Millbury, 25th ult., by Rev. E. W. Virgin, Henry M. Leland, of Worcester, to Ellen E. Hull, of Millbury.

## Deaths.

In Pawtucket, 13th ult., Wm. McDonald, aged 20 years.

In Central Falls, 26th ult., William S. Irons, aged 27 years.

In Milford, Mary M. Quimby, aged 35 years.

23d ult., Col. Sullivan Sumner, aged 77 years.

In Grafton, 16th ult., Michael Cuddy, aged 36 years, formerly of Oakdale, and 15th Reg. Mass. Vol.

In Pawtucket, 16th ult., Hattie A., daughter of John B. and Anna E. Sherman, of Georgiaville, aged 3½ years.

In Grafton, 30th ult., Mrs. Hannah Scott, widow of the late Asa Scott, aged 91 years, 11 months.

In Attleboro', 1st inst., William Henry Briggs, in the 26th year of his age.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Oct. 4, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | 20 | Beans ₩ quart | 20c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 90c |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.50 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a16.50 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 40 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 40c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 38c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 16a18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 16c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

RAPID FLUCTUATION IN BREAD STUFFS.

Flour, early in the week, was much depressed, and declined on the lower grades 40 to 50 cents a barrel. In consequence of the demand for exports towards the close the decline has been recovered, and a firmer feeling is apparent. All grades of flour are now held with increased confidence.

Wheat, under an active export demand, has rapidly improved, and closes with a strong upward tendency. The late break in the canal has caused limited receipts.

Corn has fluctuated violently, and closes tame.

Early in the week oats were in active speculative request. There have been marked fluctuations, with a sudden downward tendency. At the close the market is steady.

The first new barley has been offered this week. The quality is fair.

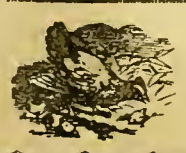
Rye has fluctuated materially. The supply is light. It closes better.

The cotton market has been dull and heavy, in consequence of the unfavorable advices from Europe. The market closes the same, at 22 cents for middling uplands, and 23 cents for New Orleans.

Sugars.—Raw sugars are quite active, partly for shipment to Canada. Under moderate arrivals the market closes firm, at 12½ cents for No. 12 boxes.

Wool.—Pending a large auction sale next Thursday, prices in wool are nominal and in favor of the buyer.





Women Fattened at Tunis for Marriage.—A girl, after she is betrothed, is cooped up in a small room; shackles of gold and silver are placed upon her ankles and wrists, as a piece of dress. If she is to be married to a man who has discharged, despatched or lost a former wife, the shackles which the former wife wore are put on the new bride's limbs, and she is fed till they are filled up to a proper thickness. The food used for this custom, worthy of the barbarians, is called *drough*, which is of an extraordinary fattening quality, and also famous for rendering the milk of the nurse rich and abundant. With this seed, and their natural dish, *cuscasco*, the bride is literally crammed, and many actually die under the spoon.

# The Poultry-Yard.

## ESSAY ON DISEASES OF POULTRY.

READ AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE AMERICAN POULTRY SOCIETY, AND CONTRIBUTED FOR PUBLICATION IN THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

It is our duty to study whatever may tend to alleviate the sufferings of domestic animals, kept for our own gratification; for they must not be allowed to pine and die unaided.

Everything worth knowing we ought to know, and our knowledge should be such as would render us equal to all the emergencies of poultry sickness.

The diseases of poultry, being taken in time, may not result in a serious malady, too often resulting in death; but procrastination is generally as fatal in poultry keeping as in anything else.

The ailments of fowls may generally be traced to a variable temperature, to irregular, injudicious feeding, or to their being kept on ground which has become impure with their use of it. Judicious feeding, perfect cleanliness, and occasional removal to new ground, will, to a great extent, keep fowls healthy.

The following are the principal diseases among them:

Apoplexy, evidenced by inflammation of the brain.

Tracheal Inflammation (or gapes), with parasite worms in the windpipe.

Roup, which is highly infectious, and a very deadly disease, but if taken in time can be cured. The premonitory symptoms are a slight hoarseness and catching in the breath, as if from cold.

Moulting, with old fowls, is often so severe and so protracted that it carries them off. The young are also victims of leg weakness and bad feathering.

Sickly fowls should always be removed from the fowl house on the first symptom of illness, as they are generally ill used by their companions—pecked at, and evidently become objects of dislike.

Apoplexy with fowls, as in human beings, is difficult to cure. It is generally the result of high feeding, and is most common among laying hens, which are sometimes found dead on the nest—the expulsive efforts required in laying being the immediate cause of the attack. The only hope for cure consists in an instant and copious bleeding, by opening a vein with a sharp pointed penknife or lancet. The largest of the veins seen on the under-side of the wing, should be selected, and opened in a longitudinal direction, not cut across, and so long as the thumb is pressed on the vein at any point between the opening and the body, the blood will be found to flow freely. Light food and rest should be given the bird after the operation.

Gapes, in nine cases out of ten, are obtained from rain or impure water, and if a certain preventive (not cure) is desired, the use of camphor will be found the most efficient remedy. A small lump, about the size of a peanut, kept constantly in the vessel from which the fowls drink, will make gapes unknown in your yard. Having carefully adopted this precaution, this year more particularly, and having raised over two hundred chickens, without one case of gapes, I can testify that camphor is the only certain remedy. My neighbor, Mr. T——, who is also a member of the American Poultry Society, and who has equal, if not superior advantages to mine for poultry rearing, has lost three-fourths of his chickens by gapes, which I attribute to his use of rain-water and non-use of camphor.

Rain water will, after having stood some time, be found, by examination under a microscope, to contain worms identical with those taken from the throat of a chicken suffering from gapes.

Roup, if treated at the outset, may be cured by feeding, twice a day, with stale crusts of bread soaked in strong ale. Dry housing and cleanliness are indispensable.

Fowls sometimes waste away without any apparent disorder. In such cases a teaspoonful of cod-liver oil per day will often be found a most efficacious remedy.

Scouring or diarhœa is caused by the too abundant use of relaxing food. Cayenne pepper, or chalk, or both, mixed with meal or boiled rice, check the complaint.

Leg weakness is generally caused by the size and weight of the body, being more than the legs can bear. It is shown by the bird resting on the first joint. Being entirely the result of weakness, the best treatment is that which gives general strength and stamina to the sufferer. Tincture of iron, say five drops to a saucer of water, must be given.

S. M. SAUNDERS.

## GAME FOWLS.

THE game-cock is of bold carriage; his comb is single, bright red, and upright; his face and wattle of a beautiful red color; the expression of countenance fearless, but without the cruelty of the Malay; the eye very full and bright; the beak strong, curved, well fixed in the head, and very stout at the roots. The breast should be full, perfectly straight; the body round in hand, broad between the shoulders, and tapering to the tail, having the shape of a flat iron or approaching heart shaped; the thighs hard, short and round; the leg stout; the foot flat and strong, and the spur not high on the leg. The wings are so placed on the body as to be available for sudden and rapid springs. The feathers should be hard, very strong in quills, and like the Malay, it should seem as though all their feathers were glued together till they feel like one.

A word or two may not be out of place as to the table-properties of this beautiful breed. It is true they are in no way fit for the fattening-coop; they cannot bear the extra food without excitement, and that is not favorable to obesity. Nevertheless, they have their merits. If they are allowed to run semi-wild in the woods, to frequent sunny banks and dry ditches, they will grow full of meat, though with little fat. They must be eaten young, and a game-pullet four or five months old, caught up wild in this way and killed two days before she is eaten, is perhaps, the most delicious chicken there is in point of flavor.

The color of the eggs of the game-hen varies from a dull white to a fawn. They are good layers, as twenty-four eggs being constantly laid by them, before they manifest a desire to sit.

As sitters, game-hens have no superiors. Quiet on their eggs, regular in the hours of coming off and returning to their charge, and confident, from their fearless disposition, of repressing the incursions of any intruder, they rarely fail to bring off good broods. Hatching accomplished, their merits appear in a still more conspicuous light. Ever on their guard, not even the shadow of a bird overhead, or the approach of man or beast, but finds them ready to do battle for their offspring; and instances have been known of rats and other vermin having thus fallen before them.—*Saunders's Domestic Poultry.*

## THE GAPES.

GAPES in chickens are produced by a parasite, which enters the throat, and finding a lodgment, commences its work of destruction. The disease, too often, is fatal in character; and when we were a boy, roaming barefooted, and sometimes bare headed, over the green fields of a country farm, we did not neglect the poultry yard, and we remember how tenderly the mother and her young brood were watched, and what care was taken to render the little chicks invincible to an attack of the gapes. Many nostrums were in use, but none of them were regarded with any degree of confidence. What would kill the parasite, too often would kill the chicken. Unquestionably, it is safer to remove the parasite than to destroy it in the windpipe.

A gentleman who has had much experience with poultry, in England, recommends a novel cure. He writes:—"The whole apparatus consists in a thin piece of gut, such as flies are fastened on, coarser for chickens than for pheasants, and tolerably stiff, about from four to six inches long, and fastened at the end of the loop with a piece of sealing wax, by way of handle. Put this gut down the windpipe, twist it round half a dozen times, and you will draw out the parasite that gives so much trouble; repeat the process two or three times; and let the chicken go. From being flexible, no harm is done to the tender tube of the windpipe. Wire kills as often as it cures."

This gentleman states that he has practiced this method for several years, and always with success. By operating upon the chicken when it first begins to gape, less trouble is experienced in removing the cause of the disease. It is better to perform the operation before feeding than after a supply of food has been swallowed. The process is simple, and as it is claimed to be effectual, it should receive more prominence than all the quack nostrums of the day.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

CHICKEN CHOLERA.—The symptoms of this disease are a high fever, feathers ruffled, the skin turns black, the eyes are closed and the patient will not move unless driven. Death usually takes place in about three hours. I have lost about 100 chickens besides turkeys, ducks and geese, I tried all the remedies I could hear of but without effect, until the following came to my notice: Take corn meal and shorts in equal parts, wet the compound, and mix with lime as they will eat. For turkeys, geese and ducks, corn soaked in lime water will effect a cure.—*Cor. Rural American.*

# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1867. NO. 41.


THE DUHRING RASPBERRY.

THE DUHRING RASPBERRY originated on the country seat of Henry Duhring, Belmont, near Philadelphia. It is a seedling of the Hornet, and the only one out of 500 seedlings that endured the Winter. Mr. D., finding this plant hardy, cultivated it, and exhibited the fruit for the first time before the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, July, 1862, on which the Fruit Committee reported:—"They also notice a very large seedling Raspberry, of good quality, as large as the Hornet; it appears to be a more abundant bearer."

The plants since then, have proved hardy, without any protection, on some of the highest and most exposed localities, with the exception of the past Winter, which was one of unprecedented severity, the thermometer on one day falling as low as 10 degrees below zero, a portion of the plants sustained some injury, yet not enough to prevent them producing a moderate crop of fruit. In other and more sheltered localities, they were uninjured, and produced a large crop. Unlike its parent, the Duhring propagates freely, and throws up an abundance of strong canes, and is altogether more robust and hardy.

Fruit as large as the Hornet, but more round; color dark red, very firm; flavor similar, but superior to its parent. It ripens some five or six days earlier than the Hornet; the yield is abundant. Henry A. Dreer, seedsman and florist, of Philadelphia, has the Duhring raspberry plants for sale.

In the American Fruit Culturist we find the following relative to the cultivation of Raspberries:

"The soil for the raspberry should be rich and approaching moist, and an admixture of swamp muck is useful. A strong deep loam is the only soil from which a full crop may be expected every season. If sandy or gravelly, or a stiff, cold clay, it cannot be relied upon.—But the most important requisite is *depth*, only to be attained by deep trenching, and which will go far towards affording a remedy for any natural defect of the soil. The most tender varieties may be raised on higher, drier, and firmer spots of ground, being there less liable to severe frosts in cases where Winter covering cannot be applied.

The culture is simple. It consists in pruning each Spring, keeping all weeds and grass well cleared away from the stems, and the soil mellow and clean by cultivation.

The pruning should be done early in Spring. It consists in cutting out all but the last year's growth, together with all the smaller shoots, even with the ground, leaving only five or six of the last Summer's canes for future bearing. These are to be cut off three or four feet high, and neatly tied together, using a stalk to stiffen them if necessary. In tying, they should be allowed to spread slightly at the top, in the form of a wine-glass. The distance asunder should be about four feet. Another mode is to stretch a wire along the row, spread the canes out in contact with it, and secure them by cord or wire loops.

In many parts of the Northern States, some tender varieties need Winter protection. This is easily given, by covering the stems, when prostrate, very thinly with earth; placing a small mound of earth against the bottom of the stems before laying them down, to bend upon and prevent breaking. This covering is removed early in Spring. It will be found to prove very useful, even when not necessary to prevent Winter-killing, by rendering the crop larger and more certain.

A plantation of Raspberries will continue in bearing five or six years, when it should be renewed. If it remain longer, the fruit becomes small, and the crop gradually declines."

## IMPROVEMENT OF SOILS.

WHEN sand rests upon a clay subsoil, it is often very much improved by penetrating the subsoil in plowing, and mingling the two together, since the clay furnishes the necessary amendment to such soils. There is no way of improving soils more permanent in its character than this proper admixture of soils. They are more easily tilled, are more susceptible to the influence of manure, and can be more cheaply kept in a state of productiveness.

The most fertile soils are those in which the different earthy constituents are properly balanced, and in the improvement of farms it is well to look to the character of soil, and consider whether there are not other means within reach, apart from direct application of manure for its improvement. Land badly balanced in its composition, will, perhaps, require a long series of years in the application of organic manures, before it reaches a condition, to which often it may be brought in a short time, by mingling with it a portion of the soil of an adjacent field. In many instances the expense of cartage in removing clay, sand, &c., renders their use impracticable, but frequently it can be effected cheaply, and will pay largely for the permanent character of the improvement made. Sandy soils are benefited from the clay chiefly, by reason of its power as an absorbent, whereby manures, or matter resulting from the decomposition of roots and vegetables are retained, and made available for the food of plants, while the sand benefits the clay soils by breaking up its tenacious qualities, and altering its texture, rendering it more easily worked and permeable to air, water and the roots of plants.—*Utica Herald.*

CHEEK if not a talent is utility, and has made many a man a fortune and name.

# Natural History.

## VINEGAR EELS AND THEIR ORIGIN.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY J. S. LIPPINCOT, HADDONFIELD, N. J.

The idea entertained by some persons that the vinegar eel is spontaneously developed during acetic fermentation, or the formation of vinegar, bas heen utterly put to rest by the researches of M. Davaine, reported to tbe French Academy in 1865.

The circumstance that tbis animalcule inhabited a fluid peculiarly artificial, bas led the advocatcs of spontaneous generation to advance tbat creature as an argument in favor of their views. But M. Davaine has shown tbat the conditiou of acidity is not the only one under which it can, and does exist. Mineral acids, and also the organic ones, tbe oxalic and citric, or the acids abounding in rhubarb and lemons, respectively, when dilutcd to tbe strengtb of vinegar, in which tbe animalcule lives, destroy its life in a few bours. On the contrary, a solution of sugar is so favorable to its vitality tbat it causes it to propagate very rapidly. Although the vinegar eel dies after about eight days, when kept in pure water, it lives for several weeks if this liquid contains from one to the two tbousandth part of sugar. In water containing five per cent. of sugar it multiplies with great rapidity; if fifty per cent. of sugar be added the worms will be destroyed. The sugar watcr, of proper strength, appears to be more favorable to their dcvelopment thau tbe acid solution. In slightly acid fruits, such as peaches, prunes, apricots, apples, pears, &c., they increase at a prodigious rate. In peas, carrots, beet-roots, &c., they also thrived, and under tbese various conditions of life underwent no modifications.

Tbus it is clearly indicated that the true habitation, or natural location of the vinegar-eel, is in the juice of sweet, or sub-acid fruits. It lives and propagates itself hy myriads in those fruits which fall on the ground. Yet it is endowed with considerablc powers of locomotion, to enable it to go in search of food; and, as M. Davaine experimentally proved, can live several weeks in moist soil which appear to contain no food wbatever.

It may, therefore, be regarded as established tbat tbe vinegar-eel, so far from being developed spontaneously, during the formation of vinegar, is really introduced into the liquid in the grapes, apples, &c., which are used in its manufacture, and wbich have laid for some time on the ground; and tbat it is perpetuated in the barrels used in the process which are employed for many years continuously in the preparation of vinegar.

*October*, 1867.

# The Stock Yard.

## A GOOD COW.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

I HAVE a cow, ten years old, which gave from April 1st to September 30th, 1867, inelusive, (six montbs) 3,132 quarts of milk; heing an average of seventeen quarts and a fraction per day. May 19th, 20th and 21st, she gave twenty-one quarts each day. In the month of May sbe gave six hundred and eight quarts an average of over nineteen quarts per day.

I sold the milk from April 1st to May 15th, for six cents per quart, the remainder of the time for five cents, wbich makes the account stand—

| | |
|---|---|
| 728 quarts of milk at 6 cents | $43.68 |
| 2,404 " " " 5 " | 120.20 |
| Total | $163.88 |
| EXPENSE. | |
| Six weeks keeping on hay, 150 pounds per week, 900 pounds at $40 per tun, | $ 18.00 |
| Value of grain given | 30.81 |
| Twenty weeks pasturing at 75 cents, | 15.00 |
| Total | $63.81 |
| NET PROFIT | $100.07 |

The milk is sold at tbc door and bas been measured every day. Do not know what breed she is. She will weigh (if well fatteued) 625 pounds, dressed. Rcspectfully Yours,

ALBERT A. SMITH.

*Woonsocket, R. I.*

## DEVON CATTLE FOR LABOR.

IT is for beef chiefly that the Devons are now kcpt in England. It is in reference to this that the breed bas been *improved*. Probably it is less valuable for labor and milk than it was before the propensity to fatten acquired its present ascendeucy. But in this country one of the principal recommendations of the breed is the valuc of the oxen for labor. Hence, it is in those scctions where oxen are worked to a considcrable extent that tbe Devons bave been mostly kept, though tbeir bardiness and activity render them better fitted for exposure and for thin pastures than the Shorthorns. No ox of his size equals the Devon in ability to labor; he is very active and strong for his weight. Youatt says:—"Four good Devon steers will do as much work in tbe field or ou the road as any three horses, and in as quick, and often quicker time."

It is not merely for the *amount* of work wbicb the Devon ox performs tbat be is prized; the style in which he does it, his handsome form, fine color, graceful carriage and the little attention he requires from his driver, all servc to enhance bis value cven as a beast of hurtheu. In fact, but one objection is made to him, and that is, he lacks tbe weight which is required for the heaviest work. The objcction, as applicable to full bloods, must be to some extent admitted; they are not generally as large as would be desirable for all kinds of work, though some of the breed bave size enough for any duty required of a working ox; and by attcntion to this point in the selection of breeding stock, there would be no difficulty in obtaining animals possessing tbe requisite weight and strength.

The ordinary weigbt of oxen of this breed, in England, four to five years old, is 800 to 900 pounds, beef only; hut *show* animals have attained the weight of 1,400 pounds, and upwards. In respect to quality of flesh, the Devons stand very high, being excelled only by the mountain breeds of Scotland and Wales, and the Kerrics of Ireland.

As bas already been intimated, an important object in keeping Devon cattle in this country, is the working of the oxen. Hence, the points of activity and muscular strength must be duly regarded. Morc attcntion should he paid to size, in tbe selection of breeding stock, tban has usually been given to this point. Still symmetry should by no means be sacrificed to size. Bulls may be obtained which will weigh, in fair condition, at mature age, from seventeen to nineteen hundred pounds, and in some instances more, while they are not lacking in any of the special merits of the Devon breed. Such an animal, broken to the yoke, would probably sbow that he has weight and strength enough for any duty required of an ox. Of course, there is no reason why oxen of the breed should not attain as great or greater size than tbe bulls.

Considerahle has been said in regard to securing higher dairy qualities in the Devons. Tbey might unquestionably be obtaincd; hut it would be at thc sacrifice, more or less, of tbeir fattening tendency and value for tbc yoke, as bas heen found to he the result whenever the same thing has been attempted in England. In this State the value of the Devons for making beef and for labor, will probably be regarded as about equal at the present time, milk standing in a subordinate position. It is not unlikely that the price of beef will in uture render it expedient to place the fattening tendency relatively higher in tbe scale tban it now stands. Wbere dairying is pursued as a special business, the Devons will not he adoptcd; some brecd that is cultivated with particular rcferencc to that object should be chosen.—*Sanford Howard.*

DIARRHÆA IN CATTLE.—Take half a pint of bran and pour boiling water on it, and cover with a thick cloth until nearly cool; then strain and give the tea to the afflicted animal. Two or tbree doses is sure to cure.

## HEALTH OF COWS.

Good health in domestic animals is always a matter of primary importance.

As had healtb in parents transmits a tendency to disease in the offspring, it is important that every kind of animal we desire to continue on our farms sbould be kept vigorous and healtby.

As domestic animals are a source of human food, it is of great importance to preserve tbem in a healthy condition. Diseased meat carries its qualities into the stomach of its consumer. It is a serious objection which vegetarians urge against the usc of animal food, that the artificial circumstances in which animals live, and the bad treatment tbey receive, render tbem unhealthy. As an unhealthy auimal does not consume food to as good advantage as a well one, it is economical to avoid disease.

As comparative misery and discomfort accompany disease, it is bumane as well as economical to see that the animals under our care enjoy as far as possible tbeir creature comforts.

Each of these circumstances is a sufficient reason for guarding with scrupulous care the healtb of the animals we feed; but when we derive milk from animals, it is doubly important that they are kcpt free from every objectional taint. A sickly cow not only yields a diminished profit, but sbe yields a sickly milk, and sickly in a higher degree than ber flesh.

If a cow eats any tbing that has a strong or disagreeable odor, it appears in ber milk.

If a cow eats anything medical, it comes out in ber milk.

If sbe is fevcrish her milk shows it.

If she has sores about her, pus may be found in her milk.

If she is fed upon decayed or deceased food, her milk, since it is derived from her food, will be imperfect. It is as impossible to make good milk from bad food, as to makc a good building from rotten timber.—*Little Falls Farmer.*

## MUTTON SHEEP UPON DAIRY FARMS.

SOME of our dairy farmers are discussing tbe qucstion of keeping sheep in connection with the dairy. The first question usually asked is,—"Wbat is the most profitable sbeep for me to keep?" The answcr to tbis question must be determincd in a great measure by the soil, climate and market whcre the farmer is located. The sheep husbandry that may bc most profitable in Texas may not be equally so in New York. In a thickly populated country, wbere land is expensive, and at tbe prcsent prices of wool, we must look beyond mere wool production to make sheep husbandry pay. There may be local causes affecting single farms that have tbeir influence in determining what kind of sheep to employ.

Rough, hilly farms, with but little arablc land in proportion to the pasture will be better adapted to a small, hardy race of sbeep, while farms that have better pastures and bigher culture can maintain a large, meat producing breed. In the central counties of New York, there is, and always will be, a good market for mutton, and there is nothing in the way of our producing good wool and good mutton, since our soil and climate seem well adapted to the usual breeds of sheep.

Of the different breeds of English shcep, the Lincolns, the Cotswolds, tbe Leister and the Downs, each has its advocates, and each combines those qualities which render them profitable, both for meat and wool. But if the farmer proposes to grow meat and wool for the market, it is not imperative in making his selection, tbat he should strictly adhere to pure bred animals, in order to have a good flock. In making up a flock, if good sized sheep be selected, having good constitutions and heavy flecces, and then good breeding from them, using a pure bred male of either the breeds named, that he wisbes his flock assimilated to, tbere is little dangcr of failing in good results. Tbis course we found pursued often in England, the inferior sbcep of thc flock being sold for mutton, and by adhering to tbe system for a few years, a flock of great excellence, both as to wool and meat, is obtained.

Tbere can be but little doubt that a large number of mutton sheep is needed in the diary districts of New York, and with such a good market for mutton as is presented in the central counties of the Statc, it is pretty certain that small flocks of English sheep upon dairy farms may be made remunerative. The experiment is well worth trying, and we are glad to see some of our best farmers agitating the question at this time.—*Utica Herald.*

## EXPERIMENTS IN FEEDING CATTLE.

IN England everytbing connected witb agriculture is experimented in, without regard to expense, in every possible way. In no country has tbe cultivation of tbe soil been carried to a higher state of perfection, or iu which it is more productive, and as an occupation, more lucrative. We always read with pleasure the results of farming, and especially the many experiments wbich are tried there with a view to discover the most successful and profitable way of conducting the various operations on the farm.

Thc following experiment in fecding cattle with cooked and with fermented food, was lately tried upon one of the largest estates. It will he seen tbat tbis experiment suggests the importance of great care and caution in feeding, before a decided opinion is adopted in so nice and delicate a subject as the neutrition of animals, tbe health and constitution of which is so various.

Four heifers were selected, as equal in all respects as possible; and six pigs were also selected, from tbe same family; each lot was divided by the selection, alteruately, of an animal. All were weighed, and at the cnd of each week, during the experiment, each animal was weighed.

Iu the first week of the experiment the fermented food consumed was much less than the otber, and thc increase of the pigs in live weight was considerable more; and the heifers also seemed to have made rapid advances.—The second week, however, changed the scene entirely. Those on cooked food were making steady progress, while those on fermented food had produced scarcely an increase from the preceding week. It was then observed that the bowels of tbe lot using fermented food had been confined, and had become free in the second. Thc apparent success on the first week was the result of indigestion and accumulations of undigested matter in the intestines.—The experiment continued for twelve weeks—those on cooked food tbriving and increasing, the other not. On slaugbtering them, it was found that the intestines of the three fed on fermented food were full of worms—thus accounting for their not advancing. There was a difference in the return of the lots of pigs in favor of those fed on cooked food of £1 7 3.

Knowing as we do that there is a considerable differcnce of opinion among farmers upon this questiou, the abovc is submitted to their attention in the hope that they will give us their own views upou tbe subject, which is one, they will admit, wortby of consideration.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

CURE FOR HOLLOW HORN.—Take a bandful of fine salt moistened with soft soap, rub thoroughly from the horns down each side of the back bone and across tbe loins. Feed on green food, potatoes cut, or turnips, with a small quantity of hran sprinkled over them. Tbree or four applications geuerally effect a cure.

CURE FOR CANOER WARTS ON HORSES.—A correspondent says: "Last spring one of my mares bad a large cancer wart on the side of her face, about three inches helow the eye, and after trying several kinds of medicine to no effect, (only to increase the size of the wart), I made a salve of strong soft soap, and common table salt, and threc applications entirely cured it, so tbat therc are no signs of it any more."

THE cranberry crop of Jackson Co., Wisconsin, which has begun to come in, is estimated at 5,000 busbels.

FIREPROOF WASH FOR SHINGLES.—A wash composed of lime, salt and fine sand or wood asbes, put on in the ordinary way of whitewashing, renders the roof fifty per cent. more secure against taking fire from falling cinders, in case of fire in tbe vicinity. It pays the expense a hundred fold in its preserving influence against the effects of the weather. The older and more weather-beaten tbe shingles, the more benefit derived. Such shingles generally become more or less warped, rough and cracked; the application of the wash restores tbem to their original form, tbereby closing up the space hetween thc shingles; and tbe lime and sand, hy filling up the cracks aud pores in the shingle, prevent its warping. A friend who has tried this preparation, informs us that it is one of the best that he ever saw.

## The Fireside Muse.

### THE MILESTONE.

Along a road two Irish lads,
One summer day were walking,
And all the while with laugh and shout,
In lively strain were talking.

About the fair, about the girls,
And who were best at dancing,
While at each pretty face they met
Their eyes were brightly glancing.

And as they strode for many a mile,
They grew in time quite frisky,
And now and then, from lip to lip,
They passed the darling whiskey.

At length, before them in the hedge,
The roadside view commanding,
They saw, its white sides lettered o'er,
A milestone lonely standing.

They read and quickly doffed their hats,
With sorrow in their faces;
Turning with reverential awe,
They stepped back several paces.

"Speak low, we're near the dead," said one,
"His grave we'll not be troublin';
An old man, sure! 100, and
His name is Miles from Dublin!"

## Horticulture.

### PRESERVING CABBAGES.

The following mode of putting up cabbages for winter and spring use, which we know by experience to be a good way, we copy from that most valuable work, *Gardening for Profit*, a work which every farmer should have:—

"Cabbages are preserved very simply; they are left out as late as they can be pulled up by the roots—in this section, about the end of November—they are then pulled up and turned upside down; the roots up, the heads packed close together, in beds six feet wide, with six feet alleys between, care being taken to have the ground levelled where the cabbages are placed, so that they pack nicely. They are left in this way for two or three weeks, or as long as the ground can be dug between the alleys, the soil from which is thrown in on the beds of cabbage, so that, when finished, they have a covering of four or six inches of soil. This is not enough to cover the root, however, which is left partly exposed, but this is in no way injurious. Some prefer to cover them up at once by ploughing a furrow, shovelling it out wide enough to receive the heads of the cabbages, and then turning the soil in on the heads, and so continuing until beds of six or eight feet are thus formed. This plan is rather more expeditious than the former, but it has the disadvantage of compelling them to be covered up at once by soil, while the other plan delays it two or three weeks later, and it is of the utmost importance in preserving vegetables that the operation (particularly the final covering) be delayed as late in the season as frost will permit. Generally more are lost by beginning too soon than delaying too late. Onions, we find, are best preserved in a barn or stable loft, in layers from eight to ten inches deep, covered up with about a foot of hay or straw on the approach of severe frosts. The great points to be attained are a low temperature and a dry atmosphere; they will bear twenty degrees of frost without injury, provided they are not moved while frozen, but they will not stand a reduction of temperature much lower than this without injury."

### TRANSPLANTING TREES.

The fall season for transplanting trees is approaching. It ought to commence in September, or earlier, if the foliage is withered and the wood ripe. Fall planting should not be confounded with winter planting, nor the fatalities which sometimes occur among trees removed in winter, be attributed to fall planting, for the operation of setting our trees in November ought to be denominated winter planting. There is generally more time for preparing the ground properly for trees in the fall than in the spring. In fact, the ground should be prepared during the summer in the interval of time that occurs between the getting in of the spring crops and the commencement of the harvest. At this time there will be an opportunity for draining and deepening the soil, and for supplying those manures which are specially adapted to the kind of fruit to be raised.

Chemical analysis have shown that the fruit of the apple tree contains in its composition a large proportion of potash, soda, phosphoric acid and sulphuric acid; also considerable portions of lime, chlorine and silica. These ingredients, if not already existing in the soil, may be supplied by the addition of ashes, bones, salt, plaster, lime, ammonia, &c. It is better to have the soil of several parts of the intended orchard analyzed by an agricultural chemist in order to ascertain its composition and to understand what it lacks. Great mistakes have been made by getting one sample of the soil of a field, orchard, or garden analyzed, and acting on the supposition that it was a fair average of the whole. It should be borne in mind that soils differ materially in their composition, and often vary much in different parts of the same field, orchard or garden, and it may be better to apply the manures to the whole field than to be entirely guided by an analysis of the soil of one part of it. The same manures which we have mentioned as suitable for the apple will answer for the pear, peach or cherry, the composition of these fruits being nearly the same as the apple, merely consisting of different proportions of similar ingredients. A celebrated pomologist has said that the holes for trees should be made the length and breadth of the orchard, indicating that the whole soil should be deepened to the extent required for the roots of the trees, and this is the true way of preparing for an orchard.

Large trees are generally preferred to small ones for setting out in a new orchard, especially by persons who have not had any experience in transplanting trees. Small, well furnished young trees are generally preferable to large, spindly old ones, which have been drawn up by being set too closely in nursery rows, and have become more suitable for bean poles than for forming thrifty, spreading trees. An important objection to large trees is that the roots have spread to a considerable distance in the rows where they grow, and, in digging them out, a considerable portion is generally cut off and left in the ground. When selecting trees, it is worth while to go to the nursery and see them taken up carefully, as the employes in such places do not care how much they cut and hack the roots, it being a matter of perfect indifference to them whether the trees grow or fail.

A great advantage in planting small trees is that they are not so liable to be shaken by the wind as large ones. They can be taken up with nearly all the roots attached, and do not require to be mutilated by severe pruning, or heading down, such as is practiced on large ones, in order to establish a balance between the head and the shortened and damaged roots. Large trees are sometimes selected because it is supposed that they will bear fruit much sooner than small ones, but such is not always the case, for a small tree of an early fruiting variety, such as the Keswick Codling, will bear fruit much sooner than a large Yellow Bellflower, the former producing a fair crop of fruit when four years old, the latter not until it has reached the age of twelve or fourteen years.—*Western Rural.*

### ON RIPENING APPLES AND PEARS.

As this is the month for the harvesting of orchard fruits, we propose in this article to say a few words on gathering and ripening apples and pears. There is no such thing as having sound and perfect apples through the Winter months, unless much care be taken in gathering them. This should be deferred with Winter fruit as late as practicable, so as not to be exposed to severe frosts. The fruit should be picked by hand from the tree by means of ladders, and placed carefully in baskets. This should be done after all dew has dried off—in clear weather. Very soon after being picked, the fruit should be assorted. All defective ones should be excluded, and the sound, unbruised ones packed carefully in tight, clean barrels. These barrels, after being headed up, should be removed from the orchard on sleds, to a shed through which the air circulates freely, or they may be protected from the dew and rain by placing boards over them. They may be allowed to remain in this situation a week or more, or until the cold is too severe, when they should be transferred to a cool dry cellar, into which air may be admitted in mild weather. The barrels should be placed in tiers upon their sides, numbering upon each head the quantity of fruit contained in the barrel, and also the name of it. The small, imperfect but sound fruit, is to be treated in the same manner and marked No. 2, indicating a second quality. Apples which are intended for market are frequently assorted into three different qualities, as *best*, *good*, and *inferior*; the former being all selected fruit, the "good" containing sound fruit of medium or small specimens; the third being so poor that the fruit is unfit for market and suitable only for stock or immediate family use. All of this is easily done; yet many whole orchards bring but an inferior price for want of this care.

Too often we find that Winter apples are left upon the trees very late in the Autumn, frequently till they have been exposed to two or three severe frosts. When convenient they are shaken from the trees, getting bruised by the way as they fall upon the limbs or strike each other upon the ground; the good and the bad are picked up and poured into barrels or open wagons and perhaps half a dozen sorts mixed together. Afterward they are put promiscuously into bins, barrels or open boxes, where they are expected to keep well all Winter. This is a slovenly and ruinous method; yet it is practiced by a great many farmers.

Fully one half is lost by this practice of gathering, as the fruit ripens prematurely and decays rapidly on being bruised. The decay is very much hastened when several sorts are mixed promiscuously together, ripening at as many different periods. Those kinds which do not come to maturity till late in the Winter or early in the Spring, are turned and handled many times when assorting those which are in season during November and December. For this reason it is always best to keep each sort separate by itself, and handle the apples as little as possible, excepting as once or twice in course of the Winter they may need to be picked over to detect and remove the rotting ones.

Light is unfavorable to the keeping of fruit, and should be excluded. It is often noticed that when fruit, particularly pears, are placed in a room above ground, and often in a very dry cellar, and left exposed to the air, they shrivel up and lose their life. They should, therefore, be kept either in barrels or boxes.—About the time pears are needed for use they can be removed to a room of higher temperature, and kept as closely as before in drawers or boxes, where they will ripen, and will possess a much finer flavor than if allowed to ripen in a cooler place. By treating pears in this way, one variety can be made to last a long time.

Summer pears ought to be gathered a week before ripe; late Fall and Autumn varieties ought to be allowed to hang upon the trees as long as they can escape frost.

There is, we think, much yet to learn in ripening Winter pears well, more particularly the late sorts. But few pear raisers have been successful in ripening such sorts as *Easter*, *Beurre*, *St. Germain* and other Winter kinds. In fact, it is found almost impossible with the fruit room conveniences and cellars now in ordinary use. Some few enterprising persons have expended considerable sums in buildings, &c., to ripen Winter sorts, and in the main they have succeeded well; but it is quite useless for farmers and many others to plant trees of such varieties of fruit that require so much care in ripening, unless they are prepared to embark in it extensively.

The farmers of Central Illinois are putting in an unusually large crop of Winter wheat.

## Miscellany.

### NOT SO GREEN.

A tall, awkward looking chap, from the Green Mountains of Vermont, came on board one of the splendid North River boats at Albany. His curiosity was amazingly excited at once, and he commenced "pecking," as he called it, in every corner of the boat. The captain's office, the engine room, the water closets, underwent his inspection, and then he went on deck and stood in amazement at the lever beam, the chimneys, and the various "fixins," till at last he caught sight of the bell. This was a crowning wonder, and he viewed it from every position, walked round it, got down on his knees and looked up into it and exclaimed:

"Wal, raly, this beats the bell on our meeting house a darned sight!"

By this time the attention of the captain and several of the passengers was attracted to this genius.

"How much would you ask to let a feller ring this bell?"

"You may ring it for a dollar, sir," said the captain.

"Well, it's a bargain, all fair and agreed, and no backing out."

"It's a bargain, sir," said the captain.

Our hero went deliberately and brought a seat, and took hold of the bell rope; and, having arranged everything to his satisfaction, commenced ringing slowly at first, and gradually faster and faster, till every one on board thought the boat was on fire, and rushed on deck, screaming with alarm.

There stood the captain, and there sat the "Varmonter," ringing away, first slow, and then fast, and then two or three taps at a time. The passengers began to expostulate; the captain said it was a bargain. But the passengers became urgent that the eternal clamor should be stopped.

All the while there sat our hero undisturbed, ringing away more ways than a cockney chimeringer ever dreamed of. At last the captain began to think it time to stop the simpleton, but his answer was:

"A fair bargain and no backing out," said he, and rang away for dear life.

"Well," said the captain, "what will you take to stop?"

"Well, cap'n, I guess I shan't lose nothing if I take five dollars and a free passage to New York, and not a cent less."

"Well, sir, walk down to the ticket office and get your money and a passage ticket," answered the captain.

To Make Superior Cider.—The apples should be ripe, cleaned when picked, and put in a bin and there remain for several days until they become mellow, then ground, (not too fine so as to be pulpy;) then laid up in a cheese with rye straw, the straw dampened with water. After the cheese is laid up let it stand about twelve hours before pressing, then press gradually. Put the juice in clean whiskey barrels. After the cheese is pressed out put the barrels containing the cider in a cool place, upon blocks, for working or fermenting; be particular to keep the barrels full while the fermentation is going on. After the fermentation is done, which can be told by a coarse froth on the bung hole, rack or drain off the cider (not disturbing the barrel) and put the barrels containing it in a cellar or cool place; take out the bung and let the cider again work, the barrels to be kept full while working. When done working, again rack off and put in clean barrels as before.

As evidence of the extraordinary growth of vegetables in Florida, it is mentioned that a single tomato plant, spreading like the banyan tree, has entirely covered a bed eighteen feet square. It had produced about six bushels of fruit up to the latter part of August, and was still producing a bushel or more on it, sometimes at once.



Mowing Machines.—Rev. Patrick Bell read a paper at the late scientific meeting at Dundee, Scotland, on reaping and mowing machines, of which he claims to have been the earliest inventor. He invented a reaping machine in 1826, which was at work in the field in the harvest of 1827. Eight years after (1833–4) machines on the same principle were patented in the United States of America. It seems, however, that the American machines, if not first in the field, must have had some superiority over the English, for during the last five years eight thousand American reapers or mowers have been imported into England, while few, if any, English machines have been taken to America. The fact that American machines are protected by a high duty, while they come into England free, may make some difference.

# Farm and Garden.

## DELAWARE FARMING.—PEACH CULTURE.

### PLANTING AN ORCHARD.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY J. ALEXANDER FULTON, DOVER, DELAWARE.

*Site.*—We have already said that our soil is almost universally adapted to the Peach cnltnre; and might add here that nearly all localities are, also. Still, some places, like a haunted spring, have a charmed atmosphere, and are greatly to be preferred to others. It has been found from observation that some orchards rarely ever miss a crop, while others miss every other year, or only bear once in three years, and so on. There mnst be a reason for the difference, and many and varied are those suggested. One finds it in the variety of fruit; another in the character of the soil; and a third in the tillage. All may be partially correct. Some varieties are, indeed, more prolific than others; a good, rich, kind soil, is better than a poor, or rank one; and good tillage is as essential in raising peaches as any other crop. But it has been fonnd that even a concurrence of all these conditions has failed to produce a crop, while orchards with fewer advantages have yielded an abundant one.

There is, then, something in a *site*, and in choosing this, attention should be given to the topography of the section, and that spot selected which combines the greatest nnmber of advantages. And here the *Bay-side* has some, which the interior has not. It lies lower, nearer the water, and is, consequently, not so liable to hard frosts in the Winter and early Spring. The soil is also heavier, and the trees grow larger. But it is exposed to "Northeasters," which often kill the fruit or materially injnre it. Then, if the weather is wet at picking, the fruit spoils and rots sooner. So that, npon the whole, the Bay-side is not to be preferred.

In selecting a site in the interior, when it can be had, we would prefer a Southern or Southeastern slope, or a plain with snch a one in the back-ground. And if there was a wood or wind-brake on the Northwest, we should seek no further. With these topographical advantages, and good cultnre, we should never fail, unless the failnre was general. The wind-brake is of great benefit, for it is found that, even in the same orchard, the Northwest exposure is much oftener injured than other parts of the orchard. And few have failed to notice how much surer trees in town, and on Sonth-sides of walls are, than those which are wholly unprotected.

*Preparing the Ground.*—This is done in varions ways, corresponding with the judgment, means and other circumstances of the farmer. Some are very careless, and some very careful, in this as in all else they do. Some plant in fallow, some on sod; others, again, in corn stnbble. But what is more remarkable, with good after cultnre, all do well.

If it is intended to plant in fallow, the ground is broken up in Angust or September as for wheat, and left to rot until late in the Fall or early the next Spring, when it is thoronghly harrowed, and sometimes rolled. It is then "marked out." This is done by running parallel furrows at the proper distance for planting. It is then "crossed," by drawing similar furrows at right angles with the former, and at equal distances from each other.—The usual distance is twenty feet; thus giving each tree an area of four hundred feet. Nearly all our orchards are planted at this distance, but some very jndicious planters think that a wider space, say twenty-five feet, should be left between the trees. The advantages of wide planting would be larger trees, with low-spreading heads, better fruit, and more easily gathered. With rows twenty feet apart, when the trees become five or six years old, it will be impracticable to drive a team through the orchard. To obviate this difficulty, in all large orchards, a wider space is left at short intervals. In some instances between every fifth, in others between every tenth row, a space thirty feet wide is left, as a roadway. Where the orchards are smaller, the roadway is sometimes left on the circnmference.

After the ground is "laid ont," the trees are planted at the intersections of the furrows.—No extraordinary care is nccessary or taken in planting. They shonld be planted at abont the same depth they grew in the nnrsery, and the ground firmly pressed around the roots. They require very little coaxing to grow.

When the trees are planted on sod, it is usual to throw two or three furrows together; cross in the same manner, and plant the trees on the ridges at the intersections. The interspaces are then broken up, and worked in corn, *which is the only grain crop cultivated in a peach orchard.*

When an orchard is planted on corn stnbble, it is either broken up and harrowed as fallow, or ridged as sod. The treatment afterwards is very similar.

*Fertilizers.*—Fertilizers are frequently used in planting, and are very beneficial; especially if the land is thin, or the trees have been "forced" by stimulating mannres, as is often the case. The most common are the superphosphates, raw bone, lime and ashes. The quantity varies according to the opinion, means or convenience of the planter. Some apply it to the roots at planting; some sow it broadcast after planting, and others when they plant their corn.

*Time of Planting.*—Trees may be planted without risk, either in Fall or Spring. But we prefer the Fall. Our reasons are, the more favorable condition of the ground and weather, as a rule; the more easy procurement of labor; and the greater certainty of securing fresh and vigorous trees.

In the Fall the ground is nsually loose and mellow, or can be easily made so, bnt not always in the Spring. The heavy rains, the Winter's freezing, as well as the Spring frosts, all tend to unfit the soil for the kindly reception of the yonng trees. And the weather is often so wet that we have to plant them in mortar, or defer it nntil other work presses us so closely that we are glad to *hurry* them in in order to get them out of the way. Besides all this, it often tnrns ont that there is so much moistnre in the earth at this time, that considerable shrinkage takes place as the season advances, leaving the yonng trees half ont of the ground, and in an inclined position. When this occurs the planter has his option to either rectify them at some expense, or allow his orchard to be disfigured with crooked trees.

The proper time for planting in the Fall, is when the sap has all returned to the roots.—This is indicated by the fall of the leaf; but when the season has been wet, or the trees have been highly fed, the leaves may adhere too long. The fall of the leaf will not then be the proper test; but if they will *rub off easily*, the trees may be safely taken up and planted. This usually occurs after seeding, and after the corn has been saved, and when fewer hands can be readily engaged at moderate wages.

The last advantage of Fall planting, which we have mentioned, is the greater certainty of obtaining fresh and vigorons trees. To do this is of prime importance. Indeed, a failure to procure good yonng trees at the ontstart, is usually a failure to secnre a good orchard forever after. *None but those of first quality should ever be planted.* A man who will plant an inferior tree because it can be purchased at a lower price is very foolish indeed. It stands about thus: he either loses it altogether, or spends ten times the cost of a good one in extra care, labor, and fertilizing, in order to save it at all. To run no risk here, we say, plant in the Fall. Then the market opens, and yon have your choice; and "first come, first served," is the maxim with nurserymen as with most other dealers. Then the trees are fresh from the nursery. They have neither died nor shrivelled. You can transplant them immediately, and the next Spring they will start as vigorously as if they had never been removed. Some planters, in order to secure good trees, and who cannot conveniently plant in the Fall, purchase them, and *heel-in* for Spring planting. This plan may prove convenient to some. The risk is, that, in heeling-in, as it is always done in bundles, some of the trees may become too dry, and shrivel. The plan is not to be commended, but only to be resorted to when the planter finds it very inconvenient or impracticable to plant in the Fall.

*Heeling-in*, when resorted to, is done by digging a trench abont twenty inches deep and two feet wide, and as long as may be required, and placing the roots of the yonng trees therein. In doing so, the trees are inclined, at an angle of about forty-five degrees, towards the South. They are then covered np about two-thirds of their length from the North side.—This cover, besides protecting the roots, affords a shelter to the branches not covered. Here they remain until wanted in the Spring; and, if the ground has been well chosen—it should be high and dry, and the work well done—they will keep very safely.

*Trimming the Young Trees.*—As the trees come from the nursery with all their branches on, it is nccessary to trim them. Sometimes this is done before they are planted, but oftener not until afterwards. The former is the preferable time in some respects. If the weather is unpleasant it can be done in doors, and with more facility than ease. But care must be taken not to mix the varieties in nnfying the bunches. When the trimming is done after the trees are set, this risk is avoided. As there is usually a throng at planting time, the trimming is generally deferred. But the manner of doing it, amongst experienced planters, is always the same. And to do it well and satisfactorily, a keen bladed knife is essential. With this the lateral branches are all cnt off from the stem closely and smoothly. The stem itself is then topped at the desired height. If the planter wishes low-topped trees, with spreading heads, he cnts low; while, on the contrary, if he desires stately trees, with branches so high that he can plow closely up under them, he will cut high. It is thus in the power of the planter to give character to his trees. Much vanity prevails in this respect. Those whose object is a divided one between fruit and corn, usually prefer the stately heads; while those whose prime object is the fruit, the low ones. Where an *orchard* is the aim, we do not hesitate to commend the latter.

A few inexperienced planters leave some of the lateral branches on at planting, and some refuse to top the main one. But this is a blunder rarely committed more than once.—It is nsually done from a vain desire to give early form to the tree, and also to obtain an early crop; bnt it accelerates neither, and, besides, does positive injury. The small lateral branches, as well as the tip of the stem, are often immaturc, and die during the first season after planting. They are then in the way, have to be taken off at more expense, with more danger to the yonng wood, and more chagrin to the planter, *Branches from the nursery seldom, if ever, bear fruit, and never sooner than those formed after planting.* Besides all this, the symmetry of the orchard is destroyed for years, as there is always a difference in the size of trees which is much reduced by close and nniform trimming, bnt greatly increased by a contrary course.

We now have the orchard planted. In our next article, we shall speak of its management afterwards.

*September*, 1867.

---

Costing too Much.—During a recent session of the N. Y. Institute Farmers' Club, a member said he had jnst visited the Government Farm at Washington, and saw the manner of treating the gronnd for strawberry vines. The entire surface of the ground was covered by a heavy dressing of barn-yard manure. The leaves of the plants were raised up and the manure placed closely aronnd the stems.

By this system of cultivation most bountiful crops were produced. Mr. Meeker replied that it cost the Government at the rate of $1,500 per acre to manure the ground, and objected to taking lessons from such a source.

## A CROP OF ALSIKE CLOVER.

I had a small field of three and a half acres that I had Summer-fallowed, and subsequently took a crop of Fall wheat from it in the Autnmn of 1865. In the following Spring I plowed it once and sowed to Spring wheat, and seeded it down to Alsike clover, putting on but five pounds of seed to the acre, harrowed in with the last harrowing. I should state that the field has had no manure since it was cleared; which is some eight or ten years. The clover germinated and came up well; and last Fall I pastured it very lightly. In the Spring of the present year, about the 5th of May, I sowed a barrel and a half of plaster on the field, and now I am cutting and secureing the crop for seed. I have five good sized wagon loads in the barn, and there are fifteen or sixteen more in the field. The average length of the stalks is about two and a half feet, but in some of the hollows it is as high as four and a half feet. Of course, it was all down in one tangled mass, and it occupied eight long days for one man to mow it. It appears to be extremely prolific in seed. I think it would have been better to have pastured it until the first of June for a seed crop, as it would not then have grown so tall or been so badly laid.

In regard to its adaptation for the bee pasturage I find it excellent; for during about four weeks it produced a multitude of blossoms, and the bees literally covered them from morning till night. Out of curiosity, on the 24th of June, I drove a common sized swarm of bees into a hive filled with empty comb, and having weighed them, set them in a corner of the clover field. After the lapse of a week I weighed them again, and found that they had gained twenty-seven ponnds. This additional weight was, of course, all honey, for there was no comb to bnild, nor could there have been any weight of brood in that short interval of time.—*Cor. Canada Farmer.*

---

## TOBACCO, CORN, AND POTATOES IN INDIANA.

[From the New Albany (Ind.) Commercial.]

From what we deem an authentic source, we have information that the tobacco crop of Southern Indiana the present season will fall far below the anticipations held by planters in the early part of the season. It was late in the season before the planting was finished.—Then followed cold rains and most nnfavorable growing weather. The crop had only fairly got started in its growth when the dronth set in, and as a conseqnence a short yield will follow. This crop has become a most important one in the Southern part of the State during the past few years.

The dronth has greatly shortened the yield of the corn and potato crop throughout Southern and Central Indiana. This month it has been of almost unexampled continuance and severity. A gentleman who retnrned last night from an extended trip over the State, assures ns that, except in the rich river bottoms, the yield of corn and potatoes will not reach half a crop. On the uplands these crops are almost an entire failnre. Along the line of the Lonisville, New Albany and Chicago railroad, the grass looks as if it had been burned over with fire, and so far as the crops are concerned, they present more the black appearance of December than the rich hues of early Autumn. The oat yield was very short, and as a consequence corn is now commanding $1.10 in lots, and oats readily bring 70 cents. At Terre Haute, in a section of the State where potatoes are generally a "monster" crop, and seldom ever fail, onr informant states that they now command $1.50 per bushel.

---

A mixture of three parts of lard and one of rosin, melted together, is one of the best coatings for all steel or iron implements. The lard makes the rosin soft, while the latter is a sure preventive against rusting. The mixture is good for plows, hoes, axes, indeed for all tools and implements, as well as knives and forks packed away.

---

Peaches twelve inches in circumference were exhibited at a fair in Illinois last week.

---

Liquid Manure for Fruit Trees.—M. de Thier recommends liqnid manure to be applied three or four times during the Summer, over the whole extent of surface that the roots of fruit trees may be presumed to occnpy. He advises the surface soil to be removed a few inches deep before the application, and replaced afterward, or some mnlching in its place. He gives four kinds of liquid manure, either of which may be nsed. First, guano mixed with eight times its bulk of water. Second, oil-cake, finely bruised, and mixed with six times its bulk of water. Third, excrementitious matter mixed with water, and rendered inodorons by mixing two pounds of green copperas with twenty-two gallons of the liquid. Fourth, urine mixed with four times its quantity of water.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—Daniel Webstee.

## AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

It is a gratifying fact that so much interest is exhibited among the rural classes towards the permanent establishment of our Agricultural Colleges. These institutions, if properly conducted, are eminently calculated to advance the farming interest, to elevate the standard of agriculture, to increase the taste for the most noble and rational of all pursuits, and thus increase the material wealth and industry of the nation.

We frequently hear men ask "What shall I do with my sons—what trade or profession shall I give them?" We reply that our Agricultural Colleges are the places to send them. These are aveunes to education and business. The learned professions are already crowded—too much so—overstocked with members who do not, and cannot earn half a living. Instead of parents still continning to crowd their sons in these uncertain and unproductive pursuits, we say it would be far better to put them between the handles of the plow—teach them the honest, independent, praiseworthy and sure business of a farmer; let them learn how to cultivate the land; to make two blades of grass grow where one now grows; to plough, sow, reap and harvest; to learn the business not only mechanically but scientifically; to understand the theory and practice of farming thoroughly in all its branches.

We have land in abundance, cheaper than elsewhere on the earth, and as productive as can be found beneath the sun. We only require the knowledge how to make it productive, and men of wealth and family pride need not blush to see their sons farming; it is the highest of all pursuits, generally a sure road to independence, good citizenship and happiness. There need be no apprehension that a brilliant mind, if trained in the honest pursuit of agriculture, will not find sources enough to make itself known and felt. Many of the greatest and best of mankind were reared amid the contemplative and beautiful scenery of rural industry—whence they have been afterwards called to participate in the highest duties of the nation.

If our opinion was asked, we would say to the thousands of American boys who are seeking the crowded, poorly-paid, over-stocked avennes of the professions, clerkships in cities and positions in stores,—"Go to our Agricultural Colleges, obtain a knowledge of farming, and afterwards settle down in the country."—There you can have a home of your own, be your own master, enjoy robust health and even a better and more honest living than the city can give you. The prospects for the future are all in favor of rural pursuits; while the financial condition of this country, the fluctuations of trade and the certainty of commercial storms and shipwrecks for years to come, offer nothing but heartache, disaster and misfortune. Go to farming, then your future prospects and the country's prosperity will be immeasurably advanced.

☞ No one doubts the value of a good agricultural journal; and the way to make them practical and useful is for farmers to write for them. By this means we get the experience of each other relative to the treatment of different soils, the care of stock, value of fertilizers and the production and revenue from various crops.

We renew the invitation to our agricultural and horticultural friends to contribute something to the Farm and Fireside. Give us your views and experiences, and we will disseminate them for the benefit of the large class for whom we labor.

## REDUCTION OF THE HOURS OF LABOR.

Within a few years there has been a great deal said and written relative to a reduction of the hours of labor among the working classes. All the mechanical trades have reduced their time to ten hours for a day's work; but the more radical reformers are not even satisfied with this arrangement. They are now demanding a further reduction, and ask that *eight hours* shall be considered a legal day's labor.

We certainly have as much sympathy for the working classes as any other person, and would gladly give our aid to any feasible plan which would ameliorate their labor or elevate their social condition. But we fear this class are asking for more than is reasonable, and for more than will be granted them at the present time. Ten hours a day seems not unreasonable time for a day's labor; especially with the present increased wages paid to nearly every trade or profession. We are aware that the cost of living is far more than formerly; yet mechanics and laborers have constant employment and regular pay. None are suffering, nor are they more over-tasked or less prosperous than other classes of the community.

What will our farmers, who toil from sunrise to sunset, say to the adoption of an eight, or a ten hour law? Can the demands of agriculture be met, and its great and diversified labors be performed under such a system?—We presume there is not a solitary tiller of the soil in this country who can conscientiously answer in the affirmative. In the first place farm labor cannot be reduced to a system admitting a limitation of eight, or ten hours per day; nor will the meagre profits of farming, in any section of this country, allow so large a decrease of working time without a corresponding decrease in the pay of hired labor.

There is no class or profession that work as hard, or as many hours, as the farmer. Early and late, in sunshine and storm, there is always something to do. Agriculture never sleeps. Through Summer and Winter, through seed-time and harvest, her demands continue—in fact there is no "let up" between January and December. Thus, it will be seen that these "labor reforms," among the mechanical classes, cannot be introduced in agriculture without vastly lessening our productions and materially reducing our national wealth.

We acknowledge that there is too much work, and too many long, toiling hours on the farm; yet we do not see any practical method of ameliorating or reducing these by the sweeping and radical "reforms" advocated by the mechanical classes. The season, weather and climate will continue to regulate the hours of labor on the farm as they have done heretofore.

Harvesting Potatoes.—No time should be lost, now, in harvesting the potato crop. It is better to have them dug while the mild, dry weather lasts, than to wait until the fall rains set in. The labor is less now than later in the season, and the quality of the potato is as good, if not better, than if allowed to remain in the ground. In visiting a rich agricultural section, recently, we noticed large piles of potatoes exposed to several days wind and sun. This is a great error. If sufficiently dry, after digging, they should be put into winter quarters the same day they are taken from the ground, unless sent to market. Exposure to light and air are a positive injury to this crop. They are also better if stored in a dark cellar, or bin, rather than in a light one. A slight dusting of lime is said to improve their keeping quality. Don't delay in having them dug and housed before severe frost and cold weather comes.

A new grass is springing up in the Southern States. It appears to be a dwarf clover, is very thick set, covering the earth with a beautiful carpet of green. It is much relished by cattle, and is a complete exterminator of Bermuda, joint, sedge, and other grasses. In Middle Georgia it is very abundant, and is attracting much attention.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

Great complaint is made from all sections of the country relative to the inferior quality of fruit this season. Apples, pears, peaches, grapes and even water-melons are destitute of their usual flavor. This is attributed to the season. The "Maine Farmer" says: "We believe the fruit this year is far behind what it is usually in flavor, which is probably owing to the large amount of wet and cloudy weather in the latter part of July, August and September. Pears, grapes and apples seem to lack that delicacy of flavor common to them, so much so that it is often hard to make up our minds as to the variety of the fruit in consequence of its unnatural flavor."

A Correspondent of the "Country Gentleman" thinks the yield of barley, this season, is vastly over-estimated, and recommends farmers to hold back their stock in order to get better prices. He says that owing to the wet Spring, not half the usual amount of barley was sown, and owing to the drouth in the principal barley-growing sections of New York and Canada, the yield will not be half as large as last year. Following this statement the editor makes these remarks: "We think there can be little doubt that barley is a light crop this season, and that it will command a good price. The comparative failure of the corn crop in many sections will also have a tendency to enhance the price of barley. Last year the crop in Canada West and in Western New York was much above the average, both in yield per acre, and in the number of acres sown. The result was a rather low range of prices, say $1.25 per bushel in this city. With a smaller area sown, and a light yield, it would seem that barley of good quality will be in great demand."

The Utica Herald—published in the largest cheese-manufacturing district of this country—gives weekly reports of the cheese market. In its last report it says trade is brisk, but the delivery from farm dairies was not large. No factory made was offered, though factory men were on hand for the purpose of effecting sales. Some of the best Herkimer dairies were held at 16 cents. During the week preceding about 2,000 boxes were disposed of at prices ranging from 12 cts. to 16 cts. The total shipments from Little Falls during the month of August was 17,457 boxes, weighing 1,095,063 pounds. The Herald is of the opinion that the amount of cheese on the shelves of the factories is much less than at the same time last year.

The Irish Farmer's Gazette, Dublin, states that Dr. Cameron examined a sample of cask butter, and found it to contain *eight* per cent. of salt! That paper justly adds: "It is a penny wise and pound foolish consideration which induces so many farmers to incorporate excessive amounts of salt with their butter. This practice increase the weight of the butter, the grain is more than neutralized by the deterioration of the article which ensues." Where butter is designed for immediate consumption, it does not require more than a quarter of an ounce to the pound, but if intended for keeping or shipment, double this amount will be about right. The salt should be pure and of the best quality of rock. Its use is essential in consequence of the presence of casein, or curd, which it is difficult to separate wholly from the butter, and whose tendency is to rancidity unless counteracted by salt or its equivalent.

Pasturing Wheat.—When wheat has been sown early in September, and has attained a good growth, it may be pastured off in the Fall, or Winter, where the seasons are mild, without any damage to the crop of grain. In some States, as New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, &c., sheep are kept on the wheat fields as late as April 15th, and as soon as they are removed the wheat takes a start, and soon reaches a growth as large as if it had not been pastured off at all.

The Shenandoah Valley is being rapidly filled up by emigrants from the North.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

Forty years ago the number of horses, cattle and sheep in Australia was under 400,000, there is now nearly 35,000,000.

The tobacco crop of Southern Indiana, the present season, will fall far below the anticipations held by planters in the early part of the season.

Under the Homestead law one hundred and sixty acres of land can be obtained in Missouri for $18 expense. Improved farms can be bought at from $5 to $10 per acre.

The receipts of wheat at San Francisco since July 1 are 2,000,000 sacks of 100 lbs. each, equal to two-fifths of the entire receipts of the last harvest.

Ohio is reported to have more sheep than any other State in the Union—6,568,052 out of the 32,695,797 in the United States. In 1866 the live stock of Ohio was valued at $151,000,000.

Mr Charles Kendall, of Waltham, Mass., set 200 peach trees on his farm in 1860. They are now in full bearing, averaging from two to three bushels to each tree, and he will realize from the sales from $1500 $2000 for this year's crop.

A correspondent of the St. Louis Democrat says that Southern Missouri is especially adapted to grape culture, and predicts an enormous future development of the wine interest in that region. The valleys are filled with fruit, growing wild.

Dr. McClure thinks feeding rusty straw to cattle and horses has very injurious effects, inducing many diseases, and states that in the last eight months, out of 700 horses fed with such straw, 45 or 50 were on the sick list.

Accounts of the drouth state that through the central portion of Illinois cisterns and wells are dry, and cattle, in some localities, have to be driven miles to find water. Not only this but the grass is parched and dead, and many farmers have to feed their stock, which, at this season, is generally luxuriating on fat pastures.

Mr. John Rouke, of Pittston, Me., owns a ewe sheep which is seventeen years old. Her teeth are as smooth as those of a healthy four-year-old, and she is in good condition. She has raised twenty-nine lambs, including thirteen pairs of twins, and has not lost a lamb until the present Spring.

The Milwaukee Sentinel says: "Two years ago the prospects of sorgho, becoming a staple were so great that several extensive factories for crushing machines were established within the state. * * * * * * * * * Jack Frost seems to have placed his veto upon the whole sorgho business, by refusing to let the cane ripen before he had nipped it so severely as to greatly damage its quality. We feel warranted in saying that for every acre of sugar cane raised in Wisconsin in 1865, not a quarter of an acre has been raised in 1867."

An annual report estimates the wheat crop in England and Scotland to be under the average: barley ten per cent. above the average; oats, fifteen per cent. above the average; beans, fully average, and peas much below average. The potato crop is producing an average yield, but the quality, from an excess of moisture in the soil, is rather inferior. In the western and southwestern counties of England the disease is very general. The turnip crop generally is singularly good; pastures very abundant, and a larger and better yield of hay was never secured in England.

A soil may contain all the elements necessary for fertility, be sufficiently moist, and still not be fertile unless air have free access.

Since the appearance of the rinderpest in England it has carried off 278,720 cattle, and 56,874 healthy animals have been slaughtered.

The wheat trade of Milwaukee this season is enormous. The receipts of wheat in that city the past week amounted to 896,448 bushels, against 676,640 bushels for the previous week, 574,679 bushels for the corresponding week of last year, and 458,000 for the corresponding week of 1865.

How to do Good.—Dr. Johnson wisely said, "He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do anything." Life is made up of little things. It is but once in an age that occasion is offered for doing a great deed. True greatness consists in being great in little things. How are railroads built? By one shovel of dirt after another; one shovel at a time. Thus, drops make the ocean. Hence, we should be willing to do a little good at a time, and never "wait to do a great deal of good at once." If we would do much good in the world, we must be willing to do good in little things, little acts one after another; speaking a word here, giving a tract there, and setting a good example all the time; we must do the first thing we can, and the next, and then the next, and so keep on doing good. This is the way to accomplish anything. Thus only shall we do all the good in our power.

## The Fireside Muse.

### OLD TIMES.

BY B. F. TAYLOR.

There's a beautiful song on the slumb'rous air,
That drifts through the valley of dreams;
It comes from a clime where the roses were,
And a tuneful heart and bright brown hair
That waved in the morning beams.

Soft eyes of azure and eyes of brown,
And snow-white foreheads are there;
A glimmering cross and a glittering crown,
A thorny bed and a couch of down,
Lost hopes and leaflets of prayer.

A rose-wreath in a dimpled hand,
A ring and a slighted bow,
Three golden links of a broken band,
A tiny track on the snow-white sand,
A tearless and sinless brow.

There's a tincture of grief in the beautiful song,
That sobs in the slumb'rous air,
And loneliness felt in the festive throng,
Sinks down in the soul as it trembles along,
From a clime where the roses are.

We heard it first at the dawn of day,
And it mingled with matin chimes,
But years have distanced the beautiful lay,
And its melody floweth from far away,
And we call it now, Old Times.

## Fireside Tale.

### THE MISSIONARY HENS.

Parson Warburton had been settled over a small church in a farming community long enough to become experimentally familiar with the peculiar parochial trials incident to a scattered population.

The heart of the good parson was largely interested in his people's welfare. Being well aware of the healthful and expansive effects of benevoleuce, he had sought to enlist their sympathies in the cause of missions, and induee them to exert themselves for its support beyond the small ceremonious droppings of the monthly colleetion. He had preached missiouary sermons full of inevitahle logic. He had seeured subscriptions to quite a goodly number of copies of a small missionary paper. He had eoutrived to work the suhject into the Sunday school; and finally by strenuous efforts he had raised money euough to buy a set of missionary maps, which, on the recurrenee of every "monthly concert," he took care to refer to and explain.

But though in all this variety of labor the worthy minister, undoubtedly, sowed much good seed, he had the mortification of seeing his eongregation marvellously ready to forget sermon and story, and map so soon as they were out of sight and hearing—and totally unable to fathom the good man's strange theory that they could he liheral without being rieh.

Still Deacons Spieer and Knox continued periodically to travel up and down the aisles, greeted with the smothered chink of "fourpences" and half dimes, aud still at the close of each "finaucial year" the stolid ehureh treasurer reported, without winking, the fatal pittanee "for missions" of *seven dollars and forty cents.*

Parson Warburton was not the man to say fail, however. He studied and prayed over the matter, and kept wateh for new suggestions.

At last a thought oeeurred to him whieh was speedily made practical in the ueasure designated in the title to our article.

Oue day, while out on oue of his pastoral rides, he stopped to see aunt Janeway, and, as he had done hefore, to take diuner with her. He found the good lady husy at her hen coop.

"Ha," quoth he to himself, "here's a good hint, who shall say I may not make profit hy it to the cause of Christ?"

The seene of the housewife amoug her fowls had furnished him with something hetter thau a sermou.

"Well, aunty," said he, after exchanging greetings with his parishioner, "you have a fine lot of poultry here. How many in all?"

"Tweuty," said she, "and a huudred chickens."

"Ah," rejoined the pastor, with a look of good humored admiration, "your stoek certainly does credit to your eare. What breed are the fowls?"

"Mainly Bolton Grays," replied fhe flattered widow, smiling complaeeutly, "though there's a mixture of the more common sorts; I find they do hetter to mix a little."

"And you realize a haudsome sum from them in the fall, as is proper and right you should," coneluded the parson, and the two went into the house.

"She is not the only sister in my church whose pride is in her poultry," thought the parson, as he followed Aunt Janeway in by the front door.

He made this triumphant generalization with all the satisfaction of a philosopher who has diseovered the working prineiple of a great soeial problem.

"Aunty," said he, after he had listened patiently to quite a lengthy disqnisition upon her poultry affairs hy the good lady while she laid the dinner tahle, "I want to make a proposition to you."

"What is it?" inquired aunt Janeway very simply.

"You kuow it is very right and Christian like to lay hy something as the Lord has prospered us, for the support aud extension of his Gospel. I want you to give this year *the proceeds of one hen* to the cause of missious."

"Why, I never thought of that," said aunt Janeway; "I supposed it was money they wanted."

"To be sure, aunty," returned the minister, "nothing is easier than to make it money. I said the *proceeds*, you understand."

"Oh yes, yes. Well, I don't know hut I will. I'll see. But come; sit up and have dinner."

They talked the matter over at the meal, and when at length Parson Warburton took his leave, he carried with him aunt Janeway's promise of a year's profits of one of her hens.

Full of his new idea, and stimulated hy the suceess of his first experiment with it, he now called, at his earliest convenience, on every one of his parishioners, and skilfully varying his approaches to the peculiarities of each case, introduced the suhject of the "one hen" contrihution.

His effort prospered famously. He was shrewd enough to make his first trial iu the likeliest quarters, so that hy the time he reached the more stuhborn cases, he had a long list of suhscribers to hack his arguments.

To recount the particulars of all his personal iuterviews with the donors would he too long a story for our limits. Suffice it to say, that after several weeks of indefatigable exertion he secured the pledge of every housewife in his parish to devote to the cause of missions the proceeds of one hen for the current year.

Of course this uovel expedient of the minister provoked an unlimited amount of talk. He meant it should, or, at least, he knew it *would* rather encourage than repress the loquacity that seemed to advertise his innocent plan.

When the list was full—or rather after every adult name had heen secured, he told the Sunday school, with quiet exultatiou, and a pleasant twiukle iu his eye, how many suhscribers he had ohtained. After an apt story or two ahout child henevolence, he assured the young seholars that ueither he nor their parents had any notion of leaving them out of the enterprise. He then drove the nail in a sure place hy proposing that every hoy and girl should take stock in the missionary fund by contributing *a chicken.*

The plan pleased the childreu mightily, and before Monday had passed nearly every coop in the parish had at least one marked missionary chicken in it.

The stir caused hy the playfully praetical turn given to its benevolence hy the inventive parson was beyond all that had happened to that quiet church for uuremembered years. It was amusing (considering its cause) to witness the growing enthusiasm for the cause of missions—unpreeedented numbers came to the monthly coneert to hear the Missionary Herald read and the maps explaiued. The sewing society began to feel the healthfnl iufluenee. Gossip forgot her small slander and quoted poultry. The sleepy parish had found just what it needed—a way to do its duty and get wholesome fun out of it. On the whole, Parson Warhurton, as he went his rounds and saw what a 'hen fever' he had excited, felt not at all relnetant to take the responsihility of it.

Time rolled on. The fowls grew—as everything must when fed in the regular way—magnifying, week hy week, the promise of their 'proeeeds,' until the child eontributors to the heathen fund, who had graded their philanthropie generosity by the size of a four ounee chieken, supposed to represent a cash value of about one eent, opened their eyes wide to find themselves, eaeh one, the self-saerifieing proprietor of a four pound coekerel or pullet worth a dollar. The older subseribers, watching the inerease of their broods, began (some of them) to think the Lord's mortgage a pretty large one. We are afraid that two or three of the good house-wives who had not pledged a partieular hen in the Spring, failed to select the *most successful* one in the Fall. Be that as it may, at any rate, an unusual 'run of luck' in the poultry line signalized that year among the farmers of Parson Warhurton's parish. Jacoh's fortune seemed to have come to their harns and left the 'pilled rods' in their hen's nests and feed troughs.

The worthy miuister, of eourse, took care to assure them that the thrift in their feathered stock was all owing to the fact of its having heen tithed.

At last the time came for harvesting the results.

It was November, and the consecrated fowls were all fat and ready for the sacrifiee—night after night the various roosts of the neighhorhood resounded with the familiar 'squall' that told of a farm-yard slaughter, and very early one morning the capacious and significant looking wagon of Dea. Spicer drove soberly through the parish, and stopped at nearly every house 'taking in eargo.' Matrons and spinsters hrought out, eaeh one, her yellow-footed sheaf of 'proeeeds,' securely tied and laheled, to add to the load, and expectant youngsters watched *en dishabille* from frosty windows to see that their single offerings were put upon the saered pile.

Busily from door to door traveled the deaeon's team, till the last 'hatch' was stowed away, and with a clean white sheet tueked down over the marrowy merchandise the stout vehicle rumbled off to the market town.

The eonseious old farmer felt all the importance of his load and his errand, and resolved that not a wing of the preeious lot in his great wagon should he 'fooled away'—not if he knew it.

Arrived at the market, the sharpness with which he drove his hargain with the poulterers did full eredit to his resolution. He was in good season at the huyers' stand, and disposed of his load to good advantage. He came home at night with the money in his great wallet.

To add *eclat* to the enterprise, and create occasion among the younger portion of his people to remember its returns, Parson Warburton had proposed to fix a day for all the parish to meet in the meeting house and hear the report of the hen 'proeeeds.' The day appointed was the day following Dea. Spicer's sale of the poultry at the market. At any other time such a meeting would have heen voted entirely out of order, and not to he thought of at all, hut now, with the spell of a new henevolenee upon their hearts, and a tempting secret hefore their curiosity, the good people not only endorsed the meeting with their cousent, hut *went to it*; thronged it, as they never had thronged even a donation party.

The choir had made speeial preparations, and really the affair opened like auother dedi cation. Men and women looked happy—youths and maidens, all in their hest dress, looked hright and proud. Children—of course *they* were all there—looked radiant with importance and expectation.

But none looked more happy, more proud, more radiant than Parson Warhurton. He stood up before his cougregation (it seemed as if they had never been so attentive) and after giving a humorous aeeount of the inception and progress of the enterprise whose sueeess had called them together, his adventures in the proseeution of it he proeeeded to read the names of the contrihutors, old and young, with the amount in money realized from eaeh one's poultry pledge, aud earried out in the margin.

And what do you think it footed up? *Four hundred and thirty dollars.*

The simple auditory could hardly helieve their ears. For a moment all stared in hreathless amazement, their faees written all over with exclamation points. There could he no mistake ahout it, however. They had the items. But when it was announced that a full list of the names of the donors would he sent to the rooms of the 'Board,' with the money, and *published in the missionary paper* the children could seareely restrain their exultant enthusiasm.

At just the right time 'Coronation' was struek up, and the eongregation, joining the choir with right good will, sung their triumph into tolerable control hy the aid of musie and metre.

A short prayer, full of eloquent thanksgiving, closed the exercises, and the delighted assembly dispersed to their homes.

A new era had dawned upon that humhle parish. The story of the missionary hens got ahroad. From neighhorhood to neighborhood, through village, town and eity it went ou hundreds of williug and witty tongues. The press swept it through the country—for the puhlieation of the list of uames was not the hest thing the missionary paper did. It gave the donation what it deserved—a handsome aeknowledgement and reeord in a spirited und appreciative editorial. Other churches, entertained hy the aecount of Parson Warhurton's experiment, took the hint, and started missionary movements among themselves on a similar plan. Gradually the parson's little parish hecame aware that it had a great reputation to sustain, and felt ashamed to go haek to the old hahit of dropping fourpences and half dimes into the deaeons' hats. It seemed that that year had done the work of a generation in enlightening those honest farmers on their capahilities of giving. They took hold together and raised their minister's salary. They repaired the meeting-house—and, hest of all, God's Spirit came to them while the doors of their hearts were wide open—and remained a special guest amongst them, converting many souls.

"Give and it shall be given unto you good measure, pressed dowu and running over."

---

The agrieultural returns for Ireland, which have recently heen laid hefore the public, show that as eompared with last year, there is a decrease in the extent of land uuder crops, amounting to more than 60,000 aeres. There is a decrease in the cultivation of cereals, green crops and flax, and an increasing growth of harley, turnips and clover. The area under wheat and oats is less than any of the three years preeeeding. It is possible, however, that from larger yield and better prices, the total value of the eereals in the country will fall little short this year of last year's amount. In live stock there has heen also a decrease, except in sheep, whieh are 551,733 more iu uumher. There is a decrease in the numher of horses of 13,457; of cattle, 43,779; of pigs, 263,381. The total estimated value of live stock, which is for this year $175,476,120 falls far helow that of 1866 hy $8572,455.

---

Cream—Milk Pans.—Repeated tests have demoustrated the fact that milk, strained into paus to the depth of from two and a half to three inches, precipitates the cream more rapidly and in greater quantity than when twice o thriee that depth. Henee, if butter makers desire to get the most from their milk, they must give more surface to it than is sometimes done.

---

There is au island in Niagara river where peaches are a certain crop, heeause the cold is never intense. The rapid flow of the river keeps it from freezing, and the atmosphere is tempered.



Modesty and Dooility in the Young.—Goethe was in company with a mother and daughter, when the latter heing reproved for something, hlushed and burst into tears. He said: "How heautiful your reproach has made your daughter. That crimson hue and those silvery tears become her much better than any ornament of pearls; these may he hung on the neck of any woman, but those are never seen disconneeted with moral purity. A full-blown flower, besprinkled with purest hue, is not so sweet aud heautiful as this dutiful child who is alteruately hlushing and erying heneath her parent's displeasure, and shedding tears of sorrow for her fault. A blush is the sign which nature hangs out to show where chastity and honor dwell."

# The Horse.

## LOOKING A HORSE IN THE MOUTH.

When the incisors, or cutting teeth, of the horse (called in man the front teeth) first protrude through the gum, their top face is not smooth, the edges are elevated, and the centre depressed. This depression in the cutting surface is called the *fossula*. The fossula is not subjected to friction during mastication, owiug to the edges of the tooth. The fossula, therefore, soon becomes black, and the black spot thus left is called the "mark." Iu time, the elevated rim of enamel wears down, the cutting surface of the tooth becomes flat, and as a consequence, the whole surface is exposed to attrition, and the mark disappears. The time occupied iu wearing away the mark is pretty uniform—about three years. Now, since we know about the age at which teeth are put up, and about the time that the mark remains, we can calculate about the age of the horse, as long as any "marks" are left. At the age of three, the second set, or permanent teeth, are put up iu the centre; and, after this, one pair of permanent teeth appears every year till the age of five. The centre pair of incisors consequently loses its mark on the attainment of the sixth year; and the pairs which appear in the fourth and fifth years lose their mark iu the seventh and eighth. After the eighth year there is no accurate means of estimatiug the age of the horse; therefore all horses over eight years are technically termed "aged"—aged, that is, not as regards the decline of vital energies, but simply as regards the wearing out of their marks.—*Chambers Journal.*

Colio in Horses.—Dr. J. A. Murray, of Detroit, condemns the practice of runniug horses about that are suffering from the colic. He would never allow a horse having colic to be disturbed, except where it was necessary to administer medicine to him. Iu this disease he says horses are frequently killed by the admiuistration of improper medicines, and even those who style themselves veterinary surgeons are often ignorant of the doses in which ordinary remedies should be given. He advises that a horse suffering from colic be placed in a stall or box in some part of the stable where there is no danger of his doing injury to himself, and the following medicine administered: An ounce of sulphuric ether and an ounce of tincture of opium to be given in a pint of tepid water, and this dose to be repeated in half an hour if the horse has not been relieved by the first one. In flatulent colic great benefit is obtained by frequent administration of injections, aud they are also very serviceable when colic arises from indigestion, which it frequently does. Seven or eight drachms of aloes, also, should be given to remove any irritating substance from the intestines, which may have given rise to the colic.

Horses that Overreach.—We commend the following to horse-shoers generally. It is from the Prairie Farmer, Chicago, and is worthy the attention of every blacksmith who attempts to shoe horses. The reasons given for the method of shoeing recommended to prevent horses from overreaching, we consider to be scientifically correct:

"I believe there are but few blacksmith that know how to shoe horses that overreach, and some that do not seem willing to learn. Others think again that there is no better remedy than making the shoes shorter, and placing the forward one on the toe, and the hinder one on the heel of the horse. They need to understand that there is a better way, and horse owners should make a note of it. A Western correspondent gives the following rule, which I think is a very good one: Make the forward shoes long, and the toe-calks short and standing a little under and set them as far back as convenient, in order to let the feet roll over as soon as possible, to get out of the way. And in setting the shoes on the hind feet, reverse the order to keep them back, to give time for the forward feet to get out of the way. Make the toe-calks high, and the half-calks low, to keep the feet back, then he will travel like other horses. This may be remedied in part in the mode of paring the hoof. This is esential in all cases, and where too many horses have been made cripples. Great pains should be taken at times in shoeing horses, and I believe not too many of our blacksmiths fully understand making the shoe and pariug the hoof.

# Various Matters.

Continental Harvests.—In France the wheat crop is reported at less than an average. Belgium and Spain are so deficient that they will be obliged to import, and Poland is in but a little better condition. Southern Russia will have large supplies, and in Hungary the yield is so heavy that even now the railroads are unable to move all the grain that offers, and stophouses are crowded. Turkey, on both sides of the Bosphorus, is said to have crops, and will have something to spare. In Algeria (Africa) so scarce are all kinds of food that France is called upon loudly. Egypt is said to have abundant harvests, but perhaps there should be some abatement from this statement, since they could scarcely he over the prostration caused by attempting to supply England with cotton. The famine in Iudia is largely due to this same cause.

Iu estimating probable prices of grain in Europe, the almost utter dearth of breadstuffs in many parts of the United States before the present harvest, is to be taken into account; for, before foreign shipments can reach former proportions, we must be supplied at home.—It is a singular fact that in neither France, England, nor in the United States, are there old stocks of wheat on hand, and their next year's bread must come almost wholly from this year's crop.—*New York Tribune.*

The Crops.—A careful collation of rcliable data exhibits the certainty that corn, this year, will be a heavy yield, although it has becu hurt in some places hy the extreme drouth. Wheat is less abundant than was expected from the luxuriant growth of the straw, but is at least a full average crop, and probably a larger growth, taking all sections together, than ever before known.

Australian Produce.—A Melbourne correspondent of the Times writes: "England may expect to receive from this colony further iucreased importations of wheat and flour. The constautly increasing quantities of laud coming under cultivation, with the aid of the steaun plow lately iutroduced among us, assisted by the vast reservoirs now in rapid course of construction in various parts of the colony, and which are to be applied to irrigation, as well as to miuing, must necessarily give us every year much more wheat than we can consume, aud the surplus will principally go to Englaud."

Information has been received at the Treasury Department, from an official source, that the threshing shows the crop of wheat iu the United Kingdom of Great Britain to be short in quantity as well as quality. Competent judges with whom the writer conversed during the month of September, estimated that it will fall twenty per cent. helow an average crop.

The Toledo Blade says:—"We have heard much of large returns from investments in grapes, but none equal to those given by a grower whose viucyard is located on the Maumee river, and about five miles below Toledo. His profit last year, from fruit and cuttings sold from a single acre, are given at $5,200.

A man in Maine has invented a machine for digging potatoes. It consists of a scoop made of boiler iron, which is driven under the potatoes and lifts them with the earth upon a hopper on which the earth is shaken off, and the potatoes thrown into the furrows behind the machine.

# Marriages.

In Greenville, 2d instant, Mr. Nelson E. Windsor, of New York, and Miss Mary F. Arnold, of Greenville.
In Pawtucket, 3d instant, Mr. James Albert Harding and Miss Mary L. W. Pratt, both of Pawtucket.
In Milford, 3d instant, by Rev. G. L. Demarest, Mr. Henry E. Morgan and Miss Mary Jane Corbett.

# Deaths.

In Glendale, Burrillville, Sept. 9th, Mr. Charles E. Baker, aged 24 years and 7 months.
In North Scituate, 3d instant, Mrs. Zerviah Harris, widow of the late George A. Harris, in the 81st year of her age.
In Lime Rock Village, 5th instant, Edward Eddy, son of Crawford J. and Esther B. Manton, aged 1 year and 6 months.
In Franklin, Mass., 2d instant, Mrs. Laura Blake, aged 73 years, mother of Rev. Mortimer Blake, of Taunton.
In Franklin, Sept. 28th Patrie Seyhen, aged 62 years.
In Medway, Sept. 30, Mary Ann Fisher, aged 62 years.
In Wrentham, 22d ultimo, Eunice, wife of Harrison Leland, aged 50 years.
In Grafton, Sept. 30, Mrs. Hannah, widow of the late Asa Scott, aged 91 years and 11 months.
In Hampton, Ct., 4th instant, Rev. George Soule, aged 44 yrs.
In South Windham, Ct., 3d instant, Roswell Babcock, aged 84 years.
In Lyndon, Vt., on the 25th ultimo, Hon. Job Randall, in the 91st year of his age. He was a native of North Providence, R. I., and in the year 1800 went to Vermont and settled on the spot where he died, and in February, 1803, married Irene Sayles, of Smithfield, who survives him in her 88th year in good health and faculties.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Oct. 11, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 20c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 90c. |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.50 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a17.00 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 40 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 42c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs lb doz | 42c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 16ac18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

## BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

October 2, 1867.

Prices. Beef Cattle—Extra, $12.50@ $13.25; first quality, $11.50@$12.00; second quality, $10.00@$10.50; third quality, $9.00@$9.50 ₩ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Working Oxen—We quote sales of pairs at $150, 200, 250@ $300.

Milch Cows—Extra $85a100; ordinary $60@75; Store Cows $43a55 ₩ head.

Stores—Prices, yearlings $20@25; two year olds $30@40; three year olds $50@65.

Swine—Live, 8a8¼c ₩ lb; dressed, 10 ₩ lb. Columbia county Pigs 7@8c ₩ lb.

Sheep and Lambs—In lots, $2.25, 2.50, 2.75 each; extra, $3@ 3.50—or from 2½ to 5c ₩ lb. Spring Lambs—$2.50@3.50.

Veal Calves, $5@12.

Prices of Hides, 10@10¼c. ₩ lb. Tallow, 7@7½c. ₩ lb. Pelts, 60a75c each. Calf Skins, 16a17c ₩ lb.

Cattle—No material change in prices from last week, but cattle are selling somewhat quicker. Our markets, including Cambridge and Brighton, require on an average from 2800 to 4000 head of cattle to supply the demand; when the number exceeds those figures we generally find it a hard matter to dispose of them readily. Store cattle and working move slowly, prices no higher and the demand light.

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

EXCITEMENT IN BREAD STUFFS—DECLINE IN COTTON.

There has been much excitement and a rapid advance in breadstuffs during the week. The markets have been unsettled owing to the brisk foreign demand and the extreme prices. The heavy decline in cotton has caused much agitation among the speculators, many of whom have sustained heavy losses.

Flour.—A very good demand has prevailed for Western and State, and, notwithstanding the liberal arrivals, prices have daily advanced. Low grades are comparatively scarce, and command very high prices, though for future delivery they are offered more freely. The foreign orders in arrivals are known to be large, many of them limited below the current prices. The trade is disposed to stock themselves freely. At the close all grades are from ten to fifteen cents better, though the business is not heavy, owing to the inclement weather.

Grain.—There has been a large business in wheat for future delivery. Also, in shipping brands in extra for October and November delivery. Winter wheat has advanced 20 to 25 cents.

Corn.—There has been a fair business in corn for home trade and investment. Demand for export has been very light. The extreme prices asked and scarcity of freight room have checked business. The stock has been reduced, and is confined now to 950,000 bushels. The prospects are good. The market closes easy.

Oats have been very active. The markets have been much excited. Prices have fluctuated violently. The demand is largely of a speculative character, at two cents advance.

Pork.—The market has been comparatively quiet. The speculative inquiry has fallen off, and at the close is heavy. The trade are disposed to stock themselves at $23.60.

Lard has been very active. Prices improved, though not without considerable variableness. The demand is chiefly for export. The market closes firm at 14¾ to 14¾ cents.

Cotton.—Manufacturers are the principal buyers. The markets closed dull and heavy; 20 cents for middling upland, and 20 cents for middling Orleans. The prices have declined two cents per pound.

# Special Notices.



# Advertising Department.

## Pennsylvania.



## Massachusetts.



## Ohio.



All! the man that has had Christ in his soul, and wants to tell nobody, has a soul that is a sepulchre, and he is dead. If there be one thing in this world that is worth telling, it is not that honor, that wealth, that any good fortune in secular things, has come to you; but that Christ has been made known to you. It is the noblest of all events, and the most precious of all disclosures; and if there is a man that has walked in sorrow and sadness, and had his Saviour come to meet him, and interpret the Scriptures to him, and at last disclose himself to him in his own house in the breaking of bread, and he is not moved to tell his friends and neighbors, then the dead ought to speak, and the very stones ought to cry out! And yet, I have seen men that seemed so far dropped down that they would receive Christ into their hearts and neither peep nor mutter.

# Various Matters.

## JOHN JOHNSTON'S FARMING.

John Johnston's remarkable success as a farmer might be attributed to his underdraining, and to the large quantity of plaster he used for many years on clover. But this would be only a partial statement of the truth. His success is owing, first, to the man himself—to his rare good judgement, combined with indomitable energy, persevering industry, close observation, and prompt, intelligent action. Second, to underdraining. Third, to the free use of plaster on clover. Fourth, to consuming all the clover, straw and corn on the farm. He has raised 3,000 bushels of corn in a year, but none has ever been exported from the farm, except some which he gave to be sent to Ireland at the time of the famine. He never sold a bushel. It has all been fed out with the clover, straw, stalks, etc., raised on the farm. In addition to this, he has bought large quantities of oil cake to feed to sheep and cattle, and this has added greatly to the manure heap. Fifth, he bestowed great care on his Summer fallows. They were not allowed to grow up to weeds, but were repeatedly plowed and harrowed, and rolled and cultivated, until the stiffest clay was reduced almost to as fine a tilth as an English turnip field. Such thorough tillage is itself more than equivelant to a heavy dressing of our common strawy manure.

Underdraining enabled him to work his land thoroughly and in good season. This thorough tillage set free the latent plant food in the soil. The clover it took up and organized into good food for sheep. The sheep extracted the fat from the clover hay, and left the nitrogen and mineral matter in the manure heap. So of the corn, straw, and stalks. They all found their way back to the land, with oil cake in addition. It is easy to understand why his land is vastly more productive than when it first came into his possession. Underdraining, good culture and good manure will make any land rich.—*J. Holmes, in American Agriculturist.*

---

Agricultural Statistics.—The following table represents the product of grain, potatoes, hay, &c., in the State of Rhode Island, during the year 1866, compared with the product of the whole United States in the same year, compiled from official returns for the Bankers' Magazine, New York, and published in the September number:

| Year 1866. | | Rhode Island. | Totals. United States. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Corn, | Bushels, | 408,293 | 867,946,295 |
| Wheat, | " | 1,413 | 151,999,906 |
| Rye, | " | 32,658 | 20,864,944 |
| Oats, | " | 154,222 | 268,141,077 |
| Barley, | " | 35,031 | 11.238,078 |
| Buckwheat, | " | none, | 22.791.839 |
| Potatoes, | " | 499,440 | 107,200,976 |
| Tobacco, | lbs., | 1,035 | 388.128,684 |
| Hay, | tons | 53,379 | 21,778,627 |

Rhode Island, being mainly a manufacturing State, produces but little in the articles above enumerated. The Tobacco crop of the State is represented as producing $293 per acre, while in Kentucky it is only $90 per acre.—The population of Rhode Island was in 1860 174,620, or less than the city of Boston.

---

Copper Lightning Rods, the American Artisan says, are preferable to tin ones. It adds that glass insulators are of no special consequence. Any secure way of fastening the rod to the building is all that is necessary. A building need not be covered all over with rods, with numerous points projecting upward. This is a perfectly useless expense. Two good copper rods, rising above the chimneys of an ordinary dwelling, are a perfect protection, if the ground terminations are properly attended to.

---

Whenever a wheat drill can be used without injury, this method of seeding has a decided advantage over others. By the breaking down of the minute ridges thus formed in the soil, the plant escapes Winter-killing, stands the action of the frost better, and whilst there is a great saving of seed wheat, the product at harvest will generally be heavier. Roll before, but never after, seeding with the drill.

## FOOD FOR FATTENING FOWLS.

The best food for fattening poultry is sweet fresh oatmeal or barley meal, mixed with scalding milk or water. Cooped fowls should be supplied with fresh food three times a day—namely at daybreak, or as soon after as possible, at mid day, and again at roosting time; as much as they can eat, should be given to the fowls on each occasion, but no more than can be devoured by the next meal; should any be left, it should be removed and given to the other fowls; as, if kept, it is apt to become sour, when the birds will not eat it freely. The troughs for the soft meat should be scalded out daily, which can be done conveniently by having a supply of spare ones.

In addition to the soft food, a supply of fresh, clean water must be constantly present, and a little gravel must be given daily, otherwise the grinding action of the gizzard, which is necessary to the due digestion of food, does not go on satisfactorily; the supply of a little green food will be found very advantageous to health; a little sliced cabbage, or some turnip tops, or green turf to pick at occasionally, being all that is required.

A variation in the diet will be found very conducive to an increased appetite, and therefore the occasional substitution of a feed of boiled barley for the slacked oatmeal is desirable. Some feeders have divisions in their troughs, or, still better, a small extra trough, which always contains some grains for the fowls to pick at.

Should the birds be required to be very fat, some mutton suet or trimmings of the loins may be chopped up and scalded with the meal, or they may be boiled in the milk or water preparatory to its being poured over the food, and the fat of fowls so fattened will be found exceedingly firm.

In the course of about a fortnight to three weeks, at the utmost, a fowl will have attained, under this system of feeding, the highest degree of fatness of which it is capable, and it must then be killed; for if the attempt be made to keep it any longer in that state, it becomes diseased from an inflammatory action being established, which renders the flesh hard and even unwholesome.

When the fowls have arrived at a state fit for killing, they should be kept for twelve or fifteen hours without food or water, in order that the intestines may be as empty as possible, otherwise the bird turns green and useless in a short time.

In situations where good sweet Indian corn meal can be obtained at a low rate, it will be found to answer quite as well as oatmeal; it contains a very large amount of oil, and is invariably used in the States of America, as a food for all animals put up to fatten. Wheat meal is too expensive, but some small Fall wheat is far superior to barley to place in the trough as whole grain for the fowls to pick at. —*London Field.*

---

Curing Green Hides.—A great many butchers, wool dealers, &c., are purchasers of the hides off the beef in the country towns, and we often get from them inquiries as to the most proper and profitable method of curing the hide and preparing it for the market. A great many butchers do not use proper care in this branch, and the consequence is that the hides will not pass city inspection, owing entirely to the ignorance and carelessness of persons preparing them for market. The proper way to salt hides is to lay them out flat, flesh side up, and form a nearly square bed, say 12 by 15 feet, folding in the edges so as to make them as nearly solid as possible. Split the ear in the cords that run up the ear in each one, so as to make them lie out flat. Sprinkle the hide with two or three shovelfuls of coarse salt, as the size may require—say for a sixty to eighty pound hide, from ten to fifteen pounds of salt. At any rate cover the hide well, as it need not be wasted; then let them lie in this from 12 to 20 days, after which take them up, shake the salt out and use it again.—*Shoe and Leather Reporter.*

# Advertising Department.



### TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the Farm and Fireside. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a good style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

### COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the Farm and Fireside may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

### THE FARM AND FIRESIDE

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET.* *TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.* *SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1867. NO. 42.


Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## BROOK TROUT.

NATIVE to all our clear, swift running creeks, spring brooks, and many small lakes and ponds, from Nova Scotia, south to Georgia; most abundant in the more unsettled regions of New England, north-eastern New York, and the mountains of middle Pennsylvania.

I remember being once for a whole hour a wondering witness of the muscular velocity and indomitable perseverance of a fine specimen of the brook trout. There was a dilapidated old tumble-down saw-mill tottering in old age on a little trout stream in the interior of the State of New York. The flume still held some water—something like a sieve, there being many crevices and chinks through which it poured a hundred curving streams out into the creek. By the way of one of these pits, that issued some three feet or so above the surface of the creek, a famous trout sought to enter the flume and through it pass to the stream above the dam. Issuing at right angles with the side of the flume, the jet curved downwards, describing the arc of a circle of perhaps fifteen feet, and the velocity of the water could not have been less than twenty-five feet per second. But rapid as it was, the trout would take it at the point where it fell into the stream, and shoot up with such lightning-like rapidity, that there was visible only an indistinct, opaque flashing up, and following the curve of the stream. The time of the trout's ascent could not have been half that occupied by the jet in descending, so that his actual passage through the water must have been at the rate of about eighty feet per second.

The orifice through which the stream issued, was too small to admit of the passage of the fish, and so, humping his hard head against the wooden wall with a sharp *whack* that would have admonished a less resolute fish not to repeat the experiment, he fell through, or out of the stream, going down *splash*. In a few seconds he tried it again, with like results, and again and again, repeating the attempt to pass, at intervals longer or shorter, I believe full a dozen times. If that trout would have permitted the familiarity, I should have had very great pleasure in helping him over the dam into the stream above.

Though popularly called "brook trout," this fish is quite as properly pond, lake, or spring trout, as many of the small lakes and ponds throughout the New England States, and in the States of New York and Pennsylvania, are stocked with them, some having no other fish. In the counties of Clinton, Franklin, St. Lawrence, and a large portion of Jefferson, in the Northeastern corner of the State of New York, in the cold, desolate regions, such as the famous "John Brown's Tract," and Oswegatchie woods, where annually hoar frosts whiten the clover in July, trout are abundant in all the slow, sluggish streams, and still, marshy ponds, the waters of which are the color of brandy, colored by the swamps of hemlock, fir and spruce. These have all the habits and characteristics of the trout of our pure spring brooks and chrystal lakes, differing only in color, and the absence of the crimson specks, being all over a uniform, dull, muddy brown. But transferred from their native haunts to clear, running streams, in a little time, the bright beautiful specks appear, the dull brown becomes bright, the sides assume the silvery sheen, the fins become roseate, and the dusky denizen of the dark, sluggish streams and pools becomes the brilliant, beautiful brook trout.

Several of the small lakes in the mountain regions of Northern Pennsylvania are still abundantly stocked with the speckled trout, having all the brilliancy of colors and distinct markings of their cousins germain born and bred in clear, running streams; and in many instances attain to a much larger size. In several of these lakelets in Luzerne and adjoining counties, trout are frequently caught weighing from two and a half to three and a half pounds. Two pounders are common enough. But in these deep ponds and lakes the trout breeds slowly—not a tenth part as rapidly as they do in rapid running streams, so that unless measures are taken to re-stock and keep up the supply, by artificial breeding in the vicinity, where natural communication by water can be had, these interior ponds and lakelets will soon become tenantless of trout.

Very many otherwise well informed persons, and among them professional experts with the rod and reel, believe, and will argue stoutly, that the speckled trout will not live and thrive in sluggish, muddy-bottomed streams. This is an error that for the benefit of all proposing to propagate trout by artificial breeding, ought to be exploded. The trout lives in the mud more than a third of the year, if he can possibly find it to live in.

I have caught from an old mill pond, long in disuse, and having a soft, oozy bottom, two feet in depth, more fine, large trout than I ever saw caught from any running stream.—There was a clear water creek with a nice gravelly bottom, flowing into the pond, and in it the female fish deposited their spawn. But none of the fine, large ones, either male or female, ever left the pond, except dangling at an angler's hook.

Wherever they can do so, the brook trout go into winter quarters at the approach of cold weather, in the mud, and lie there torpid until the advent of warm, genial weather, again.—Hence every breeding pond ought to have a snug little cove with a soft muddy bottom, to which the fish can betake themselves when prepared to go to bed; and being thus provided, the process of procuring a supply of fine, fresh trout from the pond at any time during the Winter, is easy and simple. Having a small, iron-rimmed dip net, with a strong handle, cut a hole in the ice, reach down and scoop up a net of mud, and if the pond has been two or three years well stocked, there will likely be two or three fine speckled fellows in each net full of mud.

Trout are still plentiful in many of our interior mountain streams—readily procured, and so easy of transportation alive, that there would be little trouble or expense attending the stocking of an artificial pond; and the breeding once inaugurated, the process is as sure and simple, and ten times less expensive than raising chickens. *

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## AGRICULTURE IN THE CAMPAGNA.

BY HON. JAMES W. WALL, NEW JERSEY.

In 1854, it was, in the Papal States, considered quite a curiosity to see horses ploughing, that labor being almost universally performed by oxen. One of the mercatori di campagna informed me that his tenants had made trial of some of the new inventions in agriculture to lighten labor, but had found they would not pay, and so abandoned them. Some of the gentlemen of the Irish college originated also some reforms on their farms, but they were regarded with infinite surprise, and not followed. Nothing could be more unjust than to fasten on the Papal government the accusation of having caused the desolation of the Campagna; but it is responsible, certainly, for not attempting any reform which might mitigate the dreadful evils attendant on the system of agriculture pursued within views of the Querinal. The table of statistics shows more people die than are born in Rome. This arises from the number of laborers who perish annually in the hospitals, from malaria caught in reaping the harvests in the districts round the city. The inhabitants of the city and neighborhood never expose themselves to the risk attendant on this useful labor; the miserable reapers come from the mountains. They come down in hundreds to earn a wretched pittance by the harvest work; toil from early dawn till sunset, and then lie down for the night on the bare, cold ground. There rises from the infected earth the clinging white mist which has death in its bosom; the fires lighted round the sleeping places are insufficient to scatter it, and the poor mountaineers are most thinly clad. Within a week the most sickly drop; the marsh fever has infected the majority of the others before the reaping is concluded; and it attacks almost all the survivors on their way home. More than one half of those who thus come down from the highlands die on the plains, or soon after their return. Those who escape look at their starving children, and prepare to go down again the succeeding year. During this horrible scene the Campagna has scarcely any other inhabitants than the reapers, except a few of the hardier animals, with their herdsmen, who left in the pestilential flats to attend their summer pastures, ride over them with long pikes, and wrapped in sheepskin cloaks. These men either die in the first year, or after the seasoning fever become inured to the climate, which has imprinted its ghastly mark upon them for life. This prodigious tract, the Campagna, is held by colleges, convents, hospitals, churches, great lords, and by the Government itself. Over these ecclesiastical bodies the Government has control; and its power being absolute, it should compel the erection of barns for the reapers to sleep in, and fires to expel the exhalations of the night. I am satisfied that the opening of an establishment for the manufacture and sale of improved agricultural implements would eventually make the fortune of its proprietor. It might meet with some opposition at first, but soon it would be eagerly and enthusiastically patronized. The Pope, several years ago, started out quite fiercely in favor of reforms, but was compelled to draw back within the monastic shell of the old ways. But since the Italian movement has opened his eyes to the necessity of some reforms, he has been more liberal and more desirous of benefiting his government by the march of improvement.

*October*, 1867.

## AUTUMN PLOWING.

IN all heavy clay soils, and heavy clay loams, Autumn plowing is of great advantage. The Winter frost is a mechanical pulverizer, and disintegrator of such soils, if we will put them in the proper condition to be acted upon.—Potash is one of the elements of such soils, and that gives them one of the chief values for the small grain. This mineral is found under two conditions; one fixed, and the other free. The free potash is slowly dissolved in water; it thus unites with sand to burn the coating of the straw. Chemists call this solution grass, it being composed of the element of grass, silicate of potash.

In the other condition mentioned, it is fixed and in that condition is insoluble in water, and like humus, unfit for the food of plants.

To prepare the fixed potash in the soil, that is, to disintegrate it, we must expose it to air, moisture and heat, hence we must pulverize the soil by the Winter frost, to admit of these conditions.

Autumn plowing is supposed to kill many insects; that it does this to some extent is doubtless true; but we apprehend less than it has the credit for, but can be done at a time when the teams are strong, the weather cool, and so much of the Spring work is out of the way; while for Spring wheat and barley, it is almost indispensable.—*Prairie Farmer.*

POTATOES FOR FATTENING ANIMALS.—We have repeatedly expressed a favorable opinion of potatoes for fattening stock—an opinion which, though opposed to the theories of some, we believe to be based on fact.

The following extract from a letter of a gentleman of extensive practice as a farmer, corresponds generally with our own experience: "Those persons who are of opinion that potatoes cannot fatten either hogs or cattle, are very much mistaken, indeed. I know of no food I would prefer to fatten hogs upon than cooked potatoes, mixed either with a little meal or bruised oats, mashed and made into balls as large as a man's head, and laid on a shelf for twenty-four hours to become a little sour. It will produce firm and transparent meat and cheaper rate than corn at twelve and a half cents per bushel, fed in the ears."

A sweet potato weighing 4¾ pounds and measuring 18 inches in circumference is reported in Kentucky.

# Farm and Garden.

## THE HARVEST OF 1867 THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

We have before us a mass of agricultural statistics and reports, of more or less reliability, conceruing the harvest of the present year in Great Britain, Europe, Canada and South America, which we have collated aud digested with some care, in order that we might give to our readers in a few words the result of many hours' labor. In our own country we all know that the harvest has been plenteous; the wheat crop being as large as it ever has been; the corn crop larger than it has heen since 1861; and the other graius and cereals having yielded well. This is the result when the entire country is taken as a whole. In the British Isles the weather this season has been unusually variable. There has been much more rain than has fallen in mauy previous years. The Goverument there makes no returus of the result of the harvest; but the London Times has for many years employed a number of practiced agricultural experts, as its correspondents in various parts of the Kingdom, and their reports are generally found to he tolerably reliable. The reports of five of these correspondents are beforc us, and the substance thereof is that the wheat crop of England and Scotland together will be bclow the average. In Scotland and thc north of England, the harvest is fully three or four weeks later than usual, and the weather as a whole has been decidedly unfavorable for hringing the crop to maturity. The quantity of grain throughout the kiugdom, according to these correspondents, will be smaller than usual, and the quality of it will be inferior. There is a great yield of straw, but a deficiency of grain. But the crops of oats and barley throughout England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales are very large and very fine. The potato crop in the Kingdom is said to be in a critical condition. The potato discase appeared early in the season in the south aud west of England, and more lately, owing to the prevaleuce of rain, it has made considerable progress in Scotland and the north of England. It is feared that the potato crop as a whole will not he more than one-half of its usual quantity; and this deficiency will increase the demand for wheat, barley and oats.

The crops in France have not been at all good. The weather has been very unfavorable, and there is a serious deficiency in grain and roots. The grain crop of Germany has been good, but the potato disease has also prevailed there, and thc crops will he deficient from one-third to one-half. The grain crops of Belgium, Portugal and Spain are deficient. Switzerland never raises grain enough for her own consumption, but this ycar the usual deficiency seems to have been increased. Italy, unlike Eugland, has suffered from long continued drouth instead of an excess of rains, and her grain crop is more than usually short. Algeria, Tunis and Morocco are in the same conditiou. But on the other hand Russia, Turkey, Austria and the Danuhian Principalities have excellent wheat crops this year; the harvest in more than half of the South American States has heen good; and of Mexico, notwithstanding her trouhles, it is reported that she has raised grain enough to supply her own population. To summarize the practical bearing of the above facts, in the plainest manner, it may he sufficient to say that the countries which will be compelled to buy breadstuffs between the present time and the next harvest are Great Britain, France, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Algeria, Tunis and Morocco; while the countries which will have grain to sell are the United States, Canada, Chili and some of the other South American States, Russia, Turkcy and the Danuhian Principalities.

The stocks of old wheat in Great Britain and Francc have not been so low since 1854 as they are at this time. Large purchases of wheat have heen for some time past made on French account in the Eastern ports. Thc French Government has intimated to its citizens that largc purchases of breadstuffs would be expedient. For many years past the imports of wheat into Great Britain have steadily increased. This has heen owiug to the increase of the population, the improvement iu the rate of wages, and the more liberal expeuditure of the people; and to these causes is now added the necessity of supplying the defieiency caused by the partial failure of this year's crop. Thc followiug are the amounts of wheat imported into Great Britain since 1845, taking pericds of five years together:

| | |
|---|---|
| From 1846 to 1859 | 19,523,867 quarters. |
| From 1851 to 1855 | 23,415,726 " |
| From 1856 to 1860 | 26,896,936 " |
| From 1861 to 1865 | 39,908,391 " |

The average price of British wheat for the week ending 7th of September was 62s. 5d. per quarter; but for the corresponding week in the years 1863 to 1866 inclusive, the prices were respectively 44s. 2d; 42s. 3d.; 46s.; and 47s. 3d. per quarter, The present high pricc of wheat in England is drawing large supplies thither—and for the first eight months of the present year the imports there were about 5,000,000 cwt. in excess of last year.

## EXTENSIVE FARMING IN MINNESOTA.

A Correspondent of the St. Paul Pioneer gives the following account of a visit to one of the farms of Mr. O. Dalrymple, of Cottage Grove, Washington Co., Minn.:

The land owned by Mr. Dalrymple, consists of 2,000 acres, of which 1,700 are in wheat, and divided into three farms under the following designations: the Grant farm, the Sherman farm, and the Sheridan farm. The first of these is a farm of 1,000 acres, 720 of which are in one field, enclosed with a neat and substantial board fence. On this farm seven reapers are at work, each drawn by four horses, which follow each other in regular order, and side by sidc through thc heavy graiu, cutting an aggregate swath of 49 feet. These are the McCormick reapers of modern improvement with self-raker attached, and are each managed by one man who sits in a convenient place and drives his four horses in hand.

There are 73 men at work who are paid each $2.50 per day and board. The routine of labor is as follows: Breakfast in time to be on the field by six o'clock; dinner at eleven, and one hour's rest; lunch at four, and supper at seven.

These operations are applicable to the Grant farm. Upon the other farms other reapers and men are likewise employed. Upon the several farms the proprietor has had erected full sets of substantial buildings of sufficient capacity for 100 men, about the same number of horses. It is sufficient to say that these are model farms and all operated for the specialty of wheat raising.

The labor required to harvest and thresh the grain of a crop like this, 30 years ago would have rendered impossible. Now, with such auxiliaries as the reaper aud the thresher, the work is hut the calculation of the amount of machinery requisite. It was the 12th of August, that the machines were put in motion and the calculation is to have the whole 1,700 acres cut hy thc middle of the coming week, which will be at the rate of 150 acres each day. By the 22d inst., five threshers and cleaners will be put in work in the field, where wagons will load for the river depot, and in ten days more from that time this immense yield will he in the bushel and offered at market.

The land upon which this crop was grown, is high rolling prairie, and was hroken up last year, and the seed sown this Spring from the first to the tenth of May. The crop was put in by the implement known as the broadcast seed sower, a half dozen of which I saw undcr cover upon the premises.

Thc probable result is based upon the opinion of good farmers, who are capahle of forming a correct estimate of the quantity of grain either in the shock or standing uncut. This crop has been visited by the neighbors, and their judgment is that there will be from 25 to 30 bushels to the acre. Takc the lowcst estimate and we have, on 1,700 acres, 42,500 bushels of wheat, which at present prices delivered at market, say $1.50 per bushel, will amount to the suug sum of $63,700.

It is not only safe to say that this is the largest yield of wheat given to any mau in the United States, this year, but probably the most profitable of any crop produced for the same time iu auy State.

I am informed by a gentleman on the ground, who knows the cost of the property, that at these figures Mr. Dalrymple will not only be reimbursed for the original outlay of land, houses, labor, seed, fences, implements, horses, etc., but will have a clear profit of at least $20,000. I have submitted this instance of farming in Minnesota as an evidence of the ability of the Northwest to supply a full share to the measure of abundance required for the march of empirc which "westward takes its way," and also to give proper credit to the energy and enterprise of this worthy pioneer in hig farming.

Some Poor Practices.—To attempt to fatten three hogs into 1200 pounds of pork on just as much feed as would keep two nicely growing.

To estimate agricultural fairs as arrant humbugs, and spend three days evcry month roving the country at political meetings.

To depend upon borrowing your neighbors' rakes, mowers, and all sorts of implements in haying and harvest time.

To house up a thousand bushels of grain, waitiug for a rise, till one-tenth has gone to feed rats and mice, aud the remainder smells like the essencc of rat, and the price is down forty per cent.

To plant out a hig orchard of fruit trees with a first thought of money-making, aud leave them to do or die.

To keep two fancy five hundred dollar carriage horses, and pay six dollars a day for a team to plough.

It is positively a poor practice to call "book learnin" all bosh, to ignore news and agricultural papers, and attempt to keep an even yoke with your progressive neighbors hy main strength and stupidness.—"*Cosmo.*"

Plowing Heavy Lands.—It would be interesting and important, says the Boston *Cultivator*, to know what would be the comparative results, in regard to the crops produced for three years, between lots plowed in furrows of fifteen inches and others of ten inches wide, on heavy soil. It is a rule in Eugland and Scotland, as well as in some parts of this country, to plow clay land in as fine or narrow furrows as practicable, in order to produce the required friability, and give due exposure to the atmosphere, which is so necessary to develop the fertility of such soils. It may be said that the width of the furrows was not greater than usual in proportion to the depth. On this point it may be inquired whether the expediency of plowing sward to this depth has been demonstrated? Would it not be better, especially on clayey soils, to bury the sward at only a moderate depth, where it would more quickly decompose, aud give more immediate benefits to crops—plowing deeper, if necessary, afterwards? Such is the practice iu some sections distinguished for success in farming.

Digging Potatoes by Machinery.—A trial of potato diggers took place uear Bishopbriggs, Scotland, last month. One consisted of a broad scoop for opening the drill, with a revolving gate behind, by the action of which the potatoes and soil are thoroughly separated and thrown to one side against a netting attached to the machine. Another was on a similar principle, but with the revolving gate placed in a different position, and without the netting.

Mrs. Mariah Starks, residing in Ontario county, N. Y., cut and harvested this season over twenty-five acres of wheat with her own hands. Her health improved immensely by the operation; she acquired the bronze complexion so fashionable just now in Paris, and is said to have gained fifty pounds of flesh.—This is a good hint for ladies to go and do likewise.

## THE SORGHUM CROP OF 1867.

A recent number of the Sorgo Journal discusses this subject as follows:

It begins to be appareut that the quantity of eane growing this year, particularly in Ohio, Indiana and Illiuois, is considerahly less than grown either last year or the year before. Various causes have combined to produce this falling off. Last year was very unfavorable for sorghum in several respects. The season was wet, aud the saccharine matter of the cane was very imperfectly developed. The quantity was large, and the quality poor; these combined to depress prices, and operators were obliged to sell their surplus for less than they expected to realize. At the same time, wheat, corn and other farm crops were commanding unusually high prices, which, of course, made sorghum appear to a disadvantage. In the next place, the seed of last year's cane was imperfectly matured, and much that was planted this Spring failed to come up. Again the Spring was wet, cold and backward, which deterred many from planting. Some had conceived the idea that Louisiana had become a reconstructed State, and would this year furnish molasses at, perhaps, twenty-five cents per gallon.

It is now too late to correct mistakes; but there is little doubt that those who neglected to plant sorghum because they thought it would not pay as well as corn and other Spring planted crops, have made a mistakc. Corn and potatoes will not be worth a dollar a bushel this Fall, and those who have sorghum to sell will not be obliged to hunt for purchasers at thirty or forty cents a gallon. The market will not be glutted with New-Orleans molasses this year, nor for several years to comc, and tropical molasses never will displace sorghum in the country, where the latter can be produced with the little labor and trouble which it requires.

Old Cows—when to kill.—It is a question, among farmers, as to what age cows can be properly used for dairy purposes, and when it is hest to dispose of them on account of age. This will depend somewhat on the hreed of the animals, aud the usage they have receiv ed As a general rule, when a cow has entered her teens she has approximated closely the limit of her usefulness in the dairy line. A good farmer once remarked that a cow was nevcr worn out so long as there was room on her horns for a new wrinkle!

Measuring Potatoes.—The following rule for ascertaining the number of bushels of apples, potatoes, &c., in bins and boxes, is recommended as simple and accurate: For the numher of "even" bushels, multiply the number of cubic feet in the bin by 8 aud point off one decimal. For "heaped" bushels, multiply 8 twice and point off two.—*Selected.*

Never feed your cattle in the yard without a "rack;" Economy rightly enough shrugs her shoulders at so slovenly a practice. The actual loss to the farmer from this waste is equal to thc cost of half a dozen racks and the expense of keeping them in complete repair for years. Any farmer who has an ax, saw and auger, can make one.

The great sewage system carried out by the Metropolitan Board of Works in London, at a cost of £3,000,000, is to be further improved by applying the fertilizing material to eight thousand acres of barren lands at Maplin, which it is proposed to render as productive as a garden; at the same time bringing the sewage within reach of many thousand acres of arable land. An experiment is now in progress at "Lodge Farm," comprising two hundred acres.

The reports from Georgia state that there are very unfavorable accounts of the rice crop, and along the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers the planters fear that they will lose the greater portion of their rice.

Our Daily Bread.—It is the most important aud practical question which is put to man. Let us not answer it hastily. Let us not be content to get our hread in some gross, careless and hasty manner. Somc men go a-hunting, some a-fishing, some a-gaming, some to war; but none have so pleasant a time as they who in earuest seek to earn their bread. It is true actually as it is true really; it is true materially as it is true spiritually, that they who seek honestly and sincerely, with all their hearts and lives and strength, to earn their bread, do earn it, and it is sure to be very sweet to them. A very little bread,—a very few crumbs are enough, if it he of the right quality, for it is infinitely nutritious. Let each man, then, earn at least a crumh of bread for his body heforc he dies, and know the taste of it,—that it is identical with the bread of life, and that they both go down at one swallow.—*Thoreau.*

# The Fireside Muse.

## TIRED.

Yes, I am tired, dear. I will not try
To stem the ebbing current any more,
Nor vex with fruitless prayers the iron sky,
Nor dew with idle tears the barren shore,
The rippling waves that kissed my happy hand,
The waves with laughing music in their flow,
Sadly I watch them o'er the broadening sand;
But I am very tired—let me go.

Too long my chafing pride has stooped to strive
To fan the embers into life again;
No faith can keep the flickering flame alive,
The lingering vigil is but lingering pain,
Too late the voice assumes a tender tone;
Too late the life in loving smiles is drest;
The tide is out; the last faint spark is gone,
And I am very tired—let me rest.

Yes, tired—neither angry or ashamed;
Each wretched mood has fret its feverish hour;
Let the pale bud lie withered and unclaimed—
Dead, or to gracious sun or pitying shower,
Perchance some little life may linger yet
In the crushed stem and withered leaves we see;
But what avails repentance or regret?
I am so tired—tired let it be.

I did so much; I am all worn and cold;
I strive no longer; let what must be, must;
I could not give your hand the strength to hold,
I could not give your heart the depth to trust,
How you will miss me! I could weep your want
Of the close silent love that fenced you so;
The cup I filled was neither weak nor scant,
But I am very tired—let it go.

[Tinsley's Magazine.

# Biographical.

## AUDUBON.

BY JAMES PARTON.

One of the happiest men, and one of the most interesting characters we have had in America, was John James Audubon, the celebrated painter and biographer of American birds. He was one of the few men whose pursuits were in accordance with his tastes and his talents; and, besides this, he enjoyed almost every other facility which falls to the lot of a mortal.

His father was a French admiral, who, about the middle of the last century, emigrated to Louisiana, where he prospered and reared a family. His distinguished son was born in 1780. While he was still a little boy, he showed a remarkable interest in the beautiful birds that flew about his father's sugar plantation, particularly the mocking-bird, which attains its greatest perfection in that part of Louisiana. He soon had a considerable collection of living birds; and he tells us that his first attempts to draw and paint were inspired by his desire to preserve a memento of the beautiful plumage of some of his birds that died. In delineating his feathered friends he displayed so much talent that, at the age of fourteen, his father took him to Paris, and placed him in the studio of the famous painter, David, where he neglected every other branch of art except the one in which he was destined to excel. David's forte was in painting battle-pieces; but his pupil was never attracted to pictures of that kind, and he occupied himself almost exclusively in painting birds. At seventeen, he returned to Louisiana and resumed, with all his former ardor, his favorite study.

"My father," he says, in one of his prefaces, "then made me a present of a magnificent farm in Pennsylvania, on the banks of the Schuylkill, where I married. The cares of a household, the love which I bore my wife, and the birth of two children, did not diminish my passion for Ornithology. An invincible attraction drew me towards the ancient forests of the American continent, and many years rolled away while I was far from my family."

To facilitate his design of studying birds in their native woods, he removed his family to the village of Henderson, upon the banks of the Ohio, whence, for fifteen years, he made excursions into the forest with his portfolio, rifle and gaming-bag.

From the great lakes to the extremest points of Florida—from the Alleghanies to the prairies beyond the Mississippi—through impenetrable forests, in canebrakes almost impassable, and on the boundless prairies, he sought for new varieties of birds, copying them of the size of life, and measuring every part with the utmost nicety of mathematics. Up with the dawn and rambling about all day, he was the happiest of men if he returned to his camp in the evening, in his game-bag a new specimen with which to enrich his collection. He had no thought whatever of publishing his pictures.

"It was no desire of glory," he assures us, "which led me into this exile—I wished only to enjoy nature."

After fifteen years of such life as this, he paid a visit to his relations in Philadelphia, carrying with him two hundred of his designs, the result of his laborious and perilous wanderings. Being obliged to leave Philadelphia for some weeks, he left these in a box at the house of one of his relations. On his return what was his horror and dispair to discover that they were totally destroyed by fire. "A poignant flame," he remarks, "pierced my brain like an arrow of fire, and for several weeks I was prostrate with fever. At length, physical and moral strength awoke within me. Again I took my gun, my game bag and portfolio, and my pencils, and plunged once more into the depths of the forests. Three years passed before I had repaired the damage, and they were three years of happiness. To complete my work, I went every day farther from the abodes of men. Eighteen months rolled away, and my object was accomplished."

During his stay in Philadelphia, in 1824, Audubon became acquainted with Prince Lucien Bonaparte, who strongly urged the naturalist to publish his designs. This, however, was a work far too expensive to be undertaken in America alone. He proposed to issue several volumes of engravings, colored and of life-size, with other volumes of printed description. The price of the work was fixed at a thousand dollars. Before he had obtained a single subscriber, he set his engravers to work and proceeded to enlist the co-operation of wealthy men of England and France.

He was received in Europe with great distinction, and obtained in all one hundred and seventy subscribers, of whom about eighty were Europeans. While the first volume was in course of preparation, he returned to America, and spent another year in ranging the forests to add to his store. In 1830, the first volume of his wonderful work appeared, consisting of a hundred colored plates, and representing ninety-nine varieties of birds. The volume excited enthusiasm wherever it was received. The king of France and king of England inscribed their names at the head of his list of subscribers. The principal learned societies of London and Paris added Audubon to the number of their members, and the great naturalists Cuvier, Humboldt, Wilson and others, joined in a chorus of praise.

The work, which consisted of four volumes of engravings and five of letter-press, was completed in 1839. For the later volumes, he again passed three years in exploration, and, at one time, was enabled to study the birds on the coast of Florida in a vessel which the government of the United States had placed at his disposal. Returning to New York, he purchased a beautiful residence on the shores of the Hudson, near the city, where he prepared for the press an edition of his great work upon smaller paper, in seven volumes, which was completed in 1844.

Many New Yorkers remember that about that time he exhibited in that city a wonderful collection of his original drawings, which contained several thousands of animals and birds, all of which he had studied in their native homes, all drawn of the size of life by his own hand, and all represented with their natural foliage around them.

He was now sixty-five years of age, but his natural vigor appeared in no degree abated. Parke Godwin, who knew him well at that time, describes him as possessing all the sprightliness and vigor of a young man. He was tall and remarkably well formed, and there was in his countenance a singular blending of innocence and ambition. His head was exceedingly remarkable. "The forehead high," says Mr. Godwin, "arched and unclouded; the hairs of the brow prominent, and mouth characterized by energy and determination. The eyes were dark grey, set deeply in the head, and as restless as the glance of an eagle." His manners were exceedingly gentle, and his conversation full of point and spirit. Still unsatisfied, he undertook in his old age a new work on the quadrupeds of America, for which he had gathered much material in his various journeys. Again he took to the woods—accompanied, however, now by his two sons, Victor and John, who had inherited much of his talent and zeal.

Returning to his home on the banks of the Hudson, he proceeded leisurely to prepare his gatherings for the press, assisted always by his sons and other friends. "Surrounded," he wrote, "by all the members of my dear family, enjoying the affection of numerous friends, who had never abandoned me, and possessing a sufficient share of all that contributes to make life agreeable, I lift my grateful eyes toward the Supreme Being, and feel that I am happy."

He did not live to complete his work upon the quadrupeds. Attacked by disease in his seventy-first year, which was the year 1851, he died so peacefully that it was more like going to sleep than death. His remains were buried in Trinity Cemetery, which adjoins his residence.

His sons, it is said, have continued the labors of their father, and design one day to publish the work on the quadrupeds of America. Mr. Audubon also left an autobiography, which perhaps, may see the light. Besides his eminence as an artist, Audubon was a vigorous and picturesque writer. Some passages of his descriptions of the habits of the birds, are among the finest pieces of writing yet produced in America, and have been made familiar to the public through the medium of the school reading books.

We learn from the career of this estimable man that he who would accomplish much in the short life-time of a human being, must concentrate his powers upon one subject, and that object congenial with his tastes and talents. Audubon did in his life one thing; he made known to mankind the birds of his native land; but he did this so well, that his name will be held in honor as long as the materials last of which his volumes are composed.

# Various Matters.

The Cotton Gin.—In the year 1792, a young man just graduated at Yale was on his way to Georgia to teach in a planter's family, and by mere accident Gen. Nathaniel Greene's widow was on the same vessel. When he reached Georgia his place had been filled by another, but Mrs. Greene took him into her own family. One day some gentlemen dining with her spoke of the vast change that would be effected in their agriculture if some machinery could be invented to separate the seed from the cotton. "Gentlemen," said Mrs. Greene, "apply to my young friend, Mr. Whitney, he can make anything." Hence sprung the cotton gin, which imparted vast values to broad areas at the South, and to the slaves who were becoming a profitless burden. Hence Virginia became what she did. Hence slavery aspired to control the nation and the church, and hence the great rebellion; and all this from a casual remark at a dinner party at which happened to be a young man who expected to be teaching some lad his "Hic haec, hoc," and not to invent a machine which was destined to change the whole future of a great nation.

For Birds.—Tie up a little sulphur in a silk bag and suspend in the cage. For mocking birds this is essential to their health, and the sulphur will keep all the red ants and other insects from the cages of all other kinds of birds. Red ants will never be found in a closet or drawer if a small bag of sulphur be kept constantly in these places.

The cranberry crop in New Jersey will be large. Ocean county will yield 25,000 bushels.

## PUMPKIN, APPLE AND PEAR BUTTER.

A correspondent of the Maryland Farmer gives his experience and practice in the manufacture of a kind of mock apple butter, which he says is an excellent article for family use, and more cheaply made than the old-fashioned apple butter. The ingredients for a five or six pail kettle of butter are—2½ bushels of pared and sliced sweet pumpkins, the same amount of pared and cored Swaar apples, six quarts of molasses, two pounds of brown sugar; fifteen quinces and a shillings' worth of cinnamon.—Having prepared the ingredients, put a pail of clean water in the kettle and add the pumpkin. Boil till fine, then add the apples gradually and stir to keep from burning. When done fine, mix the molasses in warm water and add to the butter. Continue stirring for a time and then add the sugar. When cooked about enough, add the cinnamon, and the work is done. The pumpkin is made to supply the place of cider, which now bears so high a price as to make the butter quite expensive. If there is a perceptible pumpkin taste, the addition of a little more molasses and sugar will serve to destroy it, while supplying a very desirable article for family consumption. When cider is used, the pumpkin may be dispensed with, as it is only a substitute for that article.

Fidelity.—Never forsake a friend. When enemies gather around, when sickness falls upon the heart, when the world is dark and cheerless, is the time to try true friendship. The heart that has been touched with true gold will redouble its efforts when the friend is sad and in trouble. Adversity tries real friendship. They who run from the scene of distress betray their hypocrisy, and prove that interest only moves them. If you have a friend who loves you, who has studied your interest and happiness, be sure to sustain him in adversity. Let him feel that his former kindness is appreciated, and that his love was not thrown away. Real fidelity may be rare, but it exists in the heart. Who has not seen and felt its power? They only deny its worth and power, who never loved a friend or labored to make a friend happy. The good and the kind, the affectionate and the virtuous see and feel the heavenly principle. They would sacrifice wealth and all but honor to promote the happiness of others, and in return they would receive the reward of their love by sympathizing hearts and doubled favors when they have been brought low by disease or adversity.

The temperature of a forest is lower than that around it, but higher than that immediately surrounding. The mean temperature of the trees appears to be that of the surrounding air; but changes take place much less rapidly in the trees, especially in the trunks. The phenomena of vegetation do not appear to influence the temperature, for the leaves do not differ scarcely from the air. One singular property of forests has been noticed, that they protect the land to leeward from hail; the hail becomes less and less as it penetrates the forest, soon ceases, and is not reproduced for some distance from the leeward edge.

Sweets and Digestion.—If sugar is coated with fruit until it thoroughly penetrates the pulp—as in pies, jellies, and preserves—there is a chemical change, a union of the sugar and the fruit; the fruit partakes of the nature of the sugar, giving up its natural juices and qualities, making the mass an indigestible substance. As sugar preserves fruits from decay, so it preserves them from digestion. There are many causes of derangements of the digestive apparatus, but the use of sugar and molasses is one of the greatest.—*Herald of Health.*

To Cure a Felon.—As soon as the parts begin to swell, wrap the part affected with a cloth thoroughly saturated with tincture of lobelia, and the felon is dead. An old physician says he has known it to cure in scores of cases, and it never fails, if applied in season.

There are women who cannot grow old,—women who, without any special effort, remain always young and attractive. The number is smaller than it should be, but there is still a sufficient number to mark the wide difference between this class and the other. The great secret of this perpetual youth lies not in beauty, for some women possess it who are not at all handsome; nor in dress, for they are frequently careless in that respect, so far as mere arbitrary dictates of fashion are concerned; nor in having nothing to do, for these ever-young women are always busy as bees, and it is very well known that idleness will fret people into old age and ugliness faster than overwork. The charm, we imagine, lies in a sunny temper, neither more nor less—the blessed gift of always looking on the bright side of life, and stretching the mantle of charity over every body's faults and failings.

# Horticulture.

## STORING ROOT CROPS.

Many farmers are prevented from growing root crops extensively by the great amount of labor, and consequent expense, incurred in taking them out of tbe ground, and storing them for the Winter. A large crop of ruta-bagas, beets, carrots, or parsnips require much labor to bandle them properly and securc them from the frost. In the mild climates of Great Britain and Ireland, France and Germany, root crops are always brought to the farm yard as soon as they are taken up, and stored in sheds, or made into roof-like piles in some secure place, and thatched with straw. Evcn there it is injurious to roots to be frozen and thawed in the open air, but if they are frozen and thawed under cover they do not suffer much damage from those causes.

Ruta-bagas are much hardier tban beets, mangels, or carrots, and will not be damaged by a slight frost, but it is a good plan to leave them in thc ground until they recover from the check which an early frost may bave given them. This they will do in a few days of mild weather, as long as the leaves are green. A hulb of any kind cannot bear even a slight frost, if deprived of the protection of the leaves. When sheep are folded on turnips, they are kept confined to a certain spot by hurdles or rails, so that they may make a clean finish of tbe tops and roots as they go along, without stripping off the tops and rinds in patehes all over the field; as, in the latter case, the greater part of the orop would be destroyed by frost and rain.

The bulbs of ruta-bagas, and of all otber varieties of turnips, increase rapidly in sizc and weight when the leaves have done growing. These crops sbould be sowed early enough to admit of the bulbs being matured before frost checks tbc growth of the plants. One acre of well managed ruta-bagas will produce as much as two or three acres managed in the ordinary way.

A field of ruta-bagas, managed in the ordinary way, without any after-culture of thc crop, except singling or thinning, will probably produce hulbs four or five inches in diameter, wbile the same field, by careful after-culture, such as frequent cultivation of the soil between the drills, and boeing between the plants, will produce bulbs six or seven inches in diameter, thus trebling or quadrupling the acreable product.

Wben storing ruta-bagas, it is well to weigh some of the largest bulbs, and some of ordinary size, and ascertain the great disparity between them. If ruta-bagas are grown in drills, 28 inches asunder, plants ten inches apart, there will be 32,402 bulbs in an acre, which, at three pounds cacb, amount to a little more than 33 tons per acre; increase these bulbs one pound each, and the produce will be 44 3-4 tons per acre. Increase tbe size to fivc pounds each, and the produce will amount to 56 tons per acre.

As it is not expedient to take up ruta-bagas before they bave done growing, nor to delay until they are damaged by frost, there is but a very short time for performing the operation, and it may not be possible to bring them to the barn-yard from a distant part of the farm, the best plan then will be to pile them in the field where they grew, selecting elevated spots, where they will be above the reach of water. If the field is large, several roof-like heaps may be made, and covered with the tops, or with earth or straw, according to circumstances. If properly secured, thesc heaps may be allowed to remain in the field until they are needed for stock, or they may be transferred to some more convenient place, when horscs and men can be spared better tban at the time the roots were taken up.

Mangel wurzel is very nutritious food for cattle or sheep; it is especially adapted for feeding milch cows, and on this account is higbly esteemed by dairy farmers. The leaves make very good fodder for stock, and also are useful for feeding store hogs, but they should not be removed until tbe roots are about to be taken up, for the latter cannot stand a very slight frost in the absencc of tbe leaves.

Mangels are very tender, and should be handled with the greatest carc. If the roots are fluug carelessly one over the other, the bruises which they receive will cause them to rot.—Tbey may be safely kept throughout tbe Winter by piling them in tbe manner recommended for ruta-bagas. Holes for ventilatiou should be left in the top or sides of the heap, and kept stopped with straw or hay. A covering of straw, witb six or eight inches of earth over it, is the most approved manner of protecting roots in Winter, in the absence of a root-house or capacious cellar.

In Alderney, Jersey and Guernsey, wbere parsnips are raised in large quantities for feeding milch cows in Winter, the roots are boiled and then pressed compactly into barrels and boxes. It is said that roots managed in this way, keep for a long time, and are much relished by cattle. A small quantity of salt is mixed witb them.

Parsnips are perfectly hardy, but in order to have them accessible for feeding stock, they should be kept in pits or piles, in some convenient place, and covered with earth or straw. Carrots are tender, and cannot stand frost.

Cabbages are very nutritious food for cattle, and every farmer should bave an abundence of them. They may be safely kept by pitting them, like potatoes, and covering tbem completely with earth, or in thc usual way, by coveriug the heads and leaving the stems exposed. When mauaged in cither of these ways, they are not accessible at all times in Winter, and a temporary supply should always be kept in the root-house, in barrels or large boxes, covered with straw.—*Western Rural.*

## MANAGEMENT OF PEACH TREES IN WINTER.

Peach trees which do not ripen their wood before the frosts of October arc generally killed, or very much damaged in Wiuter, and this fact is well worthy of attention by all who are selecting peach trees, the earlier varieties being most likely to stand thc Winter. It has been found that it is a good plan, not only to surround peach orchards with a belt of evergreens for shelter, but also to plant them among the trees, as they not only afford sbelter from harsh winds, and shade from the direct rays of the morning sun, but give out a considerable amount of beat, which establishes an evenness of temperature in the orchard, and prevents the buds and blossoms of the trces from being damaged by frost.

Tbe soil best suited for the growth of tbe pcach tree is a rich, sandy loam. It sometimes succeeds in a light, rich, sandy soil, but heavy clay loams, and low, undrained soils of any kind are unsuited to its growtb. The ripeniug of the wood and the hardiness and productiveness of the trees may be promoted by spur-pruning or shortening in of the shoots. This operation is performed by cutting off about half the length of the new wood, especially from such shoots as are most prominent.—Strong shoots should be shortened back more than weak ones, iu order to bring the head into proper shape. In some places peach trees are trained as espaliers, and protected in Winter by a covering of straw, mats or boards.—*Ibid.*

Blanching Celery.—We copy the following from tbe London Gardener's Chronicle, that our readers my give it a trial during tbe present Autumn:

Having had some trouble in keeping late celery from rotting in a new kitchen garden, where the soil was very retentive and damp, and the plants earthed up in the usual manner, I have since used sawdust for the purpose, and find that it answers perfectly. Last Winter, all the late celery was earthed up with sawdust, and it kept quite sound till April, and no slugs or insects attacked it under ground, tbe heads being very solid, clear and crisp, and well flavored. I had some doubt that the sawdust from resinous trees might give the celery a disagreeable flavor, but on trial I found this not to be the case, and the sawdust is now taken indiscrimiuately from tbe saw-pits where different kinds of trces are sawn up. Before the severe frost occurred in October last, the earthing up of some late celery with sawdust had just been finished, and it was found in Spring wonderfully fresh—thc frost not having penetrated through the surface to the heart."

Grapes on Elms.—At tbe Winter meeting of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, the Hon. John B. Turner, a successful grape-grower, during a discussion on the grape, advocated the growing of grapes on elms. He said:

"When, ycars ago, I taught Latin to boys, we used to read of tbe ancients letting their grapevines clamber on elms, but I thought little of the statement as a practical suggestion. But I find that I cannot keep my vines out of the elms. If I plant near an elm, the vine goes up into it. I have one vine that, despite my remonstrances, insists on goiug into the top of onc of my elms. From it I sold during the past year $100 worth of grapes. I am, tberefore, tolerably well satisfied with its willfulness; for these grapes did not cost me a cent for culture or care. I am now planting live stakes in my orchard; and elm stakes they are. Sucb stakes will save the annual cost of training and pruning, and judging from my experience, they will insure fruitfulness."

Common Grape Wine.—Take any quantity of sound, ripe grapes; with a common cider press extract thc juice; put it into barrels, cover the bung ligbtly; after fermentation has ceased, cork it; place it in a cellar or house.—In twelve months you will have good wine, which improves by age; let it stand on its lees.—*Scientific American.*

Fallen Apples.—In passing several orchards lately we observed the ground under the apple trecs, in many instances, literally covered with immature fruit—dropped prematurely in consequence of the action of thc curculio. Leaving the fruit there was wrong, as it afforded the worms a chance to escape into the ground and prepare another generation of fruit pests. These apples, as they fell, should have heen fed to the hogs or otherwise destroyed, aiding by so much the extirpation of the great enemy of the apple and other fruit orchards.

Lawns.—One bushel of gypsum, two bushels of asbes and one bushel of fine bone dust, sown at the rate of forty bushels per acre, or one peck per square rod, is recommended as a fertilizer for lawns.

# Miscellany.

To kill animals for market witb the least possible cruelty has been tbe object of some recent experiments made in French slaughter-bouses at Vincennes. At present oxcn are slaughtered by blows from heavy hammers on the head, which inflict torture on tbe unfortunate victims. The idea occurred to an eminent French physiologist that tbe scction of the spine would produce more instant death. This, however, bas not been demonstrated. An ox thus killed lived for twelve minutes, and endured during that time the most horrible sufferings. Decapitation was then tried, with the following curious results: "A calf was decapitated in tbe space of a quarter of a minute. Its head was tben placed on a table. In six minutes two ounces and a half of blood were lost. During the first minute the face was frightfully convulsed, the mouth opened and shut as though the animal were eating; and, strange to say, on putting the hand against the mouth and nostrils, it was easy to feel the respiration continuing." Thirty animals were thus killed, and the result of the observations taken was that the committee decided that the old practice of killing by means of blows from a hammer should be continued.

"Mother, I heard sissy swear." "What did she say?" "Wby, she said she was going to wear her 'darned' stockings to church."

## FARMERS' CLUBS.

Farmers are scattered over the country, and occupy themselves too constantly with physical labor on the farm. Too much muscular exercise wearies the body and indisposes the mind to exertion. The farmer has too long regarded his calling as a physical mission, requiring little or no effort of the mind, but a constant tensiou of muscle. Anything which sbould induce them to congregate together socially would be a great blessing, but still more so when this meeting is for the purpose of comparing notes upon their occupation.

It would surprise a body of farmers, who had never tried it, to find out how much knowledge could be gained upon almost any subject connected with agriculture, from twenty-five average farmers, who should each contribute the facts he knew relating to it. Perhaps no one of the twenty-five would be able to give more tban a few facts concerning the topic, yet when each had contributed what he knew, the subject might be thoroughly elucidated and easily understood. Wben they come together no one fully understands the subject, but when tbe discussion is over every one might carry away a full knowledge of it.

And this leads us to speak of the proper method of conductiug these Farmers' Clubs. First, there should be as little formality and as few rules as possible, consistent with good order. Select a mau of prompt decision and few words as chairman, and thc most ready writer for secretary. Avoid set speecbes and prepared dissertations. You come togetber to communicate facts and not to display rbetoric. Any one who has a fact to give should he welcome. It sbould be a meeting for a free and iuformal interchange of ideas in the conversational way. This will be found much better and more profitable than debate. You cannot well debate a question without the disputants becoming interested for triumph in argument—for success of a side—and this is not the object of discussion. Tbe object should be to gain knowledge, to accumulate facts on which to hase a right decision, and not to display ability in argument, to triumph in disputation.

Suppose the question were the "best time to cut wheat?" It is obvious that well attested experiments bearing upon this subject would be neccssary to determine it. Every one who could give any fact showing the effect of cutting wheat at a particular stage of growth wonld assist in elucidating it. One could perbaps give the effect upon rust, of cuttiug wheat while green, showing the quality of the grain to be little injured by it; another cut it when ripe, and the rust had ruined the grain; anotber states that he cut before ripe, and no rust appeared, and found the berry plump and got a larger proportion of flour per bushel than when he had cut on full ripening. And thus one after another gives his experience upon all sides of this question, until the facts render its solution clear. Now a learned dissertation upon tbe wheat plant, with an ingenious theory, unaccompanied by facts, might lead to a different conclusion, and gain applause to the speaker, but not being based upon a true foundation only lead those astray who acted upon it.

There can be no objection to an occasional essay upon some subject by one who understands it practically. This should be a feature by itself, and would be an important source of improvement; but the discussions should be conducted in the freest and most informal manner. Besides, this method of conducting the discussion would bave tbe advantage of making every one a participator in the proceedings, and thus interest him. Every farmer can find language to state a fact in referenee to a subject, who, most likely, would not feel competent to make a speech maintaining a theory, and in fact, all theoretical discussions should be avoided, except as they grow out of well established facts.—*Cor. Rural New Yorker.*

The Wheat Fields.—See that surface drains are cut and cleared. Protect exposed knolls by spreading a light coat of long manure on them before Winter sets in; straw or leaves will answer. Perhaps a coat of plaster would pay if applied soon to wheat that has a small top.

The Drouth in Wisconsin.—The Milwaukee *Wisconsin* says the equinox passed without a really heavy shower in Wisconsin, which is an almost unprecedented event in the memory of weather-wise people. Farmers will have to commence feeding tbeir stock very early this Fall. But while the farming interests are thus suffering from the drouth tbe out-door laborers and mechanics are reaping a harvest. Within the recollection of the oldest inhabitants, since the first of June less working days have been lost by out-door mechanics than was ever before known in the history of the State. One contractor says his masons and out-door laborers have lost three whole days since the first of June. There has been rain, but the rains have been on Sunday.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## THE FARM AS A HOME.

THERE is one feeling about the ownership of land, especially of a farm, which gives us a great deal of pleasure and confidence. It is not merely a pride of owning so many acres of land, or possessing a certain number of cattle and horses, but the fact that we *own a home*; that it is ours to enjoy and possess, to improve and cultivate, and at last to hand down as an inheritance to our children. This is one of the great heart-pleasures of most farmers; and although they may not give expression to it, it is ever uppermost in their thoughts.

How dear to thousands of hearts are the old "farm homesteads," to be found in all portions of our country. They are hallowed, perhaps, as our birth-places; as the spots where we passed our boyhood, or girlhood; the fields, the orchards, the brooks, are all identified with the pleasures of early life. And those pleasures were the sweetest we ever enjoyed.—Alas! and we shall never witness their return, nor any joys or pleasures that will be half as dear to us. There is the old farm house! It may be unpainted, unsightly in architecture, its appearance neglected, and perhaps it is in the possession of strangers. Yet it has a warm place in our memory. And there are the fields which we have mowed, ploughed, sown and planted year after year. Every part of the old farm has been trodden by our feet, and every acre improved by our hands. There, too, is the great barn, so often filled with fragrant hay and golden grain, from which we used to hear the "thud" of flails, and the merry voices at husking frolics.

How many thousands of people who never owned farms, have concluded they would purchase one at the evening of life. What for?—not because they preferred hard labor, not that they desired a change of life merely for its novelty. The idea is that they *want a home*; a rural property which they can be identified with; a stronghold and refuge against the tide of misfortune; a business that is not dependent on the whims and caprices of others, nor subject to the general fluctuations, disasters and shipwrecks of trade. It is the stability, safety, independence of landed estate that makes us fly to the farm, rather than continue in business that is perhaps more profitable, but is subject to greater vicissitudes, anxieties and perils.

As a relief from mental labor, from professional cares, commercial losses, and, often from domestic afflictions, how many men find a refuge on the farm. If the mind is shattered by excessive mental employment, or broken down by misfortune, or some great sorrow, there is balm, consolation, and often permanent cure in the pursuit of agriculture and its kindred arts. This is not a mystery, but a great medical fact. The change of occupation has its influence; physical labor supplants intellectual drudgery; the care of domestic animals opens a new fountain of sympathy; the air and sunshine reinvigorate health; and the fact that you own, possess and have sole dominion over the hills and valleys, the herds and flocks, the buildings, and the soil on which they stand, gives you a feeling of superiority, confidence and independence.

A writer whose heart was about as warm as ours, who had great love for farm-life, and appreciated *the farm as a home*, expressed himself as follows:—"When I come within sight of my farm, after having been away, a pleasant sensation rises within me that no other feeling can equal. I am at home—on my own land. These are my acres, which the combined power of the country has guaranteed to me. It is mine, and my heirs forever.—Here is security. If there is anything stable in the world, this is it. My fireside is therefore built upon a firm foundation. I and my children are safe. We are not intruded upon; no one has a right to do this; the strong arm of the law is ever ready to defend us. Here I have my worship undisturbed: I attend to my concerns unmolested. In a word I am at home."

## WHO MADE THE FIRST CAST IRON PLOUGH IN AMERICA?

IN a descriptive article on ploughs—published a month ago in the Farm and Fireside—we quoted a statement, originating in the New York Farmers' Club, that the first cast iron ploughs manufactured in this country were in Cayuga county, New York, in 1823. At the time of writing the article, we were impressed with the belief that this invention could not belong to the last half century. However, we published the statement, and gave the New York Farmers' Club the credit for making the discovery.

Mr. Charles Smith, of Pineville, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, writes to correct this mis-statement of the origin of cast iron ploughs; also, as to the date of their invention. He says: "I cannot now tell the exact time; but in about the year 1798, a patent was granted to Robert Smith, of Bucks county, Pa., for mould-boards of cast iron; and the ploughs were made by the inventor. This, I believe, was the first of the kind used in America. Thomas Jefferson's patent was granted near the same time as Smith's patent; the Peacock plough was invented a year or two later."

We are much obliged to our correspondent for this correction. It is self-evident that the Jethro Wood plough, of Cayuga county, New York, patented in 1823, could not have been the first cast iron plough invented in this country.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

WE have before us the Report from the Department of Agriculture for August and September. It gives the following per centage of increase for the current year over the last in the wheat-growing States; Ohio, 130 per cent.; Indiana, 50; Michigan, 23; Wisconsin 17; Minnesota, 125; Illinois, 11; Iowa, 20; Missouri, 40; Kentucky, 34; West Virginia, 60; Virginia, 50; Tennessee, 40; Georgia, 80; Arkansas, 45; New York, 14, and Pennsylvania 40. Kansas and Texas alone show a falling off from the unusually heavy crop of last year.

The corn crop promises better things daily. The Southern States in particular show a better prospect. Georgia will double last year's crop. Alabama increases 75 per cent., Mississippi 80, Tennessee 21, Louisiana 40, South Carolina 54, and Arkansas 100. Ohio will fall off 30 per cent. from last year, Indiana 17, Illinois 14, Kentucky 28, West Virginia 15, and Virginia 10. The crop of rye, barley, oats and buckwheat will exceed that of 1866. Hay shows an increase of 25 to 30 per cent. New York 24, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois 25, and Indiana 26. The apple crop will fall short. Potatoes are rotting badly in some States.

The general drift of the returns, comparing them with those which were earlier, and the west with the east, are favorable to an admirable harvest. Should the whole country turn out such crops—and we know that the Pacific will, and have flattering reports from the south—there can be no doubt of a superabundance for home consumption, and an excess equal to any foreign demand. Covering the country as a unit, the reports have been and are exceedingly favorable, and every one has reason to expect a better condition of things in the future.

The cotton crop of the present year, now harvesting, is estimated at 2,250,000 bales. The Sea Island variety, owing to various causes, will amount to an almost insignificant fraction of this amount, thus materially diminishing the aggregate value.

FOR every 350 bushels of potatoes removed from our fields, the soil sustains a loss of 92 pounds of potash. Consequently, wood ashes is one of the most valuable of manures in the culture of the potatoe.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

SEVERAL of our exchanges contain discussions at the New York Fair. One of these reports the remarks of H. F. Brooks, on the profits of apple culture. We present an extract.

"He advocated the enlarged cultivation of the apple, because he believed that more human food could be obtained from four square rods of ground, with an apple tree standing in the middle, than in any other way. He cited several instances of the greatest amount of wheat that had been obtained from an acre, 50 or 60 bushels being the greatest amount. Corn had yielded over 100 bushels, oats about a hundred, and several hundred bushels of potatoes, carrots, and onions had been obtained from an acre—assuming as the utmost, 140 bushels of corn, 700 of potatoes, and 1,400 of carrots. He then stated many cases of 50 and 75 bushels of apples on single trees, contrasted this amount from four square rods, with the smaller amount of grain or roots from the extreme instances cited. Assuming a medium amount, he showed that more might be obtained from the trees than was commonly produced from any *medium* crop of the grains or roots mentioned."

The New York Commercial, although not an agricultural paper, has the following in defense of the word "Milch."

"When one reflects how broadcast has been the sowing of Worcester's Dictionaries throughout the newspaper offices of the land in exchange for puffs therefor, it is melancholy to consider how little real service has been rendered by that distribution in alleviating the chronic ignorance of country contemporaries. 'Milk' is a noun, and signifies a fluid. 'Milch' is an adjective, and means the milk-giving quality. A 'milch cow' is a cow in milk-giving trim, as opposed to a dry cow—one not yielding milk. The word is not in as common use as formerly, but it is a necessary and proper term. It is obsolete, in the sense that Shakspeare used it, of 'soft' and 'tender,' but is still generally used in its agricultural sense in our rural districts."

The "Country Gentleman" has this item relative to steam ploughs; showing that they are becoming largely introduced across the ocean. "One English firm (J. & F. Howard) advertise that more than five hundred steam ploughs and cultivators, manufactured by them, are in use, and can be seen at work in the proper season. Still further to test and exhibit the merits of steam cultivation, they carry on a farm, where the work is done almost exclusively by steam. As it can be reached by one hour's ride from London, it affords abundant facilities for examination by those interested."

A contributor to the Practical Farmer, writes that the best cows he ever raised had to be milked several weeks before the period of calving. This practice was a preventive of garget, and tended to the general health of the animals. It sometimes happens that the udders of cows become greatly and painfully distended weeks before calving, and but few persons resort to the sensible practice of relieving them by milking. If this were practiced more there would probably be less complaint of garget than there now is.

A correspondent of the New-York Evening Post furnishes notices of several farms in Westchester Co., N. Y., among them the Highland Farm, of between 500 and 600 acres, owned and carried on by Mr. Warren Leland of the Metropolitan Hotel, New York. From his notice of this farm, we copy the following account of Mr. Leland's success in raising poultry on a large scale:

"Passing from these general items, we find on Highland Farm a successful enterprise, that has been pronounced impossible if carried on with magnitude, namely, the raising of poultry. To this business is appropriated about seventeen acres of land, on the highest part of which are two large houses—one of wood and one of stone—the interiors of which are fitted up for the movable nests. In the center of these large rooms is a fire-place, for the purpose of warming the fowls in Winter. At the side of the enclosure is an artificial pond for the ducks, and the running water that passes through the dairy, furnishes the chickens with the same necessary article. As Mr. Leland has had astonishing success in raising poultry, we asked him what was the secret, and he promptly replied, cleanliness is the great desideratum; after that, the greatest attention to comfort.

We observed that the nest boxes were all removed from the building, and were undergoing a cleansing from the rain, dews and whitewash. The interior of the building was thickly coated with lime, preparatory to their reception of the nest boxes. Under such a system, vermin, the enemy of chickens, had no chance for life. Throughout this house-cleaning the chickens are locked out of the house, and compelled for the time being to roost on the surrounding trees. The last year there were raised five hundred ducks and geese, four hundred and fifty turkeys, and three thousand chickens."

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

THE sugar crop of Louisiana this year is estimated at 110,000 hogsheads.

Grape vines trained on the south side of a building, with a full southern exposure, will ripen from two to three weeks earlier than the same kind of vine and the same exposure, with the vines upon an open trellis.

Dr. Nathaniel Durfee, of Fall River has presented two beautiful rams, one a South Down and the other a Cotswold, to the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

At the late Ohio State Fair, at Dayton, Flying Morgan, a stallion claimed to be 32 years old, was shown. He was in fine condition and moved very well, both as a trotter or pacer. The great majority of horses are "used up" at half this age.

The Winthrop (Me.) Bulletin says pork is a drug in the market there. Round hogs are selling for from seven to ten cents per pound; and when we take into consideration the fact that they have been fatted on corn at from $1 25 to $1 40, it will be seen that our farmers will be great losers. Pigs are very plenty and can hardly be given away.

A correspondent of the Boston Traveller makes the following estimate of the cranberry crop on Cape Cod this season: Provincetown 50 barrels; Wellfleet, 400 barrels; Eastham, 200 barrels; Orleans, 300 barrels; Chatham, 400 barrels; Brewster, 1000 barrels; Harwich, 3000 barrels; Dennis, 1500 barrels; Yarmouth, 500 barrels; Barnstable, 1500 barrels; Sandwich, 1000 barrels; Falmouth, 200 barrels; making an aggregate on the Cape of 10,050 barrels of cranberries, which at $10 per barrel will be $100,500 for cranberries alone.

The Richmond Enquirer says: "What we want is fortunately not now so much laborers to be hired as industrious, frugal farmers to settle on our lands. We must repeat it, at the risk of pluning unwelcome news into the ears of our country friends, that there is no other salvation for Virginia but the division of farms."

It is stated that 30,000 cattle from Texas and New Mexico are on the line of the Union Pacific Railway, destined for eastern markets.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman says that farms can be bought in Central Illinois, for about the figures of ten years ago.

In the cattle trade of Virginia, a new feature has been inaugurated by a stock raiser in Fauquier county, who recently purchased in Texas and Mexico 800 head of cattle. These cattle are intended for stock purposes, and are represented to be superior to the animals raised in Virginia, especially in size.

WHEAT IN CALIFORNIA.—The amount of wheat raised on the Pacific shore is immense. There seems no limit to its production, and if California farmers extend their grain fields at the same ratio as for the past ten years, they will produce enough wheat to supply all the foreign demand. A San Francisco paper states the amount of wheat shipped from January 1st to October 1st, was over three millions and a half of sacks—valued at $6,750,000.

CHARCOAL FOR TURKEYS.—We notice that a California paper highly recommends charcoal for fattening turkeys, and recommends that it should be pulverized and mixed with mashed potatoes and corn meal, as well as fed to them in small lumps. It mentions that in two lots of turkeys of four each, treated alike, and one lot given this mixture and the other not, there was an average gain in the weight of the first of one pound and a half each. While we condemn the practice of mixing the pulverized charcoal with the other food of the turkeys, compelling them to eat whether they wanted it or not, we have no doubt of the excellent effects of supplying fattening turkeys with charcoal broken into small pieces. We have had evidence of what we say, and for a number of years have recommended charcoal for this purpose.—*Utica Herald.*

## The Fireside Muse.

### AUTUMN.

It is a fair autumnal day,
The ground is strown with yellow leaves;
The maple stems gleam bare and gray,
The grain is bound in golden sheaves;
Afar I hear the speckled quails
Pipe shrilly 'mid the stubble dry,
And muffled beats from busy flails
Within the barn near by.

The latest roses now are dead,
Their petals scattered far and wide,
The sumach berries, richly red,
Bedeck the lane on either side;
A dreamy calm is in the air—
A dreamy echo on the sea;
Ah, never was a day more fair
Than this, which blesses me!

I see the shocks of ripened corn—
The yellowed mosses on the roof,
The diamond dew-drops of the morn,
That string with gems the spider's woof;
An azure haze is hanging low,
About the outline of the hills,
And chanting sea-fowl southward go
From marshes, flats and rills.

For many years, the autumn brought
A solemn sadness to my soul—
It sombred e'en my lightest thought,
And on my gayest moments stole;
'Twas sad, yet sweet—a strange allay
Of hope and sorrow intertwined—
*This* autumn brings me only joy,
No shadow haunts my mind.

And why is this? The dead leaves fall—
The blossoms wither as of old;
And winter comes, with snowy pall,
To wrap the earth so chill and cold;
The sea-fowl, strung athwart the sky,
Still chant their plaintive monotone—
And why, when leaves and blossoms die,
Should I feel joy alone?

Oh, ask me not—I must not tell;
I dare not all my heart disclose—
A fairy wove a magic spell
Around me, when decayed the rose;
Two gifts did fading summer bring—
Two symbols of unfading bliss—
Upon my finger glows a ring,
Upon my lips—a kiss!

## Fireside Tale.

### A TRUE STORY.

Many years ago I happened to be one of the referees in a case that excited unusual interest in the courts from the singular nature of the claim, and the strange story which it disclosed. The plaintiff, who was captain of a ship which traded principally with the West Indies, had married quite early with every prospect of happiness. His wife was said to have been extremely beautiful, and no less lovable in her character.

After living with her in the most uninterrupted harmony for five years, during which time two daughters were added to the family, he suddenly resolved to resume his occupation, which he had relinquished on his marriage, and when his youngest child was but three weeks old, he sailed for the West Indies. His wife was devotedly attached to him, sorrowed deeply at his absence, and found her only comfort in the society of her children and the hope of his return. But month after month passed away and he came not, nor did any letters, those insufficient but ever welcome substitutes arrive to cheer her bitter solitude. Months lengthened into years, yet no tidings were received from the absent husband, and after hoping against hope, the unhappy wife was compelled to believe that he had found a grave beneath the weltering ocean.

Her sorrow was deep and heartfelt, but the evils of poverty were now added to her afflictions, and the widow found herself obliged to resort to some employment in order to support her children. Her needle was the only resource, and for ten years she labored early and late for the miserable pittance which is ever so grudgingly bestowed on an humble seamstress.

A merchant in New York, in moderate but prosperous circumstances, accidentally became acquainted with her, and, pleased with her gentle manner, no less than her beauty, he improved their acquaintance with friendship.

After some months he offered his hand and was accepted. As the wife of a successful merchant, she soon found herself in the enjoyment of comforts and luxuries such as she had never before possessed. Her children became his children, and received from him every advantage which wealth and affection could procure.

Fifteen years passed away; the step-daughter married, and by her step-father was furnished with every comfort requisite to her new avocation as housekeeper. But she had hardly quitted his roof when her mother was taken ill. She died after a few days, and from that time until the period of which I speak the widower had resided with the younger daughter.

Now comes the strange part of the story.—After an absence of over thirty years, during which time no tidings had arrived from him, the *first* husband returned as suddenly as he had disappeared.

He had changed his ship, adopted another name, and spent the whole of that long period on the ocean, with only transient visits on shore, while taking in or discharging cargoes, having never been nearer home than New Orleans. Why he had acted in this unpardonable manner towards the family, no one could tell, and he obstinately refused all explanation.

There were strange rumors of slave-trading and piracy afloat, but they were only whispered conjecture rather than truth. Whatever might have been his motives for his conduct, he was certainly anything but indifferent to his family concerns when he returned. He raved like a madman when informed of his wife's second marriage and subsequent death, vowed vengeance upon his successor, and terrified his daughters with the most awful threats in case they refused to acknowledge his claims. He had returned wealthy; and one of the reptiles of the law, who are always to be found crawling about the halls of justice, advised him to bring a suit against the second husband, assuring him that he could recover heavy damages. The absurdity of instituting a claim for a wife whom death had relieved from the jurisdiction of all earthly laws, was so manifest that at length it was agreed by all parties to leave the matter to be adjudged by five referees.

It was upon a bright and beautiful afternoon in the Spring when we met to hear this singular case. The sunlight streamed through the dusty windows of the court room, and shed a halo around the long, gray locks and broad forehead of the defendant—while the plaintiff's harsh features were thrown into still bolder relief by the same light which seemed to soften the placid countenance of his adversary.

The plaintiff's lawyer made a most eloquent appeal for his client, and had we not been informed about the matter, our hearts would have been melted by his touching description of the return of the desolate husband, and the great agony with which he beheld his household gods removed to consecrate a stranger's hearth. The celebrated Aaron Burr was the counsel for the defendant, and we anticipated from him a splendid display of oratory.

Contrary to our expectations, however, Burr made no attempt to confute his opponent's eloquent oratory. He merely opened a book of statutes, and pointing with his thin finger to one of the pages, desired the referees to read it, while he retired a moment for the *principal witness*.

We had scarcely finished the section which fully decided the matter in our minds, when Burr re-entered with a tall and elegant female on his arm. She was attired in a simple white dress, with a wreath of ivy-leaves encircling her large straw bonnet, and a lace veil completely concealing her countenance. Burr whispered a few words, apparently encouraging her advance, and then gracefully raised her veil, discovering to us a face of proud, surpassing beauty. I recollect as well as if it happened yesterday how simultaneous the murmur of admiration burst from the lips of all present. Turning to the plaintiff, Mr. Burr asked, in a cold, quiet tone:

"Do you know this lady?"

"I do."

"Will you swear to that?"

"I will; to the best of my knowledge and belief she is my daughter."

"Can you swear to the identity?"

"I can."

"What is her age?"

"She was thirty years old on the 20th day of April."

"When did you last see her?"

"At her own house, about a fortnight since."

"When did you see her, previous to that meeting?"

The plaintiff hesitated—a long pause ensued—the question was repeated, and the answer at length was—

"Thirty years ago."

"When she was just three weeks old," added Burr. "Gentlemen," said he, turning to us, "I have brought this lady here as an important witness, and such I think she is. The plaintiff's counsel has pleaded eloquently in behalf of the bereaved husband, who escaped the perils of the sea and returned only to find home desolate. But who will picture the lonely wife, bending over her daily toil, devoting her best years to the drudgery of sordid poverty, supported only by the hope of her husband's return? Who will picture the slow process of heart-sickening, the wasting anguish of hope deferred, and finally the overwhelming agony which came upon her when the last hope was extinguished, and she was compelled to believe herself a widow? Who can depict all this without awakening in your hearts the warmest sympathy for the deserted wife, and the utterest scorn for the mean, vile wretch who could thus trample on the heart of her whom he swore to love and cherish? We need not inquire into his motive for acting so base a part. Whether it was love or gain, or licentiousness or selfish indifference, it matters not; he is too vile a thing to be judged by such laws as govern men. Let us ask the witness—she who stands before us with the frank, fearless brow of a true-hearted woman—let us ask which of these two has been to her a father."

Turning to the lady, in a tone whose sweetness was in strange contrast with the scornful accent which characterized his words, he besought her to relate briefly the recollections of her early life. A proud flush passed over her beautiful face as she replied:

"My first recollection is of a small, ill-furnished apartment, which my sister and myself shared with my mother. She used to carry out every Saturday evening the work which had occupied her during the week, and bring back employment for the following one. Saving her wearisome visits to her employers, and her regular attendance at church, she never left the house. She often spoke of my father, and of his anticipated return, but at length she ceased to mention him, though I observed she used to weep more frequently than ever. I then thought she wept because we were poor, for it sometimes happened that our only support was a bit of bread; and she was accustomed to see by the light of chips which she kindled to warm her famishing children, because she could not purchase a candle without depriving us of our morning meal. Such was our poverty when our mother contracted a second marriage, and the change to us was like a sudden entrance to Paradise. We found a home and a father." She paused.

"Would you excite my own child against me?" cried the plaintiff, as he impatiently waved his hand for her to be silent

The eyes of the witness flashed fire as she spoke:

"You are not my father," exclaimed she, vehemently. "What, call you father—you who so basely left your wife to toil, and your children to beggary! Never! Behold there my father," pointing to the calm defendant, "there is the man who watched over my infancy—who was the sharer of my childish sports, and the guardian of my inexperienced youth. There is the man who claims my affection and shares my home—there is my *father*. For yonder selfish wretch I know him not. The best years of his life have been spent in lawless freedom from social ties; let him seek elsewhere for the companions of his decrepitude, nor dare insult the ashes of my angel mother by now claiming the duties of kindred from her deserted children."

She drew her veil hastily around her as she spoke, and moved as if wishing to withdraw.

"Gentlemen," said Burr, "I have no more to say. The words of law are expressed in the book before you; the words of truth you have heard from woman's pure lips;—it is for you to decide according to the requisitions of nature and the decrees of justice."

I need not say that our decision was in favor of the defendant, and the plaintiff went forth followed by the contempt of every honorable man who was present at the trial.

## Miscellany.

### FRIENDSHIP.

Life is to be fortified by many friendships. To love and to be loved is the greatest happiness in existence. If I lived under the burning sun of the equator it would be a pleasure to me to think that there were human beings on the other side of the world who regarded and respected me; I could not and would not live if I were alone upon the earth and cut off from the remembrance of my fellow-creatures.

It is not that a man has occasion to fall back upon the kindness of his friends. Perhaps he may never experience the necessity of doing so; but we are governed by our imaginations, and they stand there as a solid bulwark against all the evils of life. Friendships should be formed with persons of all ages and conditions, and with both sexes. I have a friend who is a bookseller, to whom I have been very civil, and who would do anything to serve me; and I have two or three small friendships among persons in much humbler walks of life, who, I verily believe, would do me a considerable kindness according to their means. I am for a frank explanation with friends in cases of affronts. They sometimes save a perishing friendship, and even place it upon a firmer basis than at first; but secret discontent must always end badly.—*Sidney Smith.*

A Recipe for Happiness.—It is simple:—when you rise in the morning, form a resolution to make the day a happy one to a fellow-creature. It is easily done: a left-off garment, to the man who needs it; a kind word to the sorrowful; an encouraging expression to the striving—trifles in themselves light as air—will do it, at least for the twenty-four hours; and if you are young, depend upon it, it will tell when you are old; and if you are old, rest assured it will send you gently and happily down the stream of time to eternity. Look at the result: You send one person, only one, happily through the day—that is, three hundred and sixty-five in the course of the year—and supposing you live forty years only, after you commence this course, you have made fourteen thousand six hundred human beings happy, at all events for a time. Now, worthy reader, is it not simple, and is it not worth accomplishing?—*London Atlas.*

The Wife.—How sweet to the soul of man is the society of a beloved wife, when wearied and broken down with the labors of the day, her endearments to sooth, and her tender care restores him! The solicitude and the anxieties, and the heaviest misfortunes of life, are hardly to be borne by him who has the weight of business and domestic cares at the same time to contend with. But how much lighter do they seem, when his necessary avocations being over, he returns to his home, and finds there a partner of his griefs and troubles, who takes for his sake her share of domestic labor upon her, and soothes the anguish of his anticipation. A wife is not, as she is falsely represented and esteemed by some, a burden or a sorrow to man. No, she shares his burdens and alleviates his sorrows; for there is no difficulty so heavy or insupportable in life, but it may be surmounted by the mutual labors and the affectionate concord of that holy partnership.

Sewage of Cities.—The agitation of the question of economizing the sewage of London, has induced the Royal Society to institute inquiries into the modes of removing human excrements from the large towns in Europe, particularly in Germany, where it appears the question is as much agitated and as little settled as in England or in this country. In Berlin, Dresden, Leipzic, Brussels, Antwerp and other cities, its removal is effected by a tax on the inhabitants. On occasion of some discussion of this question at the annual meeting of the Society, a Mr. Howell made a suggestion which, on the principle that "charity begins at home," ought to be considered in connection with our regret for the immense loss of fertilizing matter which is lost in our cities. "If the cities turn their sewage to account, is it not the duty of the farmer to take care of the liquid manure and house sewage at home."

# General Miscellany.

## BUTTER—FAST AND SLOW CHURNING.

A Pennsylvania dairyman, in giving his method of managing cows and making butter, takes exceptions to the celerity with which the churning process is generally gone through with. In his opinion one hour is not too long for the operation of churning; two hours are better still. It is regarded as a desideratum among dairymen generally to get a churn which will produce butter in the shortest possible time, and the one that succeeds best in this is generally the favorite. Those who have worked a dash churn by hand, for an hour or two, with a batch of cream that acted as though "possessed," will hardly give their suffrages in favor of prolonged churning, even though an ounce or two more of butter were sure to result from it. If, as we have seen in some sections of Pennsylvania, "dog power" is employed to do the churning, or if the power of steam or water is used, the question of time is of much less consequence, but where hand labor has to do the business, the sooner it is accomplished the better, is the general verdict of farmers and their wives. It is not believed that any increase in the amount or improvement in the quality of the butter, claimed as the result of slow churning, is a paying equivalent for the extra time recommended for the operation.

## MECHANICAL USES OF CASTOR OIL.

We find in one of our exchanges the following remarks relative to the use of castor oil in the trades, more particularly its application to leather. It is much better to soften and to redeem old leather than any other oil known.—When boots and shoes are greased with it, the oil will not at all interfere with the polishing afterward, as is the case with lard, olive, or any other oil. Leather belts for transmitting motion in machinery will usually last three to five years, according to the wear and tear they are exposed to; when greased with castor oil they will last ten years or more, as they always remain flexible and do not crack. Beside this advantage, the castor oil will prevent slipping, so that a belt three inches wide, impregnated with it, will be equal to a belt four and a half inches without castor oil. It is necessary, however, to wait twenty-four hours, till the oil has disappeared from the surface and penetrated the leather, otherwise the freshly greased surface will cause slipping. The rats and other vermin detest anything impregnated with castor oil, and will not touch it—another advantage.

## "IS WHITE CLOVER PASTURE GOOD FOR SHEEP?"

Having kept sheep for six years, principally upon white clover pasture, I can recommend it as being durable and affording about one-third more feed per acre than other grasses, and it will stand closer feeding, and sheep do well on it. I have about ten acres that have been seeded eighteen or twenty years. It was sown with prairie grass which is long since extinct, and the clover still flourishes, (the ground has never been broken) and it has often been remarked that my pasture will sustain more stock than any pasture of its size in the neighborhood. It also makes good hay for sheep. I mix white clover seed, and sow for meadow; it sods over better and yields all of one-third more per acre, and makes much better hay for sheep. I wintered sixty-five sheep last Winter on hay thus mixed, without feeding any grain, and lost none after Winter set in, and none are poor and weak, and no goiter or any other disease in the lambs. My lambs have need of but little care, the dams all being in good condition. The above sheep have wintered better than flocks in the vicinity that have had hay and grain without white clover.—*Corr. Wis. Farmer.*

A mammoth ox, probably the largest in America, seven years old, weighing 5,000 pounds, and long owned by W. Drew, of Manchester, N. H., was found dead in his stall last Saturday, with disease of the kidneys.

## THE INCREASING USE OF MUTTON.

In our boyhood mutton was an unpopular meat, and avoided by the city and country as much as the meat of the most offensive animal. To-day in all the large cities of the country and among the people east of the Mississippi, the best of mutton and lamb commands the highest price of any meat. All nations as they advance in civilization abandon the grosser and semi-barbarous kinds of food, and substitute for it the luxuries of the garden and nutritious mutton for the grosser pork, which is far more expensive to produce. The consumption of mutton by a people has been said to be an index of their civilization and refinement.

There are some curious facts illustrative of the immensely increased demand for mutton. Within our recollection tens of thousands of sheep have been slaughtered for their hides and tallow, and their meat pressed for swine feed. To-day take the year round, butchers complain that it takes more time to obtain a meager supply of mutton and lamb than all other meats. At Brighton, on the day before Christmas, 1839, two men held all the sheep (only 400 in all at Brighton), yet this monopoly did not raise the sluggish market one-half cent per pound. In 1859 there was in this market, the day before Christmas, 5400 sheep all sold, while the average weekly supply in 1866 was over 800, and on some market days over 14,000, and not much heard yet of cheap mutton. Another fact is worthy of notice, that while common fine wooled sheep sold for from $1,50 $4,50, the large long wooled sheep sold for $11. This fact points the direction which our farmers should take in sheep husbandry in order to meet the wants and realize the greatest profits of to-day. The fleeces and the lambs of the long Leicester wooled sheep are larger than those of the fine wooled sheep, their mutton better, and all command higher prices. These sheep, first quality, sold in 1866 from $10 to $16.—*The Homestead.*

Other People's Troubles Easy to Bear.—"You must really exercise patience," said an old rat to a brother that had been caught in a trap. "No doubt it is painful; but squeaking will do you no good whatever, and it is very distressing for us to bear."

"You are mighty compassionate," said the prisoner, trying to ease his leg.

"Oh, I assure you I feel beyond all description for you," said the old rat; "I can enter into your sufferings most fully; but you see, notwithstanding that I grieve so acutely I can command myself and behave with moderation."

"Very fine," replied the captive; "I could do the same if I were sitting at my ease looking at you in this trap; but I doubt exceedingly if your philosophy would hold out if you were here instead of me."

A Useful Hint.—A ubscriber writes as follows: "A tin tube made like a syphon, driven into the vent of a barrel of wine, or cider, and the other end inserted into a vial of water, will prevent the air from entering the barrel, while the gas escapes through the water. Make the barrel otherwise tight. When the cider or wine in the barrel is done working, the water in the bottle will cease bubbling. It requires no filling up, and there is no loss. I have tried it." We will only add that it can be made by any tin plate worker, and when once made can always be kept for future use.

The Indianapolis Journal says there is a field of corn about two miles from that city on which no rain has fallen this season.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Oct. 19, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 20c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 90c. |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.50 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a17.00 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 45 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 42c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 42c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 16ac18 |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

BREADSTUFFS MORE ACTIVE AND PRICES BETTER.

During the week the flour market has been fairly active. Low and medium brands of winter wheat extras have improved materially. For many years past the quality has not been equal to the present. There has been an increase in the export trade. At the close, the market in flour is more active and 10a15c better.

Rye flour has been in good demand and has improved daily. The stock is light and the market is more active at the close.

Corn meal has been in fair demand and prices have advanced in consequence of the light arrivals.

Buckwheat flour has been in moderate demand and prices have declined.

The Wheat market has been variable, owing to the favorable advices and the large orders from Europe. The receipts of spring wheat at the lake ports have been large, and will give a considerable surplus for export. The exports of the week are 153,337 more this week than the corresponding week last year. At the close wheat is 2a3 cents better, and the market is tame.

Indian Corn is more active. The market is 2a3 cents better, and closes easier at 142 cents for mixed.

There has been more excitement in Oats, owing to the demands of speculators. At the close the inquiry is active, and the market is excited at two to three cents better.

Rye has been in request, but, with limited arrivals, the business has been restricted, and has been in part for future delivery. At the close the market is firm.

Pork has been quite active. At the close the market is firm at $22.40a22.45.

# Special Notices.

HIGHLY INTERESTING NEWS!—Mothers take notice.—MOTHER BAILEY'S QUIETING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN. Only 25 cents. Sold by Druggists.

4w-39] GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., Boston, Mass.

ITCH! ITCH!! ITCH!!!

SCRATCH! SCRATCH!! SCRATCH!!!

In from 10 to 48 hours,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | The Itch. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Salt Rheum. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Tetter. |
| Wheaton's OintMent | cures | Barbers' Itch. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Old Sores. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Every kind |

of Humor like Magic.

Price, 50 cents a box; by mail, 60 cents. Address WEEKS & POTTER, No. 170 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

For sale by all Druggists.

Boston, Aug. 26, 1867. 1y-35

# Advertising Department.

## Massachusetts.

FRUIT TREES,

*GRAPEVINES, SMALL FRUITS,*

**Holland Flower Roots, &c., &c.**

For Fall Planting, we have for sale 10,000 Pear Trees; 5000 Grapevines; 5000 Apple, Peach, Plum and Cherry Trees; 500c Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Blackberries; 1000 choice Roses and Shrubs,—warranted first-class stock, and the choice of this season's growth.—which we offer to purchasers at the lowest prices; together with the finest collection of

DUTCH BULBS

ever imported, including prize varieties of Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocus, Narcissus, Crown Imperials, Japan Lilies, Iris, &c.

Send for our descriptive priced Catalogue, (mailed free,) or call and see sample stock at our Salesroom, Basement 28 and 30 Water Street, Boston. BENJ. T. WELLS & CO., Importers and Nursery Agents.

OFFICE, NO. 7 WATER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

Oct. 19, 1867. 4w-42

FREE GIFTS ! FREE GIFTS ! ! TO ALL ! ! !

A Silk Dress Pattern, a Family Sewing Machine, or Gold Watch, for one or two days' service in any town or village. Particulars and gift sent free, by addressing, with stamp, W. FISK & CO., No. 40 Hanover Street, Boston, Mass.

Oct. 19, 1867. 3m-42

TO FARMERS AND COUNTRY MERCHANTS

AND ALL WHO HAVE FOR SALE

**FLOUR, MAPLE SUGAR, FURS, SKINS, OIL, HOPS, VEGETABLES, FRUITS, BUTTER AND CHEESE, LARD, EGGS, POULTRY, HAY, FISH, WOOL, &c.**

I have large experience in the sale of Produce, and can obtain the HIGHEST Prices for the same, and make FULL CASH RETURNS WITHIN TEN DAYS from the receipt of the goods.

The highest charge for selling is 5 per cent. A weekly price current sheet is issued by me, which I will send FREE to any one desiring it.

CASH ADVANCED liberally on consignments, when desired. All produce taken charge of by faithful men in my employ when it arrives. I have a large warehouse, capable of holding 5000 barrels. I can give reference to parties for whom I have done business in all parts of the country.

Send for copy of Prices Current, and mark all shipments.

JAMES W. EDGERLY,
84 Kneeland St., Boston.

Sept. 23, 1867. 3teow

## Pennsylvania.

DIEHL WHEAT.

A bald, white wheat, weighing 60 to 63 lbs. per bushel, yielding 30 to 40 bushels per acre, and ripening before the Mediterranean; the straw is stiff, and the kernels set very compact on the head.

Price, $5 per bushel, $25 for 6 bushels.

ED. J. EVANS & CO.,
Nurserymen and Seedsmen,
York, Penn.

38 2w

NEW CROP

CLOVER,
TIMOTHY,
ORCHARD,
HERD AND
KENTUCKY
BLUE GRASS SEED.

SEED WHEAT

Grown from recent importations, and from the North, South and West, of the most approved variety, for sale at the lowest market price.

C. B. ROGERS,
133 Market Street, Philadelphia.

Sept. 14, 1867. 4w-36

## Maine.

TO THE WORKING CLASS,

Farmers, Mechanics, Ladies, and Everybody. I am now prepared to furnish you with constant employment at your homes, the whole of your time, or in your spare moments. Business New, Light, and Profitable. Fifty cents to $5 per evening is easily earned by persons of either sex who are willing to work. Great inducements are offered those who will devote their whole time to the business; and the boys and girls earn nearly as much as men. I wish all persons who have spare time to send me their address and test the business for themselves; and that all may do so, I make the following unparalleled offer: To all who are not well satisfied with the business I will send $1 to pay for the trouble of writing me. Full particulars, directions, &c., sent free. Sample sent for 10 cents.

Address E. C. ALLEN, Augusta, Maine.

Sept. 21, 1867. 3w-37

## Rhode Island.

IMPROVE YOUR STOCK.

The subscriber has purchased of R. L. Maitland, Esq., of Newport, his Imported Alderney Bull COMET, the best Bull of his age in New England. He will be kept for service at the Harlow Place, two miles East of Providence, on the Taunton Pike. Price $25.00. WM. H. HOPKINS.

Providence, Sept. 29, 1867. 4w-38

W. E. BARRETT & CO. MANUFACTURE MEAD'S PATENT CONICAL PLOWS (8 sizes), Shares' Silver Medal Horse Hoes; Shares, Geddes and other Harrows; Wright's, Wood's and Eagle Plows; Store Trucks, Wheel-barrows, Road-Scrapers, Pig Troughs, Iron and Steel Tooth Cultivators, Potato Diggers, and Dealers in all kinds of first class Farming Tools and Seeds at Wholesale.

Factory, No. 9 Burges Street;
Office, 32 Canal Street, Providence.

September 21, 1867. tf-37

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S SUPERIOR AXES, FOR sale at makers prices by W. E. BARRETT & CO.

Providence, Sept. 21, 1867. tf-37

WELLINGTON'S VEGETABLE CUTTERS, AT W. E. BARRETT & CO.

Providence, Sept. 21, 1867. tf-37

IF YOU WANT THE BEST PLOW IN THE MARKET FOR all work, send for MEAD'S CONICAL, made by W. E BARRETT & CO.

Providence, Sept. 21, 1867. tf-37

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Sharra's Patent Harrows and Horse Hoes, Cultivators, Seed Sowers, Hay Cutters, Garden and Railroad Barrows, Shovels, Spades, Forks, Iron Bars, &c, Holder's Block, Main Street.

Woonsocket, R. I.

PERRY'S HAY CUTTERS. THE BEST IN MARKET, FOR sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO.

Providence, Sept. 21, 1867. tf-37

S. S. FOSS, Book and Job Printer. All descriptions of printing done at short notice. Office in Patriot Building, Woonsocket, R. I.

## Ohio.

WANTED—AGENTS—$75 to $200 per month, everywhere, male and female, to introduce throughout the United States the GENUINE IMPROVED COMMON SENSE FAMILY SEWING MACHINE. This machine will stitch, hem, fell, tuck, quilt, bind, braid and embroider in a most superior manner. Price only $18. Fully warranted for five years. We will pay $1,000 for any machine that will sew a stronger, more beautiful, or more elastic seam than ours. It makes the "Elastic Lock Stitch." Every second stitch can be cut, and still the cloth cannot be pulled apart without tearing it. We pay agents from $75 to $200 per month and expenses, or a commission from which twice that amount can be made. Address,

SECOMB & CO., Cleveland, Ohio.

CAUTION—Do not be imposed upon by other parties palming off worthless cast-iron machines under the same name, or otherwise. Ours is the only genuine and really practical cheap machine manufactured.

October 5, 1867. 4w

# Marriages.

In Woonsocket, 4th inst., by Rev. E. Douglass, Mr. John Rankins to Miss Mary Jane Youngs, both of Smithfield.

At the bride's residence, in Millville, Oct. 7th, by Rev. Mr. Edwards, Mr. William H. Thayer, of Watertown, to Miss Emmie W., youngest daughter of Thomas M. Southwick, Esq., of Millville.

In Pawtucket, 7th instant, Mr. Joseph L. Whitney to Miss Elizabeth A. Smith; 3d instant, Mr. Stephen Tourtelott to Miss Jeanette Easton; 8th instant, Mr. Frank Alexander to Miss Emma Perry; 3d instant, Mr. James Albert Harding to Miss Mary L. W. Pratt; 8th instant, Mr. James N. Earle to Miss Sarah W. Hunt, all of Pawtucket.

In Grafton, 12th instant, Ora S. Gibbs to Christina M. Sherman, both of Grafton.

In Sutton, Oct. 8, Frank J. Dadman of Millbury, to Mary E. Dudley of Sutton.

In Mendon, on the 10th instant, by the Rev. Adin Ballou, Capt. Warren Pierce, of Tynsboro, Mass. to Miss Anna W.; also Newton Darling, of Providence, to Miss Mary M. H., daughters of the late Charles C. P. Hastings, Esq., of Mendon. No Cards.

In Webster, Oct. 11, James Johnson to Jennie Scott.

In Milford, Henry M. Fisher to Jane Eleanor Moorhouse, both of Milford.

# Deaths.

In Pawtucket, 12th instant, Mrs Rebecca Nicholas, in the 84th year of her age.

In Mendon, October 7, George G. Moore, aged 7 years 8 months.

In Uxbridge, October 7, Angeline Snow, aged 62 years.

In Milford, October 8, Linville L. Pike, 44 years.

In Saundersville, October 15, Mrs Theodosia D, wife of A. D. Johnson, aged 64 years.

In Franklin, 2d instant, Laura Blake, aged 73 years.

In Oxford, October 15, at the residence of W. E. Pease, Esq, Paris Tourtellot, of Sutton, aged 70 years.

In Attleboro, 16th instant, Mrs Elizabeth, wife of Thomas R Gay, aged 70 years.

In Wilkinsonville, Oct. 8th Edward Everett, son of James and Abby Westcott, aged 24 years, 2 months, 27 days.

Colors, as Applied to Dress.—Few people give themselves the trouble to understand the rules of color. They consider them as belonging to an abstruse science. The principles, which are supposed to be too much wrapped in mystery to be worth the trouble of acquiring by any but professional persons, are those comprehended in the laws of contrast of color and contrast of tone. First, as regards contrast of color. There are three primary colors—red, blue, and yellow. From these every other color is formed, and each has its perfect harmony in its contrasting or complementary color. The complementary of each simple color is formed by the union of the other two, that is green, being the mixture of blue and yellow, is complementary to red; violet, being formed of red and blue, is complementary to yellow; and orange, a compound of red and yellow, to blue.

# The Poultry-Yard.

## FLESH OF POULTRY.

The flesh of the duck is of a savory and somewhat stimulating nature, and is said to afford a preferable nourishment to that of the goose, being less gross aud more easily digested, aud that of the wild than the tame, although the more savory.

The whole auserine or goose tribe, of which there is a great variety, are held to afford a food stimulant of strong flavor and vicious quality, and of a putrescent tendency. The flesh of the tame goose is more tender than that of the wild, hut generally it is a diet best adapted to a good stomach and powerful digestion, and should be sparingly used by the sedentary or weak, or persons subject to cutaneous diseases.

The flesh of the turkey is somewhat more dense of fibre, and more alkalescent and substantial than that of the chicken, but is reckoned nourishing and restorative.

In the opiuion of physicians, hoth ancient and modern, the flesh of the chicken at three mouths old, is the most delicate and easy to digest of all animal food—hence hest adapted to the stomachs of invalids or the constitutionally weak, being the least alkalescent of all animal food, free from irritation, and affording a mild innoxious chyle. Age makes a striking difference in the flesh of fowls, since after the age of twelve months it becomes tougher and more insoluble. The eock, indeed, at that age, is ouly used for soup, whilst the pullet is exeellent, although a more substantial viaud thau the chicken. While young, the cock and hen are equally delicate.

The Capon, in England, has ever been esteemed one of the greatest delicacies, preserving the flavor and tenderness of the chicken with the juicy maturity of age, the flesh yielding a rich and good chyle, and without any tendency to inflammatiou.

Guinea fowls are not so white of flesh as common, but more inclined to the pheasant color; in quality, short and savory like the pheasant or partridge, and easy of digestion. In fact, the Guinea fowl is reckoned hy many a good substitute for the pheasant. They are very prolific of eggs, nourishing and good.—*Bement, in Country Gentleman.*

## FRENCH AND ENGLISH POULTRY.

A collection of poultry at the Exhibition in Paris, has elicited some remarks in the London Times, which will uot be without interest to poultry-breeders, and the still more numerous class of poultry eaters, in our own country. In England, poultry shows, even those connected with agricultural societies, are chiefly devoted to the encouragement of pure breeds of fowls. In France, on the contrary, fowls are chiefly estimated iu reference to their economic value as table birds, and as ahundant layers of eggs of large size.

The fiuest birds in the exhibition were the Crevecœurs, Houdaus and La Fleche. These three breeds are alike remarkable for their solidness of skin and fat, their early maturity, the ease with which they are fattened, and above all, the smallness of their hones. On this point the Freuch justly pride themselves. Accordiug to their opinion, for a good table fowl the bones should not amount to one-eighth of the weight of the flesh. With the English the very reverse opinion prevails, aud we accordingly find the Dorking breeder expatiating on the bulk or the bone in the limbs of his birds as a point of merit. The Poulardes and Capons shown at the exhibitions of poultry that are occasionally held in Paris, are far finer in skin, and firmer and finer in fat, than those seen in the best English or American markets. This is due in a great measure to the judieious methods of feeding adopted, buckwheat meal and milk being their food while fattening for the market.—*London Times.*

New York cousumes a thousand barrels—or nearly a million—of eggs per day. They come mainly from the West.

Corn and Poultry.—A poultry faneier says that he is satisfied a hushel of grain fed to poultry will return more money to the feeder than any other stock he ean feed it to. One bushel of corn will make a fraction less than ten pounds of poultry.

## AN OUT-DOOR CELLAR.

It is very unwise to store a large quantity of vegetables in the cellar of a farm-house, even if it is of suffieient capacity. In the latter part of the Winter there will be some decay, and nothing can be more detrimental to health than living over a mass of decaying vegetable matter. But few cellars are large enough to hold the products of the farm that requires Winter storage. As we devote more attention to the economical feeding of stock, the neeessity of good root cellars will he felt more seriously.—Carrots, beets, parsnips, cabhage, and the like, require cellar room. A sandy hillside is the best place for making a eellar, as iu this situation good drainage is secured as well as easy access. A good cellar, however, can be made in any place where the water will not be within three of four feet of the surface. Especial pains must he taken to secure good drainage. Dig down as far as drainage will allow, and throw the earth back to be used in banking up. If rough stones are to he had, they are best for the walls; if not, posts and plauks will answer. A strong ridge pole is necessary, which must he supported by posts. Bank up the sides with earth, and plank the roof, and cover with straw or leaves, over which rough hoards, or something of the kind must be placed to prevent blowing up. An easy entrance should be made at the front by digging down the earth in a gradual slope; and as this part will be exposed to the weather, it should be made douhle; and if of boards, filled between with straw.—Where stone is used a space for air is sufficient.—*Michigan Farmer.*

## RULES FOR FARMERS.

1. The farmer ought to rise early, to see that others do so, and that hoth his example be followed and his orders obeyed.

2. The whole farm should be regularly inspected, and not ouly every field examined, but every beast seen at least once a day.

3. In a considerable farm it is of the utmost consequence to have hands specially appropriated for each of the most important departments of labor, for there is often a great loss of time where persons are frequently chauging their employments, and the work is not exeeuted so well.

4. Every means should be thought of to dimiuish labor or to increase its power. For instance, by proper arrangement, five horses may do as much labor as six perform, according to the usual mode of employing them.

5. A farmer ought never to engage in a work, whether of ordinary practice or intended improvement, except after the most careful inquiries; but when begun, he ought to proceed in it with much attention and perseverance until he has given it a fair trial.

6. It is a main object in managemeut not to attempt too much, and never to hegin a work without a probahility of heing able to finish it in due seasou.

7. Every farmer should have a book for inserting all those useful hints which are so constautly occurring in eonversation, in books, in papers, and gathering in the course of his reading or in a praetical management of his farm.—*Sinclair.*

A Cure for Ear-ache.—Take a bit of cotton batting; put upon it a pinch of black pepper; gather it up, and tie it; dip it in sweet oil, and insert it in the ear. Put a flannel bandage over the head to keep it warm. It will give immediate relief.

When a crack is discovered in a stove through which the fire or smoke penetrates, the aperture may be effectually and readily closed with a composition consisting of wood ashes and common salt, made into a paste with water. Plaster this over the crack.

# Farm And Fireside.

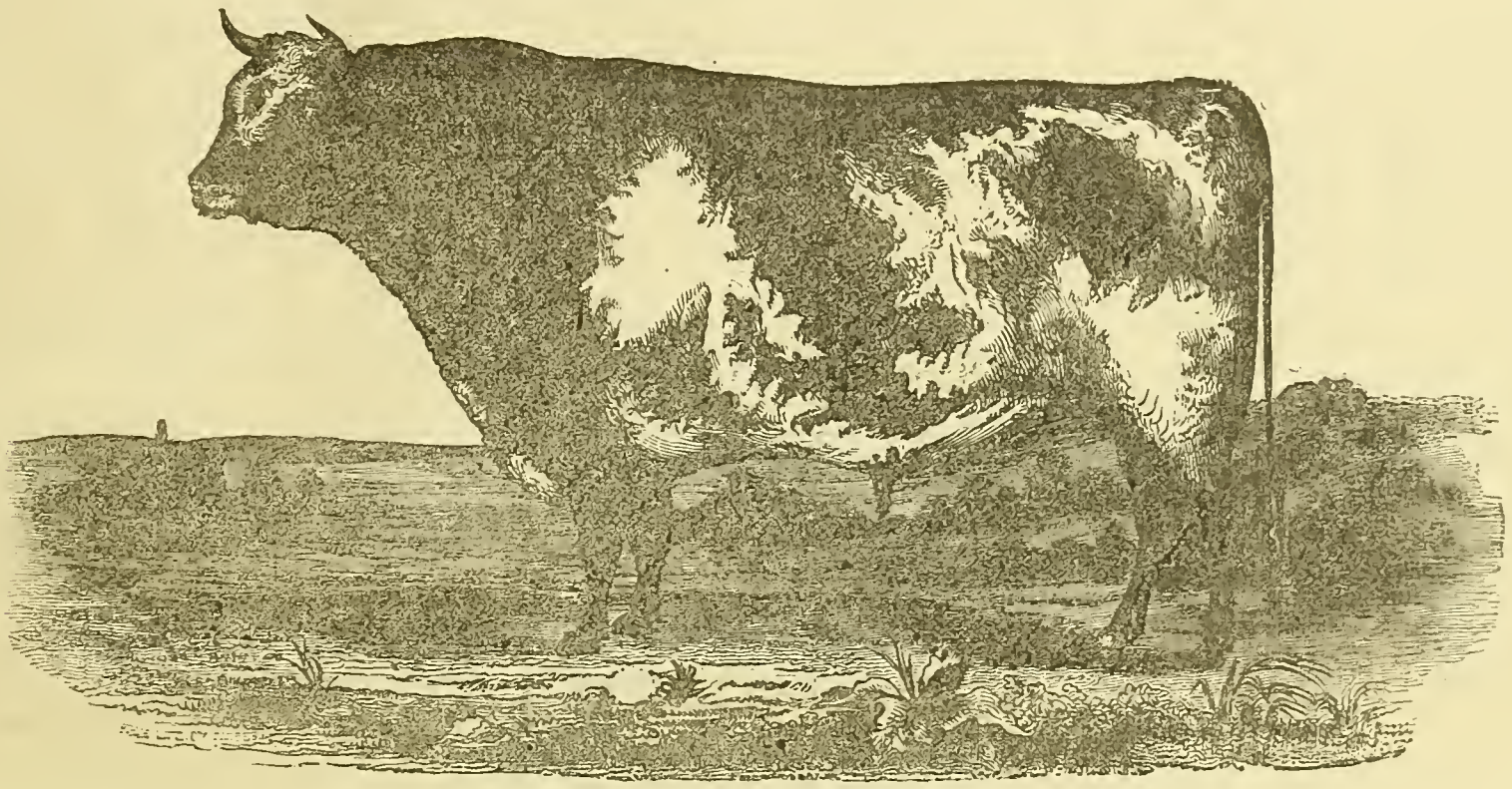
A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, 5 CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1867. NO. 43.



## SHORT-HORNS.

This race, for its antiquity and permanence entitle it to be so considered, is, without a question, the most universally popular, and the most widely distributed of any of the known varieties of cattle. Not only has it established itself in almost every county of England, in spite of the various local breeds, but in Scotland and Ireland it is almost equally at home. On the continent of Europe it has fairly gained a foothold, notwithstanding strong national prejudices, whilst the lately developed continent of Australia has taken her share of those noble animals to occupy her vast feeding grounds. Some have gone to South Africa, and an occasional one to South America, the West Indies, and Mexico, besides the great numbers imported into the United States and Canada. In short, this favorite race is rapidly planting itself wherever there is any improvement in agriculture or the rearing of cattle encouraged or the English language spoken. And they must make their way wherever soil and climate are suitable, and the people are intelligent enough to appreciate their merits.

The earliest introduction of this breed of which we have any authentic account was in 1783, when a few animals were brought into Virginia, and from there carried into Kentucky some years after. We mention this importation not as having any important bearing upon the cattle now existing in that State, as it is probable no pure blood descendants from these animals remained, but as being the first step in an improved agriculture that was to revolutionize our large cattle-growing districts. In the early part of the present century a few small importations were made at various times, but so little importance was attached to *blood* and so little attention paid to pedigrees, that few records were kept, and much doubt and obscurity attends any researches respecting them. New England, New York, and Pennsylvania were, up to the year 1834, the chief localities benefited by these importations, the earlier of which were scarcely appreciated, and the animals were sadly deteriorated through want of care and knowledge in their treatment and breeding. In 1834 the Ohio Stock Breeders' Association was formed, and introduced a number of fine animals into the lately developed West, where their admirable adaptation to the climate and country had made them long before deservedly popular, and where, at the present day, with their crosses they form the greater portion of the cattle grown and fed. Importations have been frequently made since then into all parts of the Union, which it is not necessary to particularize.

The majestic size, proud carriage, and beautifully variegated colors of the Short-Horn render him easily recognized by the merest tyro; but few who thus admire and recognize them are aware how many qualifications go to make up this splendid whole, or how carefully each point has been weighed and discussed, and its relative value decided; how the useful parts are divided from the ornamental and fashionable, and how systematically the whole has been carried out. The "high caste" Short-Horn should have a small head, a broad, flat forehead, with no projection of the frontal bones; the face should be well cut out below the eyes, tapering to a fine muzzle with open nostrils; the nose must be flesh or chocolate colored; any discoloration hinting towards black or blue is very objectionable, though occasionally seen in some of the highest bred families; the eye must be bright, prominent, and yet placid; a small piggish eye, or one showing viciousness or nervousness, are alike to be avoided, the latter indicating a bad feeder almost invariably; the horn should be well set on, curving forward, not too heavy, and of a waxy, yellow cover at the base; the body should be square, massive, and symmetrical, set on short legs, which should be straight and well under the animal; the fore legs should be small in the bone below the knee, whilst the forearm must be broad and tapering downwards, fitting level into the girth; the hind legs must be nearly straight; if the hocks are too much bent, turned inward, or not well under the body, it not only gives an awkward gait in walking, but is generally a sign of weakness; the neck is moderately long, clean in the throat, and running neatly into the shoulders, which should not be too prominent at the points, nor too wide at the top, else the crops will be certain to seem defective; they should mould nicely into the fore-quarters, and be well covered with flesh on the outside; the neck vein should be well filled up with flesh, and form on smoothly to the shoulder points; the chest must be broad and deep, and full back of the elbows, which secures a good girth and consequent room for the most important vital organs; the brisket should be full and broad rather than narrow and projecting; it is of inferior quality as beef, yet, as a point of beauty and as indicating a propensity to fatten, must not be overlooked.

We may gather from the foregoing that the essential peculiarities of the improved Short-Horns are, early maturity, a great disposition to fatten, a remarkable evenness in laying on their flesh, a gentle, quiet temper, and, in some tribes and families, a large secretion of milk. It has been claimed by some of their more zealous advocates in this country, that they make good oxen, but we hardly think, however docile and powerful they may be, that they can compete in activity and speed with some of the other breeds. Taking into consideration these characteristics, we see how admirably adapted they are for the larger portion of our country. Wherever there is fair pasturage, good water, and shelter from the extremes of heat and cold, there the Short-Horn thrives. Over the broad prairies and blue grass pastures of the West, in the rich valleys of our great rivers, he roams and flourishes as though in his native vale, and readily adapts himself to the change of situation and climate. But it is to the crosses of the Short-Horn that we must look for the most general adaptation and dissemination of the breed. The high value of the thorough-breds for breeding purposes must for many years prevent their universal adoption, and it is only by crossing them upon our so-called natives that we can reap immediate benefit from them. Fortunately for us, no breed more promptly and strongly stamps its impress upon other blood than this one. All the writers on cattle unite in this opinion, and some even advocate crossing the Short-Horn or other pure races, with a view to their improvement. We shall usually find, however, the most remarkable and satisfactory results when the Short-Horn is put upon a mongrel or a lately established breed, as then the deep breeding of the sire will obliterate the numerous thin strains of the dam's blood, and the produce will resemble the superior race. The cross between the native cow and the Short-Horn bull almost always produces good milkers, and, as a whole, they afford more milk of a better quality than any other breed, and, when dry, they feed quickly and make excellent beef. The greater proportion of the cattle now brought from Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, and even further West, to supply the New York and Philadelphia markets, are crosses of this character, and none pay better.

# Horticulture.

## SEASONABLE HINTS.

### THE ORCHARD.

The apple-worm has been very destructive to fruit this year, and old fogies who believe in the transmutation of wheat into chess, are beginning to think that the tent-caterpillars occasionally become apple-worms, supporting their opinion by the fact that the former insects were few and far between this year, and if some precautions are not taken to check the increase of these injurious insects, it will be very difficult to save the apple crop from destruction.

We have seen a great many orchards lately, and in the greater number of them, a considerable quantity of apples are lying on the ground where they had fallen from the trees. The principal part of these apples was wormy, and the grubs had no doubt left the fruit and hidden themselves in the chinks of the bark, where they will spin their cocoons, and whence they will come out next June as perfect moths. Wormy fruit should not be allowed to remain on the ground but as short a time as possible. If hogs have access to the orchard they will eat the fruit as fast as it falls and effectually destroy the worms. If the wormy fruit is put into barrels or boxes with a little straw at the bottom, the worms will leave the fruit and enter the straw where they will spin their cocoons. If straw or hay ropes are wound around the trunks of the trees near the ground, the worms will crawl into them and may be destroyed by unwinding the ropes and burning them.

Suckers should be cut away from fruit trees; they are very injurious, by absorbing those juices which are necessary for sustaining the tree. If not cut thoroughly, they will start up again, and be a permanent nuisance. They are thought to be an effort of nature to protect the trunks of the trees from the rays of the sun, as they are seldom seen in orchards where low branches are encouraged, and are very troublesome in all places where the trees have been pruned high, to admit of horses working under the branches.

A mulch of well decomposed barn-yard manure, or rich compost, will be a great protection to the roots of trees during the Winter, and the essence of the manure will be carried into the soil by rain and melting snows. If long manure is put on, it will encourage mice about the trees, and they will commence operations on the bark as soon as snow covers the ground. Rubbish of every kind, likely to afford shelter to these pests, should be removed from the orchard, and bandages of stiff paper, etc., put around the trunks near the ground, to keep rabbits from injuring them. Before applying bandages of any kind, a search should be made for borers, and they should be dug out of their lurking-places. The cocoons of the apple-worm should be searched for in the crevices of the bark, and in all other places where they are likely to be found. A good scraping and washing of the bark at this time will be very serviceable. Newly planted trees should be protected from stock of every kind. —*Western Rural.*

## THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Most farmers are ambitious to possess a good orchard, but few cultivate what might strictly be termed a fruit garden. On many farms orcharding for market purposes is of doubtful profit, but on every farm a garden devoted to growing fruits for family use would be remunerative in every sense of the term.

The fruit garden should not be large, as it will not be taken care of well enough; it should be located near the dwelling both for convenience in cultivating and pleasure in beholding it; it should be sheltered under the lee of the buildings, or a bill, and surrounded by a dense, high evergreen bedge, or a tall, close board fence or stone wall A sunny, warmly exposed location should be chosen, and the soil should be thoroughly drained, well enriched, and deeply dug up. In short, make a good beginning, for when the trees are planted you cannot drain, subsoil, or change the location without incurring great expense.

Half an acre will make a fair sized fruit garden. Let us say that it is eight rods one way, ten the other; that it is longest north and south, and is inclosed with a tight board fence or stone wall eight feet high.

Now let us see what we can plant in it. First we will have a border on the south, west and east sides, four feet wide, planted to grapes, apricots, and nectarines, which are trained against the fence. Next to this border on the west and east sides only we will have a strip of grass eight feet wide. The two entrances to the garden shall be on the south end, opening to the ends of these grass strips or walks. These are our only walks; they serve for turning places for the horses in cultivating the garden, and the grass will mulch the strawberry bed. Along the south end of the garden devote ten feet to strawberries, then set seven rows, five feet apart, with raspberries, blackberries, currants and gooseberries, then four rows of dwarf pears, and as many of peaches, planting the trees eight feet apart each way, and heading them low; then you will have room left for two rows of cherry and one of plum and one of apple trees.

This variety and quantity of fruit well taken care of will supply an ordinary family.

Pinching the Grapevine.—We observe, on looking over the discussion of the Alton Horticultural Society, (Ill.,) that quite a diversity of opinion prevailed in relation to the proper mode for the Summer pinching of the vine. In an essay read by H. G. M' Pike, he urges the importance of pinching the tips of the fruit-bearing shoots, quite early in the season, or when they are not more than four to six inches long—adding, that there will immediately start two or three new buds which are in turn to be pinched back, leaving only one leaf; and again the buds at this leaf will start, and must be pinched back, leaving only one leaf again—thus giving to each bunch of grapes three leaves all of different ages, to ripen the fruit. He stated that without this succession of leaves the fruit would not ripen well. These views corroborated by D. Stewart and by Dr. Long; but were objected to by Dr. Hull, who asserted "that leaves that had attained size and substance were every way better fitted to perform the functions required than new leaves."

At the east, some of the best grape-growers pinch much later, and do not repeat the process so frequently. What do they think of the above described mode? Will they please give us the result of any observations they have made?

Fertilizing Plants.—Few entomologists are aware what an important part is played by insects in fertilizing certain kinds of plants. The old idea among botanists was, that hermaphrodite flowers shed their own pollen upon their own stamens, thus, as stock raisers term it, "breeding in-and-in." But it has recently been shown, that there is an almost infinite variety of contrivances in nature to prevent this, and that in many such cases bees and other insects, flying from flower to flower, convey the fertilizing pollen from one flower to another, and that without their agency either no seed at all, or seed inferior, both in quantity and quality, is perfected. It is remarkable that almost all flowers which are fertilized by the aid of insects are gaily colored, so as to attract insects; and Mr. Darwin observes that he does not know of a single flower, fertilized exclusively by pollen blown upon it by the wind, that is not of a dull, unattractive appearance.

Fall Flowers.—The Horticulturist says:—To produce an elegant effect in the flower garden in October and November, sow new seeds of the double white-wall flower-leaved stock. As soon as the plants are large enough to be transplanted, put each one separately into a seven inch pot and plunge the pots to the rims in an out-of-the-way place. They will need no care until September, when they will commence to bloom. Reject those with single flowers as soon as they are discovered. If the seed is good, nearly all the plants will prove double. Early frosts, which destroy many other bedding plants do not have the slightest effect upon this stock. In October they may be turned out into any of the beds where the plants have been killed, and their masses of double white flowers will attract attention from every one. In our own garden we had a fine show until the 10th of December, last year, long after every other bedding plant was destroyed. This stock grows to the height of nine inches and the same in diameter across the plant.

# Various Matters.

## THE VULTURES IN THE HIMALAYAS.

Dr. Andrew Leith Adams, in his "Wanderings of a naturalist in India," writes as follows of the vultures and other rapacious birds in the Himalayas:

Amid all the grandeur of the Himalayas, it is a most attractive sight to the naturalist to behold the vultures and rapacious birds soaring over the vast ravines and around the tops of mighty mountains. Let him choose a Summer evening, with that clear sky almost characteristic of the Himalayas, and just as the sun casts his rays on the snow-clad mountains—when the quiet is only broken by the cry of the eagle, the bleat of the goat, or the shrill pipe of the black partridge—then the vultures, kites and jackdaws may be seen wheeling in vast circles; some are gliding along, apparently without an effort, others appear suspended motionless in the vast canopy of heaven; while careering in his majesty, the lammergeyer gathers up his great wings and swoops downwards, mayhap to rise again and join the medley he has just left, or stretching forth his pinions to their fullest extent, he sails along the mountain brow to the projecting cliff on which his eyrie stands safe, for there who dare assail him!

After a bear or other large animal is killed, the hunter soon finds himself surrounded by these rapacious birds, where none were ever seen before; they are observed dashing down the glens, and sailing in circles around his quarry. Some sweep within a few yards of him, others are soaring at higher elevations, and even at such vast altitudes that the huge-hearded vulture appears only as a small speck in the blue sky, but gradually it becomes more distinct as its wide gyrations increase.

It may gather itself up and close its wings, or dash in one fell swoop hundreds of feet, and the next instant is seen perched on the jutting rock beside him. Such, then, are the usual appearances observed soon after the death of a large animal, and the hunter wonders whence all these great vultures and carrion-crows have come; but if, immediately after his noble ibex has rolled down the crag, he direct his eyes heavenward, he will observe the carrion crows or vultures, at various distances and elevations, sailing leisurely about, while the one nearest to him, observing the death of his quarry, instantly commences to descend; then one follows the other, until the valley resounds with the hoarse croaking of crows and the air feels alive with them. It is surprising the number that are sometimes observed to congregate on these occasions; I have seen no less than sixty vultures and crows on and around the carcass of a newly-killed bear.

## TREES AS A PROTECTION TO CROPS.

The San Francisco Bulletin says: Considerable attention has been given of late to the climate changes consequent upon denuding forests. In a recent pioneer address delivered in this city, the speaker mentioned the noble redwoods which could be seen from this point a few years ago, covering the hills in the rear of Oakland. Not a tree is left, and the hills present an exceedingly bald and barren aspect. It is also certain that there is not now sufficient moisture concentrated on these hills to germinate a new redwood forest.

The Coast Range is being rapidly stripped of redwood trees, and Nature, baffled in its work of restoration, by fire and drought, lets the verdure-clad hills go back to barrenness. It is a rare thing to find a new redwood forest springing up anywhere. The improvident axman slashes away right and left—the annual fires follow, spreading over miles of territory, and thus the young redwoods are killed off. In fifty years we shall have finished up the redwood forests now confined to a narrow strip of the Coast Range.

The effect of this wholesale destruction and waste of forests is already beginning to be seen in the climate changes which follow. Less moisture is concentrated on the hills which have been stripped. The redwood will not grow without extra moisture, and, when left, concentrates it as a necessary condition of its existence. The present Summer has been a singularly dry one in the Coast Range. Years ago it was held that annual crops, such as wheat and barley, would mature in these localities, even if not a drop of rain fell during the whole season. And during the dryest Winter we have yet known, so great was the moisture in the Spring and Summer following, that excellent crops were raised all along the Coast Range, while the same crops were a complete failure in the interior valleys. But this year, notwithstanding the heavy rains of the Winter, the late sown crops in the Coast Range were pretty near a failure. The hills were singularly dry all the Spring and early Summer. Whoever has passed along one of these mountain ranges in mid-summer, and has watched the drippings of the trees in the morning, could not fail to notice the important office they fulfil in saving a country from drought and consequent barrenness.

## THE DEATH OF EACH DAY.

Night is the death of day, the sleep of planet earth, and how very near those brighter worlds do come! Through forest leaves we see the clinging stars, as if Hesperian fruits were ripening. Venus at anchor is just beyond our hall, and Mars makes signals from his decks of red.

It is a solemn thing to sleep, whether beneath the watching stars or at high noon.—Whither shall we pass into that noiseless going, and when shall we return? From world to world is but a breath of sleep, they say—then give us pleasing dreams.

Strangest of all journeys is that of "going to sleep." The fitful pulse grows softer; the hand forgets its cunning; the daughters of music are brought low; they that look at the windows are darkened; care's raveled sleeve is knitted up—it is almost a dying. Happy is he for whom no Glamis hath murdered sleep; whose eyelids' noiseless close is like the drop of leaflets laden down with dew; whose slumbers deep as that which fell on Eden's gardener; and whose dreams as fair as Eve, the first-born daughter of a mortal sleep.

Ah! that "how long shall we sleep?" has been the question on all times and tongues since the morning stars were singing.

"If a man die, shall he live again?" And once a year have the daisies answered it, and spring's little infant given its fragrant testimony; and every day has the morning testified, and yet the world is murmuring still: "If a man die, shall he live again?"

"How long shall we sleep?" asks he who has cradled a living thought upon his breast, the child of his brain and his heart, and he sends it forth orphaned in the halls of Time, turns his face to the wall and dies! "How long shall we sleep?" sighs the poet, as he lays down the harp of life, feels the daisies growing over him, and goes away, where they sing the "new song forever."

"Not long, true thinker; not long, sweet singer; for the thought shall rise as a giant, and break the bands of sleep and then in it; for the song shall fly like a bird from Spring again, and the music and the welcome shall be made thine!

And when life's reign is over and gone, and the brow of the cloud is bound with a ribbon that hope did weave in the loom of God, and the tears on the world are turned to pearls in the sunset, what words more beautiful than these can we write upon the new grave: "He giveth his beloved sleep!"

Rhubarb.—*Cultivation.*—The Fall season is a good one for preparing the ground and planting out rhubarb roots. This plant may be grown to great advantage on ground just appropriated to orchard purposes. The rhubarb serves to check the growth of weeds and keeps the ground moist about the roots of the young trees. But, whether grown among the trees or alone, it is important that the soil should be deeply stirred and thoroughly manured. The roots may be planted out as soon as the leaves have dropped. The stools should be so divided as to leave but one or two buds on each bunch of roots. The varieties most favorably known are Myatt's Victoria, Downing's Colossal, and the Linnaeus, a variety also produced by Myatt. Every garden would be the better for the growing of a sufficient quantity of this plant for domestic consumption, if nothing more.

## The Fireside Muse.

### "THE OLD BOOK-KEEPER."

BY GEORGE COOPER.

It was an ancient book-keeper,
And he was tall and slim,
Though his face was mild, he rarely smiled—
His clothes were dark and prim;
And everything about his desk
He kept exceeding trim.

He always hung his hat and coat
Upon the self-same hooks,
And laid his ruler, pen and ink
In their respective nooks,
And the only exercise he had
Was footing up his books.

Each day, upon the self-same hour,
He took his lofty seat,
And bent his body and his mind,
His labors to complete;
And blots were neither on his fame
Nor on his ledger sheet.

The music of his pen was heard
From morn till eventide;
Up columns vast his eyes were cast,
Then down again with pride;
Quite pleased was he, though he saw his work
Increased and multiplied.

The cash that o'er his fingers came
Each day was something grand;
And yet no schemes to bear it off
By him were ever planned;
Although you saw with half an eye
That he wrote a "sloping" hand.

He had no wife, he made no friends,
His joys and cares were few;
And his dearest hope from day to day
Was to keep his balance true;
A good world this, if every man
The latter thing would do.

He never sighed when little ills
His way of life would cross;
And o'er the errors of his youth
He showed no vain remorse;
But set down all that came along
To profit or to loss.

One day the creditor of all
Dropped in for his amount;
He found the old man at his post,
Though low ran nature's fount;
The hooks were closed, and he was borne
Up to his last account.

## Fireside Tale.

### THE GROCER'S STORY.

Ours was a quiet street at most times—a lazy, shady place, where the green blinds were forever closed, and where there was so little passing that spears of grass grew here and there between the flag-stones, and the stone curbs of the iron-railed areas were fringed with soft green moss. A very quiet place at most times, but late upon one Autumn afternoon, a strange cry sounded through it, which awakened all its echoes, and called curious faces to the doors and windows.

"Stop thief! stop thief!"

The strong voice of a policeman uttered the cry at first, and the shrill treble of two boys at play near by took it up and repeated it, and by-and-by there was a full, deep chorus, like the cry of a pack of hounds—a sound you might have known at any distance, however ignorant you were of the language, to be the cry of men who hunted something.

Policemen with their clubs, errand boys with their bundles, bakers with their baskets on their arms, young gentlemen just released from the academy close at hand, and ragged urchins, whose school was the gutter, all joined in hot pursuit, and followed the miserable wretch with bare, begrimed feet and hatless head, that flitted along before them with a speed which only fear could lend to one so worn and wretched—a speed which kept the crowd a long way off, and made the burliest of his pursuers pant for breath.

They were out of sight in a moment; but in a little while the cry was heard that the thief had baffled them, and some amongst the crowd rushed back to see if their prey had doubled on their track; and others, sulky and indignant at the result of their useless chase, came back muttering angrily or swearing, with many violent oaths, that they would have him yet.

One policeman, a well-fed fellow, with a crimson face, made quite a hero of himself by asserting that he knew the fellow, and would trap him before sundown. There was a good deal of sympathy felt for the gentleman who had lost his pocket-handkerchief, but none I could hear of for the poor degraded wretch who had purloined it, until a placid voice at my elbow uttered the following words, apparently in soliloquy:

"Well, I may be wrong, but I hope they won't catch him."

I turned in surprise and confronted our grocer, on whose steps I had sought shelter from the crowd, which, at such a moment, could not be expected to think much of the safety of a woman.

Our grocer was a portly man, with a shining bald head, fringed with a ring of white hair, like the tonsure of a Roman Catholic priest, and wearing at the moment a Holland apron and a short blue jacket.

"Yes'm," he went on, "I really hope that the miserable, starved-looking creature will get away."

"Then you don't believe he picked the gentleman's pocket?" said I.

"I'm afraid it's only too certain that he did, ma'am," said the man shaking his head. "He looked straight at me as he passed, and he had hungry, desperate eyes, that looked like theft and murder, too, for that matter."

"And yet you wish him to escape, when he has broken the laws of the land, and will probably do so again?"

"God forbid that I should help to break the laws," said the grocer. "Good men made them, and they are right; but there are other laws that I read in my Bible, Sunday night, that seem to be as binding. One of them is, 'Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you.' And another 'Love thy neighbor as thyself.' When I remember these words, I think that you may be too hard with a poor, sinful fellow-being, and not go beyond the limits of the law either."

"That rich gentleman who had his pocket picked will go home to a fine dinner and a bottle of wine, no doubt, and the wretch of a thief may have a crust of bread and a glass of burning gin, if he can sell or pawn what he stole for enough to get them. Somehow, if I could, I wouldn't have him hunted down to-night—I vow, I wouldn't."

"Still, I don't blame those young fellows; I'd have been as furious in the cause as any one of 'em, years ago; but I learnt a lesson once that I have never forgotten, and I hope I never may. *I* was a young man, and a poor one then, and had a hard struggle to make my little shop keep my family. It was only by pinching and saving and keeping a sharp look-out for every bargain, that I managed it all.

"We lived in a shabby little street, and had only very poor customers. A loaf of bread, a quarter of a pound of butter, and two ounces of black tea was quite an order; and most of those that came wanted trust.

"As for laying in fine fruit or vegetables, I never thought of such a folly. Diamonds would have been as saleable in that part of the city, where washerwomen and the poorest laboring men were the aristocracy.

"Now and then when a foreign ship came to port with a load of ruined pine-apples, or decayed oranges, I bought a lot of those, and charging little or nothing, sold them easily enough. Although I own, my wife used to say the miserable babies, who rolled about the gutter, died off faster, after every stock of foreign fruit I sold in the old shop, and I'm afraid she was right. Well, as I told you, I struggled along as best I might, and after awhile things began to improve and I began to have visions of a clean store in a good street, when I laid down to rest at night.

"So one day when I had been to the market I brought down half a dozen hams and I hung them about the door, more for show than anything else, for hams were a good holiday dinner in those regions, and not an every day affair I can tell you. They went off slowly, as I thought they would. Now and then some one would come in for a pound, and once I sold half of the smallest one to a woman, who wanted it for her Sunday dinner. She was to pay me on Monday morning, but she never did, for on Sunday night her husband killed her with a rum-bottle, and they took her body past my shop with its poor head all beaten out of shape, and bloody.

"And so the hams hung there through the Summer, and through the Fall, and quite on into the Winter.

"It was just as the December nights began to grow long, and dark and cold, that I noticed a young policeman on our beat, a young, handsome, fine-looking fellow, with very bright eyes, but with such thin cheeks and hands, although he seemed to be powerfully built and made for rather a stout man, that I could not help watching him and wondering whether he had not been ill or not. The first time that I noticed him was about sunset, and he passed my window a dozen times, looking all the while straight at those hams which dangled from the frame of the awning. 'I hope he means to buy one,' I said to my wife, as we sat together over the tea-table; 'and I shouldn't wonder if he did, for he seems to have taken quite a fancy to them.'

"But the evening passed, and though I saw him every now and then on the other side of the way, looking across with his bright eyes straight at the hams, he did not come in or speak to me on the subject. And so I made up my mind that he would send for it in the morning, and somehow made so secure of it that whenever I saw a decent looking woman go by with a basket on her arm, I said; 'That's the policeman's wife coming after the ham.'

"I was mistaken, however; and after the street lamps were lighted I began to see the man pacing up and down, with his eyes still fixed as they had been the night previous upon the hams. Once he caught me peeping at him, and then he turned so red and looked at me with such a wolfish glitter in his eyes that I grew angry, and said to myself: 'It's well that keeping unsaleable articles isn't a crime in this country, for if it was I should expect to be arrested.'

"So I gave him back his look, turned on my heel, and walked back into the shop. I did not see him again that night; but long after everything had been taken in and locked up, and I was snug in bed, I heard a tramp, tramp, tramp, upon the pavement, and knew it was the new policeman, and that he was looking at the hooks where the hams hung, as well as though I had seen him.

"On the third evening he was there again; that you may say was no wonder, for it was his duty to be upon that beat and no other; but it was curious that he should keep on staring at those hams with those bright wolfish eyes of his. I didn't like it, though I couldn't have said why.

"A vessel had been wrecked at sea about that time, and an extra, with the latest news of the disaster, came out that evening. I bought a paper, and sat down behind the counter to read it. It was a stormy night, and but few customers came in, and those were easily served, and somehow, between reading and thinking, time passed on, until the clock struck eleven, and I had not yet taken in my goods or put up my shutters.

"Just as I was about to do so (in fact I had already put my hand upon the first piece of the shutter,) my door opened, and an old woman came in. She was a scottish, miserable creature, known about the place as 'Irish Kate,' and with her red nose, and bleared eyes and bloated limbs, was as ugly a figure as any one ever cast eyes upon. 'Another dram, I suppose,' I said to myself, going behind the bar at once, for I wanted to get rid of her as soon as possible. But she, to my surprise, came close up to me, and put her great red paw upon my arm.

"I've made a diskivery, mister," she said. "You've not been keeping a bright lookout as ye should; there's been a thafe at work without this blessed night."

"What thief?" I asked.

"More than I can tell ye," she answered. "But I think it's a policeman, no less, the blackguard."

"A policeman!" I cried, and my thoughts flew at once to the man I had seen staring at my hams.

"It's too dark to see his face," she said; "but I caught the shine of a star on the coat he had on, and whoever it was took a ham from your pegs and hid it in the ash box beyant the corner. Ye'll find it there, if ye look; and now ye'll not refuse an old woman a sup o' whiskey for the information?"

I gave the old creature what she wanted, hurried her out of the shop and put up the shutters, growing angry every moment.

"If it's the policeman, I'll make him pay dearly for it!" I exclaimed, as I slunk along the sidewalk to the corner, keeping in the shadow all the way; and when I stood beside the box and saw by the light of the lamp, close by, that the ham was there, wrapped in something which looked like a handkerchief, I bit my lips and clenched my hands with rage. Had it been a common thief I should not have minded; but a policeman! it was more than I could stand. So I crouched myself in a doorway and waited. The watch were relieved at 12 o'clock: I knew that, and knew also that this would be the time when my policeman would come to take the ham from out of its hiding place. And sure enough, when the time came, I heard him challenge the man who was to take his place, and come marching down toward the corner. I let him get the ham under his arm before I stirred, but then I pounced on him like a tiger.

"I've got you!" I cried. "A pretty policeman you are, indeed, but you shall suffer for it, I can tell you!"

He struggled with me for a moment like a wild thing, and then all of a sudden dropped the ham and fell down in a helpless sort of a heap upon the ground.

"I'm a ruined man!" he groaned, "A ruined man! there's no hope for me now. O my God! My wife!—my poor little wife!" and he burst out crying like a woman.

The sight softened me, but I was angry still.

"You should have thought of that before you became a thief," I said. "If the guardian of a man's property is not to be trusted, what is to become of him? And you look like a gentleman—you do not seem like a scoundrel; how have you ever stooped to such a disgraceful thing as this?"

He was standing beside me now, and the lamp fell upon his face. It was as white as that of any corpse, and his eyes glittered terribly.

"I'll tell you what made me do it," he said; "it was the only thing which could have driven me to an act like that; my wife and child are starving—starving I tell you, and I have nothing for them!"

"Policemen's families don't often starve," I said with a sneer.

"My God! can't you believe me—won't you believe me?" panted the man. "I have only been appointed three days; I have not received a cent of salary yet. I have been ill a long while and had neither money nor credit. Last night we went to bed supperless; to-day there has not been a crust in the house, and these hams tempted me, and I meant to pay you afterwards."

He covered his face with his hands, and I could see great tears dropping through his fingers, and before I knew it my own cheeks were moist, and so we stood silent with the ham lying between us on the ground.

At last he turned toward me and said: "Do what you like with me; my last hope is gone."

"But I put my hand on his arm and said: 'God forbid that I should take the last hope from you; that I, of all men should be the one to ruin you. If your story is true—and I believe it is—I pity you more than I blame you."

"He looked at me in a sort of bewildered way, as though he scarcely understood me, and I took him by the arm and led him back to the shop. There I filled a basket with bread and butter, and coffee, and put the ham on top of all. Take it home to your wife, I said, you'll pay me when you get your salary, and if you are in need before that time, come to me. I'm

(*Continued on page* 342.)

THE LAUGH OF WOMEN.—A woman has no natural gift more bewitching than a sweet laugh. It is like the sound of flutes on the water. It leaps from her in a clear, sparkling rill; and the heart that hears it feels as if bathed in the cool, exhilarating spring. Have you ever pursued an unseen fugitive through the trees, led on by a fairy laugh, now here, now there, now lost, now found? We have; and we are pursuing that wandering voice to this day. Sometimes it comes to us in the midst of care, or sorrow, or irksome business, and then we turn away and listen, and hear it ringing in the room like a silver bell, with power to scare away the evil spirits of mind. How much we owe to that sweet laugh! It turns prose to poetry; it flings flowers to sunshine over the darkness of the wood in which we are traveling.

# Farm and Garden.

## LIME, AND ITS ACTION.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY THOMAS J. ENGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

It has become very common within the last year or two for our agricultural papers to refer to lime as a manure, without reference to the fitness of the term. Is lime, strictly speaking, a manure? Will a continued application of it prevent the exhaustion of the soil? I think we may safely answer both of the above questions in the negative.

Analysis shows us that our usual routine of crops removes but a small amount of lime from the soil, amounting to not more than one per cent. of the amount often applied every ten or fifteen years; hence it is hardly correct to allude to it as a manure, for we understand this term to apply to such substances as add plant food to the soil.

If lime does not act as a manure, and is not removed from the soil in any large amounts in the straw and grain of our crops, why do we find it needful to renew the application every few years? Or, in other words, if lime does not act as a manure, how does it act? For there are but few who are willing to deny its action, though many consider it as a stimulant only producing an effect upon the land similar to that of spirituous liquor upon the human system.

While we should no doubt attribute a portion of the good effect of lime to its manurial value, yet there can be but little doubt but that by far the greatest portion of the benefit which we receive from its application, results more from its chemical and mechanical action.

To illustrate the chemical action of lime: All have noticed that in certain localities the spring water, when it first issues from the soil, is perfectly clear; but on contact with the atmosphere soon becomes covered with a lustrous, metalic scum. This color is due to the fact that the water has in solution salts of iron, which on exposure to the air are converted into oxides. These salts, while in the soil, are poisonous to vegetation, and for years after these low spots have been drained, they fail to produce satisfactory crops, especially of corn; nor will they produce full crops while these poisonous salts remain in the soil. In the course of a few years the constant percolation of rain water will remove the objectionable materials, but it can be much sooner accomplished by the use of lime, which by its chemical action will decompose the compounds having iron for their base, and from their constituents, and its iron form other compounds, which are either insoluble and consequently not injurious to vegetation; or else valuable compounds which instead of retarding vegetation, like their predecessors, will assist in forwarding it.

In a similar manner, lime from its strong affinity for acids, is enabled to decompose other compounds, and from its own constituents and one insoluble compound will often form two new compounds which are valuable in their action and effect.

It has been supposed by some writers that a large amount of lime is annually removed from the soil through the agency of rain-water; this seems scarcely probable when we remember that even in its most caustic state, lime is but very sparingly soluble in water, it requiring seven hundred and fifty pounds of water to dissolve one of caustic lime: and further, that soon after its application to the soil, lime passes into a more nearly insoluble state.

We have two sources by which our supply of lime is exhausted, but neither of them are sufficient to exhaust it anything like as fast as we find that it needs replenishing. It has been estimated by good authorities that the lime removed from a ten acre field in ten years in its manurial form, in the form of new chemical combination, and by rain-water, may be fully represented by six bushels of caustic lime per acre, and yet during that period we find it most economical to add from thirty to fifty per acre; leaving a margin of from twenty-four to forty-four bushels per acre, unaccounted for.

All this proves that bulk for bulk lime is much heavier than our common soil; hence when mixed with it there is a constant tendency (if undisturbed) on the part of the lime, to sink until it reaches a soil having a specific gravity as great as its own; this it will find in our subsoils, though in some cases it may have to go several inches below "furrow depth;" but *if undisturbed*, it will sooner or later find this, and of course under our ordinary modes of cultivation is lost to us.

Hence it often is that subsoiling and deep plowing have produced such wonderful effects in some cases and such failures in others. In one case the subsoil is full of lime, and when either brought to the surface or stirred up, so that the roots of the growing crops can reach it produces a great effect for which deep culture often obtains the sole credit.

Our great object should then be to apply lime on the surface, and as much as possible keep it there, in order that as much as possible we may reap the benefit of the whole application, and not allow so large a proportion of it to get out of our reach.

We should also exercise care to apply it in such a form that its action may commence as soon as possible, so that we may loose as little as possible by its sinking into the soil. The proper form is that of a hydrate; to bring it into this form I know of no better plan than to remove the soil for a space as large as the proposed heap to the depth of a few inches, and after filling it up with water put in the lime to the amount of three or four hundred bushels in a place, piling the lime up so that when covered with soil or sods it will shed water. The moisture from the bottom will in the course of two or three days convert the whole mass into a fine hydrate, which should be spread as fast as possible, and uncovered only as fast as spread; for the change from a hydrate to a carbonate, (just what we wish to avoid), takes place very rapidly. Another good plan is to put the lime out in the field in heaps of a basket full; if these piles are covered by a few shovels full of sods, or soil, the change will soon take place and the lime will be found in the form of a dry, fine powder.

*October*, 1867.

## HOW TO RENT A FARM.

The correct way to arrive at a fair price for both parties is the following: Add the value of the cultivated land and buildings to the value of the stock and tools. If a renter have no benefit of wood land, the growth of timber, and increasing value of the land, will be an equivalent for the interest on it. Now, if a renter agrees to pay to the proprietor, annually, six, seven, eight, or more per cent. on the aggregate value of stock, implements and farm, and keep the soil in a good state of fertility, and make certain improvements every year, the proprietor will receive a better compensation than the renter. A renter could not make a decent profit on many farms, were he to hire them at six per cent., while on others he could afford to pay twelve per cent. The productiveness of the soil must be taken into the account. Then the per centage must be lessened in proportion as a renter makes improvements that will increase the value of the farm. If he rents a farm for a term of years, and certain improvements will benefit him as well as the proprietor, each one should share in the expense.

A written contract between the parties should require the renter to adopt a rotation of crops adapted to the soil; to allow nothing to be carried off the farm that would make manure; to allow no manure to be wasted by remaining in heaps from year to year; to keep the stock good; to keep all tools, implements and buildings in good repair, making allowance for their natural wear; and not to damage fruit or ornamental trees in any way. The prices at which everything is valued in different localities render it quite inconsistent to do anything further than simply make suggestions on important points, by which a fair contract for both parties may be framed.

When a farm is worked on shares, the proprietor should so frame the contract, that hay, straw, cornstalks and other coarse material shall not be carried off the soil; and he who works it should make and apply a given amount of manure annually. If foreign fertilizers are applied the proprietor ought to sustain a small portion of the expense, if he receives a share of the grain. The contract should not allow a man to plow up the entire farm at one time, so that there will be no grass the next season, either for pasture or meadow. — *Working Farmer.*

## NEW-JERSEY AS AN AGRICULTURAL STATE.

From the report of a lecture recently delivered by prof. George H. Cook, of Rutgers College, on the Agriculture of the State of New-Jersey, we make the following extracts:

New Jersey possesses greater advantages than other States in many respects. The first and most important is the convenience of its markets. New York city and Philadelphia on either side, within easy access from almost every portion of the State, afford markets from which 2,000,000 people draw their daily supplies of food. All our farmers can gather their products at night; can take them to market in the morning, sell them by noon, and return by night, accomplishing all in one day. No portion of the United States can compare with New Jersey in this respect.

The second advantage mentioned was the soil. It is said that the soil of New Jersey is barren and poor; on the contrary, it is a most generous soil. A generous soil is preferable to a rich one, and by the proper appliances can be made to yield a large crop.

The third advantage is the climate. The advantages arising from the climate are not fully appreciated by the natives. It is temperate, and far from the extreme cold of the North, and the great heat which renders the South so unhealthy. Others see the advantage of our climate. Men come from the rich soils of other States to New Jersey, and they find here a good soil and a temperate climate. Persons disposed to pulmonary diseases come to this State and are benefited.

The fourth advantage is fertilizers. About one-fourth, and sometimes more of the products of land is spent in fertilizers. In New Jersey the value of the annual crops is from twenty to thirty millions of dollars. About five million are expended in preparing the ground. We have in this State a great bed of green sand, (marl,) which is the greatest fertilizer in the market. The cost is nominal. Its value, when spread upon the land, is eight dollars per ton. This bed of marl is ninety miles long, and from eight to ten miles wide. The yield is one ton per each square foot; we can thus form some idea of the almost inexhaustible supply in this State, of this valuable fertilizer. We have other sources of fertility without going abroad, when we get ready to use them. Our farmers now pay one hundred dollars per ton for guano, but on our eastern and western shores we have a fertilizer which may be brought into the market at fifty dollars per ton, or one-half the cost of guano. The reason it is not used is, our people lack energy and perseverance in the matter.

We have in this State four millions of acres of land; two-thirds of it is occupied and under cultivation; one-third, fully as good land, unoccupied. There is no reason why the unoccupied part should not be developed to as great an extent as that on the bank of the Delaware below Trenton, which has been called the "Garden of the United States," and justly so called. The people on the east are not so thrifty as those on the west. Land in that section, which, a short time ago, was bought for one dollar an acre, is now producing valuable crops.

---

The enormous wheat receipts at Milwaukee continue. Last week they amounted to 972,535 bushels—the largest quantity ever received there in one week. Over five million bushels of the new wheat crop had been received at Milwaukee up to last Saturday.

# Miscellany.

## LIVING BY HOPE.

I no not know that there is anything more beautiful in the wealth of nature than an apple tree in the month of May—one of those great dome-shaped trees. It is not particularly beautiful at any other time; but then it is like a little hemisphere gemmed with its many colored stars. And how exquisite is the beauty which, in their own appointed time, all these blossoms, and all these buds hastening to blossom, impart to it! And after you have gone past that tree from day to day, admired it, when at last there comes a wet, dull, sagging day, and a high wind follows it, and you go out and look upon the tree again, you mourn. Where now is its beauty? The whole air is filled with dishevelled blossom leaves, and the ground is covered with them; the tree is stripped; and as you go by, it seems as though it was almost ruined. If a man, looking on it knew nothing more than mere beauty, he would say, "That tree is spoiled—for this year anyhow.

How is it spoiled? Examine and see. The blossom is gone, and the beauty has departed; but where there was a blossom there is a germ, and now that takes all the sap and strength that the blossom took before, and it swells and swells; and come again with me in October, when the fruit hangs fully developed on the tree, and tell me which of the two months is the most beautiful. If you had only seen the month of May, you would not have suspected the month of October. Now, ten thousand experiences in this life seem to us to be as rudely dealt with as an apple-tree when all the blossoms are stripped from it, and yet, after the blossom is gone the germ is left, and all the season is before it. The old farmer does not care much about the blossoms, not being sentimental; but he says, "Boys, I am going to have apples." He has sense enough to live, not by sight, but by faith; not by what is, but by what he knows is coming.

If, when I planted my gladiolus bulbs I had gone down to consult the moles, what sort of a story would they have told me? If in June a mole could come up and speak to me, he would say, "Mr. Beecher, you made a bad go of it; you planted your bulbs, and they have shrunk and rotted, and they are not good for anything, except that there are little small green ones that seem to be growing in place of them." That may do for a mole under ground; but I, being above ground, see that a tall stem has grown up from each bulb, and is covered at the top with magnificent blossoms, and bulbs that are making new ones. Now, if you are a mole under ground, you see only decay; but if you are a man above ground, you see what that decay comes to. Many a mole-eyed parent buries the bulb in the grave, and sees but that, while God lives in heaven, and sees what the flower is up there. No man can tell what trouble means who does not see above ground and under ground too; who does not see defeat here, and victory there; who does not see dishonor here and glory there; who does not see mortality here and immortality there. It is hope that takes all disasters and rude defeats and turns them into real victories; and we live by hope.—*H. W. Beecher.*

---

It has been discovered by the Germans in Texas that the common bug which infects cucumber, pumpkin and similar vines, is the deadly enemy of the cotton worm, and that the latter does not abound where the former does. So they are planting pumpkins, squash, etc., in the cotton fields to advantage.

---

The Wilmington (N. C.) *Gazette* says: "The ground pea is the enriching product of this county. We are informed that a gentleman near this place made twenty-five thousand dollars last year off his crop. A Mr. Nixon, who lives near Rocky Point, will make this year from thirteen thousand to fifteen thousand bushels, and the prices will range from two to four dollars per bushel."

Read an Hour a Day.—There was a lad who, at fourteen, was apprenticed to a soap-boiler. One of his resolutions was to read an hour a day, or at least at that rate, and he had an old silver watch, left him by his uncle, which he timed his reading by. He stayed seven years with his master, and said when he was twenty-one he knew as much as the young squire did. Now, let us see how much time he had to read in, in seven years, at the rate of an hour each day. It would be 2,555 hours, which at the rate of eight reading hours per day, would be equal to three hundred and ten days; equal to forty-five weeks; nearly a year's reading. That time spent in treasuring up useful knowledge would pile up a very large store. I am sure it is worth trying for. Try what you can do. Begin now.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## FARM ARCHITECTURE.

In traveling over the older sections of the country, those parts which were settled and improved first, we are reminded of the bad and ill looking style of farm architecture adopted a half or three-quarters of a century ago. We must acknowledge, however, that many of the farmers of that period had but limited means to gratify their architectural taste; also that the art of building had not been carried to the perfection which it now is. Still, most of the farm houses built at that period seem to have been constructed on a hap-hazard system; with but one solitary idea, and that one a mere protection for the family. The site, or local position, was frequently bad; the selection often being near low, moist land, or upon the bleak side of some hill. The only thought seems to have been to put up some kind of shelter; never reflecting that one locality might be better than another, or more productive of health and comfort to the family.

In looking through one of these old farm dwellings, which was built near the commencement of the Revolution, we were struck with its want of ordinary convenience for domestic purposes. The kitchen occupied nearly all of the first floor, the ceiling very low, the windows few and small, but the fire-place was of generous dimensions—wide enough to admit of four-feet wood, and the chimney large enough, almost, to permit the descent of an old-fashioned stage-coach. There was no buttery, or apartment for milk or provisions; these were kept on rude shelves in one corner of the room, subject to smoke from the great wood-fires and the dust kicked up by a dozen children—for in those days farmers had large families. There was no entry, sitting room or parlor to this house, only one bed-room, and this very small and gloomy—void of all convenience and ventilation. To add to other arrangements of bad character, the house was set low on the ground; the well a long distance off; no wood-shed, nor even a door-yard or shade tree. And yet this was the *home* of a farmer, without anything about it to economize domestic labor or to inspire cheerfulness, taste or beauty.

Our modern farm houses are great improvements on those of the past, yet many of late construction are not what they should be. They are better located, more tastefully designed, have larger and better ventilated lodging rooms and superior economical arrangements generally. These matters are all important in a rural home. They give a vital character to the family, for it is the early associations of the farm that make us cling to it in later years. Many are driven from rural pursuits because there is so little attractiveness in farm dwellings and their associations. Thousands of boys and girls leave the old homestead and go to villages and cities for employment, because their early home was not what it should have been. Here is reflection for those who are about purchasing farms, or are contemplating building new, or improving old farm dwellings. Have them as well located, convenient and attractive as possible.

One great error in nearly all farm houses, ancient and modern, is setting them too low on the ground. A contemporary journal has the following good advice on this subject:

"In former times houses were often set on a level with the ground. The consequence was the house became damp and the lower part rotted out. Afterwards they set them on underpining which rested on a level with the ground. This brought the house some eighteen or twenty inches above the level ground, but did not allow the land to be drained off, and puddles of water would stand around the house, and the cellar would be wet or half-full of water.

In late years it has been the custom to elevate the sills so as to terrace up round the house. Still a great many buildings are set too low. We rarely see one elevated too high.—A person inexperienced in house-building levels up his sills and finds a low place on one side, and it looks formidable to him to fill it up. Now a good rule is this, to elevate the sills so that terraced up, the water will run away from the house readily on all sides.—There should be a true slant from the bottom of the sill to the middle of the street. We have sometimes given a rule like the following: Place the sills as high as you think they ought to be, and then raise them a foot higher, and you will have it nearly as high as you will wish you had raised them when your house is finished. We have never known a person to wish his sill lowered who followed this rule.—By raising the sills you have a dryer cellar. It is more easily drained, and if earth is not in abundance, it will be quite as easily hauled to terrace up with as to dig it from the cellar.

No external costly finish, elegant front yards, or any other contrivance, can atone for a house squat to the ground. It is well to cultivate habits of correct taste, even in our humblest dwellings. In other words, it costs no more to do a thing right than to do it wrong."

## FATTENING PORK.

The best time to make pork, to push on the hogs, is unquestionably in early Autumn, before cold weather sets in. All farmers acknowledge this to be a fact; yet many of them postpone high feeding until Winter comes, and then the expense of making pork is considerably increased, and the labor is more than in October, or the fore part of November.

The Rural New Yorker has the following paragraph relative to the best time for feeding hogs, *for profit*; also its views of the best food. "October is the best month in the year to push the hogs forward. The weather is cool, feed of all kinds, especially corn, ready for use. Swine intended for slaughter this season should have all the food they will eat and as often as they will partake of it. Give them dry, clean pens, and they will eat, sleep and grow fat with greater celerity and at less expense than when exposed to storms, gorged one day to repletion and put on short commons the next. Vegetables mixed with corn meal are very good as food for hogs,—but the most compact and valuable pork is made from pure corn and pure water. Steady and full feeding, during the month of October, will so finish off a hog as to require little thereafter but the butcher and packing barrel."

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

Corn is selling in Georgia for fifty cents per bushel. That smacks of old times.

The wheat crop of England and Scotland is under the average; barley ten per cent., and oats fifteen per cent. above the average.

Four hundred bushels of cranberries were gathered from a single marsh in the vicinity of Erie, Pa.

A company in New York has purchased from 120,000 to 140,000 acres in North Carolina. It is expected that 20,000 sheep will soon be put on these lands.

A large amount of wheat is being shipped from Lake Michigan ports to Montreal and other Canadian ports, whence it goes by the St. Lawrence to Europe.

The English cattle plague has dwindled to nothing. During the week ending September 21st, not a single case was reported in any part of the British Isles. Thus far 278,927 cattle have been attacked by the plague, and 56,911 healthy cattle have been slaughtered to prevent the spread of the disease.

J. F. Simmons, of Iowa, writes to the New York Farmers' Club that his experience in plowing in buckwheat as a fertilizer, had convinced him that it is not only an exhausting crop, but that it poisoned the soil.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

The yield of wheat for the harvest of 1867, was perhaps over estimated; and as the price of this great staple does not recede, many people have come to the conclusion that the crop is materially smaller than the general estimate. On this subject the "Rural New Yorker" says:—"Now that the wheat crop of the whole country has been harvested, and to a large extent threshed and measured, it appears that the yield will aggregate far less than was anticipated. The result proves that all parties overestimated the yield—the press, growers and dealers. The commercial papers almost invariably overestimate the prospective yield every season, and this year the Agricultural Department and journals have, no doubt innocently, committed the same error. We think the yield will be full fifteen per cent. below the general estimate, which must make a vast difference when the crop of the whole country is taken into account. Of course the prices of breadstuffs must advance rather than recede, and growers and others having wheat on hand will be likely to govern themselves accordingly."

Some of our friends, who raise geese, will be thinking of the best way to fatten them for an early market. The "Irish Farmers' Gazette" gives this advice: "To fatten geese, put up three or four into a darkened room, and give each bird one pound of oats daily, thrown on a pan of water. In fourteen days they will be found almost too fat. Never shut up less than two together, as they pine if left alone."

While every farmer wishes to adopt the best mode of cultivating the soil, he also desires to keep the most profitable stock on his farm. In some localities sheep husbandry will be found the most profitable. But what breed of sheep is the best adapted to the Middle and New England States? A correspondent of the "Prairie Farmer" says:—"The Southdown sheep will shear, on the average, about eight pounds of wool that will not lose over one-third by cleansing for the cards, worth more per pound in the fleece than any of the fine wools, for this reason—the wool is fine enough for all manufacturing purposes except the very finest descriptions of goods. A two year-old Southdown wether or buck will shear twelve pounds of wool that will weigh eight pounds when cleansed for the cards; his carcass will weigh from 175 to 200 pounds, gross, worth more per pound than any other breed in this country, or perhaps anywhere else. This breed of sheep is ready for the butcher at any time from two months and a half old to five years, giving as much weight for their feed and age as any other breed, always netting more in proportion to gross weight."

A correspondent of the "Canada Farmer" gives the result of his experience in using salt as a fertilizer for wheat. He says:

"Last Spring I thought I would try it, and applied one barrel to the acre, on three acres Genesee Club Spring wheat; at the same time I sowed half a barrel across five acres of wheat in another place. Now for the result. The three acres shot out five days before the same variety sown side by side on the same day, and the strip across the field I can see as plainly as if the one was wheat and the other oats. The reason I applied salt to the Club wheat was this: I have been troubled with the straw breaking, and salt is highly recommended to stiffen the straw; whether it will or not I cannot say yet, but I can say that the wheat I salted keeps far ahead of the rest. However, by harvest, I will be able to tell you if it keeps the straw bright and stiff, and if the wheat will ripen sooner."

The New-York Tribune states that the best peach orchards in New Jersey are put in corn, till they begin to bear; after which they are plowed and harrowed without planting any crop. Bone dust is applied at the rate of about four hundred pounds to the acre—which some regard as the best manure, while others prefer manure from the yard. The same paper further states that when cultivation is not attended to, the product is poor, and the business unprofitable. The Country Gentleman adds:

"This accords with our observations in all places. No tree is more affected by cultivation than the peach—when neglected and encumbered with grass its growth is not one-tenth as great as when standing in clean mellow soil. It is much less labor to keep a peach orchard clean, when the trees stand fifteen feet apart, than a corn-field, where the hills are three or four feet apart; yet no good farmer thinks of allowing his corn to grow up to grass. There is nothing to which the old rule, that the best way is the cheapest, applies more emphatically than to peach growing. We have measured one year's shoots, on trees kept well cultivated, that were from three and a half to four and a half feet long; while others, standing in grass adjacent, had shoots from four to eight inches—and there was nearly as much difference as this in the quality of the fruit."

## "WITCH GRASS."

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

In one of the late numbers of the *Farm and Fireside*, I noticed an article stating that "Witch Grass" had been entirely killed out by growing buckwheat on the land. Perhaps it has been done, but I have never been lucky enough to get rid of it so easy. I have raised buckwheat on a witch grass field three years in succession, and the ground is full of it now; for that reason I have no faith in killing witch-grass with buckwheat. I will tell you how I got rid of the grass. In the first place I broke up a field that was full of witch grass, late in the Fall, just before the ground froze, thus exposing the roots to the frosts of Winter. The next year I sowed the field with oats; did not have many oats, because there was so much grass. After I got the oats off I ploughed the land again, and the next Spring ploughed it twice more; then planted with corn. When the corn was up large enough to weed, parts of the field were green with witch grass. I took particular pains, in weeding the corn, to hoe out all the grass roots that I could conveniently, and left them on top of the ground to "dry." Two weeks after, when I hoed the corn, but very little grass was to be seen, and there was none in the Fall.

The next Spring, (which was 1867). I again ploughed the same field once, and then planted with corn again. The corn came up splendidly, but the witch grass was missing. There are two acres in the field, and I don't think there is grass enough to cover a spot two feet square, in the whole field; the ground is covered with dead roots, but no grass. I have not harvested all the corn, but what I have yields at the rate of fifty bushels shelled corn per acre. Now I think my method is more effectual for killing witch grass, than to sow buckwheat. I know there is more labor, but when it is done "it is done." I have treated two different fields in the same manner, with equal success. For that reason I think my method is *sure*. A FARMER.

*Hancock, N. H.*

☞ The valuable collection of Short Horn cattle owned by Mr. Sheldon of Geneva, New York, barely escaped destruction by fire, last week. All his valuable farm buildings were burnt, but his choice stock—perhaps the most valuable in this country—were saved, excepting four head.

On Mr. Alexander's stock farm at Woodburn, Ky., there are one hundred and twenty brood mares of thorough blood, running over its acres, one hundred cows and eight hundred sheep of the finest varieties, just the half of the number before some epidemic swept over the flocks.

A Good Cement for Fruit Jars.—A mixture of gelatine and glycerine, is liquid while hot, but on cooling it becomes solid, retaining considerable elasticity and toughness. The neck of a bottle dipped in this melted compound is covered with an air-tight cap, which can be made as thick as desired by repeating the operation.

Agricultural Colleges.—The Agricultural Department at Washington furnishes information as to the States which have established colleges with a view to securing the land grants made by Congress to these institutions. New Hampshire has selected Dartmouth College; Vermont the University at Burlington; Massachusetts has a separate institution at Amherst: Rhode Island assigns the scrip to Brown University; Connecticut to Yale College; New York to the Cornell University; New Jersey to Rutgers; Pennsylvania to the Agricultural School at Bellefontaine; Michigan, a separate college at Lansing; Iowa, a State institution in Story County: Wisconsin, to the State University, Madison; Kansas, a separate college at Manhattan; Kentucky,

(*Continued from page* 339.)

a poor man myself, and I can feel for other poor men.

"I shall never forget that man's face in all my life, so wondering, so thankful, and so woe-stricken. All he said was: 'God bless you,' but there was a whole sermon in those three words, and I slept better for them.

"On Christmas night he paid me every cent, and from that day until I left the neighborhood, dealt with me regularly. But times grew so much better that I took a store in a good street at the other end of the town, and one way and another saw no more of my policeman for three good years.

"One night, just such a cold night as that on which I first saw him staring at the hams, I was awakened long after midnight by a cry of fire. I started up to see the flames through the floor, and to know the store down below was all ablaze. The stairs were on fire also, and when I opened the entry door, the hot air and smoke rushed in and almost smothered me. I gave up all hope of getting my wife and helpless little ones out of that burning building alive and safe. Help came to us, however, and though, in clambering down the ladder, I slipped and broke my arm, I was thankful when I saw that all were safe, but was so faint and ill from the accident, you see, that I hadn't all my wits about me, and believed there was no one missing. My blood ran cold, when my wife, clasping her hands, with an awful look upon her face, screamed:

"'Our little Lucy is left behind?'

"She had slept with our hired girl since her baby brother was born, and the woman in her fright had forgotten her little one. There she was at the top of that burning building, out of the reach of any human help; and it seemed to me, as I looked up at the walls, a great red and yellow sheet of flame, with blue gleams here and there, as though they were devilish heads peeping out and grinning at us. Still, hopeless as it was, I should have gone back into the burning house after my baby or died with her if I had been able to stand. No one else would venture; it would be foolish sacrifice of life, they said, for no doubt the child was already smothered by the smoke, and though I raved and pleaded, and made wild promises, they only shook their heads, and only bade me have patience.

"Patience!" I thought that I was going mad as the face of my little girl—my sweet pretty pet—rose up before me. But just then a tall man dashed through the crowd, and came toward me.

"Quick!" he shouted, "which room is the child in—speak quickly—which room?"

"The back room on the upper floor," I said, and he dashed away from me, parting the throng with his strong arms, and in another moment he was mounting the ladder. I heard them calling him to come back, bidding him to beware and speaking of him as though he were dead already. But he never heeded them, and as he became hidden by the black smoke which poured from the window, I covered my face, and prayed that the angels who walked in the fiery furnace might go with him.

"Perhaps they did. Something stronger than an earthly thing must have been there, for in a few moments—they seemed years to me then—we saw him coming down the ladder with something in his arms. 'The burnt body of my child, perhaps,' I thought, but as he came closer, I saw that it was my own laughing, living darling with her blue eyes open, and little arms about his neck.

The roof fell in the next morning, but my treasure was safe, and that was all I cared for.

"What shall I say or do to thank you," I said, as I grasped his hand. "I'm a ruined man, and I can only give you my blessing; but let me know your name at least."

"Have you forgotten me? don't you remember me?" he said, as he bent over me. "Look again."

"I did, and saw a pair of bright, gray eyes, a face I knew, and something glittering upon his breast. And the scene at the corner of the dirty little street, on a wet December night, came back to me, and I saw my policeman once more.

"It is you," I said, "and you have saved my child from such an awful death."

"And what did you save me and mine from? he said, with tears in his eyes. Starvation, ruin, utter degradation. I should have been a felon and my dear ones paupers this night, but for you. I have not paid the debt, and never can; but when I heard that it was your child that lay at the top of that burning building, I prayed that I might save it, and I know God heard me."

And then he told me what had brought him to the neighborhood on that night of all others in the year.

"I had lost all, for I was not insured, but he was prosperous and stood by me like a brother; nursed me through my illness, and loaned me money for a new start in life. So that, in a little while, things grew bright again, and here I am as comfortable as most people."

"And the policeman?" I asked.

"His hair is as white as my own now," said the old man. "And my daughter, the little one he saved that night, married to his son."

## The Fireside Muse.

### THE DRIFTING BOAT.

It has floated away from the beach and bay
  Out of sight of tower and town,
An empty and a battered boat;
  And that boat would not go down.
The morning rose on the waters wide,
  And the night fell cold and dark,
Yet ever on with the wind and tide
  Drifted that battered bark.

The sail had passed from its broken mast,
  And its painted pride was dim;
The salt sea weed clung round its bows,
  Which had been so sharp and trim.
Where were the merry mates and free
  Who had gone with it afloat
We never learned; but the world's wide sea
  Hath lives like that drifting boat—

Lives that in early storms have lost
  Anchor and sail and oar,
And never, except on Lethe's shore,
  Can come to moorings more;
Out of whose loveless, trustless days
  The hope and the heart have gone—
Good ships go down in stormy seas,
  But those empty hoats drift on!

They had hearts to sail in the wind's eye once;
  They had hands to reef and steer,
With a strength that would not stoop to chance,
  And a faith that knew no fear;
But the years were long and the storms were strong,
  And the rainbow flag was furled,
And they that launched for the skies, have grown
  But the drift wood of the world.

## Fireside Readings.

### HOW TO SPEND AUTUMN EVENINGS.

Autumn evenings have fairly begun. What shall be done with the shadowed hours that precede repose? There never was a time when this question was so important to business men. Few of those who are engaged as principals in either trade or manufacture now attend to their daily avocations during the late evening hours. But while there is no part of their time more precious, there is none other that is so freely wasted. It is poor economy for one whose business cares are pressing him sorely to sit down moodily at his home, with the heavy burden still about him, in the vain hope that his weary brain may thus find a clue that will lead him out of the labyrinth of trouble. He would not leave an over-tasked horse harnessed all night in the stall, or expect of any other creature beside himself such a miracle as work without recuperation; still less would he set one that is already fagged out at a task that had proved too much for his ordinary strength. And yet this is the demand he is imposing on himself. His proper hours of toil are numbered for the day, but he will not ease his aching shoulder of the oppressive burden, and he is still struggling—now vainly, of course—to solve the problem which was too intricate even for his freshest powers.

There are others who do lay aside the harness after a day's toil or conflict, but who then sink down in mere vacuity of mind, mistaking idleness for refreshment. There is no recuperation in a state of indolence. It is true that the hands need not move restlessly, nor the sinews be strained in unwonted exercise to recruit the system. But the lungs must be expanded and the blood stirred by fresh emotions if the wasted strength is to be regained. There are many who are shrewd enough to perceive this, but who fail in their object because they pursue it in the wrong direction. The true exercise for recuperative purposes is simply a change in the bent of the mind. Whatever bodily action this new mental flexion may demand, the relief is not in the physical activity, but in the fresh ardor which directs it. In plain terms, if the mind and body be worn down in the daily effort to advance one's material interests, let the relaxation be found in an effort equally zealous to do good to somebody else. A mile's walk taken as a penance to relieve an overtaxed brain will only increase the throbbing fever if the same thoughts be entertained on the journey. An hour's gallop will not cure even a fit of dyspepsia if the dinner humor that produced it is carried upon the ride. He who would change the current of his thought need not go far from home to find a field for his benevolence. A sunny smile as he returns from business, like an electric spark, will light up the whole Autumn evening around his hearthstone, and create a magic atmosphere which shall be to him like a new found elixir of life. If he has a family, let him interest himself unselfishly in their pursuits, their plans, their joys and sorrows, seem these ever so trifling; and the moment he forgets himself he will begin to rest from the weary load he has borne all day.

### FARMERS' SONS.

The inquiry, "How shall we train our boys so that they will be farmers when they are men?" Is answered by a correspondent of one of our exchanges, as follows:

Make farm life attractive to them while young. An existence of mere mechanical drudgery, like that of the treadmill, is ill fitted to retain an intelligent youth in any occupation which imposes it. Pour around your calling the light of science. Bring to it the refinement of culture, and the excitement of intelligent and practical investigation. Particularly let the mother be interested and informed, and by daily conversation infuse her own enthusiasm into the spirits of her sons.

Make the farm house a place of delight to the senses, and an inspiration to the soul.—This will assist in encouraging an interest in your noble calling, which will be likely to bring forth fruit in after-life.

But if after all, some of your sons should steadfastly incline to other pursuits, do not attempt to thwart nature, for she does not mould all minds alike. In the same family may be found a great variety of talent and inclination. If you try to compel a boy to an occupation which he seriously dislikes, you not only discourage or disgust, but perhaps prevent the life of usefulness which he might lead in another. Lend him a helping hand in whatever calling he may prefer, showing him that his interests are your interests; that although your own favorite pursuit is not his choice, you are yet willing to assist him in attaining usefulness and honor to another.

There should be a mutual confidence between parent and son. Let the father listen patiently to the boy's plans and hopes, and encourage him to speak of them. What if they are chimerical? What if a ripe experience sees that they can never be realized? Let the father be in no haste to dampen the ardor of the boy, but by degrees unfold the subject in its proper light, and by cautiously changing the current of his mind, lead him, not drive him, from his unwise purpose. A son who makes a father his confident, if that father be wise, will be in much less danger of acting rashly than if he should keep his own counsel or only take counsel with those whose experience has been no more extensive than his own.

### HOW BIG FISH EAT LITTLE ONES.

If the sea is prodigal of life to a certain degree that baffles our powers of conception and calculation, it is no less a scene of boundless destruction. The life of all fishes is one of perpetual warfare, and the only law that pervades the great world of waters is that of the strongest, the swiftest and the most voracious. The carnage of the sea immeasurably exceeds even that which is permitted to perplex our reason on earth. We know, however, that without it the population of the ocean would soon become so immense that, vast as it is, it would not suffice for its multitudinous inhabitants. Few fishes probably die a natural death, and some seem to have been created solely to devour others. There is probably none which does not feed on some other species or on its own.

Many of the monsters that roam the watery plains are provided with maws capable of engulphing thousands of their kind a day. A hogshead of herrings have been taken out of the belly of a whale. A shark probably destroys tens of thousands in a year. Fifteen full-sized herrings have been found in the stomach of a cod. If we allow a codfish only two herrings per day for his subsistence, and suppose him to feed on herrings for only 7 months in the year, we have 420 herrings for his allowance during that period, and fifty codfish equal one fisherman in destructive power.

But the quantity of cod and of ling, which are as destructive as cod, taken in 1861, and registered by the Scotch fishery board, was, say the commissioners, over 81,000 cwts. On an average thirty codfish make one hundred weight of dried fish, and 2,400,000 will equal 48,000 fishermen. In other words the cod and ling caught on the Scotch coast in 1861, if they had been left in the water, would have devoured as many herrings as were caught by all the fishermen of Scotland, and six thousand more in the same year. But as the cod and ling caught were certainly not one-tenth of those left behind, we may fairly estimate the destruction of herrings by those voracious fish alone as at least ten times as great as that effected by all the fishermen of Scotland.

Sea birds are scarce less destructive to fish than fish are to each other. The solon goose can swallow and digest at least six full-sized herrings per day. It has been calculated that the Island of St. Kilda, assuming it to be inhabited by 200,000 of these birds, feeding for seven months in the year, and with an allowance of five herrings each per day, the number of fish for the Summer subsistence of a single species of bird cannot be under 214,000,000. Compared with the enormous consumption of fish by birds and each other, the droughts made upon the population of the sea by man, with all his ingenious fishing devices, seem to dwindle into absolute insignificance.—*Edinburgh Review.*

How to Feed Bees in Winter.—Bees that are to be fed in the Winter should by all means be wintered in some place where it cannot freeze; then the manner of feeding will not vary much from Spring or Summer. A dish containing the feed should be placed on the top of the comb frames, and constantly supplied with feed. A coarse linen cloth—cheese-cloth is best—should be spread over the whole in such a manner as not to prevent the bees reaching their feed, and the cover of the hive put on. The cloth will allow the vapor to pass off and at the same time retain sufficient heat to keep the bees warm and allow them to reach their feed. If wintered out of doors, they may be brought into a room where it is warm, and fed, say a quart of feed, and then removed to their stand again. This must be repeated every few days. Feed for Winter should always be honey or white sugar, prepared according to directions given under the head "Bee Feed," or a few pounds of candy, commonly called "sugar sticks," may be laid on the frames, and if wintered in a proper place, they will come up and eat whenever they require it.—*Thomas' Bee-Keepers' Guide.*

A good woman never grows old. Years may pass over her head, but if virtue and benevolence dwell in her heart she is as cheerful as when the spring time of life opened to her view. When we look upon a good woman we never think of the age; she looks as charming as when the rose of health bloomed on her cheek. That rose has not faded yet; it never will fade. In her family she is the light and delight. In her neighborhood, she is the friend and benefactor. In the church, the devout worshipper and exemplary christian. Oh! who does not respect and love the woman who has passed her days in acts of kindness and mercy—who has been a friend of God and man—whose life is a scene of kindness and love, a devotion to truth and religion! We repeat: such a woman can never grow old.

# General Miscellany.

## NATURE'S BAROMETERS.

A Venerable gentleman with whom we recently conversed assured us that spiders were the best barometers yet produced. The barometer invented by the scientific, he affirmed, only indicated the kind of weather we are to immediately have; while the spider unerringly told the *character* of the weather for several days in advance. For instance, if the weather is likely to become rainy, windy, or in other respects disagreeable, the spiders make very short and firm the terminating filaments on which their webs are suspended. If, on the contrary, the spiders make the terminating filaments or fastenings uncommonly long, the weather will continue severe from ten to a dozen days.

Spiders usually make alterations in their webs once in twenty-four hours. If they are totally indolent, and do not even watch for flies, rain will speedily ensue. If the spiders stay out upon their nets during a shower, and seem actively engaged in putting affairs in good condition, it is certain proof that the rain will be of short duration, and that it will be clear weather for some time. If, during stormy weather, the spiders are seen fixing their damaged nets in the evening, it certainly indicates that the night will be pleasant, and that the rain is over for the present. Our informant has often witnessed this result when the sky looked most threatening, and has never known the sign to fail.

Our venerable friend assures us that the study of spider barometry is very interesting and instructive; and, if his theory be correct, we have no doubt it is. And we recommend those who can find the leisure to hereafter closely watch these little weather-seers, and test the correctness of our philosopher's system. Every one who has a yard with shrubbery can make the observations we recommend.

Anecdote of the Elder Beecher.—"My father," said Henry Ward, "loved to write at the top of the house, and I loved to get up there to watch him. He had a way of whispering to himself as he wrote, and while he wrote with one hand he rubbed his breast with the other. He could not bear to be buttoned into anything while writing, and wristbands and collar and vest were all sure to be pulled open as soon as he set to work. His coat was laid aside, and his suspenders thrown off his shoulders. He was a great lover of clams; and on one day as he was rapidly driving his pen, a clam man passed the house, crying, 'Clams, clams!' My father was so intent upon his sermon that it was several minutes before he fairly realized what the sound was.—Then he rushed to the window and hailed the man, who had passed beyond the reach of his voice. Clapping his pen behind his ear, father dashed down stairs like an avalanche, and before any or all the women who were wont to lie in wait to catch him and put him in order, could arrest him, he was in full chase down the street, holding on to his pantaloons with one hand, and waving the other in the air, shouting, 'Clams, clams, clams!' He caught the man, secured his clams, and returned slowly, buttoning up as he went, to the house and to his study."

Vegetable Hair.—California papers state that there is now dug out of the mountains of the Sierra Nevada range a better material for beds than has been hitherto available in the markets of the world. It is a soap root, enveloped in a very tough and supple fibre, resembling somewhat the husk of the cocoanut in color and appearance, but nearly as tough as whalebone. The natural color is brown, but it is often colored black, and an expert it is said, would find it hard to tell it from curled hair.

Two hundred thousand pounds of wool have been bought and shipped from the single small town of Ripon, in Wisconsin, this Fall.

## THE LOON.

To "yell like a loon" has passed into a proverb, and is applied, ordinarily, to very tumultuous and unpleasant sounds. But the cry of the loon is not unpleasant to me. I like to hear it amid the silence and darkness of repose. There is a sort of grandeur about it which elevates it, to my ear, far above the dismal, hollow hoot of the owl. There is a melancholy, grave-yard tone about the latter which always makes me feel nervous. And you are almost sure to hear it about midnight, right above you—for the gloomy bird is attracted by the camp fire, and generally perches himself upon some withered hemlock or birch, to give out its unearthly hoot just as you have passed into one of the soundest of your night's naps.

Another proverb is, "straight as a loon's leg," and no proverb could be more truthful or expressive. A loon's leg has no joint, and is like a pipe stem. The result is that it finds it next to impossible to stand on dry land, and quite impossible to walk. It's "home is on the deep;" and in its power to remain under water it more nearly resembles a fish than a bird. It is this power, with the instinctive knowledge of the habits of the fish, which enables it to "fare sumptuously every day."—Most active fish, but the trout particularly, during most of the year, when seeking food, move near the surface of the water. And the trout, in its pursuit of flies and insects, is generally looking up. Taking advantage of this habit, the loon dives deep, keeping his eye upon his victim, steadily comes up beneath him, and gulps him down while he is as steadily preparing to gulp down something which he hopes to discover on the surface of the water.

## THE LEAF HARVEST.

There is one annual and abundant harvest, of which nine-tenths of our farmers have yet to gather their first crop—the leaves from our deciduous trees which fall with the heavy frosts, carpeting the ground and filling the hollows, there to decay and furnish food for their successors.

The leaves of plants are much richer in fertilizing material than wood. In the case of the elm, chemical analysis shows this, as the leaves contain eleven per cent. of ashes, while wood gives only two per cent., and in other varieties the difference is greater. Every one has noticed after plants have got a foothold, and are fairly rooted on very poor land, that the annual deposit of leaves upon the surface soon furnish sufficient fertilizing matter to cause a thrifty, rank growth. Now we think this valuable crop is too apt to be neglected. It will pay to secure it. As a general thing gardeners understand their value, and when they can easily obtain them, they do so, and add to their compost. Most farmers are so situated that they can readily obtain large quantities by expending a little labor. Besides their value for the compost heap they make the best of bedding for pig-pens or stables, being light, dry and warm.

Farmers take your racks, board them up at the sides and ends, set them in or near a grove of hard wood trees, take your basket and the boys, and secure a portion of this leaf crop. Pile them away in the barn or in an out-house, use them through the winter and see if this addition to the manure heap—this latest harvest of the season—does not pay.—*Maine Farmer.*



The famous stallion, Kentucky, lost his race against time, four miles in seven minutes and twenty seconds, at the Jerome Park, last week. The time was 7.32¾, and the horse was utterly exhausted by the severe exertion.

## Marriages.

In this town, by Rev. Mr. Boyden, Mr. Edgar A. Cole to Miss Eva F. Smith, of Smithfield. Mr. John L. Hussey of Providence, to Miss Ellen J. Shell.

In Worcester, 22d inst., Mr. Renselaer Sayles of Uxbridge, to Miss Emilie H. Torry, of Worcester.

In Webster, Oct. 13, Christopher C. Allen of Oxford, to Dema Ann Balcom of Douglas.

In Putnam, Ct., Oct. 9th, Mr. Frank L. Richmond and Miss Emma E. Allen, both of Putnam.

## Deaths.

In Woonsocket, Oct. 17th, William H., son of Samuel and Ellen Rhodes, aged 17 years.

"How much we miss him, no tongue can tell;
How much we loved him; O how well;
God loved him too, and thought it best
To take him home, to be at rest."

In Cumberland, 8th inst., Mrs. Mary Whipple, wife of Mr. Olney Whipple, in her 46th year.

In Slatersville, 21st inst., Charles Morton, son of George W. and Sarah F. Haradon, aged 3 years.

In Whitinsville, 22d inst., Adelpha, only daughter of J. R. H. and Abbie E. Bennett, aged 17 years, 9 mos., and 21 days.

In South Franklin, Mass., 3d inst., Harriet N., wife of Nancy M. Daniels, aged 30 years, 6 mos., and 2 days.

In Milford, Oct. 15, Patrick Rafty, aged 40.

At the residence of Senator Sprague, in South Kingston, 16th inst., Mrs. Mary Smith, widow of Edward C. Smith, of Cincinnati, Ohio, grandmother of Mrs. Sprague, and mother-in-law of Chief Justice Chase.

In Pawtucket, 22d inst., George Henry, only child of William and Martha Chase, aged 23 years. 12th inst., Sarah M. Pratt, in the 71st year of her age.

In Thompson, Conn., Mr. Francis Blackmar. 14th inst., Captain John D. Convis, aged 93 years.

In Putnam, Ct., 10th inst., Mrs. L. Blanchard, aged 31 years. 10th inst., George S. Trowbridge, aged 39 years. Sept. 17th, Abby P., daughter of Dr. John and Mary E. Witter, aged 2 years.

In East Putnam, Ct., 3d inst., Fannie Bikeman, aged 28 years.

In Shrewsbury, Mass., 19th inst., Cynthia Knowlton, aged 78 years and 6 months.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Oct. 25, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 20c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 100c. |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.50 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a17.50 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 50 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 45c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 9c | Eggs ₩ doz | 45c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 2'c |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

The unfavorable news from Europe has caused fluctuations in wheat and flour and a slight decline in prices.

Flour.—Early in the week there was considerable activity in the flour market; but unfavorable news from Europe and an abatement in the demand caused a decline in all grades.

Rye Flour has been in good request, and with limited arrivals, prices have improved daily and close strong.

Corn Meal has been in good demand with improved prices and closes firm.

Wheat—There has been quite an active and very changeable wheat market. Prices have declined three to four cents a bushel.

Rye has been in limited demand. There has been a decline in prices. At the close prices are $1.65 a 1.66.

Oats have been very active with a large speculative demand, chiefly for future delivery. The market opened heavy and closed 1½c lower.

Indian Corn.—There have been no fluctuations in Corn, and the market has been comparatively quiet. At the close buyers have the advantage.



The Cobourg family, during the last fifty years, have been noted for their good luck. Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg, whose whole income was shabby three hundred pounds a year, married the heiress of the British throne in 1816; dropped into a life pension of fifty thousand pounds, on her death in 1817; was chosen king of Greece in 1830, but declined; became king of Belgium in 1831, and reigned for twenty-five years, with great success. His sister, a poor widow, though "a born princess," married one of the English royal dukes, and their only surviving child now occupies the British throne her daughter will one day be queen of Prussia. Another of the Cobourg family married a daughter of Louis Philippe of France. Yet another is father of the present king of Portugal. Leopold's eldest son espoused an Austrian archduchess, and his only daughter was empress of Mexico.

## The Dairy.

### IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN MILK IN CHEESE-MAKING.

TIN MILK PAILS BETTER THAN WOOD.

As the season of Cheese-making is soon to finish, it will be proper to call the attention of the dairy public to the importance of securing clean milk. The losses sustained annually on account of imperfect milk are immense. Much of this comes from the slovenly way in which the milking is conducted in the stables, and the bad character of the utensils in use. We are convinced that wooden pails, as they are commonly used and cleaned, are a fruitful source of bad milk. In the first place, it is quite difficult to keep a wooden pail clean, especially about the corners at the bottom. Newly painted pails are quite injurious to the milk, since the paint imparts its taint and poison. It is surprising what a small quantity of decomposed milk, adhering to dairy utensils, will convey its taint to the milk, and produce a ferment which operates to spoil the flavor of cheese. Much of our bad flavored cheese comes from milk tainted before it leaves the hands of the dairymen. This has become so common, and is causing so much evil among our best factories, that it demands serious attention.

Many dairymen who have never experimented with milk, seem to think so long as they can get their milk to the factory without its showing sensible acidity, all is right. If the manufacturer fails to manufacture it into a perfect cheese, the fault lies at his door and not with the producer.

The sooner these notions are abandoned, and men can be made to understand that the manufacturer must have clean, untainted milk to make prime cheese, the better will it be for all parties concerned.

We have for some years contended that tin pails were better for the dairy than those of wood. They have a smoother surface, can be kept cleaner, and are not so liable to gum up with decomposed milk as the wooden pail. Two years ago we urged upon dairymen the necessity of using tin pails, and suggested one having a concave bottom, so as to present no sharp corners for the accumulation of dirt or decomposed milk. To make it more substantial and lasting, it should be arranged so as to slip into a light wooden pail; and we are convinced from the practical working of this style of pail in our own dairy that they are what is needed. In our tour among the dairy farmers of England, we found tin pails for milking in universal use among the best dairymen.

The English are very neat and cleanly in everything pertaining to their dairy arrangement. It is to the perfect condition of the milk when ready to be manufactured, that they are able to obtain that fine, clear flavor which belongs to their best cheese. If we are to compete with them, their management in this respect must be imitated. Many dairymen think because they have made cheese without paying particular attention to these points, and because no one has ever made any complaints in this respect, that the old way is well enough. It is well enough if they are content to make an inferior cheese, and threw away two or three cents a pound on it in consequence.

The great fault of American cheese abroad is in its imperfect flavor, and it is to improvement in this point, more than any other, that attention should be directed. There is no use of farmers trying to hide the facts, and shift responsibility; the fault lies mostly with them. Tainted, bad, nasty milk will not make a fine flavored cheese, no matter how skillful the manufacturer may be. We have seen immense quantities of cheese; at home and abroad, and do not write by guess, but of actual knowledge, and we unhesitatingly affirm that much of our bad flavored cheese come of bad milk at the hands of farmers, either in the stable or from the use of unclean pails and dairy utensils. A reformation must be made in this regard, if remunerative profits are to be made at dairying.

The high rates of labor, of taxation and of living, make it important that the best prices be obtained for our dairy products. That can be reached only by making a superior article. Poor trash may have paid once, but it will not now. We urge, then, greater care in milking and in the handling of milk. Manufacturers should insist that patrons introduce the tin pail, since with that there will be more reliability of getting a purer quality of milk.—*Utica Herald.*

### RANCID BUTTER.

"It is owing to a lack of information or to carelessness on the part of butter makers that so much of a rancid or inferior character of butter finds its way to market. A good article is as easily made as a poor one, and the former will be found more profitable to the manufacturer, in the long run, than the latter. The butter maker should reflect that to make or prepare good butter is one thing, and only a portion of the business. It requires care in the preservation after it is made. If it is to be kept any considerable time, it should be packed down with great care in order that the air may be excluded from the mass as much as possible. Cracked crocks or imperfect butter tubs should not be used, because they will not hold brine nor exclude the atmosphere as perfectly tight ones will do. Work the butter clear of milk, but do not tear the grain more than is absolutely necessary for this purpose. Salt liberally and evenly, but not for the purpose of selling salt instead of butter. Pack closely, excluding all the air possible. If not intended for immediate use, cover the surface with a strong brine or a profuse coating of salt. Over all put a tight cover, and the necessary precautions for preservation will have been taken. When a portion of a tub or a crock is removed for use, see that the surface is kept intact, else the action of the atmosphere will soon impart a rancid flavor to what is left, rendering it unfit for table use. It is owing solely to carelessness, in these respects, that so much poor butter finds its way to market, entailing an unnecessary loss upon the manufacturers, and impairing their reputation in the market."

The above, which we cut from an exchange, (we have forgotten what one) is directly to the point. Of course good butter will keep longer exposed to the air than poor but there is none so good but that air will spoil it in a few days, especially if it be warm or foul air and there is none so poor but it may be kept nearly as good as it ever was, by excluding it from the air. Butter packed in jars or firkins, however closely, should be covered with strong brine and covered. It is better than to trust to a layer of salt and keeps the butter in better order. If the crock or firkin is largest at the top, what is left will rise and float. This should not be allowed, but the butter should be kept down by a weight. We have seen butter rise in this way and become disgustingly rancid down to the edge of the brine, while all below it remained perfectly sweet.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*

A Good Reason for Laughter.—M. de Balzac was once lying awake in bed, when he saw a man enter his room cautiously, and attempt to pick the lock of his writing-desk. The rogue was not a little disconcerted at hearing a loud laugh from the occupant of the apartment, whom he supposed asleep. "Why do you laugh?" asked the thief. "I am laughing, my good fellow," said M. de Balzac, "to think what pains you are taking, and what risk you run, in hope of finding money by night in a desk where the lawful owner can never find any by day." The thief "evacuated Flanders" at once.

☞ A couple of neighbors became so inimicable that they would not speak to each other. But one having been converted at a camp meeting, on seeing his former enemy, held out his hand, saying: "How d'ye do, Kemp? I am humble enough to shake hands with a dog."

## Advertising Department.




TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the FARM AND FIRESIDE. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a good style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

WE wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the FARM AND FIRESIDE may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half-yearly subscriber.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

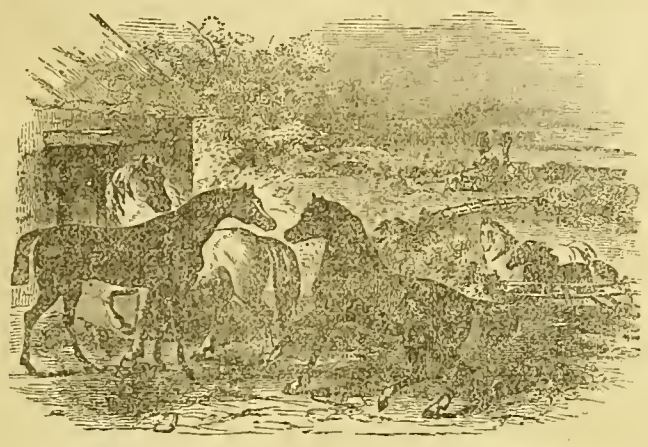

# Farm and Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1867. NO. 44.



## The Stock Yard.

### REARING AND TRAINING COLTS.

During the first Summer, colts should be allowed to run with their dams until September or October, when they should be taken from them and weaned. The colt should be kept in a stable or barn for the first few days after it is taken from the mare, as it will not fret and run as much in a close stable, as it would in an open lot or pasture. After a while, it may be put in a yard or pasture—away from its dam—and should be fed at first the sweetest hay that can be had. Bran, oats, and corn, mixed in due proportion with the hay, and given in proper quantities, make the best food that can be had. Corn and oats are made better by being crushed in a mill.

By feeding young colts a considerable amount of grain, in conjunction with hay and other light articles of food they thrive better and their limbs become better knit than when fed only on light food. It may, indeed be assumed as an axiom, that there is no greater error in rearing any kind of animals, than the too common one of stinting them during the early period of their growth. It is at this time that they require the most nourishment, and if a proper supply of food be withheld while an animal is young, it will be injured in its constitution, and consequently in its value to a far greater extent than any saving that can be effected in its feed.

It is a wrong practice to keep colts in a warm stable all Winter, after they are weaned, as such stables are not usually very well ventilated and colts that have been kept in them all Winter come out of them in the Spring impaired in health, and too tender to bear the cold and storms to which they are afterwards exposed. Colts that are intended for the farm must soon be exposed to every vicissitude of weather, and they cannot be too early inured to a *certain degree* of hardship. They should be carefully kept from lying out in the cold and wet at night, but during the day they cannot be too much abroad. Dry hovels and open straw sheds are to be preferred to warm stables, for their nightly shelter. Pure air is one of the most bountiful and benevolent gifts of the Creator, and though it may be cold, is much better than the warm air of a close stable.—Too much exposure should be, of course, as carefully guarded against as too much of the opposite kind of treatment; as both are alike destructive to the health and value of the colt.

Colts that have thus been used to a pure air and the inclemencies of a moderate Winter, will have acquired sufficient strength and hardihood to enable them to withstand the severest weather of the following seasons with impunity. Exercise for young colts is not only conducive to their general health and growth, but strengthens the sinews of their limbs and gives firmness to their feet. The next, or second Summer, they should have the range of a large and good pasture, or they should be turned out in the open commons and looked after, and brought home at least once or twice a week. They should be salted occasionally, as it will be good for their health and induce them to come up often.

The process of training young horses for the saddle, is frequently one of considerable difficulty; for those intended for the harness, it is much more simple; but in all cases the best means are patience and gentleness. The horse is capable of strong attachments, and of equally strong resentments, and knows more than people usually suppose he does. Indeed, "horse sense" has become proverbial for being of a superior, substantial quality. He knows when he is treated with kindness or with severity; and the good or bad treatment that he receives when young goes a great ways in producing a like disposition. He should be fondled and handled while young, and from the time of his being weaned he should be accustomed to the halter, and should be occasionally tied up. This should be done by the same person who feeds him, and should not be entrusted to lads, who will probably tease the animal and teach it bad tricks: nor to any hasty or ill-tempered man, who will be likely to ill-treat it.

It will thus early become accustomed to being handled, and will consequently occasion much less trouble than if it had been neglected. After it becomes somewhat accustomed to the halter, a bridle should be put on—with a small bit at first—and he should then be led about, taught to obey the rein and voice. in turning and stopping, which he will very soon do. Harness should then be put gently on him, so as not to frighten him. After he has become accustomed to all these operations, he should be hitched to a wagon by the side of a stout, steady animal and carefully driven, by one who is not afraid, and understands his business. Neither whip nor force him to go, but leave him quietly to walk with the other horse, and he will soon feel at ease and begin to pull.

If all these operations are conducted with patience and gentleness, the young horse will not be very troublesome; but if violence is dealt out in large doses, you will have more than your hands full.

The horse has such a power of observation that while he will learn everything that is taught him, he will also learn and remember many things that ought to be forgotten; or rather, that ought not to have been learned. If he is flogged for starting at an object, he will only start the more on meeting with it again; for he will remember the chastisement it occasioned, and will fear a repetition of it again. If he is hurt while being shod, or on any other occasion, he will not soon forget the pain it occasioned, and so long as he remembers it he will not suffer a repetition of the same operation with patience. Remember that great care and pains in training colts are always repaid in a kind and gentle disposition; and that revenge and malice are in this as in all other affairs, like hiltless swords that injure only those who wield them.

### RAISING HOGS AND MAKING PORK.

Messrs. Editors:—The fall in the price of pork has caused a good deal of complaint about the loss in raising and feeding hogs.—The prices that ruled last Winter—from $10 to $12—were generally expected, and when dressed hogs came down to from $7 to $8 a hundred, many were disappointed, and thought they lost money in feeding. That in many cases there was a loss, is quite probable. With corn at $1, and pork at the price paid, it takes good hogs and good management to make feeding profitable. When these advantages are secured, there is often a fair profit. But in the common practice of many farmers, there is generally more or less loss. The following is an example, of which there are thousands all over the country, of

#### HOW MAKING PORK IS UNPROFITABLE.

Pigs of the nondescript breed, that yet prevail to a large extent, are dropped in May or June. The sow may have a little extra feed, but not enough to prevent her getting very poor, and the pigs stunted. When they get older, and are weaned, they have to take their chance with the old hogs, until the latter are put up to fatten. If pumpkins or apples are plenty, they may be better fed in the Fall.—They are allowed to squeal through the Winter on enough to support life, without much loss in weight, or much gain to pay for feeding.

In the Spring they are again turned to pasture. In the first flush of fresh feed, perhaps clover, and when perhaps there is more sour milk, they may do very well. But they are often turned into the street, or have to go to distant pastures with the cattle, and have no other feed than the sour milk of two or three cows, and the swill from the kitchen, for five or six hogs and as many pigs. This, as the season advances, pastures dry up and milk fails, is short commons. But they manage to make some growth in the course of the Summer, having an undue development of bone, making large heads and legs, and gaunt bodies, which this kind of management tends to induce.

Of course such hogs are hard to fatten, taking some time and considerable feed to get them started. But they eat ravenously, and when fairly started, do well until half or two-thirds fatted; then, as cold weather comes on, and corn gets dry and hard, or is frozen, they don't eat so well. Corn is not so well masticated; much of the nutritive portions pass in the manure, while the coarse particles cause impaired digestion and loss of appetite, and it is said "the hogs don't fat well any longer."—So they are killed and sold for what they will bring. Can there be any wonder that this practice don't pay?

#### ABOUT BREEDS.

It is no part of my present purpose to recommend any particular breed. Most, if not all of the leading breeds make good hogs; so do many that are of no particular breed. A good, compact, well-made, quiet hog, not too large and coarse, or small and tender, but selected and bred with a view to having a good feeder, that will fatten at any age, is what is wanted by most farmers.

#### SPRING PIGS.

Pigs intended for fattening the same season should be farrowed in April. They should be well fed from the start. After they are about a week old, the sow should be well fed, to afford plenty of milk, and as soon as they begin to eat, a trough should be put in a separate part of the pen, into which they may pass and be fed by themselves. When seven or eight weeks old, they should be taken from the sow, and be well kept through the Summer—not merely in what is called good growing order, but the fattening should commence as soon as they begin to eat. Care must be taken to not feed too much, but about all they will eat up clean. Pigs do better when fed a little less than they can eat, than when there is more or less left in the trough.

The best feed is the mixture of skim-milk, slops, &c., from the house, well thickened with some kind of provender. Corn, peas, barley, buckwheat and oats, are all good.—But pigs do best on a mixture of some of these grains. This makes a provender that will mix well with the swill, and stay so. Corn meal, and to a large extent, pea meal, settles to the bottom as soon as it is mixed. If either is mixed with oats before grinding, it makes a provender that answers admirably. Barley answers very well, but does better with a portion of oats mixed in before grinding. Buckwheat and oats do very well if mixed together, or with some other grain, but neither should be fed alone. Nor should any grain be fed to such pigs without grinding. If fed alone, any kind of grain is much better when ground; but when the meal is mixed with swill, so as to more thoroughly fill up and distend the stomach, it is more thoroughly digested than is usually the case when fed in any other way.—

It is also best to vary the feed, and mix in a few boiled potatoes or other vegetables for a change, giving but little at first, but more as the pigs get older. For some time in the Fall a large share of their feed may be apples, pumpkins, potatoes, or plenty of good roots, cooked, with some swill and plenty of good provender mixed in, or part such feed, and part poor corn.

But at least six weeks of the last feeding should be principally on the meal of corn, peas or barley, or one or more of these with a moderate mixture of oats, but not more than two bushels of the latter to three of the former, and if but one to two, all the better. It is very probable that a few oats, mixed with other grain, help keep up a good appetite, though this may be done by varying the feed, and occasionally giving a little charcoal, salt and sulphur. A little corn in the car also serves a good purpose as a change.

### COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF FATTENING SPRING PIGS.

Pigs fed in this way should gain from one to one and a half pounds a day, or weigh from 250 to 400 pounds when from eight to nine months old, making them the cheapest pork the farmer can make. Many think it costs the most to make pig pork; but a little consideration will show that it cannot cost as much to make a hog weigh from 300 to 400 pounds in some eight or nine months, as it will to bring it up to that weight in 18 months, for it must take a good deal of feed to support life during the longer period, and for which there is no return. This expense is made still larger by having to support life and animal warmth through our long, cold winters. This is made plain by dividing the feed of such a pig into three parts, one to support life, and two for growth and fattening. Now it cannot be far out of the way to allow, when fed to the best advantage, an average of one and a half pounds a day gain, making some 400 pounds in nine months—while feeding two parts or two-thirds of this amount, on an average, makes only three-fourths of a pound gain, and takes double the time to make the same weight; so that the part or portion to support life has to be fed double the time or to double the amount, to the wintered hog, that it is to the pig. Now if the average cost of feeding the pig is six cents a day, 250 days, (8 months and 10 days,) will cost $15, and it may then weigh, say 300 pounds net—while the old hog at two thirds the cost, or four cents a day, must take 500 days, at a cost of $20, to gain the same weight. Now when it is considered that a large portion of the hogs in the country are kept until some 18 or 20 months old, or from 500 to 600 days, to make 300 pounds net, the great disadvantage of the usual practice becomes very plain. True, there may be something gained or saved by pasturing the wintered hog; but is not this balanced by the greater cost of keeping in the Winter? And then, as the hog is not strictly a grazing animal, the pasture may pay as well or better, for other stock.

But it will be said that the comparison is hardly fair; that the pigs are much better managed than the old hogs, and that the latter may be made to do much better. This brings up the question of

### RAISING AND FATTENING WINTERED HOGS.

Now the main question in regard to old hogs, as well as pigs, is one of time. To arrange this to the best advantage, both as regards the length of time required, and the best time for feeding and selling, is very important. To make the time as short as convenient, pigs should be farrowed in September. If much later they will hardly get sufficient age and size to endure the Winter without extra care; if earlier, it adds to the time for keeping, and makes a larger shoat that costs more to winter. They should be well kept in the Fall, so as to be in good condition to winter; also in the Winter in order to secure a good growth. If potatoes, root, or other vegetables, are fed, they should be cooked, mixed with swill and provender, and in cold weather fed warm. Though dry corn is always best ground, it can be fed in the ear to shoats in cold weather, to better advantage than at any other time.

Spring and Summer feeding may be much the same as for Spring pigs, unless they are pastured. Turning pigs out of the pen seldom pays, unless they have a good clover pasture, or can run in an orchard and pick up fallen fruit infested with insects. Then they should be confined to small enclosures, so as to be kept as still and quiet as possible. Hogs can easily run off half their growth, as is often the case with those turned into the road.

### FEEDING GRAIN IN THE SUMMER.

Though hogs do very well on clover, they will do better, and pay well, if they have a small allowance of provender mixed with their drink. They should always have it when kept on either grass, or in orchards. It is well to bear in mind that such extra feed, over what is sufficient to keep them in good growing order, goes to make extra growth. For a certain amount of grain, when fed in addition to enough other feed to make a moderate growth, must be nearly all stored up as extra growth. Hence a moderate allowance of grain, fed in the Summer and Fall in this way, secures more growth and better returns than can be realized by feeding in any other way.—*Country Gentleman.*

## LONG WOOL SHEEP.

Since the demand for "combing wool" and the increased demand for mutton, the raising of the Cotswold and Leicester sheep has become very profitable; but owing to the high tariff and the exchange of currency, there have been but very few breeding animals imported. And perhaps there may be a doubt in the mind of some, whether or not the Merinoes are the most profitable after all, thinking that it costs much more to keep the Long Wools. I have both the Merinoes and Cotswolds and will give the result of my experience and observation in regard to the habits and relative value of these classes of sheep.

The Merinoes herd together more. Turn them into a field of grass and they go *en masse* across and around the field, treading down what they do not eat, and when they stop to rest, it is all around the same shade, with noses to the ground, breathing the same air scented with their own excrements.

Not so with the Long Wools; turn them into a field of grass and each seeks its own place to feed, and its own place to rest, avoiding the impurities of the rest. They will also eat coarser feed than the Merinoes; oak grubs and Burdock are choice articles of food with them. And by close observation I think they consume but little if any more feed than the Fine Wools. I know this will surprise many, for most persons think that animals eat according to their size, but upon reflection we know of many large horses eating less than small ones, and small men eating more than large ones, and that we can make more pork with less feed from the Suffolk or Chester White, than from the old fashioned "Pinters."

I think, however, that animals will require food according to the growth and waste of the system, other things being equal. Thus the oil, or gum, in the Merino fleece is a clear waste, as it is all cleansed out before being made into cloth; this oil must come from the food eaten, and the amount required to make one pound of oil will make several pounds of flesh.

Again, this oil is of a cold, clammy nature, as may be seen by the most gummy sheep being pinched up most with cold, requiring still more feed to keep the system warm; this waste of feed to produce oil and fuel will more than balance the extra growth of the other kind of sheep, which growth makes very good eating. Besides, these sheep will stand cold storms in Fall and Spring much better than Merinoes; their long curly wools act as shingles to carry the water from their bodies; an all-day's rain will not wet their skin.

As to their relative value there can be no doubt but the balance must fall in favor of the Long Wools, for they will produce more wool per head than the Merinoes, which is worth from 20 to 25 cents more per pound than fine wool. They will also produce more and better mutton than the Merinoes, and at much less expense.

Again, they are more prolific and better mothers. The increase of a flock is much greater than common sheep.

With such facts as these we must give our Canadian friends the credit of having really the most profitable sheep. I have found that a cross of the Long Wool, with the Merinoes, does well. It increases the size of the sheep and length of the wool, two very desirable objects in sheep breeding. No danger need be apprehended in parturition.—*Correspondent in Prairie Farmer.*

## THE SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS FOR FOOD.

There are certain facts concerning the killing of the animals which form so large a portion of our food, that should be known by every meat buyer, if not meat eater, because they affect the condition of the meat, its healthfulness and keeping qualities. Our own attention has been particularly directed to the subject of opening an immense slaughter house near the city of New York, by capitalists and butchers of Chicago. The new *Abattoir* is, in fact, a regular slaughter house for all kinds of animals, on a larger scale than any existing there.

The old-fashioned way of killing beeves, was to knock them in the head with a pole axe, and cut their throats, and while bleeding commence skinning and slinging up by the hind legs. Our butchers were slow to learn of the Jews, who practiced throwing and slinging the animal and then cutting its throat, and in this way securing the most perfect possible bleeding, and following the Mosaic command, "the blood thereof, which is the life thereof, shalt thou not eat." Our butchers are now following a very similar practice, modifying it by hitting the beast a merciful rap now and then on the head to destroy consciousness. In this way the beast bleeds better, as all the blood of the hind quarters at least tends to the throat.

There is a serious objection to knocking beeves in the head. The shock to the nervous system is such as to cause tremour and great rigidity in the muscles, although it is the part of humanity to put the poor beasts as soon as possible in a condition of unconsciousness. But this is a serious hindrance to free bleeding. European butchers have long practiced what is termed "pricking down," and this has also been done, or rather tried, in this country. It consists in driving a narrow knife blade, by an instantaneous motion, in between the head and the first vertebra, piercing the spinal marrow. This destroys all sense, and paralyzes all the muscles of the body, leaving them soft and flexible. When an animal is in this condition, it must be slung up by the hind legs at once, when the blood will flow quite as freely as if the animal were conscious. This method therefore combines the excellence of the Hebrew way and the humanity of the old knocking down process.

When an animal is killed during or soon after a fright or great heat and exhaustion, it rarely bleeds well, but the meat is left bloody and feverish; it soon spoils, and is besides unhealthy. Whether this paroxysm of fear, which occurs when the animal is suddenly, in full consciousness, slung up by one or both hind legs, and which lasts until it dies, has any bad effect upon the meat, physicians must determine. The superiority of the pricking down process is so evident that we think it ought always to be followed. It was not practiced at the new Abattoir, though the killing there was done very expeditiously, and the beef looked exceedingly well.—*Agricultural Review.*

Boiled Peas for Milch Cows and Hogs.—"Boiled peas," says a correspondent of the Richmond (Va.) *Farmer*, "as food for milch cows and for fattening hogs, is far superior to anything else I have seen tried. My honest opinion is, that two bushels of peas are far superior to, or worth more to fatten hogs, or to increase the milk of cows, than three bushels of corn applied to the same objects. In experimenting, I have found that hogs not only fattened doubly as fast, but that the improvement of their general condition was in like proportion." "With respect to cows," he says, "the effect was in ten days to double the yield of milk. My plan in using them was to soak them in water twelve hours or through the night, before boiling them.

By this process their bulk was doubled and consequently they required less boiling. Besides this advantage, I found the soaked pea to be an excellent substitute for green food, having not only the effect on stock produced by turnips, carrots and beets, in improving their appetite, general appearance, and milking properties, but imparts none of the bad taste to the milk which is so often derived from the use of the green crops referred to. It was, moreover, found to exhibit fattening qualities almost equal to the *boiled* pea." He concludes by saying he regards the soaked pea for food in Winter as decidedly superior to all root crops, and recommends that his brother farmers should lose no time in testing its value in their own practice.

Early Lambs.—Early lambs will suffer more or less from the weather. Some will come in the night, and when the cold is intense. These stand a chance, especially if unprotected, to be chilled to death. Such a lamb is not only without wool, and is tender and small, unlike the old sheep, (and *they* suffer,) but is *wet*. Some, the hardiest, will survive; but many perish. To save such a lamb, when just come, take it at once to the house if it is chilled, and exhibits weakness—and do not wrap it up—this will not warm it—but put it near or under the stove—put it where it is so hot as not to bear your hand without absolutely scorching the lamb. Keep it there till it revives and shows signs of animation and intelligence. Then feed (keeping it still warm) with milk from the ewe. Some prescribe a little stimulant mixed with the milk. After the lamb is strong, wait no longer, and proceed to the ewe with it. As it has already been taught how to feed, you must direct it in the natural way, and aid in obtaining nourishment from its mother. Where the sheep are wild, this will be difficult; and where they are unhoused, still more so. But a lamb is worth the trouble, and should not be sacrificed. It requires but one or two trials, and all will be right.—*Colman's Rural World.*

Animal Manure.—That there is a difference in the manure of different classes of the same kind of animals, can hardly have escaped the notice of any observant agriculturist. Females in full milk, or bearing young, secrete from their feed large quantities of valuable substances, which fattening animals of similar, or of the opposite sex, will not withdraw from what they eat; for the reason the manure of the former is of much less value than the latter class. This fact is obvious, for out of the milk, or what should be milk, the entire structure of the five or six weeks old is formed. As it continues to grow, it learns to eat the same food its dam does; and for several years is building up its frame of heavy bones; all the valuable ingredients entering permaneutly into its system come out of its feed, and would, if a full grown male, have passed into the manure. The difference in the quality of the excremeuts of different classes of the same kind of stock, is likely to be undervalued by many. It should be borne in mind, that milk-giving and growing animals are a tax upon the soil, while fattening animals make rich manure heaps, and full grown male animals draw less from the soil than females bearing young and giving milk.—*Rural American.*

Having been often told that anything would do for seed potatoes, a correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* planted four rows of twenty hills each, in the centre of his field with the following result:

| | Marketable. | Small. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 large potato in a hill yielded | 67 | 24 |
| 4 small " " " " | 53 | 37 |
| 4 cut " " " " | 62 | 37 |
| 8 eyes only " " " | 7½ | 13½ |



Cautious Man.—Some men use words as riflemen do bullets. They say but little. The few words they use go right to the mark. They let you talk and guide with their eye and face, on and on, till what you say can be answered in a word or two, and then launch out a sentence, pierce the matter to the quick, and are done. You never know where you stand with them. Your conversation falls into the minds as rivers into a deep chasm, and is lost from sight by its depth and darkness. They will sometimes surprise you with a few words, that go to the mark like a gunshot, and then they are silent again; as if they were reloading. Such men are safe counsellors, and true friends in every case where they profess to be such. To them truth is more valuable than gold while pretension is too gauzy to deceive them.

# The Fireside Muse.

[From the Atlantic Monthly for November.]

## ARE THE CHILDREN AT HOME.

Each day when the glow of sunset
Fades in the western sky,
And the wee ones, tired of playing,
Go tripping lightly by,
I steal away from my husband,
Asleep in his easy-chair,
And watch from the open doorway
Their faces fresh and fair.

Alone in the dear old homestead
That once was full of life,
Ringing with girlish laughter,
Echoing boyish strife,
We two are waiting together;
And oft, as the shadows come,
With tremulous voice he calls me,
"It is night! are the children home?"

"Yes, love!" I answer him gently,
"They're all home long ago";—
And I sing, in my quivering treble,
A song so soft and low,
Till the old man drops to slumber,
With his head upon his hand,
And I tell to myself the number
Home in a better land.

Home, where never a sorrow
Shall dim their eyes with tears!
Where the smile of God is on them
Through all the summer years!
I know!—yet my arms are empty,
That fondly folded seven,
And the mother heart within me
Is almost starved for heaven.

Sometimes, in the dusk of evening,
I only shut my eyes,
And the children are all about me,
A vision from the skies:
The babes whose dimpled fingers
Lost the way to my breast,
And the beautiful ones, the angels,
Passed to the world of the blessed.

With never a cloud upon them,
I see their radiant brows:
My boys that I gave to freedom,—
The red sword sealed their vows!
In a tangled Southern forest,
Twin brothers, bold and brave,
They fell; and the flag they died for,
Thank God! floats over their grave.

A breath, and the vision is lifted
Away on wings of light,
And again we are together,
All alone in the night.
They tell me his mind is failing,
But I smile at idle fears;
He is only back with the children,
In the dear and peaceful years.

And still as the summer sunset
Fades away in the west,
And the wee ones, tired of playing,
Go trooping home to rest,
My husband calls from his corner,
"Say, love! have the children come?"
And I answer, with eyes uplifted,
"Yes, dear! they are all at home!"

# Horticulture.

## ROOT PRUNING.

When a tree has produced nothing but wood for several years, the tendency may be checked by judicious root pruning. This is done by opening a trench around the tree, at a suitable distance from the trunk. That distance must depend on the size of the tree, for the roots extend nearly as far as the branches. The trench should be from one foot to two and a half feet deep, according to the size of the tree, in order to admit of an inspection of all the lateral roots. Some persons cut the vertical, or tap-roots, by striking a spade under the tree, but it is not advisable to cut these roots, as they are anchors which hold the tree firm in its place. In opening a trench around a tree, care should be taken not to hack the roots; they should cut clean with a sharp knife, making a draw-cut, the same as when pruning the branches. Much damage is sometimes done to trees in root-pruning, by hacking the roots with a spade, or cutting them too close to the trunk.

The best time for this kind of pruning is in the Fall when vegetation is suspended. It may be done in the Spring before vegetation commences. Some orchardists think that August is the most appropriate month for this work, but the greater number prefer to operate in the Fall, or early in Spring. Some persons do not open a trench, but merely cut a circle around the tree with a spade—a very imperfect method of performing the operation, as a great many of the roots cannot be reached in that way, and such as are reached, are hacked, instead of being cut clean.

When a tree has been properly root-pruned, its disposition to grow wood, at the expense of fruit, will be effectually checked, and its energies directed to the formation of fruit buds. The tree, having been deprived of the greater number of its fibrous roots by this method of pruning, will require the application of manure to enable the old roots which remain within the circle, and the new ones which spring out where the cuts have been made, to sustain the growth of the tree and the formation of fruit. A root-pruned tree, without the application of manure, generally produces a profusion of unproductive blossoms, or a large number of very small fruit.

It is a good plan to fill up the circular trench which has been made around the tree, with a compost of such manures as are best suited to the variety of fruit that is being operated on. Broken bones, charcoal, lime, ashes, plaster, poultry-manure, common salt, bits of leather, dead leaves and twigs, etc., will be found very beneficial to nearly all kinds of fruit trees. Barnyard manure generally produces a rank growth of wood, but is not well calculated to encourage the growth of fruit. Trees heavily mulched with barnyard manure seldom ripen their wood before frost, and on this account are liable to damage from the rigors of Winter. We have seen the productiveness of gooseberry and currant bushes greatly increased by root-pruning, and filling the trunks with the well-rotted remains of old hot-beds.

## CURIOSITIES OF FRENCH GARDENING.

The visitor who passes through the markets of Paris cannot fail to be struck by the size and beauty of the fruits and vegetables displayed. There are huge and perfect pears, a glistening array of salads, enormous heads of snowy cauli-flower, and giant stalks of asparagus, which attract attention no less for their size and faultless condition, than for vast quantities, all equally fine and large of their kind. These are due to the wonderful skill and patient industry of the French gardeners, who are unequalled by any others either here or in Europe, in the art of cultivating market produce.

One cause of this superiority is the devotion of the French to specialties. This system obtains as generally among the gardeners as among the men of arts and sciences. An American market farmer or gardener divides his grounds into many lots, and plants nearly every variety of truck known to the market.—The French gardener gives himself up to the cultivation of a special class or succession of fruits or vegetables, and by long study and practice, by experimenting with various manures, soils and modes of culture, arrives at the production of a perfect crop of his specialty, season after season, with unerring certainty.—He is also much more economical of space and more prodigal of labor than we are, as, in fact than we need be. He seldom suffers his ground to lie fallow; crop succeeds crop in endless rotation; the cauliflower is set among the melon hills, ready to spread as soon as the melons are gathered. Between the rows of asparagus are planted early potatoes, lettuce, &c., in such a manner as to keep the ground constantly fruitful, and when the weather becomes frosty, and the sun loses a goodly share of its forcing power, large bell glasses are employed, one of which is placed over each plant—especially in the case of the salads—and heat is thus concentrated upon it until its full growth is fully attained.

The enormous size of the French asparagus is chiefly due to the manner of planting. Instead of setting the plants closely together as we do, a space of at least six inches square is allowed to each "stool," which enables it to suck a large amount of nutriment from the soil, and become a strong and solid plant.—Each stool is also manured repeatedly every season, the soil being carefully scraped away down to the roots, the compost placed around them and the earth put back again.

The French system of cultivating the apple, pear and peach is also peculiar. The trees are all grafted and dwarfed. A strong wire is stretched along in front of each row, about three feet above the ground. Upon this wire a single branch of each tree is trained, and as soon as well started, the branch is made, by heavy pruning, the only fruit bearing one on the tree. The consequence is that the entire strength of the tree goes to the nourishing of the fruit upon this branch, and this fruit becomes large and fair in proportion. This process, by the by, is borrowed from the Chinese.

The pear, however, is also largely grown in the pyramidal and other forms, but almost always from dwarfed stock.

In the cultivation of the peach, the French gardeners have shown a curious and fanciful skill. Near the town of Montreil, a few miles only from Paris, there is a large number of gardens, enclosed in whitewashed walls, against the surface of which peach trees are trained in many fanciful forms. One of these is known as the "Napoleon Peach." This is a specimen so trained as to figure in very large letters against the wall the name "Napoleon," a single branch going to the formation of each letter, and the whole surrounded by a wreath composed of two large boughs trained in a circle.

Cellar for Keeping Fruit.—Every one is aware of the importance of keeping fruit at a low temperature, for the purpose of preventing decay. The following mode of constructing a cellar for this purpose, was described by our correspondent S. Foster, before the Muscatine Farmers' Club. He says:

I think the best mode of keeping is to pack them very carefully in a barrel as tight as a flour barrel, and keep them as cool as possible without freezing. Last Fall I dug a cellar seven feet deep, beneath my cellar, with a box extending up through the other cellar, out of the window, for fresh and cold air. When hard freezing weather came, I produced frost in this lower cellar, the thermometer standing but 3 degrees above freezing, away from the fresh air. I then closed up the draught, and in two or three days the thermometer rose 4 degrees, and through the whole Winter it has not varied 2 degrees from 40 degrees—not even through the warm thawing weather. Our neighor, Dr. James Weed, has a patent for keeping fruits and sweet potatoes, in a deep dry cistern, which I have no doubt will prove valuable. I took my idea of a deep cellar from Mr. A. Swmalley, who kept strawberries, and they were for sale at some of our Winter festivals, a few years ago.

Raising of Cloves.—Cloves are the unopened flowers of a small evergreen tree, that resembles in appearance the laurel or the bay. It is a native of the Molucca, or Spice Islands, but has been carried to all the warmer parts of the world, and is largely cultivated in all the tropical regions of America. The flowers are small in size, and grow in large numbers in clusters at the very ends of the branches.

The cloves we use are the flowers gathered before they have opened, and whilst they are still green. After being gathered they are smoked by a wood fire, and are then dried in the sun. Each clove consists of two parts, a round head, which is the four petals or leaves of the flower rolled up, enclosing a number of small stalks or filaments. The other part of the clove is terminated with four points, and is, in fact, the flower-cup and unripe seed-vessel. All these parts may be distinctly shown if a few leaves are soaked for a short time in hot water, when the leaves of the flower soften and readily unroll. Their taste is pungent, acid and lasting. Both the taste and smell depend on the quantity of oil they contain.—Sometimes the oil is separated from the cloves before they are sold and the odor and taste in consequence is much weakened by this proceeding.

## KEEPING GRAPES FRESH.

Many devices have been resorted to for keeping grapes fresh on the bunch for Winter or Spring use. One of the most common practices for late Fall or early Winter use, is to pick the grapes on a fair day and place them in layers in a wooden box, which should not be over eight or ten inches deep. Place a layer of paper on the bottom, then a layer of grapes, and a layer of paper, until the box is filled. Cover well to keep out the currents of air and set the box in a cool, dry place.

For longer keeping we have known the following practice to be resorted to with very good success: When the fruit is perfectly ripe, it is taken from the vines, free from anything like moisture, handled carefully and packed in small kegs. Put a layer of green leaves, right off the vines, in the bottom, on this a layer of grapes, then leaves again, and grapes alternately until the keg is full, then finish off with leaves. Put in the head, and your cask is ready for what? Why, to be buried in the ground. Dig a trench so as to admit the casks deep enough that they will have about one foot or fifteen inches of soil over them when covered. The ground should be packed moderately tight, and a board laid along on the top before the ground is thrown in. They throw some litter on the face of the ground over those they wish to take up during the Winter, to prevent the ground from freezing so hard as to keep them from getting at them.

One important thing must be observed, that they be placed where there can be no standing water about the casks, or they would suffer.—*Ohio Farmer.*

Preserving Potatoes.—A correspondent of the Scientific American says that he has tried the following method of keeping potatoes for two years with complete success, though in some instances the tubers were diseased when taken out of the ground: "Dust over the floor of the bin with lime and put in about six or seven inches deep of potatoes, and dust with lime as before. Put in six or seven inches of potatoes and lime again; repeat the operation until all are stored away. One bushel of lime will do for forty bushels of potatoes, though more will not hurt them—the lime rather improving the flavor than otherwise.

An Analysis of Food.—It is stated that a hungry man who sits down before a pound of beefsteak, tender, juicy, and an inch thick, and eats it, will find upon analysis that sixty-five per cent. of his steak was water; that eighteen per cent. will go to give him an aldermanic fleshness; and that fourteen per cent. is assigned to warm him, and make him feel comfortable on a cold day. Of the flesh-forming ingredients, according to Dr. Playfair, every one on an average, requires ninety-two pounds annually to keep up a proper bodily condition. If it is not obtained from steaks, then it must be secured from something else. Cheese is a great flesh-former (30 per cent.,) and, taken with beer, speedily conceals all traces of unsightly bones. Two ounces of flesh-formers per diem will keep a man alive if he is not forced to labor, but hard labor requires six, or the body will run short of starch and sugar, and go behindhand in health and strength. In 100 parts of wheat there are 10 pounds of flesh, but there is nearly double the amount in the same quantity of oatmeal.

The Belgians claim to be the first to discover the uses of coal, and this discovery, they say, was made by one Hulles, a blacksmith of the village of Plenevaux, near Liege, in the year 1049, from whose name they derive "houille." Coal was first used in London in the latter part of the thirteenth century; but the smoke was considered so injurious to the public health that Parliament petitioned King Edward I. to prohibit its burning as an intolerable nuisance. He complied, and issued his proclamation against it. The most severe measures were then employed to abolish its use—fines, imprisonment, and the destruction of furnaces and workshops where it was used.



Butter Factories.—We called attention a short time since to the expediency of establishing factories for the manufacture of butter, those for the production of cheese having proved so successful. It appears by the discussions held at the late State Fair in Buffalo, N. Y., that butter factories have already been put in operation in that State, although we were not aware of the fact. It was stated by a Mr. Shattuck that two such establishments had been erected in his county, and that they had competed with some of the best dairies in Chenango county, and in every case proved that it is more to the advantage of farmers to have their milk worked up in factories, instead of families, even where the most perfect process known is pursued carefully. The average result of the factory system is far above the average of individual butter-makers, many of whom lose their labor and waste their milk.

# Farm and Garden.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## FARM NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER.

November advances with its sounding blasts as the precursor of Winter; and it becomes the prudent farmer to heed the signal. We see at every step with what ease nature provides for the protection of her offspring. The trees are dismantled of their Summer glory, the grass grows crisp, and all herbage falls to the ground to give protection to the roots of trees and plants, to enable them to withstand the benumbing frosts of Winter; and by decay furnish nourishment for future growth; and many an embryo of future growth lies snugly ensconced in the protection thus furnished, waiting the more genial season to rise into plant life, aud usefulness. Thus nature furnishes a mat over our forests, pastures and meadows, than which, no woven blankets could more effectually protect the roots and seeds there grown and deposited. All animated nature, warned by unerring instinct, provide for their Winter support, or continuance of their species, by transformation, &c., or protection, by seeking sheltering crevices, or burrowing in the earth, and the various modes which nature and instinct teaches for continuing aud increasing all the different varieties of insects, animals, &e. The squirrel now busies himself iu laying up his store of nuts in some hollow tree, or other nest, from which he can draw during the cold Winter. Watch him as he emerges, now chattering, now barking, and again as he returns laden with some hickory or other nut, to add to his stores, and take a lesson therefrom. Nature, on all sides, is furnishing the husbandman with examples of kindly provision which it would he well for hiu to heed, and draw lessons from, to he adopted into practice, in the care of all creatures entrusted to him. Domestic animals, while they should not be pampered or injured hy excess of kindness, should be suitably protected aud properly fed; as a temperature of near 100° must be maintained in the hodies of all the higher animals, to secure the proper performance of the vital fuuctions, the farmer's economy and self-interest would teach him to he careful and keep his stock well sheltered, warm and well bedded, rather than to keep up this temperature by extra food. In moderate weather the temperature is maintained from within, by the combined action of the digestive, circulating and respiratory system, which supply and bring into contact the elements in such a way as to effect slow combustion over the entire hody; food constitutes the fuel in keeping up this combustion. In cold weather the vital heat of the hody is carried off rapidly by the atmosphere, unless extra protection is given, and a large amount of fuel is required to supply and keep up the fire and heat. The Creator, in His wisdom, has provided for this necessity, measurahly, by giving to animals in an arctic climate a warmer covering than to those of a temperate zone; it will be observed as cold weather approaches, the natural covering of animals thickens; thus nature provides for self protection, and unless we are willing that our stock should be worse off than the wild animals, we must give them protection and more fattening food than in Summer. An unsheltered animal exposed to the blasts of a nor'wester and cold storms, will shiver off a surprising amount of fodder, and usually of fat also. An immense amount of fodder is annually wasted—burned up, if you will—in keeping up the animal heat of stock, that should be saved by providing suitahle shelter and stables. Sheep need less protection than other stock, as by nature they are better protected from cold, but not from storms; they should be provided with shelter and yards where they can have ample exercise, unless it be fattening animals. "A merciful man will be merciful to his heast." A comfortable, contented stock will add to the comfort of the proprietor, in satisfaction, if nothing farther.—The work of the farm as the season draws to a close will be apt to bc hurried over; but no hurrying will compensate for slighting or incompleteness.

*Animals.*—Keep them always thriving, as it takes several times more food to bring them up after they have fallen off in flesh as is needed to keep them in good condition; often a single exposure to a cold storm lays the foundation of disease which causes the loss of a valuable animal. Comfort and contentment of the animals is money in the pocket of the proprietor.

*Barns and Stables.*—Are these in readiness for Winter occupancy? Are there no leaky roofs that need repairing, cracks that admit rains, snow and cold winds? That loose board, the winds will soon find it out, and will bear it off in some galc; and then that large crack by the stable door will admit wind direct on that favorite cow or horse, and more value in food will be consumed than several times enough to pay repairs. Pure air is csseutial as also is light in stables, therefore provide for ventilation and also for light, without admitting air to blow direct on the animals, or light direct in their eyes.

*Butter.*—With good feed to the cows, butter may be made almost equal to June, and will hring a much larger price tuan it did then. Cleanliness and thorough, without over working, are first requisites after good cows and feed. Bring the cream gradually to a temperature of about 55°, before commeneing to churn, and perform the operation steadily and gently.

*Cellars.*—Provide sufficient veutilation to take off all effluvia arising from vegetables &c. stored in the cellar; the foul air generated by the dccay of vegetables, or arising from their natural fermentation, is often the cause of sickness, which might be prevented by providing means of ventilation. Thorough drainage, and plenty of lime whitewash, in connection, are good for both the things kept in the cellar and those living ahove it. A cool cellar, just above the freezing point, is the hest for keeping fruits and most kinds of vegetahles. Give protection to prevent the entrance of frosts and exclude rats and mice.

*Corn.*—Dampness and frosts injure it for food, and especially for seed. See that the cribs in which it is stored are kept dry and well ventilated and protected froui vermin. Save corn for seed hy braiding it in tresses and hanging it iu the roof away from damp air, &c.

*Farmer's Clubs.*—The lengthening evenings are favorable to the formation and coutinuation of these social farm talks and societies. If you have noue in your neighhorhood, form one this Winter and notice the new life it gives the farm community the coming season.

*Fuel.*—Do farmers ever think, or consider, the loss they sustain in not providing themselves with a plenty of dry wood, under shclter, in advance, instead of burning green wood? It takes the heat of nearly one half of green, or soggy wood, to hurn the other half. A cord of perfectly dry wood loses a thousand times less heat in the smoky vapor, than if burned when green. It is economy then as well as time, vexation and health saved, to provide at least a year's supply of wood in advance, and season it under cover, and there keep it till used. The good housewife will second this motion I am confident, especially if she has been used to using green wood and having to prepare a portion of it after being brought to the door sled length.

*Grain.*—Now that the harvests are over and a large part of the wheat, &c., has passed from the hands of the producers, we begin to find out by the papers that there is not such an ahundant yield as was confidently predicted by these samc papers before the harvest and threshing; economy will be needed in saving in feeding, that we may stave off in part, the machinations of speculators. Prepare ground for Spring wheat and rye; Winter rye sown the first of the month will make a fair crop, if sown on dry, good soil, not subject to standing water during Winter.

*Hogs.*—Fatten faster on the same food in mild weather than when colder. Kecp them in warm pens, and feed them sufficient cooked ood to keep them fattening to the fullest extent. A bushel of corn should make not less than ten pounds of pork, and then the pork should bring fifteeu ccuts per pound to pay the first cost of the coru alone, as we find the price of corn in market to-day.

*Leaves.*—Provide these in quantity for litter, for mulch, and for manure; gather from the forest and elsewhere; they make, after decaying, the best of fertilizers, of the kind, for any, and all crops, furnishing just the elements needed by most kinds of plants.

*Manures.*—The farmer cannot have too much; therefore gather from every source any and all, that can be turned into manure; save from the barn, yard, privy, hen-roost, and house, all the waste aud wash, and compost with peat, muck, &c.

*Sheep.*—Give them needed attention, and shelter from cold storms; do not pamper, but keep them well; a little grain and roots is needed with their change from green, sueculent to dry feed. For April lambs the buck may hc turned to the ewes this month.

*Turnips.*—Let them grow as long as safe to leave in the ground without being caught hy frost. Pull and top, and if pleasant and warm let them lie on the ground till towards night, to dry off the adhering soil, when they should be stored where they will he safe from frost and convenient to feed; they will come iu good play to supplement the hay and graiu crop, both of which bid fair to rule at high prices. Save feed by chaffing and cooking, and thus making a less quantity perform the office of a much larger quantity in the crude raw state; those who heed this suggestion, with our usual Winter, I think will own before Spring fairly opens that they have saved paying ruinous prices for feed for their stock. With all the abundance of the hay crop the past season I think I shall be warranted in saying unless unusual ccouomy is used in feeding, that hay will sell nearly, if not quite, as high as last Spring.

*My Riverdale Farm.* H.

## WELL-CULTIVATED FARMS MOST PROFITABLE.

Mr. X. A. Willard recently delivered an address at the Oneida Co., N. Y., Fair, from a report of which we make the following extract:

A wretched system of agriculture not only hears heavily upou him who practices it, hut its influence penetrates every branch of industry. Paralyze the agriculture of the country, and the manufactory closes, trade stops and business stagnates. High culture of the soil or successful management of special branches of agriculture advances the value of landed property in county and village, and benefits all classes of society. There were many ways to accumulate wealth, but this was only an exponent of labor, and nearly all labor was in some way connected with the soil aud its products. In passing through the country and examining the soil, it was noticed that most farmers attempted to farm too much land; that more profits would have heeu realized by employing judiciously the capital invested in a smaller number of acres. There is no objections to large farms if they are well cultivated, but when they are made to yield half or a third of a crop, much of the capital invested is lying idle. A great many farms are farmed in a way that does not much more than pay the expeuse of lahor; life is worn out iu worry and trouble in going over harren acres and reaping scanty harvests.

Before a farmer commences operations, he should consider some of the requirements to success, such as drainage, an economical division of land by fences, introduction and culture of root crops, proper selection of live stock, suitable accommodation and shelter for stock, husbanding and liberal application of manures, selection of best seed, and its employment at the most suitahle season, and, last, the adoption of machinery and improved implements for securing the culture and harvest of crops. If capital be insufficient for conducting the operations of the farm, if there be deficiency in knowledge as to the science of agriculture, and the use to which capital may be employed with economy, then it will be better to cultivate so much land as will hest serve to educate the cultivator up to the requirements in the least possible time, since by this means there will be reason to hope that it will not bc long before necessary skill will bc required for conducting operations successfully and with profit, on a more extended scale.

Americans, perhaps, more than others, have an insatiahle desire for land, without regard to its profit as an investment, and without hope, oftentimes, for its decent cultivation. The result of this is, that men live in discomfort and have poor farms, and wear out their lives to no purpose. This was not an overdrawn picture. He instanced two dairy farms, one with 200 acres and 40 cows, at 400 pounds of cheese per cow; the other, of 100 acres and 25 cows, at 650 pounds of cheese, each per cow. The former yields 16,000 pounds of cheese, and the latter 16,250 pounds. What is there to compensate for managing the extra hundred acres? Nothing at all, since it does not produce as much as the small farm. If there be too much land it should be sold or rented ou shares, until sufficient capital should be procured to cultivate the whole well. There is no objectiou to well-cultivated large farms.

Indian Corn as Diet.—Bread and butter are considered the staff of life; they furnish sufficient nutrition to support the human system. But we may prune still closer and say, Iudian corn will do this alone. Coru contains from three to four times the amount of oil which we fiud iu wheat—some varieties, like the yellow eight-rowed, and the small pop-corns. The oil here will make up for lack of butter in the "staff of life." The other materials are abundant, such as starch, and nitrogenous or muscle-forming matter. But not in all varieties. The Tuscarora, and some of the white corns, contain less oil, aud more starch, &c. But most of the corus contain a greater amount of the ingredients necessary to support animal life than any other one graiu. It is heuce that corn has assnmed the importance that we see. It will do, in its different varieties, for the coldest as well as the warmest climate. The Esquimaux will live upon it, and the hot sea-islander, and all interuediate population. For fattening animals, it is unrivalled. It is also generally digestive, especially the white varieties, which have less oil aud more starch.

A Place for Tools.—Farmers should take good care of their farming tools and implements, and not leave them out to get wet, and to the influence of a hot sun, to crack the wood. Wagons and plows will last a life time if well housed; but when left out, exposed to all kinds of weather, a few years suffice to use them up. A tool room is as important to a farmer as any building on his farm. A work bench, with a vise at oue end, is very important. Here a hundred things can be 'fixed,' too numerous to mention. Try it, farmers, and see how quickly you and your sons can learn on rainy days to put your tools in order, and also do many other things for the 'women folks,' that will save you hundreds of dollars in the end.

Fruit Trees on Country Highways.—It is said that when a Spaniard eats a peach, or any kind of fruit with a tree-bearing seed, he digs a hole in the ground with his heel, and plants in it the seed. Therefore, along the country roads in many parts of Spain fruits of all kinds are abundant and free. As thousands of towns and villages in the United States might be rendered infinitely more attractive by adorning the barren streets with shade trees, so, in many country places, a man could not do a more beneficent work than to plant walnut, chestnut, apple, cherry or mulberry trees along the roadsides, to yield not only shade but valuable fruit. There is nothing from our forests more beautiful and regal than a young and vigorous chestnut tree covered with white blossoms; aud the aunoyance of the burrs which fall to the ground in the Autumn is repaid by the excellent nuts which they bring with them. The mulberry trec furnishes not only fine shade, but its fruit is also delicious.

It should never be forgotten that the happier a child is the cleverer he will be. This is not only because, in a state of happiness, the mind is fr and at liberty for the exercise of its faculties instead of spending its thoughts and energies in brooding over troubles, but also because the action of t brain is stronger when the frame is in a state of hilarity, the ideas are more clear, impressions of outward objects are more vivid, and the memory w not let them slip. This is reason enough for the mother to take some care that she is the cheerful guide and comforter of her child. If she is anxious or fatigued, she will exercise some control over herself, and speak cheerfully, and try to enter freely into the subject of the moment, to meet the child's mind instead of making him sink for want of companionship.—*Miss Martineau.*

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## CRANBERRY CULTURE.

We have written several articles on the profits of cranberry culture, and the present season—the close of an abundant harvest of this fruit—reminds us that the subject has not been exhausted. That every section of the country is adapted to the growth and profitable cultivation of this berry, is not to be argued; the cranberry, like all other plants, has its peculiar zone or latitude where it will thrive and do best. We know that it grows spontaneously in all the coast States from Maine to the Carolinas; but neither the temperature of the extreme North East or that of the Southern Atlantic States, will produce this fruit in its greatest perfection.

The Eastern part of Massachusetts, particularly Cape Cod, is the natural home of the cranberry. This is owing not entirely to climate, but to the peculiar formation of the soil. Here we find an alluvial deposit mixed with beach sand. This combination suits the cranberry plant; and on that, and similar soils, it produces abundantly. On the bay shores of Rhode Island, where the land is of a like formation and character, they do equally as well. But the best locality for the profitable cultivation of the cranberry—soil, climate and markets considered—is the State of New Jersey. No one can question this who is at all familiar with that State. It has the same peculiarities of soil (marine sand and a thin alluvial mixture), that gives Cape Cod its cranberry celebrity. Added to this is a congeniality of climate which protects the vines in Winter, renders them exceedingly fruitful and ripens the berries full two weeks earlier than Massachusetts.

The expense of preparing land for the cultivation of the cranberry varies considerably in each of the States above mentioned. The cost per acre, on Cape Cod, has in some instances been as high as $300; while the average has been, perhaps, half of that sum. In Rhode Island about the same amount. In New Jersey, from extensive inquiry among cultivators, we should estimate the average expense at about $100 per acre. This does not include the price of land, but the cost for preparing it for cultivation and in setting out the vines. But after this labor is accomplished, there is but trifling expense in cultivation or attention. One important matter, heretofore overlooked by early cultivators, has been in selecting land that could not be overflowed with water in the Winter season. This is now considered essential to the health of the vines, their annual fruitfulness and general permanency.

The yield per acre on tracts that are favorably treated has averaged, for three years past, about one hundred bushels; although there are instances, well authenticated, of twice that amount being raised. The market price of cranberries, the past two years, has been about $4 per bushel. Hence, it will be seen that no farm crop, even in the richest agricultural sections, pays as well as cranberries. There is no exaggeration in stating that there is more profit in the culture of this fruit than in any other branch of agriculture or horticulture. The great advantage in this business is that after the first cost of land, and setting out the vines, there is but trifling expense afterward. Your cranberry tract increases in value each year, and returns you an annual profit greater than any other rural pursuit. Of this, we have no question or doubt.

---

The Cuba sugar crop is reported to promise an unusually bountiful yield, the fields of cane all over the Island being very luxuriant. The grinding of the cane has begun in some places.

## TEXAS CATTLE TRADE.

The extension of railroad facilities in the southwest is destined to have a potent effect on the beef and cattle trade. The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser says that an intelligent and perfectly reliable gentleman from Northern Missouri has recently given that paper some almost astounding facts with regard to the number of Texas cattle that are about to be brought into market. The Illinois drovers are after this trade. One prominent man in that business has recently contracted to deliver between 30,000 and 40,000 cattle at one of the new frontier stations of the Union Pacific Railroad (Eastern Division) for shipment over the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, on the way to market the coming season. It will take from 2,000 to 3,000 cars to transport this enormous number.

The local and prohibitory laws of Kansas and Missouri have hitherto prevented the driving of such vast droves of cattle through those States. The extension of railroads beyond these boundaries, reaching out toward the furthest Far West, is rapidly obviating this difficulty, and now the Texan "Broad-horns" are coming! An experienced drover, residing in Texas, estimates that over 500,000 head will be shipped from that State to the North and East within one year if the promised railroad facilities are furnished; and of this there seems but little doubt, as several of our frontier railroad lines are stretching out that way with great rapidity. The trade is worth seeking.

This development will bring untold wealth to Texas, and will soon more than quadruple the value of her countless herds. Two dollars and a half per head—fine, large, matured cattle—has hitherto been about the average price in Texas.

---

Wants Faith.—Among the most progressive and intelligent of the agricultural classes we find the true and steadfast friends of our agricultural colleges. These men see the necessity of farmers being educated to their profession, and the importance of having these institutions substantial and placed on a permanent basis. But now and then we find a man who don't believe in scientific education, and among these is Ex-Governor Boutwell of Massachusetts. Instead of agricultural colleges he "would have scientifically educated men sent into different parts of the commonwealth in the Summer of each year, who should examine the soil of each section, see what crops farmers are there endeavoring to raise, and how their farms are carried on. In the Winter he would have these same men, fully informed as they thus would be, visit the same section and address assemblies of the farmers there, and point out to them the mistakes which they make in the manner of their work, and show them how their farms would yield them a larger income."

---

Monumental.—A statement has been travelling the rounds of the press that the grave of the lamented Doctor Holmes, (late Editor of the Maine Farmer), has no stone or monument. The article also states that the Doctor "died poor," although he had labored long and well in the cause of agriculture. This is to be regretted, but it is the lot and fate of all pioneers. If a writer for the agricultural press gets enough to supply the wants of life, he is fortunate—not to say anything about monuments to his memory. Doctor Holmes was an able, practical writer, and gratitude suggests that he should not be forgotten.

---

Amateur farming seldom, or never pays. A gentleman of Taunton, Mass., who raised his own potatoes this year, kept a correct account of all the expenses, and finds that they cost him $4 68 per bushel—four times the market price.

---

Lawns and grass plats should have a top-dressing of rich compost, or fine stable manure especially in such places as appear to require this application. The grass is generally poor in those places where the root trees abound and absorb the ingredients of the soil.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

The cattle reporter of the Prairie Farmer says, "it will cost farmers 10 cents per lb., at the present price of corn, to make pork, and as they cannot reasonably expect to realize over $6a6.75 for live weights, it is to their advantage to sell their grain and send in their hogs, although but partially fattened."

—

The New England Farmer says there is no crop which alternates as well with buckwheat as rye. If the land is thin, buckwheat turned under when green makes an excellent manure for rye, and if the ground is of ordinary richness, rye may follow a crop of this grain to great advantage.

—

A correspondent of the Ohio Farmer makes some sensible remarks on the management of meadow lands. "These need not be broken up and cultivated for re-seeding, but may be kept up by proper treatment for a long series of years. Sections of meadow which, on being mowed, show signs of exhaustion, should be thoroughly harrowed in the fall, re-seeded, and liberally supplied with well-rotted manure.—The other portions should receive a good top-dressing of the same material, which will keep them in good heart for an indefinite period."

—

The Wisconsin Farmer in saying that the "proper care of our horses would obviate many painful diseases," asserts a truth, the importance of which if recognized and acted upon by stock raisers, farmers and all others who handle horses would make their animals more serviceable, enabling them to perform harder labor for a longer time, and result largely to the pecuniary benefit of the owner in every way. And then the care and attention requisite for the health and comfort of our horses is a sacred duty we owe to that noble animal, an inadequate return for services which are indispensable to the proper enjoyment of life by our race.

—

The Mark Lane Express, of late date, gave the substance of a discussion before the Logie and Lecropt Farmers' Club, relative to the comparative merits of Ayrshire and Short-horn cows for dairy purposes. Mr. Home entered largely into the history of the cattle originally brought into England, and the different crossings which had taken place. He thought that the Short-horns gave richer milk than the Ayrshire,—though not so much of it,—and was therefore the best for butter making. On testing the milk, which he had done for many years, he found that that of the Short-horns contained from twelve to seventeen parts of cream, whilst the milk of the Ayrshire cows contained from nine to twelve parts—hence, though the Short-horns gave somewhat less milk, the percentage of butter more than made up for the deficiency. The conclusion of the Club was that crossings of the Short-horns and Ayrshires made the most profitable dairy stock.

—

A correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph makes some observations on subsoiling worthy of consideration. After quoting Johnson's analysis of the surface soil and its adjoining subsoil of land on the banks of the Ohio river, showing the difference in the constituents of the two, he adds:—"From the observations we can readily see that the effect of the subsoil plowing and trenching will vary with the character of the subsoil; if the latter is hard and compact it will probably arrest the downward passage of the water containing the valuable portions of the surface soil, which upon being again brought to the surface will of course enrich the surface soil; but if, on the other hand, the subsoil is light and loose and of a texture not calculated to retain the saline constituents brought from above, they will pass through it, and when it is turned up it may for a time decrease the crops,—for the only benefit gained seems to be that of deepening the surface soil, which even of itself is an important one. This may in a great measure account for the varied success which always attends subsoil plowing, and a more careful attention to the difference may be the means of preventing much disappointment, as has been the case with our new correspondent, but old reader."

—

We notice a great many articles on preserving eggs, and among others, which have a practical look, is the following from the Ohio Farmer. "The most effective, simple and economical plan for truly preserving eggs, and without imparting to them any foreign flavor, or rendering them unfit for hatching purposes, is to use the patent stoppered, glass jars with vulcanized india-rubber joints and proceed thus: Immediately after collecting the eggs, put the jar in hot water, and when thoroughly warm, so as to rarify the air, place the eggs in the jar, the pointed end uppermost, and pack and line with paper shavings or cocoa fibres to prevent them from breaking; then close the jar before taking it out of the water, and it will be found that eggs preserved by this method will be fit for hatching twelve months after, and that those intended for the breakfast table will be as fresh as on the day when laid."

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

The sales of live stock at the Union Stock Yards in Chicago, during September, aggregated $2,780,504.

It is reported that an agricultural society, somewhere in the State of New York, offers larger premiums for butter and cheese than it does for horse racing.

In Canada most of their pork is fatted on peas, six bushels of which are equal to ten bushels of corn, and more can be grown from an acre than of corn.

Virginia has nine and a half million acres of improved, and eleven million and a quarter acres of unimproved lands. Plenty of room for improvement still.

The Agricultural Fairs in Maine have shown that there has been a gradual gain in the size of neat cattle by the keeping of improved breeds, and the gain is over a foot in the girth of fine oxen. The improvement in the quality of horses has been very rapid and very marked.

The exports of breadstuffs from New York last week, to British ports principally, were 12,517 barrels of flour, 174,971 bushels of wheat, 78,362 bushels of corn and 35,031 bushels of rye. Five-sixths of this was shipped in English bottoms.

From 12,000 to 14,000 acres of land are included in the rose fields of Adrianople. The value of the attar of roses made in 1866 was not far from £100,000. The oil is much adulterated before it reaches London, where it sells more readily than if pure.

The wheat crop of California the present year is estimated at 15,000,000 bushels.

Owing to the early ripening of corn at the west this year, the slaughtering of hogs will commence this season some weeks in advance of the customary time.

It is estimated that the peanut crop in North Carolina will equal this year the crop of last. New Hanover and Onslow, the principal peanut region, then realized 600,000 bushels.

It is the opinion of some dairymen that cows fed upon pastures top-dressed with bone manure, will produce more and a better article of milk than from grounds otherwise manured, no matter how luxuriant the yield of grass may be. It is probable that the character of vegetation may be considerably modified by the quality of the fertilizer used.

Wheat in the Northwest pays the producer at $1 per bushel. One farmer in Wisconsin has employed fifty-two men the present season, with fifteen reapers. He sold his wheat at one dollar and ninety cents a bushel, and has actually cleared nearly forty thousand dollars on this year's crop.

There has been a large cranberry crop in Wisconsin and Michigan. Prices are low in consequence.

A farmer in Wisconsin raised seven acres of hops this season, and made a clear profit of seven thousand dollars.

A blacksmith had in his possession, but under mortgage, a house and piece of land. Like many others, he was at one time fond of the social glass, but was induced by a friend to join the temperance society. About three months after he observed his wife one morning busily employed planting rose bushes, and fruit trees. "Mary," said he, "I have owned this cot for five years, and yet I have never known you before to care to improve and ornament in this manner." "Indeed," replied the smiling wife, "I had no heart to do it until you gave up the drink, I have often thought of it before, but I was afraid strangers would pluck the roses and eat the fruit. Now, with God's blessing, this cot will be ours, and we and our children may expect to enjoy the produce. We shall pluck the roses and eat the fruit."

## The Fireside Muse.

### TWENTY YEARS.

She nears the land—the boat that brings
  My wand'ring boy again to me;
The sturdy rowers lend her wings,
  And now each sunburnt face I see.
Among them all I marked not him—
  It is not that with rising tears
My watchful eyes are weak and dim;
  It is the lapse of twenty years.

He left me when a little lad,
  A lad! a babe; I see him now,
I hear his voice so frank and glad,
  I stroke the curls upon his brow.
My son returns across the main,
  But brings not back the time that's fled;
I shall not hear the voice again,
  I shall not pat the childish head.

Perhaps a trace I yet may find
  Of boyhood in his look or tone;
A glance—an accent to remind
  Me still of hopeful visions gone.
His mother's smile may greet me, when
  We hold each other hand in hand,
His mother's voice may echo then
  A blessing from the spirit land.

The boat comes on; a minute more
  She'll grate upon the beach. And see,
Who rises now to spring on shore?
  Who waves his cap aloft? 'Tis he.
No more I look in wistful doubt,
  As in the man the child appears;
His earnest gaze, his joyful shout,
  Have bridged that lapse of twenty years.

## Fireside Tale.

### THE MYSTERIOUS ROBBERY.

BY EMERSON BENNETT.

One day, as I was sitting in my office in—— street, London, a lady was announced and shown in. I perceived she was nervous and excited, and I kindly requested her to be seated. As soon as my attendent had gone out, she threw aside one corner of her veil and glanced around the room. I understood her, and said:

"We are alone, madam, and there is no one within hearing."

"That is what I desire, sir—for what I have to say to you I wish to be held in the strictest confidence."

"Proceed, madam."

"Your name is——"

"Andrew Sargent, at your service."

"You have been named to me as the best detective officer in London."

"I have been too highly complimented then, madam!"

"Perhaps not; but I like modesty," she said, and then seemed to hesitate.

"Please state your case, madam," said I, "and be assured that no improper use shall be made of any fact you may disclose."

"It is in many respects a rather singular case," she proceeded, with some show of embarrassment, "and I am afraid you will laugh at my superstitious conclusions; but if you can find any earthly way to account for what has happened and is still happening, you will greatly relieve my mind and serve the ends of justice."

"Of course I can promise nothing till I know the facts, except that I will do my best to serve you," returned I.

"Well," she rejoined, throwing aside her veil, and revealing the rather handsome face of a lady who had seen some forty years, "the facts you shall have, whether you laugh at my superstitions or not; though, if you laugh, remember it must not be till you have accounted for everything in a natural manner."

This mysterious preliminary, I confess, excited my curiosity in no small degree, and I was all attention to the lady as she proceeded as follows:

"I must say a word or two of the past, Mr. Sargent, and I will be as brief as possible. Fifteen years ago, I married a gentleman by the name of Conway, who proved to be a kind, indulgent husband, and we lived happily together till he died some two years since—or rather, I should say, there was but one impediment to our happiness, the utter dislike, hatred perhaps would be the better term, of myself by his mother. She was a proud, haughty, imperious woman, who claimed descent from some ancient nobleman, and never could bear me, simply because, as she said, I had no blood and no ancestry. My husband was a gentleman, having no profession and following no business. He owned a comfortable house in the city which he made over to me while living, and in which I still reside. He had beside a handsome life annuity, only a part of which he spent, turning the balance into golden guineas, which he every year deposited in an iron safe, in a secret vault in the cellar, first putting them into leather bags, a hundred in each, and numbering them. Just before he died he called me to him and said:

"Henrietta, my dear wife, I fear I am about to leave you, but, thank God, I shall not leave you penniless! You know the safe in the vault of which you have only one key and I the other—the only two keys in the world which will open it. Remember this and guard them with care; for if you were to lose them, even the maker of the lock could not supply you with another, and the safe would have to be broken. In that safe are now ninety-nine bags of guineas, each bag containing one hundred, making the sum total of nine thousand and nine hundred guineas, which, with prudence, will be sufficient for all contingencies during your natural life; and as we have no children, I need not look beyond that. My mother has enough for herself, so that you can keep the whole for your own use, and it is my wish that you do not invest it, for fear it may be lost. It is safe where it is, and you will not need any accumulating interest."

"When my husband died," proceeded Mrs. Conway, "his mother came to me, and said she was well aware her late son had not spent more than half his annuity for a number of years; that he had put the remainder aside in gold, and that it properly belonged to her and she must have it. I told her that it was not hers, and perhaps never would be—that so long as I lived she should never touch a penny of it. She flew into a violent rage, prayed heaven to curse me, and took a solemn oath that, in case she should die first, she would either haunt me personally, or destroy my treasure.

"That secret gold, which rightly belongs to me shall be a devil's curse to you yet!" were her fearful, parting words.

"We never met again; she died about a year ago; and now comes the strangest part of my story.

"About six months after my husband's death I visited the vault for the first time, to see that all was safe. I went down to it alone, and counted the bags, performing my task with fear and trembling. There were, as he said, just ninety-nine, all numbered and packed together in regular order. I put them back exactly as I found them, and carefully locked the safe and vault. After that, disagreeable as was the task, I visited my treasure once a week, till the death of my mother-in-law, always finding everything just as I had left it. After her death, somehow I had such a superstitious dread of the place, remembering her words, that for nearly six months, I could not summon sufficient courage to go to that vault alone, and I would not take a companion with me.

"At last, one day, when no one was in the house but myself, I ventured down again, with a good deal of nervous anxiety, fancying all sorts of strange things—among the rest that there was an invisible spirit accompanying me. I opened the vault and safe with a trembling hand, and found to my horror that twenty-three bags were missing, in the regular order of numbers, from one to twenty-three, and what seemed a more strange and startling coincidence, it was just twenty-three weeks after the death of my husband's mother. Could it be that she in spirit was carrying out the threat she had made while living? It would seem so, and does seem so to me still; for, Mr. Sargent, I have lost just one bag of guineas each week ever since, and only fifty-one are now remaining out of ninety-nine. Now, sir, what do you think of this singular case? What can you make of it?"

It was a singular case, indeed, and I began my questioning.

"Of how many does your family consist, Mrs. Conway?"

"Four, sir, including myself, a nephew, twenty-one years of age, a fine, noble, young man; a niece, his sister, aged ten; and a domestic, a woman ten years older than myself, who has been in my family seven years, and was never married."

"You think these persons are all honest?"

"I would be willing to stake my life on it, Mr. Sargent. Besides, the only two keys which can open the safe have never been out of my possession."

"How do you know that?"

"Because I keep them in a secret drawer which is only known to myself."

After some further questions and answers on various minor points, I told the lady I should like to drop in upon her when all her household were at home, and perhaps dine with her; that she must recognize me as an old acquaintance, a country tradesman by the name of Jones, and that no mention must be made of her loss, or of her having consulted any member of the police, to all of which she readily agreed, promising also to keep a secret watch upon everybody that should come into it while the mystery should remain unsolved. This ended our first interview. In a few days I called upon her in the manner indicated, and saw all the inmates. My daily avocation and long experience enabled me to note many things that would not have been seen by the ordinary observer, but I failed to detect anything to confirm my former suspicion. If the inmates of that dwelling were not all strictly and religiously honest, then their faces and manners greatly belied them. I was perplexed, more especially as Mrs. Conway informed me that since our last interview another bag of gold had been taken from the safe.

"And what makes the affair more strange," she said, "it occurs just once every week. At this rate another year will see my hidden treasure gone. Surely, Mr. Sargent, it is the act of some supernatural power."

"I do not think so, Mrs. Conway," I replied. "I am no believer in the power of ghosts to run off with gold. Pray let me have charge of your keys for ten days, and say nothing to any one, but do not relax your vigilance."

She complied with my request, and at the end of ten days I called again. She happened to be alone that day, and I requested her to go down at once, look at her gold, and report to me. She invited me to accompany her, which I did. To her surprise no bag had been removed since her last visit.

"You see the ghost cannot get in without the keys!" laughed I. "Truly a very material ghost."

I then told her to keep charge of her keys, but hide them in some place, when alone by herself, where no other human being could find them, and in ten days we would together visit the safe again.

I went at the appointed time. That day she had arranged to be alone. She had hid the keys under a small pile of dirt and rubbish in the cellar, and solemnly declared that she had not touched them since.

"And you will find that no one has touched your gold either, Mrs. Conway!" said I, confidently, as I myself proceeded to unlock the vault and safe.

I was mistaken. Another bag, No. 49, had been removed. I was staggered, and knew not what to say. I could not suspect Mrs. Conway herself, for she was pale, agitated, and frightened.

"Oh, it is the curse of that dreadful woman," she groaned; "who made me unhappy while living, and now torments me though dead!"

"There is but one thing to be done now, Mrs. Conway," I said. "I must be concealed in this cellar, unknown to any other person, and watch this vault till I get at the truth! Depend upon it, it is no ghost that robs you."

This we finally arranged, and next day, all prepared for my unpleasant task, I was secreted in that cellar.

For the first two days and nights I discovered nothing. On the third night, about twelve o'clock I heard light feet on the stairs, and a slight rustle as of a woman's garments.

"Now for it!" thought I, holding my breath.

The adventurer moved up to the vault, and I heard the key applied to that and then to the safe. I was ready with my weapon and dark lantern, and suddenly I threw a bright light upon a white ghostly figure.

To my utter astonishment I perceived it was Mrs. Conway herself in her night gown, cap and bare feet. I understood it all in a moment. She was a somnambulist or night-walker, and was robbing herself in her sleep. I did not speak or touch her, but watched her motions. She selected bag 50, carefully relocked the doors of the safe and vault, and then went and buried the money, after which she returned up stairs, put her keys back in their secret place, and retired to bed, unconscious of having left it.

The next morning, to her astonishment, I told her all, and proved my words by revealing to her the treasure she had so mysteriously lost.

"And thus, you see, I have spoiled a very pretty ghost story!" laughed I.

Doubtless her mother-in-law's words had much disturbed her mind, leading to the result I have stated. The exposure, perhaps, cured her—at least I never heard of her robbing herself again.

## Miscellany.

A Secret Worth Knowing.—An able writer gives utterance to this valuable secret. This looking forward to enjoyment don't pay. From what I know of it, I would as soon chase butterflies for a living, or bottle up moonshine for a cloudy night. The only way to be happy is to take the drops of happiness as God gives them to us every day of our lives. The boy must learn to be happy while he is learning his trade; the merchant while he is making his fortune. If he fails to learn this art, he will be sure to miss his enjoyment when he gains what he has sighed for.

The Open Fire.—"I am a firm believer," says Dr. Cuyler, "in the moral and spiritual influence of an *open fire*. To make home attractive, there must be somewhere in the house a common family rendezvous; and that ought to present a more radiant attraction than a black hole in the floor, through which hot air pours forth from a subterranean furnace. Men will fight for their altars and their firesides; but what orator ever invoked a burst of patriotism in behalf of steam-pipes and registers? I never cease to be thankful that I was brought up beside the hickory fire of a rural farm-house."

Lord Charles Somerset was telling a story about his walking in the woods at the Cape one day when he came suddenly upon a huge shaggy lion. "Thinking to frighten him," said the noble lord, "I ran after him with all my *might*." "Whereupon," said another, interrupting, "he ran away with all his *mane*." "Just so," said his lordship.

An Irishman, speaking of his children, said: "They are all well, but the one born in this country. I must take him to the Green Isle, for I believe he is languishing for his native air, that he never smelt at all."

A curate having been overhauled by his bishop for attending a ball, the former replied, "My lord, I wore a mask." "Oh, well," returned the bishop, "that puts a new face on the affair."

Two Irishmen were travelling, when they stopped to examine a guideboard. "Twelve miles to Portland," said one. "Just six miles apiece," said the other. And they trudged on apparently well satisfied at the small distance.

Trained dogs are now used to carry advertising cards through the streets of Paris.

Pride.—Well-tempered pride is the best feeling of our nature. It is as far from vanity as the antipodes. The one concentrates our powers and collects us in our own strength like a colossus. The other dissipates itself in catching the gaze of others, and throws out its seducing tricks like the flimsy threads of the venomous spiders. A truly proud man never will be mean. A vain man is essentially mean. A proud man moves through life erect in his own worth. He is like a stately ship, lifting its broad sails before a fair wind, and steadily ploughing its way to its destined haven, or stemming unwrecked and unbroken the adverse tempest. The vain man creeps and flutters,—now a caterpillar in the dirt, and then a painted moth humming around the light to show off his own prettiness, burning himself in a flame too intense for his puny being.—*J. G. Percival.*

# Various Matters.

### A CATTLE SHOW OF THE OLDEN TIMES.

Is has been generally supposed that the first Agricultural Fair in this country was held at Pittsfield, Mass. But the editor of the Baltimore Sun has discovered in the old Maryland Gazette, one of the few papers published at that time in the colonies, a record of a Fair held in Baltimore, on the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday, in October, 1747. The commissioners of Baltimore made the following announcement of the programme :

Whereas there is a Fair appointed by act of Assembly to be held in Baltimore town on the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday in October, yearly, the commissioners of the said town hereby give notice that whoever brings to the said Fair, on the first day thereof, the best steer, shall receive eight pounds current money for the same ; also a bounty of forty shillings over and above eight pounds. The said steer afterwards, on the same day, to be run for by any horse, mare or gelding not exceeding five years old, three heats, a quarter of a mile each heat, not confined to carry any certain weight. The winning horse to be entitled to the said steer, or to eight pounds in money, at the option of the owner.

On Friday, the second day of said Fair, will be run for the sum of five pounds current money, by any horse, mare or gelding, the same distance, not confined to carry any certain weight. Also a bounty of forty shillings will be given to any person who produces the best piece of yard-wide country-made linen, the piece to contain twenty yards.

On Saturday, the third day, a hat and ribbon will be cudgelled for ; a pair of pumps wrestled for, and a *white shift* to be run for by negro girls.

All persons are exempted from any arrests during the said Fair, and the day before and the day after, except in cases of felony and breaches of the peace, according to the tenure of the above mentioned act.

---

To Purify Muddy Water.—In a quart of warm water dissolve an ounce of alum, and stir it about in the proportion of a teacupful to each gallon. The impurities present will settle at the bottom, and the water will in the course of a day be quite clear.

---

Medical Authorities have announced that not less than ONE-FIFTH of the entire population of the United States are afflicted with Neuralgia in some form. Surely the man who can safely remove such a vast aggregate of pain is a great public benefactor. Such is Doctor Turner, of Boston. In Massachusetts His "Universal Neuralgia Pill" is pronounced, on all hands, to be an entirely harmless and perfectly certain remedy for this most torturing of all known diseases. See advertisement in another column.

# The Markets.

### WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Oct. 31, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 20c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 1 10 |
| Oats ₩ busb | $1 00 | Onions | 1.50 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a17.50 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 50 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a95c |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 48c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 9c | Eggs ₩ doz | 45c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 20c |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

### WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

INCREASED ACTIVITY IN BREADSTUFFS.

There was increased activity in all branches of trade during the past week. The markets have been influenced by the changes in gold, and the news from Europe, which in the early part of the week was unfavorable, but since Thursday having assumed a more favorable aspect, gave an encouraging tone to the flour and grain markets.

FLOUR.—During the early part of the week flour ruled dull and some concession was submitted to. On Thursday the demand improved, and a firm feeling prevailed. Since then, under a brisk inquiry, prices rapidly improved. At the close the market is quiet and all grades are from 10 to 20 cents better.

GRAIN.—There has been a fair degree of activity in the market during the week. Since Thursday, under a decline in freights and better export demand, the market ruled firm, and most of the decline recovered.

OATS have been quite active, but at very changeable prices. The demand has been mainly speculative.

INDIAN CORN has fluctuated with great violence. The demand has been quite active. To-day the market opens stronger and closes tame.

PORK.—The pork market during the week was quite heavy and we note considerable variableness in prices. The tightness in the money market has increased the desire to sell, and a decline of 75 cents a barrel has been submitted to.

# Special Notices.

MOTHER BAILEY'S QUIETING SYRUP, FOR CHILDREN. Large Bottles only 25 cents. Sold by Druggists.
4w-44] GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., BOSTON, Mass.

ITCH! ITCH!! ITCH!!!
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!! SCRATCH!!!
In from 10 to 48 hours,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | THE ITCH. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | SALT RHEUM. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | TETTER. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | BARBERS' ITCH. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | OLD SORES. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | EVERY KIND |

OF HUMOR LIKE MAGIC.

Price, 50 cents a box; by mail, 60 cents. Address WEEKS & POTTER, No. 170 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

For sale by all Druggists.

Boston, Aug. 26, 1867. 1y-35

# Marriages.

In Blackstone, Oct. 22, by Rev. E. W. Porter, Mr. Wm. Henry Withey, of Killingly, Conn., to Miss Adelaide F. Spaulding, of Blackstone.

In Lonsdale, 27th ult., by Rev. E. Hayden Watrous, Mr. Frank I. Bates, of Valley Falls, to Miss E. Jannette Whipple, of Diamond Hill.

In Hopedale, 20th ult., by Rev. Adin Ballou, Mr. Louis K. Hutchinson, of Milford, N. H., to Miss Sarah A. Jenninga, of Hopkinton.

In Brooklyn, N. Y., 24th ult., Mr. A. Boyd Sheddan, of New York, to Miss Maria L. Manchester, of Pawtucket.

In Grafton, Oct. 19, by Rev. W. G. Scandlin, Charles Johnson to Annett J. Marcy, both of Sutton.

In Webster, Oct. 23, George L. Simpson to Abby A. Converse.

In Worcester, 24th ult., William H. Field, of Philadelphia, to Miss Anna E., daughter of Hon. Isaac Davis, of Worcester.

In Sudbury, Mass., Oct., 27, by Rev. Geo. B. Chapman, Mr. Hamlet C. Hayden to Miss A. Francena Parmenter, all of Sudbury.

In Rome, N. Y., Sept. 15, by Rev. F. H. Beck, Mr. Charles B. Sargeant (formerly of Woonsocket,) to Mary E. Bellvue, all of R.

# Deaths.

In Central Falls, 26th ult., Erie D. Butman, in the 26th year of his age.

In Valley Falls, 25th ult., Mrs. Mary Bogman, widow of Jacob Bogman, in the 84th year of her age.

In Greenville, Oct. 16, Freddy W., youngest son of Andrew and Cerich M. Doherty, aged 1 year, 5 months and 4 days.

In Milford. Oct. 22, Juliann Lilley, aged 80 years.

In Webster, Oct. 21, Mrs. B. Cudworth, aged 90 years.

In West Wrentham, Oct. 7, Isaac D. Shaw, aged 61 years.

In Southwick, Mass., October 22, Mrs. Mary Bennett, aged 81 years; formerly of Mansfield, Ct.

# Advertising Department.

PAIN KILLER CURES SORE THROAT.

A FAVORITE MEDICINE with all classes, Is DAVIS' PAIN KILLER.

IF you have Painters' Colic, USE THE PAIN KILLER.

NO Medicine is so popular, AS THE PAIN KILLER.

KEEP the PAIN KILLER always at hand.

IF you have a COUGH or COLD, USE THE PAIN KILLER.

LOOK out and not be caught without a bottle of PAIN KILLER in the house.

LET everybody use the PAIN KILLER For SPRAINS and BRUISES.

EVERY sailor should carry a bottle of PAIN KILLER with him.

REMEMBER, the PAIN KILLER is for both Internal and External Use.

The PAIN KILLER is sold by all Druggists and Dealers in Family Medicines.

VOSE'S

## PIANOS.

THE PIANO OF AMERICA !

THE increasing demand for these Pianos is a SURE TEST of their superiority; and they are acknowledged by competent judges to be

*EQUAL TO THE BEST PIANO MADE.*

Reference can be given to THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS throughout the country. Also to MANY SCHOOLS AND SEMINARIES, where they have stood the hard use and practice of years, and

**Have given Entire Satisfaction**

to those using them. They are the

**Cheapest First-Class Pianos in the Market.**

WARRANTED FIVE YEARS.

*JAMES W. VOSE.*

Warerooms, - - - - No. 6 Temple Place, BOSTON.

FOWLE'S

## Pile and Humor Cure.

☞ One bottle warranted a perfect cure in all kinds of PILES. Two to three bottles in the worst cases of LEPROSY, SCROFULA, SALT RHEUM, and ALL DISEASES OF THE SKIN. FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL USE. In case of failure, all Dealers will return the money, and charge it to the proprietor. No case of failure in PILES or HUMORS for ten years. Prepared by HENRY D. FOWLE, Chemist, 71 PRINCE ST., BOSTON. Sold everywhere.

45 45 45 45

## CARPETS! CARPETS!

BARGAINS ! BARGAINS !

Six Hundred Pieces

## CARPETING,

IN TAPESTRY AND BRUSSELS PATTERNS,

*At the unheard of Price of 45 cents a yard.*

THIS is a grand opportunity to buy for Parlors, Sitting Rooms, Chambers and Stairs, as the price is so low that all can afford to cover their floors.

COME ONE, COME ALL.

**F. B. WENTWORTH & CO.,**

Under the American House. 66 HANOVER ST., BOSTON.

BALLOU'S

## MONTHLY MAGAZINE,

**FOR 1868.**

ENLARGED TO ONE HUNDRED PAGES !

THE circulation of BALLOU'S MAGAZINE having increased during 1867 nearly FIFTEEN THOUSAND COPIES, and never being so prosperous as at present, the publishers are thereby induced to still further add to its value by ENLARGING EACH NUMBER TO ONE HUNDRED PAGES. Although this enlargement involves an additional expense of some $5000 a year, yet there will be

*No Increase in the Price.*

***Now is the Time to get up Clubs !***

TERMS:—$1.50 a year; seven copies, $9,00; twelve copies, $15.00; and a copy gratis one year to the person sending a Club of twelve. Single number, 15 cents.

☞ Send stamp for specimen copy.

**The Cheapest Magazine in the World !**

Address

**ELLIOTT, THOMES & TALBOT,**

BOSTON, MASS.

EVERYBODY

**PRAISES IT !**

ALL OUR BOYS AND GIRLS, AND PARENTS, TEACHERS AND THE PRESS praise it, because

## THE SCHOOLMATE

is the best and the cheapest Illustrated Juvenile Magazine, and the numbers for November and December are

## GIVEN AWAY

to all new subscribers who send before Nov. 30th. $1.50, subscription price for 1868.

SPLENDID OFFERS TO CLUBS.

Specimen copies and terms by writing.

JOSEPH H. ALLEN, Publisher, BOSTON.

NEW PIANO BOOK.

**$75 WORTH OF MUSIC FOR $3.**

The best compositions of "Strauss," "Godfrey," "C. Faust," "Gungl," &c. All the latest first-class Music.

***The Circle of Brilliants.***

A new Collection of Piano Music. 224 pages, large music size, extra fine paper, containing 32 full sets of Waltzes, such as "Mahel," "Guards," "Village Swallows," "Scheiden," "On Wings of Night," "Leap Year," "Peri," "Corn Flower," "Dream on the Ocean," &c.; 25 Galops,—"Bride of the Wind," "Ida," "Helter Skelter," "Cataract," "Through the Air," "Up and Down," "Hurley Burley," "Columbanus," &c.; 20 Marches and Quicksteps,—"Millanollo," "Freiderichs," "Wedding," &c.; 20 Piano Pieces (Variations, Transcriptions, &c.),—"Shower of Pearls," "Carnival of Venice," "The Kiss," "Soldier's Chorus," "Dew Drop," &c.; 40 Redowas, Mazurkas, Polkas, Schottisches, &c.,—"Dexter," "Plume," "Blue Bird Redowa." Price, in boards, morocco back, $3; cloth sides, Turkey Morocco backs and corners, $4; same, full gilt, $5. A first-class Musical Present.

Sent post-paid on receipt of price.

**ELIAS HOWE, 103 Court St., Boston.**

BISHOP SOULE'S

## LINIMENT.

FOR THE CURE OF

*Sciatica, Inflammatory and Chronic Rheumatism, Neuralgia and Sprains, a Weak Back, or by Strain or Overwork,*

*use*

***BISHOP SOULE'S LINIMENT.***

For the cure of the above-named painful diseases, this Liniment has no equal. It is the

MOST POWERFUL AND EFFECTUAL REMEDY

ever known. It will do just what it is recommended to do, and has attained by its own merits a popularity unequalled by any Medicine ever before introduced to the public. There is not one person in fifty who has ever used it but will testify that

**IT CANNOT BE TOO HIGHLY PRAISED**

SUFFERERS

*From Sciatica, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sprains, or any Weakness caused by Strain or Exposure,*

**USE BISHOP SOULE'S LINIMENT,**

***And be Cured.***

MY EXPERIENCE WITH BISHOP SOULE'S LINIMENT.—After having suffered five years from Rheumatism, and nineteen months from Sciatica, and after having spent hundreds of dollars to get relief, I was told by the best physicians I could get that my case was incurable. I then invested three dollars in Bishop Soule's Liniment, and was thoroughly cured by it.

F. W. RYDER.

For sale by Druggists, and at wholesale and retail at the Clothing Store of RYDER, CROCKER & CO., 536 Washington Street, Boston.

***WEEKS & POTTER,***

BOSTON,

**SOLE AGENTS.**

**Price, - - - - $1.50 Per Bottle.**

## BAKER'S CHOCOLATE AND COCOA.

PARIS EXPOSITION, 1867.

*Leaf, Flower and Fruit of the Cocoa, with a pod opened.*

W. BAKER & CO.'S

American, French, Homœopathic and

VANILLA CHOCOLATE,
PREPARED COCOA,
**BROMA,**

*Cocoa Paste, Homœopathic Cocoa, Cocoa Shells, Cracked Cocoa, &c.*

THESE Manufactures, to which FIRST PREMIUMS have been awarded by the *chief Institutes and Fairs* of the Union, and at the PARIS EXPOSITION OF 1867, are an excellent diet for children, invalids and persons in health, allay rather than induce the nervous excitement attendant upon the use of tea or coffee, and are recommended by the most eminent physicians.

*For sale by the principal Grocers in the United States.*

**WALTER BAKER & CO.,**

**Dorchester, . . . . Mass.**

ALLEN'S

**LUNG BALSAM.**

THE REMEDY FOR CURING Consumption, Asthma, Croup, Diseases of the Throat, Bronchitis, Pains and Oppression of the Chest or Lungs, Difficult Breathing, and all Diseases of the Pulmonary Organs.

ITS action is expectorant, alterative, sudorific, sedative, diaphoretic, and diuretic, which renders it one of the most valuable medicines known for curing diseases of the lungs. It excites expectoration, and causes the lungs to throw off the phlegm; CHANGES THE SECRETIONS and PURIFIES THE BLOOD ; heals the irritated parts; gives strength to the digestive organs; brings the liver to its proper action and imparts strength to the whole system. It is warranted to give entire satisfaction, even in the most confirmed cases of consumption, and not to produce costiveness (as do most remedies) or affect the head, as it contains no opium in any form. IT IS PERFECTLY HARMLESS to the most delicate child, although an active and powerful remedy for restoring the system. There is no necessity for so many deaths by Consumption, when ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM will prevent it, if only taken in time.

Sold by all Druggists.

PRICE, ONE DOLLAR PER BOTTLE.

LOOK AT THIS !

**$1.50** WILL PAY FOR THE MONTHLY

***New England Farmer.***

from this date to **January 1, 1869:**

14 Months for only One Dollar and Fifty Cents—in advance.

48 Pages of Reading in each number, handsomely illustrated, and largely composed of original contributions.

588 Pages of valuable and interesting Agricultural and Horticultural reading in the volume for 1867.

40 and upwards extremely LIBERAL PREMIUMS offered for new subscribers.

1 new name for our list will entitle you to a premium.

3 cent stamp pays for specimen and circular.

34 Merchants' Row, Boston, the place of publication, and all letters should be addressed to

**R. P. EATON & CO.,**

Publishers N. E. Farmer.

☞ Any paper copying the above and calling attention to it shall receive the numbers for 1868 without charge.

Nov. 1, 1867. 4t-eow-10

TURNER'S TIC DOULOUREUX, OR Universal Neuralgia PILLS

**A SAFE, CERTAIN, AND Speedy Cure FOR NEURALGIA, AND ALL NERVOUS DISEASES.**

***Its Effects are Magical.***

It is an UNFAILING REMEDY in all cases of Neuralgia Facialis, often effecting a perfect cure in less than twenty-four hours, from the use of no more than TWO OR THREE PILLS.

No other form of Neuralgia or Nervous Disease has failed to yield to this

WONDERFUL REMEDIAL AGENT.

Even in the severest cases of Chronic Neuralgia and general nervous derangements,—of many years standing,—affecting the entire system, its use for a few days, or a few weeks at the utmost, always affords the most astonishing relief, and very rarely fails to produce a complete and permanent cure.

It contains no drugs or other materials in the slightest degree injurious, even to the most delicate system, and can ALWAYS be used with

PERFECT SAFETY.

It has long been in constant use by many of our

MOST EMINENT PHYSICIANS,

who give it their unanimous and unqualified approval. Sent by mail on receipt of price, and postage.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| One package, | $1 00, | Postage 6 cents. | |
| Six packages, | 5 00, | " 27 | " |
| Twelve packages, | 9.00, | " 45 | " |

It is sold by all wholesale and retail dealers in drugs and medicines throughout the United States, and by

**TURNER & CO., Sole Proprietors,**

120 TREMONT ST., BOSTON, MASS.

Nov. 1, 1867. 6m-10

FATTENING POULTRY.—The London Field states that poultry, properly fed, will acquire all the fatness needful for marketing purposes, in a fortnight or three weeks at most. Their diet should be Indian, oat or barley meal, scalded in milk or water—the former is the best, as it will expedite the fattening process. They should be fed early in the morning, at noon, and also in the evening just before going to roost. A plentiful supply of pure fresh water—plenty of gravel, sliced cabbage or turnip tops. If the fowls are required to be very fat, some trimmings of fresh mutton suet may be chopped up and scalded with their other feed, or they may be boiled in milk alone and poured over the meal. This renders the flesh firmer than it otherwise would be. When fit to kill, feeding should be stopped for twelve hours or more, that the intestines may become comparatively empty.

## Miscellany.

### PRESERVATION OF DAHLIA ROOTS.

Being fond of good dahlias, and grieved at the frequent losses that come under our notice, we beg to commend to the attention of those who too often have to lament the loss of their favorites, the following effective method of preserving their roots: The tops being killed by the Autumn frosts, and thus become unsightly, must be cut away, leaving the roots undisturbed for several weeks, in order to feed the nascent buds destined to break the following Spring. For, if on the time of removing the plants from the ground these buds are immature, there is a great probability that the tubers will perish before Spring; or should their vitality remain, there will be found a difficulty, if not an impossibility, of getting them to "break."

The next business is to lift the plant from the ground; and in doing this, the greatest care should be taken to preserve their fibrous roots, for the plant requires constant nourishment. A number of these rootlets will, however under the most careful handling, be broken off and the supply of sap interrupted until new roots are made; but with these plants that have well-swollen buds their reproduction is soon effected. When the tubers are raised from the ground, they should immediately be transferred to their Winter quarters, where their fibrous roots must be carefully spread upon a thin layer of sand or earth, and at once covered with about an inch of the same, leaving the greater portion of the tuber bare. During Winter they should be kept slightly moistened. For wintering these tubers there is, perhaps, (unless a special place is provided for them,) no better place than under the stage of a cool green-house; but, what ever place may be assigned them, it is indispensable that it admits a moderate amount of light; is kept cool, but above the freezing point, and that the atmosphere is such as suits growing plants generally; alike free from both saturation and dryness, which will with equal certainty engender putrefaction.—*Ex.*

### CORN AND PORK.

From carefully conducted experiments by different parties, it is ascertained that one bushel of corn will make a little over ten and a half pounds of pork—gross. Taking this result as a basis, the following deductions are made which all farmers would do well to lay by for convenient reference—that:

When corn sells for twelve and a half cents per bushel, pork costs one and a half cents per pound.

When corn costs twenty-five cents per bushel pork costs three cents per pound.

When corn sells for thirty-three cents per bushel, pork costs four cents per pound.

The following statement shows what the farmer realizes on corn when sold in the form of pork:

When pork sells for three cents per pound, it brings twenty-five cents per bushel in corn.

When pork sells for four cents per pound, it brings thirty-three cents per bushel in corn.

When pork sells for five cents per pound, it brings forty-five cents per bushel in corn.

Agriculture in Africa.—The work of recovering the Great Desert of Sahara, in Africa, is steadily going on in Algeria under the patronage of Napoleon III, and is accomplished by boring artesian wells. About one hundred wells are now flowing, reclaiming the desert wherever they are, and making the barren waste blossom into fertile gardens. In the district of Ouled Rir, stretching far southward into the desert, there are now thirty-five wells, around which two thousand gardens have been formed, and one hundred and fifty thousand date trees planted. The conquest of the desert is steadily pushed with almost universal success by four military boring brigades, thoroughly equipped and provided with the necessary implements.—*Exchange.*

Smoking and Keeping Bacon.—Several correspondents write us to inquire for the best way to smoke meat, and to keep it after it is cured.

The very best material for a fire with which to smoke bacon, is green hickory wood, next to that is corn cobs. Whatever is used for fire, the utmost care should he taken to have the smoke pure from all smudgy odors which taint the meat.

To keep the meat after it is smoked, some people succeed best to let it hang in the smoke house; where this is not practicable, it can be covered with cotton sacks, and the outside of the sacks coated with a thick lime wash. A perfectly safe way to keep bacon hams, is to cut them in slices of the usual thickness for cooking, scald them in boiling water, and then pack in stone jars, press them down and pour melted lard to fill all the interstices of the meat and to cover the top. In this way, the meat can be used as wanted, and will be nice.

The kitchen is more important than the parlor. It should be kept perfectly clean, well lighted, properly ventilated, and supplied with necessary conveniences. Dry wood and a brisk fire, and an abundant supply of soft water, will greatly facilitate the labor of housewife or the servants.

Pickle for Vegetables.—Six quarts of the very best vinegar, one pound of salt, a quarter of a pound of ginger, one ounce of mace, half a pound of shalots, one tablespoonful of cayenne pepper, two ounces of white peppercorns, and two ounces mustard seed. Boil all these ingredients well together, and when cold put into a jar. You may add what green vegetables or fruit you like, provided they are fresh. They may be merely wiped to free them from dirt.

Best Time to Paint Houses.—Experiments show that paint on surfaces exposed to the sun, will be much more durable if applied in Autumn or Spring, than if put on during hot weather. In cool weather it dries slowly, forms a hard, glossy coat, tough like glass, while if applied in warm weather, the oil strikes into the wood, leaving the paint so dry that it is rapidly beaten off by rains.

The crop returns from the South show that a large amount of surplus food has been raised in that region this season.

## Advertising Department.

### Massachusetts.



### Pennsylvania.



### Rhode Island.



### New York.



### New Jersey.




### TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the Farm and Fireside. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a good style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

### COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the Farm and Fireside may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

### THE FARM AND FIRESIDE

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1867. NO. 45.

## Farm and Garden.

### CHEMISTRY OF THE FARM.

In considering the Chemistry of the Farm, we must, first of all, bring to notice that accumulation of wonderful and important facts, which unfolds the philosophy of the origin, the structure, and the growth of plants. In darkness intense as midnight was this knowledge involved for centuries, and it was only by the light of those fires in which were buried the crucibles of the chemist, that the dark cloud was pierced, and all around and beneath illuminated.

The germination and growth of a plant is strictly a chemical problem, and intimate indeed is the connection of the soil cultivator with its perfect development. He has not the power to compel the aggregation of atoms; the unseen Manipulator whom we designate the "Vital Force" is the chemist who performs this marvellous work, and whose skill far exceeds all human capability. His laboratory is no circumscribed one, bounded by partition of wood and stone, but its area extends farther than the eye can reach, and its enclosing walls is the great rotunda whose span stretches beyond even the imagination of men.

The farmer labors within this great rotunda, and in the immediate presence of the great Chemist, who invites him to aid in his work. Day by day he witnesses his marvellous power, in calling from the slumbering earth the tender blade of grass, the beautiful flower, the useful cereal and leguminous plants, the creeping vine, and the spreading oak of the forest.

He can promote or destroy the work of the great Creator and Architect; he can retard or facilitate the chemical changes which are going on so continuously and vigorously around and beneath his feet.

And what are these changes? A knowledge of them teaches the great secret of plant growth. It unfolds the philosophy of that fact, incomprehensible to so many, how, from the ethereal atmosphere, almost alone, the solid forms of organized structures are elaborated.

How wonderful is the fact, that a large proportion of the material of the grains, and fruits, and grasses which we gather into our barns and granaries, is composed of the constituents of common air! Perhaps it is even more wonderful, that the solid and inflexible fibres of the oak, the hickory, the beech, and scores of other woods, exceeding even these in density and darkness, are formed from the unstable medium we breathe, and which seems so utterly devoid of materiality and solidity.

Chemistry alone is capable of teaching us the philosophy of that aggregation of atoms by which plant organisms are developed and increased, until full maturity is attained. It teaches us respecting the office the soil, the rain, the air subserves in accomplishing the work; and the information it furnishes is minute, wonderfully exact, and full of interest to the student. It teaches the interesting fact, that the soil originates from the solid rock which constitutes the crust of the earth, and explains the nature of the forces which have produced crumbling and decay in the same. Its teachings are so important in this particular, that we will stop a moment to consider them.

If we procure from one of our hills a piece of granite of either of the different varieties, and finely pulverize and analyze it, we shall find it to contain all the constituent elements of which all other rocks consist. Hence we shall be led to conclude, that they all originate from the granite; that this is the parent rock of quartz, shale, serpentine, feldspar, mica, &c., from the crumbling of which our soils have been formed. By the decomposition and crumbling of the mica and feldspar in a particular region, one kind of soil is formed; by limestone in other localities, another kind; and hence it is plain to see that a variety of soils must result from the disintergation of the different kinds of rocks.

A very clear conception of the work of exfoliation may be obtained by supposing an individual to have been placed upon our planet at a time when it was a hard, impenetrable mass of rock. Suppose him to have lived through all the great epochs of time until the present, and to have witnessed the gradual metamorphosis from barren sterility to the extreme of vegetable luxuriance. Suppose him capable of witnessing the gradual crumbling of the adamantine masses, and the formation of cultivatable soils. If the agencies in past ages were the same as are now at work, he would have seen that every flash of lightning shooting athwart the sky, by decomposing the atmosphere, produced a trace of nitre acid, and that this, falling upon the rock, aided in the work of separation. He would have seen that the carbonic acid of the air, the rapid freezing and thawing, the mechanical effects of rain, the attrition of dust moved by winds, all conspired to reduce the seemingly defiant quartz, and shale, and gneiss, to a finely subdivided powder capable of sustaining vegetable life.—The chemistry of these atoms of dust is very easily understood.

The Creator, in the beginning, made use of about sixty different kinds of materials in constructing our planet, and he selected only ten or twelve of these from which to form all kinds of rocks. It follows that the dust atoms must be made up of the same materials as the parent rock. From the mineral food of plants it is obtained. The inorganic or mineral food which plants require are principally silica, lime, magnesia, sulphur, potash, and soda. Their presence in the soil is indispensable, as without them no plant growth could begin and continue. A plant has as capricious an appetite for its mineral food as a human being has for his food, and each variety calls for its appropriate nutriment; and if nature does not supply it sufficiently in the soil, or if we do not step in and furnish it, it famishes and dies. There is as much propriety in saying, when we observe a stalk of corn struggling for existence in an impoverished soil, that it is starving to death, as there is in saying that an animal famishes when food is withheld.

Let us observe still further the striking analogy between plant life and animal life. I have said that both have their appropriate, chosen food. If we place before a cow or horse some forms of food which man requires, and withhold hay and grain, they will ultimately perish. Thus it is with vegetables. If we plant peas or beans upon a field where no trace of lime is found in the soil, although it may be rich in minerals which other plants would live and thrive upon, they will as certainly famish as though we sowed them in the granite quarries of Quincy, or among the glaciers of the Alps. To attempt to feed the different varieties of plants upon the dust atoms of a single kind of rock, would be as absurd as to gather the different races of men together, and endeavor to sustain them upon the watery fruits of the tropics. While the seething negro would satiate his appetite, and grow lusty, upon the watermelon and the banana, the greasy Esquimaux would cry aloud for his train oil and blubber; and if withheld, he would probably die from the cravings of unappeased hunger.

A plant is like an infant, as respects the preparation of its food. It has no teeth to masticate, no salivary glands to pour out diluting fluids, to render digestible its rocky aliment, and yet it can receive it only in a liquid, soluble form. Its mouths are microscopic, and nothing not minutely subdivided can pass their portals.

Farmers are men nurses, laboring among their plant children, pulverizing and moistening their food, just as the female nurse, within the precincts of the children's nursery, is busily employed in preparing and rendering easily digestible that which the appetite of her little troop so urgently demands.

Nature does much, by the activity of those forces already alluded to, in preparing the inorganic food of vegetables. Although the rocks have crumbled into powder of varied fineness, and the mass of this constitutes the soil, yet the largest portion is still very far from being fine enough to be appropriated by plants. Minute atoms of granite, of limestone and feldspar, scarcely perceptible without the aid of the microscope, pervade every soil, and must be further acted upon by carbonic acid from the air, by rain, by mechanical forces, &c., before they are of any use to our maize plants, tubers, grains, or vines.

It will be clearly understood, that we may possess land rich in the mineral substances which a particular grain requires, and yet, after successive crops, it may languish and fail for the want of a substance already in the soil, but which is not in a condition to be used by the grain. In this we see the connection of chemistry with the business of the farmer in the tillage of his lands. He plies vigorously the plow, the hoe, and the cultivator; he digs, he pulverizes, he reverses the condition of the soil; bringing up to the surface that which was buried, and burying that which was upon the surface; and does he suppose that the vigor he thereby imparts to the soil and plants is due solely to the mechanical effects of his labors? There are great benefits thus produced which are far from being mechanical. It is indeed beneficial to loosen the soil so as to prevent binding, and to aid in the percolation of water through it; but some of the greatest benefits of active tillage are strictly chemical in their nature By stirring the soil, atmospheric air is let in; and the carbonic acid it contains fixes its corrosive teeth into those minute grains of rock, and rends them asunder. They are thus so changed, that, instead of being rejected by the hungry plants, they are seized with avidity, and consumed.

And, further, by tillage there are chemical effects produced in that part of the soil not mineral or inorganic, by which decay or putrefactive change is carried forward, and plant food produced in large quantities. Thus chemistry conclusively shows that, by mechanical labor alone upon a soil, nutriment is afforded which is equivalent to the application of manure; and with these facts distinctly in mind, the farmer need not be surprised at the energy with which his crops shoot forward after the application of the hoe and the cultivator.

It was chemistry that taught the husbandman the importance of subsoil plowing. There are many farmers who are unable to overcome their prejudices sufficiently to try the experiment of deep plowing upon their soils. They suppose the whole virtue of their lands lies in the black mould or humus upon the surface; and if they go below, and bring up sand, and yellow or pale earth, and mingle with it, of course it must dilute and impair its fertility.—They certainly know that their soils are superficial and weak enough, without going down to bring up that which cannot sustain, as they suppose, a blade of grass. They reason thus because chemistry has not taught them its important lessons. How important to remember that that which lies deep below the mould came from the rocks, and is rich oftentimes in their mineral constituents. It needs only to be brought up to the surface, so that air and rain can reach it, to promote chemical decomposition, and fit it for important plant aliment.

Chemistry teaches that plants do not obtain all the elements of their growth from the mingled rock dust and humus constituting the soil. The atmosphere comes in for a share in rearing the structure, and the aid it renders is voluntary, and entirely independent of help from the husbandman. He cannot promote his interests and increase his crops by endeavors to influence atmospheric action upon his plants. It is only through the soil that he is able to do this. Plants derive their carbon, or charcoal, chiefly from the air. The great bulk of all plants is carbon, and consequently we see how important is the aid derived from that source.

How few of us call to mind the fact, as we sit around our comfortable hearth-stone in the long evenings of winter, and witness the gradual transmutation of the blazing pile of wood into black, lustrous charcoal, and then, by further combustion, apparently into a heap of ashes, that there is in one a constituent of the very winds from which we are so effectually sheltered, and in the other a portion of the soil abstracted from our fields. I am perplexed to understand how any one can witness these wonderful changes from day to day, and not have sufficient curiosity awakened to be led to interrogate that beautiful science which is competent to answer every question and solve all difficulties.—*Nichol's Chemical Lectures.*

# Various Matters.

## PLASTER OF PARIS—GYPSUM.

This substance possesses some peculiar properties. It consists of sulphuric acid, lime and water, its composition, or rather the proportion of its component parts heing similar to that of the alabaster. Its abundance in the tertiary hasins around Paris has given it the name of plaster of Paris. It is found in Nova Scotia in profusion in the lower carboniferous rocks. It is produced by the decomposition of iron pyrites and limestone in juxtaposition. It is formed wherever sulphurie acid is generated and comes in contact with carhonate of lime. Crystallized gypsum is called selenite, and the ancient Romans are said to have used it as glass. It is often colored hy oxide of iron to grey, brown, red, yellow, aud eveu black.

It is used extensively for making plaster casts and for stucco. It is prepared for these purposes hy calcinating, which is simply heating it in kilns or kettles uutil the water is expelled. It is then a fine powder, like wheat flour, and to be used it mnst have the water whieh it previously held returned to it. To preserve it from coutracting the moisture in the atmosphere, it should be kept as nearly air-tight as possihle. Much of the plaster of gypsum sold in the market is deteriorated by careless handling and packing. When mixed with water it "sets" quickly, and no time should he lost between the mixture of the gypsum and the making of the cast. Of late years it has been a favorite suhstanee with deutists iu taking casts of mouths to which teeth were to he fitted. We know of uo way by whieh this substanee, being onee nsed, can be brought to its original state.

It is used to some exteut in glazing porcelain; but it is more largely used as a fertilizer of soils tbau for any other purpose. Containing a large proportion of sulphate of lime, it is extensively used as a manure. It is excelleut for grass of all kinds, furnishing just the nutriment needed.—*Scientific American.*

## FENCES.

The only couutry in Europe, we believe, in which the landed proprietor is saddled with the enormous expeuse of enclosures to proteet himself from trespass is England; and there the hedge has been to a great extent substituted for that other costly nuisance, the fenee, in the enclosure of farms, and their subdivision into fields. We have inherited the pernicious system from our British ancestry, and in early times when the country was partially and thinly settled, when timher was not only valueless but an encumbrance to he gotten rid of hy the most expeditious means, there was some reason for its toleratiou; but now the case is far different. When we come to consider that the eost of huilding and repairiug the fences of tue United States is enormous, almost beyoud the power of computatiou, it becomes matter for surprise that the agricultural community does not seek, by a total or even partial aholition of the system, to rid itself forever of a burden far more onerous than the federal taxation to meet the annual interest on our billious of uational debt.

The late Nicholas Biddle, in one of his able agricultural addresses, delivered some thirty years ago, estimated the cost of the fencing for the State of Penusylvania alone at $100,000,000; *and the annual cost of repairs at* $10,000,000! An ahle writer on National Wealth says: "Strange as it may seem, the greatest investment in this country, the most costly product of human iudustry, is the common fences which enclose and divide the fields. No man dreams, that when compared to tbe outlay on these unpretendiug monuments of human art, our cities and towns with all their wealth, are left far behind; iu many places the fences have cost more than the fences and farms are worth. It is the enormous burden which keeps down the agricultural iuterest of this conntry, causing an untold expenditure, beside the loss of thc land the fences occupy. We heard the late Charles Calvert, of Prince George County, Maryland, a man who, notwithstanding his hereditary wealth, was eminently practical, estimate the annual tax for fencing on a farm of one hundred and fifty acres, properly enclosed and subdivided, with post and rails of chestnut, at $130. In colonial times, in the older States timher was an incnmbrance, taxing the ingenuity and industry of the farmer for its removal; now the reverse is the case: it is daily getting more scarce and valuable, and the period is not far distant when, as now in France (once the best timbered country in Europe,) we will be compelled to buy it by the pound for domestic pnrposes. True, in many parts of the country the hedge is being substituted for the more expensive fence; but that is a mere palliative, the substitution of a lesser for a greater evil. Beautiful as the hedges are in England, the public voice is beiug raised against them there, beeause of the enormous amount of land required for tbeir support. Each hedge is five or six feet wide at its base; and it will exhaust the land on either side to the extent of fully five feet. Where the divisions and suhdivisions of an estate are as numerous as a judicious rotation of crops will frequently require, the abstraction of arahle land amounts to a serious aggregate.

Now, tbat the agriculture of eleven States of this Government is in a state of transition, and the fenciug in many of them has either goue to decay or been burned up by the contending armies, this would seem to be an opportune mouent to make a radical change in their feuce laws, and to rid themselves without any great shock of what is evidently a great and unnecessary burden.—*Turf Field and Farm.*

## POISONOUS FISH.

In many parts of the world there exist speeies of fish that prodnce poisonous effects when eaten. Tbis is especially the ease in the West Indies and tbe China seas, where the dangerous kiuds are well known, and carefully avoided hy the natives. A kiud of herring in the West Indies known as the "Yellow-bill Sprat" or "Cailleu-tassard," is especially dreaded, death being almost invariably the prompt result of eatiug it. It is prineipally among the fish of the herring, the mackerel, the trunk-fish and Barraenda families that the poisonous kinds are found. Some of these may he eaten with impuuity while small, when large specimens are to be avoided; and many kinds of fish are noxious when spawning, and wholesome at other seasons. Careful removal of the spawn and milt immediately after catching, or before cooking, will sometimes render these barmless; sometimes not. It will be bourne iu mind that the oyster is by many considered unfit for food when spawning. In some cases fish may he safely eaten direct from the water, when the slightest decomposition, however inappreciable to the senses, it will make tbem a dangerous article of food. The symptoms of fish-poisoning are usually dizziness, obscnring of vision and giddiness accompanied hy palpitation of tbe heart and a sensation of weight in the stomach and abdomen, with a diminutiou in the strength and frequency of the pulse. Next follow an acutely painful sensation of prickling all over the body, and the appearance of a fine white or red eruption, like that following the sting of a nettle, surrounded hy a reddish ring. The palms and soles are more especially painful under these circumstances. Sometimes there are frequent vomitings, evacuations with teuesmus and violeut paius, and involuutary emissions of urine with coma. The remedies consist in the prompt use of an emetic, followed by a dose of castor oil or calomel, aud sneh other treatment as may be indicated. Stiuulants, as tea, coffee and alcoholic liquors, should he freely used. Should the vomiting and evacuations continue, opiates will he required.

A case is on record where the crew of an American whaler, while at the Island of Juan Feruaudez, after catchiug a large number of fish, proeeeded to feed upon tbem, when forty-two out of fifty-seven were taken ill with the symptoms above indieated, aud thirty-four of them died witbin eleven hours, spite of every effort to save them. Nonc escaped entirely but those who had not tasted the fish. Among the fish eaten on that occasion were specimens of a caranx or yellow mackerel.

Similar conditions of unhealthfulness attach to the flesh of various species of shell-fisb, more particularly to the mussel of our sea coast, which, sometimes harmless, is not unfrequently very poisonous. The oyster, also, sometimes exhibits similar properties. Our fresb-water mussels are likewise considered unsafe by most persons, altbough their disagreeable taste generally save them from being the snhject of experiment.

## COARSE WOOL—WORSTED GOODS.

The New York Trihune says in regard to coarse wooled sbeep: "Before the war we were importing nearly all of the worsted braids of whicb we consume an enormous quantity. We were also, and are now, importing large quantities of lastings, of which so many gaiter boots and shoes are made, and geutlemeu's vests and Summer coats. We were also importing all the various kinds of worsted dress goods, such as plain and printed all-wool Mous. de Laines, Orleans, Cohurgs, etc. High revenue tariffs, imposed to defray the expeuses of war; the low credit of Government which so fearfully increased the price of gold, and the high rate of exchange, induced some to extend their manufacturing operations, and others to begin new enterprises, amoug which number may be classed braids, which bid fair in a few years to drive the foreign article entirely out of the market. Some have commenced the manufacturc of lastings; others the production of all-wool Mous. de Laines, and at least two firms have comuenced the manufacture of worsted dress-goods, whieh we bave heretofore heen importing from Bradford, Englaud.

Tbe production of this class of goods must be limited for some time to come, on aceount of the want of the rigbt kind of wool, very little being produced in the United States. Our mauufacturers have to go to Canada and purehase wool, for which they have paid the present season from 42 to 50 eents per pouud, gold, which is from 60 to 70 cents currency.

This coarse combing wool is produced by the English farmers upon the best cultivated lands in the world, and for which they pay, in a great many instances, a larger anuual rent than the whole purchase mouey of our American farms. At the present time they are receiving from 40 to 48 cents for their wool. It is tbe manufacture of this kind of wool iuto all the varied kinds of worsted goods, which has been such an immeuse source of wealth to England, aud which has given her a front rank among the manufacturing nations of the earth.

The merino is strictly a wool sheep, and when tbc market is for wool only, there is no other breed of sheep that can at all compare with it for profit to its owner. But in the vicinity of the large towns, aud in all populous districts, and where the facilities for transportation of mutton and lamhs are good, then the long-wooled sbeep are, beyond all douht, the most profitable for the farmer, and render sheep-hushaudry the most remuuerative hranch of agriculture.

While we wish it to bc distinetly understood that we have no desire to see one merino sheep less in the country, we do hope to see the day when the farmers in this couutry will keep this class of sheep and produce wool enough to render us independeut of Canada, and our enterprising manufaeturers render us independeut of every nation in the world hy the production of every variety of worsted goods.

If the English farmers, in elose proximity to the largest manufactories of broadeloths in the world, find it more advantageous to raise coarse wool and allow the manufacturers to import the fine wool, is it not a questiou for the serious eonsideration of those farmers who are iu those localities wbere tbere is a good demand for mutton and lamhs? We think it is, and believe it to be one of the greatest errors the American farmer ever committed, that he has not raised more of this kind of sheep. If the English farmer, by paying proper attention to mutton aud lambs, can produce better and cheaper coarse wool than any nation or other farmer in the world, and at the same time pay an enormous rent for his laud, we think thc American farmer can do it and make money.

But mauy farmers in this country, who have kept this class of sheep, have failed, and do fail now, simply because their whole atteution is directed to the production of lambs. Stock sheep never produce the best wool. Coarse wool from breeding ewes is generally poor.—The great success in the production of this wool is from wethers, and from these we have both wool and mutton.

Autumn Planting.—There is no doubt of the heuefit of Autumn planting for trees or vines, provided they are duly protected against the heaving frosts of Winter. We have planted our cherries in September, and always with good results. Our pears and apples we prefer to plant never later than October, if we can possibly ohtain them. The early-planted tree, while ground is yet warm, forms uew fibrous roots, enabling it more successfully to withstand the Winter's changes, and to supply food as soon as wanted for the Spring growth. If our trees are procured from a distance, and do not arrive in seasou to plaut early, we must make it a point to prepare our ground and have everything ready, so that when they do come, no time need be lost in planting them. Clay lands are hetter if worked in tbe Fall when somewhat dry; at any rate, they should not be plowed when wet, if it can be avoided, for oncc they get baked down hard in the Fall, uo benefit comes from Winter's frosts, and often the Spriug gives uo relief. If the ground for planting is level and somewhat stiff, with ouly a slight surface drainage, do not plaut the tree too deep, but after planting, go through with the plow and throw the earth up to the trees, leaving hetweeu each row an open furrow drain to hold aud carry off the water during Winter.—*Horticulturist.*

Vegetable Manures.—Some plants are cultivated for the purpose of ohtaining only sucb parts as are supplied hy the atmosphere, the materials of the soil heiug only necessary to the growth of the plant. Thus starch, woody fibre and sugar are suhstances for the production of whieh mauy plants are extensively cultivated. Tbese substances are formed by plants from air and water aud contain no element derived from the soil. In some places the potato is grown solely for its starch, the heet-root for its sugar, and flax and hemp mostly for their woody fibre. If after the separation of these commercial products, the refuse is returned to the soil as manure, these crops, whieh if eutirely removed are exhausting, may be contiuually raised upon tbe same land without impairing its fertility.

Dark Hours.—There are hours, dark bours, that mark the history of the brightest year. For uot a whole month in mauy of the millions of the past, perhaps, has the suu shoue brilliantly all the time. Aud there have been cold aud stormy days in every year, Aud yet the mists and shadows of the darkest hours were dissipated and flitted heedlessly away. The cruelest of the ice fetters have been hrokeu and dissolved aud the most furious storm looses its power to harm.

And what a parable is this of human life—of our inside world, where the heart works at its destined lahors. Here, too, we have the overshadowing of dark hours; and many a cold blast chills the heart to its core. But what matters it? Man is born a hero, and it is only hy darkness and storms tbat heroism gains its greatest and best developments and illustratious—then it kindles the black cloud into a blaze of glory, and tbe storm bears it more rapidly on to its destiuy. Despair not, theu. Neither give it up; while one good power is yours, use it. Disappointment will uot he realized. Mortifying failures may atteud this effort aud that one—but only he honest and struggle ou, and it will work well.

Fun at Home.—Don't be afraid of a little fun at home, good people! Don't shut up your house lest the sun should fade your carpets; and your hearts, lest a hearty laugh shake down some of the musty old cobwebs there. If you want to ruin your sons, let them think that all mirth and social enjoyment must be left on the threshold without, when they come home at night. When once a home is regarded as only a place to eat, drink, and sleep in, the work is begun that end in gambling houses aud reckless degradatiou. Youug people must have fun and relaxation somewhere; if they do not find it at their own hearthstones, it will be sought at other and perhaps less profitahle places. Therefore let the fire hurn brightly at night, and make the homestead delightful with all those little arts that parents so perfectly understand. Don't repress the huoyant spirit of your childreu.

# The Fireside Muse.

### IN NUTTING TIME.

With lingering glints of gold and red
The waning autumn woods are gay;
And in the deep blue overhead
The sun shines clear and soft to-day.

The late October winds are bland,
Their voices whisper low and sweet;
While far away the blue hills stand
With valley vapors round their feet.

Across the azure of the sky
The milky cloud-shapes, wandering, sail;
Southward the roving song-birds fly,
And from the stubble pipe the quail.

Along the winding path we go,
Through fields in which the aster nods;
And over breezy slopes where grow
The yellow-painted golden rods—

Along the path by field and hill,
With many a lightly-spoken jest,
Past golden orchard rows where still
The robin shows his crimson breast—

Until at last the woods we gain,
And there, with shout and crashing sound,
We beat the boughs till downward rain
The ripened nuts upon the ground.

All other sounds around are hushed,
There is no note of any bird;
But through these aisles with autumn flushed
Our voices far and wide are heard.

With lingering glints of gold and red
The waning autumn woods are gay,
And though the summer months are fled
Our hearts make summer of to-day.

### MY FATHER'S HALF-BUSHEL.

My father's half-bushel comes oft to my mind,
And wakens deep feelings of various sorts;
'Twas an honest half-bushel, a noble half-bushel;
It held a half-bushel of thirty-two quarts!

When I think of that bushel—my father's half-bushel.
That dear old half-bushel, so honest and true—
Then look at the bushels—our city half-bushels,
Little dandy half-bushels—it makes me feel blue!

Oh, my father's half-bushel, that country half-bushel,
Say when with blest vision its like shall I see?
'Twas a blessed half-bushel, and he was a true man,
For he filled his half-bushel, and something threw free!

Yet all the half-bushels, if mean, are not small:
I'm vexed with the big ones still more and more;
Oh, mark out that ashman's next time he calls,
You see his half-bushel holds quarts sixty-four.

'Tis a fact I am stating—no slanders I utter—
But who can forbear, when cheated to mutter?—
In New York a barrel—I pray you don't laugh—
Will not hold so much ashes as potatoes by half!

Oh, what are the lawyers, and what are the laws,
But bugbears and phantoms—mere feathers or straws!
Unless our half-bushels are all made as one,
Like father's half-bushel, I say, we're undone!

# Fireside Readings.

### THE GRAY MARE THE BETTER HORSE.

A GENTLEMAN of a certain county in England, having married a young lady of considerable fortune, and with many other charms, yet, finding that she was of a high, domineering spirit and always contending to be mistress of him, resolved to part with her. Accordingly, he went to her father, and told him he found his daughter of such a temper, and he was so heartily tired of her, that if he would take her home again, he would return every penny of her fortune.

The old gentleman, having inquired into the cause of his complaint, asked him "why he should be more troubled at it than any other married man, since it was the common case of them all, and no more than he ought to have expected when he entered in the married state." The young man denied this, thought he was more unhappy than other men, as his wife had a spirit no way to be quelled, and most certainly no man who had a sense of right and wrong could ever submit to be governed by his wife. "Son," said the old man, "you are but little acquainted with the world, if you do not know that all women govern their husbands, though not all by the same method. Some rule with a high hand, some bear a gentle sway, and govern as it were, by a seeming obedience, that is, by complaisance and winning behavior, but it is out of their husbands' power to refuse them anything they desire; others govern by fondness, and some by fits; however to end all disputes between us, I will put what I have said upon this proof, if you are willing to try it. I have five horses in my stable; you shall harness them to a cart, in which I will put a basket containing one hundred eggs; and if in passing through the county, and making strict inquiry into the truth or falsehood of my assertion, and leaving a horse at the house of the man who is the master of his family, and an egg where the wife governs, you should find the eggs gone before your horses, I hope you will think your case not uncommon, go home, and look on your wife as no worse than her neighbors; if, on the other hand, your horses are gone first, I will take my daughter home and you may keep her fortune."

The proposal was too advantageous to be rejected; our young man set out with great eagerness, to get rid—as he thought—of his horses and his wife.

At the first house he came to, he heard a woman with a shrill and angry voice, ordering her husband to go to the door. Here he left an egg, without making further inquiry. At the next he met with something of the same kind, and in short, at every house until his eggs were almost gone, when he arrived at the seat of a gentleman of family and figure in the county. He knocked at the door, and inquiring for the master, was told by a servant that his master was not yet up, but if he would please to walk in, his lady was in the parlor. The lady with great politeness, desired him to seat himself, and said, "if his business was very urgent, she would wake her husband, to let him know it, but would much rather not disturb him."

"Why, really, madam," said he, "my business is only to ask a question, which you can resolve as well as your husband, if you will be ingenuous with me; you will, doubtless, think it odd, and it may be deemed impolite, for any one, much more a stranger, to ask such a question, but as a very considerable wager depends on it, and it may be some advantage to yourself, to declare the truth to me, I hope these considerations will plead my excuse. It is, madam, to desire to be informed whether you govern your husband, or he rules over you."

"Indeed, sir," she replied, "this question is somewhat odd; but as I think no one ought to be ashamed of doing their duty, I shall make no scruple to say, that I have always been proud to obey my husband in all things, but if a woman's own word is to be suspected in such a case, let him answer for me, for here he comes."

The gentleman at that moment entered the room, and, after some apologies, being made acquainted with the business, confirmed every word the obedient wife had reported, in her own favor, upon which, he was invited to choose which horse in the team at the door, he liked best, and to accept it as a present.

A black gelding struck the fancy of the gentleman most, but the lady desired he would choose the gray mare, which she thought would be very fit for her side saddle; her husband gave substantial reasons why the black horse would be most useful to them, but madam persisted in her claim to the gray mare.—"What," said she, "and will you not take her then? But I say you shall, for I am sure the gray mare is the better horse." "Well, my dear," replied the husband, "if it must be so——" "you must take an egg," said the gentleman carter, "and I must take all my horses back again and endeavor to live as easy as I can with my wife."

---

THE Saturday Review tells a story of an English clergyman, who misled by the prevalent printing of certain Scriptural words in italic, read in a sonorous voice, with undue emphasis; "And he spoke to his sons, saying, "saddle me the ass." And they saddled *him*."

### HONOR YOUR BUSINESS.

IT is a good sign when a man is proud of his work or his calling. Yet nothing is more common than to hear men finding fault constantly with their particular business, and deeming themselves unfortunate because fastened to it by the necessity of gaining a livelihood. In this spirit men fret, and laboriously destroy all their comfort in the work; or they change their business and go on miserably shifting from one thing to another, till the grave or the poor-house gives them a fast grip. But while occasionally a man fails in life because he is not in the place fitted for his peculiar talent, it happens ten times oftener that failure results from neglect and even contempt of an honest business. A man should put his heart into everything that he does. There is no profession that has not its peculiar cares and vexations. No man will escape annoyance by changing business. No mechanical business is altogether agreeable. Commerce, in its endless varieties, is affected, like all other human pursuits, with trials, unwelcome duties, and spirit-tiring necessities.

It is the very wantonness of folly for a man to search out the frets and burdens of his calling, and give his mind every day to a consideration of them. They belong to human life.—They are inevitable. Brooding, then, only gives them strength. On the other hand, a man has power given to him to shed beauty and pleasure upon the homeliest toil, if he is wise. Let a man adopt his business, and identify it with his life, and cover it with pleasant associations; for God has given us imagination, not alone to make some poets, but to enable all men to beautify homely things.—Heart-varnish will cover up innumerable evils and defects. Look at the good things. Accept your lot as a man does a piece of rugged ground, and begin to get out the rocks and roots, to deepen and mellow the soil, to enrich and plant it. There is something in the most forbidding avocation around which a man may twine pleasant fancies—out of which he may develop an honest pride.—*N. Y. Economist.*

---

ECONOMY.—If the poor house has any terrors for you, never buy what you don't need. Before you pay three cents for a jewsharp, my boy, ascertain whether you cannot make just as pleasant a noise by whistling, for which nature furnishes the machinery; and before you pay seventy-five dollars for a coat, young man, find out whether your lady would not be just as glad to see you in one that cost half the money. If she would not, let her crack her own hazel-nuts, and buy her own clothes.—When you see a man spending two or three dollars a week foolishly, the chances are five to one that he will live long enough to know how many cents there are in a dollar—if he don't, he's pretty sure to bequeath that privilege to his widow. When a man asks you to buy that for which you have no use, no matter how cheap it is, don't say yes until you are sure that some one else wants it in advance. Money burnes in some folks' pockets, and makes such a big hole that everything that is put in drops through, past finding.

---

HAPPINESS.—The contemplation of human affairs will lead us to this conclusion, that among the different conditions and ranks of men, the balance of happiness is preserved in a great measure equal, and that the high and the low, the rich and the poor, approach, in point of enjoyment, much nearer to each other than is commonly imagined. In the lot of man, mutual compensations, both of pleasure and of pain, universally take place. Providence never intended that any state here should be either perfectly happy, or entirely miserable. If the feelings of pleasure are more numerous and more lively in the highest departments of life, such also are those of pain. If greatness flatters our vanity, it multiplies our dangers. If opulence increases our gratifications, it increases, in the same proportion, our desires and demands. If the poor are confined to a more narrow circle, yet within that circle lie most of the natural satisfactions, which, after all the refinements of art, are found to be the most genuine and true. In a state, therefore, where is neither so much to be coveted on the one hand, nor to be dreaded on the other, as at first appears, how submissive ought we to be to the disposal of Providence! How temperate in our desires and pursuits! How much more attentive to preserve our virtue and improve our minds, than to gain the doubtful and equivocal advantages of worldly prosperity.

---

HOW TO BECOME A MILLIONAIRE.—John McDonough, the millionaire of New Orleans, had engraved on his tomb a series of maxims he had prescribed as the rule for his guidance through life, and to which his success in business is mainly attributed. They contain so much wisdom that we copy them:

Rules for Guidance of my Life, 1804:—Remember always that labor is one of the conditions of our existence. Time is gold; throw not one minute away, but place each one to account. Do unto all men as you would be done by. Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day. Never bid another do what you can do yourself. Never covet what is not your own. Never think any matter so trifling as not to deserve notice. Never give out that which does not first come in. Never spend but to produce. Let your greatest order regulate the transactions of your life. Study in your course of life to do the greatest amount of good. Deprive yourself of nothing necessary to your comfort, but live in an honorable simplicity. Labor, then to the last moment of your existence. Pursue strictly the above rules and the Divine blessing and riches of every kind will flow upon you to your heart's content; but first of all, remember that the chief and great duty of your life should be to tend, by all means in your power, to the honor and glory of our Divine Creator.

The conclusion to which I have arrived is, that without temperance there is no health; without virtue no order; without religion no happiness; and that the aim of our being is to live wisely, soberly, and righteously.

JOHN MCDONOGH.

New Orleans, March 9, 1804.

---

CONTENTMENT.—Rothschild with all his wealth must be satisfied with the same sky that is over the head of the poor man. He cannot order a private sunset, that he may enjoy it with a select circle of friends, nor can he add one single ray to the clear, bright beams of the queen of night, as she sails magnificently through the heavens. The richest banker cannot have more than his share of the air to breathe, and the poorest of all men can have the same. Wealth may buy a brilliant bracelet, dazzling with diamonds and rubies, but wealth cannot buy a graceful and well-turned arm on which to display its splendor. God only can give that, and to many of the poor He has given it. "I wish I had the health of that rosy-cheeked peasant girl," sighs the aristocratic invalid, propped up with pillows in her costly carriage. "Ah, me!" says the girl, "if I could only ride in such style as that." Wealth cannot purchase health, nor can it give a contented mind. All that is most valuable can be had for nothing. They come as presents from the hand of a kind and indulgent Father, and neither the air, nor the sky, nor beauty, health, strength, and genius can be bought and sold. Whatever may be thy condition in life, remember these things, and therewith be content.

---

OIDIUM, OR VINE MILDEW.—A writer in the London Journal of Agriculture says "that a complete cure for the above disease may be found by taking one pound of flour of sulphur, one pound of slacked lime, and one gallon of rain water; mix well together and boil twenty minutes; take off and strain; add one gallon more of water, and again boil twenty minutes when the liquid will be a fine amber color; put in a jar and cork tight. When used, take one pint to sixteen gallons of rain water, and syringe the vines, and it will not injure fruit or leaves."

THE OXIDES OF THE METALS.—Observing recently in a meadow the wide diffusion of the oxide of the metal, iron, resulting probably from the decomposition of iron pyrites, and that the water of the brooks was freely used by a large herd of cattle, the thought came up, that of all the metalic oxides that of iron is almost the only harmless one. If the oxides of copper or lead were as widely diffused the result would be most disastrous. The daily absorption into the system of even minute quantities of most of the metals is followed by consequences of a fearful kind. So, too, of the carbonates, and other salts. If carbonate of baryta were as abundant as carbonate of lime, animated life would probably fail before its deadly influence. The wise adjustment of substances with regard to their sanitary influence upon men and animals is a matter which can hardly be overlooked by an observing mind.

# The Stock Yard.

## HIGH FEEDING IN THE FALL.

This is necessary, not only to fit stock for the Winter and the critical time of Spring, but in an especial sense for milch cows. We know many farmers who make their greatest profit in the Fall, out of their cows—the first rush in Spring and June alone excepted. This may seem strange—but we know it to be so. The feed is worth less than in the Summer; there are pumpkins, (which many affirm make *better* butter than any other feed), root-tops, roots themselves, potatoes, apples, &c.

These things, it will be observed, cost less than grass to produce—especially some of them. Then there are corn-stalks and corn-fodder expressly grown, cut up, with now and then hay. These are better for milk than hay and meal, or other high feeding. It is better and less expensive. At the same time, if sufficiently fed, it will prevent running down. A cow properly treated in this way, will keep her own in flesh, and add to her milk. There is, therefore, always an increase of milk in October when cows are put up and well fed as we have stated. The milk then is richest and will increase in flow, and continue well up till towards January. Then, in general, there will be a falling off, and soon after the milk will cease. But for two months after the grass has failed, there is a good season for butter, to those who will avail themselves of it. To those who do not avail themselves of the advantages, it will not be that—there will be little milk, growing less, with premature drying up.

Grass during this period, and generally some time before it, is worth little for forage. One good frost uses it up for that purpose. A few more use it up effectually. But good hay, cut green and cured( not dried), with corn-stalks served in the same way, and others feed in good condition, with shelter and access to water and salt, and peace and quietude, which are so necessary to the success of milch cows—will continue the good effects of rich pasture, and improve on the close-cropped fields of the Fall—and the improvement will be decided; it is like the beginning of feed in June.

In the Fall, then, a wise man will improve his time. But he must begin in the Summer, in the Spring even. He must calculate and commence his work beforehand. His pumpkins and his roots must be started in the Spring. In Winter is the time to calculate upon all this. It is not expected that Fall milk will be secured without these previous means. With them, a harvest may be realized.

We have spoken on the subject of high feeding in relation to milk alone. To this end, efforts should be directed by those who have cows—if but one cow, it will pay—pay in proportion more where there is but one.

But calves, and colts, and sheep—who knows not that these require attention—require it so that there is no pull back? For it is understood that all checks given to stock in the Fall or Winter, are difficult to repair. The evil, indeed, can never be fully repaired, as the check will have its rein upon all the future growth of the animal. What is once lost in this way, is lost forever, to a certain extent—an extent sufficient to tell us the loss exists. In well-conditioned stock the effect is less visible, as the fat of the system is a source of aliment whence to draw from.

Good stock in the Fall, then, is the first requisite; the keeping it good, is the second; the *regular* attendance is the main thing. If the calves are neglected, there will be scrubby cows—to the extent they are abused. And colts which are so much more valuable—stunt these, and the fatal thing will be seen through the lifetime of a horse. Youth is the time to take care of stock—of all kinds. In the Summer it will take care of itself (if you will let it); in the Fall it will starve, absolutely, and be a carcass unless you attend to it. And it is the critical time, the most in the year, as the Spring, the worst of all, hangs upon it; as the Fall is, so the Spring is, with regard to our stock.

Feed high, then, if ever, in the Fall. This will give you a start for the Winter, and will make the Winter easier and the Spring safe, or at least safer.—*Colman's Rural World.*

## COOKING FOOD FOR STOCK.

It renders mouldy hay, straw and cornstalks perfectly sweet and palatable. Animals seem to relish straw taken from a stack, which has been wet and badly damaged for ordinary use, and even in any condition, except "dry rot," steaming will restore its sweetness.

It diffuses the color of the bran, corn meal, oil meal, carrots, or whatever is mixed with the feed, through the whole mass, and thus it may cheaply be flavored to suit the animal.

It softens the tough fibre of the corn stalk, rye straw, and other hard material, rendering it almost like green, succulent food, and easily masticated and digested by the animal.

It renders beans and peas agreeable food for horses as well as other animals, and thus enables the feeder to combine more nitrogenous food in the diet of his animals.

It enables the feeder to turn everything raised into food for his stock, without lessening the value of his manure. Indeed, the manure from steamed food decomposes more readily, and is therefore more valuable for the same bulk than that made from uncooked food.

We have found it to cure incipient heaves in horses, and horses having a cough for several months at pasture, have been cured in two weeks on steamed feed. It has a remarkable effect upon horses with sudden cold, and in constipation. Horses fed upon it seem much less liable to disease; in fact, in this respect, it seems to have all the good qualities of grass, the material food of animals.

It produces a marked difference in the appearance of the animal, at once causing the coat to become smooth and of a brighter color; regulates the digestion, makes the animal more contented and satisfied, enables fattening stock to eat their food with less labor, gives working animals time to eat all that is necessary for them in the intervals of labor; and this is of much importance, especially with horses. It also enables the feeder to fatten animals in one-third less time.

It saves at least one-third of the food. We have found two bushels of cut and cooked hay to satisfy cows as well as three bushels of uncooked hay, and the manure, in the case of the uncooked hay, contained much more fibrous matter unutilized by the animal. This is more particularly the case with horses. The cooking of hay and straw destroys all foul and troublesome seeds.—*E. W. Stewart in American Farmer.*

## HOW TO BREAK A MULE.

Harvey Riley, Esq., Superintendent of the Government Corral, Washington, in his new book on the Mule, has the following sensible suggestions about breaking these animals:

"Don't fight or abuse him. After you have harnessed him and he proves to be refractory, keep your own temper, slack your reins, push him round, backward and forward, not roughly; and if he will not do what you went, tie him to a post, and let him stand there a day or so without food or water. Take care, also, that he does not lie down, and be careful to have a person to guard him, so that he does not foul in the harness. If he will not go, after a day or two of this sort of treatment, give him one or two more of it, and my word for it, he will come to his senses and do anything you want from that time forward. * * * The only way to keep a mule from kicking you is to handle it a great deal when young, and accustom it to the ways and action of men. You must through kindness convince it that you are not going to harm or abuse it; and you can do that best by taking hold of it in a gentle manner, every time it appears to be frightened.—Such treatment I have always found more effective than all the beating and abusing you can apply. * * * The mule is peculiar in his dislikes. Many of them, when first harnessed, so dislike a blind bridle that they will not work in it. When you find this, let him stand for say a day in the blinders, and then take them off, and in forty-nine cases out of fifty he will go at once."

# The Poultry-Yard.

## DISEASES OF POULTRY.

The diseases of poultry, being taken in time, may not result in a serious malady, too often resulting in death; but procrastination is generally as fatal in poultry keeping as anything else.

The ailments of fowls may generally be traced to a variable temperature, to irregular, injudicious feeding, or to their being kept on ground which has become impure with their use of it. Judicious feeding, perfect cleanliness, and occasional removal to new ground, will, to a great extent keep fowls healthy.

The following are the principal diseases among them:

Apoplexy, evidenced by inflammation of the brain.

Tracheal Inflammation (*or gapes,*) with parasitic worms in the windpipe.

Roup, which is highly infectious, and a very deadly disease, but if taken in time can be cured. The premonitory symptoms are a slight hoarseness, and catching in the breath, as if from cold.

Moulting, with old fowls, is often so severe and so protracted, that it carries them off. The young are also victims of leg weakness and bad feathering.

Sickly fowls should always be removed from the fowl-house on the first symptom of illness, as they are generally ill used by their companions—pecked at, and evidently become objects of dislike.

Apoplexy with fowls, as in human beings, is difficult to cure. It is generally the result of high feeding, and is most common among laying hens, which are sometimes found dead on the nest—the expulsive efforts required in laying, the immediate cause of the attack.

The only hope for cure consists in an instant and copious bleeding, by opening a vein with a sharp-pointed penknife or lancet. The largest of the veins seen on the under-side of the wing, should be selected, and opened in a longitudinal direction, not cut across, and so long as the thumb is pressed on the vein at any point between the opening and the body, the blood will be found to flow freely. Light food and rest should be given the bird after the operation.

Gapes, in nine cases out of ten, are obtained from rain or impure water, and if a certain preventive (not cure) is desired, the use of camphor will be found the most efficient remedy. A small lump, about the size of a peanut, kept constantly in the vessel from which the fowls drink, will make gapes unknown in your yard. Having carefully adopted this precaution this year more particularly, and having raised over 200 chickens, without one case of gapes, I can testify that camphor is the only certain remedy. My neighbor Mr. T.——, who is also a member of the American Poultry Society, and who has equal, if not superior advantages to mine for poultry rearing, has lost three-fourths of his chickens by gapes, which I attribute to his use of rain water and non-use of camphor.

Rain water will, after having stood some time, be found, by examination under a microscope, to contain worms identical with those taken from the throat of a chicken suffering from gapes.

Roup, if treated at the outset, may be cured by feeding, twice a day, with stale crusts of bread soaked in strong ale. Dry housing and cleanliness are indispensable.

Fowls sometimes waste away without any apparent disorder. In such cases a teaspoonful of cod-liver oil per day will often be found a most efficacious remedy.

Scouring or diarrhœa is caused by the too abundant use of relaxing food. Cayenne pepper, or chalk, or both, mixed with meal or boiled rice, check the complaint.

Leg weakness is generally caused by the size and weight of the body, being more than the legs can bear. It is shown by the bird resting on the first joint. Being entirely the result of weakness, the best treatment is that which gives general strength and stamina to the sufferer. Tincture of iron, say five drops to a saucer of water, must be given.—*Essay by S. M. Saunders, read at the meeting of American Poultry Society.*

## ALLOWING POULTRY TO FEED THEMSELVES.

When fowls have access to grain all the time, we see them eat in the morning only a few kernels at a time, and after an hour or so, they will take a few kernels more, and thus they pass the entire day by eating a little at a time, and very often.

The philosophy of their eating so frequently and but little at a time, is, the food has a sufficient time to become softened in the crop before passing into the gizzard and it has sufficient time to be thoroughly ground and digested; whereas, when fowls are not allowed to have access to their food, but are fed once or twice a day, they become very hungry, and swallow as much as their crops will hold at one feeding. Now for several hours, no food will be sufficiently softened to pass into the gizzard, consequently their grist mill must stand idle.—Now the moistened grain swells and distends the crop of the fowl, and it feels by no means comfortable. Shortly all the food in the crop is in the proper condition to be ground, and the result is that it is forced through the gizzard with so much rapidity that it is not half ground, and, therefore, cannot be half digested; and if it is not half digested, of course, not half the nutriment, or egg-producing material, can be expected from it. Nor is this the greatest drawback attending feeding fowls only once or twice a day. When a fowl fills its crop at one feeding, before the food can possibly get out of it, it begins to beat up, and derangement and indigestion follow, very much as is the case when we fill our stomachs as full as they can be crammed.

The way to feed fowls, and particularly those that are laying, or being fattened, is to allow them to have free access to food at all times.—In this way they can always supply the demands of their stomachs and grinding apparatus, exactly as food is needed; and they will fatten more rapidly, or lay more eggs, and consume much less food than they will if they are fed as much as they will eat twice a day.

My practice now is, and always has been, to allow my fowls to have free access to corn in the ear all the time, both Summer and Winter. Of course they are obliged to shell it for themselves. Occasionally we feed them screenings, and when we have no screenings, we take a peck or so of wheat, and as much buckwheat, oats, barley or rye, and mingle them all together, and mix the grain with some chaff, so that they will not be as liable to consume as much of it at once as if it were clear grain.—When we have an abundance of milk, we place a vessel containing it where they can find it at any time. In warm weather, after it has become loppered, they will consume, during the day, much more of it than one would suppose; and milk is as good to fatten poultry and make chickens grow, as it is for pigs; and it is one of the very best kinds of food for any kind of poultry, when they are laying.—*S. Edwards Todd.*

Straw Shelter for Stock.—Very good and durable sheds may be made from straw with a little care and pains taking. A good thatched roof well laid on of good straw, will shed rain and wet equally as well as shingles, and last nearly as long; and the expense is nothing when compared with shingle roofs. A thatched roof may be made somewhat as follows: Put up the rafters as for sheeting; on these place ribs which may be split poles nailed one foot apart. The straw may be straight. Winter rye, threshed by hand is the best. Lay it on straight and even, without binding; fasten by laying on thin split poles, fastened to the ribs by splits or strong tough bark; lay the courses thick and even, and finish off the top by doubling the straw over the ridge, and fastening by poles stretched on the top. This will make a roof that will not leak, and will be serviceable.—*Rural World.*



Home! To be at home is the wish of the seamen on stormy seas and lonely watch. Home is the wish of the soldier, and tender visions mingle with the troubled dreams of trench and field. Where the palm tree waves its graceful plumes, and birds of jeweled lustre flash and flicker from among gorgeous flowers, the exile sits staring upon vacancy; a far-away home lies heavily upon his heart, and, borne by the wings of fancy over the intervening seas and lands, he has swept away to home, and hears the lark sing above his father's field, and sees his fair-haired brother, with light foot and childhood's glee, chasing the butterfly by his native stream. And in his best hours, home, his own sinless home, a home with Father's above that starry sky, will be the wish of every true Christian man.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES.

The two principal branches of industry on which we depend for national wealth and progress, are agriculture and manufactures. These have a mutual and identical interest, although it was the fashion a few years ago for politicians to place them in a diverse and conflicting attitude. This feeling of hostility existed to a considerable extent in the Western States, but at a time when those States were almost entirely agricultural in their interests. It was when the pioneers of that section were felling the primitive forests, breaking up the prairies and struggling hard to build up new homes, and when they had but few surplus products to sell, that they opposed the manufacturing interests of the Eastern States. They looked upon a tariff to protect manufactures as a direct tax upon themselves, as an incubus on their industry and as a premium to their more fortunate brethren who built mills and machinery for the production of domestic goods.

In the Southern States, especially in the cotton-producing districts, there was always a deep hostility against manufactures. Southern politicians favored a free-trade policy. They legislated only for themselves. Their energies were exclusively devoted to the advancement of the large planters—not farmers—who produced a larger quantity of cotton than this country could consume, and who systematically opposed the progress of manufactures.—They looked for the principal market of cotton in Europe; and to keep that, and control it, they were willing to sacrifice the prosperity of the North. There is little doubt that this natural hostility of interests was the germ of the Rebellion. There, more than in any other part of the country, the rural population were guided and governed by politicians, who by systematically opposing tariffs and manufactures, paved the highways to office.

We think these narrow views, both in the Western and Southern States, are somewhat dissipated. The West is now our great food-producing section, and the best market for their productions is at home, among our manufacturing population. The fertility of Western land is such that we cannot compete with it in the raising of grain or in the production of beef, pork or wool. If the East has a monopoly in manufactures, so has the West in agriculture. But these national industries are not hostile to each other, they are identical in interest and prosperity. We purchase the breadstuffs and animal food from the Western agriculturists, who produce them more cheaply than can be done in the Middle or Eastern States; and in return they buy our textile fabrics, our hardware, our boots, shoes and other description of manufactures. Thus, there is a perfect harmony of industry, a mutual dependance on each other which strengthens every day of our existence.

Heretofore the South has been purely agricultural. The larger portion of her fertile lands was in the possession of cotton planters. They not only monopolized the soil, but controlled the interest and policy of the population. The Rebellion destroyed that gigantic monopoly. Landed estates, comprising thousands of acres, will now be divided and sub-divided among small farmers. Free labor will also have its influence to produce a diversity of crops, and to liberalize public sentiment.—Again, with free labor, capital, and the supply of raw material at home, there is nothing to prevent the Southern people from becoming largely and prosperously engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods. They have as fine mill streams as the North, also an abundance of coal—the two principal agents in manufacturing enterprise.

The last five-and-twenty years saw a great advance in the diversification of our industry; but the next quarter of a century will witness greater harmony and unity than ever before.—And it should be the highest aim of all classes to promote this object. Prosperity in agriculture cannot exist without an equal prosperity in manufactures. If the loom and spindle and mill-wheel cease to revolve, then we must expect low prices for all our agricultural productions and a corresponding depreciation of our farms. Let us understand that there must be harmony and identity in our principal industries, and then we shall see Agriculture and Manufactures riding triumphant on the waves of prosperity.

## DEGENERACY OF WHEAT.

A great many farmers continue to sow their grain fields from seed that has degenerated—run out, and entirely lost its original character. The following paragraphs on the degeneracy of wheat, by S. E. Todd, explain how poor seed invariably brings poor crops.

"On the borders of the river Nile, in Africa, one of the finest regions in the world for the production of excellent wheat, the same varieties are grown from year to year, without the least deterioration, that were cultivated three thousand years ago. And the same thing may be done in this country by exercising the same care in the selection of the seed that is observed by the farmers in that part of the world.

It is a well-established fact that wheat will hybridize when different varieties are allowed to grow in close proximity. Of course, the product would be a mixture of seed, in which the purity of the variety is gone. Consequently, with a mixture of seed, a farmer would find himself in the same circumstances with reference to the improvement of his wheat that he is when he undertakes to improve his domestic animals by breeding from mongrels or from grade stock. It is well understood that such animals—grades and mongrels—when employed as breeders, never transmit the excellent points of desirable form and symmetry to their offspring with reliable certainty, while pure-bred animals never fail in this respect.

The same facts hold good in the vegetable kingdom, with seed wheat in particular.—When different varieties are sown in close proximity, and the product, which will be an impure grain, is again employed for seed, a pure variety of choice wheat may be run out most effectually in a few years, so that intelligent farmers who were only superficial observers would be ready to affirm without hesitancy, that wheat does degenerate. The cause of degeneracy, and the remedy, may all be expressed in a few words. We have hinted at the cause, namely: sowing different varieties near each other, so that the grain will hybridize; threshing several kinds together, and continuing to employ such grain for seed from year to year. Herein lies the whole secret of the degeneracy of varieties. If a pure variety be kept by itself with suitable care, and cultivated on good ground, and the grain never threshed with other wheat, the purity of a variety of wheat, with all its excellent characteristics, may be maintained intact as long as wheat may be cultivated. There is no uncertainty about this suggestion. The idea is in perfect keeping with the established laws of vegetable physiology. Cultivating any variety of grain in a slip-shod, slack and perfunctory manner, will cause the best variety of wheat the world ever knew to degenerate and run completely out in a few years. On the contrary, if the seed be selected every season with the same care that the originator of the Weeks wheat observed for a decade of years, generations unborn would cultivate the same varieties that our fields now produce, without the least deterioration in either yield or quality of grain."

In portions of Sweden and Norway the people are suffering from famine, caused by bad harvests last year.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

The drouth which extended over several of the North Western States, the past Summer, is said to have materially injured the corn crop. Hence, the Prairie Farmer, of Chicago, puts the following question to farmers. "Owing to the continued drouth the corn crop of the West is very light. The price of this grain in consequence is exceedingly high, with a prospect of a still further advance. How much, at the present relative prices of beef, pork and corn, can the farmer afford to feed to cattle and hogs for late Fall sale? It is certain that the market for beef and pork has not kept pace with the advance of the corn market. Let the farmers take pencil in hand and figure up, always remembering that grain fed on the farm brings no impoverishment to the land, but on the contrary keeps up the fertility."

The potato crop in the Middle and New England States has been light. At the West, there is a better report. The "Wisconsin Farmer" says: "We have not had a finer crop of potatoes in this country, taken as a whole, for many years than we have this year. Immediately about the city, and in some localities in the county, the Colorado bug has destroyed them entirely; but in most parts of the county, especially east of the lakes, they have been uninjured, and, the season having been very favorable in seasonable rains, the crop is large and the quality superb. Such peach-blows we never before saw, and they have been taken out dry and clean. We advise farmers not to be in a hurry about selling out clean this Fall, for there are none in large sections of the West."

The Utica Herald, which is always well posted in relation to farm products, gives us this information about hops. "Letters from London state that the hop market continues dull and depressed with no demand for English hops. Prices are steadily declining, making altogether a fall from the commencement of the season of forty shillings per hundred weight. Consumers are gradually supplying their wants with foreign productions, offered at thirty cents below their own growth. Foreign hops other than English can be delivered in New York at from 38 cents to 52 cents. The market in Utica is very dull, with no sales. Prices are steadily declining under foreign advices. The delivery of the crop in Wisconsin over-runs the first estimate 10,000 bales. Hops are selling in the Utica market at from 50 cents to 55 cents."

A correspondent of the Iowa Homestead, alluding to the difficulty frequently experienced in making a wedge stick in frozen timber when splitting rails, advises the use of dry sand, dashed into the crevice from which the wedge rebounds. The end sought can be equally well attained by making a few checks close together, with the ax, on the end of the log to be split, and inserting the wedge between them. We never knew a wedge to rebound under such circumstances.

The Ohio Farmer, alluding to the clamor of the Press at the east for cheap bread, says:—"We are under the painful necessity of telling them, they will not get cheap bread until another harvest; meanwhile they may continue to cudgel their brains for such reasons as suit their style of philosophy." This will prove consolatory to those who have breadstuffs to sell, but to such as have to buy, with restricted means of payment, the prediction will prove less cheering.

J. W. Clark, Wisconsin, Writes the Albany Cultivator in opposition to the somewhat prevalent opinion that meadow and pasture lands require to be frequently broken up for the purpose of augmenting or keeping up their productive powers. Both meadow and pasture lands may require underdraining, re-seeding in spots occasionally, moderate applications of manure, especially the meadows, soon after having been mowed. With these aids it is contended that pastures and meadows will improve in the quantity and quality of their productions for an indefinite series of years. In other words, "the older the sod the better the pasture."

The Rural New Yorker has the following on quince blight. "We are informed that a gentleman in this city, observing that his quince trees were being blighted and dying off, resorted to the use of salt as a preventive. He dug about the roots of the affected trees; supplied a liberal coating of salt to the soil and replaced that which had been removed. The result was that the present season passed over without any appearance of blight, while the yield of fruit was munificent in quantity and in quality, all that could have been desired. If the salt was the cause of the improvement—and such is assumed to be the fact—why may not equally beneficial results be obtained by a corresponding application to the roots of pear trees? It will cost but little to make a trial. If successful, the gain will be great, but should the experiment result in failure the loss will be a trifling one. Try the salt next year."

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

Chicago pork packers have contracted for 100,000 hogs, to be delivered in December, at 6½ cents, live weight.

Six and three-quarter millions of acres in Europe are devoted to potatoes. Nearly one-third of this amount is in France.

There is a strawberry patch in Alameda county, Cal., of one hundred and thirty acres, and it is to have an addition of a hundred acres more next year.

Kansas, it is estimated, has a population of 300,000 persons. The number of cattle in the State is 1,000,000. The total value of live stock is $40,300,000.

Poor feed makes poor cows. When we hear of a cow that gives milk in unusual quantity or quality, we set it down for certain that her owner is a good feeder.

A. C. Wales of Massillon, Ohio, thinks swimming sheep is the quickest, easiest and best way of washing them. His clip of over 8,000 pounds of wool, this year, was sold in Boston at 64 cents per pound.

A well informed "reporter" for the Country Gentleman, seems to doubt whether there is a single pure bred Leicester sheep in this country. It is an undoubted fact that large numbers of sheep called Leicester or Cotswolds are a cross of the two.

The Agricultural Department estimates the wool clip of the entire country, this year, at from five to ten per cent. less than that of last year, on account of the severe weather of last Winter, and consequent exposure and destruction of a large number of sheep.

The sorghum crop of 1867 is said to be a failure, when compared with the yield of former years. From most of the cane-growing regions of the West the reports upon the condition of the crop are gloomy. Excepting a few favored localities, heavy rains have prevented the canes from maturing in season to escape the frost.

The apple crop of Indiana is unusually fine this season. In Northern Indiana the potato crop is good.

The apple crop of New Hampshire is reported as very evenly distributed, but on the whole fully up to the average of the last ten years.

In France the price of grain continues to advance, and the conclusion is that the harvest has been less favorable than was at first supposed. On account of the dearness of wheat, and the consequent distress among the poor, the municipal authorities of several towns have fixed the rate at which bakers shall sell bread.

Australia is suffering from a plethora of agricultural products. The greater portion of the people are employed in agricultural pursuits, and as the cost of shipping the growth of their farms to the other side of the world is too great to warrant a large exportation, they have no market. Their sheep have increased so fast and the prices of wool are so remunerative that they now slaughter and boil down the animals, saving only the pelts and tallow.

The isle of Spitzbergen must be a nice place to live in, especially in dog days. Somebody who pretends to know, gives the following picture of the frozen delights of a six months' Winter in that hyperborean isle: Stones crack with the noise of thunder; in a crowded hut the breath will fall in flakes of snow; wine and spirits turn to ice; the snow burns like caustic; if iron touches the skin it brings the flesh away with it; the soles of your stockings may be burnt off your feet before you feel the slightest warmth from the fire; linen taken out of boiling water instantly stiffens to the consistency of a board, and heated stones will not prevent the sheets of the bed from freezing. If these are the effects of the climate within an air-tight, fire warmed, and crowded hut, what must they be among the dark, storm-lashed mountain peaks outside?"

## The Fireside Muse.

### POOR.

What! poor you say? Why, save you, friend,
I've more than half the world could show;
Such wealth as mine you cannot boast,
Such bliss as mine you cannot know.
I've more than keenest head can sum,
Could ever dream of night or day—
I've treasures hid from sordid hearts,
No cunning thief can take away.

My riches never bring distrust
Between me and my fellow-men;
No evil passion stirs my breast,
To yield me hate for hate again;
But pleasure, peace, and joy they bring;
They soothe my cares, they make me glad,
They give delight I cannot name,
And buy me comfort when I'm sad.

Come here and open wide your eyes;
You see earth's glory at my feet,
You see the sky above my head;
The sunshine on my garden seat;
You see the love that lights my home,
The children round my cottage door—
The birds, the bees, the grass and flowers,
And you have dared to call me poor!

Come here and open wide your ears:
And hark the music morning makes,
When from the hills and from the woods
Her high and holy anthem breaks.
Come here, and catch the grand old songs
That nature sings me evermore—
The whisperings of a thousand things,
And tell me, tell me, am I poor?

Not rich is he, though wider far
His acres stretch than eye can roll,
Who has no sunshine in his mind,
No wealth of beauty in his soul.
Not poor is he, though never known
His name in hall or city mart,
Who smiles content beneath his load,
With God and Nature in his heart.

## Fireside Tale.

### JOHN.

I'm not good at story-telling. But some way I've thought if I told this little thing, there might be some one it would please. Not so much please as comfort, may be, like sliding a hand within a body's when they're in trouble; for there's nothing like a quiet hand-grip when one is in deep pain. But about this little history.

It isn't much, and it has a poor title, but if you knew how differently the name sounded from what it looks, staring there—how it makes me flash and thrill with love and deep feeling, you wouldn't think it so homely and plain.

Every one knew him, from the little, bare, brown-footed children who sold clams and cockles, to the fine people at the hotel, who always took *his* yacht in place of the rest. As for *him*—I've a notion he might have made a good picture. He was as dark as an Indian, and as tall and lithe. He could swim the fartherest, and pull the strongest oar; and as for leaping and wrestling no one could begin with him. There was a rich, dark red in the brown cheek, and when he smiled, it was a pretty sight—such white teeth, and such strong mouth, with the laugh deepening his brown eyes.

John had always been my friend; he used to take me out in the yacht when he went with Joe, my brother, and stow me away on his jacket; and then when I grew older he was the same kind friend—for Joe's wife died, and left me the housekeeper, and John used to come in, when Joe had gone on a cruise to the cod-fisheries, and bring in armfuls of wood; and in Winter make the paths, and sit down by the fire, when the Winter nights were bad, and talk with me; and in Summer he used often to come in with a word of Joe and a kind talk with Charlie and me—(that was before Charlie was large enough to go with his father in his trips) and I used to feel a kind of sisterly love for him. He was pretty much alone; his mother died, and he lived alone with old Nancy Bell, his aunt, a cross old women—but she took good care of his home, and it was all the home she had on earth.

The Irvinghams were the richest people who lived in the village. To be sure they only came there Summers, but the family had always lived there in the fine old house, with its great park and lawn, and hot-houses, which father, before he died, used to be so proud of—for he was gardener there thirty years, and mother had been Miss Emily's maid when he married her.

Miss Emily was old, and not married, but her brother Alfred, with his wife and Miss Louie, used to come back during the warm weather from their home in New York; and, as Miss Emily was very kind to me, I used to go there quite often for sewing, and could do up the fine laces and ruffles for her as no one but mother ever did, she said. Then, Miss Louie had been born at the Hall. That was before father died; so I used to go with him, and see her in the grounds playing, and play with her, too, (for they were very good to me always,) and see her great wax dolls, with their silk and lace frocks, and her greyhound and pets. She never felt a bit above me, not even when she grew to be a young lady, the only heir of her father's wealth, when every Summer she came often to see me, saying she loved me as well as her city friends, and she always loved the cakes and the other little things I used to like to fix for her. But this is not my story, after all.

She was the fairest, daintiest little beauty I have ever seen, not more than a child in her ways and feelings, gentle and kind, and oh! so very winning! She had the softest, whitest skin, and a pair of eyes as pretty as her spaniel's—though that is not a pretty thing to compare to Miss Louie. And her hair! It curled in little loose rings when she was a child, and had a dark touch on it, with a golden color in the light—it was the prettiest hair in the world; and so proud as her father was of it! He would not let her cut it; so she wore great, long, loose curls, dropping down her shoulders to her belt, and drawn back from her brow with a blue ribbon. And such bright curls as there were on her forehead and behind her ears, little rings, that the wind tossed about her eyes! I used to think she was the finest lady of them all, with her sweet, pure ways, just as fresh as a little child's. So I do not wonder that any one could help loving Louie Irvingham.

I found out, suddenly, that John loved her—and that did surprise me at first. He used to drive the Hall carriage, until he bought his yacht—for he loved the sea more than anything else. Miss Emily had old Robert, who had been there ever so many years; but John was so careful and steady that, from his place in the stables, Mr. Alfred had him drive his carriage. So he knew Miss Louie as well as I, ever since he used to carry her in his arms, and hold her on the backs of the horses—as she used to love to ride. Then, when she grew older, it was John who taught her to ride, and went with her—and I think they set one another's beauty off, even if it is foolish to say so. But when I found he loved her, I was a little troubled.

It was this way. It was late in the Fall, and Joe was not back yet, and the family at the Hall were to leave that week for town. Miss Emily and all. I remember the day had been sultry for September, the last day of the month, and the sun had not left the sky lurid. The sea was a fine sight; the red sky had given it a fiery look, and the green lights of the waves broke in bits of opal-like foam. The sun showed a few smacks and small craft tacking against the night breeze, and the beach had its crowds of finely dressed people from the hotels to make the picture prettier. I know Charlie was with his father that cruise, and I sat alone with a bit of sewing on the doorstep. The very smell of the salty air comes back to me, the line of gray sea where the sky met it, the sound of the waves, and the smell of the late, few flowers in the little garden. The house fronted toward the sea, a cosy little place, warm and snug in Winter; I tried to make it homelike for Joe.

I know I sat that night quite late, till it grew too dusky to see, and I let my work fall down on my lap. I think I was a little sad, wondering if I ever should be anything more than a housekeeper for Joe; ever see into the world that those crowds of beautiful ladies lived in; ever be a whit beyond the old sad life I led, never thinking how much it held, and forgetting Charlie and Joe would be all alone, you know. I felt a little bitterly as I leaned my head down on my hard palm—how soft, and dainty, and jeweled those hands yonder! How finely clad those delicate limbs! and girls no younger than I were walking there with brave strong lovers, in the twilight and the fresh sea air. Would I ever have a lover? Not Jem Jenkins or Tom Coles, surely, but a lover who was full of the knowledge of books and men; one who knew all I yearned to know; one who could teach me what I craved; one who was strong and brave, and whom I could trust—trust as much as I could have done just then!

My foolish head went down with a silly little sob into my lap, as I thought how vain and useless my hopes were.

Just then the gate-latch clicked, and in the gloom I saw John's tall, graceful figure, with that quick, brisk step—like his words, sound and firm—coming up the gravel walk. What-ever else I had been dreaming of was lost as it came to me in a mad, wild whirl of sense:—"Jenny, you love this man, and he is the lover you dream of."

I laid my hot cheeks down into my palms. At any other time he would have noticed it; but he came steadily to me, and threw himself down beside the steps on the grass. He often lay that way, with his head on his arm, in the cool, if there were no parties to go out in the yachts, or when he came for a word of Joe, or to cheer me. But to-night, as I raised my face, glad it was dark and fearful lest he heard my heart beat, I caught a low sob, short, and, from the sound, tearless, but a man's sob. It struck me like a stab. I felt a pityfully weak fear creeping along the veins and settling above my heart. But it was my way to face things, and I sat quite still, till I was sure I could speak, in a broken, surge-like whisper.

"Is it of Joe and Charlie, John?" Then my voice broke quite down, and I sat shivering in the damp wind, with the hair wet and clinging about my forehead. John sprang up from the grass and stood before me.

"How blind! what a fool I have been!" But his hand on mine was cold and shaky, and his voice hoarse. "No, Jenny, not that. Joe and the boy are quite well, and on their way back, for Christie Burns' vessel is in; but—but—" his voice sank even lower, "It was a trouble of mine—a trouble that seems like to kill me. I've hidden it. I've tried to bury it. I even tried to be careless of it. It won't do. It is *there*. And now, when the last hope is going forever—I am quite a boy, Jenny—I thought you might help me, and Jenny, for God's sake tell me what to do."

There was a deep feeling in his voice, and John never spoke that name lightly. I went up to him where he had crouched in the grass again, and gathered the damp hair from his brow.

"Tell me, John," I said. But the despair I had in my voice! He lifted his face and covered it with his arm, as he had lain hundreds of times asleep in the old yacht when we were children. "Jenny, I love Louie Irvingham; I, a poor, unlearned boor of a fellow, and she a fine lady with a fortune more than I could count. Ever since the time I used to make her little boats, and trot her on Rover's back, I've loved her—and now all the more since she is to go abroad next month for years, and maybe marry a fine lord or nobleman—and I—why, Jenny, I would die for her. But I must live, live and work, live and work, and be poor, and knowing nothing of books and fine society, and such life as hers."

With the sudden knowledge that a woman has when a loveless, shadowed life such as mine comes to her, I said: "John, can't you bear a sorrow that will never lighten, patiently, quietly, with a will of iron? in a life where the sunlight has become hated, to live trying to forget the pain, and being cheerful because God wills, and one knows the pain is best?"

When I spoke, God knows how bitter the pain I held, how far from being calm or reconciled I felt.

"But how can I forget her? or how can I live patiently with nothing to live for?"

I felt a pain so keen at his words that I could hardly reply.

"You must forget her. What can you ever hope to do to win her proud father's consent, even if you win hers? Besides, you will have other things to do. Men must not break their hearts. The world needs strong arms. Think! With your strong will, your hatred of being bound, could you enter that life of fashion and worldliness and not feel out of place?"

"John hung his head like a bashful boy. "I know it well enough. She does not love me or dream of my love for her. I could not be sneered at by her father."

The time had come to speak when his pride was touched. "John live a noble life. One can wear out these troubles. No, do not go away. Stay here, and make your heart forget its folly, if you can. Be a man and do a man's work, leaving the rest to God."

"I will, Jenny. God bless you!" and John had gone.

The next day she came to take leave of me. It rained dismally.

"Just think, Jenny, you little brown wren, of me. I am actually going abroad. Five years; it is a long time! But you look dismally sober, as sober as a girl over her first love-letter. Maybe it is a lover Jenny?" she said, playfully. "Oh, well, I like John; he is worthy of you. I will bring you a wedding present from Paris."

She looked dainter than ever in the plain little room; and her hair clinging about her soft, white brow, fitted for the luxury and beauty she lived in.

Louie Irvingham, did you know that afternoon how the rain, sobbing outside my little window, wailed as my own heart helplessly did, as I thought how little the love that you had would have been to you, how to me—life itself?

When the soft white face, in its pretty frame work of curls, faded away in the rain, I looked at the hard lines coming on my face, and the pain in my set mouth, and for an instant the great difference between us was so keen that—God forgive the tears that kept time to the rain without!

There is little in the six years after to tell. John bought a vessel, and was gone long whiles. I knew he was patient; he never spoke her name. All the good that life seem to bring him to do, I know he did. Sometimes I longed to speak of his sorrow, but I never did.

Once Miss Louie had played me a sad plaintive melody of some great German composer. My life seemed like the saddest part of this little tune. I remember the harmony rose and fell till the whole ended in a triumphal burst of sound; and I used to listen to wonder if my life would come to the joy-notes, too.

One day John came to me with a paper, a sort of smile on his quiet lips. His finger pointed me to a paragraph as he unfolded the paper, and I read—Louie's marriage.

"A rich, great man," John said, simply. "Jenny, I have overcome it. It was a boyish thing. I know how vain, how foolish it would have been."

That was all he said, folding up the paper and going away.

The six years were nearly over. Charlie and Joe had been on a longer cruise than usual, and were coming back. It seemed as though my life-work was pretty clear, I thought, as I spread the linen to air, and kindled a fire in the little front room. The damp chill of evening came against my cheek as I stood at the gate. On the beach a knot of men had gathered. Perhaps the vessel was already in—and here came John to tell me. He kept his face from me as he came nearer; and a look, such as I had seen on it when his mother died, was there when he came up to me.

He led me in, away from the salt smell and the chill air, to the little parlor, lighted and warmed.

"Jenny, I am in trouble again. I have come to you—"

(*Continued on page* 359.)



Many an unwise parent works hard, and lives sparingly all his life, for the purpose of leaving enough to give his children a start in the world, as it is called. Setting a young man afloat with money left him by his relatives, is like tying a bladder under the arms of one who cannot swim; ten chances to one he will lose his bladders and go to the bottom. Teach him to swim, and he will not need the bladders. Give your child a good education. See to it that his morals are pure, his mind cultivated, and his whole nature made subservient to the laws which govern man, and you will have given what will be of more value than the wealth of the Indies. You have given him a start which no misfortune can deprive him of. The earlier you teach him to depend upon his own resources and the blessings of God, the better.

(*Continued from page* 358.)

I looked quickly up at him.

"I've lost some dear friends, and need you to tell me that God knows best, and that it is right."

I thought of Louie and the Irvingbams; but a second look in John's face made me say:

"It is Joe and Charlie? They will never come home?"

John's face had fallen hetweeu his hands.

One thing more, and this little story is euded. It's no more than what you who read have known.

When, eight months later, John's vessel came back, I heard calmly the little he could tell me of the wreck. He lay on the grass-plot (for it was Summer again,) bis hand across bis face.

"Jenny, it's a long time since I told you my first real trouble. I've another, deeper, uow; for with it all, however I can hear pain and toil, I think a woman can hear heart pain better than a man. I loved Louie Irvingham foolishly, blindly, and grew to see it. Looking back to that day, I have uot forgotten some words you said. Jenny, tell me, whatever the boy's heart was, can you trust the man's?"

I did trust it, and the victory notes came at last into my life.

He was to sail on tbe morrow, and in three months I was to be his wife. What was the parting, then? I did not thiuk about the pain in my fullness of joy.

I've an idea you may call the euding of the story sad, but it isn't. Though, the night that John's vessel set in for the harbor, there was a storm, and she went on the rocks, and—well—in the morning tbey drew him out of the surf, and brought him up to Nancy Bell aud me. I think if I had bad the old rebellious cry against God in my heart that I had tbe night before, when I heard the signal guns stop, I would have lost it from my first look at John's face, where a smile of peace and trust was. Next bis heart I found a little flower I had given him, years before, in a bit of paper, with these words written:

Jenny, Darliug:—The ship is going down. Don't make it hard for me to stay in heaven without you, by feeling that this was so bitter; for, after all, the world may be dark, bnt the end will be enough for us hoth. Yon will know how much I would have said, and could not. Be very tender of yourself for my sake. Comfort Nancy. God will comfort you my brave darling. John——

And God did comfort me.

## Horticulture.

A Few Fall Hints.—Cut off tops of asparagns and cover the bed with coarse manure. Remove celery and bury iu a trencb, as deep as the plants are high, as closely as it can be packed and cover with straw as the advancing cold requires—so says an old market gardener. Fresh plantiugs of rhubarb, asparagus, grapes, fruit trees, currants, gooseberries may be made now with profit, if well done, and the ground mulched where necessary during Winter.

Hanging Evergreens for Winter.—Some of the simplest aud yet most beautiful embellishments for Winter window decoratious have heen pots of English Ivy (*Hedera*). The plants should be grown in pots in a cool, partially shaded situation duriug Summer, beiug careful to have a stone or brick uuder tbe pot to prevent the roots gaiuing earth heyond the pot. In late Autumn these pots of ivy, with their dark, rich, green foliage, clean and glossy, eau be transferred to the wiudow of a sitting-room or library, aud even should the temperature run down to zero, they are not at all injured. *Horticulturist.*

Pea Weevils.—It is stated in tbe Gardeuer's Monthly, that the New Jersey market gardeners prevent the pea weevil from destroying the germ in the early peas which they winter for seed, by sprinkling the heap with spirits of turpentine, after winnowing, and before storing in the bins. One quart of turpeutine is sefficient for fifteen or twenty bushels of peas.

Plums and the Curculio.—Dr, Kirtland says of the carculio, that in one season it destroyed every plum on his farm, except the crop of one tree in his swine lot, which hent under its load of fruit. John J. Thomas tells of a cultivator in western New York, who, by keepiug a large number of hogs in his plum yard, had abundaut crops for more than twenty years, while his ueglectful neighbors lost a greater part of theirs.

## Marriages.

In Providence, Nov. 2d, hy Rev. Henry C. Graves, Curtise S. Maryott, M.D., of New Shoreham, to Miss M. Louise Hawkins, of Glocester.

In Pawtucket, 29th ultimo, Mr. William A. Turner to Miss Sarah F. Scott, both of Pawtucket. 24th ultimo, Mr. Ferdinand A. Follett to Miss Susan Quamby, both of Pawtucket. 31st ult., Mr. William H. Washburne to Miss Clara A. Havens, both of Central Falls.

In Milford, Oct. 24, hy Rev. L. Crowell, Mr. George M. Green, to Miss Charlotte Elizabeth Grant, both of M.

In Hopeville, Conn., at the M. E. Church, hy Rev. Otis E. Thayer, Oct. 23, Mr. Reuben J. Swain, of Bloomfield, to Miss Anna Bell L. Green, of Griswold.

## Deaths.

In Cumberland, Nov. 5, Mr. Arnold Carpenter, aged 61 years, 7 months and 3 days.

In Smithfield, on the 31st ultimo, Mr. Pardon Jenckes, in the 64th year of his age.

In Smithfield, on the 4th inst., Mr. Mathewson Latham, in the 83d year of his age.

In Smithfield, 31st ultimo, Othniel Tripp, aged 72 years.

In Burrillville, 3d inst., Stephen Bartlett, aged 83 years.

In Providence, Nov. 4th, Dr. John McGregor, late of Thompson, Con., and formerly Surgeon of the 3d Connecticut Volunteers, in the 49th year of his age.

In Pawtucket, 1st inst., Irn K. Miller, aged 67 years.

In Milford, Oct. 23, Wm. Kelly, aged 24. Oct. 26, Thos. Sbaughnessy, aged 42. Oct. 29, Martin Fahy, aged 55 years.

In Millbury, Nov. 3, Sumner F. Sutton, aged 50 years.

In Oxford, Nov. 1, Mrs. Sally Aldrich, widow of Amos C. Aldrich, aged 76 years.

In Lakeville, Mass., 30th ult., Mrs. Sarah Atwood, aged 104 years.

In Dayville, Ct., 29th ult., Benjamin N. Thomas, of the late firm of Thomas & Burlingame.

At Thompson, Ct., Oct. 23d, George L. Barrett, aged 47 years.

In Galveston, Texas, Sept. 8, of yellow fever, Stedman Clark, late Commissary Sergeant 7th R. I. Vols., aged 35 years.

## The Markets.

### WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Nov. 7, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 16c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 1 10 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.50 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a17.50 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 50 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a95c |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 48c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 9c | Eggs lb doz | 48c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 20c |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 20c |
| Veal | 16a20c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresb | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

### WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

There has been much excitement in the wholesale markets during the past week. Prices fluctuated rapidly, closing lower and heavy. There has heen considerable excitement in breadstuffs; and flour is from fifty to seventy-five cents lower, the market closing tame at the concession.

Wbeat bas also fluctuated, but there is no change in prices.—The market closes heavy.

Corn bas declined from six to seven cents, and closes heavy at the concession.

Oats bave declined three to four cents n busbel, and close heavy.

Barley has advanced slightly.

Rye bas declined ten cents, and there is little business at the concession.

Pork has declined about half a dollar n barrel, and holders are anxious to sell at current rates.

Beef is inactive aud nominal, witb large offerings.

## Special Notices.



The Western Farmers.—Farmers are getting high prices for their produce; and at the same time the value of pretty much everything they find it necessary to buy is largely depreciated. Most kinds of dry goods are down almost to ante-war prices, while the products of the soil are one or two hundred per cent., in most cases, higher than they were in 1860. Thus farmers are getting two or three prices for wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, hogs, hay, butter, eggs, &c., while the product of the loom and anvil is selling far below the cost of production. Even with short crops, farmers must accumulate under present circumstances, while other people are generally losing money. This is better than the reverse would be. The rural districts are good places to have capital laid up. It will encourage agricultural industry, and this underlies all other interests.—*Cin. Gazette.*

# The Horse.

## RING-BONE IN HORSES.

Among the first evils practiced that is calculated to bring on this disease is that of using the horse too soon. Few of them are now permitted to grow until their sinews and muscles are matured. A frequent, but light and gentle use of young horses is undoubtedly good for them: but one fatigue, or strain, may affect their whole life. The *exciting* causes of ring-bone are straius of the ligaments, produced by over-work, or too fast driving, or by any kind of bruise, sprain or blow in the region of the pastern-joint.

Too often the impatience of gain seizes the colt and subjects him to long travel or hard labor, which brings on one of the countless diseases or lamenesses to which he is liable, and from which he never fully recovers.

Yet, even in such cases, it is believed by surgeons that there is lurking in the system of the subject, "a pre-dispositiou, a weakness in bone or ligament or limb, the result of errors in breeding, aggravated by a too early use of the muscular powers, and want of proper attention to food and stable managemeut."

Because the horse *can* endure, and *will* patiently endure, a vast amount of hard labor, neglect and even cruel treatmeut, only a few persons reflect upon the marvellous delicacy of his construction. If they would study this more, they would negleet, or over-drive, or overload the animals less.

Aside from tainted blood, it is believed that horses of a peculiar formation are more liable to contract this disease than others. One author says that "a coarse, or half-bred, fleshy or bony-legged horse, with short aud upright pasterns, is a frequent subject of this disease." Youatt adds that "horses with short, upright joints, and with small feet and high action, are oftenest the subjects of this disease, which is the consequence either of concussion or sprain of the pastern-joints."

As to the *origin* of this disease, it is hereditary in very many cases. Colts only a few weeks old have been found affected with it.—Unweaned colts, which have been brought up by hand, have disclosed at the age of four months, swelliugs on the pasterns of both hind legs, which ultimately resulted in stiff joints. In such cases, the animals had not been subject to any sort of labor or improper exercise to produce lauieness, and the disease must have been generated at birth.

The nature of this disease is not very different from that of spavin or splint. It is a circular ring of bony matter formed on the *pastern* bone, generally affecting the joint, and causing stiffness and loss of motion in it.—Sometimes, small deposits of osseous (bony) matter are made on the pastern bones, of different shape and size, which do not produce lameness, aud are called by horsemen, "clingfasts," and other names; but they are all of the same general nature, and are called by veterinarians, *exostosis.*

Having owned many thorough-bred Conestoga horscs aud mules, some of which had exostosis of the different bones, called by farriers ringbone, and knowing from experieuce the value of iodine in analagous cases in the human subject, I was induced to test its efficacy in combination with excitants on a valuable blooded marc that had chronic ringbone, and succeeded in effectually removing the osseous structure. I have subsequently applied it in many cascs with the samc happy result. The following is the formula: Tinc. iodinii, tinc. capsici, tinc. camphoræ (fort), ol. origani, one ouncc of cach; spt. vini gallici, four ounces. Prepare the part with soap and water; wipe perfectly dry; then takc a smooth, round stick and rub briskly a few minutes; apply the mixture three times a day, rubbing it well in; then fold a woolen cloth two or three thicknesscs and bandage moderately tight.

A very simple, unstimulating diet should be commcnced and insisted on. By this gencral treatment we may not remove the bony tumor, (and that is uunecessary, as it seldom causes pain, wheu once established,) but we shall do all that can be done to aid uature in effecting all the cure that is possible.

A notion has long prevailed, and it has crept into many popular works on farriery, that "riug-bone is fed by a bladder at the back part of the pastern;" and this notion has led to a cruel operatiou in the treatment of this disease. There is indeed a bladder there, called a "*bursal sac*," the design of which is to secrete a joint-oil to lubricate the tendons, and to prevent the friction of surfaces: how barbarous, then, to destroy it!—*American Stock Journal.*

## SCRATCHES.

Scratches is known by the name of cracked heels in England, and is more common among coarse than well-bred horses. It may be defined as iuflammation of the skin of the heels.

*Causes.*—Constitutional predisposition or diathesis, as it is termed by pathologists; this predisposition is frequent in coarse-bred horses, in whom the skin of the heels and legs seem to be more liable to iuflammation than in well-bred ones. Allowiug a horse to stand in the stable without cleaning and drying his legs after work. The contact of wet litter and dung irritates the skin, aud this occasions scratches. Clippiug the hair about the heels and legs, and allowiug the horse to stand with his legs exposed to a curreut of cold air will also produce the disease.

*Symptoms.*—The skin becomes hot and painful, and cracks aud fissures form iu the skin; the horse sometimes goes lame, especially wheu first brought out of the stable. The inflammation of the skin extends upward, involving the skin at the back of the fetlocks, the hair falls out and the skin becomes thickened.

*Treatment and Prevention.*—What has been said in reference to the causes of the disease indicates sufficiently the means of prevention. If much inflammation aud swelling is present, a linseed meal poultice should be applied for a couple of days, renewing it every twelve hours, and afterward a lotion, composed of one drachm of sulphate of zinc, two ounces of glycerine and six ounces of water should be applied twice a day to the affected parts. Seven or eight drachms of aloes should be given, aud afterwards a ball composed of two draehms of uitrate of potash and two drachms of sulphur, and a sufficieut quantity of powdered liquorice-root may be given twice a week until the skin becomes healthy. Whcn horses have a tendency to this disease, they should be fed moderately and exercised regularly, as gross feeding and irregular exercise favor the development of the disease.—*Western Rural.*

Another Remedy for Scratches.—Take white pine pitch, rosin, beeswax and honey, one ounce each, fresh lard, one half pound, melt well together over a slow fire, stir till quite thick, so that the parts may not settle and separate. This makes an excellent application for harness galls, cuts and sores of all kinds, on horses and cattle.—*Farmer and Gardener.*

# Advertising Department.

## Massachusetts.



## Pennsylvania.



## Rhode Island.



## New York.



## New Jersey.



### TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the Farm and Fireside. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a good style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

### COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the Farm and Fireside may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

### THE FARM AND FIRESIDE

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

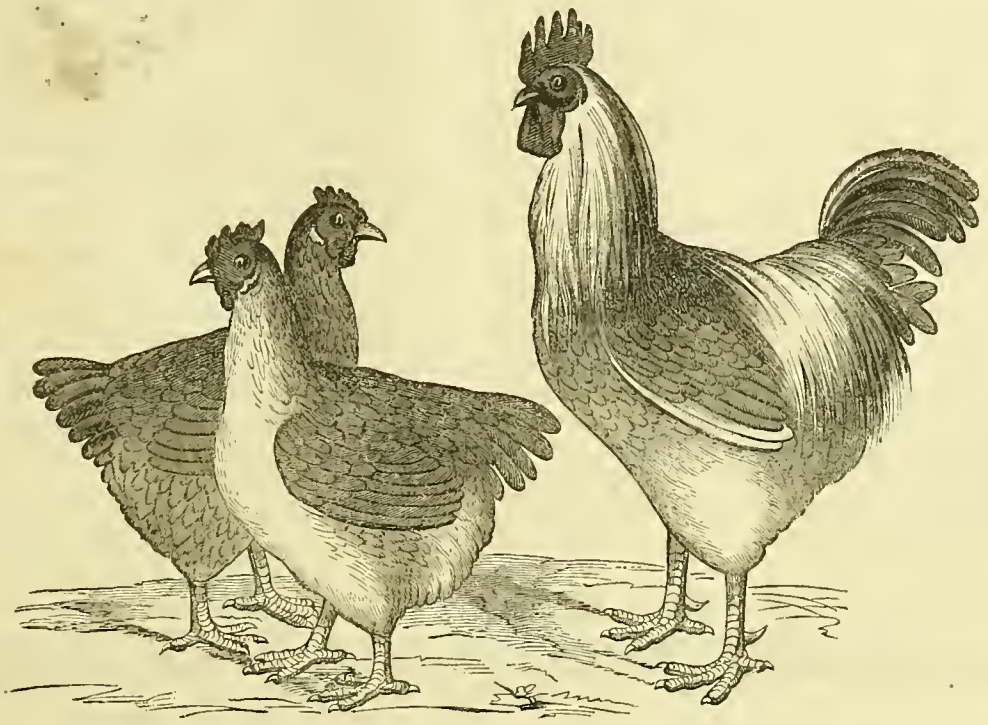
# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET.* *TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.* *SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1867. NO. 46.

## COCHIN FOWLS.

Their strongest point is their unrivaled excellence as Winter layers. As supplying chickens for sale in the London and other first-class markets they hold a very inferior position in the scale of merit. They have, in fact, many draw-backs to their value; instead of the smaller bone of the Dorking, they possess coarse, spongy bones of a large size, and of a much greater weight. It is evident that all the food which has been required to form the extra quantity of bone, in a profitable point of view, has been uselessly employed. The Dorking, Game, or Polish fowl is as superior to the Cochin as is the (improved) Short-horn steer to the coarse, unimproved varieties of domestic cattle. * * * * They accumulate large quantities of fat internally, where it is useless; but on the breast they scarcely fatten at all. From their terrestrial habits, the pectoral muscles are very slightly developed; consequently there is less meat on the breast than might be expected from the size. * * It is frequently remarked that Cochins make up in the size of the leg what is wanted on the breast. This is true; but it is no recommendation to a table fowl to develop largely the inferior portions at the expense of the finer parts. In the improved breeds of cattle the best joints are developed, and the inferior lessened in size; there is small bone and very little offal. The same peculiarities should distinguish a table-fowl; it should be as nearly as possible all breast, with short limbs and thin bones.

It should be recollected, that unless a fowl has naturally a full chest it is impossible to put flesh or muscle on it by fatting, for there is this distinction between the flesh of quadrupeds and that of birds, that in the former, the flesh can be increased in size by the intermixture of fat between the fibres, which gives rise to the marbled appearance seen in prime beef. This, however, cannot be done in the case of birds, their muscles being always destitute of fat, which is deposited under the skin, or in the interior of the body only. * * * To sum up, it may be stated that Cochins are chiefly valuable, from their hardihood, from the ease with which they may be kept in a small space, and the manner in which they bear confinement; from their great prolificacy, in Winter especially; from their docility and the readiness with which they set in any place, and at any time of the year; also from the quickness of their growth and size; but as a first-class table and market fowl, it will be found that any attempt to breed them, will terminate in disappointment.—*Tegetmier's Poultry Book.*

## FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF DAIRY COWS.

No branch of dairy farming can compare in importance with the management of cows.—The highest success will depend very much upon it, whatever breed be selected, and whatever amount of care and attention be given to the points of the animals; for experience will show that very little milk comes out of the bag that is not first put in the throat. It is poor economy, therefore, to attempt to keep too many cows for the amount of feed we have; for it will generally be found that one good cow well bred and well fed will yield as much as two ordinary cows kept in the ordinary way, while a saving is effected both in labor and room required, and in the risks on the capital invested. If the larger number on poorer feed is urged for the sake of the manure, which is the only ground on which it can be put, it is sufficient to remark, that it is a very expensive way of making manure. It is not too much to say that a proper regard to profit and economy would require many an American farmer to sell off nearly half his cows, and to feed the whole of his hay and roots hitherto used to the remainder.

A certain German farmer was visited, one day, by some Swiss from over the border, who desired to buy of him all the milk of his cows for the purpose of making cheese. Not being able to agree upon the terms, he finally proposed to let them take the entire charge of his cows, and agreed to furnish feed amply sufficient, the Swiss assuming the whole care of feeding it out, and paying a fixed price by measure for all the milk. "I found myself, at once," says he, "under the necessity of selling almost half my cows, because the Swiss required nearly double the quantity of fodder which the cows had previously had, and I was well satisfied that all the produce I could raise on my farm would be far from sufficient to feed in that way the number of cows I had kept.—I was in despair at finding them using such a quantity of the best quality of feed, though it was according to the strict letter of the contract, especially as I knew that I had given my cows rather more than the quantity of food recommended by men in whom I had perfect confidence. Thus, while Thaer names twenty-three pounds of hay, or its equivalent, as food sufficient for a good-sized cow, I gave mine full twenty-seven pounds. But, if the change effected in the management of my cows was great, the result was still more striking. The quantity of milk kept increasing, and it reached the highest point when the cows attained the condition of the fat kine of Pharaoh's dream. The quantity of milk became double, triple, and even quadruple, what it had been before; so that, if I should compare the product with that previously obtained, a hundred pounds of hay produced three times more milk than it had produced with my old mode of feeding.—Such results, of course, attracted my attention to this branch of farming. It became a matter of pleasure; and my observations were followed up with great care, and during several years I devoted a large part of my time to it. I even went so far as to procure scales for weighing the food and the animals, in order to establish exact data on the most positive basis."

The conclusions to which he arrived were, that an animal, to be fully fed and satisfied, requires a quantity of food in proportion to its live weight; that no feed could be complete that did not contain a sufficient amount of nutritive elements; hay, for example, being more nutritive than straw, and grains than roots. He found, too, that the food must possess a bulk sufficient to fill up to a certain degree the organs of digestion or its stomach; and that, to receive the full benefit of its food, the animal must be wholly satisfied, if the stomach is not sufficiently distended, the food cannot be properly digested, and of course many of the nutritive principles it contains would not be perfectly assimilated. An animal regularly fed eats till it is satisfied, and no more than is requisite. A part of the nutritive elements in hay and other forage-plants is needed to keep an animal on its feet,—that is, to keep up its condition,—and if the nutrition of its food is not sufficient for this the weight decreases, and if it is more than sufficient the weight increases, or else this excess is consumed in the production of milk or in labor. About one-sixtieth of their live weight in hay, or its equivalent, will keep horned cattle on their feet; but in order to be completely nourished, they require about one-thirtieth in dry substances, and four-thirtieths in water, or other liquid contained in their food. The excess of nutritive food over and above what is required to sustain life will go in milch cows generally to the production of milk, or to the growth of the fœtus, but not in all cows to an equal extent; the tendency to the secretion of milk being far more developed in some than in others.

With regard to the consumption of food in proportion to the live weight of the animal, however far it may apply as a general principle, it should, I think, be taken with some qualifications. The proportion is probably not uniform as applied to all breeds indiscriminately, though it may be more so applied to animals of the same breed. Bakewell's idea was that the quantity of food required depended much on the shape of the barrel; and it is well known that an animal of a close, compact, well-rounded barrel will consume less than one of an opposite make.

The variations in the yield of milch cows are caused more by the variations in the nutritive elements of their food than by a change of the form in which it is given. "A cow, kept through the Winter on mere straw," says a practical writer on this subject, "will cease to give milk; and when fed in Spring on green forage, will give a fair quantity of milk. But she owes the cessation and restoration of the secretion to respectively the diminution and the increase of her nourishment, and not at all to the change of form, or of outward substance, in which the nourishment is administered. Let cows receive through Winter nearly as large a proportion of nutritive matter as is contained in the clover, lucerne, and fresh grasses, which they eat in Summer, and, no matter in what precise substance or mixture that matter may be contained, they will yield a Winter's produce of milk quite as rich in caseine and buty-

raceous ingredients as the Summer's produce, and far more ample in quantity than almost any dairyman with old-fashioned notions would imagine to be possible."

We keep too much stock for the quantity of good and nutritious food which we have for it; and the consequenee is cows are, in nine eases out of ten, poorly wintered, and come out in the Spring weakened, if not, indeed, positively diseased, and a long time is required to bring them into a condition to yield a generous quantity of milk.

It is a hard struggle for a cow reduced in flesh and in blood to fill up the wasted system with the food which would otherwise have gone to the secretion of milk; but, if she is well fed, well housed, well littered, and well supplied with pure, fresh water, and with roots, or other *moist* food, and properly treated to the luxury of a frequent carding, and constant kindness, she comes out ready to eommeuce the manufacture of milk under favorable circumstances.—*Milch Cows and Dairy Farming.*

## CROPS ADAPTED TO SOIL.

It is of the utmost importance to successful farming that the crops grown be adapted to the soil. Some farms are better adapted to grass than grain, and yet the owners may be vainly endeavoring to make money by raising grain; and on the other hand some farmers may be relying on stoek for profit on decided grain farms. In the latter case they find that their farms are overstocked—then stock does not thrive, and they have to consume all their profits iu buying fodder.

At the prices which have ruled for dairy products for the last five years, we are inclined to thiuk a good grass farm more profitable than one more especially adapted to grain. Beef, mutton, wool, pork, milk, butter and ebeese bave all commanded higb prices, and prohably will for years to come. Where tbe farms are located at some distance from market, the superior value of grass farms is still more apparent. The cost of transporting the rough products of the soil to market is greater than it is where they are concentrated hy heing converted into meat, hides, wool, hutter and cheese.

Low, mucky land, and stiff, moist clays will generally pay better in stock, while dry, sandy and gravelly loams indicate a graiu farm. Higb, rugged hills, difficult of cultivation, are especially adapted to sheep-grazing; the short, natural grasses which they produee being more palatable and nutritious than tbe most luxurious growth of lowlands. A portion of a grass farm will be under culture every year, iu order to hreak up and re-seed pastures and meadows that have run out, but the grain produced should never be sold, hut fed to the stock. In this way the stock can he made profitable, and their manure, being returned to the land, will keep up the fertility of the same.

A question of great importanee to owuers of stock farms is, whether it is more economical to raise their own stock, or to purchase them wheu they have reaehed the most profitable age for use. Of course, with sueh stock as sheep or swine, which soon grow into value, there can be little doubt that it is more economieal to raise than to buy them; unless tbe loss in wool and mutton to lamb-bearing ewes is greater than the value of the lambs; but with eows and heef cattle the ease is different. It would undoubtedly he more profitable to the dairymau to keep his cows ouly during that portion of their lives when they yield the most milk—say from six to niue years of age, and if dairymen should always replenish their berds with good six years old cows, at moderate prices, it would he more economical to buy than to raise them; hut if that were the rule the supply must soon fail. So it would seem that there is no way so reliable as to savc the heifer calves of tbose cows which show the highest aud best qualificatious for that branch of the dairy business which it is the desigu of the farmer to pursue.

Where the leading object is beef, we are of the opinion that those farmers have made the most money who have bought animals at the hest age for fatteniug, and then made beef of them in the quickest time compatihle with eeonomieal feeding. To sueceed in heef-making the farmer must be a good traffieker. We have known farmers possessiug the latter qualification, make handsome fortunes hy huying up eattle, feeding tbem until they were in good eondition for beef, and then selling to drovers or shipping to market themselves.

Those sheep husbaudmen who rely upon mutton as well as wool for profits generally succeed best. Every flock will show some animals that have a teudency to wool and others to flesh. Let a judicious assortment be made, and every animal devoted to that purpose for which it is best suited, and the farmer's gains will he increased proportionately.

Some farmers succeed well in horse-breediug, but in this business it is very important that the farmer as well as the farm should be adapted to the business. He must understand the horse, aud how to buy, trade and sell him. Some men will sell a colt for fifty per cent more than others would.

Upon the wbole we think that a stock farmer requires more intelligence thau a grain farmer. He should possess, in addition to the knowledge of the best way to grow grass and grain, an intimatc acquaiutance with the nature of animals. After all probably these farmers are uniformly most successful whose farms are hest adapted to both grass and grain, aud who are enabled, in consequencc thereof, to pursue a mixed hushandry.

To those farmers who have struggled hard for years, and succeeded only iu making a hare liviug, we would say, consider well the nature and capacity of your soil, and see if you have not been cultivating those crops for which it is the least adapted; and, perhaps, by changing your crops, you may sueceed in accumulating a competence to support you in your old age, and leave a little to start your children in life.—*American Farmer.*

Bones.—It was the celebrated Liebig who suggested that if bones were made more soluble their action would be quicker, and the expense to the farmer less. He suggested that tbey should be made soluble by a process well known to chemists. Bones can he dissolved in a variety of ways. A method which has been known for fifty or sixty years, namely, by the use of sulphuric aeid—was the one recommended by Liebig. He proposed that sulphuric acid sbould be applied to bones, so as to dissolve a portiou of the lime, and set the phosphoric acid free. This has been generally donc, and I helieve no suggestious in chemical science has been productive of such immense advantages to agriculture as this simple one of Liehig; because, iustead of throwing a quantity of hones upon the land, which appareutly are very good for the landlord—I say apparently, because he sees the bones there, put in just as much as the crop requires, and not a farthing's wortb more.

It ill accords with notions of wbat farming in the preseut day ought to he, that a man should put a sufficient quantity of mauure on his land to last for nine or ten years, losing tbe iuterest of his money for the whole of that time. As well might he put £10,000 into a bank, and keep it there for ten years, simply because he might want to speud a thousand a year, tbereby losiug some hundreds a year interest during the period.—*Prof. Nesbit.*

Protecting Fruit Trees with Earth.—Tbe rule should be to work the dirt from tbe trees in the Spring, while the weather is cool and moist, and as the heat of midsummer approaches reverse this operation, turniug the ploughsbare towards the trees, and heap the soil over their roots. This wards off the intense heat of the Summer sun, and, left in this position protects the roots, in a great measure, from the effeets of Winter frosts.

The mud of Paris, obtained in the streets, is sold for six thousand francs, hut it is manipulated and sold as a fertilizer to the amount of three millions of franes.

## POULTRY ITEMS.

About Setting.—Some hens have the ineubating fever so strong sometimes as to render it diffieult to get them to give over the notion of setting when they are not desired to do so. To cure them of this, various plans are resorted to. Sometimes they are treated to tossiugs into the air,—sueeessive immersions in cold water and other chastisements aceording to the temper and knowledge of tbe owner. A man in Ohio says he cures them by tying tbe hen to a stake near a patb whieb is frequently traveled, giving a play of striug of three or four feet. It is said one day's confinemeut in this way, with the frequent scares she will get, will put all setting notions out of the heu's head.

Guinea Fowls.—These fowls wben a number of hens are together, it is said will all lay their eggs in one place till the instiuct of settiug hegins to operate, when each will make a nest, or sometimes two will club together in laying and setting. When the chicks come out they must have a free run, as confinemeut is fatal to the brood. The Guinea is a prolific layer, but her noise sometimes is rather annoying.

Poultry Houses.—It is advisable, in the construetion of poultry houses, to use pine lumber—the more pitch it contains the better—as this is very offensive to poultry vermin. Some think it pays well to make the roostiug cribs of pine boughs as a protection from their greatest enemy—lice.

Give them Ashes.—Where fowls are confined in considerahle numhers to a restricted enclosure they should bave a good supply of wood ashes to wallow in. It will pay to fill a large box with ashes and place it uuder shelter where the fowls cau use it at pleasure. It is a pleasure to them, as is mauifest by the eagerness with which they avail themselves of this means of purification.—*Rural New Yorker.*

## PEAR CULTURE.

Mr. Thomas Meehan, in his address ou the diseases of the pear, at the Pomological Congress, St. Louis, lately, eoncluded as follows. Of course he alludes to standard pears, and in this our own experieuce confirms the opinion expressed:

"No one can have auy doubt, as to the comparative freedom from dehility of trees grown for years in grass over those grown in continually stirred soil, who examiue old orchards under botb couditions. Old pears iu my grounds, eight aud nine feet in circumference, always bear if they have any flowers at all—always have healthy foliage—always set most in their blossoms, and drop only those which get punctured hy insects, enough, however, being always left to produce plentifully; while anywhere in soil with regularly stirred surfaces, you fiud innumerable flowers with few fruit, and of those which do set innumerable are found afterwards covering tbe ground, whieh have fallen off from no cause hut sbeer inability in the weakened vital prineiple to maintain them.

"Leaf blight and innumerahle diseases follow excessively weakened vitality, and I am well assured that though fire blight, crackiug, and all the means of destructiou to many thousands of hushels of pears annually—dehility destroys its ten thousands."

How to Cook a Ham.—Boil a haun for three hours, remove the skin, and trim it nicely, aud then rub into tbe fat a pound of powdered sugar, or as much as it will takc up. The ham is then placed into a dripping pan, in whicb is put a pint of sherry, or other good wiue, and put into the oven, aud baked very slowly for two hours. During the baking it is frequently basted with the wine. Try this, aud we are confident you will say that you have never before eaten ham iu its greatest perfection.

The Horticulturist says tbat although animal manures are said to he injurious to evergreens; it has been recently proved that old, well rotted barn yard manure may be applied to them with the best possible results.

## NEGLECTED VEGETABLES.

One of tbese is the vegetable marrow, which, says the writer, if it be the same as the marrow squash sometimes grown in this eountry, is eertainly cooked differently from our method. In England it is brought upon the table whole, and forms a delieate dish.

The artichoke is found on every table in Franee, England and Germany. This is far from being the Jerusalem artiehoke familiar to Americans. The latter is the root of a species of the suuflower, and is uot a true artiehoke at all. The neglected kind is a head composed of small, thick, pointed leaves. It is generally hoiled, although sometimes consumed in a raw state—the leaves heing plucked off, and the lower ends dipped in a sauce of butter and spices, aud then eaten. Sometimes they are haked in meat pies. Germany rejoices in the celeriae, a species of celery, the white solid bulb of which is eaten, generally in soup.

But mushrooms offer the saddest example of neglect on our part. Not that they are totally unkuown or uncared for here. Wbat man or woman, any portion of whose childhood has been spent in the country, has not wet his or her feet in the morning meadows, searching for the clean white bulbs among the dew-laden grass? The taste of mushrooms is familiar to us all, but it is so rarely recalled as to he scarcely more vivid than the remembered fragrance of some sweet flower of dreamland, which may be supposed not to be of the most substantial kind. But the French and Germans cultivate them to such an extent as to make tbem cheap and plentiful. In Germany tbey are not absent from the markets in any part of the year. Sometimes they grow so large that two or three of them will furuish a hearty dish.

Flies.—Tbe naturalist recognizes many hundreds of kinds of flies in this country, but in our housebold economy we rcduce them mainly to three sorts: House flies, biting flies aud bluebottle or hlow flies. Tbe latter is readily distinguished; the two former are, however, frequently confouuded, although easily known apart by au acute observer. They may, however, always be identified at a glance hy the position they assume on a wall. A common house fly almost invariably rests with its head downwards, and however it may alight, works its way arouud until this direction is assumed. The hiting flies, on the contrary, as universally rest with the head pointing upwards, acting, iu this respect, precisely like the mosquito, equally blood-thirsty with itself. Tbis observation, whieh, we believe, has not been in print before, was first made hy a Russian serf. The brother of an eminent foreign entomologist, now residing in the United States, observed tbe man in question killing some of the flies on a wall of his hut, without disturbing others, and on heing questioned, he gave as a reason that those with the heads up were "biters," and the others were not. A careful examination of the facts by the eutomologist himself, proved the aeeuracy of the generalization thus made hy an iguorant hut observaut peasant.

Currant Cuttings.—At a late meeting of the New York Farmers' Cluh, Mr. Quinn gave the following directions for managiug currant cuttings. Currant wood can he turned iuto a plant the year it is growu by setting auy time from August to November. I would make a square, clean cut, have the grouud mellow that the youug rootlets may meet with no obstruetions, and then push the dirt closely around the bottom of the cutting. The Fali is decidedly the hest time to eommence operations, hecause iu so doing, one gets a two years' growth in one. If it is very dry, some mulchiug will be required, but generally, at this seasou, the ground is warmer thau the atmosphere, aud 98 per cent. should live.

Tan Bark is a good Winter protection for strawherries, as it not only shields them from the rigors of tbe Winter, hut coutains tanuic acid, au ingredient which imparts strength and vigor to the plauts.



In Madrid, the newspapers are opposing the continuance of bull-fighting, and in their attacks on the sport give some curious statistics. During late years the number of bull-fights has considerahly increased, and it is reported that in 1861 there were 1990 hulls sacrificed in these fights. The average value of these animals was $125, and the total loss by their murder, duriug a single year, was $248,750. During the same period 3000 horses, valued at $30,000, perished in these fights. In 1866 the losses were still greater, 2375 bulls and 3561 horses, valued at $1,300,000, being killed. There were 475 bull-fights during the year, and the money paid by the public for admissiou to them amouuted to $650,000.

# The Fireside Muse.

### SUNSHINE COMES TO-MORROW.

The clouds hang heavy o'er the hills,
The sunshine's passed away;
The breezes wailing loud and shrill,
Bemoan the close of day.
Yet well I know the clouds will pass,
The skies fresh radiance borrow,
The summer winds sing joyously,
When sunshine comes to-morrow.

Once 'cross my path an angel shone,
With mild and pitying ray,
And all the clouds and cares of life
Before her passed away.
Though absent now, Hope bids me not
Mourn on in ceaseless sorrow;
And thus I cheer my heart and say,
Sunshine will come to-morrow."

And while these pilgrim days shall last,
When skies look bleak and chill,
And clouds of grief hang heavily
Around Life's rugged hill—
Still with abiding faith I'll trust
That every care and sorrow
Will vanish like the summer's rain,
When sunshine comes to-morrow.

# Fireside Readings.

### HOW TO KEEP THE BOYS AT HOME.

My neighbor Smith came in this morning wearing a very perplexed look, and evidently considerably excited about something. I can tell when Smith is agitated, for he shows it in his face and actions, and has not that power of control which allows a person to appear calm while laboring under deep excitement. After some talk on general subjects he broke out with:

"I can't keep my boys at home. There's John went away last year, and now William wants to leave, though he ain't only seventeen, and no more fit to go out into the world for himself than a child. I don't see how other folks keep their boys at home, I can't."

"I suppose, then, they ain't satisfied with things on the farm."

"No, they're oneasy from morning till night, and don't give me any peace."

"Couldn't something be done to make them satisfied with farm life?"

"I don't know, boys ain't same as they used to be. They get big notions in their heads, and don't stick to work as well."

"Perhaps we farmers don't give them enough privileges. We mustn't forget that they are *boys* and *not men*, and use them accordingly."

"When I was a boy I didn't think of having so many privileges as they have now."

"Very well, but times were far different then from now. We must take things as they are in the age we live, and endeavor to conform to prevailing customs. Do you give your boys plenty of holidays and time to rest, as well as look round a little?"

"Yes, they always go to 4th of July, and the circusses."

"Did you take them to the cattle show last year?"

"Well, no; you see I wanted to get my potatoes out afore they rotted any worse."

"That was hardly fair. The cattle show is peculiarly intended for the farmers' boys, and its wrong to cheat them out of attending."

"You don't think they do the boys any good, do you?"

"Why not? Farmers' boys learn easily, and are very observant. I think they would be more likely to notice changes and improvements than their elders. A knowledge of what others are doing would stimulate them to action with the hope of equaling or surpassing a neighbor. We are not apt to give our boys credit for all they do know. You kept your boys to school during the Winter terms, I suppose."

"Generally; but last Winter I had considerable cord wood to get out, so William had to help me. It won't pay to hire a man."

"That was a 'penny wise and pound foolish' policy. Give your boys all the schooling possible, at least do not let them lose a day of the Winter term. Better stay at home yourself and do the chores, than they should remain out of school. And every farmer who can possibly spare the means, should allow his boys a term at the high school or academy in the Fall after harvesting, as soon as they are sixteen years old. You take plenty of papers, I suppose?"

"Well, no; I did have The Farmer, but it don't come now; but I have a political paper."

"I think I see where the trouble is, Smith. I'm afraid your boys don't find home attractive. Perhaps they have come to associate the word *home* with a place where they have only ate and stayed, instead of a pleasant refuge where the body and mind is rested and restored.—Perhaps you have kept them too often and too late in the field, and not given them enough recreation. Perhaps—mind you, I say, *perhaps*—they have got an idea that any other place is more pleasant than the farm and the life they lead there. If so, by all means correct this idea by removing the causes. Remember that 'all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,' and give them all the holidays consistent with justice. Make the house a home in reality to them when not engaged in farm work—not a mere place to eat and sleep in. Fix up the sitting-room; get some books and pictures, and don't be afraid to spend ten dollars or more a year for periodicals. It will pay you compound interest, and whatever you can do with your money on the farm or about your home that will exert an influence towards making your boys contented and satisfied, will be better than mortgages on real estate, or 7-30s to be left for them to quarrel over after you are gone."

### TO-MORROW.

This would be a happy world enough, were men more content with to-day, and less anxious about to-morrow. One half the misery in the world is not real, but anticipated misery. A concern for this bugbear "to-morrow," is at the bottom of a majority of our troubles. And yet, if a man will but glance over his yesterdays, he will see at once how foolish it is to fret himself about the time to come; for he will find in every yesterday a miniature grave, as it were, dug by a too fearful imagination, in which is buried all his little store of daily happiness.

A prudent thoughtfulness for the future every man should entertain; but it is worse than folly to permit the breath of to-morrow, like a mildew, to blight the flowers around our pathway. Let us enjoy the sunshine while it is about us; and if beneath the horizon clouds are concealed, why anticipate the gloom in which they will ensbroud us?

It is often the case that an imaginary evil is productive of more mischief than the real calamity. It has frequently been observed, in times of great mortality, that where disease carried off its one thousand, fear destroyed its ten thousand. So of the minor evils of life—where the happiness of one is affected by real misfortune, that of ten is destroyed without any just cause. The truth is, men are not content with their every day happiness. They slight the good they have in their anxiety for the good to come. They waste their daily supply of oil in fruitless attempts to procure a supply for the morrow, forgetting that He who replenishes the cruise is inexhaustible. Every man has oil enough in his lamp to light him to contentment—that better name for happiness—if he will but use it aright. But he will not use it aright, and that is the mischief of it.

Some men seem to act as though there were not evils enough already in the world, besetting us on every hand, and so they go to work piling up men of straw, converting them at once into so many giants, and then waste their strength and spirits in battling them. There is hardly a man who has not a lion in his path, roaring like all possessed. And yet the growl is all that is known of the lurking danger.

While to some this same "to-morrow" of which we are talking is pregnant with nothing but direful evils, to others it is the great storehouse of hopes and enjoyments. The past is nothing—the present is nothing—the future everything. Neglecting all the means of enjoyment scattered profusely around them, they press on to the attainment of some unattainable good. To them happiness, like the bird Huma, is ever on the wing—flitting tantalizingly before them, but never perching so that they can lay hold of it. And so they wear away their lives in one vain, endless chase.

### GENIUS AND ITS POSSESSORS.

With genius itself we never find fault. It would be an over nicety that would do that. We do not get invited to nectar and ambrosia so often that we think of grumbling and saying we have better at home. No; the same genius that mastered him who wrote the poem masters us in reading it, and we care for nothing outside the poem itself. How the author lived, what he wore, how he looked,—all that is mere gossip, about which we need not trouble ourselves. Whatever he was or did, somehow or other God let him be worthy to write this, and this is enough for us. We forgive everything to the genius; we are inexorable to the man. Shakspeare, Goethe, Burns—what have their biographers to do with us? Genius is not a question of character. It may be sordid, like the lamp of Aladdin, in its externals; what care we, while the touch of it builds palaces for us, makes us rich as only men in dream land are rich, and lords to the utmost bound of imagination? So, when people talk of the ungrateful way in which the world treats its geniuses, they speak unwisely. There is no work of genius which has not been the delight of mankind, no word of genius to which the human heart and soul have not, sooner or later, responded. But the man whom the genius takes possession of for its pen, for its trowel, for its pencil, for its chisel, him the world treats according to his deserts. Does Burns, drink? It sets him to gauging casks of gin. For, remember, it is not to the practical world that the genius appeals; it is the practical world which judges of the man's fitness for its uses, and has a right so to judge. No amount of patronage could have made distilled liquors less toothsome to Robbie Burns, as no amount of them could make a Burns of the Ettrick Shepherd.—*James Russell Lowell.*

Success.—The successful man is not necessarily the man to be envied—not always the happiest man. Human nature cannot have its own will long without becoming deteriorated by it. We are appointed to struggle, and in struggling our highest life is developed. The time will come when the laws of our present condition will cease, and when we shall be able to bask in the sunshine of success without danger to our virility, or enervation of our virtues. Till then it is our wisdom to accept our lot and make the best of it—to seek for our enjoyment in our work rather than what the work produces—to till the soil, and dismiss all needless anxiety about the harvest—to be more concerned that we should be right than that we should succeed; in a word to bear ourselves like well-disciplined soldiers, with whom strict obedience is the most sacred of obligations, and who are thereby absolved from responsibility as to results. Then, so far as success is vouchsafed us, it will be grateful; so far as it is denied, it will not disconcert us. Thus living, our life will be its own success.

Ages of Animals.—A correspondent sends us the following curious—perhaps true—comparative view of the different ages common to several of the animal creation:

"The partridge, peacock, swine and turtle dove,
Twenty-five years on earth may chance to rove;
Harts and sheep live seldom more than ten;
Rams, bulls and dogs live half as long again.
The ox (a curious fact) and horse a score;
A goat and pigeon eight, but seldom more;
The ass till thirty, and a goose with men,
Spins out a term of three score years and ten;
While the hoarse raven and the eagle soar
O'er beauteous scenes one hundred years or more.

—*Baltimore Commercial.*

### RATS.

There were no rats in California before the gold discoveries. Then, in 1849, they were imported by sea in the rat's worst shape, that of the brown, or Norwegian variety. Few of the interior towns were visited until 1852. Now they infest all parts of the State. In 1850 there were no rats in New Mexico and it used to be a speculation how long the adobe houses would resist their gnawing teeth, whenever they should see fit to establish themselves in that country. It is said that the rat was unknown before the Christian era, and that his first appearance in Europe was long after in the Middle Ages. This was the black rat, coming from no place of which we now have any record. He soon spread all over Europe, and from his hostility to the mouse, which has been known through all recorded time, it is strange that the smaller rodent has not been exterminated. He would be were he not perhaps even more prolific than his bigger brother.

The brown rat was not known in Europe before the eighteenth century; and though called a Norwegian rat, was actually imported from India. He is the strongest and most ferocious and destructive of his tribe. To day, it is said, there is not a black rat in Paris—the race there having been killed out by the browner animal. This species is widely known all over the United States. The ravages of the rats of both species are enormous. How they can be got rid of is a question worthy of the attention of legislators. Such vermin, if possible, ought to be exterminated; a rat no matter how domesticated he may be, has no more right to live in a civilized community than a wolf or a wildcat.

True Literature.—Whether one is an eagle or an ant, in the intellectual world, seems to me not to matter much; the essential thing is to have one's place marked there, one's station assigned, and to belong decidedly to a regular and wholesome order. A small talent, if it keeps within its limits and rightly fulfils its task, may reach the goal just as well as a greater one. To accustom mankind to pleasures which depend neither upon bodily appetites nor upon money, by giving them a taste for the things of the mind, seems to me, in fact, the proper fruit which nature has meant our literary productions to have. When they have other fruits, it is by accident, and, in general, not for good. Books which absorb our attention to such a degree that they rob us of all fancy for other books, are absolutely pernicious. In this way they only bring fresh crotchets and sects into the world; they multiply the great variety of weights, rules, and measures now already existing; they are morally and politically a nuisance. —*Joubert.*

"Allow me," said a host in his most persuasive tones, to a friend dining with him, "allow me to help you to a piece of Washington pie." "Sir," replied the gentleman, oratorically waving his napkin, "George Washington was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen. I admire him for his purity, his piety and his patriotism, but I detest his pies."

Lightly Dressed.—A Quaker gentleman, riding in a carriage with a fashionable lady decked with a profusion of jewelry, heard her complain of the cold. Shivering in her lace bonnet and shawl, as light as a cobweb, she exclaimed: "What shall I do to get warm?

"I really don't know," replied the Quaker, solemnly, "unless thee should put on another breast-pin!"

A story is told of a "country gentleman" who, for the first time, heard an Episcopal clergyman preach. He had read much of the aristocracy and pride of the church, and when he returned home he was asked if the people were stuck up. "Pshaw! no," he replied; "why, the minister actually preached in his shirt sleeves."

A grave-yard in Missouri was seized a few days since, for non-payment of taxes.

Hope and Courage.—True hope is based on energy of character. A strong mind always hopes, and has always cause to hope, because it knows the mutability of human affairs, and how slight a circumstance may change the whole course of events. Such a spirit, too, rests upon itself, it is not confined to particular objects, and if at last all should be lost, it has saved itself its own integrity and worth. Hope awakens courage, while despondency is the last of all evils; it is the abandonment of good—the giving up of the battle of life with dead nothingness. He who can implant courage in the human soul is the best physician. To seek to govern men by their fears and their wants is an unworthy purpose; the desire to rule by means of cowardice. Love inspires courage and hope, and this is doubly the giver and preserver of life.

# Farm and Garden.

## IMPROVED FARMING.

J. Harris, in his well-known and popular Walks and Talks about farm life published in the American Agriculturist says: "I do not know a more striking instance of the benefits of drainage on a small scale than one not half a mile from me. A city man, three or four years ago, bought a farm of some 75 acres. The house was situated upon the top of an easterly slope, some 40 or 50 rods from the road. He moved out to the farm the 1st of May. The young ladies, who had no experience of farm life, came out in a carriage, and when they came to turn up the private road that led to the house, the horses mired, and the driver had to get out and lay down rails for the ladies to walk on across this mud hole. Their feelings can be imagined. A quite respectable family had lived on the farm since the country was first settled—lived, thrived and died. They had pulled through this mud hole for 30 or 40 years without any attempt to drain it. Our city friend immediately cut a ditch along the side of the road a distance perhaps of 50 rods, down to a natural water course. He then put in some underdrains, running up and down the slope in front of the house, and which discharge into the new ditch. The effect was magical. These underdrains run Winter and Summer, day and night, and carry off all the water. The meadow is one of the handsomest and most productive in the neighborhood. The young ladies have surrounded the house with evergreens and ornamental trees and shrubs. The mud hole has disappeared and in its place is a nice gravel road, firm and dry at the wettest seasons of the year, and I question if the whole expense of the improvement amounted to $200.

'But did your city friend make farming pay?' Yes sir. He has received more money from his apple orchard alone than he paid for the farm! He has everything very comfortable around him, is an active, energetic man, cultivates his land thoroughly, raises large crops and enjoys farm life—well, about as much as I do.

I am glad that so many city people are turning their attention to farming. The country needs new blood. But there can be little doubt that many of these new comers will soon leave us. I have a neighbor who came from the city last Spring. He bought a farm that would be productive if thoroughly underdrained, but without, it is not worth cultivating. He has worked hard all Summer, managed the land as well as any one could, but his corn was not worth husking, and the whole farm receipts were so small, he is about to return to the city in disgust.

Our agriculture has much to hope from young men who, having a love for farming, the necessary capital, a good education, and abundant energy, make up their minds to study farming at some Agricultural College, or with some good practical farmer, and then settle down in the country for life, determined to make farming pay. It will not be many years before our Agricultural Colleges turn out hundreds of such men. And the more of them the better."

---

The Red Sea derives its name from portions being covered with patches, from a few yards to some miles square, composed of a microscopic vegetable animalculæ, particularly abundant in the Spring, and which dye the water an intensely blood red. When not affected by these organic beings, the deep waters are blue, and the shoal waters shades of green.

---

In Iowa the people are beginning to get excited about the amount of killing done by the agricultural implements. A Des Moines paper says "Threshing machine assassinations have been going on for some time, and the cane-mill murders have just commenced, but bid fair to do their part in the job. About half the people in Iowa who have gone into the grave in 1867, have been killed by threshing machines, kerosene, or cane-mills."

## SORGHUM CROP OF 1867.

From most of the cane-growing regions in the West, the reports upon the condition of the crop are gloomy enough. In a few localities and small precincts, here and there, the elements seem to have been more propitious, and the cane appears in a fair condition; but these more favored places are few in number and limited in area, and in most of them the Spring was unfavorable, as in other places, so that the quantity of cane planted was small, and the stand poor.

In the Eastern States, the Spring was, as with us, wet, cold and backward, deterring many from planting, and preventing the seed that was planted from making a good stand.—Since the 1st of August, the Atlantic coast has been exposed to incessant rains, much like those which prevailed throughout the West at a corresponding period last year. These have kept the canes green and growing, and have prevented them from maturing at the proper time; so that they must be harvested in an immature state, or left standing, as they will be in many cases, until overtaken by a freezing and destructive frost.

This state of things is rather disheartening to those who have enlisted in the sorghum army, and it will doubtless cause a few timid souls to "go back" on the enterprise, and call it a lost cause. But there is no fear that any great number will desert, and leave the ranks. We have met with a reverse, and our forces are slightly demoralized, but we don't propose to surrender; on the other hand, the little backset we have had will stimulate to greater preparation, and more earnest efforts in the future. The road to great successes always leads through a Bull's Run, and this is the Bull's Run crisis in our sorghum campaign. Its effect will be to test our interest in sorghum, give us a better appreciation of its value, and lead to more definite purposes and appropriate efforts in connection with it.

The truth is, we have gone, from year to year, making our twenty, thirty, and forty million gallons of syrup with so little trouble, and so little disturbance of the ordinary farm economy, that we do not realize the magnitude, or appreciate the importance of the business. If the production of sorghum syrup required two or three times as much outlay and trouble as is generally bestowed upon it, we should estimate it much more highly, and should probably be less inclined to take on discouragement at any temporary reverse.

It is probable that one effect of the comparative failure in the sorghum crop this year will be to sift out and relieve the business of a class of careless, half-hearted operators, who have always been a drawback to the business. The only way these men can advance the interests of sorghum is, by abandoning it forever, and we shall rejoice heartily if they can be induced to favor us with a little help in that way.—*Sorgo Journal.*

---

Agricultural Resources of Arizona.—The agricultural resources of Arizona are various and abundant. The area of arable lands in the central part of the territory comprises some six million acres, one-third of which are valley and the rest upland. The valleys are well adapted to every kind of culture, whilst the uplands are well suited to the growing of grain and natural pasturage. Wheat and barley are the staples, and corn is also raised successfully. Vegetables grow easily and to a great size.—Rains are frequent in some parts, though in others artificial irrigation has to be resorted to. The soil is wonderfully fertile. Grapes, oranges, lemons, sugar-cane, cotton and other tropical plants and fruits can be cultivated in many places throughout the territory.

---

The National Wool Manufacturers' Association have passed resolutions stating that both wool growers and manufacturers would be benefited by increasing the variety of products of wool. They recommend an increase of the fine wools corresponding to the best Silesian wools, and of the combing wools from the English breeds of sheep.

## THE USE OF THE PLOW IN DRAINING.

After such a season as we have just experienced—wet in one section, and dry in another—farmers consider thorough draining, to see if the claims of its advocates are really true, and if the distressed tillers both of wet and dry soils may not find in it a panacea for their troubles.

We encounter one stubborn fact at the outset, namely, that draining is expensive, even if we put the drains barely below the reach of frost and the plow. Next, we are forced upon another fact, which no sophistry can budge, and that is, that the most expensive draining is shallow draining. As we make up our minds to do deep draining, the fact is turned up with each spadeful of earth, which, if we heed it, teaches that thoroughness and cheapness in the long run are identical. That is, reasonable expense for thoroughness' sake is the strictest economy.

Referring our readers to arguments in favor of deep laid tile drains, in the works on Drainage in our book list, we discuss now the cheapest way of placing a course of drain tiles, four feet deep on an average, in an ordinary soil. Every farmer who wants to dig a ditch, thinks of his plows, for they will turn out the soil ten inches deep with comparative ease. If a man is to have a ditch four feet deep dug with spades, he ought to try to move as little earth as possible, and as sixteen inches has been found about the least width that a man can work in, he should try to have his ditch no wider. If he can use plows to facilitate his work, he need not be so particular about this, although a narrow ditch—the narrowest possible—is best under all circumstances.

We prefer to use, to cut the sod, a plow that will cut eight inches, and lay the slice over true and flat. Then we take a stout stick, like a short bean pole, as long as the plow beam, lash one end to the beam at the nigh handle, brace the other end out sixteen inches from the landside of the beam, and attach a short chain to this end. The brace is a half-inch strip, three inches wide, made fast by the clevis bolt, and if necessary, a big iron washer. In plowing, the team is driven so that the chain will drag along the edge of the first furrow, and aids the judgment of the plowman materially in determining the width of the slice. Men must follow and throw the sods out. The trench will now take a plow of the largest size, and it should be drawn by two yokes of oxen, or two pairs of horses, working so as to tread neither in the trench nor on the sod near the edge. This is accomplished in either of two ways. Each team may draw independently, one upon each side of the ditch, being attached to the plow by a log-chain, and the chains being braced apart, so that the draft shall be reasonably true, that is, parallel to the line of draft. The other way is to work the oxen upon ten-foot yokes, and the horses of each pair upon long eveners, they being driven by outside reins only, and the heads of each pair being held apart by a stick.

The large plow may be run in the ditch two, three, or four times, according to the soil, or it may be best to use a smaller one, and as comparatively little earth can be thrown out by the plow, men must follow, and shovel as fast as the soil is loosened. After the loose earth is removed to the depth of twelve to eighteen inches, according to its character, a sub-soil plow will be found of more service than a surface plow. With this, we can work down, little by little, into the hard pan. So large a force of hands is not needed when the sub-soil plow is used, for the earth broken up by this plow does not interfere with its deeper working as is the case when a surface plow is used. The successful employment of the sub-soil plow is limited both by the difficulty of plowing in very hard ground with the plow two or three feet below the team, and in the handles interfering with the sides of the ditch. There are, however, plows constructed to run deep enough to be of very essential service to a depth of about three feet.

This use of the power of animals greatly lessens the expense of digging the ditches, and various forms of scrapers expedite the filling, so that, after a little experience, the formidable difficulties which at first may appear as insurmountable obstacles to a poor man's doing much thorough draining, disappear, especially when we consider that a moderate outlay of money or labor, expended with discretion, almost immediately begins to make large returns, fifty per cent. per annum being not uncommon.—*American Agriculturist.*

---

## MECHANICAL AID IN AGRICULTURE.

Two distinct classes, which may be termed the old school and the new, at present operate in the field of agriculture. The former, with a stubborn tenacity, hold to the tools and modes of working as handed down to them by their ancestors, actually driving the same wooden plough that their fathers drove, cutting their fields of grass with the heavy hand scythe as did their progenitors, laboriously beating with the flail in the very same manner as they beat the grain from the golden sheaves; and we recollect to have seen, and that too within the past few years, the ox used upon the threshing floor to tread out the grain.

It will be noticed that this class of farmers disdain to use mechanical assistance in their agricultural labors, considering them as one of the many humbugs of the age, designed by sharpers to filch the "hard-earned" dollars from their pockets. They argue that their fathers lived and prospered on those broad acres, and why should not they do the same? But they admit that they do not prosper as did their ancestors, though following faithfully in their footsteps, plowing, sowing, and reaping in precisely the same manner, using the very same tools, and lacking not the habits of industry which distinguished those that wrought before them; yet the stubborn conviction forces itself upon their minds that they do not grow richer, but rather poorer, and their fields grow less productive. They often lean upon their gates or rest upon the hoe-handle and discuss their situation with their neighbors, seemingly endeavoring to solve the knotty problem; they lament their hard lot and the unprofitableness of farming, and envy that class of mechanics who have a greater share of money than themselves. We regret that ideas of this kind are early instilled into the minds of their sons and daughters, who at an early age, barely fledged as it were, in order to better their condition, leave the paternal home and seek employment in towns and cities, eagerly grasping the opportunity of a clerkship with a salary that can barely give support, consoling themselves with the idea that as farming "does not pay" they are no worse off than they would be at home.

Another generation will see this class of old school agriculturists disappear from the field of action, and the class of scientific farmers will have filled their places—a class who believe in progress and improvement and hesitate not to turn from the manner in which their fathers wrought. They value their muscle, and seek to do their work by the aid of steam or animal power and such mechanical combinations as can best assist to perform what was once accomplished by the "sweat of the brow."—They have called the genius of the mechanic to their aid, and, as a result, the mower, the reaper, the threshing machine, and scores of other inventions have been produced, accomplishing the desired ends.

As one of the results of this employment of machinery, we see less hours of actual labor consumed and a greater amount of work finished in a better manner. No farming can now prosper without mechanical appliances, and these being among the stern demands of the present time, their best points are brought out and made "to pay." Without them, failure is an evident certainty. The life of the agriculturist is fast emerging from one of servile labor to that of intelligent and pleasant employment, bringing, when rightly conducted, golden sheaves of harvest, laden with the increase of an hundred fold from the seed originally sown.—*American Artizan.*

---

Fruits.—A medical journal has some remarks on the subject of fruits, which are, in some respects, at variance with views generally entertained, and are of interest to our readers now, when fruits are so plenty. It says that fruits afford an endless supply of delicious and wholesome food, but as they are usually taken, may more properly be considered as dangerous luxuries than as healthy food. The great error in their use consists in making them a dessert, in overloading the stomach with them, and eating them at all times between meals. When taken along with our food, *as food*, and in moderation, they are highly conducive to health. The peach is the most delicious and digestible of the stone fruits. They should form part of either meal, or be eaten moderately when the stomach is empty. Plums are less digestible; all pulpy stone fruits are more or less so, and prone to ferment in the stomach.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—Daniel Webster.

## FAILURE OF THE APPLE CROP.

The continued unfruitfulness of our apple orchards, in the Middle and New England States, is a source of considerable discouragement to farmers and fruit culturists. Some of the most intelligent writers on this failure attribute it to the exhaustion of the soil, affirming that long cultivation has deprived it of elements so essential to the production of fruit.—To sustain this theory they point to the general thrift of our orchards, especially new ones, that have fine and luxuriant trees, but fail to produce crops of much value. If this is the chief cause of unfruitfulness, why is it that orchards on new land, on soil that has but recently been denuded of timber, are subject to the same failure? We know scores of apple orchards on land of this description, possessing a variety of soils, some on strong loam, others on calcareous or limestone formations, but they fail to produce fruit in paying quantities.

Another theory of unfruitful orchards is the destruction of our forests and the change of the climate since the country has been partially stripped of its original timber. We believe there is considerable importance to this view of the subject, from the fact that some orchards, located near forests, continue to produce fair crops. This is found to be the case where an orchard is protected and sheltered from the severe blasts of Winter, but more especially from the North and North-Easterly winds in Spring, when the trees are in blossom. Too much rain and moisture at the period of blossoming, with high winds, destroy the pollen, and the result is that the young fruit is destroyed. A friend who has paid much attention to apple culture, and who has great faith in forest-protection for orchards, put out a double row of evergreen trees on the North and East sides of his orchard, some twenty years ago, and he informs us that every other season he harvests reasonable crops of apples—especially of the early or Summer varieties. We consequently think the climatic change produced by the destruction of our forests, has some agency in the failure of the apple crop.

The cultivation of orchards, with various crops, continues to be an unsettled question with fruit men. Downing, who must be considered good authority yet, was strongly in favor of cultivating orchards, and considered it indispensable, particularly in young orchards, to keep the ground mellow and loose by cultivation. Experience, in all sections of the country, has proved that cultivating the soil, among young trees, makes them grow rapidly, gives the foliage a dark, luxuriant appearance, and brings the trees to fruit bearing much earlier than if left to take care of themselves among grass and weeds. Fallow crops, in our opinion, are beneficial to orchards, such as vines, potatoes, buckwheat, &c. But we would not advise corn, nor a continual grass crop. Clover is perhaps the most harmless grass for an orchard; but even then a space of a few feet near the trees should be kept clear of grass. Mulching old and young trees is of some utility, perhaps induces fruitfulness.

Pruning has much influence on an orchard, providing it is done in a correct way, and at the right period. But we protest against the method adopted by some professed orchardists. We object against cutting off so many of the lower branches and leaving but a mere top to the tree. The only object of this operation would seem to help the land for cultivation, or rather to have the trees high enough to admit teams passing under them. But experience teaches us that low heads for apple trees are much the best. High winds cannot rake them, nor will storms or intense heat injure the fruit as much as on trees pruned high. Orchards with low heads, in our vicinity, are the most productive of fruit.

Perhaps the most serious injury to all orchards in the country are the insects. Some of these are so destructive, in some sections, that it is impossible to raise fruit—that is, if you permit these pests to have their own way.—Among the most troublesome is the apple borer, the caterpillar, the canker-worm, bark-louse, the aphis and the moth. If these insects are not destroyed, we cannot expect to raise apples. Such formidable fruit enemies, a climate changed by the destruction of our forests, rare or no cultivation of orchard soils, and neglected or bad pruning, are the causes of failure in the apple crop.

## AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER.

Although a final and definite estimate of the amount of wheat harvested cannot be made until the next report, the reports to the Department show that the sum total in bushels will exceed that of any harvest hitherto gathered in this country. It will exceed the yield of last year by 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 bushels. As an approximate estimate upon the present data, 120,000,000 to 125,000,000 bushels may be received as the crop of 1867. The Southern States show material enlargement in the area of wheat, from the evident intention to become more nearly self-supporting and independent than formerly. This is particularly noticeable in Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

The quality of wheat is greatly superior to that of last year. It is almost unanimously sound and dry, but in many localities there may be found from a third to a half deficient in weight, lacking in plumpness, or slightly shriveled, and passing as No. 2, being less than 58 pounds to the bushel. Oats, by aggregate estimate, will exceed 280,000,000 bushels, or about three per cent. above that of 1866.—Rye.—The estimate for all the States, except those on the Pacific coast, is 21,000,000 bushels, an increase of four per cent. over last year. Barley.—The crop is slightly deficient; about 500,000 bushels, or four per cent., as compared with that of last year. Beans and peas are more than an average crop. Corn.—The quality is uniformly good.

The value of the entire crop after the reduction of the deficiency in the Ohio valley, and allowing for the increase in almost all the other States, will be greater not only in cash but in intrinsic life-sustaining and pork-producing power than that of last year. The sorghum interest has greatly declined. The frost has injured the crop in many places. The average is much reduced, and despondency is evident in the feeling of many growers.

Buckwheat.—This crop will scarcely equal last year. The potato crop is a poor one this year. A good tobacco product is indicated in the principal tobacco growing sections. Sugar.—Louisiana, the only State producing cane sugar to any extent, reports an increase of seven hundred and twenty per cent. over the small yield of last year.

Cotton.—Complete estimates will be made on the receipt of the November returns. The returns for October indicate a considerable increase in South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama; about the same yield as last year in Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee, and a marked diminution in Texas and Louisiana.—All estimates below two million bales, of five hundred pounds each, are decidedly fallacious, while present indications favor two and a half millions. Old wheat shows a reduction as compared with last year, when old stock was also small; the stock of old wheat has not been reduced so low for many years, if ever.

The London Times notes a peculiarity in the wheat harvest which has been observed in this country—the grain did not thrash out so well as it promised. A similar phenomenon, it was rumored, had been observed in France, and the harvests of western Europe, generally, were described as more or less defective.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

The Maryland Farmer closes an article on the subject of a proper application of manure, by saying: "On heavy clay lands manure liberally and plow it under; on light soils top-dress in more limited quantities, but more frequently than on the heavier ones." This is brief, sensible and probably as correct a practice as the various modifications of soil will permit.

As a general thing in this country, farmers attempt to cultivate too much land; but Mr. J. Harris contributes to the Agriculturist, a different view—he goes for large farms. He adds:

"It is certainly far better to have a small farm highly cultivated than to have a large one half tilled. But a large farm *may* be cultivated as highly as a small one—and at less expense per acre. In England, as a rule, the largest farmers are the best farmers. One of the most highly cultivated farms I ever saw contained over 3000 acres, and I do not recollect ever seeing a farm of fifty acres or less, that would at all compare with the more liberally managed large farms. This is very different from what it is here, one main reason is, a deficiency of working capital."

A correspondent of the American Institute Farmers' Club attributes fire blight to the growth of the roots of the tree downwards until they come in contact with some water course or a cold, wet soil. As a remedy he suggests grafting the pear on to the mountain ash, the natural habit of which is to extend its roots in a horizontal direction, He has some four hundred trees on this stock which are healthy.

The Prairie Farmer expresses the following about "Autumn Plowing": In all heavy clay soils and heavy clay loams, Autumn plowing is of great advantage. The Winter frost is a mechanical pulverizer, and disintegrator of such soils, if we will but put them in the proper condition to be acted upon. Potash is one of the elements of such soils, and with them one of the chief values for the small grain. This mineral is found under two conditions; one fixed, and the other free. The free potash is slowly dissolved in water; it thus unites with sand to form the coating of the straw.

In the other condition mentioned, it is fixed, and in that condition is insoluble in water, and like humus, unfit for the food of plants.

To prepare the fixed potash in the soil, that is to disintegrate it, we must expose it to air, moisture and heat, hence we must pulverize the soil by the Winter frost, to admit of these conditions.

Autumn plowing is supposed to kill many insects; that it does this to some extent is doubtless true; but we apprehend less than it has the credit for. It can be done at a time when the teams are strong, the weather cool, and so much of the Spring work is out of the way; while for Spring wheat and barley, it is almost indispensable.

American Pomological Society.—The Secretary of this Society, F. R. Elliot, Cleveland, Ohio, has issued a circular letter to the friends of Pomology, soliciting communications for the biennial report of the Society, soon to be issued. Information relative to new seedlings; the comparative values of different fruits; diseases of the same; soils adapted to the growth of the various kinds, is solicited. Also samples of new seedlings or unnamed fruits, that comparisons, drawings and descriptions of the same may be made and forwarded to competent pomologists for information in regard to them. The American, United States and Union Express Companies will transport all samples and packages of fruit, for these purposes, free of charge. Due credit will be given to contributors for the information supplied. Address Secretary Elliot, Cleveland, Ohio.

A Cape Cod man expects in two years to raise a crop of six thousand bushels of cranberries on a bog of fifty acres which he is planting.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

The apple crop of Indiana is the largest and best for many years.

The beet root crop in Europe is not up to the average, but in France the quality of the beet will make up for the deficiency, and the manufacturers of sugar anticipate a profitable business.

A private letter from the interior of South Carolina says the most abundant corn crop, is now harvesting, known for many years. It is selling for fifty cents per bushel, but there is little sale for it, as few have money to puchase with.

Apples keep best when cool and dry. Sudden changes of temperature induce the collection of moisture on the skin, which dissolves the delicate varnish with which the skin of the apple is covered, and it soon decays.

The price of grain in France continues to advance. The conclusion is that the harvest has been less favorable than it was at first supposed.

The only fruit which grows in every climate is the strawberry. It is the only fruit which somewhere on the earth is picked every day the year round.

The statement is made that a farmer near Port Hope, C. W., last year, raised 70 bushels of clover seed from 10 acres of land, and sold it for $7 a bushel in gold.

Hay is ten dollars a ton, and corn ninety cents a bushel in Minneapolis, Minn., and the mills there are emptying bran into the river because it will not sell for a paying price.

The Little Rock (Arkansas) Gazette says that five thousand bushels of corn, recently sent to that place to be sold on commission, were re-shipped to St. Louis, for the reason that there was no market for it, the home crop coming in so abundantly.

The General Land Office returns show that three hundred and twenty farms, comprising twenty-one thousand nine hundred and thirty acres, have been taken up in Mississippi and Alabama within the past two months.

It is stated that the crop of last year in Colorado, as estimated by careful persons, was, of wheat, 300,000 bushels; barley and oats, 530,000 bushels; corn, 600,000 bushels—an increase of three-fold over the preceding year. This year, in consequence of the ravages of grasshoppers, the crops have been cut down in the aggregate about one-half in quantity.

The Ohio Cashmere Company, with headquarters in Vinton county, has purchased within the last year, $100,000 worth of Cashmere goats. The wool is worth $6 per pound. The animals are said to be very hardy, long lived and easily kept—feeding on weeds, briars and other coarse, cheap food. They can easily be crossed with the common goat, and the mixed bloods yield a fine article of wool. The pure bloods yield from five to six pounds.

The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle says cotton is no longer a remunerative crop, and insists that the cotton planters of Georgia should set about at once the preparation of at least *one-fourth* of their best land for wheat.

New Jersey abounds in cranberries, and the present year's crop of that fruit is estimated at 40,000 barrels. A great deal is raised in meadows which a few years ago were impenetrable swamps.

In Florida and Louisiana this year the Orange crop is a heavy one. A Louisiana paper says: "We will soon see thousands of golden fruit mingled with millions of green leaves, on the grandest and most beautiful of all the fruit-bearing trees in the South.

There is a cranberry bog, or meadow, in Plymouth, near Sandwich Mass., owned by three brothers, where on fifteen acres there have just been picked 1920 bushels of cranberries They have paid $1200, at two cents a quart, for picking. The whole bog contains 50 acres, and all is to be laid down to cranberries, and in good years they expect to raise 6000 bushels of this excellent fruit. They have sold some the present year for $12 per barrel.

Tree Planting.—In planting trees this Fall all should remember that it is requisite to set the tree only just so deep as to enable it to stand, for we can earth up to protect it from heaving off the Winter frosts; and as soon as Spring opens and the ground is leveled down, the roots will start and seek their appropriate depths. If we dig a deep hole, especially in hard, clay soil, and fill it with good loam and set our tree therein, we first invite the water there as into a cistern—and second, we cause a vigorous growth of roots, until they reach the undisturbed clay, when a check is at once perceptible; and often an orchard stands from five to seven years without apparently making any progress. Remember, then, and plant your trees just so deep as to cover their roots, but no more.

## The Fireside Muse.

### COTTAGE AND HALL.

BY MRS. C. P. CRANDELL.

Baby has crept to his sheltering nest
  Now that the day is done,
And with wee head pillowed upon my breast
  Has gone to sleep with the sun.
Roses and dimples are buried quite
Under the snow of my bosom white,
And over my heart creeps a ringlet bright—
  A beautiful golden one.

Baby is king in our humble cot,
  Enthroned in our hearts sits he;
And never a king had merrier lot
  Than baby, it seems to me.
For Love in his presence waiting stands,
With emulous feet and willing hands,
Ready to fly as each whim commands,
  And his humble slave to be.

Baby is heir to no title old,
  Nowhere hoarded away
Are deeds of acres and heaps of gold,
  Which are to be his one day.
But his is a heritage better than fame,
The well earned wealth of an honest name,
Which never has known the brand of shame—
  God grant it never may!

So when my household tasks are o'er,
  And baby, tired is he,
I sit down here in the cottage-door,
  In the shade of a giant tree,
And watch where the broad road winds away
Till somebody comes through the glooming gray,
And a loving hand in my own doth lay,
  And kisses baby and me.

There's a rich man's mansion over the way,
  And through the curtains of lace
I saw, in the arms of its nurse to-day,
  A baby with a wee pale face.
And I saw through tears, what I saw beside,
For not all the trappings of wealth and pride
The little misshapen form could hide,
  Nor clothe it with simple grace.

And a lady oft at the window stands,
  I have dreamed of those as fair;
But I wonder if ever the jeweled hands
  The gems of affection wear.
Or the golden curls, o'er her brow which stray,
Are ever for kisses brushed away.
Her husband has other loves they say,
  And his heart has a home elsewhere.

So I love to sit in the cottage-door
  With baby upon my knee,
And count to my heart the blessings o'er
  Which have gilded my life for me.
For there's many a heart which knoweth not
The joys and loves of my humble lot,
And would rather be queen of a simple cot
  Than a lady of high degree.

## Fireside Tale.

### THE OLD SUCKER.

BY MRS. FRANCIS D. GAGE.

"I SAY, Mr. Conductor, when will the next express train go to St. Louis?"

"Eleven o'clock and thirty minutes, to-night, sir," was the gentlemanly reply to the rough question.

"Eleven o'clock and thirty minutes! Go to Texas! Why it's ten this very minute. I'll bet my boots against a jack knife the morning express is off."

"Yes, sir, it has been gone half an hour."

"Why in natur' didn't you get us here sooner! Fourteen hours in Chicager, pulliu' and blowin'! I've been told they keep a regular six hundred hoss steam power all the while running, to blow themselves up with, and pick the pockets of every traveler to pay the fireman and engineers! Wal, I guess I can stand it; I've a twenty that's never been broke, and I guess that will put me through. Why didn't you fire up, old brig,—give your old hoss another peck of oats? I tell ye, this fourteen hours will knock my calculations all into the middle of next week."

"Very sorry, sir,—we've done our best, but as we're not clerks of the weather, I hope you will not lay your misfortunes to our account. Snowdrifts and the thermometer sixteen below zero, are enemies we can't readily overcome."

"That's a fact," said the first speaker, with a broad emphasis, and a good natured, forgiving smile. "Fourteen hours in Chicager."

The stentorian voice, sounding like a trump, had aroused every sleeper from elysian dreams into which he might have fallen after his long, tedious, cold night's travel. Every head was turned, every eye was fixed on the man who had broken the silence. He was standing by the stove warming his boots. To have warmed his feet through such a mass of cowhide and sole-leather would have been a fourteen hours' operation. Six feet four or five inches he stood in those boots, with shoulders eased in a fur coat, that looked more like bearing up a world than you will meet with ordinarily in half a life time. His head Websterian, his shaggy hair black as jet, his whiskers to match, his dark piercing eye and his jaws eternally roving with a rousing quid between them, with a smile of good humor, notwithstanding his seeming impatience, attracted every one's attention.

"Fourteen hours in Chicager, eh? Wal, I can stand it if the rest can; if twenty dollars won't carry me through, I'll borrow of friends. I've got the things that'll bring 'em.

He thrust his hand, a little less in size than a common spade, down into the cavernous depths of his pockets, and brought it up full as it could hold of twenty dollar gold pieces.

"Don't you think I can stand these ere Chicagers, for one fourteen hours?"

A nod of assent from three or four, and a smile of curiosity from the rest, answered his question in the affirmative.

"You must have been in luck, stranger," said an envious looking little man. "You have more than your share of gold."

"I have, eh? Wal, I reckon not. I came honestly by it. That's a fact. And there's them living who can remember this child when he went round the prairies trapping prairie hens and the like to get him a pair of shoes to keep the massassaugers from biting my toes; I've hung myself up more nor one night in the timber, to keep out of the ways of the wild varmints; best sleeping in the world in the crotch of a tree-top! Now, I reckon you wouldn't believe it, but I've gone all Winter without a shoe to my foot; and lived on wild game when I could catch it. That's a fact."

"Didn't stunt your growth," said a voice near.

"Not a bit of it. It brought me up right. These prairies are so wonderfully roomy. I thought one spell I would let out entirely, but me and mother held a caucus, and decided that she was getting old and blind like, and it took too long and cost too much to sew up the legs of my trousers, so I put a stop to it and concluded that six feet five would do for a feller that couldn't afford the expensive luxury of a wife to make breeches for him. It was only the love of my mother that stopped my growth. If I'd an idea of a sewing machine, there's no telling what I might have done."

"You have so many gold pieces in your pocket you can afford to get your trowsers made now. Why don't you and your mother hold another caucus and see what you can do? If she would let you expand yourself, you might sell out to Barnum, and make a fortune travelling with Tom Thumb, and take the old woman along."

"Stranger," said the rough, great man, and his whole face loomed up with a mingled expression of pain and pride; "stranger, I spoke a word here I didn't mean to; a slighty word, like, about my mother. I would give all the gold in my pocket to bring her back for one hour, to look upon this country as it is now. She had her cabin here when Chicager was nowhere; here she raised her boys—she couldn't give them larnin', but she taught us better things than books can give: to be honest, useful and industrious. She taught us to be faithful and true; to stand by a friend and be generous to an enemy. It's thirty years since we dug her grave by the lake side with our own hands; and with many a tear and sob turned ourselves away from the cabin where we had been raised—the Indians had killed our father long before, and we'd nothing to keep us—and so we went to seek our fortunes. My brother, he took down there to St. Louis, and got married down there sumc'ers; and I just went where the wind blowed, and when I scraped money enough together, I came back and bought a few acres of land around my mother's old cabin, for the place where I'd laid my mother's bones was sacred like. Wal, in the course of time it turned right up in the middle of Chicager. I couldn't stand that—I loved my old mother too well to let omnibuses rattle over her grave, so I come back about fifteen years ago, and quietly moved her away to the burying ground, and then I went back to Texas, and wrote to an agent afterwards to sell my land. What cost a few hundred to begin on, I sold for over forty thousand—and if I'd kept it till now t'would have been worth ten times that—but I got enough for it. I soon turned that forty thousand into eighty thousand, and that into twice as much, and so on, till I don't know nor don't care what I'm worth. I work hard, am the same rough customer; remember every day of my life what my mother taught me; never drink nor fight, wish I didn't swear or chew, but them's got to be kind o' second nature like. The only thing that troubles me is my money—haven't got no wife nor children, and am going now to hunt up my brother and his folks. If his boys is clever and industrious, and ain't ashamed of my big boots and old fashioned ways and his gals is young women and not ladies; if they heed their mother, and don't put on more'n two frocks a day, I'll make 'em rich, every one on 'm."

"Now, gentlemen, 'taint often I'm led to tell on myself, after this fashion. But these old places, where I trapped when I was a boy, made me feel like a child again—and I felt just like telling these youngsters here about the chances and charges a feller may meet in life, if he only tries to make the most of himself."

"But boys," said he, turning to a party of young men, "there's something better than money. Get education and mind your mother. Foller out her counsels; never do anything that will make you ashamed to meet her in heaven,"

All this passed while waiting to wood just out of Chicago. The great man was swelling with emotions called up from the dark shadows of the past. His big, rough form heaved like a great billow upon the ocean. Tears sprung to his deep-set and earnest eyes—they swelled up to the brim—and swam round asking to be let fall as tributes to his mother's memory—tributes to the love of the past. But he choked them down, and humming a snatch of an old ballad, he thrust his hands down into his pockets, walked back to the end of the car, pulled the gigantic collar of his shaggy coat up around his ears, buttoned it close, and leaned back against the window in silence.

The cars rattled on. What a mind was there! What a giant intellect, sleeping, buried away from light and usefulness by a rubbish of prejudice, habit and custom—doing but half work for want of culture.

"A mute, inglorious Milton," or rather Webster, going about the world, struggling with his own soul, yet bound by chains of ignorance, which precluded his doing but a moiety of the good it lay in his power to do.

All the way through our tedious journey he had been on the watch to do good. *He* gave up his seat by the fire to an Irish woman and her child, and took one further back. Soon a young girl seated herself by his side, and as the night hours wore on she nodded wearily; he rose, spread his beautiful leopard skin with its soft, rich lining, on the seat, made a pillow of his carpet-bag, and insisted that she should lie down and sleep.

"What will you do?" said she naively.

"Never mind me—I can stand up and sleep like a buffalo; I used to do it."

A little boy, pulled up from a sound nap to give place to incomers, was pacified and made quiet by a handful of chestnuts and a glowing bit of candy out of the big man's pocket. When he left the cars for refreshments, he brought back his hands full of pies, and distributed them among the weary group. A mother and seven little children, the eldest not eleven years old, whose husband and father left the cars at every stopping place, and returned more stupid and beastly each time, scolding the little, tired, restless ones with thick tongue, and glaring his furious red eyes upon the poor grieved victim of a wife, like a tiger upon his prey, "because she did not keep her young ones still; they would disturb everybody." No bite of refreshment, no exhilarating draught, no rest for the fat, cross baby, came to her all the long night, save when the big man stretched out his great hands and took her baby boy for an hour, and let him play with his splendid watch to keep him quiet.

"I'll give ye a thousand dollars for him," said he, as he handed him back to her arms.

"You may have the whole lot for that," answered the drunken father, with a swine-like grunt.

"It's a bargain," said the big man, "providin' the mother is willing."

"Indade, sir, it's not the one of them can be had for money," was the quiet yet determined response of the mother's heart.

How kindly he helped her off the cars, when at the break of day they came to their journey's end.

Thus all night had he been attracting the attention of the waking ones in the cars. But this kindness and rough politeness would soon have been forgotten by the mass of the passengers, had he not stamped it upon our memories with his gold.

"I wonder who he is?"

"Where did he get in?"

"What an interesting character."

"Education would spoil him."

"What rich furs!"

"Did you notice what a splendid watch he carries?"

"He's some great man *incog.*"

Such were some of the queries that passed from lip to lip. But there came no answer, for he who alone could have answered sat crouched in his fur coat, seemingly unconscious of all but his own deep thoughts.

"Chicago!" shouted the brakesman, and in an instant all was confusion, and our hero was lost in the crowd. The next we saw of him was at the baggage stand, looking up a bandbox for a sweet looking country girl, who was going to learn the milliner's trade in the city. As we pass to our carriage we discover him again, holding an old man by one hand, while he grasped the shoulder of the conductor of the train with the other, seeking for the deaf, gray-haired sire the right information as to the route he should take to get to his "darter, who lived near Muscatine, Iowa."

"God bless him for his good deeds!" was our ejaculation, as we whirled around the corner. May his shadow never grow less, nor the gold in his pocket diminish, for in his unnumbered charities and mercies, dropped so unostentatiously here and there, he is perhaps doing more good in his day and generation, than he who donates thousands to build charitable institutions to give honor to his own name.

Oh, how much the world needs great hearts that are able to comprehend little things! And yet how often it happens that the learned, the wise, and the rich, outgrow the every-day wants of humanity, and feeling within themselves the power to move mightily, pass by the humble duties that would make a thousand hearts leap for joy, and push on, looking for some wrong to right, some great sorrow to be soothed, some giant work to be accomplished; and failing to find the great work, live and die incarcerated in their own selfishness, and do nothing at all.

This rough man's nature seemed the nature of the little child. His quick eye saw at a glance, his great heart warmed, and his great hand executed his works of charity—so small that one would have expected to see them slip through his fingers unaccomplished—yet they were done. The recording angel will have a longer column to set down to his account of deeds well done, than all the rest of the passengers of that crowded car, on that long, tedious, stormy night in January, 1867.

WHEN a sportsman fires into a covey of partridges he makes them all quail.

THREE THINGS.—Three things to love—courage, gentleness, and affection. Three things to admire—intellectual power, dignity, and gracefulness. Three things to hate—cruelty, arrogance, and ingratitude. Three things to delight in—beauty, frankness, and freedom. Three things to wish for—health, friends, and a cheerful spirit. Three things to pray for—faith, peace, and purity of heart. Three things to like—cordiality, good humor, and mirthfulness. Three things to avoid—idleness, loquacity, and flippant jesting. Three things to cultivate—good books, good friends, and good humor. Three things to contend for—honor, country and friends. Three things to govern—temper, tongue, and conduct. Three things to think about—life, death, and eternity.

# General Miscellany.

### ROADSIDE IMPROVEMENTS.

Too often, as we have traveled over the country this Summer, have we witnessed a fine house, good buildings and fences, but the roadside outside of the fence line containing more or less rubbish, evidently the gatherings and prunings of the garden and lawn trees. Sometimes the street or roadway is clear of this; but while the grass is clipped inside the fence, the outside is left to grow long and rank, with more or less coarse weeds, presenting just that appearance to the man's grounds, that the finding of a heap of dirt under the lounge would be to the housewife, and giving him in our view no claim to a better name than would be applied to such a housewife.

Our horticultural readers should each and all strive to make the outward appearance of their grounds clean, neat and tasteful, first by keeping away all rubbish from the street, next by frequent mowing and destruction of weeds, and lastly by planting and caring for shade trees and flowering shrubs, giving themselves pleasure, and attracting notice from every passer-by; and again, as an example to those of their neighbors, who not being readers or not having learned to move out of their original tracks, continue to make brush piles, keep hogpens, and grow thistles, mullein, etc., in front of their houses.—*The Horticulturist.*

Color in the Horse.—It is an old expression that a good horse cannot be of a bad color, still, we find that the ready sale of a horse depends largely upon his color. Some hues are strongly objected to, and prejudice is carried so far as to deny merit to an animal not marked according to the standard of the critic. We have not much faith in color, believing that good qualities are not partial to any particular hue. White horses, it is claimed, live to the greatest age. In 1803 a gentleman farmer, residing near Ludlow, England, had a team of four grays, whose united ages were a hundred years. These grays were all lively animals, performing their work with dispatch. Such a circumstance certainly is unusual, and we may regard it in the light of a coincidence. As coincidence does not prove a proposition, the history of the Ludlow team has no special influence in giving character to the theory that gray is the most desirable color in the horse, because it is associated with the greatest longevity. A gray horse may be hardy, and so may a brown, a black, a chestnut, or a bay.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

The people of the Southern States are recommended to turn their attention to the culture of the olive. This tree, it is said, will thrive anywhere from the Southern boundary of Virginia to the Gulf of Mexico. It is as easily propagated as the willow, and should be set out in limbs two or three inches in diameter. These will bear in three years; but if small slips be planted, it will take them fifteen years to do so. In five years the former will yield a full crop. The tree bears biennally.—It can be pruned every other year, and cuttings planted. It requires little attention, and is a source of great revenue in Southern Europe.

Cotton as a Preservative of Fruit.—It is not generally known that common new cotton is one of the best and most simple means of preserving fruit for a long while. The method employed for grapes is as follows: the bunches are gently laid between a layer of cotton in a glass or earthen jar. The jar is then corked down and the corks dipped in melted resin.—Of course it is much easier to preserve apples and pears, which need only be laid between two layers of cotton on the pantry-shelf or store-room.

Mr. H. G. Allen, of N. Bridgewater, Mass., informs the N. E. Farmer that he has been very successful in the treatment of the black knot on his plum trees by cutting the knots off carefully and applying to the wounds a little spirits of turpentine.

It is said the roots of trees die in proportion to the severity with which the tops are pruned. This is the reason why street trees, constantly trimmed at the top, often lean over, having very little roots to sustain them.

## Marriages.

In St. James's Church, Woonsocket, 13th inst., by the Rev. Robert Murray, William M. Durfee, of Providence, to Lottie E., daughter of Lymnn Paine, Esq., of North Blackstone, Mass.

At Ashton, 12th inst., by Rev. W. W. Sever, Thomas Walsh, of Albion, to Elizabeth A. Sawyer, of Ashton.

In Pawtucket, 24th ultimo, Lieut. Eugene Pickett, 12th U. S. Infantry, to Miss Minnie Lowry. 3d instnut, Mr. William James Stafford, to Miss Lydia E. Jinson, both of Smithfield.

In Millbury, 6th inst., by Rev. E. Y. Jnrette, Ira A. Bursley, to Alona E. Smith, both of Northbridge.

In Worcester, 5th inst., Henry A. Webster, of Webster, to Susie M. Marcy, of Millbury. 6th instant, Rev. Willard Fuller to Mrs. Miranda Waters, both of Sutton.

In Webster, Nov. 6th, Fred. T. Chase, of Dudley, to Jennie S. Alton, of Webster.

In Thompson, Ct., Nov. 5th, Thomas H. Dearth, of Thompson, to Emeline Leonard, of West Medway, Mass.

## Deaths.

In Glocester, 9th instant, Mrs. Patience, wife of Coomer G. Smith, aged 30 yrs.—Oct. 29th, Caroline Cutler, aged 20 years.

In Foster, Oct. 20th, Fred. A. Stone, aged 21 years.

In Providence, on 9th, instant, Royal Chapin, in the 68th year of his age.

In Olneyville, 9th, instant, Mrs. Lavina W. Sarle, in the 79th year of her age, widow of the late Nathan Sarle, of Scituate.

In North Uxbridge, Mass., 31st ult., Maranda, wife of John B. White, aged 43 years.

In Wilkinsonville, Mass, Nov. 10th Margaret Lyle Weir, aged 57 years 8 months, a native of Johnstone, Scotland, wife of James W. Weir, Senr.

In Webster, 1st, instant, Mrs. Mary Daulton, aged 44 years.

In Douglas, 5th, instant, Clara P. Holman, aged 44 years.

In Milford, 6th, instant, Ellen T. Larkin, aged 17 years.—4th, instant, Mrs. Anne Shiels, aged 57 years.

In North Killingly, Ct., Oct. 30th, Hannah E. wife of Eddy Pray, aged 40 years.

In Mansfield, Conn., Nov. 1st, Mary W. Greenman, aged 42 years.—Nov. 2d, Mary, wife of George B. Freeman, aged 42 yrs.

## The Markets.

### WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Nov. 14, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 16c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 1.20 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.75 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a17.50 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 50 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a95c |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 50c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 9c | Eggs ₩ doz | 48c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 20c |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 18c |
| Veal | 15a16c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

### WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

INCREASED ACTIVITY IN BREADSTUFFS—DECLINE IN PRICES.

During the past week the wholesale markets have been marked by a decline in prices and an increased activity in breadstuffs.

Flour—All grades have declined from 30 to 75 cents a barrel. The depression is most marked in the medium and high grades. A large business has been done for export at the concession. The exports for the weak have been about 65,000 barrels, and the receipts about 150,000 barrels. The trade has operated sparingly and the stock has increased.

Wheat has been freely offered, and the less favorable news from Europe and the decline in gold have caused a fall of about four cents a bushel. At the close the market is tame. The present stock is about 850,000 bushels, which is light for the season.

Corn declined about five cents a bushel up to Friday, but since has been mainly recovered. The demand is chiefly for export.

Oats have fluctuated rapidly but close steady.

Barley has advanced and closes firm at $1.55 to $1.63½ for Canada West.

Pork—Old mess has fluctuated and closes heavy.

## Special Notices.

MOTHER BAILEY'S QUIETING SYRUP, FOR CHILDREN. Large Bottles only 25 cents. Sold by Druggists.
4w-44] GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., Boston, Mass.

ITCH! ITCH!! ITCH!!!
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!! SCRATCH!!!
In from 10 to 48 hours,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | The Itch. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Salt Rheum. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Tetter. |
| Wheaton's OintMent | cures | Barbers' Itch. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Old Sores. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Every kind |

OF HUMOR LIKE MAGIC.

Price, 50 cents a box; by mail, 60 cents. Address WEEKS & POTTER, No. 170 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.
For sale by all Druggists.
Boston, Aug. 26, 1867. 1y-35

## Advertising Department.



France a Wheat Country.—According to the *Revue des Economistes*, the entire extent of surface appropriated in France to the cultivation of wheat, is two thousand eight hundred leagues. Of every hundred acres appropriated to cultivation in that country, forty are devoted to this grain. It is asserted that the quantity of wheat produced in France exceeds the aggregate product of the same grain in the British Isles, Sweden, Poland, Holland, Prussia and Spain. The annual consumption of wheat per head, on an average, in France, is between six and seven bushels; in the British Isles, between five and six bushels; in Spain, between four and five; in Holland, between two and three; in Prussia much less, and in Poland and Sweden comparatively little.

# The Stock Yard.

## THE KERRY BREED OF CATTLE.

The natural habitat of this animal is, as its name denotes, to be found among the fastnesses of the county of Kerry, in the northwest corner of Ireland, and the most westerly land in Europe. The climate is excessively humid, and the slopes of its mountains produce but a coarse and scanty vegetation. The valleys, however, are often highly productive, affording sweet and excellent pasture. This district is admirably adapted to the raising of a small and hardy race of cattle, as well as a useful breed of sheep.

The Kerry cattle were formerly black, with a white streak along the spine, but of late years they have been of various colors—black, brown, and of intermediate shades. Their horns are fine and long, generally turning upwards.—They have a soft, unctious skin, of an orange tinge, which is very apparent about the nose and ears. The expression of the eye is bold, and their general form and symmetry often exceedingly graceful. These cattle are extremely hardy, and maintain themselves on scanty food in a much better condition than could be expected; but when they are put on better pasture they increase considerably in size, and produce beautifully marked beef, which, being of the best quality, commands the highest price.

The principal value of this breed consists in the adaptation of the cow to the domestic dairy. For richness and quality of milk, compared with the size of the animal and the amount of food consumed, the Kerry is, perhaps, not excelled by any other breed of cattle. For this reason the cow is highly valued by the cottagers and small farmers of Ireland, and is also used to improve the domestic dairies of gentlemen living in the vicinity of large towns in England. In many parts of Ireland this breed has been crossed with the Longhorns, producing results that are by no means always favorable. The Kerry cows make admirable first crosses with the Short-Horns or Herefords, and produce animals generally well adapted to the dairy, and very excellent for fattening purposes. It is, however, desirable to keep the breed distinct, as being specially adapted to hilly districts, where pasturage is scant and coarse. Recently more attention has been paid to the improvement of the breed, with a judicious selection of parents, and more attention to feeding and shelter, is much increased in size for fattening, and equally improved in milking properties.—*Canada Farmer.*

## SALT AND COLD WATER FOR SWINE.

We do not know the source of the following remarks upon the subject which heads this piece, but we regard the information it contains as valuable, both as it regards the administering of salt to fatten swine, and the providing of pure water for them, not merely in hot weather but at all seasons:

It is not a common practice, we think, to give salt to swine occasionally, while every farmer should consider it a prime duty to offer it to his neat stock, horses and sheep, as often as once a week. To be sure the swine get a little compared with the amount given to other animals. In proportion to their weight, why do they not need as much salt as the other stock on the farm? We find an article going the rounds of the papers upon the use of *salt for fattening swine.* The writer states he "selected two pairs of barrow hogs weighing 200 each. One pair received, with their daily allowance of food, two ounces of salt; the other, similarly fed, none. In the coarse of a week it was easily seen that the salted pair had a much stronger appetite than the others, and after a fortnight it was increased to two ounces apiece. After four months the weight of the salted hogs was 350 pounds, while that of the unsalted, five weeks later, reached 300 pounds. The experiment was repeated with almost precisely the same results."

If such should prove to be the general result, most farmers have not gained all the good advantages they might have done from the food fed out. From the example cited there is no indication that the salt excited a morbid appetite, and produced unnatural flesh and fat. Of course a sound judgment must be exercised in the use of salt, as well as of grain or any other food. Another neglect of swine—and sometimes it must be a cruel one—is that of not giving to them a *plentiful supply of pure cold water.* Why it is supposed that the hog should not need water as well as the cow and sheep, is more than we can tell. They do require it. When water is not given them, although fed with swill, they will drink heartily of the water collected in the yard or barn-cellar after visiting their trough several times and finding it empty and dry. Nothing is more grateful to them in a hot day than a bucket of cold water, drank from a clean sweet trough. We trust farmers will give attention to the matter, and ascertain for themselves whether our suggestions are valuable or not.

Age of Sheep.—Although the age of the ram may be ascertained by the number of rings or knobs on his horns, yet from the large number of hornless sheep, and many other reasons, it is safer and more satisfactory to determine the age by the teeth. The sheep has eight cutting teeth in the front of the lower jaw, and six molar, or grinding teeth in each jaw—above and below. When the lamb is born it sometimes has no cutting teeth, but it generally has two, and before it becomes a month old, the full number, eight, appears in the lower jaw. When the sheep is sixteen months old, the two central teeth are shed, and in the process of time replaced by others, which attain their full size when the sheep is two years old. Between the ages of two and three years, the next two incisors, or cutting teeth are shed, and slowly replaced by others, which also attain their full size when the animal is three years old. At four years old, the sheep has six full-grown cutting teeth, and at five the front teeth are all of an equal size, being fully developed.—*Exchange.*

Garget in Cows.—It is about fifteen years since I commenced using saltpetre in case of garget, or swelled or caked bag. As soon as the disease shows itself, take one tablespoonful of saltpetre for a dose, which is to be administered three days in succession, and than wait a day or two, and if the cow is not relieved repeat the doses. In extreme cases the doses may require to be repeated three times. If this does not cure, you may as well turn the cow out to fat. If the cow will not drink it in slop nor eat it in meal or other mess, take a common sized potato, cut it in the middle, take out the inside, so that it will hold the dose, put the saltpetre into the cavity, put the halves together, and put it down among the cow's grinders and she will eat it readily. I have received four times the benefit from the above treatment than I ever did from any other. I have also dissolved the salpetre in cold water, and rubbed the udder thoroughly with it. In ordinary cases of caked bags, with cows or heifers, the bathing with saltpetre and cold water is as good as anything that can be done. —*Cor. N. E. Farmer.*

Feeding Fowls.—Fowls are partial to most kinds of vegetables when cooked, eating them as readily as grain and with manifest advantage as a change of diet. They are fond too of flesh, especially of horse meat and beef, if cooked, and supplied at suitable intervals.—Refuse meat, from the butcher's stalls, can be disposed of more profitably to fowls than to curs, the majority of which are good for nothing except to worry sheep or to make night hideous by their howlings.

Salt for Gapes.—A correspondent of the Southern Cultivator condemns the use of salt as a cure for the gapes in fowls. He says:—"Salt is a powerful styptic, and a deadly poison to all kinds of fowls." Have any of our readers tried salt as a remedy for gapes, and if so, with what result?



### TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the FARM AND FIRESIDE. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a good style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

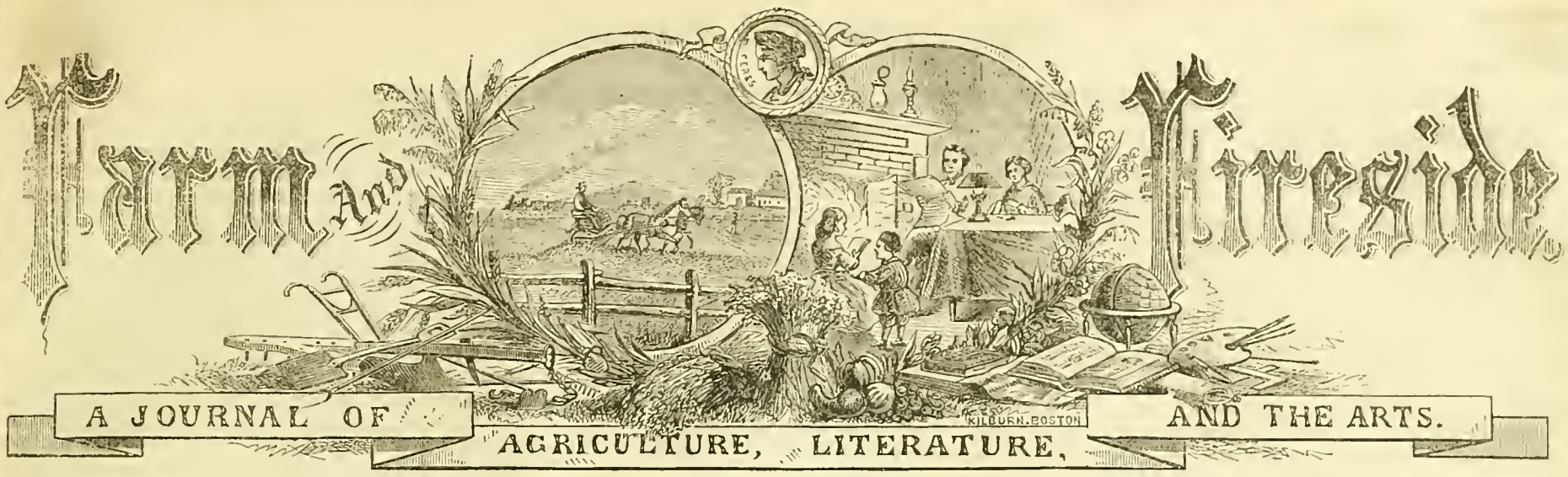
### COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the FARM AND FIRESIDE may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

### THE FARM AND FIRESIDE

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

# Farm And Fireside.



A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1867. NO. 47.


## The Stock Yard.

### ALDERNEY COWS.

This breed of cattle is attracting considerable attention throughout the country. Having presented the opinions of various breeders of this stock, we publish the following views of Dr. Twaddel, of Philadelphia, who visited the Channel Islands two years ago.

Three thousand Jersey cows and heifers, and about 1200 Guernseys are exported from the Islands every year.

The Jersey cow is of a medium size. Her peculiar deer-like aspect distinguishes her from the Guernsey. Her head is long and slender, the muzzle fine, and usually encircled with a lighter color; the nose is black, and the large, dreamy eyes, encircled with a black band; occasionally the nose is of a buff color, when there is a buff band around the eye; the horns are usually short, small at the base, tapering, and tipped with black.

The limbs of the Jersey are very slender and fine, her hips broad and developed, her neck is slender and rather long, and the body in the best specimens rotund and approximating to the Short Horn model somewhat, yet with sufficient angularity to insure milking properties.

The abdomen is well-developed, giving evidence of sound nutrition; the external abdominal or milk veins convoluted and prominent; the udder broad, running well forward and well up behind; teats squarely placed, rather short than otherwise, and of a fine yellow tint.

The Jerseys are of all shades of color, from a pale yellow fawn, running through all the intermediate hues, even occasionally to a red, an intermixture of black or gray, known as French gray, and that merging into black with an amber colored band along the back, the muzzle invariably shaded with a lighter color; and individuals are often seen, black and white, or pure black, unrelieved by any other color.

A yellow brindle is sometimes seen, but this is by no means a favorite.

The darker colors are the most popular in England, from the belief that they are hardier in constitution and bear the climate better, but this opinion does not accord with our experience in America, where the alternations from heat to cold are much more decided and severe. Here I think I may say with safety, that no difference has been observed in constitution or ability to endure our burning Summer heats, or the cold of our Northern Winters.

The care of the cows and dairy devolves entirely on the female members of the family, whilst the farmer attends to the growing crops, or busies himself in the other duties of his little farm.

The cows are tethered with a rope passing round the base of the horns, with a chain and swivel attached, and are fastened to pegs driven in the ground; they are moved to fresh grass two or three times daily. Should they be pastured in the orchards, an additional rope passes from the halter to each fore leg, and thus tied down, they are prevented from regaling themselves with the tempting apples which load the low hanging boughs, under which they graze.

The method of milking the cows is somewhat peculiar, the milking and straining the milk being done at one operation; the milk-maid with her tin pail, linen strainer, and sea shell, proceeds to the pasture; seating herself beside her cow, she soon completes her arrangements; the linen strainer is securely tied over the narrow-mouthed tin bucket, and placing the large shallow shell on the strainer, with vigorous hands she directs the milky streams into the shell; quickly overflowing the shallow brim, the milk passes through the strainer into the receptacle beneath. This primitive method has been in vogue for more than a century; they claim for it the merit of perfect cleanliness.

Whilst overlooking the operation, I could understand the use of the strainer clearly enough, but the employment of the shell rather puzzled me, until the milk-maid informed me that it was to prevent the attrition of the streams of milk from wearing a hole in the strainer; this solved the mystery.

The calves are kept stabled during the first year, and fed on green food during the Summer, in the second year they are tethered out.

The heifers are allowed to have calves at about two years old, and come in about April or May, when there is more demand for them in the English market.

The bulls are kept stabled all the year; in a large number that I saw not one was ringed, and I understood that it is never done in the Islands; not one of those I examined was in any way vicious. M. Le Gallez (the owner of the prize bull of Jersey, for 1865,) an excellent judge, told me that in his opinion it was due to their being constantly tied up and daily handled.

The bulls are slaughtered at three years old; the opinion prevails there that the offspring of young bulls have more vigor and stamina.

In the year 1849, the Royal Jersey Agricultural Society established a scale of points for Jersey cattle as a guide to the judges in awarding the premiums. Thirty-six points established perfection. No prize can be awarded to a cow having less than twenty-nine points, nor can one be awarded to a heifer having less than twenty-six points. A cow having twenty-seven points, and a heifer twenty-four points, without pedigree, are allowed to be branded, but cannot win a prize.

The Guernsey is a larger animal, coarser in the head and heavier in bone; the horns are longer and thicker at the base, not usually crumpled; the rump is more apt to assume that peculiar droop which seems a characteristic of the breed, and there is a want of that symmetry and neatness of form that mark the highly bred Jersey, but as a dairy cow she is fully her equal; for quantity of milk and butter she cannot be excelled; the skin is of a splendid rich yellow hue, and the udder and teats are tinted with chrome.

The head of the Guernsey is larger, and the muzzle broader, and the eye not so prominent as the Jersey; the nose is usually of a rich yellow or buff; the eye banded with the same color.

The colors of the Guernsey are fawn, running through the various shades to a deep red, an umber brown, and a peculiar yellow brindle, which is a favorite here.

Although larger than the Jersey, I do not think they fatten quite as kindly as the latter, which has the advantage of a smoother and more rotund form.

This thinness and want of condition may be owing, in a great degree, to the fact that the pasturage is less luxuriant in Guernsey, and also, that the Guernseymen are less solicitous about the figure and style of their animals, being satisfied if the animal is a performer at the pail—where she seldom disappoints.

The cattle of the island of Alderney, (which is the third in size of the Channel group), have a want of uniformity, attributable to the fact that they are the offspring of stock brought from Jersey and Guernsey, crossed and re-crossed until all individuality as a breed is lost.

Some are neat and deerlike; others are larger and heavier, approaching the Guernsey type.

The island is small and rocky, the pasturage scanty, very few cattle are bred, and as a consequence the breed does not receive the care and attention that is given on the other islands.

It is as a dairy animal that the Channel Island cow puts forth her claims for consideration.

Coming into notice after several of the leading British breeds had acquired a world-wide celebrity, her advocates had to contend with prejudice of English stock growers and dairymen, who could not be made to believe that anything not English bred could have merit.—And forsooth, this stock, French bred, with true John Bull antipathy, they at once decided must be worthless. But latterly this feeling toward their French neighbors has been wonderfully modified, and as the *entente cordiale* is now firmly established, Anglo-Norman cattle, among many other products from across the channel, have found favor in England.—The English dairymen have been induced to try them, and finding they produce more and better butter than the much vaunted English breeds, have looked at the pound sterling side of the account, and, per consequence, have substituted the despised little Channel Island cows for the queenly short horn.

---

Illinois is a very wealthy State, and the Auditor General reports that for 1867 the value of its neat cattle is $17,144,597: sheep, $3,510,777; hogs, $5,221,552. The value of horses in the State foots up more than all combined, the figures being $32,578,223.

### OTTER SHEEP.

This breed of sheep is but little known, and is probably of little value. A farmer at Portsmouth, Rhode Island, contributes the following to the Boston Cultivator.

"The first sheep I ever owned were two ewes of the otter breed. They were given me by my father. One of them had recently been buried in the snow for the period of twenty-one days, on the occasion of the "great Christmas snow-storm," that happened on the 25th of December, 1811. It had during its confinement eaten off its own wool as far as it could reach. After being extricated it was dressed up in woolen clothes by the wife of Benjamin Nichols (an old man that took care of the sheep) and soon recovered its health and strength. It lived some eight or ten years after this, but never produced a lamb.

In 1819 I left home; expecting to be absent some years I gave the two sheep to a lady whose place was separated from where they had usually been kept by a deep pond some eight or ten rods in width. This pond they passed over by swimming, and returned to their old quarters, where they were suffered to remain until they both died.

I have been the owner of more or less sheep for every consecutive year since 1812, and have always made it a point to keep a few of the otter breed, but have never known any but those mentioned, of any kind, to take to swimming of their own accord. Whether the disposition they evinced in favor of the water was derived through the mysterious laws of nature from the otter that so frightened the mother of the race out of the proprieties of gestation, I leave for wiser heads to determine.

Some few years ago I determined to cultivate the breed, knowing, as observed, that they were not only of very quiet habit, and easily kept within bounds, but that they also sheared heavier fleeces in proportion to their weight of body than most other sheep. After persevering, however, for two or three years, I abandoned the project, on account of their difficulty in lambing, and because so large a proportion of them came into the world with very crooked legs, which deformity continued to enlarge until after they reached maturity.

I have now more than twenty otter sheep, most of them ewes, and as straight-limbed as any other sheep. This is owing to my having selected the crooked-leg ones out of the flock for the butcher. Last year I sold (to kill) two very beautiful rams of the otter breed, with round, barrel shaped bodies, and limbs as straight as a colt's. Notwithstanding this fact, their progeny came into the world with deformed fore legs, which defect went on increasing (as I thought) the more and more they were bred in, and on this account, with much regret, I abandoned the idea of cultivating the breed further than from motives of curiosity."

---

The true farmer is—not a *nobleman*, but what is better, a *noble man*. He is a man not only of honesty and integrity, but of industry and enterprise. He is a man of sagacity, and so of prudence; of observation, and so of experience.

# General Miscellany.

## TOP DRESSING GRASS LANDS.

Those who bave fed off the aftermath or cut the second crop on their mowing lots, should remember that some compensation is required in the shape of top-dressing, if they would keep up the productiveness of those lots. It is no uncommon thing to neglect our grass lands, and many an acre has no advantage from manure except during the short interval in which it happens to be under the plough.—Now it is well understood among farmers that the crop of grass is one of the most important on the farm. A grass and stock farm is considered about the most profitable and easily managed of any. Under this system but a small part of the farm is kept in cultivation with hoed crops, only enough, usually, to supply the family with vegetables and to raise roots for winter feed, while the rest of the land is kept in grass. Of course this implies a regular system of top-dressing with some substance or other.

This implies labor and care in providing suitable composts and applying them at the proper season, but on the whole, a grass and stock farm is managed with less severe hard work than one devoted to a great variety of crops. But the economy of management may be imitated to advantage on any farm, and there are few farmers who cannot make arrangements for a supply of material for top-dressing. If nothing better is at hand, the loam along the road side may often be had for the hauling, but there are few farms which do not contain a great variety of substances, if we would only take the pains to get them out.

For light lands inclining to gravel or sand, muck is very useful, and if it has been got out and put into the barnyard for a few months it is all the better. But without this addition it may be applied with decided advantage at this season of the year, and the thicker and heavier the dressing the better. For these lands, also, a dressing of clay is most admirable. Even pure brick clay without composting will do, but if it has had the advantage of a visit to the yard and the mixture of the solids and liquids of the stable, it is unsurpassed. It is not all light land farms, to be sure, that have the advantage of either a muck or a clay bed, but many farms possess it, either cropping out upon the surface, or lying in low depressed valleys where the water has settled and stood for ages, and from these holes it can be dug out in great quantities and applied to other parts of the farm with very great advantage.

Where a field is tolerably level, and not subject to great surface wash, the loss and waste of manuring substances lying upon the surface through the Winter is very slight, if, indeed, any takes place. Even the rank manures from the barn cellar may be applied at this season of the year with safety, the evaporation being slight and the wash sinking into the soil to fertilize the tender plant.

Whether regarded as a direct means of fertilizing the soil and increasing its productiveness, or simply as a protection for the roots from the cold of Winter, this is one of the best seasons to top-dress, for several reasons. It is a season of comparative leisure on most farms. Other work is not very pressing, except on such farms as have large crops of roots to be harvested. The teams are now strong and able to work without injury. The manure spread evenly upon the surface, freezing and thawing, become mellowed and pulverized, and works down among the grass roots out of the way of the rake. The roots feel its influence early in Spring. They grow stronger and thicker, forming a close and dense sward, which, when ploughed up, decays and forms the humus of the soil. Many judicious farmers are fully persuaded that for this reason, top-dressing is the truly philosophical way of improving land.—A close thick sward, filled with grass roots, adds amazingly to the richness of the soil, in its decay.

We have frequently alluded to the value of leaf mould, both as a bedding for cattle and a material for compost. There are few farms where large quantities of this cannot be easily secured, and though it may seem to be robbing Peter to pay Paul, we think it may be judicious, as it certainly is where other good substances are not at hand. Do not let the winter set in without a good dressing of some kind, and if you have to clear out your cellar to do it, you can manage to fill it up again by spring.—*Mass. Ploughman.*

## EIDER DUCKS AND EIDER DOWN IN ICELAND.

The greatest favorites and the most valuable of all the feathered tribes in Iceland are the eider ducks. Their down is the lightest and softest of animal coverings, probably the worst conductor of heat, and therefore the warmest clothing that is known. The eider down has long been one of the most important products of Iceland. The kings and princes of the north of Europe do not sleep on the down of the cygnets of the Ganges, but on and under the down of the eider duck. The increased products, the varied manufactures, and the widely-extended commerce of the world have brought into use other materials more conducive to comfort and health than the eider down; and the consequence has been, the price has greatly fallen, so that now the poor peasant can sleep on down.

The eider duck (*Somateria mollissima*) is a large and fine-looking bird. The male is over two feet in length, and weighs six or seven pounds. His back, breast and neck are white, inclining to a pale blue; the sides white; the lower part of the wings, the tail, and the top of the head, black. On the water he is as graceful as a swan. The female is much smaller than the male, and differently colored. The female is pale yellowish brown, mottled with both white and black. The tips of the wings are white, the tail a brownish color. But a poor idea is given, however, of the looks of these birds by an enumeration of their colors. The down is a sort of brown or mouse color.

These singular birds have both the character of wild and domestic fowls. In Winter they are so wild that it is difficult to come near them; but in the breeding season—the month of June—they are tamer than barn-door fowls. On the islands all round Iceland, and many parts of the main shore, they cover the land with their nests. When left to themselves, the brood of the eider duck does not exceed four; but remove the eggs daily, and she will continue to lay for weeks. The drake is a very domestic husband, and assists in all the household arrangements previous to the advent of the little ducklings.

They build not far from the water, making the nest of sea-weed and fine grass, and lining it with the exquisite soft down which the female plucks from her breast. If you approach the nest—which is always near the water—the drake will give a hostile look at you, then plunge into the sea with great violence; but the female stands her ground. If in a gentle humor, and used to seeing company, she will let you stroke her back with your hand, and even take eggs and down from under her. Sometimes she will fight and strike with her sharp beak, and she gives a blow in earnest. On finding down gone from her nest, she plucks off more; and when the supply fails, the drake assists in furnishing it. We have been told if their nests are robbed of the down more than twice, they abandon the place and will not return there the following season. Half a pound is the usual quantity taken from a nest, and this seems a great deal, for the domestic goose, at a single picking, rarely yields more than a quarter of a pound of feathers. A greater quantity of down is gathered in wet seasons than in dry. Immense quantities of these birds come around Reykjavik and spend the breeding season, particularly on the island of Engey and Vithey, in the harbor. Around the houses, and frequently all over the roofs, their nests are so thick that you can scarcely walk without treading on them. The inhabitants get eggs enough to half supply them with food.

The eggs are the size and about the color of hen's eggs, though not quite so white, rather inclining to a yellow. They are nearly equal in quality to those of barn fowls. After the young are hatched their education commences immediately. They graduate after two lessons. The old duck takes them on her back, swims out into the ocean, then suddenly dives, leaving the little mariners afloat. The flesh of these birds is excellent, better than any other sea-fowl.

In Iceland their value is so great for their eggs and down that there is a law against shooting them. For the first offense a man is fined a dollar, and for the next he forfeits his gun. They are greatly alarmed at guns, and, if often fired among, they quit the coast. So, with kind treatment, they give a good return; but treat them unkindly, and they will not return at all.

## GENTLEMEN FARMERS IN PRUSSIA.

A Paris correspondent says: "Emile de Laveleye has just contributed an article in the Revue des Deux Mondes, in which an interesting account is given of the progress made by Prussia during 60 years of peace. Writing on agriculture, he points out that nearly all the landowners cultivate their own estates; except for detached portions, renting is the exception. They are, therefore, retained in the country by the care of their own interests, for nothing more imperiously requires the eye of the master than rural industry. It is true they are aided by a class of employes who are not found in any other country. They are educated young men belonging to families in a good position, often just leaving an agricultural college, who remain for a certain time on some large estate to initiate themselves in the practical direction of one of their own.

"The novitiate is an ancient custom still preserved in many trades. Thus frequently, the son of a hotel-keeper will not hesitate to enter another hotel as butler or waiter (Kellner), to be initiated into all the details of the service over which one day he will have to preside. When any one visits the farms (Rittergutter) he is astonished to see as superintendents the son of a banker, a baron, or a rich landowner. These young people drive a cart or guide a plow. At noon they return, groom their horses, and then go and dress themselves, and dine at the owner's table, to whom they are not inferior, either in instruction, birth or manners. After the meal they resume their working dress and resume, without any false shame, their rustic occupation. Thus we find in feudal Prussia a trait of manners suited to the democratic society of the United States, and which hereafter will become general. In France, in England especially, a young man of the upper class would believe his dignity compromised in performing the work of a farm laborer."

## ADULTERATIONS OF FOOD.

Once a Week contains an article on this subject which is quite interesting. And showing how tea is adulterated both here and in China, the author proceeds:

Coffee is adulterated with mahogany sawdust, ground acorns, roasted carrots, dogs' biscuits; and, what is still more repulsive, baked horses' and bullocks' livers. There are men known as liver-bakers, who prepare powders from these animal sources, which are sold to give body to the coffee. A few years since chicory was the common ingredient with which it was mixed. It used to be lawful to sophisticate in this manner; and the consequence was, that in many of the samples, especially canister samples, Dr. Hassall found that chicory formed the chief ingredient in the article. Now, chicory must be sold separately; but we apprehend that it is often used to adulterate the superior article in the low neighborhoods. There are certain inspectors appointed to examine such matters, but their inspections are few and far between. If a few of these useful officers were to determine to do their duty, like Haroun al Raschid, the poor would receive an immense advantage; for, as it is, they are victimized shamefully.

Milk is too tempting a fluid to hope to escape; the iron-tailed cow is the principal adulterator. Sometimes water is mixed to the extent of fifty per cent. Cream is, indeed, but too often a manufacture; flour is mixed with the skim-milk to thicken it, and a ball of annotto is swung round in the can to give it a rich color. Butter is adulterated with salt to thirty per cent., and lard is next used to mix with it; and the bread we use with it is shamefully falsified. The baker has always been known as a rogue from the earliest time. He mixes with his flour when it is dear, alum, white clay, bone-dust, and most largely of all, potatoes, and flour made from damaged wheat. The alum that is required to bring up damaged flour to the required whiteness is very great, sometimes a hundred grains in a four-pound loaf. There is also a stuff made by the druggists called "bards," a preparation used to correct the sour taste of the damaged flour. The adulteration of alum is not only fraudulent but deleterious to the health, inasmuch as it is a violent astringent. Some people use marmalade instead of butter upon their bread; but they will not escape adulteration by this arrangement. Marmalade, excepting that which is purchased in the best shops, is falsified to a very large extent with sliced carrots, turnips, and apples; and sometimes a more dire adulteration, in the form of copper, to bring up the color. Copper is largely used again in the manufacture of pickles. That vivid green, which makes the pickle of the merchant look so much more attractive than those made at home, owes its color to copper. House-keepers of old used to throw a half-penny into their pickles with the same purpose. Many of the preserved fruits, with which tarts are made in the Winter, such as gooseberries, rhubarb, green-gages, contain acetate of copper, or verdigris, in large quantities, especially those prepared by the French. When any of our little ones fall ill, after an indulgence in such enticing pastries, we may guess what is the cause.

It seems hard that the most attractive sweets should be subjected to adulterations more deleterious than are to be found in any other articles of food. It must have been a diabolical person who first perpetrated the sin of mixing poisonous pigments with the lozenges and sweets the little ones receive as especial treats. What we have to say, however, will be a caution to parents. They never should give their little ones sweets that are colored in imitation of nature. Sometimes we see fruits imitated with their leaves; in order to do this, tints are employed that are highly injurious. Thus, the reds are done with red lead, the yellows with chromate of lead. How many a sweet in the shape of an orange have we seen thus colored with death? The green leaves are colored with arsenite of copper, and carrots are represented by chromate of lead and Brunswick green, any one of which is a virulent poison. At the best shops only vegetable colors are used; indeed, in most of the continental states it is not lawful to use any of the dangerous metallic pigments.

While sugar is adulterated with plaster of Paris, rhubarb with gamboge, honey with flour and sugar, cheese with divers articles and all kinds of liquids, like beer, brandy and wines, are replete with foreign ingredients.

---

The Southern Cultivator urges the planters of the Cotton States to diversify their crops more than they have done hitherto. When they have provided a sufficiency of grain, stock and vegetables for home consumption, they may profitably close the circle of production by the cultivation of cotton. This course, it is argued, will make the South self-sustaining and promote the interest of that section of the country.

---

The forests in France are under the care of the government, and under the new laws for their protection they have increased nearly one million of acres. Less than one-sixth of the area of the kingdom is covered with wood land, while it is estimated that from 20 to 25 per cent. of a country should be covered with forest in order to secure uniformly good crops. Our forests, now disappearing, demand the attention of government.

Look at the career of a man as he passes through the world; at a man, visited by misfortune! How often he is left by his fellow-men to sink under the weight of his afflictions, unheeded and alone! One friend of his own sex forgets him, another abandons him, a third, perhaps, betrays him but woman, faithful woman, follows him in his affliction; she braves the changes of feeling, of temper, embittered by the disappointments of the world, with the highest of all virtue; in resigned patience ministers to his wants, even when her own are hard and pressing; she weeps with him, tear for tear, in his distresses, and is the first to catch and reflect a ray of joy, should but one light up his countenance in the midst of his sufferings; and she never leaves him in his misery while there remains one act of love, duty, or compassion to be performed.

# The Fireside Muse.

### EVENING HYMN.

Thou, from whom we never part,
Thou, whose love is everywhere,
Thou, who seest every heart,
Listen to our evening prayer.

Father! fill our souls with love,
Love unfailing, full and free,
Love no injury can move,
Love that ever rests on thee.

Heavenly Father! through the night
Keep us safe from every ill;
Cheerful as the morning light,
May we wake to do thy will.

# Fireside Readings.

### THE COMMENCEMENT OF OLD AGE.

What are the signs of natural decay? When does old age commence? The natural history of individual death, without disease, is one of the subjects which it remains for modern physicians to study. When does the vital machine begin to wear out in the ways by which normal decay, inevitable death, invade the aged man? With our modern means of precise observation and minute pathological research, we should be able now to lay the foundation for the answer to this most important question. The subject is suggested to us by a most thoughtful, able and well-written thesis on death, considered from the etiological points of view, by Dr. Acosta of Paris, which will repay the perusal of reflective men. Discussing the difficulty of determining the commencement of old age, Dr. Acosta reminds us that, whilst the Greeks regarded the age of 49 (7 times 7, their climacteric number) as the culminating point of human strength, and, at the same time, as the commencement of decadence, M. Flourens holds that decadence does not commence until the 70th year; an age which the Chinese, according to Sir John Bowring, regard as a metaphorical one, calling those who have attained to it "rare birds," and men of 50 years old "loiterers." The climacteric ages of the Arabs were 63 and 81, being the multiplication of 9 (their magic number) by 7 and 9. The age of 63 was considered so critical that it was called the grand climacteric, and the ancients were accustomed to mutually congratulate each other when they had passed it. Quetelet, to a certain extent, admits the danger of this critical period; for he says "From 60 to 65 years of age, vitality loses much of its energy; that is to say, the probability of continuing to to live diminishes greatly."

M. Reveille Parise, while in common with some other physiologists, allowing the existence of two other sources of strength in the constitution, which he names force in reserve and force in use, believes that the physiological fact which reveals old age is the progressive diminution of reserved force so superabundant in youth. There certainly exists some organizations which are proof against the ravages of time, and the attacks of sickness and death. Some men at the age of 80, 90, even 100 years, have preserved their sensorial and intellectual faculties, and their great mental energy, even to the last days of their life. A complete list of them would be too long. We will, therefore, only mention a few names. Plato died at the age, of 81, pen in hand; Georgias continued his literary labors at the age of 107; Socrates writes his famous "Panegyrie of Athens" in his 94th year; Theophrastus his "Characters" at 99; Cato learnt Greek after his 60th year; Cicero composed his charming work, "De Senectute," one year before his violent death; Voltaire wrote a great number of tragedies, "Tancrede" and "L'Orphelin de la Chine," amongst others worthy of his best time, at the age of 65, and he came to Paris in his 74th year to give himself an intellectual treat, the representation of his tragedy of "Irene." There are also still living members of our profession, as well as the literary, scientific, and political world, who would illustrate the list of Nestors, remarkable both for their longevity and for intellectual labors to which they continue to devote themselves. Disraeli has said: "Old age has been a thing unknown to many men of genius."—*British Medical Journal.*

### ANECDOTE OF WASHINGTON.

The following "unpublished anecdote" is contained in Ex-President Van Buren's recently published volume on political parties in the United States:

Ogdensburg, N. Y., April 30, 1857.

"Hon. M. Van Buren—Dear Sir:—During the session of the Presbyterian General Assembly in Cincinnati, in May, 1852, I dined twice at the hospitable mansion of Hon. Jacob Burnet, now deceased. He was born in Newark, New Jersey, in 1770, and was the son of Dr. Wm. Burnet, who was in the medical service of his country through the revolution. Judge Burnet was acquainted with our early distinguished statesmen, and his conversation was rich in the recollection of their manners and characters. He related an anecdote of Washington, which he had from the lips of Alexander Hamilton:

"When the convention to form a constitution was sitting in Philadelphia, in 1787, of which Gen. Washington was president, he had stated evenings to receive the calls of his friends. At an interview between Hamilton, the Morrises, and others, the former remarked that Washington was reserved and aristocratic, even to his intimate friends, and allowed no one to be familiar with him. Gov. Morris said that was mere fancy, and he could be as familiar with Washington as with any of his other friends. Hamilton replied:

"If you will at his next reception evening, gently slap him on the shoulder, and say, 'My dear general, how happy I am to see you look so well,' a supper and wine shall be provided for you and a dozen of your friends.'

"The challenge was accepted. On the evening appointed a large number attended, and, at an early hour, Gov. Morris entered, bowed, shook hands, laid his left hand on Washington's shoulder, and said:

"My dear general, I am very happy to see you look so well."

"Washington withdrew his hand, stepped suddenly back, and fixed his eye on Morris for several minutes with an angry frown, until the latter retreated, abashed and sought refuge in the crowd. The company looked on in silence.

At the supper which was provided by Hamilton, Morris said:

"I have won the bet, but paid dearly for it, and nothing could induce me to repeat it."

Yours, truly, John Finn.

### STOVES AND FURNACES.

The season of the year has arrived when the most danger is to be apprehended from the escape of deleterious gases into dwellings, from stoves and furnaces. Let all our readers carefully examine their stoves and flues, and remove the accumulations of waste material, that the smoke and gases may have free exit to the out side atmosphere. The health of thousands is seriously impaired every year by breathing the gases escaping from stoves, and many have lost their lives from this source.—The saddest sight we ever looked upon was one quiet Sunday morning in March, a few years ago, when we were called to the house of a neighbor, to view the lifeless bodies of the father and mother of a family, lying in bed precisely as they sunk into repose the night before. During the night coal gas escaped from a furnace in the cellar, and from thence into the chambers, and the whole family narrowly escaped from passing to that sleep which knows no waking. As it was, the father and mother lost their lives.

Several of the products of combustion are of a deleterous nature, particularly carbonic oxide and carbone acid. Anthracite and bituminous coal contain considerable sulphur, which partially oxidizes during combustion and forms sulphurous acid gas, and this is very suffocating and injurious when breathed into the lungs. Sulphurous acid always escapes along with other gases from burning coals.

It was supposed formerly that carbonic acid was a poisonous product, but it is now known not to be, but is, nevertheless, fatal to human life, when inhaled, as it operates to exclude oxygen from the respiratory apparatus. A person can be *drowned* in carbonic acid as well as in water.

### FARADAY'S THEORY OF LIFE.

Prof. Faraday adopts Eleurin's physiological theory that the natural age of man is one hundred years. The duration of life he believes to be measured by the time of growth. When once the bones and epiphyses are united, the body grows no more; and it is at twenty years this union is effected in man. In the camel it takes place at eight; in the horse at five; in the lion at four; in the dog at two; in the rabbit at one. The natural termination of life is five removes from these several points. Man, being twenty years in growing, lives five times twenty years, that is, one hundred; the camel is eight years in growing, and lives five times eight years, that is to say, forty years; the horse five years in growing, and he lives twenty-five years; and so with other animals. The man who does not die of sickness lives everywhere from eighty to a hundred years. Providence has given to man a century of life; but he does not attain it, because he inherits disease, eats unwholesome food, gives license to passions, and allows vexations to disturb his healthy equipoise; he does not die, he kills himself. He divides life into two equal halves—growth and decline; and these halves into infancy, youth, virility and age. Infancy extends to the twentieth year; youth to the fiftieth, because it is during this period that the tissues become firm; virility from fifty to seventy-five, during which the organism remains complete, and at seventy-five old age commences, to last a longer or shorter time, as the diminution of reserved forces is hastened or retarded.

### THE CLOSE OF THE WEEK.

A week! It is but a short time indeed, but its events are a host, its changes many. To whom has the week just closed brought joy? to whom sorrow? to whom riches? to whom poverty? to whom friends? to whom enemies? to whom love? to whom misery? to whom happiness? to whom sickness? to whom health? to whom life? to whom death? What! all these changes in one week? Yes, and a host more numerous than the sands of the sea. Many who see the dawning of the present week, will be in another world ere it closes! many upon whom fortune smiled but a week ago, are now groaning beneath the withering frowns of poverty; many who are floating gently on the bark of life, over the unruffled sea of happiness a week ago, are now wrecks of ruin on the shores of affliction; many upon whom the sun of last Sabbath shone propitiously, have ere this time met with some ill-fortune and are turned upon the world the children of poverty; and many whose expectations and hopes were beaming forth, bright and prosperous, at the dawn of this week, find themselves at its close, the sad and miserable beings of cruel disappointment. And such is the life of man! It is subject to changes in a week, a day—nay, even an hour. The world is still in commotion—revolution succeeding revolution—time whirling on its rapid progress, leaving behind its traces of destruction, and even in a small community, many thrilling, exciting circumstances might be summed up and recorded at the close of each.—*E. P. Whipple.*

Care of Highways.—The greatest improvement that can be made on our common roads at the least expense, is to keep the loose stone from obstructing the travel on them. This should be the first, the last and intermediate duty of him who has the charge of the highway. Another important duty that requires careful attention, is to keep the sluices and ditches open, and in condition so as to prevent the water from taking its course in the middle of the road, and thus doing much damage that a very little cost and labor might have prevented.

### THE USE OF STIMULANTS.

It is quite true that after a man has gone through a day of severe and harassing labor—whether in the city, or in seeing patients, or getting up briefs and cases, or in any other way—he feels very much refreshed and restored by the bottle of champagne which he has been recommended to take with his dinner. But the restoration is only for the moment. No process of real, enduring reparation takes place. One effect of the temporary exhilaration is a readiness to renew the labor from which he only desisted an hour and a half before. The stimulant supports him for two hours' more work, and the result is, that the last state of that man is worse than his first.

There is another way of recruiting the flagging system to which doctors are very fond of resorting. If you feel wearied at any time, or faint, they say in a sympathetic manner, "Take a little brandy and water." This is more fatal than the other. As the teetotalers say, it makes men a prey to the insidiousness of the demon alcohol. The interval between the periods of faintness grow small by degrees and beautifully less. The dimensions of the refreshment increase with a proportionate rapidity, and a man becomes a steady, if an unostentatious, tippler before he knows that he has left the domain of the most rigid temperance. Common language misleads him. A man is not called a drinker unless he drinks until he is drunk. Now the barrister, or merchant, or doctor—for the doctor is no wiser than his own prescription—who thus recruits himself several times a day, never does drink until he is tipsy. He takes a sufficient quantity to make him so, but he takes it with discretion and judgement. He can do an immense amount of work without ever feeling any thing like severe exhaustion, and he is naturally confident, therefore, that all is well with him.

It is not necessary to trace the gradual source of things, after the manner of a tract or an itinerant advocate of total abstinence. Whatever advantages the system of brandy-and-water, taken in small but frequently-repeated doses, may have in helping a weakish man through some period of emergency or pressure, it is conformable both to analogy and experience to believe in the long run it must be ruinous. No doctors differ as to the ultimate consequences of such a habit if it becomes chronic and settled. Their theory is that it never becomes chronic—a theory which reposes on a very thin delusion indeed. It is not the business of a layman to teach the skillful leech the physical deterioration which must ensue from repeated stimulants, however small each one of them may be. A man need not be a very subtle physiologist to discover this. The most important of these is that it helps an over-worked man to overwork himself still more. It facilitates the growth of the very vice whose results it was supposed to mitigate. Instead of soothing a harassed mind, it only increases a man's capacity of hearing to be harrassed. Whether this is a kindness to him is not much of a question.—*Saturday Review.*

No Fading Beyond.—Eternity has no gray hairs. The flowers fade, the heart withers, man grows old and dies; but time writes no wrinkles on eternity. Eternity! stupenduous thought! The ever-present, unborn, undecaying and undying—the endless chain composing the life of God—the golden thread entwining the destinies of the universe. Earth has its beauties, but time shrouds them for the grave; its honors are but the sunshine of an hour; its palaces, they are but the gilded sepulcher; its pleasures, they are but bursting bubbles. Not so in the untried bourne. In the dwelling of the Almighty can come no footsteps of decay.

Two Dutchmen lived very close together and they had been very fast friends, but they fell out and hated each other like Indians. One of them got sick and sent for his neighbor and said: "Hans, I am going to die will you forgive me?" "If you die, I will," said Hans, "but if you get well again the old debt will stand good!"



A Wife's Prayer.—Lord bless and protect that dear person whom Thou hast chosen to be my husband; let his life be long and blessed, comfortable and holy; and let me also become a great blessing and comfort unto him, a sharer in all his sorrows, a meet helper in all the accidents and changes in the world; make me amiable forever in his eyes, and forever dear to him. Unite his heart to me in the dearest love and holiness, and mine to him in all sweetness, charity and complianee. Keep me from all ungentleness, and discontentedness and unreasonableness of passion and humor, and make me humble and obedient, useful and subservient, that we may delight each other according to Thy blessed Word, and both of us may rejoice in Thee, having our portion in the love and service of God forever. Amen.

# Farm and Garden.

## GROWING GRAPE VINES FROM CUTTINGS.

Grape cuttings generally consist of two to four eyes; but two are enough if the joints are six inches, and upward, long. We set some 50,000 yearly, and we profess to know how to do it. The whole can be told in a few words, as follows:

Cut your cuttings with an inch of wood above the upper eye, and square off as near the lower one as you can, and not injure it;—then set the cutting in the ground, on a slight angle—no matter which way, with the upper bud even with the surface of the soil, or a trifle below it, and pack down the earth around the cuttings as hard as possible, and especially should the packing extend down to the lower bud, as they will not grow if the earth rests loosely around them.

The earlier the cuttings are set the better;—but if not set till June 1st, they will grow, if watered in severe drouths.

We set out in rows about 18 inches apart, and the cuttings as close in the rows as they can be set; but for a small quantity, put them about 6 inches apart in the rows.

In a mellow soil all the preparation needed is to plow and rake off the land the day on which you set the cuttings, or not longer than one day before they are set. Then take a stout line and set it where the first row is to be set, and in setting the cuttings you stand on the side or the line towards the outside of the plot of ground to be set, so that you may not press down the soil with your feet till the cuttings are set. With cuttings of two eyes you will have no difficulty in forcing them down, at an angle of 25 or 30 degrees, leaving the upper bud even with the surface of the ground, or a little below it, if you choose, which is the best way.

When your row is done the treading process begins. Walk astride the row, with the toes of your boots or shoes turned in as close to the cutting as possible, and thus pass over the ground two or three times till the ground is trodden firmly down, then set your line and proceed as before.

We use two lines, setting one before the first row is done, so that a portion of our help can proceed at once to setting the second row, while others pack the first, and so on till all are set.

We water freely, in dry weather, till July 15th when the vines will have become rooted, and will stand a severe drouth.—*Rural American.*

## THE APPLE WORM—THE HAY-ROPE REMEDY.

Nearly all our readers must have noticed that the apple-worm is very destructive this year. Fruit-growers have lost a considerable portion of their apple crop by this troublesome insect, and every consumer of this wholesome fruit has again and again been annoyed by finding a filthy maggot at the core of an apple. Remedies or preventives have from time to time been tried, to keep this insect from damaging fruit, and among them the most successful appears to be the winding of hay-ropes, cotton batting, or any other soft, loose substance, around the trunks and principal branches, to afford a hiding place for the larvæ, in which to spin their cocoons and undergo their transformations.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman states that, in the orchard of Dr. Trimble, of New Jersey, he had an opportunity of witnessing the efficacy of what he calls "Dr. Trimble's remedy for the apple-worm." Hay-ropes had been wound around the trunks of the trees, and large numbers of the insects had been caught, some having attained the pupa state, others having only just reached their hiding-place, were still larvæ. The whole number of insects caught on one tree during the season amounted to a thousand. Trees which formerly had all their fruit destroyed, were, under this treatment, bearing very fair crops. A complete extermination could not be expected, while the neighboring fruit-growers took no precaution against the insect. Dr. Trimble applies two belts, or bandages—one, two or three feet high, and the other higher. He thinks that the worms under the higher belt descend the tree before the fruit drops, and those under the lower crawl up from the fallen fruit on the ground. From this it is evident that the worms collect from all sides to hide in the crevices of the bark and large branches, and bandaging, in the manner described, and scraping and washing the bark occasionally, will be a very effectual means of preventing the ravages of this destructive insect.

## CULTIVATION OF CARROTS.

Carrots are a valuable crop to feed to cattle, horses, and store hogs. I feed mine a peck a day with a moderate amount of hay in the Winter, or a half a peck of carrots and two quarts of oats, and about the same amount of hay. Without oats I think they are worth at least half as much as oats. I have made good beef with them, without much grain. For milch cows, they increase the quantity of milk, and give a good color to the butter, besides keeping them in good condition. Hogs fed on them will thrive, if they are fed sufficiently.

I prefer raising carrots rather than beets to feed cows, because I can raise more bushels per acre, and at less expense per bushel, especially as the hands are not applied in harvesting except in picking them up. If they are available for sale, the roots sell soonest. A tolerable crop will yield from four to five hundred bushels to an acre; on extra ground and pains, I have raised at the rate of fourteen hundred bushels an acre.

Cultivation—The soil should be rich enough to bear good corn; not stony, nor too stiff; should be plowed well, dragged, and raked fine, and sown as soon as possible after plowing.

If sown with a drill, it will pay to roll with a hand roller before sowing. Sow in rows about 18 inches apart, using about two pounds of seed to the acre. If sown in ridges, the ground should not be too dry. Some think it requires less labor to raise them by this method, but in this case they cannot be sown with a drill. Mr. S. tells us that he sows them on sward, and raises good crops. They do not show as well early in the season, but grow rapidly from August onward.

For cows I prefer the long Orange variety. The White Belgian are quite as good for horses, because they are rather more tender. As soon as the plants are visible in the rows, they should be hoed with a scuffle hoe, which leaves all the dirt behind it, and does the work better, by far, than a common hoe, besides doing it at least twice as fast. They should be hoed again, as soon as the weeds show themselves; and when the plants are grown an inch or more, weed them. If the ground is tolerably clean, they will need but one more hand weeding, which, however, should be done before the weeds get strong. If delayed too long, the expense of weeding will be increased, and the value of the crop diminished; if they stand over thick in the rows, they should be thinned out.

In harvesting, the first thing to be done is to cut off the tops with a hoe, ground sharp for the purpose. These should be removed with a manure fork into small heaps. Pass along with a plow as close as possible, to the row, and let another hand, with a shovel or spade, back side towards the carrots, push them out, and another hand pick them up, and put them in a wagon on piles. Three hands with a team, will dig about 100 bushels in a day, by this method. The tops are as valuable for feed, if cut in season, as the roots, but not in proportion to the bulk. They should be sown in May, but not later than the 10th of June.—*Cor. American Farmer.*

S. J. Woodman, of Chicago, Ill., writes to the New York Farmer's Club, that a barrel or a cask of new sweet cider, buried so as to be well covered with fresh earth, will turn to sharp clear, delicious vinegar in three or four weeks, as good as ever sought affinity with cabbage, pickles, or table sauce.

## MANURING CORN GROUND IN AUTUMN.

We suppose that by far the largest part of the corn crop, at least that grown in the regions east of the Prairie States, is planted on sod ground. It is also a very prevalent custom to manure this sod land before it is plowed, generally with barnyard manure in its long or unfermented condition, and the most common practice is to draw it from the yards in the Spring, spread it, and immediately plow it under. Now the planting of corn on sod is a very good practice, and it may be questioned whether any rotation of crops for this region can be adopted, better than the one which makes corn follow grass; but the method of manuring the sod in the Spring is not well fortified either by theory or facts against attack.

A writer in the *Rural* some years since stated as his belief that a heavy coat of long manure put on sod ground in the Spring was not only no benefit to the crops planted on it but a positive injury, *in case the season following was very dry.* His argument to maintain this position was that in a drouth the sources of moisture for the plant to draw from were a deep, well-worked soil, which admitted the roots to moist layers underneath the surface, and the atmosphere which conveyed some moisture into loose earth. A thick coat of long, strawy manure plowed under with the sod late in the Spring would not decay immediately in case a drouth prevailed, and its position, in conjunction with the sod and the air space around them, would arrest the rising of moisture from below, and render the depth of soil which the plow inverted much dryer than it would be if it had good connection with the earth below. This state of the soil would retard the growth of the young corn until sufficient rain fell and rendered the crop much later in its period of ripening. This theory every farmer has, doubtless, seen substantiated by facts, to the extent at least that thick sod has proved injurious when early drouths occurred. On the contrary, in seasons sufficiently wet, the sod and manure prove highly stimulating and beneficial to the corn, and heavier yields result than would from stubble or fallowed ground. In case the corn crop does not appropriate all the nutriment contained in the sod and manure, it is not lost to the straw crop which usually follows in the succeeding year, but it seems apparent that circumstances may combine to render long manure put on a thick sod in the Spring and plowed under for corn, really a detriment instead of a benefit to that particular crop.

In no case, we think, can the results from manuring sod ground in the Spring for corn equal those of manuring in the Autumn. In the latter instance the manure is in a more decomposed state and its elements are more immediately available, but the greatest benefit comes from the effect which the moisture has on the fertilizer and the soil—that of extracting the soluble matter and imparting it to the ground where it is in exactly the right condition to nourish the plant as soon as its roots begin to demand sustenance. This is the result which comes from spreading manure on sod ground in the Fall, and another very important one is that the grass is also invigorated and starts early and strong the next Spring, furnishing either early feed for sheep and young cattle, or, better still, an increased amount of vegetable substance to plow into the soil. There is, probably, no better way of heading off the destructive cut worm, than to manure in the Fall, allow the grass to grow large in the Spring and plow it under as quickly preceding planting as possible. The worms will feed on the grass and let the corn alone until it gets large enough to successfully withstand their attacks.

It may be urged that manure wastes by long exposure to the weather when thus spread in an undecomposed state. This is not the case largely, at least during the late Fall, Winter, and early Spring months, when the weather is cool and rain and snow plentiful. Nor is it probable that manure loses its valuable elements to the extent which is popularly believed, even at any season, by exposure on the surface of the ground if it is spread out thin so as to avoid undue fermentation; its effects as a mulch are compensatory.—*Rural New Yorker.*

## SHEEP AND WOOL GROWING.

Sheep can be bought in this section for nearly half what they could be sold for this time last year. And yet, low as wool is, it is worth nearly as much as it was a year ago. Then the depression in the wool market was thought to be merely temporary, and wool-growers hoped for remunerative prices in the future. Now, however, there is a general feeling that wool will rule low for some years, and many farmers are selling their sheep at any price that is offered. Butter and cheese pay better than wool-growing, and thousands will quit the business in disgust. Observing men predicted such a result during the sheep fever, and were laughed at as old fogies.

If the best time to engage in a business is when others are leaving it, the present is a good time to buy sheep. It would be strange if the United States, with its almost unlimited extent of territory, should not raise its own wool, and if we *are* to raise wool, we can hardly expect to see a time when sheep can be bought at lower rates. The duty on wool is now as high as we can reasonably ask for, and if there is any business in which we can compete with the cheap labor of foreign countries, it is in wool-growing. There is less labor to raise a dollar's worth of wool than to raise a dollar's worth of any other farm product. It is not so much the cheap labor of other countries that the wool-grower has to fear, as the cheap land, and the low rates at which so concentrated an article as wool can be transported. And this competition with cheap land we cannot escape from. Those of us who have farms that cost $100 to $150 per acre must compete with the farmer on the prairie, who paid only $1.25. If we cannot compete with him in growing wool, we must grow something else, the freight on which affords us sufficient protection. Buffalo skins are high, but I don't think, when land is worth $100 an acre, we can raise buffaloes, and feed them four or five years simply for the skins. If we wish to engage in this kind of business, we must seek cheaper land.

I do not say that we cannot raise sheep on land worth $100 an acre, simply for their wool, but the probabilities are that the profits cannot be very large. Take one of three year old Merino wethers that I sold the other day for $2.75, and how much do you suppose it has cost to feed him? He sheared four pounds the first year, and five pounds the next, and five pounds this year—say fourteen pounds. I sold the first two clips for 60 cents. The last clip is not sold, but would not bring more than 40 cents. This sheep, therefore, has brought me in, say $2.40 for the first year, $3.00 for the second year, and $2.00 for the third year—$7.40 in all. The sheep sold for $2.75, so that the gross receipts for three and a half years' keep amount to $10.15. Washing, shearing, tying up the wool, and marketing the three clips, would cost 50 cents, and it will be liberal to say I have received $9.65 for feed and attendance. Now, such a sheep would probably consume in three years and a half, a ton of hay, or its equivalent. Of course he was not fed exclusively on hay, and I only put it in this form to enable us to get some idea of the amount of food such a sheep would eat. An acre of good clover would furnish food enough for half a dozen of such sheep for a year—part mown and part grazed. To keep a sheep three years and a half, therefore, we should need as much as seven-twelfths of an acre would produce in a year. In other words, this sheep which has brought me $9.65, has eaten food equal to what could be obtained from a little over half an acre of good clover. This makes a better show for the profit of wool-growing than I expected, and when we take into consideration the fact that the manure will do nearly as much good as if the clover had been plowed under, I am not sure that there is any kind of stock which, for the care and labor bestowed, will pay much better.—*J. Harris.*

Over 100,000 bushels of Canada barley were received at Cleveland last week.



As a weary traveler was wending his way through the mud in a far-west region of the country, he discovered a young maiden seated in front of the door of a small log house. He rode up in front of the cabin, and asked the girl for a drink of water. He drank it, and, she being the first woman he had seen for several days, offered her a dime for a kiss. The young maiden accepted the offer, and received both the kiss and the dime. The traveler was about to resume his journey, but the girl, never before having seen a dime, asked: "What am I to do with the dime?" "You may use it any way you wish," he replied, "It is yours. "If that's the case," said she, "I'll give you back the dime and take another kiss."

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## WE PROTEST.

THERE are numerous matters in rural economy against which we offer our honest protest. Not that we wish to find fault with the agricultural classes, but there are some things connected with their profession which require correction and improvement. These are matters of personal interest, only, yet they have an influence tending to make the business unprofitable, and to bring into disrespect the most honorable and venerable of human arts.

We protest against the ownership of too much land, and the attempt to cultivate more than can be made profitable. It is safe to say that three-fourths of the farmers of this country would raise better and larger crops, make more money, and with less anxiety and labor, if they owned but one half the land they now possess. We know it gratifies the ambition to own a great tract of land, to keep large herds of cattle, and to employ numerous farm hands. But scientific agriculture cannot be carried out on these large farms without a proportionably large capital. In this country we have not that capital. Consequently the only way to carry out improved agriculture is to attempt less, and do what is done in the most *thorough manner*. Instead of cultivating ten, twenty or thirty acres, put your manure, labor and skill on one half those acres. Underdrain every field that requires it, use the subsoil plough, manure generously, cultivate thoroughly and the result will be a larger aggregate profit at the end of each successive year.

We protest against the general error among farmers of keeping too much stock—that is, in attempting to keep more than can be kept *well*. We all know the result of generous feeding on all kinds of domestic animals; we know that with extra feed and care there is profit; but if we are over-stocked, and are obliged to feed scantily, we shall find our animals a source of loss rather than profit. This is particularly the case in the Winter season, more especially with young stock. The practice of allowing cattle to go half fed is poor economy. The practice of suffering cattle to remain out during Winter nights, without shelter, is a species of cruel neglect. The too common practice of feeding young stock, such as calves and colts, on the poorest hay or fodder, is the worst of inhumanity. All young animals require, and should have, the best feed the farm affords. If these animals are pinched and neglected the first year of their growth, they become stunted and of little profit. Comfortable shelter, with a plenty to eat, is essential to the health and thrift of all domestic animals. Sheep and calves require particular attention in Winter.

We protest against the practice, not general, of depriving horses and cattle of bedding at this inclement season. The horse, although an animal of great endurance, has a delicate and sensitive constitution, and is as liable to colds and disease as his master. A good bed of straw, or coarse hay, is essential to his comfort, and adds to his working capacity.—Our milch cows, perhaps more than any other stock, require a good bed, and should be made, in all respects, as comfortable as possible. To keep up the largest flow of milk, you must not only feed well, but have warm stables, plenty of bedding, abundance of pure water, and other kind attentions. In regard to store, and fattening hogs, we have heard many good farmers declare that bedding was of no utility or value. To this idea, we offer our protest. If you want the opinion of the hogs, throw into their pens, on a cold day, a handful of straw, and see how soon they will carry it to their nests. The hog is a philosopher, and is strongly prejudiced in favor of a comfortable bed.

There are many other farm matters, some of them unseasonable, that deserve our decided protest. But as Winter is upon us, with bleak, cutting blasts and icy mantle of snow, we will add a closing protest against a poor wood-pile, or a pile of poor wood. Nothing adds more to a sense of comfort and cheerfulness in mid Winter than an abundance of good fuel. Every farmer should have a plentiful supply of dry, seasoned wood, cut and packed under cover. A portion of green wood will do to mix with your seasoned fuel; but don't try the patience of your good wife by neglecting to furnish an abundance of both descriptions; and have it cut and sheltered, ready for use. We are aware that many farmers burn anthracite coal; but in our estimation a wood fire is an indispensable luxury to every farm house.

## AMERICAN CATTLE IN EUROPE.

IT is not often that American cattle find a market in Europe. Not that some of our improved breed of animals are of less merit or value than those raised abroad, but it is rare to find a man with courage and pride enough to undertake the enterprise. Recently, Mr. Sheldon, of Geneva, New York, exported a small herd of Shorthorns to England. They were raised by Mr. Samuel Thorne, of Thorndale on the Hudson. This lot of cattle, comprising nine head, was probably the finest in this country. They were of the highest blood, said to be almost entirely of pure Bates extraction.—The sale took place last month, near the Queen's farm at Windsor, and immediately following the sale of some forty head of Shorthorns owned by Victoria. The highest price reached by the best of the Queen's stock was 136 guineas; but one of Mr. Sheldon's cows brought 735 guineas, and a bull 577 guineas! These were "round prices," but the animals were pronounced cheap by good English judges.

The following is a list of the American Shorthorns sold, at this sale, with their respective prices:

| | £ | s. |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Third Duke of Geneva, | 577 | 10 |
| 2. Twelfth Duke of Thorndale, | 194 | 5 |
| 3. Seventh Duchess of Geneva, | 735 | 00 |
| 4. Fourth Maid of Oxford, | 315 | 00 |
| 5. Fifth Maid of Oxford, | 210 | 00 |
| 6. Countess of Oxford, | 262 | 10 |
| 7. Sixth Maid of Oxford, | 420 | 00 |
| 8. Seventh Maid of Oxford, | 273 | 00 |
| 9. Eighth Lady of Oxford, | 472 | 10 |

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

THE Utica Herald gives special attention to the agricultural productions of central New York. It thinks the present price of factory cheese is not remunerative. The market is dull, the best cheese selling, last week, at 13½ a 14¾ cents. In regard to future prospects of the cheese trade, the Herald says:—"We understand very little cheese has been made in Ohio since August. The drouth has been very severe west, cutting off the cheese product, and the probability is that all or nearly all this western cheese will be wanted for the western and southern home trade. It should be borne in mind, too, that our own home stocks are to be made up. All these facts should be taken into consideration by dairymen in estimating prices."

—

A contemporary journal has the following on the value of pork as food. Its views are sensible. "There is no trouble in eating pork in a cold climate. It is needed—or some fatty meat, for the support of life, while at the South vegetable diet is better. But whether the hog should be eaten, depends on the manner in which he is kept. If he is kept as a mere scavenger on filth and rottenness, the meat would be unfit to eat, as its food must enter into its composition. We see this in the difference between the hogs fed on acorns and those fed on corn. Any animal that lives upon the filth and waste of cities, should be rejected as food. But if the hog can be kept cleanly and on proper food, pork is as healthy as beef, or poultry, or fish."

The Aiken Press, Ga., gives an account of the new plant, Japan Clover, which has found its way mysteriously into the middle regions of Georgia and South Carolina. It is ascertained to be a native of China and Japan, but by what means it was conveyed to the region in question is yet unexplained. The Press is of the opinion that this clover will prove of vast importance to the planters of the South in the renovation of the soil so much exhausted by continuous cotton cropping. The plant is perennial, and supplies excellent pasturage for stock and a rich mass for turning under on cultivated ground.

—

R. U. Leonard, writing from Wyoming county, N. Y., to the Rural New Yorker, says:

"I believe it pays every farmer who works clay land to plow it as much as possible in the Fall, especially that which he means to sow to Spring grain. The plowing should be done when the land is dry, and if it turns up in great lumps so much the better. Plow deep and leave the surface rough. The frost and rain will pulverize and lighten the soil, making it friable and easily worked next Spring. Deep plowing on clay land is better than shallow, for the reason that such lands are generally of a rich, deep soil; the great drawback on their producing largely being the imperfect pulverization given it. Only get the clay soil *loose* enough to a good depth and you are very sure of a good crop—that is if it *keeps loose* while it is growing. Draining is very necessary to secure this, as any one can readily see. Our clay soils are the best of all, if they are only rightly managed, but it takes a good deal of capital to work them: they must be drained, plowed deep, subsoiled, worked up loose and fine, so the roots can get the food they contain, and they will prove the most productive of any."

—

The cultivation of the beet, for the purpose of making sugar, is attracting considerable attention in the Western States. An exchange says:—"We notice that a public speaker recently strongly urged upon the people of Wisconsin the importance of this vegetable production for manufacturing purposes, and advised them to turn their attention to its cultivation as an industry promising a sure and large return. The amount of sugar consumed in this country is about four hundred thousand tons annually, of which, before the war, only one-ninth was raised within our borders. The industrial disintegration resulting upon the war has reduced this to a much more significant fraction.

By the French system of beet-raising more than a ton of sugar is produced to the acre, and by a proper rotation of crops the land may be kept in good condition, and manure is only needed in alternate years. The labor of raising a crop of beets is said to be less, the expense less, and the certainty of a crop greater than a corn crop, and the sugar is as good for all practical purposes as cane sugar. If the business is as profitable as is asserted, there seems no good reason why the cultivation of the beet should not become a lucrative industry in the broad fields of the West."

—

M. Geyelin, manager of the French "National Poultry Company," says that turkey cocks are employed largely to hatch and rear chickens, as they can incubate a much larger number of eggs than hens. The way in which they are induced to take to the hen's eggs is as follows: "A glass or two of strong wine is poured down a turkey's throat, and whilst in a state of inebriation the feathers are plucked off his breast, and he is placed on a large sitting of eggs. On coming to his senses next morning, he feels that a sudden change has come over him, and as the denuded and irritated part of his body is kept warm and soothed by crouching down on the smooth eggs; he wisely accepts his new position, and discharges the duties of a mother to the family thus foisted upon him with tenderness and vigilance."

A Northern man who recently emigrated to Jefferson county, in the lower valley of Virginia, made 1500 pounds of honey from 50 bee stands last Summer, which he sold for $450

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

THE Rural Minnesotian thinks fifteen bushels per acre is high enough as the average yield of wheat in Minnesota this year, and that the crop in the vicinity of St. Paul has been damaged twenty per cent. by rains since it was stacked.

The mass of agriculturists are only beginning to understand the value and importance of guano. France having imported but 25,000 tons in the past year, against 150,000 tons absorbed by England in the same time.

Illinois is jubilant at having produced an excellent cotton crop, this year. There were 3000 bales raised in one county alone. The Illinois cotton region is in the southern part of the State.

The Scientific American says that a good way to clean cider barrels is to put lime, water and a common trace chain into the barrel through the bung hole, first tying a strong twine to the chain to draw it out with. Shake the barrel about until the chain wears off the mould or pomace, then rinse with cold water.

In England, at least 50,000 tons of cheese are made annually, and about 30,000 tons more are imported from America. The consumption of cheese in England is said to have increased much more rapidly than the population, and for some years past the price there has steadily risen, and the amount imported has already increased.

A mulch of coal-ashes, placed around currant bushes, is said to be an effectual remedy for the currant-worm or caterpillar. A little mound of wood or coal-ashes placed around the base of the trunks of fruit-trees, will prevent the attacks of the borer.

Corn is selling at Austin, the capital of Texas, for forty cents per bushel. Cotton is said not to be in demand. "None of the merchants are buying except at ruinous figures for the planters." Some are offering only eight cents a pound for cotton in good order, and of fair staple.

Mr. Wm. Hayhurst, of Kane township, Vinton county, Iowa, harvested a little over 400 bushels of oats from a few rods over five acres of ground, being an average of eighty bushels to the acre. Whoever has a heavier crop will please report.

W. C. Flagg, Secretary of the Illinois Horticultural Society, reports six thousand five hundred quarts of strawberries grown upon a half acre of ground, at the rate of four hundred and six bushels to the acre.

A private letter from St. Louis says: "We have had a terribly dry Summer and Fall. There is great danger that the Fall wheat will be a failure this year on account of the drouth. Our millers are buying up wheat, anticipating a scarcity in the Spring on this account."

The St. Louis Republican thus refers to the same matter: "The intense and protracted drouth which has scourged a portion of our State, has very seriously affected the corn crop. In some places five bushels to the acre may be considered a fair average; and in most no farmer calculates the yield at half that of ordinary years. Many farmers have more stock than they can winter through, and are willing and anxious to sell at very low prices. In many of the counties between Jefferson City and the Mississippi river, cattle can be bought at about half the price they commanded readily last year."

In Germany, seed wheat is changed from high and poor land to low and rich land. The seed of the first has the most vitality, and makes the best bread.

Old animals of every kind are unprofitable and should be got rid of before they become so deteriorated in value as to be difficult to sell even at a very reduced price.

All dead leaves in the orchard, garden and pleasure ground should be collected and placed as a mulch around the trees, bushes, vines and canes. A few shovelfuls of compost thrown over them will keep them from being blown away by wind.



THE PASSING OF LIFE.—If we die to-day the sun will shine as brightly and the birds will sing as sweetly to-morrow. Business will not be suspended a moment, and the great mass will not bestow a thought upon our memories. "Is he dead?" will be the solemn inquiry of a few as they pass to their business. But no one will miss us except our immediate connection, and in a short time they will forget us and laugh as merrily as when we sat beside them. Thus shall we all, now in active life, pass away. Our children crowd close behind us, and they will soon be gone. In a few years not a living being can say, "I remember him." We lived in another age, and did business with those who slumber in the grave. This is life! How rapidly it passes!

## The Fireside Muse.

### THE REVERSED HORSE.

A jolly fat friar loved liquor good store,
And he had drunk stoutly at supper;
He mounted his horse one night at the door,
And sat with his face to the crupper;
"Some rogue," quoth the friar, "quite dead to remorse,
Some thief whom a halter will throttle—
Some scoundrel has cut off the head of my horse,
While I was engaged with my bottle."

The steed had his tail pointed south on the dale—
'Twas the friar's road home, straight and level,
But, when spurred, a horse follows his nose—not his tail,
So he scampered due north on a revel.
"This new mode of docking," the fat friar said,
"I perceive does not make a horse trot ill;
And 'tis cheap, for he never can eat off his head—
While I am engaged with my bottle."

The steed made a stop—to a pond he had got—
He was rather for drinking than grazing;
Quoth the friar, "'Tis strange headless horses should trot,
But to drink with their tails is amazing!"
Turning round, to find whence this phenomenon rose,
In the pond fell this son of a bottle;
Quoth he, "The head's found, for I'm under the nose—
I wish I was over the bottle."

## Fireside Tale.

### THE GHOST ROBBER.

A STORY OF THE BLACK FOREST.

On a fine evening, in the Spring of 1830, a stranger, mounted on a noble-looking horse, passed slowly over the snow-white lime stone road leading through the Black Forest.

Just as the sun was going to rest for the day, when gloomy shades were beginning to stalk, he drew rein, as he said:

"This must be near the spot, surely. I'll stop here, anyhow, for awhile, and see what I can learn."

He thereupon dismounted and entered the parlor of the inn, where he sat down before a small table.

"How can I serve you, meinheer?" said the landlord.

"See to my horse outside," replied the guest, carelessly, but at the same time eying the landlord from head to foot; "and let me have some wine—Rhine will do."

The landlord was turning to withdraw from the stranger's presence when he stopped and said:

"Which way, meinheer, do you travel?"

"To Naustadt," replied the guest.

"You will rest here to-night, I suppose?" continued the landlord.

"I will remain here for two or three hours, but I must then be off so as to reach my destination in the morning. I am going there to purchase lumber for the market."

"And you have considerable money with you no doubt?" added the landlord innocently.

"Yes considerable," replied the guest, sipping at his wine disinterestedly.

"Then, if you'll take my advice," said the landlord, "you'll stay here till morning."

"Why?" queried the stranger, looking up curiously.

"Because," whispered the landlord, looking around as if he was disclosing a great secret and was afraid of being heard by somebody else, "every man who has passed over the road between this and Naustadt at night for the last ten years, has been robbed or murdered under very singular circumstances."

"What were the singular circumstances?" asked the stranger, putting down his glass empty, and preparing to fill it again.

"Why, you see," the landlord went on, while he approached his guest's table and took a seat. "I have spoken with several who have been robbed, and all I could learn from them is that they remembered meeting in the lonesomest part of the wood a something that looked white and ghastly, and frightened their horses so that they either ran away or threw their riders; after that all was confusion with them! they felt a shocking sensation and a smothering, and finally died as they thought, but awoke in an hour or so to find themselves lying by the roadside robbed of everything."

"Indeed!" ejaculated the stranger, looking abstractedly at the rafters in the ceiling as though he was more intent upon counting them than he was interested in the landlord's story.

The innkeeper looked at him in amazement. Such perfect coolness he had not witnessed in a long time.

"You will remain, then!" suggested the landlord after waiting some time for his guest to speak.

"I?" cried the stranger starting from his fit of abstraction as though he were not sure that he was the person addressed. "Oh most certainly not; I'm going straight ahead, ghost or no ghost, to night."

Half an hour later the stranger and a guide, called William, were out on the road going at a pretty round pace toward Naustadt.

During a flash of lightning the stranger observed that his guide looked very uneasy about something, and was slackening his horse's pace as though he intended to drop behind.

"Lead on," cried the stranger; "don't be afraid."

"I'm afraid I cannot," replied the person addressed, continuing to hold back his horse, until he was now at least a length behind his companion. "My horse is cowardly, and becomes unmanageable in a thunder storm. If you will go on though, I think I can make him follow close enough to point out the road."

The stranger pulled up instantly. A strange light gleamed in his eyes while his hand sought his breast pocket, from which he drew something. The guide saw the movement and stopped also.

"Guides should lead, not follow," said the stranger, quietly, but with the firmness which seemed to be exceedingly unpleasant to the person addressed.

"But," faltered the guide, "my horse won't go."

"Won't he?" queried the stranger with mock simplicity in his tone.

The guide heard a sharp click, and saw something gleam in his companion's hand.

He had no sooner reached his old position however, than the stranger saw him give a sharp turn to the right, and then disappear, as though he had vanished through the thick foliage of the trees skirting the road.

The stranger dashed up to the spot, and saw that his guide had turned down a narrow lane leading from the road into the heart of the wood.

He heard the clatter of his horse as he galloped off. Without waiting another instant he touched his horse lightly with the rein, gave him a prick with the rowels, and off the noble animal started like the wind in the wake of the flying guide.

The stranger's horse being much superior to the other's the race was a short one, and terminated by the guide being nearly thrown from his saddle by a heavy hand which was laid upon his bridle, stopping him.

He turned upon his seat, beheld the stranger's face dark and frowning, and trembled violently as he felt the smooth, cold barrel of a pistol pressed against his cheek.

"This cursed beast almost ran away with me," cried the guide, composing himself as well as he could under the circumstances.

"Yes I know," said his companion dryly; "but mark my words young man, if your horse plays such tricks again, he'll be the means of seriously injuring his master's health."

They both turned and entered back to the road. When they reached it again, and turned the heads of their animals in the right direction, the stranger said to his guide in a tone which must have convinced his hearer as to his earnestness:

"Now, friend Wilhelm, I hope we understand each other for the rest of the journey. You are to continue on ahead of me, in the right road, without swerving either to the right or to the left. If I see you doing anything suspicious, I will drive a brace of bullets through you without another word of notice. Now push on."

The guide started on as directed, but it was evident from his movement and his muttering that he was alarmed at something else besides the action of his follower.

In the meantime the thunder had increased in its violence, and the flashes of the lightning had become more blinding.

For about a mile the two horsemen rode on in silence, the guide keeping up directions to the letter, while his follower watched his every movement, as a cat would watch a mouse.

Suddenly the guide stopped and looked behind. And he heard the click of the stranger's pistol and saw his uplifted arm.

"Have mercy, meinheer," he groaned: 'I dare not go on."

"I give you three seconds to go on," replied the stranger, sternly——"One!"

"In heaven's name," implored the guide, almost overpowered with fear, "look before me in the road and you will not blame me."

The stranger looked. At first he saw something white standing motionless in the center of the road, but presently a flash of lightning lit up the scene, and he saw that the white figure was, indeed ghastly and frightful enough looking to chill the blood in the veins of even the bravest man. If his blood chilled for a moment therefore, it was not through any fear that he felt for his ghostly interceptor, for the next instant he set his teeth hard, while he whispered between them just loud enough to be heard by his terror stricken guide:

"Be it man or devil, ride it down—I'll follow. Two!"

With a cry of despair upon his lips, the guide urged his horse forward at the top of his speed, quickly followed by the stranger, who held his pistol ready in his hand.

In another second the guide would have swept by the dreaded spot, but at that instant the report of a pistol rung through the forest, and the stranger heard a horse galloping off through the woods riderless.

Finding himself alone, the stranger raised his pistol, took deliberate aim at the ghostly murderer and pressed his finger upon the trigger.

The apparition approached quickly, but in no hostile attitude. The stranger stayed his hand. At length the ghost addressed him in a voice that was anything but sepulchral.

"Here, Wilhelm, ye mope, out of your perch this minute and give a helping hand. I've hit the game while on the wing, haven't I?"

The stranger was non-plussed for a moment, but recovering himself, he grumbled something unintelligible and leaped to the ground. One word to his horse and the brave animal stood perfectly still. By the snow-white trappings on the would-be ghost he was next enabled to grope his way in the dark toward that individual, whom he found bending over a dark mass about the size of a man on the road.

As the tiger pounces on his prey, the stranger leaped upon the stooping figure before him, and bore him to the ground.

"I arrest you in the king's name," cried the stranger grasping his prisoner by the neck and holding him tight,—"Stir hand or foot until I have you properly secured and I'll send your soul to eternity."

This was such an unexpected turn of affairs that the would-be ghost could not believe his senses, and was handcuffed and stripped of his dagger and pistols before he had time to speak.

"And you are not my son Wilhelm?" he gasped.

"No, landlord," replied the individual addressed, "I'm not. But an officer of the king, at your service, on special duty to do what I have to-night accomplished. Your precious son, Wilhelm, who thought he was leading a sheep to the slaughter, lies there in the road, killed by his father's hands."

Two weeks later, at Bruchsale prison, in Baden, the landlord of the Sign of the Deer, and the Ghost Robber of the Black Forest, who was the same identical person, having been proven guilty of numerous fiendish and artfully contrived robberies, committed at different times in the Black Forest, paid the penalty of his crimes, by letting fall his head before the executioner's axe; since when, travelling through Schwatzland has not been so perilous to life and purse, nor has there been any Ghostly Knight of the Road in that section of the world.

### A DOG STORY.

"One of the most affecting stories I ever heard about a dog," writes a correspondent of the British Workman, "was told me many years ago by an uncle of mine who once lived in Paris. My uncle was walking on one of the quays, when he saw a man approach, holding a dog by a chain. The poor animal was frightened, and yet did not attempt to struggle as he was being led along. He looked up piteously at his jailor, and every now and then tried to fawn about his feet, as if pleading with him." "He might know, seemingly, what was going to happen to him," said the man.

"What is going to happen?" inquired my uncle.

"Sir, I am going to drown him, that is what is going to happen."

"But why, sir, are you his master?"

"I am certainly his master, and he is old;—poor, poor Ponto! I'm sorry but it must be."

The dog gave a low whine, and, trembling, crouched close to his master.

"He does not seem so very old, and drowning is a hard death," said my uncle.

"Sir, he is quite useless."

While he was speaking the words, the man unmoored a little boat, lifted the dog in, and rowed to the middle of the stream. When he came to where the water was deepest, my uncle saw him lift up the dog suddenly, and throw him with great force into the stream.

If the master had thought the dog's age and infirmities would prevent his struggling for life, he was very much mistaken, for he rose to the surface, kept his head well up, and trod the water bravely. The man then began to push the dog away with an oar, and at last, loosing all patience, he struck out so far as to deal the dog a blow by which he overbalanced himself and fell into the river. He could not swim, and now began the generous animal's efforts not to save his own life but that of his master, who was trying to drown him. The dog swam to him, and seizing fast hold of his coat collar, until a boat put off to his rescue and brought him, half drowned and wholly frightened, to the shore, his faithful dog barking, crying, and licking his hands and face in the greatest excitement of affection. I remember still the look with which my uncle used to tell how he stepped forward and asked the man, "Do you still think him useless—this noble, generous dog."

"I think he deserves a better master," said a gentleman, who had witnessed the incident; and there and then he made an offer to buy Ponto, but the man, embracing his dog, said hoarsely:

"No, sir, no, I was wrong, and as long as I have a crust I will give half to my poor Ponto."

A woman who had a basket on her arm came up and said, "I should think you would, indeed, or else you ought to be ashamed to look him in the face," and out of her basket she took a piece of meat, and the dog was feasted and patted, and made much of, and from that time, as long as my uncle stayed in Paris, he often saw Ponto on the quay, and the story of his generosity to his master made him so many friends that he was no longer burdensome.—No one was suffered to molest him, and his old age was doubtless the happiest part of his life."

A Danny of twenty-six having been termed an "old bachelor," appealed to an elderly gentleman to decide whether he should be called "old" or not, giving his age: "Twenty-six," said the elderly gentleman. "It's owing to how you take it. Now, for a man, it is young enough; but for a goose it is rather old."

Underdraining Preventing Drouth.—A neighbor recently expressed his great surprise at the result of an accidental experiment which he had performed this season. The country, it is well known, has suffered severely in some places for a want of rain and the result was therefore the more striking. He planted a small field with potatoes, one row of which was immediately over an underdrain. Here he expected to find the soil the driest, and the potatoes burnt up for want of moisture. He found exactly the reverse—this row yielding about double the others. The drain had prevented the soil from becoming water-soaked in Spring and from baking hard in Summer, and had kept it loose and porous. The increased depth to which it had been worked in digging the ditch, had added to the increase of the crop. This was a simple and convincing experiment of the combined advantages of subsoiling and draining.

## Miscellany.

Oil for Preserving Cider.—When a barrel of cider is tapped it grows hard; that is, more and more acid, until it gets too hard to drink, if it is kept long on tap. This is occasioned by the air, which fills the cask above the cider as soon as it is drawn out. The air cannot be excluded, even if the cask were air-tight, because the cider will not run from the tap if there is no air to press it out. If the cider is exposed long to air, it will become vinegar. In fact, the way to make vinegar of cider is to expose it to the air as much as possible. To prevent the cider on tap from becoming acid, it is recommended, as soon as one or two gallons are drawn out, to pour into the bung-hole about half a pint of clear sperm oil, or sweet oil if it is preferred. It should be warm when poured in, and it will spread in a thin coat over the surface, and keep spreading as the cider is drawn out, and thus exclude the air without giving any taste of oil to the cider. This plan of preserving cider is worthy of further attention. We have faith in it from knowing that oil-casks are the best we know of for storing cider, imparting no flavor. Sperm oil-casks are more valuable for cider casks than for any other purpose.—*Selected.*

Growing Potatoes Under Straw.—Mr. G. M. Hammond writes to the Marion Co., Iowa, Blade, giving a favorable report of his experience in raising potatoes covered only with straw. He says:

Having seen last Spring a statement going the rounds of the press in regard to planting potatoes on the top of the ground and covering with straw, I concluded to try it. Having plowed the ground I sowed them broadcast, and covered with straw to the depth of some twenty inches. The bugs did some damage to the tops, and the drouth was very severe; still upon harvesting them, (I will not say "digging," for all we had to do was to throw off the straw,) we found the ground covered with as fine healthy tubers as one would wish for.—This is my experience for it. Raising potatoes under straw cover and on top of the ground is a good plan.

The Longing of Grain.—The causes and methods of obviating the lodging of grain have received careful attention from M. Velter, who has arrived at the conclusion that it is not caused by mere want of silica in the stem. M. Velter found that, in his hands, a supply of silicate of potassa to the growing plant rendered it less able to resist the action of the wind. He attributes the cause to want of general nutrition, and the absence of proper quantities and proportions of all the elements which enter into the composition of the stem. His practical conclusions are that the evil must be met by affording the plant more light and air, which is best obtained by sowing in drills.

Winter Fuel.—Where a wood lot is part and parcel of a farm and has "down timber" upon it, farmers will find it a paying operation to cut up and cord these fallen trees before snow storms come on. This will give the wood an opportunity to dry, rendering it better for use and more easily handled when the sleighing season arrives, if not wanted before that time. It is difficult to gather such fuel after the snow has fallen, while every day's exposure to storms renders it less valuable for market or for domestic use.

Cranberry Wine—Scrofula.—Cranberry wine, taken internally and applied externally, is announced as a cure for scrofula. To make the wine, take the ripe berries, mash them in a mortar to a fine pulp, put into a stone jar, add one quart of water to two quarts of berries, stir it well, set away and let it stand a week; then strain it through cotton, and you have a beautiful wine, which, with a little sugar, makes a wholesome drink, at once cooling and palatable. It does not ferment.

Mr. Alexander T. Stewart will soon erect a block of dwellings for the working women of New York, at a cost of one million dollars.

## Marriages.

In Greenville, Smithfield, 12th inst., by Rev. R. Woodworth, Mr. John O. Winsor to Miss Ednah F. Brown, both of Greenville.

In Pawtucket, 13th inst., by Rev. C. E. Smith, Pardon E. Tillinghast, Esq., to Miss Ellen F. Paine, all of Pawtucket.

In Milford, Mass., 5th inst., Henry E. Fales, Esq., to Miss Chira A. Hayward, daughter of Samuel W. Hayward, Esq., both of Milford.

In Millbury, Mass., Nov. 6th, by Rev. E. Y. Garrette, Ira A. Bursley to Alona A. Smith, both of Northbridge. [Corrected.

## Deaths.

In Smithfield, 12th inst., Lucy, wife of Mr Silas Mowry, in th 72d year of her age.

In Olneyville, on the 14th inst., Daniel H. Eddy, aged 25 years.

In Milford, Mass., Nov. 12th, Mrs. Fanny McFarland, aged 83 years.

In Milledgeville, Ga., 8th inst., aged 49 years, Jane, wife of Seth Bougbton, and daughter of Remington Smith of Pawtucket.

In Thompson, Conn., Nov. 10th, Mrs. Abigail Goodell, aged 87 years.

## The Markets.

### WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Nov. 22, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 16c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 1.20 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.75 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a17.50 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 45 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a95c |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 76c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 20c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 50c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 9c | Eggs ₩ doz | 48c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 20c |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 18c |
| Veal | 15a16c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

### WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

INCREASED ACTIVITY IN BREADSTUFFS.

Flour.—There has been an active, but variable market. The liberal arrivals, present and prospective, the reduced limits to most foreign orders and a material increase in the stock of the medium grades have given buyers the advantage. The exports for the week have been 53,344 bbls., against 26,335 bbls. for the same time last year. The market closes dull and heavy.

Wheat.—The demand has been more general and with variable news from Europe and a decline in freights, prices have fluctuated materially. The market closes unchanged.

Corn.—Indian corn has been comparatively quiet and has fluctuated daily until to-day, when it opened strong, and at the close of the day this improvement was lost, the market closing tame.

Oats have fluctuated considerably. Early in the week good Western declined to 75 cents. The present stock is about 2,500,000 bushels. The market closes active and better.

Rye has been in moderate demand and prices have improved, closing with a better demand for export at higher prices.

Pork has been quiet and the fluctuations slight. The receipts have been moderate and the stock is less than at the same time last year. The market closes dull and heavy.

Beef has been in more general demand, and prices are better established. At the close the market is quiet.

## Advertising Department.



Earth's Curiosities.—At the city of Medina, in Italy, and about four miles around it, wherever the earth is dug, when the workmen arrive at a distance of sixty-three feet, they come to a bed of chalk, which they bore with an augur five feet deep. They then withdraw from the pit before the augur is removed, and upon its extraction the water bursts up through the aperture with great violence, and quickly fills the newly made well, which continues full, and is affected neither by rains nor drouth. But what is the most remarkable in this operation is the layer of earth as we descend. At the depth of fourteen feet are found the ruins of an ancient city—paved streets, houses, floors and different pieces of mason work.

# Various Matters.

## WASTE SUBSTANCES AS MANURES.

Refuse Charcoal.—The refuse charcoal, obtained from the rectifiers of spirits, from the railroads where wood is burned in the locomotive, from old charcoal beds, etc., is a very useful material in the garden. As a mulching about fruit trees I consider it very valuable.—It keeps the soil loose and moist in the summer, and it does not afford a harbor for mice and insects. In the soil it assists to promote moisture in a dry season; and by its slow decay (for it does decay more rapidly than it is supposed) it yields carbonic acid gas to plants and greatly assists in the decomposition of vegetables and mineral matter. It is an excellent mulching for strawberries in Winter or Summer.

Road Sand.—The sand obtained from turnpikes, or roads, macadamized with any sort of stones, very difficult to break or pulverize, has a peculiar value. The grinding of such stones or rocks under the iron-rimmed wheels of wagons, the wear of horse shoes, and the mixture of this ground rock with the manure scattered along the road produces a compound which is found to be highly acceptable to trees and plants. The granite rock we know is rich in potash and silica; but it is not these elements alone which give the road sand its peculiar value. By the process of grinding and triturating inert substances, such as oyster-shells, charcoal, quicksilver, we develope medicinal and other virtues which these substances do not possess in their crude form. And so it is supposed to be with road sand. By the constant grinding and triturating of the iron bound wheels and horses' shoes, the comminuted granite becomes prepared for the use of plants; and when this road sand is mixed with the compost heap and saturated with liquid manure, it is found to help the efficacy of the compost in a remarkable manner. Under the influence of road sand of this kind alone, it is said that when applied to lawns, white clover is sure to spring up in the greatest abundance and luxuriance where it had never been seen before.—*Dr. J. S. Houghton, in Gardener's Monthly.*

## A GREAT KENTUCKY FARM.

Woodburn is the name of Mr. Alexander's princely estate of 3100 acres, which lies on the Louisville and Frankfort Railroad, 19 miles from the former, and 9 miles from the latter place, and situated in Woodford county.—Over its pastures roam stock, imported and thoroughbred, to the value of $1,000,000. It is unsurpassed on this continent, and equalled only in England by that of Mr. Blinkirons near Hampton Court. He has amassed a colossal fortune by the manufacture of paper collars, and spends his income as an amateur stock breeder, confining himself, I believe, however, to horses only. The extent to which he is engaged in business may be estimated from the fact that last year his sale of yearlings amounted to $300,000.

We tarried long and "took a good look" through the stud. "Lexington," the blind king of the turf, reigns sultan of the equine harem. After making the quickest time on record—4 miles in 7 minutes and 19 seconds—on the Metairie track, he retired from the course blind and unrivaled, king of the turf still, for his colts are stars in the first magnitude in the racing firmament. They run against and beat each other, but nothing else outstrips them. "Asteroid," his princely scion, retired too from public gaze, by reason of lameness, bears him fit company among the softer delights of the oats of Woodburn. "Australian," an imported animal, is a beautiful steed, already famous in his colts. I watched with interest the progress of grooming, and put numberless questions. They are washed and rubbed and as carefully tended as a child of the aristocracy. "How often do you give them clean sheets?" said I to the groom as he was carefully spreading the straw for a bed.—"Twice a week we give them fresh straw, and make their beds every night," said he.

From the equerries we bent our steps to the dairy. The milk-house is of cut stone, and a model of its kind. There were 32 cows, Jerseys, Ayrshires, and Shorthorns in the "cuppins."

The Jersey, in its varieties, comes, as the name indicates, from the Channel Isles. They are small, fawn-shaped animals, with yellow hair, skin and hoofs—famous for the richness of their milk. From 2 to 2½ gallons at a milking, ½ gallon of cream can be taken, which makes veritable golden butter. The cross on the Ayrshire or Shorthorn gives the requisite quantity of the lacteal fluid to satisfy the gaping mouths of the "younkers" of the family, as well as cream in quantity sufficient for the good housewife.

You can form some idea of stock on Woodburn when I tell you that there are 120 brood mares of thorough blood running over his acres, 100 cows and 800 sheep of the finest varieties, just the half of the number before some epidemic swept over the flocks.

## SAVE THE STRIPPINGS.

It is a well known fact that the last milk drawn from the cow at each milking, is much the richest part of the mess. The reason is the same that the top of a pan of milk which has stood awhile is the richest part of it. The cream being the lightest part of the milk, rises or remains at the top of the udder, while the heavier watery portions settle to the bottom, similarly, though not as perfectly, as when set in a pan. This richer portion of the milk being of greater consistency, settles to the bottom of the udder but slowly as the milk is drawn off. Hence after the first flow of milk has ceased, after the lapse of a few minutes, or while the milker is drawing from the other half of the udder, a new accumulation is found in the part first drawn. This will be found nearly all cream, and when the object is butter making, this should be drawn into a small vessel by itself and strained directly into a cream pot and thoroughly mixed with the cream.—The cream from the main bulk of the milk will rise more readily and the separation be more complete for being relieved of so much of the cream in the start, and the part thus taken away will not be exposed to the deteriorating influence of the milk as it gets sour or old, and the general result will be better butter and more of it. A half pint or so from each cow, of the very last you can get, is generally enough to save out.

Some people milk in such a hurry that they never get the strippings at all, and thus not only lose the best part of the milk but soon spoil the cow. Whether you keep them separate or not be sure that you save the strippings. Milk rapidly, but don't quit till you get the strippings.—*Wis. Farmer.*

Sulphur for Sheep.—C. Smith, St. Louis, Mo., asks: "Is sulphur *naturally* necessary to sheep as is salt? It is true that they will resort to sulphur springs to drink the water, passing by pure water, as a Texan informed me he had constantly seen them do?" To both of these questions we answer no. A sheep in perfect health, in our opinion, no more requires sulphur than it does nitre or rhubarb, and has no natural taste for it. We have often heard of sheep resorting to sulphur and other medicinal springs, but it is only where those springs contain salt—this being the article they are in quest of.—*Randall, in Rural New Yorker.*

Keep the Calves Thrifty.—A calf kept, Winter and Summer, in thrifty growth, at two years old will make as much, and more beef, than one neglectfully kept, at twice that age.—The profit will be found on the side of the two-year-old, and the loss on the four-year-old;—yet the owner of the latter has pursued his system, if system it may be called, with the idea he was saving money. Keep the thrifty animal two years longer in the same way, and something very handsome in the way of beef, will be the result—while the starveling can never pay the expense of its rearing and feeding.




**TERMS OF ADVERTISING.**

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the Farm and Fireside. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a good style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

**COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.**

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the Farm and Fireside may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

**THE FARM AND FIRESIDE**

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.

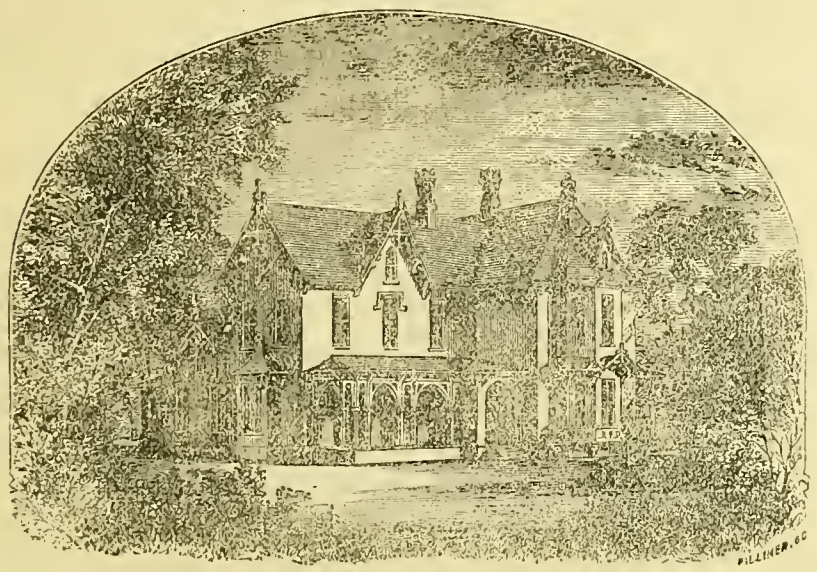
# Farm and Fireside

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1867. NO. 48.



## RURAL ARCHITECTURE.

The domestic architecture of a people should be the natural outgrowth of its character, institutions, customs, and habits, modified by the climate and scenery in the midst of which it is built up. In this way originated the English cottage, the Swiss *chalet*, and the Italian villa. Having in this country institutions differing from those of any other, together with many peculiarities of character, habits, and climate, we can not consistently adopt in full the architecture of any other people or country. We should have a style, or perhaps several styles, peculiar to ourselves; and no doubt we shall have them in due time. Thus far we have been content to build in every style, ancient and modern, and, most of all, in *no* style; covering the whole face of the country with incongruous and unsightly structures. There are various causes for this state of things, the principal of which are the necessary devotion of our people to the rough work of subduing a new country; the consequent lack of thought and culture in the right direction; and the want of true home-feeling, growing out of our migratory habits. These causes are becoming year by year less operative, and our domestic architecture is improving in the same ratio—exceptions to the general ugliness of our buildings growing more and more numerous as leisure, culture, and love of home and home-life increase among us. This improvement will go on; the modifications which our climates and modes of life suggest in existing styles will assume definite, and artistic, and permanent shape, and the new American style or styles will receive their birth. In the mean time, we must borrow and modify as best we may.

The various modes of building now in use, so far as they are susceptible of classification, may be referred to two original styles of which they are modifications—the Grecian, in which horizontal lines prevail, and the Gothic, in which vertical lines prevail. To the former class belongs the Italian, the Swiss, the Flemish, and other continental European modes, in their various modifications; and to the latter the old English styles of various periods, as well as the modern rural Gothic mode.

In adopting any mode for imitation, our preference should be guided not only by the intrinsic beauty which we see in a particular style, but by its appropriateness to our uses. This will generally be indicated by the climate, the site, and the wants of the family which is to inhabit the house. In high northern latitudes, where collonnades and verandas would be unsuitable, the Grecian or Italian styles should not be chosen; and in a tropical one, the warm, solid, comfortable features of the old English architecture would be neither necessary nor appropriate.

1. Taking the climate alone into consideration, a Southern should differ in many respects from a Northern house. The broad halls, airy rooms, cool ombras, and spacious verandas or arcades and balconies, required by the former, seem to indicate a modification of the Italian style; while the compact arrangement of apartments, the provisions for fireside comfort, and the protection against heavy snows which must be insisted upon in the latter, point to the various forms of the Gothic rural style. In the middle region of our country, either style may appropriately be adopted, as other conditions may require.

2. The next consideration is fitness to the site we have chosen, or harmony with the scenery around. "Rural architecture," it has been truly said, "is the creation of a picture of which the landscape is the background." We must design the principal object in the picture to correspond with its accessories. "The ultimate test of rural architecture and its kindred art, landscape gardening, is landscape painting. Does a literal view of a building and its environs from a well-chosen point, or from several points of view, make a good picture? Does it, as artists say, *compose* well? Does it seem of a piece, as if the building might have grown out of the ground? Then, but not otherwise, the design is good."

The principle here laid down is violated by erecting a Swiss *chalet* in a low, flat country; a small, plain, unpretending cottage on an elevated and commanding situation; or an Italian villa with a lookout tower in a secluded valley. It should also be understood that rustic features look well only in the midst of rural simplicity, and that architectural elegance should be reserved for cultivated scenes. Again, where the features of the landscape are wild and grand, irregularity and picturesqueness in the forms of buildings may appropriately be introduced. A cottage which would seem fitting and beautiful on a village street would be incongruous with its situation and appear evidently misplaced on a rough hillside, in the midst of the wildness of nature.

3. The plan of a house, as we have already said, should be made with reference to its site. The style and character of the elevation are influenced in some measure by the plan. Some plans, however, are adapted to various styles of elevation, while others are well suited to only one. The size determined upon will also modify the character of a house, and must always be taken into the account.

4. The materials to be used in construction will also necessarily influence one in the choice of a style; for although a given design may perhaps be executed in either wood, brick, or stone, it will not be equally adapted to each. Variety of form and profusion of ornament are attained in stone and brick only at great expense. Rural cottages of these materials should therefore generally be simple in form, and depend for their effect upon proportion, symmetry, and what artists call *breadth*, rather than upon variety and picturesqueness of outline and high finish. In wood, greater variety of form and more elaborate embellishment may be secured at a given expense; indeed, so great is the facility of producing architectural ornaments in this material, that they are too often applied unmeaningly, uselessly, and to a most absurd extent.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## WEEPING WILLOWS.

The first weeping willow introduced into England is said to have been by Pope; but this cannot be correct, as it is mentioned in the catalogue of British trees in 1692. It was first known by sight in Europe, by being introduced in a view of the village of Tonnan, drawn by John Nichohoff, July 3, 1655, on his way to Pekin, who was connected with the embassy which the Dutch sent to the Emperor of China in that year. The story respecting Pope is that he happening to be with Lady Suffolk, when the lady received a present from Spain, or according to some from Turkey, observed that some of the withes bound round it, looked as if they might sprout, and taking them up, said—"Perhaps these may produce something that we have not in England." Whereupon he planted one of them in Twickenham, and a willow produced from this, was in vigorous condition when the writer of this visited Twickenham in 1854.

Napoleon's willow, is a variety of the common weeping willows. It appears that this willow is not indigenous to St. Helena, but that when Gen. Beatson was governor in that island he introduced it among a great number of other trees and shrubs from England. He had the greatest difficulty of preserving his plantations from the numerous goats which abounded on the island; yet several of the trees survived and attained a timber like size. Among these was the tree of *Salix Babylonica*, which has since been called Napoleon's willow. This tree grew among other trees on the side of a valley near a spring; and having attracted the notice of Napoleon, he had a seat placed under it, and used to go and sit there very frequently, and have water brought to him from the adjoining fountain. About the time of Napoleon's death, a storm, it is said, shattered the willow in pieces; and after the interment of the Emperor, Madame Bertrand planted several cuttings of this tree on the outside of the railing which surrounds his grave, and placed within it on the stone, several flower pots with hearts ease and forget-me-not. In 1828 these willows were found in a dying state, and twenty-eight young ones in consequence were placed near the tomb. A correspondent, who was in St. Helena in 1834, says one of these willows was in a flourishing condition. From this willow a cutting was brought to Burlington, New Jersey, and presented to the late Gen. Wall, who planted it in his garden, where it has attained to a great size. Two trees of large size grown from slips of this tree, now droop their graceful branches above his tomb in St. Mary's church yard, in that city. In fact, that beautiful cemetery is now filled with trees, grown from branches taken from those willows.

J. W. W.

*Burlington, New Jersey.*

## ATMOSPHERIC ACTION.

The carbonic acid of the air slowly attacks the rocks above the ocean level, and thus turns them to clay, forming carbonates with the soda, potash, lime and magnesia set free, and carries these down as carbonates to the sea, where the carbonate of soda decomposes the chloride of calcium of its waters, and forms common salt and carbonate of lime. This series of actions is the source of the salt of the sea, of all clays and of limestones which are chemical and not organic in their origin. Organic living things do not generate the carbonate of lime, but appropriate it, when found for them by chemical reactions; and thus great portions of our limestone rocks are made up of fossil remains. In forty-four feet of limestone there is separated and condensed from the air a whole atmosphere of carbonic acid gas; the early atmosphere was therefore very dense and unfit for the sustenance of the higher forms of life, until by far the greater portion of this gas has been removed by the formation of the carbonate of lime and vegetable matter now constituting coal and petroleum.

The report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office shows that seven millions of acres of public lands have been disposed of during the past year. There are yet remaining fourteen hundred millions of acres, including the recently acquired Russian territory.

# The Farm.

## MANURING AND PLOWING.

In the application of organic manures, much depends on the time and manner of that application. If the manure is well composted, it may be spread at any time in the Winter or Spring months and safely await the usual season of Spring plowing. It should not, however, be exposed for any considerable length of me to the influence of a Summer sun, before it is turned under, as its ammonia and carbonic acid are held only by absorption, and will certainly be disengaged by a high temperature.

But if the composting of the wastes of the barnyard has been neglected, then the next best thing that can be done, is to spread it on the fields in the months of October or November and turn it under immediately, as deep as possible. Where ground has been thus dressed with long manure in the Fall, the Spring plowing should not be so deep as to disturb it. This rule applies also to clover, or other green crops that are turned under in the Summer or Fall months.

The advantage of turning deeply fresh manure, rather than to suffer it to rot in the heap, is this: The gasses set free from decomposition in the first instance, are mainly absorbed by the soil covering the manure, while in the second case they escape into the air and are wasted. One of the principal advantages of plowing for Spring crops, is the saving of the products of Winter decay in the last year's crop of vegetation; for although the decay of organic substanees is much less rapid in the Winter than in the Summer, yet the stubble on a wheat field will weigh twice as much in September as in April.

In maintaining the fertility of a soil, very much depends on the mode of cultivating it. The plow, in some form, is among the oldest of our agricultural implements; and though we have so greatly improved the tool that we would hardly recognize in a modern steel plow the clumsy thing that Cincinnatus followed, or even the "barshier" that kicked us when we first walked in a furrow, yet there is a radical defect in the plow that has not been remedied —perhaps is not remediable. The plow in all its forms, operates as a wedge, or a moving inclined plane. Now, since action and re-action are always equal and in opposite directions, it is evident that as many pounds of earth as is raised upward, so many pounds of pressure is exerted downward on the subsoil. Whatever force, therefore, the plow exerts to loosen and pulverize the soil, the same force is expended in the direction of compressing the subsoil. This defect in the action of the plow is to some extent remedied in this climate by our heavy winter freezing, the tendency of which is to expand, and consequently loosen the subsoil. Various efforts have been made by ingenious mechanics to construct an implement for pulverizing the soil on some principle that will avoid this objection; but up to the present time nothing better than a well constructed plow has been offered to the farmer, and it is probable that the plow, with all its defects, will continue to be our most reliable agricultural implement, and the type and symbol of the farmer's profession.

The condition of the soil at the time it is plowed, has much to do with the effect of plowing on its fertility. If a clay soil be plowed when it is so wet that the earth falls from the mould board in a mass, presenting a smooth, glazed surface, be sure that you are doing but little to pulverize that soil. A soil of this kind turned up to the air and sunshine in this condition will soon bake into clods as hard as Mexican adobes, with no more powers of absorption than so many boulders. The injury which a soil receives by such a plowing can be remedied only by a Winter's freezing. Sandy soils, however, may be cultivated when quite wet, without much inconvenience or danger of injury. Even clay soils, with a large supply of vegetable matter may be plowed wetter than a soil less loamy.

How deep shall we plow? is one of the most important questions in the science of cultivation. Deep plowing has many advantages. If the season shall prove dry, a deep pulverized soil will absorb and retain moisture much better than a shallow one. On the other hand, if the season is wet, a soil cultivated six or eight inches deep will hold more water, without being saturated, than one but three inches deep. Hill sides and other grounds disposed to wash, will be less liable to injury under a system of deep cultivation, than if plowed shallow. Writers recommend, and farmers often talk about plowing eight or ten inches deep, but it is seldom done in practice. If you will measure the cut with a rule, you will find that six inches is pretty deep plowing, indeed more fields are plowed less than three inches deep than there are more than six inches. It follows, of course, that the greater depth of soil we have in cultivation, the greater supply of plant food, so far as that is furnished by the soil, and consequently the greater the length of time required to exhaust it. But while this is true, it is also true that if, by neglect, a deeply cultivated soil becomes exhausted, the evil is much more difficult to remedy than where the plowing has been confined to the surface.—*Prof. Brown, in Northwestern Farmer.*

## IMPORTANCE OF DEEP TILLAGE.

It is now 120 years since Jethro Tull, the great advocate of deep tillage, and improved agriculture generally, died. His arguments were received with opposition, and indolent farmers ridiculed his plan of plowing deep, asserting that it would do more harm than good, by bringing too much of the inert subsoil to the surface. They said also that deep-plowing would let in the drought—that it would let in the cold—that the seeds of new varieties of weeds, lying dormant in the soil, would be turned up—that the labor of plowing would be increased, and a double quantity of manure would be necessary.

More than a century has elapsed since Tull terminated his useful career. His body has returned to the dust, but his spirit is "marching on," his principles are prevailing, and deep tillage has been adopted in every country where an improved system of husbandry has been established. In all countries where a rotation of crops has been practiced, we find drainage and the sub-soil plow at work, deepening the soil for the growth of luxuriant green crops and productive cereals.

The chemical analyses of soils, made at various times during the present century, have proved, that with few exceptions, the ingredients of the surface soil and those of the subsoil on which it rests, are nearly identical.—That, in fact, as most cultivated soils are composed of merely the more finely divided earths of which the sub-soil is composed, so the chief distinction between them is, that the surface-soil contains a greater proportion of organic matter than the sub-soil on which it rests.—The inertness of the sub-soil arises in most instances from a want of decomposing organic matters, a deficiency which may be supplied by draining and deepening it, so as to allow the roots of plants to penetrate to a considerable depth, and by their decay, to furnish the necessary ingredients. The roots of the cereals are always left in the ground, and also a considerable portion of those of forage crops. A very large portion of the roots of mangel-wurtzel, turnips, carrots, parsnips, etc., are broken off and left in the soil when the crops are being removed.

It has been ascertained that by deepening the soil its temperature is raised even at a distance from the surface, and this is a great advantage to the roots of plants. In some experiments made by Mr. Parks, on Chat Moss, in Lancashire, and recorded in Vol. V., of the Journal R. A. S., he found that on the unstirred soil, the constant temperature from 12 inches to 3 feet was 46 degrees, but on the well and deeply stirred soil, the temperature was at different depths as follows:

| | At 7 inches. | At 13 Inches. | At 19 Inches. |
|---|---|---|---|
| June 10, | 53.0 | 50.0 | 48.0 |
| June 15, | 57.6 | 53.0 | 50.6 |
| June 17, | 58.0 | 55.6 | 52.8 |

It is evident from this, that stirring the soil raises its temperature; and this effect is produced by letting into it the warm air of the atmosphere.

Admitting the correctness of the principle that in the majority of soils the increase of their depth adds to their productiveness, it remains for the farmer to consider how deep tillage can be accomplished in a practical and profitable manner. On many soils the better use of the ordinary plow is only needed to deepen the soil to a much greater extent than at present. In thin soils, the common plow put down to its greatest depth, may turn up too much of the sub-soil, and in such cases the sub-soil plow must be brought into requisition in order to loosen the sub-soil, without bringing it to the surface.

It is useless to deepen wet land, for the roots of the cultivated plants will not penetrate soil which is saturated with water. If a soil is not naturally dry, the first step toward improvement must be deep drainage. Smith, of Deanston, the great modern improver of land drainage, made his main drains from four to five feet deep, and his branch drains from two and a half to three feet deep. Sub-drains were made from three and a half feet to four feet deep.—The space between the drains was regulated by the condition of the soil. The drains were all wedge-shaped, and after the tile or stone had been laid, and the drains filled, the land was deepened to the depth of eighteen inches by the sub-soil plow following in the furrow made by the common plow, and loosening the sub-soil without turning it up. The plowing should always cross the drains, so that the water may be conveyed into the drains by the little furrows made by the mole of the sub-soil plow. The soils on which the sub-soil plows can be used with little advantage, are those clayey, tenacious sub-soils, which instead of breaking into small pieces, merely swell up before the plow, and settle down into the same spot after the plow has passed. This toughness and tenacity generally arise from water in the soil, and for this defect draining is the best remedy. In such soils the sub-soil plow should not be set until the water has had time to percolate through the soil, and enter the drains.

The steam plow is superseding the common plow in England and Scotland, and even in Australia, and, by this means, the soil is generally tilled much deeper than by the common plow; it is to be regretted that the farmers of the United States are so slow in adopting this *powerful* implement. It is probable that steam diggers and spaders will be even more valuable for tilling the soil, than the plow, as they divide it more thoroughly. A few years ago an Agricultural Society in Rutlandshire, England, offered a premium in order to determine the comparative merits of plowing or digging.—Four acres of land were operated on, two being plowed in the ordinary way to a depth of five inches. Two acres were forked to the depth of seven inches. Both lots were manured equally, and sown with carrots, and mangel-wurtzel. The land which had been forked produced nearly twice as many bushels of these roots per acre as that which had been plowed.—*Western Rural.*

## STEAMING HAY.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Country Gentleman* says:

Five years ago I prepared a steam box directly over the boiler in my barn cellar, made a wooden cover to the boiler, fitting it steam-tight, and through rubber tubes conveyed the steam into a perforated iron pipe running the length of the steam box. I then put my hay, straw, &c., into the box, wetting it thoroughly as I put it in; if not thus wet the steam will dry it so as to destroy its nourishing qualities. After filling the boiler with water and making my connections, box and cover steam-tight, lighted my fire and kept the water boiling briskly for about four hours, when I found the mass to be pretty thoroughly cooked, and of such a nature that my cattle liked it exceedingly well. By adding a liberal supply of corn meal and shorts when filling the box, you have a mass resembling in flavor a new made loaf of brown bread, on which the cattle do very well, though the material cooked be of an inferior quality.

I pursued this course one Winter, and am now prepared to prove that I can make more milk from a fair quality of meadow hay thus prepared, than can be made from the best quality of upland hay fed dry. Add two quarts of meal to each day's feed per cow, before steaming it, and two quarts per cow to the dry hay, and the advantages are still more apparent. I now have a simpler way of preparing my feed, and one I like quite as well.

I take a large feed box, with a tight cover, and into this I put my feed, wetting each layer with boiling water, shaking the hay so as to have each part thoroughly wet. I then tramp it down solid as possible; put on another layer, and proceed as before till my box is filled. For my stock of 15 head I use 45 gallons of boiling water in mixing enough to last them two days. The box should then be closed, while another boiler of water is being heated, when 45 gallons more is poured evenly over the mass, the box closed, and allowed to stand about 12 hours before using. The feed is then softened, so as to be easily digested, and of nearly the same flavor as when in its green state; and my cattle prefer even poor meadow hay, prepared in this way, to the best English hay when fed dry.

I have kept my stock for three Winters last past, on poor hay and corn stover thus prepared, using meal not exceeding one quart per day to each cow, when not giving milk, feeding at least one-quarter less hay than when fed dry, and been able to keep them looking quite as well as my neighbors, who think meadow hay almost worthless, and steaming unnecessary.

About the middle of April last, having used my poor hay, for which I paid $13 per ton, (English hay being then worth $35,) I commenced feeding very nice early cut English hay, dry, to my milch cows, and to my surprise, I found that they decreased in their quantity of milk from one-quarter to one-third, and I was not able to increase that quantity till they went to grass, though I doubled their quantity of grain.

In conclusion, allow me to say that, aside from the extra work, I can winter 40 cows on steamed feed for one-third less expense than on dry; can get at least one-quarter more milk, and keep them in as good thriving condition.

This decision is the result of five years' experience in steaming feed.

## PRESERVING EGGS.

No EGG is fresh that will shake; this is because it has lost some of its albumen. No egg has ever been preserved over a month that will not shake, except it be air-proofed, which is a term not generally understood, and is a new process. The egg has been coated with every conceivable composition, even in solid stone, and galvanized, yet the watery material escapes. The philosophy of this is that there is air in the egg before it is treated, and this uniting its oxygen and carbon, produces decomposition by carbonic acid gas, the yellow of the egg first breaking, then follows the destruction. Eggs are naturally designed to last as long as the hen requires to get her brood, and the life germ can be preserved a few weeks—seven or eight—but no longer. The egg itself may be kept in a preserved state for two years by greasing with butter, oil, or lard, but from the time it is thus put up to the end of two years it will daily lose its albumen by transpiration, and while its carbonic acid escapes to a certain extent, the egg meat will be reduced two-thirds, and will shake. For culinary purposes they will do very well. But we want a whole egg, not a half one, and we want them fresh. Butter and lard and suet have been used for half a century, still nothing has recommended itself over the liming system in a commercial point of view. The theory always has been, and still is, that to keep an egg fresh the air must be excluded. It is the only philosophical treatment of it that can be made. Externally kept from the air, the latter is powerless to do harm, but the air inside no mortal can prevent, and that alone in time will decompose the egg.—*Scientific American.*



The most stupendous tunnel enterprise has lately been accomplished at the silver mines in the German Hartz mountains. The mines were over 3000 feet deep, and the scarcity of fuel prevented the use of steam for pumping, which was done by water wheels, aided by tunnel drains. But the great depth reached in 1859 precluded further progress in that manner, and a tunnel was commenced for deep draining, which is but now finished. It is 22 miles long; 2,000,000 cubic yards of solid rock were excavated, 10,000 pounds of powder used, and the linear extent of blasting-holes drilled is 180 miles. Naturally, on the successful completion of this colossal work, the 30,000 miners whose livelihood is now assured for twenty years, celebrated the event with grand rejoicings. The mines can now be worked until 1887 without steam.

# The Fireside Muse.

### NOVEMBER.

The mellow year is hastening to its close,
  The little birds have almost sung their last;
  Their small notes twitter in the dreary blast—
That shrill-piped harbinger of early snows.
The patient beauty of the scentless rose,
  Oft with the morn's hoar crystal quaintly glassed,
  Hangs, a pale mourner for the summer past,
And makes a little Summer where it grows.
In the chill sunbeam of the faint, brief day,
  The dusky waters shudder as they shine;
The russet leaves obstruct the struggling way
  Of oozy brooks, which no deep banks define;
And the gaunt woods, in ragged, scant array,
  Wrap their old limbs with sombre ivy twine.
*Hartley Coleridge.*

# Horticulture.

### AGE OF TREES FOR PLANTING.

This depends so much upon the views of planters that the nurseryman cannot always control the period at which he shall clear a block of trees. Peaches should always be removed at one year from the bud. Plums and dwarf pears will be ready to go off at two years from the bud or graft; so with apples and cherries. But many persons, purchasers and sellers, prefer large trees, and they recommend that the trees should remain one, two, or even three years longer in the nursery. Others, a new school of planters, prefer to set out the maiden tree, in most of the species above named, except some very feebly growing varieties that will scarcely have attained sufficient size to risk in the orchard. The nursery-man should beware of keeping his trees too long on hand; they become unprofitable stock, and are sure to require much more labor in the digging and handling. The purchaser is his own master, and his taste and wishes must be consulted; if he wants large trees, by all means, let him be indulged; he will have to pay in proportion, he will have more wood for his money, more weight to carry, or more transportation to pay for, more labor in planting, and vastly increased risk of life of his trees; but, let him be indulged with his five year old trees, while his neighbor, for a smaller sum invested, with less freight, less wood, less labor, and infinitely less risk, will plant his maiden trees, and five years hence will market more fruit.

The risk of transplanting large or old trees from the nursery, may be greatly diminished, and their value will be vastly enhanced, by judicious root pruning in the nursery-row. This may be done by digging, on either side on alternate years, and cutting off the straggling roots, and particularly those that run deeply: this will be followed by the production of a multitude of fibrous roots that put the tree into a good condition for transplanting. In the great nurseries of the West, there is a peculiar plow, which is used for root pruning the nursery rows.—*Warder's American Pomology.*

The Concord grape seems to grow in the greatest perfection between 38 and 40 degrees of latitude, where it has no superior to eat out of hand, not even the Catawba. It is, perhaps singular that a grape apparently so rich, and seeming to contain so much body and approaching to food, should make only a claret wine, while the Delaware, which is so sweet as almost to approach the insipid, and which is almost entirely destitute of the sprightliness of Catawba, should make a wine outselling any other variety, even Norton's Virginia.

Perennial Potatoe Crop.—We find the following potatoe story in an exchange. We don't believe a bit of it.

"In the heavily timbered strip of territory lying between Lake Michigan on the west, and Grand Traverse Bay on the east, the potatoe will grow as a perennial crop. There, because the snow falls before the ground freezes in the fall, and remains on late in the Spring, potatoes, once planted, require only to be thinned out once or twice during the Summer, to continue to yield liberal crops year after year."

### GRAPE GROWERS' MAXIMS.

BY A. S. FULLER.

1—Prepare the ground in the Fall, plant in Spring.

2—Give the vine plenty of manure, old and well decomposed; for fresh manure excites growth, but it does not mature it.

3—Luxuriant growth does not always ensure fruit.

4—Dig deep, but plant shallow.

5—Young vines produce beautiful fruit, but old vines produce the richest.

6—Prune in Autumn to ensure growth, but in the Spring to promote fruitfulness.

7—Plant your vines before you put up trellises.

8—Vines, like soldiers, should have good arms.

9—Prune spurs to one well developed bud, for the nearer the old wood the higher flavored the fruit.

10—Those who prune long must soon climb.

11—Vine leaves love the sun, the fruit the shade.

12—Every leaf has a bud at its base, and either a bunch of fruit or a tendril opposite to it.

13—A tendril is an abortive fruit bunch—a bunch of fruit a productive tendril.

14—A bunch of grapes without a healthy leaf opposite, is like a ship at sea without a rudder—it can't come to *port*.

15—Laterals are like politicians; if not checked they are the worst of thieves.

16—Good grapes are like gold, no one has enough.

17—The earliest grape will keep the longest, for that which is fully matured is easily preserved.

18—Grape eaters are long livers.

19—Hybrids are not always high-bred.

20—He who buys the new and untried varieties should remember that the seller's maxim is, let the buyer look out for himself.

### COLD PITS.

Those who have no greenhouse, and yet are desirous of preserving many half-hardy plants through the Winter, employ *cold pits*. Choose the dryest situation in the garden, and sink about five feet in depth. It is important that no water can be retained at the bottom. The pit may be of any length required, and about five feet wide, so as to accommodate six feet sash. The inside of the pit may be built up of boards, or, if something more durable and substantial is required, brick or stone. The body of the frame may be built up a few feet above the level of the surrounding soil, and the earth which comes from the pit be employed in banking up to the upper level of the frame. Shelving should be made for the inside so as to extend from the base of the front to nearly the top of the back, on which to place the plants in spots. In the space which will then be under the staging, hard wooded and deciduous plants, as lemon verbana, fuchsias, etc., may be safely stored, while the more succulent kinds are shelved over head. The plants to be preserved in such a pit should be potted early, and be well established and healthy before being pitted; much of success depends on this. The less water they can be made to live on without withering through the Winter the better they will keep. Straw mats must be employed to cover the glass when freezing time commences, and when the thermometer is likely to fall below 20, straw or litter should be thrown over. Board shutters are also excellent, as it keeps the snow out from the straw and litter, which sometimes makes the mats very awkward to uncover when we would like to give air. Very little light or air will be required through the Winter, when the plants are not growing. If a good fall of snow cover the pit, it may lie on undisturbed for two weeks or more without injury. When a warm dry day offers, the sashes may be raised if convenient, to dry up the damp. Many kinds of border plants can be kept over Winter this way with little trouble.—*The Gardener's Monthly.*

### THE KELLY ISLAND VINE YARDS.

Something like twenty years ago, Mr. Carpenter, an intelligent farmer on Kelly's Island, in Lake Ontario, near Sandusky, got a few Isabella vines, and finding it to succeed beyond his expectations, he planted a quarter of an acre. At that time the island was valued most for its cedar, which was sent to Cleveland for fence posts, and for limestone, which was shipped in large quantities to various lake ports; for all northern Ohio, with the exception of the neighborhood of Sandusky, is destitute of lime. This island is about three miles wide and ten miles long, and at that time was almost an unbroken wilderness. Afterward, Mr. Carpenter planted a few Catawbas, which to the surprise of every one did still better than the Isabella, and from that time grape culture became firmly established, not only there but also on the neighboring islands. The soil of Kelly's Island is a hard clay, that of the others more inclined to gravel. To give an idea of the extensive planting there, we will say that we saw a few years ago on Put-in-Bay 150 acres of grapes in one field, all in the flush of ripeness, and loading down the trellises. The Catawba predominates, though many esteem and plant the Isabella, and they are of better quality here than anywhere else. Some have what they call a superior kind of Isabella. Of late, some have planted the Delaware largely, as well as other varieties. On the main shore, fronting these islands, are vineyards equally extensive, particularly on a peninsula running many miles into the lake; and in the heart of this grape region is the city of Sandusky, which having declined in commercial importance, is now decidedly the most important distributing point for grapes in our whole country, and perhaps in the world. It is an ample compensation. Immense quantities are daily shipped thence to every city in the Union, and perhaps as much to Cincinnati as to any other. All along the Lake Shore, up to the Maumee, grapes are grown with equal success, and so also, eastward to Cleveland, and thence nearly all the way to Buffalo, a distance exceeding 200 miles.

Pears—Root Propagation.—In a late number of the *Magazine of Horticulture* was a communication on the propagation of the pear from Dr. Van Mous, of Belgium. We quote a paragraph:

"I now propagate for myself and intimate friends the most choice varieties of pears, which I obtain by means of the roots. Not a single one fails in this new process. It is immaterial in what manner they are set out. This method I discovered accidentally, in consequence of some roots on which I intended to graft other kinds of pears, being thrown on the ground and covered with a little earth, to preserve them until used for that purpose, and which were lost sight of and forgotten until the next Spring, when all of them sent up stalks, which, in the Autumn, were as tall as those raised from the seed of two years' growth. They can be set out in the Spring as well as Autumn. Such roots should be selected as have one or more terminal fibers, and those that are often cut off or left in the earth when a tree is transplanted, succeed well. They cannot be too small, but should not be larger than the finger. The wounds at the large ends should be covered with the same composition to protect, as in grafting. They must be set obliquely."

Mulching Strawberries.—It is good management to mulch strawberry plants in the Fall, as a Winter protection, in all places where the ground is not sure to be covered with snow all Winter. Poor hay or straw should be used. Salt hay is much used for this purpose near the ocean. In no case should the plants be covered with heavy, half rotted stable manure, as the plants will be smothered with such a mulch, unless it be mostly straw, or hay, and put on so thin as to allow the air to circulate under it. In the Spring, after the plants have commenced to grow, a heavy mulch of half rotted manure, composed mostly of straw, is excellent to fertilize the plants, to keep the ground moist, to prevent weeds from growing, and to allow the fruit to ripen without being injured by dirt.

To Keep Sweet Potatoes over Winter.—The farmers in this region have great difficulty in keeping sweet potatoes through the Winter. A "Jersey man," who was partly raised in a sweet potato "patch," informs us how they keep potatoes in Jersey. The Jerseymen have long since discarded the different modes of packing in sand, leaves, saw dust or anything else. They simply dig their potatoes in a dry spell, before frost, lay them out on the ground to dry in the sun, and before the dew of evening begins to fall, they haul out to the "patch," the boxes and barrels they propose to put the potatoes in, and lay them carefully (handling them all the while as carefully as eggs so as not to bruise them.) They then haul them to the house and pile up the boxes and barrels in a corner of the kitchen carefully, so as not to bruise them; and if kept at the right temperature through Winter, they are bound to keep, if they don't eat them.—*N. E. Post.*

# Miscellany.

Lean Cattle Trade.—In looking over a new book on "Cattle and Cattle-breeders," by Wm. McCombie, who succeeded his father in the cattle trade in the North of Scotland, and from whom we quoted some extracts last week, we find the following in regard to the lean cattle trade:

In selling lean cattle there is a great deal to be gained by choosing a favorable distance and showing them off properly to the buyers. Cattle look best on the face of a moderate sloping bank, and worst of all at a dead wall. The larger the number shown in a lot, especially of polled cattle, as they stand close together, they look the better. I never liked to show less than 40, in a lot, but 60 will look better than 40, and 80 better still. I never would break a lot of beasts except for a consideration in price, as the cattle left behind have the same appearance. The dealer likewise knows that cattle look largest on the off side. Many buyers like to see every beast in a lot go past them; and if the dealer can get the buyer to inspect them on the off side it is to his own advantage. Cattle and sheep are the better of a good rise up when the buyer is inspecting them. I have often seen quarreling between the buyers and drovers, the buyers insisting on the drovers letting them alone, while the drovers will not let them stand. I have seen a clever man keep some of the best beasts always in view of the buyers, a stick with a whipcord being used for the purpose."

Every-Day Religion.—We must come back to our point, which is not to urge all of you to give yourself up to mission work, but to serve God more and more in connection with your daily calling. I have heard that a woman who has a mission makes a poor wife and a bad mother; this is very possible, and at the same time very lamentable; but the mission I would urge is not of this sort. Dirty rooms, slatternly gowns, and children with unwashed faces, are swift witnesses against the sincerity of those who keep others' vineyards and neglect their own. I have no faith in that woman who talks of grace and glory abroad, and uses no soap and water at home. Let the buttons be on the shirts, let the roast mutton be done to a turn, let the house be neat as a new pin, and the home be as happy as home can be; and then, when the cannon balls, and the marbles, and the shots, and even the grains of sand, are all in the box, even then there will be room for those little deeds of love and faith which, in my Master's name, I seek of you who look for his appearing. Serve God by doing common actions in a heavenly spirit, and then, if your daily calling only leaves you cracks and crevices of time, fill these up with holy service. To use the apostle's words, "As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men."—*Spurgeon.*

The Scotch Herring Fishery.—It is believed that the catch of herring on the coast of Scotland this year will reach between seven and eight hundred thousand barrels, or as many as the productive years of 1849, 1853, 1855 and 1862. It is said that a fleet of 13,000 boats, with about 13,000 miles of net, are engaged in this fishery. The fleet of boats is added to every year, and the drift of nets is constantly being lengthened and deepened, yet no more fish are taken than were caught twenty-five years ago, when the means were much less. Boats which twenty-five or thirty years ago used each to take on an average 150 crans of herring (a cran is 45 gallons) do not now, on the average, capture a third of the quantity, although their nets are probably a third larger than they were a quarter of a century ago.

# Agricultural Chemistry.

## CRYOLITE AND ITS PRODUCTS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY J. S. LIPPINCOTT, HADDONFIELD, N. JERSEY.

The introduction of the new mineral, cryolite, and the part it is taking and is destined to play in the arts, are worthy of a more pointed notice than they have received in our public prints. Your valuable Farm and Fireside has appeared to me an appropriate place for the facts and reflections connected with the advent of this extraordinary substance, and, with your permission, I will present them to your readers.

Few illustrations of the manner in which valuable results are often obtained from very unpromising beginnings, and of the utility of the minute and apparently aimless researches of scientific inquirers, can be found more striking than those presented by the history of the discovery of the properties and practical uses of the mineral cryolite.

Where the housekeeper throws the contents of the small boxes of "saponifier" into her boiler of melted fat, the gatherings, of refuse meats and gravies, and proposes to convert the nauseous mass into a useful and agreeable compound, she little thinks how much she is indebted to the researches of many chemists, mineralogists, engineers and devotees of science—useless deemed by many—for the cheap substitute for the lye of wood-ashes, or barilla, once so common, but now unknown or unattainable. Few, indeed, know whence the "saponifier" is obtained, and if they think thereon, suppose it to be potash boiled down from wood-ashes in forest districts, or perhaps a soda made from sea-salt or from the brine of our Western salt-wells.

Many of your readers will learn with surprise that the material from which this simple household indispensable is derived, has been brought from the far-away shores of Greenland, conveyed to the interior of our State, and there converted into the "sapouifier" and a number of almost equally useful products employed in the arts, at a cost to the importer and manufacturer much below that required to prepare them from the salt at their doors.—This cheapened production is due to the peculiar composition of the mineral whose outline history we offer to your readers.

The discovery of the mineral cryolite and the determination of its composition and practical utility happened in this wise. A missionary having found the mineral in an immense deposit at Iviktout, at the head of Arksut Bay or Ford, near Cape Farewell, South Greenland, carried specimens with him to Copenhagen.—The Danish mineralogists treasured the new accession to their cabinets, though its composition was not yet determined. Abilgard detected the presence of fluorine, the chief constituent of Derbyshire spar, and Klaproth afterwards found therein a notable quantity of soda. Vauguelin determined its true composition.—H. Rose experimented with it for the production of aluminium, for which it is admirably adapted, and has been largely imported into England within a very few years. But it is with the soda, which forms about one-third of this mineral, which we are more directly concerned, and to obtain which it is at present imported into the United States.

"The Pennsylvania Salt Company," an association of enterprising gentlemen, has exhibited commendable foresight by securing from the owners of the mine at Iviktout, the privilege of using a certain large proportion of the quantity annually mined, amounting, it is believed, to one-half or two-thirds of the whole. Within two years past, the Company has imported into Philadelphia thirteen cargoes, or about nine thousand tons, for the purpose of extracting the soda to supply the demand for their "Patent Refined Saponifier" and kindred products. This article the Company is manufacturing on a large scale at their works, near Pittsburg, and is worthy of a few remarks on its merits as a detergent or cleansing agent.

The "Patent Refined Saponifier" is put up in patent enameled pasteboard boxes, and is guaranteed to make a cheaper, better and whiter soap, and to be superior to any other lye for soap-making yet produced, not excepting the Company's "Concentrated Lye," which they still manufacture. It is also claimed that soap made from the "Patent Refined Saponifier" produced from cryolite, while it possesses cleansing properties in greater degree than ordinary soaps, does not injure the hands or the fabrics washed therein, as do other soaps to a greater or less extent.

To supply the demand for this valuable substance, and the several products of cryolite made by the Company, it has already chartered fifteen vessels of large burthen, which have proceeded or are about to sail to Greenland, with the intention of bringing to Philadelphia the largely increased product of the mines in the season of 1867. The factories established at Copenhagen, Haarburg, Prague and Mannheim already consume nearly eight thousand tons of cryolite annually; but our single Pennsylvania establishment at Pittsburg bids fair to exceed all those of Europe combined in the yearly demand for this curious substance.

But we have not described the mineral which promises to become the parent of so much utility. It derives its name from two Greek words, meaning ice and stone; its fusibility in the flame of a candle rendering it analogous to ice, while, by its insolubility in water, it is allied to a stone. It much resembles compacted re-frozen snow, is partially transparent, of vitreous lustre and brittle texture. It is composed of fluorine above one-half, of sodium one-third, and of aluminium about one-eighth, and appears to have been deposited from some body of salt-sea-water left in a great gap in the granitic rocks when highly heated, and there crystalized into a compound such as is not found in any valuable quantity elsewhere on the earth. At Iviktout, in South Greenland, it constitutes a mass eighty feet thick and three hundred feet long, imbedded in gneiss. Associated therewith are salts of the metals disolved in sea-water when the mass was deposited, and beautiful crystals of galena or sulphide of lead, ehalybite or brown spathic carbonate of iron, resembling calcareous spar in lustre, copper pyrites with silver, iron pyrites, &c., are found therein arranged in masses segregated from the white transparent iee-like eryolite.

Soda is obtained from this rare mineral by mixing it with lime and heating the compond. The fluorine combines with the calcium, forming fluorine of calcium; while the remaining metals absorb oxygen from the air, and become alumina and soda. Carbonic acid is then passed through the solution, forming, with the sodium, a carbonate of soda, which remains suspended, while the alumiua, being insoluble, is deposited at the bottom of the vessel. The carbonate of soda is deprived of its acid by means of lime in the usual manner, and thus rendered caustic and fitted for the use of the soap-maker.

A superior quality of soda-ash for glass-makers, sal soda, bi-carbonate of soda, and concentrated alum, free from iron, perfectly neutral and particularly adapted to the use of sugar-refiners, paper-makers and calico printers, have been made from cryolite, while the refuse fluorine is also capable of being utilized. Finally, the virgin cryolite, combined with two or more parts of pure silex, has been converted into a "hot-cast porcelain," which, for hardness, durability and beauty, bids fair to rival many of the famed productions of ceramic art.

Thus, from the labors of many men, having diverse objects in view, have resulted new manufactures, new materials for the advancement of the arts, new economics, and new comforts. The missionary and the mineralogist, the chemist, and the merchant, have each aided in bringing to our doors, and rendering available for our comfort, the saline constituents of the ancient sea left stranded among the rocks of inhospitable Greenland have given another and a striking proof of our advancement in the path of true civilization, wherein alone Christianity and science, commercial and manufacturing enterprise can work in concert, while they contribute to the moral, the intellectual and the physical well-being of humanity.

## GYPSUM OR PLASTER IN THE MANURE HEAP AND IN THE STABLE.

In one of our agricultural periodicals we recently observed a few directions for the use of plaster as a deodorizer in stables, and among the rest was one in which we are told to distribute small *heaps* of it on every convenient resting place. And it is not many years since one of our prominent agricultural chemists advised the users of guano not to use it with plaster, lest the plaster should drive off the ammonia! Now as plaster, *when properly used*, is one of the most valuable substances employed in agriculture, it may be worth while to examine a little into its properties, so that we may be enabled as fully as possible to avail ourselves of its good qualities.

Sulphate of lime is known by various names, as gypsum, plaster, plaster of Paris, and it forms among others, the well known mineral, alabaster. It is formed of one equivalent of lime combined with one equivalent of sulphuric acid, or in other words, of 28 parts of lime and 40 of sulphuric acid. In general, however, it is found in nature combined with an amount of water equal to an addition of 18 parts to the 68 already mentioned.

It occurs pretty widely diffused in nature, and is found not only in beds of considerable thickness, but also distributed in smaller quantities through the soil. It is a frequent source of hardness in water. The waters of the Genesee valley are highly impregnated with it.

It is but sparingly soluble in water—500 parts of water being required to dissolve one part of sulphate of lime at ordinary temperatures. It is more readily soluble, however, in water containing common salt. Hence it dissolves more freely in the drainage liquids of manure heaps, and hence, possibly, the advantage which has sometimes been observed to accrue from mixing plaster with common salt when about to apply it as a top-dressing.

Lime has a stronger affinity than ammonia for most acids. Hence, when lime is mixed with sal ammoniae, a strong smell of ammonia is given off, and if carbonate of lime (chalk) be mixed with a salt of ammonia, such as muriate of sulphate, and heated, the lime seizes upon the stronger acid, and the ammonia flies off as carbonate. But this state of things is reversed when a solution of carbonate of ammonia is mixed with a solution of sulphate of lime or chloride of calcium. In this case the lime and the carbonic acid unite to form an insoluble compound, while the ammouia combines with the sulphuric or hydrochloric acid, and remains in solution.

These facts point out to us the proper methods of using plaster in the manure heap, the cess-pool and the stable. It is of no use to allow it to lie about in dry heaps, or to sprinkle it about as you would chloride of lime. Mix it with the liquids of these various places; pour it in fine powder into your liquid manure tanks and cess-pools, and mix it with the drainage of the stables, and stir it up occasionally. The ammonia which exists in these liquids always exists as carbonate, and this will be converted into sulphate as fast as it is formed, and in this way you will very readily deodorize either stables or manure heaps.

The only exception to this rule is in regard to the manure heap. The plaster ought not only to be mixed with the liquid at the bottom, but it should be spread through the heap—in fact sprinkled on the surface. It will lie here inactive until washed out by the rains, and the only advantage arising from placing it in this position, is that when the rains and liquid manures fall on the heaps and filter through it, they meet the plaster in their descent, and all the ammonia they contain becomes fixed.

Plaster or gypsum is a powerful *fixer* of ammonia, but only when it meets it in solution.—*Cultivator.*

# Miscellany.

## BARN-YARD MANURE.

At a meeting of a farmer's club in Pennsylvania, the following opinion was sustained in regard to barn-yard manure: That the manure in that portion of the yard which is open should be thrown under shelter before the cattle are let out to pasture, that they, by tramping over it, will pack it so as to exclude the air, and thus prevent firefanging or burning; that at different periods during the Winter, plaster and common salt should be sown over the yard, especially where there are cornstalks, in quantities at the option of the farmer, and that too much cannot (within the bounds of reason) be applied. That not a drop of the liquid should be allowed to escape from the yard, which should, if possible, slope towards the middle from all directions, and be there well supplied with absorbents to prevent evaporation and keep it clean. That, supposing no increase of the value of the manure should arise from sheltering it, the increased ease of loading will more than repay the cost of throwing under shelter.

That, for general field culture, the horse manure should be mixed with the other, and not deposited in a yard or corner by itself, because this manure will heat and lose its ammonia more readily than other kinds of manure, and by mixing it with others this loss is avoided. That plaster should be used in the horse stables in large quantities, both for the sake of cleanliness and economy. That quicklime should be kept as far as possible from the manure.

On Shoeing Horses that Over-reach.—In the Mark Lane Express, a blacksmith who had much experience in the art of shoeing, contends that in order to prevent horses from overreaching they should be shod as follows:—"Make the toe-caulks very low, forward, standing a little under, and the shoes set as far back as convenient with heel-caulks, so as to let the foot roll over as quick as possible. On the hind foot I have the heel-caulk low, and the toe-caulk high, and projecting forward keeping back the hind foot while coming up over a high toe-caulk, thus giving time for the forward foot to get out of the way. If thus shod, the horse will travel clean, without a click, and his speed will be increased on a trot fifteen or twenty seconds in a mile." The Express, has the following comments on the above method: "The reverse of this rule is generally practiced. The blacksmiths, in view of preventing over-reaching, usually set the forward shoes as far forward as possible, and set the hind shoes as far back from the toe as they conveniently can. It remains for intelligent blacksmiths to decide which is the best method."

"New America."—Prof. James Hall, the eminent geologist, says: "A previous continent once filled the North Atlantic Ocean, and a drift from it produced America. The first land was the Adirondac region; then the Highlands; after which the other parts of the State and continent came into being. The higher mountains were produced last, even in the Adirondac country. The iron of Essex county, a fine magnetic ore, was deposited there in beds instead of in veins, and was the most valuable in this part of the continent.—The geology of New York had been, he remarked, more thoroughly studied than that of any other part of the world. Even in England learned men had made mineralogy rather than geology their study, and had learned lessons from the rocks comparatively alone. In Europe all writers on geology began by quoting the natural history of New York. So also in Canada."—*Exchange.*

It is to be hoped that the day is near at hand when a good horticultural and agricultural library will be deemed as important to farmers and fruit growers as one on theology to the divinity student.

Engineering in France.—Immense works have just been begun in the south of France for rendering the Rhone navigable from Arles to the sea. First of all large sand banks, which stretch over a distance of more than three miles, and now permanently block up the river, have to be removed. Then the Canal St. Louis must be carried along about two miles further, a lock erected at its mouth, while a basin and port have to be constructed at other points. The cost of this undertaking is valued at eight millions of francs. In the same province they had also begun draining the marshes and improving the state of the Camargue—a sort of Island formed by the two branches of the Rhone—when the cholera breaking out amongst the workmen, they were dispersed.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## DIVERSIFIED ENTERPRISE.

The journals in the Southern States, with few exceptions, are advising their citizens to avoid the old system of raising an exclusive crop of any one product. They point to the past, when cotton was the chief staple, and show the disastrous effect on the soil of this continuous crop; also their utter dependence on the manufacturing districts of this country and Europe, which are constantly fluctuating between prosperity and depression. Instead of cultivating a single product, like cotton, the agricultural classes are now advised to plant and cultivate a diversity of crops, such as wheat, corn and other cereals.

There is certainly a great deal of practical sense in these suggestions, and if followed up will have a tendency to recuperate and strengthen the South more rapidly than a continuance of the old system. Every person who has traveled through those States, even before the war, when they were in the height of supposed prosperity, could not fail to notice the many thousands of acres which were completely "worn out" by the continuous planting of cotton. When these fields were exhausted they were thrown out as "commons," left to the possession of nature, to grow an annual crop of weeds and sedge-grass and finally return to primitive forests. Then the planters would open up a new tract, cut off the timber, and in a few years exhaust it of all fertility by their ruinous system of agriculture; leaving it in the same condition as the worn-out fields of their fathers.

This system of depleating and exhausting the soil could not end otherwise than disastrously, entailing loss and suffering to all who pursued it. If the revolution of the war has opened the eyes of the Southern people in respect to their bad husbandry, it may also teach them the importance of greater and more diversified industry. It will not do for the South, or any other section of the country, to depend on a solitary branch of business. It has been demonstrated that communites, as well as States and nations, do not thrive and prosper if confined to the production of one staple or to the pursuit of a single industry. There must be a diversity of interests, each contributiug to the support of the other, and all adding to the general prosperity. This is the immutable law of business, and a divergence from it will not bring wealth and happiness, but will often return misfortune and misery.

No portion of our country is better adapted to diversified enterprise than the South. It has a climate superior to all other sections in regard to multiform productions, being capable of raising cereals almost as well as the North. Besides cotton, rice and sugar, she can, and does, produce a variety of semi-tropical fruits. Cattle can be raised there at less expense than in any other section of the country on account of the mild winters and the luxuriance of vegetation. But to these advantages of climate and productions, she must add the mechanical and manufacturing arts. These industries were overlooked and neglected before the rebellion, but with the tremendous revolution wrought by the war they must become a part of her reliance in the future. The new era dawning upon the South must be characterized by new and diversified industry. She cannot prosper without them.

The New England States are perhaps as wealthy and prosperous as any other portion of the Union, but what would be ber condition without a diversified enterprise? Her cotton manufactures cannot exist by themselves, nor her woolen mills, nor a single one of the multitudinous branches of industry that are multiplying every year. Tbey are dependent on each other for support. So of New England agriculture—which is an up-hill business—it is entirely dependent on the manufacturing interests. Thus, the reflection comes back upon us that no single product in agriculture, nor a solitary branch of industry, will support a community or State. But when a diversity of labor and productions exist, there we shall find the most permanent prosperity. Diversified enterprise is the great secret of our national thrift and progress.

## GERMINATION AND VEGETATION.

A SCIENTIFIC correspondent recently made the following experiments to determine how far the germiuation of seeds and the growth of plants are influenced by the action of weak solutions of acids, salts and other neutral bodies. In his first experiment he tied over the top of 12 glasses, each holding 12½ ounces of water, pieces of very thin muslin which were allowed to dip into the liquid. Twenty perfect grains of wheat were placed on each piece of muslin. Into the glasses respectively were put one drop of sulphuric acid, two drops nitric acid, three drops hydrochloric acid, five grains bicarbonate of potash, five grains dry carbonate of soda, five grains sulphate of soda, twelve grains chlorate of potash, ten drops of weak ammonia solution. A pair of zinc and copper plates in plain water, and connected above it by a wire, a similar pair in water containing three drops of hydrochloric acid, one glass containing only plain water for comparison. At the end of 48 hours, germination was evident in each case; at the end of the third, fourth, fifth and sixth day, vegetation was most advanced in the three glasses containing respectively plain water, bicarbonate of potash, and sulphite of soda. On the sixth day, the least advanced was seen in the glasses containing the three acids; the hydrochlorine acid glass being behind all.

In the bicarbonate of potash solution the same number of grains germinated as in plain water, but in the solution of sulphite of soda the number of germinating grains was one-fourth less, although the plants attained the same height as in the plain water. He concluded that bicarbonate of potash was least injurious of all the substances tried; next was the sulphite of soda; and next the carbonate of soda. The presence of an electric pair did not check germinatiou, but reduced vegetation one-third. In his next experiments he included certain organic substances, cane sugar 30 grains, gum 30 grains, glycerine 1 fluid drachm, and of one vegetable acid (citric) 5 grains; also, permanganate of potash 2 grains, nitrate of ammonia 20 grains. A large proportion of sulphite of soda was used, 20 grains, and only one-fourth the quantity of sulphuric acid. At the end of thirteen rather cold days, it was found that in the citric acid and permanganate of potash solution no roots were formed, although the plants had grown an inch high.—At the end of a month the roots in the sugar cane solution were only an inch in length, while those in the gum and glycerine solutions had reached the very bottom of the vessels.—Vegetation was as active in the last three named solutions as in pure water, and some of the plants in the gum solution were fully one-half higher than in the other three liquids.—The plants in the solutions of sulphite of soda and nitrate of ammonia were very slightly in advance of those in plain water.

WESTERN AGRICULTURE.—An Illinois paper claims that that State stands second in the United States in the value of her agricultural productions. The aggregate of corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, tobacco, potatoes, buckwheat and hay, raised last year, is put down at $160,143,704. The other unenumerated products, including fruit, poultry, live stock, and garden products, amount to about as much more. Much of the State is still unimproved. The product of New York amounts to $209,886,609. Pennsylvania figures for $159,402,457, crop value. Ohio is set down for $141,265,754, and Indiana and Michigan follow tbese in the value of their products.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

BARLEY was once a favorite grain for horses, but of late years farmers and teamsters do not regard it so favorably. A contributor to the Maine Farmer says: "It is the poorest feed that can he given them. If they are doing nothing they will fat a little on it; but it is not like that produced by corn. If they are put to work, it will soon wear off. I bave been working horses and feeding them on barley, and changed to feeding them on corn; and after the second feed of corn I could see a great change in them. I could see that they felt more like work; they could straighten the traces quicker when spoken to, and they would hold out better through the day. For working horses I should give corn; and for horses to drive on the road, I should give corn and oats mixed together. If I had not the oats I should give the corn alone. For a working horse, four quarts twice a day would not hurt him; and by all means I should have it wet."

Clover hay has the reputation of giving horses "the heaves." A correspondent of the Cultivator entertains the following views on this subject. "It is well known that feeding horses on clover hay often makes them cough, but the why and wherefore may not be so generally known. From observation I have become satisfied that the manner of feediug hay to horses is the cause. The usual custom is to let them draw it through a rack, thus stripping off the fine dust, which adheres to the stalk, which being drawn into the lungs in respiration, produces the cough. The eure consists in removing the cause—that is the racks—and allowing the animals to take their food in the natural way. I have removed all of mine, and now feed my horses on the barn floor, having a breast work sufficiently high for them to eat over. In this way they can be fed hay without raising a dust, they get none under their feet, and the labor of cleaning out the manger is saved. Whatever is left is easily pushed out with a rake into the yard for the cattle. The dust on the hay will do the horses no harm if taken into the stomach. Since making the improvement above mentioned in my feeding apparatus, I am not troubled with coughing horses."

The editor of the Germantown Telegraph gives the following as the ingredients for a pickle for meat;—1 gallon water; 1½ lbs. salt; ½ lb. sugar; ½ oz. saltpeter; ½ oz. potash. Observing this ratio the pickle can he increased to any quantity desired. Boil these together until all the dirt from the sugar rises to the top and is skimmed off. Then throw it into a tub to cool, and when *cold*, pour it over your beef or pork, to remain the usual time, say four or five weeks. Tbe meat must be well covered with pickle, and should not be put down for at least two days after killing, during which time it should be slightly sprinkled with powdered saltpeter, which removes all the surface blood, &c., leaving the meat fresh and clean. Some omit boiling the pickle, and find it to answer well; though the operation of boiling purifies the pickle by throwing off the dirt always to he found in salt and sugar.

THE WHEAT TRADE ABROAD.—The price of wheat in England is one half higher now than last year, and twice as high, it is said, as in 1864. English merchants are buying at Marseilles the wheat which arrives there from foreign ports. French flour is also being purchased on English account at Nantes. Spain is seeking for flour at Marseilles, and Algeria is affected hy requirements, which, in some districts, amount to a positive distress. On all the foreign markets—Antwerp, Cologne, Hamburg, Milan, Naples, &c., great firmness prevails in wheat. At Odessa also prices are becoming high. A considerable number of iron screw colliers have proceeded to the Black Sea and Sea of Azof to load grain for Great Britain, at very high rates of freight. All the available steam tonnage in the north of England has been taken up for tbis trade.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

THE cranberry crop of the country this year is 800,000 barrels.

Grain, instead of cotton, will be planted very generally at the South next season.

Switzerland makes 17,000 tons of cheese annually, of which 10,000 are exported.

Pleuro pneumonia is making sad havoc in the district of Columbia, especially at Georgetown. Over fifty cows have died.

A farmer in South Adams, Mass., has a mare 36 years old, which works daily on his farm, and is said to he in good health and condition.

The trustees of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society have resolved to establish an experimental farm in Chester county, Pennsylvania.

The Ohio Cashmere Company in Vinton county have bought one hundred thousand dollars' worth of cashmere goats this year. The wool sells for six dollars a pound.

In Canada most of their pork is fatted on peas, six bushels of which are equal to ten bushels of corn, and more can he grown from an acre than of corn.

The Japanese authorities have signified their willingness to exchange seeds and plants with the Agricultural Bureau at Washington, but have stipulated that we shall send ours first.

Tennessee farmers are becoming disgusted with cotton raising, and many more thousands of acres of wheat will be raised during the coming year than was harvested the present.

From the last monthly report of the Vermont Commissioner of Agriculture, we learn that a larger wheat crop than the present one has never before been produced in that state.

In Illinois, it is stated, the manufacture of flax is in a prosperous condition; the flax mills of that State being worked to their utmost capacity.

On 150 acres of ground, Capt. Myers, of Switzerland Co., Ind., has raised this season 1,800 bushels of corn, 800 bushels of potatoes, 115 tons of hay, and 300 barrels of apples.

The drouth in Illinois continues. In the country many wells are still dry, and nearly all cisterns empty. The trouble farmers and others are undergoing, in consequence, is very serious. Some are obliged to haul water many miles.

A cranberry bog or meadow, near Sandwich, N. H., has produced one thousand nine hundred and fifty bushels of fruit this year, which has been sold at $12 a barrel. This is a heavy profit, even after all expenses are paid.

Cheese factories having proved successful, butter is now making on a similar plan. Two factories in New York State have been in operation for one season, and their butter, on a trial with some of the best dairies in Chenango county, took prizes at the recent State fair.

In England and Wales this year, 7,941,578 acres were planted in grain, of which 3,255,917 raised wheat. There were also reported in those countries 4,017,790 cattle, and 22,097,286 sheep.

The Sacramento Bee asserts that in the Almeda and Santa Clara valleys the farmers have actually been driven by ground squirrels from some of their best lands; that their settlements, like that of the prairie-dog, extend for miles, each burrow sheltering from one to six inmates; and that it would be hardly an exaggeration to say that they eat one-fourth of the annual wheat crop.

John B. Gough, the temperance lecturer, is going into poultry-raising quite extensively. He has erected three buildings, each eighty by sixteen feet, at his place in Boylston, Mass., for the purpose of breeding chickens and other feathered stock, of which he already has over a thousand specimens.

A proposition is to be presented to Congress for the use of storm signals, especially intended to benefit agriculture. Two cannons are to be stationed at each county seat. When the telegraph brings the news of an approaching storm, the cannon will he fired at different intervals, which will indicate the direction whence the storm comes, and it is expected that the sound can be heard through most parts of the county.

THE trustees of the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania met at tbe office of the State Agricultural Society, October 10, to determine on the location of the experimental and model farms to be selected in the eastern and western divisions of tbe State, and which they are required by law to establish. The committee reported tbat eligible farms could be procured in Chester, Montgomery, Lebanon, Cumberland, Indiana, Westmoreland, Erie, and other counties, at from one hundred to three hundred dollars per acre, according to the locality. After some discussion, it was resolved that the committee be instructed to locate an eastern farm in Chester, provided tbe citizens of that county, within thirty days from the tenth of October, raise not less than five thousand dollars towards purchasing and stocking the farm.

## The Fireside Muse.

### BETTER THAN GOLD.

Better than grandeur, better than gold,
Than rank and title a thousand fold,
Is a healthy body, a mind at ease,
And simple pleasures that always please;
A heart that can feel for another's woe,
And share his joys with a genial glow,
With sympathy large enough to enfold
All men as brothers, is better than gold.

Better than gold is a conscience clear,
Though toiling for bread in an humble sphere,
Doubly blest with content and health,
Untried by the lust or cares of wealth;
Lowly living and lofty thought
Adorn and ennoble a poor man's cot,
For mind and morals in nature's plan
Are the genuine test of a gentleman.

Better than gold is the sweet repose
Of the sons of toil when their labors close;
Better than gold is a poor man's sleep
And the balm that drops on his slumber deep,
Brings sleeping draughts to his downy bed
Where luxury pillows his aching head,
His simple opiate labor deems
A shorter road to the land of dreams.

Better than gold is the thinking mind,
That in the realm of book can find
A treasure surpassing Australian ore,
And live with the great and the good of yore.
The sage's lord and the poet's lay,
The glories of empires passed away,
The world's great drama will thus unfold,
And yield a pleasure better than gold.

Better than gold is the peaceful home,
Where all the fireside charities come,
The shrine of love, the heaven of life,
Hallowed by mother, or sister or wife,
However humble the home may be,
Or tried with sorrow by heaven's decree,
The blessings that never were bought or sold
And centre there, are better than gold.

## Natural History.

### NOTES OF A WANDERING NATURALIST.

The swallows of Canada, with the exception of the bank swallow, differ specifically from those of Europe. None, of course, stop during the cold months. They make their appearance and exeunt with marked expedition. The chimney swallow is essentially rural, preferring scattered settlements to towns. The house martin and the small black swift, have points in common with their transatlantic brethren, to wit the house martin and black swift; but of all this kind none is more attractive than the large purple swallow. This welcome harbinger of Spring is held up by the Canadians as the first certain indication of the budding leaf, when frosty nights still retard vegetable growth. The purple swallow is one of the most powerful of its tribe, and will attack rapacious and all other birds that happen to intrude on its haunts. For the latter reason it is encouraged about houses, and swallow cotes are built, where it breeds year by year; indeed, there is an impression that the same individuals repair to cotes annually. I have seen hawks and carrion crows compelled to flee before the audacious attacks of this bird. It is a lively scene to witness swallow after swallow shooting upward from its cote and darting wildly at the intruder, which, on finding himself assailed at all points decamps with speed, pursued by the harsh screams of the swallows. Then, when he is fairly beaten, beyond the confines of the town, the pursuers are observed returning to their cotes, which are usually placed on poles attached to the gables of barues or outhouses. The cold nights toward the end of August cause the broods and old birds to assemble in flocks, when the first frosty night before the 5th of September sends them all southward to Mexico and the States.

But migrations are not altogether confined to the birds of this portion of North America. The moose and caribou, or woodland reindeer, travel over vast tracts of country as soon as the snow has fallen in quantity, and advance again in Spring. Although not so regular or so complete, still these and other wild mammals of New Brunswick do move southward during Winter; and no wonder that the elk should avoid districts where the snow lies thickest, considering its helpless condition when caught in the depths of Winter. No doubt, the rapid extinction of this animal is being brought about more from the numbers killed in snowdrifts than any other way. I have authentic information of no less than 400 individuals massacred when overwhelmed in snowdrifts, in one Winter, on the banks of the Magaguadavic river, in the county of Charlotte, New Brunswick. Doubtless the same fate awaits this noble animal as long since befell its now extinct congeners of other lands. The fine-antlered deer of the Himalaya are slaughtered by the natives in hundreds. Under like circumstances, I have known of herds of the red deer of Cashmere overtaken in thick snow, and destroyed by beating them to death with poles, shod with iron. The extinction of the moose keeps step by step with the disappearance of its native forests, which now, in this part of Canada, are rapidly vanishing before the lumberer's axe. At the same time, while the white race is increasing, the red Indian and the larger quadrupeds are being gradually exterminated. In a few centuries, both native Indian and the moose will be gone, leaving little trace behind them; indeed, excepting a few old encamping grounds, there are, comparatively speaking, no relics of the races of men who must have inhabited this portion of North America for ages. In an interesting volume, entitled "Description de l'Amerique," published in Paris in 1672, it is stated that the woodland reindeer was then a native of Prince Edward Island, and hunted by the Indians. The walrus was also said to be exceedingly common on the coast. Now, both animals are extinct in the Island, and neither have been known to exist there since the notice referred to. Indian refuse heaps, containing oysters and clams, were common until of late years, and afforded manure and top dressing to the settlers. Prince Edward Island seems to have been a favorite Indian fishing station, and their rude stone and bone implements are still met with, and have been found in conjunction with their skeletons. One body was enveloped in spruce bark, and surrounded by war implements of flint and bone.

In the depths of the New Brunswick forest, among the haunts of the moose, caribou, stag and bear, where the lumberer's camp is the only indication of civilization, there, at all seasons, assemble flocks of the white-winged crossbill, as docile and familiar in habits as robin redbreast. It crowds in flocks on the refuse-heap, picking among the debris, and is said to show a marked predilection for salt fish, which seems somewhat strange in the regimen of the genus, and even the order it belongs to. It also rears its young in midwinter, when the thermometer often ranges thirty degrees below zero of Fahrenheit. The same course is pursued by the moose bird, or Canada jay, which is also a Winter companion to the lumberer, becoming so tame that it often eats out of his hand. In certain forests (for example, at the source of the Nashwaak, one of the branches of the St. John,) spruce trees in general, and the black sort in particular, are observed with deep longitudinal seams extending often the entire length of the tree, and penetrating to the pith. So common is this the case, that almost every twentieth tree of large size is so characterized. The condition seems peculiar to full-grown trees, and is never seen in the young or half-matured timber. There seem a few old birch trees cracked in the same way, and, strange to say, in all cases no evil effects appear to result in the health of the tree, although, as a matter of course, the disfigurement materially militates against the value of the wood. The woodsmen seem to attribute the appearance to the winds; but I should rather be inclined to put it down to extreme degrees of cold, or great and sudden alternations in temperature, which are often common during Winter. The growing individual shows an excess of fibre, while the matured tree has less, and is not so likely to stand the contraction produced by excessive low temperatures; indeed, it is a common phenomenon to observe trees and their branches snapped across during heavy frosts, as well as the shoots of the pines, which often strew the snow around their roots.

The changes in the color of the pilage of the North American hare and those of other countries are, no doubt, owing to the same causes. By certain naturalists it has been asserted that the Summer and Winter garbs are brought about by change in the coloring matter of the hair, and not by an addition of perfectly distinct hairs. This theory I put to the test during the year 1866, by procuring specimens of the American hare at different seasons, and especially in Spring and Autumn, when the transitions in coloring are effected. It was clearly shown, first, as to consistency, that the fur is very much thinner in Summer than in midwinter, which is clearly owing to a loss of material. Second, the Summer garb is composed of two sorts—a soft slate-blue hair, with gray-brown tips, and a longer description interspersed among the last, with black tips. Now, in Winter, in addition to the above, we find long gray hairs, about the same length as the last, and protruding beyond the slate and brown hair. These rapidly shoot up in the Autumn, and are as quickly shed in Spring. Perhaps the transitions are more abrupt in this climate than, for instance, in Scotland, as we rush from Summer into Winter, and *vice versa*. I have noticed the quickness wherewith the changes in the color and thickness of the fur of the domestic animals take place in this climate compared with less rigorous latitudes; and the bear, ermine, and others, exemplify the same law among the wild quadrupeds. On the snow-clad ranges of the Himalaya, the Tibet hare, although never so brown in Summer as its American congener, does shed the greater part of its gray hairs in Spring. Now, it remains to be proven if the same law is applicable to the ermine and others which change their color in Winter.

The southerly migrations of birds are completed in this portion of the continent by the end of November. The last hatch of robins has disappeared, and now the forests seem almost deserted; the stillness is remarkable, and we listen in vain for the joyous notes of such welcome Summer residents as the song sparrow, or the piping call of the Pennsylvania finch, or the flute note of the hermit thrush. However, the brave little black-headed titmouse uttering its well-known *ica deedee dee*, is seen flitting among the evergreen and bear boughs, during the severest cold, when the thermometer stands at 30 degrees below zero, the white and red-bellied nut-hatches bearing him company. It is then the great horned owl, and four other of its congeners, may be seen sweeping past in the gaps of the forest after squirrels and other rodents, and the carrion crows assemble about the settlements on the outlook for carcasses of cattle and such like.

As soon as the leaf has fallen, from the north come flocks of that handsome bulfinch the pine grosbeak, to feed on the elder-tree berries. This bird delights also in the forest solitudes, where its chirp is often the only sound that breaks the stillness around. When feeding it is easily approached, and often caught by a hair noose slipped over the head. The cold of the central part of the province is evidently too trying for even its sturdy frame, for seldom are any seen after January; perhaps they push further southward, or toward the less rigorous climates on the Atlantic coast. A sure sign of the coming Winter is the appearance of the snow bunting and its European ally the redpole, both common to the boreal regions of the old and new worlds. The plumage of the former is only somewhat paler in mid-winter, and more downy, to enable them to withstand the cold. Often after a heavy fall of snow I have seen the latter so lame that it only sufficed to throw a few cinders on the snow, when flocks repaired to the spot, and might be caught almost with the hand. There is then a hard struggle for existence with many of the feathered tribes. Sometimes the migratory thrushes and the earliest visitors in Spring, such as the snow bird arrive before the last snow has fallen. Then a heavy fall in April renders the little creatures perfectly helpless, and hundreds die of cold and starvation.

The latest census of the resident and migratory birds of this province gives 27 resident land birds, 10 resident water birds and no less than 296 migratory species.

The stillness of the forests in February is remarkable; the pines and spruces, with their boughs overburdened with snow, look like the scenery of some Christmas pantomime, while the leafless limbs of the maples and hardwood trees, stand out in ghastly relief against the background. I often roam in snow shoes down the lumber roads and pathways, through the dense clustering trunks of the primeval forest, and,—excepting the broad footprints of hares, an occasional track of a red fox, ermine, weasel, or red squirrel—there is nothing animate to be observed in these wild woods.

There can be no doubt that, although the snow is the cause of the declination of the boughs of certain coniferous trees, there is at the same time a contraction taking place in the fibres of the bark and wood on the lower surface. This is proven by relieving the branch of its snow, when it will be found to return only partially to the horizontal. The long and rigorous Winter of these latitudes does most assuredly tend to bring about a more decided bending of the branches of the spruce in particular, as compared with allied species under less trying circumstances. There can be no question, therefore, that, beside the mere mechanical pressure, cold has an influence in producing the graceful downward swoop to the boughs of many of these trees, as observed in this and the northern forests of Europe and Asia. Many of the wild quadrupeds of Canada are entirely dependent in Winter on the pine-tree family for subsistence—for example, the hare, birch partridge, and the spruce or Canada grouse. It is well known that the flavor of their flesh becomes so tainted by their pine food as to be scarcely palatable, more especially the latter, which is not eatable after November, and even in Summer partakes strongly of their food.—*London Field.*

Canary Birds.—The Canary Islands—called by the ancients the Fortunate Islands, and Islands of the Blest—have been known to Europeans for more than two thousand years.

But Canary birds, though first brought from these islands, were not heard of in Europe before the fifteenth century. They were then so dear that only the rich could buy them. Sugar, which is a poison to many birds, was found to be food for Canaries. From this fact, they were for some time called *sugar birds.*

Canary seed, the principal food of these birds, was first brought from the Canary Islands to Spain. It was soon after cultivated in the south of France, and at length throughout the south of Europe. The plant which produces this seed could easily be grown in many portions of the United States.

It seems that Pat went into the house of the priest to confess his sins, and passed into the kitchen to ask for the holy father, but perceived that there was nobody in the room, while a fine ham was laying on the table fresh from market. Pat lost no time in securing the prize. Hiding it as well as he could under his coat, he proceeded to the apartment of the priest, and said:

"Here, your riverence, is a fine leg of bacon, which I stole and brought it for a present for your holiness. Will you take it?"

"Take it?" said the priest, "by no means. Carry it back instantly."

"Faith, an' I did, sir, and he said he'd not take it, by no means."

"Very well, then, Patrick, you may keep it."

"An' I'll be absolved to your riverence!" demanded Pat."

"Yes, it is yours, if the owner will not take it back."

"Good mornin'; God bless ye; long life to your riverence."

By feeding hens with food containing iron, a French chemist has succeeded in obtaining eggs with iron shells. These may do for transportation, but how about the chickens?

Manure.—We like barn cellars to protect the manure from rain and sunshine, but there is something else to do with manure besides housing it. If you keep it housed and protected from the frost, there is an acid in it which is deleterious to the growing crops. My mode is to clean out the shed and barn cellars in the Fall and pile it up closely, cover it over with loam, which protects it from the rain. Then the frost has free access to neutralize the acidity, to penetrate through all the parts, and then when it is pitched over in the Spring, it falls apart and becomes fine and adapted to the growing crops. In the Spring, instead of manuring five acres sparingly, we manure what we can sumptuously, do not scant a hill, and the result is that we harvest good crops.

# Various Matters.

### AN ENTERPRISING CATTLE SPECULATOR.

It is probable that immense numbers of Texan and Cherokee cattle will in future find their way to the markets of Chicago, St. Louis, and almost every other important point of the Northwest and also the East. Hitherto they have been prevented from crossing Missouri on the plea that they communicated the Texan fever to the cattle along their route. The opening of the Union Pacific Railroad through Kansas, etc., has presented facilities for bringing these cattle to market, and the farmers and drovers of the far West are not slow in embracing the opportunity thus afforded of bringing their stock to market.

A correspondent of the New York Tribune describes a depot for receiving and shipping cattle which has just been established at Abilene, a station on the Kansas Union Pacific Railway, 165 miles west of Kansas City, 375 miles from Northern Texas, and 75 from the month of the Arkansas. The opening of this depot is due to the enterprise of Joseph G. McCoy, a young Scotchman of the well-known firm of McCoy Bros., cattle-dealers and bankers. McCoy visited Kansas in order to find a route by which the Texan and Indian cattle could reach the East. He carried a map of the United States, on which he had marked lines denoting the most suitable routes from the cattle-ranges of the Southwest to the track of the Union Pacific Railroad. The distance, the grass, the richness of the land, the neighborhood of timber, and the peacefulness of the Indian tribes through which the trails would run, indicated Abilene as the most suitable position for a great receiving and shipping depot. The station is the centre of a well-wooded and well-watered valley. The trail to it is straight and level, crossing the Red River at Bolen's and running past Chism's Ranch, Fort Arbuckle, and the mouth of the Little Arkansas, with abundant water all the way, and plenty of blue-stem and bunch grass in the wide valleys, bunch and buffalo-grass on the uplands, and sufficient wood for camping purposes. Along this trail there are no organized bushwhackers, and mustered-out rebel soldiers to exact toll in coin. The semi-civilized Indian tribes content themselves with a lame steer or two for meat for the day, as a recompense for the privilege of traversing their lands.

On the 1st of September, McCoy had a receiving and shipping yard for stock built at Abilene, capable of holding 800 head of cattle and of loading a train of 40 cars in two hours; had a ten-ton Fairbanks' scale in position that would weigh a car load at a time, and had Texas and all the Southwest placarded with hand-bills, inviting the drovers to come to Abilene, and offering to pay cash for all the cattle they would bring there. When all things were in readiness, guests were invited from Illinois and Missouri, Kansas, etc., beef-packers, cattle-dealers, railroad officials and their wives and daughters, to see the first shipment of heeves over the Union Pacific Railway. They came at the appointed time, and saw a train-full of cattle weighed, loaded, and started to the East, and then, in a great tent, they celebrated the event with a feast.

After arriving at Abilene from various parts of Texas, the Cherokee country and other places, the drovers usually herd their cattle on the rich pasture in the vicinity, for from thirty to sixty days, in order to recruit them before selling. An abundance of fine pasturage exists in many places in the valleys around Abilene. At one time 25,000 head of cattle were at grass, or in the yards awaiting transportation; 10,000 head were on their way to the depot at the time of writing, and 50,000 more were expected to arrive before the close of the season. Some of the most experienced Texan drovers say that fully 200,000 head of cattle will arrive at Abilene next year for sale and shipment.

Cattle can be bought in vast numbers in Texas for $8 or $10 gold per head, or from $12 to $14 in currency. They can be driven to Abilene in from five to eight weeks, at a cost of from $1.50 to $2 per head. They can be shipped from Abilene to St. Louis at $100 per car-load, and to Chicago for $150 a car. Mr. McCoy says that they can be afforded in Chicago at 4 cents gross, with a satisfactory margin to drovers, shippers and railroads.—*Western Rural.*

# Marriages.

In Woonsocket, 22d inst., by Rev. E. Douglass, Henry A Whitney, of Grafton, to Miss Abbie S. Paine, of Burrillville.

In East Greenwich, 17th inst., by Rev. Dr. Crane, his Honor Lieut. Governor William Greene, of Warwick, to Mrs. Caroline Mathewson, of East Greenwich.

In Bellingham, Mass., Nov. 13th, by Rev. J. T. Massey, Elbridge G. Whitney to Miss Emma Barney. Nov. 20th, Mr. Martin V. B. Cook to Miss. Mary A. McCarty, all of Bellingham.

In Whittinsville, Mass., Nov. 20th, by Rev. Lewis F. Clark, Arthur E. Sutton, of Douglas, to Eliza S. Congdon, of Northbridge.

In Milford, Mass., Nov. 19th, by Rev, G. L. Demarest, Mr. Nathaniel F. Blake, to Miss Laura Josephine Burr, all of Milford.

In Webster, Mass., 21st inst., by Rev. B. S. Best, Mr. Charles N. Shumway to Miss Mary L. Moorhouse, both of Webster.

# Deaths.

In Forestdale, Smithfield, 6th inst., Etta Jenoa, only daughter of Levi Ballou, aged 5 years and 6 days. The dear child's wish so oft expressed in song, "I want to be an angel and with the angels dwell," is now fulfilled,

In Valley Falls, 28th inst., John Irons, in the 64th year of his age.

In Greenville, on the 21st inst., Lucy H., wife of Rev. R. Woodworth, in the 41st year of her age.

In Elmwood, 24th inst., at the residence of her son-in-law, Volney Austin, Harriet Lyon, widow of the late Henry P. Palmer, aged 56 years.

In Milford, Mass., Nov. 15th Elijah M. Allen, aged 61 years. Nov. 17th, Anne Gavin, aged 29 years. Nov. 14th, Hannah Chapman, aged 20 years. Nov. 20th, Lillian May, only child of Mark T. and Rosella Worcester, aged 8 years.

In Webster, Mass., 20th inst., Mrs. Clarissa P., widow of the late Rufus Freeman, aged 53 years.

In Millbury, Mass., Nov 25th, Mrs Betsy Lovell, aged 90 years.

In Grafton, Mass., Nov. 25th, Samuel F. Redding, aged 71 years.

In Meudon, Mass., Sept. 29th, Mrs. Martha Staples, aged 71 years.

In Jewett City, Conn., 23d inst., Pahner Burdick, aged 37 years.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Nov. 28, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 16c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 1.30 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.75 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a17.50 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 45 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a95c |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 24c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 50c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 9c | Eggs ₩ doz | 48c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 20c |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 26a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 18c |
| Veal | 15a16c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

Everything appears to be on the downward plane, and distrust is yielding ground, owing to a few failures and the shakiness of many concerns in various branches of business. The produce market, like all others, has been affected by the almost paralyzed state of affairs, and holders of stocks are anxious to realize by selling at a large reduction.

FLOUR—The market opened with a decline of 25@50c on State and Western brands, which encouraged a moderate export demand. The receipts were large, thus aiding the downward movement, and the whole line of extra State, Southern and California brands receded. The decline continued during the week, the demand being light and receipts being liberal. The market to-day was dull and declined 20@30c up to noon, making a total decline of the week ranging from 50c to $1 on the barrel. Late this afternoon the market fell 5@10c more, leaving off dull at $7 9 9@9 20 for State; $8 90@12 62 for Ohio; $7 40@13 15 for California.

RYE FLOUR—The market is firm at $7 25@9 00. Sales of the week 2000 bbls.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—The market is dull, closing at $4@4 25 per 100 lbs.

WHEAT—The stock on hand comprises some two millions of bushels, mostly Spring wheat. To-day the market was lower and closed very dull, shippers and exporters demanding a still further material decline. Quotations closed nominal at $2 80 for White Genesee; $2 89@2 93 for White California.

# Special Notices.



# Advertising Department.



BE HAPPY.—A cheerful temper, a kindly heart, and a courteous tongue, can not be too carefully or too sedulously cultivated. On the other hand, a disposition to be gloomy and captious, to be bitter and ill-natured, to be cynical and slanderous, can not be too cautiously avoided. The one habit, too, is apt to grow and become powerful as the other. If we permit ourselves to look constantly on the dark side, and to view everything with distrust and jealousy, we shall seldom be able to realize and enjoy anything that is bright, beautiful, kindly or generous. There is, moreover, nothing so calculated to impair health, deface beauty, and take away from the human countenance all those rosy, shining lights which are admirably suited to brighten and adorn, as a disposition to fret, vex, and be miserable.

# The Stock Yard.

## TAKE CARE OF THE COLTS.

This is a trying time on colts. This season is particularly severe on them. On account of the drouth, there is little or no grass, and they must be fed or they will starve, or become so poor that they will die before Spring. A little oats in the sheaf and a little good hay daily, is necessary to keep them in vigor and thriving. They should be fed sufficiently to make a constant, daily growth. They should not be fattened like hogs—but have enough food and of the right kind to make bone and muscle, and keep up the health and strength of the system. They should not be kept in close, warm stables, but should have plenty of fresh air. They also need daily exercise, and should be turned out several hours each day in Winter to have a good run. Plenty of food, plenty of pure air, comfortable and well-ventilated stables, and plenty of healthful exercise, will make good colts, which, in proper time, will become good, serviceable horses.—*Valley Farmer.*

## WINTER FEEDING OF MILCH COWS.

I come next to the consideration of the feeding of milch cows; and first, of Winter feeding. Of course it must be regular, and there must be the utmost cleanliness. There must be no stint, and for all those in a full flow of milk, there must be warm food. It is quite extraordinary, what an effect the temperature of the food or drink has upon the lacteal secretion. Monthly nurses perfectly understand that a woman who has recently become a mother, must be very careful how she ventures upon chilling drinks; but farmers do not so well understand how damaging it is to drive a freshly calved cow into the frosty air of January, for a drink in an icy brook. No milkman should permit such barbarism. Warm shelter and warm "slop" three times a day, with perhaps an hour of exposure to the sunshine at noon, constitute the proper regimen for a cow in the first flush of her milk.

Water for milch cows in Winter, should have as nearly as possible the temperature of the stable in which they are kept—rather higher than lower. If water can be kept on the flow within reach of every cow, so much the better, and in the well arranged recent dairy barns, this is provided for. The drier the food the more water, of course, the animals will require; but in whatever shape food may be given, water at will, will be of advantage.

Heavy, unctious ground food, of great fattening properties, is by no means so desirable as the lighter meals which carry a large admixture of bran. Bran itself makes an admirable condiment, so does buckwheat coarsely ground, and brewer's grains, if accessible.—A little stirring in of bone-meal at intervals of a month or two will be desirable—more especially if the cows are fed largely upon roots.

A steaming apparatus, is, I need hardly say, an essential in every complete milk-dairy.—There may be a question in regard to the steaming of food for fattening cattle or for growing stock, but for a herd of milch cows there is no room for doubt. The process, moreover, makes available a great mass of coarse material in the way of corn-stalks, pea-vines, etc., which would be otherwise unserviceable.

With respect to hay for milk-giving cows, nothing is worse than stout timothy, and if the seed be allowed to form, it is but little better than rye straw. Under any system of farming, which looks to the health and good keeping of cattle, it is ruinous to leave timothy until it has taken on that harsh, wiry condition, which belongs to its seed-bearing state, but for a milk-farmer such neglect is monstrous. Indeed, I think it may be laid down as a general rule, in ordinary seasons, that the milkman's haying should commence a fortnight before the grazier's, and close a fortnight earlier. What he may lose in weight he will gain in succulence, and it is this succulence which goes to the promotion of a quick flow of milk. Even the hay which most farmers are disposed to condemn as "flashy"—such as rowen—and which is certainly not adapted to the development of muscle or fat, is yet admirably suited to the wants of a milk-farmer. If timothy is grown, and on milk farms, I think it should be grown sparingly—it should be cut when it is in the fullness of its purple bloom, and it is far better that it be cut earlier than later. Red-top—(herdsgrass, in the naming of many,) makes a good hay for milk, if cut in its bloom; the June grass from old meadows is even better; and best of all—if *judiciously cured*—is clover. (Even before this, if it were enough known to warrant the mention, I should name Lucerne; but a doubt, not yet well settled, in regard to its hardness in the American climate, forbids unqualified commendation.)—*Donald G. Mitchell.*

## FOOD FOR FATTENING FOWLS.

The best food for fattening poultry is sweet, fresh oat-meal or barley-meal, mixed either with scalding milk or water. Cooped fowls should be supplied with fresh food three times a day—namely, at daybreak, or as soon after as possible, at mid-day, and again at roosting time; as much as they can eat, should be given to the fowls on each occasion, but no more than can be devoured by the next meal; should any be left, it should be removed and given to the other fowls; as, if kept, it is apt to become sour, when the birds will not eat it freely. The troughs for the soft meal should be scalded out daily, which can be done conveniently by having a supply of spare ones.

In addition to soft food, a supply of fresh, clean water, must be constantly present, and a little gravel must be given daily, otherwise the grinding action of the gizzard, which is necessary to the due digestion of food, does not go on satisfactorily; the supply of a little green food will be found very advantageous to health; a little sliced cabbage, or some turnip-tops, or green turf to pick at occasionally, being all that is required.

A variation in the diet will be found very conducive to an increased appetite, and therefore the occasional substitution of a feed of boiled barley for the slaked oatmeal is desirable. Some feeders have divisions in their troughs, or, still better, a small extra trough, which always contains some grains for the fowls to pick at.

Should the birds be required to be very fat, some mutton suet or trimmings of the loins may be chopped up and scalded with the meal, or they may be boiled in the milk or water preparatory to its being poured over the food, and the fat of fowls so fattened will be found exceedingly firm.

In the course of about a fortnight to three weeks at the utmost, a fowl will have attained, under this system of feeding, the highest degree of fatness of which it is capable, and it must then be killed; for if the attempt be made to keep it any longer in that state, it becomes diseased from an inflammatory action being established which renders the flesh hard and even unwholesome.

When the fowls have arrived at a state fit for killing, they should be kept for twelve or fifteen hours without food or water, in order that the intestines may be as empty as possible, otherwise the bird turns green and useless in a short time.

In situations where good, sweet Indian corn-meal can be obtained at a low rate, it will be found to answer quite as well as oat-meal; it contains a very large amount of oil, and is invariably used in the States of America, as a food for all animals put up to fatten. Wheat meal is too expensive, but some small Fall wheat is far superior to barley to place in the trough as whole grain for the fowls to pick at.—*London Field.*

Mr. S. D. Ingham, of Ripley, Ohio, after tormenting his horse to madness with the various prescriptions of horse doctors for the cure of fistula, resorted to cold water, which was poured from a watering-pot upon the sore, and a complete cure was effected in five weeks from two daily applications.

How to Relieve Choked Cattle.—Aaron Lee, in the Rural American says: I have fattened many cattle on potatoes, and always feed them whole, and occasionally one gets choked. I then put the animal in the yard where there are bars, which I let down so that she can jump over, but as high as she will jump. I then place her about two rods from the bars, with her head toward them, and with a good whip, well applied, I run her over the bars on the jump, and when she touches the ground on the opposite side the potato will fly out of her mouth. I have informed my neighbors of this remedy, many of whom have tried it, and in no case have I known a failure.




**TERMS OF ADVERTISING.**

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the FARM AND FIRESIDE. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a good style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

**COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.**

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the FARM AND FIRESIDE may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

**THE FARM AND FIRESIDE**

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.


# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1867. NO. 49.


Written for the Farm and Fireside.

## FARM NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR DECEMBER.

All created things in nature must come to an end; so also time passes, the old year closes, a new one advances upon us who are permitted to behold the revolving sun as he tracks his course o'er the heavens of space, enlivening nature as he advances, making all things to blossom under his genial influence; while in receding, beauty hides her face and fades and has an end. So this year of profitable harvests and manifold blessings, closes with the present month. On every hand we see the evidences that Nature is closing another volume of her records, and settling her accounts. Shall man, alone, be unmindful of Nature's teaching and not prepare for the closing of the year and of its events? We look to the forests and see them bare and desolate, having cast their Summer robes, the fields are sere and dead, and ere long, if not already, will be wrapt in their winding sheet. The days are shortened, the slanting rays of a receding sun proclaim the advent of Winter. A complete change has come over the aspect of the earth and sky, and one almost as great over our own feelings. The ever varying scenes is one of the charms of a country life, and one of the many advantages the farmer has over the denizen of the city or town. While the citizen meets the same brick walls and paved streets at every turn, beholding but little except monotony in his daily walks and business, the dwellers upon farms are forced by the circumstances and occupation to a great variety of scenes and employments. Each season, and almost every day brings new scenes, suggesting new thoughts, and affords new enjoyments. In travelling over the same beaten track to meeting, to the post-office or town, the scenes that meet his view are ever changing; to-day he beholds the fields and hills beginning to put on their robe of green, the flowers peeping into light, the changing of the embryo in the seed to *radicle* and *plumule;* to-morrow he beholds them in their full grown beauty, the day following the scene is changed, and he beholds them putting on the sere and yellow leaf, and returning to the earth from which they sprang; such is the course observed in nature. In the wisdom and economy of things the everchanging seasons with their productions are made conducive to the benefit of man. Winter brings a very pleasant change from the busy scenes of planting and harvest, to the ever busy husbandman, giving him relief from their pressure and time to enjoy his possessions. In distributing his hard earned harvests he takes even more pleasure than in their gathering, as they minister to the well doing and pleasure of his animals, dependent upon his liberality. He now takes time to enjoy and contemplate the grace of well bred horses, the bulk and sleekness of his corn fed Durhams, and the elastic step of his ever sprightly Devon team. He takes pleasure in adding to the enjoyment of his stock by his presence and caresses, as well as the plying the card and curry-comb to add to their health as well as appearance and contentment; he feeds all his stock with a liberal, yet judicious hand, and rejoices to see with what relish they partake of the same, ever welcoming his presence among them by their cheerful looks and acts of gratification, which are ever recognized by him; he knows that his profit is enhanced by every act of his which tends to secure their contentment and comfort. But the intelligent, progressive farmer has other things to occupy a portion of his time and attention than the contemplation of handsome, fat stock, during the comparatively leisure season of Winter; now is his time for learning the *science* of agriculture. Book knowledge alone, will never make a good farmer, neither will mere working a farm; knowledge must be joined with practice to secure best results. The study of agricultural writings will not only add to the stock of practical ideas, but will develop the man himself. With all the other demands upon the farmer's time, he should not forget that society has a claim for a portion of his attention; social visits and attendance upon his "Farmers' Club," and lectures should not fail to be attended to. No duties should be allowed to press so hard upon his time as to neglect himself; as mind power is superior to mere mechanical power on the farm or elsewhere.

*Accounts.*—It is proverbial that no class in the community is more negligent in keeping accounts than the farmer. As a larger proportion of business is now done for cash than formerly, less store and other accounts will be made running through the year; but every one who contracts a debt or credit, should have an account thereof that he may know himself, and if needed, others can ascertain how he stands in the world, financially; and those accounts should be settled up not less frequently than once a year; and the close of the year is a proper time to attend to this.—If you have kept a Farm Account and Record, now is the time to look it over and balance accounts with all your fields, crops, stock, &c.; if no such account has been kept, prepare to commence one at the opening of the coming year; and here I would say that the keeping of such an account is not such a formidable an affair that you need shrink from it. Any one who can use a pen is capable of keeping an account. Blank account books, got up expressly for farm accounts are to be found at many of the book stores which will materially assist those commencing the business anew.—There are a number of different publishers of these books whose works make it very simple and easy for the inexperienced to keep a complete farm account. Such an account kept and studied during leisure hours will give you a better knowledge of your occupation and business than you can gain in the same time in any other way.

*Cattle.*—Two well conditioned, thriving animals, are worth more in Spring than several times that number which barely survive the Winter. Four head of cattle kept comfortable in good stables, with shelter, well and regularly fed, with free access to salt and pure water, unfrozen, without being driven to the brook through storms and over ice, and frequently curried, will consume less than three left to rough it through the cold storms of Winter without shelter or regular care, other than throwing their feed to them on the snow, or letting them pull it from the stack; and the well cared for animal is proportionally far more valuable than the other in the Spring.—A well kept cow will bring a calf worth twice, or more, as much as the ill kept one, and will give more milk through the following season on the same feed. Oxen well kept are ready for the Spring work, and when that is over, if desired, they may be ready to turn off for beef, after feeding at grass a few months. It pays in every way to take *good* care of stock during Winter.

*Club Meetings.*—Every neighborhood should hold stated meetings for social mental improvement, in which the interests and subject of farming should be discussed. Such meetings tend to draw out information as to the best practice of practical agriculturists and horticulturists, as well as to develop skill in the use of language, &c.

*Fencing Material.*—All material needed for repairs, and new lines, should be cut and got together when other work is not pressing; rails and posts will split out better when the timber is not frozen.

*Fodder.*—Save and lengthen out the hay by chaffing and mixing corn-stalks, straw, coarse and fine hay, moistening and adding some meal or bran and a little salt, and letting it lie in close bulk to soften, or what is better, steam cook it, thus prepared nearly, or quite, as good results are obtained as where all good hay is fed.

*Horses.*—The horse enjoys and thrives under no circumstances better than in light, well ventilated stalls, free from cold drafts of air, filth and foul vapors. He should never be kept out in the cold and wind after being driven and heated, without good protection by blanketing, &c. The curry-comb and brush, judiciously used, are of more importance in keeping him in condition than an extra feed of oats or grain.

*Ice.*—From being a luxury ice has become to be almost indispensable in nearly all families for keeping cream, milk, fresh meat, and other perishable articles during the heat of Summer. A cheap constructed ice house will keep ice often better than a costly one, always as well. Embrace the opportunity of filling them from the first good ice there is made.—Frequently by delaying, disappointment is met with.

*Milch Cows.*—The better the fodder, the better the milk and the more of it. Cows cannot make milk without sufficient fodder and comfortable shelter; rich, succulent feed, gives the best returns in milk where quality as well as quantity is concerned; regularity in feeding and milking go far towards prolonging the profit of the milking season; give them plenty of good bedding, to keep them clean and warm when at rest.

*Seeds.*—Look over and examine all seeds, and see that they are properly protected from dampness, vermin, &c. Make a list of any needed for the coming season, and be ready to order or secure them early, while there is the largest to select from. Make exchanges where desirable.

*Tools.*—The proper housing and storing of tools will in a few years save the expense of a good tool house, over the loss by exposure to the open air, sun, storms, &c. Every implement should be properly cleaned as soon as done with in the Fall, and all bright steel or iron work, have a thin coating made of three parts lard and one of rosin, melted together, rubbed over them with a suitable rag, and then put in its place where it will keep dry. Any needing repairs should be made good at leisure intervals. A suitable work-bench with a few tools, will enable any farmer, with a little ingenuity, to repair many of his tools, instead of sending to the smith or wagon shop; and a still greater benefit will accrue in giving the boys an opportunity of learning the use of tools in making or repairing many little, useful articles for themselves, or needed about the place. See that all the tools are in order against the time they are wanted in Spring.

*My Riverdale Farm, Dec.*, 1867. H.

## ONE ACRE.

We always consider an acre of land a mechanic's portion. In the original of the word in the Greek language, it signified a field of any size, but we now limit it to as much land as most mechanics need. It is not the extent of surface that always constitutes an acre, so far as the profits or capabilities of the land are concerned. It is the most that we can make out of it that constitutes its real size and value. An acre of land will sometimes be so managed as to support a family. Sometimes a crop of cranberries or of hops to the value of more than a thousand dollars has been realized in a single season. Forty tons of roots have been harvested from a single acre. Apples and pears have been harvested by the hundred barrels, and a crop of something else besides, from one acre. We deem it of more importance to a young mechanic to secure an acre of land, than a wife, a horse, or a watch. We speak now of our young men in the smaller villages, where an acre can be obtained. We do not here mean precisely one hundred and sixty square rods, because in some positions a quarter of an acre is as valuable as a whole acre in others. The idea is that a young mechanic should secure a foothold of some land that he can call his own as soon as possible.—We remember visiting a friend in one of our large towns some years since, whose whole farm consisted of his door-yard, yet in this unpromising place he contrived to raise a large lot of cherries, while beneath them were the pear trees laden with fruit, and beneath these were his garden vegetables. His walls were covered with grapes. He had something for his table from his door-yard all seasons of the year. We felt ashamed of ourself as we contrasted his spot with our own.

The truly successful mechanic sets something else to work beside his two hands to obtain a living. He sets out a tree and that works along till it brings him in an income at a time of life when it is most needed. His

garden vegetables are busy at work while he is sleeping. They grow as fast as they can from the little seeds he has planted, to become large vegetables, which he will find will save him the labor of his hands to purchase another winter.

The experience of forty years past in the history of our State goes to show that it is rare to find a mechanic who has accumulated property when he has not aimed to own real estate, while the young man with a little land of his own can cluster around him a thousand comforts which will be conducive to his happiness as he advances in years.

A piece of land forty rods long and four broad, constitutes an acre. On that land, may be produced an untold amount of useful material.

There is a reckless waste of time and money among too many young men at a time of life when they should be accumulating something for the future. It is very easy to spend five dollars for a horse and carriage to take a ride, but it will not be so easy to pay rent when one is settled in life. We pity a young man who only thinks of a frolic, a watch or a ride, at a time of life when he is best able to labor. We pity him because we know he will one day have cause to regret his course, and by his bitter regrets, cause unhappiness to those around him, when he should be the means of rendering others joyful. May a word to the wise be sufficient.—*Maine Farmer.*

## POULTRY CHIPS.

We cannot but think that people generally underrate the profitableness of good fowls in the keeping of intelligent breeders; they may be unproductive in ignorant hands, but not so when properly cared for.

To make fowls profitable, it is only necessary that the better kinds be reared, that suitable places be provided for them, that they be properly and carefully and intelligently managed—things which have really conspired in any one instance heretofore to enable us to judge what *might* be made out of fowls under the most favorable circumstances.

Those who set about keeping fowls as amateurs, for the first time, to whom we address ourselves, are recommended to begin with a limited number, such as a cock and four or five hens, of some distinct and choice breed; or, if it be desired to test the value of different sorts of hens, one or two of them may be admitted, care being taken to separate all the cross-bred progeny for the fattening crop and the dinner table. It will add to the amusement derived, if in the first instance strong three-quarter grown chickens are procured instead of adult birds, so that an opportunity is given of watching their progress to maturity.

It has been suggested that none of the writers on poultry have dwelt sufficiently upon the profit and convenience of those who keep fowls for the sake of their eggs, having everlasting layers, with perhaps one or two sitting hens, such as lay brown or buff-colored eggs, and the others white ones, as the Spanish, Dorkings, etc. This arrangement could be carried out by selecting Cochin, Brahma or Shanghai hens, which are all excellent incubators, and having the laying hens, such as the Polands, Golden and Silver Hamburghs, Leghorns and Andalusian variety.

Fowls that are kept in close confinement will greatly miss the opportunity of basking in the sun; warmth is almost as necessary for their thriftiness as food. Columella, more than two thousand years ago, recommended that fowl-houses ought to be placed on that part of the farm which faces the rising sun in winter; and continues he: "Let them be joined to the oven over the kitchen, so that the smoke may reach the birds it being particularly healthy for them." Modern amateurs have thought it would be a good plan to have an air-tight stove placed in their fowl-house, which could be lighted an hour or two before the fowls went to roost, which would give but a moderate heat during the night; but we very much doubt its economy. Sharp weather is always a sufficient excuse for the unproductiveness of hens; but it may be suggested that there are cases in which fowls do lay without their owners being much the better for their eggs. This, however, is less liable to happen in an aviary, if we are so allowed to call it, than in the unenclosed poultry yard.—It is an unfortunate fact, that in this country, where fowls are allowed unlimited range, choice specimens are remarkably apt to disappear, and if they do not, their eggs do. The owner is just as sure of as many of the select kinds as he can lay his hands upon. He may often have the satisfaction of buying in a neighboring store a fine brood of chickens, hatched from eggs purloined from himself, and be thus considerately saved the trouble of rearing them. These tricks are played by a set of rascally vagabond thieves of the lowest class.

If well fed, kept clean and well cared for, fows will not be sick; and as to old age, they never ought to be kept more than three years—four at farthest—for after that they are worth but little as layers, and no teeth can force them as food.

The Shaughais have been abridged and improved. Our common barn-door fowls and Asiatic fowls have been rolled into one, and both have profited by the junction. The old-fashioned have gained in size, and in all motherly qualities. The Asiatic has been led to see the error of being rumpless or tailless, and of yard-long legs. After converting some inches of legs into tail feathers, he has become a well-dressed and most respectable bird. The cock is quite dilapidated; he is now put upon a pension and turned out of the coop. His feathers are ragged, his head scarred and battered, his tail ragged and thin. He walks about with subdued and serious air, as one who reflects upon the vanity of life. He utters no musical call as he picks up his seeds and choice morsels. Crowing is a lost glory with him. All past services are forgotten. His wives are given to others, and the poor Mormon patriarch wanders about, the very pauper of the barn-yard. Although he walks up and down in sight of youthful roosters, not one of them takes the lesson to heart or reflects upon his own destiny. The Dorking is careless, the Bantam is fierce and fiery, and the amalgamation fowl towers up in perpendicular pride and prowess, as if he felt royal and immortal in his heart-veins.—*C. N. Bement, in Country Gentleman.*

## GROWING WHEAT IN MISSISSIPPI.

A large owner of farm lands in Mississippi, and an intelligent, practical agriculturist, addresses a letter to one of the chief journals in that State on the subject of the culture of wheat as a staple in place of cotton, and gives his own experience and that of his neighbors in experimenting towards this object.

This gentleman has been growing wheat as a partial and increasing crop since 1862 with these results:—In 1862, five acres sown with only 112 pounds to the acre, produced 125 bushels of first rate wheat. In 1863 and 1864 the same ground produced a still heavier yield from the same amount of seed. Several of this farmer's neighbors sowed larger or smaller tracts of land at the same periods and always with equal success.

Their lands lie in the bottoms along the Mississippi river, and from all accounts seem fitted to be as fine a wheat growing county as any in this country. With proper care in preparing the soil and a heavier sowing 40 bushels to the acre can no doubt be raised as an average, says Mr. Cathings, the farmer alluded to: and the same may be said of the land throughout the State.

It has been the general opinion of Mississippi planters that wheat could not be raised with profit in that State, but these facts seem to controvert that opinion, and to show that there is no reason why Mississippi should not become a wheat-growing State. If the competition is more active, and the staple less of a monopoly, yet the crop is a more certain and much less expensive one, and its cultivation tends to develop the agricultural resources and promote the general intelligence and comfort to the community, as well as to advance the dignity and consideration of the true tiller of the soil. Its substitution, therefore, for the aristocratic monopoly of the cotton crop may be a blessing to the State.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

## SPAVIN.

Bone spavin is a blemish which occurs on the inside or hinder pastern of the hock joint, and is an ossified or bony tumor. It occurs at all periods in the life of a horse, and is usually induced by a strain of the ligaments, followed by inflammation. The hock joint is made up of several bones, but two of which are usually affected; they are called the scaphoid and cuniform magnum. The bones rest upon each other, and are superimposed upon the metatarsal or long bones, and turning but very slightly on each other, being fastened almost to immobility by ligaments, which become inflamed in consequence of strains, and ossification ensues. Attached to the extremities of the tendons terminating in the hock are small sacks of mucous secretion, designed to lubricate the parts and permit the necessary motion without being attended with friction. Overstrain produces enlargement of the sacks, and is the immediate cause of thoroughpins and wind galls. Upon the side and exactly upon the curve of the joint, one of these bags is located, and its detension causes bog-spavin; between the enlargement of the joint and the skin a vein is pressed upon this sack, and when inflammation ensues the circulation is retarded, the vein becomes distended from the sack to the adjacent valve below, and blood spavin is the result.

In a large majority of cases where blood spavin is believed to be present, there exists only bog-spavin; the two are so readily confounded that oftentimes only a practiced veterinarian is capable of determining. In some instances where lameness has been caused by bog-spavin, blood spavin has followed, and the horse has recovered from his lameness, as the one sometimes counteracts the effects of the other. In other cases, where the lameness occasionally returns, the bog, and not the blood spavin, produces the defect of carriage.

As these defects all arise from like causes, similar treatment is required. Whenever inflammation is present, cooling purgatives and alteratives should be given in connection with softening and cooling outward applications. It has been said that frequent bathing with sour buttermilk will soften bone spavin and cause it to be absorbed. This should be the design in all remedies used in preference to the old system of cutting, burning and blistering. In cases of bog and blood spavin, compressing, with cooling diet and medicine, will usually effect a cure in connection with rest and absence from all exciting causes; and, in order to have the cure permanent, the horse must for a long time be used with great caution, avoiding violent exercise, high speed, heavy draft, hard pavements, plank roads, and long standing on hard floors.—*Rural American.*

Castor Oil Crop.—The California papers are calling the attention of farmers to the castor oil plant, and advising the experiment of raising it for market. One farmer there has put up a press, and is crushing from his beans 39-1-2 per cent. of pure oil, which is a little more than five gallons to the hundred pounds of beans. Oil being worth $2.50 per gallon, the gross yield is $12.50 per hundred weight. And we see that one field produced 1500 pounds of beans to the acre. This is much better than cotton at 20 cents per pound, taking all the uncertainties of the latter crop into consideration.

Rule for Lumbermen.—To determine the number of feet of one-inch boards which can be cut from a log twelve feet in length, multiply the number of inches in diameter by half that number, and to this product add two for every fifty of the same—the sum will be the number of feet of boards which can be cut from the log. If longer than twelve feet, add one-twelfth of the whole amount for each additional foot in length.

## MUCK ON SANDY SOIL.

Professor Dana, in his treatise on muck, says:

The power of fertility which exists in the silicates of soil is unlimited. An improved agriculture must depend upon the skill with which this power is brought into action. It can be done only by the conjunction of salts, gein, muck and plants. Barren sands are worthless, a peat bog is little better; but a practical illustration of the principles which have been maintained, is afforded by every sandy knoll made fertile by spreading swamp muck upon it. This is giving gein to silicates. The very act of exposure of this swamp muck, has caused an evolution of carbonic acid gas; that decomposes the silicates of potash in the sand; the potash converts the insoluble into soluble manure, and lo! a crop. The growing crop adds its power to the gein. If all the long series of experiments under Von Voght, in Germany are to be believed, confirmed as they are by repeated trials by our agriculturists, it is not to be doubted, that every inch of every small knoll, on every farm, may be changed into a soil in 13 years, of half the number of inches of good mould.

That cause of fertility is derived from the decomposing power of the gein and plants, is evident from the fact that mere atmospheric exposure of rocks, enriches all soil lying near and around them. It has been thought, among the inexplicable mysteries, that the soil under an old stone wall is richer than that a little distance from it. Independent of its roller action, which has compressed the soil and prevented the aerial escape of its gein, consider that the potash washed out of the wall has done this, and the mystery disappears. The agents to hasten this natural production of alkali, are salts and gein. The abundance of these has already been pointed out in peat manure.

Next to this, dry crops plowed in; no matter how scanty, their volume constantly will increase, and can supply the place of swamp muck. Of all soils to be cultivated, or to be restored, none are preferable to the sandy, light soils. By their porousness, free access is given to powerful effects of the air. They are natural in that state, to which trenching, draining, and subsoil plowing are reducing the stiffer lands of England. Manure may as well be thrown into water, as on land underlaid by water. Drain this, and no matter if the upper soil be almost quicksand, manure will convert it into fertile, arable land. The thin covering of mould, scarcely an inch in thickness, the product of a century, may be imitated by studying the laws of its formation. This is the work of "Nature's apprentice hand;" man has long been her journeyman, and now guided by science, the farmer becomes the master workman, and may produce in one year quite as much as the apprentice made in seven.

Superstition in England.—In the agricultural districts of England there yet remain among the people many curious relics of the superstitions of the middle ages. A singular instance came to light not long since in Shropshire, which is thus related by a correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*:

"Going into a neighbor's house in Madely, one day last week, I found one of the children suffering from severe cough, and expressed my opinion that it was a case in which medical assistance should be obtained. The father of the boy agreed that it was very bad, but said that before calling in a doctor he intended to try a cure that he had long used in similar cases, and never found to fail. On being pressed to communicate the prescription he gravely informed me that the charm consisted in cutting a few hairs from the part of the patient's head where it joins the neck, placing them between two thin slices of bread and butter, and giving them to a dog. If the sandwich took no effect on the animal the patient would recover; but if the dog sickened the case was critical, and a doctor should be called in forthwith."

Missouri cattle are dying in large numbers from contact with diseased cattle from Texas.

Strike the Knot.—Strike the knot! said a gentleman one day to his son, who, tired and weary, was leaning on his axe over a log which he had in vain been trying to cleave. Then, looking at the log, the gentleman saw how the boy had hacked and chipped all around the knot without hitting it. Taking the axe, he struck a few sharp blows on the knot, and split the log without difficulty. Smiling, he returned the axe to his son, saying: "Always strike the knot!" That was good advice. It is a capital maxim to follow when you are in trouble. Have you a hard sum to do at school? Have you got to face difficulty? Strike the knot! Look your trouble in the eye, as the bold lion hunter looks in the face of the lion. Never shrink from a painful duty, but step right up and do it.

# The Fireside Muse.

### BED TIME.

Rosebud lay in her trundle-bed,
With her small hands folded above her head;
And fixed her innocent eyes on me,
While a thoughtful shadow came over their glee;
"Mamma," she said, "when I go to sleep,
I pray to the Father my soul to keep;
And he comes and carries it far away,
To the beautiful home where his angels stay;
I gather red roses, and lilies so white,
I sing with the angels through all the long night;
And when, in the morning, I wake from my sleep
He gives back the soul that I gave him to keep,
And I only remember, like beautiful dreams,
The garlands of lilies, the wonderful streams."

# General Miscellany.

### THE TURKEYS AND THE SERMON.

To "enjoy" a sermon one's mind must be in sympathy with it. Care, business, the latest fashions thought of in church will make the best sermon dull. The late Rev. Dr. Bascom used to tell an incident which occurred in the mountains of Kentucky.

He was preaching on one occasion in a cabin, which was at once church and dwelling.—The people were listening seriously and with deep attention to the truths of the Gospel, when, in the very midst of his sermon, the host who sat near the door, suddenly rose from his seat, snatched the gun from its wooden brackets upon which it lay against the joist, went hastily out, fired it off, and returning put the gun in its place and quietly seated himself to hear the remainder of the sermon.

The whole affair had hardly consumed as much time as it requires to read this account of it, and in a very few moments all was going on as if no interruption had occurred.

After service was over, Bascom inquired of the man the meaning of this strange conduct.

"Sir," said he, "we are entirely out of meat, and I was perplexed to know what we should give you for dinner, and it was preventing me from enjoying the sermon, when the Good One sent a flock of wild turkeys this way; I happened to see them, took my gun and killed two at one shot; my mind felt easy, and I enjoyed the remainder of the sermon with perfect satisfaction."

### THE KILKENNY CATS.

A correspondent from Ireland gives what he vouches for as the real origin of the story of the Kilkenny cats.

During the rebellion which occurred in Ireland in 1798, (or it may be in 1803), Kilkenny was garrisoned by a regiment of Hessian soldiers, whose custom it was to tie together, in one of their barrack rooms, two cats by their respective tails, and then to throw them face to face across a line generally used for drying clothes. The cats naturally became infuriated, and scratched each other in the abdomen until death ensued to one or both of them, and terminated their sufferings.

The officers of the corps were ultimately made acquainted with these barbarous acts of cruelty, and they resolved to put an end to them and punish the offenders. In order to effect this purpose an officer was ordered to inspect each barrack-room daily, and report to the commanding officer in what state he found the room. The cruel soldiers, determined not to lose their daily torture of the wretched cats, generally employed one of their comrades to watch the approach of the officer, in order that the cats might be liberated and take refuge in flight before the visit of the officer to the scene of their torture.

On one occasion the "look out man" neglected his duty, and the officer of the day was heard ascending the barrack stairs while the cats were undergoing their customary tortures. One of the troopers immediately seized a sword from the arm-rack and with a single blow divided the tails of the two cats. The cats of course escaped through the open windows of the room, which was entered almost immediately after by the officer, who inquired what was the cause of the two bleeding cats' tails being suspended on the clothes line, and was told in reply that two cats had been fighting in the room; that it was impossible to separate them, and that they had fought so desperately that they had devoured each other up, with the exception of their two tails, which may have satisfied Capt. Schummelkettle, but would not have deluded any person but a beery Prussian.

Oratory.—Persons who think that the careful preparation of the language of a speech despoils it of its right to be considered really eloquent either forget, or have never known that the Grecian and Roman orators, who have ever been considered the greatest models of eloquence, always wrote out their speeches and committed them to memory. Demosthenes and Cicero both did so. Indeed, the most eloquent speech of the great Roman was written out ready, but was never delivered. In English senatorial history we have a still more remarkable example of the paradox of the most eloquent speaker preparing carefully the points and illustrations with which his famous speeches were, apparently, on the impulse of the moment, adorned. Richard Brinsley Sheridan was sarcastically taunted with being "the right honorable gentleman who is indebted to his imagination for his facts, and to his memory for his wit;" which simply meant that the pungent sarcasm which seemed to throw off spontaneously in the heat and excitement of debate, had been generally thought over and modeled before, and kept in his memory ready for use when any good opportunity presented itself. This may have been carrying preparation a little too far. But the examples of ancient orators of the greatest eminence all go to prove that the title of orator must not by any means be limited to those who depend for their language upon the impulse of the moment.

The Pulse of the Horse.—There is no symptom which affords such full and trustworthy an account of the general condition of the animal body as the pulse. It is, however, a symptom for the right understanding and interpretation of which some experience is required. Not only must the number of the pulsations be noted, but their force, fulness, and regularity must likewise be observed. The horse's pulse in health numbers about 36 beats in the minute. In small and young animals it is more frequent than in larger and aged subjects. It is accelerated by exertion and excitement, as also by irritation, weakness, and loss of blood. In enteritis and laminitis we have seen the horse's pulse exceed a hundred. It becomes slower when the animal is perfectly quiet, especially when he is lying down, and in such diseases as apoplexy and stomach staggers, in which the functions of the brain are impaired. In such cases it has been noticed to fall as low as 15 beats in the minute. Inflammation in healthy subjects increases not only the frequency but also the force of the pulse. In the earliest stages of laminitis, or acute founder in horses, the pulse is usually full and pounding. At the outset of inflammation of serous and fibrous textures, it is generally firm and hard; when the skin or mucous structures are inflamed, the pulse is mostly softer and more compressible. When the heart or larger vessels are involved in the disorder, the pulse is often irregular; occasionally a beat or two appear to be missed out, in technical language, it is intermittent.—*North British Agriculturist.*

Tribute to Woman.—Daniel Webster once paid the following beautiful tribute to woman: "There is nothing upon this earth that can compare with the faithful attachment of a wife; no creature who for the object of her love is so indomitable, so persevering, so ready to suffer and to die. Under the most distressing circumstances, woman's weakness becomes fearless courage, all her shrinking and sinking passes away, and her spirit acquires the firmness of marble, adamantine firmness, when circumstances drive her to put forth all her energies under the inspiration of her affections."

### A WINE MAKERS FAIR IN FRANCE.

It is impossible to form an idea without being present of the peculiar features of this gathering, which is of the most exciting and tumultuous kind imaginable. A whole population of many thousands—men, women and young girls—arrive successively in dense groups from all the villages in the environs, and instal themselves, not in the public houses, but on the thresholds of private domiciles, in the roads, and on the pavements of the streets. At nightfall circulation begins to be a difficult process, and all the roads and pathways leading to town, already crowded with people, continue to pour in large accessions to the number of these rustic visitors; so that by 11 o'clock at night it is barely possible to penetrate these agglomerated masses, whose undulations make one think of the waters of the sea. The little town is now nothing more than an immense bivouac, the surplus population being estimated at 12,000 strangers. Some dance the farandoles; others are singing rondos; some, again, are sleeping, or trying to sleep, upon the ground: others quarreling, shouting, and pushing one another about, while in many places fires are lighted and potatoes and chestnuts are cooked on wood cinders. No migratory encampment on the plains of Africa ever presented so strange and original a spectacle. Police agents pass the night in the midst of immense crowds, to keep the disorder within moderate bounds, and their duty on this occasion is no sinecure, for they have much to do to suppress the affrays which are constantly taking place. These officers are assisted by detachments of brigades from St. Germin and St. Cloud. The vine-growers do not arrive at the fair until about 3 o'clock in the morning, when all singing ceases, as if by some irresistible command; angry disputants calm down, the sleepers awake, and each cultivator is immediately surrounded, interrogated, and beset by troops of vintagers clamoring to be hired, all boasting of their qualities and aptitudes, and all speaking at the same time—a veritable hubbub. Towards 5 o'clock in the morning the bargains are all made, and then the filing off begins. The vine-growers, like officers commanding a regiment, advance towards home, followed by their little army of vintagers, whose joyous songs awake the echoes of the surrounding neighborhood.

### HOME MADE SUPERPHOSPHATE.

Dr. James R. Nichols, a well known chemist, and author of a recent volume entitled, "Chemistry of the Farm and Sea," insists that every farmer should make his own superphosphate. This he says they can do readily, safely and cheaply, and gives the following methods of preparing it which he has himself adopted upon his own farm. We have great faith in the article as a fertilizer, and are satisfied from three years' use of it that it gives highly remunerative returns—and while we desire to have it produced as cheaply as possible, we wish to intimate to farmers who follow the rules given below that they will find the operation of crushing the bones anything but easy work. We believe it can be done effectually only by the aid of heavy machinery:

"Take a common sound molasses cask, divide in the middle with a saw; into one half of this place half a barrel of finely-ground bone, and moisten it with two buckets of water, using a hoe in mixing. Have ready a carboy of oil of vitriol, and a stone pitcher holding one gallon. Turn out this full of the acid, and gradually add it to the bone, constantly stirring. As soon as effervescence subsides, fill it with acid and add as before; allow it to remain over night, and in the morning repeat the operation, adding two more gallons of acid. When the mass is quiet, add about two gallons more of water, and then gradually mix the remaining half barrel of bone, and allow it to rest. The next day it may be spread upon a floor, where it may dry speedily if the weather is warm. A barrel of good loam may be mixed with it in drying. It may be beaten fine with a mallet or ground in a plaster mill. If several casks are used, two men can prepare a ton of excellent superphosphate after this method, in a day's time. It affords a prompt fertilizing influence, especially upon root crops, even when employed alone. Much less acid is used in this formula than is demanded to accomplish perfect decomposition of the bones; but it is important to guard against the possibility of any free sulphuric acid in the mass.

Another most excellent method of preparing bones for field use, is to dissolve or saponify the gelatinous portion by the employment of caustic alkalies. For this purpose, take 100 pounds, beaten into as small fragments as possible, pack them in a tight cask or box with 100 pounds of good wood ashes. Mix with the ashes, before packing, 25 pounds of slacked lime, and 12 pounds of sal soda, powdered fine. It will require about 20 gallons of water to saturate the mass, but more may be added from time to time to maintain moisture. In two or three weeks the bones will be broken down completely, and the whole turned out upon a floor, mixed with two bushels of dry peat or good soil, and after drying is fit for use."

A Homily on Horse Talk.—A favorite expression of the Americans to denote place, thing or person, that is small or of little account, is "one horse." In the West, says Mr. Bartlett, by an obvious agricultural figure, this term is applied to anything small or diminutive, as "a one-horse bank—a one-horse church," meaning a little bank or church. So the phrase "a one-horse lawyer" is applied to a mean, contemptible pettifogger. A clergyman deprecating the use of such expressions as "dang it," "confound it," called them ,, one-horse oaths." "Liverpool," said a newly-arrived New Yorker, "is a poor one-horse kind of a place." In contradistinction to one-horse, some wag of the West invented the phrase "a whole team," to signify a man of wealth and importance, or a good fellow generally. "I like the Judge, he's none of your one-horse lawyers, but a whole team." The phrase took the popular fancy, and received successive additions from the rough humorists of the day—such as "he's a whole team and a horse to spare," or the *ne plus ultra* of commendation. "Grant's the man for next President; he's a whole team, a horse extra and a big dog under the wagon!"—Letter in *New York Herald.* Another common Americanism, derived from rural life, though not so racy as the foregoing, is to "hitch horses," or more tersely "to hitch," to agree or consort with a person. "After he poked his fist in my face at the election, we never hitched horses together."—M'Clintock's Tales. "I have been teaming (driving a wagon) for old Pendleton, but I guess we shan't hitch long."—Mrs. Claver's Forest Life.—*Blackwood.*

The aggregate of agricultural returns for Great Britain in the present year has just been made up, and under corn crops of all kinds there were in England and Wales 7,941,578 acres, against 7,921,244 acres returned in 1866; and in Scotland, 1,367,012 acre, against 1,296,540 acres in 1866. The land under wheat is returned for England and Wales at 3,255,917 acres, against 3,275,293 acres in 1866; and for Scotland at 115,118 acres, against 110,101 acres in 1866. Sheep are returned for England and Wales to the number of 22,097,286, against 16,793,204 in 1866; and for Scotland to the number of 6,893,602, against 5,255,077 in 1866.

Books.—Give us a house furnished with books rather than furniture. Both if you can, but books at any rate. To spend several days in a friend's house and hunger for something to read, while you are treading on costly carpets, and sitting down on luxurious chairs, and sleeping upon down, as if one were bribing your body for the sake of cheating your mind. Books are the windows through which the soul looks out. A house without books is like a room without windows. A book is good company; it is full of conversation without loquacity. It talks to you, not through the ear, but another way.

A head properly constituted can accommodate itself to whatever pillows the vicissitudes of fortune may place under it.



Lost Time.—Let any man pass an evening in vacant idleness, or even in reading some silly tale, and compare the state of his mind when he goes to sleep or gets up next morning, with its state some other day, when he has spent a few hours in going through the proofs, by facts and reasoning, of some of the great doctrines in natural science, learning truths wholly new to him, and satisfying himself, by careful examination, of the grounds on which known truths rest, so as to be not only acquainted with the doctrines themselves, but also to be able to show why he believes them, and to prove before others that they are true; he will find as great a difference as can exist in the same being—the difference between looking back upon time unprofitably wasted, and time spent in self-improvement.

# Horticulture.

## STORING CABBAGE IN WINTER.

There are several plans of storing cahhages for use in Winter and Spring. Some of them we have tried aud found to succeed, others we have not tried, hut reliable persons state that they are deserviug of adoption. In warm, damp cellars, cahhages soon decay and impart a disagreeahle odor, which peuetrates through every part of the house whenever the eellar door is open. In cool cellars cabhages keep for a considerahle time, but they wilt aud hecome tough and leathery, and iu Spring, any that are left over, decay rapidly and give forth unpleasant odors and pernicious gases.

The usual way of wintering cahhages is to lay them in douhle rows on the surface of the garden, stalks upward, and to cover the heads with soil, leaviug the stalks and roots exposed. Sometimes they keep tolerably well when managed in this way, espeeially if the ground has been covered with snow during the greater part of the Winter. Iu mild, open Wiuters the cahhages are very liable to decay, principally from the effects of rain. They may be kept safely by taking them before they become damaged hy frost, aud setting them in double or trehle rows up to the heads in the soil, then eovering with straw, aud roofing with hoards, so as to throw off rain. When stored in this way, they will he aeeessihle at any time during Winter. Cahhage may he kept for a long time hy packing them iu harrels with dry moss, or covering them in the harrels with a thick coat of leaves, aud then heading the harrels. This plan succeeds best in cold weather. Iu mild or warm weather they will heat and decay, if not atteuded to and freed from damaged heads.

On account of the protracted drought of the past season, late cahbages have not headed well, aud uuless properly managed, they will he comparatively worthless. They may be hrought to perfection hy settiug them closer together iu deep trenches and eovering with straw first, aud then with fresh stable manure. In this position, the heat of the manure will induce vegetation, the heads will grow and harden, aud heads and leaves will be bleached. —*Western Rural.*

## NOTES ON THE GRAPE.

The success of grape culture in a large portion of the United States is no longer problematical; and the large amount of eapital invested and of intelligent industry engaged in this hranch of horticulture render it not only a subject of local interest, but of uational importance.

In many sections of the country, vineyards of greater or less extent have heen planted, and, where conducted with a reasonable degree of care and iutelligence, have heeu gratifying and remuuerative to their owners. Exeeptions have not occurred, we helieve, more frequently than in any other branch of horticulture or agriculture. Planters should bear in miud that it takes no more grouud, nor costs any more trouhle to cultivate good varieties, than poor, worthless, foxy trash; and should be careful in their selections, and plant only those of high quality, that have proved themselves hardy, productive and healthy, as fruit from such viues will always command au extra price, and find a ready sale. A few dollars' extra cost in the purchasing of vines of good quality will be found money well invested, and better than plantiug vines of inferior grades and quality at half price.

A vineyard properly planted and cared for will last a life time. Therefore make a good and judicious selection of varieties, as on this depend your profits. Were I to select six varieties for this locality (Nyack on the Hudson), I should name first the Israella, as being the earliest good grape; then the Iona, Delaware, Rogers' Hybrid No. 19, Allen's Hyhrid; and then the Diana,—the last being the best grape in this section. We shall, hy such a selection, lengthen the season of this most delicious fruit. Any good corn-ground, which is well draiued, is rich euough for vines; lands sloping to the south or southeast are best although level land is not to be despised.

Do not use too much manure before setting out the viues, nor go to a great expense in trenching and working the soil to the depth of three feet or more. Stimulatiug the viues with strong manure causes a rampant growth of the wood, which hardly ever ripens, and is very liahle to to be winter-killed. The fruit does not set well, ripens very uneven, and is very liable to rot and mildew, especially if there is much rain in July and August.

The rows should run north and south, that the suu may shine ou the one side in the morning, and an the other side in the afternoon.—*Journal of Horticulture.*

## PROFITS OF PEAR CULTURE.

The Gardeners' Monthly for November, publishes a paper on "The Pear and its Culture," read before the Peuusylvania Society hy P. T. Quinn of Newark, N. J., from which we make the followiug extract:

In our orchard we have a large numher of trees, planted at different times, over a period of seventeen years. Our early planting consisted of a great many varieties, the largest portiou of which were removed or worked over with other varieties. Year after year this was repeated, uutil we reduced our number from fifty to eight sorts for market purposes. The largest numher of trees of auy variety in our orehard is the Duchesse d' Angouleme, whieh variety, with us, with a few exceptions, has produced annual crops.

To give an accouut of the sales of fruit from our entire orchard would be uusatisfactory, on account of the difference in the age of trees, varying, as they do from two to seveuteen years.

Nine years ago I seleeted a siugle row of thirty Duchesse d' Angoulemc trees, planted teu feet apart in the row. Since then I have kept an accurate aecount of the total sales of pears from these thirty trees. They are now seventeen years old, and have produced seven crops iu eight years. The trees are at present looking very well, and, if we cau judge from appearances, they will coutinue to he productive for mauy years. They were, originally, dwarfs, but I am quite confidcut thay are changed to staudards, and this is true of the majority of our Duchesse d' Augouleme trees The sales each year were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| The 1st crop, the trees eight years old | $120.00 |
| 2d " | 139.41 |
| 3d " | 156.17 |
| 4th " | 201.28 |
| 5th " | 267.49 |
| 6th " | 310.20 |
| 7th " | 705.00 |
| Total, | $1,900 55 |

The row last year produced uinety-four bushels of marketable fruit, which sold for $705. There was a scarcity of peaches last year, and pears, in consequcnce, brought higher prices than usual. I will, iu this connection, state that this row is the hest iu our orchard, and no other of au equal number of trees has yielded as ahuudantly; nor do I give these figures as a guide or criterion in pear culture, but simply place them hefore this society to show what can be realized from this variety. From practical experience, I am thoroughly convineed that pear culture cau he made to pay a large profit, and is a safe investment, where the requirements arc complied with. We have made pear culture profitahle, although we have met with, during our apprenticeship, many serious reverses; but, iustead of being discouraged hy these drawbacks, they incited extra efforts ou our part.

## INDUCEMENT TO PLANT TREES.

How often do we meet men, with an abuudance of means, who will tell you they would like to have a few trees here or there, a vineyard, or orchard, or a grove, and you propose that they should immediately commence planting, the almost invariable answer will be, "I don't care for the expense, hut I can't wait so long." I can count many such men among my acquaintance who have made the same excuse for the last ten or fifteeu years, and they have not commenced that grove or vineyard yet, and done very little toward the orchard. There are men, however, with whom to think and to act are near relatives, and a letter which I lately received from one who is a past octogenarian, calls to mind a circumstance which happened several years ago; it also illustrates the fact that there is never a period in life in whieh a man may not do some good to somebody hy planting trees, and often he will gather the blessiug himself although he little expects it.

When I was in my fourteenth year a gray-haired uncle of sixty, who had just purchased a farm, requested me to pull up some of the youug trees whieh were growiug in masses in my father's gardeu, aud put them on a load of goods which were going to his place. With the assistauce of my father I did so, tyiug the buudle to the body of the wagon, as there was no room on the load. I well remember the remark of my father at the time, "Uncle John, you are rather old to think of growing an orchard." "Never miud," replied my old uncle, "it is certainly not too late for me to try." That uncle still lives, and has heen enjoying the fruit of those trees for many ycars. It is well that we cannot all he sure of living to sueh a venerable age, for iu that case I fear we would never hegin as "Time euough" would become the motto, instead of, as now, "No time."—*Fuller's Forest Tree Culturist.*

# Miscellany.

## GREAT IDEAS.

What is needed to elevate the soul is, not that a mau should know all that has heeu thought and written in regard to the spiritual uature, not that a man should hecome an encyclopedia, hut that the great ideas in whieh all discoveries terminate, which sum up all scieuces which the philosopher extracts from infinite details, may he compreheuded aud felt. It is uot the quantity, hut the quality of kuowledge, whieh determines the uiud's diguity. A mau of immense iuformation may, through want of large, comprehensive idcas, be far inferior in intellect to a laborer, who, with little knowledge, has yet seized on great truths. For example, I do not expect the lahorer to study theology in the ancient languages, in the writings of the Fathers, in the history of sect; nor is this needful. All theology, scattered as it is through countless volumes, is summed up in the idea of God; aud let this idea shine hright and clear iu the laborer's soul, and he has the essence of theological lihraries, aud a far higher light thau has visited thousands of renowued divines. A great miud is formed hy a few great ideas not hy an iufinity of loose details.

I have known very learned men who seemed to me very poor in intellect, because they had no grand thoughts. What avails it that a man has studied ever so minutely the histories of Greece and Rome, if the great ideas of freedom, and heauty, and valor and spiritual euergy have uot beeu kindled hy those records into living fires in his soul? The illumination of on age does not consist in the amount of its knowledge, but in the broad and nohle priuciples of which that knowledge is the foundation and inspirer; the truth is, that the most laborious aud successful student is confined in his resources to a very few of God's works;—hut this limited knowledge of things may still suggest universal laws, broad priueiples, ideas, which hy their nature rule over all knowledge, which are intrinsically glorious, quickeniug, all-comprehending, eternal.—*Dr. Channing.*

## MOUNTAIN GRASSES.

The mouutain grasses grow spontaneously; they require no culture hut such as the rain and sunshine of heaven supply. They ohtain their nourishment directly from the inorganic soil, and are independent of organic materials. Nowhere is the grass so green or vigorous as on the beautiful slopes of lawn-like pastures upon the Alps, radiaut with the glory of wild flowers, and ever musical with the hum of grasshoppers and the tinkling of cattle bells.—Innumerable cows and goats hrowse upon them; the peasants spend the summer months iu making cheese and hay from them for wiuter's consumption in the valleys. This exhausting husbandry has been carried on during untold centuries; no ouc thinks of manuring Alpine pastures, and yet no deficiency has heen ohserved in their fertility, though the soil is hut a thin covering spread over the naked rocks. It may be regarded as a part of the same wise and gracious arrangement of Providence, that the insects which devour the grasses on the *kuh* and *schaf alpen*, the pasturage of the cows and sheep, are kept in check by a predominence of carnivorous insects.

Iu all the mountain meadows, it has heen ascertaiued, that the species of carnivorous are at least four times as numerous as the species of herh-eatiug insects. Thus in the abseuce of birds, which are rare in Switzerland, the pastures are preserved from a terrible scourge.—To one uot aware of this check, it may seem surprisiug how the verdure of the Alpine pastures should he so rich aud luxuriant, considering the immense developeuent of insect life. The grass, whenever the sun shiues, is literally swarming with them—hutterflies of the gayest hues, aud heetles of brightest colors—and the air is filled with their loud murmurs.

Were the herbivorous iusects allowed to multiply to their fullest exteut in such favorahle circumstanees as the warmth of the air and the verdure of the earth in Switzerlaud produce, the rich pastures which now yield abuudant food for upwards of a million aud a half of cattle would speedily hecome bare and leafless deserts. Not only in their power of growing without eultivatiou, hut also in the peculiarities of their structure, the mountain grasses proclaim the hand of God. Iustead of producing flowers and seed, as the grasses in the tranquil valleys do, the youug plauts spring from them perfectly formed; they cling around the stem and form a kind of blossom. Iu this state they remaiu until the parent stoek withers and falls prostrate to the grouud, when they immediately strike root and form iudependent grasses. This is a remarkable adaptatiou to circumstances, for it is evideut, were seeds instead of liviug plants developed in the case of mountain grasses, they would be useless in the stormy regions where they grow. They would be blown away far from the plaees they were iutended to clothe, to spots foreign to their uature and hahits, and thus the species would speedily perish. —*Bible Teachings in Nature, by H. Macmillan.*

Nature's Barometers.—A veuerable gentleman with whom we recently eonversed assured us that spiders were the hest barometers yet produced. The horometers inveuted by sciencc, he affirmed, ouly indicated the kind of weather we are to immediately have; while the spider uncrringly told the character of the weather for several days in advance. For instance, if the weather is likely to become raiuy, windy, or iu other respects disagreeahle, the spiders make very short and firm the terminating filaments on which their webs are suspended. If on the contrary, the spiders make the termiuatiug filaments or fastenings uncommonly long, the weather will continue severe from ten to a dozen days.

Spiders usually make alterations in their webs once in twenty-four hours. If they are totally iudolent, and do not even watch for flies, rain will speedily cnsue. If the spiders stay out in a shower, aud seem actively engaged in putting affairs in good condition, it is certain proof that the raiu will be of short duration, and that it will he clear weather for some time. If duriug stormy weather, the spiders are scen fixing their damaged nets in the evening, it certainly iudicates that the night will be pleasant, and that the raiu is over for the preseut. Our informant has often witnessed this result when the sky looked most threatening, and has never known the sigu to fail.

The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without adversity.

Advice for Those who don't Want It.—Some short sighted people heap their manure to make it rot. This is the height of folly. Let it alone three or four years, and it will rot itself. If there is so much manure in the yard that the cattle can't wade through it, get some rails and fence off a yard on the other side of the barn. If it accumulates so as to make it difficult for you to get to the barn, sell out, or move the barn. Don't waste your money and time hy trying to raise fruit trees. It requires an immense amount of lahor to pruue and fight the worms aud mice; and then if they grow and bear fruit, had boys may steal it; you can save a great deal of annoyance by not planting any. Better spend your money for tohacco and your time in smoking it.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1867.


## TOO MANY CANDIDATES.

Reports from Washington state that there are over thirty applicants for the office of Commissioner of Agrienlture. These candidates are from different States, although a majority belong to the West. There is no disputing the claims of the Western States, for it is some years since that section had a representative at the head of the Agricultural Department. The West has become the great centre of our agricultural prodnctions, yielding nearly all our breadstuffs and a large per centage of our beef and pork. Yet we do not wish a Commissioner of Agriculture appointed on sectional interests or territorial claims. Special qualifications for the office shonld he the principal recommendation.

The agricultural industry of this country is of such vast extent and character, and is becoming so rapidly developed, that we cannot be satisfied with a *stationary* Department of Agriculture. The present bureau at Washington answered its purpose when first organized; hut at the present period, with our rapidly developed agriculture, with millions of acres of newly cultivated land, their multiform productions and aggregate value call for an enlarged and improved Department. The Government gives every advantage, encouragement and protection to our manufacturing interests, and it must give the same beneficent aid to our gigantic rnral indnstry.

Hence, the importance of selecting the best man that can he fonnd, in any part of the country, to fill the office of Commissioner of Agriculture. We know that all appointments to Federal positions are influenced by politics; and that to secure office it has been necessary to exhibit one's political record. Qualifications of this kind should have no influence in the selection of a Commissioner. We want no politician for that office. What we desire, and what the farming interest demand, is an educated, practical, progressive agriculturist; one who comprehends the extent and character of our great industry, and who possesses executive abilities sufficient to manage an improved and extended Department of Agriculture. Give us such a man, and it will matter little from what State or section he is called from.

P. S.—Since the above was written, it is announced that Col. Capron, of Illinois, has been appointed Commissioner of Agriculture.

## THE HYALONEMA, OR GLASS-ROPE.

There are are some strange things in the sea, whose origin is a mystery, yet above the reach of our philosophy; objects which seem really to have suffered "a sea change into somethiug rich and strange." Among these is the glass-rope, the work apparently of a marine animal or sponge, or something of the kind; but of what kind continues to puzzle the experts in natural history. Think of a bundle of 200 or 300 threads of transparent silica or clear crystal glistening with a lustre like the most brilliant threads of spun-glass, each thread 18 miles long, of the thickness of a steel knitting needle in the middle, and tapering towards either end to a fine point, the whole bundle coiled like a strand of rope into a lengthened spiral with a more or less permanent twist, while the upper portions are payed out like the bristles of a glittering brush. The lower end of this coil is embedded perpendicularly in the middle of a rounded mass of sponge, from which it seems to grow, or of which, at least, it seems to form a part. A marvellous organization truly; but brought from Japan, its origin would cast suspicion upon the genuine marine nature of the product did not microscopic evidence amply attest that it could not be human manufactnre. The Japanese are wonderfully ingenious, and one favourite aim of their misdirected industry is the fabrication of all kinds of impossible monsters by the curious combination of parts of different animals. It was therefore quite conceivable that the whole thing was an imposition; that the same beautiful glass-spicules separated from some unknown organism had been twisted into a cord by the Japanese, and then manipulated so as to have their fibres bound together by some marine animal. It is now, however, learned that such crystal threads are often brought up from the deep sea by the fisherman on the coast of Portugal, and that they closely resemble those of Japanese origin. The Portuguese call them "sea-whips," and deem them of unlucky omen. No sponge has been found connected with the specimens from the coast of Portugal; bnt there can now he no donbt that they are really the product of a variety of sponge, several of which are known to produce spicula or small silicious organisms of kindred aspect. In the great Natural History Library of the Academy of Natnral Sciences in Philadelphia, a full sized illustration of the Hyalonema of Japan may he seen; and among the specimens in the cabinet a smaller variety which was taken in the waters of the West Indies, at Santa Cruz. Objects so singular are worthy the attention of the curious, and offer striking illustrations of the wonders of creative power which has endowed the dull, blind sponge with instinct by which it is led to form in the depths of the ocean, and form the flinty silica fabrics so beautiful and so exquisite in structure that they surpass the handy work of the most expert of human artists.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

The question is often asked "How much milk shonld he put into pans in order to obtain the largest quantity of cream?" Mr. Willard, editor of the Utica Herald, believes that the old notion, that cream cannot rise through a depth of milk greater than several inches, is an error. He says: "The Orange County farmers say they can get as much cream by setting in pails on the above plan, as they can get to set the milk shallower in pans, and the cream is of better quality, because a small surface being exposed to the air, there is not liability for the top of the cream to get dry, which has a tendency to fleck the butter and injure the quality. Desiring to test this matter, I took glass cream jars, in which were gradnated scales, and set milk at different depths, from two to 18 inches. The depth of cream was always in proportion to the quantity of milk."

A correspondent of the New Hampshire Farmer, who has been residing in the South, says "that during the war large quantities of cotton were hauled by ox teams from Texas to Mexico. Both Texan and Spanish teamsters were employed. The Spanish oxen were yoked by the head; the Texan by the neck, or in our usual style. Working thus together the superiority of the head gear was so manifest, that it was generally adopted by the American teamsters. He wishes that a few yoke of steers might be trained to "walk Spanish," and be exhibited at our fairs.

A curious discovery, says the American Farmer, has been made in France, regarding the influence of iron on vegetables. On the chalky shores, where there is an absence of iron, vegetation is sere and withered in appearance, which, it appears, is removed by the application of a solution of the sulphate of iron. Harricot beans, watered with this substance, acquired an additional weight of sixty per cent. Mulberries, peaches, pears, grape vines and wheat, derive advantages from the same treatment. In the cultivation of clover, wonderful advantages have been gained by the application of the sulphate of iron on soils where it is desired to produce an early crop. In view of these facts, the Farmer asks:—"What becomes of all the scales which fall from the anvils of our land?"

The Farmer's Home Journal, of Kentucky, expresses some practical ideas about permitting grass to grow around fruit trees. Here is one. "No one who has the least knowledge of the cultivation of fruit, will allow grass to grow around his young trees. It is a great drawback upon their growth and health. For several years, at least—and we would recommend it at all times—the soil should be kept pulverized around the trunks of fruit trees. Only give your trees as much attention as you give your cornfield, or your cabbage bed, and there will be no secret in the raising of superior crops of good fruit."

The beet sugar question continues to be discussed in the Western agricultural press. The editor of the Wisconsin Farmer is full of donbt.

"We are slow to believe that the manufacture of sugar from the beet can ever be made profitable to this country. There are observable in all favorable statements some admitted drawbacks. The roots require much preparation to fit them for the mill, and then the juice requires a great deal of handling, that is, it must be submitted to a great many different processes before it will make sugar, and then nothing is said about quality, which leads us still to donbt whether this tedious process can ever compete successfully with the cane juice of the tropics which is already elaborated without extra labor or expense by a tropical sun. *Taxing* out the free gifts of nature can never make a naturally poor business profitable to consumers."

The London Mark Lane Express, of a late date, has the following on the English wheat market. "Farmers continning to thresh more freely, and importations being fair, with the prospect of an open Winter in the Baltic, the reaction downwards on wheat has gone further to about 3s. per quarter down. With a mild season, there may still be some temporary decline; but a return to cold would he calculated to stop the movement, and bring about another advance, as the week closed rather dearer for foreign. The want of old English wheat continues to be felt, and this must lead to a large and rapid consumption of the late imports, and we believe every sack that can he spared from the Continent will he wanted. America can do little this year; the Baltic has been doing its best for some time, without sending enough; and it is only to Russia that we can look for any amount, whose ports in the mildest season are fast closed in Winter. Some of our cotemporaries have anticipated an early deluge of grain on our shores; hut, with all the fluctuations that may obtain between now and harvest, we think great efforts will have to he made towards the close of the season, to meet the present enormous consumption, and that good prices must he paid."

Covering grape vines, as a protection from Winter is advocated hy the Rural New Yorker.

"All vines set last Spring shonld be covered and protected for the first Winter. This is important, and we know of instances where thousands of dollars' worth of high priced varieties have been lost for lack of this simple precaution. It is not a question of hardiness, for vines that are most distinguished for this quality often suffer exceedingly if exposed dnring the first Winter; their period of growth has not been long enough to establish them thoroughly in the soil and impart their natural vigor and endurance. Soil is the best, cheapest and most convenient covering material; straw, leaves, or any litter that may afford a harbor for mice should be avoided, and in covering with dirt especial care should he taken to leave no holes near the vine or its roots, in which water may collect and stand. As the vines are to remain covered until the period of pruning is passed, this operation should he performed at the time of laying them down. Then coil the vines aronnd the stock as closely as possible without injuring them, and cover with a sufficient depth of soil to prevent the storms of Winter from laying them bare. It is not freezing which injures, hut the sudden changes of temperatnre. Another advantage gained by coveriug is protection against frosts in the Spring, as the buds are held back and do not push as early as if unprotected."

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

Woon ashes is one of the most valnable of manures in the culture of the potato.

Up to Nov. 1st, there had been exported this year, from this country, 47,827,344 pounds of cheese.

Stock hogs and cattle are very cheap in many parts of the West, on acconnt of the high price or scarcity of feed.

The potato crop in Northern Indiana is plentiful and of prime quality, and the apple crop is better than usual.

From the census of New York in 1865 it seems that the number of sheep of the State was 5,521,610, an increase of 71 per cent. in ten years.

Onions are best preserved by keeping at an even temperature and in a dry atmosphere. They will bear considerable frost if not moved while frozen.

Tennessee is about to protect its sheep growers hy the passage of a law taxing every dog $2 each, after exempting one for each family. The exemption, it is thought, will keep the dog family as numerous as ever.

The farmers of Craig county, Va., have sown the largest wheat crop ever planted in that county, and it looks remarkably well.

There are now in the State of New York more than 500 cheese factories, using the milk of over 200,000 cows.

Underground stables for the reception of manures shonld have upon the bottom a layer of muck, or in the absence of that, loam and turf from fences and roadsides. Anything of this sort spread on the floors of the vault to the depth of six inches or more will make a good absorbent of liquid manures, and add considerably to the mass.

The farmers in various sections of Missouri and Kansas have suffered severely from prairie fires. In some sections whole farms have been devastated, and the losses are very heavy.

Mr. A. B. Allen, of New York, writes to the Country Gentleman that from information gained while in England recently, he fully agrees with Mr Lawes' statement that the wheat crop of England this year is one-fifth below an average. He estimates the crop in France as at least one-seventh below an average.

The offering of cheap lands, peculiarly adapted to the growth of wheat, in our Western States, such as Minnesota and California, is so nrging on the desire to expand the production that the soil is being rapidly impoverished. Hasty plowing and irregular sowing give the weeds as good chance as wheat. Minnesota, which a few years ago averaged 27 bushels of wheat to the acre, now produces scarcely 12.

Four hundred bushels of potatoes to the acre are said to be an average crop this season in Oxford County, Maine. A starch mill in Andover has ground twenty-five thousand bushels of them into starch already, this year.

Hungary has sent immense quantities of wheat to France this year. The transactions between Rhenish firms and Hungary in this grain alone have amounted to nearly eight million quintals. Complaint is made that transportation is inadequate.

The New Orleans Picayune proposes to increase sugar culture in Louisiana hy separating the business of cultivation from that of milling the cane. The land could then be divided into moderate farms, which should he united by tramways with sugar mills in the center of each district. This plan seems as feasible as it is sensible. The days of large sugar plantations have gone, never to return.

When raising calves for cows, the greatest care is necessary when they have their first calf, as everything depends on the habits which they then acquire. Also, about the time they are going dry, for the longer they can be kept in milk then, the longer they will give milk thereafter. They should be milked perfectly clean at every milking, and in the Winter time, a few turnips or potatoes should be given in addition to their other food, to increase the flow of milk.



The hams of Maryland and Virginia have for a long time enjoyed a high reputation. Premiums for hams were awarded at a late meeting of the Maryland Agricultural Society. Those who had opportunities of examining the hams, report, says the *American Farmer*, that they were of excellent quality. The following is the receipt after which those were packed down which received the first premium. "For one hundred pounds of pork take eight pounds of pulverized alum, two ounces of saltpetre, two pounds of brown sugar, one and a half ounces of potash, and four gallons of water. Mix the above ingredients and pour them upon the meat, after it has lain about two days in the tub. Let the hams lie about six weeks in the pickle, and let them dry off a few days before smoking them. I generally rub the meat with fine salt when I pack it down. The meat should be quite cold before it is packed."

## The Fireside Muse.

### LEAVING THE OLD HOUSE.

There's sunshine on the meadows,
And sunshine on the road,
And through the brightness toils my horse
Beneath a weary load;
And as I stand beside my gate, with my hand before my eyes,
I hear the chi'drcu laugh to see the household gods I prize.

There was a time when this old home
Was full of mirth and glee.
But one by one the household went
And left it all to me—
A quiet house of vacant rooms, each made a sacred place
By echo of a missing voice, or dream of vanished face.

Ah, how I used to pause before
The mirror on the stair,
And shake my long, bright ringlets out,
And fancy I was fair!
I took that quaint old mirror down, and packed it up last night,
And never stopped to trick my hair—for what is left is white.

In later years I used to sit
And watch the long green lane,
For one who came in those old times,
But cannot come again;
And, somehow, still at eventide my chair is turned that way;
I sit and work where once I watched—I sat so yesterday.

My new house is a pleasant place,
But yet it grieves me now;
Its small completeness seems to say
My world is narrow now;
'Tis far too small for any one with festivals to keep,
But for my funeral large enough, for few will come to weep.

Good-bye, old house—a long good bye;
My hand is on your gate;
Though tears are gathering in my eyes,
I may not longer wait.
Good-bye, old house; and, after all, the love which makes you dear
Awaits me in the heavenly home which I am drawing near.

## Fireside Tale.

### WINTER: OR JESSIE, THE LAME GIRL.

In all the pretty little village of Snowdonville, there was not a prettier or happier little maiden than Jessie Harris. She was the only daughter of a poor, hard-working widow, who had lost her husband and received a son on the same night. George Harris had been a quarryman in the large stone works that were a few paces from his little house, and had been killed by a fall down a deep shaft. His widow heard the news while she was anxiously waiting his return to bless his new-born son, their only boy. Little Jessie, then about three years old, and George, the infant son, were thus left fatherless. Much sympathy was shown in Snowdonville for the widow; and the wealthy ladies, Mrs. Ralston, Mrs. Howitt, and some others, sent her plain sewing to do, paying her a fair price, and thus enabled her to support herself and children comfortably. At the time my story opens, Jessie was about eleven years old, and George eight. Jessie was the beauty and the pet of the village school. With dark, waving hair, soft hazel eyes, and a rich, healthy complexion, she had a right to claim the first; and her talent and industry won her the last. "As pretty and smart as Jessie Harris," was quite a saying in the village.

My story opens on a dark, blustering Winter evening, when the snow fell thick and fast, and the high wind threatened to shake in the windows of the little cottage where my heroine lived. Widow Harris was seated near the fire sewing; and Jessie's nimble fingers kept time with hers as she put a patch on George's school coat. George as a special privilege, lay on the settee, ready to go to bed, but permitted to stay with his mother, because the wind made him afraid to go up stairs alone.

"Mother," said Jessie, "Miss Miles said something very nice to me to-day."

"What is it?" inquired her mother.

"She said that, if I study very hard and improved as much as I have done, I will be able to take the school when I am old enough. She wants to give it up; but she is so attached to the girls that she will not do so until some one can take her place that she can feel confidence in. Mother! mother! what was that?"

They were all on their feet with white faces and trembling figures. A fearful crash, followed by a shriek of agony, had caused Jessie's exclamation. With trembling fingers, Mrs. Harris unlatched the door. The wind blew it open, and drifted the falling snow into the room. Nothing was heard for an instant but the howling of the wind; then came a low moan, and a voice cried "Help!"

"Mother, some one has fallen into the quarry." And Jessie sprang out. "I know every step of the way; do not fear for me." Then, raising her voice, she cried, "Courage! I am coming."

Her mother followed; and, heedless of the raging storm, Jessie went forward to find the sufferer.

"Call again. Where are you?"

There was no answer.

"Mother," she said, turning round, "run to the village for help. I am small and light; I will go down into the quarry."

"God keep and preserve you!" said her mother; "for you go on his errand." And, with this blessing, she left the brave child alone in the storm.

Gathering her skirts around her, Jessie began to descend into the quarry. The huge masses of stone, though covered with snow, were uneven enough to afford her a foothold, and at last she reached the bottom. It was a large hollow; and for an instant her courage failed her, as she thought of the discouraging task she had undertaken; then, with a fervent inward prayer, she began to feel for the person whom she had come to seek. The darkness bewildered her; her own voice was lost in the noise of the storm, and her heart was sinking with despair, when voices above reached her ear. She stooped, and, feeling, pushed aside the snow to lay her trembling hand upon a cold human face. "Here! here!" she cried; "he is here!"

The lanterns gleamed brightly above her at the mouth of the quarry; but no one stepped forward to answer Jessie's call. The descent which her light feet and small figure had accomplished was dangerous for large, heavy men; and they were deliberating what to do. A flask of brandy and a lantern were lowered by ropes; and Jessie was directed to raise the man's head and pour some of the spirit into his mouth. She did so; and, with a great struggle, consciousness returned to the sufferer.

"Mother," cried Jessie, "it is young Mr. Ralston!"

"Ask him, if we lower a chair, if he can sit in it until we haul him out."

"Yes, yes!" said the young man hastily. "I was coming across, and the piece of stone I stepped upon loosened and rolled down here. I lost my balance and came after it."

This was said in a low, weak voice to Jessie, who called aloud: "Lower the chair!"

Slowly along the snowy sides a chair, fastened by many ropes, was lowered. It was some time before the stiff, wounded man could get into it; but at last it was effected. "How will you get up?" he said, turning to his brave deliverer.

"I will come after you," was the reply, in a cheerful, hearty voice.

Seeing the chair safely on the way up, she began to climb the stones to go up as she had come down. She was nearly at the top, and those above were watching her with breathless interest, when another stone gave way, and she fell back. A cry of horror rose on the air.

"I am alive!" she cried; "don't fear, mother; it has only fallen on my legs; lower the ropes; I can hold on by my hands."

With frantic eagerness she tried to rise; but the heavy stones across her limbs held her pinned fast. Awful visions of dying there floated with fearful distinctness through her brain, and, with a wild cry she fainted.

Struck with admiration at her heroic conduct, and horror at her accident, one of the men placed himself in the chair, and was lowered to rescue her. When he again came up, with the small, insensible figure lying so still and pale in his arms, there was a unanimous murmur of sympathy through the now large crowd. The squire's son, young Ralston, had fainted again on reaching the mouth of the quarry, and been carried home; and all the rough men and sympathizing women who had braved the storm to aid the "man lost in the quarry," gathered about the little figure. Gentle hands lifted her from the arms of her deliverer; and she was carried to the little cottage. Her mother, chilled and despairing, laid her upon the little bed; while Georgey crept from his stool by the fire to gaze at his sister, whom he had last seen so full of life and energy, and who now lay so still and white. The room was cleared of all but a few sympathising neighbors; and the doctor bent over the little, inanimate form.

I spare my readers the details. Five weeks later, Jessie sat upon her little arm-chair, with the consciousness that *that* was her place for the rest of her lifetime. If you had raised the shawl that covered her limbs, you would have seen that both legs were amputated just below the knee. It was hard—it was bitter, to have all her young dreams of life end in this. Jessie murmured loudly. Her mother in vain tried to check the bitter tears that would fall from the poor child's eyes. She had been sitting alone, one afternoon, full of bitter, melancholy forebodings, when a carriage stopped before the window. A young man, wrapped in a large cloak, got out first, then a lady. Jessie knew them. It was young Louis Ralston and his mother. Mrs. Ralston had been very kind in sending her messages and delicacies, during her illness, but she had not visited her before. Mrs. Harris was out—had gone to take home some sewing—and George was with her; so the visitors, entering the little kitchen, found Jessie alone. They came to her chair, and stood, one on each side. For a moment, there was a deep silence; and then, with a great cry, Mrs. Ralston bent over the child. "My child! My child!" she cried; and then she knelt down, and buried her face in Jessie's lap, while her whole frame shook with convulsive sobs. The young man seemed as powerfully affected, and unable to speak. At last, bending down, he said: "My preserver, may God in heaven bless and comfort you! Oh, Jessie! Jessie! that this should be your reward for saving my life!"

"Mr. Ralston," Jessie began——

"No, no! call me Louis; we are brother and sister now; this has made us so. I should have been here before; but the physicians forbade it. I was somewhat injured, but am well again."

"Jessie," said Mrs. Ralston, "if a mother's prayers and gratitude for the saver of her son's life can comfort you, oh, how truly are they yours! But for you, I should be childless. You will think of this, my child, and let it comfort you."

"I will! I will! God forgive me for complaining when he has let me save a life!" And, for the first time, great peace shone in the child's face.

From that day, there was no desire of Jessie's heart that was not granted. Young Ralston himself provided her with books, pictures, and instruction; and his mother let no day pass without visiting the cottage. They would have been very glad to take the poor child to their own luxurious home; but Jessie refused to leave her mother. The child's whole current of thought had changed since the Ralstons first visited the cottage. With prayer, with hopeful, loving trust in the Almighty hand that had seen fit to prostrate her, she stilled all repinings, and was truly grateful for love and kindness shown to her.

Six years passed on; and again I wish to take my readers to the little cottage. The widow is at her sewing, still in a chair by the fireside; opposite to her is seated Jessie, who looks older than when we last saw her, and, in other respects, somewhat changed. The rich dark hair is gathered off from her broad white forehead, and falls in soft curls over her shoulders. Her face is pale, but very beautiful in its sweet, loving expression; and the large, soft eyes, shaded by long, dark lashes, are full of intelligence and pure, holy light. Her small, slight figure is covered with a soft white shawl; and the tiny white fingers are busied in knitting. George, a tall, manly youth, is seated beside her, bending over a sum.

A low sigh from Jessie made her mother look up.

"What is the matter darling?"

"I was wishing, mother, that I was of some use in the world."

"Why, Jessie, you are of use. You help me in my sewing; you draw now most beautifully, so Mr. Ralston says; and you knit a great deal."

"Besides helping me in my studies," chimed in George.

"Yes," said Jessie, thoughtfully; "but I have a great deal of useless time. You know it wearies me to draw or sew for many hours together; and I was thinking how I can employ this time, and not be a useless burden on my dear, kind friends."

"Jessie!" said her mother, warningly.

"Well, I won't say it again. Now, I have a proposition to make. You know that, in the village, there are many children who are too poor to pay for their education at the village school; and they are growing up ignorant, and some of them vicious. Can I not help to remedy this? Would it not be a good work to have them here for a few hours every day and try to instruct them?"

"But, Jessie," said Mrs. Harris, "they are the very scum of the village. All the decent children are at the village school."

"I know that."

"Some of them swear fearfully," said George; "and I fear any of them would be impertinent, if anything displeased them."

"Will you let me try? I do so long to be of some use in the world."

"Why, Jessie!" said a frank voice at the door, "is that you that I hear talking in such a plaintive tone? What is the matter?"

"Oh, Louis! are you there?"

"Yes, half frozen. It is snowing."

Jessie started, whispering: "It is the anniversary."

With admirable tact, young Ralston bent over her, saying: "I left my mother praying for the preserver of her son's life."

Jessie thanked him with a bright, beaming smile, and then told him her scheme. At first, he shook his head; but seeing that her heart was set on the idea, he consented to act as her ambassador in the village, and collect all the "little ragamuffins" that were willing to come.

One week later, Jessie awaited with a fast-beating heart, the arrival of her first class. It was very small. One little girl only had summoned up courage to come. Her report was so favorable that, the next day, three little girls and two boys came, and in the course of a month, the room was filled each day. There was something in the pale, pure face and slight frame of the teacher that awed the class at first, then won their respectful love.

No profane word ever fell on the ears of the young girl. Errors to correct she found in plenty; but, with low, sweet voice, and that indescribable holiness that encircled her, she drove away all impiety, all profanity. Rough boys went home with their minds filled with higher ambition and purer thoughts than they had ever before felt. Girls bent to her, at their departure, with their mind, blessing the sweet, gentle teacher who had won them from ignorance, perhaps from vice. And so passed her life. Trials she had among her class; but, with gentle patience, she made rough places smooth. Some ingratitude, too, came to trouble her; but she never failed in her efforts. It is now thirty years since Jessie Harris fell down the quarry; and if, in passing through Snowdonville, you ask who is the most useful and best beloved person in the village, they will point out a little cottage, and tell you its occupant, Jessie Harris, fills the place. Mrs. Harris is dead; George is a lawyer at the South; and Jessie lives alone, excepting her maid, one of her old scholars, who almost worships her mistress. Gentle, meek, and hopeful, she lives an example that none are so unfortunate that they can be of no use in the world.

Feed and Butter.—In a recent discussion before the Herkimer County Farmers' Club, Judge Owen gave his views as to the influence of various kinds of feed for cows for the production of butter. He did not think turnips of much value in this respect—much less than potatoes which were regarded as beneficial for a change. The best results had been produced by feeding Indian meal—about two quarts twice a day to each cow. A number of experiments were made in preparing the meal, but the best results followed from feeding it in a dry state. With this quantity of meal and a small allowance of hay, a Holderness cow produced fourteen pounds of butter per week. The highest point reached was forty-one pounds in fifteen days, besides thirty quarts of milk, in the mean time, for family use.

# Various Matters.

### HOW TO MAKE GOOD COFFEE.

Good coffee is a luxury, but one that is seldom met with. It is doubtful whether one family in a dozen know what really good coffee is. Though we have published "line upon line" upon this subject, we give the following, from a lady correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph, and hope some of our lady readers will give the method recommeuded a trial, and report to us the results:

The making of good coffee is a rare thing in this country; most persons boil it, thus making a decoction instead of an infusion; this effectually gets rid of the delicate and agreeable aromatic flavor, aud leaves a comparatively tasteless beverage. The following particulars will be found worth attentiou:

Never buy your coffee ground, but grind it yourself, immediately before using it; keep your coffee-pot, whatever kind you may use, wiped clean and dry inside; a damp tea or coffee-pot acquires a musty flavor that spoils the best tea or coffee. The cheapest and perhaps the best coffee-pots are those made ou the French plan, called cafetieres. If you have not one of these, adopt the following plan: Put your freshly ground coffee iuto the coffee-pot, previously made warm, and pour upou it water actually boiling; set the pot by the side of the fire for a few seconds, but do uot let it boil up; then pour a cupful out and return it back again to the pot iu order to clear it; having done this let it stand on the hob or centre to settle, aud in less than five miuutes a transparent, strong, aromatic cup of coffee may be poured out. The proportions of coffee (which should not he too finely ground) recommended, are an ounce to a piut and a half of water.

The milk used in coffee should always he boiled aud used as hot as possible; the boiling of milk imparts a peculiar aud exceedingly pleasant flavor to the coffee. White sugar is recommended, as the molasses-like flavor of moist sugar quite overpowers the delicate aroma.

# The Markets.

### WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Dec. 6, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a7 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 16c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 1.30 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.75 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a17.50 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 45 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a95c |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 24c | Finid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 50c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 45c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 20c |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 18c |
| Veal | 15a16c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 15a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

### WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

The wholesale market has been quiet during the past week, and prices of all staple articles have declined. Flour has been pressed for sale and a decline of from fifty cents to one dollar a barrel submitted to. Wheat has also declined and closes unsettled. Rye has been inactive; the stock is light. Corn is two cents lower; the stock is one-third less than last year. Barley has slightly improved and the stock is light. Pork has fluctuated, but closes with little change. Three thousand barrels of new western mess has been sold for January delivery at $22 to $22.50. Bacon and lard have declined. Cotton has declined a cent a half a pound, and closes weak.

# Special Notices.

MOTHER BAILEY'S QUIETING SYRUP, FOR CHILDREN, renders the process of Teething easy. Large Bottles only 25 cents. Sold by Druggists.

4w-48] GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., Boston, Mass.

ITCH! ITCH!! ITCH!!!
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!! SCRATCH!!!
in from 10 to 48 hours,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | The Itch. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Salt Rheum. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Tetter. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Barbers' Itch. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Old Sores. |
| Wheaton's Ointment | cures | Every kind |

of Humor like Magic.

Price, 50 cents a box; by mail, 60 cents. Address WEEKS & POTTER, No. 170 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

For sale by all Druggists.

Boston, Aug. 26, 1867. 1y-35

A lady was descanting on the virtues of her son, a young gentleman given to hacking horses and hills, who had uttered many promissory notes, to the small benefit of creditors. "Don't you think, my dear sir," she said, addressing a friend who had suffered through this pleasing trait in his character, "that he is a very promising young man?" "Very promising, my lady, but—he never pays."

"Madam," said a gentleman to his wife, "let me tell you, facts are stubborn things."—"Dearie me, you don't say so?" quoth the lady; "what a fact you must be!"

# Marriages.

In Woonsocket, 28th ult., by Rev. E. Douglass, James E. Bradford, to Miss Harriet T. Wales, both of Woonsocket.

In Valley Falls, Nov. 26th, by Rev. W. W. Sever, Henry Lilburn to Margaret McVey, both of Valley Falls.

In Lonsdale, 28th ult., by Rev. W. W. Sever, James H. Gildard to Jeunie W., daughter of Henry C. Jones.

In Georglaville, Nov. 28th, by Rev. C. E. Handy, Mr. John W. Payson, of Providence, to Miss Mary Forsyth, of Smithfield.

In Slatersville, 28th inst by Rev. E. M. Maynard, Mr. Smith Paine, of Smithfield, to Miss Pasha Godfrey, of Johnston.

In Providence, 26th ult., by Rev. Ira G. Bidwell, Mr. Eugene Lawton to Miss Henrietta Thurber, both of Providence.

In Paxton, Mass., Nov. 27th, by Rev. William Phipps, Mr. Artemas C. Smith to Miss Carrie E. Darling, both of Holden.

In Blackstone Mass., 27th ult., by Rev. J. E. Edwards, Henry P. Bascom to Miss Sarah Boyden, both of Blackstone.

In Smithfield, 27th ult., Mr. Adam Hurlis, of Olneyville, to Miss Sarah Briden, of Central Falls. Also 27th ult., Mr. Robert Birden, of Central Falls, to Miss Alice Butonwood, of Lonsdale.

In Central Falls, 24th ult., by Rev. George H. Miner, Mr. Christopher C. Potter, of Cranston, to Miss Isabel P. Hall of of Providence.

In South Scituate, 3d., by Rev. B. B. Cottrell, James Angell, of Cranston, to Mary H. Searle, of South Scituate.

In Greenville, Smithfield, 26th ult., by Rev. R. Woodworth, Daniel W. Goodspeed to Susan M. Paine, both of Foster.

In Milford, Nov. 28th, Mr. Wm. J. Adair to Alzina M. Nelson, both of Milford.

In Blackstone, Mass., Nov. 28th, Mr. Barton A. Ballou, of Providence, to Miss Mary R. Kelly, of Blackstone.

In Northbridge, 23th ult., Ducius B. Smith to Ellen M. Adams, both of N.

In Malden, 28th ult., Mr. Stephen A. Dexter, of North Scituate, to Miss Lucretia N. Angell, of Malden.

In Pawtucket, 27th ult., Mr. George T. Mitchell to Miss Annie Wilcox; 26th, Mr. George W. Pitcher to Mrs. Jane S. Pitcher; 23d, Mr. John McFadden to Miss Margaret McAteer; 27th, Mr. Henry B. Carpenter to Miss Emma O. Fuller.

# Deaths.

In Smithfield, 11th ult., Mrs. Susan Gaskill, in her 70th year.

In Slatersville, 30th ult., James Henry, infant son of John and Joanna Falls, aged 5 months and 10 days.

"Our lovely babe, so fresh and fair,
Called hence by early doom,
Just came to show how sweet a flower
In Paradise would bloom."

In Mendon, 4th ult., Olive, wife of Newbury Darling, aged 60 years.

In Cranston, 20th ult., Mrs. Lavina Place Elsbree, widow of the late William Elsbree, in the 64th year of her age.

In Mansfield, Ct., Oct. 25th, George W. Bowen, formerly of Philadelphia, aged 67 years.

In Webster, 21st ult., Mrs. Satira Kingsbury, aged 39 years.

In Milford, 20th ult., Willie Rose, child of James M. and Sarah A. Rose; 18th, Clara E., daughter of Warren G. and Eleanor Goodwin.

# New Advertisements.


A SAFE, CERTAIN, AND Speedy Cure FOR NEURALGIA, AND ALL NERVOUS DISEASES.

*Its Effects are Magical.*

It is an UNFAILING REMEDY in all cases of Neuralgia Facial, often effecting a perfect cure in less than twenty-four hours, from the use of no more than TWO OR THREE PILLS.

No other form of Neuralgia or Nervous Disease has failed to yield to this

WONDERFUL REMEDIAL AGENT.

Even in the severest cases of Chronic Neuralgia and general nervous derangements,—of many years standing,—affecting the entire system, its use for a few days, or a few weeks at the utmost, always affords the most astonishing relief, and very rarely fails to produce a complete and permanent cure.

It contains no drugs or other materials in the slightest degree injurious, even to the most delicate system, and can ALWAYS be used with

PERFECT SAFETY.

It has long been in constant use by many of our

MOST EMINENT PHYSICIANS,

who give it their unanimous and unqualified approval. Sent by mail on receipt of price, and postage.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| One package, | $1.00, | Postage 6 cents. |
| Six packages, | 5.00, | " 27 " |
| Twelve packages, | 9.00, | " 43 " |

It is sold by all wholesale and retail dealers in drugs and medicines throughout the United States, and by

**TURNER & CO., Sole Proprietors,**

120 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.

MARBLE & TURNER, Agents, 141 Westminster St, Providence, R. I.

Nov. 1, 1867. 6m-10

WHAT
**THE DRUGGISTS SAY.**

RUSHVLVANIA, O., Aug. 14, 1867.

GENTS:—I have been dealing in proprietary medicines for the last fourteen years, and have never before found a preparation that would equal your "Pain Killer." It not only sells very rapidly, but gives the most perfect satisfaction in every case that has come to my knowledge. In my practice I very seldom prescribe patent medicine, but, having entire confidence in your "Pain Killer," and knowing that it possesses valuable medical properties, I freely use it in my daily practice. It is the most standard medicine I have for sale, and many families in this vicinity would as soon think of being out of BEEF or BREAD as without a bottle of Pain Killer in the house. Yours, very truly,

ISAAC A. DORAM, M. D.

C. P. Benson & Co., of Charlottesville, Va., write:—"Your Pain Killer is the most popular proprietary medicine sold in this State."

J. H. McCall, M. D., Quitman, Ga., says: "I have no doubt it will always be the great family medicine."

PERRY DAVIS & SON, Manufacturers and Proprietors, 74 High street, Providence, R. I.; 384 St. Paul street, Montreal, Canada; 17 Southampton Row, London, England.

ALLEN'S
**LUNG BALSAM.**

Charles Farmer, Druggist, writes from Ovid, Michigan: "I have just sold the last bottle of ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM. It sells like 'hot cakes,' and gives UNIVERSAL SATISFACTION."

Stanley & Skipper, Chippewa Falls, Wis., write: "We wish you would send a good supply of ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM, as it is getting to be one of the necessary institutions of the country. It sells well, and gives entire satisfaction to those using it."

F. L. Allen, a well-known druggist, at New London, Conn., writes us that ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM is favorably received by the afflicted. He says: "I have retailed nearly four dozen bottles over my counter, and it has given good satisfaction."

Many letters like the above are daily received from all parts of the country. The demand for it from California is large for a medicine so recently offered for sale. We have sold hundreds of dozens to go to that far-off region of gold. IT CURES, and that accounts for its GREAT SUCCESS. None use who do not, in return, recommend it to their friends. Hence its great sale. Price $1 per bottle.

HOWE
**SEWING MACHINES.**

FOR FAMILY SEWING AND MANUFACTURING.

AWARDED

The Gold Medal

*At the Paris Exposition.*

**PLUMMER & WILDER,**

GENERAL N. E. AGENTS,

No. 59 Bromfield Street,..... .....BOSTON.

PIANO AND SINGING
**FOR TEACHERS.**

MRS. PAIGE is very successful in fitting Teachers of Piano-Forte and Singing by her new method. Time required from three to six months. Pupils can fit by correspondence, after remaining with Mrs. P. one week. References given on application. No one is authorized to teach this method except by permission of Mrs. Paige, who is the inventor and sole proprietor. Circulars can be obtained at all the Music Stores, or address MRS. J. B. PAIGE, 246 Washington Street, Rooms 3 and 4.

DR. TOBIAS'S
**VENETIAN LINIMENT.**

A HUMBUG.

How often we hear this expression from persons reading advertisements of Patent Medicines, and in nine cases out of ten they may be right. It is over 19 years since I introduced my medicine, the VENETIAN LINIMENT, to the public. I had no money to advertise it, so I left it for sale with a few druggists and storekeepers through a small section of the country, many taking it with great reluctance; but I told them to let any one have it, and if it did not do all I stated on my pamphlet, no one need pay for it. In some stores two or three bottles were taken on trial by persons present. I was, by many, thought crazy, and that would be the last they would see of me. But I knew my medicine was no humbug. In about two months I began to receive orders for more Liniment, some calling it my valuable Liniment, who had refused to sign a receipt when I left it at their store. Now my sales are millions of bottles yearly, and all for cash. I warrant it superior to any other medicine for the cure of Croup, Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Cholic, Vomiting, Spasms and Sea Sickness, as an internal remedy.—It is perfectly innocent to take internally,—see oath accompanying each bottle,—and externally for Chronic Rheumatism, Headache, Mumps, Frosted Feet, Bruises, Sprains, Old Sores, Swellings, Sore Throats, &c., &c. Sold by all the Druggists.—Depot, 56 Cortlandt street, New York.

DR. WADSWORTH'S
**Dry Up!**

FOR THE CATARRH.—A perfect and speedy cure for this loathsome disease in its worst form. No person suffering from Catarrh, or a bad Cold in the Head, should hesitate a moment, but procure the remedy at once and be cured. There is not any mistake in the above. Price $1 per bottle. Send stamp for pamphlet, all about Catarrh. For sale by the Proprietor, H. H. BURRINGTON, Chemist and Druggist, Providence, R. I., and druggists generally.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN PRINTER.
**Young and Old Making Money.**

The LOWE IMPROVED PRINTING PRESSES are the best and cheapest portable Card and Job Presses ever invented.—Cards, Bill Heads, Circulars, Labels, &c., can be printed at a trifling expense. Price of Presses,—$10, 16, 23 and 30. Price of an Office with Press,—$15, 28, 40, 48 and 70. Send for a Circular to the LOWE PRESS COMPANY, 23 WATER ST., BOSTON.

FIRE!
**FIRE!! FIRE!!!**

DR. RUSSELL'S GREAT AMERICAN BURN REMEDY removes fire from burns in ten minutes.

**May's Royal Flavoring Extracts,**

The best in the world!

MAY'S OLD CONSTITUTION BITTERS—the Great Cure for Dyspepsia and Stomach Disorders.

NEWELL'S UNIVERSAL COUGH DROPS—Infallible cure in Throat and Chest Complaints.

NEWELL'S CAPSENIA—the greatest Panacea in medicine for Cholera, and Fever and Ague.

For sale by all Druggists. NEWELL, MAY & CO., 21 & 23 Haverhill Street, Boston, Mass., Proprietors.

**ARTIFICIAL LEGS.**

The "JEWETT PATENT LEGS" are admitted by those who have worn other makers to be

**THE BEST**

FOR COMFORT, SIMPLICITY, and DURABILITY.

Manufactured by GEO. B. FOSTER, 33 Tremont Street, Boston.

Send for a Circular.

☞ Legs of other makers repaired.

BURRINGTON'S
**VEGETABLE CROUP SYRUP.**

A SURE and safe remedy for the Croup. Also the very best article in use for Whooping Cough, Coughs, Colds, &c., for Adults or Children. A standard Family Medicine for nearly half a century. Do not sleep without it. Beware of imitations sold on the great reputation of the above. Price, 38 cts. For sale by the proprietor, H. H. BURRINGTON, Chemist and Druggist, Providence, R. I. Also for sale by Druggists generally.

**BAKER'S CHOCOLATE AND COCOA.**

PARIS EXPOSITION, 1867.

*Leaf, Flower and Fruit of the Cocoa, with a pod opened.*

W. BAKER & CO.'S
American, French, Homœopathic and
VANILLA CHOCOLATE,
PREPARED COCOA,
BROMA,
*Cocoa Paste, Homœopathic Cocoa, Cocoa Shells, Cracked Cocoa, &c.*

THESE Manufactures, to which FIRST PREMIUMS have been awarded by the *chief Institutes and Fairs* of the Union, and at the PARIS EXPOSITION OF 1867, are an excellent diet for children, invalids and persons in health, allay rather than induce the nervous excitement attendant upon the use of tea or coffee, and are recommended by the most eminent physicians.

*For sale by the principal Grocers in the United States.*

**WALTER BAKER & CO.,**
**Dorchester, . . . . Mass.**

REDDING'S
**Russia Salve,**

(Established 1866,)

IS THE UNIVERSAL REMEDY FOR

BURNS, SCALDS, CUTS, BRUISES, AND ALL FLESH WOUNDS.

For Chilblains, Chapped Hands, Piles, and Old Scrofulous Sores, Eruptions, Blotches, Salt Rheum, and all Cutaneous Diseases.

The RUSSIA SALVE is a PURELY VEGETABLE OINTMENT, made from the very best materials, and combines in itself greater healing powers than any other preparation before the public. Its timely application has been the means of saving thousands of valuable lives, and of relieving a vast amount of suffering. Fifty years' general use of the Russia Salve is a noble guarantee of its incomparable virtues as a healing ointment.

Price, 25 cents. Sample box sent free on receipt of price.—For sale by all Druggists and Apothecaries.

REDDING & CO., Proprietors, Boston, Mass.

VOSE'S
**PIANOS.**

THE PIANO OF AMERICA

THE increasing demand for these Pianos is a SURE TEST of their superiority; and they are acknowledged by competent judges to be

*EQUAL TO THE BEST PIANO MADE.*

Reference can be given to THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS throughout the country. Also to MANY SCHOOLS AND SEMINARIES, where they have stood the hard use and practice of years, and

**Have given Entire Satisfaction**

to those using them. They are the

**Cheapest First-Class Pianos in the Market.**

WARRANTED FIVE YEARS.

*JAMES W. VOSE.*

Warerooms, - - - - No. 6 Temple Place,

BOSTON.

FOWLE'S
**Pile and Humor Cure.**

☞ One bottle warranted a perfect cure in all kinds of PILES. Two to three bottles in the worst cases of LEPROSY, SCROFULA, SALT RHEUM, and ALL DISEASES OF THE SKIN. FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL USE. In case of failure, all Dealers will return the money, and charge it to the proprietor. No case of failure in PILES or HUMORS for ten years. Prepared by HENRY D. FOWLE, Chemist, 71 PRINCE ST., BOSTON. Sold everywhere.

FARMERS AND FARMERS' SONS wanted to engage in a business, during the Fall and Winter, paying from $150 to $200 per month. Address

ZEIGLER, McCURDY & CO.,
No. 614 Arch street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Nov. 30, 1867. 4w-48

**30,000**
**YELLOW LOCUST.**

FINE, THRIFTY TREES, AT ANNEXED PRICES, viz.:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6 to 8 feet high, | $15 per 100, | $90 per 1000 |
| 5 to 6 feet high, | $12 per 100, | $80 per 1000 |
| 3 to 4 feet high, | $8 per 100, | $50 per 1000 |

Address EDWARD J. EVANS & CO.,
Central Nurseries, YORK, PA.

Nov. 23, 1867. 2w-47

PERRY'S HAY CUTTERS, THE BEST IN MARKET, FOR sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO.

Providence, Sept. 21, 1867. tf-37

VERBENA BEDS.—Beds or borders where verbenas have been growiug this season, if covered slightly with straw at the close of the season, and left until the spring vegetation is strong, will he fouud with quantities of young verbena plants, a part of which can be removed, and the rest will grow and supply blooms almost as early as plants taken froun the green-house. In this way, while you may not have all superior flowers, yet if the plants this season are of good varieties, the chances are that a large proportion of the seedlings will be good. Portulacca and Annual Phlox beds, managed in the same way, also supply an abundance of plants free of cost, so that the poorest person who has six feet of flower-bed arouud his house, need never be without flowers in Summer to educate and refine the tastes of his children and contribute to his own enjoyment.

# The Stock Yard.

## SHALL STOCK BE SOLD OR FATTENED?

One of the most discouraging prospects before the farmer is when he has a large amount of live stock on hand at the opening of Winter, the prospective value of which is decreasing, while that of the grain and fodder which they must necessarily consume in order to thrive well is comparatively high and prospectively increasing. It is not pleasant business to fatten hogs, sheep or cattle for market with corn which the feeder knows would bring more money if sold in the bushel. With the teams, milch cows and young stock the case is somewhat different, for they are expected to make their returns at a further period in the future, and Time may set things even. However, there remains this consolation that the profits of feeding stock have been pretty large for the past few years, and our farmers are mostly able to stand one bad season; but every endeavor which forethought can suggest should be made to turn the balance as near the side as possible.

The farmer who accompanies stock growing with grain raising, making it part of a system of mixed husbandry, has by far the best chance of success in times like these. On the one hand he has compensatory profits arising from different operations, and on the other he is more able to shift his plans somewhat and keep or sell as may seem best. Our advice to such farmers is *do not sacrifice your stock.* If you cannot afford to take the market price for your pork when it is fattened, put it in the barrel and the smoke house and wait awhile; perhaps, if you have warm pens and other conveniences, and are well located, it will pay to hold over a few of the most thriving for the butchers in the Spring. Neither will it pay to sell your two or three, or half-dozen steers, or your twenty-five or fifty wethers—the pick of your flock—at a low figure early in the Winter for the sake of saving some grain and hay for market. A great many will do just that thing, and half fattened stock will therefore be crowded on the market and depress prices ruinously. You had better instead take very good care of such stock, make them comfortable through the Winter, feed well and regularly, and sometime between next March and the middle of June those steers will fetch a good, paying price, and the wethers will shear heavy fleeces and be snapped up by butchers immediately after being shorn, leaving a fair profit in your pockets for your outlay of labor and food. By taking this course you will do just what the majority of farmers in your situation will omit—and make money by the operation. One of the successful farmers of this State has said that he made more money by feeding stock for market when grain was high and other people were afraid to pursue the same course. While weighing other considerations and making of manure should not be forgotten or lost sight of; if you receive that only as pay for the labor of feeding and caring for the stock be assured that it is very good compensation. The English farmers willingly take up with such a return, and we also are fast learning not to slight any means whereby the manure pile may be augmented.—*Rural New Yorker.*

## THE HEREFORD CATTLE.

Herefordshire is an English county on the borders of Wales. In ancient times it was inhabited by the Silures, a brave and warlike people, who long withstood the aggressions of the Romans. Sir Roderick Murchison, the celebrated geologist, named a series of secondary or transition rocks, "Silurian," in honor of this ancient people. When they were compelled to yield to the superior discipline of the invaders, they retired into the fastnesses of their own and the adjoining country, driving their herds with them. The Hereford cattle are said to be descended from this stock, and several circumstances combine to prove the correctness of this opinion; and there seems to be sufficient reason for believing that, while the Durham, the Ayrshire, and some other breeds are the result of repeated crossings and selections. The Devon, Hereford, Sussex, Pembroke and Glamorgan breeds are the descendants of the ancient cattle of England and Wales.

The Herefords and the Devons bear some resemblance to each other in shape and docility, but they differ in size and color. The Hereford oxen are generally dark red or brown, some are yellow, and a few are brindled. The old Herefords were red, without a spot of white about them. The new breed which has sprung up from the old stock, within the last seventy years, have white faces, throats and bellies. They are shorter in the carcass and also in the legs than the Devons, but they are rounder and wider across the hips, broader and heavier in the chine, and deeper in the chest than that breed.

The Hereford ox fattens well and sometimes grows to a greater size and weight than the Durham; he is much esteemed for the labors of the field, and yields excellent beef, but the cows of this breed are generally inferior to those of other breeds, being small and yielding but a scanty supply of milk. It has been remarked that a Hereford cow will sometimes produce a bull calf which, in process of time, will attain a weight three times as great as herself. The Hereford ox consumes a large quantity of food, grows to an immense size, if properly fed and cared for, and makes prime beef. He is as docile as the Devon, but not so active or enduring. The Hereford oxen are not now much used for the labors of the farm, as their movements are too slow for the go-ahead-ativeness of improved agriculture.

Mr. Marshall thus describes the Herefords: "The countenance is pleasant, cheerful and open; the forehead broad; eyes full and lively; horns bright, taper and spreading; head small; chop lean; neck long and tapering; chest deep; bosom broad and projecting forward; shoulder-bone thin and flat, and nowise protuberant in bone, but full and mellow in flesh; chest full; loin broad; hips slanting, wide and level with the chine; quarters long; rump even with the level of the back, and not drooping or standing high, and sharp above the quarters; tall, slender and neatly haired; barrel round and roomy; the carcass throughout deep and well spread; ribs broad, standing flat and close on the outer surface, forming a smooth, even barrel; thighs clean and regularly tapering; legs upright and short; bone beneath the knee and hock small; feet of medium size; flank large; flesh everywhere mellow, soft, and yielding pleasantly to the touch, especially on the chine, the shoulder and the ribs; hide mellow, supple, of a middle thickness, and loose on the neck and huckle; coat neatly haired, bright and silky."

Herefordshire is not noted for its dairies, nor for its fat cattle, being more of a rearing than a dairying or feeding county. The Hereford steers are bought up by feeders from the midland counties for the purpose of being kept on rich pastures until they have attained a large size, and the proper condition for being finished off with oil cake, etc., for supplying the London market

The Herefords were introduced into the United States several years ago, and have succeeded well in the rich pastures of Kentucky, and some other States, but their numbers do not appear to be increasing very much, the principal objection to them being that the cows are bad milkers, and the bulls are not suited for improving other breeds. These defects counterbalance the good qualities of the oxen.

## HORSE-CLIPPING.

Within the last few years the English practice of clipping horses on the approach of the winter months has, in the most of our cities, become quite common. Many advantages are claimed for it by horsemen, which so far as our experience extends, are somewhat questionable. While there may be some *conveniences* about the system, we are all satisfied that there is some danger. We have known several valuable horses whose lives have been lost through being clipped, and of others that were ruined. We have now in our mind's eye one of the fastest young trotting horses in the country that has become useless for the road from a disease contracted soon after he had been "shaved," as the English say. Our Winter climate is so varied from that of the "mother country," that it is not fair to claim for the practice the same advantages as well as exemptions here as there.

Nature is always correct, and it is only when we attempt to change its order that danger in some form follows. The horse is provided with a coat of hair, as a means of protection from the changes of the weather. In the Spring he sheds this hair, and a new growth commences, and continues steadily until the cold season has fairly set in. At that time the coat has reached its proper thickness and becomes a suitable clothing for protection from the frosts and snows. Clipping changes this well-arranged order, and creates a necessity for protection which *only* the careful horseman will provide for. And herein lies the point; a clipped horse never should be allowed to stand in the open air without being heavily blanketed, and then not long, and he should be always groomed immediately after coming into the stable.

Although clipping has grown into high favor of late, it is an old practice in England, of near fifty years standing; and while we think it has some advantages for the road horse, it has also its dangers, as we have before remarked, and we would not advocate the extension of the practice to coach-horses, or horses that are much exposed, as they are not apt to receive the same care and attention as the flying roadster.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

Planting in California.—Tired of waiting for rain, which has been withheld for six long months, many of the farmers of California have adopted the plan of dry sowing, trusting to the future for the needful moisture. Where the soil is friable plowing is done, otherwise the cultivator or harrow is used. By this course the benefits of the first rains are insured. Early sowing almost invariably secures a crop. The grain is heavy and certain, because it has had all the moisture of the season. Alluding to this matter, the San Francisco Bulletin remarks:

"The California farmer throws overboard more than half of the agricultural knowledge acquired in other States, and many times reverses his own local opinions until at last he has got hold of a few fundamental facts which he knows to a certainty. One of them is, that in order to insure success in growing cereals he must take advantage of the whole extent of the wet season. Profiting by the experience of last winter, many fields have already been sown, and a large breadth of land will be 'put in' during this present month. If the rain fall should be light, as many predict, the gain is unquestionable; if excessive, it is even then better practice than late sowing, save on very low and wet lands."

Flour Making.—The question how much wheat does it take to make a barrel of flour is often asked, and the answer is of a general character, "five bushels are allowed." At the annual Fair of the Dubuque County (Iowa) Agricultural Society in 1866, a premium of three dollars was offered for the best barrel of flour made from winter wheat, and also the same made from spring wheat. A firm entered one barrel each, accompanied with the statement that sixteen bushels of winter wheat yielded three barrels and one hundred and three pounds of flour—at the rate of four bushels and fifteen pounds of wheat to the barrel. Of spring wheat, fifty bushels yielded eleven barrels of flour, being four bushels and thirty-two pounds to the barrel. The wheat was a fair quality and no more.

The tools and machinery on many farms are more injured by exposure to the weather than by the wear of actual use.

In fifteen years, sheep have increased in Ireland over 2,000,000.




**TERMS OF ADVERTISING.**

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the Farm and Fireside. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a good style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

**COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.**

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the Farm and Fireside may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

**THE FARM AND FIRESIDE**

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.


# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET.* *TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.* *SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1867. NO. 50.


## THE WILD TURKEY.

This magnificent bird, although now found almost throughout the globe, by the process of domestication and naturalization, is one of the many gifts America has given to the world; which fact at one time was nearly forgotten, as its origin was involved in some obscurity, and doubts expressed as to its native country.—Thus, such men as Belon, Aldrovandi, Gessner, Ray, &c., thought that it came originally from Africa and the West Indies, and endeavored to recognize it in some of the domestic birds of the ancients. "In so losing sight of the origin of this bird, we see a strong exemplification of the ungrateful disposition of man, who can durably treasure up the memory of wrongs and injuries, but fails to recollect the greatest benefits he has received."

The turkey was first introduced by the Spaniards from Mexico into Spain, and thence carried to England. In the reign of Francis the First they were imported into France, and the first one eaten in that country was served up at the banquet given at the wedding of Charles the Ninth, in 1570. Bred with much care they rapidly increased, and soon were taken into Asia and Africa. It would be difficult to ascertain why its popular name was given to this bird, and it is to be somewhat regretted that such an appellation should ever have fallen to its lot, since it is apt to give rise to the supposition that it originated in Asia instead of America, the eastern in place of the western hemisphere. Not so much to be regretted, however, at the present time as formerly, for, since ornithology has taken its rightful place among the sciences, and its hidden things are investigated and explained by the researches of so many able minds, the results of whose labors dignify and elevate their subject, the origin of so noble a bird is not likely ever again to be lost sight of. At one time the turkey was pretty generally distributed throughout the United States, but, like the Indian, it has gradually disappeared before the onward march of civilization, until now one must look for it amid the unsettled portions of our Western States, and the vast regions through which the Mississippi, Missouri, and their tributaries flow. It is still quite plentiful in the Southern States, many parts of which are yet covered with the virgin forest, while in the Middle and Northern States it has almost if not entirely disappeared.

The turkey may be considered as both migratory and gregarious; the first of these circumstances arising mainly from the exhaustion of their favorite food in any particular section of country, or upon the opposite fact, of there being a great abundance of it in some other place. When this last is the cause of their migration they seem to be insensibly led towards the land of plenty by finding the supply increase as they advance, and not from any particular instinct of their own. Their food consists of maize, berries, fruits, grasses, acorns, and in that part of the country where it abounds, the pecan nut is preferred by them to everything else.

When migrating, if they reach a river over which they desire to cross, they generally remain near the bank for a day or two previous to making the effort; seemingly either to consult upon the means of accomplishing their intention, or to recuperate their strength before undertaking the difficult feat.

While they are thus waiting, the males employ their time chiefly in gobbling continually, or in strutting pompously about with lowered wings and expanded tails, the females sometimes even imitating them in these movements. When they consider that the time has arrived for proceeding on their journey, the entire flock mount to the tops of the highest trees, and, at a given signal of their leader, launch themselves into the air and fly to the opposite shore. The old birds easily cross, but should the stream be wide, the young and feeble frequently miss the desired point and fall into the stream, when they proceed to swim ashore, which they accomplish with considerable dexterity by closing their wings, using their expanded tails for support, and striking out rapidly with their long and powerful legs. Sometimes, if the shore should be very steep, some are unable to ascend, and, falling back from their unsuccessful attempts, perish in the water.

Toward the latter part of February, what may be termed the love season commences, and, strange as it may appear, the females separate and endeavor to hide from the males, while the latter, with almost unintermitted gobbling, seek for them in all directions.

At this season of the year we have heard the rolling notes of the males in the early morning resounding from every side, as they stood upon their perches, until, on the appearance of the rising sun, they ceased calling, and silently sought the ground, where they began to strut about, evidently hoping that the eyes of some watchful female observed their lordly bearing.

Whenever the males meet while thus occupied, fierce battles ensue, ending, generally, in the death of the weaker party, unless he is fortunate enough to escape.

The males do not always confine their attentions to one female; sometimes several of these may be seen accompanying one gobbler, until they commence to lay, when they hide themselves for the greater part of the day in order to save their eggs, which he would destroy whenever he obtained the opportunity.—The nest, a very simple structure, is generally placed in some thicket to conceal it from the prying eyes of its various would-be despoilers, and the hen approaches it with great caution, rarely entering it twice from the same direction. The number of eggs deposited varies considerably, some nests having ten, others as many as twenty. They are of a dull cream color, profusely sprinkled with red spots.—The young, when first hatched, are covered with a delicate hairy down, and are very tender; so suseeptible to the influence of the weather that, should the season be rainy, great difficulty is experienced by the hen in raising them, for they rarely survive a thorough wetting. To guard against such a catastrophe, the first night is generally passed by the young brood in the nest, and the mother then leads them to elevated dry places, reposing them at night under her outspread wings until they are two weeks old, when they roost upon the broad branch of a tree, still covered, however, by their watchful parent's wings.

Any unusual object attracting the attention of the male turkey seems to throw him into a state of considerable excitement, and he puffs himself up very much in the same manner as when strutting, and the wattles which cover his neck become bright red from the sudden influx of blood. Sometimes a red clothe will excite his anger, and cause him to exhibit pugnacious propensities.

The turkey is an extremely shy bird, taking alarm at the slightest sound; hence it can be readily understood how they would naturally shun man's presence, and prefer the depths of our great forests, or the solitude of the vast plains, and that, as a matter of course, they should become scarcer as the population near them increased, even though artificial means should be wanting to lessen their number.

## SALMON TROUT.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

The Great Trout,—called also Salmon Trout, Mackinaw Trout, and by the Canadian French and Indians, *Le Longe*, is found in all the great Northwestern lakes—less frequently in Ontario and Erie, very rarely in the small lake of St. Clair, the connecting link between Erie and Huron, but most abundantly in the latter; scarce again in Lake Michigan, except at especial seasons, in particular localities which we shall notice directly. Then in the great fresh water sea, Superior, he appears again in great numbers, and of larger size than in any of the other lakes, sometimes attaining the length of five and a half feet, and weighing nearly a hundred pounds.

In shape, the salmon, or Mackinaw trout, is like his two namesakes of the *Salmonidæ* family, the salmon proper and brook trout; having, however, more of the characteristics of the latter in the larger head, double fringed gills, thicker body in proportion to length, square tail, and fins larger and less arched than those of the salmon. Modifying these marks, a good picture of either the salmon or brook trout represents, truthfully enough, their cousin-german of the great lakes.

In its habits, however, the lake trout differs materially from either the speckled variety, or the salmon. It never enters shallow streams for the purpose of depositing spawn, breeding exclusively in the quiet, deep water, sandy bottomed bars, the young fish rarely going out into the open waters of the lakes until the second year, when they have attained a length of from ten to fourteen inches, assumed all the characteristics of the adult fish, and are capable of taking care of themselves. Though muscular and voracious when tempted by an alluring bait, the salmon trout has none of the combative qualities of the pike, and seldom preys upon fish of weaker habits. He bites readily in all the lakes at a silver "shiner," in all secluded bays at a depth of from four to seven fathoms of water, and in Winter, large quantities of the finest and fattest trout are taken at Thunder Bay, on Lake Huron, among the Georgian Isles; in the Strait of Mackinaw, Great Traverse and Saginaw bays on Lake Michigan, and at various points on Lake Superior, both by the Indians and white fishermen, who erect their evergreen wigwams on the ice, cut several holes through the crystal covering in front of their shanties, let down their lines and silver lures, hauling up from the depths famous fish.

During the Summer and early Fall, the salmon trout formerly took the hook covered with an artificial "fly" of bright colored feathers or strips of cloth, and trailed astern of skiff, sail boat or "birch" canoe. But of late years, the frequent passage of steamers has made them shy of the surface, and now the Mackinaw trout is seldom taken by trolling, except in the more remote bays and deep water channels unfrequented by propellers or paddle wheels.

The salmon trout is easiest domesticated of all our American fishes, becoming instinctively a playful pet, feeding from the hand, and fat-

tening as readily as a pig or chicken; but in artificial breeding, a deeper and wider pond is required than for any of our pond or stream fishes.

The flesh of the lake trout is firm, fine grained, in color aud flavor, medium hetween that of the salmon and brook trout, equally excellent fresh, smoked, or pickled, and possesses the merit of heing always in season. Like the brook trout, the Mackinaw Trout is distinctly marked with spots along the sides, only instead of being scarlet or crimson they are a silvery white on a dark greyish ground, and four times larger than those of the brook species.

These fish do not breed so rapidly as many other varieties, hut the young are infinitely surer of life thau any other of our fresh water fish, and if not meddled with, under natural conditions, eighteen out of every twenty fish hatched will arrive at maturity. It has heen provcu by repeated experiments that this trout grows morc rapidly, and more readily fattens in a properly constructed hreeding pond, where they are domesticated and judiciously fed, than they do in their natural condition in the great lakes.

## INTESTINAL WORMS.

These parasites are found in all the domestic animals, cach, however, possessing its own varieties. I will only mention those species which are commonly found in the horse. The horse is infested by the long, round worm, the appearance of which is not very unlike an ordinary earth worm. This parasite is termed the *ascaris megalocephala*, and when they are very numerous, greatly weaken the horse; there are also a smaller species, termed the *strongylus armatus*. They are more commonly known by the name of the needle worm.—They do not exceed three or four inches in length, and taper to a fine point at the head and tail, and, lastly, there are the ascarides, or thread worms, which are no thicker thau a thread and about a couple of inches in length.

*Symptoms.*—The presence of worms in the digestive tube is marked at first by an increased appetite; hut the horse, notwithstanding the quantity of food which he consumes, falls off in condition; his skin is dry and hidebound; his coat is rough, and is not shed at the ordinary time; there is an annoying itching, which causes the horse to rub his upper lip against the manger or on the wall; sometimes there is considerable itching about the rectum, which is indicated by the horse rubbing his tail or rump against anything within reach.—The symptoms before mentioned are such as would lead one to suspect the existence of worms, hut it is only when these appear among the dung voided hy the horse that we can speak with *certainty* as to the nature of the disease. At a later period, and especially when the worms have developed iu great numbers, the symptoms are very much aggravated, and the horse becomes emaciated, and suffers occasionally from colicky pains; the flank is tucked up; the conjunctiva is pale; he walks with difficulty, and a fatal termination will sometimes ensue.

*Treatment.*—Divide six ounces of iron filings so as to form twelve balls, and give one every morning until they are finished, and then give seven or eight drachms of aloes, which will cause the expulsion of any worms which remain in the horse's intestines.—*Exchange.*

Eggs in Winter.—Martin Doyle, the cottage economist of Ireland, in his "Hints to Small Holders," observes "that a few cocks and hens, if they be prevented from scratching in the garden, are a useful and appropriate stock for a cottage, the warmth of which causes hens to lay eggs in Winter—no trifling advantage to children when milk is scarce. The French, who are extremely fond of eggs, and contrive to have them in great abundance, keep their hens so warm that they have fresh eggs even iu Winter. Now, in our country, in a gentleman's fowl-yard, there is not au egg to be got in cold weather, but the warmth of a poor man's cahin insures him an egg even in the most ungenial season."

## THE DAIRY.

The variations in the yield of milch cows are caused more by the variations in the nutritive element of their food than hy a change of the form in which it is given. "A cow, kept through the Winter on mere straw," says a practical writer on this subject, "will cease to give milk; and, whcu fed in Spring on green forage, will give a fair quantity of milk. But she owes the cessation and restoration of the secretion to respectively the diminution and the increase of her nourishment, and not at all to the change of form, or of outward suhstance, in which the nourishment is administered. Let cows receive through Winter nearly as large a proportion of nutritive matter as is contained in the clover, lucerne and fresh grasses, which they eat in Summer, and, no matter in what precise substance or mixture that matter may he contained, they will yield a Winter's produce of milk quite as rich in easein and hutyraceous ingredients as the Summer's produce, and far more ample in quantity than almost any dairyman with old-fashioned uotions would imagine to he possible."

We keep too much stock for the quantity of good and nutritious food which we have for it; and the consequence is cows are, in nine cases out of ten, poorly wintered, and come out in the Spring weakened, if not, indeed, positively diseased, and a long time is required to bring them into a condition to yield a generous quantity of milk.

It is a hard struggle for a cow reduced in flesh and in blood to fill up the wasted system with the food which otherwise have gone to the secretion of milk; hut, if she is well fed, well housed, well littered, and well supplied with pure, fresh water, and with roots or other *moist* food, and properly treated to the luxury of a frequent carding, and constant kindness, she comes out ready to commence the manufacture of milk under favorable circumstances. —*Milch Cows and Dairy Farming.*

## ORIGIN OF OUR DOMESTIC FOWLS.

The common fowl is generally supposed to he of Indian origin, and nothing can be learned respecting their ancestry until within a comparatively recent epoch. Nobody really knows the earliest date of their domesticity. Some suppose it must have been coeval with the keeping of sheep by Abel, which view has a reasonahle amount of probahility, as the oldest son of Japhet was called Gomer, signifying a cock. Aristotle, 350 years before Christ, speaks of them as "household words." Among the Greeks and Romans the fowl early figured in the public shows. It was dedicated to Apollo, to Mercury, to Æsculapius, and to Mars, and its courage and watchfulness were well appreciated. The Rhodian fowls and those of Delos, Medea and Persia were celebrated for their superiority in fighting, and for the excellency and delicacy of their flesh. Cock-fighting was a diversion in consonance with the tastes of the Romans, and they were as much devoted to it as are the Malays of the present day, who frequently stake their all upon the issue of a single hattle. When the Romans, under Julius Cæsar, invaded Britain, they found the fowl and goose domesticated, but these, as also the hare, were forhidden as food. They are, in fact, one of man's oldest and most important acquisitions; passing from generation to generation for thousands of years, and branching out into so many varieties that every breeder will find a peculiarity in some of them to please his fancy. —*Saunders' Domestic Poultry.*

Cure for Mange in Hogs.—Take one ounce of sulphur, four ounces of powdered charcoal and half a pint of soft soap. Mix thoroughly and rub it all over the pigs, three mornings in succession. On the fifth morning, wash them well in warm soap suds, and your pigs are beautifully clean, aud free from all disease, while the way they grow cannot but be pleasing to all those who are fond of roast pig.

Coal oil is also very efficacious as a remedy for mange in hogs. Grease them with it. Also good to use internally for hog cholera. One table spoonfull is a dose.—*Southern Cultivator.*

## THE OCEAN'S BOTTOM.

Mr. Green, the famous diver, tells singular stories of his adventures, when making search in the deep waters of the ocean. He gives some new sketches of what he saw at the "Silver Bank," near Hayti: "The banks of coral on which my divings were made are about forty miles in length, and from ten to twenty in breadth. On this bank of coral is presented to the diver one of the most beautiful and sublime scenes the eye ever heheld.—The water varies from ten to a hundred feet in depth, and so clear that the diver can see from two to three hundred feet when suhmerged, with but little obstructiou to the sight.

The hottom of the ocean, iu many places, is as smooth as a marble floor; in others it is studded with coral columns, from ten to one hundred feet in height, and from one to eighty feet in diameter. The tops of those more lofty support a myriad of pyramidal pendants, each forming a myriad more, giving reality to the imaginary ahode of some water-nymph.—In other places the pendants form arch after arch, and, as the diver stands on the hottom of the ocean, and gazes through in the deep winding avenues, he finds that they fill him with as sacred an awe as if he was in some old cathedral which had long been buried heneath old ocean's wave. Here and there the coral extends even to the surface of the water, as if the loftier columns were towers helonging to those stately temples that are now in ruins.

There were countless varieties of diminutive trees, shrubs and plants iu every crevice of the corals where water had deposited the earth. They were all of a faint hue, owing to the pale light they received, although of every shade, and entirely different from plants that I am familiar with that vegetate on dry land.—One in particular attracted my attention; it resemhled a sea-fan of immense size, of variegated colors and the most hrilliant hue. The fish which inhabit these "Silver Banks" I found as different in kind as the scenery was varied. They were of all forms, colors and sizes—from the symmetrical gohy to the globe-like sunfish, from the dullest hue to the changeable dolphin; from the spots of the leopard to the hues of the sunbeam; from the harmless minnow to the voracious shark.

Some had heads like squirrels, others like cats and dogs, some of small size resemble the bull-terrier. Some darted through the waters like meteors, while others could scarcely be seen to move.

To enumerate and explain all the various kinds of fish I heheld while diving ou these banks would, were I enough of a naturalist so to do, require more than my limits allow, for I am convinced that most of the kiuds of fish that inhabit the tropical seas can be found there. The sun fish, the star fish, white shark and blue or shovel-nose shark were often seen.

There were also fish which resemhle plants, and remained as fixed in their position as a shrub; the only power they possessed was to opeu and shut when in danger. Some of them resemhled the rose when in full bloom, and were of all hues. There were the ribbou fish, from four or five inches to three feet iu length; their eyes are very large and protude like those of a frog.

Another fish is spotted like a leopard, from three to ten feet in length. They build their houses like beavers, in which they spawn, and the male or female watches the egg until it hatches. I saw many specimens of the green turtle, some five feet long, which I should think would weigh from 400 to 500 pounds."

A horticultural journal says that strawberry beds are often injured by scanty protection. Leaves afford a too compact and warm covering; the same may be said of straw and chaff. The best material, undoubtedly, is evergreen-boughs.

Cooking corn for swine doubles its value; and steaming straw, hay or other fodder for cattle after heing cut, increases its value fifty per cent.

## THE AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

The acting Commissioner of Agriculture, John W. Stokes, makes several suggestions in his report. Congress, he thinks, should "devise some plan for facilitating the early construction of a ship canal for the transportation of Western products from the lakes to the ocean, or for the huilding of a double track railway, open to all, forwarding on equal terms, aud supported hy an equitable system of tolls. He urgently advises the recinding of the cotton tax, inasmuch as it is "disastrous and disheartening in the extreme." The cattle plague or rinderpest having disappeared in Europe, he advocates the repeal or modification of the law prohibiting the importation of cattle.

Congress should, he asserts, increase the compensation of the Commissioner of Agriculture, inasmueh as the present salary is inadequate. He deprecates the introduction of Coolies for cottou production. "Such labor," he asserts, "is unskilled and far inferior to negro labor, and will add to the complications produced by the jealousies and prejudices of races widely differing in character, taste and traditional customs."

The wool-growing interest, he tells us, involving a capital of hundreds of millions, and underlying the prosperity of American agriculture in a degree scarcely appreciated by farmers themselves, has been saved from threatening annihilation hy the action of Congress in placing a duty upon the foreign article equivalent to the interual taxation endured by the woolgrowers.

## FIELD MICE—YELLOW WAGTAILS IN WINTER.

Among the many curious episodes in Mr. Darwin's famous work, none interested me more than the theory that the vigorous growth of the red clover is dependent on the ahundance of the humhle-bee, whilst the number of those insects is in turn controlled by that of the field mouse. If cats are numerous, says Mr. Darwin, red clover flourishes, hecause the cats kill the mice, and the field mouse is the greatest enemy of the humble-bee, without those strong prohoscis neither the heartsease nor the red clover can be rendered fertile. I may notice, in passing, that the weasel and the owl are more formidable focs of the field mouse than the domestic cat. It is not, however, to discuss this curious theory that I write, hut to ask whether it is a known fact that field mice huild on trees? The woods in the neighhorhood of which I write are full of what are universally called squirrels' nests—large and rather shapeless masses of moss. Some of them, no doubt, are squirrels' nests, and I have dislodged the owner from more than one in my day; but it struck me lately that the number of these nests was astonishing, as I scarcely ever saw a squirrel. At length I came upon a perfect colony of these nests, many of them being as large as that of a crow. I observed that most of them had used the old nest of the wood-pigeon as a basis. I climhed to one near the top of a tall spruce. First there was a wood-pigeon's nest of last year, then the large round mass of dry moss, whilst on the top of that again another wood-pigeon had huilt her nest, and was sitting on a couple of eggs. On tearing the moss, I was astonished to see a field mouse pop out. The little fellow ran along a branch quite nimbly, and then turning round sat for some seconds gazing at me with his large, soft, black eyes. I could not doubt that all these masses of moss—masses that would soon have filled a cart—were taken up the trees by the field mice, whose labor is no doubt carried on in the dark, as it is nowhere written of mice, as it is of men, that in the night they "cannot work."—The Winter home of these field mice is very interesting. I saw one turned up by the plow this Spring. It was a most comfortable little home, containing as many good dry oats as would have filled a dinner tumbler.

"Isn't there a strong smell of pigs?" said a yachtsman, named Smith. "Yes" replied Jones; "that's because the wind is sow-west."

A Beautiful Sentiment.—Dr. Chalmers beautifully says: "The little that I have seen of the world and known of the history of mankiud, teaches me to look upon their errors in sorrow, not in anger. When I take the history of one poor heart that has sinned and suffered, and represent to myself the struggles and temptations it passed through, the brief pulsations of joy, the feverish inquietudes of hope and fear, the tears of regret, the feebleness of purpose, the scorn of the world that has little charity, the desolation of the soul's sanctuary, and threatening voices within, health gone, happiness gone, I would fain leave the erring soul of my fellow man with Him from whose hands it came."

# The Fireside Muse.

## THE PUMPKIN.

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Oh! greenly and fair in the lands of the sun
The vines of the gourd and the rich melon run,
And the rock and the tree and the cottage enfold,
With broad leaves all greenness and blossoms all gold,
Like that which o'er Ninevah's prophet once grew,
While he waited to know that his warning was true,
And longed for the storm-cloud, and listened in vain
For the rush of the whirlwind and the red fire-rain.

On the banks of the Xenil the dark Spanish maiden
Comes up with the fruit of the tangled vine laden;
And the Creole of Cuba laughs out to behold
Through orange-leaves shining the broad spheres of gold;
Yet with dearer delight from his home in the North
On the fields of his harvest the Yankee looks forth;
Where crook-necks are coiling and yellow fruit shines
And the sun of September melts down on his vines.

Ah! on Thanksgiving Day, when from East and from West,
From North and from South come the pilgrim and guest,
When the gray-haired Englander sees round his board
The old broken links of affection restored;
When the care-wearied man seeks his mother once more,
And the worn matron smiles where the girl smiled before;
What moistens the lip and what brightens the eye?
What calls back the past, like the rich Pumpkin Pie?

Oh! fruit loved of boyhood—the old days recalling,
When wood-grapes were purpling and brown nuts were falling;
When wild, ugly faces we carved on its skin,
Glaring out through the dark, with a candle within;
When we laughed round the corn-heap, with hearts all in tune,
Our chair a broad pumpkin, our lantern the moon,
Telling tales of the fairy who traveled like steam,
In a pumpkin-shell coach, with two rats for her team!

Then thanks for thy present! none sweeter or better
Ever smoked from an oven or circled a platter!
Fairer hands never wrought at a pastry more fine,
Brighter eyes never watched o'er its baking than thine
And the prayer, which my mouth is too full to express,
Dwells my heart that thy shadow may never grow less,
That the days of thy lot may be lengthened below,
And the fame of thy worth like a pumpkin-vine grow,
And thy life be as sweet, and its last sunset sky
Golden-tinted and fair as thy own Pumpkin Pie!

# Fireside Tale.

## EASY WARREN.

BY WILLIAM T. COGGESHALL.

Raymond Warren was a "nice" man—everybody's clever fellow, as I heard a public man once remark: "a very extensive office," with numerous duties never discharged. Raymond used to sit in the chimney corner late, very late on a Winter's night, because he was too shiftless to get ready for bed. But after awhile the fire burned low—the glow on the embers faded, and it grew cold in the chimney corner; then Raymond became chilly, and he would sneak to rest, where his wife perhaps had been for several hours, endeavoring to recover from the severe fatigue of a day's work, into which had been crowded the greater portion of her husband's legitimate duties. Raymond owned a large farm, left him by his father. It was good land, but the fences were not in repair, and everybody's cattle roamed through the fields, and Raymond's crops were not sufficient to yield the family a decent support. The farm had once been well stocked, but for want of proper attention the cattle became poor—the sheep were never folded, even in the most rigorous weather, and many of them died. The wool was never properly sheared and washed, and when taken to market it would not bring the market price. Had it not been for Raymond's wife, who was a business woman, the family must have suffered for the common necessaries of life.

Raymond's chores were rarely attended to by himself; but, was a neighbor sick, no man was more willing to work in his place. He was relied upon as the man who would always neglect his own interests, to look after those of somebody else. He could never set himself at his own farm-work, but he was considered an excellent hand, when, to oblige a neighbor, he took a job in his field.

It was a bleak morning in mid-winter. Raymond Warren's wife was in the barn yard fodddering the cattle; Raymond was in bed. The light of a brisk fire which his wife had built shone directly in his face. It awaked him; the room was warm, and Raymond was persuaded by its inviting appearance. He sat down by the fire place in his shirt sleeves, and waited for his wife to come and get him some breakfast. As he warmed his feet he felt that he had reason to congratulate himself on his happy situation, and he said to himself:

"'Tain't every man's got such a wife as I have. Here she's made a good fire, and I'll bet all the chores are done."

The chores were done, and Raymond had scarcely finished his soliloquy when the useful wife hastened to the fire-place to warm her hands, which had become thoroughly chilled by the cold handle of the pitchfork, with which she had been throwing hay and straw to the cattle.

It might be supposed that these occurrences took place early in the morning; not so. It was ten o'clock when Raymond Warren left his bed. His wife had been sewing for two hours before she prepared her breakfast. Then she urged Raymond for an hour longer to get up. He made fair promises, but left them all unfulfilled. She waited until it was nine o'clock, and then, knowing her husband's easy habits, and ashamed to have the cattle unfed that hour of the day, she determined to attend to their wants herself.

Raymond's first salutation to her as she stood by the fire was:

"I wish I had some tea, Sally—but never mind, you've put the things away—a little warm water, with a little milk and sugar in it, will do just as well, and while you're about it, you may get me a little piece of bread; but just as you choose; no matter about it, anyhow. 'Tain't every man's got such a woman for a wife."

She might have answered,

"It is not every woman that has such a husband."

But she knew such remarks would only make bitter feelings, and though fatigued with the violent exercise she had taken, she went cheerfully and prepared her easy, good-natured husband a cup of tea, a slice of toast, and then asked him if he would not cut some wood.

"To be sure I will," was his response.

His breakfast over, he took up his axe and mounted the wood pile and cut half a dozen sticks, when along came a neighbor, who wanted Raymond to accompany him to a saw-mill about two miles distant, and assist in loading upon a sled some boards which had been sawed for him—of course Raymond went, and his wife was compelled to cut wood enough to keep the house warm until the following day.

Mrs. Warren was in appearance a feeble woman, but she had endured hardship which would have destroyed the constitution of one much more robust. Day after day her strength failed her, yet she made no complaint. Raymond saw that she grew pale, and was often disturbed with fears in regard to her, but he was too easy to mention the subject, and the useful wife became more and more feeble, until she was seized with a violent cough. Raymond was one day thoughtful enough to speak to the village doctor as he passed their home with his ponderous medicine portmanteau on his arm, and the benevolent gentleman, who had some knowledge of Raymond's peculiar failings, left the woman an innocent tincture, and forbade exposure to the cold atmosphere under any circumstances, and also declared that her complaint was of a character very much aggravated by severe exercise.

For a few days Raymond remembered the doctor's counsel, and, as he had respect for the physician, he obeyed him as nearly as his constitutional failures permitted, but soon the wife was again obliged to chop wood and feed cattle, and, taking a severe cold, she faded as would fade the summer rose in a frigid climate.

When Raymond Warren's house was desolate and his fireside cheerless, he saw what had been his great error during the two years of his married life, and he mourned his wife deeply, it must be said in his favor, both as a helpmate and a companion. He rented his farm and managed to exist easily for one year, but he was not satisfied with a childless widower's solitary lot, and he began to look about him for a second helpmate and companion. In a few months he took to his home a woman who he confidently felt would fill the place left vacant by his first wife. Sadly was Raymond disappointed.

A few weeks elapsed, and he fell back into his old habits, with complete abandon. Leaving his own work in a neglected state, he worked diligently one day to assist a neighbor in getting wood to his house, and he returned to his home, late at night, hungry and fatigued, expecting that his wife would have ready for his refreshment an inviting supper. In this hope, he had refused to take supper with the neighbor whom he had assisted. Poor fellow! the kitchen, where was to have been his excellent supper, attended by a smiling wife, was cold and unoccupied. No frugal board was there, and Mrs. Warren was in bed.

Raymond was much astonished, but was too good natured to complain, and silently he ventured to explore the cupboard for a crust on which to satisfy the gnawings of his appetite. Not a crumb was there. It was evident his wife had designed he should go to bed supperless; and supperless to bed he did go, grieving seriously over his hard lot. He had never before been so badly treated, and he thought it indeed distressing, but yet his disappointment was not sad enough to revolutionize his constitutional good nature, and without a mutter he fell sound asleep.

Raymond Warren did not hear chanticleer salute the morning, as it dawned the night after his grievous disappointment. It was springtime, and the birds sang under his window, but he heard them not; yet he heard his wife, who had risen before the sun, call him—

"Mr. Warren, here I've been for an hour in the cold. The wood's all burned. It's time I had some out. If you want any breakfast, you had better get up."

Was Raymond dreaming? Was this a voice of reproach that came to him in his sleep, with the recollection of the wife that had gone before him to the Spirit-Land? Not so—it was a voice from the wife who dwelt with him in this sphere of existence, that came to remind him of duties not discharged, upon the performance of which depended the satisfaction of those desires which had intruded visions of feasts upon his hours of rest. All this he felt; still he did not offer to leave his couch.

"Raymond Warren," again said the voice, "you left me yesterday without wood, to help a neighbor get wood for his wife, and you went to bed last night without your supper. You'll not get a bite to eat in this house till you bring me wood to cook it with."

"There's plenty of chips," said Raymond, in palliation, rising on his elbow, as he spoke.

"Get up, and bring them into the house," said the resolute wife. "I didn't know you when we were married, but I know you now. I know what killed your first wife. You want to make a slave of me. I'll attend to my duties; but if you don't do your chores, the cattle may starve, and you'll never get a bite in this house unless you take it uncooked, if you don't cut wood yourself, or get somebody to do it for you."

Raymond started bolt upright, and it was not many minutes before he was at the wood pile. Diligently did he work until he had cut an armful, which, like a dutiful husband, for the first time in his life, he carried into the kitchen.

His wife made no allusion to what had passed between them, and Raymond, although burning with curiosity to know where she had learned what she had revealed to him, dared not commence conversation in relation to it. The train of ills it might revive was fearful to the easy man's mind. His breakfast was over. Forgetful of its lesson, careless Raymond wandered away from home, his necessary morning labors in his farm yard unattended to, and his wood pile unvisited. He returned home at noon, strong in the faith that he should sit down to a good dinner, because he was one of those men who think that a wife should always give her husband a good dinner, whether she have anything to cook or not. Mrs. Warren had enough to cook, but nothing to cook with; however, much to Raymond's satisfaction, when he entered his house he found the table spread, and he knew he should soon be invited to take a seat near it.

When the invitation came, he hastened to his accustomed seat, lifted a cover from a dish he supposed contained meat; and, truly, there was meat; but just as it came from the butcher's. Raymond was not a cannibal; he looked at his wife inquiringly; she appeared to be waiting patiently to be served. He lifted the cover of another dish; there were potatoes just as they had been dug from the earth. All the dishes that usually contained victuals were covered. Raymond grew suspicions, and he lifted the covers hastily. There was bread as it had come from the tray; there were turnips that had never been under the influence of fire; there were apples handsomely sliced for sauce, and there were numerous other edibles, but none of them could Raymond eat. He turned for consolation to a cup of tea his wife had deposited near his plate. There were tea leaves floating in the cup, but the tea looked remarkably pale; nevertheless, Raymond, by force of habit, blew it vigorously, to prepare it for his palate. But when he put it to his lips he found that he had wasted his breath; for the water was as cold as when it came from the spring.

Raymond was not a hasty man. He pushed back his chair deliberately, and thought aloud:

"In the name of Heaven, what does this mean?"

Mrs. Warren, whose countenance during this scene had worn a sober aspect, now smiled pleasantly, and answered:

"The victuals were all on the stove the usual time."

"It's strange they were not cooked," said Raymond.

"Not at all," said Mrs. Warren; "there was no wood to cook them with."

In a moment Easy Warren then saw what a 'moral' there was in his novel dinner, and with a keen appetite, he went to work on the wood pile. He took his dinner and supper together that day, and he remembered that Mrs. Warren said:

"Now, Raymond, whenever you leave me without wood you must eat victuals that have been cooked on a cold stove."

Many women would have stormed and scolded, but Mrs. Warren knew there was a better way to correct her easy husband's carelessness, or shiftlessness, as the reader pleases.

One day there was no flour in the house, and Raymond was about to go with some neighbors to a town meeting, when his wife hid his best coat, and reminded him of the empty flour barrel. Another day, his corn was to be gathered, when a neighbor came and desired him to assist him with his horse and wagon. It was a neighbor who often received favors, but seldom rendered them; yet Easy Warren could not refuse him. But, when he went to hitch his horses before the wagon, he found that one of the wheels was missing. Of course, the neighbor was disappointed. In the afternoon, when Raymond expressed a wish to draw his corn, his wife told him where he could find the lost wagon wheel.

Thus was Easy Warren's household managed, until he began to realize practically, what the error of his life had been. People said: "Warren's farm looks much better than it did some years ago." Mrs. Warren never interfered with Raymond's business except when he neglected it, and then she never found fault or scolded, but took occasion to show his neglect to him in a manner which impressed him with his injustice to his own interests.

Raymond's cattle were well cared for, and were in good order. When his fences were

[*Continued on page 398.*]

Feeding Rusty Straw.—Says a correspondent from Wyoming Co., N. Y., "Tell your readers to beware of feeding rusty straw to your stock. I had some experience in this line last Winter with three colts, which had free access to a stack of rusty Spring wheat straw. They came near dying; their coats were rough and staring, swellings filled with thin pus or water appeared on their limbs and some parts of their bodies, and they also seemed to have a difficulty in the head and nostrils. Change of feed and good care alone got them through to grass, but they were much injured. I have also seen cattle do very poorly when feeding on rusty straw, though they were stabled and fed hay, &c., nights and mornings. I think farmers should be careful in feeding or allowing their stock to eat this; the best use for it is to bed with.—*Rural New Yorker.*

# The Stock Yard.

## WINTER MANAGEMENT OF HOGS.

There is perhaps no season of the year when hogs are so badly managed as in the Winter. It is a very common mistake for Western farmers to suppose that because a hog is a hog, he can stand any kind of treatment, and yet yield a large profit to his owner. It is no uncommon thing for the poor animals to be turned into the street or road to shift for themselves, without a particle of bedding or shelter except the frozen ground in some fence corner, and a very small allowance of feed carelessly thrown into the mud, under the impression that it is a pleasure or at least no displeasure for a dirty hog to be obliged to root in the cold mud up to his eyes, for his scanty meal.

Is this reasonable? Think of it, farmers, and if reason does not satisfy you, try taking your breakfast from six to eight inches below the surface of the mud, some cold morning, and try sleeping on the ground in the fence corner some night, with the thermometer below zero; I presume you will not want to repeat either experiment.

The truth is, there is no domestic animal that suffers so much from exposure to cold and wet as the hog. He is a native of a mild climate and should be treated as his nature demands, if we would turn his peculiarities to our advantage. And during Winter he should be provided with warm, dry quarters, plenty of warm, clean bedding and an abundant supply of nutritious, fat and heat-producing food.—For this purpose there is nothing equal to corn, owing to the large amount of carbon in its composition, which the hog appropriates in producing fat and heat to warm his system—the same as our stoves consume carbon in the form of wood and coal to warm our rooms.—The colder and more exposed these are, the more fuel we are obliged to consume to make them comfortable. Just so with the hog; the less care is expended in making his quarters comfortable, the more corn he must consume to keep up the animal heat, and if not supplied with the necessary amount of food, his system has to fall back on the carbon it has stored in the form of fat, and he must necessarily lose in weight, at his careless or thoughtless owner's expense.

Hogs should also have a good supply of water, as it is impossible for them to digest their food without water to dissolve it and convey it into the blood. They should be kept constantly supplied with salt, coal and ashes. Salt is a valuable stimulator of the appetite and digestive organs.

During warm days in the Winter, the feed should be regulated according to the temperature, just as we would regulate the fuel according to the demand of the weather. When the weather suddenly becomes warm, animals lose their appetites and are liable to become "stalled." Some cooling, succulent food, as slop, or vegetables of some kind, should be substituted for the more heating food of grain.—*Cor. Western Rural.*

## CARE OF STOCK.

The principal object of interest to most farmers in Winter is their stock. Then, when the earth ceases to produce, the horse and cow and poultry are all of daily value, and continue to yield profits. The great secret of increasing this productiveness is not only to take good care of them, but to learn how to do it. Much of this is in treating the animals to that variety which is as agreeable to them as to man. Thus, a horse, as the Rural World suggests, will get tired of standing and treading on a hard floor; so will a cow, a sheep, a man. A soft bed feels easy and gives rest; and yet we neglect the bedding of our stables to a great extent. Injured limbs and other ailments, especially of the hoof, are the result often of a neglect here, as has been clearly enough shown, and as any man can clearly enough see, if he gives the subject a moment's thought. Bed with straw, which is plenty, or saw-dust, or tan-bark or shavings. The dryer these materials are the better. Every day remove the moistened bedding and replace with new. Such a floor well bedded, adds greatly to the warmth of a stable, and thus becomes a fodder saver. The small holes and crevices in a floor with a good bedding upon them, will let little or no cold through, and will drain the floor. Rather have a ground-floor than hard, naked plank. The same is true for cows in milk, of whom another writer says that a frequent change of food is important at this season of the year. There is a great advantage in this change, for if one description of food is constantly used, the cows tire of it, eat it less greedily, and soon show a reduction of produce. The very novelty of change seems to whet the appetite and to stimulate the vitality of the whole system, and, of course, to promote the secretions. Those near large towns can get a few brewer's grains, feed out some roots, and an occasional breakfast of shorts will be found to pay. Cabbage ought to be raised more extensively as a fodder crop. They are most excellent, and the yield is enormous. Study change and feed regularly. A correspondent of the Prairie Farmer, who keeps a dairy, knows it to be a fact that if his cows were not salted as often as every fourth day, they would fall off in their milk from a pint to a quart per day.—*Maryland Farmer.*

## THE SHROPSHIRE DOWN.

This valuable and popular variety has been formed chiefly within the last fifty years. On one side they sprang from what were known as the Morfe Common sheep, a horned breed, said to have been of rather large frame and uncouth form. Crosses, it is said, were first attempted both with the Cotswold and South Down; but the latter was finally adopted as the chief source of improvement. The aim of the leading breeders seems to have been to secure the form of the most perfect of the South Down breed, and combine with it greater size, stronger constitution, and greater weight of fleece. The attempt has succeeded to a very satisfactory degree. The "Sbrops," as they are frequently called, some time since reached that point which entitles them to be considered a distinct breed; that is, they have demonstrated their ability to "stand alone," having for several years been propagated by the selection of breeding animals from among themselves. The leading breeders say that they have made no re-infusion of South Down or other blood for many years, and such a course does not seem necessary, as the new breed appears to be annually improving and acquiring more uniformity. It has for some time been one of the most popular of the English short-wooled breeds, and has probably increased more of late years than any other variety of that class. Visiting, a few years since, several farms in England where this variety of sheep was kept, the writer was assured by farmers that they could keep as many "Sbrops" to the acre as of South Downs; that the former would produce more meat in a given time than the latter, worth within a small fraction as much per pound in the market, and that the former would average a pound more of wool per head annually, the wool bringing the same price per pound.

The great demand which has arisen within a few years for long luster wool, has caused a considerable spread of the sheep which produce that staple; but until this kind of wool arose in price, the Shropshire Downs were increasing in numbers faster than any other breed in Britain. They have been introduced into this country and the Canadas, but have not, perhaps, been sufficiently tried here to justify a positive opinion as to their profits compared with the South Downs.—*Sanford Howard.*

Young Stock—Of all kinds, should be kept vigorously growing all Winter. Warm, dry yards, sheds or stables, some grain or roots, and plenty of fresh water and salt, with regular care, will insure thrift and much better sized animals than if the Winter treatment checks their growth as is usually the case.—Their manure will be worth something, too.

## CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF MILK.

Milk embraces the essential nutriment principles of all forms of food, and when pure, nothing contributes more to the physical health than it does. It is the first food of infants, and feasting on it alone these tender germs of humanity acquire strength and vigor of growth; through life, its nutritious qualities are recognized; adults use it with benefit to themselves, and it sustains existence when old age comes to enfeeble the body and limbs. The composition of milk is, 1st, caseine, a rich nitrogenized material; 2d, fatty principles; 3d, a peculiar sugar; 4th, various mineral salts, principally consisting of phosphate of soda, phosphate of lime, phosphate of iron and phosphate of magnesia; the potash exists in the form of chloride of potassium. These substances are held in suspension by water. The composition of caseine is identical with the muscular substance, and with the albumen of the blood, and in milk we find this composition in a soluble state. Hence the feeble powers of the infant are equal to its digestion and assimulation. To supply the waste of energetic respiration we find two nonnitrogenous bodies, butter and sugar; these, when in the body, are resolved into carbonic acid and water, and develop the necessary heat. As the body absorbs much lime in its construction, we find it in milk in excess of all other salts; and this ingredient enables the growth of the bones to keep pace with the growth of the body. The phosphate of soda and the chloride of potassium mingle with the blood and promote secretion, and give wonderful harmony to the chemical and vital changes of the system. "What," asks Dr. Nichols, "is man, or an animal, but a kind of chemical labratory, where transmutation and changes in gross matter are going on continually, in order that force may be developed, and the machine or body kept in motion? Is an atom of iron, or potash, or soda, any more sacred, or entitled to higher consideration, because it has happened to be absorbed from the rocks or dust by vegetable growths and taken into the body, there to be manipulated by the unseen chemist, and perhaps assigned, for a brief period, a place among the earthy or atmospheric constituents of the flesh? What is health but an undisturbed play of chemical affinities, in the mineral organism? What is disease but imperfect chemical reactions, or insufficient supply of necessary chemical agents in the same? The color, odor, taste and medical effect of milk may be modified by the employment of certain articles of food.—*Nichols' Chemistry.*

## DRYING OFF COWS.

At this season of the year much care and attention should be given to cows in properly drying them of their milk. It is the end of the dairy season and many cows of the herd have perhaps ceased to give milk, except in small driblets, which are not worth saving. It is this very condition of the cow's udder which should be looked to. The milk should be all drawn out from time to time until secretion of the fluid stops, or the cow is thoroughly "dried off." Many take it for granted that because a cow has failed of her milk that no further attention need be given her. We have known serious losses to follow from inattention in this respect. Small quantities of milk will often form and remain in the udder to become thick and putrid, causing inflammation and resulting in the loss of one or more teats. It is probable that half the loss in the dairy region from garget, inflamed udders, and other troubles of the bag and teats, may be traced directly to improper drying off the cow at the end of the season. Some people entrust this matter entirely to hired help, but they are often forgetful or neglectful until the trouble has progressed so far as to be beyond control.

A great many cows lose the use of teats by a small, shot-like substance becoming imbedded in the milk duct, blocking it up. It is a question whether this trouble is not the result of improper "drying off." The use of many valuable cows are annually lost from this cause and of late years it has become quite frequent. We have seen remedies recommended, and statements of cures effected, but many of our acquaintances who have had experience this way, find them impracticable and worthless. It will be well for farmers to provide against losses, by seeing that cows are properly dried, and not entrusting the matter to servants. Dairy stock is scarce and high, and a little care now will pay well in the Spring. The cows should be drained of their milk every few days, or at least an effort made to drain the teats, to see if there be any accumulation in the udder.—*Utica Herald.*

## SHORT-HORNS AS DAIRY COWS.

Every farmer knows what an uncertain operation it is to buy cows. That good ones are seldom offered at private sale. The result is that those who rely upon buying to keep their stock good are very liable to have poor milkers. To remedy this it is recommended that dairymen raise the heifer calves from their best milkers, and by following this practice they would not only save buying cows, but increase the milking quality of their stock.

That the Short-Horn has the natural capacity, and when reared and managed for that object, their tendency to produce milk equal to any other breed whatever, there can be no question. Numerous recorded instances in this country as in England, attest that fact.—The several volumes of the American Herd Book may be referred to where Short-Horn cows have produced thirty to even forty quarts per day, for weeks together, of the richest milk, having a corresponding weight of butter.

The strongly developed milking qualities in all our domestic kine are artificially produced by care, feed etc., favoring the secretion of milk; that particular care which will develop in the heifer, at the time of maternity, greater milking qualities than her dam possessed, though she would be or may be a good milker. If a heifer is allowed to become fresh in Winter, with no other food than what she can glean in the field or at the straw pile, no warm stable or bran mashes being within her reach, she will not be likely to prove a good milker. There are good physiological reasons for this opinion which might be given; but as we are not discussing the science of breeding, it need not now be dwelt upon.

As a milk and dairy producing cow, properly bred, and educated for that object, the Short-Horn has no superior. In England, before they were in so great demand as of late years for breeding and feeding purposes, her feats at the pail were triumphantly set forth by breeders; but of late years, so much more profitable have been her returns for breeding purposes alone, that the milking quality has been measurably neglected for the greater benefit of obtaining a better calf in the sacrifice of a large portion of her milk. That is to say: If the cow is milked to her utmost capacity in quantity, and time in yielding it, it must be to a considerable extent at the expense and growth of the fœtus, or embryo calf within her; she cannot do two things in the best possible manner at the same time—give a yield of milk and produce the best developed calf together. One or the other must suffer, as the best breeders consider, and the calf being of most consequence, the milk is sacrificed.

In longevity, continuous breeding to an advanced age and a final profitable termination of her career at the shambles, the Short-Horn cow has no superior, and few equals.—*American Stock Journal.*

A down East editor says he has seen the contrivance our lawyers use when they "warm up with the subject." He says it is a glass concern and holds about a pint.

Never neglect a person because you imagine he can be of no further use to you. We often derive assistance and friendship from persons whom we do not expect or desire to take an interest in our welfare.

Age of Sheep.—Although the age of the ram may be ascertained by the number of rings or knobs on his horns, yet from the large number of hornless sheep, and many other reasons, it is safer and more satisfactory to determine the age by the teeth. The sheep has eight cutting teeth in the front of the lower jaw, and six molar, or grinding teeth in each jaw—above and below. When the lamb is born it sometimes has no cutting teeth, but it generally has two, and before it becomes a month old, the full number, eight, appears in the lower jaw. When the sheep is sixteen months old, the two central teeth are shed, and in process of time replaced by others, which attain their full size when the sheep is two years old. Between the ages of two and three years, the next two incisors, or cutting teeth, are shed, and slowly replaced by others, which also attain their full size when the animal is three years old.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## IMPROVEMENT OF PASTURES.

The winter season is a good time to review the labors of the past, also to make calculations for the New Year that will soon dawn upon us. A retrospect of our labors, either in agriculture or horticulture, in the twelve months just past, will be of no disadvantage, but may be valuable in suggesting improvements and modifications on the farm, the garden or the vine-yard.

The improvement of our pastures is a matter of importance; especially to those who depend on the dairy business, or who rear or keep considerable stock. Experience teaches us that close and continual cropping, year after year, will exhaust the best pasture lands in any country. All virgin soils have more or less salts, sulphates and phosphates, which contribute to the growth of vegetation. But these are constantly carried away to form the bone, flesh and milk of the herds which pasture upon them. Consequently, unless these elements are returned, in some form or other, our pasture lands will become partially exhausted if not unproductive.

In some parts of the country, more particularly in New England and the northern portions of the Middle States, it has been the practice of many good farmers to plough up their pastures, give a light coat of stable manure, or some artificial fertilizer, raise one crop of rye and then stock down to grass again. On some soils this system of rotation has answered a good purpose; yet on others it has shown no renovating effects. On naturally poor land we should not expect permanent improvement by this system. Nor can we call all such experiments entirely economical if we consider the cost of ploughing up old pastures, the value of seed sown and the fertilizers expended. In this system of cultivation the soil must lose more or less of its fertility by the crop taken off—thus leaving the soil not much, if any richer than before.

Another method to restore to pasture land the soda, magnesia, lime and phosphoric acids that enter the composition of grass is to spread unleached ashes, salt, ground bone and gypsum and other well-known fertilizers upon the surface of the land. This, if done in the early Spring months, has been found to be of great value. These artificial agents restore some of the original elements of vitality and growth, and we have seen pasture lands much benefited by their application. In New Jersey the use of marl has made some of the best pasture lands in the country—often, too, from soils of light composition and originally of little value. This marl being rich in potash, lime, magnesia, phosphoric acid, &c., does no fail to permanently improve all land to which it is applied. We acknowledge that the best, most nutritious pasture lands we have ever seen were in Burlington county, New Jersey. And, they were made so principally by the use of marl.

There are some pastures that can be improved by irrigation. This can be done by the building of reservoirs to hold the water, then with small ditches this can be carried in parallel directions over the field. Where pastures need moisture, and are favorably located, irrigation answers a good purpose. There is another class of pastures, perhaps the poorest of all, that require attention. These are the cold, wet pastures, over-grown with coarse, wild grasses, and frequently sloping to the North, so that the sun has but little influence on them. these can be benefited by deep drainage. Pasturage is worthless if there is a superabundance of water. If such land can be ploughed, and there is a natural descent for the water, we would recommend ploughing into narrow lands. This will improve it to some extent, but never make sweet and nutritious pasturage.

In regard to the best system of improving or renovating pasture land, we must state our conviction is simply this. Where the land is of suitable character there is nothing better than ploughing, drainage, thorough cultivation, the application of manures or fertilizers, and then stocking down with good seed. By this method we can make good and profitable pasturage, while many of the other systems referred to must be regarded as experiments or temporary expedients.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

Experiments in mulching orchards have been tried in various parts of the country, and generally with success. A writer in the Maine Farmer says:—"A few years since we used to cultivate amongst our apple trees, but took a lesson from nature. Now we know that forest trees drop their leaves, which serve both to protect the roots and loosen the soil. This we imitate by mulching with straw and meadow hay, which we find preferable to cultivating the soil, as it is less work and better secures the object in view."

—

According to the *Revue des Economiste*, the entire extent of surface appropriated in France to the cultivation of wheat, is two thousand eight hundred leagues. Of every hundred acres appropriated to cultivation in that country, forty are devoted to this grain. It is asserted that the quantity of wheat produced in France, exceeds the aggregate product of the same grain in the British Isles, Sweden, Poland, Holland, Prussia and Spain. The annual consumption of wheat per head, on an average, in France, is between six and seven bushels; in the British Isles, between five and six bushels; in Spain, between four and five; in Holland, between two and three; in Prussia much less, and in Poland and Sweden, comparatively little.

Spain, next to France, is the greatest wheat growing country in Europe. Her soil is almost equally as fertile, and abounds in those mineral ingredients upon the presence of which in the soil, the success of the wheat crop is in a great measure found to depend.

—

A correspondent of the Rural World saves his plums from the curculio by the use of pulverized unslacked lime. "I take the burnt limestone just before I am going to use it, and pound it into a fine dust, and then put it in a loose sack, which I attach to a long pole, and shake and jar this dust early in the morning while the dew is on, over through my plum trees twice a week, from the time they are as big as a pea, till the curculio ceases his depredations. This experiment was completely successful with me, and I have never seen more thrifty trees or finer fruit. I also fancy the lime dust prevents the rot; for, while some of my neighbors lost all their fruit by the rot, my trees were not at all affected by it."

—

A contributor of the Prarie Farmer gives his experience in raising hops. In regard to the kind of soil for hops he says: "The medium loam is best, though any of the loam mixtures between the sand and clay will do; but the more sandy the soil the more manure is required to keep up the necessary fertility and preserve the plant from the effects of the drouths and frosts; while the clayey soils require much manure to give them mellowness and prevent the ground from baking.

Now land upon which one or two crops have been raised is best, as the vegetable fibers are well decomposed and soil in a fresh and vigorous condition. A medium loam exhausted by a series of wheat or corn crops, not having been drained of some of the essential properties, requires only the usual amount of manuring to bring it into fit condition. Elevated and level locations should be selected, as in low, moist places hops are exposed to the frosts and are liable to rust.

Early spring planting is advisable as it admits of the plant growing beyond the harm of the cut-worm and it will better withstand the early drouths and perhaps yield a handsome profit the first season. Early fall planting with some cultivation and light manuring, will yield half a crop the following season. November is an excellent time for planting; but one or two shovelsfull of manure to the hill are needed to protect the roots through the winter."

—

The perfection of orchard culture, says the Horticulturist, is to get good trees, plant on good site and soil, let the branches grow low on the trunk, exclude grass, corn, cattle, roots, weeds, mice and borers, and give the soil exclusively to it. Rich soils often cause too great growth for fruitfulness, and cause winter killing. Summer and root pruning and growing crops are checks of growth, and lime, ashes, bones, and muck compost the safest top-dressing stimulants. Plow up an orchard on the first signs of decay, and you will be likely to have fairer and better fruit.

—

Mr. H. W. Risley, recommends in the Southern Cultivator, the following formula for making "guano," which he says he adopted "during those sad years of war, when he was obliged to make his living out of the earth by the sweat of his brow:" First gather any quantity of swamp muck into a pile to dry. Measure off six bbls. of this (or any other rich black earth) into another pile, and add the following salts previously dissolved in a bbl. or more of water, viz: 40 lbs. nitrate of soda, 60 lbs. sulphate ammonia and half a bushel common salt. Then add one bbl. of ashes, one bbl. of Plaster of Paris and one bbl. ground bones. Mix all well together and use in the same manner as Peruvian Guano.

—

The Utica Herald quotes from a letter from Sir James Monteith to the Ayrshire Express, in which the practice of coloring cheese with anotta or scarlet vegetable substances is strongly condemned. It is not disputed that coloring improves the appearance of the cheese, but it is claimed that the matter used to raise the color is deleterious to the health of consumers. Besides, he asserts that the coloring matter used prevents the cheese ripening for a long time for the market. To this the Herald adds:—"We have no doubt that vegetable coloring matter of various descriptions may have an injurious effect upon the curd. Granting that may all be true, the practical dairyman has hardly suspected it. He knows that the early ripening of cheese depends, for the most part, upon its manufacture and curing. Thus, by care in manufacture, light salting and comparatively high heat in curing, a cheese highly colored with anotta, may be ripened for the table in thirty days, or even twenty days from the press. One great objection which the English urge against the American cheese is that it ripens too quick and goes to decay too soon. If color would arrest the process of ripening and decay, that might be claimed sometimes, perhaps, in its favor."

Death of a Note d Stock-Breeder.—R. A Alexander, of Woodford county, Kentucky, died on the 1st instant. He was the largest owner of improved stock in this country—perhaps in the world. His horses were estimated at nearly a million of dollars; besides he owned extensive herds of Short-Horn and Alderney cattle, and vast flocks of South-Down sheep. His home farm in Kentucky, comprised five thousand acres. He also owned seventeen thousand acres of the best farming land in Illinois. He was born in Kentucky, was of Scotch parentage and inherited an immense fortune in Scotland. He was about forty-five years of age, of quiet, domestic habits and an enthusiast in stock-breeding. His death may be regarded as a great loss to the improved stock interests of the country.

Fodder.—Use the coarse fodder liberally, but feed some hay also. A feed of roots two or three times a week, if no more can be afforded, is of great service to the health of stock. Horses should have carrots. Otherwise give them a bran mash occasionally. Remember that milch cows pay cash for a liberal supply of food. Without rich food good butter cannot be made.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

More wheat is said to have been sown in Central Ohio this year than last year, and the crop is now looking well.

There are five million head of cattle in England, Scotland, and Wales, and twenty-nine million sheep.

Nearly ten million acres of land, in Great Britain, exclusive of Ireland, were devoted to cereals this year.

The entire cranberry crop of the country will amount to 300,000 bushels, worth $1,200,000, and of this amount New Jersey produces one half, Massachusetts coming next.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman, says Mr. Caswell, of Erie Co., Ohio, raised about 2,900 bushels of wheat from 100 acres of land this year.

Last year corn was selling at Clarksville, Ga., at $2 dollars per bushel; it is now worth only 40 cents. Other crops in about the same proportion.

Over a hundred thousand sheep have been driven from Oregon to California, during the past season.

In the Mississippi swamps herdsgrass has been found which was five feet three inches high, with heads, eight inches long. The seed was from forage scattered during the war.

Ohio has 8,460,712 sheep, and exports a wool clip this year of between 27,000.000 and 30,000,000 pounds, yielding about $15,000,000.

Alden Adams of Leverett, Mass., has this season gathered a goodly crop of hops off the same vine his grandfather gathered from 90 years ago.

The wool raisers in New Hampshire are discouraged at the low prices, and many hold back the supply of this season or abandon the business, while others endeavor to sell their farms in order to go West. The average price of wool this season is 40 cents, much below the figure required to make the business profitable.

When old apple trees bear fruit it is inferior in quality to that which is grown on middle aged trees. Nor can we get good specimens of grafted fruit the first two or three years after the trees commence bearing.

D. Lee, of Knox Co., Tenn., writes that fair timbered mountain land can there be bought in large tracts at from $50 to $100 per thousand acres—or five to ten cents per acre.

A correspondent of the American Farmer says it is now believed the hop vines can be made to pay the whole expense of raising the crop, as they "can be profitably worked up into coarse cloth."

The Iowa Homestead thinks there are not so many hogs to be marketed in that State, as there was last year, and says the farmers generally propose selling their pork early. It thinks corn will be nearly or quite as high next Spring as it was last.

The Memphis post says: "The northwestern portion of Arkansas is naturally one of the best fruit-growing regions in the United States. Its pears and apples are most delicious and tempting. Pears as sweet and juicy as the Bartlett are said to be natives of that country.

As an evidence of the depression in wool and sheep matters, an Ohio farmer recently said:—Three years ago I put $2,000 into Vermont sheep, and now I cannot get $500 for them.

A correspondent of the Ohio Farmer, writing from Central Ohio, says the dry weather has so frightened the farmers in some sections that stock is being sold at almost any price. In some sections good sheep are being sold in large numbers at 80 cents to $1,00 per head, and yet the hay crop was the best had for many years.

A correspondent of the Rural American recommends the following as a cure for lice on cattle:—Take 12 or more good-sized Irish potatoes, pound them fine, then put them into two gallons and a half of water, boil thoroughly, then let it cool, and apply as a wash, to cows, calves, mares and colts, and all other creatures that have lice.



Passion in Lieu of Love.—Woe to that man who is loved with the passion that has neither tenderness nor affection in it to soften it! who is loved not for his own sake, but for the selfish sake of the woman who is mated with him! The opposite of that love is hate. The serpent hatched from the Egyptian warmth of that sterile soil is vengeance. Pity and regret and the sad quiet partings of a humbled heart, the unutterable and fiery sense of wrong quenched and conquered by a flood of better and holier feelings, all these things are unknown to such women. Their impulse is to slay Jason's children to punish Jason. They fulfil the scriptural malediction, which says: "Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel."

[*Continued from page 395.*]

down, if he did not replace them, his wife employed a neighbor to make the necessary repairs. His wife took the papers, and read; she knew the state of the market, and, to oblige her, Raymond had his grain in market when the price was highest. Some people said:

"Easy Warren is a hen-pecked husband."

But he knew better; and he often boasted that his wife was more of a "business man than he was."

They had lived together peacefully some years, when, one day, Raymond was in a good humor thinking over his prosperous condition, and he told her: "I'm a woman's rights man of the true grit. They may say you wear the breeches, if they please; I'm satisfied to have you do the thinking for our firm. And, now I see what a fool I have been, I must make up for my early shiftlessness."

He did make up for his early shiftlessness, and under his wife's judicious training he became industrious instead of Easy Warren.

Mrs. Warren had the correct idea of woman's rights and woman's wrongs. We commend her management to those who have "easy" husbands. Especially do we commend it to those unfortunates who have earned for themselves the opprobrious title of "SCOLDS."

## The Fireside Muse.

### WHEN YOU'RE DOWN.

What legions of 'friends' always bless us,
When golden success lights our way!
How they smile as they softly address us,
So cordial, good humored and gay!
But ah! when the sun of prosperity
Hath set, how quickly they frown,
And cry out in tones of severity,
'Kick the man, don't you see he is down!

What though, when you know not a sorrow,
Though your heart was as open as day,
And your friends, when they wanted to borrow,
You obliged, and ne'er asked them to 'pay.'
What though not a soul you e'er slighted,
As you wandered about through the town,
Your 'friends' seem to be very near sighted,
And don't seem to think that you're down.

When you're 'up' you are loudly exalted,
And traders all sing out your praise;
When you're down you have greatly defaulted
And they 'really don't fancy your ways.'
Your style was 'tip-top' when you'd money,
So sings every sucker and clown,
But now 'tis exceedingly funny—
Things are altered 'because you are down.'

Oh give me the heart that forever
Is free from this world's selfish rust
And the soul whose high, noble endeavors
Is to raise fallen men from the dust;
And when in adversity's ocean
A victim is likely to drown,
All hail to the friends whose devotion
Will lift a man up when he's down.

## Biographical.

### DANIEL WEBSTER IN PORTSMOUTH.

ADMITTED to the bar in his twenty-third year, he dutifully went home to his father, and opened an office in a New Hampshire village near by, resolved never again to leave the generous old man while he lived. Before leaving Boston, he wrote to his friend Bingham, "If I am not earning my bread and cheese in exactly nine days after my admission, I shall certainly be a bankrupt";—and so indeed it proved. With great difficulty, he "hired" eighty-five dollars as a capital to begin business with, and this great sum was immediately lost in its transit by stage. To any other young man in his situation, such a calamity would have been, for the moment, crushing; but this young man, indifferent to *meum* as to *teum*, informs his brother that he can in no conceivable way replace the money, cannot therefore pay for the books he had bought, believes he is earning his daily bread, and as to the loss, he has "*no uneasy sensations on that account.*" He concludes his letter with an old song, beginning,

"Fol de dol, dol de dol. di dol,
I'll never make money my idol."

In the New Hampshire of 1805 there was no such thing possible as leaping at once into a lucrative practice, nor even of slowly acquiring it. A county lawyer who gained a thousand dollars a year was among the most successful, and the leader of the bar in New Hampshire could not earn two thousand. The chief employment of Daniel Webster, during the first year or two of his practice, was collecting debts due in New Hampshire to merchants in Boston. His first tin sign has been preserved to the present day, to attest by its minuteness and brevity the humble expectations of its proprietor. "D. Webster, Attorney," is the inscription it bears. The old Court House still stands in which he conducted his first suit, before his own father, as presiding judge. Old men in that part of New Hampshire were living until these few years, who remembered well seeing this tall, gaunt, and large-eyed young lawyer rise slowly, as though scarcely able to rise upon his feet, and giving to every one the impression that he would soon be obliged to sit down from mere physical weakness, and saying to his father, for the first and last time, "May it please your Honor." The sheriff of the county, who was also a Webster, used to say that he felt ashamed to see the family represented at the bar by so lean and feeble a young man. The tradition is, that he acquitted himself so well on this occasion that the sheriff was satisfied, and clients came, with their little suits and smaller fees, in considerable numbers, to the office of D. Webster, Attorney, who thenceforth in the country round went by the name of "All eyes." His father never heard him speak again. He lived to see Daniel in successful practice, and Ezekiel a student of law, and died in 1806, prematurely old. Daniel Webster practiced three years in the country, and then, resigning his business to his brother, established himself at Portsmouth, the sea-port of New Hampshire, then a place of much foreign commerce. Ezekiel had had a most desperate struggle with poverty. At one time, when the family, as Daniel observed, was "heinously unprovided," we see the much-enduring "Zeke" teaching an academy by day, an evening school for sailors, and keeping well up with his class in college besides. But these preliminary troubles were now at an end, and both the brothers took the places won by so much toil and self sacrifice.

Those are noble old towns on the New England coast, the commerce of which Boston swallowed up forty years ago, while it left behind many a large and liberally provided old mansion, with a family in it enriched by ventures to India and China. Strangers in Portsmouth are still struck by the largeness and elegance of the residences there, and wonder how such establishments can be maintained in a place that has little "visible means of support." It was while Portsmouth was an important seaport that Daniel Webster learned and practiced law there, and acquired some note as a Federalist politician.

The once celebrated Dr. Bucksminister was the minister of the Congregationalist church at Portsmouth then. One Sunday morning in 1808, his eldest daughter sitting alone in the minister's pew, a strange gentleman was shown into it, whose appearance and demeanor strongly arrested her attention. The slenderness of his frame, the pale yellow of his complexion, and the raven blackness of his hair, seemed only to bring out into grander relief his ample forehead, and to brighten the effect of his deep set, brilliant eyes. At this period of his life there was an air of delicacy and refinement about his face, joined to a kind of strength that woman can admire, without fearing. Miss Buckminister told the family, when she went home from church, that there had been a remarkable person with her in the pew—one that she was sure had "a marked character for good or evil." A few days after, the remarkable person came to live in the neighborhood, and was soon introduced to the minister's family as Mr. Daniel Webster, from Franklin, New Hampshire, who was about to open a law office in Portsmouth. He soon endeared himself to every person in the minister's circle, and to the minister himself, who, among other services, taught him the art of preserving his health. The young man, like the old clergyman, was an early riser, up with the dawn in Summer, and long before the dawn in Winter; and both were out of doors with the sun, each at one end of a long saw, cutting wood for an appetite. The joyous, uncouth singing and shouting of the new-comer aroused the late sleepers. Then in to breakfast, where the homely, captivating humor of the young lawyer kept the table in a roar, and detained every inmate. "Never was there such an actor lost to the stage," Jeremiah Mason, his only rival at the New Hampshire bar, used to say, "as he would have made." Returning in the afternoon from court, fatigued and languid, his spirits rose again with food and rest, and the evening was another festival of conversation and reading. A few months after his settlement at Portsmouth he visited his native hills, saying nothing respecting the object of his journey; and returned with a wife,—that gentle and high-bred lady, a clergyman's daughter, who was the chief source of the happiness of his happiest years, and the mother of all his children. He improved in health, his form expanded, his mind grew, his talents ripened, his fame spread, during the nine years of his residence at this thriving and pleasant town.

At Portsmouth, too, he had precisely that external stimulus to exertion which his large and pleasure-loving nature needed. Jeremiah Mason was, literally speaking, the giant of the American bar, for he stood six feet seven inches in his stockings. Like Webster, he was the son of a valiant Revolutionary officer; like Webster, he was an hereditary Federalist; like Webster he had a great mass of brain; but his mind was more active and acquisitive than Webster's, and his nineteen years of arduous practice at the bar had stored his memory with knowledge and given him dexterity in the use of it. Nothing shows the eminence of Webster's talent more than this, that, very early in his Portsmouth career, he should have been regarded, at the bar of New Hampshire, as the man to be employed against Jeremiah Mason, and his only fit antagonist. Mason was a vigilant, vigorous opponent—sure to be well up in the law and facts of a cause, sure to detect a flaw in the argument of opposing counsel. It was in keen encounters with this wary and learned man that Daniel Webster learned his profession; and this he always acknowledged. "If," he once said in conversation—"If anybody thinks I am somewhat familiar with the law on some points, and should be curious to know how it happened, tell him that Jeremiah Mason compelled me to study it. *He* was my master." It is honorable, too, to both of them, that, rivals as they were, they were fast and affectionate friends, each valuing in the other the qualities which he was surpassed by him, and each sincerely believing that the other was the first man of his time and country.

"They say," in Portsmouth, that Mason did not shrink from remonstrating with his friend upon his carelessness with regard to money; but, finding the habit inveterate and the man irresistible, desisted. Webster himself says that two thousand dollars a year was all that the best practice in New Hampshire could be made to yield; and that that was inadequate to the support of his family of a wife and three little children. Two thousand dollars in Portsmouth in 1812, was certainly equal, in purchasing power, to six thousand of the ineffectual things that now pass by the name of dollars; and upon such an income large families in a country town contrive to live, ride, and save.—*North American Review.*

HORSE POWER.—A horse power in machinery, as a measure of force, is estimated equal to the raising of 33,000 pounds over a single pulley, one foot a minute, or 550 pounds raised one foot a second, or 1,000 pounds raised thirty-five feet a minute.

MARK TWAIN, lecturing on the Feejee Islands, offered to show how the cannibals eat their food, if some lady would hand him a baby. The lecture was not illustrated.

## General Miscellany.

### EYE SIGHT.

MILTON'S blindness was the result of overwork and dyspepsia.

One of the most eminent American divines has for some time been compelled to forego the pleasure of reading, has spent thousands of dollars in vain, and lost years of time, in consequence of getting up several hours before day and studying by artificial light. His eyes will never get well.

Multitudes of men and women have made their eyes weak for life by too free use of the eye sight in reading small print and doing fine sewing. In view of these things it is well to observe the following rules in the use of the eyes:

Avoid sudden changes from light and darkness.

Never begin to read, or write, or sew for several minutes after coming from darkness to a bright light.

Never read by twilight, or moonlight, or on a very cloudy day.

Never read or sew directly in front of the light or window, or door.

It is best to have the light fall from above, obliquely over the left shoulder.

Never sleep, so that, on first awakening, the eyes shall open on the light of a window.

Do not use the eyesight by light so scant, that it requires an effort to discriminate.

Too much light creates a glare, and pains and confuses the sight. The moment you are sensible of an effort to distinguish, that moment cease, and take a walk or ride.

As the sky is blue and the earth is green, it would seem that the ceiling should be of a bluish tinge and the carpet green and the walls of some mellow tint.

The moment you are instinctly prompted to rub the eyes, that moment cease using them.

If the eyelids are glued together on waking up, do not forcibly open them; but apply the saliva with the finger—it is the speediest diluent in the world—then wash eyes and face in warm water.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

THE CHEAPEST FOOD.—The cheapest and most nutritious vegetable used for food is *beans.* Prof. Liebig says that pork and beans form a compound of substances peculiarly adapted to furnish all that is necessary to support life. A quart of beans say costs 15 cents; half a pound of pork 10 cents. This, as every housekeeper knows, will feed a family for a day, with good strengthening food. Four quarts of beans and two pounds of corned beef, boiled to rags, in fifty quarts of water, will furnish a good meal to forty men at a cost of one dollar—two cents and a half a meal.

The way to feed fowls, and particularly those that are laying, or being fattened, is to allow them to have free access to food at all times. In this way they can always supply the demands of their stomachs and grinding apparatus, exactly as food is needed; and they will fatten more rapidly, lay more eggs, and consume much less food than they will if they are fed as much as they will eat twice a day.

HOW TO SALT BEEF.—For every 100 pounds of beef, take 1½ ounces of saltpetre, 2½ pounds brown sugar, 5 pounds good salt, and 2½ gallons water; mix all together and boil the mass till all the hard ingredients are thoroughly dissolved; then let the brine cool and pour it over the meat, which must be packed tight and weighed down. The pickle should entirely cover the brine.

POULTRY MANURE.—The productive power of the droppings of the hennery are very great as compared with the ordinary barnyard manure; yet many farmers, with a score or two of fowls, take little or no pains to preserve and apply it to the purposes of vegetable production. It is an excellent dressing for gardens, and will repay a hundred fold the care and expense of preserving and applying it.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*



COVERING STRAWBERRY VINES.—In covering strawberry plants for Winter, care should be taken that it is not over done. The plants are not killed by freezing, if the freezing be continuous, but by freezing and then thawing in the sun on a bright, mild day. To cover them with a heavy coat of manure is worse than to leave them naked, for they will smother and mold under such treatment, and if the roots are not killed, the tops will be so far destroyed that no fruit will be produced the next season. The object of covering is to keep the ground uniformly frozen, while the plants are not excluded from the air. For this purpose, straw, hay, leaves, or any other light material that will shade the ground and not foul the plat with noxious seeds, will answer.

# Various Matters.

[Written for the Farm and Fireside.]

### WHAT THE POOR FARMER CAN AFFORD.

Farmers are often censured by those having little experimental knowledge of the farm, for neglecting certain labors or improvements, designed to add beauties or comforts to their homes. Doubtless the majority of farmers would willingly make such improvements did their means justify the outlay. The man of wealth need not stop to count the cost; but the farmer, whose income is limited to the proceeds of his farm, must first decide whether he can afford the expenditure. The farmer is often accused of meanness or lack of enterprise, for neglecting costly improvements that would swallow up his little farm half a dozen times over; but he has fortunately learned to distrust such advice. It is folly to suppose that the farmer of moderate means can surround his home with the most costly adornments, or even make such improvements as he might desire. It is fortunate for the community that we have one class of citizens willing to earn their luxuries before enjoying them. But there are certain improvements which the poorest farmer can afford and which he cannot afford to neglect. He can afford to thoroughly till and enrich his lands. He can afford to plant good fruits and take care of them. He can afford to plant the best variety of seeds, and keep and breed the best animals. He can afford good, convenient tools and employ good help. He can afford to read and pay for good agricultural books and papers. He cannot afford to permit his land to become less productive by tilling. He cannot afford to grow crops that will not pay for production, or squander his resources by commencing labors that cannot be completed. Governing himself by these simple axioms, he will soon find himself in a position to gratify every desire instead of being bound by the stern demands of economy.

Observer.

How to keep up your Hay Crop.—A farmer who had been in the habit of selling his hay for many years in succession, being asked how he kept up his hay crop without manuring or cultivating his land, replied, "I never allow the after swath to be cut." If this rule was generally followed there would be less said about running out of grass fields or short crops of hay. Some farmers feed off every green thing, and compel their cattle to pull up and gnaw off the roots of the grass. Cutting rowen is certain death to hay crops. A farmer had better buy hay at forty dollars per ton than ruin his hay field by close grazing. The general treatment of grass lands in this respect is wrong and expensive, and should be abandoned as a matter of profit and economy.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*

God has written on the flower that sweetens the air—on the breeze that rocks the flower upon the stem—upon the rain-drop that refreshes the sprig of moss that lifts its head in the desert—upon its deep chambers—upon every penciled shell that sleeps in the cavern of the deep, no less than upon the mighty sun that warms and cheers millions of creatures which live in its light—upon all his works he has written, "None liveth for himself."

# Special Notices.



A carpenter who was always prognosticating evil to himself was one day upon the roof of a five story building, upon which rain had fallen. The roof being slippery he lost his footing, and as he was descending toward the eaves he exclaimed, "Just as I told you!" Catching, however, in an iron spout, he kicked off his shoes and regained a place of safety, when he thus delivered himself: "I know'd it; there's a pair of shoes gone!"

# The Markets.

### WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Dec. 13, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $30 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 16c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 1.30 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | 1.75 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a17.50 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 45 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 24c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 50c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 48c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 20c |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 16a20c | Sausages | 18c |
| Veal | 15a16c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

### WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

ADVANCE IN BREADSTUFFS.

The wholesale markets, with the exception of groceries, have improved in prices the past week, and at the close to-day are strong:

Flour—The falling off in receipts and the closing of canal navigation has greatly stimulated the inquiry, and prices have advanced from 20 to 50 cents a barrel.

Wheat has also advanced ten to twelve cents a bushel, with an unsettled market. The stock is very light.

Corn has fluctuated, and within the past few days prices have materially advanced under a speculative demand. The market closes strong.

Oats have improved with a good home and speculative inquiry. About 1,500,000 bushels are frozen in on the canal.

Barley has also improved, with a fair demand and light stock.

Rye is much higher, but the business is extremely light.

Pork has fluctuated. Early in the week there was a rapid advance, but the improvement has since been lost, and the market closes flat.

# Marriages.

In Woonsocket, Nov. 27th, by Rev S. L. Holman, Elbren P. Taylor to Miss R. Gertrude Howland, all of Woonsocket.

In Slatersville, 9th inst., by Rev. E. N. Maynard, Mr. Horatio Wood of Glocester, to Miss Carrie Dixon, of Burrillville.

In Glocester, Nov. 28th, by Rev. M. Philips, Mr. Benjamin White to Miss Anna F. Barnes, daughter of Lyman Barnes, Esq., all of Glocester.

In Lonsdale, Nov. 9th, by Rev. E. Hayden Watrous, Mr. John M. Fergurson to Miss Sarah Jane McNutt, both of Lonsdale. By the same, the same day, Mr. John H. Healy, of Providence, to Miss Isabella McArthur, of Lonsdale.

In Central Falls, 9th instant, Mr. Charles A. Mathewson to Miss Delana E. Tillinghast, of Valley Falls.

In Pawtucket, 5th inst., Mr. Charles W. Davis, of Central Falls, to Miss Clara Estelle Peckham, of Pawtucket.

In Grafton, Dec. 7th, Wilson J. Sibley to Miss Sarah J Taylor, both of Grafton.

In Thompson, Ct., Nov. 20th, by Rev. L. W. Blood, Rufus Briggs to Sarah L. Greenleaf, of Auburn, Mass., after a long and tedious courtship of over five years.

In Jewett City, Ct., 3d inst., T. R. Congdon, of Willimantic, to Kate Wilson, daughter of John W. Fanning, Esq.

In Putnam, Ct., Nov. 27, Mr. Samuel Rich, of Putnam, to Mrs. Annie D. Thornton of Plainfield. Mr. James Galsford, Jr., of Putnam, to Miss Martha Whatley of Killingly. Mr. Darius H. Gates, to Miss Anne E. Lyon, both of Putnam. Mr. Benjamin F. Chafee of Putnam, to Miss Eliza A. Gleason, of Worcester, Mass.

# Deaths.

In Burrillville, 5th inst., Mr. Arca Walling, aged 82 years and 5 mos.

In Northbridge, Mass., Nov. 25, Providence T. Carr, wife of Dea. Geo. M. Carr, aged 57 years and 20 days.

In Whitinsville, Nov. 27, Francis G. Searles, aged 34 years.

In Northbridge, Dec. 3, Lyman Fay, aged 69 years.

In Upton, Dec. 5, Mary Alexander, aged 57 years.

In Milford, Nov. 29, Mary A. Withcrell, aged 41 years; Dec. 1, Luther D. Havon, aged 28 years; Robert Cuthbert, aged 60 years; Nov. 28, J. Walter Hewins, aged 22 years.

In Seneca, Illinois, Nov. 29, Silas Thayer, son of the late Mr. Nathan Thayer, of Burrillville, R. I., aged 46 years, 5 months and 8 days.

In Oxford, Nov. 30, Mrs. Dorothy Davidson, aged 88 years.

In Medway, Nov. 29, Mrs. Laura A. Thwing, aged 63 years.

In Mansfield, Conn., Nov. 29, Abigail Davis, aged 99 years.

In Foxboro', Mass., 7th inst., Frank A. Carpenter, aged 24 years.

In Rome, N. Y., Nov. 21, Mary Jane, wife of Mr. David W. Thomson, aged 32 years, formerly of Woonsocket.



# Advertising Department.



The Sour Lake in Texas.—About sixty miles from Houston, Texas, in a low, wet prairie country, but itself on quite high and dry ground, and surrounded by a fine little forest, is a small lake, whose diameter may be counted by rods, the waters of which are so sour that it is almost impossible to drink them. A number of wells have been dug in the immediate vicinity, and the water of these contain iron, alum, magnesia and sulphuric acid. Notwithstanding the difficulty of reaching the place and the poor accommodations, large numbers of invalids go there from Southern States to drink the waters of the well and bathe in the lake; and they experience immediate and remarkable benefit. The effect of the bathe is sedative.

# Horticulture.

## WORK FOR LATE AUTUMN.

Hardy Grapevines should be pruned before Winter sets in, and laid down on the surface of the ground. In localities where there is much snow, no further covering may be necessary; but where the ground is often bare, a slight layer of earth will be best. On visiting a large number of vineyards the present Autumn, we have found that those laid down not only gave full and certain crops, but they ripened a week or more earlier than those on exposed vines. This superiority resulted in several instances from merely prostrating the vines without covering, holding them to their places by small sticks of cord-wood or pieces of rails. When earth is placed upon them, it should be removed very early in Spring, at the moment when the frost leaves the ground.

Strawberries are always better for Winter protection. The best kind of straw is rye, as it may not only be laid smoother and handsomer, but being more rigid, it is less liable to become closely compacted with water, and to cause the rotting of the plants than oat or other softer kinds of straw. In the Spring, it is thrown back from the plants, and forms a good mulching between the rows, and answers an excellent purpose, provided the beds have been previously kept perfectly clear of weeds.

Grafts for early Spring use, are often better if cut in Autumn or early Winter, before any intense frost or severe freezing has injured or checked their vitality. They may be packed away for Winter if closely imbedded in layers of damp moss or in damp sawdust. The boxes should be small if sawdust is used, so as to prevent heating by fermentation. An easy way is to place them in a box without cover, and bury them on a dry spot of ground, mouth downwards, preventing the grafts from falling down and touching the earth, by cross-pieces in the box.

Raspberries, with the exception of the Black Caps, should be bent down and protected like grapevines. In order to prevent breakage of the stems, a small mound of earth should be thrown against the base, over which they may be carefully bent. Two stools may be bent toward each other and covered at one operation. Earth will answer for a covering, provided it is removed as early as possible in Spring, before the buds are water-soaked, injured or rotted; otherwise, it is better to employ coarse sawdust, moss or evergreen branches. The latter may be applied earlier in Autumn, and taken off later in Spring, without injury.—*Cultivator.*

## HOW TO KILL OX-EYE DAISIES.

Solon Robinson gives the following as his method of killing daisies:

When I bought my farm it was as thickly set with daisies as any field I ever saw. I did not believe in them, for hay nor pasture. I did not know that salt would kill them, but found the first dressing greatly diminished this slovenly farmer's crop. The second dose did the work. I found next mowing time, where they had predominated over all the grasses for years, scarcely a bull's eye to be seen upon an acre. In their place came white and red clover, timothy, red-top and June grass. Do the farmers esteem these better than daisies? I do. If you do not, why all I have got to say is, this is a free country, and you may grow them. I shall salt and kill them. I had rather grow clover grass. But killing daisies is not all the benefit that I derived from salt. It killed the worms; and the moles not finding their accustomed food, discontinued burrowing under and killing the sod, and it grew and flourished.

But that is not all. Manure is good for nothing until it has met with a solvent. Some vegetable substances are not soluble in rain water, and although capable of making good manure, are good for nothing in their inert condition. The action of salt, lime, plaster, potash, &c., upon dead, inert vegetable fibre in the soil, is to cause it to decay and become food for the growing grass. Dig up a sod in any old hide-bound meadow or poor "run-out" pasture, and you will find it full of black, dead roots. If you dig again, after the action of the salt or other mineral manures, you will find a different and more favorable appearance, and certainly you will find a great difference in the product. In short, you have made two blades of grass grow where only one grew before. What if over all this country the same result could be produced? Who can calculate the increase of wealth? It alone would forever pay the interest upon the national debt, and that, at least, would prove a national blessing.

I have seen some hay fields the present season where three-fourths of the weight of the crop was daisy. At a little distance it appeared to be all daisy. This was the case in a field at Autumn. The flea-bane overgrew the clover. Such a field as that I think I can clear of this pest of all good farmers at a cost not exceeding $3 an acre, even here, where transportation is most expensive. I did it upon my own place in Westchester Co., at less than $1 an acre. Again you ask, how? I answer: with salt. Nothing else. That is sure death to daisies. At first, I used three bushels, not being quite sure of the effect. I think I got a ton of hay from three bushels of salt, which was applied in the Spring, about the time the grass began to look green. Upon the stubble I put seven bushels more, and since that I have applied ten more bushels. The cost in New York was six cents a bushel at the packing-houses, where it is brushed off dry-salted pork.

Fruit Houses.—The dearth of fruits in most sections this season convinces us more and more of the policy of erecting fruit houses, wherein to grow fruits for the supply of the tables of amateurs and those of wealth. To the amateur or private gentleman the fruit house is a never-ceasing pleasure as a resort, while the fruit in and out of season is a great and real luxury. The commercial grower may command prices remunerative by arranging for the ripening of his fruit when that grown in the open air cannot be had. Large houses are much the most profitable, and as they can be constructed and heated at a comparatively moderate expense, no resort should ever be had to a small house, or one in which the trees are confined to pot culture involves constant attention and watering, dressing, etc.; while if the trees are planted out in the border they in great measure take care of themselves.—*Horticulturist.*

Verbena Beds.—Beds or borders where verbenas have been growing this season, if covered slightly with straw at the close of the season, and left until the Spring vegetation is strong, will be found with qualities of young verbena plants, a part of which can be removed, and the rest will grow and supply blooms almost as early as plants taken from the greenhouse. In this way, while you may not have all superior flowers, yet if the plants this season are of good varieties, the chances are that a large portion of the seedlings will be good. Portulacca and Annual Phlox beds managed in the same way also supply an abundance of plants free of cost, so that the poorest person who has six feet of flower-bed around his house, need never be without flowers in Summer to educate and refine the tastes of his children and contribute to his own enjoyment.

Keeping Potatoes.—Potatoes that I wish to keep for Summer use, I would gather into pits of twenty bushels each, and give them a covering of long rye straw six inches in thickness, and a light covering of earth at first, increasing it at the approach of cold weather, and leaving a small vent in the top of the pits, secured from the liability of wet by a board or some other covering. They should be taken out of the pit in early Spring, put into barrels, headed up and placed in a cool cellar, or ice room where temperature is low enough to keep them from sprouting. In all my manipulations, I would handle the tubers as carefully as I would apples. In this manner potatoes, I maintain can be kept until new ones come again, and be nearly as fresh as when first dug. If thus preserved, we could justly criticise the cook who should be so foolish as to stick a knife into a tuber before it was placed on the table ready to be eaten.—*The Circular.*

Apricot Growing.—The apricot tree when young is a rapid grower, and if left to itself will produce long, naked branches, in consequence of its growing only from the terminating buds, and those near the top of each year's growth, leaving the lateral branches and fruit spurs feeble. In order to obviate this and develope the fruit wood all through the tree, there should be only branches enough to form a nice, open head, and these shortened every season.—*Ex.*

Fire-Fanged Manure.—Some kinds of manure are more liable to become fire-fanged than other kinds. Horse manure, if allowed to lie in considerable quantities, is apt to undergo the process of fermentation under high heat, when it assumes a moldy, whitish appearance and becomes very light. It suffers an immense loss, so much so that its virtue is gone, and as compared with unheated manure, it will produce scarcely any appreciable effect. The fertilizing qualities, especially ammonia, are thrown off, and the mass is left inert and useless.

In the management of manures, therefore, care should be taken to prevent too great a heat by composting and forking over. Loam and muck, if mixed freely under the stables, will preserve the heap, prevent fire-fanging, and thus prove very useful. It is a good plan to lay in a store of these substances, to be mixed occasionally with the manure heap through the Winter.—*Mass. Ploughman.*

Wind-Broken Horses.—T. H. Scott sends to the Rural American the following remedy for wind-broken horses: "take one pint of fresh lard, and a quart of fresh beef blood.—Give to him once a day for three days, and it will effect a sure cure." If *anything* can cure horses suffering in the way give it to them!—The next worst thing is asthma, which we are glad the poor horse doesn't get!

The horse market in New York is quite dull with an ample supply on hand. For fair work horses $150a200; heavy draft horses $300a350, occasionally $400. Railroad horses $145a155; Canadian horses $125a200; some full size $300.

# Advertising Department.




**TERMS OF ADVERTISING.**

A limited number of advertisements will be published in the Farm and Fireside. Price, fifteen cents a line each insertion. Advertisements are set up in a good style. The journal has won its way to appreciation with remarkable rapidity, and will be found an excellent advertising medium.

**COMMISSION TO LOCAL AGENTS.**

We wish to employ a local agent in every town in the United States. Every subscriber for the Farm and Fireside may act as local agent for the same. For every yearly subscriber the commission is fifty cents, or twenty-five cents for each half yearly subscriber.

**THE FARM AND FIRESIDE**

Is published every Saturday, nearly every number illustrated, and containing original articles from writers of experience and ability. Terms $2 per year; $1 for six months. Subscriptions can commence at any time. Back numbers furnished, if desired.


# Farm And Fireside.

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1867. NO. 51.

## The Field and Farm.

### THE USES OF LIME AS A MANURE.

A LATE writer of some eminence, has defined manure as simply "plant food," but the definition is obviously a faulty one. The most luxurious vegetation, the most abundant crops are produced on soils that manure never tilled; and we certainly would not speak of the jungles of India, or the forests of the Amazon as the productions of manured land. Again, water and the gasses contained in the air, are among the most essential elements that minister to the growth of the plant, yet no one would think to designate them as manures.

It would evidently be more nearly correct to denominate those substances manures, which are artificially furnished the soil for the purpose of supplying some natural deficiency in its composition, or for meeting the wants of some particular crop,

The English farmer, on leasing a hard, clayey farm, incorporates a considerable amount of marl or quick-lime with the soil, for the purpose of supplying a natural want; or, if he wishes to produce a crop of clover or turnips, he scatters gypsum to furnish the particular material suited to the growth of these plants. Lime and gypsum are in his case, manures, but they would not be if they naturally existed in the soil in sufficient quantities.

There are few if any plants which are serviceable to man, that do not contain lime in considerable quantities; so too it is also true that it is unusual to find a soil in which this substance is entirely wanting. But as all plants require it for their growth, it is plain that successive croppings, and the removal of the crops raised, would finally exhaust the soil of this ingredient so essential to its future productiveness.

Let us see how such a course of management would, in a series of years, remove this treasure from a soil that naturally contains lime to the extent of one per cent.—which is enough to render it productive—by giving the amount that would be taken annually from an acre of land, by the raising and removal of some of our most common crops:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 bushels of wheat contain about | 13 | lbs. Lime. |
| 25 bushels of barley contain about | 10 | " " |
| 50 bushels of oats contain about | 22 | " " |
| 2 tons of clover contain about | 77 | " " |

But besides this method of exhaustion by the growing plant, there is another which is productive of a removal of still greater quantities of this useful material. As lime is soluble in water, much of it is annually carried down by the rains, and sinks below the point reached by the roots of ordinary plants. This is the case to a greater degree in soils that are cultivated, than in those devoted to hay fields or pasturage.

Often on the pan below the worked earth, is a layer of lime which has been arrested in its downward passage. So too at the openings of underground drains, there is in many cases, a considerable incrustation of the same material. Indeed it does not need to be in a state of solution, to be carried by the water beyond the reach of the plant; for being ordinarily in a state of minute subdivision when applied to the land, it is capable of being carried down in a solid form. Hence we see the almost absolute need of applying lime to long cultivated fields, particularly if their soil is porous.—Much benefit may sometimes accrue by judicious trench plowing by way of bringing again to the surface the lime that has been carried down; but, even in that case, a fresh application would in time be necessary.

Lime, as found in nature, is usually in the form of a carbonate. The carbonic acid however is comparatively loosely held, since it can readily be driven off by heat as is done in the process of lime burning. It is now caustic or quicklime, and in this state it is sometimes used for agricultural purposes, as in the killing of grubs, destroying thistles and other noxious vegetables; but its action is too energetic for ordinary use, as it is liable to prevent seeds from germinating, and to destroy tender vegetation. This caustic property may be modified by slaking the lime, as is done in preparing it for mortar and then letting it remain some days to absorb carbonic acid from the air; but a more preferable way is to use only as much water as will be absorbed by the lime, leaving it as dry as before. In this state it is known as hydrated or mild lime, and is, or can be easily reduced to a fine powder. It differs in no essential respect from air-slacked lime, which is a mixture of the hydrate and the carbonate of lime.

When caustic or hydrated lime is exposed to the action of the air, it absorbs carbonic acid and has the same chemical composition it had previous to being burned. Since this is the case, the inquiry may arise, Why not use the limestone instead of the prepared lime? The reasons are these: It is exceedingly difficult to pulverize the lime rock sufficiently to be of immediate use to the soil; again, the expense of transportation, the water and carbonic acid in the natural rock—fully half of its weight—would ordinarily be greater than the cost of burning the lime.

The principal uses of lime in agriculture, apart from directly furnishing an essential ingredient of vegetable tissue, are these:

1st. It corrects the acidity of land, particularly when the soil is cold, or productive of sorrel.

2nd. It hastens the decomposition of vegetable matter in the soil—especially when it is damp and inert, as is the case with muck—partially decayed straw, and the roots of plants that have been plowed under.

3rd. It forms, with other mineral substances in the soil, compounds which are soluble, and are therefore in a state to be taken up by the plant. A notable example of this is found in the case of silica, which is so essential for giving strength to the stalks of all the cereals.

4th. It is lasting in its results, increasing the fertility of the soil in various ways, for an indefinite period after it is applied.

5th. It increases the effect of the vegetable manures previously or subsequently applied to the soil, by putting them in a form to be more easily assimilated to the plant.

6th. It enables the farmer to raise larger crops from the same number of acres, as has been abundantly shown by numerous carefully conducted experiments, both in this country and in Europe.

7th. It improves the quality of nearly every cultivated crop. This is shown in wheat, which will produce more flour to the bushel, and of a more nutritious nature, from soils manured with lime. Potatoes are more mealy and of finer flavor; this may be accounted for from the fact that lime hastens the maturity of this crop, as it does most others, and a rapid growth is very essential to the excellency of the potato. No doubt the superiority of the potatoes raised in Aroostook Co., Maine, and in the adjacent British Provinces, is largely due to the lime soil in which they flourish.

In stating all these advantages that ordinarily occur from the judicious application of lime, we should do injustice to the subject if we failed to notice some of the bad effects that may follow its use. Foremost among these results is one that comes from the practice of some farmers of placing caustic lime in the soil in connection with fresh animal manures; by so doing, most of the ammonia is immediately set free, and passes off into the air. Lime and stable manure are each of great service to the plant, but a period of at least six months should intervene between the times of applying them.

Again, too plentiful a use of lime is liable to render the soil more porous than it should be to retain sufficient moisture.

Unfavorable results have also been found to attend the use of lime in the raising of flax, as it diminishes the tenacity of the fibre; the same is also probably true in relation to hemp.

In the neighborhood of lime kilns, the farmer may economize much by buying that which is unsuitable for building purposes, from its being over burned or under burned, or which has become partially slacked by falls of rain before it was barreled and housed. Lime also that has been stored for sale, and has undergone spontaneous slaking—absorbed water and carbonic acid—is in a state for farmers' use, and can often be bought at a merely nominal cost.—*Prairie Farmer.*

### CHEMISTRY APPLIED TO THE WHEAT CROP.

WE have just harvested and threshed our Summer wheat, and find the yield to be a little rising thirty bushels to the acre. The berry is plump and full, and in color is not affected by the season. As we look upon our bins filled with the noble grain we ask ourselves, "Why is the cultivation of this cereal so generally neglected in New England?" Farmers have the impression that their lands have lost some element or elements essential to its growth, and therefore it must uniformly fail. This is true in part. Analysis of the wheat plant, both of the straw and berry, shows that it is peculiarly rich in lime, and also in the phosphatic and nitrogeneous elements. These cannot be found in sufficient quantity in our worn-out soils, and therefore the wheat plant languishes. But we can restore such soils to fertility, so as to get highly remunerative returns in wheat. We dressed our wheat field with pure bone dust, well rotted, 500 lbs. to the acre, and with it we mingled about 50 lbs. of nitrate of potassa.—This gave us splendid results. Doubtless a thorough dressing of well-seasoned barn-yard manure would have furnished a sufficiency of the needed elements to have met the wants of a single crop; but we prefer the lime and salts, as being directly applicable to wheat on most lands, and rendering a crop certain. With flour at sixteen dollars a barrel, it is a pity farmers should not raise at least a home supply of wheat. We obtain the most delicious sweet bread from *our* wheat, ground fine, in an old-fashioned stone mill. We keep it out of the *bolt*, as it is certain we cannot improve upon nature in adjusting the parts of the grain to be used as food. More attention should manifestly be given to wheat-raising in this section of the country. So long as the high price of flour continues (we are of the opinion that the days of cheap flour are past,) it is the most profitable crop. The kind of seed that appears adapted to our soils is what is known as the "Black Sea" variety. This is a Summer wheat.—*Dr. J. R. Nichols, in Journal of Chemistry.*

SMALL VS. LARGE FARMS.—Robert Bakewell, the celebrated English farmer, used to tell the following anecdote of a farmer in Leicestershire:

This farmer, who owned and occupied 1000 acres of land, had three daughters. When his eldest daughter married, he gave her one quarter of his land for her portion, but no money; and he found by a little more speed, and a little better management, the product of his farm did not decrease. He then set at work, and began to grub up his furze and fern, and ploughed up what he called his poor, dry furze, covering in some places nearly half the land. After giving half his land away to two of his daughters, to his great surprise he found that the product increased; he made more money, because his new broken up furze land brought excessive crops, and at the same time he farmed the whole of his land better, for he employed more laborers upon it; he rose two hours sooner in the morning, had no more dead fallows once in three years; instead of which he got two green crops in one year and fed them upon the land. When the third and last daughter married, he gave her 250 acres, or half of what remained, for her portion, and no money. He then found that he had the same money to farm one quarter of the land that he had at first to farm the whole.

HOGS IN N. CAROLINA.—The Independent (N. C.) Press reports a great scarcity of hogs in North Carolina—less than there has been for forty years. There are not enough hogs in the State to eat the mast in the woods. Many farmers will not make pork enough for their own use, nor will the present stock of young hogs now on hand make sufficient pork for another year. The Press says the reason why, is, that "farmers cannot let their hogs run in usual range, from the fact that they are sure to "come up missing." Negroes are prowling all over the country with guns, and whenever a hog makes a stir in the woods, the negro becomes frightened, and thinks the hog is *wild* and is "gwine to bite him;" and they kill anybody's hog.

# Miscellany.

## DUTCH DAIRIES.

*The Journal* is a welcome visitor to many New England farm houses, and the farmers' boys and girls, I am eoufident, would like to go with me into a Dutch farm house. Stable house and dairy are under the same roof. The house which we visit stands on the hank of tbe canal—the water in the canal almost on a level with tbe ridge pole. One of the dairy maids has been out to the canal to wash her pans and dishes, and now she is takiug them hack to the bouse, drawing them in a little cart. Look at her shoes—wooden ones, turning up at the toe like a skate—elump, clump, clump they go as she steps. She leaves them outside tbe door and puts on a pair of slippers as she enters. She has a bonnet so eurious that I shall not attempt to describe it, hut of just such a pattern as tbose woru by her graudmother. Some of the cattle are in the fields blanketed, to keep them warm.

A gu'l with red cheeks and bright eyes opens the door of the stable, and takes us along the stalls to see the cows—twenty-six cows standing by their cribs or lying down chewing their cuds, fastened with rope halters—and fuuniest of all sights, each cow has her tail drawn up to the ceiling hy a cord and pulley, so that in time their tails grow straight up into the air! There are great tubs filled with milk and curds and whey; tbere is a fire-place iu the stahle where they scald the milk, also in the cheese-press. We enter a little room and see pots of hutter and rows of cheeses—not such great oues as the Vermont and New Hampshire girls turn out, but cheeses almost the size of a sixty-four pounder cannon ball, not quite round, but like the earth, flattened a trifle at the poles. If you were to go with me into some of the warehouses of Amsterdam you would see cart-loads of these cheeses, enougb to freight scores of ships. Tbey are kept for months, and even years, and never lose their goodness, it is said. You have read how a Dutch Admiral, in a sea-fight, after having fired away all of his cannon balls, kept up the battle with cheeses—just such cheeses as these which the bright-eyed dairymaid takes pleasure in showing.

We go from the stahle up a short flight of steps into the kitchen, and say, "*goot morning*" to the farmer's wife, who curtseys like a little child. She sbows us over the house, draws aside a curtain, and shows us the heds in recesses along the wall like a berth in a ship. An old clock—its brass weights and pendulum as hright as sand and soap can make them—ticks in one corner. The good woman is drinking a cup of coffee, but if you sbould ask her to write out the word for you in Dutch, it would read "*Kaffij*," and she would call a railroad a "*Spoorweg.*" She takes great pleasure in sbowing us her treasures in the "front" room—a bureau of tbe richest mabogony, set off with bead mountings, with carved feet like lions claws—with rows of delft china dishes around tbe room just nnder the ceiling—old ware, cups aud saucers which her great grandmother used, which she will hand down to her daughters and they to their cbildren. There are old pictures on the walls,—fine engravings—more old china on the tables and stands. Everytbing is so clean and nice tbat you are almost afraid to be in the room.—*Correspondence Boston Journal.*

---

The Beautiful Flowers.—"Flowers," says a great writer, "are not trifles, as one might know, if he would only think how much paius God has taken with them every where; not one unfinished, not one hearing the mark of hrush or pencil. Fringing the eternal borders of mountain winter; gracing the pulseless breast of the old granite; everywhere they are humanizing. Murderers do not ordinarily wear flowers in their button-holes. Villains seldom train vines over cottage doors."

---

A Massachusetts farmer says he can wiuter his cows on steamed feed for one-third less expense than on dry feed, and get one-fourth more milk. This is the result of five years experience.

## A SOUTH AMERICAN SHEPHERD.

A shepherd's hut or house in Buenos Ayres is called a *puesto;* tbe shepherd is *puestero*, who is generally paid by an allotment of one-third of the wool and one-tbird the increase, besides being allowed as much mutton as he can consume. The only hope of success for an emigrant is to get an engagement on these terms; for, if the owner of a small eapital, he would almost certainly lose it and be ruined if he purchased part of the flock, which some have imagined to be the high road to fortune. It is an up-hill struggle on the plan of "tbirds," the writer having been told by steady, industrious men, well qualificd for their businces, that after a battle of eight or nine years tbey were in worse circumstances than when they first arrived in the country.

Puesos, likes estancias, are of various sizes. Some are merely rude huts containing a single room, furnished with one or more *ox skulls*, facetiously called "ivory chairs," and a hide for a bed; whilst others are comfortable cottages, furnished in much the manuer as the houses of small farmers or laborers in England.

Shepherds (on thirds) are generally unmarried and live alone. Their dogs are their only companions. Some of them do uot hear the souud of a human voice for weeks. I have heen told hy more than one, that when they first took possession of their hermitages every day seemed as long as a month; but that after a time they got accustomed to their solitude, and did not dislikc it.

It seems an unuatural life, however, and I fancy the feeliugs must become so far petrified. Yet many of them are kind-hearted fellows, and a stranger is always sure of a hospitable welcome at a puesto. On his arrival the shepherd kindles a fire (of fat and sheep-dung,) roasts or stews mntton, prepares tea or mate, produces a bottle of cane, and takes every pains, which appears to him a pleasure, to make his guest comfortable. On rare occasions the puestero gives a party (*sub rosa*,) and fellow shepherds ride for leagues, after their sheep in the corrals, to spend the night in mirth and sociality. Roast fowls hy the dozen, mutton galore, buiscnits and tea are provided for tbe bodily needs, and gin aud cane help to drive away dull care. The spirits, so long depressed, rise in an adverse proportion on tbat very account. Songs are sung, jests are cracked, and in due time mirth and fun grow fast and furious. The party disperses about cock-crow, each memher trusting to the sagacity of bis borse to find the way home.

Herding sheep is all done in Buenos Ayres either on borsehack or on the top of tbe chimney. The shepherd, whilst busied with his household affairs, his quinta or garden, occasionally mounts the ladder leadiug to the chimney-top, from which he obtains a wider prospect of the camp, and his practiced eye can distinguish his flock amongst a jungle of thistles when it is invisible to others. He can also guess very accurately what his sheep intend to do—whether they mean to remain on their *querencia*, or proper pasturage, or are inclined to wander into forbidden ground. He requires to keep a sharp look-out, lest tbey meet and mix with another flock, an accident that sometimes bappens, and which occasions a great deal of trouble, as the separation can only be effected by catching and lifting out of tbe corral every individual member of one of the flocks. Every shepherd owns two or three horses, and one is always kept saddled and tied up, that he may be ahle to gallop to his flock at any moment. Iu *pamperos*—the tremendous gales, often laden with dust, that sweep across the pampas—the shepherd is obliged to be doubly vigilant and to keep with his flock, as the sheep run at full gallop before the hurricane, and are often entirely lost. A little before noon in summer, sheep arrange themselves into curiously regular masses, and sleep for several hours. It is then tbe shepherd, if so inclined, may also take his siesta.—*People's Magazine, London.*

---

To Preserve Apples.—Put them in a dry cellar, of easy access to children.

## HOW THE ROMANS LIVED.

If anything more were wanted to give us an idea of Roman magnifieence we would turn our eyes from public monuments, demoralizing games and grand processions; we would forget the statues in brass and marble, whieh outuumbered tbe living inhabitants, so numerous that one hundred tbousand have been recovered and still embellish Italy, and would descend into tbe lower sphere of material life—to those tbings wbich attest luxury and taste—to ornaments, dresses, sumptuous living and rich furniture. The art of using metals and cutting precious stoues surpassed anything known at the present day.

In tbe decoration of houses, in social entertainments, in cookery, the Romans were remarkable. The mosaics, signet rings, cameos, bracelets, bronzes, ehains, vases, couches, banqueting tables, lamps, chariots, colored glass, gildings, mirrors, mattresses, cosmeties, perfumes, hair dyes, silk robes, potteries, all attest great elegance and heauty. The tables of thuga root and Delian hronze were as expensive as the sideboards of Spanish walnut so much admired in the great Exhibition at London. Wood and ivory were carved as exquisitely as in Japan and China. Mirrors were made of polished silver. Glass-cutters could imitate the colors of precious stoues so well that the Portland vase, from the tomb of Alexander Severus was long eonsidered as a genuine sardonix; hrass could be hardened so as to cut stone.

The palace of Nero glittered with gold and jewels. Perfumes and flowers were showercd from ivory ceilings. The halls of Heliogahnlus were hung with cloth and gold, euriched with jewels. Tiberius gave a million of sesterces for a picture of his bedroom. A banquet dish of Daesillus weighed five hundred pounds silver. The cups of Drusus were of gold. Tunics were embroidered with the figures of various animals. Sandals were garnished with precious stones. Paulina wore jewels, wheu she paid visits, valued at $800,000. Driuking cups were engraved with scencs from the poets. Libraries were adorned with busts and presses of rare woods. Sofas were inlaid with tortoise shell, and covered with gorgeons purple.

The Roman grandees rode in gilded chariots, hathed in marhle baths, diued from golden plate, drank from crystal cups, slept on beds of down, reclined on luxurious couches, wore embroidered robes and were adorned with precious stones. They ransacked the earth and the seas for rare dishes for their banquets, and ornamented their houses with carpets from Babylon, onyx cups, cups from Bythenia, marhles from Numidia, bronzes from Corinth, statues from Athens—whatever, in short, was precious or curious iu the most distant countries. The luxuries of the hath almost exceed helief, and on the walls were magnifieent frescoes and paintings, exhihiting an inexhaustible productiveness in landscape and mythological sceues.

---

The Butter Maker's Golden Rules.—The great secret in hutter makiug, it seems, consists in attending to the following points:

1st. Securing rich, clean, healthy milk—milk obtained on rich old pastures, free of weeds.

2d. Setting tbe milk in a moist, untainted atmosphere, aud keeping it at an even temperature wbile the cream is rising.

3d. Proper management in churning.

4th. Washing out the buttermilk thoroughly, and working so as not to injure tbe grain.

5th. Thorougb and even incorporation of the salt, aud packing in oaken tubs, tight, clean, and well made.

---

Worth Knowing.—A poison of any conceivable description and degree of potency, which has been swallowed intentionally or by accident, may be rendered almost instantaneously harmless hy swallowing two gills of sweet oil. An individual with a very strong constitution should take twice the quantity. The oil will neutralize every form of vegetable or mineral poison with which physicians are acquainted.

## THE SILENCE OF THE ARCTIC NIGHT.

In his new work, "The Open Polar Sea," Dr. Hayes thus descriöes the fearful solitude and stillness of tbe Arctic night:

"I have gone out in the Arctic nigbt, and viewed nature under varied aspects. I have rejoiced with her in her strength and communed witb ber in repose. I have seen the wild burst of her anger, have watched her sportive play, and have beheld her robed in silence. I bave walked abroad in the darkness when the winds were roaring tbrough the hills and crasbing over the plain. I have strolled along the beach when the only sound that broke the stillness was the dull creaking of the iee-tables, as they rose aud fell lazily with the tide. I have wandered far out on the frozen sea, and listened to the voice of tbe icebergs bewailing their imprisonment; aloug the glacier, where forms and falls the avalanche; upon the hill-top, where tbe drifting snow, coursing over the rocks, sang its plaintive song;—and again I bave wandered away to some distant valley where all these sounds were hushed, and tbe air was still and solemn as a tomb.

And it is here that the arctic night is most impressive, where its true spirit is revealed, where its wonders are unloosed to sport and play with the mind's vain imaginiugs. The beaveus ahove and the earth beneath reveal only an endless and fatbomless quiet. There is no where around me any evidence of life or motion. I stand alone in the midst of the the mighty hills. Tbeir tall crests climb upward, and are lost in the gray vaults of tbe skies. The dark cliffs standing against their slopes of white, are the steps of a vast amphitbeater. Tbe mind finding uo rest on their hald summits, wanders into space. The moon weary with her long vigils, sinks to her repose. The Pleiades no longer breathe their sweet influence. Cassiopea and Andromeda and Orion, and all the infinite bosts of unnumbered constellations fail to infuse one spark of joy into this dead atmosphere. They have lost all their tenderness, and are cold and pulseless. The eye leaves them and rcturns to the earth, and the trembling ear awaits something that will hreak the oppressive silence. Bnt uo footfall of living thing reaches it; no wild heast howls through the sqlitude. There is no ery of birds to enliven the scene; no tree amoug whose branches the wind can sigh and moan. The pulsations of my own heart are alone heard in the great void; and as the blood courses tbrough the sensitivc orgauization of the ear, I am oppressed as with discordant sounds. Silence has ceased to he negative. It has become endowed with positive attrihutes. I seem to hear and see and feel it. It stands forth as a frightful specter, filliug the mind with over-powering consciousness of universal death—proclaiming the end of all things and beralding tbe everlasting future. Its presenee is unendurable. I spring from the rock upon which I have been seated, I plant my feet heavily in the snow to banish its awful presence—and the sound rolls through the night and drives away the phantom.

I bave seen no expression on the facc of nature so filled with terror as the silence of the Arctic night."

---

In France, milk is packed in small tin cans, easily moved by one man, and by a simple contrivance tbe stopper screws close down upon tbe contents of each can, so that the motion of the railway cannot churn the milk *in transitu.* The cans are then placed in covered wagons, and in Summer are wrapped in cloths, wbicb are watered from time to time so as to promote coolness by evaporation. The result of this care, which costs but little, is that the milk supply of Paris is proverbially excellent.

---

To every man there are many dark hours—when he feels inclined to abandon his best enterprise; hours when his heart's dearest hopes appear delusive; hours when he feels unequal to the burthen, when all his aspirations seem worthless. Let no one think that he alone has dark hours. They are the common lot of humanity.

---



No article should be used in supplying bedding for domestic animals that will not become good manure. Old leaves from the forests, refuse straw, *sawdust*, and indeed, every article that will absorh the urine, is of value for this purpose. A shed, or othcr building, conveniently situated, should be provided for storage of the litter. In supplying bedding to animals, care should be taken not to give more than is actually necessary, as more would not contribute to their comfort but the reverse. When it has become foul or saturated with urine, it should be at once removed to the manure heap, and its place supplied with fresh and clean material. Every morning and evening, sprinkle gypsnm over the floors, or a little pulverized charcoal. These articles will have a powerful tendency to correct any unpleasant smell, by absorbing the putrid gases arising from the excrement of the animals.

## The Fireside Muse.

### DECEMBER.

The squirrel has made up his winter bed,
And in it is snugly lying;
The chestnuts have ceased to drop overhead,
The ducks have sailed by with wings outspread,
The clouds are painted in purple and red,
And the autumn in glory is dying.

Hurrah for the winter! down from the sky
Comes the snow, in a noiseless hurry;
O the snow does so much, so quietly!
And the bells they jingle, the sleighs they fly;
The skaters shout when the moon is high;
And the stars look surprised at the flurry.

Who says that Winter is grim and old?
He a royal, merry, good fellow!
What games are like his, so gay and bold?
What stories like his were ever told?
His nuts—they are worth their weight in gold;
His apples are choice and mellow.

Have out the mittens! put up the ball!
See that the mufflers are ready!
Get down the sled from its nail on the wall;
Sharpen the skates for fear of a fall;
The river is frozen! will soon be the call;
And then, who will think to be steady?

Then give him welcome! bid him draw near;
Enwreathed with pine and with holly,
He brings you presents; he brings you good cheer;
'Tis in fun that he slyly nips your ear!
He freezes your nose to make it look queer;
For Winter is good, and is jolly.

*Sidney E. Holmes.*

## Fireside Tale.

### THE DOCTOR'S MATCH-MAKING.

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

"Good morning, Mrs. Barnet," cried Doctor Singletary, as we drew near a neat farm-house during one of our morning drives.

A tall, healthy young woman, in the bloom of matronly beauty, was feeding chickens at the door. She uttered an exclamation of delight, and hurried toward us. Perceiving a stranger in the wagon she paused, with a look of embarrassment.

"My friend, who is spending a few weeks with me," explained the doctor.

She greeted me civilly, and pressed the Doctor's hand warmly.

"Oh, it is so long since you have called on us that we have been talking of going up to see you, as soon as Robert can get away from his cornfield. You don't know how little Lucy has grown lately. You must stop and see her."

"She's coming to see me herself," replied the Doctor, beckoning to a sweet, blue-eyed child in the doorway.

The delighted mother caught up her darling and held her before the Doctor.

"Doesn't she look like Robert?" she inquired. "His very eyes and forehead; bless me, here he is now."

A stout, hale, young farmer, in a checked frock and brown hat, came up from the adjoining field.

"Well, Robert," said the Doctor, "how do matters stand with you?—Well I hope."

"All right, Doctor. We've paid off the last cent of the mortgage, and the farm is all free and clear. Julia and I have worked hard, but we're none the worse for it."

"You look very well and happy, I am sure," answered the Doctor. "I don't think you are sorry you took the advice of an old bachelor, after all."

The young wife's head dropped until her lips touched those of her child.

"Sorry!" exclaimed her husband—"not we. If there's anybody happier than we are within ten miles of us, I don't know them. Doctor, I'll tell you what I said to Julia the night I brought home that mortgage; well, said I, that debt's paid, but there's one debt we can never pay as long as we live. 'I know it,' says she, 'but Dr. Singletary wants no better reward for his kindness than to see us live happily together, and do for others what he has done for us.'"

"Pshaw!" said the Doctor, catching up his reins and whip. "You owe me nothing. But I most forgot my errand. Poor old widow Whiting needs a watcher to-night, and she insists upon having Julia Barnet, and nobody else. What shall I tell her?"

"I'll go instantly. I can leave Lucy now as well as not."

"Good-bye, neighbors."

"Good-bye, Doctor."

As we drove off, I saw the Doctor draw his hand hastily across his eyes, and he said nothing for some minutes.

"Public opinion," said he at length, as if pursuing his meditations aloud, "public opinion is, nine cases out of ten, public folly and impertinence. We are slaves to one another—we dare not take counsel of our consciences and affections, but must needs suffer popular prejudice and custom to decide for us, and at their bidding are sacrificing love and friendship, all the best hopes of our lives. We do not ask what is right and best for us, but what will folks say. How few dare to seek their own happiness by the lights which God has given them, or with strength to defy the false pride and the prejudice of the world, and stand fast in the liberty of Christians. Can anything be more pitiable than the sight of so many who should be choosers and creators under God of their own spheres of utility and happiness self degraded into mere slaves of propriety and custom—their true natures, undeveloped, their hearts cramped and shut up, each afraid of his neighbor, and his neighbor of him, living a life of unreality, deceiving and being deceived, and forever walking in a vain show? Here, now, we have just left a married couple who are happy because they have taken counsel of their honest affections, rather than of the opinions of the multitude, and have dared to be true to themselves in defiance of impertinent gossip."

"You allude to young farmer Barnet and his wife, I suppose," said I.

"Yes. I will give you their case as an illustration. Julia Atkins was the daughter of Ensign Atkins, who lived on the mill road just above Deacon Warner's. When she was ten years old her mother died; and in a few months afterwards her father married Polly Wiggins, the tailoress, a selfish, shrewd managing woman. Julia, poor girl, had a hard time of it; for Ensign, although a kind and affectionate man, naturally, was too weak and yielding to interpose between her and his strong-minded and sharp-tongued wife. She had one friend, however, who was always ready to sympathize with her. Robert Barnet was the son of the next door neighbor, about ten years older than herself. They had grown up together as school companions and playmates; and often in my drives I used to meet them, coming home hand in hand from school, or from the woods with berries and nuts, talking and laughing as if there were no scolding stepmothers in the world.

It so happened that when Julia was in her seventeenth year, there came a famous writing master to Peeawkin. He was a showy, dashing fellow, with a fashionable dress, a wicked eye, and a tongue like the old serpent's which tempted our grandmother. Julia was one of his scholars, and perhaps the prettiest of them all. The rascal singled her out from the first, and, the better to accomplish his purposes he left the tavern and took lodgings at the Ensign's. He soon saw how matters stood in the family, and governed himself accordingly, taking especial pains to conciliate the ruling authority. The Ensign's wife hated young Barnet, and wished to get rid of her daughter-in-law. The writing master therefore had a fair field. He flattered the poor girl by his attentions, and praised her beauty. Her moral training had not fitted her to withstand this seductive influence; no mother's love, with its quick, instinctive sense of danger threatening its object, interposed between her and the tempter. Her old friend and playmate—he who could alone save her—had been rudely repulsed from the house by her mother-in-law; and indignant and disgusted he retired from all competition with his formidable rival. Thus abandoned to her own undisciplined imagination, with the inexperience of a child and the passions of a woman, she was deceived by false pretenses, bewildered, fascinated, and beguiled into sin.

It is the same old story of woman's confidence and man's duplicity. The rascally writing master, under pretence of visiting a neighboring town, left his lodgings and never returned. The last I heard of him he was the tenant of a Western penitentiary. Poor Julia, driven in disgrace from her father's house, at last found refuge in the dwelling of an old woman of no very creditable character. There I was called to visit her; and although not unused to scenes of suffering and sorrow, I had never before witnessed such an utter abandonment of grief, shame, and remorse. Alas! what sorrow was like unto her sorrow. The birth hour of her infant was the hour also of its death.

The agony of her spirit seemed greater than she could bear. Her eyes were opened, and she looked upon herself with loathing and horror. She would admit of no hope, no consolation; she would listen to no palliation or excuse for her guilt. I could only direct her to that source of pardon and peace to which the broken and contrite heart never appeals in vain.

In the mean time Robert Barnet shipped on board a Labrador vessel. The night before he left he called on me, and put in my hand a sum of money, small indeed, but all he could then command.

"You will see her often," he said, "do not let her suffer, for she is more to be pitied than blamed."

I told him further that I would do all in my power for her, and added that I thought far better of her, contrite and penitent as she was, than of some who were busy in holding her up to shame and censure.

"God bless you for these words!" he said, grasping my hand. "I shall think of them often. They will be a comfort to me."

As for Julia, God was more merciful to her than man. She rose from her sick bed thoughtful and humbled, but with hopes which transcended the world of her suffering and shame. She no longer murmured against her sorrowful allotment, but accepted it with quiet and almost cheerful resignation, as the fitting penalty of God's broken laws, and the needed discipline of her spirit. She could say with the Psalmist: "The judgments of the Lord are true, and thy judgment is right."

Through her exertions she obtained a home in a respectable family, to whom she endeared herself by her faithfulness, cheerful obedience, and unaffected piety. Her trials had made her heart tender with sympathy for all in affliction.

She seemed inevitably drawn towards the sick and suffering. In their presence the burden of her own sorrow seemed to fall off. She was the most cheerful and sunny faced nurse I ever knew; and I always felt sure that my own efforts would be well seconded when I found her by the bedside of a patient. Beautiful it was to see this poor young girl, whom the world still looked upon with scorn and unkindness, cheering the desponding, and imparting as it were, her own strong healthful life to the weak and faint; supporting on her bosom, through weary nights, the head of those who, while in health, would have deemed her touch pollution, or to hear her singing for the ear of the dying, some sweet hymn of hope or resignation, or calling to mind the consolations of the gospel and the great love of Christ.

"I trust," said I, "that the feelings of the community were softened toward her.

"You know what human nature is," replied the doctor—"and with what hearty satisfaction we abhor and censure folly and sin in others. It is a luxury which we cannot easily forego, although our own experience tells us that the consequences of vice and error are bitter enough without the aggravation of reproach and ridicule from without. So you need not be surprised to learn that in poor Julia's case, the charity of sinners like herself did not keep pace with the mercy and forgiveness of Him who is infinite in purity. Nevertheless, I will do our people the justice to say that her blameless and self-sacrificing life was not without its proper effect upon them."

"What became of Robert Barnet?" I inquired.

"He came after an absence of several months, and called on me before he had even seen his father and mother. He did not mention Julia, but I saw that his errand with me concerned her. I spoke of her excellent deportment and useful life, dwelt upon the extenuating circumstances of her error, and of her sincere and hearty repentance."

"Doctor," said he, at length, with a hesitating and embarrassed manner, "what would you think if I should tell you that, after all that has passed, I have half made up my mind to ask her to become my wife?"

"I should think better of it if you had wholly made up your mind," said I. "And if you were my son, I would not ask for you a better wife than Julia Atkins. Don't hesitate, on account of what some ill-natured people will say. Consult your own heart first of all."

"I don't care for the talk of all the busybodies in town," he said; "but I wish that father and mother could feel as you do about her."

"Leave that to me," said I; "they are kind hearted and reasonable, and I dare say will be disposed to make the best of the matter, when they find you are decided in purpose."

I did not see him again, but a few days after I learned from his parents that he had gone on another voyage. It was now Autumn and the most sickly season I had ever known in Peeawkin. Ensign Atkins and his wife both fell sick, and Julia embraced with alacrity this providential opportunity to return to her father's house, and fulfil the duties of a daughter. Under her careful nursing the Ensign soon got upon his feet; but his wife, whose constitution was weaker, sunk under the fever. She died better than she lived, penitent and loving, asking forgiveness of Julia for her neglect and unkindness, and invoking blessings on her head. Julia had now, for the first time since the death of her mother, a comfortable home and a father's love and protection. Her sweetness of temper, patient endurance, and forgetfulness of herself in her labors for others, gradually overcame the scruples and hard feelings of her neighbors. They began to question whether, after all, it was meritorious in them to treat one like her as a sinner beyond forgiveness. Elder Staples and Deacon Warner were her fast friends. The Deacon's daughter—the tall, blue-eyed, brown-locked girl you noticed at church the other day—set the example among the young people of treating her as their equal and companion.

One midwinter evening I took Julia with me to a sick patient of mine, who was suffering for lack of attendance. The house where she lived was in a lonely and desolate place, some two or three miles below us, on a sandy level, just elevated above the great salt marshes, stretching far away to the sea. The night set in dark and stormy. The fierce north-easterly wind swept over the level waste, driving thick snow clouds before it, shaking the doors and windows of the old house, and roaring in its vast chimney. The woman was dying when we arrived, and her drunken husband was sitting in stupid unconcern in the corner of the fire-place. A little after midnight she breathed her last.

In the meantime the storm had grown more violent; there was a blinding snow falling in the air, and we could feel the jar of the great waves as they broke upon the beach.

"It is a terrible night for sailors on the coast," I said, breaking our long silence with the dead. "God grant them sea-room!"

Julia shuddered as I spoke, and by the dim flashing fire-light, I saw her weeping. I knew her thoughts were with her old friend and playmate on the wide waters.

"Julia," said I, "do you know that Robert Barnet loves you with all the strength of an honest and true heart?"

She trembled, and her voice faltered as she confessed that, when Robert was at home, he had asked her to become his wife.

(*Concluded on page 406.*)

New Siberia and the Isle of Lakon are for the most part only an agglomeration of sand, ice, and elephant's teeth. At every tempest the sea casts ashore fresh heaps of mammoth's tusks, and the inhabitants are able to drive a profitable trade in the fossil ivory thrown up by the waves. During the Summer innumerable fishermen's barks direct their course to this isle of bones, and in Winter immense caravans take the same route, all the convoys drawn by dogs, returning charged with the tusks of the mammoth, each weighing from 150 to 200 pounds. The fossil ivory thus obtained from the frozen North is imported into China and Europe, where it is employed for the same purpose as ordinary ivory, which is furnished, as we know, by the elephant and hippopotamus of Africa and Asia.

# Horticulture.

We copy the following seasonable articles from the American Journal of Horticulture for December:

*Pruning Grape Vines.*—There is no better time to attend to this important work than in December. When the vines are to be laid down under the earth, the pruning should be done by the first of November, so that the cuts will have time to dry before the vines are laid down. We have noticed, where the vines were laid down the same day they were pruned, that, when lifted in Spring, they bleed as though the wounds, or cuts, were fresh. When wood is to be used for propagation, it must be cut off before the extreme freezing weather has injured it. Some varieties need very much more pruning than others. Those inclined to make wood too freely should be pruned close. We have often trimmed so as to leave but a single bud for fruit; and, in some instances, we have cut so as to have the plant push a dormant eye. During the following year the vine will not bear much fruit; but it will become strong, and better prepared for the succeeding season. In fact many of the vines in the country are over-pruned and over-fruited, and they need rest and less severe pruning. We have seen fine fruit produced from a vine not pruned at all, but left to run over the top of a tree; yet few are prepared to adopt such trellises for their vines.

*Covering Grapes.*—There is a difference of opinion as to the expediency of covering the so-called hardy grapes in Winter. Many prefer to lay them down on the ground and cover with soil, as they do their raspberries or blackberries; while others stoutly contend that it is not only no advantage, but a positive harm, to the vines. This depends somewhat upon the Winter; if it should prove a favorable one, it would have been better to let them stand up; but if a severe one, when there would be danger of killing the vines, of course the safest way would be to cover. We have practiced both ways, sometimes covering all, again a part, and, once in a few years, covering a very few; and we incline to the opinion, from our experience, that the safest way, where the Winters are severe, is to cover. It is not necessary that it should be done with soil; but evergreen boughs, old rubbish from the barn, hay, straw, anything that will protect them from the alternation of heat and cold, will answer the purpose. If they are buried in soil, the work should not be done immediately after they have been trimmed; but they should remain exposed some days, that the cuts made in pruning may dry, to prevent their bleeding when lifted the next Spring.

*Winter Protection.*—Many of the shrubs, plants, and vines in our gardens and on our lawns are not perfectly hardy, but need, and should have, some protection in Winter. Plants near the ground may be covered with leaves or hay; but shrubs and climbing vines will need different management. When evergreen boughs can be had without much trouble, they may be used to good advantage. This work should, if possible, be done before the ground freezes, so that the ends of the boughs may be stuck into the ground to keep them in place during the Winter: when this cannot be done, they will need to be tied together to keep them. Some who cannot readily get such boughs may get straw more easily, and it can be used to equal advantage. Bind and tie it around the plant in such a way as to protect it both from the extreme cold by night and the heat of the sun by day. It is not generally the extreme cold that kills the tender or half-hardy tree or plant, but the alternation of heat and cold. Then, when so protected, the plants are less liable to be broken down by sleet, snow and ice, which often greatly injure them.

*Hedges.*—The inquiry is often made as to what shall be used for a hedge. It is difficult to answer such a question without knowing fully what the hedge is intended for—whether for a protection against cattle, a dividing line between two estates, or parts of the same estate, for protection to a garden or an orchard, or for mere ornamental purposes on the top of a face wall or some such place. If the first, then it would not be best to use evergreens, but to plant three-thorn acacia, Osage orange when it will stand the Winter, buckthorn, and many other things that will in time make a barrier sufficient to stop the cattle. If for a dividing line where no cattle are to come to it, evergreens may be used to equal advantage with the deciduous trees and plants above named. If protection is wanted from the severities of Winter or the sweeping winds of other seasons, then, by all means, plant evergreens. If a mere ornamental hedge is desired, the white-berried privet, a sub-evergreen, is a very good thing; the Siberian arborvitæ, a slow-growing evergreen, is also a very excellent thing to plant; or the American arborvitæ and hemlock. No tree or plant makes a better hedge than the latter, either for ornamental or useful purposes. When the new leaves are coming out with their pea-green color on the darker-green back-ground of the old foliage, it presents a striking and beautiful appearance, not surpassed by many flowering trees or shrubs. It may be kept quite low merely for ornamental purposes, or it can be allowed to grow up sufficiently for the purposes of protection. It is not so easily transplanted as the arborvitæ, and will not, when small, bear so severe treatment; but, as it advances, it becomes more hardy. If the plants are procured from the nursery, they are almost sure to grow. The ground should be well prepared when a hedge of any kind is to be set; for half-way work in such a matter is not profitable. The American arborvitæ is more extensively used for hedges than any other evergreen. It accommodates itself to almost every soil and situation, lives readily when transplanted, grows rapidly, and, when properly cared for, makes a very compact and perfect hedge. Its principal defect is its dingy color in Spring. When it suffers severely from drought, it sometimes kills out the following Winter, and makes bad gaps in the hedge. The buckthorn is a very excellent hedge-plant, perfectly hardy, not liable to borers, a good grower; it makes a good, compact, useful and quite ornamental hedge.

## ROOT AND STOCK GRAFTING.

There is strong dissatisfaction in many localities against propagating varieties of the apple by root-grafting, which is the method almost universally practiced by nurserymen to get up their stocks. If the planter were to raise his own trees it would probably be preferable to grow seedlings and graft the stock or top, and this plan might be adopted, we think, with very good results. There would then be no cause of complaint against "tree pedlers" and dishonest nurserymen, and the fruit grower would often save both time and money by thus producing his own trees. Dr. Warder, in his work on apples, sums up the case as follows:

"Much discussion has been had upon the merits and de-merits, or disadvantages of root-grafting, and much theoretical argument has been brought against the practice; but beautiful trees are thus made in immense numbers in the extensive nurseries of our country, and until better arguments can be produced against the practice, nurserymen will continue to graft on sections of root such varieties as are suitable for this procedure—especially apples, in a large proportion of the varieties cultivated, some pears, some peaches, grapes, and other fruits.

Root-grafting is now of almost universal application with the apple. It has many advantages, which may be summed up as follows: Two or more plants may be produced from the root of one stock; these may be made with great rapidity; the work may all be performed in-doors and during the whole Winter season, when nothing can be done outside; they are of small bulk, and great numbers may be stowed away in little space; they may be transported to any distance in this condition, and are ready for planting with the opening of Spring, when they may be set in the nursery rows at once; or, they may be bedded out in small space and mulched, to protect them from drouth, and the weeds can easily be kept under. Another advantage of bedding out the root-grafts is, that they may be assorted according to their size the next season, when transplanted into the nursery rows. This very transplanting, too, is a great advantage, for the roots will be much improved by the process.

The theoretical objections to root-grafts have yielded to sound philosophy, based on and supported by practical observation. The very many advantages of this more economical and convenient and agreeable process will necessarily sustain root-grafting in this fast age, when so many millions of trees are needed for the rapidly extending wants of this nation of tree planters. We may, however, consider some of the practical objections which have been brought forward against this plan of multiplying the apple. In our very changeable climate, and particularly in the Northwest, upon the prairies, the cold of Winter often supervenes with great suddenness, after the young trees have made a prolonged and vigorous growth in the fertile soil, and produce terrible devastation among those that are there exposed, without protection of any kind, to the rude blasts of the storm-king; in a less degree, injury is very frequent with many such late-growing kinds, at the first access of a severe frost; this is manifested in the bursting of the bark near the base of the stem. The same thing is not so often seen in the same varieties, when they have been budded or stock grafted a foot or more from the ground upon hardy seedling stocks, hence judicious propagators have selected the "tender" varieties for this kind of working, and confine their root-grafting to those less liable to injury. There are other varieties which do not readily and promptly form a strong, upright growth, so as to be profitable trees to the nurseryman if root-grafted; these are selected for stock working, either on strong seedlings, or upon hardy upright sorts that have been root-grafted for the purpose of being thus double-worked. This plan has been pursued to a limited extent only, but its advantages in the production of good trees of the slender growing varieties begin to be appreciated, and as the demand increases, our intelligent nurserymen will very soon furnish the requisite supply."

## AMERICA AS A WINE PRODUCER.

The impression which prevails abroad, and at some quarters at home, that grape culture and the manufacture of wines in America are to prove failures, is contradicted by the facts of the case almost daily. There are good juices in American soil, and the porous vines are already absorbing them on thousands of fertile acres. Ohio has some 12,000 acres devoted to vineyards; in Indiana there are 4000; in Kentucky over 1000; in Tennessee the same; Missouri, Illinois, Georgia, South and North Carolina, boast already about 500 acres each, and Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, New York, Texas, California, Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi all have vineyards whose profits encourage to continued culture. The sales of grape vine cuttings and roots in our market for the last three years have averaged about four millions and a half of the two annually. The average yield of our best vineyards is 300 gallons to the acre, an excess of 100 gallons over that of the best vineyards of France or Germany. The committee on wines at the Paris Exhibition, after tasting of the qualities sent from America, said to our commissioners, "If you can produce wine of this quality you have no need of ours." The Virginia Seedling and Ives varieties won their hearty approbation.—Young red wines made in America withstand the influence of heat better than those made in any other country. Wine-makers need, then, have no fear that their manufacture will be regarded as inferior, and the spirit of rivalry between the two sections of the country will aid much in bringing the culture speedily to perfection. It is a mistake, too, to think Europe cannot compete with us, for first class dealers can and do furnish pure continental wines, despite the fact the market is heavily stocked with adulterations. In a few years we shall have some of the most extensive vineyards in the world; and perhaps the use of wine will drive out that great national curse, whisky.—One company in Ohio took in from their vineyards, this season, 30,000 pounds of grapes daily, and it is safe to conclude on every hundred gallons of wine manufactured from these grapes they made 33 per cent. With these encouragements grape culture in America can hardly prove a failure.—*Springfield Republican.*

## IMPERIAL LONG POND CRANBERRY.

Mr. I. P. Jameson of Dunbarton, N. H., contributes the following to the N. H. Mirror and Farmer.

"Mr. Editor:—I answer the querist in a recent number of your paper, in regard to the culture of the cranberry by saying that the wet, boggy, and almost worthless acres of meadow found in almost every section of New England, may easily be made to be the most profitable land. In the first place, build a dam to stop the water at pleasure, as flowage through the Winter is of great importance. Then cut one or more ditches to drain it through the Summer months. After this cut the turf with a hay knife into about eight inch squares and pull it with a common potato digger, which will cost from seventy-five to one hundred dollars per acre. Your land is then ready for the cranberry plants, which may be set from six inches to a foot apart each way; the more slips set the sooner the land is filled with vines, and a full crop is realized—say from one to two bushels to the square rod. As to the best kind, I shall not hesitate to say the Imperial Long Pond cranberry is decidedly my favorite. It is hardy, a great bearer, grows very large, will keep and retain its flavor longer by far than any other variety. It has always taken a premium when exhibited at the New England, State and County Fairs. It differs from the Cape Cod cranberry in shape and color. They do not all turn red for three months after they are harvested, though fully ripe. They command from one to two dollars per barrel more than any other kind. A short history of this cranberry may not be out of place. Some fifteen years ago, a small lot, two or three feet square, of this variety was found quite a distance from other vines, on the bog of what is called the Long Pond. We took the vines up and set them on some two rods square, from which a beautiful crop has been taken about ten or twelve years, also vines enough to set several acres, from which I intend to supply any demand for slips of this kind of fruit, that may be wished by the cranberry growers of New Hampshire or any other section."

## CARE OF FLOWERS IN POTS.

It is a common fault to put plants kept in rooms into too large pots. This has always a bad effect. If the soil be good, and not overwatered, the plant will indeed grow rapidly, but it will produce leaves and branches instead of flowers; and if the soil be over watered, the mass of sodden soil round the roots has the same effect upon them as stagnant water to the roots; but this it cannot do when it becomes blackened paste by being saturated with water. At the same time frequent re-potting is often absolutely necessary to keep the plants in a dwarf, compact habit of growth, and to prevent them from being drawn up. The way in which practical gardeners ascertain when repotting is necessary, is by turning the plant out of the pot, with the ball of earth attached, and if they find the roots look white round the outside of the mould, then the plant should be transferred to a larger pot, but only one size larger than the one it was taken from. By persevering in this mode of treatment for some time, and never advancing more than one size at each change, a plant may be grown to a large size, and made to produce abundance of flowers; while by the contrary treatment, that is, suffering it to remain in a very small pot, or shifting it suddenly into a very large one, the stem will become weakened and elongated, and the flowers will be few and very poor.

While every farmer wishes to adopt the best mode of cultivating the soil, he also desires to keep the most profitable stock on his farm. In some localities sheep husbandry will be found the most profitable. But what breed of sheep is the best adapted to the Middle and New England States? A correspondent of the Prairie Farmer says: "The Southdown sheep will shear, on the average, about eight pounds of wool that will not lose over one-third by cleansing for the cards, worth more per pound in the fleece than any of the fine wools, for this reason—the wool is fine enough for all manufacturing purposes except the very finest descriptions of goods."

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1867.


AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

## PRICE OF LABOR AND CROPS.

Within the past five years the price of labor, in every department of industry, has increased full one third. In farm labor the increase has been about fifty per cent. This has been caused by the enhanced cost of living, in general; also by the scarcity of laborers in some sections of the country. To the large and wealthy agriculturists, who have had a surplus of crops to sell, this increased cost of labor has not been materially felt. They have disposed of their products at a large advance on former prices, which has been more than an equivalent to the enhanced cost of labor. But to the small farmers who are compelled to hire a portion of their labor, and who have little or nothing to sell, it has been a serious matter.

The Commissioner of Agriculture reported, a year ago, that the average rate of farm wages in this country was $28 per month. In the Eastern States the average was $33 per month; in the Middle States $30; in the Western $29; and in the Southern States $16. This shows that the farmers in New England paid a higher rate of wages than any other section, notwithstanding they cultivate a poorer soil and obtain smaller crops than their rural brethren in other parts of the country. In the Middle and Western States, where the soil is more productive, and where agricultural machinery is largely introduced, farm labor has been $5 less per month than at the East. Still more favorable is the report from the Southern States, where farm hands are paid less than one half the price in New England. Yet it must be considered that Southern field labor is mostly performed by the freed blacks, who are not an intelligent or skilled class of laborers. But as far as the freedmen were interested they probably got as liberal pay as Northern laborers.—Their expense for food and clothing is small—their principal food being corn meal and bacon.

Before we make a positive conclusion on the comparative cheapness or economy of Southern against Northern labor, or of the relative profit of the productions of those sections, we should take into account the superior intelligence of white labor. In no part of the world is there a more intelligent, energetic or skilled class of farm laborers than in the North. No where else is so much agricultural labor done by machinery—in planting, haying and harvesting. This all requires skill, education and natural intelligence. Hence, with these qualifications, coupled with our agricultural machinery, we unquestionably have an advantage in the economy and price of labor as compared with the South. Then our nearness to home markets, or facilities for transportation of all farm products, gives us many advantages.

The question is frequently asked, "Will the price of labor remain where it is? Are we to pay high wages another year?" This will depend entirely on matters not within the control of the farmer. The condition of our currency and the consequent advance of living were the causes of labor, in all branches of industry, approximating to present prices.—When we reach a more healthy condition of national finance, then farm labor, like all other employment, will be reduced in price. Yet we do not expect to ever see labor reduced to its former standard; neither do we anticipate the cheapness of agricultural productions that existed ten years ago. The great variety of remunerative labor, especially in manufacturing districts, will have a tendency to keep up the pay of all intelligent, skilled labor. The employment of such vast numbers of our citizens in manufactures and commerce, will, on the other hand, create a demand for all our productions, and return us fair and remunerating profits.

With the exception of wool and pork, we think our agricultural products are bringing us as much as we could reasonably expect. The manufacture of woolen goods is depressed, but with prosperity to that interest, will come renewed prosperity to the grower of wool.—Pork, at the present price of corn, will return no profit. Our cereal crops, wheat, barley, rye and oats, are bringing a fair price. On reviewing the crops of past years with the present, and comparing prices, even with the advance of farm labor, we do not see that we have much cause to complain. Other branches of industry are far more depressed than the agricultural.

## SALT AS A MANURE.

The value of salt, as a general manure for grain crops, has been a question long discussed by our agricultural thinkers and writers. In England experiments in the use of salt for wheat have been found beneficial and successful. Such has been the uniform result, also, in Germany. In this country there have been no large experiments made, yet we now and then hear favorable reports of salt as a fertilizer.—Mr. George Steele, of Chester county, Pennsylvania, gives his experience in using salt for wheat, as follows:

"Salt with lime, and alone, has been applied as a manure for wheat on the farm which I cultivate for a number of years, with very good effect. From my own experience and observation of the effects of salt on this land, I am led to form the following estimate of its value as a manure: One and a half sacks of merchantable ground salt, or an equivalent of dirty salt, and 25 bushels of lime per acre, produce as good wheat as a moderate dressing of stable manure, and the grass after the wheat is as good, where the salt and lime are applied, as where the stable manure was applied. The salt and lime have been applied after plowing, and harrowed in; the lime spread with a shovel or lime spreader, as soon as slaked, while in a powdered condition, and the salt sowed broadcast, or mixed with the lime before spreading, or the lime slaked with brine; about twice the above-mentioned quantity of salt alone, I believe to be as good for this land as the salt and lime. The rocks here are talc slate. The soil, gravel, clay, and loam, was exhausted about 75 years ago, and its cultivation abandoned. It has since been reclaimed from barrenness by an improved system of agriculture, and the use of lime as a manure.—The land to which the salt was applied, had been frequently limed, which fact may be important in considering the effect of the salt applied alone."

Poultry Fevers.—Poultry shows or exhibitions attracted considerable attention a few years ago, and all kinds of foreign or fancy fowls found purchasers at exorbitant prices.—But when it was discovered that many of the imported varieties of fowls were not suited to our climate, or that they possessed little or no value above ordinary breeds, the fever subsided at a rapid rate. In New York there is a large poultry convention now in session, and in a pecuniary view it may turn out a success. Among the fowls exhibited is a pair of Houdans, for which the modest owner asks one thousand dollars! These fowls are natives of France, are large, handsome birds, but it is more than questionable whether they will do well in this country. The poultry clubs of England have generally condemned them—principally on account of their great delicacy of constitution.

Department of Agriculture. — Reports from Washington indicate that this Department is to be thoroughly re-organized. The new Commissioner manifests a disposition to retrench expenses and has issued an order suspending all work on the Government seed room, and discharging all the employes.—Economy may be a good feature, but the Department of Agriculture cannot be made a successful institution by that alone.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

E. H. Klippart, corresponding secretary of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture, contributes an interesting article to the "Turf, Field and Farm," on the cultivation and maugement of broom corn. He says the first seed planted in this country came from India; that Benjamin Franklin planted it in his garden, and from that single seed originated all the present varieties of broom corn. The "Dwarf" variety is considered the most valuable in Ohio, having a fineness and flexibility of fibre not found in other kinds. It yields about a ton of "whisks" to five acres, and brings from $30 to $50 per ton more than the coarser varieties. It requires a good soil; deep, alluvial bottom land is the best. In our experience we find that any soil that will produce a good crop of Indian corn is well adapted to broom corn.

The Maine Farmer, alluding to the subject of "High Cultivation," so much talked of and written about, says that there is much more talk than improvement. A man looks over his farm, of many acres, and finds the whole needs aid, but not being able, at once, to render it to all portions, makes no particular effort to improve any part. The right way—right because alone practicable—is to commence with a few acres at a time. Get these in good heart the first year and the increased product from them will aid in experimenting on another section the succeeding year. In this way the farm will soon become renovated, and, properly cared for, will not run down again as "long as grass grows and water runs."

A correspondent of the Rural New Yorker gives his experience with "hoof rot in sheep." Of its cause and cure he writes: "I commenced a careful and microscopic examination, which resulted in the conviction that the cause was the same as that of the psora (itch) in the human subject, *animalculæ*. Knowing kerosene oil to be very sure in destroying insects, I tried it in this case. We cleaned the foot with a stick, (no paring of the hoofs is needed,) and, turning the hoof up, poured in a small quantity of the oil. It was so searching that it would penetrate every fissure and cranny, where the animalculæ burrowed, and soon destroyed them. Finding the first application doing well, I directed my man to oil the feet of every sheep and lamb, sore or sound, believing that a remedy that would drive the insect from diseased sheep, would keep them from healthy ones. Several of the sheep had become diseased on the brisket, sides and other places; the remedy was used there also. The result was beyond my most sanguine expectations.—I have the same flock still, and occasionally have to use the remedy on a few cases, and the whole flock are now free from the disease. There should be care in the use of the kerosene, as if used too freely, it will take off the wool or hair from the parts where it is applied."

A German agricultural journal gives an interesting account of the beet sugar business in that country. Fields of beets of from two to three hundred acres are often seen there.—The beets are drilled in rows about fifteen inches apart and the whole labor of cultivation performed by the hoe. The women and men work in gangs of twenty or more. The men get from sixteen to nineteen cents per day and the women from thirteen to fifteen—working fourteen hours. The manufactories for this sugar are on a correspondingly large scale, some of them employing a thousand hands.—The beets are brought from the field and elevated to the upper story of a high building, where they are cleaned, crushed and filtered, the juice descending from story to story, undergoing a refining process by the way till it reaches the lower one in the shape of a sugar cone two and a half feet in length. It is a very nice article and worth at the factory about ten cents per pound. It takes eight days from the time of crushing the beets till the sugar is dried sufficiently for market. One of these establishments turned out six millions of pounds last year with the help of six hundred hands.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

Apples were raised for the first time in Minnesota this season.

There were 3000 bales of cotton raised in one southern county of Illinois this season.

The cattle disease, which is thought by many to be the rinderpest, has broken out in Baltimore county, Md.

An Oregon paper estimates the surplus of wheat in the Williamette Valley, at the close of the recent harvest, 2,000,000 bushels.

The farmers in Pennsylvania hire the German women to husk their corn, and give them the husks as pay. Husks are in great demand for bedding, and the women make money.

The most profitable time to feed fatting cattle is after they have become fair beef. Good feed after that, all counts.

In the great wheat-growing counties of Central Illinois a very large breadth of land—more than of last year—has been sown to wheat and is looking very finely.

There are three thousand acres of grapes under cultivation in Erie and Ottawa counties, Ohio, from which it is estimated that two hundred thousand gallons of wine was produced the past year.

An old lady in Marysville, Ky., 83 years of age, a descendant of Daniel Boone, walks eight miles several times a week, to sell the products of her farm.

Immense deposits of valuable phosphates, said to be superior to Peruvian guano, and of incalculable value, have been discovered on the banks of the Ashley river, near Charleston, S. C.

Homestead farms of 160 acres still can be had in Iowa at a cost of $15. For two years the population has increased 6000 a month.

A San Francisco paper looks forward to the time when grapes from California, by the Pacific Railroad, will be retailed in the Atlantic States for five cents a pound.

The Athens (Ga.) Watchman tells of a most extraordinary yield of corn—two hundred bushels and twelve quarts from one acre. It was raised in Richland District, South Carolina.

The rinderpest has broken out with fatal results in some of the northern Virginia counties, and the mayor of Alexandria has been called on by the citizens to prevent cattle from the interior being brought into the city.

A portion of the former country seat of Joseph Bonaparte, at Bordentown, N. J., has just been sold to a milkman for twelve thousand dollars. It was only a nucleus of the estate, with the mansion, and belonged to Mr. Milliard, a son of Count Bonaparte's former secretary.

Charcoal has been tried in fattening fowls, with marked advantage; the difference in weight produced amounting to fifteen or twenty per cent, besides a decided advantage in tenderness and flavor. The charcoal was pulverized and mixed with the food, about a gill daily to one turkey, and also left free on the ground.

A writer in the Southern Cultivator says he never saw a thrifty peach tree on lime land, nor a good peach grown upon it, though he had seen them so planted from Georgia to the Rio Grande. He had about forty thousand growing in one field, and the most healthy and best bearers were those planted under pine trees.

After long and patient experiment, a California horticulturist discovered that petroleum would kill the borer that infests the orchards of the Golden State. The fact was made known far and wide; and many fruit growers availed themselves of the valuable discovery. By their experiments the further fact was established that petroleum not only killed the borer but the tree!

A farmer in Oxford county, Maine, three years ago bought a farm of two hundred acres for $4,700. This year he raised and sold $2,500 worth of hops; raised 113 bushels of shelled corn on a single acre, and marketed 700 bushels of potatoes. He keeps fifty head of cattle, and estimates the profits of his farm this year at $5,000.

Keeping Cabbages.—Cabbages in the Spring are a great scarcity, yet there is no reason that they should not be as plentiful then as in the Fall. Only a little care is necessary. We have generally kept them fresh and crisp through the Winter, and the plan we adopted was this: We dug a trench out of doors, about three feet deep, and boxed it all around with loose boards. In this we put the cabbages, standing them on end with the roots downwards, and allowing the heads to touch. The whole was then covered with boards, placing them close enough together to keep out the wet; the earth was then heaped upon the top, forming of course a mound of about two feet in height. In this state the cabbages kept all Winter long in most excellent condition. No frost reached them and they were as fresh in the Spring as when first put away.

(*Continued from page* 403.)

"And like a fool, you refused him, I suppose, the brave, generous fellow."

"Oh, doctor," she exclaimed, "how can you talk so? It is just because Robert is so good and noble and generous, that I dare not take him at his word. You, doctor, would have despised me if I had taken advantage of his pity, or his kind remembrance of the old days when we were children together. I have already brought too much disgrace upon those dear to me." I was endeavoring to convince her, in reply, that she was doing injustice to herself and wronging her best friend, whose happiness depended, in a great measure, upon her, when, borne upon the strong blast, we both heard a faint cry, as of a human being in distress. I threw up the window, which opened seaward, and we leaned out into the wild night and listened breathlessly for the sound. Once more, and once only we heard it, a low, smothered, despairing cry.

"Some one is lost and perishing in the snow," said Julia, "the sound comes in the direction of the beach-plum bushes on the side of the marsh. Let us go at once."

She snatched up her hood and shawl, and was already at the door. I found and lighted a lantern, and soon overtook her. The snow was already deep and badly drifted, and it was with extreme difficulty that we could force our way against the storm. We stopped often to breathe and listen, but the roaring of the winds and waves was alone audible. At last we reached a slightly elevated spot, overgrown with dwarf plum trees, whose branches were dimly visible through the snow.

"Here, bring the lantern here!" cried Julia, who had strayed a few yards from me. I hastened to her, and found her lifting up the body of a man who was apparently insensible. The rays from the lantern fell upon his face, and we both at the same moment recognized—Robert Barnet. Julia neither shrieked nor fainted; but, kneeling in the snow, and still supporting the body, she turned toward me a look of earnest and fearful inquiry.

"Courage," said I, "he still lives. He is only overcome with fatigue and cold."

With much difficulty, partly carrying and partly dragging him through the snow, we succeeded in getting him to the house, where in a short time he so far recovered as to be able to speak. Julia, who had been my prompt and efficient assistant in his restoration, retired into the shadow of the room as soon as he began to rouse himself and look about him. He asked where he was, and who was with me, saying that his head was so confused he thought he saw Julia Atkins by the bedside. "You are not mistaken, Julia is here, and you owe your life to her." He started up and gazed round the room. I beckoned Julia to the bedside, and I never shall forget the grateful earnestness with which he grasped her hand, and called upon God to bless her. Some folks think me a tough-hearted old fellow, and so I am; but that scene was more than I could bear without shedding tears. Robert told us that his vessel had been thrown upon the beach a mile or two below, and he feared that all the crew had perished but himself.

Assured of his safety, I went out once more in the faint hope of hearing the voice of some survivor of the disaster; but I listened only to the heavy thunder of the surf rolling along the horizon of the east. The storm had in a great measure ceased, the gray light of dawn was just visible, and I was gratified to see two of the nearest neighbors approaching the house. On being informed of the wreck they immediately started for the beach, where several dead bodies, half buried in the snow, confirmed the fears of the solitary survivor.

The result of all this you can easily conjecture. Robert Barnet abandoned the sea and with the aid of his friends, purchased the farm where he now lives, and the anniversary of the shipwreck found him the husband of Julia. I can assure you I have had every reason to congratulate myself on my share in the match-making. Nobody ventured to find fault with it, except two or three sour old busy-bodies, who, as Elder Staples well says, "would have cursed her whom Christ had forgiven, and spurned the weeping Magdalene from the foot of the Lord."

## The Fireside Muse.

### WHICH?

"Which shall it be? which shall it be!"
I looked at John—John looked at me,
(Dear, patient John, who loves me yet
As well as tho' my locks were jet.)
And when I found that I must speak,
My voice seemed strangely low and weak;
"Tell me again what Robert said?"
And then I list'ning bent my head.
"This is his letter:—
"I will give
A house and land while you shall live,
If, in return, from out of your seven,
One child to me for aye is given."

I looked at John's old garments worn,
I thought of all that John had borne,
Of poverty and work and care,
Which I, though willing, could not spare,
I thought of seven mouths to feed,
Of seven little children's need,
And then of this.
"Come, John," said I,
"We'll choose among them as they lie
Asleep;" so walking hand in hand,
Dear John and I surveyed our band.

First to the cradle lightly stepped
Where Lilian, the baby slept,
A glory 'gainst the pillow white,
Like a soft ray of morning light;
Softly her father stooped to lay
His rough hand down in loving way,
When dream or whisper made her stir,
And huskily he said, "Not her—not her."

We stooped beside the trundle bed
And one long ray of lamp-light shed
Athwart the boyish faces there
In sleep so pitiful and fair;
I saw on Jamie's rough red cheek
A tear undried. Ere John could speak,
"He's but a baby too," said I,
And kissed him as we hurried by,
Pale, patient Robbie's angel face
Still in his sleep bore suffering's trace,
"No, for a thousand crowns not him,"
He whispered, while our eyes were dim.
Poor Dick! bad Dick! our wayward son,
Turbulent, reckless, idle son—
Could he be spared? "Nay, he who gave,
Bids us befriend him to the grave;
Only a mother's heart can be
Patient enough for such as he;
"And so" said John, "I would not dare
To send him from her bedside prayer;
Then stole we softly up above
And knelt by Mary, child of love.
"Perhaps for her 't would better be,"
I said to John. Quite silently
He lifted up a curl that lay
Across her cheek in wilful way,
And shook his head. "Nay, love, not thee,"
The while my heart beat audibly,
Only one more, our eldest lad,
Trusty and truthful, good and glad—
So like his father, "No, John, no—
I cannot, will not let him go."

And so we wrote in courteous way
We could not drive one child away;
And afterwards toil lighter seemed,
Thinking of that of which we dreamed,
Happy in truth that not one face
We missed from its accustomed place;
Thankful to work for all the seven,
Trusting the rest to ONE in Heaven!

## General Miscellany.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER. READ BY BOOTH.

In the palmy days of the elder Booth, before the sparkle of his great black eye had been dimmed by that bane of genius, strong drink, Booth and several friends had been invited to dine with an old gentleman in Baltimore of distinguished urbanity and piety. The host, though disapproving of theatres and theatre-going, had heard so much of Booth's remarkable powers, that curiosity to see the man had overcome all scruples and prejudices. After the entertainment was over, the company re-seated in the drawing-room, some one requested Booth, as a particular favor, and one which all present would appreciate, to read the Lord's prayer. Booth expressed his willingness to afford them this gratification, and all eyes were turned expectantly upon him. Booth rose slowly and reverently from his chair. It was wonderful to watch the play of emotions that convulsed his countenance. He became deathly pale, and his eyes turned tremblingly upwards, were wet with tears. As yet he had not spoken. The silence could be felt. It had become absolutely painful, until at last the spell was broken as if by an electric shock, as his rich-toned voice, from white lips syllabled forth: 'Our Father who art in Heaven,' &c., with a fervid solemnity that thrilled all hearts. He finished. The silence continued. Not a voice was heard, nor a muscle moved in his rapt audience, until from a remote corner in the room a subdued sob was heard, and the old gentleman (the host) stepped forward with streaming eyes and tottering frame, and seized Booth by the hand, 'Sir,' said he in his broken accents, you have afforded me a pleasure for which my whole future life will feel grateful. I am an old man, and every day from boyhood to the present time I thought I had repeated the Lord's prayer, but I never heard it before, never.'

'You are right,' replied Booth; 'to read that prayer as it ought to be read caused me the severest labor and study for thirty years, and I am far from being satisfied with my rendering of that wonderful production. Hardly one person in ten thousand comprehends how much beauty, tenderness and grandeur can be condensed in a space so small, and in words so simple. That prayer itself sufficiently illustrates the truth of the Bible and stamps upon it the seal of divinity.' So great was the effect produced, says our informer, who was present, that conversation was sustained but a short time longer in monosyllables, and almost ceased; and soon after at an early hour the company broke up and retired to their several homes with sad faces and full hearts.

FORGOT TO LOOK UP.—I have somewhere seen the story of a man who went one evening to steal corn from a neighbor's field. He took his little boy with him to sit on the fence and keep a look out and give a warning in case any one should come along. The man jumped over the fence with a large bag on his arm, and before commencing to take the corn he looked all around, and, not seeing any one, he was just about to fill his bag. Then the little fellow, his son,—a good little fellow he was, too,—cried out.

"Father, there is one way you havn't looked yet!"

The father was startled, and supposed that some one was coming. He asked his son which way he meant.

"Why, said the little boy, you forgot to look up!"

The father was conscience-stricken; he came back over the fence, took his little boy by the hand, and hurried quietly home without the corn which he had desired to take.

TO CIDER DRINKERS.—After your cider has become "hard," or sour in the Spring or Summer, you may convert it into a delicious beverage by adding two pounds of strained honey per gallon; after it is dissolved, let it stand in a moderately warm place until minute bubles rise around the sides of the vessel, when it should be tightly bottled, and left in a cool cellar for several weeks. It is then more delicate to the palate and more wholesome to the stomach, than much of the falsely-called champagne of the American market.

AQUARIUMS.—Aquariums are now so well understood, as to be in a fair way to become essentials in the room-gardening of all persons of taste. Growing plants, fishes and water reptiles are placed in the same globe or tank of water, and the gases which the fish reject are the food of the plants; while the plants, on the other hand, prepare the elements necessary for the health of the fish. By this beautiful principle of reciprocity, both plants and animals remain in perfect health, without the water scarcely ever being changed. A tank for plants and animals might form the base of a pretty parlor ornament, a central portion consisting of a case for ferns and similar plants, and a cage for birds on the top.

In California female servants get from $20 to $30 a month, and laborers from $50 to $125 per month. These are gold rates.

### ANECDOTE OF GOLDSMITH.

GOLDSMITH, it is well known, was fond of music, practiced it, at times, from his early years, and, during his continential tour, turned his limited execution on the violin to good account, by occasionally making a tune upon it the purchase of a meal and a lodging. His performances, however, were all by ear; he did not even understand the difference of the characters in which music is written. His friend, Roubiliac, knowing that the poet valued himself on his supposed knowledge of the science, determined to play upon his vanity. One day he asked him to give him a tune (he also knew something of music), telling him that the style in which he had performed made him wish that he would again play the same melody, that he might write it down. Goldsmith, proud of being thought a musician, and tickled with the artist's flattery, immediately consented.

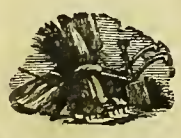
Roubiliac then called for a sheet of paper, and scoring on it a few lined staves, requested his friend to begin. Goldsmith accordingly proceeded to play, and Roubiliac to write; but what he put down only consisted of random dots and strokes, such as any one might write who was as ignorant as himself. When both had done, Roubiliac showed the paper to Goldsmith, who, affecting to look over it with great attention, said it was perfectly correct, and that, if he had not seen him do it, he never could have believed that he was so good a musician, as to write down music only by the aid of his ear.

### SCALDS AND BURNS.

ON the instant of the accident, plunge the part under cold water. This relieves the pain in a second, and allows all hands to become composed. If the part cannot be kept under water, cover it over with dry flour, an inch deep or more. In both cases pain ceases because the air is excluded. In many instances nothing more will be needed after the flour; simply let it remain until it falls off, when a new skin will be found under. In severer cases, while the part injured is under water, simmer a leek or two in an earthen vessel, with half their bulk of hog's lard, until the leeks are soft; then strain through a muslin rag. This makes a greenish-colored ointment, which, when cool, spread thickly on a *linen* cloth and apply it to the injured part. If there are blisters, let out the water. When the part becomes feverish and uncomfortable, renew the ointment, and a rapid, painless cure will be the result, if the patient, in the meanwhile, lives exclusively on fruits, coarse bread, and other light, loosening food.

If the scald or burn is not very severe—that is, if it is not deeper than the outer skin—an ointment made of sulphur, with lard enough to make it spread stiffly on a linen rag, will be effectual. The leek ointment is most needed when there is ulceration from neglected burns, or when the injury is deeper than the surface. As this ointment is very healing and soothing in the troublesome excoriations of children, and also in foul, indolent ulcers, and is said to be efficacious in modifying, or preventing altogether, the pitting of small-pox, it would answer a good purpose if families were to keep it on hand for emergencies—the sulphur-ointment for moderate cases, and the leek-ointment in those of greater severity, or of a deeper nature.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

FLOWERS IN WINTER.—The best geraniums for Winter blooming in the house are the different varieties of the Zonale or Horse-shoe family. These are free growers, adapt themselves well to the atmosphere of the parlor, and are seldom out of bloom. To flower well, they should be potted on through the Summer, and well pinched to make them of good shape. The colors are white, pink, orange, red, scarlet and crimson, in many different shades. If bedded out in the Summer, they will grow very strong and may be potted before the frost, and will soon bloom. The varieties with gold and silver foliage are not as well adapted for parlor culture as the plain-leafed kinds, but do well in a green-house.



WHILE encamped at the Walnut Springs, a short distance from Monterey, after the taking of the city, the old General (Taylor) and Major Bliss were seated in his tent, and wishing some fresh water, sent the negro boy, his servant, to the spring, a very diminutive one, to bring some. Very soon the boy returned without any, saying that a big volunteer was at the spring, and told him he would break his neck if he touched the water. The General said to Bliss, "I must go and see about this." So taking the bucket, he started for the spring, but soon returned with it empty. On Bliss inquiring why he also had failed, the General answered that "the volunteer threatened to break my neck if I touched the water, and he looked as though he intended to do it!"

# Various Matters.

## TWO REMARKABLE WATCHES.

GEORGE the 3d was the fortunate recipient of the smallest watch ever made, which was constructed by the famous chronometer maker, Arnold, and was set in a ring like a jewel. It contained one hundred and twenty different parts, and weighed just about as many grains, so that the parts averaged one grain each, the fly-wheel and pinion actually weighing the seventeenth part of a grain! Of course, ordinary tools were useless for such microscopic work, and Arnold had first to make a special set of implements for it. The King was so pleased with the wonder that he rewarded the skillful donor with five hundred guineas. The Emperor of Russia wanted a watch like it, and offered Arnold one thousand guineas for its counterpart; but in order that his gift to the King might not be depreciated, and at the same time to preserve its unique character, Arnold refused the offer.

In strong contrast to this tiny time-keeper, is a watch in the form of a skull, which formerly belonged to the unfortunate Mary, Queen of Scots, and was bequeathed to her maid of honor, Mary Seton. It is of silver gilt; and on the forehead of the skull is the figure of death, with scythe and sand glass, standing between a palace and a cottage with one foot on the threshold of each. On the posterior part there is a representation of time, also with a scythe, and near him the emblem of eternity—a serpent with its tail in its mouth. On one side of the skull there are figures of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, and on the other side a representation of the crucifixion, each set off with an appropriate legend. The inside of the skull is as elaborately wrought. The watch part is entire, and performs well, and it has a silver bell of musical sound, upon which the hours are struck. A chain is fixed to the relic, but it is much too heavy to be worn; it was doubtless intended to occupy a stationary place on a *prie dieu*, or private altar.

Capt. Samuel Parsons, of Northampton, Mass., recently lost nearly 100 sheep. They were turned into a pasture in Westhampton, where, during the recent storm, they commenced eating laurel, which poisoned them.

LARGE quantities of oyster shells are thrown into the streets in the country villages and market towns. They make a good road bed, but can be more usefully employed in improving the soil. They are easily decomposed by fire and water.

SOME men are like cats. You may stroke the fur the right way for years, and hear nothing but purring. But accidentally tread on the tail, and all memory of former kindness is forgotten.

# Marriages.

In Smithfield, 27th ult., by Rev. Dr. Taft, Mr. Adam Hurdis, of Olneyville, to Miss Sarah Briden of Central Falls; also by the same, Mr. Robert Briden of Central Falls, to Miss Alice Butonwood of Lonsdale.

In Uxbridge' Nov. 27th, by Rev. R. D. Burr, Mr. Alfred Dawson, of Worcester, to Carrie A., daughter of S. W. Smith, of Uxbridge.

In Hopedale, Milford, Mass., Dec. 4th, Chas. H Metcalf to Miss Marton Carpenter, both of Milford.

In West Medway, Mass., 26th ult., David R. Williams of Barre, to Alvira O. Pond.

In Holliston, Mass., Henry J. Hancock of Milford, to Mary E Baker, of Holliston.

In Webster, Mass., Dec. 12th, Gilbert D. Gunn of Sutton, to Charlotte Willey, of Webster.

# Deaths.

In Providence, 12th inst., Albert C. Peckham, of North Situate, aged 26 years. 16th inst., Eli Messinger, in the 53d year of his age, formerly hospital steward of First regiment, R. I. Light Artillery, and son of the late Captain Eli Messinger, of Pawtucket.

In Northbridge, Mass., Nov. 25th, Prudence T. Carr, wife of Dea. Geo. M. Carr, aged 57 years and 20 days.

In Pawtucket, 10th inst., Mr. John L. Chace, aged 65 years. 12th inst., Caroline Roberts, wife of Joseph Gardner, aged 37 years.

At Florence, New Jersey, 11th inst,, Jacob Melcalf, of Cumberland, R. I.

In Foster, Oct. 25th, Isaac C. Barden, aged 75 years.

In Milford, Mass., Mrs. Olive G. Whitney, aged 83 years. 9th inst., Mr. Samuel Hilliard, aged 58 years.

In Saundersville, Mass., Dec. 16th, William Place, aged 65 years.

In Wrentham, Mass., 15th inst., Mary Norton, wife of Curtis Stone, aged 68 years.

In South Killingly, Ct., 6th inst., Simeon Spaulding, aged 90 years.

# The Markets.

## WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending Dec. 20, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hay ₩ ton | $39 | Wood ₩ cord | $6a9 50 |
| Straw ₩ ton | $20 | Beans ₩ quart | 16c |
| Coal ₩ ton | $7 50a 8 50 | Potatoes | 1.30 |
| Oats ₩ bush | $1 00 | Onions | $2.00 |

GROCERIES, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour | $14a17.50 | Raisins | 22a25c |
| Corn Meal | $1 45 | Molasses ₩ gal | 70a100 |
| Rye | $1 50 | Y. H. Tea | $1 50 |
| Saleratus | 10a15c | Black Tea | 80ca$1 10 |
| Kerosene Oil | 70c | Oil ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Cheese ₩ lb | 24c | Fluid ₩ gal | $1 00 |
| Butter ₩ lb | 50c | Candles ₩ lb | 25a45c |
| Codfish | 8c | Eggs ₩ doz | 48c |
| Java Coffee ₩ lb | 45c | Lard ₩ lb | 20c |
| Mackerel, new | 10a12c | Sugar ₩ lb | 14a19c |

MEATS, &c.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef Steak | 20a25c | Hams | 18a20c |
| Beef, corned | 12a16c | Poultry | 25a30c |
| Tongues, clear | 25c | Shoulders | 15c |
| Mutton | 15a20c | Sausages | 18c |
| Veal | 15a16c | Tripe | 12c |
| Pork, fresh | 16a20c | Pork, salt | 16c |

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

The wholesale markets the past week have been marked by a material advance in breadstuffs and a decline in cotton.—There is a very light stock of all grains.

FLOUR has fluctuated, and advanced from 25 to 75 cents a barrel during the week.

WHEAT has advanced about 20 cents a bushel, and at the close has an upward tendency.

CORN has been very active, both for export and home use, and prices have advanced 4 cents a bushel.

OATS have also been active, with no material advance.

RYE is held much higher and has advanced, with a very light stock.

PORK has declined, and is less active.

BEEF has ruled steady and quiet.

COTTON has declined materially, and this week sales have been made at the lowest prices it has reached since the war.

# Special Notices.

MOTHER BAILEY'S QUIETING SYRUP, FOR CHILDREN, renders the process of Teething easy. Large Bottles only 25 cents. Sold by Druggists.

4w-48] GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., BOSTON, Mass.

ITCH! ITCH!! ITCH!!!
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!! SCRATCH!!!
in from 10 to 48 hours,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | THE ITCH. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | SALT RHEUM. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | TETTER. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | BARBERS' ITCH. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | OLD SORES. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | EVERY KIND |

OF HUMOR LIKE MAGIC.

Price, 50 cents a box; by mail, 60 cents. Address WEEKS & POTTER, No. 170 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

For sale by all Druggists.

Boston, Aug. 26, 1867. 1y-35

# New Advertisements.

JAMES VICK,

IMPORTER AND GROWER OF

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS,

**Rochester, N. Y.**

VICK'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE

OF

SEEDS, AND FLORAL GUIDE FOR 1868,

Is now published and ready to send out. It makes a work of about one hundred large pages, containing full descriptions of

THE CHOICEST FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES GROWN,

with plain directions for Sowing Seed, Culture, &c. It is Beautifully Illustrated, with more than ONE HUNDRED FINE WOOD ENGRAVINGS of Flowers and Vegetables, and a

BEAUTIFUL COLORED PLATE OF FLOWERS.

Well printed, on the finest paper, and one of the most beautiful as well as the most instructive works of the kind published.

☞ Sent to all who apply, by mail, post-paid, for Ten Cents, which is not half the cost.

Address JAMES VICK, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Dec. 21, 1867. 2w-51

BRADLEY'S GAMES.—Instead of spending your money for Toys that amuse for a day, buy for your children Games that are always new. Buy any of

*BRADLEY'S GAMES,*

and you will be sure of something interesting and GENERALLY INSTRUCTIVE. All the dealers have them. Send stamp for Catalogue to MILTON BRADLEY & CO., Publishers, Springfield, Mass.

Dec. 21, 1867. 2w-51

HOLIDAY GOODS.

Christmas Presents,

NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

NOW RECEIVING, AT THE

Patriot Book Store,

*WOONSOCKET,*

a fine assortment of goods, suitable for Holiday Presents, comprising elegant Bibles, Ladies' Work Boxes, Glove Boxes, Handkerchief Boxes, Portable Desks, Ladies' Companions, Fancy Boxes, Photograph Albums, Portmonaies, Wallets, Splendid Diaries, Ladies' Travelling Bags, and many other articles that must be seen to be appreciated. ☞ Please call and examine them.

FREE GIFTS! FREE GIFTS!! TO ALL!!!

A SILK DRESS PATTERN, a FAMILY SEWING MACHINE, or GOLD WATCH, for one or two days' service in any town or village. Particulars and gift sent free, by addressing, with stamp, W. FISK & CO., No. 40 Hanover Street, Boston, Mass.

Oct. 19, 1867. 3m-42

PECORA LEAD AND COLOR CO.

No. 150 North 4th Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Best PAINT known for Houses, Iron Fronts, Tin Roofs, and Damp Walls, RAILROAD CARS and BRIDGES.

PECORA DARK COLORS costs ½ less that of lead, and wears longer than lead.

100 lbs. will paint as much as 250 lbs. of lead, and wear longer.

This Company's WHITE LEAD is the WHITEST and MOST DURABLE Lead known. They also sell the best VARNISHES and JAPANS.

Feb. 23, 1867. eow-pe-ly-7

WHAT

THE DRUGGISTS SAY.

RUSHYLVANIA, O., Aug. 14, 1867.

GENTS:—I have been dealing in proprietary medicines for the last fourteen years, and have never before found a preparation that would equal your "Pain Killer." It not only sells very rapidly, but gives the most perfect satisfaction in every case that has come to my knowledge. In my practice I very seldom prescribe patent medicine, but, having entire confidence in your "Pain Killer," and knowing that it possesses valuable medical properties, I freely use it in my daily practice. It is the most standard medicine I have for sale, and many families in this vicinity would as soon think of being out of BEEF or BREAD as without a bottle of Pain Killer in the house.

Yours, very truly,
ISAAC A. HORAM, M.D.

C. P. Renson & Co., of Charlottesville, Va., write:—"Your Pain Killer is the most popular proprietary medicine sold in this State."

J. H. McCall, M. D., Quitman, Ga., says: "I have no doubt it will always be the great family medicine."

PERRY DAVIS & SON, Manufacturers and Proprietors, 74 High street, Providence, R. I.; 384 St. Paul street, Montreal, Canada; 17 Southampton Row, London, England.

ALLEN'S

LUNG BALSAM.

Charles Farmer, Druggist, writes from Ovid, Michigan: "I have just sold the last bottle of ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM. It sells like 'hot cakes,' and gives UNIVERSAL SATISFACTION."

Stanley & Skipper, Chippewa Falls, Wis., write: "We wish you would send a good supply of ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM, as it is getting to be one of the necessary institutions of the country. It sells well, and gives entire satisfaction to those using it."

F. L. Allen, a well-known druggist, at New London, Conn., writes us that ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM is favorably received by the afflicted. He says: "I have retailed nearly four dozen bottles over my counter, and it has given good satisfaction."

Many letters like the above are daily received from all parts of the country. The demand for it from California is large for a medicine so recently offered for sale. We have sold hundreds of dozens to go to that far-off region of gold. IT CURES, and that accounts for its GREAT SUCCESS. None use who do not, in return, recommend it to their friends Hence its great sale. Price $1 per bottle.

HOWE

SEWING MACHINES.

FOR FAMILY SEWING AND MANUFACTURING.

AWARDED

The Gold Medal

*At the Paris Expozition.*

PLUMMER & WILDER,

GENERAL N. E. AGENTS,

No. 59 Bromfield Street, BOSTON.

DR. TOBIAS'S

VENETIAN LINIMENT.

A HUMBUG.

How often we hear this expression from persons reading advertisements of Patent Medicines, and in nine cases out of ten they may be right. It is over 19 years since I introduced my medicine, the VENETIAN LINIMENT, to the public. I had no money to advertise it, so I left it for sale with a few druggists and storekeepers through a small section of the country, many taking it with great reluctance; but I told them to let any one have it, and if it did not do all I stated on my pamphlet, no one need pay for it. In some stores two or three bottles were taken on trial by persons present. I was, by many, thought crazy, and that would be the last they would see of me. But I knew my medicine was no humbug. In about two months I began to receive orders for more Liniment, some calling it my valuable Liniment, who had refused to sign a receipt when I left it at their store. Now my sales are millions of bottles yearly, and all for cash. I warrant it superior to any other medicine for the cure of Croup, Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Cholic, Vomiting, Spasms and Sea Sickness, as an internal remedy.—It is perfectly innocent to take internally,—see oath accompanying each bottle,—and externally for Chronic Rheumatism, Headache, Mumps, Frosted Feet, Bruises, Sprains, Old Sores, Swellings, Sore Throats, &c., &c. Sold by all the Druggists.—Depot, 56 Cortlandt street, New York.

DR. WADSWORTH'S

Dry Up!

FOR THE CATARRH.—A perfect and speedy cure for this loathsome disease in its worst form. No person suffering from Catarrh, or a bad Cold in the Head, should hesitate a moment, but procure the remedy at once and be cured. There is not any mistake in the above. Price $1 per bottle. Send stamp for pamphlet, all about Catarrh. For sale by the Proprietor, H. H. BURRINGTON, Chemist and Druggist, Providence, R. I., and druggists generally.

FIRE!

FIRE!! FIRE!!!

DR. RUSSELL'S GREAT AMERICAN BURN REMEDY removes fire from burns in ten minutes.

May's Royal Flavoring Extracts,

est in he world!

MAY'S OLD CONSTITUTION BITTERS—the Great Cure for Dyspepsia and Stomach Disorders.

NEWELL'S UNIVERSAL COUGH DROPS—Infallible cure in Throat and Chest Complaints.

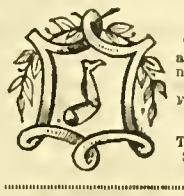
NEWELL'S CAPSENIA—the greatest Panacea in medicine for Cholera, and Fever and Ague.

For sale by all Druggists. NEWELL, MAY & CO., 21 & 23 Haverhill Street, Boston, Mass., Proprietors.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN PRINTER.

**Young and Old Making Money.**

The LOWE IMPROVED PRINTING PRESSES are the best and cheapest portable Card and Job Presses ever invented.—Cards, Bill Heads, Circulars, Labels, &c., can be printed at a trifling expense. Price of Presses,—$10, 16, 23 and 30. Price of an Office with Press,—$15, 28, 40, 48 and 70. Send for a Circular to the LOWE PRESS COMPANY, 23 WATER ST., BOSTON.



ARTIFICIAL LEGS.

The "JEWETT PATENT LEGS" are admitted by those who have worn other makers to be

THE BEST

FOR COMFORT, SIMPLICITY, and DURABILITY.

Manufactured by GEO. B. FOSTER, 33 Tremont Street, Boston.

Send for a Circular.

☞ Legs of other makers repaired.

BURRINGTON'S

VEGETABLE CROUP SYRUP.

A SURE and safe remedy for the Croup. Also the very best article in use for Whooping Cough, Coughs, Colds, &c., for Adults or Children. A standard Family Medicine for nearly half a century. Do not sleep without it. Beware of imitations sold on the great reputation of the above. Price, 25 cts.

For sale by the proprietor, H. H. BURRINGTON, Chemist and Druggist, Providence, R. I. Also for sale by Druggists generally.

BAKER'S CHOCOLATE AND COCOA.

PARIS EXPOSITION, 1867.

*Leaf, Flower and Fruit of the Cocoa, with a pod opened.*

W. BAKER & CO.'S

American, French, Homœopathic and

VANILLA CHOCOLATE,
PREPARED COCOA,
BROMA,

*Cocoa Paste, Homœopathic Cocoa, Cocoa Shells, Cracked Cocoa, &c.*

THESE Manufactures, to which FIRST PREMIUMS have been awarded by the *chief Institutes and Fairs* of the Union, and at the PARIS EXPOSITION OF 1867, are an excellent diet for children, invalids and persons in health, allay rather than induce the nervous excitement attendant upon the use of tea or coffee, and are recommended by the most eminent physicians.

*For sale by the principal Grocers in the United States.*

WALTER BAKER & CO.,

Dorchester, . . . . Mass.

REDDING'S

Russia Salve,

(Established 1806,)

IS THE UNIVERSAL REMEDY FOR

BURNS, SCALDS, CUTS, BRUISES, AND ALL FLESH WOUNDS.

For Chilblains, Chapped Hands, Piles, and Old Scrofulous Sores, Eruptions, Blotches, Salt Rheum, and all Cutaneous Diseases.

The RUSSIA SALVE is a PURELY VEGETABLE OINTMENT, made from the very best materials, and combines in itself greater healing powers than any other preparation before the public. Its timely application has been the means of saving thousands of valuable lives, and of relieving a vast amount of suffering. Fifty years' general use of the Russia Salve is a noble guarantee of its incomparable virtues as a healing ointment.

Price, 25 cents. Sample box sent free on receipt of price.—For sale by all Druggists and Apothecaries.

REDDING & CO., Proprietors, BOSTON, MASS.

VOSE'S

PIANOS.

THE PIANO OF AMERICA

THE increasing demand for these Pianos is a SURE TEST of their superiority; and they are acknowledged by competent judges to be

*EQUAL TO THE BEST PIANO MADE.*

Reference can be given to THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS throughout the country. Also to MANY SCHOOLS AND SEMINARIES, where they have stood the hard use and practice of years, and

**Have given Entire Satisfaction**

to those using them. They are the

Cheapest First-Class Pianos in the Market.

WARRANTED FIVE YEARS.

*JAMES W. VOSE,*

Warerooms, - - - - No. 6 Temple Place,

BOSTON.

FOWLE'S

Pile and Humor Cure.

☞ One bottle warranted a perfect cure in all kinds of PILES. Two to three bottles in the worst cases of LEPROSY, SCROFULA, SALT RHEUM, and ALL DISEASES OF THE SKIN. FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL USE. In case of failure, all Dealers will return the money, and charge it to the proprietor. No case of failure in PILES or HUMORS for ten years.

Prepared by HENRY D. FOWLE, Chemist, 71 PRINCE ST., BOSTON. Sold everywhere.

PIANO AND SINGING

FOR TEACHERS.

MRS. PAIGE is very successful in fitting Teachers of Piano-Forte and Singing by her new method. Time required from three to six months. Pupils can fit by correspondence, after remaining with Mrs. P. one week. References given on application. No one is authorized to teach this method except by permission of Mrs. Paige, who is the inventor and sole proprietor. Circulars can be obtained at all the Music Stores, or address MRS. J. B. PAIGE, 246 Washington Street, Rooms 9 and 4.



DOMESTIC FAULTS.—Homes are more often saddened by the continual recurrence of small faults than by the actual presence of any decided vice. These evils are apparently of very dissimilar magnitude; yet it is easier to grapple with one than the other. The Eastern traveler can combine his force and hunt down the tiger that prowls upon his path, but he can scarcely escape the mosquitoes that infest the air he breathes, or the fleas that swarm the earth he treads. The drunkard has been known to renounce his darling vice; the slave to dress and extravaganee, her besetting sin; but the waspish temper, the irritating tone, rude, dogmatic manners, and the hundred nameless negligences that spoil the beauty of association, have rarely done other than proceed till the action of disgust and gradual alienation has turned all the currents of affection from their course.

# The Stock Yard.

## FOOD FOR STOCK.

The following from the Rural New Yorker, on the best food for stock, is worthy of consideration.

"Very little attention has been given by the practical feeder to the selection of food to produce a certain result. The breeder should be well versed in the chemical qualities of foods, and of their adaptation to build up the various parts of the animal. The trainers of celebrated pedestrians and pugilists understand this matter much better than the farmer. The race-horse is fed on oat-meal and eggs for the same purpose. The laborer who has constant strain upon the muscles, requires a diet containing much nitrogenous and muscle-forming matter, such as lean meat, beans, cheese, &c. The English and Scotch laborers are able to endure great fatigue on bread and cheese, because cheese is composed principally of casein or muscle-forming food. And when rearing young animals, we desire to expand the frame and muscular system rather than to lay on fat, we should select a food for that purpose rich in gluten or its equivalent. For developing the muscular system, foods are valuable in proportion to their amount of nitrogenous matter.—And of this, corn and rye contain 12 per cent; oat-meal and wheat bran 18 per cent.; oil meal, peas and beans 22 to 25 per cent.; wheat straw 3, corn fodder 8, meadow hay 11, pea straw 12, and bean straw 16 per cent. This is only flesh-forming matter. Of heat and fat-producing matter, these foods contain:—Corn 78, rye 69, oats 73, wheat bran 63, oil meal 51, peas and beans 50, meadow hay 53, wheat straw and corn fodder 35, bean straw 33, and pea straw 45 per cent.

This shows how to mix an appropriate food for young animals. Even the wheat straw, containing only 3 per cent. of flesh-forming matter, possesses 38 per cent. of nutriment, and when mixed with bran to the proportion of two quarts to the bushel of straw, makes a food on which animals will grow rapidly. It will be observed that oil meal, peas and beans are very desirable food for developing the flesh, and as they possess a large portion of phosphate of lime, will also furnish material for the bones. The legumin of the pea and the bean, and the casein of the oil-bearing seeds, are identical with the casein of milk. This is an important fact, as it shows the propriety of feeding pea, bean and oil meal to cows to increase the production of milk. We have found from experiment that pea meal is, practically, more valuable when fed alone in producing milk than oil meal, but the best result was produced from mixing equal weights of oil and pea meal and two proportions of bran. This blends all the qualities requisite for the best feed for milch cows. That food which will produce the best quality of milk, will also develop the young animal into the finest proportions.

Corn meal contains so large a proportion of starch, which goes to keep up animal heat and produce fat, that it should be used for the purpose of fattening animals rather than produce milk or grow the young animal. We have found it much inferior to peas or oil meal or bran in producing milk. It will be observed that pea and bean straw and corn fodder possess too much nutriment to be neglected. When mixed with more concentrated food and steamed, they make an excellent substitute for hay. To feed with coarse fodder, the carrot, beet, parsnip and turnip make excellent winter food.

But the successful stock feeder, while studying the chemical composition of the various kinds of food as important suggestions, will, nevertheless, depend only upon practical results to guide him. It is not difficult nor expensive to bring all these foods, or those he can conveniently obtain, to the test of actual comparative experiment upon his own premises."

---

The Delaware peach crop for this year exceeds that of 1866 by 50 per cent.

## HENS AND HEN HOUSES.

As the cold weather comes on, it becomes all who are anxious to keep their fowls in good condition, free from disease and vermin, to take the proper steps to secure so desirable a result. Much depends upon the manner in which hens are kept as to their laying. Hens that suffer from cold and hunger, that are fed only with cold food, and that not of the best, cannot be expected to lay. They need a variety of food, both animal and vegetable. The object should be to make their diet in Winter as near like that they get in Summer as possible. It cannot be expected that they will lay quite as well in early Winter, whatever may be their treatment, as they do in Spring, but with proper care they will well repay all the extra trouble. Beef or pork scraps are good to feed to some extent; corn, barley, oats, rye, meal, buckwheat, boiled potatoes, and almost any vegetable cooked, and sometimes cabbages and other vegetables raw. Lime should be placed in their way, oyster or clam shells pounded up, that they can pick up, sand and gravel for the same purpose, or to roll in, and all these in sufficient quantities. Then a tight, comfortable house facing southerly, with glass front to a part of it if possible, where the hens may remain during the coldest days in Winter, and enjoy the warmth of the sun, with a sandy bottom or floor, so that they may be able to roll in the sand, or do the same in wood ashes if it shall be supplied. Then an adjoining apartment should be arranged with a sufficient number of roosts to accommodate the fowls. An open yard should also connect with the above, so that in pleasant weather they may, if so disposed, take an airing. A great number should never be allowed to occupy the same house. We have frequently observed that whenever this has been attempted many of the fowls have died, and the whole have proved unprofitable. The fact is, that all fowls need attention, as well as all the other stock kept on the farm, and will suffer just as much from neglect as any other.

## FEEDING DAIRY COWS.

Some of our readers may derive some valuable information from the following article, as to the amount and kind of food milch cows should have to enable them to yield a generous supply of milk. Those persons who give their dairy stock barely enough food to keep their bones from showing too plainly, need to learn that true economy requires the most liberal amount of the most nutritive food, varied at times, to secure the largest quantity of good milk. In a recent publication, Milch Cows and Dairy Farming, a writer gives his experience:

The conclusions to which he arrived were, that an animal, to be fully fed and satisfied, requires a quantity of food in proportion to its live weight; that no feed could be complete that did not contain a sufficient amount of nutritive elements; hay, for example, being more nutritive than straw, and grains than roots. He found, too, that the food must possess a bulk sufficient to fill up to a certain degree the organs of digestion or its stomach; and that, to receive the full benefit of its food, the animal must be wholly satisfied, if the stomach is not sufficiently distended, the food cannot be properly digested, and of course many of the nutritive principles it contains would not be properly assimilated. An animal regularly fed eats till it is satisfied, and no more than is requisite. A part of the nutritive elements in hay and other forage-plants is needed to keep an animal on is feet—that is, to keep up its condition—and if the nutrition of its food is not sufficient for this the weight decreases, and if it is more than sufficient the weight increases, or else this excess is consumed in the production of milk or in labor. About one-sixtieth of their live weight in hay, or its equivalent, will keep horned cattle on their feet; but, in order to be completely nourished, they require about one-thirtieth in dry substances, and four-thirtieths in water, or other liquid contained in their food. The excess of nutritive food over and above what is required to sustain life will go in milch cows generally to the production of milk, or to the growth of the fœtus, but not in all cows to an equal extent; the tendency to the secretion of milk being far more developed in some than in others.

With regard to the consumption of food in proportion to the live weight of the animal, however far it may apply to the general principle, it should, I think, be taken with some qualifications. The proportion is probably not uniform as applied to all breeds indiscriminately, though it may be more so applied to animals of the same breed. Bakewell's idea was that the quantity of food required depended much on the shape of the barrel; and it is well-known that an animal of a close, compact, well-rounded barrel will consume less than one of an opposite make.

## RAISE SHEEP.—EAT MUTTON.

Good mutton well fatted and *neatly* butchered is the most wholesome, nutritious and cheapest of meats. It grows quick and costs little to produce it, compared with beef and pork. Every farmer should have a few long wooled Cosset sheep at least—Cotswolds or Leicesters. They are little trouble, and will keep fat on the orts of the cattle. They usually bring twin lambs, which sell to the butchers for from $8 to $10 the 1st of July. Their fleece averages 8 to 14 lbs. with from 16 to 25 per cent. shrink only. Their wool is *now* and *will* be in the future, worth 30 per cent. more than Merino, which shrinks from 45 to 70 per cent., according to the family and treatment of the flock. Long wool makes strong, excellent and durable domestic stocking yarn, though it is mostly used to make the brilliant, light and lustrous Orleans goods, for the apparel of our pretty women. Two such sheep will yield as much profit as a common cow, and five of them can be kept as cheap as a cow in milk. Their lambs and mutton would keep a farmer supplied with the best of fresh meat of one kind, as often as is necessary, the year round, and would make an agreeable episode to the eternal round of salt junk and pork, and be far more healthy than either. Those who eat principally salted meats show it in their complexion, their skin being less fair and smooth. Pork, at best, eaten constantly, produces irritation and eruptions of the skin. Since the discovery, in this country, of the trichina disease, an examination of a great number of slaughtered hogs in the West, by a committee of scientific gentlemen, reported that they found about one hog in forty more or less diseased. We have now a plenty of sheep in the country, over 32,000,000 head, (more than ever before, according to the population.) Then let all manufacturers, mechanics, and all men who are interested to have good meat and the board of operatives *cheap* and *wholesome*, see to it that mutton-raising and wool-growing are properly encouraged as a matter of health and economy. Meat is a great item in the expense of board of operatives, &c. If we grow our own wool, we shall always have mutton plenty and cheap. This will affect materially the price of other meat, and the whole people, including the manufacturers, would gain probably as much by cheaper meats as they would lose by a protective duty on wool; for, encouraged, both wool and mutton would be plenty and cheap.

# Advertising Department.

# Farm And Fireside.

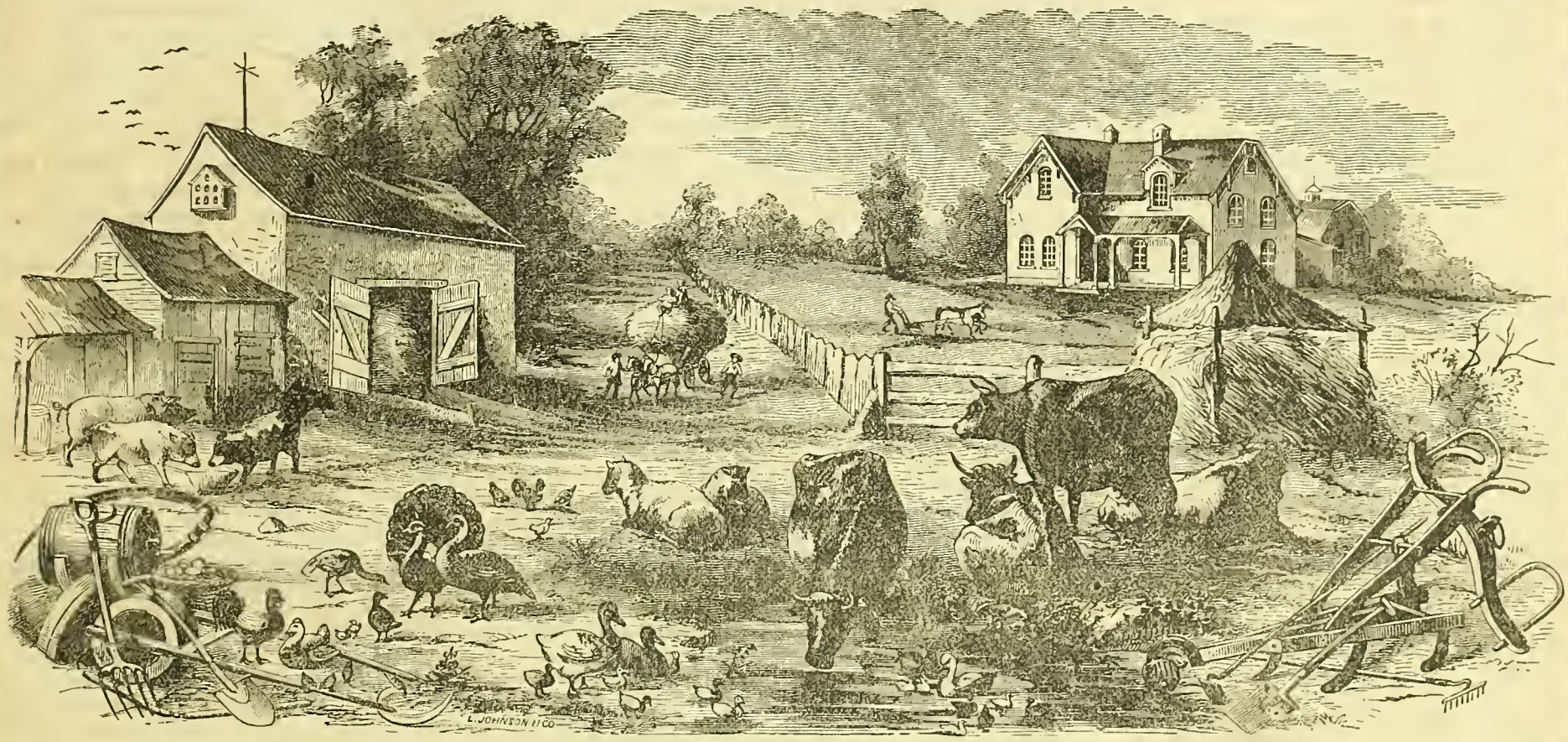
A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

KILBURN, BOSTON




*S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET.* *TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.* *SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.*

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1867. NO. 52.




## A FARM-YARD SCENE.

THERE are few pictures in rural scenery that are more pleasing than a well stocked, conveniently arranged and comfortable farm-yard.—Nothing looks so cheerful, in Summer or Winter, as a herd of fine cattle, a flock of improved sheep or a group of domestic poultry. Nothing affords us a better evidence of the thrift, economy and intelligence of the farmer than the appearance of his dwelling and barns, the condition of his cattle, the state of his fences and the general looks of his farm. There are some farmers who care little about appearances; their only desire being to make a certain annual profit from the land—leaving all other matters to take care of themselves. This is to be regretted. The farm is your permanent home, the home of your wife and children, and as such should be kept in the most neat and attractive order. A gloomy, badly located house, without door-yard or trees; an inconvenient or dilapidated barn, with broken or unhinged doors, and surrounded with poor, half fed cattle, are not attractive features; and will not give yourself or family that love for home and rural life which you ought to possess.

A farm-yard scene, like that presented above, is not a poetical one, yet such as we like to look upon. It has an air of comfort, stability and plenty, and indicates the thrift and wealth of agriculture—the only real, genuine, intrinsic wealth of nations. There are many indispensable conveniences to a farm not exhibited in our engraving. Every farmer should have gates for entering the fields, instead of bars.—Some farmers are sufficiently ingenious to make these with their own hands, and the Winter is a good time for this work. Every farm should have a good road or lane from the barn-yard to every field, so that loads of manure or grain may not require drawing across a meadow or corn-field, nor cattle need driving to pasture through a wheat-field. Fences should be so good that cattle may never be tempted nor learn to jump. A capacious wood-house, for the thorough seasoning of a year's stock of fuel, is indispensable. A capacious rain-water cistern, connected with the buildings, will be found valuable. Every farm, besides a dwelling and barn, should be furnished with a tool-house, wagon-house, work-shop, corn-house, grainary, smoke-house, manure-shed, cattle-sheds, poultry-house, a neatly-made piggery, a vegetable cellar and an ice-house. These are all indispensable to a well-arranged farm, and no farmer should be satisfied without them.

## AMERICAN CATTLE.

THE traveller in Europe cannot fail to have noticed that the cattle of one small province or canton will often differ widely from those of another and a neighboring province, and that the stock of each possesses a great degree of uniformity in appearance. Particularly is this the case on the continent. Thus in ascending the Rhine, the broad, rich bolders of Holland are thickly covered with the fine class of large black and white cattle, of a remarkable similarity in form and characteristics. This general color prevails all around the marshy districts as far as the Wesser, it might also be said as far as the Elbe.

And so in Switzerland, the large and stately Bernese and Frithourg cattle differ widely from those of Lucerne and the Grissons, both in color and size. These races, again, differ essentially from those in the valley of the Burnese Alps, though the Simmenthal and other localities familiar to every American traveller. No one who has seen them can failed to have marked the peculiar cattle of Tuscany, all the more or less dark gray in color, all uniform in appearance, with long and graceful horns.—They were the descendants, no doubt, of the stock driven from the broad plains of Hungary during the early invasions of Italy by the Huns and other roving barbarians. This race, according to the opinion of some naturalist, is the great original source from which the cattle of Europe sprang. It now appears under the general name of Hungarian.

The same is true, to a great extent, of every country in Germany—that is, each has its distinctive race or breed, differing more or less from the cattle of all other countries. Thus in coming among the apple covered farms of Herefordshire a remarkably beautiful white-faced animal grazes the hillsides. In entering the picturesque Devonshire the color of all the cattle is almost a uniform red, and so on.

This uniformity is nowhere found among the common stock of the United States. The early importations made by the colonies established in various parts of the country, came from widely different stocks; some from England, some from Holland, some from Denmark, some from Sweden, and others from the West Indies. They got wonderfully mixed up in the course of a few years, nor is it surprising that they did.

The first cattle brought to this country were those landed at the James river, sometime previous to 1609. The colony was established in 1607. Others arrived there in 1610, and the next year one hundred head were received by that colony. The first that came were, without doubt, brought over by the early adventurers from England, but subsequently to their arrival others appear to have been procured from the West Indies; others came from Ireland. Those from the West India islands were the descendants of cattle brought over by Columbus in his second voyage to America in 1493

So important were these early acquisitions of stock considered, that an order appears to have been issued forbidding the killing of domestic animals on pain of death to the principal, burning of the hand and cropping of the ears of the accessory, a sound whipping of twenty-four hours to the concealer of facts.—This was encouragement with a vengeance to the raising of stock, and it had the intended effect, for in 1620 the neat stock of Virginia numbered no less than 500 head, and in 1639 it had risen to 30,000, when the restriction against the slaughter seems to have been removed, and the number began to decrease. Many cattle were sent from the Virginia colony to New England.

The first cattle received by Plymouth colony came over in the ship Charity, in 1624, being imported by Gov. Winslow. In 1627, they had so far increased, that a division of them among the colonists took place, some of them being described as black and brindle, showing no uniformity. The same year, 1627, the Swedish West India Company imported some stock for their settlers along the Delaware riv-

er, and these, together with those imported by the Dutch West India Company into New York, must have swelled the aggregate number in the country, by the year 1630, to some thousands.

In the course of two or three years after this date Mason and Georges brought over considerable numbers of large yellow cattle from Denmark, for the purpose of carrying on the lumber business aloug the Piscataqua river, in New Hampshire. These cattle became widely diffused over that region, and maintained their position till within the memory of men still living. Indeed, traces of them may still be seen. They were large and coarse, but well calculated to endure the rigors of a northern climate. They unquestionably did much to lay the foundation of what is called the native cattle of New England, for they became mixed, in a few years, with the cattle imported into Plymouth and Salem, aud with the Dutch from New York, and, to some extent, no doubt, with the stock of the James River, and the Delaware colonies.

Such and so varied were the sources from which our common stock sprang. There were the black cattle of Spain, the red from the coast of Devonshire, the black and white Dutch from the Island of Texel, and the coast of Holland, the yellow cattle of Denmark and the marsh regions, and the Swedes from still further north. The crosses between these widely distinct stocks were inevitable and almost infinite.

Progress in Agriculture.—The report of the acting Commissioner of Agriculture for the present year relates the interesting fact that the number of agricultural iuventions now annually perfected is more than forty-fold greater than it was twenty years ago. In 1847 the number of agricultural patents granted was 43; in 1863 they had increased to 390; in 1866 to 1778; and during the first ten months of the present year agricultural patents were issued to the number of 1777. These improvements are rapidly revolutiouiziug the agriculture of the west, reducing to the lowest minimum ever attained, the proportion of manual labor employed iu its operations. As a single illustration, the reaper is mentioued, which, while doing the work of ten men, was first supplemented with a self-raker, and now, still further to facilitate and economize the harvest work, is furnished with apparatus for the instantaneous bindiug of the sheaves. The higher the wages of harvest workers, the broader become the harvest fields, aud the more extensive become the garners of the world.

Agriculture in Alabama.—At a plantation sale iu Alabama, recently, only fifty cents were bid for a cotton gin in good order, five cents each for ploughs, and correspouding sums for other agricultural implements. Mules aud horses also brought very low prices. The Mobile Times says there is no doubt, from the general expression, that experienced planters have abandoned the idea of farming ou the old extensive scale as impracticable, and the offering of many large plantations for rent, in quantities to suit men of small means, seems to coufirm this view.

The Right Whale.—It is the general belief among whalers that the sperm whale is dying out, the number having decreased so much as to render it difficult to obtain a full cargo.—The right whale, however, still maintains its own in the Pacific ocean, only shiftiug its grounds to regions more aud more remote.—The Northern fleet from New Bedford this year, numbers one huudred and two vessels, of which seventy-two are in the Arctic, twenty in the Oehotch, and ten iu the Kodiak ground. Nineteeu of the fleet will probably return to San Fraucisco iu the Fall to recruit, and eighty-three to Honolulu, from which latter point, should the average catch be taken, there will be shipped between 50,000 and 60,000 barrels of oil.

Already, more than 6,000,000 sacks of wheat of this year's crop, have been received at San Francisco.

## THE MONKEYS OF THE AMAZON.

The most singular of the Simian family in Brazil are the searlet-faced monkeys, called by the Indians Uakari, of which there are two varieties, the white and red-baired. Mr. Bates first met with the white-haired variety under the following circumstances:

"Early one sunny moruing, in the year 1855, I saw in the streets of Ega a number of Indians carrying on their shoulders down to the port, to be embarked on the Upper Amazou's steamer a large cage made of strong lianas, some twelve feet in length and five in height, containing a dozen monkeys of the most grotesque appearance. Their bodies (about eighteen inches in height, exclusive of limbs) were clothed from neck to tail with very long, straigbt and shinning whitish hair; their heads are nearly bald, owing to the very short crop of thin grey hairs, and their faces glowed with the most vivid scarlet hue. As a finish to their striking physiognomy, they bad busby whiskers of a sandy color, meeting under the chin, and redish yellow eyes. They sat gravely and silently in a group, and altogether presented a strange spectacle."

Another interesting creature is the owl-faced night ape. These monkeys are not only owl-faced but their habits are those of the moping bird.

"They sleep all day long in hollow trees, and come forth to prey on insects, and eat fruit only iu the night. They are of small size, the body being about a foot long, and the tail fourteen inches and are clothed with soft grey and brown fur, similar in substance to that of the rabbit. Their physiognomy reminds one of an owl, or tiger eat. Their face is round and encircled by a ruff of whitish fir, ; the muzzle is not at all prominent; the mouth and chin are small; the ears are very short, scarcely appearing above the hair of the head; and the eyes are large and yellowish in color, imparting the staring expression of nocturnal animals of prey. The forehead is whitish, and decorated with three black stripes, which in one of the species continue to the crown, and in the other meet on the top of the forehead.

"These monkeys, although sleeping by day, are aroused by the least noise, so that, when a person passes by a tree in which a number of them are concealed, he is startled by the sudden apparition of a group of little striped faces crowding a hole in a trunk."

This approach to an owl is as much, we should think, as any monkey would like to accomplish. Mr. Bates had one for a pet, which was captured after the usual manner. This was kept in a box containing a broad-mouthed glass jar, into which it would dive head foremost, when any one entered the room, turning round inside, and thrusting forth its inquisitive face an instant afterward to stare at the intruder. The Nyctipitheous, when tamed, renders one very essential service to its owner—it clears the house of bats as well as of insect vermin.

The most diminutive of the Brazilian monkeys is the "Hapalepygmæus," only seven inches long in the body, with its little face adorned with long brown whiskers, which are naturally brushed back over the ears. The general color of the animal is brownish-tawny, but the tail is elegantly barred with black.

Mr. Bates closes his account by stating that the total number of species of monkeys which he found inhabiting the margins of the Upper and Lower Amazon was thirty-eight, belonging to twelve different genera, forming two distinct families.

It has been said that every man has at least one good point of character. A gentleman traveling on Sunday, was obliged to stop to have one of the shoes of his horse replaced.—The farrier was just going to church, but suggested to the traveler that Jem Harrison might be found at home at the next forge. This proved to be true, and the rustic who led the gentleman's horse to the spot, exclaimed:

"Well, I must say that for Jem, for it is the only good point about him, *he do never go to church.*"

## DAIRIES AT THE SOUTH.

An exchange, in speaking of the reconstruction of industry at the South, recommends the dairy business in connection with the subdivisions of large plantations and moderate sized farms, and instances successful efforts in this line in Maryland and Virginia, and seems to argue or take for granted that the business may be extended through the Carolinas, Georgia and the South generally. The writer thinks there are just as good grass lands there as in the North, with the advantage of longer seasons and light Winters during which but little foddering is required.

Perhaps dairying may succeed as far South as Virginia, but it is a mistake to suppose it can succeed South of that State, especially East of the mountains where the country is but a vast plain of sand, through to the Gulf, and on which it is impossible for grass to grow. There is a coarse, tough native grass there which comes up in the Spring in thin, scattering tufts and lasts a little while and dries up in the hot sun. It seems impossible that such land can ever be brought into grass.—There seems to be no starting point—no foundation for changing the character of the soil to a grass producing condition. There is no lime in all that region to be burnt and mixed with the same to give it a more adbesive and retentive quality. There are no marshes from which to draw manure, and herds of stock cannot be kept to make barn-yard manure, for want of fodder. All their hay is obtained from the North in bales, aud their only domestic fodder is corn leaves stripped off and bouud in little bundles. Cattle manage to pick up a scanty living most of the year without fodder, but they are poor, scrawny-looking creatures, and the little butter they make is white as lard.

We talk a great deal about shiftless farming at the South aud not keeping the land up.—The fact is they have no means of keeping the land up. They turn everything to manure that is possible, aud the little they get amounts next to nothing upon a soil so thin and needy. We do not know what might be done by importing highly concentrated fertilizers, but we apprehend it would be a very expensive business to keep up such lands in that way. Their only course seems to be to work a piece of new land, with what little manure they can give it, till it *tires*, as they call it, and then abandon it to pines aud scrub oaks for about forty years, while they clear up successive patches of new lands to run the same round.

In the lower Mississippi valley the land has more stamina, but still there is not much good grass land, and in the most favorable soil the grass soon dries up in the hot, dry weather which matures the cotton, and if they could get the grass and the milk, it would be impossible in that climate to make butter or cheese that would be worth anything. The South will have to raise cotton, rice, maize, &c., while the North raises the butter aud cheese, wheat, etc., and exchange their products.

It may be well to divide up the large plantations into smaller ones, but we must not expect they can be so minutely subdivided as they are in the North. Even a small farmer there needs four or five times the quantity of land he wishes to cultivate at one time, because, the only rotation of crops that can keep up his land is cotton and corn, succeeded by *timber*, and he will wear out four or five farms while one is making a crop of timber and recovering its fertility. Such at least is the fact through all the cotton regions east of the Alleghany mountains, aud we can see no help for it. Sheep is about the only kind of stock that can be raised at the South in competition with the North, and these will not be of the first quality.

Dr. J. R. Nichols, editor of the Boston Journal of Chemistry, says that lard is adulterated to an extent hardly suspected by dealers and consumers. He has recently examined specimens which contained 30 per cent. of water, terra alba, paraffine, aud other substances.

## THE NECESSITY OF DIVIDING UP THE PLANTATIONS AT THE SOUTH.

We find in the Richmond Dispatch the following communication in regard to the necessity of a radical change in the plantation system of the South, and also in the training and education of the young men of the cotton growing States. The writer's opinions upon these subjects are eminently sound, aud the enforcement of his ideas will be a great advantage to the Southern States. He says:

"The present generation of young men in Virginia have not been brought up to those habits of steady industry, enabling them to dig with their own hands the treasures contained in the soil. The altered circumstances of the country, therefore, find them totally unprepared to act the part which those circumstances imperatively require. Hence we see many of them flocking to the cities in search of more easy avocations, or moving off to other and younger States to seek their fortunes.—A few stand by the old homesteads, and, summoning to their aid something of that resolution which impelled them to brave the hardships of four years' military service, have gone to work with a will. These are almost the only persons that have made money by farming this year, and they are laying the foundations of future fortunes in case the country should recover from its disquieted condition.—All the failures of the present year—aud they have been innumerable—are to be traced to adherence to the old system of agriculture; that is to say, by working a number of hands, and extending their labor over a wide surface. The only difference is that labor is now hired instead of being compulsory. The fruits are perhaps not so great as formerly from the same amount of labor; but had not the slaves then been exchangeable for money, the losses of cultivation would probably have been nearly as great as they are now under the general features of the old system.

The results of this year demonstrate one thing to a certainty—that cotton cannot be cultivated after the present fashion, and at present prices, except at a loss. Such are the accounts that come up to us from every one of the cotton States. Does it therefore necessarily follow that it must be discontinued? Not wholly; but the plantation system must fall into disuse. If small farmers will take it up—and we do not yet see what other crop is to take its place—there may be money in it at ten cents a pound. The farmer and his sons will be obliged to do their own work. If large crops are ever grown again, it can only be after the country has been divided and subdivided into hundreds of thousands of small tracts, and occupied by industrious emigrants bringing their own labor with them. Parents must henceforth bring up their sons to work. Labor should cease to be looked upon as degrading; on the contrary, it should be regarded as honorable above all things. No young man can have a fortune that will stand him in better stead than industrious habits and a good education."

An amusing incident occurred in one of our down-east churches a few years ago. The clergyman gave out the hymn: "I love to steal awhile away from every cumbering care, and spend the hour of setting day in humble, grateful prayer." The regular chorister being absent, the duty devolved on good old Deacon M., who commenced. "I love to steal," then broke down. Raising his voice to a still higher pitch, he sang "I love to steal;" and as before he concluded he had got the wrong pitch, and he determined to succeed if he died in the attempt. By this time all the old ladies were tittering behind their fans, whilst the faces of the young ones were in a broad grin. At length, after a desperate cough, he made a final demonstration, and roared out, "I love to steal." This effort was too much. Every one but the godly and eccentric parson was laughing. He arose, and with the utmost coolness said, "Seeing our brother's propensities, let us pray." It is needless to say that but few of the congregation heard the prayer.

Economy is Wealth.—There is nothing which goes so far towards placing young people beyond the reach of poverty as proper economy in the management of household affairs. It matters not whether a man furnishes little or much for his family, if there is a continual leakage in his parlor or kitchen; it runs away, he knows not how, and that demon Waste cries, "More!" like the horse-leech's daughter, until he that provides has no more to give. It is the husband's duty to bring into the house; and it is the duty of the wife to see that none goes wrongfully out of it. A man gets a wife to look after his affairs, and to assist him in his journey through life; to educate and prepare their children for a proper station in life; and not to dissipate his property. The husband's interest should be the wife's care, and her greatest ambition carry her no further than his welfare or happiness.

# The Fireside Muse.

### SNOW-BIRDS.

The tanager and oriole
  Are birds of finest feather,
And their sweet songs delight the soul
  In sunshine's summer weather;
But they have flown away with hosts
  Of other swift or slow birds,
And hither now from polar coasts
  Fly flocks of merry snow birds.

The blackbird and the bobolink,
  The pewee and the swallow,
From Winter's witheriug breath, too, shrink,
  And Summer's footsteps follow.
In the crisp meads and bleak, bare trees,
  I find but few or no birds
Save those that love the chilly breeze,
  The lightsome little snow-birds.

The broodiog wren her wooden house
  Has long ago left lonely;
In many a home ou wild-wood boughs
  There nestle dry leaves only;
Bnt Winter, who drives birds away,
  Would on us fain bestow birds,
To soothe the rigor of his sway,—
  So sends the twitteriug snow-birds.

The robin's with us, yet, I know,
  The chickadee and bluebird,
Aod so, too, is the sable crow,
  Through every change a true bird;
But Wioter is no friend of theirs,
  No good these rude airs blow birds,
They seem to think and not one shares
  The joyance of the snow-birds.

When all the air is dark and drear,
  And clouds o'er heaven are flying,
And wailing winds we, shivering, hear
  The tempest prophsying:
Like jolly sprites, in garments gray,
  Lo! sudden come and go birds;
We look around, and sigh, aud say,
  "'Twill snow, for there are snow-birds!"

'Tis true, they oft are harbingers
  Of rough and stormy weather;
But joy, not grief, my spirit stirs,
  To see them sport together.
Methinks they're for our solace sent,
  Aod counsel, too, although birds,
For who on dark days teach contentt
  So well as do the snow-birds?

The snow, by many signs foretold,
  Now fast, at last, is falling;
The lone lost woods, growing bitter cold,
  With muffled voices calling.
Oh! how will uow those revellers fare?
  No ruth the frost imps show birds;
Vain fear! they for no shelter care,
  The tiny, stoic snow-birds.

For they were cradled in the storm;
  Their mates were icy breezes,
Their good gray coats will keep them warm,
  Whatever round them freezes.
Ah! let us pray that one above,
  As we are not below birds,
Will guard us with His heavenly love,
  Ev'n as He guards the snow-birds!

# Miscellany.

### KEEP YOUR EYE ON YOUR NEIGHBORS.

Take care of them. Do not let them stir without watching. They may do something wrong, if you do. To be sure you never knew them to do anything very bad, but it may be on your account they have not. Perhaps if it had not been for your kind care, they might have disgraced themselves and families a long time ago. Therefore do not relax any effort to keep them where they ought to be; never mind your own business, that will take care of itself. There is a man passing along—he is looking over the fence—be suspicious of him; perhaps he contemplates stealing something, some of these dark nights; there is no knowing what queer fancies he may have got into his head. If you find any symptoms of any one passing out of the path of duty, tell every one else that you can see, and be particular to see a great many. It is a good way to circulate such things, though it may not benefit yourself or any one else particularly. Do keep something going—silence is a dreadful thing; though it is said there was silence in Heaven for the space of half an hour, do not let any such thing occur on earth; it would be too much like Heaven for the inhabitants of this mundane sphere. If, after all your watchful care, you cannot see anything out of the way in any one, you may be sure it is not because they have not done anything bad; perhaps, in an unguarded moment, you lost sight of them—throw out hints that they are no better than they should be—that you should not wonder if people found out what they were, after a while, and then they may not carry their heads so high. Keep it agoing, and some one will take the hint and begin to help you after a while—then there will be music, and everything will work to a charm.

### THE BLESSING OF SLEEP.

It seems so much a thing of course that we should sleep when fatigned, that most persons in the enjoyment of health, who nightly sleep sound, unbroken and refreshing, are not apt to reflect how much they should congratulate themselves on the readiness and regularity with which sleep closes their eyelids when nature needs repose. If from any cause such a one is prevented from sleeping for a night or two, considerable annoyance is experienced, and if the disturbing cause is not speedily removed, great suffering and injury result. How terrible, then, must be the condition of one who is almost entirely deprived of sleep, while realizing the necessity and experiencing a desire for it. Such a one was the late Count Bacciochi, cousin of the French Emperor, superintendent of the theatres, and first chamberlain:

"He was a constant sufferer from a nervous disease, for which there was no help. He could not remain still either in a chair or in a bed, without suffering acutest pain. He transacted bnsiness on foot; he dictated letters and lists of invitations as he paced his office. He listened to the performance of operas in his latticed box which had no seat in it, and was covered with a thick carpet, that he might walk during the whole performance. He saw ballets danced from the slips of the stage. Often he would take the dullest books issued from the press, have candles lighted in broad daylight, and read the stupid work until he caught its heaviness and was composed to sleep. Sometimes sleep would not come even when summoned, then he would walk until it did come; he would walk until he so exhausted the body that the nerves were insensible to pain, and sleep would become necessary to life. On one occasion he walked without intermission for thirty-six hours, trying to subdue pain by fatigue. The Emperor gave him rooms adjoining one of the largest Tnileries, and had it covered with a thick Anbusson carpet, that the poor patient might endure his paiuful round with least pain. He died of sheer exhaustion from want of sleep."

Health Insurance.—A thin, cadaverous looking German, about fifty years of age, entered the office of a health insnrance company, and inquired:

"Ish te man in vat insures te people's helts?"

The agent answered, "I attend to that business."

"Vell, I vants mine helts insured. Vot you sharge?"

"Different prices," answered the agent; "from three to ten dollars a year, and you get ten dollars a week in case of sickness."

"Vell," said Mynheer, "I vauts ten dollars vert."

The agent inquired his state of health.

"Vell, I ish sick all the time. I's shust out of bed two or three hours a tay, and the doctor say he can't do nothing more good for me."

"If that is the state of your health," returned the agent, "we can't insure it. We only insure persons who are in good health."

At this Mynheer bristled up in great anger.

"You must tink I's a fool. Vot you tink I come pay you the dollars for insure my helt ven I vas vell?"

Reply of a Temperance Doctor.—"Doctor," said Squire Love-a-little, "do you think a very little spirits, now and then, would hurt me very much?" "Why, no, sir," answered the Doctor, very deliberately, "I do not think a little now and then would hurt you *very much;* but, sir, if you don't take *any*, it won't *hurt you at all.*"

### THE EVE OF TRAFALGAR.

Nelson embowered down at ever-pleasant Merton, making hay, watching sheep, catching trout in the winding Wandle, idolizing Lady Hamilton, that beautiful but wanton woman, forgot ambition, and grew more intent on rick awnings than French canvas. One daybreak, Captain Blackwood brought word that the French had refitted at Vigo, and got into Cadiz. Nelson paced the "quarter-deck walk" in his garden restlessly. He pretended to be indifferent, and quoted a playful proverb: "Let the man trudge it who's lost his budget." He was happy, and his health was better. "He wouldn'nt give sixpence to call the king his uncle." Lady Hamilton knew the heart of the brave man she loved, and pressed him to go. The French fleet was his property; it was the reward of his two years' watching. He would be miserable if anyone else had it. "Nelson, offer your services." The tears came into his eyes at her heroism. At half-past ten that night he started in a post-chaise for London. His diary for that day lays bare his heart before us: "Friday night (September 13), at half-past ten," he says, "I drove from dear, dear Merton, where I left all I hold dear in this world, to go to serve my king and my country." The embarkation of Nelson at Portsmouth was a scene worthy of Grecian history. Although he tried to steal secretly to his ship, crowds collected, eager to see the face of the hero they venerated. Many of the rugged sailors were in tears; old men-of-war's men knelt and prayed God to bless him as he passed to the boat. —*Dickens' "All the Year Round."*

### A TALENT FOR CONVERSATION.

A talent for conversation has an extraordinary value for common, every day uses of life. Let any one who has this gift enter into a social circle anywhere. How every one's face brightens at his entrance. How soon he sets all the little wheels in motion, encouraging the timid, calling out unostentatiously the resources of the reserved and shy, subsidizing the facile, and making everybody glad and happy.

To converse well is not to engross the conversation. It is not to do all the talking. It is not necessarily to talk with very great brilliancy. A man may talk with such surpassing power and splendor as to awe the rest of the company into silence, or excite their envy, and so produce a chill where his aim should be to produce warmth and sunshine. He should seek the art of making others feel quite at home with him, so that no matter how great may be his attainments or reputation, or how small may be theirs, they find it insensibly just as natural and pleasant talking to him, as hearing him talk. The talent for conversation, indeed, more almost than anything else in life, requires tact and discretion. It requires one to have most varied knowledge, and to have it at instant and absolute disposal, so that he can use just as much, or just as little, as the occasion demands. It requires the ability to pass instantly and with ease from the playful to the serious, from books to men, from the mere phrases of courtesy to the expressions of sentiment and passion.—*Mistakes of Educated Men.*

Dr. Franklin, having noticed that a certain mechanic, who worked near his office, was always smiling and happy, ventured to ask him for the secret of his constant cheerfulness. "No secret, doctor," he replied, "I have one of the best of wives, and when I go to work she always has a kind word of encouragement for me, and when I go home she meets me with a smile and a kiss, and the tea is sure to be ready; and she has done so many little things through the day to please me, that I cannot find it in my heart to speak an unkind word to anybody."

An Irishman once saved a miser from drowning and was handed a sixpence. "What," said he, "is that all you give a man for saving your life?" Then taking a second look, he said, "Well, faith, and I guess it is all that it is worth."

### HOMELY GIRLS.

"How *did* that homely woman contrive to get married?" is not unfrequently remarked of some good domestic creature whom her husband regards as the apple of his eye, and in whose plain face he sees something better than beauty. Pretty girls who are vain of their charms are rather prone to make observations of this kind; and consciousness of the fact that flowers of loveliness are often left to pine on the stem, while weeds of homeliness go off readily, is, no doubt, in many cases, at the bottom of the question. The truth is that most men prefer homeliness and amiability to beauty and caprice. Handsome women are sometimes very hard to please. They are apt to over value themselves, and in waiting for an immense bid occasionally overstand the market. The plain sisters, on the contrary, aware of their personal deficiencies, generally lay themselves out to produce an agreeable impression, and in most instances succeed. They don't aspire to capture paragons with princely fortunes, but are willing to take anything respectable and loveworthy that Providence may throw in their way. The rock ahead of your haughty Junos and coquettish Hebes is fastidiousness. They reject and reject, until nobody cares to woo them. Men don't like to be snubbed nor to be trifled with—a lesson that thousands of pretty women learn too late. Mrs. Hannah More, a very excellent and pious person, who knew whereof she wrote, recommends every unmarried sister to close with the offer of the first good sensible *Christian* lover who falls in her way. But ladies whose mirrors, aided by the glamour of vanity, assure them they were born for conquest, pay no heed to this sort of advice.

It is a note worthy fact that homely girls generally get better husbands than fall to the lot of their fairer sisters. Men who are caught *merely* by a pretty face and figure do not as a rule amount to much. The practical, useful, thoughtful, portion of mankind is wisely contented with unpretending excellence.

### PREMATURE BURIAL.

There are some persons who pass through life with this bugbear always terrifying them—some who leave, in their wills, solemn injunctions to their surviving friends, to adopt most extraordinary precautions on their behalf, against the possibility of such an occurrence—piercing the heart, closing up the windpipe, and the like. Under all ordinary circumstances, such apprehensions are wholly superfluous, as the advent of death is attended with certain signs, in regard to which mistake, at least by a physician, is well nigh impossible. But on the continent of Europe, it appears, this fear is so general, that, in some cities, great pains have been taken to allay it. Rev. Dr. Bellows, writing from Nuremburg, says that in the cemetery there is a house, pleasantly arranged amid flower beds and shrubs, to which all the dead are at once carried, after being laid out, and there placed on beds, each with a bell-pull so connected with the hand that the least motion of the supposed corpse on reviving must arouse the attendant and bring instant attention. All this humane precaution has never yet been rewarded with a single call upon its watchfulness. Once, however, in a case where the deceased had died of dropsy, the subsidence of water caused a fall of the arm—the bell rang, and the attendant, who had watched for years for the sound, was so frightened that he ran from his post and alarmed the neighbors, who, after some time, rallied, and discovered the cause of the alarm. Dr. Bellows thinks this system not worth adopting in America—though we commonly bury too early for decency.

In Great Britain the number of spindles said to be employed in the manufacture of cotton exceeds 30,000,000. When in good work, as many as 63,994,602 miles of thread are made per working day of ten hours, and enough is made every minute to encompass the earth four times.

A correspondent of an Irish newspaper claims to have heard of a plan to stop the decay of diseased potatoes. He writes of it as follows: "I have just heard of a plan for preserving partially diseased potatoes from further decay, for pig feeding. As this is a year in which the disease is prevalent, very likely such a plan will be universally adopted. When the diseased potatoes are sorted, they should be immediately taken and boiled, after which they are to be allowed to dry by their own heat, and then put into barrels, and pressed down in a pulp, covered with moist, yellow clay. Then cover the barrel, and allow it to stand by until required for use." The correspondent says a friend of his, by so doing, kept them for nine months.

# Horticulture.

## THE ORCHARD AND GARDEN IN WINTER.

The soil for an orchard or garden may have been thoroughly drained and deepened by trenching or subsoiling, and the best varieties of fruit trees, bushes, canes or vines set out, and yet all may be lost by neglect in Winter.—Trees removed from crowded nurseries generally lose a considerable part of their roots in digging up, and unless the branches are shortened in severely there will not be a proper balance between the top and the roots, and the stems will be so much shaken by the wind that the remains of the roots will be unable to take hold on the soil, and keep the tree in an upright position. In order to ensure healthy and vigorous trees, they should be raised in open ground, being kept three or four feet asunder, every way, and a low growth of branches encouraged. By this means the trees will be inured to exposure and furnished with roots and branches suited to the positions they are to occupy in the orchard or garden. Some varieties of fruit trees fail in localities where others thrive, and on this account attention should be given to procure trees that are suited to the soil.

The necessity of shelter for orchards and gardens is becoming more evident by the experience of every passing year. Fruit trees in exposed aspects seldom succeed, as they are exposed to atmospherie blights, and also to cracking of the bark from exposure to alternate freezing and thawing. From violent agitation of the branches at the critical time of setting the fruit, the trees are rendered unproductive. Sometimes in exposed aspects trees in blossom are torn up by violent gales of wind, and even if they escape all accidents of this kind, the fruit is generally blown off before it comes to maturity. A good thick screen of evergreens is useful and ornamental, and fruit growers should provide this necessary shelter for their orchards and gardens, except in places where the forest affords protection from the cold winds.

Trees which were transplanted in the Fall of the present year should be examined and put in a proper condition to resist the prevailing wind, and also the attacks of rabbits and mice. Banking up the earth around them from six to twelve inches, according to the size of the tree, will keep them from waving in the wind, and will also be useful in preventing the attacks of rabbits and mice. Rabbits it is true can stand on the little banks which surround the trees and reach the bark in this way, but they seldom do so, as they are very shy of newly stirred soil lest it might cover a trap of some kind. Mice generally work along the flat surface of the ground under the snow, and reach the bark of the trunks in this way. When mounds are made around the trunks, they pass them by. The snow should be trampled firmly around the trees to prevent their attacks.—*Western Rural.*

## THE GREEN-HOUSE.

From the middle of November until Spring the plants in the green-house require constant attention. A suitable temperature must be maintained and a sufficient supply of water and light given. The water that is used should not be of a lower temperature than the air of the house. More harm than good arises from deluging plants with *cold* water. When moisture is needed, which may be known by the appearance of the plants, a small quantity of tepid water should be given.

If the soil in the tubs, pots, etc., is not kept moderately moist, the plants will wither. Attention should be given to the drainage of the the pots. Stagnant water will have as bad an effect in the green-house as in any other place. Although there may not be "tongues in trees," green-house plants speak for themselves. If watering is neglected they droop. When drenched with cold water they look cold and cheerless, the leaves or flowers do not expand fully, and their growth is stunted. The green fly may be at work on some of them or the red spider. The condition of the plants when suffering from these or any other insects, will suggest the necessity of fumigation, the application of sulphur, the use of the syringe, etc.

## THE GRAPE MILDEW.

Mr. Wm. Saunders in his paper on the mildew of the grape, read at the meeting of the American Pomological Society, at St. Louis, presents some very useful suggestions. Grape mildew may be prevented by shelter from heavy dews or rains, either by mechanical or natural appliances, and applications of sulphur or other antidotes to the foliage. "Experiments have proved," says Mr. S., "that leaf blights may be prevented by sheltering the foliage. How far expedients for this purpose can be profitably employed, is a question for grape growers to decide. The simplest form of covering is a board covered trellis, and for amateur culture or private family use the expense of such covering is not worthy of consideration.

The causes of various forms of leaf blight on the grape it appears is very imperfectly understood. Mr. Saunders remarks that "so far as our present knowledge extends, the constitution of the soil, either in its chemical or physical condition, or as effected in any degree by culture, exercises little if any influence either in promoting or preventing mildew on the leaf; but keeping in view the supposition that mildew is the result of weakened vitality, it is within the bounds of probability, that a system of special culture may be reached which will fortify the plant against injury from such attacks."

## THE HOP CROP.

According to the census of 1840, the product of hops in the United States was but 1,238,412 pounds. In 1850 it had increased to 4,467,029 pounds; in 1860, the product was nearly 11,000,000 pounds, and this year, 1867, it is estimated to reach 20, 000,000 pounds, or 100,000 bales, of which 50,000 are credited to New York.

Next to New York, Wisconsin holds a prominent place as a hop producing State, her crop this year being estimated at 35,000 bales, or 7,000,000 pounds. In Sauk county, which has a large German population, the crop this year is 20,000 bales, or 4,000,000 pounds. Dealers tell us that the Wisconsin hops are excellent, the vines being for the most part free of disease.

To show how rapidly this branch of farming has been carried on in Wiscousin, we might mention that the crop for 1865, was only 829,317 pounds, of which Sauk county produced 522,208 pounds. The crop in Sauk, in 1866, was 1,500,000 pounds, and it is estimated this year, $2,000,000 for their crop, which is a most extraordinary sum to be taken from a branch of farming so comparatively new in that section.

Black Knot in Plum Trees.—D. D. Walsh of Rock-Island, Illinois, well-known as an entomologist, says that all his examinations have resulted in the conviction that the black knot on the plum tree is the effect of a fungus, and is not a disease nor a gall. He thinks the spores or seeds are formed about the end of July, in latitude 40 deg. 30 min,. and therefore if the excreseences be all cut off and destroyed by the early part of July, an effectual stop will be put to their farther spread.

A correspondent of the Wisconsin Farmer, who milks about 20 cows, gives his experience with patent churns. He says:

There are a number of different patents going through the country that will churn butter, or rather *grease*, in three minutes. I had one in my cellar this Summer that I tried three times. It brought the butter each time in less than three minutes, but the butter would not have sold for more than ten cents per pound, when the same, churned with the old dash churn, that required thirty or forty minutes churning, would sell readily for thirty cents. So if any of your readers should want a churn, I would advise them not to buy a three minute one.

# General Miscellany.

## THE WHEAT CROPS OF THE WEST DECREASING—MANAGEMENT OF WESTERN WHEAT-GROWERS.

J. R. Dodge, editor of the Monthly Report of the Department of Agriculture, has recently made a tour through the western States, and gives a very unfavorable account of the farming of western wheat growers. He pronounces western wheat culture "ruinous." The soil, he says, is becoming impoverished. There is a deterioration of seed and the country is overrunning with weeds; and, further, that a false system of political economy is fostered in running one production into excess and ignoring all others.

The north-western farmers in their management for a wheat crop only partially break the soil, at first, rendering sowing irregular, and position and depth of drilling imperfect, giving weeds as good a chance to grow as the wheat. Year after year wheat follows wheat in this shiftless way, and weeds increase while the yield of grain diminishes. The wheat is sold and carried off the farm and the straw by millions of tons burned. The only excuse for this waste of straw, which he says is almost equal for feeding to the marsh and prairie hay, is that the way may be cleared for the plow to scratch over again the maltreated soil. The yield which was at first 30 bushels per acre has dwindled down gradually until no more than 8 or 10 bushels are produced. He says the weed nuisance is stupenduous, destroying annually tens of millions of bushels of wheat. The exhaustion of the soil, the deterioration of the seed and the excess of weeds through careless culture induce blight, rust and the fly as a necessary result of exhaustion. The State of Minnesota, which a few years ago boasted a crop of 27 bushels to the acre, will not this year average 12 bushels. He compares the yield of wheat in England, which now averages 28 bushels to the acre, with the small yields at the west, and says it is not attributable to a less fertile soil, but to the account of a suitable rotation of crops, a more careful husbandry of resources of fertilization, and of a more thorough and careful culture. Finally, he sums up with the following, by no means flattering picture: "Northwestern cultivators are scarcely farmers, they are wheat growers. Cattle are high in price; horses very high; milk is scarce, and butter sometimes unknown; while straw stacks are burning, and the wheat at the mercy of speculators and the railroads, and bringing high prices only under the curse of God upon foreign wheat fields, and when foreign nations are in danger of famine, and even then but a moiety of the supply comes from this country. Exchanged for a thousand other needed things, at exhorbitant prices, the wheat brings little, so improvements are ignored, and wheat fields extended until by and by, the soil exhausted or given up to weeds, they will follow the fate of the cotton fields, leaving the lands poor, the owner poorer, and a pioneer in some distant west."

## AMOUNT OF PORK FROM A BUSHEL OF CORN.

Our readers may have observed the published statement of the experiments of J. B. Lawes, who obtained 100 pounds of pork from seven bushels of corn, or one pound of pork from four and half pounds of corn. The grain was ground and moistened with water before feeding. This is regarded as successful management. At the rate of five cents per pound, the corn would be worth 71 cents per bushel for fattening pork. This estimate is based upon the supposition that the manure pays for the grinding and feeding.

The experiments of Nathan G. Morgan, of Union Springs, published in the Annual Register for 1864, present much more favorable results. As a mistake occurred in one part of that published statement, we here repeat his mode and its results in a corrected form. He always commences fattening in Spring, at which time a bushel of corn is more valuable in its results than in Autumn, and continues a regular course of feeding throughout the season. The corn is ground and 90 pounds of hot water poured on every 16 pounds of meal, and after standing 12 to 18 hours, the whole mass becomes thick feed. He finds by measured experiment that the value of the corn is fully doubled by this process, as compared with corn fed in the ear, and fifty per cent. better than meal merely mixed with cold water. One bushel of corn thus prepared, after deducting ten per cent. toll for grinding, and leaving only 54 pounds for the bushel, will give 20 pounds of pork—or at the rate of two and two-eighth pounds of corn for each pound of pork. When pork is five cents per pound he obtains at the rate of $1 per bushel for his corn.

A coincidence will be observed between these experiments and those of Mr. Lawes as above stated. While Mr. Morgan obtains, by scalding the meal, one pound of pork from two and two-thirds pounds of corn—he gets 50 per cent. less, or at the rate of one pound of pork to three and three-fourth pounds of meal, when mixed merely with cold water, which is within less than half a pound of the quantity of meal required in Mr. Lawes's experiments, when the same kind of feed was used.

Breeds and management will of course vary results; in the many trials made by N. G. Morgan, he had every advantage of good sound corn, comfortable quarters, cleanliness, regularity of feeding, and quality of breed. It may be well to state that he has found the best sound corn double the value of a great deal that is used when badly grown or imperfectly ripened or more or less mouldy.—*Register of Rural Affairs for* 1868.

How to Set Gate Posts.—Take equal quantities of water-lime and quick-lime, and mix with sand as usual; put two or three inches of mortar and coarse gravel in the bottom of the hole, so that the end of the post will not come to the ground; then set the post in, top-end down; fill in several inches of coarse gravel; then mortar and more gravel, and so on until the cement is raised above the ground several inches around the post. Slant it away from the post in every direction, so as to turn off the water; then take coal tar and a brush, paint around the bottom of the post, and fill the interstice between the post and the cement with coal tar. Only mix enough mortar for one hole at a time. Your post will be as solid as if set in stone; it don't heave out with the frosts and sag around and pull the boards off, as the water and air cannot get to it.—*Cor. Ohio Farmer.*

Hogs in Winter.—There can be little profit in trying to fat hogs in Winter unless one has a good warm place in which to keep them, and is willing to devote a considerable time to the preparation of food, and to the general care of the animals. Young pigs, for the want of such things, often become stunted during the cold weather that they will never make large hogs, however well they may be kept afterwards. Large ones take on fat very slowly when they suffer from the cold.

D. F. Appleton writes to the American Farmer that he believes it will be demonstrated that the Kerry cattle are better adapted to the hill pastures and poor fare of average New England farms than any other breed. He states that in this country they mature earlier and attain larger size than in Ireland, making them more valuable for beef. They give a large quantity of rich milk, in proportion to their size.

The Utica Herald has reports of the cheese market up to the 21st inst. Receipts were light, but most of the stock had been sold. The extreme quotations for the best factory made were 13½ and 15 cents. The English market is very dull for American cheese. The English stock on hand is much in excess of last year.

Alabama planters agree that free labor is cheaper than slave labor; but say free labor cannot be controlled and directed so as to meet the real exigencies of the farming season.

A Beautiful Illustration.—If one should give me a dish of sand, and say there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes, and search for them with my clumsy fingers, and be unable to detect them; but let me take a magnet and sweep it through, and how would it draw to itself the most invisible particles by the mere power of attraction! The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find in every hour some heavenly blessings; only the iron in God's sand is gold. Let us all remember this. God is ever with us.

# Farm and Fireside.

G. W. and S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1867.


Agriculture feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and should not have commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster—the largest in the center, and that largest is Agriculture.—Daniel Webster.

## TO THE PATRONS AND READERS OF THE FARM AND FIRESIDE.

The publication of the Farm and Fireside will be suspended from and after this date. During its first year, now closed, the Publisher and Editors have done all they could to make this journal instructive and interesting. In this respect they have been successful, as the unanimous and unsolicited testimony of its readers attests. But the Publisher has not received that patronage which was expected, nor that patronage which he thinks the enterprise deserved. To him it has been a costly experiment. Whenever agricultural readers in this region are ready to give him an adequate patronage, he will be gratified to furnish them with a revived and improved Farm and Fireside.

The Publisher would be pleased to send to all the Patrons of the Farm and Fireside, his old-established family journal, the Woonsooket Patriot. Its first number in January will be sent to you for inspection, and should it meet your approbation, please signify it by sending your subscription. In this way the Publisher hopes to keep up the pleasant acquaintance of his readers in this journal. The Patriot has an Agricultural department, in which will be found matter acceptable to the tillers of the soil.

## THE CRANBERRY CROP.

We have been gathering what information we could find in the newspaper press, from various sections of the country, also from correspondents in different cranberry-producing regions, in order to obtain a fair estimate of the cranberry crop for 1867. The estimates are larger than we anticipated, but are probably not far from the truth. They show a very large increase over the production of 1866, and exhibit the value of a crop which is destined to become one of the most profitable in the United States. If the Agricultural Department would collect and publish official statistics of the cranberry crop, it would be of great benefit to those engaged in the business; also of general interest to consumers of that delicious fruit.

The estimate of the crop in the New England States is 12,500 barrels. In New Jersey 35,000 barrels. In the Western States 15,000 barrels. These estimates are not as large as have been published by some of the local press, especially in New Jersey. But those statements came from interested parties who are influenced in the sale of wild lands, and whose estimates cannot be relied upon. We are satisfied that when official statistics are published, it will be found that the above estimates are nearly correct. If anything, they will go above rather than below the aggregate crop for 1867.

The above exhibit shows a production of 62,500 barrels, which reduced to bushels gives 187,500. The market price, for the best varieties, has been $4 per bushel; but we cannot count on that price for the entire crop. But averaged at $4 per bushel, it will be seen that the year's production would reach $750,000.—This is a generous sum to go into the pockets of the cranberry culturists, and will yield a larger profit on labor and cost, than any other crop grown in the country. We are satisfied, after visiting the cultivated cranberry sections of New Jersey, Cape Cod and the West, that there is no more profitable business than cranberry culture, nor one that pays so large a dividend on the capital invested.

As we have been frequently asked what kind of soil is best adapted to the cranberry, we copy the following from a late issue of the Agricultural Report. It contains correct views as regards the natural or proper soil for that vine, and may be a guide to those not practically posted on cranberry soils.

"The cranberry cannot be grown successfully on the *Drift Formation*. Every experiment on this soil has proved a failure. Prof. Agassiz describes the *drift* formation as being that portion of the earth's surface which was formed by glacial action, and consisting of rocks not in place,—that is, loose, and not in solid ledges—gravel, clay or loam. Every farmer will thus be able to detect drift as soon as he sees it. Bogs naturally well fitted by nature to the growth of the cranberry have been ruined by the use of drift material in preparing them. In some bogs where partly drift and partly alluvium was used, the exact line between the two can be traced by the difference in the growth and appearance of the vines.

The *alluvial formation* is the only one on which the cranberry can be successfully cultivated. Though this formation includes the most barren and the most fertile soils, the dryest and the most damp, yet its character is well marked, and it can be easily distinguished. Sand or quartz rock pulverized, or granulated, is alluvium separated from the drift by the waves and currents of the ocean, and elevated by the action of the winds and waves. The rich interval lands near the outlets of rivers are alluvium, and are formed by the subsiding of the finer particles brought down by the currents of the streams. The valleys which are overflowed by rivers often present good specimens of this soil.

The best soil for the cranberry is beach or quartz sand, overlaid by turfy peat. In preparing such bogs, all that is necessary is to subsoil the same, bringing about three inches of sand to the surface."

A New Fertilizer.—The Charleston papers are talking of a valuable discovery recently made near that city. This discovery is that of a fertilizing substance, said to be found for many miles, deposited along the banks of the Ashley river, and to consist of decomposed bones and animal matter, solidified until it is hard as stone. Samples have been found to contain from sixty to seventy per cent. of pure phosphates, and there is every indication that the whole bed is formed of a manure which is more valuable than Peruvian guano, which sells at ninety dollars per ton. The deposits cover many square miles, and may produce, it is said, tens of millions of dollars. A company to develop this discovery and apply it to agricultural purposes has been formed in Charleston, and specimens of the product are now in the hands of scientific men and capitalists in Philadelphia and elsewhere.

British Agricultural Returns for 1867.—The statistical department of the British Board of Trade has just issued its report of the aggregate agricultural returns for Great Britain in 1867. By this report, while there appears to have been a gratifying increase in the amount of land devoted to some species of grain since last year, there being a difference in favor of 1867 of 20,804 acres of corn over 1866; on the other hand, there is a diminution in the area devoted to wheat of 14,259.

The number of cattle has increased from 4,785,836 in 1866 to 4,996,960 in 1867.

In sheep the increase has been still greater, the returns for the present year being 28,990,889, against 22,048,512 for 1866.

Nevada is a treeless country. The want of fuel is a great drawback from the value of the mines in that State. The hills have been explored for supplies of the stunted cedars and nut pine trees, which compose the only fuel used beyond the reach of the Nevada Mountains.

## SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

The American Stock Journal is of the opinion that our native breeds of cattle can be improved by proper care in selecting the best to breed from, so as to be equal to the best imported for dairy purposes, and, many kinds of farm work, superior to it. All improved stock is derived from the intermixture of native breeds, improved by good keeping, and the selection of the finest specimens to breed from. What are called native animals are susceptible of being improved up to almost any point of excellence.

The London Field has the following notice of our American cheese:

"Notwithstanding the temporary advance in the value of breadstuffs, consequent upon a second deficient crop, not at home only, but generally throughout the world, it is to live stock that the English farmer must look for his chief source of wealth, and the dairy forms no inconsiderable return to the great pasture districts which occupy so much of our western coast. The cheese trade, however, can hardly prove so remunerative as of old. Free trade has opened an enormous importation, Holland, the United States and Canada being our chief contributors. Now we can remember, but a few years since, when the mention of an American cheese was associated with a rank, strong, badly made product, that rapidly decayed without ripening, and was only suitable for coarse consumption. English dairy farmers could afford to treat such imports as undeserving of notice. The case is very different now, when with a broad deviation, it it true, we receive cheeses as well made, as finely flavored, and often richer than anything we can produce. Land being cheap in the States, and cheese a commodity in small bulk according to value, and which improves rather than otherwise by a long journey, it follows that our neighbors can undersell us in our own markets."

The Prairie Farmer, has a communication recommending the soaking of corn on the ear for feeding horses. We cannot endorse the practice, but give it as a novelty. The plan of operation is this: "Place two hogsheads in the barn-cellar, or other place secure from frost; fill them with ears of corn, and add water to cover the contents. When well soaked feed out one cask full; fill it again and commence with the other. In this way one cask, after the commencement, will always be ready for feeding. The cobs become so soft as to be eaten with the corn, and are no inconsiderable nourishment in addition to that furnished by the grain. By feeding in this manner, with a suitable portion of coarse fodder along with the corn, it is asserted that fully one-third of the quantity of the latter is saved, while the animals are in better condition than when fed in the usual way."

A correspondent of the Cultivator has the following on the corn crop of Illinois for 1867.

"Some recent observation in the more northern part of the State, enables me to inform your Eastern readers that the corn crop of 1867 is short beyond any previous intimation in these letters, especially in the northern portion of the country, known as the Northwest. In crossing this country, nothing is more noticeable to a resident of Central Illinois, than the absence of corn bins and corn pens, and the dwarfed and diminutive cornstalks standing in the fields. Wheat stacks, hay and straw ricks are few and far between, and there is too surely a great want of fodder in the country—all this a significant intimation that the surplus corn to be supplied from the West must come from a a very limited area. *This is the true explanation of the price oats have brought and still maintain*, notwithstanding the —— reports (and I would like to use a suitable adjective in this connection) of Patent Office men at Washington as to the average of the corn crop. *New corn is worth now, at the principal market towns in this county, 75a 80c.*"

False fears bring true vexations; the imaginary grievances are more than the real ones.

## AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

The Iowa Homestead states that the corn crop of Iowa is still in a great degree, ungathered.

The rice crop, like cotton, is a failure in Florida this year. Bad weather and the birds have spoiled it.

Good farms in North Germany rent for one hundred dollars per acre.

A man at Rockford, Ill., made over $2,000 this year from the sale of crops raised on four acres of land.

Mr. Rogers a wealthy vine-grower, of Cleveland, Ohio, has purchased 1,200 acres of land, in Middle Tennessee, and will devote the whole to grape culture.

The office of 'Superintendent of the Experimental Farm' has been abolished at Washington by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

It is a fact, says an exchange, which people don't know that over forty million gallons of sorghum syrup are made in this country annually. Nor does anybody believe it, either.

Where fowls are confined in considerable numbers to a restricted enclosure, they should have a good supply of wood ashes to wallow in.

Mr. Jackman, of Lima, Livingston Co., N. Y., is credited with raising oats at the rate of 72 2-9 bushels per acre, or 1,300 bushels from 18 acres.

As an evidence of utter prostration of the wool and sheep business, in many places, it may be stated that a firm in Warren, Ohio, have commenced slaughtering 5,000 sheep for their pelts and tallow.

The farmers in a portion of Iowa are said to have over one hundred thousand bushels of surplus wheat stored away, under the impression that higher prices will rule during the Winter and Spring.

It may surprise many to learn, what is nevertheless a fact, that fully one-third of the whole amount of sugar consumed in the world is manufactured from beets.

D. McMillan, Esq., President of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture, has this year received 55 premiums, amounting to $1,275, on his Shorthorns. He has also received one gold and three silver medals.

The Department of Agriculture, under the management of the new Commissioner, is going out of the seed business. The distribution of seeds latterly has been so far perverted from the original design as to be of little advantage to the country.

The Lynchburg News says that the amount of tobacco at present in the warehouses in that city is very large, and that it has never known so much tobacco put upon the market at this season, and it is occasioning great loss to the planters, the prices obtained now, it thinks, being far less than would be obtained next Spring, when the factories will be at work.

New orchards sometimes fail when planted on the side of old ones. This result may be avoided by plowing, subsoiling and manuring the land from which the old trees have been removed, draining it perfectly, and then setting out young trees of the best varieties between the rows where the old ones stood.

Bones make excellent manure for nearly all kinds of fruit trees; none should be let go to loss. They should be carefully collected, broken into small pieces with a heavy hammer, and put into boxes or barrels with wood ashes. In a few months they will be sufficiently decomposed to be applied to the soil.

Henry Ward Beecher has a farm of thirty-five acres, which yielded last year crops valued at $3,700. Upon the farm stands an apple tree known to be over a hundred years old, the leaves of which were shaken by the reverberations of the cannon of the American revolution. The trunk measures three feet and ten inches in one direction, and four feet six inches in another, at a height of four feet above the surface of the ground.

Our emigrants from the Southern States to Brazil, say that the country is good for cattle, sheep, sugar cane, coffee and cotton.

Prussian Agriculture.—Until 1833 Prussian farmers were not very good cultivators, nor were their farms very profitable. By a tradition, which can be traced back to Charlemague's time, they let their lands lie every third year in fallow. Those who planted potatoes and made hay were in an insignificant minority. But Stein and his coadjutors have changed all this. Since 1833 the two year system of cereals, alternated with roots or seeds, has become universal in North Germany. As a result there has been an enormous increase of live stock. The farms are more thoroughly manured now than ever, and the area of unproductive fallow has fallen from one-third to one-seventh of the arable land.

# The Fireside Muse.

## THE MOTHERLESS TURKEYS.

The White Turkey was dead! The White Turkey was dead!
How the news through the barnyard went flying!
Of a mother bereft, four small turkeys were left,
And their case for assistance was crying,
E'en the Peacock respectfully folded his tail,
As a suitable symbol of sorrow,
And his plainer wife said, "now the old bird is dead,
Who will tend her poor chicks on the morrow?
And when evening around them comes dreary and chill,
Who above them will watchfully hover?"
"Two each night I will tuck 'neath my wings," said the Duck,
"Though I've eight of my own I must cover!"
"I have so much to do! For the bugs and the worms,
In the garden, 'tis tiresome pickin';
I have nothing to spare—for my own I must care,"
Said the Hen with one chicken.

"How I wish" said the Goose, "I could be of some use,
For my heart is with love over brimming;
The next morning that's fine they shall go with my nine
Little yellow backed goslings, out swimming!"
"I will do what I can," the old Dorking put in,
"And for help they may call upon me, too,
Though I've ten of my own, they are only half grown,
And a great deal of trouble to see to;
But these poor little things, they are all heads and wings,
And their bones through their feathers, are stickin'!"
"Very hard it may be, but O, don't come to me!"
Said the Hen with one chicken.

"Half my care, I suppose there is nobody knows;
I'm the most overburdened of mothers!
They must learn, little elves! how to scratch for themselves,
And not to depend upon others."
She went with a cluck, and the Goose to the Duck
Exclaimed in surprise, "Well, I never!"
Said the Duck, "I declare, those who have the least care
You will find are complaining forever!
And when all things appear to look threatening and drear,
And when troubles your pathway are thick in,
For some aid in your woe, O beware how you go
To a hen with one chicken."

# Fireside Tale.

## A MINISTERIAL LODGING HOUSE.

Elinor Blanke was deeply in love with the Rev. Alston Granger, and her affections were reciprocated. So they were married.

Mr. Granger lived in the country; and if you want to know what kind of a life his was just go and change yourself into a minister, and settle somewhere just out of a city, with all the inhabitants of which you are more or less acquainted—each and every one of whom will consider it an especial duty to come out and take dinner or tea with you half a dozen times a year, and all of whom will consider it an insult too if your wife don't have three kinds of cake—and fresh milk, eggs and honey on the table. Of course, people who live in the country are expected to have all these things in great abundance.

Mrs. Granger was a very pleasant, agreeable woman, and tried to have everything smooth, and she was overrun with company.

A minister, among other things, is expected to keep a hotel, and in a way our modern landlords don't very well understand—without money and without price.

It must be open night and day, and hot meals served at all hours. Nobody must be refused admittance. People who are too slow to stay at the tavern, are sent to the minister's. Tract peddlers, book peddlers, agents, women's rights lecturers—everybody in fact, must go to the minister's.

And then, if the poor clergyman, thinking of his overworked wife, and the consumptive state of his larder, ventures to hint that his salary is a small one, he is piously reminded that St. Paul and St. Peter, and those other fine fellows of that epoch, did not dream of receiving any salary at all.

But whether they kept tavern and entertained all creation upon free cost does not appear.

Mrs. Granger was not a strong woman, and having been brought up delicately, her burden fell heavily. They were too poor to employ help, and she did all the work except her washing.

The people who came visiting her never volunteered their assistance about anything. Of course not. It would have been too vulgar. And most of the ladies were invalids—(did you ever notice that these people who go visiting most are usually out of health?)

But we on the present occasion have only to do with the Rev. Asa Browne, and wife, and their four children; Abel, Priscilla, Rachel Ann, and Ahasueras Nicodemus. Our story is about them, and the host of other people who visited Mr. and Mrs. Granger shall rest in obscurity.

The Drowues arrived late one Saturday evening when Mrs. Granger was almost dead with the headache, having just got rid of three ministers and a colporteur. Mr. Granger had just finished his sermon for the morrow—the doors were locked and the family were about retiring for the night.

A ring at the door. Mrs. Granger's heart sank—Mr. Granger drew a sigh and went to the door.

On the steps were two trunks, as many band boxes, several bundles—a poodle dog, a fat, red faced man, a woman of about the same style, and four children.

"My dear brother Granger!" cried the man seizing Mr. Grauger's hand and giving it a heart-rending shake, "I am the Rev. Asa Browne—travelling itinerant—and this is my wife, and these are my four children. We came at once to your house, because we knew you would be offended if we did not. My wife is a great invalid! A dreadful sufferer! Been sick for seven years! And I will speak of it now in the beginning, we must sleep where there is a fire! I wouldn't have Eliza Jane sleep away from the fire for a thousand dollars; and I want your wife to see that the sheets are well aired before an open fire, very fine! My wife is nervous—she could not sleep a wink in coarse sheets. Linen is best, if you have them."

"I should die before morning if I had to sleep in coarse sheets!" cried Mrs. Browne, a stout, fat faced woman of forty-five or fifty; "I came very near going to my last home about a week ago, from sleeping on an unbleached pillow case. They thought I was dead for over two hours."

"Have you stuffed chairs?" exclaimed Mrs. Browne. "I cannot sit a moment in an uncushioned chair! And I will take a little tea and a bowl of oysters, or a piece of mince pie; I feel so faint!"

"And I will trouble you for a cup of coffee," said Mr. Browne, "it will be a sort of stay to my stomach till supper is ready. What time will you have supper?"

Mrs. Granger retired to the heat of a stove, her temples throbbing to bursting, and her heart the least bit rebelling at the influx of these exacting visitors.

After a while the Drownes were got off to bed. Such a supper as they had! Mrs. Granger drew a long breath in thinking of it. She had never dreamed of such achievements in the eating line.

The next morning everything went wrong. Mr. Downe's dyspepsia was worse—he must have fresh eggs and soda crackers, and dry toast, and some cream and honey, and coffee. His appetite was dreadful poor.

Mrs. Browne was wretched. She had not slept a wink because there were hen's feathers in the bed. She was sure of it—and she never could sleep on hen's feathers! They stuffed her up so!

The children amused themselves at cutting paper, and too late Mr. Granger made the discovery that his sermon, on which he had spent the previous day, had been converted into paper dolls and horses with any number of legs, from two to twenty.

"Law sake! don't take on about it!" said Mrs. Browne. "The little dears didn't mean to do it! Bless 'em!"

Just after dinner, Aunt Peggy Trim, Mrs. Granger's aunt, arrived on a visit. Aunt Peggy was a very determined person, and she took charge of the kitchen at once, and sent Mrs. Granger off to church with her husband. The Drownes were not well enough to go, they said.

Mrs. Drowne read a story, and Mr. Drowue lay on the sofa and slept. Suddenly Mrs. Drowne missed Fan the poodle.

"Good gracious!" cried she—"where is Fan?"

The children looked up from their employment of smearing the picture of a hadsome Polyglot Bible with red ink, and giggled.

"What have you done with Fauny?" asked their mother.

"We've had a funeral!" said Abel with a grin.

"A funeral! what do you mean," shrieked Mrs. Drowne.

"She's in Mrs. Granger's work box, all buried as nice as any body in the garden," said Nicodemus: "Abel preached the sermon, and Lilly and I followed as mourners. Abel was the sexton. Crackee, wasn't it jolly!

Mrs. Drowne rushed to the garden, followed by the whole company, and there sure enough in Mrs. Granger's dahlia bed the dog was found buried. The dahlias were all pulled up by the roots, and wilting and dying in the sun, and the dog, very much stifled in the work box, looked sorry enough as he leaped out with a howl.

The sight was too much for the sensitive Mrs. Drowne, she threw up her hands, crying out—

"Oh, gracious me! I'm dying!—Farewell Asa!" and fell back on the ground.

"Oh, dear! she's dead, she's had such spells for the last seven years. The doctor said she'd die sometime," cried Mr. Drowne, "help me to carry her into the house."

"Aunt Peggy lent a hand, and the senseless woman was deposited on the sofa.

"She's dead! she's dead!" moaned Mr. Drowne. "Get the camphor and some lemons, and flannels wrung out of boiling water"—

"If she is dead, I guess the sooner she's laid out the better," said Aunt Peggy.

"You have got rid of an awful burden brother Drowne; you ought to thank the Lord for it; a wife that has been seven years dying, must be dreadful to get along with! I should have kept a coffin in the house all the time. Hand me the shears. I'll take her hair off the first thing. You can sell it to the barber. It'll make a splendid waterfall for somebody.

The dead woman sprung to her feet and dived at Aunt Peggy.

"You'll have my hair off, will ye? You old Jezebel? I'll have yours off first, you see if I don't.'

She made a dive and grabbed Aunt Peggy's false front, and peeled her head quicker than a Cherokee Indian could have done it.

Aunt Peggy's dander rose. She seized the broom and in less time than it takes me to write it, she had driven every Drowne about the premises, out of door. Then she piled their baggage out after them. There they sat on their trunks until Deacon Buckley, of the other church came along—when they told him their tale of wrong—and he took them home with him.

The next day he was so anxious to forward them on their journey, that he carried them ten miles, and left them at the house of another minister.

Of course the affair created a great deal of scandal in Brookville—but some people were sensible enough to commend Aunt Peggy.

Mr. Granger is still keeping a hotel, and is well patronized by the travelling public. If you should happen to pass through Brookville, you will save a dollar or two by stopping all night with Mr. Granger. He won't mind it—he's used to it.

---

"Pap, I planted some potatoes in our garden," said a smart youth to his father, "and what do you think came up?

"Why, potatoes, of course."

"No sir-ee! there came up a drove of hogs and ate them all."

## DEATH INDOORS.

Multitudes of persons have a great horror going out of doors for fear of taking cold; if it is a little damp, or a little windy, or a little cold, they wait, and wait, and wait; meanwhile, weeks and even months pass away, and they never, during that whole time, breathe a single breath of pure air. The result is, they become so enfeebled that their constitutions have no power of resistance; the least thing in the world gives them cold; even going from one room to another, and before they know it they have a cold all the time, and this is nothing more or less than consumption; whereas, if an opposite practice had been followed of going out for an hour or two every day, regardless of the weather, so it is not actually falling rain, a very different result would have taken place. The truth is, the more a person is out of doors, the less easily does he take cold. It is a widely known fact that persons who camp out every night, or sleep under a tree for weeks together, seldom take cold at all.

The truth is, many of our ailments, and those of a most fatal form, are taken in the house, and not out of doors; taken by removing parts of clothing too soon after coming into the house or lying down on a bed or sofa when in a tired or exhausted condition from having engaged too vigorously in domestic employment. Many a pie has cost an industrious man a hundred dollars. A human life has many a time paid for an apple dumpling. When our wives get to work they become so interested in it that they find themselves in an utterly exhausted condition; their ambition to complete a thing, to do some work well, sustains them till it is completed. The mental and physical condition is one of exhaustion, when a breath of air will give a cold, to settle in the joints to wake up next day with inflammatory rheumatism, or with a feeling of stiffness or soreness, as if they had been pounded in a bag; or a sore throat to worry and trouble them for months; or lung fever to put them in the grave in less than a week.

Our wives should work by the day, if they must work at all, and not by the job; it is more economical in the end to see how little work they can do in an hour, instead of how much. It is slow, steady, continuous labor which brings health and strength, and a good digestion. Fitful labor is ruinous to all.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

## AN ITEM FOR BACHELORS.

A judicious wife is always snipping off from her husband's nature little twigs that are growing in wrong directions. She keeps him in shape by continual pruning. If you say anything silly she will affectionately tell you so. If you declare you will do some absurd thing, she will find some means of preventing your doing it. And by far the chief part of all the common sense there is in the world belongs unquestionably to woman. The wisest things a man commonly does are those which his wife counsels him to do. A wife is the grand wielder of the moral pruning knife. If Johnson's wife had lived there would have been no hoarding up orange peel, no touching all the posts in walking along the street—no eating and drinking with a disgusting voracity. If Oliver Goldsmith had been married he never would have worn that memorable and ridiculous coat. Whenever you find a man whom you know little about oddly dressed or talking absurdly, or exhibiting an eccentricity of manner, you may be tolerably sure that he is not a married man; for the corners are rounded off, the little shoots are pruned away—in married men. Wives generally have more sense than their husbands, especially when their husbands are clever men. The wife's advices are like the ballast that keeps the ship steady; they are the wholesome, though painful shears, snipping off little growths of self-conceit.

---

A firm faith is the best theology; a good life the best philosophy; a clear conscience the best law; honesty the best policy; and temperance the best physic.

Sheep Raising.—Lieut. Gov. Stanton, of Ohio, says in regard to sheep raising in England: "One thing that struck me very forcibly was, that all farmers testified that sheep raising was absolutely indispensable to successful farming; that their manure was necessary to preserve the fertility of the soil; and that without them the whole kingdom would, in a few years, be reduced to barrenness and sterility. It is in this view that I regard sheep raising in this country as more important to the ultimate and permanent prosperity of the country, than on account of their profits. Whatever else may happen, we cannot permit the virgin soil and these beautiful fields of ours to be reduced to barrenness by the time they pass into the hands of our children and grand-children. Their fertility must be preserved at all hazards.

# Various Matters.

## HIGH AND LOW BARNS.

A WRITER, in view of the invention of machinery for pitching hay and grain by horse-power, advocates the building of higher barns than those of the old style, which were built low, on account of the difficulty of pitching to the top of a mow with a hand-fork. With the power-fork, height is said to be no objection, but rather a convenience. Fourteen to sixteen feet was the usual height of posts for a hay and grain barn; and with this height it required a tall and stout man, with a long-handled fork to "pitch over the beam," and great scrambling of the boy on the mow to stow away so as to fill up under the roof. With the power-fork the product may be carried to any height, with a trifling additional effort.

One of the chief advantages of building high barns lies in the relative amount of material required to build one of a given capacity. The foundation and roof, with the same ground size, costs no more for a building forty feet, than for one ten feet high; and the writer says that hay and grain will keep better packed deep than if put up in shallow mows, though we think he does not make this quite clear. If the crop is well cured, perhaps the greater exclusion from the air may be an advantage to both hay and grain. However this may be, it is obvious, by increasing the height, a good range of stabling may be secured on both sides of the barn, with any desired amount of storage room above them, with no additional expense for either foundation or roof.

THE INSTINCT OF MOLES.—We know that in very severe frosts the earth is frozen to a considerable depth. How then are the moles to provide against such an occurrence, which would evidently deprive them of the power of seeking their food in the usual way? They form a basin of clay of the size of an ordinary slop basin. In these, the moles, during the autumnal months, deposit worms, which are partly mutilated, and so rendered unable to get out of the basin, but are not killed. On these the moles feed when the ground is too much frozen to allow of their continuing their runs. Some of these basins have been brought to me by mole-catchers, and prove, to my mind, the instinct which has been implanted in them by a kind and benevolent Providence for their preservation. This fact, and it is an interesting one, with others nearly similar, may appear trivial and unimportant, but I contend, with confidence, they serve to prove the great care and tenderness which a merciful Being has shown towards His creatures, however insignificant they may appear to us. I am, indeed, convinced that the wonderful power and goodness of the Great Creator are more conspicuous in the smallest insect than in larger animals.—*Once A Week.*

Dogs in England are regarded as luxuries, and are taxed the same as with us. The tax was assessed on 301,281 animals in 1856; in 1866 the number had increased to 358,472, and 79,281 dogs were returned by surveyors of taxes as exempt. Between the 6th of April and the 31st of July, 1867, 656,977 dog licences were taken out. In Scotland, 36,365 dogs were assessed in the year ending the 24th of May, 1866, and 44,555 were returned by surveyors of taxes as exempt; between the 25th of May and the 31st of July, 1867, 88,481 dog licences were granted.

A FARMER having lost some ducks, was asked by the counsel for the prisoner accused of stealing them, to describe their peculiarity. After he had done so, the counsel remarked:

"They can't be such a rare breed, as I have some like them in my yard."

"That's very likely," said the farmer, "these are not the only ducks of the same sort I've had stolen lately."

ZACCHEUS GREELEY, father of Horace Greeley, died at Wayne, Erie County, N. Y., on Wednesday last.

# Marriages.

In Milford, Dec. 19th, Peter Lovely to Mary J. Chapdelaine, both of Milford.

In Webster, Dec. 18th, Alexander Graham to Laura A. Sly, both of Webster.

In West Killingly, Ct., 16th instant, Frank A. Tillinghast, M. D., of Hartford, to Miss Nellie Hutchins, of West Killingly.

# Deaths.

In Smithfield, 9th inst., Mary E., daughter of George H. and Eliza Lee, aged 22 years and 21 days.

In Burrillville, 20th inst., Isaac Fisk, in the 38th year of his age.

In Bristol, 13th inst., Capt. Daniel Gladding, aged 84 years, father of Mr. Joseph A. Gladding, of Woonsocket.

In Central Falls, 21st inst., Mr. Joseph Gage, aged 43 years.

In Scituate, 19th inst., Mr. Randall Williams, aged 63 years.

In North Scituate, 18th inst., Inez L., daughter of George L. and Laura Lopkins. 18th inst., Mary, widow of the late John Aldrich, in the 90th year of her age.

In South Scituate, 21st inst., Moses Potter, Esq., in the 72d year of his age.

In Scituate, 19th inst., Mr. Randall Williams, aged 63 years.

In Pawtucket, 17th inst., Bryant, son of A. G. and H. N. Bishee, aged 4 years.

In Sutton, 19th inst., Mrs. Hannah DeWitt, relict of the late Stearns DeWitt of Oxford, aged 73.

In Norwich, Ct., Dec. 22d, Dr. Erastus Osgood, in his 88th year.

In Willimantic, Ct., Dec. 14th, Mrs. Anna D. Hovey, aged 74 ars.

In East Killingly, Ct., Dec. 13th, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Bates, aged 25 years.

In South Malden, Mass., 8th inst., Alice Coleman, aged 18 yrs. and 10 mos.

Then weep not for Alice,
Nor sorrow nor pain
Will ever chase the smile
From those sweet lips again.

COM.

# The Markets.

## WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKETS.

The wholesale trade has been very dull the past week. The closing of the canals and the decline in gold has greatly checked business. The stock of breadstuffs is light for the season. Low grades of flour have declined, but the medium and better grades have ruled steady. Spring and Red Winter wheats have declined three to five cents a bushel.

# Special Notices.

MOTHER BAILEY'S QUIETING SYRUP, FOR CHILDREN, renders the process of Teething easy. Large Bottles only 25 cents. Sold by Druggists.

4w-48] GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., BOSTON, Mass.

ITCH! ITCH!! ITCH!!!
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!! SCRATCH!!!
In from 10 to 48 hours,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | THE ITCH. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | SALT RHEUM. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | TETTER. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | BARBERS' ITCH. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | OLD SORES. |
| WHEATON'S OINTMENT | cures | EVERY KIND |

OF HUMOR LIKE MAGIC.

Price, 50 cents a box; by mail, 60 cents. Address WEEKS & POTTER, No. 170 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.
For sale by all Druggists.
Boston, Aug. 26, 1867. 1y-35

# New Advertisements.

WANTED, AGENTS, $75 to $200 per month, everywhere, male and female, to introduce the GENUINE IMPROVED COMMON SENSE FAMILY SEWING MACHINE. This Machine will stitch, hem, fell, tuck, quilt, cord, bind, braid and embroider in a most superior manner.
Price only $18. Fully warranted for five years.—We will pay $1,000 for any machine that will sew a stronger, more beautiful, or more elastic seam than ours. It makes the "Elastic Lock Stitch." Every second stitch can be cut, and still the cloth cannot be pulled apart without tearing it. We pay Agents from $75 to $200 per month and expenses, or a commission from which twice that amount can be made. Address SECOMB & CO., PITTSBURGH, PA., or BOSTON, MASS.
CAUTION.—Do not be imposed upon by other parties palming off worthless cast-iron machines, under the same name or otherwise. Ours is the only genuine and really practical cheap machine manufactured.
Dec. 29, 1867. 4w

JAMES VICK,
IMPORTER AND GROWER OF
FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS,
Rochester, N. Y.

VICK'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE
OF
SEEDS, AND FLORAL GUIDE FOR 1868,

Is now published and ready to send out. It makes a work of about one hundred large pages, containing full descriptions of

THE CHOICEST FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES GROWN,

with plain directions for Sowing Seed, Culture, &c. It is Beautifully Illustrated, with more than ONE HUNDRED FINE WOOD ENGRAVINGS of Flowers and Vegetables, and a

BEAUTIFUL COLORED PLATE OF FLOWERS.

Well printed, on the finest paper, and one of the most beautiful as well as the most instructive works of the kind published.
☞ Sent to all who apply, by mail, post-paid, for Ten Cents, which is not half the cost.
Address JAMES VICK, ROCHESTER, N. Y.
Dec. 21, 1867. 2w-51

BRADLEY'S GAMES.—Instead of spending your money for Toys that amuse for a day, buy for your children Games that are always new. Buy any of

*BRADLEY'S GAMES,*

and you will be sure of something interesting and GENERALLY INSTRUCTIVE. All the dealers have them. Send stamp for Catalogue to MILTON BRADLEY & CO., Publishers, Springfield, Mass.
Dec. 21, 1867. 2w-51

FREE GIFTS! FREE GIFTS!! TO ALL!!!

A SILK DRESS PATTERN, a FAMILY SEWING MACHINE, or GOLD WATCH, for one or two days' service in any town or village. Particulars and gift sent free, by addressing, with stamp, W. FISK & CO., No. 40 Hanover Street, Boston, Mass.
Oct. 19, 1867. 3m-42

PECORA LEAD AND COLOR CO.,
No. 150 North 4th Street,.....PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Best PAINT known for Houses, Iron Fronts, Tin Roofs, and Damp Walls, RAILROAD CARS and BRIDGES.

PECORA DARK COLORS costs ¼ less that of lead, and wears longer than lead.

100 lbs. will paint as much as 250 lbs. of lead, and wear longer.

This Company's WHITE LEAD is the WHITEST and MOST DURABLE Lead known. They also sell the best VARNISHES and JAPANS.
Feb. 23, 1867. eow-pe-1y-7

WHAT
THE DRUGGISTS SAY.

RUSHYLVANIA, O., Aug. 14, 1867.

GENTS:—I have been dealing in proprietary medicines for the last fourteen years, and have never before found a preparation that would equal your "Pain Killer." It not only sells very rapidly, but gives the most perfect satisfaction in every case that has come to my knowledge. In my practice I very seldom prescribe patent medicine, but, having entire confidence in your "Pain Killer," and knowing that it possesses valuable medical properties, I freely use it in my daily practice. It is the most standard medicine I have for sale, and many families in this vicinity would as soon think of being out of BEEF or BREAD as without a bottle of Pain Killer in the house. Yours, very truly,
ISAAC A. HORAM, M.D.

C. P. Benson & Co., of Charlottesville, Va., write:—"Your Pain Killer is the most popular proprietary medicine sold in this State."

J. H. McCall, M. D., Quitman, Ga., says: "I have no doubt it will always be the great family medicine."

PERRY DAVIS & SON, Manufacturers and Proprietors, 74 High street, Providence, R. I.; 384 St. Paul street, Montreal, Canada; 17 Southampton Row, London, England.

ALLEN'S
LUNG BALSAM.

Charles Farmer, Druggist, writes from Ovid, Michigan: "I have just sold the last bottle of ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM. It sells like 'hot cakes,' and gives UNIVERSAL SATISFACTION."

Stanley & Skipper, Chippewa Falls, Wis., write: "We wish you would send a good supply of ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM, as it is getting to be one of the necessary institutions of the country. It sells well, and gives entire satisfaction to those using it."

F. L. Allen, a well-known druggist, at New London, Conn., writes us that ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM is favorably received by the afflicted. He says: "I have retailed nearly four dozen bottles over my counter, and it has given good satisfaction."

Many letters like the above are daily received from all parts of the country. The demand for it from California is large for a medicine so recently offered for sale. We have sold hundreds of dozens to go to that far-off region of gold. IT CURES, and that accounts for its GREAT SUCCESS. None use who do not, in return, recommend it to their friends. Hence its great sale. Price $1 per bottle.

HOWE
SEWING MACHINES.
FOR FAMILY SEWING AND MANUFACTURING
AWARDED
The Gold Medal
*At the Paris Expozition.*

PLUMMER & WILDER,
GENERAL N. E. AGENTS,
No. 59 Dromfield Street,..... .....BOSTON.

DR. TOBIAS'S
VENETIAN LINIMENT.

A HUMBUG.

How often we hear this expression from persons reading advertisements of Patent Medicines, and in nine cases out of ten they may be right. It is over 19 years since I introduced my medicine, the VENETIAN LINIMENT, to the public. I had no money to advertise it, so I left it for sale with a few druggist and storekeepers through a small section of the country, many taking it with great reluctance; but I told them to let any one have it, and if it did not do all I stated on my pamphlet, no one need pay for it. In some stores two or three bottles were taken on trial by persons present. I was, by many, thought crazy, and that would be the last they would see of me. But I knew my medicine was no humbug. In about two months I began to receive orders for more Liniment, some calling it my valuable Liniment, who had refused to sign a receipt when I left it at their store. Now my sales are millions of bottles yearly, and all for cash. I warrant it superior to any other medicine for the cure of Croup, Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Cholic, Vomiting, Spasms and Sea Sickness, as an internal remedy.—It is perfectly innocent to take internally,—see oath accompanying each bottle,—and externally for Chronic Rheumatism, Headache, Mumps, Frosted Feet, Bruises, Sprains, Old Sores, Swellings, Sore Throats, &c., &c. Sold by all the Druggists.—Depot, 56 Cortlandt street, New York.

DR. WADSWORTH'S
Dry Up!

FOR THE CATARRH.—A perfect and speedy cure for this loathsome disease in its worst form. No person suffering from Catarrh, or a bad Cold in the Head, should hesitate a moment, but procure the remedy at once and be cured. There is not any mistake in the above. Price $1 per bottle. Send stamp for pamphlet, all about Catarrh. For sale by the Proprietor, H. H. BURRINGTON, Chemist and Druggist, Providence, R. I., and druggists generally.

FIRE!
FIRE!! FIRE!!!

DR. RUSSELL'S GREAT AMERICAN BURN REMEDY removes fire from burns in ten minutes.

May's Royal Flavoring Extracts,

est in the world!

MAY'S OLD CONSTITUTION BITTERS—the Great Cure for Dyspepsia and Stomach Disorders.

NEWELL'S UNIVERSAL COUGH DROPS—Infallible cure in Throat and Chest Complaints.

NEWELL'S CAPSENIA—the greatest Pain-eater in medicine for Cholera, and Fever and Ague.

For sale by all Druggists. NEWELL, MAY & CO., 21 & 23 Haverhill Street, Boston, Mass., Proprietors.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN PRINTER.
Young and Old Making Money,

The LOWE IMPROVED PRINTING PRESSES are the best and cheapest portable Card and Job Presses ever invented.—Cards, Bill Heads, Circulars, Labels, &c., can be printed at a trifling expense. Price of Presses,—$10, 16, 23 and 20. Price of an Office with Press,—$15, 28, 40, 48 and 70. Send for a Circular to the LOWE PRESS COMPANY, 23 WATER ST., BOSTON.

ARTIFICIAL LEGS.

The "JEWETT PATENT LEGS" are admitted by those who have worn other makers to be
THE BEST
FOR COMFORT, SIMPLICITY, and DURABILITY.
Manufactured by GEO. B. FOSTER, 33 Tremont Street, Boston.
Send for a Circular.
☞ Legs of other makers repaired.

BURRINGTON'S
VEGETABLE CROUP SYRUP.

A SURE and safe remedy for the Croup. Also the very best article in use for Whooping Cough, Coughs, Colds, &c., for Adults or Children. A standard Family Medicine for nearly half a century. Do not sleep without it. Beware of imitations sold on the great reputation of the above. Price, 28 cts.
For sale by the proprietor, H. H. BURRINGTON, Chemist and Druggist, Providence, R. I. Also for sale by Druggists generally.

BAKER'S CHOCOLATE AND COCOA.

PARIS EXPOSITION, 1867.

*Leaf, Flower and Fruit of the Cocoa, with a pod opened.*

W. BAKER & CO.'S
American, French, Homœopathic and
VANILLA CHOCOLATE,
PREPARED COCOA,
BROMA,
*Cocoa Paste, Homœopathic Cocoa, Cocoa Shells, Cracked Cocoa, &c.*

THESE Manufactures, to which FIRST PREMIUMS have been awarded by the *chief Institutes and Fairs* of the Union, and at the PARIS EXPOSITION OF 1867, are an excellent diet for children, invalids and persons in health, allay rather than induce the nervous excitement attendant upon the use of tea or coffee, and are recommended by the most eminent physicians.

*For sale by the principal Grocers in the United States.*

WALTER BAKER & CO.,
Dorchester, . . . . Mass.

REDDING'S
Russia Salve,

(Established 1836,)

IS THE UNIVERSAL REMEDY FOR

BURNS, SCALDS, CUTS, BRUISES, AND ALL FLESH WOUNDS.

For Chilblains, Chapped Hands, Piles, and Old Scrofulous Sores, Eruptions, Blotches, Salt Rheum, and all Cutaneous Diseases.
The RUSSIA SALVE is a PURELY VEGETABLE OINTMENT, made from the very best materials, and combines in itself greater healing powers than any other preparation before the public. Its timely application has been the means of saving thousands of valuable lives, and of relieving a vast amount of suffering. Fifty years' general use of the Russia Salve is a noble guarantee of its incomparable virtues as a healing ointment.
Price, 25 cents. Sample box sent free on receipt of price.—For sale by all Druggists and Apothecaries.
REDDING & CO., Proprietors, BOSTON, MASS.

VOSE'S
PIANOS.

THE PIANO OF AMERICA!

THE increasing demand for these Pianos is a SURE TEST of their superiority; and they are acknowledged by competent judges to be

*EQUAL TO THE BEST PIANO MADE.*

Reference can be given to THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS throughout the country. Also to MANY SCHOOLS AND SEMINARIES, where they have stood the hard use and practice of years, and

Have given Entire Satisfaction

to those using them. They are the

Cheapest First-Class Pianos in the Market.

WARRANTED FIVE YEARS.

*JAMES W. VOSE.*

Warerooms, - - - - No. 6 Temple Place,
BOSTON.

FOWLE'S
Pile and Humor Cure.

☞ One bottle warranted a perfect cure in all kinds of PILES. Two to three bottles in the worst cases of LEPROSY, SCROFULA, SALT RHEUM, and ALL DISEASES OF THE SKIN. FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL USE. In case of failure, all Dealers will return the money, and charge it to the proprietor. No case of failure in PILES or HUMORS for ten years.
Prepared by HENRY D. FOWLE, Chemist, 71 PRINCE ST., BOSTON. Sold everywhere.

PIANO AND SINGING
FOR TEACHERS.

MRS. PAIGE is very successful in fitting Teachers of Piano-Forte and Singing by her new method. Time required from three to six months. Pupils can fit by correspondence, after remaining with Mrs. P. one week. References given on application. No one is authorized to teach this method except by permission of Mrs. Paige, who is the inventor and sole proprietor. Circulars can be obtained at all the Music Stores, or address MRS. J. B. PAIGE, 246 Washington Street, Rooms 9 and 4.

CURRANTS.—Dried currants of commerce, as they are miscalled, are in reality a grape, and free from stones and pits; they come from the Isthmus of Corinth and several places in the Indian Archipelago. A small Spanish currant is sometimes sold in their stead. It is the island of Zante which furnishes the largest amount of these currants, and their cultivation is materially lessening, as the jealousy of the Ottomans does not allow large vessels to enter the Gulf for their purchase. These currants grow on vines like grapes; the leaves are somewhat the same figure, and the grapes similar; they are gathered in August, and dried on the ground; when kegged they are trodden down closely with the feet. Zante Island produces enough to load five or six large vessels; Cephalonia three or four, and other islands one.

# The Stock Yard.

## SALT AND ASHES FOR DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

The subject of the use of salt for domestic animals has been discussed by many a pen.—While there are yet those who argue that salt is not needed for animals, I must dissent and wholly disapprove of their reasonings; others may rear their stock without salt and they may do well, but from my own experience for over fifty years, I shall continue the use of it, and instead of piecing it out to my stock as I used to in years gone by, will give them all they desire; my rule is, not to see how long a barrel of salt will last, but to see how quick my stock will consume it. Here let me say that salt alone does well for all granivorous and herbiverous animals; this nature evidently requires; if not for their good, why is it that a colt, calf, or lamb, even if but a few days old, relish it, and at the first eating like it so well?

Nature has also furnished another ingredient besides salt, for the health and appetite of animals, in the shape of alkalies; ashes supply this want. Often when a boy, I have seen cattle and sheep at places where brush and log heaps were burned, engaged in licking ashes with a perfect relish; evidently, they wanted something to regulate their digestive powers. I have known horses so needy for something to regulate their stomachs, that they would eat a handful of good clean ashes as quickly as a handful of oats, or leave the latter and eat the former first.

Some say that dairy cows eat too much salt, that it checks the flow of milk for days; true, but this is no argument against the use of it; so with horses and sheep, if they have done without it too long, they eat too much, a burning fever is the consequence; they want it when they do want it, no more, no less.

To arrange this for their convenience, my practice is to have box troughs so arranged that all can have free access to salt and ashes—to eat and be satisfied; ashes from green, or at least sound wood, only should be used. For sheep, a trough three or four feet long, and eight or ten inches wide, nailed two feet from the ground, under the shed, is large enough for any number of sheep, as but few will eat at a time; for cattle, a wider one is necessary; for horses, every manger should have a small box just large enough to admit the horse's nose, fastened directly over the feed-box, in which is a constant supply of salt and ashes. In pastures where there is no shed or other building under which the trough or box can be placed to avoid the waste by storms, set two posts of some six feet long, firmly in the ground two feet apart, at each end of the trough or box; at the top of the posts spike a piece of two-inch plank, after being cut in roof form; upon these, spike two wide planks forming the cover or roof; the trough is fastened to the posts some two feet from the ground; the roof will be so low that no animal will attempt to jump the trough under the roof; here we have a safe place to keep a supply of salt and ashes at all times—rain or shine. Or, if a movable box is desired, arrange it on something like a stone boat, and move it from field to field; it should always follow the cattle. If the many herds of cattle kept on our prairies in Summer were supplied in this way, there would be less rambling, more contentment and more beef. From my own experience, I believe that a barrel of good ashes is equal in value to a barrel of salt, equal parts being used as food. I believe that hogs need a supply of salt and ashes as much as any other animals, and if they had had a constant supply always accessible, the "hog cholera" would not have been known.

I have never known a horse to have the cholic, bots, or worms, nor become a "cribber" when a box of salt and ashes was ever in reach in his stall.—*Prairie Farmer.*

---

Mowing machines are not very generally used in England, the chief obstacle to their introduction has been the landlord's dread of the destruction of game.

## FEED ECONOMICALLY.

For some years past hay and grain have been unusually high in this section of country, so much so that many farmers have sold hay and kept less stock. The result of such a practice will soon be felt on the farm and in the lack of profits from the sale of animals and farm products. It becomes a question of no small importance as to how the farmer shall manage under these circumstances.

We meet the question at once with the response, "feed economically." Fodder of various kinds is yearly wasted, sufficient to feed one-tenth more stock than is now kept, and in many instances the waste might be estimated at double that amount.

There is first a loss at harvest-time. Grass is badly cured, corn fodder is allowed to remain in the field until its vitality is washed out by Autumn storms. Straw is profusely spread about barn and yards at threshing time. And then again, when farmers come to feed, they are extravagant in the amount they give their animals, and allow much to be wasted through heedlessness.

If those who keep stock will be regular in feeding, giving at each time only what is required, they will find that a much smaller quantity than is generally supposed will keep their animals in excellent condition. Use the cutter, and mix with cut feed, be it straw, poor hay or corn stalks—meal, shorts or some kind of grain; keep your cattle well sheltered; make use of racks in which to feed; give roots well cut, and wherever it is practicable steam the fodder and cook the vegetables fed to cattle.

Don't misunderstand us and stint your creatures—keep them in flesh, and you will see the benefit in the Spring.—*N. H. Farmer.*

## ECONOMY IN FEEDING FOWLS BOILED GRAIN.

In France it is the custom to cook grain given fowls when fattening, boiling in water till it is soft enough to be easily bruised between the thumb and fingers, and the boiling causing it to swell till the farina splits the enveloping membrane, and this they term bursting. Although it is the general opinion that burst grain is better than when it is dry for fattening poultry, this opinion has not probably been established on accurate experiments. Be this as it may, it is of no less importance to ascertain whether there is any difference of expense in feeding poultry on raw or boiled grain; that is, under similar circumstances, fowls eat more or less of the one or the other.

In order to ascertain this, we had two quarts of corn boiled till well burst, and found that the increase in bulk was over four quarts. Buckwheat is increased in bulk by boiling more than any other grain, as two quarts, when well boiled, increased to seven quarts, yet it is no benefit to boil buckwheat, for the fowls consumed the seven quarts of the boiled grain nearly in the same time which two quarts of the raw grain would have sufficed them. Many have the impression that it is rather unsubstantial food.

Corn, on the other hand, is more profitable when boiled than when given raw, for the fowls, which would have consumed two quarts of the uncooked or raw corn, consumed only three quarts of the boiled grain, which are not equivalent to three pints of raw. Even calculating that they were to consume three quarts a day of the boiled grain, there would be a saving of one-fourth. In very cold weather, it should be fed to the fowls, *hot*, and the water in which it was boiled may be given them to drink.

Barley is also much more economical when boiled than raw, for fowls which would have eaten two quarts of raw a day, ate three quarts of boiled grain. Therefore, as five quarts of boiled barley are produced from two quarts of raw, three pints are equivalent to no more than six-fifths of a pint of the raw; consequently the expense in raw barley is to that of boiled as ten-fifths to six-fifths—that is, as ten to six—showing a saving of two-fifths by giving boiled instead of raw barley.

Oats, though increased in bulk by boiling nearly one-half, are not more than rye, rendered more sufficing; for the fowls which in two days would have eaten two quarts of raw oats, consumed in the same time three and a half quarts of the boiled grain; consequently it is no saving to boil the oats.

*Millet.*—Fowls prefer raw millet to that which has been boiled, though it would evidently be a saving in other respects to boil it, as boiling increases its bulk one-half.

These experiments proved most clearly that in every case where the price of corn and barley render it eligible to feed fowls therewith, there is considerable economy in never giving them grain raw, but well boiled, and there is no saving by boiling oats or buckwheat.—*C. N. Bement, in Cultivator.*

## NEW WAY TO FATTEN HOGS.

During our visit to the East, we were asked to look at some fattening hogs in the sty of Dr. Caleb Plaistridge of Lebanon, N. H. They were very fine ones, but not so good, we were told, as the Doctor usually raises. His system is this: For twenty years past he has planted one-fouth of an acre of sweet corn, and killed three hogs. The hogs have a good, large, airy sty, with feeding trough so arranged that they cannot interfere with each other at feeding time, and free access to a large, dry yard, through which runs a spring of clear water. When his sweet corn is large enough to roast, he commences feeding it, stalk and all, in the yard, giving them all the swill they will eat. This he continues until they refuse to eat the stalks, after which the rest of the corn is fed in the ear, and the fattening process finished with corn meal. During the whole twenty years he has failed but twice of killing hogs of over five hundred pounds weight each, and he gives credit for most of the weight to the sweet corn. He says, properly fed, it adds two hundred pounds to each of his hogs. Until the frost kills it, they will eat the sweet corn stalks and all. Try it next year, will you?—*Pontiac Jacksonian.*

## KEEPING EGGS.

There is always some risk in keeping eggs a long time, and those not absolutely fresh will never sell well. When eggs stand long in one position the yolk gets down against the shell, and if there is any evaporation, it soon either adheres to the shell or the air gets to it, and it decays, or becomes tainted a little. Eggs may be greased, and packed in oats in barrels headed up tight, kept cool and dry, and rolled or inverted, or both, every few days; thus they will keep, and when wanted for market must be rolled in bran or meal to get the grease off, and perhaps dipped in lime-water to give them a fresh look. How long they may be kept thus we do not know, but several months at least.

Eggs will keep in lime-water, but it is difficult to turn or roll the barrels, and so the yolk gets against the shell, and besides the shells look very chalky, and their sale is hurt. The best way is probably to pack the fresh eggs in barrels with meal or bran, setting them on end, using no grease, for the meal absorbs it and it turns rancid. Head up the barrels and invert once a week and keep in a cool, dry place.—*Exchange.*

---

Rats, it is said, eat harness for the sake of the salt deposited there by the perspiration. To prevent this mischief, deposit salt about the premises.

# Advertising Department.

## Pennsylvania.



## Massachusetts.



## Rhode Island.



## New Jersey.