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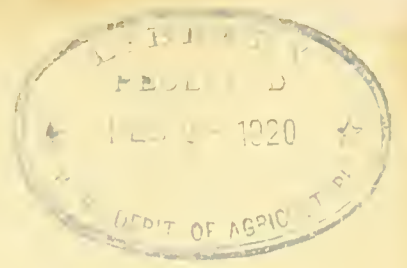
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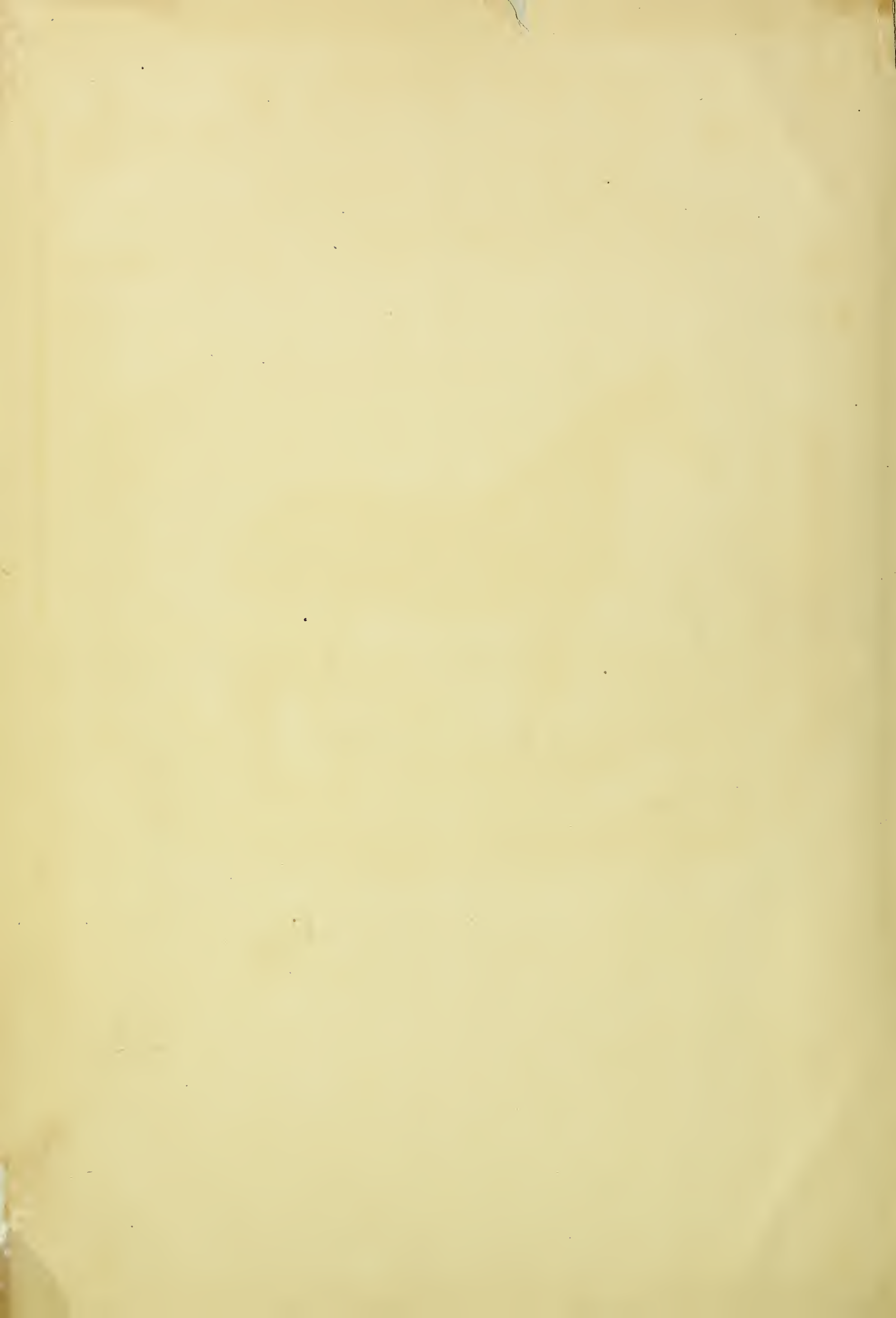
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The Farm and Fireside

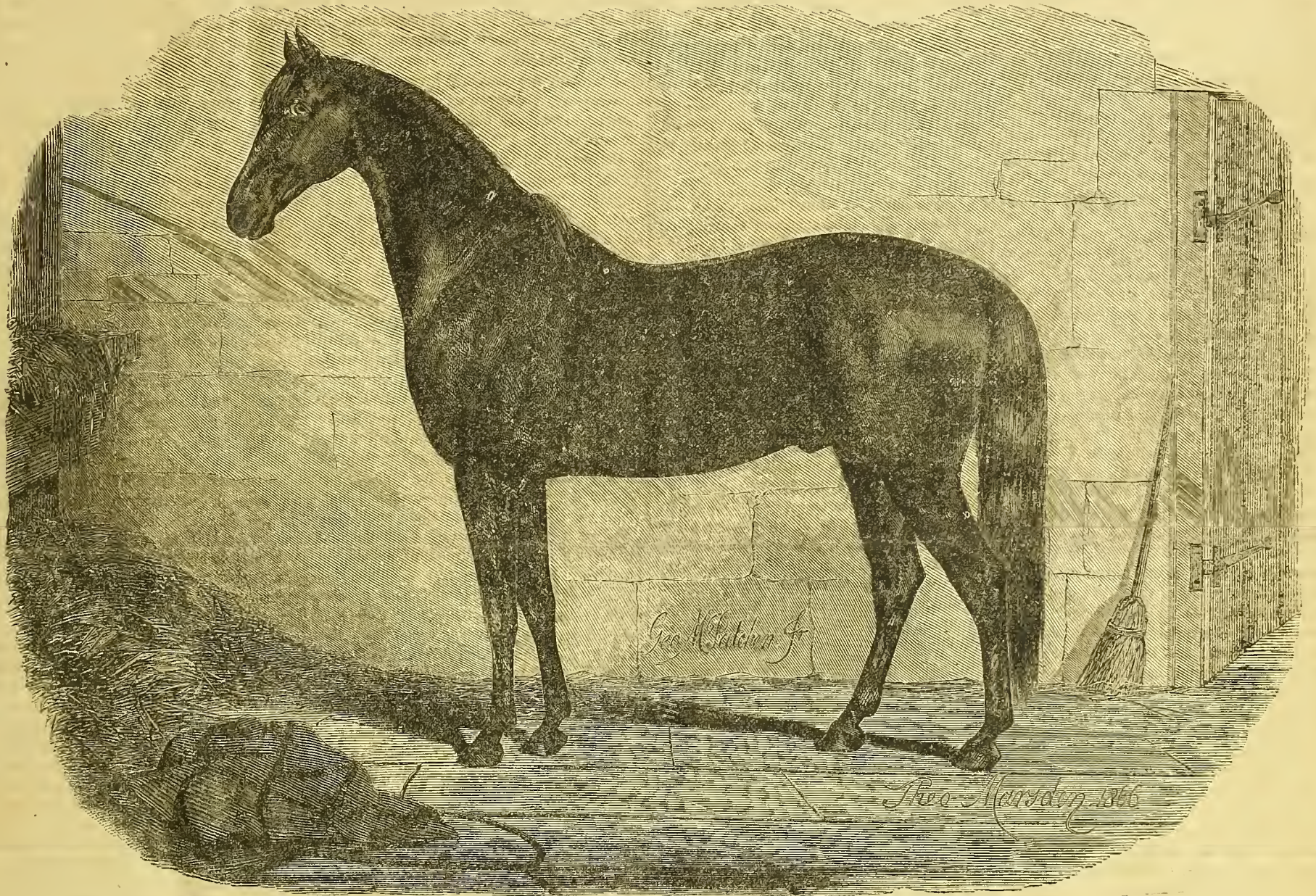
A JOURNAL OF "AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS."

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VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1867.

NO. 1.



"GEORGE M. PATCHEN, Jr.," THE PROPERTY OF B. D. GODFREY, Esq., MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS.

DRAWN FROM LIFE BY THEO. MARSDEN, AND ENGRAVED FOR "THE FARM AND FIRESIDE."

It is a gratification to us, as we are sure it will be to many of our readers, that we are able to present, in the first number of our journal, this fine and life-like engraving of Mr. Godfrey's celebrated thorough-bred horse, "GEORGE M. PATCHEN, JR." This horse was raised by T. N. Black, of Bordentown, N. J., and sold by him, when coming three years old, to Mr. John Buckley, of Bordentown, the original owner of the old "GEORGE M. PATCHEN," and the famous trainer of the celebrated "Eclipse," in his renowned race with "Sir Henry," in 1823. In 1860, Mr. Buckley sold "GEORGE M. PATCHEN, JR." to B. D. GODFREY, Esq., of Milford, Mass., his present owner, who bought him for a stock horse, with the sole view of improving the breed of horses in New England, by making a cross with the Morgan and Black Hawk stock. This experiment has been eminently successful; and some of PATCHEN'S colts have been sold at high prices. Last year, Mr. Godfrey sold a pair of four years old colts for \$1,500; and he has a pair now, three years old, which trot inside of three minutes. For one of these, "TOMMY PATCHEN," Mr. Godfrey has refused an offer of \$2,000.

"GEORGE M. PATCHEN, JR.," is now ten years old. His color is a dark mahogany, the hair remarkably fine. His height is a little over sixteen hands, and his present weight 1252 lbs. He is emphatically an "honest horse," being perfectly kind, of uniform disposition, gentle in harness, and easy under the saddle. He has never been trained for the track; but we are probably safe in saying that his speed is unsurpassed by any untrained horse in the United States. He has trotted his mile, to wagon, in private, in 2.32; and one-fourth of a mile in 35 seconds.

GEORGE M. PATCHEN, JR. is a direct descendant from the best blooded stock of England and America; he was sired by the celebrated trotting stallion, George M. Patchen; George M. Patchen was sired by Cassius M. Clay; he by Henry Clay, out of the dam of the celebrated John Anderson; Henry Clay by Andrew Jackson, out of the trotting mare Surrey; Andrew Jackson by Young Bashaw, who was by imported Grand Bashaw; the dam of Andrew Jackson was by the well-bred horse, Why-not, and Why-not by Old Messenger; the grandam of Andrew Jackson was also by Old Messenger. The dam of GEO. M. PATCHEN, JR. was

sired by a son of the celebrated running horse, Sir Henry; his grandam by the thorough-bred stallion, John Richards, the favorite horse of the South, which was to have run against Eclipse in place of Sir Henry, and would have done so, but from an accident in cutting his foot in training at Bristol, Pa. John Richards was sired by Sir Archy, one of the most renowned horses ever bred in America.

Those of our readers who have seen "PATCHEN, JR.," will agree with us when we say that Mr. MARSDEN, the artist, has given us a faithful representation in the above picture. It was drawn from life, and engraved under Mr. Marsden's personal superintendence. As a work of art, it is worthy of preservation.

William Henry Herbert, one of our best authorities on the horse, speaks as follows on the value of this noblest of domestic animals: "To enter into an argument at this day of the nineteenth century, to show that the horse stock of any country is a material item in the account of the national wealth, strength and greatness, would be to admit the arguer himself an ass. In no country in the world, perhaps, is such an argument less needed than in our own, where, certainly, the keeping of

horses for the purposes of pleasure as well as of utility is more largely disseminated among persons of all classes than in any other, and where the desire and ability both to keep and breed horses of a high grade is daily gaining ground, both in town and country. Among farmers the desire to raise valuable stock is, at least, increasing proportionally to the increase of the profit to be derived from them, which is advancing every day, not in consequence of any casual or temporary caprice, but is attributable to the growing perception of the fact, among all horse-keepers, that it is not only as cheap, if one keeps a horse at all, to keep a good as to keep a bad one, but in reality much cheaper.

Now, as to what constitutes value or excellence in all horses. It is, indisputably, quickness of working; power to move or carry weight, and ability to endure for a length of time; to travel for a distance with the least decrease of pace; to come again to work day after day, week after week, and year after year, with undiminished vigor. And it is scarcely needful to say that, under all ordinary circumstances, these conditions are only compatible with the highest form and highest physical health of the animal."



REMEMBER—That scripping the feed of fattening hogs is a waste of grain.
That over-fed fowls won't lay eggs.
That educating children is money lent a hundred per cent.
That one evening spent at home in study, is more profitable than ten in lounging about country taverns.
That cows should always be milked regularly and clean.

REMEMBER—It is worth while for all farmers everywhere, to remember that thorough culture is better than three mortgages on their farm.
That an offensive war against weeds is five times less expensive than a defensive one.
That hay is a great deal cheaper made in the summer than purchased in the winter.

MAKING ROADS.—Drain them. There cannot be a good road where water stands by the side of or on it. Keep out stones of every size, and have the top of the road evenly and slightly rounded.
LABOR in Switzerland is worth from ten to twenty cents a day. The women do as much farm labor as the men.





The Field.

BENEFIT OF ROTATION OF CROPS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY WM. H. WHITE, SOUTH WINDSOR, CONN.

It is found in experience, where the same soil is continually cropped with one kind of crop, that in time it fails to give a return at all commensurate with the expense of production; and also that variation, or rotation of different crops on the same land, give more satisfactory returns. In our system of culture heretofore pursued, it was found that much land would grow good crops of grain only once in two or three years without manuring; it then became necessary to let the land rest, or work it by only plowing, etc.; that is, adopting a system of fallow, exposing the soil to the action of the atmosphere, that it might absorb therefrom water and gases to assist in the natural decomposition, and rendering available as plant-food the accumulations in, and pulverizing, the soil. Why this failure to produce a crop regularly? In order to the right understanding the why and wherefore, it is essential that we understand the constitution and requirements of plants, their means of taking up their food, and the offices the soil performs in relation thereto. All plants are composed of certain elements which they extract, principally from the soil, and take into their structure. The office of the soil is to hold and yield these elements, or prepare them as food for plants.—Some plants require a certain amount of one kind, and another an amount of a different element. These elements must be furnished by the decomposition of compounds which are found in the soil. Now, if the soil become deficient in any one element, it is very evident that it cannot supply that element to any plant demanding that one in particular; and thus we cannot grow that plant; not because the soil is worn out, but merely deficient in this element. If we take plants of a different class, demanding an excess of a different element, we find that such plants will thrive and produce abundantly. The reason, then, why one kind of plant fails in a soil in which it has been grown successively is, that it has drawn from the soil all the excess of the most important element entering into its composition. These elements may be restored by adding manure, but the quantity must be considerable. We find that this amount can be greatly economized by some system of variation, if not a proper rotation. In practice we find that whether we apply the dung of animals, plow in green crops, apply mineral manures, or depend upon the fertility of the soil alone, we realize much better returns by this means, for the labor, time, and fertility expended. Some crops rapidly exhaust fertility by appropriating the most available supply of substances essential to their growth. Others either use less, or have the ability to collect them more readily.—Some root crops remove from the soil a comparatively small quantity of certain substances; which, if abundant in an available form, promotes their growth, and increases the yield entirely disproportionately; whilst straw, or grain crops, demand an available proportion of a very different element, greater than some other crops which remove more from the soil. The growth of one crop in a measure fits the soil for another; the excrementitious matter thrown off by the first crop enters the soil and forms new combinations, which in turn are decomposed, and their elements are frequently those most required for the nutrition of the next. Almost all plants have their natural enemies, growing successively in the same soil; they increase more than where only a single crop is grown; for they live and complete their transformations, enter the soil, and by the time of the following crop, they come forth, and finding their natural, most desirable food, thrive and multiply rapidly. Frequently the case happens that crops thus grown contract disease from some cause not as yet satisfactorily accounted for; this liability is diminished, if not entirely obviated, in a rotation. To realize the greatest possible benefit from the application of manure, crops should succeed each other in the order of their dissimilarity; and these consist of as many classes or families of

plants as possible—repeating each class at the greatest convenient distance of time. A rotation consisting of the following variety:—oil plants, roots, commercial plants raised for the plant itself—as tobacco; leguminous plants, grain and grass,—will give an illustration of what is here meant by different classes or families; this will give the variation, although not arranged with any particular order to the succession; this can only be arranged to conform to the difference in soils, etc., in different localities. The longer time intervening between two crops of the same kind, or species, the better the soil is prepared to furnish the elements which enter into their composition; it having replenished itself from the atmosphere and substances added, or having had certain substances detrimental to the plant dissolved and washed away by the action of the elements.—The English farmers, by close observation and long experimenting, have slowly worked out a system of rotation, which, to their climate and soil, is well adapted. Our American climate being quite different, and our country so extended and embracing every variety of soil and climate, no one set of crops can be adapted as universally suitable for all varieties of soil; and even if so adapted, our markets are so constituted as not to afford the requisite demand for that amount of such variety of products. Our country, embracing this extent and variety of climate and soil, the farmer finds that his calling is made more profitable and sure in being able to produce a greater variety of crops; he thus finds a ready market for all his productions; and as a nation we are less dependent upon the resources of other nations than if we had a less diversified soil and climate. There are yet other crops of which, as a class, our farmers grow too little; and which, as we advance in our agriculture, we shall find advantageous. I refer to the leguminous plants—peas, beans, clover seed, &c. These plants furnish some of our richest food for stock, and from it a more enriching quality of manure is derived. Would we but devote a larger area to the growth of these crops, and adopt a regular system of rotation of such crops as are particularly adapted to the soil and market of the locality of the production, our farms would improve; we should be able to keep a larger stock, and by feeding these crops on the farm, an immense amount of the richest manure would be made, which, judiciously applied, would induce still larger crops; while, at the same time, our farms would be increasing in value. Let us then, brother farmers, add to our possessions, by improving our system of culture; remembering that the value of these consists, not in the number of acres we own, but in the production to be derived therefrom.

SOIL FOR A VINEYARD.

The Northern Ohio Grape Growers' Association in its late report says:

Contrary to the idea entertained at the commencement of grape culture in this country, it is now the opinion of a majority of vignerons that a dry soil produces the best wine, especially with the Catawba grape. Stiff clay is preferred. The soil should be dry, hence underdraining is often a necessity. Sandy soils may produce as fair clusters, but the quality of the wine is inferior. Gravelly soil is probably the next best. Clay crests that crop out of gravelly or sandy districts are excellent. Manuring is also discarded. Most experienced growers now consider manure an injury when wine is the object of production. The vine will bear abundantly a long time, and remain healthy on a soil too poor for common farming. Manuring may spoil a vineyard. We remember a notable instance of the truth of this in the vineyard which produces the far-famed Johannisberger, situated on the Rhine. A proprietor once had it heavily dunged, and the quality was perceptibly injured for many years following, though the yield was increased. The wine makers state that the most of grapes grown on the upland clay soils is richer than that from the flatter lands of the Lake islands, or from sandy soils.

The man who takes no pains to make or save manure, will not find farming a very profitable business.

Correspondence.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:
The criticisms in regard to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, which have appeared in various agricultural journals, indicate very clearly that there is a great difference of opinion among those interested in agriculture, as to the mode in which such institutions should be conducted. There seemed to be no way of settling these differences by argument, and it was necessary to adopt one of these systems, and to try it fairly in the College. The Trustees employed, as its President, a gentleman admitted to be eminently qualified for the post, and have always been ready to receive and adopt such measures to ensure the success of the institution, as the funds would allow.
The College building was finished but quite recently, and the first dollar received from its endowment was in 1865. The institution has therefore started with a half-finished building, a revenue derived from students alone, struggled through the war, and given, with every disadvantage, a cheaper and better education than could be easily obtained elsewhere. All the farm work was done by the boys, and when it was compared with model farms, managed by skilled workmen, it contrasted very unfavorably. The boys, too, were forced to do kinds of work which taught them very little, and which should be done by hired labor; but this did not arise so much from the defect of the system as from want of funds. As long as that want existed, no system could succeed.—Congress recognized the necessity of an endowment in its gift of land to the States, for it expressly provided that the revenues arising from it should not be spent in the erection of the building, but in the support of the College. The experiment may be said, therefore, to have just commenced. There are four hundred acres of very fine land, in the healthiest region of the State, a large and substantial building, and what will be some day a respectable endowment. The farmers of the State should see, therefore, that it is properly conducted and made available for the purposes for which it is intended. Every agricultural society is entitled to send delegates, who elect three trustees. Let them see to it, that the evils (if evils there are) are remedied. This is much better than calling it a humbug, or a failure. Too much money has been spent on it to pass the matter by with a sneer.
I desire to make no argument in favor of the present mode of conducting it. I do not desire to refer to the few public-spirited individuals who have devoted their time, and their money, and their increasing labor to make it a success, and to ask lenient criticism on that account. What I desire to say is, that it subserves no good purpose to regret that it had not been located at some other point, or that the building had not been differently constructed, or the land of some other quality. The thing is done, and, in the opinion of many, well done. Be that as it may, these points cannot be altered, but there are many points which are not as fixed as those, and which every friend of agriculture should interest himself about. If we would forget our individual preferences as to where it should be, and what it should be, there is not one of us who would fail to find a great deal of good about it, and would recognize that an immense deal had been done in the matter, in the face of every disadvantage. It was impossible in a new enterprise to avoid mistakes, but we have the best evidence, in their acknowledgment, of the sincerity of the desire to correct them. Let us all give, not only our advice, but our cordial assistance, to make it what it is capable of being, an honor to our State, and the cause which it represents. It was never hoped, expected, or designed, that it should be self-supporting. And its friends never ceased to contend against all ideas that it must have the donation it thought itself entitled to from the Congressional Gift to the State. No College in the State ever dreamed of paying any attention to the claims of agriculture, except as connected with a claim in that fund. They, therefore, recognized the fact, which we assert, that it was a necessary preliminary. The Agricultural College suffered

in every way from not being as astute, which they tried to go on without the endowment, though the other Colleges were too wise to do. They have suffered for their error, which was a vital one, but, as it is now corrected, we shall look with great hope for the highest success.
Philadelphia, Dec. 27th, 1866. C.

The Barn-Yard.

BREWERS' GRAINS FOR MILCH COWS.

MR. X. A. WILLARD, in the Utica (N. Y.) Herald, says that the value of brewers' grains for milch cows, depends entirely on their cost in particular localities, when compared with other kinds of food. They increase the quantity rather than improve the quality of the milk, and when other kinds of food are given, combined with the grain to make up those qualities which are lacking, they may be used with good results. Cows, however, which are fed largely on brewers' grains, are weakened in constitution, and hence it becomes an imperative necessity to find some highly nutritious food in conjunction with them, if regard be had to the health of the animal, to say nothing of adding to the inferior quality of milk resulting from their use. Experiments show that distillers' grains do not contain substances yielding an abundant supply of caseine, but are better adapted for butter and sugar of milk. They may be regarded as useful in keeping up a flow of milk, and where this is sought, they will be found perhaps more valuable than their nutritive qualities would seem to warrant.—Cows are sometimes disposed to run to fat, and fail in milk, when fed on highly nourishing food. In such cases, a moderate supply of brewers' grains will be found to correct the difficulty, and thus they prove really valuable. The art of feeding to effect certain results, is not very closely studied by our farmers. By understanding the nature of foods and their economic use, one man will reach the same result at much less expense than he who has no definite idea of the material in his hands, beyond placing it before his stock. The question of food is at all times an important one, and especially to those who are looking to the most profit from their use.

STOCK FEEDING—RAW AND COOKED FOOD.—The question as to which is the most profitable for feeding stock, raw or cooked food, still engages the attention of the agricultural press.—The majority of voices are in favor of the cooking process. A Kentucky farmer fed raw corn for a given time to his hogs—weighing them at the time of commencing the experiment, and again when a change was made to cooked food. The result was 5½ to 17½—a large balance in favor of cooked food after deducting the expense of preparing the latter.—Even one-half of the above difference would justify the feeding of the cooked material in preference to that in a raw state.

BUTTER-MAKING IN THE WINTER.—For some unknown reason, cream skimmed in cold weather does not come so quickly as that from the same cow in warm weather. Perhaps the little sacks of butter in the cream are thicker and tougher. There are two methods of obviating this: One is, to set the milk on the stove, or some warm place, when strained, and let it remain until quite warm—some say until a hubble or two rises, or until cream begins to rise. Another mode is to add a teaspoonful of salt to a quart of cream when skimmed. Cream thus prepared generally comes in a few minutes when churned. It is thought the salt acts upon the butter-globules and makes them tender, so that they will break more easily when churned.—Boston Cultivator.

CURE FOR WORMS IN THE HEAD.—Some thirty years ago there appeared a statement in Gov. Hill's Monthly Visitor, that worms in the head of sheep could be cured by simply taking whale oil, and with a feather put it up the nostrils two or three times. It should be done in the spring, or whenever the symptoms of the disease make their appearance. It is said by those who have tried it to be a sure remedy.



At a recent railroad dinner, in compliment to the fraternity, the toast was given: "An honest lawyer, the noblest work of God." But an old farmer in the back part of the house rather spoiled the effect by adding, in a loud voice, "and about the scarest."

THREE hundred Scotch farmers are on their way to settle in Texas.

THE Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada has made arrangements by which a six weeks' course of instruction in the theory and practice of agriculture, and the breeding, diseases and treatment of farm animals, is given gratuitously to all who choose to attend.

SCRIBBLEE says life is too short to drink poor whiskey or to make love to ugly women.

An improvement in smelting iron has been made in the foundry of the Philadelphia navy yard. By this improvement, where it occupied before three hours in smelting a few hundred pounds of iron, it is now accomplished in one hour.

A SON of General Robert E. Lee has just been elected Professor of Mathematics for the Maryland Agricultural College at Bladensburg.



The Farm.

HOW TO MAKE FARMING MORE PROFITABLE

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY WM. CLIFT, NEW YORK.

Does farming pay? This question was discussed with a good deal of warmth, some years ago, in the *New England Farmer*, and a wiseacre proved, to his own satisfaction at least, that the tilling of the soil was a losing business. Yet our farmers have kept on plowing and sowing ever since, and the nation has been growing richer all the while, notwithstanding the waste and ruin of a four years war. As husbandry is the basis of all other kinds of wealth, it is difficult to reconcile this theory with the grand result. The mechanic, the manufacturer, the merchant, the professional man, can only prosper as the farm prospers. The daily bread of all must come from the tillage of the soil. As the country is bearing its enormous burdens well, and paying up its debts at the rate of two hundred millions a year, it is quite manifest that farming has paid somebody, if it has not paid farmers.

Yet there is a wide-spread conviction, more largely shared in the rural districts than in the cities, that labor is not as well rewarded upon the farm as in other callings. The young, especially, graduate from the farm in the older States at a very early age, and in large numbers. And it is not a little owing, we imagine, to the fair rewards of husbandry that this is the case. The farmer, as soon as he has capital enough to carry on his business, and a few shares in the bank, sends his son to the best academy in the country, or even to college.—The youth grows ambitious in the new atmosphere, learns to despise the plow, and runs to the city to seek his fortune. He sends his daughter to the best female seminary he can hear of, at an expense of five or six hundred dollars a year, where she learns much that is valuable, but grows shy of rustic lovers and cowhide boots. She has an eye for kid gloves, and Congress gaiters. Through the farmer's prosperity his older children are lost to the farm, and it is only by dint of much persuasion and liberal offers, that he keeps the youngest at home, to be the stay of his declining years.

And if he be not prosperous enough to send away his children to school, his inability is taken as the best of all reasons for quitting the farm. In the olden time farmers' sons felt under some obligation to stay on the homestead until they were twenty-one, to pay for their bringing up; but now they grow uneasy at fifteen, and feel abused if they are not released from service at home at sixteen, to begin life for themselves, as clerks or apprentices. Nothing is ever returned to the farm for the expenses of childhood, and the farm is by that much poorer. Whether true or false, the opinion is general, that husbandry does not pay as well as other callings. Everywhere in the older States, and in some of the new, the towns and cities are gaining in population at the expense of the agricultural districts. Hardly an exclusively farming town in New England can show as large a population as it had fifty years ago. In some there has been a serious decline, and churches, once strong and able, have now ceased to be self-supporting.

These are dark shades in the picture, and show that a better husbandry is called for, rather than that farming is necessarily a poor business. As many conduct it, it does not pay very well, and no other business would pay, prosecuted by the same methods.

To make husbandry more profitable, more brains must be invested in it. The day has gone by when brute muscle will win in human contests. Even the pugilist has his training, and it is the training that makes the victor.—The well educated Prussian soldier and his needle gun, conquered Austria in a month's campaign. Ideas nurtured in the Northern school house, crushed the Southern aristocracy, and broke the manacles of four millions of bondmen.

We want more thought applied to farming. There has been a great change for the better within the last fifteen years, but a still greater is needed. The indications of a change are

every where apparent. We have State and County Agricultural Societies, with their annual fairs, and lively competitions. We have our Agricultural journals and farmers' clubs, with neighborhood meetings and farm visits.—We have a large number of books published on Agriculture and kindred topics, and the aroma of plowed fields and orchards is breathed into our magazine literature. We have a few live farmers and rural improvers, in almost every town, who are showing their faith by their works. They invest liberally in barns with cellars; in the best farm implements; in rock-lifters and tile-draining; in good stock and manure; in ornamental trees, and in orchards. They execute plans, deliberately formed, and spend as much brain-power upon their business as the merchant or mechanic does upon his. Their minds are wide awake to every new invention, or process, by which labor may be saved, and the earth coaxed to yield her increase at the least expense.

But these men are still the exceptions in our agricultural towns. There are multitudes of routine farmers, who are carried along in their improvements, if they make any, simply by force of example. They have no well digested plan of farm operations. They have no rotation of crops, and cannot tell whether a given crop is raised at a profit or loss. They buy a new style of tool only when they cannot find the old in the market. They do not believe in mowers, reapers or threshers that go by horse-power. They swing the scythe and the cradle, even on smooth meadows, and the thud of their flails is heard on the barn floor, with the frosty morning of winter. They will not give up the old tools and the old familiar sounds, though the new are a hundred fold better.

These men, who cling to the old ways, are to be found in almost every township, and will probably die in their present faith and practice in husbandry. They learn nothing in a business that calls for more varied knowledge than almost any other handicraft or trade. Almost every one of the natural sciences is immediately useful in the tilling of the soil. The farmer should know something of geology and mineralogy, and chemistry, that he may understand the constituents of the soils that he cultivates, and remedy their defects. Botany and zoology will aid him in the selection of the crops and the stock that he can raise most profitably. If he carry on any large business, he must necessarily buy and sell continually, and needs to watch the markets as closely as the merchant. He needs to be as competent for business as the trader and speculator from the city, who comes into the country to buy his produce and forestall the markets. It is mainly for lack of this kind of intelligence that these middle-men multiply so rapidly and make such enormous profits in forwarding the farmers' products to the city, where they find their market. Almost everything goes through their hands, from the fat beeve of two thousand pounds, to the egg of two ounces,—from the big tree of the forest, sawed into lumber, to the blade of grass packed in the hay bale. Middlemen are no doubt a necessary class, but they now take advantage of the ignorance of a large class of farmers and secure profits that the farmer would gain if he studied the markets more.

To stimulate thought and keep up with the times, farmers should read more upon topics connected with their business. The day has gone by when the county political newspaper, with its gross personalities, love stories and advertisements of quack-medicines, will afford sufficient mental pabulum. Agricultural and horticultural papers and books are a necessity of his calling. The best of these journals, perhaps, are not what they ought to be, or what they might be with a larger patronage; but the poorest of them are worth much more than their cost to the man who will read and digest them. They are mainly the records of the experience and observation of practical farmers who have sufficient leisure and culture to give their reflections to the public. Every man will find in their pages suggestions that will influence his own practice in husbandry and make it more profitable. Our best farmers are now reading and thinking men, and their success is the direct result of thought applied

to husbandry. They have the best papers and books that treat of their art, and brain guides muscle in all their farm operations. The sluggards must imitate their example, or lose the profits.

Then we must have more capital invested in the business. A large part of what we have is in the wrong place—in the land itself, rather than in the stock, tools, manure and labor to make the cultivation profitable. It is well enough for the cultivator to own his farm, if he have capital enough remaining to work it with; but if he have not, let him sell a part or mortgage the whole, to raise it. In our New England husbandry we need from thirty to fifty dollars for every acre under the plow, to make the crops pay fairly. Farming with insufficient capital has been the curse of the business from the beginning. In England, as a rule, the farmer does not own the soil, but hires on a long lease, and applies all his capital, or so much as he needs, to the production of the crops. He spends more upon the soil, and makes it pay better. Here leasing is the exception. Every man has a strong craving for more land, rather than to make what he has better. If he has capital, the probabilities are that he will invest it in bank-stock, or more land, rather than in more manure, or more stock and grain, to make manure with.

If we could trace the history of every individual farm, as we do the history of a town, or of a State, we should find it a long struggle with insufficient capital. The farm was originally carved out of the forest, by a man who had little else than his two hands and a few tools to work with. With his axe he made the first clearing, and with the help of a neighbor's team, he did his first plowing and put in his first crops. The virgin soil was in his favor and yielded bountifully for a few years, and furnished him with the means to put up his frame dwelling, his barn and other outbuildings. It took one generation to get the land cleared of stumps and the buildings paid for. It took another to accumulate a little capital; but that, unfortunately for the homestead, was either spent in more land, or in educating children for other pursuits, and in starting them in business. The much that needed doing upon the old homestead, has been put off from one generation to another, and remains still to be done by some man who has faith in the business, and is willing to invest in it, and to live by it. He wants capital to drain the swamps and swales, which are now the richest parts of the soil; to work his muck mine, and add to his compost heap; to secure the best farm implements and the best stock; to use all the labor and manure that he needs for the most economical raising of crops.

And this brings us to the last element of a more profitable husbandry that we shall touch upon in this article. Most of our farmers are sadly deficient in labor. It is not unfrequent to find a two hundred acre farm worked with a force of one hired man and a boy, with the aid of the proprietor, and a little extra help in the haying season. As a consequence, very little is planted or sowed, and that is but half cared for; very little is raised, and the profits, if any, are very small. More than half of the means of the owner are locked up in land that does not yield him a cent of income. It might as well be in the bottom of the sea. A farmer who is competent to direct the labors of one man and make it pay, may just as well direct five or more. And we think it will be found that two men pay better than one, and five better than two. It looks and feels a good deal more like business, and more is accomplished. It is disheartening to any man to go into a ten acre corn-field and hoe all day alone.

But where are we to get the capital from, that will furnish the conditions of a more profitable husbandry? Just where the merchant and mechanic get theirs. There are moneyed men and banks who make their profits by lending, and they are just as anxious to lend on good security as the business man is to borrow. What better security can they have than the farm, which does not run away; and which, with skillful management, pays as uniform dividends as any other business? The trouble, we apprehend, is not so much in getting the money, as in wanting it. Farmers must have

faith in their business, must invest their all in it as the merchant does, and then they will thrive by it.

January, 1867.

FEEDING STOCK.

A CORRESPONDENT says, with regard to feeding stock in winter: With good care and attention, stock coming into winter quarters in fair condition may be brought through the winter on the coarser and less valuable portions of fodder, and come out thriving in spring. Generally there is a large growth of corn fodder, and if this has been saved properly, it will furnish a large amount of valuable feed. Cut fine and mixed with the different qualities of meadow hay, straw of the different varieties of grain, all cut, moistened, and a little salt added and allowed to be in bulk a few hours or days, according as the weather may be, to soften before feeding, it will be eaten nearly or quite clean, and do as much good as the better quality of hay fed whole. Especially if a small sprinkling of meal or any kind of grain, or a few pulped roots are added, we have a feed which stock will thrive upon in a remarkable degree.

If the farmer has both hay and grain, it is better to feed a portion of the grain in this way, ground into meal, than to sell it—selling a portion of his hay instead, if either must be disposed of. The more concentrated the food the more fattening material is furnished, and the richer and better the manure. Corn fodder, coarse hay and straw cut and mixed as above, with a little meal to give a flavor to the taste and smell, will be eaten clean, with the exception, perhaps, of a few pieces of the hard butts and joints. Fed three times a day regularly, with what they will eat clean, stock of all kinds will thrive as well as though fed on an equal amount of English hay, uncut, and the same quantity of grain. A ton of sweet corn fodder prepared as above, and fed, is worth nearly as much as a ton of hay.

LIBERALITY IN FARMING.—In this art, and almost in this art alone, 'it is the liberal hand which maketh rich.'

Liberality in providing utensils is the saving both of time and labor. The more perfect his instruments, the more profitable are they.

So almost is it with his working cattle and stock. The most perfect in their kinds are ever the most profitable.

Liberality in good huts and warm shelter is the source of health, strength, and comfort to animals, causes them to thrive on less food, and secures from damage all sorts of crops.

Liberality also in the provision of food for domestic animals is the source of flesh, muscle and manure.

Liberality to the earth, in seed, culture, and compost, is the source of its profit.—*Josiah Quincy.*

ORIGIN OF FAOUS APPLES.—The original tree of the Newown Pippin, of world-wide repute, was a seedling, which grew near a swamp in Newtown, Long Island, about 1700, on the estate of Girsham Moore, and the fruit was called the Girsham Moore Pippin for a long time. The tree lasted over a hundred years, and finally died from excessive cutting, it having been much resorted to for scions to graft with.

The Baldwin, New England's favorite apple, originated in Wilmington, near Boston, more than a century ago; it grew on the farm of Mr. Butters, in the part of the town called Somerville, and known as the Butters apple, also known as the Woodpecker's apple (the Woodpecker's being perforated the tree); being disseminated by Col. Baldwin & Sons, it was called the Baldwin apple.

WHITE DAISIES.—The Germantown Telegraph says the white or ox-eye daisy can be exterminated by cultivating your land to corn or potatoes for two years in succession, and not allowing a weed to grow. Or, if you will plow your land in April, and drag it twice a month till July 1st, and then sow three pecks or a bushel of buckwheat to the acre, when the crop is harvested, you will, probably, find that the daisies are gone. Can any of our subscribers give us a better remedy?

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE, a new journal of Agriculture, Horticulture, Literature and Art, published weekly, in Quarto form. Beautifully illustrated. Terms \$2 per year. S. S. FOSS, Publisher. Patriot Office, Woonsocket, R. I.

A HORSE who lays his ears back and looks lightning when any one approaches him, is vicious. Don't buy him.

THE BIDDIES.—By warmth and judicious feeding a hen may be made to lay as many eggs in two years as she would under ordinary circumstances in three; and every one knows, or ought to know, that a fowl fattened at two years old is much more tender and palatable than one that is older.

DRAINED land is generally ten to twenty degrees warmer in summer, than that in which water stands stagnant.

PURIFYING WATER IN CISTERS.—A pound or two of either caustic soda or a similar quantity of what is called concentrated lye, both of which may be obtained at the druggists, will purify stagnant, odorous water in cisterns.

AN Indian says that using seed corn in a snake house, and leaving it there, till the meat is being smoked, will keep moles and field mice from eating it after it is planted.





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1867.

TO OUR FARM FRIENDS.

AN early love for rural life, an attachment to the domestic animals of the farm, an association with the honest workers of the soil, and an appreciation of the vast and rapidly increasing importance of American Agriculture, are the main reasons for publishing the FARM AND FIRESIDE. It has been our wish, for many years, to conduct just such a journal as is now before the reader; and, with long experience in journalism, and a practical knowledge of what the agricultural class desire, we commence the New Year with the determination to make as good a farm journal as adequate capital, patient industry and untiring perseverance can produce.

The followers of Agriculture in this country, as a class, are more intelligent, are better read and more thrifty than are the agriculturists of other lands. Besides, they have the industry, the pride, the determination to excel in the noble profession they have chosen, and which has contributed more to our national wealth, stability and greatness, than any other distinct profession. Yet, in turning up the mellow glebe, in the cultivation of diversified crops, in the rearing of stock, in the propagation of fruit, and in the general and economic management of the farm, they generously acknowledge that they are not correct in all things, and that they are not "too old to learn." We do not propose to educate them; but we shall use our humble talents, with the ability and experience of a large corps of paid contributors, to make the FARM AND FIRESIDE the best, most practical, as well as the cheapest Agricultural journal in the country. Journalism can do for Agriculture what it has done for commerce, for literature, education and sound morality.

In order to make our paper eminently practical, we invite farmers, in all sections of the Republic, to contribute to our columns. We invite them to send in their experience, success or failure, in the cultivation of any field crop.—We ask them to give an account of the adaptability, thrift or profit of their domestic animals; their success with the different kinds of fruit; their experience with various manures and fertilizers; and, finally, anything which may interest other persons in the various walks of rural life. It is by this record of agricultural experience, this exchange of ideas, this practical way of informing us of what you are doing, that we shall be able to make our paper attractive, practical and valuable.

The expense attending the publication of a journal or a magazine, is more than twice what it was before the Rebellion. Paper, printers' wages, the cost of engravings, and the price of first-class agricultural articles, are in the same ratio of expense. Yet we put the price of our paper exceedingly low, considering the style and character in which it is produced. In order to meet a generous outlay of capital, and to give the FARM AND FIRESIDE a large circulation, we ask every friend of agriculture, who reads this article, to assist in obtaining for us a liberal patronage. Show this paper to your neighbor, and interest him in its success. We pledge ourselves to make a journal worthy of the great agricultural community—a valuable compendium of rural intelligence, a pleasant companion to the farmer, gardener or stock-raiser; an instructor of their families and a defender of their manifold interests. Let us help each other.

CHANGE OF DATE.—This number of our journal is dated the 12th of January, instead of the 5th, as advertised. This change is to give us time to perfect our arrangements, typographical and otherwise. Our friends will also have time to aid us in obtaining subscribers. As the FARM AND FIRESIDE will be valuable enough to bind at the year's end, back numbers, to complete files, can be obtained. Subscriptions should begin with the first number.

FARMING IN THE UNITED STATES.

ALTHOUGH Agriculture gives employment to more capital and a larger number of persons than any other pursuit in which the people of this country are engaged, it is nevertheless true that there is no calling in which the Genius of Improvement goes forward, from year to year, with such an uncertain and moderate pace.

While the intellectual activity of the last quarter of a century has originated labor-saving machinery, adapted to nearly all the work of the farm, giving double, and in some cases quadruple force and effectiveness to the work of the farmer's hands, he has been slow to avail himself of those other facilities which scientific research, and practical skill combined, have brought to light for increasing the productive capacity of the land itself. Improved plows, harrows, horse-hoes, hay-tedders and mowing-machines, we have in abundance; and we farmers are not slow to avail ourselves of any mechanical contrivance calculated to lighten the labor of making and harvesting our crops; but, as a class, we are not disposed to adopt any new methods of cultivation, even when the experience of the most successful farmers has confirmed the teachings of science, that the productive capacity of all soils can be very largely and economically increased thereby.

The immense extent and surprising fertility of our national domain; the cheapness of land; and the facility with which food can be produced, are perhaps among the chief causes of our indisposition to adopt, in this country, a better system of husbandry than that which now prevails. But, whatever may be the cause, there can be no doubt of the fact that agricultural pursuits will never be so remunerative as they should be, unless those who engage in them are willing to bring to the cultivation of the soil the same habits of investigation and the same earnestness of purpose which characterize the successful inventor, manufacturer or merchant.

As yet, the science of farming is in its infancy. With rare exceptions the cultivation of the soil in the United States is wasteful, negligent and unsystematic. Our cultivated lands are, in many sections, passing through a course of general deterioration, of which the owners seem quite unconscious, because the causes which produce that deterioration are not at once apparent to them: the same lands are cultivated year after year with the same crops, without a thought that the elements of the soil, which are removed with the productions of every harvest, must be renewed by the application of fertilizing material. Excessive moisture from an indurated sub-soil, which has never been scratched, even by plow or spade, checks vegetation continually, at the very season when the atmospheric agencies are most favorable to the development of vegetable growth; and noxious weeds are permitted to dispute successfully for the possession of the soil which ought only to sustain the life-sustaining plants which the farmer has planted.

In thorough draining, deep tillage and liberal manuring, the American farmer can find employment for all the time and money at his command; and he cannot afford to neglect these three great essentials of good farming, if he would maintain a sturdy independence, enjoy a serene and comfortable old age, and leave something beside a good name as a legacy to his children. He who depends upon mother earth for his support, cannot afford to invest any portion of the increase which she affords in stocks or speculative enterprises of any kind. Even the savings bank is a poor place of deposit, if he has a muck bed, a peat meadow, or a marl bed in his neighborhood. Let him not fear to trust the earth, for her increase will be in proportion to his confidence and faith.—The most successful farming ever known has been done by those who have expended upon their lands, in a single season, an amount equal to the value of the land itself.

CLUBS.—In answer to many inquiries, we would state that our paper is offered so low that clubbing is almost out of the question. But to clubs of ten, to one address, we will accept \$17.50—making the price only \$1.75 to each subscriber.

INTERNATIONAL CATTLE EXHIBITION.

We are informed it is in contemplation to hold a grand International Cattle Exhibition at Stanstead, Canada East, in September next.—This exhibition, if it takes place, will be under the joint auspices of the United States and Canadian Agricultural Societies. We cordially endorse this proposed exhibition, believing it would be of great interest and benefit to our agriculturists.

TYPOGRAPHICALLY viewed, we think the "Farm and Fireside" is no discredit to the "black art." The publisher, while not aiming to gratify an eccentricity of taste, has endeavored to present a journal that is unique in appearance. A critical eye, be it that of a printer or otherwise, will see features in the "Farm and Fireside" not seen in any other publication. The materials are not only all new, but in some respects peculiar. Such page, column and advertising rules, dashes, etc., were never before used in a newspaper. They were made to order by Messrs. CONNER & SONS, New York. The "head" of our journal was engraved by S. S. KILBURN, Esq., of Boston, after an original design by the publisher. We think it as pretty as appropriate. The type is from the foundry of Messrs. J. G. COOLEY & CO., New York, and speaks for itself. The paper was made, expressly for this publication, by Messrs. GRANT, WARREN & Co., Boston. The fine engraving of "Patchen, Jr.," which adorns the first page, was drawn from life by THEODORE MARSDEN, Esq., the well-known cattle painter. The little cuts, in the page corners, are suggestive, and we think not unsightly.

We submit to our brethren of "the art preservative of all arts," that, despite King Solomon's assertion, we do present, in the FARM AND FIRESIDE, "something new under the sun;" and that something not uncomely.

THE CROPS OF 1866.

The Monthly Report of Agriculture for December, contains a final estimate of the corn crop of 1866. The total result is 880,000,000 bushels. In the 11 States not hitherto reported, 185,000,000 bushels, against 274,000,000 bushels in 1859. In 22 Northern States 679,000,000, instead of 704,000,000 in 1865, showing a decrease of 25,000,000, while the decrease in quality is equivalent to 75,000,000 bushels, making a loss in feeding value equivalent to 100,000,000 bushels. The cotton estimates are also completed, showing a total product of 1,750,000 bales of 400 lbs. each. As the actual bales are now nearly 500 lbs. each, this is equivalent to a million and a half of such bales.—The estimates are made up as follows: North Carolina, 91,000 bales; South Carolina, 102,000 bales; Georgia, 205,000 bales; Florida, 36,000 bales; Alabama, 220,000 bales; Mississippi, 270,000 bales; Louisiana, 109,000 bales; Texas, 300,000 bales; Arkansas, 182,000 bales; Tennessee, 148,000 bales; other States, 87,000 bales.

LOSS OF THOROUGH-BRED HORSES.—Thirty-nine head of thorough-bred horses were shipped from England, last month, on the steamer Helvetia. When the steamer arrived at New York, only five of these animals were living—thirty-four having died on the passage. They were owned by a Mr. Cameron of England.

TO ADVERTISERS.—We ask the attention of all persons engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements, or fertilizers; all who are in the seed business, in stock-raising, in the nursery trade, or who have farms or farm lands for sale, to our journal as a medium for advertising. Having a large circulation, almost exclusively among agricultural readers, no paper offers greater publicity.

NEW ENGLAND LIVE STOCK MARKET.—The whole number of cattle, sheep and swine, sold at the Brighton and Cambridge Markets in 1866, was 647,125. Of cattle there were 118,083; sheep, 400,546; swine, 123,496.

This copy of our paper is sent to many personal friends, also to others with whom we have no acquaintance. All such may consider it an invitation to subscribe.

RE-ORGANIZING THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

CONGRESS has many important duties before it, but none of greater interest to the people than the proposed re-organization of the Agricultural Department. Not that it has not been of eminent service to us, since its establishment; but how to make that Department more practical and valuable, is the question to be considered. And, when we contemplate the significance and influence of such a bureau, under the guidance of scientific agriculturists, under the support and protection of the Government, commanding the talent and experience of the entire country, and laying contribution upon all our vast resources, we only see its value foreshadowed in the future.

The cost of the present Agricultural Department has frightened the moles of Congress, and some of them have made efforts to undermine it by their lunar wanderings. We will not say that the Department has been always managed with judicious economy, nor can we affirm that its efforts have been invariably in the right direction. But we assume that when properly organized, when suitably officered, and all its scope, force and amplitude are developed, that it cannot cost too much, expend all the capital we may. Congressmen, generally, are not prone to strict economy in national appropriations; and we hope no exceptions will be made against the interests of Agriculture.

The bill introduced for the re-organization of this Department, provides a chief executive, to be termed the Commissioner, to be elected for four years, with a salary of \$3000; an assistant commissioner, a chemist, and other subordinate officers. We notice the bill provides that all foreign seeds shall be purchased in foreign countries, and not from importers here; also, that one-third of all seeds, cuttings, roots, &c., purchased or raised, are to be sent to the various agricultural and pomological societies of the United States. This is a good feature, and it should be adopted.

THE MARLS OF NEW JERSEY.—One of the most valuable and inexpensive fertilizers known in modern agriculture, is the sand-marls of New Jersey, which have added immensely to the fertility and wealth of that State within the past quarter of a century. Wherever these marls have been applied, vastly increased productiveness has been the unfailing result; and many sections which were considered, a few years since, of little value, have become the most profitable lands in the State. The marl deposit of New Jersey is worth millions to her agriculture, and the value of this great and inexhaustible fertilizer can scarcely be estimated in dollars and cents. We have engaged an able writer on agricultural chemistry to give us a series of articles on the marls of New Jersey, which we shall commence publishing in a few weeks.

REPORT FOR 1865.—We have received the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, and consider it a very creditable document; in fact, far superior to the Reports issued within the past five or six years. The articles are mainly original, and seem to be written by men who understand what they are about. The agricultural press has been rather severe on Commissioner Newton, for some cause or other; but this last Report, from his department, is worthy of all praise.

LOCAL AGENTS.—We wish to employ a local agent, to canvass for the FARM AND FIRESIDE, in every village, town and city in the United States. Apply to the publisher, at once.

Specimen copies of our journal will be forwarded on the receipt of a stamp, to any address.

The Farm and Fireside.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM, STRICTLY AND ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—A limited number of agricultural advertisements will be published. Price, FIFTEEN CENTS a line, each insertion. Special advertisements, at the bottom of the pages (see page 4), TWENTY-FIVE CENTS per line each insertion. No cuts are allowed in advertisements, and no unusual display. The Publisher holds the right to reject any advertisement not suitable for these pages.

All letters, remittances, &c., should be addressed to S. S. FOSS, Publisher, Woonsocket, R. I.



RE-APPEARANCE OF THE CATTLE PLAGUE.—The London Times, of Dec. 23d, expresses new fears of the cattle plague, which has re-appeared in three shires of England, and is increasing in Eastern Europe.

LISTEN!—The prophecy, "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased," is believed to refer to the "FARM AND FIRESIDE."

CHICAGO LUMBER TRADE.—There are forty firms in the lumber-trade in Chicago, Ill., employing 2000 hands, making up 21,000,000 feet per month into doors, surfacing, flooring, siding, blinds and boxes.

A MICROSCOPE has lately been completed, in England, with double the power of any similar instrument previously constructed. It magnifies 15,000 diameters.

LUMBER IN MAINE.—A firm at Skowhegan own 400,000 acres of land on the Kennebec river, which is equal to four townships. This firm will cut 25,000,000 feet of logs this winter—employing 228 oxen, 152 horses and 890 men.

AN exchange says it is so hilly in some parts of New Hampshire, that the people look up their chimneys to see if the cows are coming home.



Poetic Gems.

WINTER.

He comes! the Winter comes!
I hear his footsteps through the night!
I hear his ranguard on the heights
March thro' the pines with muffled drums!

His naked feet are on the mead;
The grass blades stiffen in his path;
No fear for child of earth he hath!
No pity for the tender seed!

The bare oaks shudder at his breath!
A moment by the stream he stays—
Its melody is mute! A glaze
Creeps over its dimples, as of death!

Here is your mission! Ye who feed
Your lavish fires! Not afar,
But at your doors your hearthen are!
God's poor—your creditors! Take heed!

The path is long to Pagan shores!
Their skies are sunny—God o'er all!
The Winter's deadly harvests fall
Around you! Deal your Master's stores!

Fireside Tales.

THE WEDDING GIFT.

"I am at such a loss to know what to get for Kate Ellerton," said Fanny Talbot as she sat in the library one morning, busily netting a purse: "I do think it is one of the most perplexing things in the world to choose a wedding present."

"Yes," replied her cousin Ellen, as she assorted her worsteds; "especially where the bride has a fortune of her own; Kate has had everything her fancy or taste could wish for all her life long, and she is to marry a man who is ready to lavish thousands upon her; what can one give her which she has not already?"

"True, it won't do to give her anything cheap or common, and yet I don't feel like spending a great deal for a present which, after all, she will care so little about."

"What do you think of me, then? If I were as independent as you are, I could make magnificent presents; but papa frets more and more every day about our expenses, which he says are really enormous; I quite dread to ask him for a dollar now, and he has forbidden me to get trusted."

"Really, cousin Ellen, I didn't dream of your being so poverty-stricken," said Fanny, laughing. "Will you go down with me and see what can be found? I must go this very morning; I am afraid it will be difficult to fix upon anything, for as I said before, it must be something rare or peculiarly tasteful that will suit Kate's fastidious taste."

"I will go Fanny, but not to make any purchase to-day."

"If I were you, Ellen, I wouldn't think of giving Kate anything very expensive; some little trifle will show your kind feeling, and please her just as well."

"But then, you know, the presents will be paraded before everybody, and all sorts of comments made. I can see now the curl on Joanna Cushing's lip, as she says, 'so that was from Ellen Chester; it is singular what taste some people have!' Oh, dear, I must try to give her something decent."

It was a wearisome, unprofitable morning which the cousins spent in bookstores, printshops and jewelry establishments. Such quantities of gold and silver plate of every imaginable variety, such glittering jewelry, such a profusion of enticing knick-knacks of all conceivable shapes and uses passed in review before them, as fairly made their eyes ache and heads grow dizzy. Yet to all some objections had arisen; this was common; this is inelegant and in bad taste; another too expensive; and others, very many others, Kate already had. The shopkeepers were unwearied in their endeavors to please their fastidious customers, and placed before them new piles and gems and trinkets, making the task of deciding every moment more impossible.

"I believe I shall take this," said Fanny at last in a despairing tone, laying her finger on a little watch-stand of most exquisite design; "even Kate's taste must be satisfied with anything so unique and beautiful as this."

The little watch-stand was of alabaster; the principal figure upon it was a sleeping Cupid, wrought into such symmetrical proportions, and with a face of such bewitching sweetness,

that Fanny had turned again and again to look at it with fresh delight. It gratified her artistic taste as nothing else had done through the morning; the only objection to it was the price—seventy-five dollars.

"It is much more than I designed to give," added she, "but it is the only really beautiful thing I have seen this morning, and as you say, Ellen, one must give her something decent."

"Oh, I shouldn't mind the price if I were you," answered Ellen, "it is so lovely, so exquisite!"

But there was "a still small voice" in Fanny's breast, which remonstrated; true she had a large fortune entirely at her own disposal, but that very morning she had resolved to spend that fortune as a true-hearted Christian woman should; and there now rose before her visions of suffering mothers, of hungry children and wandering outcasts, waiting to be relieved and fed and brought home to virtue; and she hesitated to gratify her taste by such a large outlay.

"I will let you know to-morrow morning," she said to the salesman, rousing herself from her reverie.

"To-morrow is Sunday," whispered Ellen.

"Oh yes, so it is; Monday morning, then, if you will reserve it till that time."

It was getting late when Fanny and Ellen hurried to the next square to reach their carriage. As they were rapidly threading their way in the crowd, Fanny chanced to brush rather rudely against a poor woman who turned toward her a face of such extreme pallor and sadness that she involuntarily paused an instant, but the crowd pressed between them, the face was lost, and Fanny hurried on. It was but a glimpse, yet that face haunted her; there was in it such an expression of heart-broken sorrow and utter hopelessness that she was sure some uncommon grief must have fallen upon its owner. Fanny longed to comfort her, to speak at least a word of sympathy and kindness to that forlorn and desolate woman. "Ah," thought she, "how many different kinds of sorrow there are in the world; how many are wretched and miserable around me, while I am wrapped about with luxuries, and can gratify every wish. Yet I too might have been born in poverty, and he now returning cold and hungry, toilsome and desolate to some filthy hovel. Such, and similar thoughts, rushed incoherently through her brain, saddening her more than she would have liked to acknowledge to her light-hearted cousin Ellen, who was gaily chattering away about persons and things around them, till they reached home just in time to dress for dinner.

That luxurious meal over, Fanny escaped to her room, glad of a little quiet after the bustle of the day. There rose before her again that sad, pale face, and a series of self-reproachful thoughts passed through her mind.

Fanny Talbot was an orphan, whose parents had lived in a beautiful country village of New England. They both died before Fanny was ten years old, and from that period she had found a home in New York with Mrs. Chester, her father's sister. Being an only child, she had inherited her father's fortune, which was a handsome one, so that in a pecuniary point of view she was entirely independent of her relatives.

Fanny had no recollection of her father, but she had most sweet and tender memories of her mother, who had survived him several years. That beloved mother's pale face, her sweet voice, all the sweeter for the touch of sorrow in it, and her delicate, slight figure, on which disease had laid its hand, were all indelibly impressed upon the heart of the orphan child. She remembered, too, the pleasant walks they had taken on the banks of the little stream; the hymns her mother had sung to her at twilight, and the prayers she offered as they knelt side by side in their quiet home. There were sweet pictures painted on her memory of green fields with yellow dandelions and red clover-blossoms; of hills covered with tall, dark pines; and of the little brook which wound in fanciful curves through the old pasture; and often when surrounded by brick walls and crowded streets, these pictures had risen before her with a calm and refreshing influence. Like a golden thread these recol-

lections had run through the web of her life, blending with its varying texture, almost imperceptibly, yet imparting to it a bright, fresh hue it would otherwise have lacked.

But Fanny's character had been still more influenced by the remembrance of her mother's dying hours. Never could she forget the sick-room with its darkened windows, or the awe which crept over her young soul as she stood by the bedside and watched the pallid cheek and the fitful, laborious breathing; nor the morning when she found that room was vacant, when no mother's loving face was there; no soft, low voice to whisper, "Good morning, dear,"—nothing but silence and desolation, such as only death can bring.

Many years had passed away; Fanny had received an expensive education, and was now entering society with all the advantages which youth, cultivation of mind and elegance of manner give. Her aunt had been affectionate and kind, almost as her own mother, but she differed widely in one respect; she was a fashionable, worldly woman, who attached great importance to outward show, and had never felt the constraining power of religious principle. But the last wish and the last prayer of the dying mother's heart had been answered, and amid the temptations to a different course which had surrounded her, Fanny had been led to love holiness and to consecrate herself cheerfully and fully to the service of the Savior. But she was far from perfect. Naturally gentle and yielding, she too often glided thoughtlessly with the current, and found it very difficult to do what her conscience dictated; and very often she mourned bitterly over her deficiencies, and resolved to make new efforts for progress in the heavenly life.

On the evening to which we have referred, as she sat alone in her luxuriously furnished room, a train of self-reproachful thoughts passed painfully through her mind. She saw she was wasting life, frittering it away to no good purpose. "I am perpetually busy," thought she, "but what do I accomplish? Whom do I make better or happier? What except selfish entertainment or enjoyment do I aim at or achieve? Yet I have health, time and some little portion of wealth at my command. Oh, it ought not, *must* not be so! Bitter and repentant tears filled her eyes; the image of her mother rose before her, and she felt that if she had lived, it would have been easy for her to be good. "But all this is weakness," she said at length, rising and going to the window; "I am old enough to know my duty and to do it, without leaning on any earthly arm. I must learn to surmount difficulties, and gain some character and independence." And she resolved, alas, not for the first time, that she would be more decided, would save time, would seek out objects of charity and relieve their wants, would be self-denying and thoughtful of others in all her daily life.

She was conscious of having spent a large proportion of her income foolishly; not on herself entirely, but certainly to no available purpose. She had often given impulsively, but she had been too indolent to adopt active and systematic measures for the relief of suffering. Now, she resolved to give time and labor as well as money to the woes and wants of her fellow-creatures, and to practice self-denial in their behalf. She raised the curtain and looked out into the night. From the windows opposite, a bright gleam, softened by the crimson drapery, shone out, and the notes of a piano fell on her ear; beyond were innumerable roofs and chimneys, peering one above another, till all were lost in the darkening distance. Below, the crowd were still passing to and fro—a mingled mass of human beings, each with his own burden of care and toil, of crime and sorrow. "Ah, over how many souls does the Great Father keep his watch," said Fanny, as she gazed upon the moving host, "and none is forgotten or uncared for. What fearful spectacles of woe and crime does his eye now behold;" and she gazed fearfully at the little patch of sky overhead, where the stars were shining as calmly and serenely as if there was no such thing as guilt and breaking hearts in all the world below.

While in this hushed and softened mood, her thoughts reverted to the occupation of the

morning and the wedding gift. She was little disposed now to lavish money for the mere gratification of her taste, or the momentary pleasure of a friend. "No," thought she, "I will save that money for some poor creature who is suffering for the very necessities of life; how much good it would do that poor woman I saw to-day, while Kate would never spend two thoughts upon it."

But there rose before her, grim and threatening, that phantom which has frightened multitudes from doing what their better judgment sanctioned, the opinion of the world—of her world. "What would everybody say if she were to make no present? What would Kate herself think?"

Seldom had Fanny Talbot thought so seriously about her duty, and the distinction between right and wrong as on that evening, and the result of all her meditations was as follows:

"I will give Kate that crayon sketch I took at the White Mountains last summer; she liked it very much, and I know will value it, because it was done by my own hand; this will show her I have not forgotten her; and as for others, why, I will not care; I will for once do what I think is right; I must gain some firmness, and I may as well begin to act independently now as ever." And her heart glowed with deep and fervent joy as she remembered that her heavenly Father would see and approve, and that perhaps her mother's sainted spirit might be bending lovingly, joyfully over the child who was striving to do right.

The Sabbath, with its sweet hours of stillness and heart communion, and of sacred worship in "the holy place of prayer," strengthened Fanny's new formed resolutions; and she went out early Monday morning to see her washerwoman, whom she had heard was ill. As if by a providential arrangement, (are not all the minutest events of our daily life providential?) she saw on a crossing, just before her, the same pale-faced, poorly clad woman who had interested her so much the day before. She hastened to join her, yet, fearing to seem rude, hesitated how to accost her. At last she said: "I passed you on Saturday, and thought you were looking ill. May I ask you if you are not an invalid?"

"My health is not quite good, ma'am, but I am able to go out on all pleasant days."

"In what part of the city do you live?" A bright flush passed over the pale face, and evading the question, she replied, "in the lower part, since I came to the city."

"Then you are from the country."

"Yes, ma'am, I lived in Greenbrook, Connecticut, till two years ago."

In Greenbrook, the dear, sweet home of Fanny's childhood, the spot where her mother had died, and where her precious dust now slumbered!

"Did you ever know there a Mrs. Talbot?" she asked hurriedly, without stopping to think how unlikely it was she ever did.

"Mrs. William Talbot, who died there several years ago?"

"Yes; did you know her?"

"Know her?" answered the poor woman, her face lighting up with a glow of pleasure. "Yes, indeed; I nursed her when her little Fanny was born, and she was always the truest, kindest friend a poor woman ever had! It was a sad day for Greenbrook when she passed away. If she were but living now!"

"What would you wish of her? Tell me."

The stranger lifted a quick, earnest glance to the speaker's face, and exclaimed, "No, it cannot be, and yet there is just the look about the eye. Can you be a relative of hers?"

"Yes, she was my mother. I am the little Fanny you cared for twenty years ago."

"Then," said the woman with streaming tears, "my prayer is answered; God has not forgotten me. I know you were in New York and I felt sure that if I could find you, I could tell you all my troubles; for I was certain your mother's child could never have a hard or unfeeling heart."

Fanny's eyes glistened with tender emotions. She felt as if God had indeed blest her desire to do right, by giving her this opportunity of helping her mother's friend in the hour of need. It was almost like helping her, and a thrill of joy ran through her soul as she remembered who had said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it

STRANGE REQUEST.—The late Mr. R. Garrett, a rich agricultural implement maker in England, bequeathed in his last will to three hundred of his employes a great coat each. The distribution of the coats has been made.

A MAINE boy amused himself some years ago planting apple seeds. The result is a net profit of seven hundred dollars from a fine orchard this season.

THE Pennsylvania Steel Company are erecting extensive works near Harrisburg, for the manufacture of Bessemer steel. They will commence with an annual capacity of 15,000 tons. Steel will soon supersede iron for many purposes.

THE oldest of the John Smiths, claiming 117 years, is said to live at Pleasant Mills, N. J.

FARMERS should remember what Robert Hall says—"No man can ever become eminent in anything, unless he work at it with an earnestness bordering on enthusiasm."

WILLIAM HENRY JAMES, the inventor of the tubular boiler for locomotives, is living in poverty, in London, aged 77.

FINE, fresh strawberries are announced in the city of Savannah.



unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

Mrs. Reed promised to call on Fanny in the afternoon, being then on her way to return some sewing to an employer; and they parted, Fanny going on her errand of mercy with a light heart.

Mrs. Reed's story, though a very sad one, was by no means an uncommon one. Left a widow, she had maintained herself respectably by her labor in the village of Greenbrook till her son sent for her to come to him. He had lived in the city several years; he was an only child, and should have been the stay of her old age, but alas, his career had been a downward one, and at the time his mother came to New York, he had reached the lowest state of degradation. His wife, scarcely better than himself, had died, leaving four little children motherless.

It was a sad change from the beauty and greenness of her sweet country home to the close, filthy street where Robert lived, from haud to mouth, in the most wretched way. But a mother's love and courage triumphed over all that was dreary and repulsive; and she struggled on, caring for the poor orphans, and still hoping her boy might be saved from utter ruin. It was all in vain. The profligate sunk deeper and deeper in sin and shame, till he came to his end in a way too shocking for the mother to relate. Her heart was broken; but bravely she toiled on, straining every nerve to keep starvation from the helpless little ones. One after the other, two of these children had sickened and died; and Mrs. Reed, with shattered health and weary heart, was now watching over the remaining two, with that womanly tenderness which is only made stronger by suffering and sorrow.

"If I could but get to Greenbrook with the children," she said to Fauny, "I have thought I might contrive to support them there, and the poor little things would then grow strong and healthy; but it takes money to travel, and I really can't do more than get shelter and daily bread for them; and such a home as it is—oh, Miss Talbot, I never thought to come to this. It was wicked pride perhaps which made me unwilling to tell you where I lived, but I had always a tidy home till I came here; now I am in a garret, and everything about it is so filthy, vile and wretched. Ah, little do the poor in the country know what distress and poverty are, for they can always at least have fresh air to breathe, and room to move."

Never had Fauny Talbot, the admired and fashionable heiress, felt an emotion of purer joy than when she saw she had in her power to provide for this noble-hearted woman. "That seventy-five dollars," thought she, "will take them all to the blessed country; oh, how much wiser the outlay for such a purpose, than for a wedding gift."

For many days Fanny's heart and thoughts were much occupied in planning for the Reeds. By economizing a little the coming summer, giving up the six weeks at Newport and the fashionable dresses needed there, for all which in her inmost heart she cared so little, she could take a pleasant cottage in Greenbrook, furnish it comfortably, and settle Mrs. Reed and the children in it. Yes, that was what she would do; and she would go herself to clear, quiet Greenbrook, board there through the summer, and see with her own eyes the Reeds provided for; and instead of her usual round of brilliant gaieties would refresh her spirit by communion with the hills and forests and bright streams of her native place. Sweet peace entered her soul as she thus resolved to free herself from the fetters which had hitherto bound her to a certain routine of living, and act in accordance with the dictates of her own warm, generous heart, regardless of ridicule or the contemptuous sneers of her fashionable friends.

It is Kate Ellerton's wedding night. Gay and beautiful is the scene, graced by beauty, elegance, and the most refined and cultivated taste; nothing is wanting to the enchantment of the hour. The presents have been exhibited in an ante-room, and, really magnificent and splendid, have been applauded by the admiring guests. Fauny's little drawing, prettily framed by her own hands, and sent with an affectionate note, is not among them; that is a heart

gift too sacred and dear to be paraded. The absence of anything costly from Fanny Talbot was often commented on, according to the individual views of the speakers, but these comments never reached her ear, or if they did, had no power to disturb the sweet serenity of her soul.

"Why, if there isn't Fanny Talbot in that same white silk she wore to Mary Gray's party. How ridiculous! I should think she might afford a decent dress, if nothing more."

The gentleman to whom this remark was made turned to look at the lady referred to, and though he did not say it, he thought, as she stood there, in her robe of snowy white, with no ornament save one pure white camelia in her beautiful tresses, her face glowing with a serene inward light which irradiated every feature, that never before had he seen any woman who was so nearly the realization of his long-cherished ideal of feminine loveliness.

It cost Fanny something, nay much, (for she had a gentle heart, which grieved to annoy or pain her friends), to break away from the plans laid for her, and separate herself so entirely from her uncle and aunt for the summer; but in rambling about the shady nooks, and fragrant musical old woods of Greenbrook in the quiet summer hours, she inhaled fresh, vigorous life with every breeze; yes, fresh mental and spiritual as well as physical life; and she returned to the city, when the leaves were strewn her favorite walks, and the autumn winds singing their wild, sad requiem over the departing beauty of the forests, a stronger, wiser, and nobler woman; a woman living henceforth, a life of self-denying activity for the good of others, and of true allegiance to all that was best and highest in her nature; a noble, happy, serene life, which diffused far and near the blessings of a pure example, as well as the choice and precious gifts which her true benevolence, guided by a refined taste, knew so well how to suitably dispense. Many rose up and called her blessed; and to her could be truly applied the holy words, "blessed is he who considereth the poor; the Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive, and he shall be blessed upon the earth."

BRYANT, THE POET.

It is just fifty years ago since Bryant published his "Thanatopsis" in the North American Review, and yet that "good gray head which all men know" still lingers with us, honored and revered. One easily guesses the secret of his long and useful life by watching his habits in these latter days in his own home at Cedar-mere. He rises at six in the morning, and exercises with dumb bells for an hour. He congratulates himself on his slender build, and says, laughingly: "How much better it would be to carry a heavy load for half an hour, and then be relieved of the burden, than to carry it with one forever, at every step." He is simple to abstemiousness in his diet. While his breakfast table is amply supplied with variety for his guests, he contents himself with a dish of boiled hominy and milk. He uses neither tea nor coffee, though they are always offered to others. He writes chiefly in the morning, and devotes the afternoon to outdoor exercises, and the evenings to social enjoyment; for he is fortunately rich enough to be free from the necessity of excessive labor. His attachment to his home at Cedar-mere is very strong; and he interests himself in the concerns of his neighbors with a hearty friendliness. May his kindly face, with its flowing, silvery beard and hair, linger long under those beloved trees which rise above Cedar-mere.

TOBACCO.—The Northampton (Massachusetts) Gazette says tobacco is a dull crop just now. Most of the tobacco raisers in the vicinity have two years' crops on hand, with no more prospect of a ready sale for it now than there was a year ago. At Hartford, Connecticut, seed leaf finds few buyers at thirty cents.

FRUIT-GROWERS SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Fruit-Growers Society will be held at Harrisburg, on the 16th inst. The convention will continue in session several days, and fruit growing will be amply discussed. We shall give an abstract of the proceedings.

The Poultry-Yard.

POULTRY IN FROSTY WEATHER.

THERE is something exhilarating in frost.—When the early morning breaks on the earth covered with rime, and the hard ground seems to spurn the foot that treads on it, and the sun rises like a disc of burning copper, there is something cheerful about it. Nature has donned her masquerade dress of white. Your horse cannot contain himself, and the steady old friend, for some months past content to shake his head or whisk his tail as the only answer to what a granddaughter of ours calls "a good cut o' the whip," now seeks to devour space, and to try conclusions with your strength or that of your reins. In like manner your tried friend, the old dog, gambols, and, in the gleesomecess of his feelings, he picks up a shred of cloth in the field, and shakes and tosses it for very wantonness. The appearance of real winter, then, is a holiday for many, but (ah! those *buts*;) not to all. It is none to the poultry. Water is frozen; the ground is so hard they cannot scratch, there is not an insect of any kind on its surface; and they must depend on their owner for everything they want. See that they lack nothing. First they must have water. Few people have any idea of the suffering caused to birds by the lack of water. Their power of maintaining life on the smallest quantity of food is wonderful, provided they have water; but a practiced eye can tell in a dead fowl or pigeon, whether it suffered or not from thirst. The skin becomes hard, dry and red; the flesh contracts, as it were, and becomes brown, and the whole body looks as if it had been suddenly shrivelled or dried up. You must bear in mind they require more food and better than they do in milder weather; and if you can, let them have a greater variety. They want substitutes for the worms and insects. Now, the scraps of meat and fat from the table should go to the fowls. Save the draining of all the glasses, pour them together, and sweep all the crumbs and odd corners of bread into it. Feed the birds often, and, if there is snow, sweep a clean place and feed there. Never feed any kind of bird in such a manner that they will pick up snow with their food; it is a strong medicine to them. The lark that fattens in two days on the white hoar frost, becomes a wretched skeleton after two days' snow.—*Cottage Gardener.*

FROST HELPS THE FARMER.

In this climate winter rarely sets in until from frequent and heavy rains the ground is pretty thoroughly saturated with water. It would be a misfortune to the agriculturist to have the soil freeze solid and permanently for the season on the heels of a drouth. Wells and springs would fail in the winter time, and the action of frost could not prove so beneficial to the land as if larger quantities of water were present in it. Few take note of the actual effect of freezing and thawing upon all kinds of soil, more especially on the heavy and therefore retentive ones. These most need the action of the frost and nature has provided for them to receive it to a greater extent than naturally light, porous soils. The water is dispersed all through the pores of the soil, and by its expansion when frozen it cracks, pulverizes, lifts apart the particles from each other, to a more minute degree than it is possible to accomplish by any machinery. While this action is favorable to the extension of the roots of plants, it doubtless sets free much plant food which is physically so combined as before to be unavailable as fertilizers. So the looser the soil is left before winter, the better will be the action of frost upon it. On heavy lands, spaded gardens and plowed fields late in autumn are signs of good husbandry.—*Rural New Yorker.*

CRANBERRIES.—Six acres of meadow in the town of Mansfield, Connecticut, were carefully prepared and stocked with cranberry plants, three or four years ago. Last year, upwards of four hundred and fifty bushels of cranberries were gathered on this six-acre cranberry patch. A profitable crop.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.	
Hay 7/2 ton.....\$68	Wood 7/2 cord.....\$62 50
Straw 7/2 ton.....\$20	Beans 7/2 quart.....13c
Coal 7/2 ton.....\$10 00 1/2 50	Potatoes.....90c
Oats 7/2 bush.....\$2 00 1/2 50	Onions.....90c
GROCERIES, &c.	
Flour.....\$11 1/2 00	Raisins.....25c
Corn Meal.....\$1 50	Molasses 7/2 gal.....75c
Rye.....\$1 50	Y. I. Tea.....\$1 25
Saleratus.....10c 1/2 50	Black Tea.....\$0 25 1/2 25
Kerosene Oil.....80c	Oil 7/2 gal.....\$1 00
Cheese 7/2 lb.....20c	Fluid 7/2 gal.....\$1 00
Butter 7/2 lb.....40, 42c 1/2 50	Candles 7/2 lb.....25c 1/2 50
Codfish.....9c	Eggs 7/2 doz.....45c
Java Coffee 7/2 lb.....25c 1/2 50	Lard 7/2 lb.....18c 1/2 50
Mackerel, new.....10c 1/2 50	Sugar 7/2 lb.....14c 1/2 50

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 964; Sheep and Lambs 4,813.
PRICES.—Beef Cattle—Extra, \$12 50@13 00; 1st quality \$12 00@12 25; 2d do. \$11 00@11 75; 3d do. \$9 50@10 50 7/2 100 lbs. (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed Beef.)
 Country Hides—8 1/2@9c 7/2 lb; Country Tallow, 7@7 1/2c 7/2 lb.
 Brighton Hides, 10c 7/2 lb; Brighton Tallow 8@8 1/2c 7/2 lb.
 Lamb Skins, \$1@1 25 each; Sheep Skins, \$1@1 25 each.
 Calf Skins, 17@20c 7/2 lb.
 The supply of cattle in market is small, there being but a few Eastern and Northern, which with those left over, comprise all there is in market for sale. There is not much of a demand for Beef, and prices remain unchanged generally, although in some cases the same quality may sell at a slight advance from last week's prices.
 Stores—With the exceptions of Working Oxen and Milch Cows there are no Stores in market, most of the small cattle being sold for beef.
 Working Oxen—Sales. There is but a few pairs in market.—We quote sales at \$125, 127, 150, 170, 175, 185, 225, 270, 290, 300 7/2 head.
 Milch Cows—Sales extra \$75@100; ordinary \$60@70; Stero Cows \$35@50. Prices of Milch Cows depend altogether upon the fancy of the purchasers; but few in market.
 Sheep and Lambs—The supply is small, and there is a good many nice sheep among them. Trade has been active. We quote sales at 5 1/2, 5 1/4, 5 1/2, 5 3/4, 6, 8 1/2, and 9c 7/2 lb; \$2 75, 1 50, 2 12, 5 78, 3 26, 2 62 7/2 head.
 Swine—None in market.

NEW YORK CATTLE MARKET.

Beef—The supply is light, owing to the storm, yet the market declined still further since last week; poor to medium 9@10c 7/2 lb; medium to fair 11@13; good 13 1/2@15 1/2c. Prime steers 15 1/2@17c; receipts 3600 head. The market for milch cows remains as last quoted; extra good \$100@110 per head; good \$60@100; common to medium \$50@75. Veal calves not active, but good veals being scarce they are firmly supported; prime 12@13c 7/2 lb; good 10@12c; common 8@10c. The market for sheep is dull, with very light demand; common to fair 4@5c 7/2 lb; good to prime 5 1/2@6 1/2c; extra 6 1/2@7; receipts 3800 head. Hogs were dull during the week, but have revived with the return of cold weather; best quality 7@7 1/2c live; 8 1/2 @ 9c dressed; receipts 14,000 head.

NEW YORK WOOL MARKET.

The market has been agitated by the conflicting views and interests of buyers and sellers, and rumors from Washington with regard to the tariff question. The stock of Western fleece is small, and prices of this description are a shade higher, while the better kinds, such as Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania, are in ample supply and without improvement. The desirable kinds of foreign are firm, with more disposition on the part of manufacturers to purchase. We are indebted to Mr. James Lynch for valuable statistics of the wool trade. He estimates the clip of the United States, in 1866, at 137,000,000 lbs. yielding 68,500,000 lbs pure wool. The imports of foreign wool at this port, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, in 1866, aggregate 56,862,284 lbs, of which about 40 per cent, was clean. Thus the aggregate supply of domestic and foreign (pure wool) was 91,244,913 lbs. There are in the United States about 1600 woolen mills, containing about 6000 sets of carding machines, capable of consuming annually 170,000,000 lbs CLEAN material. The sales are 150,000 lbs domestic fleece at 45@60 cents, as extremes, for low to choice grades; 75,000 lbs super and extra pulled, per 44@52c; some tub washed, 50c; 20,000 lbs common California, 18@22c; and small lots fall clip, 2c; 70,000 lbs Texas, 18@24c for low, and 28@32c for good to prime; 280 hales Nestiza, in lots, part 26@30c currency; 10,000 lbs scoured do, 200 hales Cape, and 135,000 lbs Cordora Nails, on private terms.
 Total amount of Wool in New York, January 12, 12,510,670 hales.

PHILADELPHIA CATTLE MARKET.

The following is a statement of the Cattle received and sold at Philadelphia during the year 1866:

	Beets.	Cows.	Hogs.	Sheep.
January,	9,000	800	12,700	43,000
February,	5,800	675	5,900	27,000
March,	8,600	700	7,100	34,000
April,	8,900	805	8,700	27,000
May,	6,100	810	7,500	25,000
June,	5,700	850	6,300	25,000
July,	6,600	1,000	7,900	40,000
August,	10,200	1,600	9,000	66,000
September,	9,600	900	8,000	38,000
October,	8,900	800	11,300	65,000
November,	10,600	1,010	13,600	57,000
December,	10,700	1,100	21,300	56,000
Total, 1866,	100,500	10,820	122,500	512,000

Advertisement.

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W. A. HENNESSEY, PROPRIETOR.
 Manufacturer of FLUE and TUBULAR STEAM BOILERS, OIL and WATER TANKS, WATER PIPE and PLATE IRON WORK of every description.
 Boilers repaired in a thorough manner at short notice.
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 HOS. E. HARRIS, Woonsocket.

MICHIGAN crops are good. White wheat and barley are better than ever before; the oat crop exceeded that of 1865 by 1,000,000 bushels. The total value of the crops, this year, is estimated at \$49,000,000.

THERE is one advantage in being a blockhead—you are never attacked with low spirits or apoplexy. The moment a man can worry he ceases to be a fool.

TWO CELEBRATED race horses, Dan Rice and Lamp-lighter, have been seized by the Collector of Detroit. They were owned and kept in Canada, but frequently taken to Detroit, ostensibly for pleasure drives, and recently sold without the payment of duties.

THE fathers of Generals McClellan, Grant, Sherman, Sedgwick and Mansfield were born in Connecticut.

SETH SOAMON, of Stratham, N. H., has an Ayrshire cow, ten years old last spring, that has given a little over 800 pounds of milk in ten days. In seven days, during the month of June, he made from her milk 2 1/2 pounds of butter.

THE hundred and sixteen members of Congress have their wives, daughters or other ladies with them at Washington, this winter.



Horticulture.

HOW TO RENOVATE AN OLD GARDEN.

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

The complaint is quite common that the soil of our old gardens is deteriorated, that it fails to produce the large and healthy roots that it was wont to do in its virgin state. This deterioration is often seen, even when barn-yard manure has been freely applied, year after year. Our Shaker friends, among others, complain of this degeneracy; and surely no one will accuse them of a niggardly application of manure, or of poor cultivation. From their first settlement in the country, they have ranked among our first horticulturists; feeding their crops bountifully, and reaping a bountiful harvest; but in spite of their skill and unremitting labors, they complain that their potatoes are unhealthy, their turnips worm eaten, and their parsnips deformed with fibrous roots. Every effect must have its cause. Let us briefly inquire the cause of this degeneracy in our old gardens; and, if possible, find a remedy.

In most of our small gardens there is little opportunity for a rotation of crops. Beets, beans, etc., are very apt to be grown in the same locality, year after year. We well remember that in our father's kitchen garden, the sides of the main walks were as regularly sown with beans as the garden was made, and the same beds were made up for beets and onions. As a natural consequence, the soil became exhausted of the peculiar elements which those vegetables particularly required. The analysis of beets and beans shows varying constituents. In the former, the phosphates abound; in the latter, nitrogen. Now, if we raise beans on the same ground year after year, we show that we do not "know beans." The miner might as well wash his placer-soil over and over again, expecting to find the gold dust as plentifully in each succeeding as in the preceding washing.

The first suggestion, then, I would make, for perpetuating the fertility of our gardens, is a rotation of crops. When practicable the location of the garden should be changed every few years; but this is seldom convenient and often impossible. The same crops, however, need not be raised, even in a small garden, for a succession of years, on the same ground. Where corn grows one year, cabbages may grow the next; and thus the land has an opportunity to recuperate its exhausted energies, by drawing from that inexhaustible source of fertility, the air.

Another mode of restoring vigor to our gardens, is deep cultivation. This may be done by trenching with the spade—an expensive mode—or by the subsoil and trench plows. The latter is an effective instrument for deepening the soil, and depth is an essential in a good garden, but does not bring to the surface the underlying stratum of earth, like the subsoil plow. This under stratum is often just what the garden needs to restore its ancient fertility, furnishing those very elements of which the surface soil has been deprived by long cultivation. When the subsoil plow cannot be conveniently obtained, the same effect may be produced by running a common plow twice in the same furrow. Where the soil of a garden is a clay loam, with clay in preponderance, we have seen wonderful effects produced by drawing pure sand upon it. When a sand bank is not within convenient distance, a similar result may be effected by carting upon the garden the washings of the road-side. If the soil is a sandy loam, the probability is that clay is the ingredient wanted for its invigoration; and a load of clay may do far more good than a load of manure. Muck, also, sometimes acts like a charm in restoring fertility to an exhausted soil; but the most certain of all restoratives that we have ever tried, is the decayed leaves of the forest. In every grove we find places where the wind has deposited the leaves for years, and perhaps centuries, and their decay has formed a virgin soil as rich as the garden of Eden. A few loads of this forest soil, carted upon an old garden, renews its age. It has the same effect upon the garden as it was supposed the much sought, but never found, elixir



THE FARMER.

How blest the farmer's simple life—
How pure the joy it yields!
Far from the world's tempestuous strife,
Free, 'mid the scented fields!

When morning woo's, with roseate hue,
O'er the far hills away,
His footsteps brush the silvery dew,
To greet the welcoming day.

When Sol's first beam in glory glows,
And hith the skylark's song,
Pleased, to his toils the farmer goes,
With cheerful steps along.

While noon hroods o'er the sultry sky,
And sunbeams fierce are cast,
Where the cool streamlet wanders by,
He shares his sweet repast.

The twilight's gentlest shadows fall
Along the darkening plain,
He lists his faithful watch-dog's call
To warn the listening train.

Down the green lane young hurrying feet
Their eager pathway press;
His loved ones come in joy to greet,
And claim their sire's caress.

Then, when the evening prayer is said,
And Heaven with praise is blest,
How sweet reclines his weary head
On slumber's couch of rest!

Nor deem that fears his dreams alarm,
Nor cares, with carking din;
Without, his dogs will guard from harm,
And all is peace within.

O ye, who run in folly's race,
To win a worthless prize,
Learn from the simple tale we trace,
Where true contentment lies!

Ho! monarch! flush'd with glory's pride!
Thou painted, gilded thing!
Hie to the free-horn farmer's side,
And learn to be a king!

of the old alchemists would have on man's physical nature, giving it perpetual youth.—Mixed with a little sand, it is just the soil for our hot-beds and the pots of house plants.—We were admiring, one day, the thrifty plants of a Scotch lady, and asked her the secret of her success. "La! there is no secret about it," said she; "my father was a gardener, and taught me that rotted leaves were cheaper and better than manure; and I fill my pots with the virgin soil of forests, selecting some sandy spot, and my plants grow in spite of me."

This was good Scotch common sense, and we took the hint. If the forest soil is good for house plants, it must also be good for garden crops; and we have found it so. We know that it seems like "robbing Peter to pay Paul," when we deprive the forests of their legitimate accumulated food, to enrich our gardens; but it is man's prerogative to judge where the enriching material is most needed; and besides, these forests are great misers, constantly accumulating from the air and storing their riches in the earth; and frequently these riches are so great that the trees will not miss a few earloads. If any one is skeptical as to the effect of this forest soil, let him try a little of it in his pots or hot-beds; and we are greatly mistaken if its use will not be extended to the garden.

January, 1867.

KEEPING FRUIT.

Fruit houses and special patents for keeping fruit, says a contemporary, have of late become the rage, and while we are disposed to favor every progress in the science of horticulture, either as connected with the growing or keeping of fruits, &c., yet we feel unwilling that any of our readers should be impressed with the idea that keeping apples for spring uses is at all a matter requiring either the use of a fruit house or any special patent. Records are daily made, and have been for years of the success of keeping apples after being frozen solid, and hundreds of barrels are yearly buried in the earth and brought out in spring as fresh as so many potatoes. The one great feature connected with the preservation of a frozen apple is that it be kept in the dark until completely thawed out. And the successful feature of keeping apples in ordinary dry cellars, is to place them in bins, or boxes, of about one foot in depth, and cover them from all light, while at the same time there is kept up a free circulation of air in the apartment. Light and warmth serve to assist the natural process of maturation, while shade and a cool temperature retard it. Shade, again, in a confined atmosphere, as in the case of apples barreled tight, often advances decay rather than retards it. This is known to every fruit dealer, and to most men who purchase their winter's fruit from the dealer. On opening a barrel of apples that have been headed up tight for a couple of weeks or more, their appearance is fresh and good; but a few days' exposure causes them to

grow dull looking; and, if a light colored fruit, to soon present the appearance of having been half baked. This is from the steam or warmth moisture of the fruit. Had the barrel-heads and some part of the side-staves been bored so as to let off this moisture engendered from the warmth of the fruit so confined, the apples on opening would appear equally well, and with care in the hands of the consumer, could be kept a long time. It will be remembered, therefore, that to keep apples it is not only requisite to exclude the light, but that free circulation of air, even if it be down to a freezing point, or even below, is also necessary.

PEAS AND BEANS.

THESE articles have been found by chemical analysis rich in nitrogen. The inference has been that they would be specially useful in supporting the waste of the muscles of animals, and it has been suggested that they would be particularly useful in the production of wool. They are evidently valuable for these purposes, but not less valuable for the production of fat. Those persons who have used peas for fattening hogs, consider them worth as much as Indian corn. In districts where that grain is not grown, very fine pork is produced from peas. Dickson, in his work "On the Breeding of Live Stock," states that a sweep-stakes was entered into between five East Lothian farmers, to be claimed by the one who should be pronounced the best feeder of cattle. Forty cattle of the same breed, and in equal condition, were divided between them, as fairly as possible. They were put up together the second week in September, and killed at Christmas following. The winner of the stakes fed his animals wholly on boiled beans, with hay.

COVERING STRAWBERRIES.—C. E. King, of Westchester, New York, says, he used to think that covering strawberries was but a waste of time. In the fall of 1865, he had a bed of strawberries, twenty rods in length, and about a rod in breadth. Four rods, on one end, were covered, the others remained uncovered. In spring, as soon as cold weather was over, the thickest of the covering was removed. The plants, covered, started first, and looked best through the season. The four rods covered, produced one hundred boxes of strawberries; the remainder of the bed, a few scattering berries.

CALIFORNIA WINE PRODUCTION.—During last month a convention of the wine-growers of the State of California was held at San Francisco, at which it was reported that the State would produce during the present season about 1,500,000 gallons of wine.

Time and labor, devoted to the collection of materials to be converted into manure, are the most fruitful sources of profit in the whole range of farm economy.

Advertising Column.

Rhode Island.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares 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.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Shares Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potato Diggers, Lukin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

EXTRA HEAVY PLOWS, for road work and for breaking up new land, made by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Massachusetts.

HAY FOR SALE.—From seven to ten tons of good Meadow Hay. (2w-1) ARNOLD TAFT, Mendon, Mass.

LUMBER FOR SALE.—Twelve to fifteen thousand feet of Chestnut Lumber—most of it two inch Plank. (2w-1) ARNOLD TAFT, Mendon, Mass.

Pennsylvania.

H. A. DREER'S SEED AND AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE, No. 714 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. A full stock of fresh and genuine VEGETABLE, FLOWER, AND GRASS SEEDS, IMPLEMENTS, BOOKS, &c. Just published, DREER'S WHOLESALERS LIST, for the Trade only. DREER'S FARMERS' AND GARDENERS' PRICE LIST. DREER'S GARDEN CALENDAR for 1867, with lists of Seeds, Plants, &c., and with brief directions. Either of the above will be mailed on receipt of a stamp.

LANDRETH'S RURAL REGISTER AND ALMANAC, FOR 1867, IS JUST PUBLISHED. It contains many valuable hints on Rural Affairs, and will be mailed to all who ENCLOSE A TWO CENT STAMP, with their address. DAVID LANDRETH & SON, Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 21 & 23 South-Sixth Street, Philadelphia.

FIELD, GARDEN, AND FLOWER SEEDS. WILLIAM HACKER, No. 803 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Importer and Grower of AGRICULTURAL AND GARDEN SEEDS, TREES, PLANTS, AND BULBS. Circulars on application. Country Merchants, Dealers, and Druggists supplied at the lowest rates.

PERUVIAN GUANO SUBSTITUTE 1 BAUGH'S RAW BONE SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME. BAUGH & SONS, Sole Manufacturers, Office, No. 20 South Delaware Avenue, PHILADELPHIA. BAUGH BROTHERS & Co., General Wholesale Agents, 181 Pearl Street, New York. ALLEN & NEEDLES, Manufacturers of SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME, AND AMMONIATED FERTILIZERS. OFFICES, { 42 South Delaware Avenue, } PHILADELPHIA. { 41 South Water Street, } Established in 1848.

C. B. ROGERS, 133 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA, Dealer in CLOVER, ORCHARD, and KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS SEEDS. GARDEN SEEDS, Imported and American. Canary, Hemp and Rape Seed.

New Jersey.

PURE BRED ALDERNEYS.—For sale, a number of Pure Bred Bulls, fit for service. Also, a few Alderney Cows, Heifers and Calves. C. H. SHINN, Haddonfield, N. J., and 222 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

FOUNTAIN GREEN FARM AT PRIVATE SALE.—The subscriber will sell at private sale his Farm situate half a mile from Wrightstown, Burlington County, N. J., and directly on the line of the Pemberton and Hightstown Railroad, the construction of which is about to commence. This Farm contains TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY ACRES, is well watered, has all the modern improvements, and is one of the best Farms in the county. For terms, apply to CURTIS DAVIS, "Bingham House," Philadelphia.

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—The Massachusetts Supreme Court has decided that the appropriation of \$50,000 by the town of Amherst, in aid of the State Agricultural College is constitutional. The matter was contested by some of the tax-payers.

LANDRETH'S RURAL REGISTER AND ALMANAC is an unpretending pamphlet published annually by Messrs. D. Landreth & Son, the well known Seedsmen of Philadelphia. The number for 1867 is just published, and having had an opportunity of examining it, we can commend its contents as of value to our readers. It may be had GRATIS of the publishers.

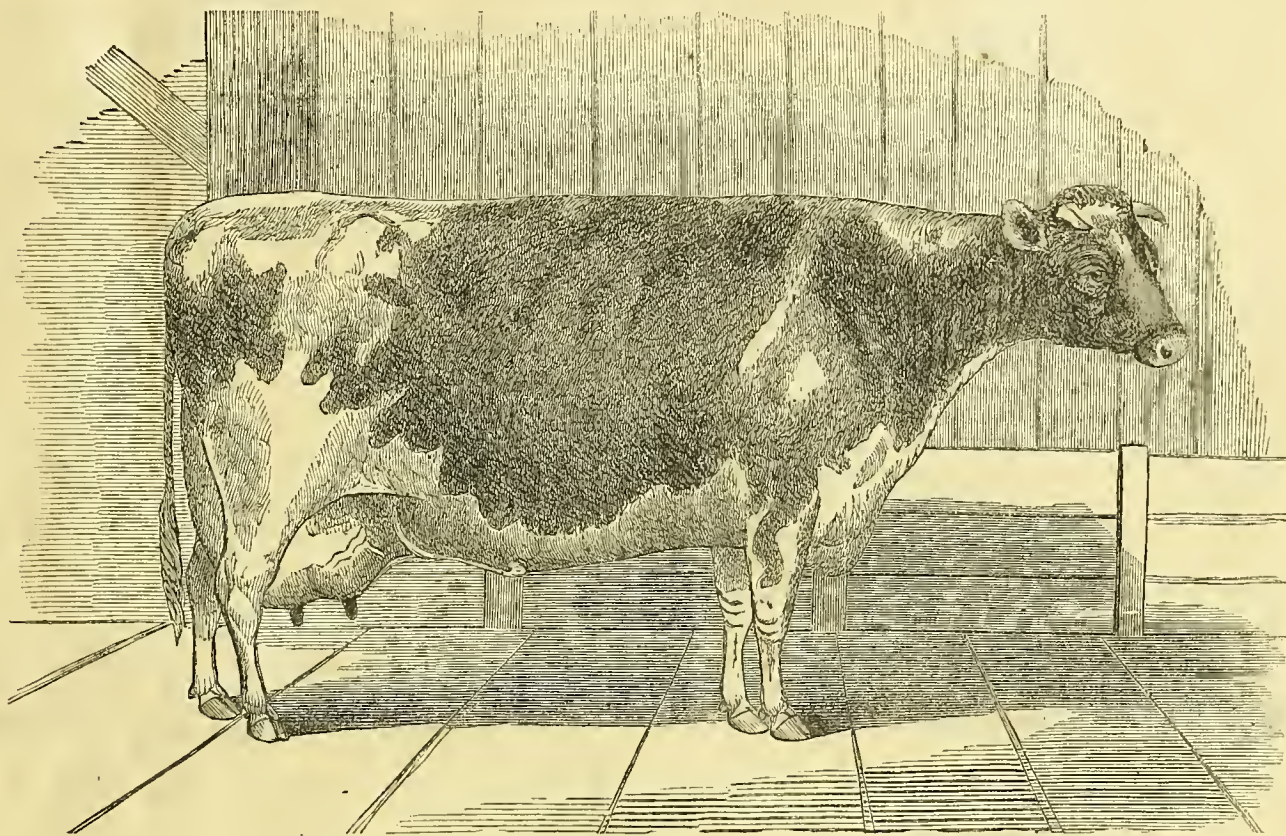
THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers.—The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and the fireside.

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 OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

VOL. 1. WOODSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1867. NO. 2.



HOLSTEIN (OR DUTCH) COW, "TEXELAAR."

OWNED BY WINTHROP W. CHENERY, ESQ., HIGHLAND STOCK FARM, BELMONT, MASS.

[SEE ARTICLE BELOW.]

HOLSTEIN (OR DUTCH) CATTLE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY AN AMERICAN BREEDER.

ASIDE from their peculiar adaptation to the climate and topography of a large portion of the United States, the Holstein or Dutch race of cattle possess a combination of good qualities which recommend them to the farmers of this country as superior to any other breed for all purposes. They are, doubtless, inferior to the Jerseys in the production of rich cream and intensely yellow butter; nor are they superior to the Short Horn in the matter of producing the largest amount of ordinary beef in the shortest time, provided the feed is superabundant; and, in some localities, where small oxen prove satisfactory, the Devons answer a good purpose. But, the general farmer does not desire to keep Jerseys for butter, Short Horns for beef, and Devons for work; it, therefore, seems to be a pertinent question for his consideration, whether there is not some breed of cattle combining these various qualities to a greater extent than other breeds.

It is claimed that the Holstein or Dutch breed is capable of producing milk cows that will yield more butter, and incomparably more milk and cheese, than can be produced from cows of any other breed; working oxen as large, strong, and well made, as the Short Horn, and as high-spirited, intelligent and tractable as the Devon. Moreover, experience has proved them to be admirably adapted to withstand the extremes of heat and cold peculiar to our climate.

As to the fattening properties of this race of cattle, and their value as feeding stock, there can be no question. Their large size, great

muscular development, early maturity, and easy, quiet dispositions, all conduce to dispel any doubts that may arise upon this point.

It may be said that the Holstein Cattle have not been imported or bred in this country, in sufficient numbers, to warrant an estimate of their value in comparison with other breeds.—It is, however, known that a six years old cow of this breed has produced, in this country, over thirty-five quarts of milk in one day, and eighteen pounds of butter in six days; while chemical analysis of their milk here, and the experience of centuries abroad, prove them to have no rivals in the cheese dairy. It is, also, known that grade Dutch oxen have been raised in this country very superior for work, and attaining to a weight of forty-six hundred lbs. to the yoke at five years of age; and the growth of calves has been found, by actual test, to average three pounds per day.

Not the least valuable characteristic of the Holstein cattle is the magnificent appearance they present to the eye of the connoisseur.—They rival the Short Horn in size and form; while the striking contrast of jet black and snow white in their color, render them, when grouped in the field or on the lawn, picturesque and beautiful, beyond comparison with any other breed.

Every interested person who has been present at the annual exhibitions of the New England Agricultural Society for the last three years, must have been cognizant of the public appreciation of the Holstein cattle presented for exhibition on those several occasions.—

The committee appointed to judge of the merits of these cattle at the exhibition of 1864, stated their "desire to express the very great gratification they have experienced in survey-

ing the fine proportions of these noble animals, and of perusing the statements of their milk-producing capacities. Their presence here has been a marked feature of the exhibition, and the committee cannot doubt that their importation and infusion is to have, in the future, a most beneficial influence upon the stock of the country. * * * It is claimed for the milk of these animals, and chemical analysis proves it, that it is wonderfully rich in the constituents of cheese," &c. And the committee on herds of cattle, at the fair of the Middlesex (Mass.) Agricultural Society, in 1864, state, in reference to the Dutch cattle on exhibition: "They are cattle worthy of the land of their nativity—the land of the dairy par excellence;" and that they "would constitute an object of prime attraction at any agricultural fair in the land."

One of the oldest and most respected farmers and stock-breeders of Eastern Massachusetts, who is qualified by large experience to be a discriminating judge, sums up the merits of the Dutch cattle in a published statement, in these words:

"After forty years experience, and trying almost every breed of cattle that came within my knowledge, I think the Dutch breed excel all other breeds in three points; first, for early beef; second, for working oxen; third, for large quantities of milk."

January, 1867.

As a good food for plants, a Russian chemist recommends the use of forty pounds of ground bones, forty pounds of wood ashes, six parts of lime, and water enough to mix them well.

THE CONCORD GRAPE.

The committee appointed by the Horticultural Association of the American Institute to award the Greeley prize of \$100 for the best grape for general cultivation, have bestowed it upon that old and well known variety, the Concord. This has been done after two years' labor, with all the best grapes before them, including the Iona and other new and highly applauded sorts. In speaking of this decision, Mr. Hovey, in the December number of his *Magazine of Horticulture*, writes as follows:—

"No doubt this decision will have the hearty concurrence of the majority of grape growers throughout the country. That there are better grapes, viewed simply as to quality, few will deny—but that any grape possesses so many excellencies, neither will any deny; and for hardiness, vigor, productiveness, freedom from mildew and general quality—it stands among grapes where the Baldwin does among apples—the Bartlett pear among pears—and the Hovey's Seedling among strawberries—the most desirable variety, adapted to all soils and situations; ripening its fruits from Maine to Georgia, and finding its way to the market in such abundance, and at such reasonable prices, that all who love grapes can have their fill. The Concord is, in fact, the only perfectly hardy, good grape that has yet been produced. Upon this subject we shall have something to say in a future number. It is time that the term hardy should be defined. A pear tree or an apple tree that requires protection in winter we should not call hardy; shall any difference be made with the grape?"

The cotton crop of Egypt the past year is estimated at 100,000,000 pounds.



QUINCES.—The best variety of the quince is the Orange, of which there is a large and a very fine sub-variety known as Rea's Seedling, which may be had of Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y. The Angers Quince affords good fruit, a little later than the Orange. The best time for planting is in the autumn or spring—the distance asunder will be about ten or twelve feet, which will be found near enough for full grown trees, on a deep, rich, and well treated soil. The quince needs judicious pruning by thinning out crooked, needless or crowded shoots, and leaving a well distributed, symmetrical head, on a short, single stem.—Country Gentleman.





Fireside Suggestions.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

For the intellectual culture of the farmer and his advancement socially, as well as in his calling, we esteem "Farmers' Clubs" as of the first importance. We have long felt convinced that it is the isolated mode of life of the husbandman, that is the great drawback in his efforts to attain that great social position to which he is entitled by his moral worth and intellectual strength. Plodding alone in his field day after day, and coming in contact only with his hired men, generally of capacity and acquirements inferior to himself, how is his mind to be polished? Diamond alone can polish diamond; and it is mind alone that quickens and stimulates mind. Books may go far to enlarge and strengthen intellect, but books alone do not put on the polish. Man must come in contact with man, and if views clash and differ, all the better for the polishing process. The intellect of the solitary farmer is much like his axe before it is ground. It has the strength and ring of the true steel, but it is not keen and bright. We once heard it sneeringly remarked of a young man who had risen to some eminence in the world, "He has a small mind, highly polished." The remark was very true, but not at all to the discredit of the young man. If he was making the highest use of the faculties he was endowed with by nature, all honor to him. A small mind highly polished will do far more good in the world, than a great mind left to rust. The iron which forms the nail can be made into the needle of the mariner's compass; but in order to do this, it must come in contact with other iron; must be tried as by fire, hammered, filed and polished. The farmer thinks as he follows the plow, but the current of his thoughts runs sluggishly. We are all thinking, all the time, awake or asleep; but how dull, dry and prosy our thoughts are if we habituate ourselves to solitude day after day. The farmer sits before his kitchen fire of a winter evening and his dog stretches himself at his feet, both silent, both musing while the fire burns, and the plodding wife may sometimes wonder whether the musings of the one amount to more than those of the other. Let a neighbor come in, and the man wakes from his reveries and begins to think with some acuteness; and if the neighbor has life and warmth, it is sure to be communicated, for caloric has no greater tendency to equilibrium than has mental vigor. Whence comes the keenness of the city newsboy? He has had poor opportunities for education, but he is bright, quick at repartee, and if he does not fall into the slough of vice, pushes on to distinction in the world. His keenness is solely the result of mental contact. Just what the farmer wants, the newsboy abounds in. The one is educated by cattle, crops, brooks, trees, a weekly newspaper and the Sabbath sermon—all excellent teachers so far as they go—and the other by contact with living men. The factory boy is proverbially cute, the farmer boy dull, and the reason is as obvious as the nose on one's face. Polished manners and polished minds can only come from intercourse with men. We were shown, recently, a quartz stone, picked up in a gravel bank, and the question was asked, "how could this hard stone have had its rough corners rubbed off, and be fashioned and polished in this manner?" We could only point to the sand and gravel from whence it was taken, for an answer to the question. Whirled and tossed for an indefinite period among its fellow-sands, it had finally assumed this symmetrical form.—Quartz had polished quartz. The stone might have been whirled and pressed among books for centuries, and it would not have received this form and polish. Now the "Club" is just the place for the farmer to get this rubbing.—Let him compare notes and observations with his fellow-farmers, and his mind will be expanded and brightened in spite of himself.—He must attend the Club, not merely as a passive listener and receiver, but as a speaker; and it is wonderful how fast the mind operates when its thoughts are finding vent in speech.

When we rise to speak the air seems to be let on to the furnace, and if there is any carbon in us, it is kindled into a glow quickly. If flashing views are presented, sparks of truth are sure to flash out. All wisdom is, fortunately, not in one head. The wisest man in the country can learn something from common folks. It should be the duty of every member of the Club to communicate his share of knowledge. Let every man come with his gun loaded, and take aim as he fires; and ignorance, prejudice and narrow conceit cannot stand the assault.—We speak whereof we know, and testify to what we have seen. It has been our privilege for the last eight or ten years to attend a live Farmers' Club, and we have watched its operations and results carefully. It has not only made better farmers, but what is more, it has made better men. Brains have been brought into requisition as well as muscles. Not only has the head been benefited, but the heart has been made better. The sweet charities of life have been cultivated; and the result has been, better neighbors and better citizens, as well as better farmers. We commend the "CLUB" as one of the means of modern civilization.

January, 1867.

PRESERVING MEATS.

The following is the Knickerbocker Pickle, as given by Judge Buel in the Albany Cultivator for October, 1865. We have tried it ourselves several times with good success, using, however, only about half an ounce of saltpetre instead of three ounces, as recommended.

Take six gallons of water, nine pounds of salt, three pounds of coarse brown sugar, one quart of molasses, three ounces of saltpetre, and one ounce of pearlsh—mix and boil the whole well, taking care to skim off all the impurities which rise to the surface. This constitutes the pickle. When the meat is cut, it should be slightly rubbed with fine salt, and suffered to lay a day or two, that the salt may extract the blood; it may then be packed tight in the cask, and the pickle, having become cold, may be turned upon and should cover the meat. A follower, to fit the inside of the cask, should then be laid on, and a weight put on it, in order to keep the meat at all times covered with pickle. The sugar may be omitted without material detriment. In the spring the pickle must be turned off, boiled with some additional salt and molasses, skimmed, and when cold returned to the cask.

For domestic use, beef and pork hams should not be salted the day the animals are killed, but kept until its fibre has become short and tender, as these changes do not take place after it has been acted upon by the salt.

SALMON HATCHING IN EASTERN RIVERS.—We learn from the Manchester Mirror that the salmon spawn deposited in Baker's River, N. H., some time ago, by William Little, Esq., was doing well. Mr. Little has received word from Joseph Clement, in whose care the spawn was left, that the hatching had commenced.—A peculiarity noticed by Mr. Clement is that as soon as they hatch they work down through the pebbles on to the sand, and that it requires careful searching to find them. There is now only one question to be settled before the theory of stocking our rivers with salmon shall be established as a certainty, and that is in regard to the fishways. If they shall be so constructed as to make it practicable for the fish to find and pass over them, but few years will elapse before the object in view will have been attained.

EASY MODE OF SHARPENING EDGE TOOLS.—The simplest method of sharpening a razor or other edge tool, is to place the blade for about half an hour in water containing one-twentieth of its weight of sulphuric or muriatic acid.—Upon taking the razor out, wipe it off lightly on a piece of soft rag, and in a few hours afterward "set" it on a strop. The acid supplies the place of a whetstone, by corroding the entire surface uniformly, so that nothing but a good polish is afterwards needed. This process never injures good razors, while poor ones are often improved by it.

FEEDING AND FEED FOR PIGS.

MR. S. G. STEARN, a celebrated English breeder of pigs, describes his management of them as follows:

"Pigs eat the feed much better when it is fresh. I give them a variety of meal, such as wheat, maize, barley, and whatever is most convenient to mix together. I have it all wetted with cold water, and then scald it with boiling water, and sprinkle it with salt. What is mixed one day is used the next, thus giving sufficient time to allow the food slightly to ferment and cool sufficiently to feed with. This is my winter plan, but in the summer I mix all with cold water, and feed with cold food. Between meals I give them whole maize, and mangold wurzel or swedes cut small, a little coal and soil occasionally, and allow them plenty of clean water. When pigs are put up for fattening, I find nothing better to feed them with than barley and maize meal, mixed together into slops, water always kept by them, and a little mangold cut for them occasionally. It is very beneficial to wash and brush as often as convenient. This is quickly done by experienced hands, and will amply repay for the trouble. I am certain that the cottagers would find their pigs fatten a great deal faster if they would wash and brush them, and feed them with warm food, instead of with food all ice; and that they would be well paid for any little extratrouble it might cause them. They should also be fed two or three times a day. Good-bred and well-fed store pigs will always consume the refuse which a bad-bred one would refuse."

ORIGIN OF VEGETABLES.

GARLIC came from Sicily, where, for my part, I wish it had stayed. Beans blossomed first within sight of embryo mummies, in the land of the Sphinx; and the egg plant first laid its glossy treasures under the African sun, and Southern Europe gave the artichoke and the beet. To Persia we stand indebted for peaches, walnuts, mulberries and a score of everyday luxuries and necessities; to Arabia we owe the cultivation of spinach; and to Southern Europe we must bow in tearful gratitude for the horse radish. At Siberia the victims of moderate intemperance may shake their gory locks forever—for from that cold, unsocial land came rye, the father of that great fire-water river which floated so many jolly souls on its treacherous tides, and engulphed so much of humanity's treasure. The chestnut, dear to squirrels and young America, first dropped its burrs on Italian soil. Who ever dreams, while enjoying his "Bergamotte," his "Flemish Beauty," or his "Jargonelle," that the first pear blossom opened within sight of the Pyramids? And what fair school girl of the pickle-eating tribe, dreams of thanking the East Indies for cucumbers?

Parsley—that prettiest of all pretty greens, taking so naturally to our American soil that it seems quite to the manor born—is only a sojourner among us. Its native home is Sardinia, or rather, there it first secured an acquaintance with civilized man. Onions, too, are only naturalized foreigners in America. I had hoped that in poetic justice, research would prove this pathetic bulb to have sprung from the land of Niobe. But no; Egypt stretches forth her withered hand and claims the onion as her own! Maize and potatoes, thank Heaven! can mock us with no foreign pedigree.—They are ours—ours to command, to have and to hold, from time's beginning to its ending, though England and Ireland bluster over "corn" and "praties" till they are hoarse.

HOW TO KEEP MEAT FRESH.—As farmers are at a distance from meat-markets, the following directions for keeping meat may be of use to those that try it:—Cut the meat in slices ready to fry; pack it in a jar, in layers, sprinkling with salt and pepper just enough to make it palatable; place on the top a thick paper or cloth, with salt half an inch thick; keep this on all the while. I have kept meat for three weeks in the summer, and the last was as good as the first.

A FARMER'S WIFE.

WHAT A CUMBERLAND FARMER IS DOING.

Rumor having told us that there were some very large and very fine cattle to be seen at the barn of Mr. Renselaer A. Jillson, about two miles from Woonsocket, we went over there on Wednesday to see them, for we are an admirer of the bovine race. For once Madame Rumor spoke the truth. We saw fifty-five head of steers in his barn, all in the process of being made into marketable beef. Some of them are the finest cattle ever seen in this section of the country. There are five from Ashland, Kentucky, the homestead of Henry Clay, the statesman who, like Daniel Webster, was too great to be President. Three of these steers are monsters in size, averaging two thousand pounds each, live weight, and five years old. They are perfectly white and comely as any horned animal that we remember to have seen. We regret to say that they are doomed to an early death, two of them having been engaged by Messrs. Hall & Rankin, of Blackstone; and the other by Mr. Benj. Phetteplace, of Providence.

Mr. Jillson, who is one of our best and most enthusiastic farmers, has gone into the cattle trade for two purposes: 1st, he wants to enrich his farm with manure, of which he will have one hundred and fifty cords next spring; 2d, he designs to furnish butchers with first quality beef. He slaughters and dresses the animals on the premises, having recently erected a model slaughter house, 44 by 28 feet. The hutchering is under the direction of Mr. Augustus Addington, who brings to the work long experience. We saw twenty-five beef carcasses hanging up in one room. They furnished a tempting display to a hungry "beef-eater." This room is arranged with ice shelves and boxes, to preserve the meat in hot weather. We noticed that all the various departments, including the barn (80 by 40 feet), were exceedingly neat and orderly.

Mr. Jillson commenced this cattle trade in September last, and he has had over three hundred head on the premises since that time. He designs to make the fattening and butchering of first-class beef a specialty, and we trust he will receive patronage sufficient to make it remunerative. The business must greatly enhance the productiveness of his farm, of which we shall speak particularly on some future occasion.—Woonsocket Patriot.

HINT TO MILKERS.—If you have a cow that annoys you by whisking her tail in your face, while milking, as some do, I give you a simple remedy:

Take a stout wire about eight inches long, and make a small loop at one end, in which you can tie a string. Then bend the wire near the middle into a pretty sharp angle, making a hook that will take hold of the brush of the tail a little above the lower extremity of the bone. Have a loop in the other end of the string, by which you hang it to a nail in the timber over the cow, or a little to her left, having the string short enough to raise the brush of the tail about a foot. The same hook can be used for any number of cows that have this disagreeable trick.

This is a simple but effectual remedy, and well worth knowing by any milker, who would keep his temper and his clean collar.—Country Gentleman.

WHAT MAKES A BUSHEL.—The following table of the number of pounds of various articles to a bushel may be of interest to our readers:

Wheat, sixty pounds; corn, shelled, fifty-six pounds; corn, on the cob, seventy pounds; rye, fifty-six pounds; oats, thirty pounds; barley, forty-six pounds; buckwheat, fifty-six pounds; Irish potatoes, sixty pounds; sweet potatoes, fifty pounds; onions, fifty-seven pounds; beans, sixty pounds; bran, twenty pounds; clover seed, sixty pounds; timothy seed, forty-five pounds; hemp seed, forty-five pounds; blue-grass seed, fourteen pounds; dried peaches, thirty-three pounds.

A MARYSVILLE, Cal., early June apple-tree has lately ripened a second crop for the year. It blossomed for it in October.

COMMERCIAL VALUE OF INSECTS.—Great Britain pays annually \$1,000,000,000 for carcases of that tiny insect known as cochineal; while another, also peculiar to India, gum shellac, or rather its production, is scarcely less valuable. More than 1,500,000 human beings derive their sole support from the culture and manufacture of the fibres spun by the silk worm, of which the annual circulating medium is said to be \$200,000,000. In England alone, to say nothing of other parts of Europe, \$500,000 are spent every year in the purchase of honey, while the value of that which is native is not mentioned, and this is the work of the bee. Besides all this, there are gall nuts used for dyeing and making ink; cantharides, or Spanish fly, used in medicine.





Riverside Papers, No. 1.

HOW TO IMPROVE FARMING.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.
BY A RIVERSIDE FARMER.

Riverside, Jan. 15th, 1867.

WE read of a Riverside Park, a Riverside Press, and a Riverside Magazine; why shouldn't there be Riverside papers, on Riverside themes, by a Riverside correspondent? Of course there should; and as we happen to enjoy a paternal home in a famous valley, and fancy we have a correct rural eye, if not cyrie, we venture a few observations, promising that whenever the editorial intimation comes of "nuff-ced," we shall suddenly "dry up," if not disappear altogether.

For such a necessary business as agriculture, there is a great deal of waste and neglect and ignorance about it. The best informed make egregious blunders, and the most experienced often grope for the wall. It isn't to be wondered at, therefore, that novices flutter, singe their wings, get hewidered, and occasionally perish. Farming requires multifarious wisdom, skill, tact, industry, foresight and prudence; and the more thoroughly these are wrought into the farmer's life, the higher is his development, attainment, and pecuniary success.—There are those who think any farm a paradise, every farmer a king, and wonder why all those who can cultivate a rood, can't have an income tax. Now what are the facts? Is it not often true, even in those enviable localities known as rich river-bottoms, that the style of farm-life is monotonous?—that the farmer is literally slavish?—and that, all over the country, it is an exception rather than a rule, for a farmer, from the profits of his farm, to pay an income tax? Such is the result of our observation, but such should not be the case. Unpalatable as the assertion may seem, and contrary as it is to the wishes of those who have lands to sell, farming, as generally managed, *doesn't pay*. Deduct taxes, labor and interest on investments from a crop, and in very many cases there is nothing left. Even tobacco, once the pet source of profit, is not an exception, for the two last crops have been slim and dull of sale.

What can be done for the improvement of our agriculture?

Our first suggestion is, don't waste anything. The common farmer throws away considerable every year. Look at the waste of liquid and bone manures at almost every farm house. What becomes of the soapy wash water? Do the cattle eat their fodder clean, and is there nothing edible trampled under foot? When these, and numerous other questions can be answered in the affirmative, one important step is taken in the path of improvement. Secondly, don't neglect anything. Whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well. He who keeps a little *ahead* of his work, is most truly forehanded. Shiftless management is always demoralizing. Lastly, read, write, and reflect more. "Keep posted," at home and abroad, and attend closely to your own business. Take an inventory once a year. Count up all the tools, and fix values upon every thing. Keep out of debt, and beware of paying interest money. The difference between paying six per cent. and receiving it, is twelve per cent.; and there is no known method of farming that can long withstand such a pressure. Information and experience are what the farmer wants; and these, with care and prudence, will be the stepping-stones to success. The culture of the man in farming, is often lost sight of by looking at grosser and more material objects; but it is of vital importance to high attainment. Cultivate the mind and the soil together, if you can; but by all means do the former. So shall our agriculture be improved, elevated and made to *pay*.

A CAREFUL examination of all the labor-saving agricultural machines, establishes the fact that the days of hard, life-destroying labor on the farm are about being numbered, and that in rural life there are to be greater opportunities for leisure, for intellectual improvement and practical progress.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

The following statistics are from this report in relation to crops east of the Rocky Mountains, and north of Virginia, Tennessee and Arkansas:

The wheat crop of 1863 in the twenty-two States reported was very large; in 1864 the estimate was, in round numbers, 13,000,000 bushels less, or 160,000,000; in 1865, 148,000,000; and the present estimate is still further reduced to 143,000,000. Returns from the eleven Southern States, so far as received, warrant an estimate of 170,000,000 for that section. Texas has produced a large crop; the other Southern States less than half the average product. The crop of the Pacific States is very heavy, leaving a far greater surplus for export than the entire amount of the crop of 1860. From all the data received in the department the total amount of wheat produced in 1866 may be estimated at 180,000,000 bushels. The crop of 1859 was 173,000,000, and that of the present year, at the ratio of increase from 1850 to 1860, should have reached 242,000,000. The supply is about five bushels to each inhabitant, or half a bushel less than in 1859.

The corn crop is moderately large in quantity but deficient in quality, and may be estimated at 880,000,000 bushels, about 40,000,000 more than that of 1859. It would have been an excessive product but for the retarding influence of cool and rainy weather, and the consequent damage by frosts. In some Southern States the injury from early frosts was severe. While there will be a sufficiency of food for man, the supplies for the domestic animals will be unusually abundant. The hay crop, slightly deficient in some sections, is large in others, and of more than average quality; and the estimated total product of oats is sixty per cent. greater than in 1859. The products of gardens and the yield of potatoes and other roots are also in excess of former years.

Of the cotton crop the Commissioner says: The cotton crop has suffered from labor derangements, alternate rains and droughts, insects, and the previous neglected condition of the lands. Before the picking commenced, the indications, from official data, pointed to somewhat more than one-third of the crop of 1859. Ravages of insects and other causes have since rendered probable a reduction to 1,750,000 bales of 400 pounds each.

Farm stock, as estimated in the eleven late Confederate States, for 1866, as compared with 1860, gave the following results:

Of horses, 68 per cent; mules, 70 per cent; cattle, 65 per cent; sheep, 80 per cent; hogs, 56 per cent; showing a decrease, consequent on the war, of 32, 30, 35, 20 and 44 per cent. respectively. The total number of these domesticated animals of the eleven States as above, is reported as follows: Horses, 1,183,488; mules, 518,076; cattle, 6,950,408; sheep, 4,009,736; hogs, 8,822,240.

In the Western States the numbers are given as follows: Horses, 3,899,019; mules, 250,141; cattle, 12,674,968; sheep, 32,695,797; hogs, 13,616,876. By the same report, the increase in average of crops is shown from 1863 to 1865 to be 2,471,000 acres, with an increase in cereals and potatoes of 228,501,280 bushels, and a decrease in the total value of these products, of \$359,301,854—a *nominal* decrease, as supposed, though the Commissioner makes no reference to this fact.

VERMONT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this Society was held at Rutland on the 2d inst., when the following board of officers were elected for the year ensuing, viz: President—John Gregory of Northfield. Vice-Presidents—Henry Keyes of Newbury, Henry G. Root of Bennington, Henry S. Moss of Shelburne, Victor Wright of Middlebury. Treasurer—Jos. W. Colburn of Springfield. Secretary—Henry Clark of Rutland. Member of the National Wool Growers' Association—Edwin Hammond of Middlebury.

It was voted to change the name of the Society, in accordance with the act of the Legislature, to that of the "Vermont State Agricultural Society and Wool Growers' Association."

Resolutions were passed asking Congress for more protection to the business of wool-growing, and a memorial on the subject of the tariff, as affecting agriculture, was adopted.

The address at the next annual meeting will, by invitation, be delivered by Joseph W. Colburn, the retiring President of the Society.

Stock Raising.

FARM STOCK REPORT.

From a late number of the monthly Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture it appears that there is much less farm stock in the country than in 1860, in proportion to the population, and prices are much higher, and probably will remain so for some years, on account of the scarcity throughout the country, particularly at the South; and the increased foreign demand for our salted meats and the products of the dairy. There is no exception to this but in relation to sheep. They have increased from 28,647,269 head in January, 1865, to 32,695,797, in February, 1866, and are cheaper now than they have been for years past. The increase has been in the loyal States.

The statistical tables as to farm stock point out the direction which the market demand for it must take for some years to come. The great scarcity of all stock used in the South, particularly mules and hogs, will guarantee profitable prices for a long time. No farmer can mistake his interest in giving increased attention to the improved breeding of horses, cattle, and especially cows. The improved blood introduced will add 25 per cent. at least to their market value. The practice of *killing heifer calves* should be abandoned; "must be," says the commissioner, if we expect to meet the demand which Great Britain and our home market make for butter and cheese. The total value of farm stock in February, 1866, was:—

Horses.....	\$326,885,813
Mules.....	25,039,839
Cattle and oxen.....	210,778,136
Cows.....	273,081,701
Sheep.....	136,425,697
Hogs.....	120,873,158
Total.....	\$1,022,884,344

Surely, these figures show that greater attention to the improvement of our breeds of cattle and other stock is a matter of vast moment, and should be earnestly pressed upon the consideration of farmers.

PROFITS OF VERMONT SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Springfield Union, writing from Cornwall, Vt., says:

Henry F. Dean has a 300 acre farm, and 140 Spanish merino sheep, valued at \$40,000.—Rollin J. Jones has a farm of 600 acres. His flock is 125, valued at \$40,000. F. H. Dean, 350 acres; 150 breeding ewes, valued at \$500 each, \$75,000! Don't doubt it, for he has been offered \$1000 each for five of them and \$7000 last year for a four years old buck, which has since earned him \$4000. California gold mines can't compare with that. Merrill Brigham, 400 acres; flock, 300 thorough-breeds, valued at \$51,000. Simon S. Roekwell has a flock of 300, valued at \$30,000 in the last four years. Joel Randall 500 acres, and 250 "the best of blooded sheep," value not stated. He sold a two years old buck recently for \$3000. These men think it most profitable to stick to Vermont themselves, and let their sheep migrate to the West, to the South, to California, and to every other country that can raise gold enough to pay for the sheep. These are the wise men of Cornwall.

WINTERING COLTS.

A snow shed or stable is best for wintering colts, provided they be halter-broke, which they should be before winter sets in. They will eat all sorts of coarse food, but should have a little grain or meal, according to their size and age. They should, if convenient, run out a part of the day. They love to forage on a cattle dung-heap, and pick out the waste litter. Let them have all they want of it, as it is a healthy variety for them. A dry pasture, when snow is off the ground, is a good change for them also. We have wintered many colts in our farming, and found that nothing got through the season easier than they. Their

hair gets long and sometimes rough. No matter, there is a close fur under it, and it keeps them dry and warm, and they are all the better in the spring. Enough to eat, with good shelter, is all they want to keep them healthy and growing. But they should not run out with the cattle, as they are liable to get hooked, while they, in turn, drive the cattle from their food. Every one to his own kind in the farm-yard, as in other appropriate places.

The Poultry Yard.

SINGULAR FACTS IN THE FORMATION OF THE CHICK IN THE EGG.

SCARCELY has the hen sat upon the eggs twelve hours before some linaments of the head and body of the chick are discernible in the embryo; at the end of forty-eight hours the heart begins to beat, but no blood is to be seen. In a little over forty-eight hours, we may distinguish two vessels with blood, the pulsation of which is evident, one of them being the left ventricle, the other the root of the great artery; soon after, one of the auricles of the heart is perceptible, in which pulsation may be remarked as well as in the ventricle.—So early as the seventh hour, the wings may be distinguished, and, on the head, two globules for the brain, one for the beak, and two others, for the front and back part of the head. Toward the end of the fourth day, the two auricles are distinctly visible, and approach nearer the heart than they did before; about the fifth day, the liver may be perceived; at the end of one hundred and forty-eight hours, the lungs and stomach become visible, and, in a few hours more, the intestines, the veins, and the upper jaw. On the seventh day, the brain begins to assume a more consistent form; and in one hundred and ninety hours after incubation the beak opens, and flesh appears on the breast. In two hundred and ten hours, the ribs begin to form, and the gall bladder is visible. In a few hours more the bill is of a green color, and if removed from its covering is seen to move. The feathers begin to shoot about the two hundred and fortieth hour, and, at the same time, the head becomes cartilaginous; in twenty-four hours more the eyes appear; at two hundred and eighty-eight hours the ribs are perfected; and at the three hundred and thirty-first hour the lung, stomach, and heart assume their natural appearance. On the eighteenth day of incubation, a faint pulsing is heard. It then increases in size and strength till it emerges from its prison. By so many gradations does the wisdom of God conduct these creatures into life. All of their progressive evolutions are arranged in this perfect order. If the liver is formed on the fifth day, it is from the preceding state of the chick. No part of its body could appear sooner or later without some injury to the embryo, each of its members appearing at the most convenient moment. How admirable is that principle of life, the source of a new being contained in an egg, all parts of the animal being invisible until they become developed by warmth.

Another remarkable fact is that the chick, when it breaks from the shell, is heavier than the egg was at first, and that all of these forms of blood, feathers, and muscle, are seemingly one liquid body, until heated to a proper temperature and to a certain time, to make their organism perfect. So much for microscopic investigations of the curious. Much might be asked concerning the formation of animal bodies, which at present is impenetrable. Let this not discourage us, but let us make good use of the knowledge we are permitted to acquire, and by this we shall discover the wisdom of God, who employs us for the benefit of ourselves and our fellow-men.

FOOD FOR CHICKENS.—After crumbs of bread and egg, feed oat-meal or barley-meal, slightly moistened with new milk or water, and curd chopped small, for some days.

POULTRY HOUSES should be kept clean, and ashes and lime sprinkled over the floor every week. Let the manure be put away in a dry place, and preserved for use on the crops.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE IN HOLLAND.—90,000 Animals Attacked—40,000 Dead.—The Dutch Minister of Internal Affairs has presented his second report on the cattle plague to the king. It appears from it that since June, 1865, when the plague first appeared in Holland, 90,469 head of cattle have been attacked by it. Of these 39,595 died, 17,460 were killed, 32,080 recovered, 1,403 remaining under treatment on December 3, the date of the report. The total of losses accordingly amounts to 55 1-5 per cent. of those seized. Nearly two-thirds of the whole perished in the province of South Holland, nearly one-third in Utrecht, and the small remainder in North Holland.





The Farm.

WINTER MANAGEMENT OF MILCH COWS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY H. THAYER, BLACKSTONE, MASS.

With the prevalent high price of dairy products, as well as the extremely high prices of all feeding materials, farmers are, more than ever, interested in any system of feeding or management, that will economize feed, or increase the products of the dairy. The quantity and quality of food must, principally, regulate the yield of milk. But there are other influences—although they may be said to be secondary—that will exert no trifling influence in regulating the yield of milk. The care and general management of the cow, will have more influence than many would imagine.—The business must be reduced to a *perfect system*, if we expect to make it profitable; have a stated period for every operation,—feeding, watering, milking and carding—and never allow other matters to draw you from your purpose. If, by proper management, the milk can be increased, it is very unwise, in these times of high prices, for the farmer or dairyman to ignore the fact. That these influences are efficacious, no one can doubt after having given them thorough thought.

FEEDING.

Feed liberally and at regular hours. A cow soon learns when feeding time comes, and will be restless and uncomfortable until her appetite is gratified. Few are aware of the importance of *regularity* in feeding. The cow, to yield her greatest quantity, must be kept quiet and comfortable; this cannot be done without observing the strictest regularity. Cows that are fed only at set hours, eat their feed, and then lie down and take their rest, until the next feeding time arrives. Their full udders, at milking time, is evidence that they enjoy regular feeding. Cows that are fed upon the hap-hazard system are never quiet. Whenever a person enters the barn, they are upon their feet; for they are always looking for food at the sound of every footstep; restless and dissatisfied, is it reasonable to suppose that *such* cows will answer the owner's expectation at milking time?

Hay alone, although regarded as the most essential food for all neat stock, will produce but a limited flow of milk. Hence, in order to bring a cow up to her full capacity, she must be fed with some more concentrated or milk-producing food. It is no economy to feed upon hay alone; without question, a cow can be kept at less expense upon a variety of food, as grain and roots, with hay, than upon hay alone; besides, a cow would be more healthy, in better flesh, and more valuable.—The dairyman must determine for himself what quantity of food his cows require—as cows vary greatly in their capacity for food. What would be moderate food for one cow, might soon ruin another. We will not attempt to specify, in this article, the kind of feed most valuable; that point can be easily determined by the feeder. Our object is chiefly to strive to convince cow-keepers of the vast importance of *system* in the management of milch cows.

WATERING.

Cows in milk require an abundance of water. As it is desirable that they should drink but sparingly at a time in cold weather, they should be watered often. Three times a day—morning, noon and night—is not too often.—Never water immediately before milking, as it will sensibly diminish the milk. In severely cold weather, it will pay well to take the cold chill from the water. A kettleful of boiling water will warm drink for eight cows, and increase their milk, at least four quarts. Remember, *regularity* is as important here as in feeding.

MILKING.

The manner of milking will materially affect the quantity. A slow, careless milker will obtain less milk than the rapid, energetic milker. Always milk as rapidly as possible, and at regular hours. A cow with a full udder suffers from delay, and her milk will be sensibly diminished. See that the cow stands in a comfort-

able position before you commence operations; for no well-trained cow, when milked by a kind milker, will change her position till the milking is over, although she may suffer much from her cramped position. Milk clean, but do not get the cow into the habit of stripping. Always speak kindly, and treat gently, for it is easier to control the gentle cow by kindness than by severity.

CARDING.

Carding is a *duty*, too much neglected, in the care of cows. When accustomed to it, they are almost as anxious for an application of the card or brush, as for their feed. Have you not seen cows cease eating at the sight of the card, and stretch out their necks to receive the welcome stroke? An operation so pleasing must be beneficial; besides, it keeps the cow clean and sleek, which well repays the owner for his labor. Twice a day is none too often to use the card, when confined to the barn in the winter. Cows that are frequently carded, will keep in better condition and yield more milk than cows that go uncarded.

SHELTER.

Protect from cold and wet. The last consideration is a most important one in the management of milch cows. You may feed liberally, water regularly, and do all else that you can to promote their comfort and welfare, and yet, if you neglect to provide warm and comfortable stables, your cows will never thrive, and yield as liberally of their treasures. Provide stables for your cows where you can milk, in the coldest weather, without any inconvenience from the cold, or where you might, yourself, pass a night with comfort.—Keep your cows stabled night and day, in severe weather, only letting them out long enough to drink, one at a time, immediately returning them to their quarters. Never allow a current of cold air to fall directly upon them—keep the stable clean and tidy. Of course, a close stable should be well ventilated; but in such a manner as not to permit the cold current to reach the cows. Kept in such a stable, cows will consume much less food than when kept in a stable where a chicken could creep through the cracks. They require no extra food to sustain the fire within to resist the outward cold. Every observing farmer knows that his cattle consume much less fodder in warm than in cold weather; but perhaps he never thought that the extra food was demanded to sustain the greater animal heat. The farmer who provides the comfortable quarters we have described, and otherwise cares for his cows, will make the business profitable. But the farmer who treats his cows as though they were inanimate things, and without system or regularity, will find it an up-hill business; and the sooner he disposes of his cows and quits the dairy business, the better for his own interest.

DRY COWS.

In your greater attention for your fresh milkers, do not neglect your summer cows.—They now begin to wane so much in their milk, and your fresh-milkers consume so much food, you feel you cannot afford to feed cows giving so little; so you send them off into some obscure corner, and feed on your poorest fodder, and you think it of little consequence whether they are ever carded, watered or stabled. You allow them to stand around your barns, exposed to the cold winds and storms, or to wander over your fields, striving to draw a little nutriment from the faded grass, or else shivering in some fence corner. It requires little sagacity to predict the consequence of such negligence. By the middle of December they entirely fail in milk, become pinched up and hide bound; and by the first of April look more fitting for the bone-man than for the farmer's dairy. Brother farmers, *such* treatment of our summer cows is not economy. If we cannot treat them otherwise, we had better give them away, for such skeletons will not pay even the cost of their miserable winter's feed. If these cows are well cared for, they may be kept in milk two or three months.—Give them the same treatment recommended for your milkers,—observe the same regularity in milking, feeding, watering and carding—give them a few roots daily, and occasionally a feed of Indian meal, and they will give you

milk enough to pay for the extra feed, look sleek and plump, so that you will not feel ashamed to take a neighbor to inspect your cows; and, in the Spring, they will be in a condition to afford you a profit. Roots are more suitable for cows in calf than grain alone. No farmer who makes dairying a specialty, should be without a supply of roots; some one or all of the varieties used for feeding purposes,—mangolds, carrots, parsnips, turrips or potatoes. These are all excellent food, as they are laxative, cooling and milk-producing.—Says some one: "These things sound very well, and may be important, but who can take so much pains?" Friend! if you cannot afford to take such pains with your cows, you had better not keep them; for there will be no profit, especially in winter. Every department of farm labor can be reduced to a perfect system; and the farmer that adheres the closest to system in the care of stock, will be the most prosperous.

January, 1867.

FALL PLOUGHING AS A REMEDY FOR THE CUT-WORM.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

For the last three months our agricultural journals have devoted more or less of their space to the discussion of the above subject.—All the correspondents seem to agree in the opinion that the good effects of Fall plowing, in the destruction of the cut-worm, or prevention of its ravages, is due to the action of frost; and, as far as my notice has extended, no other cause for the good effect has been advanced.

Having for the last three years given considerable attention to the habits of this pest, I have thought that a small space in the *Farm and Fireside* might not be misapplied when occupied by the thoughts of a *practical* farmer.

The supposition of the above-mentioned correspondents seems to be that the egg is deposited at a considerable distance from the surface; and hence, when the furrow is turned over, they are brought nearer the surface. A little examination into the habits of the fly which produces the egg, or embryo cut-worm, will show that it is not adapted to seek this kind of deposit; on the contrary, it will be found, upon careful investigation, that the fly deposits its eggs very near, and sometimes on, the surface of the ground; and hence, when the furrow is turned over, the egg in reality becomes more deeply buried, instead of being brought nearer the surface.

The egg is deposited at or near the surface during the Fall, and remains dormant during the Winter; but, if undisturbed, is hatched by the early, warm days of Spring. Now, all know that air and heat are necessary for the hatching of the egg, and if turned under a deep furrow, it can obtain but little of either; and will not produce the worm as it would have done had it remained at or near the surface.

We seldom or never have a Winter during which the frost does not penetrate much more than "furrow deep;" and hence, the frost would have as great an effect in destroying the vitality of the egg at the depth of one inch as it would at a greater depth; in fact, I have found that if the eggs are removed to a warm room, or a box of earth, in the window, they will hatch in from two to three weeks after their removal. The worm, if fed on cabbage leaves (of which it is passionately fond), will in the course of three or four weeks reach its full size, burrow about two inches under the soil, and after forming a ball of earth (from a secretion from the surface of its body), will go into its chrysalis state, occupying about one month in a room with the temperature of about sixty degrees. If allowed to remain in the room for a week or two, and then removed to a colder retreat, sufficient to freeze it, the worm will never emerge from the ball.

In plowing in the Fall, I have often found the balls of earth which contain the worm, while passing through its chrysalis state. They are usually from three-quarters to an inch long, and from one-quarter to three-eighths in diameter. Their upper surfaces will be found to be

impervious to water, but a small spot, about one-half an inch long, on their under surface, will be found not to be water-proof. When I have removed these chrysalis from the field to my experimental box, I have always found that when they were placed in the position in which they were found, the process went on as usual, and an occasional *soaking* of the soil did not seem to produce the least effect on them; but when their position was reversed, and the tender spot brought uppermost, it put a complete stop to all further development.

This furnishes us with another reason for the success of Fall plowing, viz: by the operation of plowing we reverse the position of the sod, and, consequently of the chrysalis and egg, bringing the non-water-proof part uppermost, and allow the water free access to it.—If the operation of plowing is carefully and properly performed, *very few* worms will reach the surface, but few eggs will be hatched, and the worms from these few will seldom be able to reach the surface; for when young, they are very tender and soon perish unless nourishment is close at hand.

The opponents of Fall plowing agree that they produce the same effect by their Spring plowing. So they do; they turn the egg under (if not already hatched), but also turn under the proper food for the young worm, close by the side of the egg; this furnishes the young worm with strength to work its way to the surface in time to finish off its existence with the young corn shoots.

That Fall plowing, *if properly done*, will prevent the ravages of the cut-worm, some who have imperfectly tried it, will deny; but whether I have alighted upon the proper reason, or cause, or effect, must be judged by other practical farmers.

January, 1867.

DRAINAGE.

We have often urged this much needed improvement upon the readers of the *Ploughman*, but we fear its advantages are too little appreciated. There are but few localities where drainage would not be beneficial. Even in soils with an open subsoil, where deep drainage certainly is not required, some shallow drains may be useful to carry off or to husband surplus water. Many a farm house is so located that a good deal of drainage is required to secure perfect health. Except in cases of diseased lungs, a dry atmosphere is more healthful than one loaded with moisture, and the air that passes over stagnant moisture will not long remain pure and healthy. So that in a sanitary point of view drainage often becomes of vast importance.

The Metropolitan Sanitary Commission of London states some interesting facts about drainage. For every inch depth of water drained off, and which would otherwise pass into the air as vapor, they say as much heat is saved per acre as would raise eleven thousand cubic feet of air one degree in temperature.—A recent Parliamentary report on the subject says, a farmer was asked the effect of some new draining, when he replied, "All that I know is that before it was done I could never get out at night without an overcoat, but now I never put one on to me. It just makes the difference of a coat to me." A doctor took one of the Sanitary Commissioners to a hill overlooking his district, "There," said he, "wherever you see those patches of white mist I have frequent illness, and if there is a cess-pool or other nuisance as well, I can reckon on typhus every now and then. Outside these mists I am rarely wanted."

It may not be generally known that dampness in the atmosphere gives double energy to bad odors of any kind. If everybody could live on a hill side, with a good gravel subsoil, we should find the average health of the community vastly improved. Much may be done by thorough drainage, not only to improve the sanitary condition of the locality, but to warm up and improve the soil. Try it.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

HOW TO OBTAIN THE FARM AND FIRESIDE.

SEND TWO DOLLARS to the Publisher, by mail; or, if there be a news-dealer near you, order it of him. THE FARM AND FIRESIDE will be sold at all News Offices. Single copy, 5 cents.



CURING LAMB SKINS.—A correspondent recommends the following method: As soon as the skin is taken from the animal, stretch it tightly on a board, flesh side out; then, before it begins to dry, I apply an equal mixture of fine salt and alum, thoroughly pulverized together, until the skin is slightly whitened by the mixture. I then take no further notice of the skins until I want them for use, (which is always a few weeks from the time of applying the mixture.) I then take them and thoroughly wash them in warm soap-suds, let them dry moderately, and just before they are fully dry, rub them soft with my hands. After rubbing they are soft and pliable as a kid glove, and will continue so.



FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1867.

FARM LIFE.

SOME one asked the cynical Doctor Johnson "who is the happiest man?" and he replied, "the man who can content himself with a book on a rainy day." There was certainly a great deal of truth in the reply of that morose old philosopher; for, notwithstanding education is almost universal, and books are popularized for every taste, there are very few men who can happily spend a rainy day in the perusal of even the most versatile and agreeable author. Brain to appreciate the brain work of others, taste to affiliate with the subject treated, mind to congenialize and mingle with the author, and philosophy sufficient to look beyond the storm of rain and tempest, would perhaps make the happy man of Doctor Johnson's choice.

If the same question was asked us, we should say that the man who owned a really good farm, located in a pleasant and intelligent neighborhood, and near a good market, with the farm well stocked with choice animals, himself and family enjoying good health, and exempt from an average of earthly ills, why, that man ought to be the very happiest of his race. The character of his labor contributes to the perfection of physical health; he inhales the purest atmosphere at all seasons of the year; he subsists on the best and purest food, both animal and vegetable; he is not harassed and haunted with the perplexities of commercial life; he retires early, and rises when "the morning red has colored the margin of the earth, and variously formed the covering of the clouds," and witnesses all the rural beauty and scenery that God has so lavishly scattered on hill-side and valley, on forest and river around him.

It is Winter now, and the snow covers up the fields; the orchards are all bare; the frost has congealed the brook that recently laughed and danced through the meadows; the woods look sad and desolate; the winds sigh and roar along the highway, and people generally consider it a lonely time in the country. But it is not so. Nature is never inactive, and rarely lonely: she keeps on the great work of the Omnipotent; and frost and snow, tempests and clouds, storms and sunshine, make a panorama beautiful and magnificent to all who have the taste and culture to appreciate them. We pity the man or woman who gets weary and lonely of a country home, of farm life, and of rural scenery and associations. It argues a senility of heart, a want of mental resources, and a deficiency of that love and appreciation of Nature that should belong to every member of the human family.

Let us visit, in imagination, some old farm-homestead, such as can be found in every town in our great Republic. The house may be modern, with every improvement for convenience or taste; or it may be an old fashioned, unpainted, gable-roofed structure that has stood the storms of three-fourths of a century, and under which have been reared two or three generations. The door-yard is alive with miscellaneous poultry; ducks, geese, hens and turkeys, all assembled in convention. An immense wood-pile looms up near by, a certain indication of energy and frugality of the farm proprietor, and very comfortable to rely upon when the mercury sinks down to zero and the stars glimmer and sparkle in the midnight sky.

We knock on the door of the old mansion, and a modest voice (country folks are invariably modest) invites us in, and welcomes us to the great kitchen. Here we find a genuine luxury in an open fire-place, with a huge fire spreading its arms of flame up the chimney, and radiating a healthy, genial heat throughout the room. Bless us! here is comfort, here in this grand old kitchen, with its big wood-fire, its large, easy, cushioned chairs, and capacious settee. In the corner is a long table, loaded with loaves of wheat and rye bread, and pumpkin-pies—real, bonafide bread and pies, too;

for they were baked in a brick oven, such as city people rarely see or dream of. Peep into the pantry or cupboard, and see that long row of hright pans filled with milk—a real lactic fluid, that has never been baptized at the pump, or sprinkled at the well. There, too, are baskets of eggs, sides of bacon, sundry hams, and cheese; enough, in fact to feed Falstaff's army, although each officer were an epicure and all the privates gluttons—"savages and bearded like the pard." If we go down cellar, we find it a store-house of fruits and vegetables; an under-ground cornucopia, overflowing with plenty. There are barrels of apples and cider, kegs of butter and lard, bins of potatoes, carrots and beets, and a regiment of cabbages in double platoons around the entire cellar.

We must now visit the barn, and inspect the cattle, horses and sheep; also the stock of fragrant hay in the deep mows, that made the men sweat (and may be swear) when they pitched it over the great beams last Summer. There are the swallow's nests plastered up against the rafters, but no birds darting in and out over the great double doors, as we saw them six months ago. But a finer sight is here now. See that row of noble, stately cattle, feeding from the racks, their graceful white horns tossing up and down like gnomes in a fairy dance. This is a scene we remember from early boyhood, and one that we can look upon and never grow tired or weary. What honest faces have those dumb animals! and how unsophisticated and yet intelligent and companionable do they appear, as they banquet on the sweetest and most fragrant red-top and clover that the old farm affords.

By the way, this cattle-scene reminds us of a tableau at Marshfield, held a few days previous to the death of that great man, DANIEL WEBSTER. The foremost man of his age and country had gone home to die. The noblest orator, the greatest statesman, the largest intellect, was about leaving this world, and bidding adieu to all that was dear to him. On his farm he kept a noble herd of cattle, many of them imported from Europe, and for which he had great pride and attachment. On a calm, sunny afternoon, but a few days before his death, he requested that these fine cattle might be driven up to the house, and then, propped up in his bed, the great man gazed from the window upon them for the last time. There was a wonderful pathos, tenderness, affection in that dying wish of WEBSTER; and he probably derived more sympathy and pleasure from "a last look" at his domestic animals, than he could from a visit from all his cotemporary political associates.

Farm life in Winter has many pleasing and genial attractions; yet more in Spring, when, as Thompson says—

"The penetrative sun,
His force darting to the dark retreat
Of vegetation, sets the streaming power
At large, to wander o'er the vernal earth.
From the moist meadow to the wither'd hill,
Led by the breeze, the vivid verdure runs,
And swells, and deepens, to the cherish'd eye.
The hawthorn whisks; and the juicy groves
Put forth their buds, unfolding by degrees,
In full luxuriance to the sighing gales."

The old orchards again put forth their rose and pink blossoms, just as they have done for forty or fifty years before. The blue-bird and robin build their nests in the pendant branches; and the bees make every bud and blossom a music-box—in fact, every old tree in the orchard is an orchestra, and the atmosphere for rods around is loaded with fragrance. Now the farmer takes hold of the plow and "looks not back" until the mellow glebe is turned up to the warm sun-light, and the seeds are sown for another harvest.

(Reader, we are now three months ahead of planting time, and shall write no more in this vein until Spring actually arrives!)

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—We learn that this institution is progressing favorably. The State exhibited wisdom in putting the College fund into practical use at once, instead of expending it in a large and costly building. A gentleman who visited this institution recently, informs us that it is in good hands, and that its future is full of promise.—Its location is at New Brunswick, about the centre of the State.

CONNECTICUT.

THE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AND THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

THE annual meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Society was held at New Haven, on the 9th inst., Hon. E. H. Hyde, of Stafford, in the chair. The Treasurer's report exhibited only \$11.90 in the Treasury, with no available assets. The Executive Committee made a report, giving the history of the Society since its origin, in 1852, and submitting the question: "Shall the organization be continued, or shall its work be surrendered to the new State Board of Agriculture?" A discussion followed, and it was finally unanimously agreed to maintain the State Society, and to elect officers for the ensuing year. It was contended that the State Agricultural Society should continue in existence, because of the probability that the New England Agricultural Society would hold its Fair for 1867 in Connecticut. The Executive Committee were ordered to make the proper arrangements for such Fair, and several gentlemen pledged themselves to contribute a guarantee fund for that purpose. As a word of encouragement to keep alive the Society, it was stated that at the Fair of the New England Society, in Vermont, last Autumn, Connecticut took twice as many premiums as any other State.

The following board of officers was then chosen:

- President—Ephraim H. Hyde, of Tolland.
- Vice Presidents—Rollins Battell, of Norfolk, H. L. Stewart, of Middle Haddam.
- Corresponding Secretary—T. S. Gold, of Cornwall.
- Recording Secretary—Burdett Loomis, of Windsor Locks.
- Treasurer—F. A. Brown, of Hartford.
- County Directors.—New Haven County, Dr. Charles B. Whittlesey; Hartford County, C. M. Poud; New London County, James A. Bill; Fairfield County, Charles Hough; Windham County, Benj. F. Sumner; Litchfield County, George C. Hitchcock; Middlesex County, P. M. Augur; Tolland County, S. F. West.
- Chemist—Prof. S. W. Johnson, of Yale College.

The Presidents of the several County Societies, and one Director appointed by each County Society, are also officers of the State Society.

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

This organization, which was created by the Legislature in May, 1866, held its first meeting in August last, and its second meeting on the 8th instant, at New Haven. The President (*ex-officio* a member) is the Governor of the State; the Vice President is Hon. E. H. Hyde, of Stafford; and the Secretary is T. S. Gold, of Cornwall. The members appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate, were Hon. Mr. Hyde, Howard Collius, Esq., of Canton, Prof. S. W. Johnson, of New Haven, and Mr. Gildersleeve, of Portland. Each county society, or society receiving State aid, is entitled to name a member. At the meeting last August, a tabular list of questions was ordered to be sent to each society, that the character and value of its Fall Exhibitions or Fairs might be accurately known. And, to visit every Fair, a member was selected from some county other than that which held the Fair.

The Hartford Press, from which we make up this report, says that at the meeting on the 8th inst. the visitors to the County Fairs made their report. In five of the counties successful and useful Fairs have been held. New Haven county held none. In Middlesex the Fair was practically a failure. In Tolland it was but partially successful. The Hartford county Fair was reported excellent in all its departments. It was noticed in Tolland county that the show of potatoes was excellent, and they form the sole agricultural export of the county save the tobacco raised in small sections in the western towns. The manufacturing population furnishes a ready home market for nearly all other productions. The Windham county Fair was excellent in fruits, vegetables, butter, cheese, and cattle. Windham county raises for the Providence or Hartford markets a surplus of butter, cheese, pork and hay; and in the first two articles named claims eminence both as to quantity and quality that was scarcely expected. The manufacturers contributed very little to the exhibition. The New London county Fair was in all respects good, but the

cattle of various breeds were excellent, and were shown in great numbers. The eastern portion of this county exports something to the Rhode Island markets, but imports much more largely from New York and elsewhere, to feed its people. The excellence of Litchfield county in butter, cheese and cattle, is well known. At the Fair were 741 head of stock of all descriptions, of which over 300 were working oxen. The Fairfield county Fair gave a good exhibition of the resources of the county. Horses for farm work are coming more into use there than in most other sections, and were duly shown.

The Board held afternoon and evening sessions. At the former, the fact that Connecticut does not raise enough on her own soil to feed her own people, was a subject of conversation. Prof. Brewer gave a lecture upon "Irrigation in California," with glances at its usefulness in the east, and an instructive interchange of information took place concerning the effect of flooding and irrigation. In the evening, Prof. S. W. Johnson delivered an extremely interesting and instructive lecture upon "Recent investigations concerning the source and supply of nitrogen to crops."—He showed that nitrogen is absolutely indispensable to the growth of plants; that the supply does not come directly from the atmosphere; that the recognized great value of ammonia is due to its eighty-two per cent. of nitrogen; that a direct application of nitrogen is not so necessary sometimes as the application of fertilizers calculated to develop the nitrogen already in the soil.

On the second day, 9th inst., an instructive discussion upon drainage took place in the hall of the Scientific School. Mr. Gold read a very interesting letter from John Johnston of Geneva, N. Y., the venerable pioneer of drainage in this country.

At the evening session Prof. Brewer lectured upon "Diseases of plants caused by fungi."—He said that plants, like animals, were attacked with diseases, and often as incurably. That farmers were observant men in agricultural pursuits, but that they had no time to reduce it to a science. He then spoke of the formation of plants, their growth, and propensities to nurture the different growths of fungi, mushrooms, toadstools, puff balls, which lived only upon dead matter, but confining himself to those which produced disease in growing plants, especially wheat, corn and oats. He said that the season or soil had nothing to do with the growth of fungi further than its tendency to spread the disease. That different kinds of fungus matter extended through a field of wheat in from ten to twelve days; that in Russia, that which lived upon decayed matter grew sometimes two feet high in a single night.

THE CRANBERRY CULTURE IN NEW JERSEY.

At a recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, William Parry read a paper containing some interesting facts respecting the culture of the cranberry in New Jersey. He thinks there is at least one million dollars invested in the culture of cranberries in the county of Ocean; and in Monmouth and Burlington counties, the culture is still more extended. At Shamoug, portions of bog have yielded at the rate of 220 bushels per acre, which, at the price last fall, would amount to \$1,250. W. R. Braddock of Medford, has about 100 acres, twenty of which yielded last year an average of 100 bushels per acre, amounting to \$3 per bushel, clear of all expenses, or \$6,000 from the 20 acres in herrying. T. and A. Bond purchased a tract of cedar swamp, five years since, at \$10 per acre, for which they have since been offered \$600 per acre. Last year 28 acres of it yielded 1,800 bushels of fruit, or 67 bushels per acre, and amounted to \$7,200, at \$4 per bushel.

The Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Burlington County, N. J. Agricultural Society, will be held at Mount Holly, on the 26th of January. This is one of the most prosperous and influential Agricultural Societies in New Jersey.

TRAVELING AGENTS FOR THE FARM AND FIRESIDE. George A. Smith, B. P. Taft, Robert Messenger, John A. Corey, Daniel J. Bolster, O. A. Fairbanks.

THE ROSE.—The trade in roses, as is well known, is of considerable importance in France. Rose trees are cultivated in different parts of the country in open fields, just as turnips or cabbages. Thus there are 500,000 rose trees near Orleans, 200,000 near Metz, 1,000,000 near Angers, 1,500,000 near Lyons, 2,000,000 near Paris, and 2,000,000 in the thirteen communes of Bri-Compte-Robert. The varieties called Rose-The, the Bonrhone, and Monseuse, flourish, particularly in the environs of Paris and Orleans. These flowers are raised for distillation into extracts, used in perfumery as rose water and as a constituent of Eau de Cologne. The ottof of rose is manufactured mainly in the East, and is exceedingly valuable.



Fireside Tales.

"SENT BY EXPRESS."

MARIAN HARLAN was alone in the world—her mother just hurried.

She was a beautiful brown haired girl, with soft, shy eyes of a violet gray, and rosy lips compressed to a firmness far beyond her years. For after all she was scarcely seventeen, and so Deacon Gray was telling her, as he sat by the fire spreading his huge hands over the tardy blaze and asked:

"But what are you going to do to 'arn your bread and butter, child?"

"I don't know—I haven't thought—mamma had an uncle in New York who—"

"Yes, yes—I've heern tell about him—he was mad 'cause your mother did not marry just to suit him, wasn't he?"

Marian was silent. Deacon Gray waited a few minutes, hoping she would admit him into her secret meditations; but she did not, and the Deacon went home, to tell his wife that "that Harlan girl was the very queerest creature he had ever come across."

In the meanwhile Marian was packing her few scanty things into a little carpet bag, by the weird, flickering light of the dying wood fire.

"I will go to New York," she said to herself, scetting her small, pearly teeth firmly together.

"My mother's uncle shall hear her cause pleaded through my own lips. Oh, I wish my heart would not throb so wildly! I am no longer meek Minnie Harlan; I am an orphan all alone in the world, who must fight life's battle with her own single hands?"

Lower Broadway at seven o'clock, P. M. What a babel of crashing wheels, hurrying humanity and conglomerate noise it was! Minnie Harlan sat in the corner of an express office, under the flare of gas lights, surrounded by boxes, and wondering whether the people ever went crazed in this perpetual din and tumult. Her dress was plain gray poplin, with a shabby, old-fashioned little straw bonnet tied with black ribbons, and a blue veil, while her articles of baggage, in the carpet-bag, lay in her lap. She had sat there two hours, and was very, very tired.

"Poor little thing," thought the dark-haired youngest clerk nearest her, who inhabited a sort of wire cage under a circle of gaslights. And then he took up his pen and plunged into a perfect Atlantic ocean of accounts.

"Mr. Evans?"

The dark haired clerk emerged from his cage with his pen behind his ear in obedience to the beckoning finger of his superior.

"I have noticed that young woman sitting here for some time—how came she here?"

"Expressed on, sir, from Millington, Iowa—arrived this afternoon."

As though Minnie Harlan were a box or a parcel.

"Who for?"

"Committed to Walter Harrington, Esq."

"And why hasn't she been called for?"

"I sent up to Mr. Harrington's address to notify him some time ago; I expect an answer every moment."

"Very odd," said the grey-haired gentleman, taking up his newspaper.

"Yes sir, rather."

Some three-quarters of an hour afterwards, Frank Evans came to the pale girl's side with an indescribable pity in his hazel eyes.

"Miss Harlan, we have sent to Mr. Harrington's residence—"

Minnie looked up with a feverish red upon her cheek, and her hands clasped tightly on the handle of the faded carpet bag.

"—And we regret to inform you that he sailed for Europe at twelve o'clock this day."

A sudden blur came over Minnie's eyes—she trembled like a leaf. In all her calculations, she had made no allowance for an exigency like this.

"Can we do anything further for you?" questioned the young clerk, politely.

"Nothing—no one can do anything now."

Frank Evans had been turning away, but something in the piteous tones of her voice appealed to every manly instinct within him.

"Shall I send you to any other of your friends?"

"I have no friends!"

"Perhaps I can have your things sent to some quiet family hotel!"

Minnie opened the little leather purse and showed him two ten cent pieces, with a smile that was almost a tear.

"This is all the money I have in the world, sir!"

So young, so beautiful, and so desolate! Frank Evans had been a New Yorker all his life, but he had never met with an exact parallel case to this. He bit the end of his pen in dire perplexity.

"But what are you going to do?"

"I don't know, sir. Isn't there a work-house or some such a place, I could go to, until I could find something to do?"

"Hardly." Frank Evans could scarcely help laughing at poor Minnie's simplicity.

"They are putting out the lights, and preparing to close the office," said Minnie, starting to her feet. "I must go somewhere."

"Miss Harlan," said Frank, quietly, "my home is a very poor one—I am only a five hundred dollar clerk—but I am sure my mother will receive you under her roof for a day or two, if you can trust me."

"Trust you?" Minnie looked at him through violet eyes obscured in tears. "Oh, sir, I should be so thankful!"

"How late you are Frank! Here, give me your overcoat—it is all powdered with snow, and—"

But Frank interrupted his bustling cherry-checked mother, as she stood on tip-toe to take off his outer wrappings.

"Hush, mother! there is a young lady down stairs."

"A young lady, Frank?"

"Yes, mother; expressed on from Iowa to old Harrington, the rich merchant. He sailed for Europe this morning, and she is entirely alone. Mother, she looks like poor Blanche, and I know you wouldn't refuse her a corner here until she could find something to do."

Mrs. Evans went to the door and called cheerily out:

"Come up stairs, my dear—you're welcome as flowers in May! Frank, you did quite right; you always do."

The days and weeks passed on, and still Minnie Harlan remained an inmate of Mrs. Evans's humble dwelling. "It seems as though she had taken our dead Blanche's place," said the cosy little widow; and she is so useful about the house. I don't know how I managed without her."

"Now Minnie, you are not in earnest about leaving us to-morrow?"

"I must, dear Mrs. Evans. Only think—I have been here two months to-morrow; and the situation as governess is very advantageous."

"Very well, I shall tell Frank how very ob-stituate you are."

"Dearest Mrs. Evans, please don't! Please keep my secret."

"What secret is it that is to be so religiously kept?" asked Mr. Frank Evans, coolly walking into the midst of the disension, with his dark hair tossed about by the wind, and his hazel brown eyes sparkling archly.

"Secret!" repeated Mrs. Evans, energetically wiping her dim spectacle glasses. "Why, Minnie is determined to leave us to-morrow."

"Minnie!"

"I must, Frank, I have no right further to trespass on your kindness."

"Not right, eh? Minnie, do you know that the horse has been a different house since you came into it? Do you suppose we want to lose our little sunbeam?"

Minnie smiled sadly, but her hand felt very cold and passive in Frank's warm grasp.

"You'll stay, Minnie?"

"No." She shook her head determinedly.

"Then you must be made to stay," said Frank. "I've missed something of great value lately, and I hereby arrest you on suspicion of the theft!"

"Missed something!" Minnie arose, and turned red and white. "Oh, Frank, you never can suspect me!"

"But I do suspect you. In fact I am quite sure the article is in your possession."

"The article!"

"My heart, Miss Minnie! Now look here; I love you, Minnie Harlan, and I will be a good and true husband to you. Stay, be my little wife!"

So Minnie Harlan, instead of going out as governess, according to the programme, married the dark-haired clerk in Ellison's Express Office.

They were quietly married, early in the morning, and Frank took Minnie home to his mother, and then went calmly about his business in the wire cage, under the circle of gas-light.

"Evans!"

"Yes, sir."

Frank, with his pen behind his ear as of yore, quietly obeyed the behest of the gray-headed official.

"Do you remember the young woman who was expressed on from Millington, Iowa, two months since?"

"Yes, sir—I remember her."

A tall, silver haired gentleman here interposed with eager quickness:

"Where is she? I am her uncle, Walter Harrington. I have just returned from Paris, where the news of her arrival reached me! I want her; she is the only living relative left me!"

"Ah! but sir," said Frank, "you can't have her."

"Can't have her? what do you mean?—"

"Has anything happened?"

"Yes, sir, something has happened: Miss Harlan was married to me this morning."

Walter Harrington started.

"Take me to her," he said, hoarsely. "I can't be parted from my only relative for such a mere whim."

"I wonder if he calls the marriage service and wedding rings mere whims," thought honest Frank; but he obeyed in silence.

"Minnie," said the old man, in faltering accents, "you will come to me and be the daughter of my old age? I am rich, Minnie, and you are all I have in the wide world."

But Minnie stole her hand through her husband's arm.

"Dearest uncle, he was kind to me when I was most desolate and alone. I cannot leave my husband, Uncle Walter—I love him!"

"Then you must both of you come and be my children," said the old man, doggedly.—"And you must come now, for the great house is as lonely as a tomb."

Frank Evans is no longer an express clerk, and pretty Minnie moves in velvet and diamonds; but they are quite as happy as they were in the old days, and that is saying enough. Uncle Walter Harrington grows older and feeblener every day, and his two children are the sunshine of his declining life.

From New Books.

ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS.

We present our readers with a few extracts from Dr. Hays's forthcoming work, entitled "The Open Polar Sea," now in press by Messrs. Hurd & Houghton:

BIRD-CATCHING IN GREENLAND.

While I was watching these movements with much interest, my companion was intent only upon business, and warned me to lie lower, as the birds saw me and were flying too high overhead. Having at length got myself stowed away to the satisfaction of my savage companion, the sport began. The birds were beginning again to whirl their flight closer to our heads—so close, indeed, did they come that it seemed as if I could catch them with my cap. Presently, I observed my companion preparing himself as a flock of unusual thickness was approaching; and, in a moment, up went the net; a half dozen birds flew bang into it, and, stunned with the blow, they could not flutter out before Kalutunah had slipped the staff quickly through his hands and seized the net; with his left hand he now pressed down the birds, while with the right he drew them out one by one; and, for want of a third hand, he used his teeth to crush their heads. The wings were then locked across each other to keep them from fluttering away, and with an

air of triumph the old fellow looked around at me, spat the blood and feathers from his mouth, and went on with the sport, tossing up his net and hauling it in with much rapidity until he had caught about a hundred birds; when, my curiosity being satisfied, we returned to camp and made a hearty meal out of the game which we had bagged in this novel and unsportsman-like manner. While an immense stew was preparing, Kalutunah amused himself with tearing off the birds' skins and consuming the raw flesh while it was yet warm.

BRILLIANCY OF THE ARCTIC SUMMER.

The sun reaching its greatest northern declination on the 21st, we were now in the full blaze of Summer. Six eventful months had passed over since the Arctic mid-night shrouded us in gloom, and now we had reached the Arctic mid-day. And this mid-day was a day of wonderful brightness. The temperature had gone up higher than at any previous time, marking, at meridian, 49°, while in the sun

and lovely air never softened the Arctic landscape. Tempted by the day, I strolled down into the valley south of the harbor. The recent snow had mostly disappeared, and valley and hill-side were speckled with a rich carpet of green, with only here and there a patch of the winter snow yet undissolved—an emerald carpet, fringed and lulaid with silver and sprinkled over with fragments of a bouquet—for many flowers were now in full bloom, and their tiny faces peeped above the sod. A herd of reindeer were browsing on the plain beneath me, and some white rabbits had come from their hiding-places to feed upon the bursting willow-buds. New objects of interest led me on from spot to spot—babbling brooks, and rocky hill-sides, and little glaciers, and softening snow-banks, alternating with patches of tender green.

A marvelous change had come over the face of Nature since the shadow of the night had passed away. Recalling the gloom and silence of the Arctic night,—the death-like quiet which reigned in the endless darkness—the absence of every living thing that could relieve the solitude of its terrors—it was not possible to see, without surprise, the same landscape covered with an endless blaze of light, the air and sea and earth teeming with life, the desert places sparkling with green, and brightening with flowers,—the mind finding everywhere some new object of pleasure, where before there was but gloom. The change of the Arctic Winter to the Arctic Summer is indeed the change from death to life; and the Voice which speaks to the sun and the winds, and brings back the joyous day, is that same Voice which said:

"She is not dead, but sleepeth,"—and the pulseless heart was made to throb again, and the bloom returned to the pallid cheek.

RUNNING DOWN A POLAR BEAR.

While bounding along, logging 10 knots an hour, we almost run over an immense polar bear, which was swimming in the open water, making a fierce battle with the seas, and seemingly desirous of boarding us. He was evidently much exhausted, and seeing the vessel approach, doubtless had made at her in search of safety. The unhappy beast had probably allowed himself to be drifted off on an ice-raft which had gone to pieces under him in the heavy seas. Although these polar bears are fine swimmers, I much fear that the waves would in the end prove too much for this poor fellow, as there was not a speck of ice in sight on which he could find shelter. As we passed he touched the schooner's side, and Jensen, who seized a rifle, was in the act of putting an end to his career, when I arrested his hand.—The bear was making such a brave fight for his life that I would not see him shot, more especially as the waves were running too high to lower a boat for his carcass, without a risk which the circumstances did not warrant.

BRITISH EXPORTS.—The exports of British manufactures to the United States this year are double what they were last year. For eight months of 1865, twenty-one principal articles came to \$40,000,000; this year they amount to \$80,000,000.

DEEP VS. SHALLOW MILK PANS.—Mr. M. A. Richardson, of Sherman, N. Y., says:—"Whether more cream can be obtained from deep or shallow pans, is an easy matter to settle, without even an experiment. It takes time for cream to rise; therefore, it will rise in a shallow pan sooner than in a deep one, and consequently, in warm weather, when milk will thicken in a few hours, shallow pans should be used, or the cream will be caught in the thickened milk and the skimmer won't find it. But in cooler weather, when milk will remain thin long enough for the cream to rise, deep pans are preferred by some. Even then, sweeter butter can be made from shallow pans."





Rhode-Island Society.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry was held on Wednesday morning, 16th inst., at its hall in Providence, the first Vice-President, Henry W. Lothrop, Esq., in the chair.

The Standing Committee presented their annual report, which was read and accepted.

The Treasurer presented an abstract of his accounts for the year, which was read and accepted. The receipts were \$1,887 59, and the expenses \$1,977 66.

The Secretary presented his necrological report for the year, which was accepted, and he was authorized, by consent of the Standing Committee, to add to his report biographical sketches of members deceased, which he had not completed. The names of the members deceased during the past year are: Charles H. Childs, Thomas J. Stead, Daniel Paine, Isaac Thurber, Byron Sprague, Edward F. Miller, Peter Church, Esek W. Dexter, Geo. M. Richmond, Martin Stoddard and Wilkies Updike.

It was voted that the thanks of the Society be tendered to the proprietors of the Providence Daily Journal, Daily Post, Evening Press, and the California Farmer for their papers furnished to the Society the last year.

The following resolutions, submitted by Hon. Elisha Dyer, were passed:

Whereas, Samuel S. Foss, Esq., publisher of the Woonsocket Patriot, has issued the first number of a weekly journal, devoted to Agricultural and Domestic pursuits, and of a highly creditable character in its literary and typographical departments; it is therefore

Resolved, That this Society greet with much pleasure "THE FARM AND FIRESIDE" in its introduction to the agricultural community, and the social life of the hearthstone, congratulating its enterprising publisher and proprietor on the very flattering auspices under which his publication has been issued.

Resolved, That this Society in its recognition of, and sympathy for, this first Rhode Island effort exclusively devoted to the promotion of the interests of agriculture, by the means of the Press, tender to Mr. Foss its assistance as far as may be done, by adopting his publication as the means of disseminating such facts and information as may from time to time be deemed worthy of attention, and in this recommendation of his journal to the patronage and favor of the members of this Society and the community at large.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Society transmit a copy of these resolutions to the publisher of the "Farm and Fireside."

Voted, that the printing of the transactions of this Society in the year 1866, be referred to the Standing Committee, to take such order about the same as they shall deem expedient.

Voted, that a committee of five be appointed by the chair to nominate officers of the Society for the year ensuing.

The chair subsequently appointed Messrs. O. Brown, W. Viall, A. B. Chadsey, H. Staples, and John Holden as this committee.

The foregoing committee, after consultation, asked leave to report at some subsequent day, and proposed an adjourned meeting of the Society on the first Wednesday in February next, at 10 1/2 o'clock a. m.

The subject of lectures and addresses before the Society during the year was referred to a Committee, consisting of Messrs. J. De W. Perry, E. Dyer, A. B. Chadsey and John Holden, to report at the adjourned meeting.

The Society then adjourned to the first Wednesday in February next, at 10 1/2 o'clock a. m.

The meeting was more fully attended than have been the annual meetings for many years past.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN used to tell this story of himself: He was riding one day on the stage-coach in Illinois, when the driver asked him to treat. "I never use liquor," was Mr. Lincoln's reply, "and I cannot induce others to do so." "Don't chew, neither?" "No, sir." "Nor smoke?" "No, sir; I never use tobacco in any form." "Well," replied the disgusted Jehu, "I haint much opinion of you fellers with no small vices; I've allers noticed they make it up in big ones."

UNDER THE VIOLETS.

Her hands are cold, her face is white,
No more her pulses come and go;
Her eyes are shut to life and light:
Fold the white vestures, snow on snow,
And lay her where the violets grow.

But not beneath a graven stone,
To plead for tears with alien eyes;
A slender cross of wood alone
Shall say, that here a maiden lies
In peace beneath the skies.

For the morning choir will sing
Its matins from the branches high,
And every minstrel voice of spring,
That thrills beneath the April sky
Shall greet her with its earliest cry.

When turning round that dial track,
Eastward the lengthened shadows pass,
Her little mourners clad in black,
The cricket sliding through the grass,
Shall pipe for her an evening mass.

At last the rootlets of the trees
Shall find the prison where she lies,
And hear the hurried dust they seize
In leaves and blossoms to the skies;
So may the soul that warmed it rise.

If any, born of kindlier blood,
Should ask what maiden lies below,
Say only this: "A tender bud,
That tried to blossom in the snow,
Lies withered where the violets blow."

RECREATION AND AMUSEMENTS OF FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN WINTER.

FARMERS, as a general thing, labor more, with less relaxation, than is for their own comfort. Many of them toil early and late, summer and winter, and by a proper arrangement of their work, have as much to do on a rainy day as any other. As a bow always bent loses its elasticity, so a laborer whose system is always exerted to its utmost capacity, will become prematurely old, and will be worn out with toil when he should be in his prime. If a man is dependent for a living on the work of each particular day, if he is compelled to work one day to procure food for the next, he must labor more unremittingly than he who has enough of property to be comfortable, and labors more to increase it than enjoy it.

But what recreation shall the farmer take? In the summer, when the fields require his attention, little time can be spared for amusement, although a day's relaxation occasionally is refreshing. But in the winter, when his crops are gathered, and comparatively but little to do, he should relax his exertions, and recruit for the next season's work. A change of employment is oftentimes a relief, and so the farmer will find after a few days' hard work, to take a few tools and make a feeding trough or other useful or ornamental articles, will relieve the dullness of the season and keep him out of idleness. Let him keep a record of his operations during the summer, of his crops, and the labor bestowed on them, and study it over in the winter evenings, and arrange it in a form convenient for preservation and future reference. Let him write his experience to his agricultural paper, and meet and discuss his views with his neighbors. A farmer's club should be established in every neighborhood, and should have meetings at least weekly during the winter evenings. Let each one prepare a paper to read at the meeting, on any particular subject. It will afford both pleasure and profit. Let the relative profits of the different productions of the farm, the best modes of culture, fencing, draining, and a dozen other topics be discussed.

The writer derived much satisfaction from attending the meetings of a debating society, the past winter. Such an one might be established almost everywhere. It gives those who are unaccustomed to speak in public a chance to overcome a natural diffidence, and to all an opportunity to improve oratory. Let plain questions be selected, such as any farmer can advise something for or against; and every one connected with it do the best he can, and some benefit will accrue.

The family of the farmer should also have some provision made for their pleasure. If horses are put out to the sleigh and a ride taken occasionally, they will be none the worse for it. Let them visit their neighbors and spend an evening in cheerful conversation, or a few amusing games or other amusements; have their neighbors visit them, and thus by friendly intercourse keep up a spirit of mutual friend-

ship throughout the neighborhood. Take a load of young folks to the singing school at the neighboring church or school-house; it does one good to hear and take part in such exercises.

The lot of the farmer, if he chooses so to make it, is the most delightful of all pursuits, while on the other hand it may be made the most tiresome, and almost disgusting to the unfortunate agriculturist. By proper use of the faculties with which nature has endowed us, we make ourselves and others comfortable, and farming a pleasant occupation, while many a youth has turned his back to the farm to seek his fortune in the crowded city at the expense of his health and his morals, when he would gladly have stayed at home, had he had proper relaxation, and home had been more than merely a place to eat and sleep. And how many citizens retire to spend their evening of life upon a farm! They have found out the value of occasional relaxation from toil, and hence we find those envying the farmer's lot, not knowing how often the farmer makes his lot burdensome by unceasing toil.

THE BEAVER.—At a recent meeting of the Natural History Society of Halifax, N. S., Col. Hardy, a well known sportsman and naturalist, read a paper on the beaver, whose habits he had closely observed. The dams built by beavers, he said, are of considerable strength, and in some cases broad enough for two persons to pass over abreast, while the houses are not built like those depicted in old natural history books, large bee-hive looking structures, plastered with mud and rounded off, but mere collections of good sized sticks and branches twined together with roots. A perfect model of one of those houses, resting by the lake side, and several elaborate sketches illustrating the habits of the animal, accompanied the paper. The house, constructed of small twigs, roots, &c., was divisible into two parts; the upper on being taken off revealed the curious arrangement within, a good sized hall having a raised couch at the back, comfortably lined with grass. A bleached pine stump rose behind the house while in front lay the miniature lake, formed of plate glass with water-lilies resting upon it.

LITTLE THINGS.—The preciousness of little things was never more beautifully expressed than in the following morceau: "Little martin-boxes of homes are generally the most happy and easy; little villages are nearer to being atoms of a shattered paradise than anything we know of; and little fortunes bring the most content, and little hopes the least disappointment. Little words are the sweetest to hear; little charities fly furthest and stay longest on the wind; little lakes are the stillest, little hearts the fullest, and little farms the best tilled. Little books are the most read, and little songs the most loved. And when nature would make anything especially rare and beautiful, she makes it little—little pearls, little diamonds, little dews. Everybody calls that little that they love best on earth. We once heard a good sort of a man speak of his little wife, and we fancied that she must be a perfect little bijou of a wife. We saw her, and she weighed 210; we were surprised. But then it was no joke; the man meant it. He could put his wife in his heart and have room for other things beside; and what was she but little? Multum in Parvo—much in little—is the great beauty of all we love best, hope for most, and remember the longest."

The Secretary of the Worcester County Horticultural Society is preaching a crusade against the robins. He thinks they eat more fruit than worms, and are altogether too expensive warblers to be encouraged. They fatten upon Northern fruits, and then go South to tickle the palates of Southern gourmats.

A NEGRO boy was driving a mule in Jamaica, when the animal suddenly stopped and refused to budge. "Won't you go, eh?" said the boy. "Feel grand, do you? I s'pose you forget your fadder was a jaekass."

A Connecticut Yankee has cleared his house of rats by catching one and dipping him in red paint. He then let him loose, and the other rats, not liking his looks, left immediately.

The Farm and Fireside.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM, STRICTLY AND ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—A limited number of agricultural advertisements will be published. Price, FIFTEEN CENTS A LINE, each insertion. Special advertisements, at the bottom of the pages, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS per line each insertion. No cuts are allowed in advertisements, and no unusual display.—The Publisher holds the right to reject any advertisement not suitable for these pages.

All letters, remittances, &c., should be addressed to S. S. FOSS, Publisher, Woonsocket, R. I.

Brevities.

Prussia's late war cost her \$42,000,000, to cover which, with a safe margin, she has levied a contribution of \$56,200,000 upon her enemies.

Gossip reports the speedy return of Gen. McClellan from Europe, and that he will reside at his country house, in Orange, New Jersey.

The big mastodon which was recently discovered at Cohoes, N. Y., has been transported to the State geological museum at Albany.

The wheels of the large ocean steamers make about 200,000 revolutions in crossing the Atlantic, between New York and Liverpool.

The arming of the whole Austrian army with breech-loading rifles is resolved upon. The modification of the existing muskets will extend to 580,000 weapons.

Civilized man drinks \$200,000,000 worth of champagne every year.

After Fred. Douglas had finished his recent lecture in New York, an exuberant white woman went up to the platform and kissed him. Fred. received the token without blushing.

A principal agent of a prominent life insurance company recently died and had no insurance upon his life. This is almost as bad as the bald-headed man selling his ointment for restoring the hair.

Pork is dull at six cents a pound in West Virginia.

Losses by cattle disease in England are summed up at \$17,865,000 in gold.

Last year 288,496 persons arrived in the United States from foreign countries of whom 29,000 went West.

Five thousand men will be thrown out of employment in Pittsburg on the 15th of this month, by the stopping of the iron mills.

Lynn, Mass., has 220 boot and shoe manufacturers. Annual production, \$12,000,000 worth.

America has 90,000 miles of telegraph and 35,000 of railway.

The Portland Argus states that Mr. Bingham of the House, has purchased of James Keegan of Augusta, his celebrated rotting horse "Johnny Schmoker," for \$3500.

The Markets.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 2037; Sheep and Lambs 9228.

PRICES.—Beef Cattle—Extra, \$12 50@13 00; 1st quality \$12 00@12 25; 2d do. \$11 00@11 75; 3d do. \$9 50@10 50 100 lbs. (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.) Country Hides—8 1/2@9 1/2 lb; Country Tallow, 7@7 1/2 lb. Brighton Hides, 10@11 lb. Brighton Tallow 8@8 1/2 lb. Lamb Skins, \$1@1 25 each; Sheep Skins, \$1@1 25 each. Calf Skins, 17@20c lb.

There is a large supply of Cattle from the West which are of a better quality than those of last week. Taking quality and shrinkage into consideration we think that the prices are from 25 to 75 cents per hundred lower than they were one week ago. A few of the extra brands have been sold at 13 1/2@13 3/4 lb.

Stores—With the exceptions of Working Oxen and Milch Cows there are but few Stores brought to market. Nearly all the small cattle being sold for beef.

Working Oxen—Sales at \$160, 165, 180, 185, 195, 200, 205, 215. There has been a better demand for Working Oxen for the last six weeks than for any other stock brought to market.

Milch Cows—Sales extra \$80@100; ordinary \$60@75; Store Cows \$35@50. Prices of Milch Cows depend altogether upon the fancy of the purchasers.

Sheep and Lambs—Sales 61 at 6 1/2, 97 at 6, 161 at 5 1/2, 40 at 7 1/2, 104 at 5, 208 at 6 1/2, 92 at 6, 80 at 5 1/2, 75 at 6, 12 at 6 1/2 lb, 108 at \$3, 111 at \$3 25, 110 at \$4 50 head. The trade is dull; many of them are taken at a commission.

Swine—None in market.

NEW YORK WOOL MARKET.

The market is still somewhat unsettled, though prices have not varied materially. The sales are 150,000 lbs. State and Western Fleece at 45a50c for ordinary to extra choice—the latter price for XX Ohio; 30,000 lbs. super and extra pulled, 20a22; 100,000 lbs. Texas, 15a22 1/2 for inferior and ill-conditioned, and 24a33 for fair to prime; 10,000 lbs. California, 21 1/2; 9000 lbs Mexican, 17; 16,000 lbs. Black Spanish, 17; 15,000 lbs. African, in bond, 17 gold and 27 1/2 currency; 60 hales Buenos Ayres Merino, 36 currency; 100 do. Merino, 110 do. Donskol, and 150 do. Cape, on private terms.

ALBANY CATTLE MARKET.

BEAVER—The market opened extremely dull, with but few buyers, but yesterday dealers from the East bought pretty freely, especially for Brighton, and the market grew a little stronger, but except for the best extra, prices were lower.—Freights—To Brighton, Providence, Hartford, New Haven, New London and Norwich, cattle and sheep, Western \$3 per car, State do. 53; sheep 20 per ct. less; swine 10 per ct. less; swine, Western, 16c @ 100 lbs.

	Aver. weekly receipts last year.	Total since Jan. 1.
Beaves.....	4,766	6,800
Sheep.....	5,255	9,600

	This week.	Last week.
Premium.....	\$10 00@11 00	\$10 00@11 00
Extra.....	8 50a 9 50	8 25a 9 00
First quality.....	7 25a 7 75	7 25a 7 75
Second quality.....	6 00a 6 75	6 00a 6 75
Third quality.....	5 25a 5 75	5 00a 5 75
Inferior.....	4 00a 4 50	4 25a 4 75

SHEEP in rather better demand; sales about 1500 at 6a6 1/2 lb.

HOGS—Several hundred sold at 6 1/2a7 1/2 lb for light and heavy.—[Journal]

NEW ENGLAND IN 1673.—At this period of our history, there were in New England 120,000 souls, 13,000 families, and 16,000 men capable of bearing arms. There were 12 ships between 100 and 200 tons, 190 ships between 20 and 100 tons, and 500 fishing boats under 6 tons. No house had more than 20 rooms, and not above 20 in Boston which had above 10. There were no beggars. There were no musicians by trade, and a dancing school was set up, but put down, though a fencing school was allowed. No cloth was made worth over 4s a yard, and no linen above 2s 6d, and there was not a man worth over \$30,000.





Poetic Gems.

THE FIRESIDE.

Let others seek for empty joys
At hall or concert, rout or play;
Whilst, far from Fashion's idle noise,
Her gilded domes and trappings gay,
I while the wintry eve away;
'Twill book and lute the hours divide,
And marvel how I'er could stray
From thee—my own fireside!

My own fireside! Those simple words
Can hid the sweetest dreams arise,
Awaken feelings tenderest chords,
And fill with tears of joy mine eyes.
What is there my wild heart can prize,
That doth not in thy sphere abide;
Haunt of my home-bred sympathies,
My own—my own fireside!

A gentle form is near me now;
A small white hand is clasped in mine;
I gaze upon her placid brow,
And ask, what joys can equal thine?
A babe, whose beauties half divine,
In sleep his mother's eyes doth bide;
Where may Love seek a fitter shrine
Than thou—my own fireside!

My refuge ever from the storm
Of this world's passion, strife and care;
Though thunder-clouds the skies deform,
Their fury cannot reach me there:
There all is cheerful, calm and fair:
Wrath, Envy, Malice, Strife or Pride
Hath never made its hated lair
By thee—my own fireside!

Shrine of my household duties!
Bright scene of home's unsullied joys;
To thee my burdened spirit flies
When Fortune frowns, or Care annoys!
Thine is the bliss that never cloy;
The smile whose truth has oft been tried;
What, then, are this world's tinsel toys
To thee—my own fireside!

Oh, may the yearnings, fond and sweet,
That bid my thoughts be all of thee,
Thus ever guide my wandering feet
To thy heart-soothing sanctuary!
Whate'er my future years may be,
Let joy or grief my fate betide,
Be still an Eden bright to me,
My own—my own fireside!

The Field.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY WILLIAM H. WHITE, SOUTH WINDSOR, CONN.

TOBACCO, as a field crop in New England, has grown from a small, recent beginning, to one of considerable importance at the present day. By the census statistics of 1850 we find that it was grown in only New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut, of the New England States; and the whole number of pounds produced was only 1,407,920. In 1860 it had risen to 9,366,445 pounds. This amount, in 1865, we find by the Report of the Agricultural Department at Washington, still farther increased to 14,039,040 pounds; and amounting in value to \$3,769,671. The number of acres devoted to the crop in 1865 was a fraction over 11,000. As the census returns fail to give either the number of acres grown, or the gross amount in value of the crop for either of the preceding years, I am unable to approximate the same. But that the number of acres grown was very much less, is evident, and the price per pound was also only a fractional part of what it was for 1865. In Connecticut, if my memory serves me, the price in 1850 for the best lots was only six or seven cents per pound; while in 1865 it averaged thirty cents per pound, and many lots that I know of sold for thirty-five and forty cents per pound. This advance, in part, was owing to superior culture and greater experience in both preparing and marketing the crop; and in part to diminished production in the Southern tobacco-producing States. While the general average production per acre in 1865 ranged from 750 to 1350 pounds, experienced, successful growers in the Connecticut Valley averaged 2000 pounds; and some that I might name raised from 2500 to 2700 pounds to the acre. But few farmers in Connecticut devote more than four to six acres to this crop, and a great many do not exceed one acre. In Massachusetts there are a few large growers, growing twenty to twenty-five acres, and averaging 2000 pounds to the acre, as I am credibly informed; but it is only done by high culture. Many will grow that amount, or even more, to the acre, while their next neighbor, with similar soil, will only obtain 1200 to 1600 pounds

per acre. You ask why this difference? I answer, it is all owing to superior culture, superior manuring, etc. Tobacco will not be a successful crop without these last essentials.

Perhaps the reader will inquire the expense of growing an acre of tobacco. I will give the amount of labor in cultivating and preparing an acre of tobacco—as it should be—on turf, in the year 1864. I reduce the labor to days' work. Number of days, 53½; plowing with yoke of oxen and pair of horses, two days; hauling manure two days, ox team; harrowing in manure and fitting with two horse team, two days; 10 cords (128 feet to the cord) manure; guano and plaster to put in hill, \$7.50; 6000 tobacco plants; 7 pounds of twine to hang tobacco with; six cases for casing the crop. It must here be borne in mind that sward land requires a much larger amount of labor to fit for setting, than old land; and that, in this case, the whole of the plants were watered out in a dry time, which took three to four times as long as when set in a moist time. The product was 2183 pounds of fine wrappers, and 206 pounds of fillers, amounting in value at that time to a little over \$1100. Had the same amount been laid out on old land, equally good, the product would have been several hundred weight greater.

The foregoing is the actual product of an acre, most part of which was turf, broken up about eight inches deep, early in May, and had been in grass and mowed, some ten or twelve years; soil, a good sandy loam. The success of growing a good crop of tobacco depends much upon having a supply of good strong plants and planting them out early. The plant-bed should have a sheltered position, with good exposure to the sun. The soil should be deep, friable, and mellow; not liable to drouth, or retentive of water. The bed should be prepared by digging in a good heavy coat of fine manure, guano or other fertilizer, free of weed-seed, as early in the spring as the ground will admit of being well worked.—Make the surface very fine with the garden rake, smooth and even. Sow the seed broadcast, first mixed with sand, at the rate of one table-spoonful of seed to the square rod of bed, roll or tread it in smooth and compact; cover with brush, to be removed when the bed is wed and fear of frosts are over. Keep clean of weeds. The best soil for tobacco is a moderately light sandy loam, deep and rich.—The crop will flourish in none except a rich soil, with plenty of manure to feed on. The manure should be hauled on and plowed under five or six inches deep, in the month of April, be well fined when spread. Any good stable manure is good, but horse, well worked up, is best. The latter part of May the ground should be plowed again, this time two inches deeper than before, and lie a few days, when it should be well harrowed and fitted for setting the plants. Mark your rows three feet eight inches apart, with a suitable marker.—Cultivator teeth, set in a frame, to be drawn with a horse, will answer. Into these drills strew guano and plaster, mixed, at the rate of 150 lbs. of guano to 250 lbs. of plaster, and cover with a "Shares Planter." This leaves a slight ridge, smooth on top; on this mark the hills with a wheel marker, two and one-half feet apart. Transplant from the 1st to the 15th of June, or as soon as the plants get large and strong enough, which will be when the leaves get four or five inches long. Moist weather is best for transplanting, and if carefully done, very little check is given the young plants, as they are quite hardy and tenacious of life. Cultivate as soon as the plant takes root, and once in ten days thereafter, till too large to go among with the cultivator and horse. Clean culture is essential in every stage. Keep off the cut worm from the young plants, by hunting them out; and also the green worm, by hand-picking often, after they appear. When the plants get up pretty generally, so as to show blossom buds, pinch the top off—if a good growth, the point for topping will be about 2½ feet high. The topping is necessary to send the growth into the leaves. In a few days, suckers will appear at the axils of the leaves; these must be kept off, for the same reason of topping. Tobacco should be cut as soon as ripe—before dead ripe—and

bung in the curing barn. It turns a mottled green, becomes thick, and easily breaks when folded, upon ripening. Tobacco is hung with twine on poles, or by spearing, on latb. It should be hung thin, to give a free circulation of air among it while curing. It is cured when the mid ribs of the leaves cease to yield any sap upon being twisted. Watch, now, a mild, moist time, and when the tobacco comes in, case so that it can be hauled without breaking or cracking the leaves; take it down and bulk it, preparatory to stripping. It is assorted into two or three qualities, as it may be more or less perfect. The ground leaves go by themselves for fillers. All imperfect leaves go into another quality; and, lastly, the perfect leaves are stripped, and done up for wrappers. In assorting and stripping, put that of the same length of leaf in the same bank, and be careful to do up every hank very nice, keeping the huts even, and winding the baud smooth, and near the end of the butts. About three hanks to the pound is the right size for the banks. Each quality is bulked separately, and well covered in and weighted down, to prevent drying out. A mild day is chosen, after the tobacco is all stripped, for casing, when it is ready for market. About 375 pounds are pressed into a box 2½ feet square, by 3½ feet in length, inside measure. Tobacco presses, or levers with follower and blocking, are used for pressing. Tobacco should be stored in a dry room where it will gain no moisture from outside influences. *January, 1867.*

A NEW HEDGE PLANT.

NEARLY all hedge plants in common use hitherto have exhibited some radical defect that has prevented them from being extensively popular. The Wallingford Circular suggests a new shrub, which is common enough, but which has been used very little for hedge purposes, and if what is said for it, is correct, it is just the plant to be set for hedges in New England:—

A hedge plant to become popular must be perfectly hardy and easy to propagate. It should also be vigorous enough to grow well in ordinary soils without manure. It should be thorny, to keep cattle from hooking it, and strong enough to keep them from breaking through it. Finally, it should be low enough to require little or no pruning. The common barberry (*barberis vulgaris*) combines these qualities better than any plant that I am acquainted with. The barberry is a native of the northern part of Europe and Asia; but has become thoroughly naturalized, and is now found growing wild in the waste grounds of New England. It is a remarkably hardy plant, thriving in a great variety of soils, and it is said to live for centuries. It has a shrubby habit (growing from six to ten feet in height), yellowish thorny wood, leaves in rosettes, yellow flowers on drooping racemes, and scarlet, oblong berries, very acid, and making delicious preserves.

We have a barberry hedge on our grounds at Wallingford, Ct., twenty-five rods long and nine years old, from the seed. Two rows of plants were set, the rows one foot apart, and the plants one foot apart in the row, and set alternately to break joints. This hedge has been clipped a little two or three times, to keep it even, and is now six or seven feet high, with a firm, compact base, perfectly impervious to the smaller animals and stout enough to turn ordinary farm stock, except at a short distance at one end, where the soil is quite thin. On our grounds at Oneida we have a barberry hedge fifty rods long and seven years old, from the seed. In this case but one row was planted, and the plants were set one foot apart. It has been kept clean with the cultivator, and clipped a little once or twice, and is now five feet high, thick and compact at the base, and already so strong that the fence was taken away last fall, leaving in its place only a slight railing of a single board, six or eight inches wide, as a temporary guard, until the hedge can make another year's growth, it being situated on a highway where cattle are passing daily. An important item in regard to this plant is its habit of sending up suckers from the bottom by which, in a few years, it comes to have a base from six to twelve inches in diameter.

HOP-GROWING AND ITS PROFITS.—A correspondent of the Wisconsin Farmer furnishes the following facts and figures on this interesting department of husbandry:

Value of land, 7 acres at \$60.....	\$420 00
Cost of 12,000 poles, at 6½ cents.....	780 00
" " Hop House.....	700 00
" " Press and Furnaces.....	140 00
" " Hop-boxes.....	50 00

Making the total permanent outlay.....	\$2,090 00
Charging to this year's crop 20 per cent. for wear and interest, we have 20 per cent. of \$2,090.....	418 00
Cost of cultivation and manure.....	542 00
Cost of picking, haling and marketing.....	1,440 00

Total expenses.....	\$2,400 00
Received for crop.....	\$3,150 00
Net profit of crop.....	\$5,750 00

This field yielded 17,139 pounds of hops, being an average yield per acre of 2448 pounds—and a net profit per acre of \$821 42. Has any New England hop-grower beaten this?—If so, let him furnish his statement and it shall appear.

PROFITS OF BEES.—Among the few brags on bees this year, we notice that a correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* says he had seven swarms last spring, which, with the exception of two or three, were light, and he had little hope of profit this year. But the account stands thus: nine new swarms at \$5, \$45; one hundred and fifty pounds white clover honey at thirty cents, \$45; fifty pounds buckwheat honey, at twenty-five cents, \$1.50; total, \$102.50, or nearly \$15 per swarm.

PEA Straw is richer in oil, albuminous or flesh-forming matter, than the straw of the cereals. The woody fibre is also more digestible. This fully accounts for the repate in which it is held as fodder for sheep and cattle.

GOOD YIELD.—G. O. Gill, of West Medway, raised the past season seven bushels of good onions on two square rods of ground.

Mr. Andrew McLaughlin, of Peacham, Vt., raised 58 bushels of wheat on 1½ acres of land.

A doctor's wife attempted to move him by her tears. "Ann," said he, "tears are useless." I have analyzed them. They contain a little phosphate of lime, some chlorate of sodium and water."

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

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WOONSOCKET, R. I.

W. A. HENNESSEY,.....PROPRIETOR.

Manufacturer of FLUE and TUBULAR STEAM BOILERS,
OIL and WATER TANKS, WATER PIPE and PLATE
IRON WORK of every description.

Boilers repaired in a thorough manner at short notice.

SHOP AT NORTH END, NEAR HARRIS'S NEW MILL.

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in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's
and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares a Patent Harrows and
Horse Hoes, Cultivators, Seed Sowers, Hay Cutters, Garden
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the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens,
by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO.,
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Massachusetts.

FOWLS FOR SALE.—The subscriber will sell a few pairs of
Grey Dorkings; also, several pairs of Brahmas, at \$5 per
pair, boxed and provided with food, delivered to express.
H. G. WHITE,
So. Framingham, Mass.
1w-2

Jan. 19, 1867.

HAY FOR SALE.—From seven to ten tons of good Meadow
Hay,
(2w-1) ARNOLD TAIT,
Mendon, Mass.

LUMBER FOR SALE.—Twelve to fifteen thousand feet of
Chestnut Lumber—most of it two inch Plank.
ARNOLD TAIT,
Mendon, Mass.
(2w-1)

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and the fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, invariably in advance.



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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 OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1867.

NO. 3.

Winter Scenery.

THE SNOW STORM.

BY R. W. EMERSON.

Announced by all the trumpets of the sky,
Arrives the snow, and, driving o'er the fields,
Seems nowhere to alight: the whited air
Hides hills and woods, the river, and the heavens,
And veils the farm-house at the garden's end.
The sled and traveler stopped, the courier's feet
Delayed, all friends shut out, the housemates sit
Around the radiant fire-place, enclosed
In a tumultuous privacy of storm.

Come see the north wind's masonry
Out of an unseen quarry evermore
Furnished with tile, the fierce artificer
Curves his white bastions with projected roof
Round every windward stake, or tree, or door.
Speeding, the myriad-handed, his wild work
So fanciful, so savage, nought cares he
For number or proportion. Mockingly,
On coop or kennel he hangs Parian wreaths:
A swan-like form invests the hidden thorn;
Fills up the farmer's lane from wall to wall,
Mangles the farmer's sighs; and, at the gate,
A tapering turret overtops the work.
And when his hours are numbered, and the world
Is all his own, retiring, as he were not,
Leaves, when the sun appears, astonished Art
To mimic in slow structures, stone by stone,
Built in an age, the mad wind's night-work,
The frolic architecture of the snow.

The Dairy.



BUTTER MAKING.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY R. C. KENDALL, PHILADELPHIA.

It is a fact patent to all who have had opportunities of observing and practically testing, that good butter is more generally the rule on Philadelphia tables than on those of any other city in the country. This proves that all the requisites of producing a superior article of this indispensable staple, are present in the dairy localities within market range of the city; for, although there is a great deal of Northern and Western butter consumed by confectioners, bakers, and in domestic cookery, few tables in Philadelphia are supplied with tub, firkin or roll butter from abroad.—Even the wives of mechanics and laborers prefer going into the market and purchasing a fresh pound, or half-pound "print," with which market stalls and huckster stands are almost always sufficiently supplied, though the charge is a few cents more per pound, to buying Goshen and Ohio butter at reduced rates.

Nevertheless there is a great deal of butter made within a circle of forty miles about Philadelphia, and sent fresh to market in the form of nice looking "prints," that is only good by courtesy, and superior by comparison with foreign "roll" or "tub." To be perfectly plain and honest in the premises, there is a large per centum of all the produce of our do-

mestic dairy districts, vended in the Philadelphia markets and eaten by Philadelphians, that after all ought to bear, from impression by the "printer," in plain capitals, the initials—P. P. B.,—Pretty Poor Butter. Very pretty to the eye, but bearing an unpleasant odor, an objectionable flavor, and cutting into it, discovers a salvy, greasy, sticky compound, requiring some resolution and a stout stomach to reconcile one to its consumption.

To illustrate, practically, the difference between first and third class butter sold in Philadelphia, let us instance an every-market-day fact, that has been such these twenty-five years. Two dairymen, living near neighbors in the country, and manufacturing weekly about equal amounts of butter, and selling on every market day in the city, side by side, their wares; Mr. H. always disposing of his as fast as he can serve it out—mostly to regular customers who have given him the "call" of the market, consecutively, year after year; several during the whole time that he has stood in market, all well pleased to pay ten cents per pound above the ruling rates, knowing that by so doing, they are securing the best butter in market. At the same time the stock of Mr. T., his next door neighbor, both at home and in the market, goes off at a slow drag, at prices about parallel with the lowest, making the average difference annually, and always, between his "P. P. B., and Mr. H.'s superior butter, about fourteen cents per pound. So that as each brings in about 175 lbs. on every market day, Mr. T.'s stock, which has cost him just as much to manufacture and market as his neighbor's has him, pays him \$24.50 per week less than Mr. H.'s receipts for a like weight; besides keeping him an extra half day in market on account of slow sales, and his customer in a continual growl about the quality of his third-class compound.

About ten years ago, Mr. T. became exercised and greatly excited with the facts before him, that his neighbor H. realized every week, from the same amount of stock, nearly twenty-five dollars more than himself,—\$98 a month,—one thousand one hundred and seventy-six dollars per annum. Whew! What a foot-up at the end of every year. Enough, pretty nearly, to carry his whole dairy stock through the winter, and pay all the expense of manufacture. Mr. T. got very wide awake for a few days, and determined upon an investigation of causes, and a radical reform, if that were possible. After a thorough search, finding no especial fault anywhere else, he charged the inferior quality of his butter to the poor cows partly, some to feed, and the remainder to poor water.

Mr. H. argued that, as the dairy stock of the two farms were about the same, as was the water also, and no material difference in either summer pasturage or winter feeding, he guessed the bad butter was chargeable mainly to bad management in making; and offered, with T.'s permission, to experiment. T. was willing of course, and Mr. and Mrs. H. made the butter over at Mr. T.'s dairy one week. The result was very good butter—nearly equal to that made by Mrs. H. at home, and a general astonishment of T.'s town customers for one week. But there was a rapid back-sliding to third-rate material and low prices. T. could

not maintain the dairy principles taught him by his more intelligent neighbor, and so goes on to this day, selling "P. P. B.," throwing away \$24 to \$30 weekly, as a force offering to slovenliness.

The first requisites of good butter are good cows, good summer pasturage, winter-feeding, and always good, pure water. Then, always absolute cleanliness in everything connected with the process—milking, straining, skimming, churning, working over, and preparing the butter for market. Every thing should be perfectly sweet, and as clean as clean can be. As tin pans will rust, and retain, after being in use some time—no matter how much you may scrub and scald them—a sourness very bad for butter, hard glazed stone ware or glass pans are far preferable. These should be so large that a gallon of milk will not stand above four inches deep, and the cream should be carefully skimmed off before the milk has become so sour as to begin to thicken.

In churning, don't try to hurry up the butter in ten minutes. The best butter is not brought out in a hurry. Take it moderately. In working over, hurry up as fast as you please, so that the work is well done. Don't depend on any of the patent "butter-workers." Not one of them, as yet, will bring out first-class butter. They "work" too much, break up the grain, and make greasy salve. Work the butter by hand, but don't knead it. That operation is good for bread, but bad for butter.—Cuff and bat it rapidly to and fro with a clean, wet hand one side; and a clean, smooth paddle the other—first in ten pound batches or less, on a clean table, working in the salt and the butter-milk out, by cuffing. Then divide into pounds or half-pounds, and paddle and cuff a minute each, and print and put away for market in a clean, sweet, cool place.

By following faithfully this practice, every farmer's wife through a large portion of Delaware, West Jersey, and in all our Key Stone regions east of the Alleghanies, can make first class butter. The New England farmers, in general, make excellent butter; but if they have any better method than is stated above, let me hear "how to do it."

CREAM IN COLD WEATHER.—For some reason not yet known, cream skimmed from milk in cold weather does not come to butter, when churned, so quickly as that from the same cow in warm weather. Perhaps the pellicles which form the little sacks of butter in the cream, are thicker and tougher. There is one method of obviating this trouble in a great degree.—Set the pan of milk on the stove, or in some warm place, as soon as strained, and let it remain until quite warm—some say, until a bubble or two rises, or until a scum of cream begins to form on the surface.

TO CURE POISON FROM IVY.—Rub the part poisoned with sweet oil. A small portion rubbed on the skin before going among the ivy will prevent taking the poison.

THE average number of acres in the farms of Massachusetts, is 94; Rhode Island, 96; Connecticut, 99.

Garden and Orchard.

DRAINING A GARDEN.

It is a very small job to underdrain a garden. Suppose it contains half an acre, and this is twice as large as most farmers' gardens, then the expense need not be more than twenty dollars. Now autumn is the best time for all such operations; but a garden may frequently be drained in the winter. It can be done without any outlay, except for tile, and these will cost but little. If the soil is cloggy, or if it is so moist that you have to delay working it till late in the spring, it will more than pay. If the soil is shallow, compact, or cold, it will pay.

Draining deepens, warms, enriches and dries the soil, and thus lengthens the season. It brings spring from two to four weeks earlier than it otherwise would come. It will also give farmers an opportunity to test, without much expense, the advantages of under-draining. Many do not like to go into it extensively, till they know by personal experience the good it does. For all such, the garden is the place to begin. There is one error we would urge all who have never seen much of draining not to commit; that is, do not dig a shallow ditch, and then fill it full of stones, brush, pieces of wood or rails, and call it an under-drain. Do it well, or don't do it at all. Well done, is twice done; while half done, is not done at all.

WHITEWASHING FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES.—The practice of coating the bark of fruit and ornamental trees with whitewash is one that cannot be too severely deprecated.—The obstruction of the perspiratory organs and orifices, whether effected by the application of whitewash or any other adhesive material, always acts as a fruitful source of disease, and in time proves fatal to the tree. When the bark becomes rough, or incrustated with moss, it should be cleaned by scraping and washing down thoroughly with a solution of potash or soda in water, affording smoothness to the surface without obstructing the pores.—AN OLD FAEMER, in the Germantown Telegraph.

ORCHARD MANAGEMENT.—Daniel Smiley, aged 71 years, writes as follows to the Country Gentleman:

"Will it pay to take care of apple trees? I have an orchard containing one and one-half acres. We kept the caterpillars off—dug a space round every tree, about 15 feet in diameter—dug in a compost of muck and horse manure early in the spring—scraped the rough bark off the bodies and limbs, and killed the worms that gathered on the bodies of the trees, and gathered and sold from the same about 200 barrels, the sale amounting to \$700, besides paying for the barrels, while other orchards in our vicinity, as large as mine, produced scarcely en

boasting, but to induce others to go and do likewise.
P. S.—I have a nursery three years old—am calculating if I live until spring to set out another orchard."

THE WORCESTER COUNTY CHEESE MANUFACTURING COMPANY held their annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 5th, at Southbridge, Mass., at which the following officers were chosen: President, D. S. Ellis; Secretary, G. F. Brown; Treasurer, N. S. Hubbard. From the reports of the treasurer it appears that 170,823 gallons of milk were received at the factory, from which 142,767 pounds of cheese were made. The cheese was all sold, or recorded as sold at the factory. Whole amount of money received for cheese, \$27,067.36; whole amount of expenses, \$3,369.85; net profits, \$23,697.51.—Average net price per pound, \$0.16.598. The factory proves a success to the farmers.





Fireside Suggestions.

PRESERVATION OF MEAT.

It is a well known fact that lean meat, as beef, for instance, becomes dry, hard and un-nutritious by salting. Salt being chloride of sodium, and its chlorine having a great affinity for the soluble portions of the flesh—albumen, fibrine, etc.—it attracts the juices, forming a brine, containing the larger portion of the nutritious qualities, with the elements of phosphoric acid, potash and other mineral ingredients. As these are removed from the meat so is its fitness for food diminished. When lean meat is subjected to the action of salt, the deliquescent properties of the salt attracts the juices of the meat, and the brine resulting contains the mineral bases of the meat—the phosphoric acid, potash, etc.—with the albuminous elements, all being held in the saline solution.

Fat meat, or rather fat itself, is impervious to salt. The outside becomes indurated by the salt, and refuses entrance to the decomposing gases. Still, salt is a solvent, and it assimilates with the substances with which its solvent properties harmonize. If not adapted to its action as a chloride of sodium, readily uniting with the elements of animal substances except the fatty principle, it drains the meat subjected to its operation of its most valuable qualities. The action of salt, it will be seen from these brief remarks, is almost confined to the lean flesh to which it is applied; although, in fact, it is a necessary element in the preservation or preparation of animal food for the market.

In this connection we desire so say a few words as to the management of animals designed for the slaughter house and the market. Animals which have been subjected to considerable fear and agitation before being slaughtered have their flesh relaxed. They have been in just the worst condition to preserve the fat already deposited on their bones, and in just the best condition for them to make good the waste, if offered the opportunity, to which they have been subjected. How necessary it is then, for the cattle brought from peaceful pastures to the abattoirs of the metropolis, to have some days of rest, with proper shelter and good food, before being hurried to the shambles.

The albumen, from which waste of exercise or work is to be made up, is exhausted. Why? Simply this: Muscular action is supported and sustained by the decomposition of carbon in the food eaten, and violent exercise, like a high chimney, induces a strong draft. The carbonaceous or life-giving elements burn out rapidly, when either forced exercise is demanded, or the agitation of the mind is allowed to react on the physical organism; and we are among those who believe that mind, or reason, or intellect, exists among the lower orders of animals as well as in the *genus homo*. These animals, then, intended for the slaughter, may, by the exercise or the excitement of driving, or the fear of unknown harm while *in transitu* on the cars, waste the vitalic force stored in the cellular tissues of their fat and be in a collapsed condition, to speak unmechanically, when they arrive at the shambles.

In fact, in this preservation of animal food for human consumption, there is involved a law of nature. We have not time nor space to detail the particulars. There is a latent force, or there is a latent heat—in this respect synonymous terms—in all substances, and especially in substances taken by the animal as a part of its organism. Vegetable substances are taken up by grazing animals and as soon as the processes of digestion act, in fact sooner, become a living force in the animal. This force can be expended by violent exercise or by anxiety or trouble, reaching through the sensual or the mental perceptions and affecting the tissues of the physical structure. This may be seen every day. A worried man is never a fleshy man. Swine sometimes refuse to be fattened. They have trouble on their minds. To be made fat they must be free from care and take to their food kindly. Care in their case is dyspepsia. In the case of men, anxiety, producing or at least inducing dyspepsia.

The flesh of wild animals, those we obtain as food, is lean. They are full of anxiety, have no time to get fat, and their meat, when salted, is not nutritious. Take our domestic animals and they live "in clover," having no care, not harassed nor troubled. They grow fat, and not only put layers of fat over and under the muscles, but extend it through the lean tissues. This is the meat, when properly killed, that delights the taste of the epicure and nourishes the frame of omnivorous humanity. We seldom think of preserving the meat of wild animals, especially those which hold their lives by a tenure of grace from un-resting enemies, by salt. We view them like fish, as fit to be eaten only while fresh. We do not salt down lean animals. Even from the meat of those given to fat we select the fat for salting, the lean for eating fresh or at most "corned."

Our meat for preservation by salt must be either fat in itself or have fat enough in the lean to neutralize the deliquescent quality of the salt and leave us the juices which contain nutriment, otherwise our "corned beef" would be only the whaleman's "mahogany" or the soldier's "salt horse," and we should be subjected to the mishaps of the long sea voyages or the commissaries of the camp.—*Scientific American*.

MEAT AT BREAKFAST.

A RECENT writer expresses his belief that meat should be taken at the morning meal, and thus gives his reasons:

It may not be digested so quickly as some starchy substances; but, as a rule, it is digested easily, and it certainly satisfies the system, and carries us farther in our work than vegetables alone. At this time meat should be taken in a palatable and easily digestible form—stewed, with the nutritive juices saved in the sauces, and the aromatic principles developed by the heat; or, better than all, broiled, for here the juices are retained in the tissue, and the flavor is developed by the hardening and caramelization, as it were, of the exterior.—Above all, avoid the abomination of frying fresh meat; not alone as a matter of taste, but as a violation of scientific laws. A fresh animal tissue which has soaked up a mass of fat is not in a proper condition to be taken into the system. Salted articles, which are generally so hardened that they will not so readily absorb the fat, as fish, and articles which are exposed but a short time to the very high temperature to which all fried articles are subjected, may be cooked in this way, but never good fresh meat.

RHUBARB WINE.—George Warne, M. D., Independence, Buchanan county, Iowa, says: "The rhubarb wine cannot be dangerous if kept till it gets age. I have some that has been bottled six years; the corks were driven in and tied down, and then sealed with sealing wax, and made as absolutely tight as I could make it, and it has now resolved itself into sweetened water. Guess what has become of the oxalic acid? Indeed, what has become of my wine? The ingredients are all there—the wine is not. It is a useless waste of time and material to make wine of rhubarb."

TIME TO CUT BUSHES.—A correspondent of the N. H. Farmer says: Repeated trials on as many different pieces of land, and each trial a complete success, has convinced us that December, the time we invariably do this, is the best season, at which time the growth of the year is evidently at an end. A piece of valuable pasture land of ours, overrun with bushes, which had been many times cut over by a former owner to no purpose, because cut in the summer season, was by us cut over in December, 1861, and to this time, a period of nearly five years, not a bush has sprouted or started, and the land, though moist, is well stocked down to grass.

GERANIUM LEAVES.—It is not generally known that the leaves of geranium are an excellent application for cuts, where the skin is rubbed off, and other wounds of that kind.—One or two leaves must be bruised and applied to the part, and the wound will be cicatrized in a very short time.

The Farm.

MORAL INFLUENCE OF FARMING.

THERE is a decided moral tendency in the direct and close dealing, if we may so speak, between the farmer and his God. They work together. God has ground this realm (so geologists tell us,) into a somewhat hard and thin soil. "He has sent the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills, and caused the grass to grow for the cattle and herb for the service of man." These gifts are in the rough. The condition of their true enjoyment is useful and health-giving labor. The gold must be gathered or mined, the diamond polished. So the soil must be patiently wrought and duly enriched; the tree, the clay, the stone, converted into dwellings; the air and sunshine into corn and wine. The annual covering of the sheep, and the life garment of the kine, into blankets and sandals. In short, labor and reward are inscribed on every gift of God, and none so generally receive them right from the giver as those who till the ground. There is less intervention of varioloid scrip and poisonous nickels. The vine holds out its clusters, the rich purple, all undisturbed. The apple, the pear, the peach, bend their branches to the gathering, fresh as only God can make them. The harvest field nods to the reaper, that it may become sheaves in his bosom, and bread to the hungry. The broad bosom of the meadow undulates and throbs with every breeze until shorn of its trophies. Even the "forests toss their giant branches" for shelter and for shade. Is there not a sense of great nearness to God amidst these blessings? a feeling of satisfaction and comfort closely allied to thanksgiving, praise and love?

STONE FOR STABLE FLOORS.

THE use of stone in the construction of floors for stables, we believe, is not common in America, at least not in the central States. We found them in universal use abroad, and they presented quite a marked feature in contrast with the plank floors which are so common with us. In some of the best stables, both for cattle and horses, cobble-stones are bedded into the earth in a similar way that pavements are made in the cities. At first they looked as if they might be uncomfortable, especially for horses, but we were assured no bad results followed from their use, and the uneven surface was regarded as an advantage, as it served as a preventive to the animals slipping. Immediately back of the animals, the floors are made to descend, forming a curved ditch or alley for conducting the urine. In looking at these stables, the thought often occurred whether similar structures could not be profitably introduced with us. The first cost may perhaps be a little more than plank, but in the long run they are infinitely cheaper. There is another advantage—the saving of room and the prevention of accumulated filth underneath the floor, quite common where plank is used.

An objection might be urged, that in our cold climate stone floors are liable to become frosty, thereby rendering cattle uncomfortable and proving injurious; but in properly-conducted stables it is doubtful whether any inconvenience would result from this source. Being lower down than plank, and upon the ground, there would be less exposure to winds and cold from beneath, and when timbers were properly underpinned with wall, the heat from the cattle must prevent freezing in all ordinary winter weather.

At Alderman Mechi's farm, near London, the stables for cattle have floors composed of slats not quite two inches apart, the slats being three inches thick and four inches wide. Below this floor is a tank built of brick and cemented water-tight for the reception of the manures, both liquid and solid. The tank, which is some three feet deep, has a bottom that slopes toward the centre, and is connected with pipes to the large cistern outside, and from time to time water is let in to liquify its contents, so as to be conducted off into the cistern referred to. From this reservoir the liquid is forced by steam through different parts of the farm and the crops irrigated.

Under the system of irrigation adopted by Mr. Mechi, grand results have been obtained, but this plan of floor is more adapted to his peculiar system of husbanding manures.

Slatted floors, however, as a matter of convenience could be adopted with good results in hog-pens, and also for young calves in spring, which must be stabled until the weather is warm enough to turn them out. In both cases they would serve the purpose of keeping the animals dry and clean, a consideration which adds greatly to their thrift. In raising calves, every one must have observed how difficult it is to keep the stables dry, requiring constant attention, in change of bedding which soon becomes foul. With slatted floors and conveniences for removing the manure below from time to time, would not only lessen labor, but by the use of muck or other absorbents to take up the liquid as it passes through the slats, would add considerable to the compost heap. For hogs Mr. Mechi's slats are three inches wide and one and one-quarter inches apart. For calves, two inches thick, three wide, and one and five-eighths apart.

We saw floors in England that had been in use an hundred years with little or no repairs, and which were likely to last one hundred years more. The time will come when stone floors in many parts of our country will become a necessity, and it is a question whether their adoption upon farms where stone may conveniently be had would not now be far more economical than wood.—*Utica Herald*.

PRICES OF LAND IN ENGLAND.

At a recent sale of properties in Surrey, belonging to the estates of Overend, Gurney & Co., bankrupts, the place called Cormongers, mansion and park, and about 162 acres, brought £50,500; Holmesdale, 50 acres, with houses and stabling, £19,500; Court Lodge, 9 acres and a house, £5,500; certain farms, 148 acres, £15,000—total, 369 acres, £80,500, equal to \$402,500, or nearly \$1,100 per acre. "The model farm fetched upwards of £20,000," quantity of land not given. The Nutfield property brought nearly £150,000. These exorbitant prices of land, with the moderate prices of farm produce, show that the proper wages of labor is merged in the price of land; just as, in our southern states, the proper value of land was absorbed in the cost of slaves that had to be purchased to till it.

It shows, further, the complicated processes which will be required in the social reconstruction of England, whereby the land monopoly is to be broken up, the landlord system abolished, the farmers to own the land they cultivate, and the laborers to become intelligent and independent voters, continually looking forward with the hope of becoming themselves the owner of land. Universal suffrage, universal education, the abolition of primogeniture and entails, the statute of distribution extended to all property, the elevation of the morals of the masses, will be mightily accelerated in their effects by a large emigration of the working classes, which will raise the price of labor to some proportion with the price of land.

TEXAS—TERRIBLE STORM—PRICE OF CATTLE.—The Commissioner of Agriculture has received a letter from a farmer at San Antonio, Texas, stating that a terrible snow storm took place there on New Year's day, and the weather continued very cold; over one thousand head of sheep perished from the cold on several farms in the neighborhood. The cattle were in excellent order. Fine heaves were selling from \$14a\$15 each for specie. Sheep were selling at \$1 50 per head, and pork from 2½a5c, per pound.

It is a startling fact that if the earth were dependent alone upon the sun for heat, it would not keep in existence animal and vegetable life upon its surface. It results from the researches of Pomillott, that the stars furnish heat enough in the year to melt a crust of ice 70 feet thick—almost as much as is supplied by the sun.

In Brazil large pineapples cost four cents each; oranges one cent; bananas six for a cent, and cigars ten for a cent.

TEA BRANDS AND THEIR MEANING.—"Hyson" means "before the rains," or "flourishing spring," that is, early in the spring; hence it is often called "Young Hyson." "Hyson Skin" is composed of the refuse of other kinds, the native term for which is "ca-skins." Refuse of still coarser descriptions, containing many stems, is called "tea bones." "Bohea" is the name of the hills in the region where it is collected. "Pekoe," or "Pecoo," means "white hairs"—the down of tender leaves. "Powchong"—"folded plant." "Souchong"—"small plant." "Twankay" is the name of a small river in the region where it is bought. "Con-



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S. S. FOSS, Publisher, Woonsocket, R. I.

Fireside Readings.

LOST IN THE SNOW.

On bush and brake the frost is hoar,
Knee deep, in hollows, lies the snow;
While softly, up and down the floor,
The feet of wintry moonbeams go;
And in the hush, before the dawn,
A hoish face is growing wan.

The death watch answers bent for beat
With his poor heart, that moves so slow;
He hears the watchman in the street,
He hears the river's sluggish flow,
And through his brain there runs a dim
Remembrance of a childish hymn.

Again he lies upon the grass,
Beneath a chestnut's flur'ring leaves;
He sees the mid-day glory pass,
He hears the dove that faintly grieves;
And all these memories among
There steals the hymn his mother sung.

No loving tears are on his cheek,
No kisses on his eyelids fall;
None mark the wrist-pulse growing weak,
None listen to the Master's call;
Alone, he goes, with bated breath,
To meet this mystery of death.

The moonbeams scarcely gild the panes,
Her golden disc has dropped so low;
He thinks how tired the men will be
To-morrow, digging in the snow,
Beside that grave the angels keep—
And whispers, "Now I'll go to sleep."

His ears grow dull to earthly sound;
The thin bands clasp upon his breast;
A wondrous music swells around—
His soul hath entered into rest.
Rise up, O sun, and hail the day!
Through death he enters life for aye!

GEN. WASHINGTON AT HOME.

GEN. WASHINGTON stood six feet three in his slippers, and, in the prime of his life, was rather slender than otherwise, but as straight as an arrow. His form was well proportioned and evenly balanced, so that he carried his tallness gracefully, and appeared strikingly well on horseback. There has never been a more active, sinewy figure than his when he was a young man; it was only in later life that his movements became slow and dignified. His wife was a plump, pretty little woman, very sprightly and gay in her young days, and quite as fond of having her own way as ladies usually are. She settled down into a good, plain, domestic wife, who looked sharply after her servants, and was seldom seen without her needles in full play. She was far from being what we should now call an educated woman. Scarcely any of the ladies of that day knew much more than to read their prayer book and almanac, and keep simple accounts. Mrs. Washington probably never read a book through in her life, and as to her spelling—the less said of it the better.—Washington himself, before he became a public man, was a bad speller. People were not so particular, then, in such matters as they are now; and besides, there really was no settled system of spelling a hundred years ago.—When the General wrote for a 'ricam of paper,' a beaver 'hatt,' a suit of 'cloathes,' and a pair of 'sattin' shoes, there was no Webster unabridged to keep people's spelling within bounds. Nor was he much of a reader of books. He read a little of the History of England now and then, and a paper from the Spectator on rainy days, but he had but little literary taste. He was essentially an out-of-door man, and few things were more disagreeable to him than confinement at the desk.—There was nothing in the house which could be called a library; he had a few old-fashioned books, which he seldom disturbed and never read long at a time.

The General and his wife lived happily together, but it is evident that, like most heiresses, she was a little exacting, and it is highly

probable that the great Washington was sometimes favored with a curtain lecture. The celebrated authoress, Miss Bremer, is our authority for this surmise. She relates, that a gentleman once slept at Mount Vernon in the room next to that occupied by the master and mistress of the mansion; and when all the inmates were in bed, and the house was still, he overheard, through the thin partition, the voice of Mrs. Washington. He could not but listen, and it was a curtain lecture which she was giving her lord. He had done something during the day which she thought ought to have been done differently, and she was giving her opinion in somewhat animated tones. The great man listened in silence till she had done, and then, without a remark upon the subject in hand, said:

"Now, good sleep to you, my dear."
What an example to husbands!

When Washington was appointed to command the revolutionary armies, it is plain from his letters home that one of his greatest objections to accepting the appointment was, the "uncasiness," as he termed it, that it would cause his wife to have him absent from home.—James Parton.

A HANDFUL OF SAND.

To the explorer, traveller, and investigator of Nature's secrets, "Sand" is a page—perchance a volume—in the world's history. Every tiny rill and rivulet which pours its waters through ravine and valley, to lose itself at last in some passing river, brings with it, slowly but surely, grain by grain, specimens of the rocks and deposits over which its waters have for ages worn their way. Each winter flood and summer storm lends its aid to break down, disintegrate, and drift away the detritus brought down by the ever fretting, ever wearing influence of running water.

If you doubt as to the geological formation of distant hills and inaccessible mountains, consult a handful of sand from the nearest brook flowing from them, and much light will be thrown on the subject by the investigation. To examine sand, it has been my custom, after washing and drying it, to lay a well-mixed portion, say the size of a shilling, over a sheet of clean white paper; to flatten out the pile until the particles are evenly distributed, and then with my pocket lens to scan them carefully. The boundless treasures so long buried in the wide valleys of California might have remained at rest and undiscovered to this day had not sand disclosed the golden secret, and thus it was divulged. One Capt. Sutter, an old soldier of the American Republic, had settled in the valley of the Sacramento, laid out a farm, built a mill, and regularly established himself. It was found that the "race" constructed to carry off the water which had passed the wheel was not deep enough for its purpose. It was therefore decided that the water-power should be turned on, and allowed to rush through, and deepen it. The pent-up torrent not only did the duty it was called on to perform, but overflowed the banks, carrying turf, sticks, stoues and sand far over the meadows. As the water drained off, and the sun shone out, the white quartz particles glittered like a thousand diamonds, and a handful was gathered by one of the Captain's people, when the yellow grains as well as white were discovered, examined, and found to be gold. How the human tide flowed in endless throngs to the new El Dorado, and how splendid cities sprang into being where, a few months before, a herdsman's fire and a lean wolfish-looking dog or two were the only signs of occupation, need not be dwelt on here, as they are matters of history. Harbors, too, tempted by the golden prospects held out in the new lands, quitted Australia, and joined the gold seekers in California. There the rocks and drifts struck him as being so much like those which he had left behind, that he, like Whittington, retraced his steps, visited the river-bed near his own home, gathered sand which told him the great gold secret, and unlocked the vast coffers of the Antipodes. Many other highly valuable alluvial gold and diamond washings are dependent on, and have been discovered by the drifting sand borne ever onward by the giant strength of water. So vast and irresistible is that strength, that

huge boulders which, when the river bed is dry, the reeds withered and yellow, and the water-plants crumbled up like parched tobacco leaves, look as though no earthly power could stir them from their beds, are rolled pell-mell over and against each other by winter floods of "spates" of molten snow that thunder down from distant mountains.

Each of these water-worn blocks lends its contribution to our "handful of sand." The mineral veins and quartz reefs traversed and intersected by the crushing mass are laid bare, pulverized as by a mighty mill, and ground into particles and fragments little more than sand. These, with other atoms worn from the bed of the torrent over which the abrading masses have passed, are borne onward, and settle for a time, according to their gravity and size, to be again disturbed, carried onward, re-deposited, shaken about, tumbled, rounded, and again crushed. Your veritable "rolling stone" gathers no moss, indeed, but obtains, like many waifs and strays on the stream of life, a particularly smooth surface instead. Onward and ever onward journeys our sand, forming at times "bars" across rivers and the mouths or harbors, slitting-up lakes—a process now going on in that of Geneva—blocking up channels, forming "sinks" for whole rivers to disappear in, and, in fact doing its part to bring about many of the changes which the Earth's crust is always undergoing. On the burning deserts and among the sterile dunes, sand holds high festival; and well do I know, from painful experience, what a tyrant he is, when whirling aloft like some huge pillar, curling round in mazy, spiral, onward march, the sand storm is upon us, and we bow our heads in meek submission.

RAINNY WEATHER AND MORTALITY.—Notwithstanding that rainy weather causes colds and coughs, and even fever, it has lately been noticed, through combined meteorological observations and medical statistics, that rainy years are not so injurious to health as is commonly supposed. Heavy rains undoubtedly wash away many causes of contagious diseases. Experiments in Liverpool, extending over a great many years, have proved that the heavier the rains of summer the less children die of diarrhoea. In Calcutta the cholera always diminishes in the rainy season there. In the low countries of Holland and Northern Germany, where fever and ague is endemic, the number of patients suffering from this disease is very great in dry summers and small in rainy seasons. Mr. Rowell has kept tables from 1848 to 1866 that appear to prove that in years when more rain falls than usual the mortality is less than usual, and vice versa. In all this there is a hint given directly by nature about the necessity of using plenty of water to keep everything clean and wholesome.

IMPROVING MANURE.—Joseph Harris, in his Walks and Talks, says: "We are making a cellar under the old barn. The soil is very dry, and I spread a few cart loads of it on the top of the manure in the wettest parts of the barnyard. I was astonished at the effect. It absorbed the moisture and made a dryer surface for the cattle, far sooner and better than a good layer of straw. Of course we want some straw as well, but it is evident to me that a few cart loads of dry sand, or what is far better, dry muck, would save a good deal of straw in littering yards and stalls. Sand, too, when mixed with manure, has the effect of increasing fermentation. Prof. Way's experiments proved this to be the case to an extent far greater than any one had previously thought possible. In our cold climate, where it is difficult to get manure ready for spring crops, a little sand scattered occasionally on the manure yard would increase fermentation and prove beneficial."

We sigh for the good old time. Each generation has a good old time that passes away and is twin-child to the present. The real good old time is to come.

LOCAL AGENTS.—We wish a LOCAL AGENT, to obtain subscribers for the Farm and Fireside, in every town in the United States. For terms, apply to the Publisher, at once.

DESTRUCTION OF SHEEP BY DOGS.—The following statement was made at the recent meeting of the wool growers of Illinois: The Commissioner of Agriculture estimated that for the year 1863, the damages resulting from dogs in the loyal States, with their 30,000,000 sheep, was not less than \$3,000,000. Estimating the damages on our 22,000,000 sheep in Illinois at the same rate, gives \$200,000 as our annual direct loss of sheep killed by dogs. To make the account full against dogs, we must also estimate the cost of their keeping. Ohio estimates the number of her dogs at 500,000. Illinois had probably at least as many, which gives one to about five of our population. It is cheap to estimate the board of these dogs at 25 cents per week each, which makes it \$13 per year. Call it \$10 each per year, and this item then is \$5,000,000 for the keeping of dogs in the State of Ohio.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC LANDS.—In addition to the immense amount of public land granted to Minnesota for railroads, internal improvements and agricultural colleges, amounting to thirteen million acres, and to a vast amount already entered by settlers and speculators, amounting to ten million acres, there are still open to homestead settlement over thirty million acres of the best kind of agricultural lands within the borders of the State. Of the twenty-three million acres heretofore disposed of by the government, but \$2,692,923 have been realized to the Treasury.

HOW TO PURIFY TAINTED CASKS.—A correspondent of the Country Gentleman tells us how he does this: "Having had some sad experience with both pork and lard, I tried the experiment of putting a small armful of dry shavings in the cask, and setting them on fire. The result was that the grease, and all other impurities absorbed by the wood of the cask, was brought to the surface and burned. It can then be washed perfectly clean, and will be as good as new. The shavings should be kept moving by rolling the cask and stirring, that the fire may not burn the cask, and that the fire may search every part. Good for rancid lard-tubs and butter-firkins."

We have some celebrated runners in the United States, but scarcely equal to a young Mexican, 33 years of age, named Gehoa, who lives at Hidalgo, in Southern Chihuahua. He has been known to beat a man on horseback for the distance of eighty miles. He has often made one hundred and fifty miles in twenty-four hours. A friend of mine lately gave him \$5 to carry a letter fifty miles and bring an answer. He did it in twenty-two hours, taking, as he thought, plenty of time, there being no great hurry. The last fifty miles he made slowly, in seven hours. From this may be gained some idea of the trained courier systems of Montezuma and the Peruvian Incas.—*Mexican Correspondent.*

CHEAP LAND IN ALABAMA.—Twenty-five farms have been sold in one section of Alabama for the low price of one dollar per acre. A failure of crops caused creditors to force sales. One of the sales thus made was a plantation of six hundred acres for six hundred dollars. Before the war its owner possessed three hundred and fifty slaves and forty horses.

Book Table.

DISEASES IN THE AMERICAN STABLE, FIELD AND FARM-YARD; by Robert McClure, Principal of the Merchants' Veterinary College, Philadelphia.

This is a work of great value to every man who owns or uses a horse. The author has divided the volume in three parts:—first, the diseases and treatment of the horse;—second, the medicines, prescriptions and preparations used in veterinary practice;—third, the diseases and treatment of the ox, together with the treatment of diseases incident to milch cows and calves. In a cursory reading of this volume, we are inclined to pronounce it eminently practical and correct—a book that should be in the library of every farmer, stock-raiser, and especially every friend to the horse.

In seconding a motion before the New York Farmers' Club, for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the flour trade, and to petition the Legislature for a more efficient system of inspection, Dr. Snodgrass said, this question is important in a medical point of view. The profession of that city were well aware of the injurious effects produced by baker's bread. As the case now stands, millers and bakers are both charged with poisoning people. Dr. J. V. C. Smith inquired whether the weevil upon wheat was not one cause of the unwholesomeness of bread. Solon Robinson replied that he had sometimes been necessitated to eat it, when this odor was actually nauseating. The flour has a yellowish appearance



Farm Scene.

THE CIDER MILL.

Under the blue New England skies,
Flooded with sunshine a valley lies;
The mountains clasp it, warm and sweet,
Like a sunny child, to their rocky feet,
Three pearly lakes and a hundred streams
Lie on its quiet heart of dreams.
Its meadows are greenest ever seen;
Its harvest fields have the brightest sheen;
Through its trees the softest sunlight breaks,
And the whitest lilies gem its lakes.
I love, oh! better than words can tell,
Its every rock and grove and dell:
But most I love the gorge where the rill
Comes down by the old brown cider mill.

By the roadside stands the cider mill,
Where a lowland slumber waits the rill:
A great brown building two stories high,
On the western hill-face, warm and dry:
And odorous piles of apples there
Fill with incense the golden air:
And heaps of pumice, mixed with straw,
To their amber sweets the late flies draw.
The carts hack up to the upper door,
And spill their treasures upon the floor:
Down through the toothed wheels they go
To the wide, deep cider press below;
And the screws are turned by slow degrees
Down on the straw-laid cider cheese:
And with each turn a fuller stream
Bursts from beneath the groaning beam.
An amber stream the gods might sip,
And fear no morrow's parched lips.
But wherefore gods? These ideal toys
Were soulless to real New England boys.
What classic goblet ever felt
Such thrilling touches through it melt,
As thro' electric along a straw
When boyish lips the cider draw?
The years are heavy with weary sounds,
And their discord life's sweet music drowns;
But yet I hear, oh! sweet, oh! sweet,
The rill that bathed my bare, brown feet;
And yet the cider dips and falls
On my inward ear at intervals;
And I lean at times in a sad, sweet dream,
To the babbling of that little stream;
And sit in a visioned autumn still,
In the sunny door of the cider mill.

Landscape Gardening.

THE LAWN, OR FRONT GRASS PLAT.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY F. R. ELLIOTT, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

EVERY person owning a plat of ground on which stands his house home, desires of all things to have more or less of good, smooth, clean grassy turf. Those who have acres, give space enough for such purpose to have it designated as a *lawn*; while the owner of a fifty-foot-front lot, can only have room to devote to turf, to get above the plain, but always pleasant term, of *grass plat*.

Those who visit England and return to us, tell of the smooth, clean, ever-fresh turf that surrounds the homes of the old country; and often speak of our lawns and grass plats, when brown with drought and summer's heat, with almost contempt. It would be more to the credit of these travelers if they would study *how* these ever-fresh and green turfs had been created, and apply their knowledge to assisting the practical renovation of lawns in our own country.

An experience of twenty years, by the writer, in landscaping and forming grass-plats and lawns, in various parts of our States, convinces him that we can and do have equally beautiful lawns, although perhaps of less extent, as those of England. But we cannot have good lawns, no more than we can grow good corn, without we prepare the ground in a suitable manner therefor. To have fresh, clean turf the season through, the soil must be prepared, suitable seed sown, and frequent mowing given to keep the grass from seeding, and thus exhausting, rapidly, the soil, as well as reducing the life of the grass by its fulfilling its natural order of reproducing itself by seed. In our experience we have found the following practice to give us satisfactory results: First, we dig or plow our ground at least twenty inches deep; next, if the soil is not sixteen inches deep, we take out the poor soil and replace

with good, until our whole lawn or grass plat has a soil light and loose at least sixteen inches deep; the top two inches being the best, and finely pulverized. We pick out every stone above the size of an egg, and every stick, and with our ground so prepared, we wait for one good rain, if we can, to let it settle, as at times it does not settle perfectly even; and if the seed is at once sown, much of it would have to be disturbed in the after-seeding. As soon as we have one good rain and our lawn has settled, we go on it with rake and spade; and as we rake it over, level the inequalities of surface made in settling. This done, we take of blue grass seed thirty pounds; of red top seed, thirty pounds; of white clover, sixteen pounds, per acre, or in a like proportion to the extent of our ground. We mix this seed thoroughly, and divide it into three parcels; then we take one parcel and proceed to sow it carefully over the whole ground.—Then we pass the rake over lightly, back and forth. Then sow another parcel, and again rake; and then sow the remainder of the seed; and if we have a roller, pass that over the ground; but if we have no roller, and the plat is not wide, we take two long and wide boards and proceed to press the seed in the soil by laying first a board, then standing on it to lay the next, and so on, standing on one board to lay the other until we have gone over the whole piece. When the seed has come up and grown about two inches, this rolling or pressing should be repeated; and as soon as the grass is four inches high it should be mown, and spread evenly over the ground and left to decay. Roll or press again, and so continue the practice during the season.

Those who attempt to make good lawns or have fresh grass plats by spading four to six inches deep, and sowing on a little seed, perform just so much of labor and expense for the production of a little grass in Spring, weeds in Summer, and straggling tufts of grass and weeds in Autumn. The old saying, that "if a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well," holds good in the work of lawn making, and perhaps stronger than in that of almost any other labor for the production of ornamental comfort.

January, 1867.

CHEESE AS FOOD.

COMPARED with other people the Americans place but little value on cheese as an article of food. We use it as a condiment, sauce, or side dish, rather than as necessary or proper food. In England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and in many parts of continental Europe, it is regarded as a common and sometimes a necessary article of food. There is reason why it should be so regarded. Its composition is very similar to that of flesh, the casein representing the muscular fiber, and the buttery matter the fat portion. Casein is an albuminous substance, useful in building up the muscles, and the buttery matter is a concentrated carbonaceous, in its way, for food as fat meat. The Swiss chamois hunters take on their expeditions among the higher Alps, where they remain sometimes for days together, exposed to intense cold and undergoing the hardest of exercise, only a small quantity of cheese and a flask of brandy. The English harvesters live on ale, cheese, bread, and occasionally a bit of mutton. The Germans and Hollanders use cheese as a common article of food.

With some persons cheese is not in favor because of its constipating qualities. Eaten raw it is less so than when toasted or made into the popular dish known as Welsh rare-bit. In this form it is scarcely fit for the human stomach. The fatty particles are separated from the albumen and appear simply as liquid oil, while the albumen is changed to a tough, stringy substance, without nutritious qualities and almost as indigestible as sole leather.

Cheese derives a factitious and market value from the districts in which it is produced. The Stilton cheese is a synonym of superior excellence to the English palate, and those who have made themselves acquainted with Tonic tastes understand well what is meant by Limburger and Sweetzerkase. But for years past the American cheeses have been growing in favor, not only here, but in England. A

late number of the London Grocer says:—"The Americans and Canadians are emulating our most successful dairymen, and really choice American and Canadian cheese may now be obtained from those English importers who have made themselves well acquainted with the best sources of supply."

If cheese could be afforded at a fair price as compared with other meat, there is no reason why it should not become, in a measure, a substitute, as it seems to be especially adapted to restore the force expended by those whose work is extra laborious and exhaustive; and indeed it may be questioned, now, whether it is not as cheap, all things considered, as fresh meats. It is a subject worthy some consideration.

THE MIND DEPENDENT ON THE BODY.

GREAT men, have as a rule, had strong, handsome, fine-fibred, enduring bodies. Napoleon was very strongly and handsomely built, and had immense powers of working and enduring fatigue. So had Wellington. Humboldt all his long life needed only four hours a day of sleep. Agassiz is a man of prodigious physical strength. Cæsar was of uncommon endurance and athletic vigor. Charlemagne was of colossal stature and vast physical strength. Washington was an exceedingly strong man. Henry Ward Beecher is remarkably powerful in his make, strong-limbed, deep-chested, heavy, and at the same time quick and active. Daniel Webster was of massive physical proportions. Henry Clay had immense endurance. So had S. S. Prentiss, probably the most wonderful orator the United States ever produced, and who could travel, speak, eat, talk, plead in court, and gamble over a faro table for three or four days without sleeping at all, and look all fresh and bright when he got through. All great soldiers have had great strength and great endurance. Sherman and Grant and Thomas have it.—Scott had it. Of Wellington and Napoleon and Cæsar I have spoken. Frederick the Great had it; and Marshal Saxe, the strongest man of his day; and Charles XII. of Sweden, and Gustavus Adolphus. Great philosophers and great poets and artists have not been so remarkable for vast strength as for fineness of texture and (in the case of the poets at least) for personal beauty. Goethe was wonderfully handsome and stately in person. Shakespeare was a handsome man. Milton was singularly attractive in person. Robert Burns was handsome and vigorous. Byron, though lame, had otherwise an extremely fine face and person. Tennyson is a man of great strength and commanding and handsome physique. Southey and Wordsworth were men of fine person, Keats was handsome. Raphael, Albert Durer, Michael Angelo, Titian, Leonardo da Vinci, Rubens, Vandyke, were all men of very beautiful or of very stately personal appearance.—*Herald of Health.*

REMEDY FOR CHOKED CATTLE.—A correspondent of the Country Gentleman writes as follows:

"I give you a valuable remedy for choked cattle, whether choked with apples, turnips, &c.: Take a small parcel of gunpowder about two or three thimbles full—make a small funnel with thin paper, sufficient only to hold the powder; close the large end by folding—insert it in the passage of the throat either with the fingers or hand, or by using a small stick—split so as to grasp the small end of the funnel, and to be easily withdrawn when desired. Nothing else to be done. This has been tried successfully by some of the best stock raisers, and has never failed, I believe, in any case."

FARM ACCOUNTS.—We would urge upon every farmer the importance of keeping a correct account of all he does—not only in his dealings with the mechanic, merchant, and others, but with himself and farm. Keep an account of your hired help—the expense of each kind of crop raised—the product—in fact of all expenditures and receipts in farm and household operations. You can then, at the close of the year, tell which crop has paid best, and what per cent. you are receiving for the capital invested.

The Chip Basket.

A MAN who had a scolding wife, being asked what he did for a living, replied that he kept a *hot house*.

AN old lady, who had insisted on her minister praying for rain, had her cabbages cut up by a hail-storm, and on viewing the wreck, remarked that she never knew him to undertake anything without overdoing it.

A HUNDRED thousand reapers and mowers were manufactured in the United States last year.

THE Chinese supply themselves with soap by scraping the pods of a certain leguminous plant. After rubbing the linen with this pulp, it is ready for the rinsing tub.

PAY a hand, if he is a poor hand, all you promise him; if he is a good hand, pay him a little more; it will encourage him to do better.

A COLORED cook expecting company of her own kind, was at a loss how to entertain her friends. Her mistress said: "Polly, you must make an apology." "La! missus, how can I make it? I got no apples, no eggs, no butter, no nuffin to make it wid."

SOLOMON compared the people unto the sea, and orators to the winds; for that the sea would be calm and quiet, if the winds did not trouble it.

JOSH BILLINGS ON PREACHING.—"I always advise short sermons, especially on a hot Sunday. If a minister can't strike fire in forty minutes, he has either got a poor gimblet, or else he is boring in the wrong place."

AN old lady was complaining a few days since, in the market, of the excessive high price of provisions. "It is not the meat only that is so enormously dear," said she, "but I can not obtain flour for a piddling for less than double the usual price, and they do not make the eggs half so large as they used to be!"

ANCIENT HOSPITALITY.

It was once the universal custom to place ale or some strong liquor in the chamber of an honored guest, to assuage his thirst, should he feel any on awakening in the night, which, considering that the hospitality of that period often reached excess, was by no means unlikely.

It is a current story in Teriotdale, that in the house of an ancient family of distinction, much addicted to the Presbyterian cause, a Bible was always put into the sleeping apartment of the guests, along with a bottle of strong ale. On one occasion, there was a meeting of clergymen in the vicinity of the castle, all of whom were invited to dinner by the worthy baronet, and several abode there that night.

According to the fashion of the times, several of the reverend guests were allotted to one large barrack-room, which was used on such occasions of extended hospitality. The butler took care that the divines were presented, according to custom, each with a Bible and a bottle of porter. But after a little consultation among themselves, they are said to have recalled the domestic just as he was leaving the apartment.

"My friend," said one of the venerable guests, "you must know that when we meet together, the youngest minister reads aloud a portion of Scripture to the rest; only one Bible, therefore, is necessary; take away the other six, and in their place bring six more bottles of wine."

WINTER THOUGHT.—It is winter now. The earth is frost-bound, and incrustated with ice and snow; but soon the sun will come wheeling from the tropics, and the voice of Spring will call, and the violets and daisies shall hear it, as well as the pines in Oregon, and everywhere there shall be life, and growth, and beauty. So it is with man. His winter has been long and dark; but the sun of God's love shall shine, and the crusts of tyranny and the frosts of oppression shall melt away beneath its rays, and the humblest as well as the loftiest creature shall yet stand in the light and liberty of the sons of God.

A KING'S DEBTS.—In John Bruce's "Calendar of State Papers" of the reign of Charles I., now publishing in a series of volumes, by Longmans, London, there are many petitions from tradesmen to the King, praying for the settlement of their claims. Hester Rogers, widow of a royal jeweler, complains that she is utterly unable to pay three pounds sterling ship-money, for which she was in custody, there being two thousand pounds owing to her late husband for jewels delivered in the first year of the King's reign, besides one thousand two hundred and forty-eight pounds due from the King's mother, Queen Anne of Denmark. The non-payment of this money had ruined herself and children. There are petitions from his Majesty's poulterer and fishmonger, also asking for debts long due.





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1867.

IN-DOOR LIFE ON THE FARM.

We often hear people talk of the hard work performed in planting, haying and harvesting; we often hear the merits of the various live stock referred to; we also listen, almost daily, to the advantages of certain field crops, and how to make farming more productive. Yet we rarely hear anything said, in sympathy or praise, of the immense labor, care and perplexity of those who attend to the In-door duties of the Farm. It is there, to a great extent, that the farmer makes his profit and reaps his daily harvest. The patient, toiling wife; the industrious, economical daughters, and the faithful, hard-working female domestics, never cease work in all the hours of the day. The sun rises and sets and yet the work is never finished. Industrious hands and loving hearts labor continually, persistently, always in fact, In-doors on the Farm.

We know there are men who live on farms who appreciate and remember these facts, and who do everything they can to cheer and alleviate the wife, daughter and domestic who do so much for their prosperity and happiness. But there are thousands of farmers who either never counted up the great aggregate of labor performed in the house, or else are so absorbed in their own duties that they cannot stop to think of them. This latter class is, unfortunately, too large. And, it belongs to a class not the most industrious or prosperous; many of whom neglect to manage their business to the best advantage, who are away from home more than is necessary, and who are often discontented with their lot or profession.

Let us go into a farm house and we will soon tell you if the wife is a peer or a slave; if the daughters are encouraged and appreciated, or if the servant has a sympathetic and realizing master. A look into the kitchen, the buttery, the wash-room or the nursery, tells the whole story. Where a farmer practically knows the cares, toils and drudgery of his household, there everything is generally neat, well arranged and systematic. He has labor-saving machinery, improved utensils, abundance of supplies, and an air of thrift, prosperity and cheerfulness is all around us. The old kitchen laughs at us from the door to the chimney, from the floor to the rafters. But if we go into the house of the "do-n't-care" and "let-it-go" farmer, we notice the reverse of all this. The poor wife looks the picture of neglect and sorrow; the girls are crusty and discontented, and the hired help are not worth house-room.

Is this picture over-drawn, or too highly colored? Perhaps it is, but it's as near the truth as most things in farm-life. The fact cannot be denied that In-door life on the Farm presents two distinct phases. One is where the farmer knows his trials, labors and economic importance; and the other is where he knows little and cares less of the happiness, health and prosperity of his own household. Far be it from our intention to lower the character of the American farmer, or to depreciate the general good traits of our rural friends. Lord Bacon claimed that every man was a debtor to his profession; and what class of our citizens owe more to their calling than the agriculturists? Without knowing it thoroughly and practically, none can succeed; and without sympathy and hearty co-operation with the In-door affairs of the Farm, you cannot thrive; nor will domestic peace and happiness be your companions.

STEAM PLOWING.—A steam plow, just received from England, is creating much interest at New Orleans. It is to be used on a plantation in that vicinity.

We have long been of the opinion that the day is not distant when steam plows will be extensively used on the prairies of the West.

MINNESOTA is a young giant. Last year she exported 9,109,711 bushels of wheat and flour.

AGRICULTURE IN FRANCE.—The Journal de l'Agriculture says: "The agricultural statistics of France for 1866 are not very brilliant. The corn crop is below the average. Wine will be abundant, but of very ordinary quality. Potatoes are rotting in the storehouses; in many instances fears are entertained of not being able to preserve sufficient for the next planting. Olives will furnish a better crop than was expected. Tobacco is affected with the rot. Walnuts and chestnuts have produced the ordinary quantity. The disasters of the silk-worm culture add darker shadows to the picture. The elder fruits offer a valuable resource, and several special crops, such as hemp and colza, have been good. There is, therefore, some compensation for the evil, and above all, hopes for the future."

REMEMBER THE STOCK.

THE severity of the great snow-storm of last week, is remembered, by your cattle and horses, if they were exposed to its fury. Humane and thoughtful farmers, of course, looked after their stock; but there are some men who are wholly negligent of the health and comfort of their barn-yard friends. Such farmers, lose, annually, more or less by careless treatment of their animals, and never find the leakage in the year's profit and loss. Hundreds and thousands of dollars are lost in this way, every year, in the Middle and New England States, which could be saved by timely attention. Young animals require especial care, and yet they are the most frequently neglected, both as to shelter and food. A great many calves, lambs and colts are lost in this way; others, also, are so much stunted, by cold and starvation, that they never regain their natural vigor. You do not fail to protect and feed your young children; then why neglect young animals? They require similar care and attention; and, if well protected against inclement weather and provided with ample and appropriate food, soon gain strength and hardiness sufficient to bear the severities of our Northern winters. Let every farmer remember that his stock are not proof against the arrows of the Frost-King; and that "every draehm of mercy" to them, is money at compound interest. Remember your stock, and if you hear their bleating and loosing amid the howlings of the winter-storm, consider it not

Of the lamb to the butcher, or as the cry Of seamen to the surge,"

but as a direct appeal to your sympathy and humanity.

THE WOOL INTEREST.

At the Wool-Growers' Convention held in Springfield, Illinois, the interesting facts were stated that there are in that State 2,000,000 sheep, worth \$8,000,000, yielding annually \$3,000,000. It was resolved that we should cease to import wool, a great part of which is shoddy, making this country the rag-bag of the world; that Illinois protests against being taxed to support the Government while being put in competition with those who contribute nothing; that the dissolution of the wool business by any improvidence in the tariff must effect financial disaster, and impair manufactures. For these reasons, the House Tariff bill (718) is urgently recommended by them.—Gov. Yates has written a letter to the Convention, stating his belief that 10 cents per pound on imported wool is little enough, and declaring that he should advocate its incorporation into the Tariff bill. We trust that a tariff beneficial to both manufacturer and grower will soon be agreed to.

HIGH PRICES ABROAD.—It seems not to be a profusion of "greenbacks" alone that causes high prices, for British papers are filled with the same complaints as our own, of the greatly increased cost of living. A Glasgow paper publishes a statement showing an advance in all the staple articles of food, averaging about 36 per cent. now, as compared with two years ago. Among its figures are these:

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1864 price, 1866 price. Items include Beef, Mutton, Butter, Bread, Meal, Potatoes, Flour, Milk, Coals, Cotton.

BEET SUGAR.—The Western States are going into the manufacture of beet sugar. At Chatsworth, Illinois, is a factory that has been running two years, and turns out three tons of sugar a day. There is little doubt that the Western States will be able to supply all the sugar and molasses needed for their own consumption, within twenty years. There is no part of the country, however, better adapted to growing suitable beets and making them into sugar, than the Middle States or even New England; and it is a little surprising that attention has not been directed in that way.

SEND A STAMP.—Specimen numbers of the FARM AND FIRESIDE will be forwarded to any address, on the receipt of a three-cent stamp.

A BRIEF VISIT TO PETER HENDERSON.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

HAVING long admired the pungent and intelligent contributions of Mr. Henderson to the Horticultural magazines, and learning that his garden was near New York, I decided, while on a visit to that city, to give him a call. For the purpose of obtaining information as to the best way to reach his house, I called at the seed store kept by Mr. Henderson and a Mr. Fleming, under the co-partnership name of Henderson & Fleming, in Nassau street. I learned that Mr. Henderson had been in the city in the morning, according to his custom, but had returned home. I passed a half hour very agreeably with Mr. Fleming, a frank and genial gentleman, with a countenance eloquently indicative of robust health and good spirits, and then took my way to Jersey Ferry, in accordance with Mr. Fleming's instructions. Arrived at Jersey City, I took one of the South Bergen horse cars, which conveyed me nearly to Mr. Henderson's grounds. I found the gardens delightfully situated on a gentle slope overlooking the bay, and having a fine view of New York. It was a mild and genial day in Spring, and as I passed into the enclosure, I paused to enjoy the beauty of the tranquil scene. I also felt a little reluctance to enter, as my visit was one of mere curiosity, and I had formed the idea that as Mr. Henderson was a kind of autocrat in Horticultural literature, and a rather bluff and despotic one at times, I might get a rebuff from the mighty and venerable potentate upon whose domain I was trespassing. While I loitered in the gateway, I saw a laborer coming up the main avenue, who, although his coat was off, as if he was working hard, had the appearance of being an overseer. In reply to my inquiry for Mr. Henderson, he pleasantly announced himself as the gentleman sought for. What erroneous opinions we do form of those we read of but have not seen! The Peter Henderson of my imagination was a man of about sixty, stout in person, reserved in manners, gruff in speech; in fact, a personage somewhat after the style and appearance of the typical John Bull. The Peter Henderson, now self-introduced, was a trim-built man of youthful appearance, with no superfluous flesh, either in breadth or height, just a "fine strapping fellow;" and as free, chatty and sociable as you please. He at once and very cheerfully undertook to show me through the long row of glass houses; and although they were filled with objects of admiration, and Mr. Henderson's remarks upon their culture and peculiarities were instructive and interesting, I could not keep my mind from wondering at the man himself. So I said to him, "Mr. Henderson, pray tell me how it is that at your age, you have obtained, practically, this knowledge of plants and flowers; and, at the same time, acquired the degree of literary education indicated by your writing?" Modestly disclaiming the implied compliment, he replied that his opportunities for obtaining an education had been so limited that he considered himself an uneducated man. He added that he had always been a working man, and that the most of his published articles were written during the leisure hours of Winter.

Mr. H. has quite a fortune in his real estate, apart from its value as a garden; its proximity to New York having rendered it valuable for building sites. I think he told me that he paid \$500 per acre for it some nine years ago; it must soon be worth, I should say, not far from \$10,000 per acre. He has a new and elegant house, so located as to command a fine view of his gardens and the adjacent country for many miles, and seems to enjoy a degree of prosperity such as seldom attends the tiller of the soil.

January, 1867.

Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, of Massachusetts, has been appointed, by the United States Agricultural Society, Special Commissioner to the French Exposition and to the Agricultural Exhibitions of Europe next Autumn.

A Cranberry Company, with a capital of \$150,000, has recently purchased a thousand acres of land, near Atsion, New Jersey.

Horticulture.

THE PROFITS OF GARDENING.

Written for the Farm and Fireside, BY R. ROBINSON SCOTT, PHILADELPHIA.

THERE are two distinct branches of gardening, which cannot, among us, be too well defined or too clearly separated, in order to avoid misconception and disappointment. One class of cultivators operate on the soil and its products merely in a commercial point of view, as a remunerative business; the other as a branch of refining pleasure, as an aid to the education of the faculties and elevation of the mind, as well as the gratification of the senses.

The idea that both ends may be attained, to any fair extent, by any general arrangements or provisions, leads to disappointments which too frequently end in the discouragement of horticulture as an art. To speak more plainly, "Market Gardening," as it is styled, is quite different in its aims and practice from "Amateur" or "Ornamental Gardening."

Yet no fundamental difference exists in the rules which science has prescribed for the guidance of the intelligent cultivator in either case—the variation is in the means and appliances, the extent, the amount of capital invested to produce a certain result, well defined and ascertained.

Should any well-to-do-merchant, for instance, having realized a fair competency, desire a country life, and imagine that, by a moderate outlay in addition to the erection of his mansion and laying out of his grounds, he might economize his annual outlay by marketing his surplus garden crops—fruits and esculents—and make his arrangements to this end,—my argument is, that the result will prove unsatisfactory, though not for many years disastrous; and instead of adding to his gratification by lessening its cost, have the very opposite effect.

To put this in practical terms: An assortment of fruit trees and fruiting plants are obtained and planted, ostensibly for family use, but if over-abundant in supply, to be sent to market. They receive ordinary cultivation—not special care—they are not varieties especially adapted for marketing (for there is something in this), they not only do not produce any surplus in a reasonable time, but they do not even furnish the most moderate expectations of the hopeful amateur. To fully state the various causes for this result, can best be done by demonstration, as it can be by quoting actual instances of such failures which are at hand.

So in Fruit Culture under glass, many instances can be adduced in this vicinity to prove the position assumed.

But, let the experienced fruit cultivator, skilled in the required soil, the required varieties, and necessary routine of treatment, from the planting the tree to the ripening and marketing of the fruit, undertake the work, and no failure need result, or does result, in nine cases out of ten. In the Small Fruit Culture this is self evident. In the Esculent, or "Truck Farm," it is an established fact that gardening returns the largest profits for extent of land and capital invested, on lands especially greatly enhanced in value by contiguity to large cities. What land costing one thousand dollars per acre, as land does cost in this vicinity, can be cultivated or cropped profitably in any other way than in "Small Fruits" or Esculents for city consumption? Even Pear Culture, so frequently regarded as a delusion, can be made profitable.

But this article has extended beyond the limits intended, and will be followed up on another occasion.

January 23, 1867.

FINE CALF.—Mr. Joseph Clynick, of East Nottingham township, Chester county, Pa., has a calf eleven months old, that weighs eight hundred and sixteen pounds. A friend who saw it recently, pronounced it an animal of great beauty and promise.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE FARM AND FIRESIDE.

SEND TWO DOLLARS to the Publisher, by mail; or, if there be a news-dealer near you, order it of him. The FARM AND FIRESIDE will be sold at all News Offices. Single copy, 5 cents.





Fireside Tales.

MY LOST ALICE.

I KNOW not why I should be so sad when I think of Alice Glendenning. It is truly no meet cause for sadness, when one has fought a battle and gained the victory—when one has earned rest—when one has entered into life.—Dare I affirm that I believe in the infinite joy of Heaven, and yet sit stranded on the shore of time, and weep, with vain human longing, for one who walks in that eternal day? I say these things over to myself, and try for a moment to believe I am glad that Alice is gone home. But my faith is not quite strong enough. I shut my eyes, and seem to see again a pale, fair face, with delicate, straight features, eyes full of soft light, dark drooping hair—such a face as Lini painted, in a dead century, as his conception of the Virgin Mother, “blessed among women”—that was Alice.

She was my one friend, and I loved her as those love who have few objects in life. I had acquaintances enough—people whom I liked, and who liked me; but to none of them had I ever opened my heart until Alice came. My nature was shy and reticent, and my life and my spirit continually contradicted each other. My life was quiet in the extreme. I was surrounded by men and women who lived in their day's work or their day's pleasure, with little thought beyond. I used sometimes to wonder what they would do if suddenly translated into a purely spiritual existence—their occupation would be so utterly gone. Such people made me shrink more and more into myself.—I could not speak to them of themes which they would have found as barren of interest and as incomprehensible as an unknown tongue. But when Alice came she understood all from the first.

We grew to be dear to each other, very dear. I had no stronger tie than the one which bound me to her. She had a lover, to whom she had been betrothed for years. He was a man of business, living in a distant city, and she did not see or hear from him often enough to interrupt our friendship. She wrote to him one week, and he answered her letter the next, and four times a year he came to Glenwood. For the rest I could have Alice to myself.

I saw this Marcus Glendenning on his first visit to Alice, after I knew her. He was her second cousin, but as unlike her, except in name, as possible. He must have taken his mental and physical traits from the other side of his ancestry. I did not like him, though I tried to for Alice's sake. There was something in his face which repelled me. I do not know whether it was the self-indulgent lips, or the inscrutable black eyes, or both together. His eyes were not brown or hazel, but simply and unmistakably jet black. Like all such eyes which I have ever met they revealed nothing. Whatever emotion stirred him they glittered unchangeably. I do not like such eyes.—There is something in their mystery which warns me of unseen breakers. From the first I had no faith in Mr. Marcus Glendenning; but I did not say so to Alice. One day I asked her if she really loved him.

“Would I be engaged to him if I did not?” she answered, with an indignant blush, and a quiver of her sensitive lips, which made me think of a grieved child. “I love him better than anything else in this world.”

Then I held my peace. After all, she knew him better than I did, and very likely judged him more justly. At any rate she loved him, and that, with a girl like Alice, was a fact with which no pressure of outside influences could do away. If she were ever cured of it, it must be by some wrong-doing on his part; and I knew her well enough to pray that for her such an evil day might be far off.

When I had known her a year I began to wonder that he never urged her to make any arrangements for their marriage, especially as she was an orphan, and might naturally be supposed to desire a home of her own as soon as possible. I spoke of this to her one day, and she said that they had been engaged almost ever since they were children; and it had been always understood that they were not to marry until he had met with a certain degree

of success in his business. She was so trustful that I believe nothing of that kind could have disquieted her; but I, loving her so truly, was far from satisfied with the devotion of this man to whom she had consecrated her life.

The second autumn after she came to Glenwood she received an invitation from an old school friend to pass the winter. The friend resided in the same city with Mr. Glendenning, and that fact, I knew, influenced Alice in her delighted acceptance of the invitation.

“Only think,” she said, “to be near him one whole winter! I shall see more of him than I ever have since I was a child.”

With the same mail by which she answered her friend's letter went one to her lover, acquainting him with her plans. She waited anxiously for his reply, but when it came it was easy to see that she was not altogether satisfied with it.

“I do n't think Marcus is half-pleased,” she said to me. “He writes that he is glad, but he adds that he had hoped I would come there first as his wife. Poor fellow! I think it troubles him that he is not ready to be married at once. But I shall cheer him up when I get there.”

Would she? I wondered; or would she find herself no longer mistress of his moods? A presentiment settled on my mind that I should never see again my cheery, bonny Alice as she was when she went away.

The time of her absence seemed very long. Neither of us liked letter-writing, so we heard from each other but seldom. In these rare letters she made, from the first, little mention of Marcus Glendenning, and after a short time none at all. This omission troubled me, and I began to long feverishly for her return. She was to come early in May. I went out that day, I remember, under a bright sky, full of fitting, changeable clouds, and gathered the first blooms of the trailing arbutus. I always felt a curious kinship with the shy flower. Its pink-and-white prettiness soothed me this day like the face of a long-absent friend. I carried home all I could find, and arranged them in Alice's room, for she was to come to our house. She had to hoard somewhere, and it seemed natural she should be with me. Taking boarders was contrary to all rule and precedent with my mother, but I had persuaded her to make an exception in Alice's case.

When I had pleased myself in the arrangement of her room I went over to the station and waited for the cars to come in. The moment she stepped upon the platform I knew that my presentiment was verified; that the bonny, happy, care-free Alice who went away had not come back—never would come again. She looked ten years older than the day I parted with her. She had been pale always, but there had been a life and brightness in her face which was gone now. There were dark circles round her eyes which told of wakeful nights, and the thin hand she gave me was feverish. She kissed me, not impulsively, as she would have done once, but with a long, slow kiss, full of tenderness.

I took her home almost in silence. When we went into her room, and she saw the flowers with which I had adorned it, the ghost of a smile flitted across her face, and she said:

“I wonder if any thing could change *your* love, Margaret? I know by these flowers you have been thinking of me all day.”

“Not to-day only, but all the days since you left me. Is it so strange that I should love you?”

“It seems, sometimes, as if there were no such thing as real love in the world; for the love I trusted in the most has failed me.—Don't ask me any questions, dear. I could not hear to answer them. I am not engaged to Marcus any longer. He has been weighed in the balances and found wanting.” She stopped a moment, and then she repeated the last words in a low tone, unutterably sad.—“Found wanting!”

I dared not try to comfort her. I could only put my arms round her and hold her fast, while I kissed her through my tears. But her own eyes were dry.

For three months after that life went on with us in dreary fashion. The most pitiful of all was, too see how hard Alice tried to be like

her old self—with what vain endeavor she strove to interest herself in all the old themes we used to talk about together. How I longed to let her know that I understood the gentle hypocrisy, and was ready to weep with her; but I fancied the very effort she made might be doing her good, and I knew she was grateful to me for keeping silence. When the days came round on which her lover's letters would have been due, had they been corresponding as of old, I always noticed in her an increase of restlessness. Often on those days she would take long, solitary walks, and come back utterly exhausted from the conflict, but mistress of herself. I longed to have her talk to me, but she never mentioned Marcus Glendenning's name after that first night.

So May went by, and June, and July. August came on with sultry heats. There had been little rain through July, and the August skies were like brass over our heads. People hoarded water like gold. They brought it from a river four miles away for the cattle to drink, and the poor, dumb creatures, pasturing in parched fields, under pitiless suns, rushed after it with an eagerness in their eyes which seemed human. There was a good deal of illness, but nothing that came very near us.—Alice was not sick but she drooped under the fervid heats perceptibly.

At last one day my father came in and handed her a letter. It bore the familiar post-mark which she had welcomed so many times; but it was in a strange handwriting. For the first time Alice gave way. She shivered like one in an ague, as she put it into my hand:

“Read it for me, Margaret. I have not courage to break the seal. I thought I was done with that place. What can any one there want of me?”

“It is signed ‘Jane B. Reynolds,’” I said, glancing first at the last line.

“Yes; Marcus has boarded with her for years. She knows me. Read.”

It was only a few lines, to tell her that Mr. Glendenning lay very ill of typhoid fever. The fever was prevalent in the neighborhood, and had assumed in many cases a malignant type. Mr. Glendenning was out of his head—had been ever since he was taken, so she could not ask him for any directions, but she felt that it was her duty to let Miss Alice know, as the physicians said the chances for his recovery were doubtful.

“She does not know that anything is changed between us,” Alice said quietly, as I finished reading.

“Thank God, at any rate, that it is not now your duty to go.”

“I am going.”

“You, Alice?”

“Yes. I told you once that I loved him better than anything else in the world; and should I not be less than woman to let one I had loved so well and so long die without me? He need not know I am there. I can come away when he begins to get better; but oh! I must go, for no one else will tend him as I should. Do n't blame me, Margaret.”

Blame! I should have blamed an angel as soon. I began collecting the things she would need, and packing them. If sometimes my tears fell on them I could not help it. I wanted to go with her, but she would not let me.—She knew she was going into danger, and she was determined to go alone. What days those were through which I waited! I had made her promise to send for me at once if she felt the slightest symptom of illness; so while I did not hear I knew that she, at least, was safe.

The second week in September rain fell for two days. The wind changed, or rather an east wind arose, for all through the drouth there had not been breeze enough to wave a feather. The parched earth began to revive.—The beasts held up their heads. Men met each other in the streets, and said, reverently,—“Thank God!”

Three days afterward Alice came home. I sat quite alone when she came in, swiftly and silently, and clasped me in her arms.

“You have saved him, I know,” I said, for I read it somehow in her face.

“He is saved! I do not know how much I helped. I think but for the rain he must have died. The fresh wind that came with it

seemed to bring him healing upon its wings. The doctor says he will do well now; and I could not stay any longer, he had begun to know me.”

“And you, Alice, are you safe?”
“Safe, dear, yes; but oh! so tired. I shall be rested in the morning.”

But when the morning came we knew what I had guessed before. The fever which she had been breathing so long at Marcus Glendenning's bedside had stolen into her own veins, and come home with her. The doctor we sent for said that it had been coming on for some time, and excitement had kept her up. Now the strain on every faculty was over the disease began to show itself, and she was in far more danger from the fact that she had so long resisted the attack.

I knew when I heard those words that she would die, just as well as I knew it when the end came. But God knows how I tended her—as lovingly, I think, as any mother ever nursed her sick child—as faithfully as she had tended the man for whom she was going to die. From the incoherent mutterings of her fever I learned more than she would ever have told me of her wrongs and her suffering. I understood, during those long, slow nights through which I watched her, how the iron had entered into her soul.

After three weeks of such watching there came a sunset when I sat with her hand in mine, and tried in vain to see her wasted face through the tears which came between it and my eyes. I knew it was all over. Before the sun should set again she would be where “they have no need of the sun by day or the moon by night.” These were the last moments I could snatch from eternity. And the words I longed to say, the words I should wish I had said in many an after hour, would not come to my lips. I could only cling to her desperately, and weep those useless tears.

“Do not be sorry for me,” she said, at last. “It is not sad to go beyond the toiling and the weeping.”

“Not for you!” I cried bitterly, moved beyond my own self-control. “He made your life so bitter first that you were glad to throw it away, and then you threw it away on him. God will judge him. He has taken away from me the light of my life.”

“I pray, Margaret, that God will judge him in mercy; and so must you. He will suffer for it all, some day; and then, oh, Margaret, do not reproach him, but comfort him!”
“And I—who will comfort me for the only friend I ever had to be heart of my heart?”

“God will, dear;” and when she had said that, she lay silently, seeming to watch the sunset clouds. Oh, if I had known how near the end was! “God will,” she breathed again through the silence; and then I know not how, the light faded out of her eyes. She had not kissed me or said good-by, but she was gone with the fading sunset. It was as if from those clouds had stooped the unseen messengers to carry her away.

Two days after she was buried Marcus Glendenning came to me, the wan ghost of his former self. He greeted me with scant ceremony.

“My cousin Alice saved my life, and then went away before I could thank her. I come to you as her friend. Will you tell me where she is?”

I rose and asked him to follow me. Swiftly I led him, waiting for no questions, across the fields until we stopped beside a new-made grave in the shadow of a great rock.

“There she lies,” I said. “Speak, and see if she will answer you.”

May God forgive me if I was cruel! but I thought his heart was stone, and nothing less than this could soften it. I was not prepared for the cry of mortal agony which smote upon my ears as he knelt down and pressed his ash-en lips to that grave.

“Dead! dead! and I can never in all time hear her say that she forgives me! Oh, if she had only left me to die!”

He seemed to have utterly forgotten my presence. I stood there, witness of his remorse and despair until I, even I who had so loved Alice, began to pity him. I remembered her words:

PROTECT THE TREES.—The orchard demands but little care at this season of the year, yet there is one point that owners of young orchards should not overlook, and that is the injury which mice or rabbits may effect. A hint in season may be worth a great deal to some. There are several methods of protection; gas tar may be applied. Some think it injurious to young trees, but it is not, unless used in too large quantities. Smearing the trees with blood or fresh liver is another method; a shield may be formed by cutting cornstalks into pieces a foot or two in length and tying them around the base of the trunk with twine.—Go out and examine your young orchards, trample down the snow close to the trees, and destroy the harboring places and roads of the vermin.





"He will suffer for it all, some day, and then, oh, Margaret, do not reproach him, but comfort him!"

"She did forgive you," I said. "She used almost her last breath in trying to make me forgive you also. If she could speak to you from this grave, she would bid you go in peace."

"I am worse than Cain," he groaned. "I have killed the one creature in this world who loved me. What devil possessed me to throw away the truest heart that ever beat?"

Then he got up, as if with a sudden recollection of his old gallantry toward women, which sat strangely enough upon him here at this grave.

"Grant me your pardon," he said; "I am intruding my feelings upon you. It is still so light perhaps you will not mind walking back alone across the fields? You have been kind, and I thank you; but I would wish to be here a little while by myself."

I looked back when I reached the corner of the church-yard. He had knelt again by the grave with his head bowed over it. The dew was falling fast on him—the chill autumn night coming down. I was half tempted to return and try to persuade him to go home with me; but I shrank from intruding upon him again, so I went on through the nightfall and left him alone with the dead.

His night vigil did not kill him, for, though I have never seen him since I left him kneeling by that grave, I have read his name in many a list of stock-owners and moneyed men. I hear that he has never married. I have never learned the secret Alice guarded—never understood by what wrong to her he broke the chords which bound them; but if ever I saw a man overtaken by an unutterable horror and remorse, and woe, I believe he was that man. Did she know it, I wonder, and pity his unquiet soul—she, looking back from the rest into which she had entered? God knows.

STORY OF THE NOSES.

At Dewitz, in the neighborhood of Prague, there once lived a rich and whimsical old farmer, who had a beautiful daughter. The students of Prague, of whom there were at that time twenty-five thousand, often walked in the neighborhood of Dewitz, and more than one of them offered to follow the plough, in hopes of becoming the son-in-law of the farmer.—The first condition that the cunning peasant set on each new servant was this: "I engage you," he would say, "for a year, that is, till the cuckoo sings the return of spring; but if, from now till then, you say once you are not satisfied, I will cut off the end of your nose.—I give you the same right over me," he added, laughing. And he did as he said. Prague was full of servants with the end of their nose glued on, which did not prevent an ugly scar, and, still less, bad jokes. To return from the farm disfigured and ridiculed was well calculated to cool the warmest passion.

A young man by the name of Coranda, somewhat ungainly in manner, but cool, adroit and cunning, which are not bad aids in making one's fortune, took it in his head to try the adventure. The farmer received him with the usual good nature, and, the bargain made, sent him to the field to work. At breakfast time the other servants were called, but good care was taken to forget Coranda. At dinner time it was the same. Coranda gave himself no trouble about it. He went to the house, and while the farmer's wife was feeding the chickens, unhooked an enormous ham from the kitchen rafters, took a huge loaf from the cupboard, and went back to the field to dine and take a nap.

"Are you satisfied?" cried the farmer, when he returned at night.

"Perfectly satisfied," said Coranda; "I have dined better than you have."

At that instant the farmer's wife came rushing in, crying that her ham was gone. Coranda laughed, and the farmer turned pale.

"Are you not satisfied?" asked Coranda.

"A ham is only a ham," answered his master. "Such a trifle does not trouble me." But after that time he took good care not to leave the student fasting.

Sunday came. The farmer and his wife seated themselves in the wagon to go to church, saying to Coranda, "It is your business to cook the dinner. Cut up the pieces of meat you see yonder, with onions, carrots, leeks, and parsley, and boil them all together in the great pot over the kitchen fire."

"Very well," answered Coranda.

There was a little pet dog at the farm-house by the name of Parsley. Coranda killed him, skinned him, cut him up with the vegetables, and put the whole to boil over the kitchen fire. When the farmer's wife returned, she called her favorite; but alas! she saw nothing but a bloody skin hanging by the window.

"What have you done?" said she to Coranda.

"What you ordered me, mistress. I have boiled the meat, onions, carrots, and leeks, and parsley in the bargain."

"Wicked wretch!" cried the farmer, "had you the heart to kill the innocent creature that was the joy of the house?"

"Are you not satisfied?" said Coranda, taking a knife from his pocket.

"I did not say that," said the farmer. "A dead dog is nothing but a dead dog." But he sighed.

A few days after, the farmer and his wife went to market. Fearing their terrible servant, they said to him, "Stay at home, and do exactly as you see others do."

"Very well," said Coranda.

There was an old shed in the yard, the roof of which was falling to pieces. The carpenters came to repair it, and began, as usual, by tearing down the roof. Coranda took a ladder and mounted the roof of a house, which was quite new. Shingles, lathes, nails, and tiles, he tore off everything, and scattered them all to the winds. When the farmer returned, the house was open to the sky.

"Villain!" said he, "what new trick have you played me?"

"I have obeyed you, master," answered Coranda. "You told me to do exactly what I saw others do. Are you not satisfied?" And he took out his knife.

"Satisfied!" replied the farmer; "why should I not be satisfied. A few shingles more or less will not ruin me." But he sighed.

Night came; the farmer and his wife said to each other that it was high time to get rid of this incarnate demon. As is always the case with sensible people, they never did anything without consulting their daughter, it being the custom in Bohemia to think that children always have more wit than their parents.

"Father," said Helen, "I will hide in the great pear tree early in the morning, and call like the cuckoo. You can tell Coranda that the year is up, since the cuckoo is singing; pay him, and send him away."

Early in the morning the plaintive cry of the cuckoo was heard through the fields. The farmer seemed surprised. "Well, my boy, Spring is come," said he. "Do you hear the cuckoo singing yonder? I will pay you, and we will part good friends."

"A cuckoo!" said Coranda; "that is a bird which I have always wanted to see."

He ran to the tree and shook it with all his might, when, behold! a young girl fell from the branches, fortunately more frightened than hurt.

"Villain!" cried the farmer.

"Are you not satisfied?" said Coranda, opening his knife.

"Wretch! you kill my daughter, and you think that I ought to be satisfied. I am furious. Begone, if you would not die by my hand."

"I will go when I have cut off your nose," said Coranda. "I have kept my word; do you keep yours."

"Stop!" cried the farmer, putting his hand before his face. "You will surely let me redeem my nose?"

"It depends on what you offer," said Coranda.

"Will you take ten sheep for it?"

"No."

"Ten cows?"

"No; I would rather cut off your nose."

And he sharpened his knife on the door-step.

"Father," said Helen, "the fault was mine; it belongs to me to repair it. Coranda, will

you take my hand instead of my father's nose?"

"Yes," replied Coranda.

"I make one condition," said the young girl.

"We will make the same bargain; the first of us that is not satisfied after marriage shall have his nose cut off by the other."

"Good," replied Coranda, "I would rather it was the tongue; but that will come next."

Never was a finer wedding seen at Prague, and never was there a happier household. Coranda and the beautiful Helen were a model pair. The husband and wife were never heard to complain of each other; they loved with drawn swords, and, thanks to their ingenious bargain, they kept for long years both their love and their noses.—From *Edouard Laboulaye's "Fairy Tales of All Nations."*

THE WOONSOCKET AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the Trustees of this Society, held in Woonsocket on the 18th of January, 1867, the following Resolution was passed by unanimous vote:

Resolved, That we recognize in the "FARM AND FIRESIDE," the new agricultural journal just commenced by S. S. Foss, of Woonsocket, a valuable aid to our Society and its objects, and to farmers and horticulturists everywhere. Therefore, we cheerfully and earnestly recommend the said journal to the generous patronage of the agriculturists of Rhode Island and the adjoining States.

ARLON MOWRY, Secretary pro tem.

ADORN YOUR HOMES.—Some one writes both gracefully and forcibly: "I would be glad to see more parents understand that when they spend money judiciously to improve and adorn the house and the grounds around it, they are in effect paying their children a premium to stay at home as much as possible and enjoy it; but when they spend money unnecessarily on fine clothing and jewelry for their children, they are paying them a premium to spend their time away from home—that is, in those places where they can attract the most attention and make the most display."

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society owns \$270,000 worth of property, and its income last year was \$30,350.

The Markets.

Table with columns for Woonsocket Retail Market (Farm Products, Fuel, &c.) and Groceries, &c. listing various goods and their prices.

Table for Brighton Cattle Market—Jan. 23. Lists prices for Beef Cattle, Working Oxen, Milch Cows and Calves, Yearlings, Sheep and Lambs, Spring Lambs, Veal Calves, Western Fat Swine, and Hides.

REMARKS. CATTLE—The market was almost an entire failure, on account of the non-arrival of the Cattle. There were a few head came in by boat from the State of Maine, but separate from these there were no fresh arrivals. The large number of last week was almost sufficient for the two weeks. Number left over 175 head, a part of which were driven to Cambridge on Tuesday morning.

NEW YORK CATTLE MARKET. MONDAY, Jan. 21.—In view of the light receipts the market for Beef cattle has ruled firm, and holders succeeded in establishing an advance of fully 1/2c @ 3/4c per lb on choice stock, while the other grades remain unchanged. Extras sold at 17 @ 17 1/2c, and occasionally at 18c; good and medium, 15 @ 16 1/2c, and common at 12 @ 14c; the demand, however, was not very active, buyers manifesting no disposition to operate too largely, owing to the expectations of large arrivals, the snow storm having had the effect of keeping many cattle back.

Veal Calves under a light supply and a fair demand, ruled buoyant and firm at 10a12c for common to good, and 13 1/2a14c for prime.

Sheep and Lambs have ruled moderately active, and previous prices were fully realized, sales being made at prices ranging at from 5c to 8 1/2c, the average prices being 6a7c.

The Hogmarket ruled quiet with 22 car loads on the market at the opening, prices, however, ruled steady at 7 1/2a7 3/4c for best quality; 7 1/2a7 1/2c for fair to good, and 6 1/2a7c for common and rough.

The total receipts were 3734 Beeves; 47 Milch Cows, 198 Veal Calves, 16,494 Sheep and Lambs and 19,577 Swine.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

THE wholesale trade in breadstuffs, &c., has been very dull during the past week, owing to the fear of a crisis in the money market. The great storm has impeded this class of business, both in the streets and in the harbor. But the news from Europe of small stocks there, has caused a feeling of confidence on the part of holders of grain, and a more active trade in the ensuing week is looked for. There are many orders for export of various kinds of grain.

FLOUR has been pressed on the market, particularly low grades, by weak holders, whose margins are nearly gone.—Prices have declined forty to fifty cents a barrel, but toward the close a portion of the decline was recovered. We quote superfine state at \$9 40 @ 10 40; extra do. \$10 50 @ 12 25; western extras, \$10 10 @ 12 10; shipping Ohio, \$11 50 @ 12 50; St. Louis extras, \$14 25 @ 16 70.

CORN MEAL has declined, and there is not much doing. We quote Pennsylvania and Jersey at \$5 @ 5 10. The supply of bag meal is very large, and this has depressed the market.

BROOKFIELD FLOUR has declined, and sold very freely at the concession. We quote at \$2 90 @ 3 25 per 100 lbs.

RYE FLOUR has been in good demand and ruled steady at \$6 40 @ 8.

WHEAT has been neglected, millers holding off owing to the decline in flour. Those compelled to sell have submitted to a decline of five to eight cents a bushel. The market closes quiet but firm at \$2 @ 2 10 for rejected spring; No. 3 spring, \$2 15 @ 2 25; No. 2 do. \$2 26 @ 2 33; No. 1, \$2 50 @ 2 55; amber state, \$3 @ 3 10; white wheat, \$2 90 @ 3 50, the latter rate for white Michigan.

NEW YORK WOOL MARKET.

THE improved tone of the market noted in our last is fully sustained, and prices of desirable kinds, such as fine domestic fleeces and the high grades of foreign, rule in favor of the seller. This improved feeling, as before remarked, is based on the belief quite generally entertained, that the pressure brought to bear upon Congress is so great that increased duties will be imposed, as follows: 10 cents per lb and 10 per cent., if costing under 24 cents per lb including charges, and 12 cents per lb and 10 per cent. if costing over, being in the unwashed state. For combing or carpet wools the duty proposed is: Unwashed, costing 12 cents per lb or under, 3 cents per lb; if over 12 cents per lb, 6 cents per lb, excluding charges. These extreme rates meet with little favor among wool dealers, who are in a better position to judge of the effect upon the woolen literature than wool growers. The true principle, they claim, is to admit wool and Dye Stuffs free, and charge 25a30 per cent. duty on foreign manufactures of wool. Business in Boston last week was very active, the sales reaching a million and a quarter of pounds, the market showing a hardening tendency. The sales here since our last have been 150,000 lbs State and Western fleeces at 43a55c for ordinary to fine, including 30,000 lb Combing Delaine at 60c; 40,000 lbs Texas, 20a32 1/2c; 22,000 lbs Mexican, 21c; small lots Cape, 37 1/2a38c; and a re-sale of 112 bales Merino, 22 1/2c.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

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Boilers repaired in a thorough manner at short notice.

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AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares & 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.

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HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Massachusetts.

FOWLS FOR SALE.—The subscriber will sell a few pairs of Grey Dorkings; also, several pairs of Brahmas, at \$6 per pair, boxed and provided with food, delivered to express. H. G. WHITE, So. Frammingham, Mass. 1w-2

Jan. 19, 1867.

HAY FOR SALE.—From seven to ten tons of good Meadow Hay, ARNOLD TAFT, Mendon, Mass. (2w-1)

A LADY AGRICULTURIST.—The Newburg Journal has the following notice: "Miss J. L. Waring, of Auenia, Dutchess county, New York, a lady of intelligence and culture, has gone quite extensively into the culture of fruits and vines. She has invested upwards of forty thousand dollars. She cultivates only the choicest varieties, and has several large and well constructed houses for the propagation of foreign and delicate vines. She has a large number of vigorous and thrifty out-of-door growth. Miss Waring is the most extensively engaged of any lady, so far as we are aware, in an occupation which is a favorite with the women."

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The Stock Yard.



CARE OF STOCK IN WINTER.

Written for the Farm and Fireside, BY J. L. HERSEY, TUFTONBORO, N. H.

If a store animal receives food barely sufficient to keep up its animal heat, without gain or loss, it is manifest the owner is losing, daily, just the worth of the food consumed and the labor of tending, deducting the value of the manure. If the same animal diminishes in weight, the loss is the full worth of the food consumed, and, in the language of another, he can say,—to make an actual profit on the animal, he must increase in weight, so that the pounds of gain, together with the excrements, shall be worth more than enough, at current value, to pay for all food and the labor of tending: and the surplus thus obtained, is the actual profit. With milch cows, working horses and oxen, and breeding sheep, the case is different. They may yield their owner a profit in other ways, as in milk, labor or wool. The profit of a milch cow is the surplus value of her dairy products, increased by the value of her excrements, over and above the value of her food, and the labor of tending and manufacturing of the milk into butter and cheese. And the profits of the full grown ox, or horse, is the surplus value of his labor and excrements over and above the value of his food and labor of tending; and the profit of the sheep is the surplus value of his wool, excrements, and lambs raised, over and above the worth of food and labor of tending.

Now, if the above items are correct, the farmer who allows his young stock to remain stationary at any time in the year, or just hold their own, is actually losing the full value of the food consumed, and the labor of tending, less the value of the manure. The milch cow which barely pays the expense of keeping and care, is a "dead head," yielding no profit. So of the ox, the horse or sheep. To make stock pay, in any of its departments, each animal must return an income in weight or size, or make some return that the calculating farmer may say they "pay." Some animals do not pay one farthing, and it cannot be done by the best of stock tending. Such should be laid out for erow bait; or, to serve a better purpose, placed in the compost heap; and there are many others that might yield a profit, but do not, and who is to blame? The owner, and him alone. Cold barns, a scanty supply of good food, and water obtained by a long walk, are too often the rule rather than the exception. Such cattle come from the barn in the Spring weighing less than when they went to it in the Fall. This subject of keeping stock through the Winter, is one of much importance; and those farmers who calculate to make stock raising pay, will see that such good care is taken of the animals through the Winter that they will gain in flesh and come out vigorous in the Spring. This is the only course that pays.

FEEDING SULPHUR TO STOCK.—Many farmers allow their cattle, as well as their fowls, to get overrun with lice. Brother farmer, if you wish to see your stock come out in the Spring sleek and in good condition, set yourself to work at once. Purchase a pound of sulphur, and mix it with the salt you give your cattle, at the rate of one pound of sulphur to six of salt, and see if it does not start the lice. To hens it answers the same purpose, freeing them of lice, and it is safer to use than Kerosene oil, unless diluted. If your hogs lose their appe-

tite, take some ears of corn, and boil them, and while wet, roll them in sulphur, and give them to eat. I have found this to be a sovereign remedy for loss of appetite and other diseases that swine are subject to. January, 1867.

SHALL I SELL MY LITTLE FARM?

FARMERS and mechanics as well as professional men, with comfortable homes in the country, are constantly tempted by the idea of making more money, to abandon old friends, old associations, and old habits of life, and seek to better their condition by removal to the cities and large towns.

Passing by, for the present, the sacrifice of home feelings and enjoyments which every man of mature age surrenders whenever he changes his accustomed home, we will now look only at the financial side of the question, and see what a man, on any New England farm, great or small, gives up when he leaves it and goes to dwell in the town or city. We are always complaining that we get nothing from our farms, and we fancy if we could only get somewhere where money is more abundant, where wages are higher, where there is more going on, we shall have some chance to be rich, and live more independently.

Perhaps there has never been a time when, in this country, a farm, or even a field or garden, contributed so much to the independence of a family of moderate means as in these times of high prices. The reason is obvious. It is because all that we buy, whether rent, or fuel, or provisions, costs more than ever before, and all that we do by way of labor, produces a greater value in the crops we raise.

You say you get little or nothing from your farm. Let us consider the matter and see whether we do not underrate the profits of the homestead. In the first place, you get your rent, an item of which farmers hardly think. Go to any large town, and such a house as will be respectable for your family there as your present one is here, will cost you in rent some four hundred dollars. It may be newer and nicer than the old homestead, but it will be no more comfortable or convenient.

We say nothing of its being in some narrow, noisy street, where you do not know your nearest neighbor, and where you must hire watchers in case of sickness. That belongs to the sentimental side of the question, which today we leave out of sight.

Next, your farm gives you your fuel,—you do not know how much, for you never had occasion to measure it. A farmer's family of half a dozen persons consumes yearly from ten to fifteen cords of wood at least. Less fuel would suffice in the city, with a liberal outlay for furnaces, patent stoves and heaters; but with coal at ten dollars a ton, a ton being equivalent to about one cord of the best of hard wood, when kindlings are paid for, another hundred dollars would be used up.

A cow or two affords the farmer all the butter and milk he can use for his family. A pound of butter a week for each member of the family is a fair estimate, and at fifty cents a pound we have for our family of six, three dollars a week or \$150 a year, and if we add two wine quarts of milk daily, at the city price of ten cents, we have \$73 more.

A small patch supplies you with potatoes, of which you require some thirty bushels, which will cost you at retail prices as many dollars, although if you want to sell them at your farm they will bring much less, there being two or three profits between the producer and the city consumer.

A few trees supply your apples, worth four or five dollars a barrel if you buy them. And any ordinary garden gives the family vegetables fresh in summer, which the city will not at any price.

The small matter of currants and raspberries, and strawberries, and pears and grapes, all become large matters when paid for in money.—The fowls that give abundance of eggs, and a supply of poultry, for Thanksgiving and Christmas, seem of little account till reduced to a specie basis; and two or three porkers grow up with little cost, and in autumn are worth a hundred dollars almost before we know it, and

thus our hills for pork and lard and fresh meat are easily balanced with the butcher.

In the country, everybody has a horse. We care little about driving, perhaps, but the boys and girls, at least the boys, ought to learn to ride and drive, and they do that and learn how to tend the horse and cow without going to an agricultural college. In the city or town, only men of wealth can afford to keep horses, and hiring them at stable prices is almost as expensive.

So, brother farmer, when you have got into your hired house, with never a wood-lot, nor a garden, nor a potato patch, nor a cow, nor a hen, you may also set it down that you can have no horse; and if you, however prosperous in money matters, do not sigh for the fesh-pots of the old homestead, come up to the FARMER office and tell us the other side of the story.—New England Farmer.

Valuable Hints.

CHEAP PAINT FOR BUILDINGS AND FENCES. Prof. Tillman, at a late meeting of the New York Farmers' Club, said: Some questions having been asked about the best out-door paint, I would recommend, as the cheapest and neatest covering for fences and rough work, a mixture of lime paste and skimmed milk. The best preparations would be made by mixing lime with curd, and using milk or whey for diluting the mixture. The reason why this compound will make a more permanent wash than ordinary whitewash is, that the coagulated casein in curd is dissolved in a solution of any alkaline earth, and the compound is not soluble in water. Glue can be mixed with a lime solution; but it will not resist the action of water, and it should not be used on surfaces exposed to rain.

SHARP SHOD.—It is economy to keep horses sharp shod. They not only do more work, but require less food. If sharp, a horse works easy and fearless. If smooth, he endangers himself and rider or driver, and works in fear and with greater exertion of muscle. Consequently, he needs more food to supply the waste. It is not good economy to keep a smooth-shod horse in icy weather. By changing the nails of the shoes every week, they can be kept "rough-shod" without steel corks.

PASTE FOR READY USE.—Mucilage made from gum arabic is good for many purposes, but rather costly. A cheap kind, and better adapted for pasting unsized paper, is made of gum tragacanth. A few cents worth may be procured at a druggist's, and will last years.—Place a stratum of the gum half an inch thick in the bottom and fill it two thirds with rain-water. In a few hours it will be ready for use, and will last several weeks in hot weather without injury.

No Grindstone should be exposed to the 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 remaining in the 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.

POTATO POUltICE.—Where there is the necessity to use a poultice, no person who has once experienced the comfort of a potato poultice, will again use bread. It is light, and keeps hot a long time, can again be re-heated, and, more than all, does not moisten the garments or bed-clothes which it comes in contact with. Pare and boil the potatoes, strain, and then mash them with a fork over the fire.—Put them in a bag, and apply the poultice as hot as the patient can bear it.

FARMERS should not neglect to give their horses proper exercise. Do not suffer the horses to stand the whole week in the stable, but give, at least, one hour's exercise daily.—Give sloppy food at least twice a week, and throw a lump of rock salt in the manger.

Natural History.

ATMOSPHERIC INFLUENCE UPON FISH.

FROM the nature of the element in which they live, we know but little of the habits and economy of fish. They are quite voracious, and many of the species prey indiscriminately upon everything that is digestible; and, in turn, man preys upon them. Undoubtedly they are affected by atmospheric changes, and the inherent difference existing between them and other living creatures, whose pursuit and capture are made the object of amusement, deserves careful attention and study. A correspondent of the Loudon Field writes:

"We all know that the conformation of fishes, their method of procreation, their habits, their times and manner of feeding, &c., differ very widely indeed from that of birds and beasts. Now we have much greater facility for observing the habits of the latter, by reason that we breathe the same atmosphere, we can follow them to their hiding-places, watch their ins and outs, and so far study their various instincts, as enable us at all times and in all weather to succeed in their capture. We know that they must have a regular and constant supply of food, what kind of food suits them, and that they will invariably be found in search of this, and as invariably take it when found. We have not, nor ever can have the same facility for discovering the habits of fishes. We go to the river and capture them with a certain lure; we go again, weather and water apparently the same; we offer them the same lure, they refuse it *in toto*, and maybe every other one as well; we call them capricious (I am now more particularly alluding to trout). Now, had we been particular in observing on the former day, we should have found the lure, or something resembling it, was in plenty on or in the water, on the latter day not there at all; for I have found that in almost any kind of weather, when their natural food is plenty and within reach, they will be found feeding thereon, and may be captured more or less by the experienced fisherman.—That fish, like birds or animals, may be acted upon in a way that we (although more highly organized) have no notion of, I readily admit; very likely this is wisely ordered for their preservation; but I am strongly inclined to think that their so-called capriciousness, is less from direct atmospheric action than absence of sufficient food to tempt them. Some years ago, when fly-fishing on a rather cold day in the month of April, a bright morning, with no success, was followed by a heavy snow storm in the afternoon, which lasted some time. Soon after the snow began to fall they rose fast and furiously—a rise almost every cast—a good dish of fish the result. Almost as soon as the snow ceased falling the fish ceased to rise.—Since then I was with a friend out on the same stream, on a hot summer day; a low bright water, no sport, when suddenly a thunder storm came on with heavy rain. My friend sought shelter; I was about to do the same, when, observing a rise, I gave another cast—had a fish. The faster the rain poured, the faster the fish rose, and scarcely ever in so short a time have I caught so many fish. The rain cleared off; they ceased rising. My friend having missed the sport, said something not fit for ears polite about the capriciousness of the fish. Now, there was no capriciousness, nor forecast, nor direct atmospheric influence in the matter at all; the food was over or about the water; the snow in the one instance, the rain in the other, heat down into the water sufficient to lure them to feed thereon; and did we sufficiently notice, should we not find that what we call forecasting in fishes, is nothing more than this—that some peculiar state of the atmosphere previous to rain, prevents the production of their food in sufficient quantities to lure them from their holds to feed? more particularly as we know that they can exist without any solid food for a much longer period than the denizens of the land, without suffering much in condition thereby."

BETTER be honorable and despised, than to be despicable and honored.



THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and the fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, invariably in advance.



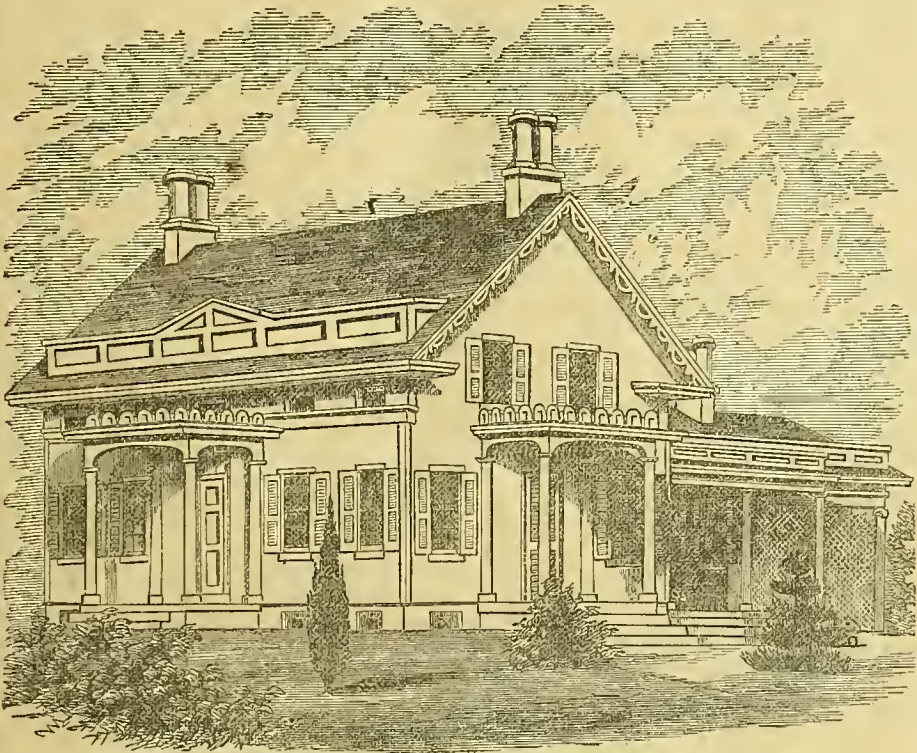
Farm and Fireside

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 OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

VOL. 1. WOODSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1867. NO. 4.

FARM COTTAGE.



(GROUND PLAN.)
FIRST STORY. SECOND STORY.



REFERENCES

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| A—Parlor. | F—Front Stairs. | I—Summer Kitchen. | M—Bed Rooms. |
| B—Sitting Room. | G—Back Stairs. | J—Pantry. | N—Roof of Porches. |
| D—Library. | H—Closets. | K—Porches. | O—Roof of Kitchen. |
| E—Kitchen. | | | |

Farm Architecture.

RURAL HOMES.

THE relations which men bear to one another are among the most efficient of the influences that mould their character. Society is a net-work of closely interwoven interests, wants and dependencies. From these come, not only our various occupations and means of living, but nearly all our tastes and sympathies, and many of our richest enjoyments. Common sense and all experience tell us that man was not made to live in the hermit's cave, or in the cynic's tub.

The foundation of all society is the family. In this institution, to which, more than governments or to great men, the progress of humanity may be traced. The family must have a home, a place where all the associations connected with the idea a family can germinate.—Every enlightened plan for the advancement of society in general, will include among its earliest efforts the improvements of dwellings; and this, not only in respect to physical comfort, but to aid in the suggestion of salutary associations, and the formation of desirable habits. When architecture contributes to such an object, she may justly claim the highest praise. The dwelling in its location and arrangements should be, as far as possible, adapted to the condition, employment, habits and character of the family. Not only are the adult members to be thought of, but the interests of the young should be consulted. By all means let the abodes of infancy and youth be made commodious and attractive. These, however humble, will teach lessons of neatness and order; they may and should inspire a regard for comfort and decorum. While the mind and heart are fresh and tender, let the love of parents and kindred be combined with that of place; the love of one's own house, of

garden, trees and prospect. Thus may you contribute towards rendering the homes of the people not only nurseries of filial and paternal affection, but the earliest and best schools of obedience and duty, of PATRIOTISM and PIETY. The above plan, for a farm cottage, is plain, cheap and picturesque; and the internal arrangements convenient and well adapted for a farm or rural homestead. We shall give, occasionally, engravings of rural architecture; with plans, estimates of costs, together with practical articles on the embellishment of our Country Homes.

Ornithology.

THE BIRDS.

AN APPEAL TO THE FARMER AND HORTICULTURIST.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

THERE are ample laws in Rhode Island for the protection of all useful birds, both local and migratory; and it is to the advantage of every farmer and fruit-grower to see that the laws are enforced, and the birds preserved; especially at this season of the year, "when earth's universal face, deep hid and chilled," compels them to crowd around the winnowing store and claim the little boon that Providence assigns them. See to them, now, and when welcome Spring returns, you will be amply rewarded for the charitable acts bestowed.

In the early Summer months, "What has become of the Song Birds?" is a question frequently asked, not only by those living in the city, but by residents of the country also. I allude to the beautiful, richly colored songsters whose welcome notes gladden our hearts, and admonish us that Spring has again returned.

The question is easily solved. Do you see that man with a gun in his hand, a small basket on his arm, filled with cotton? Watch

him. He has started for the country to visit the woods and orchards. If accosted, he will tell you that he is in quest of some rare plant, or on a fishing excursion, and thought he would "just take a gun along" to destroy a hawk, crow or some other mischievous bird that frequently annoys the farmer. That is not his errand! Although he may be successful in deceiving, some do not believe him. He is employed by the bird-stuffer to furnish such birds as I shall enumerate, at so much per head; the price to vary according as the specimen is rare, or the degree of beauty of its plumage. He finds them in the thick foliage by listening to their notes, which guide him near the nest, which contain the eggs or callow brood. His murderous gun brings to his feet, dead and bleeding, the coveted prize, for which he is to receive from ten to fifteen cents. He attracts but little attention, his gun being very lightly charged with powder and small shot.

The birds slaughtered, with few exceptions, feed entirely on insects, as the following:

Scarlet Tanager, or Red Bird; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, one of the rarest and most beautiful, both in song and plumage; Cedar Bird, commonly called Canker or Cherry-bird; Baltimore Oriole, or Red Robin; the various kind of Warblers, Vireos and Thrushes, all fine songsters, particularly the Wood Thrush, so beautifully described by the great author, Audubon.

"How does the stuffer or taxidermist dispose of so great a number?" you may ask. Some of them are arranged in glass cases, and sold here, but the greater number are sent to countries that our birds do not inhabit.

Bear in mind that there is a law of this State making it a penalty for any person to fire a gun on the premises of another; for the first offence, \$5, every subsequent one, \$10.

Yours,
G.
Providence, R. I., February, 1867.

Miscellany.

HOW THE RAIN FALLS.

WHERE does rain come from? You answer, "From the clouds." But where do the clouds come from? You may think the wind blows them over you. But if it blows clouds over you from somewhere else, it also blows them from over you on a clear day as on a cloudy or rainy day. On a fair day when no clouds are seen, the water is divided up into such small particles, that it does not obstruct the sun's light, and so you see no clouds or water. A change of temperature in the atmosphere, as when a warmer and colder current of air meet, causes the small particles of water to unite in pairs, and the pairs unite, and these quadruple drops unite, and so on until hundreds or thousands of the small, invisible particles unite in one, and even then that one may be many hundred times smaller than a pin's head. A mass of these combined drops, which are still small enough to float in the air, refracts, or bends out of their course so many of the sun's rays that they stop and often darken its light. It is thus that clouds gather in a clear sky. When enough drops unite to make one too heavy to float in the air, it begins to fall. It meets and unites with many others in falling, and often so many unite that great rain drops are formed by the time they get to the ground. Each large drop is made up of thousands, perhaps millions, of the small drops that float in the unseen air in a clear sky.

TALLEYRAND died a few hours after having signed a formal recantation of the errors of his extraordinary life. "He died like a man who knew how to live!" said a lady. "After humbugging all this world, he ended by wishing to humbug the other," said M. de Blancmesnil.

ALDERS.—It is slow work to make fire-wood of alders, and yet many farmers have a plenty of them growing around the edges of meadows and in swamps that are worthless, so far as any profit on their growth is concerned, and that ought to be cut away. Now that the ground is frozen and firm they can be got at more readily than at any other season of the year. Many pastures are suffering also from the encroachments of alders and other shrubs. Now, would it not be worth while, slow and tedious as it is, to sweep off these shrubs and chop them up into kindling wood? For a light kitchen fire in summer they serve a very good purpose, and, as a kindling wood, at any season, when cut short and fine, and dried, they are very handy.

Domestic Industry



The Field.

THE WHEAT CROP, AND ITS CULTURE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside, BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PENNSYLVANIA.

Seed.—The selection and proper kind of seed is, of course, the first consideration in treating on the above subject; and is, of itself, a subject which, to consider in all its details, would require more space than can be afforded to one correspondent; but I will endeavor to point out some of the most important items in the selection of the seed.

During the last few years a new requisition has been added to the already long list of the requirements of a "perfect seed wheat," viz: that it must be proof against the midge. In our county (Chester) we have but three kinds of wheat in general cultivation, viz: Blue Stem, Mediterranean, and Red Chaff; all of them red wheats, and all liable to the attacks of the midge to a greater or less extent, according to the time of growing. In some few sections we have the White Mediterranean and Early Bowden or Boughton; either or both of these are much less liable to the attacks of the midge.

The White Mediterranean, if sown at the same time, will ripen about one week in advance of the common red kinds, and in some seasons has hardened its grain before the midge has commenced its ravages; and hence has often wholly or partially escaped the usual effect of this pest on the red wheat. As far as my own experience goes, I am satisfied that, leaving the ravages of the midge out of the question, the extra price which it (as a white wheat) will command in the market, will not counterbalance the increased amount per acre which the red wheat will produce; but on strong ground, with plenty of manure, the white wheat will often do best, because having a short, stout straw, it is less liable to lodge before filling.

The Early Bowden, when grown with red wheat usually ripens its seed about two weeks before the latter; and further possesses a peculiarity not uncommon with other white wheats, that of not being easily shelled out by long standing. Two years ago, owing to the favorable season, my white wheat was fully ripe at least twelve days before we were through the hay harvest; and although it was allowed to stand, it did not "shell out" as much as the adjoining red wheat, cut immediately afterward. This fact would, of course, lead us to suppose that it is more difficult to thrash, which will be found to be the case.

While we are in danger from the midge, I would advise the planting of white wheat; but if out of danger from this pest, the red Mediterranean is my choice. The blue stem is less liable to lodge, but though looking well at harvest, I do not find it to yield in bushels as well as the red Mediterranean; but on other soils it may do better than I have given it credit for.

No matter what kind of wheat may be used for seed, let it be fully ripened, plump and heavy; run it through the fan with a quick motion, and heavy blast, in order to blow over the light and imperfect grains. If more care was exercised in this one particular, I have no doubt we might raise the weight of our wheat three or four pounds per bushel; and instead of from fifty-eight to fifty-nine pounds, might reach sixty-three or sixty-four pounds per bushel.

The next item for our consideration is the preparation of the ground. This at once brings up the long vexed question of "plowing twice for wheat," the economy of which has so often been discussed. From my own experience, I have strong doubts of the economy of the practice, when benefit to the wheat crop is the only consideration in view; yet I would practice it as far as possible, on account of the benefit which it produces in the ensuing crop of grass.

If the ground is put into proper order, I have never been able to detect any difference between the wheat on ground plowed once, and that plowed twice; but can, in some seasons, detect quite a difference in the ensuing grass crop. The main advantage in the second

plowing, in my estimate, arises from the fact that it enables us to cover the manure in a better manner than when we plow but once; or, in other words, enables us to plow deep without covering the manure to the same depth.—To do this properly, the ground should be thoroughly plowed immediately after the removal of the oat crop; a deep, narrow furrow may then be turned, and if made ten inches deep and six inches wide, instead of six inches deep and ten wide, no harm will ensue.—After a thorough harrowing and rolling, the manure may be hauled out and spread, and just before seeding-time, turned under by a shallow furrow, not more than five or six inches deep. This will not only fulfill all the requirements of our best authorities, for the proper application of manure, and at the same time leave the ground in a condition which will require but little labor for a thorough preparation of the soil for wheat.

Many of the advocates of a second plowing lay great stress upon the argument that the extra labor of preparing the ground when the ground is plowed but once, will more than pay for a second plowing; but if there are clods in a well-plowed field which cannot be mastered by a roller and harrow, there is something wrong in some of the past operation; probably the ground was plowed too wet.

Next in importance to the preparation of the ground, is the manner and time of putting in the seed. At this late day it is scarcely worth my while to enter into an argument to prove the advantage of "putting in" this crop with a drill; but few still advocate the old broadcast system, and fortunately they are growing more and more scarce. If no other argument could be used that of the saving of seed would be sufficient to induce most of those who are now in the practice, to continue in their well doing.

With regard to the proper time for sowing, we cannot do better than to hear in mind the old adage of their being "always safety in a mean," and avoid sowing too early by not sowing too late. If we sow too early, we are in danger of the fly; if too late, we will probably get more than our just share of the ravages of the midge; by too great a desire to avoid Scylla, we may readily fall into Charybdis. I might, like others, fix a date as proper for putting in the seed, but the date or day proper for last season, may not do for next, and, further, the date proper for my locality may not suit many of the more distant subscribers of the Farm and Fireside.

With regard to the proper time for sowing, no fair rule can be given; mine is, to have my field ready early, and let a few of my most ambitious neighbors plant first; this is the only safe rule which can be laid down either in putting in wheat or in any of the farm operations, but, as our critic says, "if all followed it, the rule would not work very well."

Another much disputed, and still unsettled question is, the proper amount of seed per acre, which varies from Frederick Hallett's one bushel and a half for ten acres, to our broadcast friend's two and a half bushels for one acre. One thing cannot be doubted, viz: that we very imperfectly understand the tilling powers of wheat, and to what extent it may be educated. When we see the result of such experiments as have for the last seven or eight years been tried at Brighton, England, by Frederick Hallett, we can hardly see to what limit they may yet be carried. He, by "careful breeding," is able to plant his immense fields with a seed every nine inches in rows nine inches apart, requiring from one bushel to one and one-half bushels per acre, and reap a product double that which most of our best farms will yield; while Smith, of Loui Weedon attained the same result by laying his field off in still wider rows.

After a fair trial in a ten acre field, by commencing on one side with two bushels per acre, and gradually decreasing to three pecks, I could detect no difference in the yield. Most farmers in my neighborhood prefer one bushel and one peck, as near as possible; and though more seems to do no harm, less will do. Very often in crossing the headlands we get in double this quantity without perceiving any increase or decrease in yield.

In a future communication in which the dis-

cussion will be more appropriate, I will further allude to this important question in the cultivation of wheat.

Chester County, Pa., February, 1867.

TOO MUCH LAND.

THE great trouble with most farmers is, that they constantly hanker for more land, till they get more than they have the capital to manage profitably. Farming requires more or less capital as well as any other business, and the size of a man's farm should depend very much on the amount of working capital he has on hand. If he has little or no spare capital over and above his own time, and the labor of his own hands, a very small farm will be more profitable than a large one, because he will concentrate his labor upon a few acres, bring them to a higher degree of productive fertility and profit, and save the expense incident to a large tract of land, which necessarily unproductive comparatively. A man who has little more than his own hands, who has not the ready means to hire extensively, and the capacity to direct hired labor so as to get the greatest return for it, will make more, a good deal, by concentrating his time and his fertilizing materials upon five acres than he would to spread them over a hundred. He can cultivate, manure and manage three to five acres well. If he attempts much more, a part must be neglected, and his returns will be small compared with what they should be. Does not every day's observation prove this to be so? Do not the illustrations of concentrated efforts which are to be found in almost every neighborhood prove it to be so?

There was a mechanic in a town not thirty miles from Boston, a carpenter, who found that his health was suffering in consequence of his close application to that kind of work, who went and bought a little piece in the outskirts of the town, and began to raise vegetables for the market. It was but a few acres, scarcely enough to be called even a little farm. He cultivated well, of course, and manured very highly, keeping an exact account of all his operations. It is needless to say that he made money, more, by a large per cent., than he had made by his trade, and he was able to show how he did it. It was by stuffing in the manure, by deep and constant tillage, by an absolute freedom from weeds and waste places, by making the most he knew how of every foot of land that he gave his time to. Now the fact is, farmers, as a general thing, don't do as well as they know how. Why? Because in a vast majority of cases, they can't. They have so much land, all of which demands more or less of their attention, that they are compelled to come far short of even their own ideas of what ought to be done, and so they go on year after year scattering their energies, instead of concentrating them, a constant walking illustration of the homely old maxim, that a "rolling stone gathers no moss."

But for another instance of the same thing. There was a man in Essex county who cultivated every year about fourteen acres of onions. He made a business of it, devoted his time, his thought, and his energy to that crop as a specialty, raising on an average about five hundred bushels per acre. He kept the run of the crop in other sections, so as to be able to judge of the price, and how to take the advantage of the market. Nearly every year when the crop was in condition not to demand his entire time, he would visit Wethersfield, and other parts of Connecticut and other sections where the crop was largely cultivated, to learn the probable extent of the yield. If it was likely to be large, he could hurry his crop to market before it became glutted with onions, if it was likely to be small he would hold over till spring, or till the supply was exhausted, and then command his own price. With six or eight thousand bushels, which his fourteen acres yielded, he could afford to do this, and he made a heap of money by it, while with only a few hundred bushels he raised as a part of a great farm crop, it would not pay.

This same farmer made another specialty of squashes. He built a squash room with shelves arranged along the sides for receiving squashes to ripen up, and furnished with a heating ap-

paratus by which he could regulate the temperature. Nearly every day he would pass through this room examining the squashes to see if they were beginning to decay, and if they were, such specimens were hurried off to market. This room was so arranged that it would preserve squashes, and the owner could keep them till the supply in the market was exhausted, and then command his own price, and he made money on this crop. And so it is generally. If a man makes a specialty of something, concentrates his thoughts upon it, studies it till he is complete master of that one thing, he does it better and makes more of it than if his time is divided, and his labor spread over too much land.—Mass. Ploughman.

The Poultry Yard.

POULTRY ITEMS.

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 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 in winter. Now, in our country, in a gentleman's fowl yard, there is not an egg to be got in cold weather, but the warmth of the poor man's cabin insures him an egg even in the most ungenial season.

It has generally been supposed that there would be a great difficulty in rearing chickens hatched in February and March; on account of the cold, but, with proper accommodations and conveniences, we have found it more certain than those hatched in June. Many persons fail in raising chickens for want of a little attention to them at this season of the year.

Some of the early laying hens will begin to show a desire to incubate, and if early chickens are desired, it is best to humor this propensity and let them sit. See that they have selected a safe and warm place, where they will not be disturbed by other hens depositing their eggs to the general fund. Eleven to thirteen eggs, as fresh as possible, should be given her, and a date, 21 days in advance, should be marked in a conspicuous place on the nest box.

To have the poultry-yard profitable, the fowls should not be kept until they are old. There is no objection to preserving a favorite cock, so long as he is active and lively, but hens after three years will not produce as many eggs as those of one or two years. Much, however, is depending on the breed kept, so far as good layers are concerned.—C. N. Bement.

DOES KEEPING HENS PAY?—To this question the Claremont (N. H.) Advocate furnishes the following practical answer:

"Mr. James Baker of this town has handed us some figures showing the net product of his 'henery' for the past year, which may answer as a solution to the question, Do hens pay? It seems that he has kept during the year 118 layers—to feed which it cost him \$95.32. As a return for his outlay he credits his little flock as follows: Amount of eggs laid, 1335 doz.; number of eggs sold, 1314 doz.

Value of eggs sold.....\$298.00
Hens and chickens sold.....28.00

\$326.00

Expense of keeping.....95.32

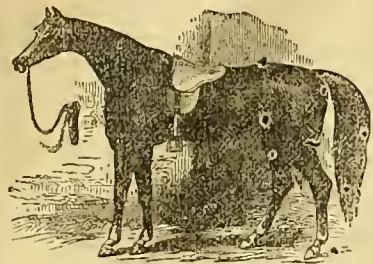
Net income.....\$230.68

Stock of hens now on hand, 125—which he values at \$25 more than his last year's stock. The breed of hens which have thus rewarded Mr. Baker for the good care he has taken of them, is the White Leghorn, which have the reputation of being everlasting layers, no disposition to set, small eaters, lay steadily through the winter, no ramblers, and their eggs are fair and large."

If men were perfectly contented, there would no longer be any activity in the world.

MARRIED LIFE.—"Laziness is the devil's cushion." Do not run much from home. One's good health is of more worth than gold. Many a marriage begins like a rosy morning, and then falls away like a snow-wreath. And why? Because the married pair neglect to be as well-pleasing to each other after marriage as before. Endeavor always to please one another. Consider, ye daughters, what the word "wife" expresses. The married woman is the husband's domestic faith; in her hand he must be able to entrust the key of his heart, as well as the key of his eating-room. His honor and his home are under her keeping—his well-being is in her hand. Think of this. And you, ye sons, be faithful husbands and good fathers of families.





The Horse.

THE CHECK REIN FOR HORSES.

The following extracts, on the use of the check rein for horses, are from a pamphlet recently published by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals:

The check rein may probably be of some use in "breaking a colt," and may perhaps help to "get up his head" until he has been "taught his paces;" but, after, it can answer no end, except souring his temper, making him jibe, fretting the corners of his mouth, wasting his strength, hurting his wind, injuring his sight, lessening his speed, abridging his services, shortening his days, throwing him down and breaking his knees. All these, it is fearfully asserted, often proceed from the use of this cruel appendage.

When loose, the horse's neck is usually extended as straight as his back; in this manner horses would generally work. It is the natural position, and the nearer we approach to it, the better for the animal, for he is then at his ease; and though little remembered, his pulmonary action, or breathing, unimpeded. It is absurd to make a bend or angle (if at all acute or sharp) in a water pipe or hose; so it is absurd and cruel, too, to bend back out of its natural line the windpipe of the horse by the use of the check rein. In the former case a full volume of water cannot be obtained: in the latter, the free breathing of the animal, so essential to its comfort, and even to its life, is hindered. The effect of restraining a horse by the check rein is to prevent him from getting up to the collar. If the bit is in the least degree affected by the check rein—in other words, if it not entirely loose in the mouth—the horse is checked, and, besides being kept from the free exercise of his strength, he is prevented from leaning the weight of his body into the collar.

There is one infallible proof, constantly obtained, of the cruelty of the use of the check rein and of its injurious effects, though we believe very few persons are aware of it. Whenever a horse has been worked with a tight check rein, the corners of his mouth become raw, inflame, fester, and eventually the mouth becomes enlarged on each side, in some cases to the extent of two inches. Even before the bit has produced those visible effects, if the corner of the mouth under the bit be touched, the animal will flinch as if from hot iron. Let this be the sign with every master and servant. To what are these enlargements attributable? What causes them? Nothing but the friction of the bit in the effort of the horse to get up to his work. How dreadful to see a horse, heavy laden, his neck bent into a perfect curve, his mouth open, his eyes ready to start out of their sockets.

KIND TREATMENT OF A HORSE AND ITS REWARD.—We are so frequently called upon to record acts of cruelty by teamsters, that it is a pleasure to publish the following:—"On Thursday a team belonging to Bowers, Pratt & Co., heavily loaded with iron, while passing through Congress street, became imbedded in the snow. The humane driver, instead of lashing his horses, procured a shovel and cleared away the snow from the runners, then stepping up to the shaft horse, he said, 'Now, Billy, we are in a bad fix; do all you can—will you?' The horse, apparently understanding the appeal, rubbed his head against the driver as if in assent. The team was successfully started without a blow being struck. A well-known gentleman in State street, having witnessed the scene, was so pleased that, on returning to his office, he immediately addressed a note to the owner of the team, enclosing a ten dollar bill, with a request that it be given to the driver who treated his horse so kindly."
—Boston Traveller.

Farmers' Miscellany.

UTILITY OF AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY HORACE THAYER.

ECONOMY is a most commendable trait in any individual, or in any calling or profession; but especially is it essential to the farmer. But the farmer, in his laudable observance of this important principle, should be on his guard, lest his economical propensities should degenerate into parsimony—the meanest of all passions. Economy, in the general acceptance of the term, implies a judicious expenditure of means or money; or their expenditure for such purposes and in such amounts as will result in the greatest good. It would not be economy for the farmer to refuse to pay out a dollar, when it would return him a profit of two; on the contrary, it would be the height of folly. It is universally admitted by all intelligent and thinking minds, that good, ably conducted agricultural papers are most important aids to the farmer; and that no wise, or progressive farmer will attempt the management of even the smallest farm without the assistance of one or more agricultural journals. A farmer will often obtain information upon a single subject that will benefit him far more than the yearly cost of the paper; yet he will have fifty-two such papers, each treating upon a great variety of subjects. Then these periodicals come to the farmer at the precise time when he requires the information—for each number treats upon work appropriate to the season. When the farmer consults special works or books upon any subject, he obtains but *one* man's thoughts or knowledge; but the periodical contains the combined wisdom of *many* minds. "In a multitude of counsel there is wisdom." The wisest farmer cannot know all that may be known. The able agricultural journal is the depository of the united wisdom and knowledge of its numerous patrons and contributors—a treasure-house, where the farmer may seek for riches with confidence and hope. We know it is said that a man may have too much of a good thing. We think, however true this old adage may generally prove, it cannot hold good in regard to agricultural journals. We are satisfied that any farmer of moderate practice will be benefited far beyond their cost, even if he should subscribe and pay for half-a-dozen of the best agricultural journals in the country—providing he reads and practices their teachings. His profits would be greater at the year's end.

Now we want to say to every farmer in particular, when asked to subscribe for the "FARM AND FIRESIDE," don't say, "I would like it, but I take so many papers now, I cannot afford it." *You cannot afford to do without it.*—Your two dollars will return to you four-fold. Not only subscribe yourself, but ask your neighbor, and ask every man you meet at home or abroad. If they refuse, show them the superior merits of the paper—its neat and unique style—the fine, white paper—its clear print—the amount and quality of reading.—Instead of three-fourths of the space being devoted to advertisements, and one-half of the remaining fourth to a list of premiums to canvassers, like some "popular" journals, this entire space is filled with useful and interesting matter; and such a paper is furnished every week for the extremely low price of two dollars!

Friend Foss, of course, knows his own business best; but it is certain that, at the present exorbitant prices of printing material, such a paper cannot be afforded at such a price unless liberally sustained. Doubtless he placed it at this extremely low price, under the impression that the farmer and citizens generally—especially all public-minded men—would feel an interest and pride in the enterprise, sufficient to give it a liberal support. Farmers, at least, ought to feel some pride in having a well-conducted journal, devoted to their particular interests, in their own neighborhood. It will be greatly to their interest to have such a home paper to advertise their wants and wares, to say nothing of the greater value of its teachings. The "FARM AND FIRESIDE" is valuable, not only to the practical farmer, but to any

one who cultivates the smallest garden, a single tree or rose-bush, or keeps a single cow, pig or hen. In fact, it contains matter varied and interesting enough to please all classes of readers. Farmers, and all friends of real progress! it rests with you to say whether this enterprise shall be remunerative or not to its publisher. Having put his hand to the plow, he will not look back. Your interest and pride should prompt you to do all in your power to sustain such an enterprise. Send the Publisher your own subscription and as many of your friends' and neighbors' as you can induce to believe they will be benefited thereby. Don't say, "My two dollars will make no difference." If it seems but little to you, it will be appreciated by the publisher. Your subscription will count one towards the thousands that must be obtained. Friend Foss promises to give us a *good* paper, if we will do our part, and we know he will do it. Every subscription received will encourage the publisher and editors, and increase the worth of the paper.—Take as many other journals as you think for your interest, but be sure to subscribe for the "FARM AND FIRESIDE."

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN CENT.—The first copper cent was produced in 1782 by Robert Morris, the great financier of the Revolution, and was named by Jefferson, two years later. It began to make its appearance from the mint in 1792. It then bore the head of Washington on one side and a chain of thirteen links on the other. The French Revolution soon after created a rage for French ideas in America, which put on the cent, instead of the head of Washington, the head of the Goddess of Liberty, with her neck thrust forward and flowing locks. The chain on the reverse was replaced by the olive wreath of peace. But the French liberty was short-lived, and so was its portrait on our cent. In its stead a staid, classic dame, with fine Grecian features, and a fillet around the hair, came into fashion forty or fifty years ago, and continued until about ten years since, when the much smaller and more convenient nickel cent appeared, with a dying eagle in the place of Liberty's head, in order that it might not be mistaken for the five-dollar gold piece. In the present new cent the Liberty head has been restored.

PEARS PRESERVED BY ICE.—Quite a success is reported of an experiment in the transportation of fruit from Mr. E. S. Converse's Preserving House in Malden, Mass. That gentleman has received a letter from Matanzas, saying that pears which were taken from the "house" and packed in the writer's trunk on the 25th Dec., kept perfectly until he reached Havana, on the 8th ult. A few of them, not quite ripe enough to eat, were still on hand. This venture indicates that the exportation of our summer and autumnal fruits by steamers, in winter time, may become a safe and profitable branch of business.

THE POPULATION OF LONDON.—The entire population of London is set down at three millions, which is considerable larger than the population of all England in the days of Richard the Second. The London of Shakespeare's time was a village beside the overgrown metropolis of to-day, since even in the reign of James the First it had but little over one hundred and fifty-three thousand inhabitants. When Charles the Second, miscalled the Merry Monarch, was on the throne, there were nearly half a million within and without its walls; under William the Third the increase was about ten thousand a year. It was not till the beginning of the present century, however, that London could claim to have a million of dwellers, the second figures being first realized in 1810. In 1831 it swelled to a million and a half; 1849 it had passed two millions, and so has gone on until now, when it numbers three millions and upwards, made up of the richest and the poorest, the wisest and most ignorant, the best and the worst, of mankind.

More snow has fallen in Cleveland (O.) this winter than during any previous winter for thirty-five years.

LOST ARTS.

In regard to colors we are far behind the ancients. None of the colors in the Egyptian paintings of thousands of years ago, are in the least faded, except green. The Tyrian purple of the entombed city of Pompeii is as fresh today as it was three thousand years ago. Some of the stucco, painted ages before the Christian era, broken up and mixed, revealed its original lustre. And yet we pity the ignorance of the Egyptian prince who was contemporaneous with Solomon and Cleopatra, at whose feet Caesar laid the riches of his empire.

And in regard to metals. The edges of the statues of the obelisks of Egypt, and of the ancient walls of Rome, are as sharp as if hewn yesterday. And the stones still remain so closely fitted that their seams, laid with mortar, cannot be penetrated with the edge of a penknife. And their surface is exceedingly hard—so hard that when the French artists engraved two lines upon an obelisk brought from Egypt, they destroyed, in the tedious task, many of the best tools which could be manufactured. And yet these ancient monuments are traced all over with inscriptions placed upon them in olden time.

This, with other facts of striking character, proves that they were far more skilled in metals than we are. Quite recently it is recorded that when an American vessel was on the shores of Africa, a son of that benighted region made from an iron hoop a knife superior to any on board the vessel, and another made a sword of Damascus excellence from a piece of iron.

Piction is very old. Scott had his counterparts two thousand years ago. A story is told of a warrior who had no time to wait for the proper forging of his weapon, but seized it red-hot, rode forward, and found, to his surprise, that the cold air had tempered his iron into an excellent steel weapon. The tempering of steel, therefore, which was new to us a century since, was old two thousand years ago.

Ventilation is deemed a very modern art, but this is not the fact, for apertures, unquestionably made for the purpose of ventilation, are found in the pyramid tombs of Egypt. Yes, thousands of years ago, the barbarous Pagans went so far as to ventilate their tombs, while we yet scarcely know how to ventilate our houses.

BEEF—CUTTING UP AND PRESERVING.—In cutting up beef for salting, regard should be had to the size of the pieces, and their relation to each other when put down. In other words, a family resemblance should be pursued in the different strata, as placed in the barrel. When designed for family use it will be found convenient to cut into pieces suited to a day's consumption. For preserving meat the N. E. Farmer says: "Pack the pieces in casks, giving a slight sprinkling of salt between each piece; cover with a pickle by boiling together, in four gallons of water, eight pounds of salt, three pounds brown sugar, three ounces of saltpetre, one ounce pearlsh, for one hundred pounds of meat. Keep a flat stone on the meat, that it may be immersed in the pickle. Put down in this way, beef will keep a year, and rather improve by age."

DRINK FOR MILK COWS.—Cows that give milk in winter will add much to their profit by giving them a bucket full of warm water twice a day, with a little meal or even the slops of the family with it. Every one has noticed how an extremely cold day will affect their milk, or when they have become wet in the summer. A little salt with milk floating on the surface will soon teach any cow to drink it. They will drink at the pump all the better for a little salt.

"BRIDGET, how came you to burn the bread so?" "Och! an' is it burned it is? Sure, then, ma'am, but its no fault of mine, for wasn't you after telling me las' thing afore you went out, a large loaf must bake one hour, an' I made three large loaves, so I baked 'em three hours jist; for what else should I do?"

An exchange says that it is just as sensible a move to undertake to get married without courting as to attempt any business without advertising.

SORROW.—Sorrow sobers us, and makes the mind genial. And in sorrow we love and trust our friends more tenderly, and the dead become dearer to us. And just as the stars shine out in the night, so there are blessed faces that look at us in our grief, though before their features were fading from our recollection. Suffering! Let no man dread it too much, because it is good for him, and it will help to make him sure of his being immortal. It is not in the bright, happy day, but only in the solemn night, that other worlds are to be seen shining in their long, long distances. And it is in sorrow—the night of the soul—that we see farthest, and know ourselves natives of infinity and sons and daughters of the Most High.





The Farm.

UNDER-DRAINING.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY W. H. WHITE, SOUTH WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT.

THE importance of thorough drainage of the soil to the successful agriculturist, is becoming more apparent, from season to season, as the beneficial results derived therefrom, in the limited extent to which it is practised, are developed. In the New England States there is a large quantity of the best undeveloped soil, that would be greatly benefitted by under-draining; and if we are desirous, as a class, to keep pace with, and sustain a position among the agriculturists of the day, we must turn our attention more effectually to this subject. We shall be obliged to do it to become more self-sustaining; for, as the West and other agricultural producing sections become filled up, and other interests become developed, there will be a much less surplus of many products of the soil, and much diverted to other markets.—There is already a proportional falling off in the surplus productions received from the West, and the price becomes so enhanced that we cannot afford their purchase, as at present. That the soil and climate of the N. E. States will admit of the variety of productions from the soil necessary to supply the wants of our own thickly settled population, there is not the least shadow of a doubt. Then let us prepare for any future emergency by so improving the soil and its capacity as to develop all its resources. This we owe, not only to ourselves, but to posterity. Instead of investing our surplus money in adding to the broad acres already our own, or in stock of doubtful dividends, let us invest more in the improvement of the acres we already possess, in under-draining, subsoil-plowing, and more thorough culture generally. It will not be my object in the following, or at the present, to give any specific directions in the art of draining, or constructing drains by any specific rules; but more generally to state some of the advantages and benefits arising from a thorough, deep underdraining of the soil.

The first and most obvious benefit arising is, in carrying off all standing or stagnant water; gives a means of ready escape to the excess that falls as rain, without the washing of the soil, as would occur when obliged to run over the surface in passing off. It also arrests the ascent of water from beneath, from whatever cause, and frees the surface and subsoils from undue moisture, or the lingering presence of any noxious substance which might impede or injure the growth of the roots of the plants therein. The constant descent of water through the soil, causes the air to follow in its course, or, as the water settles away, there would be a vacuum, which in nature is an impossibility, as the air pervades all things. The next fall of rain displaces the air, and as the water settles away, a new portion of air is drawn in to follow. This process is constantly going on while the soil is in an uncoagulated state; the rains carrying some of the most important substances, absorbed from the air or other sources, needed as vegetable food and imparting them to the soil, while the air which follows as the water settles away, is all important in promoting the healthy growth of all vegetation.—Other important consequences which follow the freeing the soil of water are, that it gradually becomes dryer, warmer, sweeter, looser and more friable; all of which, combined, work out the practical benefits of a change of soil, as well as a change of climate; for with the constant presence of water in the soil, there is an evaporation going on at the surface, which, from its nature, produces cold. Remove this, and the temperature is changed, the coldness of many soils disappears; the backwardness of Spring crops, and the lateness of Fall harvests, will be less complained of.—Heavy under-drained lands can rarely be well worked in early Spring for Summer crops; and frequently are so wet in Fall that they cannot be well ploughed to any crop; the frosts of Winter very frequently throw out the roots of any young plants growing in such a soil, killing them, or, at least very much injuring them; often compelling the farmer by these reasons

to change his system of cropping. Good drainage works a complete revolution in all such soils, bringing them into such a state that they may be worked at any time, when any soil can be worked. Heavy rains dry out, so that the soil may be worked in a few hours.—The removal of the superfluous water in a soil is equivalent to a deepening of the same in its consequences, for it allows the roots of plants to descend where the soil was before occupied with it; the air also penetrates and diffuses itself wherever the water has been, thus warming and aerating the same; a larger space is thus allowed for the diffusion of the roots of plants, in search of food, in which frequently an abundance is stored, many substances being found there which have been washed down by the frequent rains, from the upper soil.—The action of all kinds of manure is much more beneficial in drained soils than in under-drained, consequently disappointments are more rare.

The foregoing are a few of the many benefits that may be claimed for under-draining.—It is claimed by those experienced in under-draining, that the soil returns the investment in three years; so that if the farmer have sufficient capital to carry on his improvements three years, he can afterwards thus improve his whole estate without employing any other capital.

February, 1867.

WHENCE THE IMPROVEMENT IN FARMING.

TIMOTHY TITCOMB, in his Rural Life, says: "The improvements made in farming and farming implements have not been made by farmers themselves, but by outsiders,—mechanics and men of science,—who have marveled at the brainless stupidity which toiled on in its old track of unreasoning routine, and looked with suspicion and discouragement upon innovations. The reason why the farmer has not been foremost in improving the instruments and methods of his own business is, that his mind has been unfitted for improvement by the excessive labors of his body. A man whose vital energy is directed to the support of muscle, has, of course, none to direct to the support of thought. A man whose strength is habitually exhausted by labor, becomes, at length, incapable of mental exertion; and I cannot help feeling that half the farmers in the country establish insuperable obstacles to their own improvement by their excessive toil. They are nothing more than the living machines of a calling which so far exhausts their vitality that they have neither disposition nor power to improve either themselves or their calling. * * * There is no doubt about the fact that a life whose sole energies are expended in hard, bodily labor, is such a life as God never intended man should live.

"I am perfectly aware that I am not revealing pleasant truths. We are much in the habit of glorifying rural life, and praising the intelligence and virtue of rural populations; and if they believe us, they cannot receive this with pleasure. But the question which most interests them is not whether these statements are true. Is the philosophy sound? Does a severe and constant tax on the muscular system repress mental development, and tend to make life hard and homely and unattractive? Is not the American farmer, generally, a man who has sacrificed a free and full mental development, and all his finer sensibilities and affections, and a generous and genial family and social life, and the dignities and tasteful proprieties of a well-appointed home, to the support of his muscles? There are instances of a better life than this among farmers, and I should not have written this if those instances had not proved that this everlasting devotion to labor is unnecessary. There are farmers who prosper in their calling and do not become stolid—whose homes are the abode of refinement, whose watchword is improvement, and whose aim is to elevate their calling. If there is a man on the earth whom I honestly honor it is a farmer who has broken away from his slavery to labor, and applied his mind to his soil.

"Mind must be the emancipator of the farmer. Science, intelligence, machinery,—these must liberate the bondman of the soil from his long slavery. When I look back and

see what has been done for farming within my brief memory, I am full of hope for the future. The plow, under the hand of science, has become a new instrument. The horse now hoes the corn, mows the grass, rakes the hay, reaps, threshes and winnows the wheat; and every year adds new machinery to the farmer's stock, to supersede the clumsy implements which once bound him to his hard and never-ending toil. When a farmer begins to use machinery and to study the processes of other men, and to apply his mind to farming so far as he can make it take the place of muscle, then he illuminates his calling with a new light, and lifts himself into the dignity of a man."

WINTER WORK ON THE FARM.

We often hear farmers say: "It soon will be winter, and then we shall have nothing to do." This is a great mistake. It has become a trite and true saying, that there is always something to be done on a farm. It is so. A true farmer never need be unemployed unnecessarily. To be sure, the more confined and heavy manual labor must be performed during the other three seasons, but winter brings its share of duties, which will require constant attendance from the farmer whose motto is progression.

The winter days being short, the proper care of his stock will occupy a goodly portion of it; and here let me remark, that nothing pays better than good care of animals during the months they are confined to the yard and stables. Another item of winter work which should always be performed, is the cutting, hauling and piling of a year's fuel. The workshop will take a large share of the time, for we assume that every farmer is, or ought to be, mechanic enough to repair his tools, carriages, &c., and make the more common kind. There will be much of this sort of work to attend to in preparing everything for the more active duties of the coming season. Here let me remark that farmers should always have seasoned lumber on hand suitable for repairs, and the construction of such articles as they would be likely to need. Another and great branch of labor which must be attended to at this season, is planning—brain labor. Every farmer should have a rough draft of his farm on paper—he has it in his head—to which he can refer, and on which he can make such alterations and additions as he sees fit, to be carried into operation in due season. In this planning business he will find ample work for the long evenings and unoccupied hours. And lastly, the winter season is the time for reading, study, and replenishing and refreshing his mind for more active duties. He must be a "book farmer," to some extent, else he will fall behind the times. In all of these labors and duties, and the cultivation of those neighborly, social qualities, for which the season is peculiarly appropriate, no farmer need lack of finding enough to do and profit by.

DRESSING POULTRY FOR MARKET.

POULTRY will always sell much more rapidly, and often at higher rates, if well dressed than if poorly dressed. The following directions are given, as the result of much experience, by a poultry dealer:

Food in the crop injures the appearance and sale; therefore keep from food twenty-four hours before killing.

Opening the veins in the neck is the best mode of killing. If the head be taken off at first, the skin will recede from the neck bone, representing a repulsive spectacle.

Most of the poultry in market is "scalded" or "wet picked;" "dry picked" is preferred by a few, and sells, to a limited extent only, at full prices. Poultry may be picked dry without difficulty if done without delay after killing. For scalding poultry, the water should be as near the boiling point as possible without actually boiling. The bird, held by the legs, should be immersed and lifted up and down in the water three times. Continue to hold the bird by the legs with one hand, while plucking the feathers with the other, without a moment's delay after taking out. If skilfully handled in this way, the feathers and pinfeathers may all be removed without breaking

the skin. A toru or broken skin greatly injures the appearance.

The intestines should not be "drawn."—After removing the feathers the head may be taken off and the skin drawn over the neck bone and tied. This is the best method, though much comes to the market with the head on.

It should next be "plugged," by being dipped about two seconds into water nearly, or quite, boiling hot, and then at once into cold water the same length of time. It should be entirely cold, but not frozen, before being packed.

In packing, use clean, hand-thrashed rye straw. If this cannot be had, wheat or oat straw will answer, but be sure that it is clean and free from dust. Place a layer of straw at the bottom, then alternate layers of poultry and straw, taking care to stow snugly, back upwards, legs under the body, filling the vacancies with straw, and filling the package so that the cover will drive down very closely upon the contents, to prevent shifting on the way. Boxes are the best packages, and should contain from 150 to 300 pounds.

SALT FOR GAPES.—Every one has had their say about gapes; now let a Buckeye tell you how we manage this matter. Formerly we fed the young brood with corn meal dough, losing more or less with the gapes every season. Lately we have salted the dough, and now raise some two hundred chickens per season, without losing one from gapes or any other disease. The chickens are bright, vigorous and healthy, and always commence laying early in the fall. Now we have some forty hens, which give us an abundance of eggs.—Farmers should not hesitate to adopt this plan.

A MISERLY old farmer, who had lost one of his best hands in the midst of haymaking, remarked to the sexton, as he was filling up the grave, "It's a sad thing to lose a good mower at a time like this; but, after all, poor Tom was a great eater."

A HORSE CHAUNTER.—A fellow being called as a witness in one of the English courts, the judge demanded:

"What is your trade?"
"A horse chaunter, my lord."
"A what? A horse chaunter? Why, what's that?"
"Vy, my lord, ain't you up to that ere trade?"
"I require you to explain."

"Vell, my lord, I goes around among the livery stables—they all on 'em knows me—and veu I sees a gen'man bargaining for an 'orse, I just steps up like a tetotal stranger, and says I, 'Vell, that's a rare 'un, I'll be bound,' ses I.

"He's got the beautifullest 'ead and neck as I ever seed," ses I. "Only look at 'is open nostrils—he's got wind like a locomotive, I'll be bound he'll travel a hundred miles a day, and never once think out; them's the kind of legs vat never fails. Vell, this tickles the gen'man, and he sayst o' himself 'That cre 'onest countryman is a rare judge of a 'orse; so, please you, my lord, he buys 'im and trots off. Vell, then I goes up to the mau vot keeps the stable, and I axes 'im, 'Vell, vot are you going to stand for that ere chaunt?' and he gives me a sovereign. Vell, that's vat I call 'orse chaunting, my lord. There's a rare little harmn't; there's a good many sorts on us. Some chaunts canals and some chaunts railroads."

TO RELIEVE A COUGH.—This is the season for colds; and colds are the forerunners of consumption. Attend seasonably to the first, if you would avoid the last. For years we have found the following preparation the best for the cure or relief of a cough that we have ever tried: Take two ounces of flaxseed, two ounces stick liquorice, half a pound brown sugar, half a pound raisins, one quart of cider. Boil the whole down to one pint; strain it off and put it aside for use. Whenever the cough is troublesome, take a table spoonful at a time.—Portland Press.

DEPOPULATION OF IRELAND.—An English statistician has shown that in a few years Ireland will become depopulated of Irish by causes now in operation. Emigration is carrying off to England, America and elsewhere vast numbers, nearly all of whom are young and vigorous, upon whom the peopling of the Island depends. Few emigrate after forty; and the consequence is that the population of Ireland largely consists of the middle-aged and the aged. When these die there will be none to take their places. The next census, like all which have been taken during the past thirty years, will show a largely diminished population, and a great proportion of deaths, and few marriages or births.



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FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1867.

AGRICULTURE, HISTORICALLY CONSIDERED.

For centuries after the establishment of Christianity, and before the necessity of the laws which now govern civilized society was recognized, Agriculture, or the art of tilling the soil, had not received the importance it merited. The rude barons of the dark and middle ages were too much engrossed in making and repelling raids, to devote much time to the more peaceful pursuits of husbandry; and their stalwart vassals "armed to the teeth," considered such pursuits as worthy only of women or idiots. Fortunately for mankind, and the industrial interests of the human family, the monasteries, then the abodes of hospitality and science, devoted much time to agriculture, and both by precept and example fostered this useful art. As peace gradually diffused her blessings over Christendom, the science progressed; the culture of the vine, olive and fig was successfully prosecuted in all parts of the Spanish dominions, and the Moors, the most polished and elegant people of the fourteenth century, paid great attention to the cultivation of plants and flowers. Many practical secrets of immense utility to the farmer are still practised in Tripoli and the Barbary States; carried thither by the refugees, who, when expelled from Europe, sought an asylum with their brethren of the same faith.

The situation of the Low Countries, particularly Holland, was favorable to agriculture; and in the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the indefatigable Dutch and Flemings were the scientific gardeners of Europe. The crusades, which united all the nations of the then known West in the closest bonds of friendship, were also of vast service to the science of horticulture; and the gallant Knights, who fought on the sacred soil of Palestine to rescue the sepulchre of Christ from the grasp of the turbaned infidel, brought with them on their return, many plants and flowers, which are now naturalized throughout Christendom. The Pharmacopeia was also greatly enriched by contributions from the Holy Land; flowers were then the fashion, and all the mediæval Sovereigns delighted in Pleasances, or flower gardens. Fabulous sums were given for favorite plants, and the tables of the great were daily laden with vegetables then expensive and rare, but now common.

On the discovery of the New World, Europe was flooded with its productions, and Ireland is indebted to Sir Walter Raleigh for the root which has so long constituted the principal food of a large part of her population. Catherine of Arragon, the first Queen of Henry the Eighth, of England, was fond of vegetables, and brought in her train the first gardener who ever raised lettuce in Great Britain. During the reign of that monarch, salads were frequently sold for their weight in gold, and the purveyor of the magnificent Cardinal Wolsey, complained, that though "he offered any price for green food, he could get none."

The taste of the populace had been greatly improved during the reigns of the Plantagenet Princes; the gross dishes, so much enjoyed by the Saxons, had gradually disappeared, and simpler food was substituted in their room.—The sagacious Elizabeth saw the advantages that would accrue to her Kingdom from the advancement of agriculture, and bestowed rewards on all who made important discoveries. Noblemen, who resided on their estates, beheld the country at peace, and devoted much

time to the then modern improvements, and made it their boast that they could then feed all their retainers, without going off their lands. The civil wars that followed after the death of Charles the First, and during the Protectorate, prevented much progress; nor was it till after the accession of William and Mary to the vacant throne of James the Second, that agriculture received any patronage. Special acts of Parliament were passed to "protect the farmer, and the importation of such animals as would be useful in the tilling of lands, particularly encouraged." Most, if not all the gardens of that period, were laid out in the Dutch taste. Great attention was paid, and immense sums lavished on exotic flowers and fruits to grace the boards of the nobility, at balls, masquerades and other festivities. Sinclair and Young may be deemed the fathers of British agriculture.

The emigrants who sought the shores of America, brought with them the tastes and habits of the ancestors from whom they descended, and the traveler is frequently astonished at seeing in Canada the agricultural implements used in France in the time of Louis the Fourteenth. When the yoke of Great Britain was discarded, and the independence of the Colonies acknowledged, multitudes flocked to the Young Republic from all parts of the world. The fertile and grain producing fields of the West allured many settlers, who introduced all the improvements that fell under their notice; and that part of the country has largely repaid their honest perseverance.—Pennsylvania is greatly indebted to the illustrious financier, Robert Morris, who was a great judge and liberal patron of agriculture; he also first introduced Green-Houses in the United States.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey were exceedingly enterprising in the production of vegetables and fruit, which could not be raised in New England and certain parts of New York. After the purchase of Louisiana, the United States could have declared that their population might be fed and clothed without foreign aid.

The Eastern nations, including the ancient Egyptians, have long been famous for their proficiency in this "mother of sciences," as the ancient Greeks delighted in styling agriculture. The religious tenets of the Hindus debarred them from the use of animal food. The climate was genial, the soil immensely productive, and under the sway of the Mogul emperors at Delhi, hot-houses were constructed on the largest scale, and the imperial table was daily ornamented with fruits and flowers of the world. Clive and Warren Hastings, who firmly consolidated the empire of Great Britain in the East, averred that India then far surpassed Europe in the science of Horticulture.

The Chinese and Japanese have long been acquainted with all the practical details of horticulture, and the pleasure gardens of the rich abound in the rarest flowers, and the most costly fruits. Every inch of land that can be put to any available purpose, is cultivated throughout the celestial empire; and substances which would be rejected in other parts of the world, as useless, are extensively employed as fertilizers. The Peruvians and Mexicans alone, of the natives of the New World, had made some advances in agriculture. The Spanish historians speak with rapture of the chinampas, or floating flower-gardens of the Aztecs. To this day the Indians are passionately fond of flowers. Mexico abounds in all the productions both of the temperate zone and the tropics.

Hereafter, we shall refer to the history and progress of American Agriculture, with which we are more particularly interested.

THE IMPORTATION OF SEEDS.—A number of importers and growers of foreign seeds are about to send a petition to Congress, asking that the tariff be so changed as to admit free of duty all foreign seeds intended for growing or planting purposes. They ask this on behalf of the great agricultural interests of the country, to whom, they say, it is of importance to have a great abundance of pure garden seeds, the importation of which is at present restricted by a very high duty.

PISCICULTURE IN MAINE.—A correspondent, writing from Augusta, Maine, says that Mr. Davis, of Luhec, from the Committee on Fisheries, has reported to the House a resolution relative to the restoration of sea-fish to the rivers and inland waters of Maine. This resolution authorizes the Governor to appoint two commissioners, whose duty it shall be to examine such rivers and other waters as they deem sufficient to the consideration of the subject of the restoration of sea-fish to our lakes and their tributary streams, the introduction of new varieties of fresh water fish, and the protection of fish generally in inland waters. Authority is also given to introduce into such waters as they may deem best suited therefor, spawn of the black bass, land-locked salmon, and other varieties, if they deem it expedient, provided the expense does not exceed the sum of two hundred dollars.

HOT-BEDS will be wanted in February and March. Have the sashes and frames in readiness, now that there is leisure. Paint, re-glaze, and have all in working order. Accumulate a supply of manure for the same; the best is that from horse stables, long and short together. Manure for ploughing and spading in, should be looked out for, and all available materials, whether from the house, privies, stables, piggeries or hen-houses, should be saved.

THE CANARY BIRD TRADE.—There are large importations of Canary birds in the German steamers. The birds come principally from the Hartz mountains in Hanover. The number of them that arrived here in the past year is estimated by large importers at from 15,000 to 20,000, worth \$60,000 or \$80,000. The mortality among the birds on the passage is more than twenty-five per cent. In this country they are bred to some extent. One man in Philadelphia last year raised three hundred, and another in Buffalo one hundred and fifty.

THE POTATO.—A French newspaper states, with regard to the parasites found in the potato, that "the microscope reveals to us the existence of a small black spot, of the diameter of a pin's head, in the potato. In this small space can be detected some 200 ferocious animals of a coleopterian form, which bite and tear each other with continued fury. It is easy to comprehend the potato disease when such an intestine warfare is raging."

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.—During the week ending December 29, 1866, the last officially reported, the English Privy Council states that nine animals were attacked by cattle plague in Great Britain, an increase of three as compared with the previous week. The number of animals attacked since the disease first appeared has been 253,807, and 52,646 healthy cattle have been slaughtered to prevent the plague from spreading.

INTERESTING TO MILKMEK.—In the Superior Criminal Court, in Boston, Henry Waite, charged for the third time with selling adulterated milk, pleaded guilty, and Judge Russell sentenced him to the House of Correction for the term of sixty days. Subsequently the sentence was revised, and the milkman was let off on paying a fine of \$50 and costs.

LIVE STOCK IN MINNESOTA.—The St. Paul Pioneer says that there are now in the State 848,000 horses, 421,842 cattle, 259,362 sheep, and 286,416 hogs. The estimated value of all the live stock in the State is \$21,652,704.

ORANGES.—The St. Augustine (Florida) Examiner, speaking of the great crop of oranges, says that sixty thousand will be picked from one grove. A gentleman writes that "they hang in rich yellow clusters from trees on the sides of the streets, and the soft air is redolent of their rich perfume."

SALE OF A TROTTER.—The celebrated "Ethan Allan" was sold in Boston on the 24th ult., to B. E. Simmons, of New York. The price paid was \$10,000.

THE COMMON SCHOOLS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The report of the Superintendent of Common Schools of Pennsylvania gives the following statistics for the school year of 1865-66, as follows:—There were in that year 1863 school districts in the State; 13,146 schools; 16,141 teachers, and 725,412 pupils, with an average attendance of 478,066. The total cost of the school system for the entire State, including taxes levied and State appropriations was, for the year \$4,195,258.57. The increase in the number of school districts was 26, in the number of schools, 222, in the number of children attending school, 19,932, in the average attendance at school, 18,946, and in the total cost of the system, \$581,020.02. Not including Philadelphia, the increase in the per centage length of term, one day, in the average cost of tuition per month, four cents; in the number of male teachers, 493, in the number of female teachers, 63, in the salaries of male teachers, \$2.52; in the salaries of female teachers, \$2.10; in the cost of tuition, \$220,743.07; in the cost of fuel and contingencies, \$48,071.35, and in purchasing grounds, building, renting and repairing houses, \$222,209.77.

WHAT A SQUIRREL DID.

We cut the following from the Newburyport Herald:—"A gentleman from Newbury treated us the other day to some walnuts, which we should, perhaps, have refused, on the principle that the receiver is as bad as the thief, had we known where they were obtained before it was too late. They were part of the store of a striped squirrel, which he had laid up in a hollow tree. There were in all five quarts, which he had carried up one by one, from a tree an eighth of a mile distant. The hole run into the tree in a horizontal direction, so that its capacity would have been very small, as the nuts would have rolled out without some modification in its arrangement, which Mr. Bunny proceeded to make with a good deal of architectural skill, his movements being daily watched by our informant. He first built up a breastwork of clay, sticks, nutshells and other rubbish at the mouth of his magazine an inch or two high, and then filled it up with his provisions, till it would hold no more. He then added another course of mason work and another deposit of nuts, and so on till at the time of the vandal's raid on the little fellow's commissary, the wall was about a foot high. The speculation was considered justifiable on the ground that man was created lord over all the beasts of the field, and that it was no worse to make a squirrel work for him than to make a horse or an ox do it. Besides, our friend kindly gave the four-legged slave his time for the rest of the season, and in a week or two he had laid in a new supply for himself and family."

THE AMERICAN SAFETY REIN.—A few days ago Chapman's Patent Safety Rein was put to the severest test. Gen. Dix, a notorious runaway horse, who was regarded as valueless as a roadster, because it was found impossible to control him, was made the subject of the trial. The horse was lashed into a savage run with the whip, and when the reins were pulled upon, he was reduced to complete submission.—A common snaffle bit was used, and the power of the safety rein worked like a magical charm. Before the trial it was boastfully asserted that Gen. Dix could not be controlled by any invention, and many of the gentlemen present confidently expected to witness an exciting runaway and a general smash up. But so complete was the mastery of the driver over the horse that they at once acknowledged the practical utility of the Chapman invention.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

Secretaries of Agricultural Societies in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, will oblige us by sending a list of their officers for 1867.

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TOMATOES A PROTECTION AGAINST BORERS.—Mr. J. H. Foster, of Quincy, Mass., informs us that he has an apple orchard which has been badly infested by the borer. Two or three years ago, while going over the orchard in the fall and removing from ten to fifteen young borers from most of the trees, he noticed that, invariably, there were no signs of their work to be discovered wherever a chance plant of the tomato had sprung up from seed in soil or manure. Acting on this discovery, he has since planted tomatoes extensively about his apple trees and quince bushes, and finds it a complete protection, as the beetle never deposits her eggs during the summer months upon the bark of the tree near which a tomato plant is growing.—*New England Farmer.*



Fireside Readings.

THE OLD CHIMNEY-PLACE.

A stack of stones, a dingy wall,
O'er which the branches cling and creep,
A path on which no shadows fall,
A door-step where long dock-leaves sleep;
A broken rafter in the grass,
A sunken hearth-stone, stained and cold,
Naught left but these, fair home, alas!
And the dear memories of old.

Around this hearth, this sacred place,
All humble household virtues grew,—
The grandsire's love, the maiden's grace,
The matron's instincts deep and true.
Here first sweet words were lisped; here broke
Life's morning dream, and yet more dear,
The love that life's best impulse woke,
Grew warmer, gentler, year by year.

How cheerful, while the storm without
Muffled the earth and iced the night,
The ruddy glow gushed laughing out
On merry groups and faces bright!
How chimed the crackling freakish flame
With rosy mirth or thoughtful ease,
Or, may be, syllabled the name
Of one rocked on the stormy seas!

What fairy scenes, with golden lands,
What pageants of romantic pride,
In the weird deep of glowing brands
Saw the fair boy, the dreamy-eyed;
Till, musing here, his spirit drew
Strong inspiration, and his years,
By Beauty's subtle nurture knew
The paths of Nature's inner spheres!

Here, as the swooning embers sent
A faint flush through the quiet gloom,
In the warm blush have lovers blent
The fragrance of their hearts' fresh bloom;
And, veiling in the soft-drooping eyes
Her tremulous joy, here blushed the bride;
Here o'er pale form in funeral guise,
Farewells from broken hearts were sighed.

This spot the pilgrim, 'neath strange skies,
Saw in his wayside dreams; here stood
Old friends with gladness in their eyes;
Here grew the beautiful and good—
Sweet friendship—faith serene and sure—
Manhood's strong purpose, warm and bold—
Courage to labor and endure,
And household feelings never cold.

Here leaning in the twilight dim,
All round me seems a haunted air,
I hear the old familiar hymn,
My heart goes upward in the prayer
That made the night so full of peace;
Kind lips are on my brow—my ear
Hums with sweet sounds—they faint, they cease,
And night o'er all broods calm and clear.

MARY OF THE HEATH.

A TRUE TALE.

It is by no means an uncommon observation, that did any one note down the remarkable occurrences of his own life, those of his friends with which he is well acquainted, or such as become known to him on good authority, in the course of a few years how curious a collection it would form. The following is an example:

It must now be nearly half a century ago, when one fine summer's day, about the hour of noon, a little girl, who could not have been more than ten or twelve years old, was seen on a particular part of — Common, or Heath in Kent, (not very far from the house of a wealthy baronet,) suspending a pot on three sticks set upright in the ground, after the manner of gypsies, over a fire which she had kindled beneath it. She was dressed in rags, and seemed miserably poor and forlorn. The child was alone. The singularity of the circumstance excited the surprise of two ladies, who were taking their morning walk on that airy and agreeable common. They looked around expecting to see a party of gypsies, to whom they conjectured the child must belong; but, though wide and open, not a living creature, save the little girl boiling her pot, was to be seen far or near. Their curiosity was raised and much increased, when, on a nearer approach, as she turned her head toward them, though burnt and browned with the sun and wind, they saw at a glance that the face which looked out from beneath a bonnet worn out of all color and shape, and the arms which were but partially covered by an old tattered cloak, were neither of the gipsy character or complexion. The features were small, round, and the eyes and hair of true Saxon origin—blue and light brown. There was also an expression of artlessness in the countenance, which, it must be confessed, is not very generally the distinguishing mark of the daughters of Egypt. There was something so singular in the solita-

ness of the employment and the personal peculiarities of the child, it was impossible that two ladies of good hearts and benevolent intentions, could other than feel interested for her. They proceeded, therefore, at once to question her, beginning with the kindly and encouraging expression of "My dear," as they asked what she was doing there?

"Boiling my pot for my breakfast," was her reply.

"And what have you got in it?"

"Two turnips that I took out of a field."

"Is that all you have got for your breakfast?"

"All, except some bits of bread."

"That's a very poor breakfast. To whom do you belong?"

"To nobody."

"To nobody? and you so young! How did you come, and where are you going?"

"I don't know."

"You neither know how you came here nor where you are going? What a strange story. What is your name, and where did you come from? You must have come from some place?"

"My name is Mary, and I came a long way off; but I can't tell where."

"How did you get here?"

"I walked; I've been many days walking."

"I never heard so strange an account as you give of yourself. Where did you get that pot?"

"I brought it away with me."

"Then you must have come from some persons with whom have been living. Tell us now the truth. Have you not been with gypsies?"

A blush rose in her cheeks as she replied, "Yes, I have been with gypsies."

"Where are they? and where did you leave them?"

She paused a moment, looked down and then said, "I got away from them, for I did not like their way of life."

"And when was it? and how have you lived since you left them?"

"Very hard," said the child. "I begged my way along the roads, and with the few half-pence I got I bought a little bread to save me from starving. I have no where to go. I have no home."

She burst into tears, and there was something so forlorn, both in voice and countenance, as she spoke these words, it was impossible to doubt their truth. There was nothing in it of the whine of a made up tale to excite compassion, and she rather sought to wipe away her tears unobserved, as she turned aside her head, than to make a parade of them.

"I am sure," said Miss G——, the daughter of a neighboring baronet, "there is something very uncommon in this child's story. Poor creature, she is really in very great distress. Let us take her home, and mamma will know better than we can what it would be the best to do for her."

Her friend assented, and Miss G—— turned to the child and told her that if she would come along with her, she would give her some good advice. The little girl followed gladly enough, but she would not leave the pot behind her, for that and the miserable attire on her back was all the property she possessed in the world.

Lady G—— was a woman of known benevolence; but she was not one who exercised it without due caution and judgment. She did not, by hasty or indiscriminate charity, encourage vice and low cunning, under the idea that really distressed the industrious but unfortunate poor. The truly afflicted sought her door, the idle and vagabond passed on, certain that inquiry would precede relief. Yet with all this, Lady G—— did not carry caution to that cold and extreme extent which rendered her suspicious where there appeared marks of want and sorrow that carried with them their own evidence of sincerity. This was such a case.

"That child," said Lady G——, after hearing her daughter's account of the meeting on the common, "is indeed in want of food and rest. I can see it in her looks. I can see that her distress is real in every line of her face, which is a very pleasing one; and in the few

words she has spoken there is such a touching tone, very different from hypocrisy. She shall have something to relieve her hunger, and then we will question her."

The little creature's tears were seen to start in her eyes at the sight of the food, for she was famished with want. The meal ended, once more she was conducted to the presence of the ladies. Lady G—— with much gentleness commenced her interrogations, after having kindly, but in a way, suited to the capacity of a poor untaught girl, endeavored to impress on her mind the duty as well as the importance to herself of speaking the truth.

The following particulars were artlessly narrated:

The child began by saying that she was born in Bath. Her father was in business in that city; she told his trade. Her mother-in-law treated her so harshly and unkindly that on some gypsies coming into the neighborhood, as she was allowed to run neglected about, and glad to be out of the sight of her severe step-mother, she got acquainted with them, and was finally induced by their persuasions to run away and join them. With these gypsies she had lived two or three years, going about the country with them. She did not know if her father had made any inquiry concerning her or not. At length, not liking the way of life of the people among whom she had fallen, she determined to leave them on the first opportunity. She had stolen away from them, taking nothing with her but one of their old pots with a view to look for herself a turnip or anything she could get to support her, so that she might not die for want of food. She had wandered about the roads and waysides begging, ever since she quitted the gipsy camp, and with every half-pence she had picked up in this manner had bought a penny loaf at any village she might pass in her rambles. She did not know where she had been wandering, but at last she had reached the common, where the young ladies found her that morning.

Lady G—— had little or no doubt that the child's tale was true; and thinking that to cast out so young and unfriended a creature again on the wide world would be to give her up to destruction, she resolved to afford her present shelter, at least till she could ascertain by inquiry that all she stated was correct.— Having obtained from the child the name and address of her father, she determined at once to write to Bath, begging an immediate reply.

In the interval the poor little wanderer was attired in better clothes, and placed under the especial care of a steady female servant, with a charge to keep a strict eye upon her. In a few days an answer came from Bath confirming the girl's story, and expressing an earnest wish for her return home to live with her father. But the little Mary evinced so much terror at the thoughts of going back to her step-mother, that Lady G—— forbore to urge her to return home.

She had been greatly interested by the simplicity of her young charge, and the servant to whose especial care she had been committed, spoke very favorably of her. Lady G—— proposed, therefore, to keep her in the family, and to try to make a servant of her, beginning with some humble duties in the household. The child's gratitude was of the liveliest kind; there was nothing bad in her; indeed, her natural disposition seemed docile and amiable. But she had received no instructions; all her good qualities must, therefore, be inherent. This was very promising, and her benefactress, after a few weeks more of probation, finding that she might be trusted with other children, sent the little Mary to the village school. There the child showed so much aptitude for learning, reading, writing, etc., that she soon became the head of the class, and made such progress that on leaving school, two or three years after, she was promoted in the household, and became lady's maid to her benefactress. In this situation she continued for several years, repaying the kindness and generosity of Lady G—— by the most assiduous fulfillment of her duties, and the warmest attachment to her person.

Finally—and few stories of romance conclude so satisfactorily as this tale of real life—the trustworthy and respectable house steward of the family took her to wife. Lady

G——, with an unwearied interest in her well-being, furnished the house for the good couple very handsomely, and made the bride the mistress of the village school, where she had been fostered and educated. Greatly was that excellent lady pleased to see that when her favorite attained the bight of good fortune—cherished by her superiors, beloved by every one—the full-grown woman in her prosperity carefully preserved the old pot as a precious relic of the lowly and afflicted state from which, by a good Providence, she had been so mercifully rescued, when, as the forlorn little Mary, she prepared to boil her turnips on a heath in Kent on the most eventful morning of her life.

VERY GOOD.

A tall, raw-boned Yankee was riding a diminutive specimen of the donkey tribe through the muddy streets of Gotham; and the animal being very stubborn, Jonathan found it quite difficult to induce him to accelerate his speed.

He used the persuasive eloquence of a hickory stick, however; at each blow he would draw out, "Git up, Bonypart; git up, I say."

A little Frenchman, in passing near, heard, with rage, the name of his illustrious countryman applied to the ugly beast, and commenced heaping a volley of abuse on the head of the offending Yankee.

"Sair," shouted the Gaul, "vat for you call dat ugly beast Napoleon! By gar, sair, I shall 'ave ze grande satisfaction!"

"Git up, Bouypart!" was the response.

"Saire, monsieur, sair! I say vat for you call zat vagabone horse Napoleon?"

"Git up, Bouypart!"

Here the Frenchman's rage boiled over, and stamping his feet upon the pavement, he screamed:

"Oh, by gar, I sall 'ave ze grande satisfaction! I sall 'ave ze reveuge. I 'ave one dam seep-dog at my 'ome; I go eall 'im Guillaume Was'ingtou, by gar!"

THE hat was passed around in a certain congregation for the purpose of taking up a collection. After it had made the circuit of the church, it was handed to the minister, who, by the way, had changed pulpits with the regular preacher, and he found not a penny in it. He inverted the hat over the pulpit cushions and shook it, that its emptiness might be known, then raising his eyes towards the ceiling, he exclaimed with great fervor, "I thank God that I got back my hat from this congregation."

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

A RURAL pastor prayed fervently for rain during a severe drought, which began to fall in torrents just as the service closed, when two farmers walking home together were getting fully wet, and one remarked to the other: "The parson does pray with a good unction." "Yes," replied the other, "but he lacks judgment."

ZIMMERMAN.—This eminent physician went from Hanover to attend Frederick the Great in his last illness. One day the king said to him, "You have, I presume, sir, helped many a man into another world?" This was rather a bitter pill for the doctor; but the dose he gave the king in return was a judicious mixture of truth and flattery: "Not so many as your majesty, nor with so much honor to myself."

"A good old woman, a dear friend of mine," says John Newton, "was asked upon her death-bed if she was comfortable in her mind. "Very far from it," she answered, "Then you are not willing to die?" "Quite willing," she said. "If my Father chooses to put me to bed in the dark, I can trust him."

SEVERAL young men have appeared at fashionable receptions in New York recently in something like court dress—maroon velvet coats and breeches, with silk stockings.

THERE is no combination of letters in the English language which excites more pleasing and interesting associations in the mind of man than the word wife. There is magic in this little word. It presents to the mind's eye a cheerful companion, a disinterested adviser, a nurse in sickness, a comforter in misfortune, and partake with you the cup, whether of weal or woe, which destiny may offer. This word wife is synonymous with the greatest earthly blessing, and we pity the unfortunate wight who is condemned, by fate's severe decree, to trudge along through life's dull pilgrimage without one.





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1867.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND FARMING.

THERE lies a wide gulf between theoretical and practical farming; if it were not so, we should not observe farmers acting in complete defiance of the well established dogmas of Agriculture.

Much has been advanced by theorists that is well founded and proved by long practice; but much is advanced in treatises on the nutrition of plants, that is not quite as fully proved.

S.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At the late meeting of the State Society, held at Harrisburg, it was decided to have a trial of Agricultural implements, under the supervision of the Society, during the coming Summer.

From the Treasurer's Report it appears the receipts of the Society, from all sources, the last year, were a trifle over \$13,000!

Back numbers of our journal can be furnished to all new subscribers. As the contents are not of a news character, but comprise valuable essays on agriculture and kindred subjects, they will be "good for all time."

The New Orleans Times says the sugar crop of Louisiana this year will reach 50,000 hogsheads, against 16,000 last year, and that only extraordinary obstacles will prevent a production of 100,000 next year.

HENRY WARD BEECHER says cholera is "God's opinion of nastiness."

GOOD INCOME FOR A DULL YEAR.—Government has derived over \$175,000,000 from Internal Revenue in the six months and a half which have elapsed since the commencement of the current fiscal year, July 1, 1866.



LOCAL AGENTS.

We wish to appoint a local agent, for this Journal, in every town and county in the United States. Our terms are liberal and worthy of attention. Apply, at once, to the Publisher.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.—Secretaries of Agricultural Societies in the United States, are invited to send us a list of their officers for 1867. By complying with this request, we can be of much service to them.

A WOOL TARIFF.—Information from Washington, from a highly respectable source, says that Mr. Wells's recommendation of a free trade tariff on wool will not be adopted. We sincerely hope this will be the case; but Congress is a very uncertain and unreliable body.

Two fishes came through the pump of the new artesian well at Novembay, Wis., a few days ago. The well is one hundred and seven feet deep, tubed the whole distance, and closely filled at the top with a force-pump, so that the fishes can come from nowhere but at that depth under-ground.

SUPERIOR LIQUID BLACKING.—Equal to any made. Use ivory black in fine powder, 28 pounds; treacle 8 pounds; refined or dropping sweet oil 1 pint; good malt vinegar one gallon; stale but good beer, two gallons; oil of vitrol two ounces, soft water distilled, six gallons.—Mix treacle and water well together, and to powder add oil till well mixed; then add porter and vinegar in pan; stir well together one hour with stick, then fill for use.

A STATEMENT made to the Senate Committee on Agriculture declares that the annual consumption of unscoured wool in the United States is little more than one-third of the estimate in his annual report. It makes the total wool supply for the four years ending June, 1865, amount to 800,000,000 pounds, 300,000,000 of which were produced here, 279,000,000 imported, and 220,000,000 introduced as manufactured woolsens.

We believe the Canadians have good reason to oppose annexation to this country in the fact that, in the eastern province, fresh beef can be had at 4 cents per pound; mutton, 7; pork, 10; butter, 12; poultry, 5; flour per barrel, \$6. We enjoy no such privileges this side of the line.

THE disparity in the price of wheat between the Atlantic cities and San Francisco is so great, that it is estimated that on a cargo of wheat, which recently arrived in Philadelphia from San Francisco, a profit of \$75,000 was realized.

"PRAY excuse a bit of sarcasm," said Smith to Jones, "but you are an infamous liar and scoundrel." "Pray, pardon a touch of irony," replied Jones, as he knocked him down with the poker.

CELLARS.—Pick over the garden vegetables, potatoes, apples, &c., on stormy days, and remove all that are decaying. This is essential on the score of health as well as economy.

GREEN PEAS were offered for sale in the Tallahassee, Florida, markets on New Year's day.

LOCAL AGENTS.—We wish a LOCAL AGENT, to obtain subscribers for the Farm and Fireside, in every town in the United States. For terms, apply to the Publisher, at once.

WOONSOCKET AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. A meeting of the Woonsocket Agricultural Society will be held at the hotel of Cook, Mason & Co., Woonsocket, on Tuesday next, to consider the expediency of petitioning the General Assembly for an act of incorporation.

DECLINE IN FLOUR.—Consumers will be glad to learn, or would be if retailers ever hear of such news, that during the week the best grades of flour have declined from 35 to 50 cents, and lower grades somewhat less. The receipts at the western markets were considerably in excess of corresponding dates of previous years. As one drawback here, however, stocks in the hands of bankers and dealers have become low, and there is, to some extent, an export demand.

The local millers have not purchased half the average. The stocks of flour are liberal, but of wheat are very light. In Baltimore and Philadelphia millers have stopped grinding because they have no wheat, and the stock is below last year. At Chicago and Milwaukee, the principal sources of supply, the stocks at the latest dates aggregated only 1,200,000 bushels, against 2,500,000 bushels last year.—N. Y. Express, Saturday.

Marriages.

In Slatersville, 19th ult., by Rev. E. A. Buck, Mr. Jonathan Brumley, of Woonsocket, to Miss Mary J. Winterbottom, of S. In Smithfield, 24th ult., by Rev. Jonathan Brynton, at the residence of the bride's father, Hon. Bradbury C. Hill, to Mary, daughter of Hon. Levin Dexter, all of Smithfield; Jan. 25th, by Rev. W. W. Serer, Mr. James Brown, of Olneyville, to Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Thomas Martin, of S.

Deaths.

In Slatersville, 25th ult., Isabel Howard, daughter of Rev. E. A. Buck, aged 2 years and 6 months. In Smithfield 24th ult., Mrs. Urania Green, aged 56 years and 6 months. In Valley Falls, 18th ult., David Patt, Esq., aged about 50 yrs. In Cumberland, 21st ult., James Jilison, aged 67 years. In Providence, 23d ult., Mrs. Martha D. Ashton, aged 47 yrs. 20th ult., Walter Jones, of Medfield, 65; 24th ult., Mrs. Abigail Wilbur, of Smithfield, 66; 25th ult., Mrs. Amey Salisbury, of Warwick, 63.

The Markets.

Table with columns for Woonsocket Retail Market, Cambridge Market, and New York Cattle Market. Lists prices for various commodities like flour, corn, and meat.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

MILL RIVER IRON WORKS Woonsocket, R. I. W. A. HENNESSEY, PROPRIETOR. Manufacturer of FLUE and TUBULAR STEAM BOILERS, OIL and WATER TANKS, WATER PIPE and PLATE IRON WORK of every description.

Pennsylvania.

MORO PHILLIPS'S GENUINE IMPROVED SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME. STANDARD GUARANTEED. For sale at Manufacturer's Depots, No. 27 North Front Street, Philadelphia, AND No. 95 South Street, Baltimore.

PERUVIAN GUANO SUBSTITUTE! BAUGH'S RAW BONE SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME. BAUGH & SONS, Sole Manufacturers, Office, No. 20 South Delaware Avenue, Philadelphia.

H. A. DREER'S SEED AND AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE, No. 514 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. A full stock of fresh and genuine VEGETABLE, FLOWER, AND GRASS SEEDS, IMPLEMENTS, BOOKS, &c.

LANDRETH'S RURAL REGISTER AND ALMANAC, FOR 1867, IS JUST PUBLISHED. It contains many valuable hints on Rural Affairs, and will be mailed to all who ENCLOSE A TWO CENT STAMP, with their address.

FIELD, GARDEN, AND FLOWER SEEDS. WILLIAM HACKER, No. 802 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Importer and Grower of AGRICULTURAL AND GARDEN SEEDS, TREES, PLANTS, AND BULBS.

ALLEN & NEEDLES, Manufacturers of SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME, AND AMMONIATED FERTILIZERS. OFFICES, 42 South Delaware Avenue, PHILADELPHIA, and 41 South Water Street. Established in 1848.

New Jersey.

PURE BRED ALDERNEYS.—For sale, a number of Pure Bred Bulls, fit for service. Also, a few Alderney Cows, Heifers and Calves. C. H. SHRYX, Haddonfield, N. J., and 222 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.



Poetic Gems.

THE FIRESIDE.

Dear Chloe, while the busy crowd,
The vain, the wealthy, and the proud,
In folly's maze advance;
Though singularity and pride
Be called our choice, we'll step aside,
Nor join the giddy dance.

From the gay world we'll oft retire
To our own family and fire,
Where love our hours employs;
No noisy neighbor enters here.
No intermeddling stranger near,
To spoil our heartfelt joys.

If solid happiness we prize,
Within our breast this jewel lies,
And they are fools who roam;
The world hath nothing to bestow—
From our own selves our bliss must flow,
And that dear hut, our home.

Though fools spurn Hymen's gentle powers,
We, who improve his golden hours,
By sweet experience know
That marriage, rightly understood,
Gives to the tender and the good
A paradise below.

Our babes shall richest comforts bring;
If tutored right, they'll prove a spring
Whence pleasures ever rise;
We'll form their minds with studious care
To all that's manly, good, and fair,
And train them for the skies.

While they our wisest hours engage,
They'll joy our youth, support our age,
And crown our hoary hairs;
They'll grow in virtue every day,
And thus our fondest loves repay,
And recompense our cares.

No borrowed joys, they're all our own,
While to the world we live unknown,
Or by the world forgot;
Monarchs! we envy not your state—
We look with pity on the great,
And bless our humble lot.

Our portion is not large, indeed;
But then how little do we need!
For Nature's calls are few;
In this the art of living lies,
To want no more than may suffice,
And make that little do.

We'll therefore relish with content
What e'er kind Providence has sent,
Nor aim beyond our power;
For, if our stock be very small,
'Tis prudence to enjoy it all,
Nor lose the present hour.

To be resigned when ills betide,
Patient when favors are denied,
And pleased with favors given—
Dear Chloe, this is wisdom's part,
This is that incense of the heart,
Whose fragrance smells to Heaven.

We'll ask no long-protracted treat,
Since winter-life is seldom sweet;
But, when our feast is o'er,
Grateful from table we'll arise,
Nor grudge our sons, with envious eyes,
The relics of our store.

Thus hand in hand through life we'll go:
Its chequered paths of joy and woe
With cautious steps we'll tread;
Quit its vain scenes without a tear,
Without a trouble, or a fear,
And mingle with the dead;

While conscience, like a faithful friend,
Shall through the gloomy vale attend,
And cheer our dying breath—
Shall, when all other comforts cease,
Like a kind angel whisper peace,
And smooth the bed of death.

Horticulture.

GRAPE CULTURE.—"OUT DOOR."

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY R. ROBINSON SCOTT, PHILADELPHIA.

ALTHOUGH the practice of raising grapes under glass is no longer a mystery, or even a difficult matter to an intelligent individual, yet the successful cultivation of the grape, "out doors," on an extensive scale, and in many instances to quite a small extent, remains an uncertain undertaking. Yet page upon page and column after column of our rural periodicals have been occupied with the discussion of this very subject. What is the matter? Are the American fruit cultivators non-plussed, or is it only the uninitiated who thus whine over failures and disappointments? Not the uninitiated only, for the wiseacres give it up, as an uncertainty. Will the writers to be employed on the "Farm and Fireside," be able to aid us in the dissemination of any useful information?

We have been recently told, by those who profess to speak by the card, that the causes hitherto adduced, viz: soil, situation, aspect or

even atmospheric influences, are sufficient to account for the failures which have occurred. One thing, however, is certain: many cultivators have enriched themselves, if not by growing fruit, at least by growing vines. We wish now to look after the millions of grape vines, disseminated over the country, during the past ten years, and discover if the prospect of a partial crop is to be seen in the distance; and if not, why not? Are there not many tracts in this vicinity, and in our State, on which a cultivator of skill and means, could grow the grape, remuneratively? We think there are. Such a soil is not half a mile distant from the point from which we write; and that on the banks of the Schuylkill; yet a large grower has failed, somewhere on the banks of the Schuylkill. Has he failed from any defect in the soil? It is averred not; nor from any appreciable error in cultivation, it is said. Will any reader of this article who is conversant with the history of the vineyard, mentioned recently in several rural periodicals as being a failure, state the history of that vineyard, and let us reason from what we know. Because the wild grape luxuriates in a swamp, climbing over tall trees and hangs in clusters of perfect, though unpalatable, fruit, the cultivated grape must not necessarily be expected to do so under any such circumstances, unless it be submitted strictly to the same routine, *unlimited in time or space*. Nor because the same sort of wild vine may produce a similar result on a dry hill-side, while the cultivated grape will not flourish, apparently equally favorably located, must we jump to the conclusion that the blundering cultivator, with all his skill, has reached the secret of nature's unerring master-work.

The secrets that lie concealed in the action of matter in the bosom of the earth, are still "secrets" as far as the out-door grape is concerned; at least, so say those who profess to be informed. Enough has been done, however, to encourage the hopeful experimentalist to progress, and we feel assured that out-door grape culture will one day be a certain thing among us.

The profitable cultivation of the grape in open vineyards, has been for years, and it still is, one of the most important branches of experimental gardening; it is experimental, for in no single instance that we can quote, have the results been, without exception, satisfactory, after a fair trial. That a fair profit has been realized in some districts of the country, such as Ohio and Missouri, we do not deny; but that the returns have been in a series of years such as were expected or warranted by the theoretical data which led to the experiment, we certainly claim. The results so far, have been realized by the adoption of peculiar methods of planting, training and pruning; in many instances deduced from European practice, with the *vitis vinifera*; and in others, modifications of European systems, supposed to be better suited to this climate and to the American varieties of grape. We do not propose here to detail any number of these experiments, one fact is well ascertained, that on suitable soil, with judicious culture, fair returns have been realized, as in the case of Dr. Underhill of the Croton Vineyards, New York, and the plantations connected with the establishment of the late N. Longworth, of Cincinnati. Others have failed from time to time and have had the effect of discouraging new experiments.

We recollect being present, for a few minutes, at a discussion before the Fruit Growers' Society of Eastern Pennsylvania, when this subject was introduced. The adaptation of the soil in the vicinity of this city to grape culture, was the topic which most interested us. Among other facts was adduced the success of a Mr. Kern in planting a vineyard in the valley of the Schuylkill, a few miles from Philadelphia; or, at least, on the ground contiguous to that river. I am informed, by recent inquiry, that the last season, the crop failed to be a success. We propose, at the earliest opportunity, to investigate the history of this particular plantation, and try to discover wherein the cause of failure lay. The grape is generally believed to flourish best on dry hill-sides, on gravelly loam; such, it is said, is the nature of

the soil above alluded to. It is also affirmed that high manuring does not suit the constitution of the vine; or, at least, that it deteriorates the flavor of the wine. This is quite reasonable. We presume, however, the great desiderata to success lies in the judicious pruning, training, and cropping of the vines, provided the planting has been judiciously done, and the soil in good condition. Now, on this topic of pruning, there is little agreement among cultivators. The system generally pursued of keeping the vine within certain limits, by annual *cutting in*, is beginning to be opposed, and the condition of the luxuriant wild vines rambling over trees and bearing heavy crops, are pointed to in support of the abandonment of the close pruning system. The peculiar atmospheric condition which so unfavorably appear to affect the foliage and fruit of the grape vine, are by others supposed to be the great cause of failure. Insects are also blamed with a large share of the injury. Now to all and each of these causes, a portion of the failure must under various circumstances and in various seasons be attributed, so that to be asked to give any satisfactory explanation of the failure of a single vine or vineyard, the facts and circumstances must all be taken into account.

February 1, 1867.

THE CHESTNUT TREE.
USEFUL AS WELL AS ORNAMENTAL.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY F. R. ELLIOTT, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

AMONG all our forest trees for planting, to give shade and comfort around the homestead, or to add beauty and grandeur to our extended domains, none are more deserving of adoption than the *Chestnut*. Rapid in its growth, free from all annoying insects, hardy, as a tree healthy and clean of foliage, sound, regular and handsomely graceful in form, growing well in any soil, free of lime and well drained; the chestnut affords us a tree of value in shade or beauty, equal to that of many others, and adds a crop almost yearly of nuts, that always command ready sale in market, netting to the owner of trees, fifteen to twenty years planted, from twelve to thirty dollars, according as the nuts are plenty or scarce in market.

There is a great deal of difference in the size of the fruit of our native chestnuts, some of them being almost as large as the French marrow or the Spanish. All are readily grown from seed, or they can be propagated by side-grafting in the Spring. Some doubts have been expressed as to the hardness of the marrow chestnut, but we know a grower in northern Ohio who has them eighteen years old, from seed, and they are thus far perfectly hardy and healthy.

February, 1867.

THE GARDENER'S PRIVILEGES.—The question was once asked by a very beautiful woman, "Why is a gardener the most extraordinary man in the world?" The reply was as follows: "Because no man has more business on earth, and he always chooses good grounds for what he does. He commands his *thyme*; he is master of the *mint*; and he fingers *pen-nyroyal*. He raises his *celery* every year, and it is a had year indeed that does not bring him a *plum*. He meets with more *boughs* than a minister of state. He makes more *beds* than the king of France, and has more genuine *roses* and *lilies* than are to be found at a country wake. He makes *raking* his business more than his diversion, but it is an advantage to his health and fortune, which few others find; his wife, moreover, has enough of *heartsease*, and never wishes for *weeds*. Disorders fatal to others never hurt him; he walks and bustles and thrives most in *consumption*. He can boast of more *bleeding hearts* than you can, and has more *laurels* than the Duke of Wellington. But his greatest pride, and greatest envy of his companion is, that he can have *yeo* when he pleases."

IOWA APPLES.—Mr. Burr Andrews showed the editor of the Deventport Democrat a basket containing 100 apples which weighed 125 pounds, or an average of 20 ounces to the apple. He offers to wager \$100 that this cannot be beat by any orchard in the United States.

Miscellany.

THE MINERALS IN OUR BODIES.—In the body of a man weighing 154 pounds, there are about 7½ pounds of mineral matter; consisting of phosphate of lime, 5 pounds 13 ounces; carbonate of lime, 1 pound; salt, 3 ounces 3,76 grains; peroxyde of iron, 150 grains; silica, 3 grains—making 7 pounds 5 oz. and 49 grs., with minute quantities of potash, chlorine and several other substances. The rest of the system is composed of oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen and carbon; one hundred and eleven pounds of the oxygen and hydrogen being combined in the form of water.

Though the quantity of some of these substances is very small, it is found absolutely necessary to health that this small quantity should be supplied; hence the importance of a variety of food. If we furnish nature with all the material required, she will select such as the system needs, and that always just in the proper quantities.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.—A bit of glue dissolved in skim milk and water will restore old crape. Half a cranberry bound on a corn will soon kill it. An inkstand was turned over upon a white table cloth; a servant threw over it a mixture of salt and pepper plentifully, and all traces of it disappeared. Picture frames and glasses are preserved from flies by painting them with a brush dipped into a mixture made by boiling three or four onions in a pint of water. Bed bugs are kept away by washing the crevices with strong salt water, put on with a brush. Soft soap should be kept in a dry place in a cellar, and not be used until three months old.

In a work entitled "English Eccentricities," recently published in London, may be found the following extempore prayer, attributed by the author to a certain Mr. Ward:

"Lord, thou knowest that I possess nine houses in the city of London, and that I have recently bought an estate in the county of Essex. Preserve, therefore, I pray thee, the two counties of Middlesex and Essex from fires and earthquakes; and as I have an hypothecated estate in Hertfordshire, look also in compassion upon that county; as to the other portions of the country, do as thou wilt. Lord, consolidate the Royal Bank, that it may honor its notes. Let all my debtors be or become honest men. Give a prosperous and speedy passage to the sloop *Mermaid*, for the insurance of which I am responsible. Preserve me from robbers and brigands. Make all my servants faithful and devoted, that they may watch over my interests and not relax their diligence by day or by night."

AS TO BEARD.—Von Helmsont tells us that Adam was created without a beard, but that, after he had fallen and sinned, because of the sinful propensities which he derived from the fruit of the forbidden tree, a beard was made part of his punishment and his disgrace, bringing him thus into nearer resemblance with the beasts, towards whom he made his nature approximate. The same stigma was not inflicted upon Eve, because even in the fall she retained much of her original modesty, and, therefore, deserved no such opprobrious mark. Von Helmsont observes, also, that no good angel ever appears with a beard; and this, he says, is a capital sign by which angels may be distinguished.

SUGAR IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—The portion of the people of the Sandwich Islands who for some time past have been engaged in raising sugar, have found its cultivation quite profitable. They exported 3,005,603 pounds in 1862, and 5,262,112 pounds in 1863, whilst in 1864 the exportation had almost doubled, having reached 10,414,441 pounds. They also supply the entire domestic demand. New sugar plantations are constantly started, whilst the area of land as yet untouched which is said to be adapted to sugar cultivation, is very large.

If you are looking at a picture, you try to give it the advantage of a good light. Be as courteous to your fellow beings as you are to a picture.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and the fireside. Terms—\$2,00 per year, in advance. Single copy, 5 cents.



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 OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1867.

NO. 5.



Farm Architecture.

A PENNSYLVANIA BARN.

We do not present the accompanying embellishment as a picture of the best barn in use; though, in several essential points, infinitely superior to the large majority of barns in use throughout the country. In some portions of Pennsylvania it is in high favor with farmers; but, to be quite candid, we have met with those having such a barn in use who like it better in appearance than practice. The picture, as presented, leaves all interior arrangements to be guessed at; but having made ourselves familiar with them, we find several objections,—the following being the most important:

First, a "ground floor" cellar, with thick stone walls, incapable of ventilation by lateral draught. We cannot stable stock in a cellar, nor even a cellar kitchen with one open front, without incurring risk of divers diseases incident to damp walls and imperfect ventilation. Besides, we argue that, in order to secure the best condition of health and comfort to stock, the stable ought always to have a sub-cellar to receive the manure and secure perfect drainage.

Our second objection applies to the entrance floor and "bay" arrangements. Opposed to all backing down, or out, from any good work, we object to the one door principle. Drive in at one end, and out at the other, is all go-ahead work, and affords free ventilation when required, as it often is, by setting wide open both big doors. Two other strong objections to a side entrance are, first, that unless the barn is out of proportion in width, there is only length enough to admit one load of hay or grain at a time; and if there comes up a sudden shower, as there often does in haying time, and there are two wagons loaded, only one can be got under cover; whereas, going length-wise, in an eighty feet barn, three may be got in. The second objection to the side entrance is, that all material put in must be twice handled in order to get it to the further

side of the bays. From a length-wise passage, one pitching puts the hay back.

We intend to present, by and by, a model barn; in which all these objections are obviated, and several practical improvements introduced. Owners of farms, or country estates, having improved barns, may send us photographs of them; and, if approved, we will have them engraved for the *Farm and Fireside*.

ICE AND ICE HOUSES.

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

We are in the midst of the ice harvest, and a few hints on this valuable crop may not be inappropriate. We have been accustomed to speak of ice as a luxury, and to suppose that only the well-to-do could indulge in it. If ice is a luxury, it is the cheapest luxury that can be indulged in. It is beyond the capacity of the largest head to comprehend the number of tons of ice that are every year wasted for the want of harvesters. We have been surprised to notice how small a hole we made in the little lake from which we have been accustomed for years to take the thirty or forty tons requisite to fill our ice house. The lake is estimated to contain a square mile; and as each cubic foot of ice contains sixty pounds, this little lake alone will yield over a million of tons, at one harvest; and as the ice will make about as fast as it is harvested, there seems scarcely a limit to the amount which one such lake will furnish; and this abundant harvest is reaped without the expense of planting or cultivating. A luxury so cheap as this, all may indulge in. It is as free as the grass on the western prairies. Not even an excise tax is exacted upon it. It is literally "without money and without price." Why do not more avail themselves of this cheapest of luxuries? Mainly for two reasons. The first is, ignorance of its value; and the second, the idea that an ice house is necessarily an expensive structure. Let us consider, briefly, both these reasons. Our great-grandmothers, a century since, ridiculed the idea of drinking tea. And why? They

did not know its value, did not even know how to brew it. We well remember how an old lady describe her first tea-drinking. The tea was made in a poringer, and eaten much like vegetable soup, leaves and all, sans sugar and cream. But in spite of ignorance and prejudice, tea has become almost a necessary of life, and physiologists assert that it is even an economical article of diet, as it prevents the waste of other food, and therefore diminishes the amount requisite for the sustenance of the body. Be this as it may, we know that the hard-working man needs his tea as well as his bread, and is about as willing to go without the one as the other. The Irishman newly arrived from the Emerald Isle, cares nothing for sugar. He has never been accustomed to it, and is not educated to this want of civilized life, but is not slow to learn its use and indulge in it, if it can be done at the expense of his employer. The case is very similar with those who declaim against ice. They have never been accustomed to its use, and are ignorant of its refreshing and invigorating power. We wonder, now, how people ever lived without potatoes, but, Sir Walter Raleigh found it difficult to induce his countrymen to cultivate them; and at the first trial, this most valuable of the esculent roots was generally discarded. We have heard many say "Our water is cold enough without ice," who have afterwards been induced to build an ice house; and we notice that those who use it for one season, seldom forego the luxury.

The export of ice has increased almost constantly as the domestic consumption. The foreign demand began in 1805, when Frederick Tudor first shipped a cargo from Charlestown, Mass. Last year (1866) 450 vessels were loaded, at Boston, with 160,000 tons of ice, valued at \$1,000,000. During the same year the ice dealers at Boston paid \$50,000 for saw dust. The price of the latter article has risen from nothing to \$3.50 per cord. Here we see beautifully illustrated the law of reciprocity, that when one trade is stimulated, others also receive an impetus. Thus much for ignorance of the value of ice.

The second reason is equally futile. An ice

house is not necessarily a nice house. As we can build a shanty or a palace to live in, so we can construct a rude or tasteful shelter for ice. Indeed, a separate structure even is not necessary. A corner of the barn or wood shed will answer every purpose; and if this space cannot be afforded, then a corner in the barn yard will be all sufficient. Ice is not sensitive as to the place of its abode, and retains its character for purity wherever placed. In freezing—a crystallizing process—the water rejects all impurities, and firmly refuses to admit them again as long as it remains in the solid state; so that it can be placed in a barn-yard and surrounded with filth, without being contaminated even skin deep. Whoever has removed a pile of chip dirt or tan bark in June or July, and found pure ice under it, must have discovered the secret of its preservation. It is merely to surround it with some porous substance, which will permit the circulation of warm air and rains. As we surround our bodies in winter with flannel and furs to keep the heat from passing off, so we surround ice with similar non-conductors to keep the external heat from coming in contact with it. A piece of ice surrounded with three or four thicknesses of flannel, will not melt, any sooner than a body thus protected will freeze. The cheapest and most efficient non-conductor probably is dry saw dust. A few inches of this placed on the ground, to prevent the heat of the earth from ascending, ice may be stacked up almost anywhere, and covered with the same cheap material, so as to be preserved through the summer. A few old boards or a thatched roof of straw, to keep off the rains and sun, will be all the roofing required. The larger the amount of ice in one compact body, the better it will keep. The practice of digging cellars in which to keep ice, is not adopted in large establishments. It is found to keep full as well in structures above ground. The main advantage of the cellars, is the ease with which the ice is dumped into them. The difficulty, however, of raising ice into structures above ground, is not as great as generally supposed, as it slides easily on an inclined plane, and is more than compensated by their dura-

WORK FOR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.—Show the people, poor and rich, how they can substitute correct taste for expenditure of money in the adornment of their homes, and the whole world will bless you. Behold the lilies, how they grow. A well kept lawn, however small, with here and there a tree, is more beautiful than all that brick and mortar can build. Teach boys to associate with the country home and farm, ideas of elegance and refinement, and they will not hasten to desert them for the city. Show the man of business how he can afford to live handsomely in the country, without financial ruin, and the town will not hold him long. From the agricultural college in all these matters the people look for light.—Judge French.

N. S. Orpen for my economic survey



bility. Timber rots so rapidly in contact with the earth, kept damp by the ice, that for an underground ice house we should recommend stone, furrowed out with plank. Between the stone and plank, fine charcoal or saw dust may be placed. The lining of plank will in the course of time decay, but the stone walls will remain good for posterity. The blocks of ice should be sawn perpendicularly, and of uniform length and width, so that they may be packed closely. As with all this care some cracks will remain, these must be filled with pounded ice. The hauling and packing should be done on a cold day, with as little exposure of the cakes to the sun as possible. When the ice house is filled, a few pails of water poured over the ice will tend to solidify the mass and prevent any circulation of air. Straw or saw dust should cover the whole before the mild weather of Spring comes on. A covering of six inches of saw dust is all sufficient; but as few ice houses are perfect non-conductors, the ice generally melts a few inches on each side, as the summer advances, and this space must also be filled with saw dust. As a square exposes less surface than an oblong, this is the best form for an ice house, and one with its interior a perfect cube; that is, with its length, breadth and height equal, is the perfection of shape. A cube whose side is ten feet, will hold thirty tons of ice, enough for any ordinary family; but as it costs but little more to build a house twelve feet each way, we should recommend the latter size. The latter will hold 1728 cubic feet of ice, almost twice as much as the former; and if we have more than enough for ourselves, we can enjoy the luxury of giving it away, and there is no question that this is a luxury whether the ice itself is one or not. If the ice house is a cellar a drain will be necessary to carry off the superfluous moisture, unless located in a sand or gravel bank.

We have thrown out the above brief suggestions, hoping that ice, one of the great crops of New England, may be better appreciated. The West may boast of her large crops of wheat and corn, and the South of her rice and cotton, but with our numerous lakes and our thermometers at °, we can excel them in a crop of ice. It is no small compensation for our cold climate, to calculate the amount of comfort which our zero weather is storing up for the torrid regions and our own hot Summers. The only trouble has been that this blessing, so near our door, has not been sufficiently valued.

February, 1867.

EMBELLISHING THE FARM.

THERE are many things that can be done on farms to beautify them, at times when other work is not pressing, which will greatly enhance their value in the estimation of men of taste, and which may not be expensive.

No farm house can be left without trees around it, to furnish shade in warm weather, and be inviting; and when such a farm is offered for sale, no one will purchase it but a man void of all taste, and such men do not pay very high prices for farms.

Every farm house, and the surrounding buildings, should be in good repair, and well painted. The fences should be neat, especially those around the front yard, and immediately adjoining the house; and the gates should be strong and handsomely constructed, and all kept well painted, so that when a traveller happens to pass that way, he will exclaim, "that is a pretty place!"

It is true, these things do not always give returns to the owners in dollars and cents, excepting in cases of saving buildings &c. from decay, by the application of paint; but they afford much pleasure to the owners of such beautiful places, if they possess any taste.

For what do we live? Is it solely to secure what food and raiment that is necessary, to keep soul and body together, or is it to enjoy, in some degree, the beauties of nature and art, which this world affords? "Behold the lilies of the valley, they toil not, yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Who made these lilies and the millions of magnificent flowers that dot every field in their season? Who made the thousands of varieties of

splendid roses, and other flowers that adorn our garden? It was the same Being who made MAN; and think you they were made for no good purpose?

Farmers, you greatly mistake your duty in this world, when you consider that you have nothing to do but to dig the earth. The very dispositions of your daughters are molded, in a measure, by the means you afford them to cultivate the floral kingdom—what may be grown in your yards and gardens at a trifling expense.

So, too, is the acerbity of temper in your sons, ameliorated and tempered by cultivating a desire for the beautiful. Look wherever you may, and you will find the farmer who ignores all respect for tidiness, and the embellishments of his home, where he is, probably, to spend his days, or a large portion of them, and you will find a man without any of the finer feelings of which human nature is susceptible, selfish in his dealings with his fellow men, and not particularly desirous as a neighbor.

On the other hand, when you see a beautiful dwelling, though it be ever so small, with its portals covered by climbing roses, its fruit yard neatly laid out, and well stocked with flowering shrubbery, its garden highly cultivated, and the whole showing a state of thrift and prosperity, you will find a family who are ornaments in society, and who are living as God designed man to live.

What signify the few dollars that it may cost to beautify your homes? You can carry nothing out of the world with you, and why not enjoy your lives, by making your homes attractive? Farmers, think of this, and turn over a new leaf, as soon as you can, without lessening the products of your farm.

The Stock-Yard.

WHAT IS THE BEST TEMPERATURE OF STABLES FOR WINTERING STOCK?

THE temperature of stables best adapted for the health and thrift of animals is scarcely ever discussed. We do not remember to have seen any account of experiments made in this country to determine the point. Some farmers talk of very warm stables as the best for wintering stock, saying that the more warmth you get, the less food is required. Others would have stables quite cool, at least at that degree of temperature which results from boarding the sides up and down after the old style of barns, leaving the cracks or jointings between the boards open. They contend that in such quarters stock come out more healthy and lively in spring, and that if it does take a little more fodder, the gain is greater, on account of the more robust condition of the animals.

We remember to have heard this matter discussed by two extensive and experienced dairymen at the meeting of a town club, the one advocating stables built with stone walls and partly underground, and the other stables standing high and with the old fashioned siding referred to. The latter disputant referred to some experiments which he had made to test the matter. He had two stables of the description named—the one sided up with boards, and the other with walls, and partially underground. He divided his stock keeping about half in each. Those in the underground consumed the least food, but on turning them out to water, the cold air seemed to pierce them through and through. They were shivering with cold even in moderate weather, while the others seemed warm and comfortable. Toward spring he found them in a weak and unhealthy condition, and he was convinced the animals had been kept too warm. Hence he had abandoned the stable, and had never used it after for wintering stock.

Of course there are extremes which must be avoided. If the stable is too cold, there will be a waste of fodder to keep the stock warm. If the stable is too warm, the animals will be subject to disease and in bad health, and the loss from the latter evil will, perhaps, overbalance that of the former.

From experiments made in England for the purpose of seeing at what degree of temperature different animals would thrive best and put on fat, it was found that the temperature between 55 and 60 degrees was conducive to

the best results for animals of the short horn breed; and it was found that oxen generally sweat at a temperature in which heifers thrive admirably.

The question is of more importance than one would naturally suppose from the small amount of investigation that has been bestowed upon it. Are we to run the risk of a wasting expenditure of food by perspiration under excessive heat, or are we to induce the animals to waste it to keep up animal heat by exposure to too much cold? And, then, another question comes in here—will not different classes of animals, as well as animals of the same class, but of different ages, be subject to different consequences from the same degree of heat? In the same stable some animals may be too hot and others too cold from different constitutions.

It would seem that we need some carefully conducted experiments to arrive at a point which may be regarded as a standard. Our barns are now being constructed so that temperature can, in a great measure, be controlled, and if there is a degree of temperature where animals thrive best, and at the same time with the most economical use of food, the fact is worth knowing. Our practice is very imperfect, and you can scarcely find any farmer who has given a thought to the subject, and yet in his practice he may be losing money in a needless waste of food or imperiling the health of his stock. The question seems the more important to us, at this time, because the price of hay and grains, as well as stock, seems to be growing dearer and dearer every day. In many sections of the dairy region the barns are being torn down and improved buildings erected. If we knew just what was best and most economical, our buildings could be arranged to meet these conditions. We do things often too much by guess, and guess work often makes a waste of money.—*Utica Herald.*

TO BREEDERS OF THOROUGH-BRED AYRSHIRE CATTLE.

The undersigned, a Committee appointed by the "Association of Breeders of Thorough-Bred Neat Stock," to collect the Pedigrees of Ayrshire Cattle, request all breeders and owners of such stock to send in full pedigrees of each animal, with the fee of Fifty Cents each, that they may be registered in the Second Volume of their Herd Book, on or before the first of July next.

GEORGE B. LORING, Salem, Mass.

H. T. COLLINS, Collinsville, Conn.

WILLIAM BIRNIE, Springfield, Mass.

J. N. BAGG, of West Springfield, Mass., favorably known in many public agricultural labors, has undertaken the editorship of the new Herd Book, to whom all letters and money should be addressed.

THE BREEDING SOW.—She should be square built, with short nose and ears, short legs and back, with latter hollow; shoulders should be heavy and deep; should not breed until a year old, and never but one litter the first year. Then, if she proves a good milker, let her raise two litters a year. I speak of her being a good milker. This is as essential in a breeding sow as in a good mare. Such an animal will raise better pigs, and, of course, her progeny will be better hogs for market. I find that hasty pudding and milk for the supper and breakfast, and corn for dinner, constitute a very good diet for a breeding sow. A great many farmers have fallen into an error in not allowing plenty of straw for a bed. Many build a warm pen in order to avoid giving much straw. Let her run to a straw stack and she will build a nest to suit herself. If this is not convenient, she should have plenty of straw in the pen. Attend to these matters, and I will warrant no trouble in raising pigs in the coldest weather.—*Cor. Prairie Farmer.*

THE Country Gentleman is informed, on what it considers good authority, that nothing is better for withdrawing the frost without injury to frozen ears, cheeks and fingers, than the immediate application of kerosene—rubbing it on gently for a few times.

Natural History.

EARTH WORMS—HOW AND WHAT THEY EAT.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I see that you have published an article about the habits of earth worms, which useful little creatures seem to be much underrated. They may eat earth, as your author asserts, but I have never seen them do it, although I have seen them eat other things with great voracity, and have also seen them reject particles of earth which adhered to their proper food, such as dead spears of grass, roots and leaves.

I have watched them feeding for hours at a time, and retain a lively recollection of several rhenmatic attacks, resulting from the wetting I got while so watching them. They feed at the surface only when the withered vegetation is wet with rain or dew and is in a soft and pliable state. When their food found at the surface is dry, and too harsh for their mouths to manage, they retire to the congenial depths of the ground, delighting in heaps of "long" manure, which they reduce to a homogeneous mass of compost with great rapidity, by consuming the vegetable and undigested parts thereof, thus transforming the matter from a vegetable to an animal character, leaving the mass at its lowest chemical status, and so fit for the food of plants. Indeed, I doubt if any atoms of vegetation can decay and be again fit food for other vegetable organisms without an intervening decomposition in animal digestive apparatus. At all events, it is easy to prove that earth worms are the compost makers, and if we do not give them time to properly manufacture their "product" while the manure is in the compost heap, they will appear in the fields and then complete the job, and further, their work in the fields yields another benefit by their boring and opening of the soil.

Their manner of eating is worth noticing. If you seat yourself upon a grass plat or beside the strawberry bed, during a light rain in warm weather, and have the patience to sit perfectly still for ten or fifteen minutes, you will see innumerable worm heads protruding cautiously from the ground, and feeling around until a spear of soft and recently killed grass is found. The worm touches it first with the extreme point of the head and then the point retracts inward, much like the toe of a stocking when you touch it with your finger to commence turning it: then the worm shortens its length, the other end being fast anchored in the hole: this action makes a bight in the spear of grass, and the worm crawls along the outside of his supper until the parts diverge too much, when he takes another pull, and so on until the grass is loosened from its own roots and safely swallowed. I have observed that if a particle of earth adhere to the food, it is shoved along as the swallowing progresses, and not allowed to enter the mouth. The final act of swallowing the end, and biting off the lump of root which is sometimes attached, I have never seen, as that is performed within the hole: but I have frequently seen the worm re-appear with a pellet of earth balanced upon his head, or it may be only the piece of root if his supper was clean, which he deposits at the surface beside his hole, when he prowls around for more food while it is good.

When two worms seize opposite ends of the same spear, the pulling and hauling is most comical, reminding one strongly of his early days when he strung grains of corn upon opposite ends of a string and fed two rival gobblers. The worm fight generally ends by the breakage of the grass, but if too strong for their strength they both swallow until their heads touch each other, when they both "get," leaving the morsel, which they will not touch again. I have often seen these worms breaking off the dead parts of strawberry leaves, rejecting the living parts and have also seen them apparently sucking the pollen from strawberry flowers. In the fall large trfts of dead leaves may be seen drawn partially within the worm holes, possibly by way of stoppers to keep out the cold.—*Cor. Scientific American.*

THE importation of pork into Russia is prohibited.

AGRICULTURAL JOURNALS.—It is impossible to exaggerate the advantage to the farmer of reading—yes, of studying—all the agricultural newspapers which he can obtain. There are in this country at least one dozen publications of the kind, which, if he can possibly afford it, the farmer should subscribe for. No one who has done so and read them will deny that at the end of the year he has saved his money over and over again—and yet how many farmers there are who do not take one such journal—to say nothing of a dozen? Farming is, however, every day getting to that stage when reading and a high grade of intelligence will no longer be a matter of opinion, but a downright question between living and starving.



The Field.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF GRASS.

KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS is the principal grass for permanent pastures. It is known by other names, as June grass, from the time its seed ripens; green grass, from its color in the Northern and Middle States and Virginia; but in Kentucky and the Western States, where the climate and soil of many parts of those States are very favorable to its growth, it is known by the name we have given it. Here it acquires, from the vigor of its growth, a blue tinge of color. From its tenacity of life and from its general use, it will be found to occupy all waste fields in a few years. Although it is the weakest of all grasses in the first year of its growth, yet it roots out all other grasses, it forms the thickest of all sods, and will continue to produce bountiful annual pastures for at least fifty years, and perhaps indefinitely. In some parts of the United States there is a grass coarser than this cultivated, called the English blue-grass; it is an English variety, as its name indicates; but, like most of the grasses of that country, it is ill adapted to such a dry climate as ours. When beginning its growth from the seed it is easily killed by the July drought, and it never spreads in a continuous and heavy sod such as is formed by the Kentucky blue-grass. It endures the cold of the winter, remaining greener than the Kentucky blue-grass, and may be advantageously mixed with it, because, growing in strong tufts, it upholds the long, slender blades of the Kentucky variety.

THE ORCHARD GRASS.—In England this grass is called the cocksfoot, from the resemblance of its seed-head to the foot of that fowl. As it is a grass not properly appreciated in this country, we will dwell longer on its description than on any other. Cocksfoot is probably the best known and most productive of our indigenous grasses. It grows naturally to a height of from two to two feet and a half, and produces an immense quantity of nutritious leaves and foliage. Its only fault is that its habit of growth is tufty, which gives a somewhat unsightly appearance to pasture land. It is not, however, so liable to get tufty when combined with other grasses; more so when grown for hay by itself. Cocksfoot soon arrives at its full productive powers from the time of sowing, and yields an extremely large hulk of hay, reproducing its herbage also very rapidly after being cut. It is well adapted to sow, either for hay or grazing, in any course of rotation whatever. When kept low it is a most valuable grass in pasture for the first four or five years, as after that time it seems to die out if constantly depastured by cattle, more so if by sheep, and gives place to the smaller, finer leaved sorts. The cocksfoot lives and thrives best on a medium, loamy soil, giving a rather meager return when grown upon very stiff clay or light sand. It is exceedingly luxuriant when growing in deep, moist soils, under the shade of trees. When grown upon a fertile loam, with a free, porous subsoil, into which its fibrous roots can penetrate to some depth, it then becomes productive in an extraordinary degree; but if grown upon a thin, surface soil, with a stiffish subsoil, the produce is much less, and the plants are also liable to be drawn out of the ground by the cattle when grazing, owing to the slender hold which the roots can take. The cocksfoot grass is found to compose in large proportion the herbage of some of the most famed pastures in Devonshire, Lincolnshire, &c. It yields a weight of hay much greater than that of rye grass, and its hay is also much superior in nourishing properties, and contains most nutritive matter when the seeds are ripe. The blue-grasses have a spring and fall growth only; during the summer their yield is small; timothy is slow in its growth after it is mown, but the orchard grass grows rapidly during all seasons. It is the earliest grass we have, and it remains green during the winter. Its strong tufts uphold the snow, and hence it is well suited for winter grazing, by sheep, in deep snows.

TIMOTHY.—Nearly all the hay which enters into the commerce of this country is made from this grass. It has greater weight and more nutriment in the same hulk than any other kind. Its great yield, its adaptation to lands too moist or wet for grain crops, the time of its maturing

being after the grain harvests, make the timothy the very best of all our grasses for hay. Cut at that time, when it retains the ripened seed, it unites more than other grass the nutrition of the seed with an undiminished value of the stalk and leaves. The change it undergoes is very gradual, and hence delays from the demands of other work, or unfavorable weather, are not usually injurious. Its defects are, that it does not start early in the spring; that the aftermath grows slowly, although it is very nutritious, and that when fed alone as hay, it is binding from its heating qualities. For the farm stock it is best to feed it with the less heating foddering substances, as corn fodder or clover hay.

This grass is indigenous to Great Britain, where it is called catstail, from the resemblance of the panicle to a cat's tail. But in this country it has derived its name from Timothy Hanson, who was the first to bring it into public notice.

RED CLOVER.—Although this plant belongs to the leguminous family, yet in common use the word grass embraces clover, and from this fact and its use as a grass for hay and pasturage it is here noticed as a grass. It occupies a higher position than any other grass in the economy of the farm, for its hay is unequalled for farm uses. Its second crop yields a seed of great commercial value. As a pasture, from the beginning of May to the first of September, it is superior to any other; and, as a fertilizer for the soil, by plowing a full clover crop under, it has no equal in any other plant. To its heavy and enriching top it adds a corresponding root, which penetrates deeply, adding to the depth as well as to the fertility of the soil. As a pasture it is better adapted during the summer season to fattening purposes than any other grass for all farm stock, but especially for cattle, hogs, and sheep. Its adaptation to fine summer butter-making has rendered the hutter of New York very superior; and its suitability for hogs has assisted much to swell the pork product of the West to its greatness. The red clover is of two kinds—the small, blooming twice in the season, the second of which is seed-producing, and the large, which blooms but once. The latter is not yet generally known, being limited to a few localities. It is far more productive than the small, grows comparatively better on poor soil; but the hay is coarse. The time its seed ripens renders it well adapted to mixing with timothy, which, by its strong growth, assists in holding up the clover, for it falls on the ground when raised by itself alone. The objections to clover are, that, having a root with a crown, it is forced upward by the expansion of the soil in winter freezing, and is often frozen out. To a considerable extent this may be helped by rolling in the spring. It is a biennial plant, and not perennial, and hence requires to be resown often. But it readily seeds itself when not pastured too closely in the fall, and meadows of mixed clover and timothy will endure many years without breaking up.

RED TOP.—In low, moist, or wet situations, the red top is an excellent meadow grass, for it is finer than timothy; but in dry grounds it is almost worthless. On dry pastures it roots out other kinds, yet yields lightly.

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE.—The San Francisco Bulletin reports that in California there are about 4,000,000 acres of land enclosed and 1,750,000 under cultivation, as compared with 1,197,984 under cultivation three years ago. The greater part of the increase is reported from the mining counties, the people of which are beginning to turn their attention to agriculture. There were in 1866 over 500,000 acres planted with wheat, and the yield for last year was about 12,000,000 bushels, as compared with 5,000,000 in 1863. Over 14,000,000 bushels of barley were raised in 1866.

EXPERIMENTS IN SHEEP-RAISING.—The Maine Farmer says that H. G. Abbott, of North Vassalboro', has for several years been making experiments in sheep-rearing, in the effort to obtain a medium breed between the Spanish and natives, so as to combine a good quality of wool with mutton, each point being about equal in value. He has succeeded in producing a flock of very fine appearance and quality.

The Poultry Yard.

POULTRY AND POULTRY HOUSES.

As in the management of milk cows, so with fowls, it is as necessary to feed and to quarter, and to care for and select your stock with judgment. An ordinary breed of hens, well housed and well fed, will be of more profit to their owners than the like number of neglected and foreign biddies who come of the best laying tribe.

It becomes us, therefore, to build houses for our poultry, convenient for their habits, and convenient also for our own; for if attendance of any kind of stock occasions too much trouble, they will often be neglected. In building, therefore, let the house be handy for the hens, and as handy for yourself as possible; and of the two, we would say, in preference, make it handy for feeding, and for cleaning and warming and ventilation, as the hour or season of each comes round.

Let their feeding hoppers and water fountains be in the building, or they may occasionally lose a meal when you are too tired to go after it. Let the facilities for cleaning their apartments be always at hand; or the atmosphere of their dormitory may chance to be overcharged with ammonia. For the same reason let your windows work easily; and by all means white-wash the interior of the house, roosts, nests and all.

It is well known that hens are modest birds, and seek seclusion and privacy while the symptoms of approaching egg-labor are strong upon them. It is thought by many that the production of eggs is like the yielding of milk in a cow, somewhat under the control of the creature; so it becomes us to add every inducement to stimulate the instinct of nature, and coax a fowl of prolificacy by consulting their tastes and whims, and making the nests as secret as possible.

The principal considerations of a poultry-house are warmth, light and ventilation. Warm in winter, because fowls will require less food, will be healthier and will lay more eggs. Ventilated in summer and in mild winter weather; because fresh air is absolutely essential to all animated nature and particularly to the fowl. Well lighted, because the fowl delights to be in a cheerful place, and to bask in sunshine admitted through the windows of their tenements in cold weather.

Whatever the breed or number of fowls intended to be kept, provision must be made for their comfort and safety. Fowls attached to farm-houses lead a happy life. They have air and plenty of room, with no lack of food; they wander about the farmyard, visit the adjacent fields, travel over the common or down the lane, troop about the barn, and enjoy the greatest freedom. But how are they housed at night? Often in a proper and well-constructed poultry house, with perches judiciously arranged, and with clean and convenient boxes for hens to lay in, but sometimes in places utterly unfit for them, they are allowed to find a place to roost where they can, probably in some exposed place in a tree or out-house or open shed, above the wagons, carts, etc.; others shelter in adjacent out-houses, and some in the stable.

This want of order cannot be too much condemned. The hens having no proper laying places, select such as chance may offer them, not unfrequently in obscure places of concealment, consequently a safe and convenient fowl-house should have their exclusive dormitory. Farm-yard poultry are in general healthy and vigorous, nimble on their feet and light on their wings, and the feathered denizen of the yard of limited space in a village, may well be seen with envy. But in poultry keeping, as in every other pursuit, we must commence without counting the cost, nor fancy that the purchase of fowls is the only or chief thing, and that when once started they will need no further care. If any other kind of farm stock was set adrift, and expected to do without regular feeding and attendance, the result would be a miserable failure and loss; and so with poultry; success need never be expected without the necessary outlay of care and attention.

ONIONS AND POULTRY.—Scarcely too much can be said in praise of onions for fowls. They seem to be a preventive and remedy for various diseases to which domestic fowls are liable. Having frequently tested their excellences, we can speak understandingly. For gapes and inflammation of the throat, eyes and head, onions are almost a specific. We would, therefore, recommend giving fowls, and especially young chicks, as many as they will eat, as often as twice or three times a week.—They should be finely chopped. A small addition of corn meal is an improvement.—*Genesee Farmer.*

To have hens lay in winter, you must give them warm quarters, animal food, and sand or gravel.

Miscellany.

FARM WORK IN WINTER.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY HORACE THAYER, BLACKSTONE, MASS.

It is often said that farming might be made profitable, could the farmer advantageously employ himself in winter, aside from the usual cares and duties of that season. It is true, when the earth is locked in frost and buried with snow, little can be done to advance the labors of the coming Spring. But when the earth is unencumbered with snow, even if crusted with frost, numberless jobs can be done about the farm and buildings, as readily as at any time, in mild seasons. Stones can be moved and grounds cleared for the plow and mowing machine; manures hauled from the village or to the fields; material prepared for fencing; bean poles and pea brush cut and fitted for use; a year's stock of fuel prepared, and many similar jobs that the watchful and intelligent farmer will readily recognize, can be as advantageously done at this season as at any other period—and all of which will have to be done amidst the pressing cares and hurry of the subsequent season, if now deferred. Besides these, many trifling things, though indispensable to the farmer's success or prosperity, should be attended to at this leisure season, which will greatly forward and facilitate the work of the coming Spring; such as the formation of plans, procuring new tools or repairing old ones, procuring all necessary seeds, and marketing crops if any yet remain. These are all necessary jobs, if bringing in no immediate profit; and, if now omitted, will occupy much valuable time next Summer, when you will hardly know what to do first. Unimportant as they may seem to some, no prudent farmer will neglect them till the hurrying season. Any farmer who is up with the times, and does business enough to entitle him to the name of farmer, need not be idle, even in Winter. If the soil cannot be labored or cultivated at this season, the mind surely can; and this is an important duty and will result as profitably as any legitimate labor.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND is well known as one of the most extensive landholders of England. His estates in Leicestershire extend over one sixteenth of that county, and comprise 39,000 acres, which are let to 1275 farmers in farms of from 50 to 750 acres each, and yield an annual rental of \$500,000 in gold. A prize essay, recently read before the Royal Agricultural Society in England, does not regard this massing of large amounts of land under one proprietor as of any benefit, but says that "Leicestershire owes its surpassing fertility and high rental to its native excellence of soil, rather than to any pains taken in its improvement."

LECTING SHEEP.—The most approved form of sheep is general roundness of shape and evenness of bone. The chest should be broad, the ribs well arched, the back and loins broad flat and straight; the limbs should be short in proportion to the body, the head small, the ears thin, the skin soft and elastic, the wool soft to the touch, thick, and coming well forward to the face, but not covering it. The face and forehead should be clothed with short hair, and the eyes should have a lively expression.

OUR WONDERFUL CLIMATE.—Here we are in the midst of what is conventionally called "winter," with roses blooming in the open air, strawberries ripening as in summer, orange trees in blossom where there are any orange trees at all, bouquets of open air violets selling at a bit on the streets, second crop apples that have just ripened exhibited in market, and grapes that have never suffered from contact with sawdust, still plump, plentiful and cheap at all the fruit stands. Gardening to supply the city with early vegetables has actively commenced around the bay, and young radishes and green peas can now be bought at luxurious prices. Winter! The word should be abolished from our vocabulary as a superfluity.—*San Francisco Bulletin, Dec. 29.*

FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1867.

MANURES AND FERTILIZERS.

No farmer is unmindful of the value of manure, or of the importance of making as much as possible from his stock and by composts. Yet few of our best agriculturists are satisfied as to the most available method of applying their manures or fertilizers. They may be applied both in liquid and solid form; the first having the advantage of producing early and quick effect, and thus returning a profit in the shortest possible time. But American farmers have not used liquid manures to any great extent; perhaps experimenting in the garden, or occasionally on the flower bed. Near large cities, where land is dear, and the productions being a high market price, there can be little doubt of liquid fertilizers being by far the best and cheapest. Solid manures, from the barnyard or from the compost-heap, have the advantage of less preparation; they also afford a larger variety of ingredients and are generally more durable than the fertilizers of commerce.

All kinds of manure should be protected from the weather, either in sheds or underground stables. No intelligent man will question this. If left out for the rain and sunshine to act upon, it will lose much of its value. The soluble ingredients will be worked away by water, or the ammonia escape by evaporation. Fermented manures are always wasting away by volatile action, and unless protected from the weather, or composted with other substances, the ammonia will certainly escape. We frequently see this proved in the application of fertilizers to the surface of land, in top-dressing and broad-cast manuring. Guano and super-phosphates, in our judgment, should be plowed under, rather than left on the surface.

It is a nice point to understand what fertilizers are best adapted to certain soils. Some require mineral ingredients, some lime and plaster, others the lighter manures, like guano and the different phosphates. Bone dust has a powerful effect on nearly all soils; and when pure, is one of our cheapest and most durable fertilizers. In process of time, all soils change their character to a certain extent; some by having their natural constituents abstracted by plants; others by extra feeding and occasional fallowing. We shall pursue this subject at a future period; and, in the meantime, would request our farm-friends to give us their experience with various manures—both natural and artificial.

QUESTIONS.

Messrs. Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

PERMIT me to ask a few questions through the medium of your journal. I hope they will elicit answers.

Are the Bramah, Chitangong and Cochinchina, distinct varieties of fowls, or are they only subvarieties of the Shanghai or Asiatic breed? Which is the most profitable breed to raise for eggs, and which for poultry? Can a large number of fowls be profitably raised on a farm, provided they are separated in different enclosures at some distance from each other, with not more than seventy-five or one hundred together?

What is the best method of reclaiming worn-out lands?

What are the best and cheapest fertilizers, next to stable manure?

What is the value of good peat as a fertilizer? and what is the best method of preparing it for the soil? X.

Tobacco raisers in Western Massachusetts will be glad to hear that sales of the article have recently been made. In Hatfield, one farmer sold his crop of 1864 at 24 cents, and the wrappers of the 1866 crop at 18c. In Hadley, a sale is reported at 15@20c. One or two sales at Amherst are reported at 11@12c.

SEND A STAMP.—Specimen numbers of the FARM AND FIRESIDE will be forwarded to any address, on the receipt of a three-cent stamp.



AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.—Every farm and workshop ought to be a school where our sons and others can be taught to guide the plow and swing the scythe, and handle every tool in the most appropriate manner known to those skilled in their use. In the one, should be taught the nature of soils, the qualities and uses of manure, and all the minutiae of the cultivator's art; in the other, the laws which govern mechanics should be studied, and the pupil should be instructed in all the mysteries of the mechanic arts. Thus, in both, should be taught all the various practical duties of their calling.—*Mirror and Farmer.*

FISH BREEDING.

So easy of accomplishment is the domestication and propagation by artificial breeding, of several of the best varieties of American game-fish, and so important is the subject of a better and cheaper supply of fish, at all seasons and at points remote from market, that the wonder is that none of our popular and profitable journals have taken the subject in consideration; teaching the public *how* and by what means to accomplish so desirable and profitable a pursuit.

As we have often "dropped our lines in pleasant places," tempting the trout, salmon and pike; and as the great family of fish has no journalistic representative at present, we propose to write a series of articles for the FARM AND FIRESIDE on the culture of fish, being confident in the ability of ourselves and assistants, to inculcate an elementary education on that neglected art. If we fail to interest and benefit our readers, it will not be for lack of enthusiasm or experience.

We have now, in the hands of artists and engravers, some beautiful illustrations of various pond, brook and river fish; and shall prepare plain and practical articles descriptive of their peculiar habits, fecundity, and value for the table. In addition, we propose to follow up the breeding of fish; exhibiting both its pleasure and profit. There are few farms, or country seats of five or ten acres, in the county, upon which an eligible site for a fish-pond cannot be found; and the cost of preparation and successful propagation will not require an average outlay more than that of an ordinary poultry establishment.

PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING AGRICULTURE.—The February meeting was not so fully attended as that of the previous month. As our journal goes to press several days in advance of its date of publication, we are compelled to postpone our report of the proceedings until next week.

There is a prospect that this Society (the oldest Agricultural association in the United States) will become rejuvenated, and its influence greatly enlarged. We cannot see why its monthly meetings should not become more attractive and valuable to the agricultural community. Its members number many of our best farmers and retired agriculturists; and as to practical ability, we know of no society its superior. We employ a special reporter to give our readers a full account of its proceedings. This will add another feature of interest to the *Farm and Fireside*.

The total hog crop of the west for the winter of 1866 is stated at 1,406,239, as compared with 1,391,518 during the winter of 1865. Chicago packed 332,000 the present season; Cincinnati 330,000; St. Louis, 136,000; Louisville, 162,000; Milwaukee, 86,000; and Indianapolis, 50,199. In 1865, Chicago packed 501,469; Cincinnati, 354,079; St. Louis, 116,760; Louisville, 91,000; Milwaukee, 92,000; and Indianapolis, 36,000.

TROUT FISHING ON THE ICE.—The Bangor Whig says that splendid trout are caught this season through the ice of the lakes and streams of Maine. Hon. Hannibal Hamlin and his nephew went to Mt. Desert last week, in defiance of cold which would have daunted an Esquimaux, and brought home about a sleigh load of these splendid fish.

The Budd Farm, containing one hundred and fifty-seven acres, situated near Davison's Mills, in Middlesex county, New Jersey, was sold at auction on the 15th of January, for \$70 per acre, the purchaser being Abraham Voorhoes, Esq., of New Brunswick. Before he left the premises he sold the farm to Ralph C. Stults, Esq., for \$75 per acre, thus making nearly \$800 by a transaction which occupied but a few minutes.

LOCAL AGENTS.

WE wish to appoint a local agent for this journal, in every town and county in the United States. Our terms are liberal and worthy of attention. Apply, *at once*, to the Publisher.

UNINTELLIGIBLE SCIENCE.

It is unfortunate for the general diffusion of the great truths of science, that learned men have always amused themselves, as it were, by throwing dust into the eyes of the unlearned; clothing the history of their investigations in pedantic and technical language. We can comprehend why the medical man should wish to conceal the nature of his remedies from the nervous patient by using a hieroglyphic to which only the profession possess the key; but it is quite indefensible that interesting and elevating subjects, should be rendered unintelligible and repulsive to the mass of readers who have not time to master the slang of each branch of science, by the adoption of an arbitrary vocabulary; itself requiring study. Although in nature everything is sublimely simple, the initiated render everything complicated by overlaid explanation, concealing their ignorance, perhaps, by formidable words.

We would be pleased to see a change in the matter of scientific descriptions. Each writer should endeavor to divest his articles of all verbiage, and come down to the common sense of common people. Of course, there are technicalities which are the very fundamentals of intelligible science; these cannot be ignored; but there are many others which instead of being auxiliaries to clearness, are mere "helps to obscurity." There are hundreds who have not had the advantages of an education, who have no access to a library, and cannot afford to possess one of their own. Neither will the active duties of their everyday life allow them to take up a plodding, systematic course of study. They possess much general intelligence, acquired in spare moments from miscellaneous reading, and depend for an accumulation of such intelligence perhaps solely on their weekly journals. Hence we conceive it to be the duty of the editors and contributors of such journals to be as terse and perspicuous as possible. In example: when speaking of the witch hazel, familiar to almost every one, why not call it by that name instead of *Hamamelis Virginica*; or say slaty granite, instead of *Gneiss*? Or, if scientific nomenclature is considered indispensable, why not at least follow the technical term with the common term in parenthesis?

Fortunately, agricultural science is not much befuddled with verbose technicalities. The experiences of common men, conveyed to the world through the vehicle of simple Anglo-Saxon, are building it up in importance and stability. Where it verges into chemical, botanical and geological science proper, it becomes tedious and obscure to unlearned men. If anything can be done by exemplification and clearness of expression to induce them to enter those broad fields of instruction and delight, it should be done; their education to a full realization and understanding, would then be comparatively an easy matter, for we learn that the most easily which delights us most.

This entrenching of science behind a breast-work of technical terms and jaw-breaking nomenclature, is what makes an attack upon it seem a formidable one; often it is mere rubbish—learned lore, thrown up by the spades of pedantry and display. Untutored yet practical men, are deterred thereby from presenting their discoveries and experiences. This is wrong; it is the aid of just such men that journalists are the most solicitous to secure. Thoroughly proved facts are to be preferred to vague theories; practical suggestions in bad grammar, to silly vaporings in the elegance of language. Science is made up of facts, discoveries and the results of multitudinous experiments; hence each of these, though seemingly a trifle, is of importance in the grand result.

A HAPPY FIRESIDE.—Home is the residence not merely of the body, but of the heart; it is a place for the affections to unfold and develop themselves; for children to love and learn and play in; for husband and wife to toil smilingly together, and make life a blessing.—The object of all ambition should be to be happy at home; if we are not happy there, we cannot be happy elsewhere. It is the best proof of the virtues of a family circle to see a happy fireside.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In our notice of this State Society, last week, we inadvertently omitted the names of the officers for 1867. They are as follows—good men, and all "in the right place."

PRESIDENT.

A. Boyd Hamilton, Dauphin.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

- 1st Dist., Jas. A. M'Crea, Philadelphia.
2d " George Blight, "
3d " Vincent L. Bradford, "
4th " A. B. Cummings, "
5th " Adrain Cornell, Bucks.
6th " Wm. H. Holstein, Mont'ry.
7th " Samuel J. Sharpless, Chester.
8th " Tobias Barto, Berks.
9th " Jacob E. Kreybill, Lancaster.
10th " Geo. B. Brown, Schuylkill.
11th " Jos. Sigman, Northampton.
12th " Dan'l G. Driesbach, Luzerne.
13th " Jno. C. Morria, Schuylhanna.
14th " Amos E. Knapp, Northumb'd.
15th " George H. Bucher, Camb'd.
16th " Daniel O. Gehr, Franklin.
17th " Louis W. Hall, Clair.
18th " B. Morris Ellis, Lycoming.
19th " H. W. Russell, Erie.
20th " Michael C. Trout, Mercer.
21st " George Rhey, Westmoreland.
22d " Jno. Murdoch, Jr. Allegheny.
23d " Wm. S. Bissel, "
24th " Joshua Wright, Washington.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—William Colder, Dauphin; Jacob R. Eby, Dauphin; Benj. J. Peters, Dauphin; John H. Ziegler, Dauphin; John Way, Jr., Allegheny; ex-President Frederick Watts, ex-President James Goyen, ex-President David Taggart, ex-President Jacob S. Haldeman, ex-President Thomas P. Knox.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.—Jas. Young, Dauphin.

CHEMIST AND GEOLOGIST.—S. S. Haldeman, Lancaster.

LIBRARIAN.—Henry Gilbert, Dauphin.

The Society adjourned until the third Wednesday of January, 1867.

WOOL.

The following tabular statement shows the variation in prices of fleeces and pulled wools in the United States during each month for the past four years:

	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.
Jan....Fleeces..58@75	73@84	85@107	45@68	
Pulled..57	65	75	35	
Feb....Fleeces..70	85	75	108	
Pulled..70	90	73	70	
March...Fleeces..95	105	83	85	
Pulled..80	95	60	90	
April...Fleeces..70	90	87	60	
Pulled..55	95	65	75	
May....Fleeces..65	90	75	80	
Pulled..65	90	65	82	
June....Fleeces..64½	77	75	105	
Pulled..63	78	70	93	
July....Fleeces..63	78	85	120	
Pulled..65	78	70	100	
Aug....Fleeces..68	75	90	125	
Pulled..69	70	75	115	
Sept....Fleeces..69	72	75	110	
Pulled..65	68	65	105	
Oct....Fleeces..60	85	80	110	
Pulled..59½	80	65	100	
Nov....Fleeces..70	83	90	110	
Pulled..67	80	75	100	
Dec....Fleeces..75	85	90	115	
Pulled..70	76	75	110	

The average price of domestic fleeces wool in the United States, from 1827 to 1861, was, for fine, 73 1-10 cents; for medium, 42 8-10c, and for coarse, 35 5-10c. Average price for four years, from 1861 to 1866, (during the war), for fleeces, 63a88c; for pulled, 56a61c. Average price for the year 1866, fleeces, 45a72c; pulled, 29a64c.

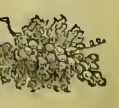
BEEF—CUTTING UP AND PRESERVING.—In cutting up beef for salting, regard should be had to the size of the pieces, and their relation to each other when put down. In other words, a family resemblance should be preserved in the different strata, as placed in the barrel. When designed for family use it will be found convenient to cut into pieces suited to a day's consumption. For preserving the meat the N. E. Farmer says: "Pack the pieces in casks, giving a slight sprinkling of salt between each piece; cover with a pickle by boiling together, in four gallons of water, eight pounds of salt, three pounds brown sugar, three ounces saltpetre, one ounce pearlsh, for one hundred pounds of meat. Keep a flat stone on the meat, that it may be immersed in the pickle. Put down in this way, beef will keep a year, and rather improve by age.

HON. LEVI BARTLETT of Warner, N. H., writes to the Country Gentleman that on a farm adjoining his there were raised this year fifty bushels of ears of pop corn, on three-fourths of an acre, for which the farmer received \$1.50 per bushel—\$75 for what grew on three-fourths of an acre, besides the fodder.

MR. COLBY, of southern Illinois, has invented a machine for catching curculio by horse power. It is simply an extension of the hand sheet and jarring process. Two men and two boys can visit 1000 trees per hour.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE FARM AND FIRESIDE.

SEND TWO DOLLARS to the Publisher, by mail; or, if there be a news-dealer near you, order it of him. The FARM AND FIRESIDE will be sold at all News Offices. Single copy, 5 cents.





The Field.

CONCENTRATION IN CROPPING.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

BY F. R. ELLIOTT, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

THE experience of all mercantile or manufacturing business life, exhibits the fact that concentration of mind and thought on one particular branch or pursuit, is necessary to insure success. The man who attempts the prosecution of all branches of merchandising, or to superintend and direct the movements of various manufactories, generally fails. If this be so in pursuits where intelligent assistance can be employed, it is evidently apparent that he who, in rural life, attempts to prosecute all the varied operations of the farm, garden and nursery, with only such assistance as can be had from common laborers, will meet with many a failure, oftentimes leading to a discouraging belief that there is no pecuniary profit in the cultivation of the soil.

It is a common rule to advise, and to practice, the numberless occupations of the farmer, gardener and orchardist, with the occupancy of the soil; whether embracing a territory of ten or a thousand acres, and whether the occupant has one dollar or a hundred thousand of capital. It is true there are instances, near large cities, where the growing of some one crop for the daily market is made the leading feature; but, as we have said, the rule throughout the country is the reverse. These instances however, give evidence of the fact that a steady attention to the cultivation of some one or two crops, produces certain and remunerative returns; and celery, pie plant, strawberries, etc., each in their turn exhibit profits of no mean amount when skill and attention are given them; while the man who grows a little of each with a hundred or more varieties, finds his account of profit and loss generally made up with the heaviest items on the loss side.—As in mercantile or manufacturing life, so in the cultivation of the soil, the eye to direct to profit must be well informed; and as in business or mechanical life it is not possible for one mind to grasp thoroughly and intelligently all subjects, so in rural occupations, where the skill is even more requisite to success, and where knowledge is only had by constant daily study and practice, it is utterly impracticable for one man to guide and practice with success a diversity of crop growing.

While we would not discourage the growing a little each of all the small crops that assist in the making up of house wants and family comforts, yet the evidence all over this country, as well as abroad, is, that he who seeks profitable returns in a pecuniary view, must confine himself to the prosecution of such labors as he fully and thoroughly understands.

The owner of a thousand acres, with his hundreds of fine cattle or sheep, finds no profit in the growing of strawberries, and often ridicules the idea of making money thereby; while the grower of a five acre patch of strawberries who by chance happens to raise a colt, laughs at the idea of profit therein, after he has figured up the time devoted to its feed, breaking, &c., added to the expense of hay and meal, for four years support, ere it is of practical value. And yet each man in his pursuit of cattle raising, or strawberry growing, foots up a yearly balance of profits. Each pursuit, therefore, gives evidence of its value as a paying occupation, while it also exhibits the necessity of knowledge and concentration of thought and attention thereto. It is not requisite for profit, even in the culture of small fruits or of garden root crop products, that the location should be near a city—although such location would, of course, add thereto. But it is essential that sufficient of each and every thing be grown to enable the grower to devote time and knowledge sufficient to its culture to insure a product of quality commanding ready sale when taken to market. Small fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, etc., can be dried or canned, or jellied to a profit, and often the value of lands, with cost of labor in their reduction, fully compensates for the increase of price when grown and sold as green or fresh fruit near large cities; while the larger and less perishable fruits, such as apples, pears, &c.,

have the advantage when grown on cheap lands. Railroad transportation is now everywhere, and the cost yearly being reduced, so that a paying crop near a large city may be made equally one when grown miles away therefrom, provided the grower concentrate his knowledge and labors to its perfection, and that on a scale enabling him to market it without more loss in value of time than the amount of the crop.

February 5, 1867.

MEDICINAL QUALITIES OF PUMPKIN.

At a recent discussion in the New York Farmers' Club, a correspondent writes of the virtues of the pumpkin:

"I will give you a simple, yet very valuable cure, for inflammatory rheumatism. A woman's arm was swelled to an enormous size, and painfully inflamed. A poultice was made of stewed pumpkin, which was renewed every fifteen minutes, and in a short time produced a perfect cure. The fever drawn out by the poultices made them extremely offensive as they were taken off. I knew a man cured of severe inflammation of the bowels by the same kind of application. I think such subjects as this proper for discussion in a farmers' club."

DR. SNODGRASS—I have no doubt pumpkins make a good poultice. Whatever holds water and warmth best is the most suitable.

DR. SMITH—In my travels in Syria, I found pumpkin seeds almost universally eaten by the people on account of their supposed medicinal qualities. Not because they are diuretic, but as an antidote against animalcules which infest the bowels. They are sold in the streets as apples and nuts are here. It is a medical fact that persons have been cured of tape-worm by the use of pumpkin seeds. The outer skin being removed, the meats are bruised in a mortar into an oily, pasty mass. This is swallowed by the patient after fasting some hours and it takes the place of chyle in the stomach, and the tape-worm lets go its hold of the membrane and becomes gorged with the substance, and in some measure probably torpid. Then a large dose of castor oil is administered and the worms are ejected before they are able to renew their hold.

DR. TRIMBLE said that it is supposed that hots in horses hold on with hooks upon the stomach in the same way, and that they let go when the horse is fed with sweet apples.

EX-GOVERNOR ANDERSON of Ohio recently purchased 10,000 acres of grazing land in Lyons County, Ky., and is now stocking it with choice sheep.

Pisciculture.

FISH BREEDING.

Messrs. Francis and Alfred S. Davis, of this town, have obtained a tract or land on the side of Beech Hill, through which runs a small stream, and raised an artificial pond of some extent, for the purpose of breeding and raising trout. This has already been done with good success and profit by experienced parties in other places, and the Messrs. Davis are confident of a successful result to their experiment. They are stocking this pond with trout from Duhlin pond, which are of the best quality of any in the county. The process adopted is something as follows: Two ponds are necessary, a small one for the young fish, and a larger one for the older ones, which must be kept separate, to prevent their eating up the smaller fry. The spawn is obtained about the month of October, by squeezing the female trout through the hand, when it is placed in the spawning house adjoining the smaller pond, which consists of a large box with the proper depth of running water over a sandy bottom. Here the spawn remains till January, when it is hatched, and after a proper length of time are turned into the little fish pond, where if they thrive, in two years they grow to be from two to six inches in length, when they are admitted to the school of larger fish in the other pond. Their growth is more rapid the following year, when they approach maturity. The fish are fed with chopped meat or other food.

In three years the proprietors expect to have many thousand marketable fish. The vicinity of these improvements is also one of the pleasantest in town for a suburban residence, and will not long fail to be improved.—*Keene Republican.*

HOW TO FRESHEN SALT FISH.—Many persons who are in the habit of freshening mackerel or other salt fish, never dream that there is a right and a wrong way to do it. Any one who has seen the process of evaporation going on at the salt works, knows that salt falls to the bottom. Just so it is in the pan where your mackerel or white fish lies soaking; and as it lies with the skin and side down, the salt will fall to the skin, and remain there, when if placed with the flesh side down, the salt falls to the bottom of the pan, and the fish comes out freshened as it should; in the other case it is nearly as salt as when put in. If you do not believe this, test the matter for yourselves.

MR. TABER of the New York Tribune, makes the following statement as to the cost of keeping a cow during the month of December last. He bought what he considered the cheapest food, and gave her what she would eat up clean. The record stands:—

310 lb hay, at \$1.50.....	\$4 65
150 lb buckwheat bran, at \$1.10.....	1 55
121 lb wheat bran, No. 3, at \$2.00.....	2 42
1 1/2 bbls. turnips, at \$1.00.....	1 50
Cartages.....	1 00
Total.....	\$11 22

The cow is of medium size, comes in in May, hence only gives a small account of milk, still the 134 quarts obtained were sold at twelve cents per quart at the house, or for \$16 08, leaving a profit of nearly \$5. Another cow furnished milk for the family. At one time he gave her the huckwheat bran freely, but she did not thrive as well upon it, nor was the average supply of milk kept up. The hay was all cut and the other feed mixed with it, wetting the mess.

Horticulture.

HOUSE PLANTS.

CUTTINGS of house plants, such as geraniums, fuchsias, verbenas, etc., such as every one wants, may easily be grown in the house. One of the best materials for the purpose we have found to be clear fine charcoal dust, about like fine sand in the size of grains. Use a common earthen crock; see that it has good drainage; then fill to within half an inch of the top with the charcoal, putting your cuttings in all around and near the edge, with about two buds in the charcoal and one bud out. If you can, get a little piece of hanging moss from the woods, and lay it over the whole, letting the cuttings protrude through it, and letting it (the moss) hang down all over the sides of the crock. Set it on the mantel-piece, or on a little bracket shelf in some part of the room where its height will add to warmth, and at the same time, if you can, near the light; water once thoroughly, and afterward just enough to always keep it moist, but not wet. The object of the moss is to make the crock ornamental for the time being, and at the same time serve to keep a more even condition of moisture on the outside.

Hyacinths in winter flowering should have the bulb placed so that its base only can touch the water; and, for the first two weeks, either place the glass in a dark room, or wrap around it a wrapper of some dark shade of paper. After the roots have started well, take off the paper wrapper, draw the bulb through the glass, and, emptying out the water, cleanse the glass, and replace with fresh, soft rain water; replace again the bulb, and set the glass where it will have plenty of light, air and warmth. If possible, never let the temperature of a room in which hyacinths are growing in glasses, go below 35 degrees Fahrenheit.—*Horticulturist.*

It is stated by an English horticultural paper that Prof. Schutzenstein asserts that pure pump, spring, or river water contains an inexhaustible supply of nutriment that is the real staple food for plants; and that the knowledge of this is calculated to throw light on

many puzzling phenomena in vegetable physiology and culture. The art of making water nutritious should be the true aim of horticulture and agriculture.

A nice flower garden is the cheapest and most attractive ornament any dwelling, whether in town or country, can possibly have.

The Horse.

THE TEETH OF A HORSE.

At five years of age the horse has forty teeth—twenty-four molar or jaw teeth, twelve incisor or front teeth, and four tusks or canine teeth, between the molars and the incisors, but usually wanting in the mare.

At birth, only the two nippers or middle incisors appear.

At one year old, the incisors are all visible on the first or milk set.

Before three years, the permanent nippers have come through.

At four years old, the permanent dividers next to the nippers are out.

At five the mouth is perfect, the second set of teeth having been completed.

At six the hollows under the nippers, called the mark, has disappeared from the nippers, and diminished in the dividers.

At seven the mark has disappeared from the dividers, and the next teeth, or corners, are levelled, though showing the mark.

At eight the mark has gone from the corners, and the horse is said to be aged.

After this time, indeed, good authorities say after five years, the age of a horse can only be conjectured. But the teeth gradually change their form, the incisors becoming round, oval, and then triangular. Dealers sometimes *bishop* the teeth of old horses; that is, scoop them out to imitate the mark; but this can be known by the absence of the white edge of enamel which always surrounds the real mark, by the shape of the teeth, and other marks of age about the animal.—*Rural Gentleman.*

INFLUENCE OF SHOETING ON CONTRACTED FEET.

In old and had cases of contraction, not only the hoof and frog, but the internal parts of the foot, including even the bones, are diminished in size. Now, it does not seem possible that forcing apart the heels by mechanical means, can ever cause the bones to grow large again, although it may relieve the pain and lameness, by taking away the pressure of the horn upon the internal parts. The same result can be obtained and recent cases of contraction cured by any skillful shoeing-smith.

For about one-third of the length from the end of each heel towards the toe, let the surface upon which the wall of the hoof rests, be levelled so as to slant gently outwards. Let there not be more than five, or at most six nails in each shoe, and of these only two on the inside, the last of them about two-thirds from the end of the inner heel.

When shod in this manner, which I tried with the greatest success ten years ago, the horse's heels have a tendency to slide apart at every step, and in a few weeks or months, according to the case, the hoof opens gradually to its natural size. But this can only be accomplished with certainty while the contraction is confined to the hoof, and before the internal parts are much affected.

The most common way in which shoes cause contraction is by their being made with the bearing surface of the heels sloping inwards, which makes the horse's heels slide towards the frog, and squeeze them together.

Another cause is the rails being brought out and clinched too high upon the wall of the hoof; for the higher they are driven up, the nearer they go towards the internal sensitive parts. Pressure upon these parts causes so much pain that the feet become hot and feverish, and the hoof dry, brittle and shrunken.—*Correspondent Wilkes's Spirit of the Times.*

SALT AND ASHES FOR HORSES.—A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer* says he never knew a horse to have the colic, hots or worms, nor become a "cribber" when a box of salt and ashes was in reach in his stall.

SMELT FISHING IN MAINE.—An Eastern exchange says that to those not accustomed to seeing those engaged in smelt fishing, it is quite a novelty. When in operation the ice is nearly covered with small roofed rooms about seven feet square, which are movable, on sleds. In these small houses the fishermen remain between tides, as they must be on the spot just at "slack water," as that is the only time that nets can be thrown. In the distance it has the appearance of a small town.—The smelts are caught by large nets, each net requiring ten men. Bald Head cove, between Winterport and Hampden, is the only place on the Penobscot river where the fish are caught, and for miles around that cove it appears alive with men, smoke, &c.





Fireside Readings.

THE STRANGER ON THE SILL.

BY T. BUCHANAN REID.

Between broad fields of wheat and corn, In the lonely home where I was born, The peach trees lean against the wall, And the woodbine wanders over all; There is the shaded door-way still, But a stranger's foot has crossed the sill.

There is the barn—and still as of yore I can smell the hay from the open door, And see the busy swallows throng, And hear the pewee's mournful song; But the stranger comes—oh! painful proof— His sheaves are piled to the heated roof.

There is the orchard—the very trees, Where my childhood knew long hours of ease, And watched the shadowy moments run, Till my life had imbibed more shade than sun; The swing from the bough now sweeps the air, But the stranger's children are swinging there.

There huddles the shady spring below, With its hushful brook where the hazels grow: 'T was there I found the calmus root, And watched the minnows poise and shoot, And saw the robin lave his wing— But the stranger's bucket is at the spring.

Oh! ye who daily cross the sill, Step lightly, for I like it still; And when you crowd the old barn eaves, Then think what countless harvest sheaves Have passed within the scented door, To gladden eyes that are no more.

Deal kindly with those orchard trees; And when your children crowd your knees, Their sweetest fruit shall they impart, As if old memories stirred their heart; To youthful sports still leave the swing, And in sweet reverence hold the spring.

The barn, the trees, the brook, the birds, The meadows with their lowing herds, The woodbine on the cottage wall— My heart still lingers by them all; Ye strangers on my native sill, Step lightly, for I love it still!

OUR MOTHER.

BY REV. JOHN TODD.

At the gateway of one of our beautiful rural cemeteries, a large funeral was just entering, as our attention was called to a very remarkable sight. The bier was resting on the shoulders of four tall, noble looking men in the prime of life. One of these bearers was a judge of the supreme court of the nation. A second was one of the most eminent and accomplished lawyers whom this or any other country can boast. A third was a very distinguished divine, whose pen is a great power. And the fourth was the president of the Senate of his State. And these remarkable men were brothers.

They stood strong in life; but were bowed and silent and solemn, as if the bier was too heavy for their strength. Very slowly and carefully they trod, as if the sleeper should not feel the motion. And who was on the bier, so carefully and tenderly borne? It was their own mother! Never did I see grief more reverent, or respect more profound. It seems to me that a mother's cold heart must also throb in the coffin. A nobler sight, or more beautiful tribute of love I never saw. They were all, doubtless, going back in memory to their early childhood, and to the loving care of this best of all earthly friends.

They well knew that they, the sons of a poor village pastor, could never have been trained and educated and fitted to occupy their stations without a very extraordinary mother. They well knew that they owed more to her than to all other human agencies. No shoulders but theirs must bear the precious dust to the graveyard; no hand but theirs must deposit it in its last resting place! That body had been inhabited by one of the sweetest, most cheerful and brilliant minds that ever inhabited an earthly tabernacle. It had long, too, been the temple of the Holy Ghost.

What that lovely woman had done to make her husband's ministry useful and prosperous, what she had done in training daughters that are ornaments to their sex; what she had done to make those distinguished men what they are—who can tell? What has not such a mother accomplished who has given such an influence to the world? I never see one of these sons but my thoughts go back to the home of their childhood; and I can hardly keep my eyes from filling with tears as I think of that mother.

How many men start upon the stage of life, and feel they are great, and are filling great spheres of usefulness, who are really dwarfs in comparison with such a character! When that mother went down to the very brink of the grave, that she might bring up life as her children were born—as she toiled and nurtured and unpraised through all their training, what an influence was she preparing to leave upon the world after she should be numbered with the dead!

We may develop ourselves, and think we have done well if we can achieve anything in life, when most likely, if anything valuable in us is developed, we owe it chiefly to our patient, meek, unnoticed mother. She forms the character which we develop. And it is much owing to the ignorance of the laws of influence that prevents the mother from receiving that love and respect she deserves.

Heaven will be just where we are not; and I can find no words in which to express my appreciation of such a friend. Some few who have early lost their mother through death, or the loss of reason, come out useful and respectable men; but they would probably have been much more so, had they enjoyed her love and care. They may well mourn the loss of her days. The names of the mothers of Moses, of Samuel, Timothy, and other eminent men, are recorded; and so are the mothers of the wicked kings generally recorded, as if to tie them to the disgrace of their sons.

O mothers! amid all your anxieties and labors, be assured that the time is coming when your name and image will fill the memories of your children as no other can. You are gathering up love, respect and veneration, which will gather around your coffin, if not before. You will grow in the hearts of your children as long as they live.

O son of the good mother! remember that she hath spared nothing that the human heart could yield for thy good. Let thy love and gratitude and reverence flow back upon her; and if her hair is becoming silvered with age, remember that thy opportunities to minister to her comforts are every day becoming fewer and fewer. God help thee to cheer her!

WINTER SCENES AND SPORTS.

THE old red sleigh, with its long box that never was full, far down in the straw, wrapped in the robes, or on one or another of the four seats it contained, there was always room for one more. What a grouping of bright young faces there used to be always in it. Faces in hoods, in caps, and blankets; hearts that have broken; hearts that have mouldered. And away we went over the hill, and through the valley, under the moonlight and under the cloud; when the stars were looking down; when the sun kindled the world into a great white jewel; but those days have gone forever away, and the sweet necklace of bells, big in the middle of the string, and growing small by degrees, has lost its power over the pulses.

In that old sleigh brides have gone away before now—those who were married to maunhood—those that were "married to death." Great ships have gone over the water with less of hope and happiness than that rude craft has borne over the billows of winter. Swan-like shapes now glance along the arrowy way, but give us, for its sweet memories of yesterday, the old red sleigh.

Then the days when we were "coasters;" and down the big hill, by the maple wood, through the little pitches, far into the valley, we came with a merry shout, each the solitary manager of his little craft. How like a flock of swallows we were, dashing down the declivity, and in among a group of sleds, side by side, sailing, shooting like an arrow, steering in constantly ahead like a jockey, and on our way up with a sled in tow, ere our party had reached the valley below.

And then it was, when the wind had swept the snow from the pond and stream, and the ice was so glare that we put on the "rockers" and darted hither and thither, and cut sixes and eights and curves without number, and drew the girls we loved, and whirled them like leaves over the highway of crystal.

And the schools where we spelt each other

down, and the schools where we sang Windham and Mear, and "went up;" gone, all gone, the teacher and taught, like the melting snows under the rainbow of April.

And when, sometimes after the great snow, the wind came out of the north for a frolic, what wreathings and carvings of the alabaster there were. What Corinthian adorning surmounted the fence posts; what mouldings were fashioned beside the way; what flowers of rare finish and pedants of pearls on the trees.

Have you quite forgotten the foot prints we used to find in the damp snow, as delicate, some of them, as a love letter; the mysterious paths down to the brook or by the old hollow tree, that we used to wander over and set "figure fours" by, if perchance we might catch the maker thereof? Have you quite forgotten how sorry you were for the snow-bird, that fluttered among the flakes, and seemed tossing and lost in the storm?

And there in the midst of that winter, Christmas was set, that made the Thanksgiving last all through the night of the year, and what wonder the stars and the fires burned more brightly therefor; Christmas with its gifts and its cheer, its carol and charm, its evergreen branch, and its bright morning dreams; Christmas, when there were prints upon the chimney tops, if we were only there to see them, where Santa Claus set his foot as the clock struck twelve; Christmas, when stockings were hung by pillow all over the laud; stockings silken and white, stockings homely and blue, and even the little red sock with a hole in the toe. Blessed forever be Bethlehem's star!

A BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE TO A WIFE.—I was guided in my choice only by the blind affections of my youth. I found an intelligent companion and a tender friend, a prudent mistress, the most faithful of wives, and a mother as tender as children ever had the misfortune to lose. I met a woman who, by tender management of my weaknesses, gradually corrected the most pertinacious of them. She became prudent from affection; and though of the most generous nature, she was taught frugality and economy by her love for me. During the most critical period of my life, she relieved me, she gently reclaimed me from dissipation; propped my weak and irresolute nature; she urged my indolence to all the exertions that have been useful and creditable to me, and she was always at hand to admonish my heedlessness or improvidence. To her I owe whatever I am; to her whatever I shall be. In her solicitude for my interest she never for a moment forgot my feelings or character. Even in her occasional resentment, for which I but too often gave her cause (would to God I could recall those moments!) she had no sullenness or acrimony. Her feelings were warm, nay, impetuous; but she was placable, tender and constant. Such was she whom I have lost, when her excellent natural sense was rapidly improving; eight years struggle and distress had bound us fast together and moulded our tempers to each other; when a knowledge of her worth had refined my youthful love into friendship, and before age had deprived it of much of its original ardor. I lost her, alas! the choice of my youth, the partner of my misfortunes, at a moment when I had the prospect of her sharing my better days. [Sir James McIntosh.

THE APPLE.—Gibson, the sculptor, described Queen Victoria as extremely affable, and even deigning to laugh heartily at some of his stories. One day he said to her: "Madam, I was born a thief."

"A thief, Mr. Gibson?" "Yes, madam; for when a child I stole an apple from the stall of an old woman with a wooden leg. My mother found me out, took me back to the old woman, and begged her to beat me with her crutch, which she did lustily. I never stole more."

"Ah!" replied her majesty, thoughtfully, "a great deal of sorrow was brought into the world by the apple."

CANDOR, in some people, may be compared to lemon drops, in which the acid predominates over the sweetness.

USEFULNESS OF BIRDS.

IN many parts of the country, birds seem to be decreasing from year to year. Many farmers believe that birds are of no service, but rather an injury to crops. The rising generation are delighted to find some mark at which to exercise their shooting talent, and so the birds are slaughtered out of mere sport. It is a question whether the country is not greatly the loser by their wontedness. The number of insects hurtful to vegetation which birds destroy during the year, is immense. They do inestimable service in the orchards and gardens in riddings us of bugs and vermin, which, if left to breed and accumulate, would often destroy whole crops. The amount of damage which birds do is very small. They may, it is true, pick a kernel here or there from the grain crops, but this ought not to be begrudged to such indefatigable workers, while cleaning the fields of innumerable enemies of vegetation.

While in England, going upon the farms, we could not but note the difference between the greater number of birds and kinds of game there than are found upon farms in New York. The hedges afford nice and cozy places for breeding, and during the breeding season they are not cut or trimmed, in order to protect the young birds. The game laws of England are strict, and of course much of this protection grows out of these laws which are made to afford game for the nobility—during the shooting season. But hard as it may appear to exclude those who till the soil from their share in these sports, it is a question whether the latter do not reap an advantage in having their crops better cleared of insects by the birds. Many farmers there assured us that the birds themselves were a benefit rather than an injury, but they complained that sometimes the huntsmen, during the hunting, commit depredations.

Recently State laws have been enacted protecting birds during the breeding season, but they are scarcely observed, and the opinion of farmers generally we think, is against birds as in any way useful. It is a serious mistake and one from which we shall be likely to suffer if greater care be not taken in their protection.—Utica Herald.

A HISTORY OF LABOR.—The Paris correspondent of the Star says:—One of the curiosities of the Universal Exhibition will be a gallery devoted to the history of labor, in ten sections, and arranged in chronological order. The first section will contain specimens of industrial art previous to the use of metals; the 2d, industrial art during the independence of the Gauls; 3d, of the Gauls when under Roman domination; 4th, of the Franks, up to the coronation of Charlemagne; 5th, of the industrial productions of the Carolingians, up to the eleventh century; 6th, of that of the Middle Ages, which period terminates at the death of Louis XI. and of our Edward IV.; 7th, La Renaissance, from Charles VIII., 1483, to the death of Henry IV., 1610; 8th, the reigns of Louis XIII., and XIV., up to the death of the latter, 1715; 9th, the reign of Louis XV.; and 10th, that of Louis XVI. The part of this exhibition which will illustrate the first period will not be the least interesting. We shall be able to study primitive art as displayed in the fashioning of utensils in bone and stone, as well as the remains of animals who have disappeared from the soil of France. As to the amount of hatchets of silex which poured in from all quarters of the empire as contributions to this section, their name verily is legion. The commissioners were compelled to cry "Halt!" or the whole gallery would have contained naught but the said hatchets.

FOUR MONTHS WITHOUT FOOD OR DRINK.—Joseph Baker, Esq., of Agusta, Me., informs the Aroostook Pioneer that about the 10th of September last he found a juvenile skunk in an empty barrel in his woodshed, and wishing to avoid scenting the premises with its odor, he quietly covered the barrel and awaited the result. No food or drink was furnished the animal, although an occasional examination was made to see if it was alive. The little creature survived four long and dreary months in his circular prison, where, on the 10th ult., from cold or hunger (it is not known which) he gave up the ghost.

THE MAINE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—The Maine correspondent of the Boston Journal says that at the recent meeting of the trustees of this institution, Phineas Barnes, of Portland, was elected president of the college. His salary was fixed at three thousand dollars per annum. The board have petitioned the legislature asking that the number of trustees, which is now sixteen—or one from each county—be reduced to not less than five or over seven, which petition will undoubtedly be granted. The report of the executive committee in relation to the operations of the farm the past season was accepted. Mr. Olmstead, of N. Y., the eminent architect, has visited the farm at Orono and made a topographical survey of the premises, with a view of making a plan for the buildings to be erected.





The Farm and Fireside.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM, STRICTLY AND ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—A limited number of agricultural advertisements will be published. Price, FIFTEEN CENTS a line each insertion.

The Publisher holds the right to reject any advertisement not suitable for these pages.

All letters, remittances, &c., should be addressed to S. S. FOSS, Publisher, Woonsocket, R. I.

R. I. Society.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Horticultural Society was held Wednesday evening, the President, Royal C. Taft, in the chair.

The records of the last meeting and the last annual meeting were read and approved.

Rev. Daniel Leach offered the following resolutions, and moved their passage:

WHEREAS, Samuel S. Foss, of Woonsocket has recently undertaken the publication of a weekly journal devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture and other kindred pursuits; therefore

Resolved, That we hail, with pleasure, the appearance of the Farm and Fireside as a happy omen of the increasing interest manifested in Agricultural and Horticultural pursuits.

Resolved, That the eminent ability, tact and good taste, that have ever been evinced in conducting the Woonsocket Patriot, are a sure guaranty of the complete success of the present enterprise, and that we commend the Farm and Fireside to the liberal patronage and support, not only of the members of this Society, but of all others seeking information on the subjects of which it treats.

Resolved, That we welcome the editor of this periodical as a co-worker in the noble work in which we, as a Society, are engaged, and that we tender to him our hearty approval of his undertaking, our congratulations and our promised aid.

Resolved, That a report of the transactions of this Society, of its monthly meetings and such other valuable contributions as may be of general interest, be furnished for publication in the "Farm and Fireside."

Mr. J. E. Lester seconded the resolutions and spoke in favor of their passage, and the resolutions passed.

The following named gentlemen were admitted to membership: James H. Palmer, Richard Sequira, Philip B. Stiness and Sidney Dean.

The annual report of the Treasurer was presented, read and accepted. It shows the receipts were \$603.33, leaving a balance in the Treasury of \$410.79.

The Society then proceeded to the election. Mr. C. F. Philips nominated Royal C. Taft for re-election, and he was unanimously re-elected, but positively declined to serve as President another year.

Mr. J. F. Jolls then nominated James Y. Smith for President, and Mr. J. E. Lester nominated Joseph H. Bourn.

Mr. Bourn declined to be considered a candidate.

Upon motion, an informal ballot was taken, and each candidate had 17 votes.

A formal ballot was then taken with the following result: James Y. Smith, 28; Joseph H. Bourn, 15, and James Y. Smith was declared elected President for the ensuing year.

On motion of Mr. J. F. Jolls, seconded by Colonel Wales, the election was made unanimous.

Mr. Lester nominated Wm. S. Patten for vice-President, and he was re-elected by acclamation.

Mr. C. F. Philips nominated W. W. Brayton for Corresponding Secretary, and he was elected unanimously.

Mr. E. B. Snow was unanimously re-elected Recording Secretary.

On motion of Mr. J. E. Lester, A. W. Godding was unanimously re-elected Treasurer.

Elisha Dyer and Royal C. Taft was elected Finance Committee.

Dr. J. B. Chapin moved, and it was voted, that a committee of five be appointed by the President to select names for members of the various standing committees for the ensuing year and report at the next monthly meeting. The President appointed the following named gentlemen on that committee: Dr. J. B. Chapin, C. B. Manchester, Dr. W. F. Channing, C. V. Kennon, Wm. S. Patten. On motion of Rev.

Daniel Leach, ex-President Taft was added to the committee.

Mr. Kennon moved that the Society subscribe for the Farm and Fireside.

On motion of Mr. W. W. Brayton, it was voted to discontinue all the periodicals now taken by the Society, as they have no "local habitation" to preserve them in.

The subject of providing a place for the meetings of the Society, exclusively under their control, was then discussed, but no definite action was taken upon it.

The President called the attention of the Society to the surplus in the treasury, and upon motion of Mr. C. F. Philips it was voted to invest it in the purchase of seven shares of Commercial Bank Stock.

Mr. W. W. Brayton moved that the notices of the meetings of the Society be published in all of the daily papers in the city, and that the subject for discussion at each meeting be inserted in the notice.

Mr. Patrick Farrell, gardener to Cyrus Taft, contributed a very fine bouquet of cut flowers, for which he has voted a gratuity of \$1.00.

Mr. Charles Wright, gardener to Geo. W. Chapin, contributed two beautiful white roses, Marchal Neil and Salfatara, for which he received a vote of thanks.

On motion of Mr. C. F. Philips, a vote of thanks to the retiring President and the other officers for the past year was passed unanimously.

Adjourned.

A Good Cow.—Mr. L. N. Mason, of Northbridge, Mass., informs us that he has a cow five years old which in seven months, made butter enough to supply his family, after which one hundred and fifteen pounds were sold; and he adds: "I still retain enough for family use through the Winter."

Will Mr. Mason tell our readers just how many pounds the cow produced in the seven months?

CULTURE OF SMALL FRUITS IN NEW JERSEY.

Few of our readers are aware of the enormous amount of Small Fruits raised in the Western sections of New Jersey. A writer in the Tom's River Courier, compiles the following.

In the immediate vicinity of Moorstown, Burlington county, New Jersey, there were grown in 1862 more than 6,000 bushels of strawberries, which, at the moderate rate of \$3.50 per bushel, produced a return to the farmers of that vicinity of at least \$20,000. On ten days an average of 600 bushels a day, and one day 700 bushels were carried to Philadelphia, from that neighborhood alone, by one avenue to market. Large amounts are taken to the same city over other roads and by water conveyance, and to New York by rail. The quantity thus seeking a market probably quite equals that above named in amount and productive returns; and we doubt not that from this small district of a few square miles 12,000 bushels were produced, and realized to the skillful growers upwards of \$40,000 in the year 1862. One farmer, whose strawberries are sent to New York, devotes forty acres to this crop; and another received for one day's picking, sent to that city, \$300. Two hundred and ten bushels of strawberries have been raised on one acre, which sold at nine cents per quart, realizing \$600.

By the reports made to the West Jersey Fruit-Growers' Association, in 1864, from the townships of Burlington, Chester, and Cinnaminson, all in Burlington county, there were under cultivation and producing fruit, during the preceding season in said townships, 272 acres of strawberries, 40 acres of raspberries, and 99 acres of strawberries; 200 were comprised in Burlington, 47 in Chester, and 25 in Cinnaminson. The aggregate product was 12,596 bushels, or 403,072 quarts, and the amount received therefor \$45,345. The general average yield per acre was 55 bushels.

The above is much below the possibilities of strawberry production. One unusually large crop of Hovey's Seedling and Lady Fingers was reported, which returned from 146 acres 800 quarts, or at the rate of 166 bushels per acre.

Four townships reported in 1865 an area under cultivation in strawberries amounting to 488 acres. The total product of these 488 acres in bearing was 27,924 bushels of fruit, yielding the sum of \$164,633.

In Burlington county, on ten acres of thin land, from which the sand formerly drifted like clouds before the wind, six hundred and fifty bushels of Lawton blackberries were gathered in 1862. The same plantation yielded seven hundred in 1863, and in 1864 eight hundred bushels. A resume of the report made to the West Jersey Fruit Growers' Association, which does not include the entire area devoted to small fruits in the countries of Burlington and Camden, affords the following gratifying exhibit:

Table with 4 columns: Crop, Acres, Yielding in bushels, Which sold for—

In strawberries, 488 29,924 \$164,633.60

In raspberries, 40 1,600 15,360.00

In blackberries, 189 9,189 44,107.20

Affording an aggregate yield, on 717 1/2 acres, of 38,713 bushels, bringing \$224,100.80.

BIG CHANTICLEER.—Wm. F. Wright, Esq., of Lime Rock, a few days since killed a Chitagon rooster which weighed, when dressed, eleven and a half pounds. The bird was eighteen months old. At the same time Mr. Wright killed eighteen chickens which weighed one hundred and fifty pounds, dressed weight.

Marriages.

In this village, Jan. 22d, by Rev. D. M. Crane, Mr. J. AUGUSTIN MILLER, of Woonsocket, to Miss MARY A. TWEEDY, of Fitchburg, Mass.

In Milford, Mass., 3d inst., by Rev. W. G. Leonard, Mr. ASA PICKERING to ESTHER HORTON, both of Bellingham; Jan. 28th, Mr. THOMAS N. FIELD, of Milford, to Miss ELLEN J. MITCHELL, of Bridgewater; Jan. 31st, Mr. HENRY A. CLAPLIN, of Brooklyn, N. Y., to Miss ADA M., daughter of Mr. CHARLES F. CHAPIN, of Milford.

In Hopkinton, Jan. 29th, Mr. JAMES A. CRAIG, of Providence, R. I., to Miss SARAH M. BASFORD, of Hopkinton.

In Pawtucket, Jan. 16th, Mr. HORACE H. PIERCE, of Woonsocket, to Miss ELIZA M. HUMES, of South Attleborough.

In Natick Village, 29th ult., Mr. HENRY ELMER BAKER, of Killingly, Ct., to Miss LILLIE LOUISA CLEMANCE, of Pontiac Village.

In Dudley, Jan. 25, Mr. PETER STONE to Miss MARY E. PAUL, both of Dudley.

Deaths.

In this village, Jan. 25th, Mrs. RUANA HALE, in the 71st year of her age.

In this village, 1st inst., of consumption, WILLIAM A., son of ISAAC ELLSBREE, aged 31 years and 6 months.

In this town, Jan. 31st, GEORGE HENRY, son of HENRY O. and MARIA E. ARNOLD, aged one month and seventeen days.

In Scituate, 31st ult., BARBARA PATT, in the 72d year of her age.

In Worcester, 1st inst., Miss EMELINE KEAON, of Blackstone, aged 58 years.

In Blackstone, Jan. 22d, Mrs. JULIETTE MUNYAN, wife of GEORGE A. MUNYAN, aged 23 years.

In Milville, Jan. 31st, EDDIE S., son of GEORGE and AMELIA LEWIS, aged 12 years and 7 months.

In Uxbridge, Jan. 27th, Miss OLIVE TAFT, aged 60 years, 10 months and 27 days.

In Pawtucket, 30th ultimo, WILLIAM BOYD, in the 83d year of his age.

In Providence, 3d instant, WILLIAM BURROUGH, in the 68th year of his age.

In Quinbeck, on the 2d instant, LIONEL BENNETT, in the 53d year of his age.

In South Providence, 2d instant, ELIZA, wife of John Keith, aged 69 years, 5 months and 5 days.

In Thompson, Conn., Mrs. SALLY RANDALL, wife of Daniel Randall, aged 77 years.

In Milford, Jan. 29th., W. HARRY BATOHELDER, aged 27 years.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

Table listing various goods and their prices, including Farm Products, Fuel, Groceries, Meats, and other commodities.

BRIGHTON MARKET, —FEB. 6.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1030; Sheep and Lambs, 7242; Swine, —. Prices: Beef Cattle—Extra, \$13.25 a \$13.50; first quality, \$12.50 a \$13.00; second quality, \$11.00 a \$12.00; third quality, \$9.50 a \$10.50 per 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Stores.—Nearly all the Small Cattle that are brought into market, that are in a fair condition, are sold for beef. There is but a few stores, except Working Oxen and Milch Cows, in market.

Working Oxen—Sales at \$150, 165, 175, 180, 185, 190, 200, 205, 215, 220, 225, 235, 245, 255. There is a good supply of Working Oxen in market, but not a very active demand.

Milch Cows—Sales extra \$500@100; ordinary \$60@75; Store Cows \$35@50. Prices of Milch Cows depend altogether upon the fancy of the purchasers.

Sheep and Lambs—Trade is dull and prices are from 1/2 to 3/4 lb lower. We quote sales at \$1.50, \$3, \$4, \$5, \$5.50, 7/8 head, and 4, 5, 6, 7, 8c per lb.

Swine—None in market.

ALBANY CATTLE MARKET.

Only about 1800 cattle have been received this week, but there were 800 or 900 held over from last week, because of the inability of the railroads to carry them, and these go to swell the supply. The demand has been fair, and prices have advanced 1/2c per lb on all grades; but the cattle are scarcely as good as those in last week. Prices range from 5a9, but prime extra, of which there have been none on sale, would bring 9 1/2c.

Sheep are in fair request at 5 1/2c; receipts 2460 head. Hogs—Receipts 1000 head. Prices have advanced to 7 1/2c.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

THERE was much depression in the wholesale market during the week, owing to the tight money market. There has been much desire to renline, and in some instances a decline of one dollar a barrel has been submitted to on flour. The depression has been confined chiefly to persons who were short on their margins. The unfavorable news from Europe has added to the depression; and the large amount of ice in the harbor has prevented vessels from loading. We quote extra State at \$10.20@ \$11.75; shipping Ohio, \$11a11.90; St. Louis extras, \$12.70a\$16.

WHEAT has been much pressed on the market. The decline in flour has increased the anxiety of holders of wheat to realize, and there has been a fall of twelve to fifteen cents a bushel. At the concession there seems to be more steadiness and less inclination to sell. The unfavorable news from Europe, together with the advance in freights, has added to the depression. There will be no demand for export at present. The stock of wheat has been reduced to 250,000 bushels, and is moderate of choice qualities. We quote No. 3 Spring at \$2a2.05; No. 2 Spring, \$2.06a\$2.20; No. 1 Spring, \$2.25a\$2.28.

BARLEY has been in fair demand, but at rather lower prices. At the close there is more steadiness. The stock is reduced to about 2,100,000 bushels. We quote Western at 75a90 cents; Canada, 80a85 cents in bond, and \$1.10a\$1.18, free.

CORN has been unsettled and declined four or five cents a bushel. At the close the market is firmer. The stock is reduced to about 4,000,000 bushels. We quote Jersey Yellow and White at \$1.07a\$1.12, the later rate delivered; Western mixed in store, \$1.10c, and delivered, \$1.12.

PORK has been fairly active, but at variable prices. There has been more than the usual local trade, the low prices current having stimulated consumption. We quote New Mess at \$20.50 a \$20.68; Western Prime Mess, \$20; Extra Prime, \$16.50a \$16.75.

BEEF has sold more freely, but at steady prices.

BEEF HAMS have advanced materially and were firm at the improvement.

DRESSED HOGS have been less plenty and advanced rapidly.

LARD has been in fair request. Prices have fluctuated slightly.

NEW YORK WOOL MARKET.

There has been a moderate business done in domestic fleeces. In Texas there is a fair business at full prices. The passage of the Tariff bill by the Senate has caused greater firmness on the part of holders who, in most cases, demand higher prices for foreign. The sales are 200,000 lbs Texas at 24@25 cents; 120,000 lbs domestic fleeces, 51@55c, including small lots tubbed, at the outside price; 83 bags pulled 47 1/2 a 50c; and 70,000 lbs Mexican, about 20c. cash.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

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ROE, BARTON & Co., Machinists and Boiler Makers, Worcester, Mass. BELLOWS & WHITCOMB, Engineers, Worcester, Mass. C. W. KIMBALL, Esq., late Master Mechanic U. S. Army, Springfield, Mass. HON. E. HARRIS, Woonsocket.

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

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W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Shares Patent Horse Hoos, Chase's Two Horse Pointo Diggers, Lufkin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

VENTILATION OF STABLES.—This is a very important item in connection with all stables, and especially with warm and close basement-rooms. In the first place, a stable should be comfortably warm, and not open to any strong currents of air. Nothing can be more uncomfortable, and perhaps unhealthy, to stock tied in a stall without any chance for exercise or change of position, than to be exposed to strong currents of cold air coming through crevices or large openings. But it is equally unhealthy to confine the stock in close and warm quarters—especially cattle—as the horses. A good way to convey pure air into stables is to have tubes of boards a foot square connecting with the outside, and passing along the sides of the stable to the rear, so that the air may be conveyed to the front of the stock.





The Farm.

ARTICHOKEs.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY R. C. KENDALL, PHILADELPHIA.

THERE is a variety of this plant (*Cynara Scalyms*) greatly in favor in France, and having here and there an American admirer among those to whom, for fashion's sake, anything Frenchy tastes good—even a frozen frog. The immature flower heads, or the interior fleshy portion of them, is the edible portion of the plant; and being boiled or stewed, are eaten with butter, salt and other condiments—about as palatable as a boiled cat-bird's nest, and probably as nutritious. There is no profit in the cultivation of this plant in the United States, and it is grown only for such as, aping the *par le vous*, would declare a stewed "touch-wood" a luxury. The dispensation being left to us, we would banish the *Cynara Scalyms* back to Barbary, whence it originated. It may be a suitable food for barbarians, but out of place in civilized society.

Another and entirely different species of the plant (*Helianthus tuberosus*), popularly the Jerusalem Artichoke, is a vegetable of another quality, and worthy of fifty times more consideration than it has hitherto received from us. The tubers resemble medium sized white potatoes, being long, ununiform, full of nubs, many-eyed, a little flattened, thin-skinned, the flesh being crisp, tender, and of a delicate ivory whiteness. Boiled or roasted, the tuber is both palatable and nutritious, containing more starch than the potato, more farina than an equal bulk of wheat, and a considerable percentage of sugar. But it is as a pickle that the Jerusalem Artichoke exhibits its best qualities. Partially boiled, the larger tubers sliced, the smaller ones left intact, and immersed for a week in good sound pickling vinegar, the artichoke makes the most delicious, and perhaps most delicate of all pickles. Mixed with small green cucumbers, bright, yellow tomatoes, purple cabbage, and scarlet pepper-pods, in a clear glass jar, there is a pickle-pietre equal to any ornamental vase ever done up in painted path-work.

The artichoke is propagated by planting the tubers, either whole or cut, each piece having one or more eyes, precisely as potatoes are prepared and planted, requiring little care or cultivation beyond keeping free from weeds. By clipping off the heads of the plants just as they are coming into bloom, the tubers are largely multiplied, and much increased in size. The plant is so hardy in its habits that fall frosts have very little effect upon it, and it goes on growing in spite of Arctic Jack, until it attains maturity. Then, before the ground freezes, a pull at the plant will generally bring out every tuber firmly attached to it; and being set away in a cellar and a little earth thrown over them, they may be had fresh, crisp and good all winter.

As all kinds of stock eat both the foliage and boiled tuber, and hogs eagerly devour the latter, either raw or cooked, a field planted with Jerusalem Artichokes for a late Fall crop, would certainly be an economical feature in local agriculture. Almost any corner unsuited for the production of ordinary grain or root crops will produce artichokes; and as the seed may be put in before the busy planting season comes on, the crop harvested after all others are in, with little care required between times, the crop would interfere but little with the usual routine of farm work.

February, 1867.

Who should have a good garden if not the farmer? He has plenty of land, team, and as much manure as he can spare. There is no class of people to whose families a garden is a greater convenience or more pressing necessity, than the farming class. Removed far from that access to a daily market which makes up for the want of a garden to town and city residents, the farmer's household must do without fresh vegetables and fruits unless they are home-produced. Without a garden, the winter diet is mainly bread, meat, and potatoes.

FARM SCHOOLS.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

FROM the poor success which has attended the various attempts to educate the farmer up to the standard of other professions, by providing for him an available collegiate course of study, with practice combined, it would appear that some great obstacles lie in the way. What are these obstacles, are they apparent or real? We cannot satisfactorily reply to this query by reference to the experiments carried out in this or other States, to a legitimate result; as no such have been satisfactorily tried; but we may throw some light on the question by recalling a few of the incidental experiences of the past twenty years, here and elsewhere.

Little good can result by charging failures to incompetent management, as has been done in the case of the Pennsylvania Agricultural College, or that at Ovid, New York, or that at Havana, in the same State. We should search deeper and endeavor to discover the fundamental error.

If we commence with the system of Farm Schools, or "Model Farms," as they are styled, in Great Britain, and examine the routine adopted and carried out with *apparent success*, in the foreign institutions we shall see that the identical obstacles which exist here affect the system there; though not to such an extent as to overthrow it. Here, however, greater obstacles occur, not known there; while many of those pressing severely on the foreign establishments, cannot affect us here.

Having enjoyed a brief system of training at the Glasnevin (Dublin) establishment, now known as the "Albert Model Farm," I can speak with at least a little knowledge of the subject. The late lamented Dr. Evan Pugh, having made himself familiar with the European systems, declared them unsuited to our wants, and pronounced them in fact valueless as a method of imparting a thorough scientific and practical agricultural education. When placed in charge of the College at Centre County, he was not without his misgivings as to its future, and indeed was at times almost, if not quite, despondent of its ever answering the intended purpose. This we have heard him repeatedly admit. Without attempting now to recall the specific reasons adduced by him, as we had not charged our memory with them, we can, however, without hesitation, state what two important causes were: first, the great want of earnest desire to pursue farming as a profession, which characterizes our young men, in comparison to their desire to attach themselves to other learned professions. Next, the manual operations of the farm necessarily interfering with their literary and more attractive studies, increasing this innate distaste for farming.

Now, while the first objection does not apply to foreign countries, the second does apply to those Model Schools where farming is taught practically and theoretically. This is borne out by the results of the eventual choice of various other occupations by students trained at the "Albert Farm," and remarked by Dr. Pugh as evidences of the fact. Now when to these two important reasons for the want of attraction which the study and practice of Agriculture has for the American educated youth, are added various other discouragements and drawbacks to the successful establishment of Agricultural Colleges. There need be little angry feeling exhibited towards the unsuccessful managers of the various institutions already projected among us; and the attention of the earnest promoters of the grand object should be turned to the removal of those fundamental causes which have, and do, operate against Agriculture as an honorable and remunerative profession.

How does our local Model Farm succeed in connection with the Polytechnic College?—Has the indefatigable Dr. Kennedy been able to overcome the obstacles which have so borne down his friends in other quarters? He should, at least, be conversant with the "why and because" of the insufficiency of American Farm Colleges, so far as they have been tried.

Philadelphia, February 6, 1867. S.

MR. PARDEE, of Illinois, has found that lime slaked in salt brine, sown broadcast, had kept insects from strawberries.

MUSCLE AND MACHINERY.

THE great objection to farming hitherto has been "hard work." Farm labor is done too much by hand. What manufacturer of the present day could succeed with only such aid? The human drudge of the farm would rise physically and intellectually in his calling. Farmers cannot afford to be machines when thinking power rules the world. *They must use machinery, and harness either steam, wind or horse power to their car.* This last must ever be the common motor of the farm, as it is within the reach of all. By horse power the farmer can mow and reap, turn and pitch, thresh and grind, saw and bore, chop feed and crush roots. It is not profitable to farm as those did who lived centuries ago. Labor is higher, taxes are steeper, and commercial values rising. A better agriculture must arise than the past has known, or the farmer will "go under." If our hills and valleys ever become properly cultivated, the farmer has got work to do. Leaks must be stopped, time economized, intellectual and social elevation must be achieved, farmers' clubs must be sustained, and *machinery must supersede muscle.* To make any business tolerable, it must be shown capable of yielding something besides health and bread, and that is about all that farming has hitherto shown. Farming will become profitable when the farmer understands himself and saves all that he now wastes.

Miscellany.

INSECTS AS BAROMETERS.

THAT weather may be foretold, scientific meteorology and the electric telegraph have made certain, though these forecastings cannot be made for a longer time than a day or two beforehand. Beyond this limit, as M. Arago has observed, "Never, whatever may be the progress of the sciences, will the *savant* who is careful of his reputation, speculate on or hazard a prediction of the weather." Some persons of imaginative temperament, however, prefer a weather wisdom that will penetrate deep into the future. With these the moon is the favorite as well as the most plausible oracle. It is an old and a popular belief that this luminary is the most potent agent in shaping the course of the weather, the shiftings of which are believed to take place particularly in connection with her quarters. It is needless here to attempt to refute this belief, which observations, now extended over years, have clearly proved to have but little if any foundation. It is accepted, both by Sir John Herschell and by Humboldt, as a scientific fact, attested by the pilots and seamen of South America, that the moon's rays have the power of dispelling the clouds. If this be true, and if, in the lunarist's theory, this is the agent which shifts the weather, then all the shifting from foul to fair should be at the full moon. But it is needless to say that this seldom happens, nor is it the lunarist's theory, for, of the two, he gives the preference to the new moon for fair. But this fact of the effect of the full moon's light is interesting in another point of view. No heat has yet, except in one experiment mentioned by Professor Tyndall, been detected in the moon's rays, though there ought to be heat in them; and this cloud-dissipating fact renders it probable that, whatever rays of heat they have, are arrested by the clouds and air above, leaving none to reach the earth sufficient to sensibly affect the thermometer. And this further confirms Arago's opinion that heat is the principal agent in these matters. If the heat of the moon's rays affects the air and clouds to a far greater extent than its attraction can, more powerful, indeed, must the solar heat be in its effects than either or both of them. This view of the matter in itself is sufficient to blow to the winds all theories of lunar tidal influence.

A sow carrying straw in her mouth to make her bed, is as sure an indication of coming foul weather as any barometer can give; and when puss turns her tail to the fire, and in that position commences to wash her face, it is said the same event is predicted. It is as true of the skies as of domestic affairs, that when the hen crows, a tempest is at hand; and, as to

the lord of the poultry-yard, we have the old saying that—

"If the cock crows going to bed,
He'll surely rise with a watery head."

Frogs also furnish their signs, becoming brown before a rain sets in, but remaining yellow so long as it is absent; and there is a curious weather-glass made in Germany, the materials entering into the composition of which are two frogs, two small ladders, and a cylindrical vessel of water. Frogs and ladders being duly put into the water, if the froggies climb their ladders and look over the vessel's side, foul days are at hand; if they remain below, the sky will continue fine. Spiders and snails are the most remarkable of all the weather prophets. When the former make their webs at night, the morning is sure to be fine; if they make them in the morning, the coming day may be relied on for a drive or a walk. Hence the saying:

"When you see the gossamer flying,
Be you sure the air is drying."

An instance is on record of an officer, confined in a prison during the wars of the revolution in France, having so closely and accurately observed the habits of some spiders that were his sole companions, that he was able, by their movements, to foretell a frost fourteen days before it came, and thereby turn certain defeat of the army into glorious victory. But snails are remarkable weather indicators. Like frogs, their colors alter on the nearing of rain, and some species indicate rain ten days before, by tubercles which appear on their bodies, and seem intended for the purpose of imbibing moisture. As a general rule, these creatures, according to their habits, two or three days before rain, may be seen climbing the trunks of trees, or seeking shelter under leaves, or making their way to open places. We thus see that by a careful assortment of spiders, snails, frogs, and a few domestic animals, combined with a good barometer, and accurate observation of the language of the clouds, and the songs and cries of birds, any person may easily become a weather prophet of no mean practical wisdom.

NEST OF THE HUMMING-BIRD.

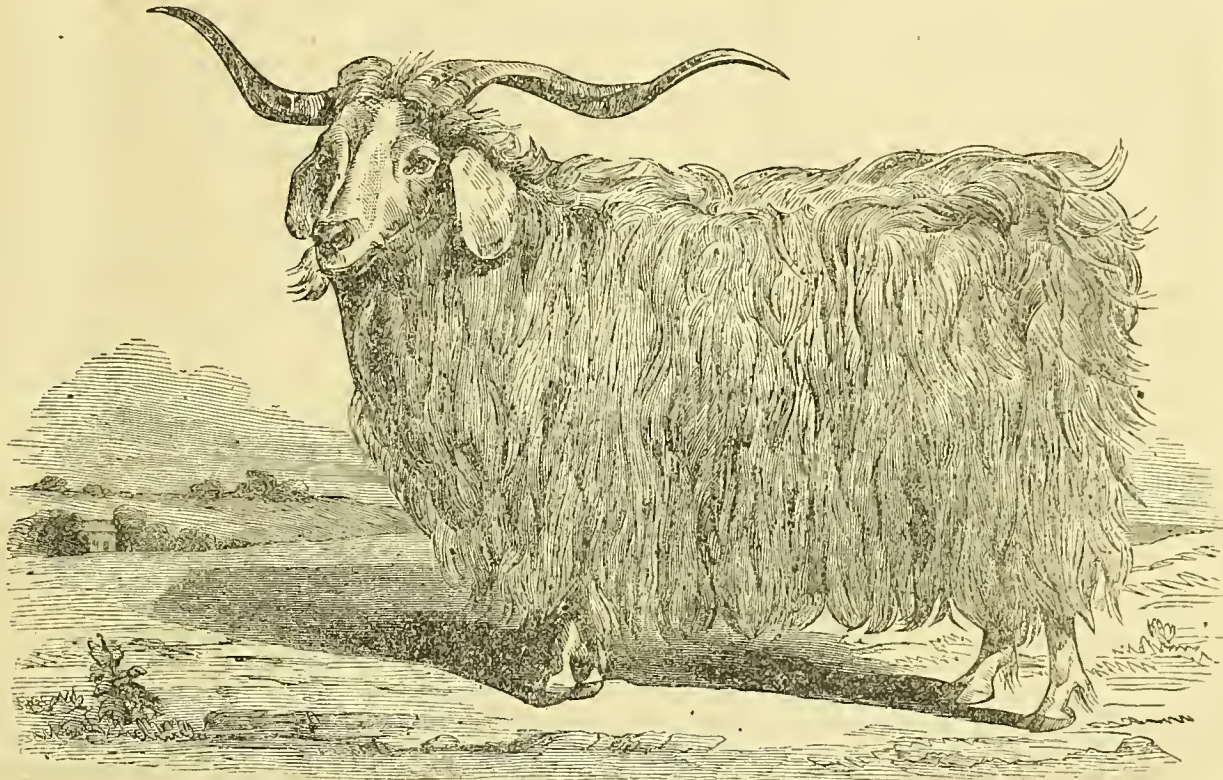
THE nest of the humming-bird is a miracle of perfection is domestic economy. For beauty, fitness and safety, the wisdom and taste displayed in its arrangement are unapproachable. Bedecked in a plumage of emerald, ruby and topaz, remarkable for the delicacy of its form and grace of its motion, unsullied by rain from the clouds, or dust from the earth, feeding upon the nectar of the flowers, its habitation should be in character, and so it is. Shaped like a half cup, it is delicately formed of lichens colored like the branch on which it is fixed, and lined with the soft down of plant blossoms, of mullein leaves, or the young fern. It is delicately soft, sheltered, and undistinguishable from the bark of the tree, of which it seems a most natural excrescence—a moss-grown knot. Two white eggs, as large as peas, adorn the nest, upon which, as asserted by some naturalists, the cock and hen sit by turns, for ten or twelve days.

The little birds, scarcely larger than flies, enter upon their existence in a chamber tapestried as with velvet, and are fed with the sweets of flowers from the maternal tongue. The tiny household exhibits not only a commendable neatness, but exquisite taste and delicacy in all its arrangements. Can gentle humanity derive no lesson from such an example?—*J. Dodge, Ohio Reports, 1861.*

AN UNHEALTHY HOUSE.—A dark house is always an unhealthy house; always an ill-aired house, always a dirty house. Want of light stops growth, and promotes scrofula, rickets, etc., among children. People lose their health in an unhealthy house, and if they get ill they cannot get well again in it. Three, out of many negligences and ignorances in managing the health of houses generally, I will here mention as specimens: First, that the female head in charge of any building does not think it necessary to visit every hole and corner of it every day. Second, that it is not considered essential to air, to sun, and to clean rooms when uninhabited. Third, one window is considered enough to air a room.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal, eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and the fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy, 5 cents.





ANGORA (SHAWL) GOAT.

The accompanying engraving represents an Angora buck, imported and owned by WINTHROP W. CHENERY, Esq., Belmont, Mass.—Mr. C. has made four successful importations, including over one hundred animals, direct from the district of Angora, in Asia Minor.—

In the Middle and Western States, where these valuable fleece-bearing animals are being rapidly introduced, they are known, as in the Southern States, as the "Cashmere" goat.

Only about twenty years have elapsed since the Angora goat was first introduced into this country, but during that comparatively short period experience has clearly demonstrated that the climate and soil of a large portion of the United States, from Maine to Florida, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, is admirably adapted to the successful breeding of these valuable fleece-bearing animals; indeed it may be safely stated that the Angora goat will thrive in any locality where sheep-raising is prosperous. The practical value of the animal, therefore, becomes a matter of vital importance to the agricultural interests of the country.

Many extravagant stories have been circulated, from time to time, by interested parties, in relation to the extraordinary value of the Angora fleece, in some cases stating the worth of the hair to be eight dollars per pound. It is, however, believed that these statements are not well founded, and that the value of the animal in this country is prospective rather than present; yet it has been published recently in the "Massachusetts Ploughman," that a firm in Troy, N. Y., "have imported machinery and are now prepared to work it (the Angora fleece) to any extent. They make it up into splendid fringes, trimmings, tassels, &c., and it is said that the fleece of one goat, made up into these articles, will bring at retail five hundred dollars." And a late article in the "Farmers' and Stock Breeders' Advertiser" assumes the average worth of the fleeces of full bloods, half-bloods, and intermediate grades, to be six

dollars per pound at Lowell, Mass. The "Newark Worsted Company", at Newark, N. J., also have the machinery for spinning and combing the Angora fleeces, and can use in their factory about three hundred pounds per day.

The skins of the young goats, which are covered with a coat of short, curly fur or hair, are becoming fashionable, and consequently in great demand for ladies' wear in the form of muff, tippets, trimmings for cloaks, &c. It is sometimes used in its natural, glossy, milk-white state, and sometimes dyed a lustrous black. A single skin is worth for these purposes more than one hundred dollars.

It has been supposed that the soil of the district of Angora had the property of communicating a silky texture to the hair of the animal that lives upon it, and that when exported and bred in other countries the goat would lose that peculiar softness and glossiness of hair which is characteristic of them in their native country. In the humid atmosphere of England it is quite probable that such would be the case, but it is found that the hair of animals bred in the United States is more glossy, silky and finer than that of the imported ones.

Professor Low speaks of the Angora goat as being "remarkable for its long, wavy, silky hair, which is spun into threads, of which a kind of camel is made, esteemed beyond all other cloths of the East for its durability."

Perhaps the most full, reliable, and authentic account of the Angora goat in this country, is by the pen of Rev. Israel S. Diehl, and published in Report of Department of Agriculture for 1863. He speaks of them as "probably the most valuable of all the goat family." The wool is described as a very beautiful curled or wavy hair, of silvery whiteness, with a fine downy wool at its base; and this hair is disposed in long, pendant, spiral ringlets, on the whole body. The horns of the female, instead of spreading as in the male, turn backwards, and are much shorter in proportion. Those of

the male are long, spirally twisted, but the size and direction are very different from the common goat, being generally extended from fifteen to thirty inches in height on each side of the head, while those of the female end near the ears. The hair or wool often sweeps the ground, and is from five to twelve inches long, especially in the older bucks, but then not so fine. The fleece of the ewe shears from three to five pounds, and that of the buck from five to nine. These goats have the hair very long, thick, and so fine that stuffs have been made of it almost as handsome and glossy as our silks, and have been known under the various names of cashmere, camel, &c. The articles of clothing woven and knit from this wool seem to combine in a great degree the qualities which are so much desired in shawls, viz.: lightness, softness and warmth."

At the New York State Fair in 1854, a committee appointed to consider the matter, reported that they could not "avoid the conclusion, that in the goats imported, and whose descendants had been the subjects of this examination, we have the first known specimens of that valuable race of animals from whose hairy fleece the celebrated shawls are manufactured known in commerce by the inappropriate name of 'red camel's hair.' As the fleece does not appear to have deteriorated in the comparatively warm climate of South Carolina, the distinctive character of the race is hard to be obliterated, while in the northern region of the United States this character cannot well fail to be permanent. Viewed in this light, the introduction of this animal promises to be more valuable to the agriculture of the United States than that of almost any other domestic animal.

At the fair of the "Americau Institute" in 1855, a committee reported that they had "examined with much interest the fleece submitted to them, and as well from their own observations as from the results of a microscopic examination made and certified to by several

gentlemen of scientific eminence well known to them, are convinced that the fibre of these fleeces is identical in character, and fully equal in value, to that from which the highly prized cashmere shawls are made. The enterprise exhibited by the introduction of these animals into this country, and their propagation, cannot be too highly regarded.

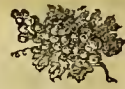
"These animals are long-lived, such being the case with the whole goat race. They are prolific, breeding at the age of one year, with a period of gestation of about five months. They are hardy, experience having shown that they will thrive well in our climate from Georgia to New England, and they require coarse and cheap food—as the inferior grasses, briars, bushes, &c., such as is refused by other grazing animals. Another fact of great practical value to our agricultural interests is the facility with which the cashmere goats breed with the common goats of our country."

The report made at the exhibition of the United States Agricultural Society in 1856, states that "the fleeces from the matured bucks weigh from six to seven pounds, those from the ewes from three to four pounds. The flesh of the crosses is superior to most mutton, tender and delicious, making them a desirable acquisition to our food-producing animals."

Mr. Chenery says the ease with which they are kept, living as they do on weeds, briars, browse, and other coarse herbage, fits them for many portions of our country where sheep cannot be sustained to advantage, while their ability and disposition to defend themselves against dogs evidence a value peculiar to this race. They are free from all diseases to which sheep are liable, hardy and prolific, and experience has proved that they readily adapt themselves to all portions of the United States. The bucks breed readily with the common goats, the second cross yielding a fleece of practical utility, whilst the fourth is but little inferior to that of the pure breed. With a

SIX GOOD VARIETIES OF PLUMS.—The Rural New Yorker recommends the following plums for culture for market, etc. We have selected six varieties. First, "Coe's Golden Drop;" fruit large, oval; color light yellow, with dark red spots; flesh firm; flavor rich, sweet; ripens last of September. Second, "Bradshaw;" fruit large, oval; color dark violet red; flesh juicy, sweet; ripens middle of August. Third, "Fellenberg," or Italian prune; fruit medium, oval, color dark blue; flesh juicy, sweet and good; ripens first of October. Fourth, "Lombard;" fruit medium, roundish, oval; color, delicate violet red; flesh juicy; ripens last of August. Fifth, "Reine Claude de Bay;" and sixth, "English Damson;" both ripen in September.

H. S. Society for Agricultural Machinery



little extra attention at the time of weaning, these animals may be raised as surely and successfully, even in the inclement climate of New England, as common sheep.

As to the ultimate value of the Angora goat to this country, there can be no reasonable doubt. The animal is becoming widely disseminated, and the "beautiful silvery fleeces" will, in a short time, be produced in such quantities as to attract the notice of manufacturers, when machinery will surely be introduced or perfected capable of manufacturing fabrics rivaling those of the far-famed Eastern looms, and creating such a demand for the article as to render its production remunerative in the highest degree.

The manner of keeping the Angoras, here in New England, is to furnish them in winter with about a pint of oats each per day, with as much hay and water as they require, and occasionally a few turnips and browse, such as briars, birch and white pine branches—the latter preferred. In summer they do well in rough, bushy pastures. The does are "in season" during the months of October and November, and produce their young in March and April, at which time they require careful watching and special attention, otherwise there is great danger of losing the kids, owing to their extreme susceptibility to cold when first dropped.

Immediately after weaning a small quantity of milk should be drawn from the doe and poured down the throat of the kid, which will, in a few minutes, impart warmth and strength sufficient to enable the young animal to help himself, and he may be left to the care of the doe.

The Horse.

HORSE CLIPPING.

Few, comparatively, of our citizens are aware of the manner, usefulness, and extent of that practice of shaving the hair from horses, which is technically known as horse clipping. Unlike human hair, the hair of horses falls out every spring, leaving the skin quite bare, and altogether of a different color from the old hair. Growth then commences again and continues steadily till cold weather, when the coat reaches almost its maximum thickness, and forms a substantial and warm covering for the three cold months. Human hair, on the contrary, having once fallen out, cannot be replaced.

The clipping of the horse is done usually at or after the opening of the winter season.

The operation requires two men, one to hold the horse and govern him, while the clipper, with sharp shears in his right hand and a fine comb in his left, goes over the hide inch by inch, and cuts the hair as clean and smooth as velvet. As the point of the shears is bent outward, and the curb always intervenes between the steel and the flesh, blood is never drawn. Strange to say, the animal rather likes the performance, and stands quietly during the seven or eight hours which are occupied. When more rapid work is required, two clippers can operate on the same horse, one taking the fore-quarters and head, the other the hind quarters, and in some cases four or five men are employed. Very seldom is an animal found that objects—scarcely a horse in a hundred. The most delicate point appears to be the head. Some horses feel a little nervous when the shears are flying about their ears. Owing to its honny and irregular character, its indentations and protuberances, the head is also the most difficult to clip.

Clipping was never so much in vogue as during this season. The benefits resulting from it are numerous, and it adds greatly to the beauty of the horse. Those elegant, velvet-skinned, mouse-colored, fawn-colored and other peculiarly tinted steeds that one sees tearing through our streets before light sleighs, are horses of another color that have been clipped. The common red horse, when his hair is off, has a far different shade.

At first glance, to the uninitiated, this practice of stripping the horse of his coat just when he would seem to need it most, seems cruel. Really, the contrary is the case. It opens the pores of the skin, promotes health, and is one

of the best means known of curing a severe cold or a permanent cough. Serious attacks of inflammation have sometimes been relieved by the process. Of course it is necessary to keep a blanket on the horse in the stable, and every driver of a clipped animal must carry a good blanket with him to throw over the beast when he is compelled to stop anywhere for a few minutes or more. Team horses, in fact all horses that are used for business purposes, and which stand much in the open air, are therefore not clipped. The practice is confined to what are known as driving horses.

A glance at the philosophy of the matter will show why a clipped horse, when properly cared for, is immeasurably safer from the effects of cold weather than one that is not clipped. A horse with his hair on, is like a man thickly clothed. A rapid drive of a few miles produces profuse perspiration and the hair then becomes reeking wet. A brief pause, in a cold day, chills the moisture, and a reaction takes place, and frequent colds are the consequence. Even if you put the horse in his stall and rub him down well, he cannot be dried. The perspiration clings to the hair in spite of every effort to remove it, and often a horse used in the evening will be wet in some place the next morning. The poor animal is of course quite uncomfortable in his damp garment, and his liability to inflammatory and bronchial diseases is increased.

Now for the contrast. The clipped horse never perspires to the same extent, the clogging effects of a wet coat are unknown to him, and after he is in the stable, a five minutes' cleaning will make his smooth skin dry and comfortable, and with his warm blanket wrapped around him he will lay down to an invigorating and contented night's rest. And this suggests another point, and that is the ease with which a horse is cleaned and kept clean when the hair is off. Not less than one-half the labor of currying and brushing is saved, and owners and grooms thus share with the horse the advantages resulting from clipping.

A clipped horse requires less hay than one unclipped, and his ration of oats can be reduced from nine quarts daily to six quarts or the equivalent, the amount of blood required to support a full coat of hair being considerable, and the easier action of the beast causing less demand on the nutritive forces. A clipped horse can go faster and farther than the same horse not clipped, a fact that has been abundantly proved. And there are other minor advantages which it is not necessary to refer to in our limited space.

Clipping has been known in England these forty years and more, and bunting horses were its subjects. Its beneficial effects have caused the steady increase of the practice, so that not only all driving horses, but very many of the farm and working horses are now clipped, the climate being more mild and equal than ours. From Britain the practice has extended to this country, and was never so popular as at the present time. In the vicinity of Bowdoin square, for instance, there are no less than nine clipping establishments, and in three of them an aggregate of seven hundred horses have been clipped this season. How many the rest, clipped, and how many clippers there are in other portions of Boston and its vicinity, we cannot say, but they are quite numerous. Probably a couple of thousand horses have been under their shears since the middle of November.—*Boston Traveller.*

TRAINING COLTS.

LET the education commence with the birth. The colt should be fed with a little oats in a pail; it will soon learn to feed from your hand. It should then be fuddled and petted, at the same time the band should frequently be passed over the body and occasionally carried down the limbs. The tiny feet should at length be raised, and afterwards the hoof be gently tapped. These things should be repeated till they are submitted to without any evidence of fear being excited by the liberties taken.

When weaning has by the process of nature been accomplished, the colt should not be turned out and neglected until it is old enough to work; it should still be sheltered and nour-

ished, the previous lessons being enforced with greater emphasis as the age progresses. When kept in the stable it should be accustomed to the harness, wearing it a few hours in the stall. He should next be taken out and led gently about, to get accustomed to the rattling of the chains. No attempt should be made to put the colt to work before he is three and a half or four years old.

If the colt has been treated as previously directed, there will be little difficulty in breaking him to harness work. Put him by the side of an old and steady horse, and a light wagon without a load, and handle him gently, until he is made to understand what is required of him. When about to put him in single harness he should be brought out and have the wagon show him, being allowed to smell it and examine until he has become familiar with every part of it. Every part of the wagon and harness should be strong and well made, so that there can be no possibility of breaking. When he is put in the vehicle, every strap should be buckled securely and none left to strike against him. He should then be made to advance, and the wagon gently pushed from behind, that he may not feel its weight for a short distance. The horse should on no account be allowed to trot until he is perfectly familiar with the sound of the wheels. After being driven several times he may be trotted gently, but should not be put to his speed nor kept in harness until he is tired out.

Most carriage horses are too imperfectly broken. Their education is too hurried, and seems to be considered perfect as soon as the animal will merely take to the collar. Many young horses are soon ruined by the unfeeling employment of the bearing rein, which disables the organs of respiration and renders the lightest draft a burden. When starting to drive a young horse, the driver should mount his seat quietly, gather up the reins, and get his horse under way quietly by speaking or chirruping; never starting with a whip—allowing him to increase his pace by degrees to the speed required, instead of forcing it on a sudden. Keep at a regular gait; do not go by fits and starts.—*Am. Stock Journal.*

Various Matters.

BEAUTIFUL EXPERIMENTS.—Fill a wide-mouthed glass jar with water, and cover it over with a piece of "foundation" (the ladies will understand this), cover that with a layer of peas, pressing it down so that the peas will lay in the water. They will then swell and sprout, the roots growing down into the water, their fibres presenting a beautiful appearance. Set this in a window, and vines will grow up which can be conducted to the sill. The whole is very handsome.

If an acorn be suspended by a piece of thread to within half an inch of some water contained in a lyacinth glass, and so permitted to remain without being disturbed, it will in a few months burst and throw a root down into the water, and shoot upward its tapering stem, with beautiful little green leaves. A young oak tree, grown this way, on the mantel shelf of a room, is a very interesting object.

HOW TO PROPAGATE DAHLIAS.—I plant the bulbs in hot beds, just as I would sweet potatoes; when the plants get up four or five inches, I cut them off down close to the tuber or bulb; these sprouts I cut up into little pieces, making the lower cut just below an eye. These cuttings I put out in sand, and they soon strike roots and grow. The tuber will send up other sprouts, which when of sufficient size, are cut off and treated in the same manner. A large number of plants are thus made from a single tuber or root. By this method the finest flowers can be produced. If you plant the whole bulb, with one eye on it, the plants will grow very rapidly and strong, but it will all go to stalk and leaves, and the flowers will be indifferent. Most people plant out dahlias too early; the first of June is plenty early enough. The best flowers are those which are produced late in the season. The treatment of the plants, after they start, requires no special skill.

FARMERS' WIVES.

THE reading of essays by the ladies is one of the exercises which give life and interest to the meetings of the Springfield (Vt.) Farmer's Club. From one of the essays by Mrs. Daniel Rice, published in the Vermont Farmer, we copy the following paragraphs:—

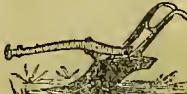
Did you ever think of the amount of thought requisite to *plan* three meals a day for three hundred and sixty-five days in succession? To prepare enough and not too much, and for those living at a distance from the village, to remember that the stock of flour, sugar, tea, etc., etc., is replenished in due time? Do you ever think of the *multitude* of her cares and duties? She must rise early to prepare breakfast or oversee it. Perhaps there are children to wash, dress, and feed, or to get ready for school with their diners. There is baking, sweeping, dusting, making beds, lunch for the men, may be—dinner and supper to be made ready at the proper time—the washing, starching, folding, and ironing of clothes—the care of milk, including the making of butter and cheese—and the inevitable washing of dishes. In autumn there is the additional work of picking, preserving, canning of fruit, drying of apples, boiling cider, making apple sauce, with the still more unpleasant task which falls to her lot at butchering time. Then there is haying, harvesting, sheep-shearing, etc., when more help is needed, bringing an increase of her labors. Twice a year comes house cleaning. By the way, of all the foes a house-keeper has to contend with, dirt is the greatest. She may gain a complete victory and think to repose upon her laurels after her semi-annual engagements—but it is only temporary. The enemy soon returns, and even daily skirmishing does not keep it at bay.

There is the *mending* too. Sewing machines are great blessings, but they can't set a patch or darn the stockings. I do not mention these things by way of complaining of woman's lot in general, or asking for her any rights which she does not possess. I don't know as there is any remedy in the present state of the world. It seems to be one of the evils of life, which must be borne as we bear all other ills—but what I do ask is a due appreciation of the important part that woman acts, and a concession that her labors, mental and physical, are as great, all things considered, as those of the other sex. Women are not so childish that a little sympathy would then, or acknowledgment of their efforts and sacrifices, makes them imagine their case worse than it is. I tell you, men and husbands, "it doeth good like a medicine," and many a poor, crushed, broken-down wife and mother, is dying for want of it.

GET ENOUGH SLEEP.—We have often heard young men remark that four or five hours' sleep was all they wanted, or that the human system required. The habit of going without sufficient sleep is very injurious. Thousands, no doubt, permanently injure their health in that way. We live in a fast age, when everybody seems to be trying to pervert the order of nature. If folks will persist in turning night into day, it is not to be wondered at that few last out the allotted term of life. No matter what be a man's occupation—physical or mental, or, like Othello's "gone," and living in idleness—the constitution cannot last, depend upon it, without a sufficiency of regular and refreshing sleep. John Hunter, the great surgeon, died suddenly of spasmodic affection of the heart, a disease greatly encouraged by the want of sleep. In a volume just published by a medical man, there is one great lesson that bard students and literary men may learn, and that is that Hunter probably killed himself by taking too little sleep. "Four hours rest at night, and one after dinner, cannot be deemed sufficient to recruit the exhausted powers of the body and mind." Certainly not; and the consequence was that Hunter died early. If men will insist on cheating sleep, her "twin sister, death," will avenge the insult.

From 5 to 8,000 reaping machines are made annually at Rockford, Ill.

CEMENTS.—A correspondent sends us the following, in answer to an inquiry for a cheap substitute for building-stone, or for a substance which will "set" easily and assume any form in a mould: A German professor has found out a cement for fastening iron in stone, which in forty-eight hours becomes nearly as hard as the stone itself. This consists of six parts of Portland cement, one part of nicely-powdered lime, burnt not slaked, two parts of sand, and one part of slaked lime. This, when well mixed and reduced to one mass of cement, with the necessary quantity of water, is put in the crevices or openings of the stone and the iron, both being previously dampened, and after forty-eight-hours the iron will be found securely fastened in the stone.



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SEND A STAMP.—Specimen numbers of the FARM AND FIRESIDE will be forwarded to any address, on the receipt of three-cent stamp.

The Field.

STEAM PLOUGHS.

TRIAL OF A NOVEL AFFAIR FROM ENGLAND.

Public curiosity has been largely excited within a few days by the appearance on our thoroughfares of a cumbersome machine, a steam engine drawing a train of ploughs. This steam plough, as it is technically known, is an invention which is the property of Messrs. John Fowler & Co., of Leeds, England. It has been in use in the valley of the Nile, for some time, and there, we are assured, is an established improvement.

Mr. Max Eighth, formerly chief engineer on the staff of Pasha Hahn, when that pasha held the vice-royalty of Egypt, comes with the machine to superintend experiments made with it. Having witnessed in Egypt the operations of the plough, he is convinced that it will be as successful here as it was on the Nile, and yesterday his favorite implement was tested on the fair grounds. A large company witnessed the trial, among whom were several gentlemen whose occupation from boyhood had been that of a planter.

The question to be decided is the practicability of steam power for agricultural purposes, and especially for breaking ground. We have travelled many miles in the furrows of steam ploughs on the prairies of the Northwest, and have seen numerous trials of different inventors to improve on the mule and ox teams for ploughing; but for practical use these inventions were very generally set aside by the farmers of that section. The necessary expense of supplying fuel and water for the engine, and its great weight causing it to sink in soft ground, were the main hindrances to the steam plough in Iowa and Illinois.

This invention of our English friends obviates some of the difficulties in the way of the Western Yankee invention, by the power remaining stationary. In the case of the Yankee steam plough the engine traversed the entire distance to be ploughed, pulling the ploughs as a team of oxen would.

In this invention of John Bull, Esq., a couple of mud-road locomotives are required, one at each end or side of the field. The ploughs are eight in number and are geared on a long iron frame work, which is balanced on the axle of a pair of wheels, four ploughs being hitched to each end of the frame. Each engine performs the work of drawing the ploughs from the opposite side of the field, both being furnished with a coil or wire cable, and when one is pulling the ploughs the other lets out its cable, ready, when the signal is given from the other engine, to commence winding up, and thereby draw the ploughs across to its own side of the field. As the work progresses the engineers move up their engines as far as is needed, to be in proper position for the next pull. The amount of ground broken by each draft would require eight pairs of mules in the ordinary way of working.

So we have here two engines to be supplied with fuel and water, with their engineers and attendants, and a couple of pilots to navigate the ploughs properly across the field to compete with sixteen mules and four drivers, with one large or four small sized "gang ploughs," now extensively used in the corn and wheat culture in the Northwestern States.

Nothing more will be known of the advantages of this steam plough, or its disadvantages, after a week's experiment here, than if it had not been tried at all.

It was really amusing to hear the numerous suggestions, as well as the various objections. One would condemn it because the width of furrow did not suit him; another thought it did not turn the swath over flat enough, while some thought it the greatest substitute for "niggers and mules" invented since the proclamation.

Everybody seemed to be interested, more particularly in the quality of the work done, and not in the cheapness of steam power, (if it be cheaper,) as compared with mules for ploughing. Cheapness is the question to decide. That is what we are all after. Which costs the most to support in time of ploughing—an iron horse or a mule? That is what we want to know. We care nothing about the quality of the work or the experiment. That depends, as we said, on the kind of plough used.—New Orleans Paper.

PROTECT YOUR PEACH TREES.

THE following remarks from the Illinois State Journal are worthy the attention of horticulturists. Colonel Woods, the writer, is the intelligent Secretary of the Illinois State Sanitary Bureau:

Mulching trees, as recommended by your correspondent in the Journal of Saturday, is not without its benefits to the trees, and to the soil immediately around them, but it will do very little towards protecting the trees from the effects of intense cold.

It is not the early budding and blossoming of the peach tree that we should dread and take measures to prevent. If a peach tree in this section survives the frosts of a severe winter, and retains vitality enough to bud and bloom profusely, it will bring to maturity a full crop of fruit, despite the freezings and thawings of April and May. It is the terrible cold of December and January in this latitude, that destroys or weakens the productive powers of the peach tree. Any observing horticulturist could easily be convinced of the truth of this theory by referring him to illustrative instances in the history of his own experience. But my present purpose is not to advance a theory, but to propose a remedy, by earnestly advising the repetition of a very successful experiment.

Take rags, paper, corn husks, hay, straw, or anything with which you can cover the trunk of the tree, and effectually exclude from it the rays of the sun through February and March, and it will rarely fail to reward you with fine fruit. Hay ropes make cheap and easily applied covering. It should be put on before the spring-thaws begin, and retained until the fruit is formed. If made of hay it need not be removed.

Any farmer having three or four good peach trees near his house may always have an ample supply of their delicious fruit for his family by providing for the trees a protection which is much better than the one above mentioned, and which is very simple. As it will be more convenient to apply it in the fall, I will defer its description for a future article.

JOHN R. WOODS.

TEA CULTURE IN NORTH CAROLINA.—A writer in the Southern Cultivator gives her experience in raising tea. She obtained seven plants in 1860. These grew so vigorously afterwards that in October of the same year, 1861, she made a second cutting of young, tender shoots, and gathered besides nearly two pecks of nuts from the seven plants. The amount of tea made was, after drying, only about two and a half pounds. The next year, 1865, she pursued the same course, cutting them, however, much closer. That year she made five pounds of tea, pronounced by good judges equal to the imported.

Having no metal plates or chafing dishes, she used a common cast-iron "spider" heated over a slow, charcoal fire. When it was "just hot enough to be uncomfortable to the hand" she put in the leaves, "twisting and rubbing them with the palms of the hands, raising them from the pan, twisting, bruising them and letting them fall back." The bruising she thinks essential; during it the leaves emit a large quantity of greenish sap. She adds that the kernel of the ripe nut is so bitter that she is sure it would prove a substitute for quinine.

Miscellany.

AN ENGLISH SON OF THE SOIL.

AN English paper gives an interesting account of the vast estates of the Duke of Rutland in Leicestershire. It says:

"The Duke of Rutland's estate extends to 'one-sixteenth of the whole county, comprising 33,000 acres, of which about one-half is strong loam and clay (the pastures of surpassing natural fertility) of which the Vale of Belvoir, on the lias, forms the chief part, about 5000 acres beyond Leicester being composed of strong marl and gravel. The remaining half being about equally divided between white and red 'creach' [soil] upon the oolite and marl-stone formations. The farms vary from fifty acres to seven hundred and fifty acres; the more general size is from two hundred to four hundred acres, the portions in grass and arable being about equal. Here we have an estate producing a clear rental of at least £80,000—more probably than £100,000 (half a million dollars in specie)—per annum, comprising one-sixteenth of the richest county in England in the hands of a single man. And be it observed, that is only by the laws specially provided for the artificial aggregation of land by means of entails and settlements that such an unnatural condition of ownership could exist, for there are numerous younger and collateral branches of the Rutland (Manners) family among whom this gigantic mass of property would naturally have been divided. It may have happened, however, that the political influence and power of the head of the family has been of great use to the other members in obtaining them provisions out of the public purse. Of course all the ducal tenantry hold their farms from year to year. They have no formal agreement, but a sort of akase or 'memorandum is printed on the backs of the rental receipts given when payments (of rent) are made."

This memorandum commences as follows: "Take notice that the following are the conditions upon which you rent or hold the land and premises in your occupation under His Grace the Duke of Rutland." The provisions are few, simple and stringent—binding the tenant to farm in a husband-like manner, and to keep the buildings, fences, gates, posts, drains, &c., in good repair, not to underlet or break up grass land—not to sell hay or straw. Then, "Fifth—That no trees growing on the premises will be permitted to be lopped or in anywise injured. Sixth—That on your quitting the premises all the manure will be considered as belonging thereto, and will not be suffered to be removed therefrom or allowed for. Seventh—That the game and right of sporting on such lands is (common English would have been 'are') reserved to His Grace."

It is also said the tenants "are further protected by a liberal schedule of allowances as tenant-right for purchased manure," etc., though how such a schedule can coexist with the sixth condition, would puzzle the acumen of legal interpreters of the contract, should any litigation arise thereupon. The Rutland tenants are probably held too well in hand ever to dream of disputing the behest of their lord. As showing the amount of political influence such a territorial magnate can wield, by the agency of a subservient tenantry, we extract the following: in 1858 there were under a rental of £8 per annum, 759 occupiers; above £8 and under £10, 52; £10 and under £12, 40; £12 and under £15, 49; £15 and under £20, 62; £20 and under £50, 115; £50, 198: making a total of 1275 occupiers.

OUT-DOOR WHITEWASH.—Two quarts of skimmed milk; 2ozs. fresh slacked lime; 5lbs. whiting; put the lime into a stoneware vessel, pour upon it a sufficient quantity of milk to make a mixture resembling cream, and then add the balance of the milk. Crumble the whiting and spread it on the surface of the fluid. Stir or grind as you would lead paint, and apply as you do other paints. It dries quick, and a second or third coat can be added if desired. It is inodorous, does not rub off. This quantity will cover 57 square yards with one coat. It may be colored, if desired, by adding coloring matter.

WHY SOWS DESTROY THEIR YOUNG.—A writer in the American Stock Journal thinks that costiveness and its accompanying evils are the main cause 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. Have had them become so savage as to attack me fiercely, though at other times perfectly gentle. If not stopped, this frenzy may increase with the pains of labor, and the sow will then destroy her young, or any other living thing within her reach. Cure the costiveness, and this restlessness and irritation will be cured, and if she was a good natured sow she will become gentle and quiet again."

Potatoes, turnips, beets, carrots or parsnips, or any vegetable that will have a tendency to open the bowels, are recommended.

FOUNER.—Feed the coarser kinds liberally. Poor hay, stalks and straw should be fed out mainly in the beginning and middle of winter. Reserve straw enough, however, for bedding and to litter the yards with in the spring. Study how to economize food; not by stinting, but by better preparation; it can be done by having comfortable stables, by feeding regularly, by cutting fodder and mixing bran or ground grain with it, by steaming, and by having proper racks, so that stock can waste none by trampling on it.

A few days ago a Committee of the Illinois Legislature visited the Insane Asylum at Jacksonville. A rather amusing incident occurred while the committee was going through the buildings. One of the honorable members from Cook county was among the party. One of the insane men who had evidently been something of a politician, approached the Chicago legislator and said:

"Ah how do you do, sir? You got elected at last, didn't you?"

The honorable drew himself up with a consequential and patronizing air, and said:

"Oh yes, I got elected."

The crazy man replied:

"Yes, you did. A great many—scoundrels are getting elected now."

CALIFORNIA, it is estimated, produced last year 2,000,000 gallons of wine, and the annual product a few years hence, when the growing vineyards begin bearing, it is predicted will reach 5,000,000 gallons. The value of the fruit crop of 1866 is stated at \$2,533,530.

The Poultry Yard.

THE HEN AND DUCK AS EGG PRODUCERS.—A paper has been received by the Paris Academy of Sciences from M. Comaille on the comparative value of the hen and duck as egg producers. His observations were limited to three hens and three ducks, all fine animals, hatched at the same time in the month of February. During the following autumn the ducks laid 225 eggs; they recommenced laying in February, and continued to do so until the middle of August. The hens laid no eggs during the autumn, but began in January, and left off in the middle of August. The totals of each at the end of that time were—the hens, 257 eggs; the ducks, 617. M. Comaille next examined the nutritive value of each kind of egg, and found them nearly equal in that respect. Hence the duck is more profitable than the hen by far.

POULTRY PROFITS.—In a late number of the N. E. Farmer was a communication from Moses Eaton, Jr., of South Hampton, N. H., showing the cost of 41 hens and their product for one season. The hens and their keeping amounted to \$70. They produced eggs to the value of \$74 73; chickens, \$49 15; total sales, \$123 88. Hens on hand, (44,) \$22; balance in favor of the hens, \$75.

LOWER DELAWARE.—R. B. U. writes from Milford, Del., giving information of interest to those meditating a change to a milder climate. "The climate," he says, "is mild and healthy; we are strangers to extremes of heat or cold. The farmer can work all the year; I have not seen a dozen days in two years in which I could not work in perfect comfort out of doors. The sea breeze modifies the heat of the summer, and the nights are pleasant in the hottest season. Stock does not require feeding more than half as long as in Northern New York. The soil, although much run, under an exhaustive and shiftless system, is very generous, and easily brought back to a condition of fertility. Fruit and vegetables grow luxuriantly; their transportation is good, their culture profitable."





Horticulture.

PEAR CULTURE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY R. ROBINSON SCOTT, PHILADELPHIA.

In the general routine of gardening, which includes fruit-culture, to which, however, the special term "pomology" has been of late years applied, there are many objects brought under the care of the operator which are not expected to produce a remunerative crop, but are merely cultivated because desirable, or interesting, or ornamental. This description of gardening is better known as "amateur" cultivation, and is followed rather as a pastime or recreation than as a business. Much of the gardening we read of abroad, is of this class; as there, money is spent without limit to produce the most superfluous luxuries. There we meet with the extremes of luxury and misery; here, it is to be hoped, we are more economical; hence the first consideration in undertaking any important work, such as planting trees, is the very necessary inquiry as to whether the result will remunerate for the outlay. Now we are free to admit that out of every hundred pear trees which have been planted during the past twenty years, not twenty-five per cent. have returned sufficient fruit to remunerate the planter. We take the Pear first, because there is a general idea prevalent that Pear culture is at best a losing game, and in this we shall at least have little opposition. But we are ready to make a similar statement in regard to the well known and favorite apple, and even the out door grape. But in attempting to substantiate the low average quoted, we request permission to state a few particulars.

Fruit trees generally have not succeeded well in gardens, even under "amateur" culture, for various reasons. Among the first, is the fact that when a few fruit trees have been planted, they have been promiscuously distributed among the garden plants, in the garden borders,—quite limited in extent, and annually subject to the visits of the spade in closer proximity to the tree than is at all desirable or judicious. When planted to any extent, the selection of trees and varieties have not been made with the necessary skill and judgment. The ground has not been properly prepared prior to their being planted, and after planting they have not had the necessary though simple management they required.

They have been mutilated instead of being pruned, for very little pruning is required if commenced in season, when the tree is young. All the pruning might almost be done by the finger and thumb in the growing season.

The soil has not been cultivated around them, as around any other crop, but permitted to become stiff or grown over with grass or weeds. When, perchance, the trees commenced to bear, the crop has not been thinned; the anxious owner desiring all the fruit he can obtain, at best not a very large supply, while those trees that will bear, are permitted to over-bear to make up for their less profitable neighbors. Nothing can be more shortsighted than this. When we make these statements we do not do so at random; they are made from many years' observation of Pear culture, and fruit culture generally; and the deductions are not the repeated expressions of the experience of the majority of writers on fruits. We have stated nothing that is not but too well known to amateurs and farmers, who have to any extent embarked in the cultivation or planting of the Pear. We have stated nothing about the rival claims of the Standard Pear, or the Pear on the Quince, as both have been almost equally mismanaged. With respect however to the relative value of the Standard and Dwarf tree, as a profitable investment, some points will bear a little elucidation.

The objections of the majority of amateurs and farmers apply to the Dwarf tree or that worked on the quince stock, while this is the class of trees preferred by the professional cultivator, or rather the "Fruit grower."

The Standard Pear—that is to say, the Pear on its own stock, is better adapted to a majority of soils and localities than the Pear on quince; leaving the varieties for the present out of the question. This is owing to the nature

of the root-growth of the two trees. The roots of the Pear are very wiry, search far down for their food; in the most unfavorable soils if dry, and by slow degrees are able to establish themselves very firmly, even in the poorest soils—while on a snitable soil they grow vigorously and produce a vigorous, healthy tree.

The roots of the quince, on the other hand, grow in masses, do not extend far in comparison from the trunk, and require for their nutrition a rich, moist soil, at least rich in organic matters; they remain near the surface, and are readily injured by severe drought if not protected by mulching in summer. The varieties of Pear worked on the quince, must be selected; that is, all varieties do not succeed equally well, owing to the readiness with which the wood system of certain varieties unite with the quince. This depends on the cell structure of the tissue and is only learned by experience. The details belong to the subject of vegetable physiology, and is worthy of more particular attention.

Varieties which readily unite with the quince, do not overgrow the stock or readily break off when united, are the only ones which should be planted for profit. Many others will grow and produce fine fruit, with special care.

These suitable varieties are well known to the "Fruit-growers." Some cultivators, or amateurs, tell us that only a few, say a dozen varieties, are "worth growing on the quince." We have repeatedly listened to these remarks and in some cases have almost assented to them, despairing of being able to make any show against the overwhelming opposition; indeed, we have seen it so stated in some periodicals at one time, and at another the reverse of it; just as the writer had met with facts to bear him out in either statement. The number of varieties which succeed on the quince are numerous under the careful management of the skillful fruit-grower, while in careless or ignorant hands they are very few.

This branch of the subject, more than any other, some years ago absorbed the attention of Pomological Societies, and was to be met with in every rural journal. In accordance with the preconceived opinions of the majority of careless planters, the list of varieties which succeed on the quince has been much curtailed in the American Pomological Society's fruit list. There are still enough left, however, to make the successful cultivation of the Pear on the quince, a practicable business.

If we desire a list of twenty varieties ripening throughout the season, we can have at least three reliable *Summer* sorts, viz:

Beurre d'Annis, Sterling, Brandywine.—Twelve reliable *Fall* varieties: Belle Luerative, Henry the Fourth, Beurre d'Anjon, Beurre Superfine, Buffam, Beurre Hardy, Howell, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Urbaniste, Doyenne Boussock, Beurre Diel, Beurre Langclier.

Five choice *Winter* varieties: Beurre Easter, Doyenne d'Alencon, Glout Morceau, Vicar of Winkfield, Jaminette.

The above twenty varieties are such as unite closely with the quince stock, and with fair treatment bear well; in quality they are among the best of our long list of sorts.

Many cultivators, however, would not be content with the sorts we have named; they would extend the list of Pears they have proved to succeed well on the quince, and include many very choice fruits, such as the Ott, Flemish Beauty, Beurre Giffard, Beurre Clairgeau, and others; these have succeeded well on the quince in some localities, but for general cultivation are better omitted.

The great complaint advanced against the dwarf trees is the fact of their want of longevity, and some have condemned them to die in an average duration of ten years; others will not admit that they survive so long, for with some they never grow, merely live or struggle between life and death—this is all quite easily accounted for.

They are also said to be subject to many diseases; insect attack, blight and a long list of defects not known in the cultivation of the standard tree. We scarcely admit this, the quince borer being the only insect special to the quince that is very destructive.

The consideration of the Standard Pear will be taken up at a future time.

February, 1867.

Philadelphia Society.

[Reported for the Farm and Fireside.]

PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE.

The February meeting of this Society was held on the 6th inst., CRAIG BIDDLE, Esq., President, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, specimen copies of the FARM AND FIRESIDE, a weekly agricultural journal, published by S. S. Foss, at 402 Prune Street, Philadelphia, were presented to the members. Also, specimens of the "Practical Farmer," a monthly work, published by P. Morris, were given to the members present.

Professor Kennedy moved that the Society subscribe for both journals; whereupon George Blight, Esq., Treasurer, said they were already subscribed for. A Mr. Haines asked for information relative to the FARM AND FIRESIDE; stating that he believed it was also published in New England. The President said one of the Editors of that paper was present, and would answer the gentleman's inquiry. Mr. G. W. Foss replied that the FARM AND FIRESIDE was published *simultaneously* at Philadelphia, and at Woonsocket, Rhode Island; the former edition for the Middle States, and the latter for New England circulation.

Reports of the Agricultural Departments at Washington, were presented.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society: John Berry, James B. Rayner, M. W. Birch, M. McElroy, George Remsen, and J. B. Lippincott. Mr. G. W. Foss, A. C. Roberts, and Samuel Huston, were proposed for membership.

Dr. Thompson, one of the "Committee on Potatoes," made a partial report—stating that but few specimens had been forwarded to the Committee. A sample was exhibited of a new Seedling, raised for two seasons, by Thomas J. Edge, of Chester county. The sample was very handsome, said to be a cross between the Mereer and the Monitor. (Some people will question this idea.) Another sample was presented, called the Shaker variety. Committee reported progress.

Robert McClure, Veterinary Surgeon, exhibited a model of the celebrated "Sheep Net," which is used to a considerable extent in Europe, for herding and folding sheep. C. W. Harrison, Esq. expressed his approbation of it, and thought it might be advantageously introduced in this country. The net-work is made of cocoa-nut fibre, is very strong and durable. The exhibitor thought it would be a cheap and valuable fence for poultry-yards. A circular was read from Hon. Isaac Newton, of the Agricultural Department, calling attention to the importance of sending cereals to the French Exposition. George Blight, Esq. said the Corn Exchange had already taken action on the subject.

An interesting discussion was opened by Dr. Hall, on the value of fertilizers. He said he had analyzed specimens of several, now in the market, and the result was that super-phosphate of lime, sold at \$60, was worth \$38 to the farmer. Another kind, sold at \$56, was worth \$40. Burned ground bone, sold at \$60, was worth \$37.50, the specimen he examined having but little ammonia in it, because the bone was burned so fine before being ground. It could be made for \$30 so as to be of value to the farmer. Peruvian guano, sold at \$100, was worth to the farmer \$49.55. These calculations were based on ammonia being worth 12½ cents, the phosphates being worth 1½ cents—these two items making the principal values. Pondrette, selling at \$20, was worth \$14. In view of these facts, he moved that a committee be appointed to memorialize the Legislature for the passing of a law requiring that all artificial manures and guanos be inspected by an agricultural chemist.

Dr. Emerson inquired if Dr. Hall had formed his estimate on the net value, or whether he had taken into consideration the cost of bags, commission, transport, &c., all of which were paid by farmers. The incidental expenses on each ton of fertilizers would amount to at least ten dollars.

Dr. Hall said he simply called at the stores where these fertilizers are sold and obtained

the price and specimen, which he analyzed at his leisure.

A discussion now arose, taking a wide range, on the value of the component parts of fertilizers.

Dr. Hall said it was known to every chemist that it required one pound of sulphuric acid to decompose each pound of bone, but not one-fourth of that amount was used.

Mr. Harrison said the best result he had obtained was by using super-phosphate of lime with Peruvian guano, in equal parts.

Dr. Emerson said that a fertilizer to be rich, must be soluble. It was not the amount of ammonia in it; but the question was, is it in such a condition as the ammonia will not fly off to the atmosphere, but go to the roots of the plants? Some of the preparations were sufficiently soluble to produce one good crop; but, after that season, the ammonia flew off to the atmosphere. He placed phosphoric acid as the great agent of fertility. Ammonia has had that rank, and was yet of great value. Every person knew of the villainous smell of ammonia, and could readily detect the rapidity with which it flew in the atmosphere; yet it could be so fixed by artificial process as to remain in the earth and be of vast advantage.

Dr. Kennedy referred to the amount of ammonia generated from the soft parts of animals buried near the surface. It was claimed for guano that it contained from 100 to 110 portions of animal matter under certain circumstances, and, in other instances, 75 to 80 portions. If it was true animal matter, it certainly was extremely valuable; for ammonia is a means of making an insoluble substance soluble. A Russian chemist had made phosphates soluble by the use of ashes. Potassa, as is well known, is the important function of ammonia, and is far better than sulphuric acid. In our climate it was very advantageous to start plants early, so as to keep them free from insects; and if this is done the plants will take care of themselves, phosphoric acid having nothing to do with it. Some persons who were not as energetic as their fellows, lagged behind in getting in their plants, and the consequence was they had to resort to ammonia to catch up with their neighbors.

It was decided that a committee should be appointed to prepare a memorial to the Legislature in accordance with the idea of Dr. Hall.

A committee on memorial was appointed by the President, consisting of Dr. Hall, Dr. Emerson, and Mr. Eldridge, thus connecting the legal with the scientific gentlemen of the Society.

Adjourned to meet on the first Wednesday in March.

WOOL CLIP OF CALIFORNIA.—The New-York Economist, in commenting on a San Francisco wool circular, says:

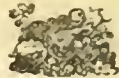
The clip of California wool is increasing very rapidly. The estimates for this year are about 8,000,000 pounds, and for 1868 about 15,000,000 pounds. At this rate of progression it is easy to estimate what it is likely to be ten years hence. Quality is also improving, being about 15 per cent. better this year than last. Altogether, it is a wool deserving of more attention than it has lately received—the working qualities of the finer grades being quite equal to that of Mestizas or Capes.

The largest plow factory in the world is at Louisville, Kentucky. During the working years since 1860, including the present season, the factory has turned out over two hundred thousand plows, and has, at the present time, a capacity of one hundred thousand a year.

IRISH LANDS.—Lord Dufferin writes to the London News: "Five and twenty years ago the area of uncultivated land in all Ireland only amounted to six million three hundred thousand, at this moment there are only about four million of acres in that condition. Of these four million two million and a half consist of bog and mountain land, so barren as to be reported by Sir R. Griffiths unfit even for pasture; so that instead of there being seven million of acres of waste land to be improved, as has been stated, there only remain about a million and a half improvable even for pasture."

THE SUGGESTIVENESS OF NATURE.—Nature will be reported. All things are engaged in writing their own history. The plant and pebble go attended by their own shadows. The rock leaves its scratches on the mountain side, the river its bed in the soil, the animal leave bone in the stratum, the fern and the leaf their modest epitaph in the coal. The falling drop makes its epitaph in the sand or stone; not a footprint in the snow or along the ground, but prints in characters more or less lasting, a map of its march; every act of man inscribes itself on the memories of its fellows, and in its own face. The air is full of sound, the sky of tokens; the ground is all memoranda signatures, and every object is covered over with hints which speak to the intelligent.





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 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 centre, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

AGRICULTURE THE BASIS OF RECONSTRUCTION.

THE political world is at present much agitated in reference to the best and most feasible plan of Reconstruction. Congress proposes one plan, the President another; the radicals insist on this method, the conservatives contend for that—and so on through and down the whole strata of politics. Though the result may be accomplished, in time, yet it will be but an imperfect cementation of parties and interests. Time, alone, will be the regenerator, and make our Union firmer than adamant. It may not be in this generation; the memory of great sorrows and suffering is tenacious; vindictiveness is a strong passion; more or less of bitterness always clings to humiliation and defeat. We are of opinion that (in the course of time, necessary to a permanent and perfect reconstruction of the whole country,) agricultural science will be the most powerful auxiliary in accomplishing a result so desirable.

The unlimited right of owning property in allodial fee, both personal and real, which in this country descends equally to heirs and kindred, constitutes a system of jurisprudence which is peculiarly an American institution. This system forms one of the principal elements of our national stability. Here every man, woman and child, may have a real or prospective interest in the soil; here people labor for the permanency of a habitation, for the endearments of a home. Next follow competent livings, and a relief from those pressing wants so embarrassing to human improvement. Feeling themselves secure from want, protected and defended by laws, and surrounded by agreeable associations, they begin to reflect, investigate, and act for the good of others—for the advancement of knowledge and domestic happiness.

Then, if individual ownership of soil is an element of national stability, and if the competency arising from such ownership opens the way to social, moral and intellectual improvement, the more owners of soil in the Southern States, the more general and abiding will attachment to the country become; and the more rapidly will general intelligence be spread. The want of personal attention to agriculture in the South, was the main thing that retarded the growth and prosperity of her best interests. Land owners were few, and their possessions comprised thousands of acres each. These were badly, almost barbarously, tilled by slave labor; and the supervision exercised by overseer and master was merely nominal. There was no incentive to improve the implements of husbandry or to introduce those already improved. Scientific agriculture in Dixie was a farce; the soil was fertile, almost beyond exhaustion in some sections, and yielded lavishly and spontaneously. Farm drudgery was a bar to Southern nobility—soiled hands were the badges of slavery and dishonor.

The failure of the Rebellion resulted in the destruction of slavery; it will also as surely result in the breaking up of a vast land ownership, and the parcelling and sub-dividing of the plantations into small, manageable farms. If the residents of the South will not do this, others will do it for them. There will eventually be an influx, of hardy, earnest, practical men, producing either a Puritanic element, or that admixture of races which has made our Northern people so contented, tenacious, liberty-loving. Men will turn their attention to the sure and peaceful resources of agriculture; this will tend to centralization; society will be reorganized; sparsely populous districts will become thickly settled; and free schools, academies and churches, will follow the dawn of a new prosperity.

The South, above all other sections of our

country, possesses the natural ingredients and facilities for agricultural prosperity. The vast extent of her territory, the fertility of her soil, her irrigating streams and navigable rivers, her climate, her natural avenues of transportation, make up a physical geography of the most favorable character. Half a century of practical devotion to agriculture will make an astounding revolution in the South. It will be the surest, the broadest basis upon which to rebuild our nationality—the cardinal creed of reformation. Her people will grow rich by the healthful exertion of labor. They will be happy in the newly developed consciousness of inherent power and ability. Each man will feel himself an intelligent sovereign, and will be seduced by the sophistry of no political charlatan or nabob into movements or enterprises destined to wreck their fortunes, sacrifice their lives or envelop their memories with the disgrace of apostasy or the brand of treason.

AN AUXILIARY HOT-BED.

As a hot-bed for helping forward early vegetables is a necessity in every kitchen garden, and as it is probable that more than half of those who ought to have them in a regular way, have let the time slip by without having them prepared, we propose here a substitute; and urge all who have gardens and would have vegetables three weeks earlier than they are to be obtained by the usual out-door practice, to muster in our substitute without further delay.

Select the warmest, sunniest corner in the garden, well sheltered from north west winds—nail up a strong, rough box or pen, fourteen to sixteen feet long and four feet wide; the front facing south, two feet high, the back three. Fill in and tramp down stable manure—from horses, if to be had—to within seven or eight inches of the top of the front. Gather such sound second hand glazed sash as can be got, long enough to reach across the frame, and enough to cover it from end to end. Batten the end joints with bits of boards, lay over a foot of loose straw litter, and let the bed sweat ten days. Then find some where—under some old barn or out-house floor, earth not frozen—rich, mellow and free from foul seeds. Cover the surface of the bed with four or five inches of this. Let it lie four or five days to warm up; in the mean time banking up the frame all round outside well with stable manure and litter; then sow the seeds of such plants as are required early, lay on the sash, batten the joints, give all the sunlight possible, and raise one side of the sash to give air on all warm, pleasant days; protect in sharp, cold snaps with the straw covers, and after all frosts have taken their departure, remove the sash entirely, that the plants may harden up in healthy, natural growth a few days before transplanting. By such an Auxiliary Hot Bed, we can get vegetables forward, and out doors; growing vigorously only a few days after the "regulars," and from two to three weeks earlier than out-door culture can give them.

CATTLE PLAGUE INQUIRY.—The return of the cattle plague in Great Britain, published by authority of the Lords of the Privy Council, makes the following statements: "The number of animals attacked since the commencement is 253,820, being 1 in every 19 of the estimated ordinary stock of cattle; and out of every 1,000 attacks, the results of which have been reported, 862 animals perished."

There will probably be a great loss of bees in New England, this winter and spring, unless considerable attention is paid to them. They should be continually fed from the last of February till they are able to supply themselves from other sources. After they commence breeding they will consume honey much faster than through the months of December and January.

DR. NESSLER of Germany, made an analysis of potatoes of three sizes—the largest about two inches in diameter, the smallest about the size of a walnut—and found them to contain starch in the following percentage:—Large size 17.2; medium, 15.2; small, 14.6.

GETTING GRAFTS.

To those who contemplate improving their fruit stock—and there are many who do—we would say to so many as have old orchards, put out as many young trees as you please and your purses permit; but be sure to put in more grafts on your old trees, especially if they are growing remiss of duty, and are shy of bearing. By grafting the best sorts on old stocks, you will get a supply of better fruit much earlier than young nursery trees will give it. Besides, you are twenty times more certain of getting the kinds you want, true to name, by procuring grafts from bearing trees than by depending on young ones from nurseries.

Now, during February, is the proper time to procure grafts. Get them at once, from reliable nurserymen, friends, or any one else so that you know to a certainty who you are getting them from and what you are getting. Don't put it off, saying:—"I guess March will do." March may, or may not, do. If it continues cold so that the buds are not started, March, to the middle, will do. Otherwise it will not. So February is the safest season to get grafts. And having them in hand, don't lay them by on a pantry shelf to dry up, nor under a shed to freeze to death. That is not the way to treat grafts. Lay them by in a cool cellar, under a litter of fine straw, or the folds of any old woolen garment, in contact with the ground, and a slight covering of some light soil will assist in maintaining their vitality.

At the proper time, put in, or have them put in, correctly. Three-quarters of all the good grafts set, not murdered outright, are two-thirds killed by tree quacks and charlatan horticulturists. Don't employ any of that class. Get a reliable man who understands his business; or, better, make an expert of yourself. It is easily learned, and grafting is a very pleasant and profitable pastime. But first get grafts—good grafts. And get them during February. Remember this.

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

The difficulties which have embarrassed the progress of this institution appear to have been overcome, and the work is now likely to go forward. The Trustees held a meeting in Boston last month.

It seems that a decision has been made in the Supreme Court, removing the injunction, upon the payment by the town of Amherst, of the \$75,000 subscribed in aid of the institution; and, now that the money is at hand to work with, it will doubtless be easier to progress with the requisite structures.

A contract was concluded with C. M. Whitteley, of Boston, to erect a dormitory building at a cost of \$30,000, and a boarding house for \$5,000; and with L. N. Granger, of Hadley, for the construction of a laboratory at a cost of \$9,350. Levi Stockbridge, of Hadley, was confirmed by the Trustees as Farm Superintendent, with a salary of \$1,500. Ten thousand dollars were appropriated, and to be expended under the direction of the Building Committee and the Farm Superintendent, for the erection of a suitable barn or barns and other necessary farm buildings, and the repair of some buildings on the place.

Work on the building is to commence on the opening of spring, and it is expected that the college will be in readiness to receive students early in September. One of the departments of the College, that of Botany and Horticulture, is to be endowed with \$30,000 by subscription. Of this amount \$20,000 have already been subscribed by three gentlemen.

KEEPING CABBAGES.—A New-Yorker finds this method successful:—Sink a barrel in the ground to within an inch of the top, cut off the heads and fill the barrel full, put on a board to keep out water, and that is all that is needed.

The governor of Massachusetts has appointed Prof. Louis Agassiz, of Cambridge, and William Clark, of Amherst, members of the State Board of Agriculture.

TIMELY TALK.

Our contributors being sensible men, will of course accept a gentle reminder, that to be of the best service to the agricultural community, the season should always be taken into consideration, and their farm talk made as timely as possible. Farmers are much like all other people with many things to do, and often several things at once to be done—entirely too busy with every day affairs to permit the keeping a six months book account in their heads; and so a bit of information, or advice, seasonably given, will have infinitely more chances of being acted upon than one equally good but weeks or months out of season. Many a valuable agricultural hint has in this way been as utterly lost as though it had passed from the pen to the flames, instead of the press. Others are buried deep in the debris of like unseasonable material; coming casually to the surface, perhaps a second time out of season; or so dim in memory that all their original persuasive force is lost.

This feature applies as well to publications as communications; and is the strongest argument in favor of a weekly agricultural journal. The farmer requires his matter fresh as much as the merchant wants his news and commercial intelligence, or the banker and broker his every day financial material; and, as it would be unreasonable to expect a farmer to retain in his mind all the valuable hints he will find in a well conducted journal, until the time—two or ten months distant—shall come round when he can act upon them, the obvious duty of both publisher and contributor is to make every weekly article a seasonable one, and always in time.

STRAWBERRIES IN FEBRUARY.

On Tuesday, we were presented with a pot of strawberries, the vines laden with luscious fruit. They are of the Triomphe de Gand variety, and were grown in the hot house of John A. Smith, Esq., of Waterford. He promises us specimens of other fruit at an early day. The strawberries may be seen in our office window.

PATENTS.

EDWARD FARNUM, of Blackstone, has received a patent for an improved butter-worker. The same gentleman and George W. Scott have received a patent for an improved husking machine.

A NEW WORK BY DONALD G. MITCHELL.—The Horticulturist for this month says:

"The artist-farmer of Edgewood, Donald G. Mitchell, whose charming 'Farm at Edgewood' and 'Wet-Weather Days,' as well as his actual work on his own estate, have proved him master-like of the poetry, the science, and the practicalities of rural life, is preparing now a volume on landscape gardening and rural embellishment generally. Nothing could be more timely, or surer of warm welcome, as no one is so well fitted for the work as Mr. Mitchell. And if, as we hear, he proposes to offer his services to those wanting special suggestions and plans for the selection and development of private home grounds, and the management of model farms, he will at once, we are sure, become the new Downing of America, and something more. What we need in this country is to learn how to marry taste with profit in rural life, to have elegant country homes and conduct farm estates with an eye to neatness and beauty, without an annual impoverishing of our purses; and Mr. Mitchell has shown, both by his example at New Haven and his rural writings, that this can be done. The secret is too valuable to be kept to himself."

VERMICULAR.—In New Zealand, as fast as cereals and root crops are planted, the worms and insects that blight and destroy them are found alive and at work, although such worms and insects were never seen in the colony before. The eggs and grubs of these destructive creatures were introduced into the colony with the seed. The New Zealand colonists are now paying twenty shillings a head for every British insectivorous bird that is landed alive in the colony.

A HINT IN BREEDING.—Mr. Torr, the well-known breeder of Short-Horn cattle and Leicester sheep, in the course of some remarks at the recent letting of the latter, touching on breeding in general, said: "The way to establish uniformity or family likeness is to begin by putting the best male to the best female, and to continue to put the best to the best;" secondly, "not to put opposite characters together, or the traits of both will be lost; but if any fresh characteristic is required to be imparted to the issue of present stock animals, this must be done by degrees, or by that discreet selection which will yield a little more wool, or size and substance, the first year, and a little more and more in the second and third generations, and so on."





Fireside Readings.

A TRUE MAN.

Such was our friend. Formed on the good old plan,
A true and brave and downright honest man!
He blew no trumpet in the market-place,
Nor in the church, with hypocritic face,
Supplied with cant the lack of Christian grace:
Loathing pretence, he did with cheerful will
What others talked of while their hands were still!
And while "Lord, Lord!" the pious tyrants cried,
Who, in the poor, their Master crucified,
His daily prayer, far better understood
In acts than words, was simply doing good.
So calm, so constant was his rectitude,
That by his loss alone we know his worth,
And feel how true a man has walked with us on earth!

THE LOST CHILD.

ALL along the beautiful German rivers you can see, scattered on the overhanging hills, gray old ivy-colored castles. Some of them are crumbling into ruins and some are as stately and grand as ever. Dreary enough they look to us, as places to live in, but they have all, been pleasant homes once, for love can make a home pleasant. In one of these castles, some years ago, there lived a beautiful lady and little girl. This lady's husband was a soldier, and had gone away to fight in a foreign war, and so she was all alone except her servants and her child, little Gretchen; that is the same as Margaret, it means a pearl, you know, and she was more precious to her mother than many pearls, for lady Gertrude, as the people called her, loved that little girl more than her own life. Gretchen had a sweet voice, as many of the German children have, and it made the old castle glad as she ran about in the lonely rooms, singing the ballads which her mother used to teach her.

One time her mother was obliged to go to a distant city and leave Gretchen with her nurse. It was the first time in her life that she had left her darling for so long a time. Many were the commands which she gave the servants, to look after and care for her child, but they were careless, and Gretchen was left to wander around at her pleasure, even outside of the gates of the castle. It was nearly sunset one afternoon when a band of strolling players, who had been lingering around the castle, were surprised at hearing a sweet baby voice singing over their ballads, and at seeing Gretchen's pretty childish figure among them. Her love of their songs had led her to follow these roving players so far that now it was nearly night-fall, and she could not find her way home; and with tearful eyes she begged the old woman who saw her first, to take her to her mamma. It was growing cold, and her little dress of thinnest lawn was but a poor protection. She clasped her hands and cried bitterly: "Take me home, please take me home. I am mamma's pearl, and if I get lost, she will die; see, that is my mamma," and she drew from her bosom a little miniature of the Lady Gertrude. It was set with pearls and brilliants; the old woman's hand grasped it eagerly, but Gretchen's look of agony stopped her.

"We'll take you home," they said, "but your home is a long way from here."

So they dressed her like a gipsy child, and led her with them, far away from the Lady Gertrude, far from the castle by the shining river, and far from all the pleasant things which made up Gretchen's home. And when she would beg them to take her home, they would always tell her that she was going towards her home, but that it was a great way off. They took the miniature and broke off its exquisite setting, leaving only the painting, and that she wore around her neck still, for the picture was all that Gretchen cared for.

The lady of the castle returned, and there was mourning far and wide for the lost child, the darling of the castle. They searched for her for many weeks, but search was useless, and finally they said she must have been drowned in the river or lost in the forests; but no one dared to whisper it to the lady of the castle, for fear it would break her heart. And so the light of the castle went out for Lady Gertrude, and all its beauty faded. The roses clustered over the lattice and hung in crimson wreaths around her window; then they faded and the green pines were heavy

and white with the snows of winter; but it was all alike to her; the light of her life had faded, and she faded, too. Her harp was untouched in the hall, for the only music which she could bear to hear was the music of Gretchen's sweet, childish voice as it sung in her heart forever. Years went by, and her soldier lord came back from battle, and tried to comfort her in her sorrow; and she went with him to Gretchen's room for the first time since her loss. The room shone clear and bright that evening on the little bed and its snowy covering, and on the pillows where she had so often watched her darling in her rosy sleep; and the mother knelt by the little bed, and prayed earnestly that God would give her back her darling in His own good time, and help her to say, "Thy will be done."

They went out together, the knight Siegfried and his lady. And all the land was full of their deeds of kindness. The whole hope of her life seemed to be that she might comfort all who were in sorrow, even as she hoped that God would one day comfort her. But her sorrow took away her strength and health, and they went at last, the knight and his lady, to seek for both in sunny Italy. Her sickness was such as no change of climate could cure; not even the sweet blue skies of Florence and the breath of its thousand flowers. Yet there was always in her heart a faint hope, that one day her darling would come back to her. It grew fainter every day, and she never breathed it to any one. She was thinking about it one pleasant afternoon in early spring, as she lay on a couch by an open window. They had taken her there, for she was scarcely able to walk through the rooms; she lay watching the busy crowds in the streets, for it was a feast day, and the flower-girls went in and out among the crowd, bearing their fragrant burdens.

"Take these flowers lady," said a sweet voice by the window, and a fair-haired girl, in a festal dress, looked pityingly at her and laid a spray of snowy japonicas upon the window-seat. She spoke in Italian, but not as the natives speak; and although very sunburnt, yet her golden hair and blue eyes looked strangely out of place among the dark-eyed Florentines. Something in her voice sounded strangely familiar to the lady Gertrude—something like the echoes which had long lingered in her heart. The flower-girl had given the sweetest flowers in her basket to the sick stranger, and hastened away, trilling, as she went, a few notes of a little song. It was a German song, the same that used to echo through the halls in the castle by the river. The lady called her back and asked her all about her home. Was she a Florentine? She could remember but little about her early life. She had not always lived in Florence. It was a long, long way off; when she lived far north, when she had a mother. She had her mother's picture with her, and she drew from her bosom the little broken miniature.

It was there, just as she herself had clasped it on Gretchen's neck, so many years ago; and as the lady looked at it, she scarcely recognized it for her own picture. That was so bright and beautiful, and she herself was worn and faded with long watching and sorrow. She spoke in German and called her by the endearing names that she used to at home, until at last the flower-girl became conscious of the truth, and as it all flashed on her mind, she sunk beside the couch and buried her face in the folds of her mother's dress; and they two wept together for the very joy of their hearts. The sunset died over the river and the stars came out in the sky, while mother and child sat together in happiness too deep for words. And health and strength came back to the mother, and before many weeks were passed they went back to Germany, and Gretchen, their own daughter, went with them to be the light of the castle, the sunshine of the Lady Gertrude's heart, as she had been in the years gone by. In that Italian city there is a little church, a perfect gem of architectural beauty; a grateful mother has lavished upon it all that wealth could procure or the most perfect taste devise. The altar cloth is of pure white velvet, the Lady Gertrude's bridal dress, and in its fringes are woven with cunning artifice, the

richest of the jewels which had long been the pride of Lord Siegfried's family and her own. In the floor of the church there is set a little table, telling in a few German words, in antique characters, the story of Lady Gertrude's life: "I have found my child."

"I HAN'T A MOTHER, LIKE THE REST."

The weather had been unusually mild for two or three days before Christmas, so that the ice of the big pond was rather rotten; but darling Harry thought he could brave it; it would be a pity to spoil the fun now, and so many admiring eyes fixed upon him, too! He made a bold dash—his little figure, upright and graceful, was balanced upon the ice. Then there was a crash! The dangerous cake gave way; and with a loud cry, Harry fell amid the rush of ice and water.

The group at the window seemed for a moment paralyzed with horror. Then there was a scattering for the pond, and a screaming and crying from one and all. "He's under the water!—father! father! Harry's going down under the ice!" Every particle of color had gone from farmer May's face; he trembled in every limb, and threw up his hands wildly.—His strength seemed to have ebbed away in the tide of grief. "O help me!" he cried. "My boy—my boy? and I can't swim?"—"But I can!" shouted a voice, brave and clear as an angel's, almost; "I can swim, and I'll save him!" and dashing past weeping mother May, Joseph Craig plunged headlong into the freezing water, swimming for dear life. How they watched him, breathless and excited, their hearts hanging by a thread as it were!—How they shuddered when they saw him grasp once, twice, at a dark object under the water, and then rise, his face gashed and bleeding from contact with the ugly ice corners. He was some way out now, and made a third dive; then there was a faint hurrah, and, breasting the ice, he just managed to swim to the bank, with one arm holding up poor Harry.

"My child! my boy!—thank God!" cried the happy parent, folding him in his arms. They bore him to the roaring fire in the sitting-room, and rubbed him until he opened his eyes and smiled. Very soon he was able to sit up and talk naturally. And where was Joseph all this time? Sitting on the kitchen floor, squeezing his wet clothes and rubbing the great, painful gashes in his arms and face, from which the blood was still streaming.

"Joseph!" He listened; it was farmer May's voice, unusually soft and tender. The poor apprentice shook like a leaf; before he was aware, a strong arm came round behind him, lifting him from the floor. He found himself, as if by magic, sitting beside Harry, and Harry's bright head resting on his bosom, with great tears rolling down the grateful boy's cheeks.

"If there's anything you wish for now, Joseph," said the farmer huskily—"anything you'd like to have, just name it, my boy.—You have saved us many a year of sorrow, and given us cause to remember this Christmas before all others. Come, speak out, my boy." How could he speak, when he felt so happy? Twice he tried to gulp down the sobs rising in his throat, sobs of joy they were. "Only be kind to me, sir," he grasped out at length; "only drop a kind word now and then, for I hain't any mother, like the rest."

How was it with farmer May? He felt at once what great lack there had been in his otherwise kindly heart. It quite broke him down, that appeal to his better nature; so he leaned on mother May's shoulder, and sobbed aloud. Joseph sat as if in a dream; his beautiful Christmas had come at last, no more hunger and thirsting of spirit now. How the joyous red sparks of fire-light ran up the white walls, the whole room shining! Harry squeezing him tightly with one arm, and Tiny, her cheeks flushed with crying, thrusting her pretty doll into his lap, whispering, "There, there! keep it, Joseph. I don't want it indeed, and double-deed, I don't, and then running away in the corner, her face turned to the wall, lest by looking back she might repent the immense sacrifice.

Well—well, tears cannot always last, and very soon the May family were bright and

smiling again, Joseph the happiest of all. And when the Christmas dinner was set on, and all the friends were gathered about it, they made a place for Joe among the children; and mother May could not heap his plate enough with the good things; and the poor lad felt as if he were more ready to cry than to laugh, at all the kindly words which every one had for him.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ISAAC N. ARNOLD'S "History of Abraham Lincoln and the Overthrow of Slavery" is just published in Chicago by Clarke & Co. Mr. Arnold was long the intimate friend of Mr. Lincoln, and his narrative has a fresh and peculiar interest. We have space only to copy the following passages:

"The two books which he read most were the Bible and Shakespeare. With these he was very familiar, reading and studying them habitually and constantly. He had great fondness for poetry and eloquence, and his taste and judgment in each was exquisite. Shakespeare was his favorite poet, Burns stood next. Holmes's beautiful poem, 'The Last Leaf,' was with him a great favorite. The following verse he regarded as equal to anything in the language:

"The mossy marbles rest
On lips that he has pressed
In their bloom;
And the names he loved to hear
Have been carved for many a year,
On the tomb."

"He made a speech at a Burns festival in which he spoke at length of Burns's poems; illustrating what he said by many quotations, which was listened to with the greatest pleasure, but it was unfortunately never reported. He was extremely fond of ballads, and simple, sad and plaintive music.

"He was a most admirable reader. He read and recited from the Bible and Shakespeare with great simplicity, but remarkable expression and effect. Often when going to and from the army, on the steamers and in his carriage, he took a copy of Shakespeare with him, and not infrequently read aloud to his associates. After conversing upon public affairs, he would take up his Shakespeare, and addressing his companions, remark, 'What do you say now to a scene from Macbeth, or Hamlet,' and then he would read aloud, scene after scene, never seeming to tire of the enjoyment. On the last Sunday of his life, as he was coming up the Potomac, from his visit to City Point and Richmond, he read many extracts from Shakespeare. Among other things, he read, with an accent and feeling which no one who heard him will ever forget, extracts from Macbeth, and among others, the following:

"Duncan is in his grave;
After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well.
Treason has done his worst; nor steel, nor poison,
Malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing
Can touch him farther."

"After 'treason' had 'done his worst,' the friends who heard him on that occasion, remembered that he read that passage over twice, and with an absorbed and peculiar manner. Did he feel a mysterious presentiment of his approaching fate?

"His conversation was suggestive, original, instructive and playful; and by its genial humor, fascinating and attractive beyond comparison. Mirthfulness and sadness were strongly combined in him. His mirth was exuberant, it sparkled in jest, story, and anecdote; and the next moment those peculiarly sad, pathetic, melancholy eyes showed a man 'familiar with sorrow and acquainted with grief.' I have listened for hours at his table, and elsewhere, when he has been surrounded by statesmen, military leaders and other great men of the nation, and I but repeat the universally-concurring verdict of all, in stating that as a conversationalist he had no equal. One might meet in company with him the most distinguished men, of various pursuits and professions, but after listening for two or three hours, on separating, it was what Mr. Lincoln said that would be remembered. His ideas and his illustrations were those that would not be forgotten. Men often called upon him for the pleasure of listening to him. I have heard the reply to an invitation to attend the theatre, 'No, I am going up to the White House—I would rather hear Lincoln talk for half an hour than attend the best theatre in the country.'

A CORRESPONDENT of the Mass. Ploughman, in reference to the production and management of cream, says:—"The best way to secure the greater quantity of cream, as well as to have the butter come without trouble, is to strain the milk in pans as usual, and let it stand several hours, (from morning until night and from night until the next morning) then scald it. Have a kettle of boiling water, into which the pan will fit tightly, like a cover, remove your pan gently from the shelf and set it over the boiling water. The steam will soon scald it. It must not be boiled, but hot, the next thing to boiling. Put it back on the shelf gently—remember you are not churning it yet, and in twenty-four hours see the cream you will get. The same process will keep milk sweet longer in hot summer weather.





Rhode Island Society.

ADJOURNED ANNUAL MEETING OF THE R. I. SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

The adjourned annual meeting of the above named Society was held Wednesday, February 6th, in Providence, the first Vice President, H. W. Lothrop, Esq., in the chair.

In the absence of the Secretary, Hon. Elisha Dyer was appointed Secretary, pro tem.

The Committee appointed to consider the best means of relieving the Society from debt, reported progress, and on motion were continued.

Geo. C. Nightingale, Esq., of Providence, and Dr. Wm. H. Brown, of Clayville, were admitted members on the usual terms.

The following resolution offered by Hon. Elisha Dyer, was adopted:

Whereas, It has been announced that the absence of the honored Secretary of this Society from this the adjourned annual meeting, is in consequence of the death of a member of his family; it is therefore

Resolved, That the members of this Society tender their sympathy to the Hon. Wm. R. Staples and family for their affliction and bereavement, and that the Secretary pro tem transmit to them a copy of this resolution.

The subject of an exhibition was called up and discussed, and on motion of Mr. John Holden, of Warwick, was referred to the Standing Committee, with full power to act.

The report of the Committee on nomination for officers was presented by the chairman, Mr. O. Brown, and it was voted that the report be received and the persons therein nominated be declared elected. They are as follows:

President.—Wm. Sprague, of South Kingstown.

1st Vice President.—Joseph H. Bourn, of North Providence.

2nd Vice President.—Cyrus B. Manchester, of Providence.

3rd Vice President.—Obadiah Brown, of North Providence.

Secretary and Treasurer.—Wm. R. Staples, of Providence.

Audit and Finance Committee.—Wm. Viall, Edward P. Taft, and Israel M. Bowen.

Standing Committee.—George B. Peck, Oliver Johnson, Robert S. Burrough, James Y. Smith, of Providence; Elisha A. Lawton, Cranston; Alfred B. Chadsey, North Kingstown; Amasa Sprague Cranston; Henry Staples, Barrington; Thomas G. Turner, Warren; Wm. B. Spencer, Warwick; Henry J. Angell, Providence; George F. Wilson, East Providence; Seth Padelford, Providence; Charles S. Bradley, North Providence; James D. W. Perry, Bristol; Jno. B. Francis, Warwick; Royal C. Taft, Providence; Silas Moore, Cranston; Allen C. Mathewson, Barrington; Chas. N. Hoyt, Providence; Jno. G. Clark, Jr., South Kingstown; Lyman B. Frieze, Providence; Elisha Dyer, Providence; Jno. Oldfield, Cranston; Wm. E. Barrett, Providence; Cyrus Harris, Warwick; Joseph F. Brown, North Providence; Joseph Hodges, Barrington; George D. Wilcox, Providence; T. G. Potter, East Providence.

Mr. Henry W. Lothrop, first Vice President of last year, declined being a candidate for this year.

A meeting of the Standing Committee was held immediately after the adjournment of the Society, first Vice President, J. H. Bourn, in the chair. Hon. E. Dyer, was elected Secretary pro tem.

The subject of an exhibition, referred from the Society, was fully discussed, when upon motion of Mr. George F. Wilson, it was voted that a general exhibition, cattle show and fair be held during the ensuing year, and that a committee to whom shall be entrusted the necessary arrangements for carrying this matter into effect, be authorized to co-operate as they may deem expedient with the New England Agricultural Society in any action that may be taken for holding a fair in this State during the current year.

On motion, it was voted that the President be requested to divide the Standing Committee

into the several standing sub-committees, with the same duties and powers as last year.

On motion of Mr. G. F. Wilson, it was voted that the Secretary be instructed to publish the usual number of copies of the Society's Transactions for 1866.

On motion of Mr. G. F. Wilson, an executive committee of three persons was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the proposed exhibition.

Messrs. Amasa Sprague, Obadiah Brown and Lyman B. Frieze were unanimously elected as the Executive Committee, and requested to report their action at the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee.

It was voted that the proceedings of the adjourned annual meeting of the Society, and of this meeting of the Standing Committee, be published in the daily newspapers of Providence.

Adjourned sine die.

The Farm.

EARLY CUT HAY FOR MILCH COWS, ETC.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Country Gentleman speaks as follows of cutting hay in June:

"I willingly state that my experience of over thirty years all goes to prove the wisdom of cutting grass when it is coming into bloom, the folly of waiting till it is going out of blossom, and the downright craziness of letting it stand till the seed is ripe. I am quite certain that when grass is cut early, it is not only the gain of making such a much better quality of hay that will gratify the farmer, but the land is scarcely weakened at all; whereas those who follow the suicidal practice of mowing late, rob their land and the afterfeed, cheat every animal that eats the poor, dry, leafless stuff, and defraud themselves and their families—this is the reason why cornstalks are rated as highly as hay, and why so much meal has to be given to keep store cattle in a healthy condition. So far I can corroborate the statements made, but however good the hay, I have always found benefit from feeding other stimulating food, the extra feed, of whatever kind, always helping to increase milk, butter, flesh or growth. I have given, at various times, to milking cows, with advantage to the increase of milk and the improvement of the butter, every kind of meal, pumpkins, mangolds, carrots, cabbage and kohl rabi, and by doing so, the same quantity of hay would do for three cows, with the extra feed, that would do for two without it; and when I have fed freely with meal and roots combined, it would make a corresponding difference in exact proportion to the extent these nourishing kinds of food were given."

TOO MUCH STOCK.

It should ever be a rule with the farmer to winter no more stock than he can winter well. A single sheep or cow, properly cared for, and provided with a sufficiency of wholesome and nutritious food, water, and comfortable shelter, will be of more value to the owner than two, poorly kept. It is a singular error in domestic policy, to appropriate to two or more animals the food necessary for one. Yet this singular mistake is often noticeable among those who consider themselves—and are called—good farmers; and indeed is, or has been, often practised by whole communities. In seasons of scarcity, more stock is kept than there is food to supply their wants; consequently the price of hay is unduly raised, and suffering, often irremediable and ruinous to the community, is the result. The true policy is to keep just as many animals as will consume the fodder produced on the farm, and no more. But this would not preclude the plan of purchasing fodder—were the money at hand to do so—with the intention of increasing the quantity of manure and the productive power of the farm.

Practices on the farm have greatly changed in this respect, as in many others. We have heard men boast of wintering a cow of common size on a single ton of ordinary hay. Under such a practice, nearly every farm in the neighborhood would lose one or more good animals every spring, by some disease induced by

want of food and exposure to cold. Swine died, and so did nearly one-half the lambs and calves. Cows and working oxen came out of the winter poor and weak, the former giving but little milk after calving, and the oxen entirely unfit for performing the spring work on the farm. It was a wretched policy. We trust that it is abandoned among all enterprising farmers. Feed your stock well, and they will feed you.—New England Farmer.

The report of the Commissioner of agriculture for January, contains an elaborate compilation of the statistics of wages of farm labor throughout the country, based on original returns from every State in the Union. It also includes the territories. The average rate of white labor without board, is made \$28 per month, or \$15.50 per month with board. The average rate of freedmen's labor is \$16; with board furnished, \$9.75. The highest rate for States is in California, which is about \$45. Massachusetts pays the next highest, \$38.

Marriages.

In Woonsocket, Jan. 22d, by Rev. D. M. Crane, Mr. JAMES AUGUSTUS MILLER to Miss MARY ANN TWEEDY. Feb. 7th, Mr. JAMES BACHELOR to Miss MARY JANE BERTENSHAW, all of Woonsocket.

In Milford, Feb. 3d, by Rev. W. G. Leonard, ASA PICKERING, to ESTER HORTON, both of Bellingham.

In Holliston, Feb. 4th, by Rev. J. T. Tucker, Mr. TIMOTHY WALKER to Mrs. SARAH E. WARFIELD, both of Holliston.

In Williamantic, Ct., Jan. 27th, EDWIN NEWCOMB, of Williamantic, to Miss POLLY M. SWIFT, of Mansfield. Jan. 26th, W. IRVING SWIFT to Miss MARY D. MILLER, of Woodstock.

Deaths.

In Smithfield, 11th instant, STEPHEN MOWBY, son of the late Aaron Mowry, of Smithfield, aged 69 years.

In Milville, Feb. 9th, Mr. JOHN MESSENGER, in his 74th year.

At the Insane Asylum, Worcester, Feb. 4th, WILLIAM L. SOUTHWICK, Esq., in the 46th year of his age; only son of the late Joseph Southwick, of Blackstone. Boston papers please copy.

In Lonsdale, 7th instant, STEPHEN BOURNE, in the 85th year of his age.

In Bristol, 4th instant, ELIZA PITMAN, wife of John Howland Pitman, aged 47 years. 7th instant, MARY NEWELL, wife of Capt. Joseph L. Gardner, aged 59 years.

In Seitate, 31st ultimo, BARBARA PATT, aged 71 years.

In Milford, Jan. 31st, ADELAIDE S., wife of Orrick H. Adams, aged 27 years.

In Holliston, Feb. 2d, Mrs. TAMAR BULLARD, aged 75 years.

In Killyingly, Ct., 2d instant, FRANCIS MADDEN, aged 55 years.

In Plainfield, Ct., 27th ultimo, MARIA M. BENNETT, aged 34 years.

In Williamantic, Ct., Feb. 4th, VINE HOVEY, aged 67 years.

In Mansfield, Ct., Feb. 5th, PATIENCE MEYER, aged 80 years.

In Slatersville, 29th ult., Mr. ELIAKIM TUPPER BONNELL, aged 25 years, 7 mos. Recently from Stewacrie, Nova Scotia.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET. [For the week ending Feb. 15, 1867.] FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c. Hay, Straw, Coal, Oats, Flour, Corn Meal, Rye, Salsaparilla, Kerosene Oil, Cheese, Butter, Codfish, Java Coffee, Mackerel, Beef Steak, Beef, corned, Tongues, clear, Mutton, Veal, Pork, fresh, Raisins, Molasses, Y. H. Tea, Black Tea, Oil, Fluid, Candles, Eggs, Lard, Sugar, MEATS, &c. Lambs, Poultry, Shoulders, Sausages, Tripe, Pork, salt.

BRIGHTON MARKET, FEB. 13.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1261; Sheep and Lambs, 6943; Swine, —. PRICES. Beef Cattle—Extra, \$13.25@13.50; first quality, \$12.50@13.00; second quality, \$11.00@12.00; third quality, \$9.50@10.50 per 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef). Country Hides—9@9 1/2¢ per lb; Country Tallow, 7@7 1/2¢ per lb. Brighton Hides, 10@11¢ per lb. Brighton Tallow 7@8 1/2¢ per lb. Lamb Skins, \$1.25@1.75 per Skin; Sheep Skins, \$1.25@1.75 each. Calf Skins, 17@20¢ per lb. The supply of Cattle from the West is mostly of an ordinary grade. There is but a few very extra Beeves in market. Prices remain unchanged from our last quotations, and trade has been dull. Stores—There are but a few Stores brought to market at this season of the year, except Working Oxen and Milch Cows. Most of the small cattle are sold to slaughter. Working Oxen—Sales at \$145, \$185, \$190, \$218, \$222, \$245. The supply in market is small, and there is a good demand for workers. Milch Cows—Sales extra \$90@100; ordinary \$65@75; Store Cows \$35@50. Prices of Milch Cows depend altogether upon the fancy of the purchasers. There are but a few extra Cows in market. Sheep and Lambs—Trade is dull. Most of the Western Sheep were taken at a commission. We quote sales of Sheep at \$2, \$2.25, \$3, \$3.50, \$2, \$5 per head, and 3 to 2¢ per lb. Swine—None in market.

PHILADELPHIA WOOL MARKET.

[For the week ending Feb. 9.] Stocks now greatly reduced and holders firm, but manufacturers came forward slowly. Sales 6000 lbs Oblio fine at 65¢;

5000 lbs medium Ohio 57¢; 20,000 lbs Philadelphia pulled 42 1/2¢; 47¢; 12,000 lbs 3/4 blood 61¢; 2000 lbs 1/2 blood 56¢; 30,000 lbs 1/4 and 1/2 blood 50 1/2¢; 28,000 lbs common and 1/4 blood 48 1/2¢; 3000 lbs at 56¢; 7000 lbs Illinois fine 50¢; 2500 lbs Pennsylvania fine 62¢; 500 sheep pelts 85¢@1. Woolen yarns quiet but firm at former quotations.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

The general markets have been characterized by a better tone during the week. The money market has been easier, giving a slight impetus to trade. Business is dull, however. Breadstuffs generally are lower and irregular. The demand has been confined to local trade, and we note great irregularity in the prices of flour. The stock is reduced, but is still ample, being estimated at 500,000 barrels. This is large for the season. There has been a marked addition to the supply of California flour, which sells at \$14 to \$15 a barrel. State flour is abundant, and sells slowly at \$10 to \$13 a barrel; western extras sell at \$10 to \$12 1/2; shipping Ohio, \$11 10 to \$10; St. Louis extras, \$12 75 to \$16 75. Southern flour has declined, and sold at very irregular rates.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR has fluctuated, and closes dull at \$3 to \$3.25.

CORN MEAL has sold more freely, and is firmer at \$5 25 for Marsh's extra, and \$5 50 to \$5 60 for Brandywine.

PORK has been in moderate demand, chiefly for home use. Prices have fluctuated somewhat, but are without material change. We quote old mess, \$19 75; new ditto, \$20 75 to \$20 84.

TENDER BEEF has been in better demand for export and is firmly held.

WHISKEY has been less active, business being nearly all contraband.

COFFEE has been bought more freely, buyers paying the advance that was demanded. Dealers are anxious to sell, and prices rule high. The inquiry is principally from the trade. We quote prime Rio at 18 1/2¢; fair to good, 16 to 18, gold rates. West India grades have been firm but not active.

MOLASSES has been firm, and for distilling grades holders demand an advance. The new crop is arriving more freely, but sells slowly. We quote Cuba Muscovado at 30 to 50 cents; Porto Rico, 45 to 60 cents, and New Orleans, 80 to 87 1/2 cents.

There has been a moderate demand for crude petroleum, and the market closes steady at 19 cents. Refined in bond has been moderately active. The supply on hand is small. Prices rule firm at 27 to 31 1/2 cents for light straw to prime white.

There has been an improved demand for raw sugars, principally from the trade, and prices have advanced.

CHICAGO GRAIN AND PROVISION MARKET.

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—Flour quiet, without decided change. Wheat in limited demand at \$2 15 for No. 1, and \$1 85@1 87 for No. 2. Corn quiet and steady at 81@82 1/2¢. Oats dull. Provision market continues quiet, and no recent change. English meats firmly held, but quiet, with sales of Cumberland middles at 9¢. Lard quiet and nominal at 11 1/2¢@11 3/4¢. Market for dressed hogs firmer, but the improvement is on light lots; sales range from \$7 40@7 80, closing at \$7 40@7 70, dividing on 200 lbs. Receipts—7,000 bushels flour, 8,000 bushels wheat, 1,000 bushels corn, 19,000 bushels oats, 800 hogs. Shipments—5,800 bushels flour.

PORK AND LARD AT THE WEST.

The Cincinnati Gazette gives the following statement of Lard and Pork at Cincinnati for two last seasons:

The following tables show the receipts and shipments of all articles of hog produce from Nov. 21, 1865, to Feb. 1, 1867, and for the corresponding time in the season of 1865-6. Under the head of bacon is included bulk meats and hams of all kinds. The pork is almost entirely mess pork, but all kinds are included under that head. Lard, also, includes all kinds of grease:

RECEIPTS. 1866-67. Lard, bbls., 5,917; Lard, kegs., 1,210; Pork, bbls., 1,493; Bacon, hhd., 146; Bacon, tcs., 272; Bacon, bxs., 41. Total, 3,115,176.

SHIPMENTS. 1866-67. Lard, bbls., 38,280; Lard, kegs., 10,679; Pork, bbls., 31,367; Bacon, hhd., 9,797; Bacon, tcs., 4,341; Bacon, bxs., 1,902; Bacon, lbs., 183,205. Total, 26,511,655. Deduct receipts, 3,115,176. Excess of shipments, 22,396,477.

These figures show a falling off in the receipts from the country this season of 4,429,922 pounds, which is accounted for in part by the lower prices ruling here this season, and in part by the interruptions in means of transportation. On the other hand, the shipments have increased 3,738,503 pounds, over two-thirds of which is in the single article of lard. Adding these two items together we have 8,168,235 pounds, at the reduction of stock in excess of last season, which is equal to the production of over 36,000 hogs of 225 pounds each; but the increase in the stock on hand at the commencement of the season, and the number of hogs packed here will compensate for this nearly three-fold.

Advertisement.

FARMERS, ATTENTION.—Will be sold at Auction, at the Giles Farm, South Woodstock, Conn., on Wednesday, March 6, 1867, the following Live Stock and Farming Tools. Sale to commence at 10 A. M. Three first class young family Cows, to drop their calves in March; one prime pair of Farm or Driving Horses; one Colt; a set of double-team Harnesses, with other harnesses. One horse lumber Wagon; 1 good Carriage; 1 good Ox Cart, with two yokes; Excelsior Farming Machine; Ploughs; Harrows; Seed Sowing Machines; Cultivators; 1 Cast Iron Roller; and many other labor-saving Machines that are needed on a first class farm. Also 2 bays of good Hay, and a lot of Straw; 50 bushels of Jackson White Potatoes, and about 20 bushels of Seed Potatoes, the earliest variety known. Those wishing to raise early potatoes, would do well to attend sale. Also a variety of Household Furniture. S. M. FENNER, Auctioneer. South Woodstock, Conn., Feb. 16, 1867.



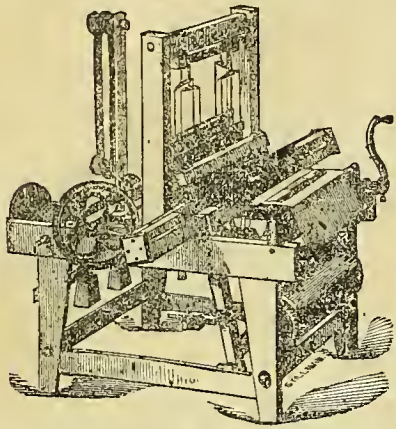
WEED SEEDS.—In a pint of brand-clover Professor Buckman detected 39,449 weed seeds; in two pints of Dutch clover he found 25,560 and 70,400 respectively. When seeds are saved wholesale it is often very hard to keep all weeds out; there are so many things, for instance, which flower almost exactly like the turnip; but even 20,000 to the pint must be due to something more than carelessness. "Save your own seed, then, if you can," is the best advice to the farmer. It is troublesome, no doubt; but it must pay somebody to do it—why not you? You will have to pay less for hoeing the next year.





Miscellany.

MENDENHALL'S IMPROVED SELF-ACTING HAND-LOOM.



THAT we are rapidly becoming practical in our inventions, the above cut, which represents reality as faithfully as a picture can do, an original object, is proof positive. In the *Mendenhall Improved Self-Acting Hand-Loom*, the philosophical and practical combination of simplicity, durability and efficiency, has superseded the earlier features—complexity, force, friction, and consequent liability to frequent disarrangement, more completely than in any other labor-saving machine that we have ever seen or heard of.

As a practical mechanic and mechanical expert, we have given close and continuous critical attention, for more than a year, to the practical performance of the "Improved Mendenhall," and freely confess we have found no feature to find fault with—everything to commend.

So entirely simple, disorder of parts is nearly impossible. With so little friction, but trifling power is required to operate it. It weaves by simply turning a crank—a perfect automaton—swings the lathe, springs the treadle, flings the shuttle, unwinds the warp, winds up the woven cloth, and maintains the tension, never making a mis-move; but making cloth of very superior quality, and of eight or nine different styles, all on the same warp, at the rate of from 20 to 35 yards per day. Jeans, satinets, tweeds, kerseys, repps, fencing, birds-eye, bagging, toweling, table linen, cotton, wool, hemp cloth, and carpeting, are among the *Mendenhall's* easy achievements. In the majority of these, the change can be made in two minutes from one style of fabric to another on the same warp. The proprietors of the *Philadelphia "Mendenhall,"* have recently invented a shuttle by which rag carpets can be rapidly woven by self-action, the same as any other cloth. No other loom has this improvement.

The farmers, mechanics, and all others wearing "store clothes," actually pay on the material of which they are made *six profits*, and the U. S. tax of six per cent., all of which accrue on the raw material between the time of its going out of farmers' hands and returning to them in the form of cloth. The *Mendenhall Loom* saves to its proprietors all this, besides giving them a better quality of cloth at an average of less than two-thirds the cost of store material.

For terms and particulars, with samples of cloth, address A. B. Gates & Co., proprietors, 333 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

TO RELIEVE A COUGH.—This is the season for colds; and colds are the forerunners of consumption. Attend seasonably to the first, if you would avoid the last. For years we have found the following preparation the best for the cure or relief of a cough that we have ever tried: Take two ounces flaxseed, two ounces stick liquorice, half a pound brown sugar, half a pound raisins, one quart of cider. Boil the whole down to one pint; strain it off and put it aside for use. Whenever the cough is troublesome, take a table spoonful at a time.—*Portland Press.*

THERE are but three manufactories of sheet and bar zinc in the United States. One is at Bethlehem, Pa.

Prof. Agassiz found 1,800 varieties of fish in the river Amazon.

DANIEL WEBSTER.

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 Brigham: "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 *tuum*, 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 1806 there was no such thing possible as leaping at once into a lucrative practice, nor even of slowly acquiring it. A country lawyer who gained \$1,000 a year was among the most successful, and the leader of the bar in New Hampshire could not earn \$2,000. 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 within these few years, who well remembered seeing this tall, gaunt, and large-eyed young lawyer rise slowly, as though scarcely able to get 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 thenceforward 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 seaport 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 "heavenously 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 beside. But these preliminary troubles were now at an end, and both the brothers took the places won by so much toil and self-sacrifice.—*Mr. Parton in the North American Review.*

SALT YOUR CHIMNEYS.—In building a chimney, put a quantity of salt into the mortar with which the intercourses of brick are to be laid. The effect will be that there will never be any accumulation of soot in that chimney. The philosophy is thus stated: The salt in the portion of mortar which is exposed, absorbs moisture every damp day. The soot thus becoming damp, falls down the fireplace. Our readers should remember or preserve this little piece of valuable information.

A new style of bonnet has made its appearance in Paris. It is very simple, consisting merely of a silk string with a diamond set in the top.

THE RAIN-POWER.

THE rain-power is steam-power. Older than Fulton, Watt, or the Marquis of Worcester, it has operated from the beginning, since the day when first the sunbeam dallied with the wave, and the rainbow was woven for their bridal robe. We may judge something of the grandeur of this apparatus, when we reflect that all the rivers in the world are only the overplus of its stores, only the drippings from its vast magazines, as its hounties are distributed over the land. Rivers are of course fed by the rains, and represent the *excess* of moisture deposited on the country which they drain. All the water-power in the world—the stupendous Niagara, the Mississippi, the Amazon, the Nile, the Ganges; every valuable or invaluable water privilege that floats Yankee logs, or chokes with Yankee saw-dust; each and all, are but the *residue* of the steam-power which waters the earth. All gain their force from the labors of steam. In some far off sea, the power of sun-heat lifted the steaming vapor high in the air. Leagues away the cloud floats before the winds, still upheld by heat, till the cold air benumbs the fingers of the great water-carrier, and forces him to drop it in rain. The amount of the yearly fall of rain varies from twenty-three feet, in some parts of South America, down to nothing, on some desert portions of the globe. The New England average is thirty-eight inches. The mean for the entire surface of the globe is about five feet. This would require a body of water, as long as from Boston to Liverpool, one thousand miles wide, and two hundred and twenty-four feet in depth, each year. This mass of water is each year hoisted up hundreds of feet into the air, carried, some of it, thousand of miles, and then let down again where it is wanted. "What a powerful engine is the atmosphere! and how nicely adjusted must be all the cogs and wheels, and springs and pinions of that exquisite piece of machinery, that it never wears out, nor fails to do its work at the right time, and in the right way."

HEAVY SNOWSTORMS IN EUROPE.—The winter has been as severe in England and on the continent as in the United States. A private letter from Paris, dated on the 13th of January, reports that the cold is intense, and everything covered with frost and snow. The heaviest fall of snow for many years took place in Scotland on the 12th and 13th of January; railways were blocked up, and one fatal collision occurred. In London, January 18, another heavy snowstorm occurred. The mercury fell to two degrees below zero, navigation on the Thames was suspended, and the public works at Blackfriar's bridge and the Thames embankment were stopped. No boats had arrived at Dover from Calais for three days, owing to the blockade of the French railroads by snow, and the consequent detention of passengers. The English coal traffic was also impeded.

ANCIENT BRICKS.—Prof. Unger, the celebrated Viennese botanist and palæontologist, has recently published some remarks on the bricks of the ancient Egyptians, especially those of the pyramid of Dashour, which was built about 3,400 years before our era. One of them being examined through the microscope by the professor, he discovered that the mud of the Nile, out of which it was made, contained not only a quantity of animal vegetable matter, but also fragments of many manufactured substances, whence we may conclude that Egypt must have enjoyed a high degree of civilization upwards of 5,000 years ago. Professor Unger has been enabled, by the aid of the microscope, to discover in these bricks a vast number of plants which at the time grew in Egypt. The chopped straw, clearly discernible in the body of the bricks, confirms the description of the manner of making the latter, such as we find it in Herodotus and in the book of Exodus.

A CHALLENGE.—Captain W. A. Williamson of Mobile has purchased the race horse Harry of the West, and challenges any horse in the United States to meet him in the spring races for any sum between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

VERDURE IN WINTER may be attained, prettily, in front of dwellings, by tastily arranging evergreens of various colors, forms and sizes. A fine arrangement is a group of three junipers, three to four feet high, in the centre, and one decidedly taller than the rest. Around these a single row of low Canada balsams, taking the form of the bed, but not crowded. Outside, a row of arbor-vitæ, or a ring of little red cedars, very compact and low. Next a circle of bear grass, with its long pointed leaves, so as to make a continuous band of pale green.

THE quality of wool is tested by taking a lock from the sheep's back, and placing it on a surface representing an inch in length. If the spirals count from thirty to thirty-three in that space the wool is equal to the finest "Electoral" or Saxony wool. The staple is inferior accordingly as it takes a lesser number to fill up the same space.

CRANBERRIES.—Four or five years ago six or seven acres of meadow, in the town of Essex, Ct., were planted with cranberries. Last fall eight hundred bushels were gathered from the patch.

LARGE CROP.—Upon the farm connected with the Deer Island (Mass.) House of Industry, the past year, $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres were used for growing mangle-wurzels, which produced a gross weight of 264 tons. One acre yielded 73 tons,—the largest product per acre, it is claimed, on record in this country.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman who has this year 1700 bushels of beans to feed to his sheep, considers them worth equally as much as corn. He says it is necessary to feed carefully at first, mixing in some lighter feed, till the sheep become accustomed to them, as beans will clog them sooner than any grain he ever used.

The same amount of study, tact, talent, energy and enterprise that suffices to make a man moderately successful in a professional or a mercantile career, will place him in the front rank of the tillers of the soil.

A farmer in Pleasant Valley, Iowa, kept 50 cows last year, which earned him on an average, \$100 each.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

FARMER WANTED.—A faithful and skillful farmer is wanted to take charge of a farm. His wife to understand making butter and the care of poultry.
Address Box No. 3,
Providence Post Office,
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February 16, 1867.

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AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Sharps' 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.

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

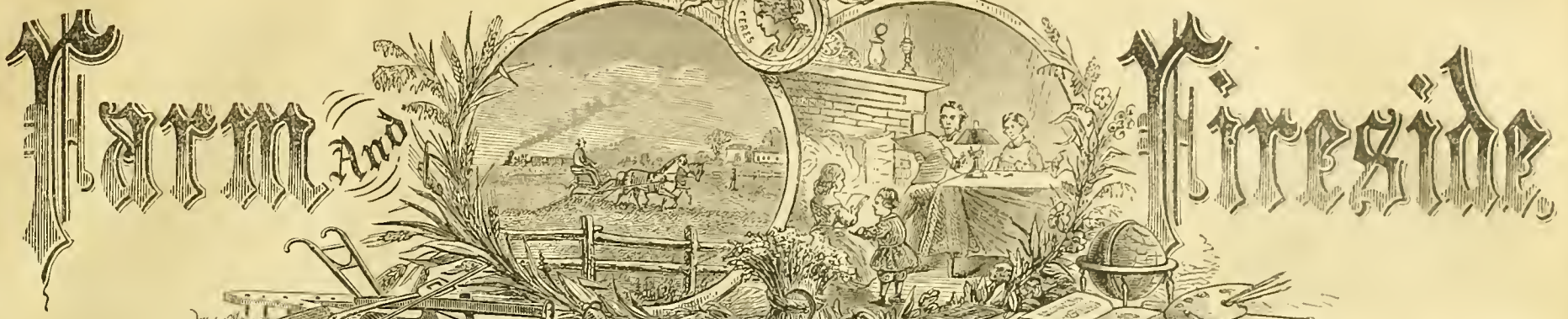
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HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Sharps' Patent Horse Hoes, Chasco's Two Horse Potato Diggers, LuKin's new Side Hill Plows, Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

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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 OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

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VOL. 1. WOODSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1867. NO. 7.

Horticulture.



RIBBON-LEAVED JAPANESE MAIZE.
(ZEA CURAGUA.)

For the accompanying illustration of the most beautiful plant of all the maize family, we are indebted to the courtesy of B. K. Bliss, Esq., the sovereign of New England seedsmen. For a general and somewhat intimate knowledge of the plant itself, we are indebted to an early Bohemian habit that has carried us into divers corners of the world where the *Zea Curagua* is grown; for though popularly hailing from Japan, this unique, useful and ornamental plant, has other homes; in some indigenous, in others adopted; and in all so similar in appearance, growth, habits and general characteristics, that, in our opinion, the species are identical, only varied slightly by climate, soil, and more by culture.

In Cochín China it has been grown a thousand years for food for both men and animals. In the great Japanese island of Jesso, in a parallel North of 42°, the plant is considerably cultivated, ripening in about three and a half months from planting, and serves for food, both green and ground, and is made into bread. It is more rare in Nippon, or Japan proper; but common again in Loo Choo, Formosa, and the Magellan and Ladron groups.

On the American continent, the plant is confined to an Andean belt, and high altitudes mostly; extending from about the parallel of seven s. latitude, south to that of 42° at least. On the islands of Lake Zitticaea, and the plateau of Cuzco, at an elevation of nearly thirteen thousand feet above the sea, the ZEA was grown as a sacred grain, of which offerings were made to the Sun-deity of the ancient Peruvians, centuries before the Western World was known to have an existence. It is still grown there, no longer as a sacred grain, however, but as a variety of maize that will ripen at an altitude where the range of mercury is so low and seasons so brief that no other variety will mature its grain.

In the interior and upper Andean regions of southern Chili, where the season of growth is as short as that of Nova Scotia, and climatic vicissitudes greater than those of our Northern States, the striped leaf maize, *Cana Formosa*, *Zea Curagua*, "Japanese Maize," or whatever by courtesy we choose to call the pretty plant,

is cultivated extensively, grows luxuriantly, and the grain roasted or boiled while green, and ripe, ground or pounded, and made into bread, is the daily food of men and women both civilized and savage.

In all these far Southern mountainous regions, both natives and white people make a very good, sweet sugar of the *zea*, by denuding the canes of their foliage and ears just when the latter are entirely developed and in full milk; the process being as simple as simplicity itself—merely beating the cane to a pulp with a club; separating the juice in a rude press, and boiling it down to sugar, as our Northern sugar-makers do the sap of the sugar maple.

We are not prepared to assert, positively, that grown in the United States, the *zea* canes will afford sugar in sufficient quantity to make its culture for that purpose profitable; but our belief is in that direction, and our conviction is decided that the experiment ought to be fairly made. Admitting, however, that the canes will not produce sugar in remunerative quantities, the merits of the *zea*, otherwise, are more than sufficient to induce our farmers and gardeners to adopt it as a pet plant, and a valuable acquisition to our maize list. It will grow in good soil, under fair culture, as luxuriantly in the United States or the Canadas, as in Japan or Southern Chili. We have tested that by satisfactory experiment. Then, by closer planting, the produce per acre may be made to average that of any other kind of corn; while the amount of first-class blade fodder will be double that produced by any other variety of maize. Cooked green, it is delicate and delicious, and no better corn-bread or cakes were ever made from any meal than that the striped leaf *zea* makes. All these good qualities, coupled with the great beauty of the plant, justify us in advising so many as we can, to purchase a package of the "Japanese" seed, and experiment with it.

ROTATION OF GARDEN CROPS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

BY R. ROBINSON SCOTT, PHILADELPHIA.

The principle of the rotation of crops has been already treated of in the columns of the "Farm and Fireside," and in regard to the correctness of the principle, there can be no controversy. In the esculent garden the necessity for rotating the crops, if we would preserve the fertility of the soil, is just as great as on the farm, but as the variety is greater, the proper routine is not so evident. In the farm there are a few varieties only, and each field or division of the rotation may be entirely occupied by one crop. In the garden, on the contrary, we cannot appropriate an entire division of the rotation to one article, so that the crops must be grouped, so as to occupy the division to which their nature suits them. Thus, if the garden allotment be one acre or four, or any other less or greater amount, we should divide it into four portions, exclusive of any portion occupied permanently by such crops as asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries, herbs, &c., which remain for several years in the same place. If of eight acres, two *four-course* rotations may

be adopted. We shall suppose, for the present, that the lot is one acre in extent. We divide it into four compartments of one-fourth of an acre each; as it is most likely to be worked by the spade; and if in form of a rectangle, as it should be, a centre walk will separate it into two—and another walk at right angles will make the four divisions or compartments.

As there are many things required in the garden which will only require a small bed, it is advisable to leave a side border all around, by making a narrow walk five feet from the fence, this walk may be three feet wide. We have thus a rectangle, divided into four main compartments, with a border walk. These we shall designate as 1, 2, 3, 4. In No. 1, potatoes are planted, to be followed by cabbages, transplanted between the rows. When the potatoes are removed, the cabbages will occupy the ground, which, in the Fall, after the cabbages are removed, should be ridged, so as to expose the soil to the action of the frost in winter, and permit the free escape of surface water. We do not, in this article, design to give the routine of culture, only to designate the crops in the several compartments.

2. The potatoes will be succeeded the second season by corn, with Lima beans in one portion of the division.

3. The corn will be succeeded by onions, Spring spinach, early beets, early cabbages, transplanted, celery, okra;—tomatoes and egg plants are also grown in this division as intermediate or stolen crops. It may be remarked that several of the above crops are planted between the rows of early maturing articles, so that they occupy the space after the removal of the others. This is properly styled mixed culture.

4. The variety of crops, as stated in last paragraph, to be followed in the fourth season by peas and string or snap-short beans, long beets, carrots, parsnips and salsify. The early crops to be followed by turnips, and in the Fall, spinach for Winter or early Spring use.

Several items which are introduced between the hills of other vegetables, have not been mentioned, the object being to designate briefly the main crops in the several divisions.

It is not to be supposed that the inexperienced cultivator can realize from the garden the returns obtained by an experienced gardener. The mere rotation will do little towards it, as there must be skill to apply the proper manure for each crop; the rotation will control the selection of the quality and quantity of manure in each division, and each portion of the division; as, for instance, where peas and beans are to be sown, the manure must be fully decomposed and well mixed with the soil, as fresh manure encourages the growth of leaves and stems. Again, all deep rooting vegetables, such as parsnips, carrots and salsify, must be grown on the deepest worked soil; that, for instance, where celery trenches have been. There are many further details, which will be in season a little later.

I. H. M. Cochran, of Craftsbury, Vt., raised 32 bushels of good wheat from two bushels of seed sown on one acre and a quarter of land.

PEACH CULTURE.

In all cases, peach trees should be planted when of one season's growth. The time of planting, whether Fall or Spring, is immaterial. In very severe climates, the Spring would be preferable; but in all the peach-growing belt of the United States, the choice between Fall and Spring planting is of little account. For orchard planting the ground should be marked out in furrows, about eighteen or twenty feet apart, and the trees planted to about the same depth as they stood in the nursery. The side limbs and tops should be cut off, leaving a straight stem of the desired height for forming a head. If the trees are planted in the Fall, this trimming and topping should be deferred till Spring. Low heads are desirable. When the heads begin to form, proper care should be taken to prune out all unnecessary limbs, leaving three or four limbs in proper position to form the future tree. Shortening in about one-half the growth for the second and third years after planting, and keeping the inside of the trees clear of useless growth, is all that is required in the way of pruning before the trees commence bearing. The horers, which enter the body of the tree at or a little below the ground, should be removed from year to year. Many remedies for their prevention have been recommended, but experience has demonstrated that the best preventive is personal inspection of each tree, and removing with a knife, or other suitable instrument, the borers. Peach trees will succeed in any soil that will grow corn or potatoes, and require about the same cultivation as those crops. No manures are required until the trees have borne their first crop. After the first crop, one hundred bushels of wood-ashes, or three hundred pounds of Peruvian guano, or four hundred pounds of some standard super-phosphate, or four hundred pounds of bone-dust, to the acre, will restore the trees and prepare them for the next year.—*Isaac Pullen, in Agricultural Report.*

DRIED FLOWERS AND GRASSES.—Recently, while visiting a lady friend, who has great skill and taste in drying and displaying flowers and grasses, both in bouquets and on paper, we were reminded of how little labor is requisite in the practice, and of how much and lasting enjoyment they contribute. The process is simply *care* to gather the flowers when they are perfectly free from exterior moisture, arranging them carefully and tastefully, and placing them immediately between the leaves of a book, where they soon dry, retaining their colors.—*Horticulturist.*

NOTHING teaches patience like the garden. We may go round and watch the opening bud from day to day; but it takes its own time, and you cannot urge it on faster than it will. All the best results of a garden, like those of life, are slowly, regularly progressive.

CRANBERRY CROP.—The number of barrels of cranberries raised and sold in Harwich, Mass., last year was 5515, and the price received for them was \$52,072.



THE HUMAN STOMACH varies much in size—one pint is the average capacity, while there are some able to contain three gallons. This member of the body, being made of thin and elastic material, is capable of great distension. In it the food is mixed with the gastric juice, of which, in the normal state of man, two gallons are formed every day, and are necessary to produce digestion. All stimulants and condiments check the exudation of this juice. Hence the food, lying undigested in the stomach, ferments and evolves carbonic acid gas, which, being absorbed by the blood and carried to the brain, is productive of disastrous results. The use of ardent spirits and tobacco is extremely hurtful.



The Society for Improving Domestic Industry



The Stock-Yard.



HOW TO MAKE MILKERS.

No matter what breed you have, something is necessary to reach the highest success in raising milkers. And can farmers expect ever to raise good stock from cows to which, for the purpose of making them milkers, they have been in the habit of using any runt of a bull they could pick up?

It's a great thing to have good blood, whether it be Ayrshire, Jersey or Short-Horn grades, but apart from this important advantage, the course of treatment in raising a milker is somewhat different from that in raising a beef animal, or an animal for labor.

The calf should be well fed and petted while young. Well fed, to induce a rapid growth, so as to enable the heifer to come in early; petted, to make her gentle and fond of the presence of her keepers. Fondling helps to create a quiet disposition, so important in a dairy cow, and this education must begin when young.

For a milker we would have the heifer come in at two years old, and if she has been well kept, so as to have attained a good size, she is then old enough to become a cow. She will give more milk for coming in early. It forms the habit of giving milk, and habit, you know, is a sort of second nature. An older bull is better. We use too many young bulls. A three or four years old is far better as a stock getter than a yearling, and many prefer a five or six years old to any other. After the heifer has come in, let her feed be regular. Clover is preferred to all others for the stall feed. A little oatmeal induces a large flow. Indian meal is rather fattening. In bad weather, give her a clean, airy stall.

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 old. Feed them first with new milk for a time, then skim milk, then sour milk, taking care that all the changes are gradual, by adding only a portion first, and gradually a little meal.

Calves well fed and taken care of, with a quart or two of meal daily in winter, will be double the size at two years they would have attained by common treatment.

Heifers thus treated may come in at two years old, and will be better than neglected animals at three, and one year of feeding saved.

Heifers dried up too early after calving, will always run dry in after years; therefore be careful to milk closely the first year, until about six weeks before calving.

Heartly eaters are desirable for cows, and they may usually be selected while calves. A dainty calf will be a dainty cow.

Heifers should become accustomed to be freely handled before calving, and drawing the teats.

They will then not be difficult to milk. Begin gradually, and never startle them.

In milking cows, divide the time as nearly as practicable between morning and evening, especially at time of early grass, that the udder may not suffer.

Persons who milk should keep the nails cut short; animals are sometimes hurt with sharp nails, and are unjustly charged with restlessness.

To determine which cows are best for keeping, try their milk separately, and weigh their butter—for sometimes a cow may give much milk and little butter, and vice versa.

A SHORT SERMON ON HORSES.

The recent improvements in American architecture have not reached the stables, to the extent that could be desired. Brown stone fronts, high ceilings, marble mantle-pieces, costly furniture for warming and ventilating the dwelling, may please the eye, and promote the health and comfort of the occupants, while the valuable horses of the proprietor are suffering from the poorly constructed and poorly ventilated stable.

The fault often lies in two directions. The stable may be too tight, or too open. A horse needs light, as well as air and suitable warmth and food,—the vegetable structure hardly needs light more than he does. Pure air is essential. His blood cannot become purified while the air which inflates his lungs is full of foul gasses from fermenting manures. Nor is it enough to keep the stalls clean, if they are so tight that the horse is obliged to breathe his own breath over and over again. Digestion is interfered with, and all the functions of life are impeded. Lazy grooms declare that a close, warm stable helps to make a horse's coat fine and glossy in winter as well as in summer. But in winter such a coat is not to be desired. Nature provides the animal with longer hair and more of it, to defend him from the cold. If the horse is well groomed and blanketed his hair will be smooth and glossy enough all the year around. The indolent groom ought himself to be shut up for twenty-four hours in the hot, steaming air in which he would confine his master's horse, and see how he would like it. Open the doors of such a stable in the morning, where several horses are kept, and the hot air and the hartshorn are almost sufficient to knock a man down. What wonder, then, that horses so used should suffer from inflamed eyes, cough, glanders, and other ailments! The wonder is that they bear the abuse so long and so well.

Now, the "improvement" to our sermon is simply this: *ventilate the stables.* Ventilate, both in winter and in summer. The outer air should be brought in at certain places near the floor, but not in the immediate neighborhood of the horse, so as to cause hurtful drafts of wind directly upon him. Impure air must be ejected, as well as pure air brought in. This can be done in summer very well by leaving several windows open in different parts of the barn. But a better way is to insert ventilators in the highest part of the building, into which ventilators (square wooden tubes) shall lead from the stalls, and which can be opened or closed at pleasure. These ventilators should be covered with a cap, to prevent downward currents and the beating in of rain. By this plan, the downward rain is carried off directly from the stall without mixing with the hay in the loft.—*Lower Canada Agriculturist.*

Cows.—*Feed for Salable Milk.*— $\frac{3}{4}$ good hay; $\frac{1}{4}$ salt hay; 2 quarts Indian meal; 1 quart cotton seed meal; 1 quart linseed cake.

Feed for Cheese.—Clover hay, Indian meal, pea meal, bean meal, linseed cake, bean straw, (steamed) &c.

Feed for Butter.—Indian meal, cotton seed meal, parsnips, good hay, &c.

Feed for Stall Milk.—Salt hay, brewer's grain, brewer's slops, turnips, carrots and potatoes.

TWENTY pounds of hay daily will keep a cow on her feet through the winter.

BEANS and middlings are excellent for cows in milk, but too expensive.

ELEVEN quarts of milk will make one lb. of butter.

Ten pounds of milk will make one lb. Cheese.

SMALL SAVINGS.—The parings of a bushel of juicy apples are said to yield a quart of cider by the aid of a hand press. The honey that wastes its sweetness on the air around an acre of buckwheat in blossom, can be saved to the amount of fifteen pounds per day, according to the estimate of a German investigator. Rags can be saved to the value of \$60,000,000, as shown by the paper statistics of this country alone.

MANURE, whether for garden use or for hot-beds, should be accumulated. When the heap becomes hot it should be turned to avoid injury.

Notes and Queries.

Messrs. Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

I shall undertake to answer, according to the best of my "knowledge and belief," the questions asked by "X," in the *Farm and Fireside* for February 9th.

First, of fowls: "Which is the most profitable breed to raise for eggs, and which for poultry?" For eggs, mix breeds all up together as much as you can—Brahmas, Bremen, Jersey Blues, Black Spanish, Hamburgs, Dorkings, Barnyards, and Bantams. They lay best and longest that way. Such has been my own, and the experience of at least two hundred pretty successful poultrymen whom I have consulted.

As poultry sells by weight, always, and a fowl half Brahma, half Dorking, makes a big bird, and weighs one-fifth more than any other breed or cross of equal bulk, make your market fowls of that grade.

Second. "What is the best method of reclaiming worn-out lands?"

There is no such thing in agricultural jurisprudence as *worn-out* lands. One or two, or three perhaps, elements of fertility may have become so far exhausted that the soil will not produce even a minimum crop of anything. Learn to understand which of these is wanting and supply it. A soil wanting more potash may not require any other constituent of plant life and growth, any more than a fashionably clad individual, with the exception of a pair of dilapidated boots, requires an entire suit to make him *au fait*. As a general rule, the cheapest and most direct road to maximum fertility in sick soils, is by liming first; then plowing under second growth of clover, buckwheat, corn &c., thorough cultivation and cropping with peas, beans and potatoes—something that pays you while the soil is growing rich.

Third.—The best, and cheapest fertilizers, next to stable manure, depends largely upon locality and quality of soil. On all stiff, clay soils, in conjunction with barn-yard manure, the *four of bone*, if pure and procurable at \$65 per ton, is best and cheapest. On light, loamy and sandy land, lime and marl are the cheapest, probably most efficient fertilizers. But with these, every individual thing about the house, barn, stables, fields and farm, should be utilized as fertilizers. Ashes, chicken guano, soap suds, dead cats, dogs, offal of all sorts, liquid stable manure, old boots, rags, wrecked hoop-skirts, decayed fruit and vegetables, stale brine, old hair, bristles, feathers—everything, compost and make manure of it. It is a sure, cheap, and direct road to a better condition of fertility.

In turn, I inquire of "X," or any one else able and willing to answer:

First.—What are the causes of "black-knot" on plum and cherry trees? Why, in the cherry, does it single out the Murrillos most?—and with plums, the Gages mostly?—What is the probable or possible remedy?

Second.—Can fair-sized, marketable onions be grown in one season from seed, south of New Jersey?

Third.—What variety of corn will afford the best average crop throughout the Middle States?

Fourth.—Ordinary livery stable manure being ninety per cent. water, and costing \$3 for a two-horse load, how far can a farmer afford to haul it?

Fifth.—Mutton and lamb, averaging six cents per pound, and wool fifty cents net, is wool or mutton the most profitable staple?

VERNET.

ANSWER TO "X" BY ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.

1.—There is no such fowl as the Bramah. The name Bramah was given them by Dr. Bennett, of New Hampshire, during the time of the "hen fever," as one of the tricks of the trade, about the year 1854. They had been bred years previous in Rhode Island and in Connecticut, under the true name of Chittagong. They are an entirely distinct fowl from the Cochin China, although both of Asiatic origin.

2.—I would raise the Black Spanish for eggs, and the Chittagong for poultry.

3d.—Twenty fowls are as many as can be kept profitably together.

4.—Deep ploughing, peat, muck, and manure.

5.—Peat or the best Peruvian guano.

6.—Good peat, if free from organic substance, is worth one-half as much as common barn-yard manure, especially on sandy soils. Better to let it lay exposed one or two years to the sun and frost, or it may be mixed with unslacked or unleached ashes, to destroy the acidity. RHODE ISLAND.

Miscellany.

LABOR HONORABLE.

LABOR is not only useful, but necessary and honorable. It makes the framework of society, and is the basis of civilization. In what consists the chief difference between the civilized man and the savage? The former labors in one way or another; the latter is idle. Our daily food, all the arts and refinements and luxurious indulgences of life are the products of labor, from the first tilling of the soil and raising a primitive hut, up to the construction of stately mansions, palaces and churches, with all their interior decorations. Not less necessary is labor in its infinite variety of diversions for personal comfort and adornment, whether it be in manufacture of the coarse woolen for protection against cold, or of those rich silks and broads and laces, the wearers of which, in parlor or drawing room, in court receptions or in the ball room, too often forget the many dexterous hands that labored to gratify their desire for such rich display.

We know not how far the leaven of aristocracy may be fermenting in the minds of those American citizens who, by wealth and station, may now be uppermost in society. They can hardly forget that most of them have been elevated by labor—if not of their own hands, at any rate by the labor of others, who have plowed, sowed and reaped, spun and wove, plied the hammer on the anvil, and kept furnace and forge a-going to swell their incomes, and give them leisure, ease and enjoyment.

LIFE'S AUTUMN.

LIKE the leaf, life has its fading. We speak and think of it with sadness, just as we think of the autumn season. But there should be no sadness at the fading of a life that has done well its work. If we rejoice at the advent of a new life; if we welcome the coming of a new pilgrim to the uncertainty of this world's way, why should there be so much gloom when all the uncertainties are past, and life at its waning wears the glory of a complete task? Beautiful as childhood is in its freshness and innocence, its beauty is that of untried life. It is the beauty of promise, of spring, of the bud. A holier and rarer beauty is the beauty which the waning life of faith and duty wears.

It is the duty of a thing completed; and as men come together when some great work is achieved, and see in its concluding nothing but gladness, so ought we to feel when the setting sun flings back its beams upon a life that has answered well its purposes. When the bud-drops are lighted, and there goes all hope of the harvest, one may well be sad; but when the ripened year sinks amid the garniture of autumn flowers and leaves, why should we regret or murmur? And so a life that is ready and waiting to bear the "well-done" of God, whose latest virtues are its noblest, should be given back to God in uncomplaining reverence, we rejoicing that earth is capable of so much gladness, and is permitted such virtue.

LOVE OF WATER.—Some persons shrink from bathing, but when they once get used to it, it is indispensable. A medical writer says: "Let a child wash himself all over every morning for sixteen years, and he will as soon go without his breakfast as his bath."

THE currycomb should not be neglected; its exercise on all kinds of neat stock and horses is a great preventive of disease and vermin, and is productive of health.

THE honor of setting up the first printing press belongs to Massachusetts. The first newspaper published in North America was the Boston News Letter, begun in 1704 by John Campbell. The Boston Gazette, published in December, 1719, by William Brooker, and printed by James Franklin, was the second newspaper. Then came the New England Courant. The Boston Weekly Rehearsal and Boston Evening Post were next established by Thomas Fleet—whose mother was the veritable "Mother Goose." The first newspaper published in Gotham was the New York Gazette, by William Bradford, in 1725. Then came the New York Weekly Journal, which was noted for the raciness of its advertisements.





Poetic Gems.

GOOD-NIGHT.

Good-night! a word so often said,
The heedless mind forgets its meaning:
'Tis only when some heart lies dead
On which our own was leaning,
We hear in maddening music roll,
That last "good-night" along the soul.

similar material, following Nature's method, as they receive there the proper degree of warmth and moisture requisite to their preservation, better than in any other situation.

There can be no specified time given for sowing all kinds of tree seed, but for a general rule, very soon after they ripen is the best. It is certainly not always convenient to do so, nor is it always necessary, but with some kinds a delay of a few weeks is almost certain to result in a complete failure.

The want of specific knowledge upon this point has been the cause of many failures, and will probably continue to be so until more general information is disseminated.

The red and silver maple ripen their seeds in Spring or early Summer, about the first to the middle of June in this vicinity, and they retain their vitality for only a few weeks. If sowed as soon as ripe, they will come up in a few days, and make a growth of one to three feet by the time the sugar and Norway maple seeds are ripe in Autumn.

ROTHSCHILD AND WATERLOO.

ROTHSCHILD'S greatest achievement in over-reaching distance and his fellow speculators was in 1815. He was near the Chateau de Hougoumont on the 18th of June, watching, as eagerly as the leaders, Bonaparte and Wellington themselves, the progress of the battle of Waterloo.

Riding or driving all night he reached Ostend at daybreak, to find the sea so stormy that the boatmen refused to trust themselves to it. At last he prevailed upon a fisherman to make the venture for a reward of £80.

The funds fell, as they were meant to fall. Every one was anxious to sell, and Rothschild and his accredited agents scoffed at all who brought them scrip for purchase. But scores of unknown agents were at work all that day and all the next.

SALT LAKES and ponds are said to exist in Dakota Territory in great numbers, and when worked, will prove a source of much wealth. Salt can be made at but small expense, and the land necessary for the evaporating vats can be had for a mere trifle.

WORKING STOCK, if not employed, should not be fed too much grain, but roots should be in a measure substituted, and if hard-worked, feed accordingly.

A PRODIGIOUS MAN.—The largest man on record was Miles Darden, a native of North Carolina, who was born in that State in 1798, and who died in Tennessee in 1857. He was seven feet and six inches high, and in 1845 weighed eight hundred and seventy-one pounds.

THE ART OF ENAMELLING is of great antiquity, and its origin unknown. From the remains found on the ornamental envelopes of mummies, it was evidently practiced by the Egyptians. From Egypt it passed into Greece, and afterwards into Rome. The basis of all kinds of enamel is a perfectly transparent and fusible glass, which is rendered either transparent or opaque by the addition of the metallic oxydes.

OLD DR. A—was a quack, a very ignorant one. On one occasion he was called by mistake to attend a council of physicians in a critical case. After considerable discussion the opinion was expressed by one that the patient was convalescent. When it came Dr. A's turn to speak—"Convalescent," said he; "why that's nothing serious; I have cured convalescence in twenty-four hours."

Our Book Table.

WOODBURN GRANGE. By William Howitt. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia. There is something romantic, ideal, fascinating in the writings of William Howitt, who now stands at the head of English novelists.

HISTORY OF 104th PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENT.—By W. W. Davis, late Colonel. We are personally acquainted with the author of this volume; long associated with his gallant regiment, and camped with it on various battle-fields in the late war.

MACKENZIE'S TEN THOUSAND RECEIPTS.—T. Ellwood Zell; Philadelphia. A cyclopaedia of art, and an almost perfect library of useful information to all classes is found in this one volume.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE of choice Vegetable, Agricultural and Flower Seeds, cultivated and for sale by B. K. Bliss, Springfield, Mass. This is the largest and finest seed catalogue we have seen this season.

Marriages.

In Woonsocket, 17th inst., by Rev. J. Boyden, Mr. JOSEPH L. CARPENTER to Mrs. MABELINE DECELLE. In North Uxbridge, 4th inst., by Rev. J. Barber, STEPHEN A. SAVARY to GEORGINA G. CASE, both of Millbury; ALBERT C. ROBEY, of Northbridge, to ANNIE C. WILLIAMS, of North Uxbridge.

Deaths.

In Cumberland, 14th ult., MURIEL COLLAR, aged 70 years. In Johnston, 14th inst., ABYLLA F., wife of Benjamin F. Atwood, and daughter of Richard and Sylvia Sander, aged 35. In Wickford, 12th inst., Capt. BENONI P. BATES, aged 71.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

Table listing market prices for various goods including Hay, Straw, Coal, Oats, Flour, Corn, Rye, Salsaparilla, Kerosene Oil, Cheese, Butter, Codfish, Java Coffee, Mackerel, Raisins, Beans, Potatoes, Onions, and Groceries.

BRIGHTON MARKET, FEB. 19.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 660; Sheep and Lambs, 2135; Swine, —. Number of cars over the different roads—Boston and Lowell, 28; Fitchburg, 74. Total, 102.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

THE wholesale market has been much depressed during the past week, and nearly every article declined. The more liberal arrival of breadstuffs, and unfavorable news from Europe, have added to the depression. The following is a review of the market in its more important features:

Fireside Readings.

RAISING FOREST TREES.

SEEDS should always be gathered in dry weather, and those kinds which are enclosed in an outer covering, like a butternut, should be spread out in an airy situation till they are quite dry, before being packed for transportation.

The smaller seeds as well as larger ones that are inclosed in a dry covering, such as the alder, spruce and pine among the smaller, and hickory and hickory among the larger, may be transported in bags, barrels, or tight boxes; all that is necessary is to keep them dry while on transit.

Seeds that have a firm, horn-like covering, like the locust, virgilia, etc., generally retain their vitality the longest, while the seeds of the maple, elm, and similar trees that have a very porous covering, are comparatively short-lived.

The black walnut, horse-chestnut and butternut will seldom if ever grow after the first season, while the virgilia and locust, which are quite small, will germinate after having been kept for a dozen years. The vitality of all seeds may be retained for a much longer time than was evidently intended by nature, if they are placed under the proper conditions.

Some seeds, as the chestnut, contain such a large amount of albuminous matter that it is quite difficult to keep the temperature and humidity of the atmosphere just in the right state for their preservation.

PROGRESS OF CALIFORNIA.—The San Francisco Bulletin says that the reports from the district assessors, as far as received, indicate a taxable wealth in the State of more than \$192,000,000—an increase upon the returns of 1865 of nearly \$10,000,000.





Farmers' Miscellany.

FARMERS' LIBRARIES.

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

We have given your readers our views of Farmers' Clubs, and now we wish to add a word respecting Farmers' Libraries. We know it has been quite fashionable, in some quarters, to decry "book farming;" and the ignorance and prejudice manifested in the ridicule heaped on agricultural papers and libraries, are so senseless as scarcely to deserve notice. But we must take men as they are, and if some are ignorant and narrow-minded, they are just the ones to be looked after. As Christ came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance, so books and papers are specially adapted to enlighten the ignorant. But it is a sad truth, that those who most need books, should most undervalue them. If we could gain the ear of one of these declaimers against book farming, we would like to ask him if he thinks his limited experience and observation are worth more than the combined wisdom which we find in books, derived from the experience of all men, in all parts of this and other countries, in this and all past ages? Such a claim is preposterous, and we are always tempted, when we meet these narrow-minded men, to say with Job, "No doubt ye are the men, and wisdom will die with you." What would we say of the physician who should rely solely on the knowledge derived from his own practice, and discard the accumulated wisdom of all past time and all other practitioners? Unfortunately we have some such dispensers of medicine, but we do not dignify them with the name of physicians. We call them quacks. But quacks are not confined to the medical profession. We find them in every occupation, and we fear as many in agriculture as elsewhere. We know that practice is essential in making a good agriculturist; and equally well do we know that study and practice must be combined to attain any eminence in the first and noblest of callings. What progress would the world make if the experience of one generation was not handed down by books to the succeeding? But we need not pursue this train of thought further. We sat down to recommend an association of farmers in the purchase of books. Books are expensive, and few can afford to purchase such a library as all ought to have. Wherever a Farmers' Club is established, there already exists just the association necessary. A Library should be as much the adjunct of a Club, as books are of a school. Those appointed to take part in the discussions, should not rely merely upon their own experience in order to teach their fellows, but should study the subjects for discussion beforehand; and for this purpose, books are necessary.

We have had some experience in Farmers' Clubs, and are satisfied that the great hindrance to their usefulness, is the want of preparation on the part of those who lead in the discussions. They rely too much on their own limited experience, and this is a shallow pond from which to draw. It is good so far as it goes, but it is too limited. Experience is the best of school masters so far as he is qualified to teach, but we might as well claim that an ass is a horse, as to pretend that a limited experience is the sole requisite for a teacher, or even for successful practice. Farmers should study the subjects for discussion, as the clergy study theirs when they meet in association, or as the lawyer studies his case, before he rises to say "May it please your Honor." If an unstudied case were presented at the bar, we fear "His Honor" would not be well pleased nor the lawyer much honored; and as every bar has its library, so every Farmers' Club should have its collection of books for reference. Such a collection adds greatly to the interest of the meetings; is a bond of union between the members, and will perpetuate the vitality and usefulness of the organization. The small tax of one dollar annually on each member, with an occasional donation of a few books from some wealthy and liberal friend, will soon furnish a library, the value of which cannot easily be estimated in dollars, as mind

bears no ratio to gold. We speak whereof we know, for the Club with which we have been connected these eight or ten years, has now a library of nearly three hundred volumes. We first commenced with strictly agricultural works; but having exhausted the catalogue of Tilton & Co. and other agricultural publishers, we are now introducing miscellaneous books, in which the wives and children can take more interest. The plan works admirably, and we are satisfied that in no way can the farming community be more easily and surely elevated. The books furnish thought, and the meetings of the Club give opportunity for full and free ventilation of this thought. If crude notions are advanced in the books, or in the discussions, they are very sure to be hashed up and fitted for digestion before they are swallowed, en masse. We should like to see such a Club, and such a Library, established in every village throughout the land, and we are certain that the snivelling complaint, now so common, that farmers are not appreciated, and do not hold the social and political influence to which they are entitled, would no longer be made.

February, 1867.

GUESSING IN FARMING.

It is a little surprising that, notwithstanding the improvement in nearly everything appertaining to farming, so little has been effected towards inducing farmers to operate in a systematic manner and keep record and account of their farm operations and business, generally and specifically. But for one farmer who does so, ninety-nine keep all their accounts "in their head," and consequently are rightly termed "guess farmers," for they never know, but guess it is so and so. They don't know whether this, that or the other crop pays best; whether they can afford to sell their produce at such and such a price or not. They can't tell if it is for their interest to continue such a course of husbandry, use such fertilizer, cultivate a field in such a manner, nor even at the end of the year are they sure whether they are on the profit or loss side of the ledger. They guess it is about so.

Neighbor Smith came in last evening while I was filling up my record, and said, as he noticed my occupation:

"What you doin', book-keepin'?"

"Yes, a little. Fixing up my accounts. I suppose you keep farm accounts, don't you?"

"Me? no. It's to much bother, I can keep my 'counts in my head."

"Don't you think it is better to have something you can rely upon?—anybody is apt to forget."

"It's well enough for storekeepers and sich to keep 'counts, but I don't see no need of a farmer's doin' it."

"Isn't it as much for our interest to look after our business as it is for the storekeeper to attend to his?"

"Wall, yes, I 'spose so, but wbat's the use of a feller's spendin' time to write down everything about what he does?"

"It pays Smith."

"I don't see how."

"Well, see here. How was your corn crop this year?"

"Pretty fair, though the frost burt it some."

"Shall you plant some more next year?"

"Sartin. I allers plant corn."

"What for?"

"What for? Why, because I allers do."

"Yes, I see. Now, Smith, how much did that field of corn pay you?"

"Pay me! Well I guess about—"

"That isn't it; do you know?"

"Well, not exactly, but I callate—"

"Never mind, but really, now, do you know whether you made or lost money in raising that field of corn?"

"Dunno as I do for sartin."

"Now look here, Smith. There is my 'corn-field record.' I have written down everything connected with it, and to-day I have summed it all up and I know all about it. Here is the size of the field, the kind of soil, what grew on it last year, when and how many times it was plowed, harrowed and furrowed, and also the amount and kind of manure used, how it was put on and what I used for top dressing.

Then here is the time of planting; time and manner of cultivating, how far apart were the rows and hills, number of stalks in the hill; when the corn came up and what variety it was; when it was harvested, &c., &c. And here I have got in exact figures the cost and price of everything connected with it; planting, hoeing and harvesting; the value of the corn, beans, pumpkins and fodder; value of manure, rent of land, and every item set down in full. So I know exactly how much it cost me to raise that piece of corn, and thus whether it pays me to continue raising it under such circumstances."

This is only an example. All other farm operations should be recorded in somewhat the same manner, and then there would be an end of the continual "guessing" and "thinking" and ignorance in regard to those things we should know about.—G. E. B., in Working Farmer.

HOW NATURE PROTECTS PLANTS IN WINTER.

DURING the whole winter season plants are provided by Nature with a sort of winter quarters, which secures them from the effects of cold. Those called herbaceous, which die down to the roots every autumn, are now safely concealed under ground, preparing their shoot to burst forth when the earth is softened in the spring. Shrubs and trees which are exposed to the open air, have all tender parts closely wrapped up in buds, which by their firmness resist the frost; the larger kinds of buds, and those which are almost ready to expand, are further guarded by a covering of resin or gum, such as the horse chestnut, the sycamore and the balm of gilead.

The external covering, however, and the closeness of their internal texture, are of themselves by no means adequate to resist the intense cold of a winter's night; a bud, detached from its stem, inclosed in glass, and thus protected from all access of external air, if suspended from a tree during a sharp frost, will be entirely penetrated and its parts deranged by cold, while the buds on the same tree will not have sustained the slightest injury.

We must therefore attribute to the living principle of vegetables, as well as in animals, the power of resisting cold to a very considerable degree. In animals we know this power is generated from the decomposition of air by means of the lungs and disengagement of heat.

How vegetables acquire this property remains for future observation to discover. If one of these buds be carefully opened, it is found to consist of young leaves rolled together, with buds which are even all the blossoms in miniature that are afterwards to adorn the spring.

A CEMENT FOR CELLAR FLOORS.—A correspondent of the American Farmer writes that persons wishing to live their cellars, and who do not wish to go to the expense of buying cement, can take coal ashes and mix with water to the thickness of mortar. This can be put on about four inches thick, after which let it lay twenty-four hours, then stamp it with a heavy block of wood three or four times a day, until it is perfectly hard. It is better than cement, as it will not crack or scale off, and the lumps or cinders contained in the ashes do no harm.

GOOD VERSUS POOR ANIMALS.—In traveling over the country, in how many fields do we notice teams of horses or yokes of oxen engaged in plowing or other work, which, on account of inferiority of size or condition, or of being slow walkers, are able to accomplish but a small part of what a strong, fast walking pair could do; and thus these farmers, instead of being able to take advantage of the seasons, as they arrive, are delayed in their work, and serious losses are often the result. The same result is true in reference to steers, sheep, hogs, &c., for while it costs no more to keep a first class animal than a poor one, the difference in value, at the time of sale, often decides the question of profit or loss; and in regard to cows, it is the same; for while one cow will yield enough milk to merely pay the cost of keeping, another that gives double the amount of the first, will produce a handsome profit.

BRIEF HISTORY OF MOWERS AND REAPERS.

Most people take it for granted that reapers and mowers are of quite modern invention. But such a conclusion is far from being correct. Others have supposed that some American Yankee first conceived the idea of constructing a machine for cutting grain with horses or oxen. But history informs us that reapers were in most successful operation before Christopher Columbus first discovered the Western Continent; and that the sickle and scythe, in some of the Oriental countries, had been superseded by reapers that were worked by one or two oxen in the early part of the Christian era.

The first account of a machine to reap grain appeared to be that given by Pliny the Elder, who was born, it has been supposed, about the year of our Lord 23—more than 1,840 years ago. This historian says: "There are various methods of reaping grain. In the extensive fields of the lowlands of Gaul, vans of a large size, with projecting teeth on the forward edge, are driven on two wheels through the standing corn (oats and barley are called corn) by an ox yoked in a reverse position—with the machine forward of the ox. In this manner the ears, (or what we call heads of barley or panicles of oats) are torn off and fall into the van. In some places the stalks are severed in the middle by sickles, and the ears or heads of grain are stripped off between two hatchles."

Palladius, an Eastern ecclesiastical writer, gives the following account of reapers in A. D. 391. He says: "In the Gallic lowlands they employ a more expeditious method of reaping, requiring the assistance of a single ox during the whole of harvest time. A cart is constructed which moves on two wheels. A low box of boards is constructed on the wheels, and the boards in front are lower than the rest. Behind this cart two shafts, (or thills,) are fastened, like the poles of a sedan chair. To these an ox is yoked and harnessed, with his head turned toward the cart; and the ears or heads are gathered in the box, and the driver regulates the elevation and depression of the teeth with a lever."

The next account of a reaper is given in proposals, submitted in Britain in 1785, for constructing a reaper. This machine was propelled forward by a horse or ox, clipping the heads of grain, and depositing them in a large box, which was emptied when it was full into a storeroom. In the details of this machine, a drive wheel, pulleys, pinions, tooth wheels and iron combs, or teeth, are spoken of.

In 1799 another reaper is spoken of as being propelled by a horse hitched behind it, which cut and laid the grain in a swath on one side of the reaper. A boy could manage the machine, and with one horse could cut a swath about two feet wide, or rather more than could be reaped in the same time by six men with sickles.

In 1806 Mr. Gladstone produced a reaper for cutting grain, delivering the straw into garols to be bound. Drive wheels, pulleys, bands, &c., are alluded to in the details of this reaper.

In 1807 Mr. Plucknett constructed a machine in which the horse drew the machine instead of pushing it forward, according to the usual custom of operating reapers. After this period many inventors entered the field with reapers of an improved construction, and in 1822, Mr. Mann, under the auspices of the Highland Society of Scotland, brought forward a new reaper which was worked with one horse, and which could reap ten acres in ten hours.

In 1830 a mowing machine was produced, and soon after that a combined reaper and mower is spoken of. About that time the celebrated McCormick reaper entered the field, astonishing Americans as well as farmers of the Old World. From that time up to the present day reapers and mowers of innumerable forms have come into existence, many of which have ended in a total failure, while many others have proved themselves to be a triumphant success, and are now resting on their own intrinsic merits as the ultimatum of perfectibility.

One of the novelties of the London season is kangaroo hams, imported from Australia.

PROFITS OF HENS.—Truman Ingalls, Albany, N. Y., states the result of keeping sixty fowls of mixed breeds for the past year. During the year they were fed one hundred bushels of ears of corn, with the addition of sour milk in the months of June and July. From Jan. 1st, 1866, to the same date 1867, seven hundred and six (706) dozen eggs were sold for \$177; eight dozen were set and fifty used in the family. Forty chickens were raised. The value of eggs and chickens was \$209.50. Cost of feed \$60. Profit, \$149.50. Mr. I. estimates that the hen manure applied to corn in the hill will increase the yield of the crop





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 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 centre, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

FIVE-AND-TWENTY years ago, one of the editors of the *Farm and Fireside* published an agricultural journal in Connecticut. It was a monthly publication, and, like its contemporaries, visited its patrons but twelve times a year. Yet, at that period, a fourth of a century ago, it did not meet the wants of agriculturists. Its advice was not timely; its precepts were often out of season; its notes and suggestions frequently lost, or unnoticed, because our issues were "few and far between." Judge Buell, a pioneer in agricultural journalism, was publishing "The Cultivator," at Albany, New York, at the same time, and labored under the same disadvantages with ourselves. Hon. Isaac Hill, of New Hampshire, was then publishing his "Monthly Visitor;" John S. Skinner was also editing "The Journal of Agriculture," for Greeley & McElrath, of Tribune fame and notoriety. These three journals, with ours, were all monthly publications; all struggled hard for existence; all contributed, more or less, to the progress of American agriculture.

But it was manifest to us, at that time, that a farm journal should be published *weekly*, instead of monthly. We foresaw that an agricultural paper was wanted *every week*; that the farmer needed advice oftener than once a month; that he required market reports more frequently; in brief, that he wanted a paper *beddomadal*, rather than lunar—one that visited him oftener than the revolution of the moon. Those convictions, founded on experience five-and-twenty years ago, have been strengthened by later judgment. Agriculture, like other arts in this country, has advanced with railroad rapidity. We have improved implements of husbandry; better facilities of sending our produce to market; more valuable grades of live stock; superior rural intelligence and an awakened interest in everything pertaining to country life. With all these advances toward making the farming class more respected, intelligent, progressive and prosperous, comes the demand for a live, weekly agricultural journal.

Without intending to write derogatory of, or detracting from, the monthly press, we cannot but express our views of their failings and weakness. We have pleasant memories and reverential respect for the old, lumbering stage-coach; but we prefer the steam car and the iron horse for journeys—both for speed and comfort. We once liked to swing a scythe, and to chase the boys around a two or five acre field of grass; but next summer we shall prefer a mowing machine, with a pair of good horses to do the physical labor of mowing. And so on through all the manifold toils and industries of agriculture. We must "keep up" with the improvements and advances of farming; and we cannot appreciate the mental and intellectual progress of the age without an enterprising, well conducted, go-ahead, weekly agricultural press.

THE PEAR BLIGHT.—A writer in the *Oneida Circular*, who has charge of about a thousand pear trees, gives his observations on the cause of blight. The orchard is divided into three parts, on soils differing as to the dampness. On the lowest, dampest land, not underdrained, a large number of the trees were blighted, and many were dead. On land somewhat higher, and pretty well underdrained, a very few trees were diseased, and none of them badly, while the trees on high, rolling land, naturally drained, were perfectly healthy.

ALVIN WILKINS, of Stowe, Vt., has a pair of steers which when less than twenty months old weighed 2,500 pounds.



AMERICAN INDUSTRY.—The value in gold of the annual products of the people of the United States for the year 1866 was in round numbers as follows: those engaged in agriculture \$1,609,000,000; manufactures, including all processes between the raw material and consumption, \$917,000,000; mining, \$100,000,000; fishing, \$13,000,000; hunting, \$2,000,000; wood cutting, etc., \$25,000,000; domestic commerce, \$1,500,000,000; foreign commerce, \$190,000,000; net annual earnings or gross increase of money value derived from exchanging products with foreign countries, engaging in improving the face of the country and subduing it to the purposes of society, \$2,400,000,000; total in gold value, \$6,756,000,000, the same reduced to currency, \$9,453,000,000.



FEBRUARY THAWS.

THERE are a good many blessings in an honest, earnest February thaw, that few people ever think of. In the first place, there is a large per centum of the best active principles of fertility in snow. Dissolved by the February thaw, the greater portion of the snow-mannure is deposited in the soil, if unfrozen; on the surface, if frozen; ready to run in at the first opportunity, giving largely of its fertility to winter grain, all low-growing, shallow-rooted plants, and considerable to all fruit and forest trees.

Another, and twenty times more extensive good work of the February thaw, is that it quickens into the first elements of active life countless millions of eggs and embryos of insect pests inimical to grain, fruit and plants; having their lodgment near the surface of the soil, under loose scales of bark and in divers cracks and chinks, where reached by the genial temperature, they put on prematurely the rudiments of life, and in the sudden freeze-up that inevitably follows the February thaw, their career is cut short, and we are rid, in this way, of myriads of pestiferous pirates that no human ingenuity or agency could effectually disturb.

But we can very materially aid the February thaw in this last good service, and now, following the thaw, is the time to set about it. Prepare a lime white-wash, and to give it a warm, or a natural tree-color, add lamp-black,—or, better, Rosendale Cement, a pint of crude petroleum and an ounce of caustic potash to every gallon of wash. Then, with wash, brush and scraper, go among the fruit trees. Give every tree, of all sorts and sizes, a liquid jacket. Dress down those with loose, rough, ragged coats with the scraper, and apply the wash. In this way, we shall paint to death, and scrape out into the cold to perish, millions of half-made hogs and worms that the February thaw has spared, and the probability is that next season we shall have better fruit, freer from worms.

FAMILY FIRESIDES.

As we intend our *Farm and Fireside* to visit many a family where a cheery, blazing wood fire is the rule, burning up brightly in the red, warm complexioned brick fireplaces, instead of glowing anthracite, covered up in black, dreary, cast iron coffins, we offer a hint or two upon the construction of country fireplaces, having in view comfort and economy.

Those who took in hand the improvement of fireplaces forty years ago, have played crab; making slow, backward progress, until in this young year of grace, 1867, we have almost all our fashionable modern fireplaces as inferior to the old time broad Dutch, or Wescotteru log-cabin, flat-wall affairs, as can be.

Just make a study of our modern "improved" fireplaces. Call philosophy and common sense into service, and the thing becomes an absurd monstrosity. A square niche, twelve inches deep, toy mantle three feet high, compressed "throat" three inches or less wide, creating a draught like a blast furnace, and a mite of a dainty hearth that two common sized cats cannot stretch out on without crowding. A fire is hilt in one of these patent brick boxes, and beginning to blaze up, one right angled jamb refracts the heat in a right line over to the other; that sends it back and midway, the strong draught lays bold of and snatches it up the chimney, to warm the atmosphere out side, while all the heat a room can get from such a fire-place is the little that can be coaxed out from the coals under the fore-stick.

A more philosophical, common sense fire-place, is one of more liberal proportions; taking in wood at least three feet in length, with a height of four feet, ample throat, depth shallow at the base, deepening upwards, jambs so flaring that the heat is reflected into the room, instead of back and forth inside the jamb line. Then, with a wide, honest hearth, and a bright, blazing fire, there will be a comfortable fireside; a well warmed room, and a saving in the consumption of fuel. To such cosy quarters the *Farm and Fireside* hopes to visit thousands of families, in divers regions where wood fires still burn brightly.

PROTECT THE PEACH TREES.

FROM this day forward to that of the final departure of Arctic Jack, the peach tree requires more careful looking after, protecting and defending against frost, than in all the year besides. It is not so much the severe freezing of December and January that cuts off the fruit supply and kills trees, as it is the alternate and unreasonable thaws and freezings of February and March. Nature has provided for the former exigencies, but neglected to fortify the trees against the latter vicissitudes.

Like humanity, heated by genial but untimely sunshine, the peach tree is tempted to early imprudence and begins to assume its Summer costume. Suddenly comes the changes—cold, biting winds, snow and almost Arctic frosts—the poor tree rooted fast, cannot fly to friendly shelter, cannot resume its cast-aside overcoat, or call back in time its discarded winter habit, and so suffers severely for its impulsive imprudence.

Now as the buds of fruit trees do not begin to expand until the roots are warmed, and the consequent flow of sap excited, their best security against loss of prospective fruit, and probable loss of the tree itself by these February and March thaws and freezings, will be a *mulching* of the spua, covering the roots with some suitable material in sufficient depth to prevent the warmth of the sun's rays from penetrating to the roots and setting free a flow of sap until such a condition will be safe. For this purpose any coarse, barn-yard litter will answer, the depth laid on being not less than a foot. This should have been attended to late last Fall, but as there are many instances in which it was not done, and as it is not yet too late to save the coming crop and serve the trees a good turn, it is worth while to attend to the matter *at once*. Better expend the labor of hauling a few loads of litter or stable manure to each peach tree—seeing it may be used elsewhere in the Spring—than run the risk of loosing both fruit and trees by too early circulation of sap and subsequent severe freezings.

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 existence. 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 naturae*; 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.—[Philadelphia Ledger.]

The above article appears in the editorial columns of one of the ablest journals in this country. But we cannot permit it to pass without expressing our demer. There are several obvious errors or misstatements in the paragraph, which the accomplished editors have too hastily endorsed. First, there is no tree which could grow from the body of an animal organism. In the lower class of vegetables known as *fungi*, or the mushroom tribe, there is a plant, or *fungus*, called by botanists *Sphoria Robertsia*,* which grows from the head of the caterpillar, or a New Zealand moth; the caterpillar eventually dies, and the fungus, far from being or becoming a tree, is but one of the simple forms of vegetable organization—forming merely a long stem, covered with spores for its reproduction. Similar forms attack many other animal organisms; such as fish, the house-fly, the silk-worm, and, it is even recorded that the human species are not exempt from similar attacks.

The spores of these minute organisms are floating about, and when they alight on an animal surface, from which the epidermis has been removed, they vegetate and distribute their root processes through the tissue; and others similarly attack vegetable forms; but in no case (do we believe) can a seed of a higher tribe of plants—such as trees, or shrubs—vegetate in an animal tissue. Such a process would be retrograding—would be unnatural, unscientific, and against the laws of Divine organism.

* Vide "Lindley's Vegetable Kingdom," page 40.

The Maine Farmer's editorial correspondent bears it stated that T. S. Lang has been offered as high as \$40,000 for the famous horse General Knox.

THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

WE have received the following, and call the attention of all interested to its requests:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, Jan. 25, 1867.

SIR: Your prompt and active co-operation is respectfully solicited in furtherance of the object of the following joint resolution of Congress, approved January 11, 1867:

[PUBLIC RESOLUTION, No. 2.]

"A Resolution to provide for the condition of the Cereal Productions of the United States at the Paris Exposition, in April next:

"Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioner of Agriculture be, and he is hereby, instructed to collect and prepare, so far as practicable, and with as little delay as possible, suitable specimens of the cereal productions of the several States of the Union, for exhibition at the Paris Exposition, and forward the same, in proper order and condition for shipment, to J. C. Derby, agent of the United States Government for the Paris Exposition, at New York: Provided, that it shall require no further appropriation from the public treasury."

An exhibition such as is proposed of the finest samples of the best varieties of wheat, corn and other cereals, would command the admiration of Europe, as it would assuredly arouse the pride of all Americans, and I regret that this Department has not been authorized to make collections for this purpose until the present time. The Exposition opens on the first of April, and collections should be sent in a few days from the reception of this request to be in season for proper arrangement, packing, forwarding to New York, and transportation to Paris. You will render the country essential service by immediate and judicious action in this matter.

It is desirable that *small* packages of the finest samples of the best varieties of such products of your neighborhood should be forwarded, by mail, in packages of two pounds or less, each distinctly marked with name, donor, local name, and county and State in which it was grown.

Such packages, addressed to the Commissioner of Agriculture, can be sent without postage from any post office in the United States. As it will be seen, the resolution makes no appropriation for this purpose; therefore parcels should not be sent by express in any case, unless at the expense of communities represented.

Very respectfully,
ISAAC NEWTON, Commissiourer.

VERMONT FAIR.—At a meeting of the directors of the Vermont State Agricultural Society, held at Burlington on Wednesday, the annual fair was located at Brattleboro, to be held September 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th, 1867.

PROFIT OF HOPS.—Mr. H. H. Potter, of Sauk county, Wisconsin, contributes an article to the *Prairie Farmer*, stating that he raised on four acres of land, \$4,600 worth of hops, estimating the hops at fifty cents a pound. This crop on a Timothy sod.

HORSE-RADISH AS A MARKET CROP.—Peter Henderson, one of the great market gardeners in New Jersey, states that horse-radish is considered one of the surest and easiest crops to grow. It is planted in the spring and dug in the fall; sent to market in barrels, and sold by weight. The sales are from \$500 to \$800 per acre.

SIGN-PAINTING has not reached high perfection in this country. A good half of the "signs" to be seen, in both town and country, are burlesques on the art. Few painters can form perfectly shaped letters; few understand the idea of proportion for proper effect; while still fewer know how to punctuate. It is laughable to see periods doing the service of commas and vice versa. Then the spelling of many painters is wholly original, and of course not to be found in Webster or Worcester. We therefore do the public a service in pointing out a good sign-painter. Such is GEORGE W. SMITH, JR., of Slaterville. He has recently painted a small sign for the *FARM AND FIRESIDE*, which is exceedingly pretty. The vignette in the head of this journal has been artistically copied, and would do credit to a landscape artist. As this sign speaks for itself, we invite attention to it, in our office window.

ALBERT COMAN SMITH is a duly authorized agent to receive subscribers' names and money for the *WOONSOCKET PATRIOT* and the *FARM AND FIRESIDE*.
Woonsocket, Feb. 23, 1867. S. S. FOSS, Publisher.

LUCIEN ROBERT MESSENGER—of Robert Messenger, as he sometimes writes his name—has not been an accredited Agent for the *FARM AND FIRESIDE* since February 5, 1867.
S. S. FOSS, Publisher.



Fireside Readings.

THE OLD GRIST MILL

The grist-mill stands beside the stream,
With hended roof and leaning wall,
So old, that when the winds are wild,
The miller trembles lest it fall;
But moss and ivy, never sere,
Bedeck it o'er from year to year.

The dam is steep and weeded green.
The gates are raised, the waters pour,
And tread the old wheel's slippery steps,
The lowest round forevermore.
Methinks they have a sound of ire,
Because they cannot climb it higher.

From morn till night, in autumn time,
When yellow harvests load the plains,
Up drives the farmer to the mill,
And back again with loaded wains;
They bring a heap of golden grain,
And take it home in meal again.

And all day long the winnowed chaff
Floats round it on the sultry breeze,
And shineth like a settled swarm
Of golden-winged or belted bees;
Or sparks around a blacksmith's door,
When bellows blow and forges roar.

I love my pleasant, quaint old mill,
It minds me of my early prime,
'Tis changed since then, but not so much
As I am by decay and time;
Its wrecks are mossed from year to year,
While mine all dark and bare appear.

I stand beside the stream of life,
The mighty current sweeps along,
Lifting the flood gates of my heart,
It turns the magic wheel of song,
And grinds the ripened harvest brought
From out the golden field of thought.

WILD BILL'S STORY.

A WRITER in Harper's Monthly gives an interesting account of the career of a frontiersman named "Wild Bill" during the war. We copy one of the most remarkable of his adventures, premising that he was a man of tremendous physical strength, which had been developed and trained by his mode of life, and that he was an unerring shot. The substantial facts of the affair were told the writer by an officer of the regular army, who, an hour after it occurred, saw Bill and his ten dead opponents. The story as told by Bill himself is as follows:—

"It was in '61, when I guided a detachment of cavalry who were coming in from Camp Floyd. We had nearly reached the Kansas line, and were in South Nebraska, when one afternoon I went out of the camp to go to the cabin of an old friend of mine, a Mrs. Waltham. I took only one of my revolvers with me, for although the war had broke out, I didn't think it necessary to carry both my pistols, and in all ordinary scrimmages, one is better than a dozen, if you shoot straight. I saw some wild turkeys on the road as I was goin' down and popped one of 'em over, thinkin' he'd be just the thing for supper.

"Well, I rode up to Mrs. Waltham's, jumped off my horse, and went into the cabin, which is like most of the cabins on the prairie, with only one room, and that had two doors, one opening in front, and t'other in the yard, like.

"How are you, Mrs. Waltham?" I said, feeling as jolly as you please.

"The minute she saw me she turned as white as a sheet and screamed: 'Is that you, Bill? Oh, my God! they will kill you! Run! run! They will kill you!'

"Who's a-goin' to kill me?" said I. 'Twere's two can play at that game.'

"It's M'Kandlas and his gang. There's ten of them, and you've no chance. They've jes gone down the road to the corn-rick. They came up here only five minutes ago.—M'Kandlas was dragging poor Parson Shipley on the ground with a lariat round his neck. The preacher was most dead with choking and the horses stamping on him. M'Kandlas knows yer bringing in that party of Yankee cavalry, and he swears he'll cut your heart out. Run, Bill, run! But it's too late; they are coming up the lane.'

"While she was talking I remembered I had but one revolver, and a load gone out of that. On the table there was a horn of powder and some little bars of lead. I poured some powder into the empty chamber and rammed the lead after it by hammering the barrel on the table, and had just capped the pistol when I heard M'Kandlas shout:

"There's that d—d Yank Wild Bill's horse; he's here; and we'll skin him alive!'

"If I thought of runnin before it war too late now, and the horse was my best bolt—

a sort of fortress, like, I never thought I should leave that room alive."

The scout stopped in his story, rose from his seat, and strode back and forward in a state of great excitement.

"I tell you what it is, Kernel," he resumed, after a while, "I don't mind a scrimmage with these fellows round here. Shoot one or two of them and the rest run away. But all of M'Kandlas's gang were reekless, blood-thirsty devils, who would fight as long as they had strength to pull a trigger. I have been in tight places, but that's one of the few times I said my prayers.

"Surround the house and give him no quarter!" yelled M'Kandlas. When I heard that I felt as quiet and cool as if I was a-goin' to church. I looked round the room and saw a Hawkins' rifle hanging over the bed.

"Is that loaded?" said I to Mrs. Waltham.

"Yes," the poor thing whispered. She was so frightened she couldn't speak out loud.

"Are you sure?" said I, as I jumped to the bed and caught it from its hooks. Although my eye did not leave the door, yet I could see she nodded yes again. I put the revolver on the bed, and just then M'Kandlas poked his nose inside the doorway, but jumped back when he saw me with the rifle in my hand.

"Come in here, you cowardly dog!" I shouted. "Come in here and fight me!"

"M'Kandlas was no coward, if he was a bully. He jumped inside the room with his gun leveled to shoot; but he was not quick enough. My rifle ball went through his heart. He fell back outside the house, where he was found afterwards holding tight to his rifle, which had fallen over his head.

"His disappearance was followed by a yell from his gang, and then there was a dead silence. I put down the rifle and took the revolver, and said to myself: 'Only six shots and nine men to kill. Save your powder, Bill, for the death-hug's a-comin!'" "I don't know why it was, Kernel," continued Bill, looking at me inquiringly, "but at that moment things seemed clear and sharp. I could think strong."

"There was a few seconds of that awful stillness, and then the ruffians came rushing in at both doors. How wild they looked with their red, drunken faces and inflamed eyes, shouting and cussing! But I never aimed more deliberately in my life.

"One—two—three—four; and four men fell dead.

"That didn't stop the rest. Two of them fired their bird guns at me. And then I felt a sting run all over me. The room was full of smoke. Two got in close to me, their eyes glaring out of the clouds. One I knocked down with my fist. 'You are out of the way for a while,' I thought. The second I shot dead. The other three clutched me and crowded me onto the bed. I fought hard. I broke with my hand one man's arm. He had his fingers round my throat. Before I could get to my feet I was struck across the breast with the stock of a rifle, and I felt the blood rushing out of my nose and mouth. Then I got ugly, and I remember that I got hold of a knife and then it was all cloudy like, and I was wild, and I struck savage blows, following the devils up from one side to the other of the room and into the corners, striking and slashing until I knew that every one was dead.

All of a sudden it seemed as if my heart was on fire. I was bleeding everywhere. I rushed out to the well and drank from the bucket, and then tumbled down in a faint."

Breathless with the intense interest with which I had followed the strange story, all the more thrilling and weird when its hero, seeming to live over the bloody events of the day, gave way to its terrible spirit with wild, savage gestures, I saw then—what my scrutiny of the morning had failed to discover—the tiger which lay concealed beneath the gentle exterior.

"You must have been hurt almost to death," I said.

"There were eleven buckshot in me. I carry some of them now. I was cut in thirteen

places. All of them had enough to have let out the life of a man. But that blessed old Dr. Mills pulled me safe through it, after a bad seige of many a long week."

"That prayer of yours, Bill, may have been more potent for your safety than you think. You should thank God for your deliverance."

"To tell you the truth, Kernel," responded the scout with a certain solemnity in his grave face, "I don't talk about sich things ter the people round here, but always feels sort of thankful when I get out of a had scrape."

TRUTH AT HOME.

OF all happy households, that is the happiest where falsehood is never thought of. All peace is broke up when once it appears that there is a liar in the house. All comfort has gone when suspicion has entered—when there must be a reserve in talk, and reservation in belief. Anxious parents who are aware of the pains of suspicion, will place general confidence in their children, and receive what they say freely, unless there is strong reason to distrust the truth of any one. Should such an occasion unhappily arise, they must keep the suspieion from spreading as long as possible, and avoid disgracing their poor child while there is a chance of its cure by their confidential assistance. He should have their pity and their assiduous help, as if he were suffering from some disgusting bodily disorder. If he can be cured, he will become truly grateful for the treatment. If the endeavor fails, means must, of course, be taken to prevent his example from doing harm; and then, as I said, the family peace is broken up, because the family confidence is gone. I fear that, for some cause or other, there are but few large families where every member is altogether truthful. But where all are so organized and so trained as to be wholly reliable in act and word, they are a light to all and a joy to all hearts. They are public benefits, for they are a point of general reliance; and are blessed within and without. Without, their life is made easy by universal trust; and within their home and their hearts they have the security of rectitude, and gladness of innocence.—*Harriet Martineau.*

MEN OF GENIUS.

Tasso's conversation was neither gay nor brilliant. Dante was either taciturn or satirical. Butler was either sullen or biting. Gray seldom talked or smiled. Hogarth and Swift were absent-minded in company, Milton was very unsocial and irritable, when pressed into conversation. Kirwan, though copious and eloquent in public addresses, was meagre and dull in colloquial discourses. Virgil was heavy in conversation. La Fontaine appeared heavy, coarse and stupid; he could not speak and describe what he had just seen; but then he was the model of poetry. Chaucer's silence was more agreeable than his conversation. Dryden's conversation was slow and dull, his humor saturnine and reserved. Cornelius in conversation was so insipid that he never failed in wearying; he did not even speak correctly that language of which he was such a master. Ben Johnson used to sit silent in company and suck his wine. Southey was stiff, sedate, and wrapped up in asceticism. Addison was good company with his intimate friends, but in mixed company he preserved his dignity by a stiff, and reserved silence. Fox in conversation never flagged; his animation and vivacity were inexhaustible. Dr. Bentley was loquacious, as was also Grotius. Goldsmith "wrote like an angel and talked like poor poll." Burke was entertaining, enthusiastic and interesting in conversation. Curran was a convivial deity. Leigh Hunt was a pleasant stream in conversation. Carlyle doubts, objects, and constantly demurs.

THE HEAT OF THE EARTH.—Descending into the earth from fifty to ninety feet, there is usually little or no variation; below this line it is that the internal heat of the earth is perceptible.

Now is the time for farmers to secure good help for the Spring and Summer work.

WEBSTER AND CALHOUN.

I was in Washington in the winter of 1830-31, when I painted the portrait of John C. Calhoun. During the sittings, he invited me to come up to the Senate, as there was to be an interesting debate. Mr. Hayne was to speak on the subject of "Foote's Resolutions" in reply to a short speech of Mr. Webster. I accepted the invitation, and Mr. Calhoun admitted me as one of the many favored ones. Mr. Hayne was most eloquent, and exceedingly bitter in his remarks upon Mr. Webster's speech; and so seathing in his denunciations of New England and her policy, that I felt his sarcasms were unanswerable. I think all the friends of Mr. Webster thought so too. The south side of the Senate were vociferous in their applause. At night, I went to see the fallen great man, as I considered him. My daughter was visiting Mr. Webster's daughter at the time. To my surprise, I found him cheerful, even playful. He had the two girls upon his knees. I told him I expected to find him in another room, pointing to his library. "Time enough for that in the morning," said he.

Mr. Calhoun gave me another sitting the next morning. He seemed to think the great champion of the North was annihilated. He said it was a pity he had laid himself open at so many points. I needed no invitation to go to the Senate that morning. I went early to the gallery and secured a seat among the reporters. As Mr. Webster entered the Senate, all eyes were turned upon him. He was elegantly dressed and apparently less excited than any of his friends. I felt towards Mr. Webster as I imagine a criminal might feel who looks to his counsel to save him from punishment for some crime he is charged with. He soon, however, put me at my ease. As he proceeded with his speech, all his friends felt satisfied that victory was his. I need make no further allusion to this splendid effort, as it is as familiar to all as household words. The next morning, I asked Mr. Calhoun what he thought of Webster's reply. He said simply, but with great emphasis, "Mr. Webster is a strong man, sir, a very strong man."

WEBSTER AT HOME.

Webster's family dinners were always charming. We always found sumptuous fare, though not elaborate. Often the great feature of the feast would be chowder or dun-fish, both of which dishes he excelled in. One day I was admiring and praising the latter, and asked him where he procured them. He said from his friend, Charles Cutter of Portsmouth, N. H. I said that I got my fish from the same gentleman, but they did not seem to be of the same quality; but perhaps they were not as skillfully cooked. Thereupon he gave a detailed history of the fish, mode of curing, &c. Then he entered into a minute description of the way of cooking it, ending with, "Have ready good, mealy potatoes, beets, drawn butter, and oil; have it all served up hot, and then send for Ashmun and me."

I had a few bottles of old Scotch whiskey, such as Wilson and Scott have immortalized under the name of "mountain dew." This beverage is always used with hot water and sugar. I put a bottle of this whiskey into my overcoat pocket, one day when I was going to dine with Mr. Webster; but I thought, before presenting it to him, I would see who was in the drawing-room. I put the bottle on the entry table, walked into the drawing-room; and seeing none but the familiar party, said "I have taken the liberty to bring a Scotch gentleman to partake of your hospitality to-day." "I am most happy, sir," was the reply. I walked back to the entry, and pointed to the bottle. "Oh!" said he, "that is the gentleman that bathes in hot water."—*Chester Harding's Autobiography.*

"Is it possible, Miss —, that you don't know the names of some of your best friends?" inquired a gentleman of a lady. "Certainly," she replied; "I don't know what my own shall be a year hence."

In seeking a friend, is it not natural to look for one who possesses not only the greatest power but the strongest will to serve those who ask his favor? Where is such a friend as God?

SHIPBUILDING.—A well-known New York ship-builder, in commenting upon the present depression of that interest, says that one of the great causes which produce the present dullness of trade is the unprecedented and very extraordinary advance, since the commencement of the rebellion, in the prices of all materials and labor required for the construction of vessels, ranging in those composing the principal part of the vessels, from fifty to sixty per cent., and for labor about seventy-five per cent., to which must be added the well known fact that less daily and individual labor is returned for the increased wages



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Various Matters.

THE LARGEST FARM IN THE WORLD.

A BUENOS AYRES correspondent gives the following account of his visit to the great estancia or monster farm of Senor Don Jose de Urquiza :

The only indication that we have reached its border is that on each hand, at the distance of three hundred yards from each other, making an avenue of similar width, there are planted trees designed to form an avenue the entire distance to the estancia-house, eleven miles. As we travel onward the cattle increase in numbers, and ostriches, solitary or in groups, come up near us, or slowly cross our road. These birds are thus tame, because the General has ordered that not one shall ever be killed or molested. And so abundant are they that, as General Urquiza told me himself, he has been offered the sum of \$16,000 in silver for the privilege of taking them. But from humanity or from fancy he spares the birds.

Near the residence of the General there is a permanent encampment of soldiers under his immediate command.

The residence has received the name of San Jose, after its chosen patron saint, St. Joseph. The buildings are one story high, of brick, and are built around two large squares. The open space is paved with sandstone, and four sides are occupied by the apartments pertaining to the dwelling-house. The margin of the square, the ten feet nearest the house, is covered with a finely wrought net-work of iron, supported by iron pillars, and overspread with the branches of fruitful trees.

At the outer range of the buildings there is stone, near at the chapel, next the office of the secretary, then the department of two aids-de-camp, then the extensive array of parlors and private rooms provided for the large family and innumerable visitors.

On entering the garden, there was a beautiful array of exotic plants, from every quarter of the globe. Aviaries filled with gay birds of sweet voice adorn the garden. I need not mention the names of rare plants, but from the extreme North, from Australia, Cape Horn, from Africa, Asia, and from the gardens of Europe, were gathered the floral treasures that adorn each other in this winterless climate, under the most exact artistic care. The gardens for vegetables and fruits were a study. Here are apples, peaches, pears, apricots, nectarines, grapes, pomegranates, quinces, figs, bananas, oranges, lemons, and most of these in measureless abundance. At the edge of the orchard there is in process of construction an artificial lake about seventy-five yards square, and from twenty to thirty feet deep. The walls are of most substantial double work, and stamped with clay between. The water is to be brought about one mile from a neighboring river, and it will be elevated by machinery. On this lake there will be a little steamer, where the sons destined for the navy will learn engineering and make mimic voyages. The estimated cost of the lake is \$100,000, in silver.

The chapel, intended for worship by the family, will seat about sixty persons, and the costly appointments of vestments, precious stones, silver furniture, fine paintings, pianos, &c., altogether must have cost at least beyond the sum of \$50,000 in silver.

The avenue, of eleven miles leading up to the front of the house, is suggestive of amplitude beyond, and there is the area of one hundred square leagues, or nine hundred square

miles, that form the unbroken body of the farm. Over this immense tract of unsurpassed land countless thousands of cattle and horses and sheep are grazing. Of cattle, the farm sends to the slaughtering establishment of the same owner fifty thousand animals annually. His horses would supply the cavalry of a large army, and from the wool of the sheep, ships are annually loaded and sent direct to Europe.

Other tracts of land in other parts of the province are owned by him to a very large extent; but I am speaking only of the San Jose estancia, the farm occupied as the owner's residence.

In all that province, though not now holding a civil office, nor on military duty, General Urquiza is yet regarded as legitimate ruler, civil and military; and hardly assuming anything, there is not a department nor a precinct of the province that escapes his eye. On one week's notice he can call together an equipped army of twenty thousand men, ready for any cause that he should deem worthy of their steel. The estancia of San Jose is alone in the world for extent and for culture under the owner's eye. It is larger than many of the principalities of Central Europe, and in politics there is not an equal surface on the globe of greater unanimity among its inhabitants.

VARNISH FOR SHOES.—It is a bad plan to grease the upper leather of shoes for the purpose of keeping them soft; it rots the leather and admits dampness more readily. It is better to make a varnish thus :

Put half a pound of gum shellac, broken up in small pieces, in a quart bottle or jug, cover it with alcohol, cork it tight and put it on a shelf in a warm place; shake it well several times a day, then add a piece of gum camphor as large as a hen's egg; shake it well, and in a few hours shake it again and add one ounce of lamb black; if the alcohol is good, it will all be dissolved in three days; then shake and use. If it gets too thick, add alcohol—pour out two or three teaspoonfuls in a saucer and apply it with a small paint brush. If the materials were all good, it will dry in about five minutes, and will be removed only by wearing it off, giving a loss almost equal to patent leather.

The advantage of this preparation above others is, it does not strike into the leather and make it hard, but remains on the surface and yet excludes the water almost perfectly.

This same preparation is admirable for harness, and does not soil when touched, as lamb black preparations do.—[Hull's Journal of Health.

A WRINKLE ABOUT THE AGE OF HORSES.—A short time ago we met a gentleman from Illinois, who gave us a piece of information in regard to ascertaining the age of a horse, after he or she has passed the ninth year, which was new to us, and will be, we are sure, to most of our readers. It is this: after the horse is nine years old, a wrinkle comes on the eyelid at the upper corner of the lower lid, and every year thereafter he has one well-defined wrinkle for each year over nine. If, for instance, a horse has three wrinkles, he is twelve; if four, he is thirteen. Add the number of wrinkles to nine, and you will always get it. So says the gentleman; and he is confident it will never fail. As a good many people have horses over nine, it is easily tried. If true, the horse dentist must give up his trade.

DRINKING AT MEALS.—The salivary glands are an important agency in the utilization of food. Their office is to moisten and prepare it for the stomach. For this purpose they secrete three pints of saliva during every twenty-four hours. Liquids taken during the meals usurp their place while they do not discharge their functions. Hence drinking during the time of eating is to be avoided as far as possible.

THE TEETH are, if used properly, fitted to last a hundred years and still be in good order. How is it that they so commonly fail us before middle age? The answer is found in the large quantities of hot liquids taken into the mouth, and the amount of sweets consumed.

COMMERCE OF THE WORLD.

FRANCE exports wines, brandies, silks, fancy articles, jewelry, clocks, watches, paper, perfumery, and fancy goods generally.

ITALY exports corn, oil, flax, wines, essences, dye stuffs, drugs, fine marble, soap, paintings, engravings, mosaics and salt.

PRUSSIA exports linens, woollens, zinc, articles of iron, copper, brass, indigo, wax, hams, musical instruments, tobacco, wines and porcelain.

GERMANY exports wool, woollen goods, linens, rags, corn, timber, iron, lead, tin, flax, hemp, wines, wax, tallow and cattle.

AUSTRIA exports minerals, raw and manufactured silk, thread, brass, grain, wax, tar, nut-galls, wines, honey and mathematical instruments.

ENGLAND exports cotton, woollen, glass, hardware, earthenware, cutlery, iron, metallic wares, salt, coal, watches, tin, silks, and linens.

RUSSIA exports tallow, flax, hemp, flour, iron, copper, linseed, lard, hides, wax, duck cordage, bristles, furs, potash and tar.

SPAIN exports wine, brandy, oil, fresh and dried fruits, quicksilver, sulphur, salt, saffron, cork, anchovies, silk, and woollen goods.

HINDOOSTAN exports silks, shawls, carpets, opium, saltpetre, pepper, gum, indigo, cinnamon, cochineal, diamonds, pearls and drugs.

TURKEY exports coffee, opium, silks, dried and green fruits, drugs, gums, tobacco, wines, camel's hair, carpets, camlets, morocco and shawls.

MEXICO exports gold and silver, cochineal, indigo, sarsaparilla, vanilla, jalap, fustic, campeachy wood, pimento, drugs and dye stuffs.

BRAZIL exports coffee, indigo, sugar, rice, hides, dried meat, tallow, gold, diamonds and other precious stones, gums, mahogany and india rubber.

WEST INDIES export sugar, molasses, rum, tobacco, cigars, mahogany, dye wood, coffee, pimento, fresh fruits and preserves, rubber, wax, ginger and other spices.

SWITZERLAND exports cattle, cheese, butter, tallow, dried fruit, lime, silks, velvets, laces, jewelry, watches, paper, gunpowder and fancy goods.

EAST INDIES export cloves, nutmegs, mace, pepper, rice, indigo gold dust, camphor, benzoin, sulphur, ivory, rattans, sandal wood, zinc and nuts.

UNITED STATES export principally agricultural products, cotton, tobacco, flour, rice, provisions of all kinds, lumber, turpentine and wearing apparel.

TO ECONOMIC HOUSEKEEPERS.—By using a large handful of powdered borax to every ten gallons of water, a saving of about fifty per cent. of soap is effected in washing. Borax does not injure fabrics, and has long been used to clean the hair, also as a dentrifice. As good tea cannot be made from hard water, a medical paper recommends the use of a teaspoonful of borax to an ordinary sized kettle of such water, in which it should boil. The saving in the quantity of tea used will be at least one-fifth.

LOCATION OF COUNTRY DWELLINGS.—Observation shows that people living in houses located east or northeast of ravines, where vegetation is luxuriant and miasma is engendered, are liable to agues and other miasmatic diseases, while people living on the opposite side, at the same distance, are entirely exempt. The reason is that the prevailing winds, during the season of decomposition, are from the west and southwest.

THERE is profound wisdom in the saying of an English farmer, that he fed his land before it was hungry, rested it before it was weary, and weeded it before it was foul. Seldom has so much agricultural knowledge been condensed in a single sentence.

REAPING THE HARVEST.—Industry is always profitable. A Maine newspaper relates that a boy in that State, who some years ago amused himself by planting apple seeds, last year netted a profit of \$700 from his orchard.

A VALUABLE HINT FROM AN INSECT.

It has been said that the operations of the spider suggested the arts of spinning and weaving to man. That may be doubtful, but it is quite certain that to a hint from an insect was due the invention of a machine instrumental in accomplishing one of the most stupendous works of modern times—the excavation of the Thames Tunnel. Mark Isambard Brunel, the great engineer, was standing one day, about half a century ago, in a ship-yard, watching the movements of an animal known as the *Teredo Naucles*—in English means the naval wood-worm—when a brilliant thought suddenly occurred to him. He saw that this creature bored its way into the piece of wood upon which it was operating, by means of a very extraordinary mechanical apparatus. Looking at the animal attentively through a microscope, he found that it was covered in front with a pair of valvular shells; that with its foot as a purchase, it communicated a rotary motion and a forward impulse to the valves which, acting upon the wood like a gimblet, penetrated its substance; and that as the particles of wood were loosened, they passed through a fissure in the foot, and thence through the body of the borer to its mouth, where they were expelled. Here, said Brunel to himself, is the sort of thing I want. Can I reproduce it in an artificial form? He forthwith set to work, and the final result of his labors, after many failures, was the famous Boring Shield, with which the Thames Tunnel was excavated. This story was told by Brunel himself, and there is no reason to doubt its truth. The keen observer can draw useful lessons from the humblest of the works of God.

RUSKIN says: Shakspeare has no heroes—he has only heroines. There is not one entirely heroic figure in all his plays, except the slight sketch of Henry the Fifth, exaggerated for the purposes of the stage, and the still slighter Valentine in the "Two Gentlemen of Verona." In his labored and perfect plays you have no hero. Othello would have been one, if his simplicity had not been so great as to leave him the prey of every base practice around him; but he is the only example even approximating the heroic type. Hamlet is indolent and drowsily speculative; Romeo an impatient boy. Whereas there is hardly a play that has not a perfect woman in it, steadfast in grave hope and errorless purpose. Cordelia, Desdemona, Isabella, Hermione, Imogene, Queen Katherine, Perdita, Silva, Viola, Rosalind, Helena, and last, and perhaps loveliest, Virgilla, are all faultless.

ANECDOTE OF WHITTIER.—An anecdote of John G. Whittier is told by the Boston Transcript as follows: On a recent occasion he was traveling with a friend over a New Hampshire railroad, and during conversation, Mr. Whittier's friend, who is also a member of the Society of Friends, told the poet that he was on his way to contract for a lot of oak timber, which he knew would be used in building gunboats at Portsmouth, and asked him whether he thought it was exactly in consistence with the peace doctrines of the Quaker denomination. Without saying anything calculated to decide the question, the two friends arrived at their parting place, when Mr. Whittier, shaking his friend's hand, said: "Moses, if thee *docs* furnish any of that oak timber thee spoke of, be sure that it is all sound."

TO STOP A FIT OF COUGHING.—A correspondent of the London Medical Gazette states that, to close the nostrils with the thumb and finger during expiration, leaving them free during inspiration, will relieve a fit of coughing in a short time. In addition to the above, we state, from personal knowledge, that to press the finger on the upper lip, just below the nose, will make the severest premonitory symptoms of a *sneeze* pass off harmless. We have found the remedy useful many a time in creeping on game in the woods.

BEEF STOCK should have a little increase of meal or oil-cake when they begin to shed their coats.

MILWAUKEE AS A MANUFACTURING CITY.—Milwaukee is not only famous for its lager-beer, said by connoisseurs to be the best in the world, but has made considerable strides in the way of iron manufactures. The Boston Commercial Bulletin condenses an exhibit of this branch of Milwaukee enterprise from the Sentinel of that city. From this it appears that nearly 1,500 men are engaged in iron manufactures in Milwaukee. \$700,000 are invested, and the annual product is valued at \$1,500,000. New rolling mills are to be erected there this spring, which will give employment to five hundred men. Near Milwaukee there is a large bed of the finest iron ore, which, when mixed with the Lake Superior ore, makes the best combination for rails.



The Field.

LIME.

ITS APPLICATION, ACTION AND EFFECT.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

Not long since, one of the agricultural journals contained a communication upon the action of lime, in which the writer held out the idea that the time for applying lime was not material, but that *the main thing was to get it on*. From this opinion I must beg leave to differ; for, I believe that there are certain conditions of land, certain kinds of land, and certain times when the application of lime will not only produce no visible effect, or if it does, only an injurious one.

Many of our practical farmers, judging from their actions, seem to have the idea that lime is a manure, and very often a man's skill in farming is measured by the amount of lime which he uses; this, as I will endeavor to demonstrate, is a may-be wrong. In my own neighborhood lime is convenient, and can be obtained as cheaply as in most portions of the State; and, of course, a large amount is made use of, and is usually applied indiscriminately to all kinds of land and to all crops. It is an old saying that "If you will show me a man who has quit liming, I will show you a farm which is going down hill;" which, though accepted and believed by the majority, I am not willing to admit without some qualification.—Lime not being a manure, can only act as a stimulant; and, hence, if it has not the proper materials to act upon, it cannot produce its usual effect; poor land may be brought up by the judicious use of lime, but only in connection with a corresponding application of manure; the first application will increase the amount of vegetable matter; and if this is carefully converted into manure, without being sold or removed from the farm, an increase in the productiveness will be the result, but if, on the other hand, this increase or surplus is sold or removed from the farm, it is just so much removed from the soil; and, of course, this continued removal, with or without the use of lime, will decrease the productions of the land.

In my opinion, land may be *limed down* as well as worked down, notwithstanding the old saying that "lime will always pay twelve per cent." If we apply lime, and at the same time sell all the grain and a part of the hay, we will sooner or later exhaust the supply of vegetable matter in the soil (which by the action of the lime is changed into grain and straw), and reach a point at which the repeated application of lime will produce no effect; finding out too late that we have been drawing on our principle instead of waiting until the interest is due. The farmer who limes, and at the same time feeds the increase on the farm and converts it into manure, will find that he is not only reaping the interest of his principle, but also that he is allowing a portion of his interest to remain on deposit.

Inasmuch as the main effect of lime is due to its action upon the partially decayed vegetable matter in the soil, reason would lead us to the supposition that the best time for its application is when this matter exists in its greatest quantity; in our usual rotation of corn, oats, wheat and grass, we have two periods at which vegetable matter abounds in the soil, viz:—where we turn the sod under for corn, and after we apply manure to the wheat. To obtain the full benefit of the first of these periods, the lime must be applied before the corn crop is planted; and to obtain the benefit of the other, the proper time would seem to be with, or immediately after the manure which has been applied to the wheat crop.

But in applying lime at the latter period, there are other considerations to which we must attend: where the manure is put on in the above rotation, and lime applied immediately afterwards, we will obtain a large growth of straw at the expense of the grain; this extra amount of straw will, of course, increase the manure pile, but by deferring the application of the lime for one crop in the rotation, we may increase the amount of vegetable matter in a form in which it will be more

valuable to the manure pile; if the lime is applied after the removal of the wheat crop, it will increase the amount of hay, which for manurial purposes is much more valuable than straw. If my reasoning is correct, the best time for the application of lime is either to the sod, before corn is planted, or to the grass after the removal of the wheat crop; and it is not only important "to get it on," but also to get it on at the *proper time*.

The farm which I occupy, being adjacent to lime-kilns and quarries, has been well limed for many years, and in my opinion did not need lime; but, being determined to test the matter, I applied lime to our field, varying the amount per acre from one hundred bushels to twenty-five; decreasing twenty-five bushels at a time, and every fifth land was left without any. Since then the field has gone through the whole rotation, and has been mown twice without my being able to detect any difference in the product between the lands which received a dressing of lime at the rate of one hundred bushels per acre, and those which had but twenty-five, nor between those which received the application at the rate of twenty-five bushels per acre, and those which received none at all.

My idea is, that after one or two liberal dressings of partially decomposed manure, the field will yield a liberal return for the application of lime, and if care is taken in the formation and preservation of manure, will continue to do so for years to come.

The next Fall I plowed down a heavy second crop of clover, with the intention of putting it in with wheat; but other work interfering, the wheat was not put in, and the remainder of the field was accordingly pastured. The next Spring the whole field was top-dressed with lime, plowed and put in with corn: when the second crop of clover was turned under, I had a very large crop of corn; but when the clover was pastured off, the crop was very moderate. This I accounted for by supposing that when the clover was turned under, there was a large amount of vegetable matter for the lime to act on; and on the remainder of the field but little, or, at least, not so much; on one land of the pasture-clover left without lime, the corn was quite as good as when the lime was applied; there was no visible effect from the lime except where the clover was turned under.

In the lime and chalk districts of England, the practical farmers have a saying that "lime enriches the fathers but impoverishes the children;" this, in far too many cases, is true with reference to the application of lime in our own country. Lime is applied, and the increased crop removed from the farm until the application produces no effect, and then, and not till then, the land gets a rest from the stimulating effect of lime; but in course of time the farm programme is enacted with the same result.

Lime, like many other stimulants (whiskey excepted) may be made beneficial in certain cases, but must be used judiciously, or the after effect will leave matters in a worse state than at the beginning; but "the trouble is not in getting drunk, but in getting sober."

In no way can land be enriched faster than by the use of lime in conjunction with barnyard manure; and in no way can the amount of the latter be so quickly increased as by the use of bone, either in its pure form or in that of a phosphate; on no crop will bone make an effect quicker than on that of grass, and there is no crop better or that will increase the manure pile faster than hay;—all know that manure made from hay is worth double or treble that made from straw alone; and, hence, where the improvement of the land is the object in view, it cannot be sooner attained than by directing all the energies to the increasing of the hay crop. If this is increased and fed out on the farm, the increase in the other crops will follow in due time, and in a regularly increasing ratio, as a trial will prove to all who may be disposed to experiment.

February, 1867.

The London Agricultural Gazette says that the attendance upon the exhibitions of local agricultural societies of England is constantly decreasing.

THE POWER OF A GROWING TREE.—Walter Hall had at one time its corn mill, and when that inconvenient necessity no longer existed, the mill-stone was laid by in an orchard and forgotten. The diameter of this circular stone measured five feet and a half, while its depth averaged seven inches throughout; its central hole had a diameter of eleven inches. By mere accident, some bird or squirrel had dropped the fruit of a filbert tree through this hole on to the earth, and in 1812 the seedling was seen rising up through that unwanted channel. As its trunk gradually grew through this aperture and increased, its power to raise the ponderous mass of stone was speculated upon by many. Would the filbert tree die in the attempt?—Would it burst the mill-stone? Or would it lift it? In the end, the little filbert tree lifted the mill-stone and in 1863 wore it like a crinoline about its trunk, and Mr. Waterton used to sit on it under the branching shade.—*English paper.*

MANURING WHEAT.—S. H. Simmons writes to the Rural New Yorker, that he tried different modes of manuring wheat, including on the sod in spring before breaking up, turning it under at the last plowing before sowing; top-dressing after plowing but before seeding, and top-dressing early in winter when the ground is frozen. He finds manuring on the sod in spring to be best. This result appears to confirm the practice often urged of top-dressing sod in autumn for corn, and owes its efficacy probably to the perfect manner in which the manure is diffused among the roots of the grass.

ADVANTAGES OF DRAINING.—At a recent meeting of the Michigan State Agricultural Society the committee on Land Draining made a very interesting report in favor of this mode of preparing land for cropping. The following paragraph is especially worthy of consideration. Thus:—"It is worthy of note that the early frosts of the past season, which proved so destructive generally, did not materially affect vegetation in my drained lands, while it was most destructive in other lands adjacent. This fact alone would seem to be sufficient to arrest the attention of farmers, and offers additional inducements to further investigation upon this subject."

SEEDING DOWN PASTURES.—The President of the Franklin Co. (Mass.) Agricultural Society recently read a paper before the Farmers' Club of Montague, on the subject of seeding land for pasturing purposes. He recommends twelve pounds of clover seed, six quarts of herds-grass, one bushel of red top, to the acre. He advised farmers to raise their own seed, which they could readily do, with a little care, and at a considerable diminution of cost. The seed need not be separated, but sown with the chaff. The herds-grass should be sown from the 10th of August to the 1st of September.—Some members favored rolling the land after the seed is sown, some bushing it, while others thought neither essential.

EARLY GOODRICH POTATOES.—I think I must tell of my success in raising "Early Goodrich" potatoes the past season. I procured a half bushel of this variety from Bliss & Co., Springfield, Mass. I cut them with two eyes to the piece, and dropped the pieces a foot apart, in rows three feet apart. Manure spread on and harrowed in. Hoed twice—ripe very early. In October I dug *thirty-six* bushels of very nice potatoes; all grown from that half bushel of seed, and all sound.

Ashfield, Mass. E. GEAVES.

TESTING GRASS SEED.—It is a good plan to test grass and clover seed before sowing, by putting seeds previously counted, in a small cup filled with good soil. Cover the seeds a quarter inch deep, and keep the soil moist and warm. In a few days the proportion of good seeds may be determined.

CALIFORNIA is well adapted to fruit growing, and a paper in that state, noticing a large arrival of tropical fruit from Los Angeles, including lemons, oranges, citrons, &c., predicts that ten years hence that single country will produce a handsome surplus after supplying the entire Pacific coast.

Advertisements.

Massachusetts.

RARE AND BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS, SELECT VEGETABLES.
B. K. BLISS,
Importer and Dealer in Garden, Field and Flower Seeds,

Would invite attention to his large and well selected assortment of the above, comprising the newest and most approved varieties, both of European and Home Productions, the quality of which cannot be surpassed. For a list of which, see his

ILLUSTRATED SEED CATALOGUE AND GUIDE TO THE FLOWER AND KITCHEN GARDEN.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL EDITION, enlarged and improved, contains 124 pages of closely printed matter, BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED with 100 engravings, also a splendid frontispiece of a group of recent novelties—and a descriptive list of TWO THOUSAND VARIETIES OF GARDEN AND FLOWER SEEDS, embracing all the NEW VARIETIES worthy of cultivation introduced the past season—with explicit directions for their culture—also a list of ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE VARIETIES OF FRENCH HYBRID GLADIOLUS, including the leading novelties of the past season, with many other SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS—consisting of AMARYLLIS, TUBEROSES, TIGRIDIAS—LILIES in great variety, &c. To which is added a list of the choicest varieties of GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, RASPBERRIES, and other SMALL FRUITS, BEDDING PLANTS, &c., &c., cultivated at his gardens, with much other useful information upon the subject of gardening generally, which will be found useful to all engaged in the delightful occupation of gardening. A copy of the Catalogue will be mailed to all applicants enclosing TWENTY-FIVE CENTS. Our regular customers supplied without charge. Address

B. K. BLISS,
Drawer No. 11, P. O., Springfield, Mass.
February 23, 1867. 4w-ee-7

STRIPED LEAVED JAPANESE MAIZE.

The experience of the past season fully confirms all that we stated in reference to this beautiful plant, when introducing it to the public last spring; and we are in receipt of many flattering letters from the leading Florists in Europe, all of whom agree that it is the finest plant for decorative purposes that has been introduced for many years. Certificates of Merit and numerous Prizes have been awarded to Exhibitors at the various English and Continental exhibitions, not the least of which was that of the "Royal Horticultural Society's International Show," all grown from seed furnished by us last spring to our European correspondents.

"Cosmos," Agricultural Editor of the Saturday Evening Post, writes us that it is superior to any other for table use, as green corn.
Packets containing about 40 seeds, 25 cents.
Prices to the Trade, in bulk or in packets, will be given upon application.

B. K. BLISS, Springfield, Mass.
February 23, 1867. 4t-ee-7

Connecticut.

FARMERS' ATTENTION.—Will be sold at Auction, at the Giles Farm, South Woodstock, Conn., on Wednesday, March 6, 1867, the following Live Stock and Farming Tools. Sale to commence at 10 A. M.

Three first class young family Cows, to drop their calves in March; one prime pair of Farm or Driving Horses; one Colt; a set of double-team Harnesses, with other Harnesses. One horse lumber Wagon; 1 good Carryall; 1 good Ox Cart, with two yokes; Excelsior Fanning Machine; Ploughs; Harrows; Seed Sowing Machines; Cultivators; 1 Cast Iron Roller; and many other labor-saving Machines that are needed on a first class farm.

Also 2 days of good Hay, and a lot of Straw; 50 bushels of Jackson White Potatoes, and about 20 bushels of Seed Potatoes, the earliest variety known.

Those wishing to raise early potatoes, would do well to attend sale. Also a variety of Household Furniture.

S. M. FENNER, Auctioneer,
South Woodstock, Conn., Feb. 16, 1867. 3w-6

Rhode Island.

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FARMER WANTED.—A faithful and skillful farmer is wanted to take charge of a farm. His wife to understand making butter and the care of poultry.

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February 16, 1867.

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EXTRA HEAVY PLOWS, for road work and for breaking up new land, made by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

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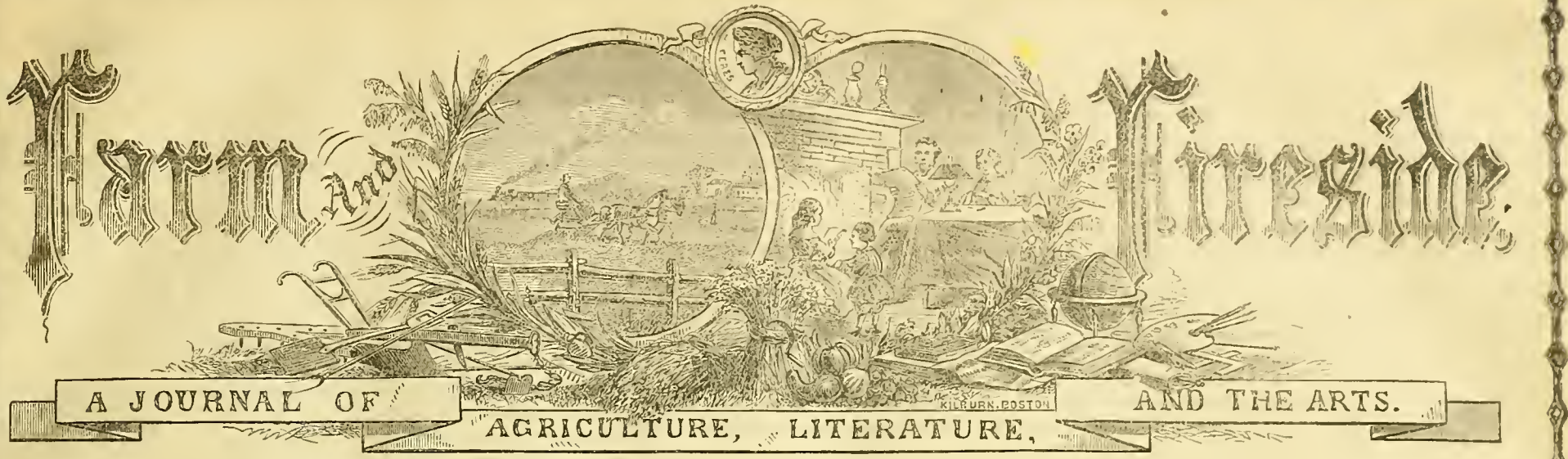


THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



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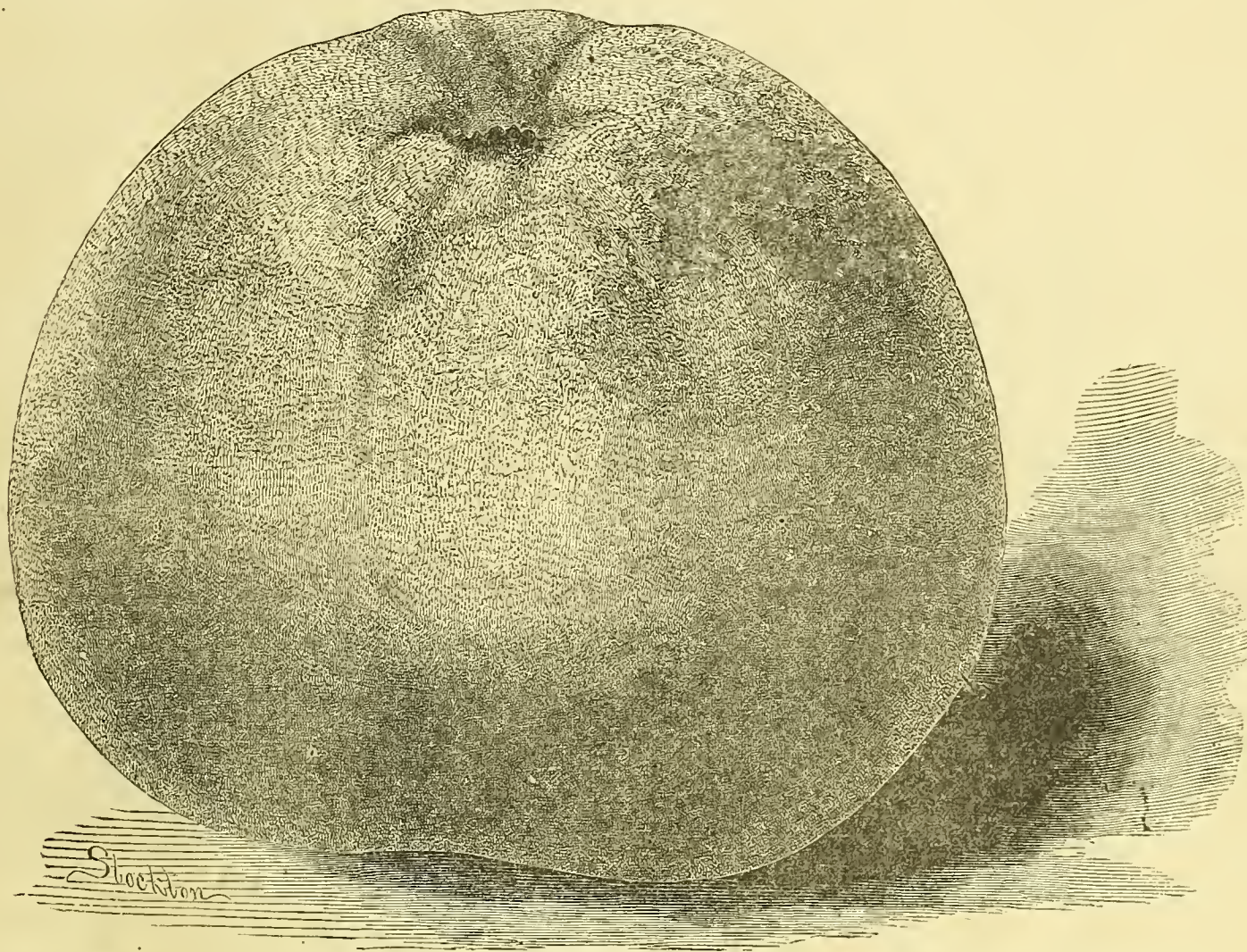


A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

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

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

VOL. 1. WOODSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1867. NO. 8.



MAMMOTH APPLES.

THERE are several kinds of apples, grown in the United States, remarkable only for their size. We are not prepared to class the "Buckingham Apple" among these; although a distinguished pomologist, at our elbow, says "they are sadly deficient in good qualities."—The above engraving gives the exact dimension of their size, grown under favorable circumstances. It is, also, a perfect picture of them. They are oblate-conical in shape, deeply shaded with crimson, and have large, greyish dots. Some people think they are identical with the "Meigs," "Jackson Red," and the "Buncombe Apple" of the Southern States. They also resemble the "Winter Queen," extensively grown in Kentucky.

The best specimens of the "Buckingham" that we ever saw, were exhibited at the Pomological Exhibition held at Philadelphia in 1860. These specimens were grown in some Western State, and attracted much attention at that time.

THE CROPS IN OHIO.—The Sandusky Register expresses itself grateful that "there is one bright spot in the generally unpleasant aspect of business affairs." The wheat crop throughout the country looks well, and promises cheap bread for the future. Besides, the amount of land sown to wheat last Fall is much larger in many sections than formerly.

PLAIN TALK WITH FARMERS.

NUMBER ONE.

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

DID the importance and dignity of the pursuit which you follow ever strike you? From the remotest ages it has been deemed worthy of attention. The simplicity of ancient manners rendered it an object not inconsistent with the rank and situation of persons of eminence.—Gideon, the renowned champion and Judge of Israel, left his threshing-floor to preside in the public assemblies of his countrymen; and the world-famed Cincinnatus, "the preëminent ploughman," as the Roman annalist well calls him, left his plough to lead the Roman armies to battle; and afterwards denied himself the honor due to his victories, that he might return to the cultivation of his fields. I have met somewhere, in my various readings, with the following beautiful story, illustrative of the importance attached to Agriculture by the ancient Greeks. Aristomenes, after his unsuccessful defence of Eua against the Lacedæmonians, carried with him some sacred pledges, said by the oracle at Delphos, "to contain the fate of Messena." Beneath this oracular response, the god intended to convey the great truth that the safety of this warlike people never would be secured, never would be permanent, until they had turned "their swords into plough-shares,

and their spears into pruning-hooks,"—for these "sacred pledges" were nothing more than plates of lead, upon which were inscribed the histories of the worship and services of the goddesses Ceres and Proserpina; and beneath all this was shadowed the cultivation of Agriculture and Horticulture, over which these deities respectively presided. The talismanic properties of these sheets, containing the history of these divinities, consisted not in any miraculous power they conferred: but simply in the information and benefit these warlike people would derive in an abandonment of their bitter struggles, and a devotion to Agriculture and Horticulture. In China, to render Agriculture honorable, the Emperor annually, at the commencement of Spring, which is the beginning of their year, goes to the field in person, in a common cart or wagon painted green, and in presence of the princes of the blood royal, the officers of state, and the Mandarins of the Empire, holds the plough for a time. The ceremony is unusually solemn, and the Emperor offers up prayers for a bountiful crop and a successful harvest. Amongst the ancient Persians, their King sat down once a month with a party of practical husbandmen, or persons engaged in the ordinary labors of Agriculture; and, it is not a little remarkable that the Persian priests represented to the devotees that the most acceptable service they could perform in the sight of a divinity, was

the sedulous cultivation of their fields; and it was a well known maxim among them, that "he who cultivated and sowed the ground with care and diligence, stood a much better chance for Paradise than he could by the repetition of a thousand prayers." The political institutions of the Roman State were all calculated to confer respectability upon the practice of this art. In the early ages of the Republic, the individual soldiers of a victorious army were each put in possession of his portion of the conquered territory with all the solemnity and parade of a military procession,—thereby giving dignity to the labors of the husbandman, by associating them with the proud ideas of conquest and dominion. Hence, the persons engaged in any branch of art or manufacture, or in any commercial employment, were regarded as an inferior class, and as holding a far lower rank in society than the meanest husbandman, or person engaged in the cultivation of the soil. In fact one of the punishments which the public censors inflicted upon a disorderly country citizen, consisted in striking his name out of the list of the inhabitants of the rural districts, and enrolling him amongst the city tribes.

Agriculture has been a subject, too, deemed of such great importance as to exercise the talents of the most eminent writers. In various ages men have written to explain its principles, and celebrate its excellence. Hesiod

A LITTLE SERMON.—Sometimes I compare the trouble we have to undergo in the course of a year to a great bundle of faggots, far too large for us to lift. But God does not require us to carry the whole at once. He mercifully unties the bundle, and gives us one stick, which we are able to carry to-day, and then another, which we are able to carry to-morrow, and so on. Thus we might easily manage if we would only take the burden appointed for us each day; but we choose to increase our trouble by carrying yesterday's stick over again to-day, and adding to-morrow's burden to our load before we are required to bear it.



Handwritten note on the right margin: "L. S. Foss for my 'woman's memory'"

was the first of the Grecian poets to sing the praises of the plough; and, in a work nearly coeval with the Iliad, he has combined with the principles of the art, many curious observations on the seasons most propitious to its various employments. Xenophon expatiated in his "Economies" on the importance of Agriculture, and described its influence on the prosperity of the arts and the advancement of civilization. Cicero was so much pleased with the sweet simplicity and beneficial tendency of this treatise, that he translated it into Latin; and, in his admirable Dialogue on Old Age, recommends it to the great Scipio, as the most powerful inducement to persevere in his favorite pursuit. Virgil has ennobled the subject with the dignity of Latin verse, and in his Georgics,—the most correct and original of his works,—has described, at large, the rural occupations of his countrymen, the cultivation of the land, the season most favorable to tillage, and the art of grazing and planting.

I might go on at some length in enumerating facts like these; but enough has been written to make manifest how high in estimation the ancients held the pursuit you follow. If it has lost dignity and position in the estimation of the moderns, is not this in a great measure owing to those who have pursued it doing it negligently and carelessly? Do not farmers, as a class, in our day, content themselves with using their hands more than their heads—going on from year to year without any ambition to be wiser than their ancestors; trusting to experience and despising any other instructress. You are so much in the habit of holding converse with Dame Nature, and looking to her for instruction, that, as a class, you are very apt to turn your backs upon all kinds of scientific knowledge relating to your calling, unless it happens to correspond with your experience. Now your experience, perhaps, has been derived solely from revelations that you think have been made to you while following the plough, or watching the operations of vegetable growth upon your farms. I have not one disparaging word to say against Nature as an instructress, and if she could utter her thoughts, and speak to you in your own tongue, you would be surprised to find how often you have widely erred in interpreting her meaning.—Scientific men, who have all their lives investigated the causes of things, and sought to explore the mysteries of Nature, are often at fault in their conclusions. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the simple husbandman, whose observations are hemmed in by the narrow boundaries of his own experience, should be much oftener at fault. Kindly Nature has, however, revealed much to her high priests who are continually ministering in her temple; and her oracles have made plain to these, her chosen ones, things which, without their aid, would have remained mysteries still. Does it not behoove, then, the uninitiated, to listen attentively to the teachings of these highly favored ones, who have spent their lives in acquiring that knowledge which has admitted them partly behind the veil, and almost into the Holy of Holies of the Great Temple itself? I would not for a moment be considered as denying that the art of Agriculture, like all other arts, requires for its successful cultivation industry and experience.

But there always comes a time when the laws of science can be engrafted, as it were, upon the practices of experience; and this, to the great advantage of the art. That time has long since come; and no one who has carefully regarded the history of the progress of Agriculture during the present century, but must admit that it has been materially aided and advanced by scientific research. The farmer of to-day is successful and prosperous just in proportion to the extent of his ability to add to the teachings of experience the results of scientific knowledge; and it would be very strange if the Agricultural Art should be an exception to this rule. Additional knowledge, additional enlightenment never put back the progress of anything; and, therefore, they could not have this effect upon Agriculture. There are very many farmers who will receive this proposition with derision; who sneer at the pretensions of "Book Farming," as they derisively slight the application of science to Agriculture. Fortunately, sneering and ridicule never yet over-

threw great established truths; and they will prevail while the men who attempt to resist will be overthrown. To use the language of Professor Tuckey, in his Agricultural lectures at Yale: "Farmers should pay more heed to the lessons of science as well as of practice, in order that the two, hand in hand, may unite in educating, experimenting and explaining, where either alone could only blindly speculate or blindly delve."

What is there in Agriculture requiring a man to be ignorant, if he will be skillful? Or, why may every other class of men learn by reading and the acquirement of scientific knowledge, but the farmer? These are pregnant questions, and should set the minds of farmers, who have heretofore had their prejudices excited against what they derisively style "book farming."

A very keen, sarcastic writer, only a few years ago, drew this portrait of an anti-book farmer:—"He ploughs three inches deep, lest he should turn up the poison that, in his estimation, lies below; his wheat land is ploughed so as to keep as much water upon it as possible. He sows two bushels to the acre, and reaps ten; so that it takes a fifth of his crop to seed his ground; his corn land has never any help from him, but bears just as it pleases.—His farm never grows any better, in many respects it gets annually worse. After ten years work on a good soil, while his neighbors have grown rich, he is just where he started, only his house is dirtier, his fences more tottering, his soil poorer, and his pride and ignorance greater." Now, I admit that this portrait is overdrawn; but there are features discernible in it, that many will recognize. My object is to endeavor, in these communications, to correct the errors and prejudices that I find continually among men who are esteemed sensible in their respective neighborhoods. I am acquainted with a trucker; in my own neighborhood, who for the first two or three years raised good crops and made money; but latterly, his crops have turned out poorly, and the reason is, that his crops have exhausted the soil of the nutriment necessary to their well being, and he does not know enough to put it back by manures containing the very food the crops he cultivates most need. And, yet, if he had read the rudiments of scientific farming, he would have found out that raising a crop is only a species of slow cooking. Here is a compound of materials to be made. Nature agrees to knead them together, and produce the grain or fruit, if the farmer will only supply the materials. To do this he must understand what kind of materials he wants. Suppose a cook perceiving that the bread was wretched, did not know exactly what was the matter, and should add salt, flour, yeast or bran, at hap-hazard,—yet this is exactly what a great many farmers do, who profess to be guided by experience and to despise book farming. They find that their fields yield a small crop of wheat. They can't exactly tell what is the matter. Is the soil deficient in lime, sand or clay? Is magnesia or potash wanted? Perhaps they do not know that these things are requisite in a crop. As some one has well said: "The land must be *manured*." Now, manure on an impracticable soil is medicine.—Of course, if the farmer prescribes, he must tell what medicine, viz: what manure. Is it vegetable matter or phosphates, alumina or silica? Suppose a doctor says you are sick and must take medicine, without knowing what the disease is, or what the appropriate remedy; and should pull out a handful of what there was in his saddle bags, and tell you to "take the dose"?

And yet this illustration is by no means overdrawn, as a representation of some farmers of my acquaintance, who spread manure on their lands because their fathers did it before them, without any reference to the state of the soil, the wants of the crops, or the result it is going to produce. Now, the inquisitive farmer, who is not too proud to peep into books, will learn what, it may be, he had only a faint idea of before—that when a crop is taken from a perfect soil, the crop takes away a portion of the elements that compose it; and a certain number of crops takes away all. The crop then ceases to be a profitable one. If, for instance, a soil contains so much carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, sulphur and the other unorganic

constituents of plants, and a succession of crops are taken from it, each crop abstracting more or less of these ingredients, the time must come, if not annually restored, when all these ingredients will have been abstracted.—Now, science makes manifest to the farmer how all these elements can be paid back to an impoverished soil by natural or artificial manures. Perhaps there is no subject upon which there is greater ignorance amongst farmers than upon the real object of the use of lime.—The intelligent husbandman who spreads lime upon his land, through the revelations of agricultural chemistry, is aware that by this means he goes through the very process a chemist resorts to in his laboratory to analyse the soil—he liberates the silica, the potash and the phosphates, which enable these substances the better to mingle with the soil, and administer to the demands of vegetation. He learns further, that by this process he has furnished no equivalent for that removed by the crops, and unless he restores to the soil what the lime has evolved, his frequent liming will only burn up and exhaust it. He ascertains, perhaps, what he never dreamed of before—that lime is not, in the ordinary sense, a manure; for manuring consists, strictly, in the restoration of that to the soil in which it is deficient. Lime, however, is a robber, and the farmer who works slovenly and ignorantly, contenting himself with frequent liming, will find its constant depredations will leave his soil poor indeed. Let us take lime uncombined with anything, or quick lime and the carbonate of lime, or chalk. By burning the chalk, all the carbonic acid is expelled, and the quick lime is left behind.—This quick lime is well known as a caustic.—Whenever quick lime is exposed to the air, it attracts the carbonic acid of the atmosphere, and returns into a state of chalk or carbonate of lime. When lime is added to the soil, besides furnishing the soil with the lime that a crop may require, it has a further action.—When caustic lime is added to the soil, by its causticity, it causes the vegetable matter, old roots, &c., to decompose more rapidly than they otherwise would. Hence, quick lime promotes the formation of humus. Then the nitrogen which decaying vegetable matter contains, is not very soluble. Now, the chemist finds in his laboratory, that is, he takes just such vegetable matter, adds lime to it, and then subjects it to heat, that ammonia is given off freely. A similar effect, no doubt, is produced by the presence of lime in the soil. Then if there are any free acids in the soil, the lime combines with them, and converts them into nutritious food. The action of carbonate of lime is the same as quick lime, saving only its caustic property. Now, here you have an instance how science explains to the Agriculturist the reason of things. In future communications, I may have something to say about science as applied to Agriculture.

February, 1867.

CARE OF ANIMALS.—Any one who does not feel an inclination or capacity to take the amount of care and pains necessary for the well-being of an animal, ought conscientiously to abstain from having one in charge. A carefully tended pet, whether dog or cat, is a pleasant addition to a family of young people; but a neglected, ill-brought-up, ill-kept one, is only an annoyance.

We should remember, too, in all our dealings with animals, that they are a sacred trust to us from our Heavenly Father. They are dumb, and cannot speak for themselves; they cannot explain their wants or justify their conduct; and therefore we should be tender towards them.

Our Lord says not even a little sparrow falls to the ground without our Heavenly Father's knowledge, and we may believe that his eye takes heed of the disposition which we show toward those defenceless beings whom he thinks worthy of his protection.

Don't you tell me you could hold the plow?" said a farmer to an Irishman he had taken on trial. "Be aisy, now," says Mike. "How could I hold it an' two horses pullin' it away? Just stop the craytures, and I'll hold it for ye."

Rhode Island Society.

RHODE ISLAND SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

The first stated meeting of the Standing Committee took place on the 20th February, in Providence. Thomas G. Potter of East Providence, and Alanson Steere, of Seituat, were admitted members of the Society.

The President reported the division of the Standing Committee into standing sub-committees as follows:

On Agriculture—Obadiah Brown, of North Providence; John B. Francis, of Warwick; Charles S. Bradley, of North Providence; Amasa Sprague, of Cranston; Alfred B. Chadsey, of Wickford; Allen C. Mathewson, of Barrington; Elisha A. Lawton, of Cranston; Jas. D. W. Perry, of Bristol; John G. Clarke, of South Kingstown, and Thomas G. Potter, of East Providence.

On Horticulture—Joseph H. Bourn, of North Providence; Edward P. Taft, Cyrus B. Manchester, of Providence; Henry Staples, of Barrington; Wm. B. Spencer, of Phenix; Silas Moore, of Cranston; Israel M. Bowen, of Johnston; and John Oldfield, of Providence.

On Manufactures—Elisha Dyer, Lyman B. Frieze, Royal C. Taft, James Y. Smith, and William Viall, of Providence; Cyrus Harris and Amasa Sprague, of Cranston.

On Mechanic Arts—George F. Wilson, of East Providence; Henry J. Angell, and Wm. E. Barrett, of Providence; and Joseph F. Brown, of North Providence.

On Fine Arts—Seth Padelford and Oliver Johnson, of Providence; Thomas G. Turner, of Warren; Robert S. Burroughs, of Providence; and Joseph Hodges, of Barrington.

On Zoology—Elisha Dyer, Charles N. Hoyt, and George B. Peck, of Providence; Israel M. Bowen, of Johnston, and George H. Wilcox, of Providence.

On Miscellaneous Subjects—Henry Staples, of Barrington; Henry J. Angell, of Providence; James DeWolf Perry, of Bristol, and William Viall, of Providence.

Henry W. Lothrop, late Vice-President, was elected as honorary member of the society.

The Treasurer proffered a bond for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office, which was accepted as satisfactory and directed to be lodged with the President for safe keeping.

The Treasurer made a report, showing a balance of \$93 20 in his hands.

The Secretary reported the books, &c., received at the rooms of the Society, among which were fifty copies of the Report of the Agricultural Department, received from the Hon. Wm. Sprague, the distribution of which was referred to the Secretary.

A list of Patents issued to citizens of Rhode Island during the year 1866, and a Meteorological record of the year, prepared by the Secretary, the Board directed to be published in the Transactions of the Society.

Voted, That "In and In breeding" be the subject for discussion at the next stated meeting, and that notice of the same be given in the papers.

Voted, That Elisha Dyer, Obadiah Brown, Edward D. Pearce and W. R. Staples be a committee to consider and report relative to a home for this Society.

Voted, that the thanks of the Society be presented to our President for his efforts in the Senate of the United States, to reduce the duties on thorough-bred stock imported into the United States.

The Board voted to adjourn to meet at the call of the Executive Committee on Cattle Show and Exhibition, if before the next stated meeting.

The following report was received and ordered to be placed on file:

"The committee to whom was referred the subject of 'Lectures and Addresses before the Society during the year,' respectfully report:

That a series of lectures was commenced under the most flattering auspices, by an address upon agricultural education and the formation of Boards of Agriculture, from the Hon. George B. Loring, of Salem, Mass., the President of the New England Agricultural Society, and a member of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture. The address was delivered in the Hall of the House of Representatives of the State House, in Providence, Tuesday evening, 19th instant, and was able, suggestive and practical. It was listened to with much gratification, by a large audience, which included many members of the General Assembly. The committee cannot but hope for favorable results from its delivery, and congratulate the Society on this auspicious commencement of what they intend to have done in different parts of the State, as the citizens may require or suggest, whenever and wherever they will assist the committee by co-operation and necessary effort to accomplish the object of their appointment.

ELISHA DYER, for the Committee.

Another lecture or address in Providence may soon be looked for from this committee. Provision is made by a standing by-law of the Society for holding informal meetings of the Society and others for the discussion of agricultural and industrial matters in any village or town in the State, where they may be useful.

TWENTY FIVE years ago but three agricultural papers were published in this country. At present there are over thirty.

The newest Yankee notion is an umbrella with a gutter round the edge and a sprout at one corner.

THE ENGLISH CATTLE PLAGUE.—There has been a sudden increase reported in the ravages of the English cattle plague. During the week ending February 2d there were 28 animals attacked, whilst during the previous week but one attack was reported. On the 28th of January the disease appeared among the stock of a dairykeeper at Islington, in the metropolis, and during the week attacked 28 of the 46 cattle on the premises. The whole of the animals, whether diseased or healthy, were at once killed. The outbreak is remarkable as occurring on the premises visited by the first authenticated instance of the English cattle plague in June, 1865, on which occasion 46 animals were reported, and 50 slaughtered healthy, out of 123.





Fireside Readings.

"THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY."

Could we but know
The land that ends our dark, uncertain travel,
Where lie those happier hills and meadows low—
Ah, if beyond the spirit's inmost veil,
Aught of that country could we surely know,
Who would not go?

Might we but hear
The lowering angels' high imagined chorus,
Or catch, betimes, with wakeful eyes and clear,
One radiant vista of the realm before us—
With one rapt moment given to see and hear,
Ah, who would fear?

Were we quite sure
To find the peerless friend who left us lonely,
Or there by some celestial stream as pure,
To gaze in eyes that here were lovely only—
This weary mortal coil, were we quite sure,
Who would endure?

THE GREAT BOVINE CITY.

A BULLOCK is an awkward piece of merchandise to "handle;" he has a will of his own, with much power to resist the will of other creatures; he cannot be cramped up into an elevator, nor shot into the hold of a vessel; he must have two pails of water every twelve hours, and he cannot go long without a large bundle of hay. There is also a society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, with an eloquent and resolute Henry Bergh to see that cattle have their rights. Chicago has learned to conform to these circumstances, and now challenges mankind to admire the exquisite way in which those three hundred thousand cattle per annum, and that million and a half of hogs, sheep, and calves, are received, lodged, entertained, and despatched.

Out on the flat prairie, four miles south of the city, and two feet below the level of the river—part of that eight miles which our traveller found under water in 1833—may be seen the famous "Stock Yards," styled in one of the Chicago guide books "The great Bovine City of the world." Two millions of dollars have been expended there in the construction of a cattle market. The company owning it have now nearly a square mile of land, 345 acres of which are already enclosed into cattle pens—150 of these acres being floored with plank. There is at the present time pen room for 20,000 cattle, 75,000 hogs, and 20,000 sheep, the sheep and hogs being provided with sheds; and no Thursday has passed since the yards were opened when they were not full, Thursday being the fullest day. This bovine city of the world, like all other prairie cities, is laid out in streets and alleys, crossing at right angles. The projectors have paid New York the compliment of naming the principal street Broadway. It is a mile long and seventy-five feet wide, and is divided by a light fence into three parts, so that herds of cattle can pass one another without mingling, and leave an unobstructed road for the drovers. Nine railroads have constructed branches to the yards, and there is to be a canal connecting it with one of the forks of the Chicago river.

Nothing is more simple and easy than the working of the system of these stock yards. The sum of anguish annually endured in the United States will be greatly lessened when that system shall prevail all along the line from the prairies to the Atlantic. A cattle train stops along a street of pens; the side of each car is removed; a gently declining bridge woos the living freight down into a clean, planked inclosure, where on one side is a long trough, which the turn of a faucet fills with water, and on the other side is a manger, which can be immediately filled with hay. While the tired and hungry animals are enjoying this respite from the torture of their ride, their owner or his agent finds comfort in the Hough House (so named from one of the chief promoters of the enterprise), a handsome hotel of yellow stone, built solely for the accommodation of the "cattle men," and capable of entertaining two hundred of them at once. A few steps from the hotel is the Cattle Exchange, another spacious and elegant edifice of yellow stone, wherein there is a great room for the chaffering or preliminary "gassing" (as the drovers term it) of buyers and sellers; also a bank solely for cattle men's use, with a daily

business ranging from one hundred thousand to five hundred thousand dollars; also a telegraph office, which reports, from time to time, the price of beef, pork and mutton in two hemispheres, and sends back to the cattle markets of mankind the condition of affairs in this, the great bovine city of the world. The "gassing" being accomplished, the cattle men leave this fine Exchange, and go forth to view the cattle which have been the subject of their conversation, and they move about in the midst of these prodigious herds, and inspect the occupants of any particular pen, with as much ease as a lady examines pictures in a window. The purchase completed, the cattle are driven along, through opening pens and broad streets, to the yards adjoining the railroad, by which they are to resume their journey. On the way to these yards, they are weighed at the rate of thirty cattle a minute, by merely pausing in the weighing pen as they pass. The men return to the Exchange, where the money is paid, all the cattle business being done for cash; after which they conclude the affair by dining together at the hotel, or at an excellent restaurant in the Exchange itself.

In this elegant Exchange room two classes of cattle men meet—those who collect the cattle from the prairie States—Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota—and those who distribute the cattle among the Eastern cities. One of the potent civilizers is doing business on the grand scale. By means of this Cattle Exchange a repulsive and barbarizing business is lifted out of the mire, and rendered clean, easy, respectable, and pleasant. The actual handling and supervision of the cattle require few men, who are themselves raised in the social scale by being parts of a great system; while the controlling minds are left free to work at the arithmetic book-keeping of the business. We remember with pleasure the able and polite gentlemen the necessities of whose business suggested this enterprise, and who now control it. The economy of the system is something worth consideration. The design of the directors is to keep the rent of the pens at such rates as to exactly pay the cost of cleaning and preserving them, and to get the requisite profit only from the sale of hay and corn. One hundred tons of hay are frequently consumed in the yards in one day. If those yards were in New England, the sale of manure would be an important branch of the business; but in those fertile prairies they are glad to sell it at ten cents a wagon load, which is less than the cost of shovelling it up.—[Parton, in the Atlantic Monthly for March.

PASTURING CHILDREN.

ONE of the ordinary events of spring in the country is the sending off to pasturage for the season, droves of young cattle; kept in stalls or cooped up in cozy yards, fed upon husks and hay through the long winter and spring, they are released at last; and on some sweet May morning are driven away in frolicsome herds to the mountain pastures, where, feeding upon the tender grasses and drinking the hill-side water, and roaming and reveling at will, they remain until the autumn frosts drive them home for food and shelter. They go out thin, shaggy and dirty; they return sleek and plump, and ready either for the knife of the butcher or for domestic service. It is in the pasture that the cattle and colts grow. They get muscle and health by roaming and feeding and sleeping in the open air.

Now, in one respect, children need to be regarded and treated as young animals. Their particular business is to grow, and to grow healthily and soundly. Among the many obligations which a parent owes the child he has called into existence, not the smallest is that of giving him, to the extent of his ability to do so, a sound and well-developed body. Without this, wealth is of little worth, or splendid intellectual gifts, or fine accomplishments or excellent education. Without this, he can be of comparatively little use to the world, and of little comfort to himself. With it, he can be both useful and happy. If, therefore, country air and country exercise and food are essential to the sound development of the child, he should have them, even at the expense of some

of those possessions which parents are so apt to overrate, and so covetous to secure for their offspring. Let the children be taken to pasture then, as regularly as the calves and colts, while we tell with some detail what the process will do for them.

Of the benefits of fresh country air to the young organism, little needs to be said. They are very obvious. Pure air is the special palium of vitality. It gives life to the blood, and is sent warm and red into every fibre of the body. Impure air poisons life at the fountain. The frightful aggregate of infant mortality in the great cities shows how baneful impure air is to delicate young life. Adult life is less sensitive. It can resist, and does resist wonderfully, the poisons which it inhales at every breath; but children sicken and die at its side by hundreds and thousands every year. A man and his wife bred in the country, or even bred in the city, may live to a good age, and enjoy comfortable health in town, while they are called upon to mourn the mysterious death of every child born to them, or to watch with ceaseless anxiety over a puny brood of babes that carry into their adult life the feeble powers of mind and body. There is no question that men and women can live in air that children must die in; or rather, that they die very slowly in an atmosphere in which children die very quickly.

The next benefit that comes to children at pasture, is free and universal exercise. Dr. Dio Lewis has contrived, with great ingenuity, a series of exercises which will bring into action and development every voluntary muscle of the human organism; but nature is a better counsellor than Dr. Lewis. What he teaches us to do by study and pains taking and labor, from an intelligent motive, she impels us to do in the simple search for amusement, in every playful manifestation of life. The boy left to play in the fields and woods will, in a single day, run more miles and exercise healthfully more muscles than could be matched by the "light gymnastics" of a week. This he does in pure sport. Running, climbing, riding, swimming, rowing, tossing, batting, jumping, wrestling, see-sawing, rolling, tumbling, day after day; there is not a muscle in his little body that he does not bring into play, without a motive that urges from behind, and solely for the gratification of his greed for amusement. Nowhere can he get this free and full exercise except in the country. It is impossible in a city. A child that undertakes any thing more than a walk in the street, gets kicked by a passenger, or run over by a horse; and back-yards are largely devoted to rubbish and clothes lines.—Timothy Titcomb in Hours at Home.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.—Did you ever think, short though it is, how much there is in it? Oh, it is beautiful! Like a diamond in the crown of a queen, it emits a thousand sparkling gems in one.

It teaches all of us, every one of us, to look to God as our parent—"Our Father."

It prompts us to raise our thoughts and our desires above the earth—"Who art in heaven."

It tells us that we must reverence our heavenly Father—"Hallowed be thy name."

It breathes the saint's reward—"Thy kingdom come."

And a submissive, obedient spirit—"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

And a dependent, trusting spirit—"Give us this day our daily bread."

And a forgiving spirit—"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

And a cautious spirit—"Deliver us from evil."

And, last of all, an adoring spirit—"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen."

"Sure," said Patrick, rubbing his head with delight at the prospect of a present from his employer, "I always mane to do my duty."

"I believe you," replied his employer, "and therefore I shall make you a present of all you have stolen from me during the year." "I thank your honor," replied Pat; "and may all your friends and acquaintances trate you as liberally!"

Horticulture.

PIE PLANT.

THE pie plant, or rhubarb, probably had its origin in Turkey, where it was first cultivated for the medicinal properties of its roots. As a vegetable for table use, it had a very recent date. It is within the present century that it has been introduced either in England or America, but now acres are devoted to its cultivation in the vicinity of our cities, and the use of it is rapidly increasing. Coming early in the spring, it fills the gap between the apples of the old year and those of the new. To most palates the acid is agreeable, and of its healthfulness, especially to bilious constitutions, there is no question. The plant is perennial, its cultivation is simple, and it can be raised pound for pound more cheaply and certainly than apples. It is propagated either from the seed or by division of the root. The latter is preferable, as we have it ready for use much sooner and know what kind we shall get. When raised from seed, the plants will vary in size and quality. The soil for pie plant is a strong, deep, rich loam. As much care should be taken in setting the roots as in setting asparagus. No after top-dressing will fully compensate for neglect in setting. As its goodness depends mainly upon its rapid growth, it must have something to live upon, some accumulated capital on which to draw. A cow that walks ten miles a day to secure enough forage to support life, cannot be expected to furnish much milk, and so the plant that exerts all its energies to live, cannot furnish large succulent stalks. For setting the pie plant a trench should be dug at least two feet deep and filled, first with bones, hair, leather shavings or something of the slowly decaying order, next with rich manure, and lastly with good earth. This requires some labor, but the labor is amply remunerated by early and frequent croppings for many years. The distance of the plant from each other will vary with the variety, the larger kind requiring four or five feet in which to expand their leaves, and the smaller three feet. If propagated from roots the stalks may be pulled for use the second year, care being exercised to leave enough for the plants to breathe. Many make the mistake of cutting the stalks instead of pulling them. In the latter mode there is much less waste of the juices, and the wound sooner heals. The stalks will be found much more tender when half or two thirds grown than when they have attained their full size. By cropping early and selecting the largest stalks only, none may be allowed to attain full growth. In the latter part of May the seed-stalk will show itself, and it must be immediately plucked, that the energies of the plant may not be expended in this direction. No seed should be allowed to ripen unless required for propagation. Before the frosts of winter set in, the plants should be covered three or four inches deep with horse manure, which may be forked as soon as possible in the spring. With such cultivation a dozen roots will furnish an ordinary family with material for pies the year round, for the stalks may be cut into small pieces and dried like apples, or better still, cooked and put into jugs tightly corked, when it will be found as fresh in January as in June. The pie plant is not only good for pies and tarts, but is an excellent substitute for apples as a sauce.

The varieties are unlimited, and will doubtless increase as time advances. They vary in size of leaf and stalk, in form of leaf, in acidity and flavor. Downing's is very large, subacid and of a rich flavor. The Victoria is also large, but acid and not high flavored. Its size and productiveness recommend it to the market gardener. For family use the early Prince Imperial received the first prize of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1862. It is of medium size, pleasant flavor and very tender. The Caboon is recommended as the wine plant, having large and juicy stalks.

THE GREELEY GRAPE PRIZE OF \$100 has been awarded to the "Concord," by the Fruit Committee of the American Institute, New York. It was first awarded to the "Iona," but changed at a subsequent meeting.

ALMOST every one thinks it an easy matter to plant a tree, and yet facts prove that the majority of such thinkers are greatly mistaken. There is a right and a wrong way. Briefly, the right way is to prepare a sufficiently wide basin, or hole, to receive the roots easily. Keep the surface, middle and lower layers of soil separate; set the tree to a depth equal to that it naturally occupied, allowing a little for settling. Spread some active manure in bottom of basin, and on this spread out the roots carefully; over these spread the best part of the soil taken from the basin, or, what is better, some rich compost or decayed leaves, &c. On this return the upper layer of soil, and complete the filling up with the original soil.





The Field.

MARL MAKING.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

BY MRS. MADELINE E. KENDALL, PHILADELPHIA.

WHAT will our *savants* say of a woman's attempt to uncover a few of the mysteries of marl making? Probably, that in going from her home to a marl pit, and then with the result of investigations, back to "our Fireside," publicly, that, in another instance, woman has stepped out of her sphere, into that of our learned "lords;" usurping their patented prerogative. *Non importe*—believing that if a woman may add evidence interesting and important, that may aid in fixing facts as successors to uncertain theories hitherto held in doubt, a woman is as legitimately at home among marl as men, I am going to present such new features of the material as careful microscopic investigations have revealed.

Throughout the entire marl belt, extending from the Carolinas to the Raritan Bay, we find the character of deposits changing according to locality and date of formation, as widely as do the various races of humanity from divers constitutional causes. In the majority of deposits in Virginia and Maryland, we find the marl coarse; in color a light, grayish brown, shading into dingy white, made up mostly of fossil shells of three or four varieties of the order *Lamellibranchiata*, of which there are about 300 living, and more than 1000 fossil species, and the *Wentle traps* of the order *Gastropoda*, of which there are over 300 fossil species. Prominent among the latter are the *Vermetus lumbricalis*, a long, slender, spiral shell, formed like a patent twist auger, and pointed like a gimlet. These fossil shells, made up almost entirely of non progressed phosphate of lime, are of no more value as a direct fertilizer than pulverized coral; but thoroughly incorporated with tenacious clay soils, produce indirectly fertility as disintegrators.

In the marl deposits of Delaware, we find the shells mostly of a distinct and different order and later period than those of Maryland and Virginia. Most common are those of the *Limnæa* or *Pond Snails*, as the *Physa heterostropha*, *Pleurobis lentis*, *Limnæa desidiosa*, etc., all more progressed, more decomposed, and the marl, of which they make up a considerable percentum, beginning to be valuable as a direct fertilizer.

Coming to the marl deposits of New Jersey, I find in the underlying, green strata, fossil shells in original form, and varieties numerous. Aided by a microscope of thirteen hundred diameter's power, I have already counted, in a sample of green marl taken from the pits on the property of Samuel R. Gaskill, Esq., near Birmingham Station, Burlington co., New Jersey, one hundred and seventy three varieties of shells, mostly of the *Mollusks*—as *Cycladida*, *Cyprinæda*, *Venerida* and *Tellinida* families, most of which have been fossils perhaps a hundred thousand years; many of them extinct, and many others so minute that entire, the shell appears to the unaided eye only a speck as small as the finest particle of dust.

The largest fossil shells—all petrifications found in the green marl strata of these deposits—are of the *Cyprinida*—species a *cephala*, in length about two inches, oval, compressed underneath, cornuted, crested above, valves solid, hinged above, cone-shaped, deeply indented in a semicircular form at the larger extremity. The interior is chambered, divided by a membranous longitudinal wall, making the animal, joined above at the hinge, two labed underneath. These are all fossil, found only in a petrified state in green marl, having no living representation.

In the same strata are also found fossil remains of the early Saurians of amphibious habits; exhibited mostly in sections of vertebrae, with occasional fragments of other bones that generally fall into dust upon exposure to the atmosphere. Besides these, there are shark's teeth (petrifications), and in all the overlying strata, remains of both land and marine animals and fishes—no traces of birds have as yet been discovered.

Each one of these contributors to the New Jersey Bank of Deposit brought an element

(or perhaps three or four) of fertility which, being united by pressure, formed in the totality a compost which, without possessing the quick, stimulating qualities of guano, or several manufactured, mercantile manures, is an actual manure in itself: good on account of the large percentum of potash and phosphoric acid, and better because an application of marl to the soil will be felt beneficially for years.

The green marl grains, which many people, and among them several men of scientific attainments, look upon as only so much waste sand, are on the contrary the most valuable portion of the whole bulk of material. Originally, these grains were pearly white, transparent particles; and being porous, pressure and absorption has filled first, and then coated them with the green essence of fertility coming from decomposed fish and flesh. The microscope puts forth this fact too plainly to permit contradiction by any mere theory or geological guess work. So it is the virtue which exists in the sand of marl, or if you please, in the *marl grains*, that given off gradually to the soil, makes its effects as a fertilizer felt so long after application.

I have only just entered upon a microscopic investigation of marl, and as I progress, finding out more of the character of its constituents, if permitted, I shall come to the *Farm and Fireside* with more practical intelligence. I am safe, however, in advising farmers that, in conjunction with lime, true marl, such as this from the Birmingham deposit, is a sure and economical fertilizer.

February, 1867.

LAND DRAINAGE.

For the permanent improvement of land nothing is better than drainage. Soil that is saturated with water during six months of the year, generally bakes into hard clods in Summer, and is not suitable for affording nourishment to the roots of plants, and consequently the grass or herbage of any kind growing on it, becomes parched during the heat of Summer. When soil is dried by natural or artificial drainage it becomes friable and porous, and in numerous little cells, retains air which invigorates the roots and enables them to branch out in all directions in search of food.

The roots of the cereals, or green crops, cannot penetrate deep into soil that is saturated with water, consequently these crops are never so luxuriant in undrained as in drained soil. The varieties of grass which grow in wet soils are coarse and innutritious, partaking of the properties of the rush. Dry uplands, or well-drained lowlands, produce the better varieties of grass, such as are suitable for pasture or meadow. If water is turned over a dry field, and suffered to remain permanently, the quality of the herbage will be changed from fine, sweet grass to coarse, sour varieties.

Before the operation of drainage is commenced, the nature of the strata should be understood in order to detect the cause which renders drainage necessary. Some soils are wet by springs, which, rising in the higher parts of the fields, spread over the surface and keep the soil in a constant state of moisture. Rain-water, not having a suitable fall or outlet, or being prevented from sinking into the earth by an impervious subsoil, is another cause which renders artificial drainage necessary. In some cases, rivers or creeks are obstructed by dams or flood-wood, and the water rises and flows back on the adjoining plains. From whatever source it arises, stagnant water is injurious to vegetable life, and should be removed.

Various plans of draining have been invented or recommended by scientific men, and sometimes plain, practical men have made useful discoveries in the course of their operations. Among the latter may be mentioned Joseph Elkington, a farmer of Warwickshire, England, who, in 1764, accidentally discovered a system of drainage, which was very much thought of at the time, and very extensively practised in England for many years afterwards.

Elkington was plagued with a wet farm, and had tried many methods of draining it. Once, when digging a deep drain in one of his fields, he forced a crow-bar through the bottom of the trench, and on withdrawing it, was sur-

prised to find that it was followed by a copious and permanent supply of water. He took the hint and improved upon it, endeavored to catch the springs at the fountain head, and convey them away by judicious drainage. His system consisted principally of tapping the ground with a large auger, and he possessed extraordinary skill in discovering the exact place for performing the operation. Another part of his system consisted in boring through a hard subsoil into a gravelly or porous stratum, and letting the water run down in the apertures thus formed. Many basins or hollow places have been effectually drained in this way.

In some places where, from the position of the land, a proper fall or outlet cannot be obtained, the purpose is answered by sinking shafts or wells into the porous subsoil. These shafts absorb all the water that can be conveyed into them from the surrounding fields, and are a good illustration of the Elkington system of drainage.

A great deal of damage is done to crops every Spring and Fall by floods. In some cases the loss arising from such disasters might have been avoided by a little foresight. Creeks and streams will overflow their banks at certain times, if obstructions are not removed, and suitable water-courses left open. Every farmer should see that the creeks, ditches or drains on his land, or commanding it, are not obstructed by drift-wood or *debris* of any kind, and if there is any uncertainty on this subject, the land that is liable to be flooded should be kept for pasture, and the uplands devoted to tillage.—*Western Rural*.

DEEP PLOUGHING

It seems an anomaly to say that deep ploughing will dry the land in Winter, and keep it moist in Summer, but such is nevertheless the fact. Deep ploughed land being loosened and porous, naturally passes the water off from among the roots of the plants. In Winter the surface freezes sufficiently to prevent the rain which may occasionally fall, and the snow which melts in partial thaws, from penetrating the soil, whilst the under part being loose and porous, is continually draining by gravitation, until the frost penetrates to the full depth of the land ploughed, and which it only does during the absence of snow. With a good coating of early fallen snow, the ground never freezes to a foot in depth, and when the snow lies all the Winter, the drainage still continues. In the Spring the effect still goes on, for the land thaws from the *underside*, as well as the upper, and the drainage still continues, although there will be a crust of frozen ground above it.

In the Summer, on the other hand, the rains fall and penetrate the soil to the full depth ploughed. All surplus water passes off, but from the depth of the moved land enough is retained for the healthy nourishment of the plant. In shallow ploughed lands, the sun heats the soil and drives off by evaporation all moisture. That which constantly arises from the subsoil passes readily off through the shallow heated surface, but in deeply pulverized land there is a considerable portion which acts as a refrigerator or condenser for this evaporating moisture. The effect of the sun cannot penetrate and heat the soil to the depth of a foot. Supposing the sun heats the soil to the depth of four inches to such an extent that the rising moisture will not condense amongst it, the moisture passes off, and is only returned to the growing plants by the nights' dews, but in deeply tilled soil the middle of the tith, being colder than the surface, retards the evaporation, and creates local moisture sufficient for the use of the plants.

This is shown in any covering crop, such as potatoes, peas, vetches, etc. The stems of these plants shade the soil and prevent the direct action of the sun; while at the same time they form a medium which entangles and condenses the moisture rising from the soil, and they return it to the soil at every change of temperature. For this reason the soil under such crops is always far moister than where a stand-up crop, such as wheat or barley, is grown, the upright stems of which allow the moisture to pass off without condensation. We cannot over-cultivate in the killing and de-

struction of weeds and thistles, and to attain the various objects above mentioned, in addition we must have the power of cultivating without stint.—*Canada Farmer*.

The Horse.

TRAINING OF HORSES.—There are a few very simple, common-sense rules, which if followed, will commend themselves to the horse as well as to the trainer, viz;

1st. Always *feel* kindly toward a horse, no matter what he does to you, and consequently never show "temper." Remember, the horse knows distinctly how you feel.

2d. Never go near a horse if you are afraid of him; the horse will know it and take advantage of it, before you acknowledge it yourself.

3d. Never undertake anything with a horse that you do not know you can carry out.

4th. "Make haste slowly," teaching the animal what you want of him, as a child learns its A B C's, one letter at a time, being sure he knows each simple thing before you attempt to teach another; and repeat the lessons often.

5th. Reward each effort to do as you wish, whether he means it or does it accidentally.

6th. Be sure that it is your will and not his that conquers every time.

Following these rules, you may make a horse do almost anything, if he has not been spoiled before you get him.

HORSES' FEET REQUIRE MOISTURE.—Ninety-tenths of the diseases which happen to the hoofs 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.—*Ohio Farmer*.

HOW CARROTS AFFECT HORSES.—The carrot is the most esteemed of all roots for its feeding qualities. When analyzed it gives but little more solid matter than any other root, 85 per cent. being water; but its influence in the stomach upon the other articles 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 gelatinate 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.

A HORSE'S PETITION TO HIS DRIVER—"Going up the hill, whip me not; coming down hill, hurry me not; on level road, spare me not; loose in stable, forget me not; of hay and corn, rob me not; of clean water, stint me not; with sponge and brush, neglect me not; of soft dry bed, deprive me not; tired and hot, wash me not; if sick or cold, chill me not; with bit and reins, Oh! jerk me not; and when you are angry, strike me not."

COVERING the edge of a manger with tin or sheet iron, will prove an effectual remedy to the practice indulged in by many horses, of biting the crib or manger.

HOW TO KILL A FOWL.—A writer on poultry says the easiest, quickest and best way to kill a fowl is to open its beak, and then with a pointed and narrow knife make an incision at the back of the roof, which will divide the vertebrae, 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.

THE GRAVITY OF MOUNTAINS.—The pendulum experiments now carried on in India in connection with the great trigonometrical survey, under direction of Lieut. Colonel Walker, R. E., have led to certain new and important conclusions as regards mountain attraction. Theoretically, the nearer the observing stations are to the Himalayas, the greater should be the force of gravity; but the reverse is found to be the fact, and the difference between theory and fact diminishes with the increased distance of the stations from the hills. Commenting on this phenomenon Col. Walker writes: "This seems a remarkable confirmation of the Astronomer-Royal's opinion that the strata of earth below mountains are less dense than the strata below plains and the bed of the sea."





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 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 centre, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

DOMESTIC FERTILIZERS.

The effects of a proper application of organic chemistry and vegetable physiology to the cultivation of the soil, are obvious. Hence, experiments in agricultural science are more tenaciously bent in that direction. To produce both the largest and best crops from a given surface, is the desideratum of success.

A fertile soil is necessary to exhibit the capabilities of a crop. Many of our agricultural plants are the result of high cultivation, in which an artificially fertilized soil was the principal factor. The originals of our numerous varieties of turnip, cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage, are wretched weeds. Different plants, from peculiarities in their structure, draw differently on the same stores of nutriment. Rye will grow where wheat is unprofitable; while buckwheat will yield a fair crop on exceedingly poor soil. A plant which is of slow, protracted growth, will organize more vegetable matter on a given soil during a Summer time than one which grows quickly.

The elements on which plants feed are derived from the air and earth; in the former, are ammonia, carbonic acid, and water; in the latter, are silicic and phosphoric acid, potash, lime, and magnesia. Water is the vehicle by which they are brought to the roots as well as circulated through the structure of plants. All the elements necessary to the constitution of a plant must be present. Animals instinctively select their appropriate food from the vegetable kingdom; vegetables take what is nutritive from the earth and air; and the earth itself appropriates from the water, which permeates its particles, whatever is useful to the plant.

Now, while Agricultural science may never be able to demonstrate to a nicety what ingredients in the soil should be fostered and maintained, and which subdued or removed, there are certain general principles of which none of us should remain ignorant. It is well known that vigorous vegetation rapidly exhausts the soil, and that those manures which restore the elements of which the soil has been robbed, are the most nutritive. Some substances merely qualify the physical properties of soils and are known as amendments; others operate in the main by feeding vegetation, and are known as fertilizers. Most manures combine these several offices to a greater or less degree; some nourish directly, by supplying at once to the growing plant the nutriment it requires; others, indirectly, by making soluble the stores of the soil, or otherwise disposing them to assume assimilable forms, or by absorbing matter from the atmosphere. The most permanent and abundant manures are the excrements and waste of animals. These are the residue, more or less concentrated, that remains from the oxydation of vegetables which have served as food. And by their admixture, under the agencies of warmth and moisture, the soil more speedily assumes a suitable condition for nourishing fresh vegetation.

The great practical lessons taught by experience and confirmed by science, relative to the use of manures, are—save all refuse which contains any of the elements of vegetation; apply abundantly the mixed ingredients of the dung and compost heaps.

Commercial manures should be used cautiously, experimentally. Those very rich in nitrogen will ultimately impoverish land by virtue of the great energy of action they exhibit. The nitrogen passes into ammonia, excites a quick growth of vegetation by furnishing abundance of material for cell development, while it at the same time rapidly solves the fixed minerals of the soil.

Stable manure is of inestimable value. It is formed of vegetable substances, and it has only to be rendered friable and soluble to enter again into their composition. Ashes or lime

should not be added to the manure heap of the stable, as they will do harm by setting free the ammonia. Next in value are the composts.—No prudent farmer will underestimate them.—In some out-of-sight corner should be accumulated all the rubbish that can have the least value as manure. Here can be thrown the sweepings of the yard, decayed vegetable matter of all kinds, old plaster, soot, charcoal dust, soap suds, kitchen and chamber slops, etc. The heap should be dug over occasionally, adding ashes and lime. The ashes of burned vegetables are worth hoarding up. They contain all that the plant necessarily derived from the soil, the burning process merely having expelled the gases which were immediately or remotely derived from the air. It is folly for the country to spend millions of dollars annually for manures from the China Islands, when on every farm exists or can be produced, without cost, better and more reliable fertilizers. Let our agricultural friends remember these desultory remarks. By putting them into practice they will be abundantly remunerated.

PRACTICAL ECONOMY.

Thus is something that a great many stirring, driving, enterprising farmers need to learn and practice in the management of farm affairs. Rural fortunes do not come alone of energetic industry, plowing, planting, digging, delving and slaving. All these united, ungoverned by systematic economy, will only run a farmer to ruin in his affairs, and himself, ahead of Father Time, into eternity. Making economy in all things our leading guide, one half the drudgery of rural life may be laid aside, and the road to prosperity be made easier by half, and four-fold more certain.

In no other avocation is it possible by neglect, alone, to have so many waste ways, all at once draining the main channel to wealth; so shallowing it as to render navigation difficult, and the rural mariner liable to run on the shoals and make himself and ship a total wreck. There is as much merit, and five times more economy in saving property once acquired, than there is in the perseverance and industry exercised in its acquisition. Neglect in producing that which is property, may possibly be pardoned; but willful neglect, permitting property once produced to be needlessly wasted, is absolute wrong.

It is a late kindness to advise a lookout for thieves after the property has been stolen; or caution against fire after the home is in ashes. So it is late, perhaps early, or between both, to remind farmers in the last month of winter that taking care of last year's produce, housing all agricultural implements, and providing comfortable winter quarters for stock, is good rural economy, and well worth attending to. But the cause of our present complaint is of recent date; and, waiting for the season to come round again, the opportunity may be lost. By advising rural economy now, some seeds, falling on good ground, may take root and bear fruit.

A week since, along the length of a ten miles' railroad ride, we counted seven fields in which the corn fodder of last year's growth was still standing, out-door sentry in shocks; only about one-third of the whole corn-stalk brigade was not standing, having been blown over by winds, or beaten down by snow, lying flat, bleached, wet, water-soaked and worthless for all feeding purposes. With hay at \$35 to \$40 per ton, and good corn fodder worth half that price, such waste is unpardonable wickedness.

In the same distance we saw eight hingeless, dilapidated farm gates; four barns and stables open in many places to wind and water; broken down fences, hogs rooting up wheat; plows, harrows, horse-rakes, and divers other farming implements, rotting and rusting into early worthlessness.

Such exhibitions are examples of bad agricultural economy; and we ask every farmer living along that line of railroad, and all others, everywhere, to look at their wasted products, their broken down fences, their dilapidated out-buildings, their neglected implements, and "turn over a new leaf." Economy is what all must practice in order to prosper.

VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY.

Is it not strange that those who are daily occupied in the cultivation of plants on the farm, should feel so little interest in their nature and structure? No intelligent farmer, at the present day, with all the facilities which libraries and associations have brought within his reach, should remain content to regard the plant as so much inert matter; but should think of it as a wonderful organism formed and perfected by a most skillful Architect. The contemplation of a grain of "Timothy," before being committed to the soil, and the changes that occur afterwards, are sufficient to awaken his reasoning powers. Why does the dry seed so long remain unchanged, and when placed within the reach of moisture, heat and light, so rapidly evince vitality? What is there in its minute structure to produce such phenomena as those of germination and growth? The physiologist has with much care and labor investigated its composition and structure.—That small seed, so like chaff, has been formed by the parent plant, by a very wonderful process; and within its apparently dry coat, are the mother-cells, upon which are impressed a certain form, and to which are committed the power to reproduce cell upon cell, until the full grown plant is built up—subject, however, to the various agencies of the soil and atmosphere. In the nature of that cell formation, there lies a wide field for study, and an almost exhaustless subject for human research. How the original cell is formed, remains a mystery. Where the formative power lies that builds up a certain form, from a minute embryo, is also a mystery—the mystery of creation. The nature of the plant cell has been too little studied; its chemistry is a problem sufficient to tax the brightest of human intellects; yet upon the chemical processes which take place in the cells of plants, depends the entire philosophy of plant nutrition. We graft a scion of the pear on the stock of the quince, a plant closely allied to the pear in its nature and structure; yet experience proves that there is a dissimilarity—the two growths unite, that is, the cellular structure, or cells of the quince wood, grow together with those of the pear scion, brought into close contact with each other. The ordinary functions of growth or extension appear to continue after a time; but we find the pear "overgrows" the quince, as the nurseryman terms it. The union is not perfect, not complete; leaves and buds, and even fruits are developed, but not with natural vigor; in some instances a little forec breaks off the contact, as with the Bartlett, after several years of apparent union, and the apparent union being exposed, was no union. This is owing to a dissimilarity in the chemical processes by which the cells are built up and nourished; each species has its own formula, each series of cells their own peculiar structure and wants. The process by which the cell is supplied with the materials which it assimilates, and from which the plant is built up and sustained, namely Endosmose and Exosmose, should be well understood by every gardener and farmer.

FRUIT PROSPECTS.—A correspondent in New Jersey, writes that he has made a wide circuit among the peach orchards, and finds the prospect good in most of them, though some are much injured. He finds strawberries, raspberries and blackberries in first rate condition, and promising well for the season. Apples and pears are also good.

QUICK TIME.—The mare "Lady Chapman," trotted on the ice at Camden, Maine, on the 14th of February, on a measured full mile track, making the first heat in 2.28, and the seconds in 2.24.

PLANTS of Chinese tea grown in North Carolina, are now five feet in height and in full bloom. Five pounds of "Bohea" made in 1865 from the leaves, were considered equal to the best imported.

THE DIFFERENCE.—In 1840 the value of all the dairy products of New-York was estimated at a little over \$10,000,000. In 1865 the butter product alone, in that State, was over \$60,000,000.

THE HISTORY OF THE POTATO.—In a paper recently read by a Mr. Crawford in London, on "The Relation of Plants to Ethnology," a very short but complete account was given of the introduction of the potato into Europe. The potato is still found on the western slopes of the Andes, the tubers, however, being no larger than the common filbert. Even the Indians, said Mr. Crawford, cultivated the potato before the arrival of the Europeans. It was first brought from America to Ireland, where it was cultivated in 1656; but it is said to have been introduced into Spain and Portugal even before that date. It is a well authenticated fact, that Col. Mure of Caldwell, in the west of Scotland, within the present century, had some indurated clay soil taken from a coal-pit being sunk on his estate, forty feet beneath the surface, which he carefully treated so as to prevent its being impregnated by any floating germs of seed; and that from this piece of clay several exotic plants unknown to the local botany came, and also one which turned out to be a species of the Solanum tuberosum, or potato. The produce of that plant (which in four years after its discovery bore large white potatoes) is now cultivated extensively in the west of Scotland. The story is a strange one, but it is true, and has been solemnly attested by Col. Mure, who was lately a member of the English Parliament from Renfrewshire, Scotland.

WHAT IS PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE?—The New York Observer answers this question in a few words, but very comprehensively, as follows:

Under its influence spring tasty and convenient dwellings, adorned with shrubs and flowers, and beautiful within with the smiles of happy wives, tidy children in the lap of thoughtful age—broad hearts and acts, as well as words of welcome. Progressive agriculture builds barns and puts gutters on them, builds stables for cattle and raises roots to feed them. It grafts wild apple-trees by the meadow with pippins or greenings; it sets out new orchards and takes care of the old ones. It drains low lands, cuts down bushes, buys a mower, house-tools and wagons, keeps good fences and practices soiling. It makes hens lay, chickens live, and prevents swine from rooting up meadows. Progressive agriculture keeps on hand plenty of dry fuel, and brings in the oven-wood for the women. It ploughs deeply, sows plentifully, harrows evenly, and prays for the blessings of heaven.

AUTOMATIC PLOW.—In a late number of the N. Y. Observer was a notice of an automatic plow which was seen operating in a field near the city. A two-wheeled iron truck is secured to the plow-beam, one wheel running in the furrow, and the other on the surface above it. To make it run level, the furrow wheel has several inches of diameter more than the other, which throws the plow, as it were, on an even keel. A sway-bar regulates the size of the furrow-slice as in the ordinary plow, while the depth is adjusted by means of a screw. This plow, it is said, requires no guidance, hence is destitute of the handles common to the others, and so perfectly does it work that a small boy is competent to the management of it. The trial was made in soil of a clay and gravelly texture, and though stones of considerable size were occasionally encountered, the plow was not thrown out, but cut a furrow with more uniformity than is customary with plows with handles, and under the guidance of ploughmen of mature years. This implement is said to be much used in Germany, where it is regarded with marked favor.

TO OUR PROVIDENCE SUBSCRIBERS.

A PORTION of our subscribers in Providence have had much trouble in receiving their papers, owing to the rascality and defalcation of ROBERT LUCIEN MESSINGER, a former canvassing agent for the FARM AND FIRESIDE. Every dollar he received was kept by him, and he sent only a partial list of the subscribers' names. The Publisher holds himself responsible to furnish this journal to all who subscribed to said Messenger prior to Feb. 5, 1867. Such subscribers will please notify us of any failure in receiving their papers.



BED YOUR STABLES.—A horse will get tired of standing and treading on a hard floor; so will a cow, a sheep, a man. A soft bed feels easy—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 sawdust, 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 good bedding upon them, will let little or no cold in, and drain the stable.





Fireside Readings.

[From Whittier's "Tent on the Beach," just published.]

SONG.

The harp at Nature's advent strung
Has never ceased to play;
The song the stars of morning sung
Has never died away.

And prayer is made, and praise is given,
By all things near and far:
The ocean looketh up to heaven,
And mirrors every star.

Its waves are kneeling on the strand,
As kneels the human knee,
Their white locks bowing to the sand,
The priesthood of the sea!

They pour their glittering treasures forth,
Their gifts of pearl they bring,
And all the listening hills of earth
Take up the song they sing.

The green earth sends her incense up
From many a mountain shrine;
From folded leaf and dewy cup
She pours her sacred wine.

The mists above the morning hills
Rise white as wings of prayer;
The altar curtains of the hills
Are sunset's purple air.

The winds with hymns of praise are loud,
Or low with sighs of pain,
The thunder-organ of the cloud,
The dropping tears of rain.

With drooping head and branches crossed
The twilight forest grieves,
Or speaks with tongues of Pentecost
From all its sunlit leaves.

The blue sky is the temple's arch,
Its transept earth and air,
The music of its stately march
The chorus of a prayer.

So Nature keeps the reverent frame
With which her years began,
And all her signs and voices shame
The prayerless heart of man.

FLOWERS IN THE WINDOW.

For the first time since its completion, Harry Waldron and his young bride went over their new house together, one lovely morning early in June. And a charming, nice new house it was, with the prettiest, neatest, best arranged kitchen a young housekeeper like Amy could desire; with the coziest dining-room, the brightest and most tasteful parlor, the airiest and pleasantest of sleeping apartments.

And when they had been all over the house together they came back once more to the sitting-room, with its pretty carpet of green and oak, its delicate satin-papered walls, its simple cottage furniture, and her smiling eyes turned to the windows themselves, which were open, with their snowy curtains drawn back, and letting in the soft June sunlight, and the lovely June air, fragrant with the odor of flowers in the window. Harry's hand—the careful hand of a young and loving husband—had had the arrangement of everything in and about his pretty little household, and with a happy heart he watched his wife's pleased eyes, glancing so bright, so satisfied, from one thing to another about her.

"You like it all, Amy?" he said with a smile.

"Oh, yes, Harry, and these beautiful flowers! I shall sit by the window the whole time."

"Yes, Amy, and they will make the room not only pleasant to us, but to many a poor passer-by, who sees such things rarely. I thought of it while I was placing them there. I thought, perhaps, that it would be so pleasant for you, as you sit in this room, to see little children going by and looking up to the flowers in your window; and you would cut off for them some of the blossoms they may covet. So that perhaps our flowers may make some other hearts as happy as ours."

Treasuring in her loving heart the words of her kind and thoughtful husband, Amy turned with him at last from the window. She remembered them the next day, when Harry was gone away to business, and she came into the sitting-room to water her plants. Standing behind their blossoming screen, she shivered the bright drops upon them till their leaves hung wet and glistening; and while she watched the colored rays of light glancing through the dripping water, a party of merry school children came running gaily by.

"What pretty flowers!" said one of them, a gay little girl of ten, who made Amy think of her favorite little sister Sarah, whom she had left behind when she came from the country.

And the children half-stopped, looking partly at the flowers, and partly at Amy's pretty face behind their thick-clustering leaves.—Smilingly Amy slipped off a knot of gay blossoms and scattered them suddenly among the childish group. There was an eager scrambling, a merry laugh, in which Amy's was not the least merry or sweet—a chorus of thanks, and the children, with their fragrant treasures divided among them, ran on to school. Later a little pale, ragged boy came by, selling incense-matches.

"Do you want any matches, please, ma'ma?" he asked, looking at Amy through the window where she sat sewing.

Amy's purse came out—a tiny piece of silver was drawn from it, and she placed it on the sill outside, while the boy drew from his basket half a dozen boxes of his wares, and passed them up to her. As he took the silver and put it in his pocket, a little knot of mignonette and heliotrope fell into his basket.

"For me, ma'ma?" he said, looking up wonderingly.

"Yes," was Amy's pleasant answer; and the surprised look, the smile, and the grateful "thank you, ma'ma," did her very heart good.

And after this, many a little cluster of blossoms was bestowed by Amy's kindly fingers; now on a lame child who came limping by on crutches, now on a poor woman, going along with her baby that crowed and clapped its little pale hands at the sight of the blooming treasures; and again, when a wan-looking milliner's girl, half-pansing at the window, looked with longing eyes at the flowers upon the sill—flowers that she never hoped to raise in the dreary attic where she lodged; that she never beheld, in the half twilight of the sunless, silent work-room, where day after day she was drudging her life away for a mean pittance to buy her scanty portion of daily bread.

The poor little milliner carried her precious flowers with her as she went to her day's labor, and dreamed over them all day long of green country lanes, and broad blue skies, and free sunshine that she might only see in dreams; and the baby played with its nosegay with the delight with which a petted child of fortune would have welcomed its gilded and costly toys; the little lame child forgot that he was lame; while sitting down on a doorstep he leaned his head upon his hand, and with curious eyes studied the mysteries of every silken leaf and bud, thinking how wonderful they were, and remembering something he had heard of a kind Hand that made flowers alike for the poor and the rich.

And thus, while Amy scattered flowers, she was also sowing seed. Among her childish "pensioners," as Amy half playfully, half affectionately called them, was one who passed her window nearly every day; a pretty, delicate, almost frail looking child of some eleven or twelve years of age—a child for whose daily approach Amy gradually found herself watching with interest. She was poorly dressed, yet clean and tidy-looking; the faded hues and worn texture of her garments being only equalled by their fresh and spotless look. Every day she came by the window; and every day she received from Amy's gentle fingers a knot of fragrant blossoms.

Amy only smiled as she gave them; and this smile, with the little girl's grateful look, and low-spoken earnest thanks, were all that passed between them on these occasions. There was not a day in which this child failed to pass the windows, not one day; let the sun shine or the rain fall, she came regularly, and never failed to receive her accustomed gift of flowers.

Amy often mentioned this child in her evening conversation with Harry; so that he came at last to make a point of asking each evening if she had been during the day to receive her flowers.

"Do you not know her name, Amy?" he asked thoughtfully once.

No, Amy did not.

"It is odd—but I never thought of asking

her," she said. "I suppose it is because there are so many others who come in the same way, and I should never think of asking so many their names, you know. But I mean to ask her to-morrow, Harry. Perhaps we may be of use to her, or to the family if they need help."

Another morning saw the pale little girl coming along earlier than usual—paler than ever before, and her large blue eyes heavy and dim with tears. Harry had not gone to business; Amy was sewing a button on his wrist-band as he sat by her at the work-table; and neither of them knew the child was so near, till there was a gentle knock at the street-door, and Amy answering its summons, beheld the little girl standing there.

"Why, poor child! what is the matter?" she said kindly, taking one of the tiny hands in her own and leading her gently into the doorway—"what is the matter?"

The child's face flushed painfully, and Amy's tender words brought a burst of sorrowful tears.

"Oh, ma'am he's dead!" said the child.

"My dear little girl," said Amy, "who is dead?"

"Oh, ma'am, my brother," replied the child—"my dear brother Charley! Him that the flowers were always for! Oh, he loved them so much—and he won't need them any more now!"

The tears were streaming over the child's face like rain; and Amy's own eyes were overflowing as she lifted them to her husband, who had come out to the door.

"Oh, Harry—Harry!" she said tremulously. "Harry, hear her!"

"My dear," he said, gently, "bring her in;" and each holding a hand of the child, they led her into the sitting-room.

There, with the rapid tears rendering her words broken and painful, she told the simple story that needed so little time to tell. It was her brother Charley, who had been ill for so long, and had died that morning; and she had come to let the lady who had been so kind to him know about it.

"My child," said Harry, gently, "where do you live? We will go home with you."

And soon the husband and wife were on their way to the dwelling of the child.

It was not far distant; they had only the length of a few streets to walk, and in an humble tenement, the home of respectable and honest poverty, they found what they were seeking.

A plainly, poorly-furnished, yet clean and tidy room, with a pale and sorrowing mother weeping for the treasure she had lost; and lying upon a narrow couch in the corner, that ere long he would exchange for one yet narrower, the rigid form of the young man—the child's dead brother—the widow's only son.

The sheet that covered him was folded aside, discovering a pale and wasted, but beautiful and serene face, bearing the traces of a long illness, patiently borne; the heavy, gold-fringed lids were closed calmly over the full eyes—the fair hair smoothed away from the pleasant brow that seemed yet to wear the smile it had known in life. It was already arranged for its last resting-place. The thin, white hands were crossed upon the breast, and one of them held a little bunch of fading flowers—Amy's flowers. Their perfume lingered yet around the dead. He had died with them in his hand, with the request that they might go with him to his grave—with the blessing of the dying breathing over the last of THE FLOWERS IN THE WINDOW.

A QUAKER, intending to drink a glass of water, took up a small tumbler of gin. He did not discover his mistake until he got behind the door and swallowed the dose. He held up both his hands and exclaimed: "Verily, I have taken inwardly the balm of the world's people. What will Abigail say when she smells my breath?"

A GOOD SUGGESTION.—A down-east contemporary advocates the establishment of seminaries for young ladies where spinology, knitology, weaveology, cookology, &c., can be taught—the graduates to receive the degree of F. F. W.; or, Fit for Wives.

RELATION OF AIR TO LIFE.

We should like, had we space, to quote a few paragraphs from the chapter on the relations of the atmosphere to life; how the word "animal" signifies breath, and animated nature, breathing nature; that by means of air our senses of seeing, hearing, feeling and smelling are made possible; where respiration is vigorous, as in birds, life is energetic; when it is feeble, as in snakes and frogs, life is slow; how man lives in proportion as he breathes, and the activity of the child is in proportion to the vigor of its lungs; and the calmness and power of man is combined with tranquil respiration. If the lungs be sound, strong and active, there is magnanimity, courage, boldness; if feeble and languid, there is timorousness and debility. To be out of spirits is to be out of breath; to be animated is to be full of breath. When eager, we pant; when weary, we yawn; when fearful, we are breathless or aghast. The air is the cellarage of aerial wines, the heaven of the spirits of plants and flowers, which are safely kept there till called for by lungs and skin. Dirty air produces greater evil than dirty water. However well we diet or doctor, if we do not take in good air we cannot take on good conditions. Plants take the poison carbonic acid from the air. The date trees on the banks of the Nile drink it in by their leaves; the cedars of Lebanon take it in to add to their stature; the coconuts grow rich on it; the lotus plant will change it into flowers. Plants give oxygen to the air. The oak and cedar, cinnamon tree, rhododendron and roses, each in their daily process of growth, unpoison the atmosphere of the load of carbonic acid passing into it by our breath and by animal and vegetable decay, and each pour out a stream of oxygen so necessary to animal life. But we must leave this rich chapter until our next leisure.

A SUBJECT FOR A PICTURE.—In a pretty country studio, seven miles from Fontainebleau, a gentlewoman was at work on a sultry day last June, dressed as French ladies who happen to be artists usually dress, in a blouse and petticoat. The gentlewoman was Mlle. Rosa Bonheur, and she was painting cattle and grazing ground. Suddenly the door of the studio was opened, and without announcement of any kind, a bright and charming woman entered the room, threw her arms around Mlle. Rosa's neck, clasped a ribbon round it, from which depended a little cross well known in France. The charming visitor was the Empress Eugenie. Mlle. Bonheur had never heard a word of this, or of this decoration being intended for her, and she sat down on a low stool and enjoyed a good cry, while the Empress chatted with her about her palettes, her pencils, and the delightful trifles of her art. Certes, the Empress Eugenie knows how to enhance a graceful act by the added grace of doing it well.

SPAIN, although three centuries ago one of the leading powers in Europe, is now the most backward in all that concerns progressive enterprise and education. In this respect even Turkey is in advance of her; for the Turkish children,—so the missionaries say,—can read and write. But in Spain, out of a population of seventeen millions, only three millions can read and write. Yet the priesthood number no less than 125,000. If the enormous sums that are expended in the support of the clergy were devoted to the education of the masses, that country would be raised from its degradation, and take its place in the ranks with Protestant nations. The wealth of the priesthood is very great and displays itself in costly churches and convents, while anything like a common school system is discouraged. A free press does not exist, and accounts have recently reached us of the imprisonment of three editors for the expression of liberal opinions.

GRAVE AMUSEMENT.—The following introduction to a piece of poetry in a late number of one of the religious papers, is quite novel to us: "The following lines were written more than sixty years ago, by one who has for many years slept in the grave merely for his own amusement."

CLIMATE OF WESTERN TEXAS.—Rain is quite a rarity in Western Texas. When it does come, it oftener sprinkles than pours. There are occasional foggy days, but the sky is seldom clouded. What are known as "Gulf clouds" move very swiftly, and usually disappear by ten o'clock. This dry atmosphere gives to the sky a peculiar brightness and beauty. The winters in this section are mild. The terrible "northers" are much less frequent here than in other parts of the State. Last month, we are told, there were not more than two or three days when one wanted to keep near the fire.—This month the Western Texans are planting corn and gardening.





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All letters, remittances, &c., should be addressed to S. S. FOSS, Publisher, Woonsocket, R. I.

SEND A STAMP.—Specimen numbers of the FARM AND FIRESIDE will be forwarded to any address, on the receipt of a three-cent stamp.

Notes and Queries.

IS TROTTING NATURAL TO THE HORSE?

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 26th, 1867.

Editors of the Farm and Fireside:—A friend of mine, well posted in all matters pertaining to horses, contends that "trotting is not the natural gait of any horse."

ANSWER.—We are inclined to the opinion of your friend; although many horsemen will laugh at the idea. In speaking of a horse's NATURAL gait they will tell you he trots—but we believe trotting is an artificial or acquired faculty.

SIZE OF BROOK TROUT.

Will the Editors of the FARM AND FIRESIDE, or any reader of said journal, give the weight of the largest brook trout ever caught in the United States?

Miscellany.

THE CLIMATE OF MINNESOTA.—The climate of Minnesota is described by one who has enjoyed it for many years, in substance as follows: In January the thermometer oscillates about zero, though it is oftener above than below it.

SHANGHAI FOWLS.—The points which ought to distinguish the pure varieties of Shanghai fowls are as follows: Their general characteristics are great size, roundness and shortness of body, width of breast and neck, with medium height corresponding to their weight.

A CHILD'S PRAYER.—A little child, kneeling by his bed to pray as he retired to sleep for the night, said: "Dear heavenly Father, please don't let the large cow hook me, nor the horse kick me; and don't let me run away outside of the gate, when mother tells me not to."

SIGNS OF SPRING.

When highways begin to get heavy, And our hearts begin to feel light, The former, from mud's dark ellixir, The latter, with that of delight;

When the couch seems less like a snow-drift, Whereon nightly, like Trojans, we sleep, And the baby kicks off the clothing Before morn, on account of the heat;

When cowslips appear in the brooklets, And the cowboy slips after the cows, But is thinking of nests in the alders, While the farmers are thinking of ploughs;

When the sun warms the mountains and valleys, And the birds are beginning to sing, And the willows turn green by the river,— O, then, we may be sure it is SPRING.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 27, 1867.

THE British Isles are not larger than the three States of New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio; while the United States and their yet unoccupied Territories are nearly as large as all Europe, and a great deal more fertile.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending March 1, 1867.]

Table listing various farm products and their prices, including flour, corn, rye, and various oils.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

For the week ending Feb. 27th.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 622; Sheep and Lambs, 6643; Swine, 70. PRICES. Beef Cattle—Extra, \$13.50@14.00; first quality, \$12.75@13.75; second quality, \$11.50@12.50; third quality, \$10.00@11.00.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

THERE has been much fluctuation in the wholesale market during the past week, and many staple articles have been neglected. Trade is much demoralized, and is in nearly the same condition it was after the panic of 1857.

speculative demand has greatly subsided. The market closes quiet at \$20 25 for old, and \$21 for new mess. BEEF has been more active, principally to ship east.

ALBANY CATTLE MARKET.

CATTLE are higher this week, the advance being at least one-half cent per pound live weight. The cattle are of average quality, with the exception of a few droves of premium which were not sold here.

WESTERN PRODUCE PRICES.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—Flour firm and moderately active. Wheat in fair demand; No. 2 at \$1 55 1/2; but little doing in No. 1; sales at \$2 18 1/2 19.

THE COAL TRADE.

THE trade continues very dull, and prices are nominal. Vessels are moderately plenty, but the snow storm of the past week has had the effect of making captains less anxious to go around Cape Cod unless well remunerated.

Special Notices.

ALBERT COMAN SMITH is a duly authorized agent to receive subscribers' names and money for the WOONSOCKET PATRIOT and the FARM AND FIRESIDE.

Marriages.

In Cumberland, 20th ult., Mr. T. COX MORFORD, of Long Branch, N. J., to Miss ANNIE E. HARRINGTON, of Cumberland. In Rurillville, 23d ult., by Rev. A. A. Presby, Mr. HENRY J. BROWN to Miss PRESCILLA MATHEWS, both of B.

Deaths.

In Union Village, Smithfield, 20th ult., MARY PASSMORE, widow of the late Col. Constock Passmore, aged 90 years and 10 months. In Providence, 25th ult., DANIEL BUFFINTON, aged 72.

Advertisement.

The American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption.

1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments—and some of the richest retired merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China.

When you have added to these EIGHT profits as many brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, one cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—whichever, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Tea at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club.

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$50.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show.

PRICE LIST:

Table listing various tea and coffee products and their prices, including Young Hyson, Green Teas, Mixed, Japan, Oolong, Imperial, English Breakfast, and Gunpowder.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a big degree of pleasure in drinking them. Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Foo-Chow Blacks and Moyue Greens.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO., NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., corner of CHURCH. Post-Office Box No. 5,643 New-York City. COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c., 25c., 30c., 35c., best 40c. per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c. per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders. WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866. To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York.

Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubled it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa.

Table listing various tea and coffee products and their prices, including Young Hyson, Dallas Jackson, Henry Herrick, George Murphy, E. Dye, Samuel Becker, Samuel Amon, Henry Wheatley, Morgan Hayes, John Natten, Mark Combs, John Allen, Miss Stuart, Miss Stuart, O Bayland, J. Richlen, Mr. Gnyton, Edward Murphy, Mrs. Murphy, Henry Hull, Separate package, and Ground Coffee.

We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st., LARGE DOUBLE STORE. 3m-8

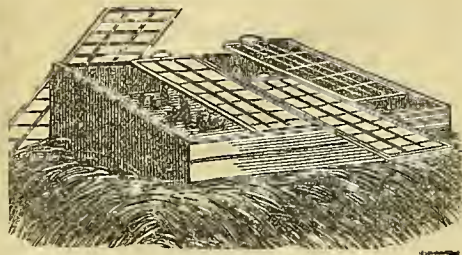
SAVE THE WASTE BONES.—There is in almost every family a daily waste of bones, that if saved and applied to the roots of the pear trees and grapevines in the garden, would supply yearly sufficient manure for one hundred plants.

We have seen the roots of a pear tree turn from a two-thirds radius of the circle to embrace and feed upon a few boues that were buried on one side of the tree. Hoare, in his 'Treatise on the Vine,' gives an account of the roots of the vine passing through dry clay to reach a bone, giving out no lateral or fibrous roots until it reached the boue, but when there, sent out numerous fibres, perfectly embracing and covering it.





Horticulture.



THE HOT BED.

EVERY gardener knows the value and use of the Hot-Bed. We do not write, in this instance, to instruct the professional gardener, but rather the farmer and everybody in general who owns a few rods of land and is fond of early vegetables. The Hot-Bed is simple and easy of construction. The size is immaterial. It will depend upon the wants required. A frame six by nine or twelve feet is a good size. Having the frame or box ready, toward the end of February, or early in March, (if not before) collect some stable manure, and let it heat for six or eight days before using. Then select a sunny aspect—south-east is best—and mark off a space one foot larger than the size of the box. Over this space build the manure precisely as though it was a hay-stack—that is, layer after layer, even all around, until the desired height is obtained—say two or three feet. Press it down firmly, and get on the frame and lights. Take the fork and well knock in the sides of the bed, which will assist in preserving a uniform heat. Let it stand a few days, and if the heat has risen, put in six to nine inches of good soil. Insert a "trial stick," and when, on withdrawing the same, it is found comfortably warm, the seed may be sown.

Sow whatever you wish for early use—such as radishes, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, etc. All these are to be transplanted except the radish. After the seeds are sown, cover with half an inch of soil, press the same gently with a board, and water sufficiently to settle the soil. Air must be given in sufficient quantities to keep the temperature under 65°, without sun heat. When the plants begin to appear, give air quite liberally every warm day, and ultimately take off the glass altogether—first in day-time, then in mild nights. In this way you will have strong and healthy plants, which may be set out as soon as the season is sufficiently advanced. Radishes and lettuce may be had without transplanting.

POTATO PLANTING.—Mr. Brown, of Long Island, has recently published an interesting experiment touching the butt ends and seed ends of potatoes. Last spring he planted four rows of equal length, of two varieties of potatoes. In one row, with each variety, he planted only the "seed ends" of the potato; in the other, the opposite, or "butt ends." These were the pink eyes and the peach blows.—The yield was as follows: Pink eyes, butt ends, 217 pounds; pink eyes, seed ends, 170 pounds; peach blows, butt ends, 225 pounds; peach blows, seed ends, 179 pounds.

The potatoes raised from the butt ends were much larger than those from the seed ends, and appeared to be from a week to ten days earlier. Had the whole field been planted with butt ends, the yield would have been more than 500 bushels to the acre.

CLOVER HAY AS A COUGH MEDICINE.—I wish to call attention again to an infusion of red clover, as one among the best remedies we have in treating persistent cough in children. Make a strong infusion, strain and sweeten, and let the child take a teaspoonful every one or two hours. It is one of the best remedies for whooping cough, standing next to belladonna and stramonium.

PRIZE TURNIP CROPS.—A committee at Guelph, C. W., awarded a prize for a crop of 64,000 lbs. of turnips from an acre of land. The second prize was given for a crop of 60,330 lbs. The lightest of five other crops was 52,320 lbs. The committee recommended planting turnips in drills 28 inches apart, and nine to twelve inches apart in the rows.

NEW METHOD OF CULTIVATING CELERY.

THE following, from the Agricultural Report, will be found highly interesting to gardeners, as it dispenses with much labor and unsightly disfiguration of garden grounds in the production of this excellent vegetable.

As the cultivation of celery is but very differently understood, and an immense amount of useless labor given to its cultivation in many parts of the country, I will describe our practice of it at more length than other vegetables. This system is suitable either for private use or for market or garden culture.

The ground best suited for celery is a heavy loam, although it will grow freely on any soil, provided it is rich enough. It is a mistaken notion that it does best on wet soil. No doubt it requires abundance of moisture; but at the same time it is quite as impatient of a soil where water stagnates as any vegetable we grow.

The system we now adopt is much more simple than that in general use. We entirely dispense with trenches, thereby saving a great deal of extra labor. The crop is planted on the flat surface, in the same manner as any other vegetable, in rows (for the dwarf varieties) three feet apart, by six inches between the plants. In planting great care should be taken that the roots are properly formed. The safest plan, after planting, is to press by the side of each plant gently with the foot, so as to compact the earth around the root until the new rootlets are formed. This practice should be rigidly observed in planting of every description, as much disappointment is caused by the omission of this very simple precaution.

After planting nothing more is required for six or seven weeks but hoeing between to keep down the weeds. By the end of August the cool and moist atmosphere quickly induces a rapid growth, and when the plants attain the height of ten or twelve inches, the earth may be drawn up against them, so as to cause an upright growth and keep the plants from spreading. This time it had better be done by the spade, and raised to at least half the height of the plants. The final earthing up may be delayed for a few days, so as to allow an increase of growth. In two or three weeks after the last earthing up, it will be blanched sufficiently for use. This is the process required for what is to be used until the middle of December. That which is wanted for late winter use requires but little labor, as it should never be hanked up. All that is required is simply to hoe the soil towards it, so as to induce an upright growth; then further tighten the soil to it with the hands, and hoe up against it soil enough to keep the plant in its upright position, which is all that is necessary until it is dug up to be put away in the trenches, where it is to be kept during winter. This is performed in the following manner: Dig a trench or drain in a dry spot as narrow as the spade will allow, say ten or twelve inches wide; and of the depth of the length of the celery, that is, if the celery is two feet long, the trench must be two feet deep, so the top leaves will be level with the surface of the ground. It will be understood that the celery is packed in this trench or drain perpendicularly, so as to fill it completely; no earth being put between the plants, nor even to the roots, as there is always moisture enough at the bottom of the trench to keep the plants from wilting. The time at which this operation is performed has a great deal to do with its success. In growing this crop on a large scale in our market gardens, we begin to put the first lot away in the trenches by the 25th of October, which is blanched fit for use by the middle of December. Our second lot is put away about the 10th of November, which is that used in January and February. The last lot we delay putting away as long as it is safe to risk it—say the 20th of November. This almost invariably keeps in fine order until March. Attention to dates in this matter is of the utmost importance, as by putting it away too early the warm weather would cause it to blanch too quickly, while by delaying too long it might get caught by frost, which usually comes severe enough to hurt it by the end of November. By the middle of December the trenches containing the celery must begin to be covered

up with straw or leaves, which must overlap the trench a foot at least on each side. The covering must be done at intervals as the season advances to severe weather, which is before the first of January. By this time it should have a covering of eight or ten inches. Covered to this depth it will safely resist the severest frosts, and the roots can be taken out with little trouble during the winter.

POTATOES—VARIETIES—YIELD.—In the Cultivator and Country Gentleman we find a communication from Jonathan Tallcott of Rome, N. Y., giving his experience, during the past season, in the cultivation of several varieties of potatoes. The soil planted on was sandy gravel, about one-third of which was used for potatoes the previous year. Twelve varieties were planted the last season and produced, per acre, as follows: Dykeman, 200 bushels, rotted about one-half. Jackson White, 150 bushels, first rate—some rot, but less than Dykeman. Early Goodrich, 36 bushels from half bushel seed, best yield the grower ever had; product good and will be a favorite variety for the next season. Ohio Russet, equal to 200 bushels per acre; good potato and not much affected by the rot. Garnet Chili, 300 bushels per acre; large sized and but little affected by the rot. Fluke, a good baking potato; fair yielder, but not likely to be popular in that region. Calico, a moderate yield and not promising for cultivation. Gleason, yield 24 bushels from half bushel seed; a promising variety. White Peach-blow, yields well, but is insipid, not a favorite. Jersey Peach-blow the same. Carter, a superior table potato, but much affected by the rot; their want of hardiness is against them. Prince Albert, a good variety and yielding about 300 bushels to the acre; its table qualities commend it for cultivation.

MEASURING POTATOES IN THE BIN.—The following rule for ascertaining the number of bushels of apples, potatoes, &c., in bins and boxes, is recommended as simple and accurate by a correspondent of the Mirror and Farmer: for the number of "even" bushels, multiply the number of cubic feet in the bin by 8 and point off one decimal. For "heaped" bushels, multiply by 8 twice and point off two.

CANADA THISTLES.—Many farmers are at considerable expense each year to prevent the increase or to destroy thistles which not unfrequently locate upon valuable portions of their farms. Geese eat thistles, and if allowed to feed two years successively where thistles grow, they will entirely disappear from those localities.

Messrs. Editors of the Farm and Fireside: PLEASE publish the following CURE FOR THE HOOPING COUGH: One great teaspoonful of molasses; one teaspoonful of castor oil; one ditto of paregoric. Mix them, and take whenever the cough is troublesome. This mixture is excellent for any kind of cough. FARMER.

THE consumption of horse flesh is increasing rapidly among the poorer classes in the different quarters at Paris. There are now open no less than fifteen butcher's shops for the exclusive sale of the new "viande," and there are four restaurants where horse flesh is the distinguishing feature of the carte. At particular places in the provinces horse meat has become a staple article of trade.

Advertisements.

Rhode Island.

MILL RIVER IRON WORKS WOODSOCKET, R. I. W. A. HENNESSEY, PROPRIETOR. Manufacturer of FLUE and TUBULAR STEAM BOILERS, OIL and WATER TANKS, WATER PIPE and PLATE IRON WORK of every description. Boilers repaired in a thorough manner at short notice. SHOP AT NORTH END, NEAR HARRIS'S NEW MILL. Refers by permission to RICE, BARTON & Co., Machinists and Boiler Makers, Worcester, Mass. BELLOW & WHITCOMB, Engineers, Worcester, Mass. C. W. KIMBALL, Esq., late Master Mechanic U. S. Army, Springfield, Mass. HON. E. HARRIS, Woonsocket.



THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Shares' Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potato Diggers, Lufkin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

BARRETT'S EXTRA EARLY CABBAGE.—The best and largest in the market. Price, 25 cents a paper. Raised and sold by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Providence, Feb. 23, 1867. 4-7

WHITE FRENCH TURNIP, of the purest kind, raised and sold in small or large lots, by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

FARMER WANTED.—A faithful and skilful farmer is wanted to take charge of a farm. His wife to understand making butter and the care of poultry. Address Box No. 3, Providence Post Office. February 16, 1867. 3w6.

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.

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

EXTRA HEAVY PLOWS, for road work and for breaking up new land, made by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Massachusetts.

RARE AND BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS, SELECT VEGETABLES. B. K. BLISS, Importer and Dealer in Garden, Field and Flower Seeds, Would invite attention to his large and well selected assortment of the above, comprising the newest and most approved varieties, both of European and Home Productions, the quality of which cannot be surpassed. For a list of which, see his ILLUSTRATED SEED CATALOGUE AND GUIDE TO THE FLOWER AND KITCHEN GARDEN.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL EDITION, enlarged and improved, contains 124 pages of closely printed matter, BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED with 100 engravings, also a splendid frontispiece of a group of recent novelties—and a descriptive list of TWO THOUSAND VARIETIES OF GARDEN AND FLOWER SEEDS, embracing all the NEW VARIETIES worthy of cultivation introduced the past season—with explicit directions for their culture—also a list of ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE VARIETIES OF FRENCH HYBRID GLADIOLUS, including the leading novelties of the past season, with many other SUMMER FLOWERING PLANTS—consisting of AMARYLLIS, TUBEROSES, TIGRIDIAS—LILIES in great variety, &c. To which is added a list of the choicest varieties of GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, RASPBERRIES, and other SMALL FRUITS, BEDDING PLANTS, &c., etc., cultivated at his gardens, with much other useful information upon the subject of gardening generally, which will be found useful to all engaged in the delightful occupation of gardening. A copy of the Catalogue will be mailed to all applicants enclosing TWENTY-FIVE CENTS. Our regular customers supplied without charge. Address B. K. BLISS, Drawer No. 11, P. O., Springfield, Mass. February 23, 1867. 4w-cc-7

STRIPED LEAVED JAPANESE MAIZE.

The experience of the past season fully confirms all that we stated in reference to this beautiful plant, when introducing it to the public last spring; and we are in receipt of many flattering letters from the leading Florists in Europe, all of whom agree that it is the finest plant for decorative purposes that has been introduced for many years. Certificates of Merit and numerous Prizes have been awarded to Exhibitors at the various English and Continental exhibitions, not the least of which was that of the "Royal Horticultural Society's International Show," all grown from seed furnished by us last spring to our European correspondents. "Cosmos," Agricultural Editor of the Saturday Evening Post, writes us that it is superior to any other for table use, as green corn. Packets containing about 40 seeds, 25 cents. Prices to the Trade, in bulk or in packets, will be given upon application. B. K. BLISS, Springfield, Mass. February 23, 1867. 4t-cc-7

Pennsylvania.

MENDENHALL'S IMPROVED SELF-ACTING HAND LOOM. In these days of SHODDY, and high priced goods, every family in the country should have one.

HALF THE COST of clothing a family can be saved by its use. It is simple and durable, easily understood, and easy to operate. No skill is required to weave with it beyond the simple turning of an easy crank. FROM 15 TO 35 YARDS CAN BE WOVEN ON IT IN A DAY. FARMERS!

don't sell your wool and buy SHODDY, when with one of these Looms in your house the GIRLS can make all the clothing for the family, and much better quality, at half price. By late improvements, RAG CARPETS can be woven with the FLY SHUTTLE. For circulars, price list, and samples of cloth woven on the Loom, address with stamp, A. B. GATES & CO., 333 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

Also, Dealers in Cotton Warp, Wool and Flax Filling Yarns, Reeds, Harness and Loom Findings generally. March 2, 1867. p&w-4f

Connecticut.

FARMERS' ATTENTION.—Will be sold at Auction, at the Giles Farm, South Woodstock, Conn., on Wednesday, March 6, 1867, the following Live Stock and Farming Tools. Sale to commence at 10 A. M. Three first class young family Cows, to drop their calves in March; one prime pair of Farm or Driving Horses; one Colt; a set of double-team Harnesses, with other Harnesses. One horse lumber Wagon; 1 good Carryall; 1 good Ox Cart, with two yokes; Excelsior Fanning Machine; Ploughs; Harrows; Seed Sowing Machines; Cultivators; 1 Cast Iron Roller; and many other labor-saving Machines that are needed on a first class farm. Also 2 hays of good Hay, and a lot of Straw; 50 bushels of Jackson White Potatoes, and about 20 bushels of Seed Potatoes, the earliest variety known. Those wishing to raise early potatoes, would do well to attend sale. Also a variety of Household Furniture. S. M. FENNER, Auctioneer. South Woodstock, Conn., Feb. 16, 1867. 3w-6

Farm and

Fireside

A JOURNAL OF

AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE,

AND THE ARTS.

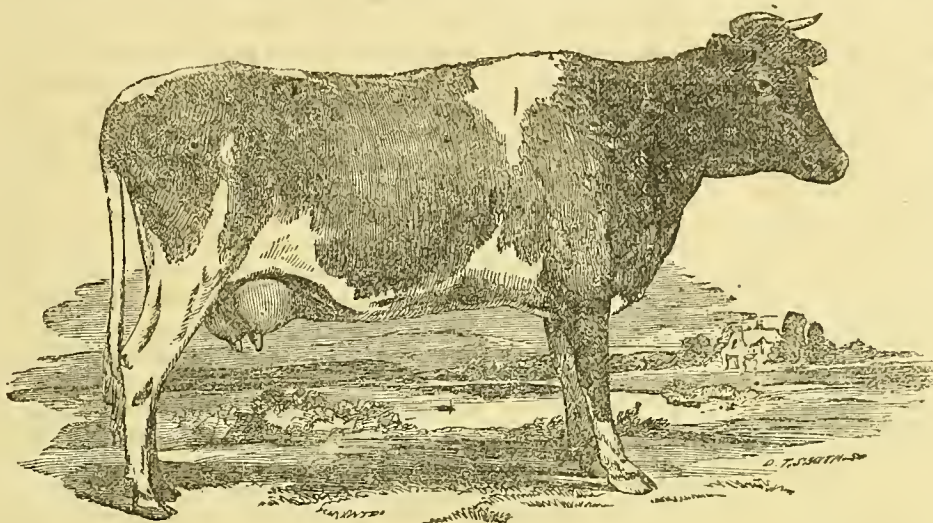
ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

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

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1867.

NO. 9.



JERSEY COWS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY JOHN GILES, SOUTH WOODSTOCK, CONN.

Friend Foss:—I have often been solicited, by editors of agricultural journals and others interested in stock-raising, to give my experience as importer and breeder of the Jersey Cattle. As your "Farm and Fireside" is doing a good service to agriculture and its kindred arts, I accept your invitation, and give a few facts and hints respecting the favorite Jerseys, or the Channel Island Cattle, as we call them in England.

Every one knows who has visited the Channel Islands, that they are a small group in the Channel between England and France. There are four Islands, viz.: Jersey, Gurnsey, Alderney and the Island of Sark. The Island of Jersey is the largest in the group. On that Island are kept about five thousand cows.—The Island of Alderney is still smaller, exporting only about forty head a year; Gurnsey is still less in size. I shall confine myself to the Isle of Jersey stock. Although the Jersey cows differ but little in appearance from cows on the other Islands, still, to the close observer, there is a marked difference, the Gurnsey cow being longer, and the Alderney being more thick and chunky about the head and neck, not having that deer-like appearance of the Jersey cow. As cream and butter cows, they differ but little from the Jerseys.

1st. What ought the appearance of a Jersey cow to be? She should have thin jaws, a small muzzle, with a white rim around it, wide between the horns, a full eye, and horns small, yellow and waxy looking at the root, tapering off to black on the tip of the horn; inside of ears, a deep orange color; neck, long and slim, well filled out behind the shoulders, straight back, and round, full barrel; small tail; tip of tail a bright, deep orange color; deer-like legs, with square hags, running well forward, and well up behind; teats of medium size, well set apart; bag and teats of orange color, no matter how deep that color is. If you want a Jersey cow, buy such as I have described without asking questions. If she does not prove good, I will take her at cost price.

2d. The milk, cream and butter qualities.—The Jersey cow is not a deep milker. The

most I ever had one give in one day was nineteen quarts. From twelve to fourteen quarts per day is good milking for a Jersey cow.—The cream from Jersey milk is not equaled by any other known breed of cows in the world, being very thick and firm, of a bright orange color, making the most delicious butter of the same complexion. The Jersey, like all other cows, differ in quantity and quality of milk and butter. Some of them will make more butter from the same quantity of milk. The average of butter is, one pound from four to six quarts of milk. A great deal depends upon the feed and management. As every one knows (or ought to know) different locations and pastures are more suitable for butter making than others. The most butter per week I have ever made from a Jersey cow was sixteen pounds. I have been told there are Jersey cows that will make from eighteen to twenty-two pounds of butter per week. It may be so, but it has never been my good luck to see or own such. If I have a Jersey cow that will give from twelve to sixteen pounds of butter per week, I call her a good one. I sold a Jersey cow to Mr. Joseph P. Ray, of Blackstone, Mass. She had been giving about nine pounds of butter per week through the Winter. Mr. Ray assured me that last year she gave him sixteen pounds of butter per week, and that four quarts of her milk would make one pound of butter. He further said that this year she had done better, giving from seventeen to eighteen pounds of butter per week. Such is not always the case. I once sold a Jersey that with us gave fourteen pounds of butter per week. Shortly after, I have been informed, the cow was only giving eight to ten pounds of butter per week. This is easily accounted for. The cow had been driven to a different pasture, where the herbage is not so good for butter. She may have been consigned to the care of Patrick. Patrick likes a drink of milk, for the stomach's sake. Taking care of milk and the dairy is consigned to Bridget. Bridget likes a little good cream in her tea as well as mistress. Hence, the butter fell short. The Jersey cow was condemned, and the seller censured. The fault lay in bad management.

Many other things could be said about the Jersey cow, such as price, best age for butter, &c. These matters I must defer until a future opportunity.

Horticulture.

EARLY TOMATOES AND CUCUMBERS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY R. C. KENDALL, PHILADELPHIA.

There is nothing new in the practice—we have followed it these sixteen years, telling everybody we could reach, publicly and privately, of our manner of producing cucumbers and tomatoes from two to three weeks earlier than can be found in our Northern markets. Nevertheless, it is probable that not three in a thousand of all who have read or listened to our hints, have held them in remembrance a week. So we repeat the precept, with a hope that some few of those who read will benefit by the information afforded.

Our Tomato practice is to scrape out two dozen or so fair sized turnips to thin shells, fill them with rich garden mold, plant a few seeds in each, place them in a box of earth, covering quite up to the top, place the box in a warm room. After the plants are up, water when required, give light, and out-door air on all pleasant, warm days. Select the strongest plant in each shell, to grow, pulling out the others. Pinch back too vigorous shoots, urge stout, stocky growth by frequent slight feedings of tepid sour milk—sometimes weak soap suds, and when the frost season is fairly past, set turnip shells, tomato plants and all in the out-door soil where they are to grow, and they will go right on growing, without any hesitation or standing still, as they do coming out from a hot bed.

Cucumbers we persuade forward in the same manner; planting them in blocks of turf instead of turnip shells, and almost always we have tomatoes and cucumbers well set on the vines before setting them in out-door position. Cucumbers, white, crisp, cool, tender, almost seedless; free from all unpleasant, earthy taste, and as delicate and delicious as cucumbers can be, may be induced by simply placing the small fruit within a section of drain-tile, flower pot or old bottle, with the neck knocked off, covering them from the sunlight and growing them to table size in the dark.

The fruit prospects in the Middle States are good.

EARLY TYING UP OF GRAPEVINES ON THE TRELLIS.

If there is anything in the theory, that great injury is often caused by extraction of moisture and evaporation when in contact with continual cold, then it is advisable to leave the vines lying upon the ground until after the cold, drying winds of March have passed. As the season advances, the circulation of sap increases, and in March there is more aqueous matter in the vine than in the month of January: and consequently it is more susceptible to changes of temperature, and is more affected by cold, drying winds; but to what extent injury is caused by continual cold, drying winds at this season, we will not undertake to say. There are those who believe the plant more often injured by the cold, drying winds in March or April than by any extremes of temperature during the regular winter months. Without attempting to prove or disprove the theory, we shall only say that our experience for some years has been in favor of leaving our vines on the ground until quite late in the spring. We have some times left them even until after they had bloomed and set their fruit, and once or twice we have thought that we escaped injury from frosts and from cold, driving rain and sleet storms, by the vines being on the ground, we having plenty of fruit when some of our neighbors, whose vines were neatly and carefully tied up, were destitute.—
Horticulturist.

CULTURE OF THE ROSE.—There is no flowering shrub or plant requires manuring so much as the rose, which produces such a large quantity of flowers that the soil within reach of the roots soon becomes exhausted of those ingredients which are necessary for sustaining the health and vigor of the plant. Well-rotted cow manure is best for the rose, and as the plant is a gross feeder, a liberal supply will be required. Moderate root-pruning has a very good effect in conjunction with manuring.

THE BALDWIN, the favorite apple of New England, has been in cultivation more than a century. So has the Bartlett pear, and both have retained their character in all their original value and purity.

UNDERDRAINING LAND: ITS EFFECTS.—Experiments in underdraining land were made in Scotland last year for the purpose of determining the effect on the temperature of the soil, compared with that in the same vicinity which was not drained. The result was that the draining raised the temperature 1.5 degrees, equal to a removal of the land from one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles south. This is an important consideration connected with compact, heavy soils, whose retentiveness of water renders them cold and comparatively inert with respect to vegetation. Draining land involves considerable expense, but its increased productiveness soon repays this, besides assuring increased profits for the future.





Garden, Orchard, &c.

PEAR CULTURE.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

I SEND you some of the results of my own experience in Pear Culture, and my observations on the experiments of others during a period of more than twenty years.

Before commencing to set out trees, I obtained all the information I could from books, and from personal interviews and correspondence with some of the most successful Pear Growers in New England. On many points there was a wide difference of opinion, so that I was often obliged either to follow my own judgment or to resort to a series of experiments.

The following are some of the conclusions at which I arrived, after repeated trials and extended observation:—

In the first place, the right location for a Pear Orchard, if possible, must be chosen.—High land, with a northern exposure, is far better than a situation fully opened to the South, and sheltered with hills and woods on the North and Northwest. And as the range of the temperature is much greater in valleys than on hills, the trees planted in valleys are very often injured by the cold succeeding the warm sun, in February and March. I have noticed repeated instances of injury to trees from this cause.

Success in Pear Culture depends very much on soil. A strong, rich loam, with a gravelly, porous subsoil is the best. Low, moist land, with a clayey, tenacious soil, is wholly unsuited to the Pear. Where a farmer has no choice, he must resort to thorough underdraining, and must use, liberally, coarse sand, to lessen the tenacity of the soil, and to make it warm and porous. No fruit trees will flourish when water stands within a few inches of their roots.—When the soil is sandy or gravelly, clay and peat must be bountifully supplied. If the above conditions are neglected or ignored, failure will most certainly ensue.

The selection of trees is by no means an unimportant matter. None but those which are well formed, and which have made a healthy growth the previous year, should, under any circumstances, be planted. Trees that are ill-shaped, or stunted, as well as those which have been stimulated, by excessive manuring, to a very vigorous growth, should be rejected as worthless. Poor trees are dear at any price. And there is no greater mistake made in all kinds of fruit culture, than in making selections because they are cheap.

So much has been written in regard to preparing the ground for the trees, that a few words must suffice. A hole must be dug from five to six feet in diameter, and one and a half to two feet in depth. This should be filled with very rich soil,—top sod from an old pasture is the best,—with at least a bushel of well rotted manure for each tree. Great care must be taken with the roots, that they all lie in their natural position. The soil should be trodden down firmly around each tree, and when trees are planted in Autumn, which is the best time for most trees, large stones may, with very great advantage, be placed around the trees, to keep them from being moved by the wind.—Many trees die by being planted too deep.—This should be very particularly guarded against. Those on Quince stocks, however, are to be planted deep enough that the Pear graft may be a little below the surface, in order to send out roots. I think it better to leave a hollow around the trees till they begin to grow, and then to raise the soil around them.

Mulching in July and August is very necessary, especially for dwarf trees. Peat and spent tan are the best materials for this purpose. When they cannot be had, leaves, hay or straw may be used to great advantage.—Coal ashes are also an excellent mulch for all kinds of trees.

To insure success, the ground must be thoroughly cultivated around the trees, and kept free from weeds and grass; this is as necessary to success in the culture of the Pear as in raising corn. The main thing to be aimed at and to be secured, is a vigorous and healthy growth; without this, there will be complete failure. In a healthy growth, the annual

shoots must be, at least, one foot, and not more than two or two and a half feet in length; and this must be produced in the early part of the seasons. This is the great desideratum in Pear culture, and more essential to success than every thing else. A late growth is to be guarded against in every possible way. More trees are injured by this than by all other causes combined. I have seldom seen Pear blight on trees where the soil had been well manured and refined.

All Pear trees need stimulating manures, and this should be abundantly supplied, but the application should be made in the Fall rather than in the Spring. If the land be only moderately rich, it may be forked in around the trees, otherwise it should be removed. In very rich alluvial land, manure may not be necessary, and it may be advisable to check late growth, even to resort to root pruning or to pinching off the buds. Liquid manure is also of very great value, if applied in the months of May and June. I have seen astonishing results from this application. The amount of stimulating manure must be determined by its effects, and it must be increased till the desired vigorous growth is produced.

The best fertilizers to be applied to the Pear tree in Summer, are flour of bone, peat, mixed with wood ashes or potash, and lime and salt. The effect of saltpetre and iron-filing has, in some instances, been very marked and decided. As lime acts only as a chemical agent, it should never be used with stable manure, or applied when trees are at rest.

I am fully satisfied, after more than twenty years experience, that, by following carefully the above directions, Pear Culture is as certain, and far more profitable than the raising of corn or potatoes.

A few observations on the different varieties of Pears may be furnished at some future time. Providence, R. I., March, 1867. **

MARKET GARDENS OF NEW JERSEY.

WE have, on several occasions, referred to the wonderful agricultural changes which have been made within the last few years on the soil of New Jersey, and particularly at points not far distant from Philadelphia. Our citizens, as large consumers of vegetable food, are indirectly as much interested in the progress of market gardening as those immediately engaged in such pursuits; and a brief reference to some of the developments in West Jersey will at once illustrate the progress of the new settlements and the labors of those who furnish supplies to our markets. New Jersey has become proverbial for its sand-banks and barrenness, and yet some of the lands lying in the districts most derided as "flat, stale, and unprofitable" have been during late years yielding immense returns to the agriculturist. The soil is not self-recuperative, as is the case with many of happier composition, but it has great beds of marl near at hand, with large markets readily accessible, and industry and science have completed a result which is one of the greatest of agricultural triumphs. One of the remarkable districts is that strip of Camden county lying along the banks of the Delaware, and known in the vicinity as "Pea Shore." It enjoys the advantage of being several days or a week in advance of the season westward, and thus earning the first golden harvests won from the first green peas and earliest strawberries. The soil is loose, warm, and easily drained; while the kindly veil of river moisture shields it from the blighting frosts that come on the wings of the west wind in tardy springs and early autumns, and at the same time prevents the daily heat garnered from the sun's rays from dispersing as rapidly as it does in a drier atmosphere. Many of the farmers of this and neighboring regions have learned wherein, with all their manifest disadvantages, the golden opportunity is to be found. In their peculiar circumstances they turn their almost undivided efforts to the production of green crops for the markets of New York and Philadelphia, and as an instance of the result, there is on record the history of one farm upon which the former owner was unable, with the standard crops to maintain his family, except by eking out a scanty subsistence by cutting wood and similar labors, but which now, by the help

of wise culture, bountiful manuring of the right description, and indefatigable industry, has returned from a plot of only two acres three hundred baskets of early potatoes, valued at \$1.25 per basket, and seventy-five hundred cabbages, selling for \$10 per hundred, making the return from the two acres \$1,125. Citizens often, and frequently with justice, murmur at the sums which the market men wring from their necessities; but on the other hand, the gardener who, by a prudent selection of soil, and ceaseless care, was enabled to supply a large number of cucumbers by the 28th of June, had most certainly well earned the high price of \$7 per basket which was eagerly offered to him. Another Jerseyman received \$66 for four and three quarter bushels of early tomatoes, and in the subsequent year \$20 for two baskets, which were the earliest in the market. When the gourmands of the metropolis are willing to pay fabulous sums for the luxury of strawberries and cream, we must remember that it was not merely fortuitous circumstances, but ceaseless care, which enabled a happy New Jersey farmer to supply the demand by the 23d of June. Tomatoes, when they cost thirty-seven cents per dozen, are certainly expensive eating; but the skill which has forced them into such early ripeness has risen almost to a fine art. With a well selected soil, and a screen of evergreens to keep off the cold winds, peas can be perfected much earlier than usual, and readily command \$1.50 per basket, while ten days later they may perhaps not bring even half that sum. That these great results are due to individual enterprise is proved by the fact that in the district of West Jersey one farm of one hundred acres returns a gross product of \$2,000, while another adjacent and similar in all respects, containing but ninety acres, has a gross product of \$7,000; and a still more remarkable instance is a farm of thirty-six acres giving a gross return of \$375, while an adjoining tract, embracing but twenty-five acres, rises to \$2,500.

New Jersey was formerly celebrated for its orchards, but some of these are declining in value, not merely from old age or inattention, but because many farmers consider them as too precarious in their returns, especially as they shade the ground and monopolize the soil to the exclusion of other crops. A good fruit season occasionally cannot be remunerative in a soil which can be made to yield \$600 worth of strawberries to the acre. Such a crop is of course unusual, but this berry has frequently yielded more than \$400 per acre, and forty acres of raspberries are recorded as having produced \$15,360. Apart from these extraordinary yields, the census returns tend to confirm the verdict in favor of the small fruits and green crops, particularly on the direct line of the railroads. From numerous instances the result is clearly, that although the soil is frequently well adapted for wheat, the best farmers are generally cultivating barely enough rye, corn, hay, and wheat to supply their own wants and the necessities of their animals, while the rest of the land and their utmost zeal and attention are demanded by the requirements of what is opprobriously styled "truck" and abundantly remunerated by the speedy and certain return.—Philadelphia Press.

At a late meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, delegates to visit the Fairs of the various Societies of the State were assigned as follows:—

Essex Society—Mr. Ward of Munson.
Middlesex—Mr. Thompson of Nantucket.
Middlesex South—Dr. Loring of Salem.
Middlesex North—Mr. Birnie of Springfield.
Worcester—Mr. Saltonstall of Newton.
Worcester West—Mr. Smith of Sunderland.
Worcester South—Mr. Davis of Plymouth.
Worcester Southeast—Mr. Porter of Hatfield.
Worcester North—Mr. Hyde of Lee.
Hampshire, Hampden and Franklin—Mr. Billings of Lunenburg.
Hampshire—Mr. Sanderson of Phillipston.
Highland—Mr. Slade of Somerset.
Hampden—Mr. Clement of Dracut.
Hampden East—Mr. Johnson of Framingham.
Franklin—Mr. Stockbridge of Hadley.
Berkshire—Mr. Bull of Concord.
Housatonic—Mr. King of Barnstable.
Hoosac Valley—Mr. Cleveland of Tisbury.
Norfolk—Mr. Knowlton of Upton.
Bristol—Mr. Cole of Williamstown.
Bristol Central—Mr. Watson of Hinsdale.
Plymouth—Mr. Hubbard of Brimfield.
Barnstable—Mr. Thatcher of Lee.
Nantucket—Mr. Ward of Shrewsbury.
Martha's Vineyard—Mr. Sewall of Medfield.

EXPERIMENTS WITH POTATOES.

HAVING become convinced by repeated experiments that one can obtain more bushels and better sized potatoes by planting the butts of large potatoes than other descriptions of seed, I tried an experiment last year, with a few hills, to ascertain the quantity of seed necessary to a hill. The result was in favor of a much more liberal seeding than is commonly practiced.

To put the matter beyond all reasonable doubt, I have this year tried an experiment on a more extensive scale. I planted 780 hills as follows:—Commencing at one end, in the first row, I put three butts in a hill, in the second row four butts in a hill, and so on through the piece. Every odd row had three butts in a hill; every even row had four butts in a hill. I dug each row separately and weighed the product. The result was:—

390 hills with 3 butts yielded 140 lbs. 14 oz.

394 hills with 4 butts yielded 1569 lbs. 15 oz.

This would leave a gain of 17½ bushels per acre by planting four butts in a hill instead of three. Take out 10 bushels for the extra seed, and it leaves 7½ bushels clear gain over and above the extra seed.

After finishing my other planting, having a pile of mud on hand, for which I had no immediate use, I levelled it down, putting it in an oblong square form, leaving the mud about eighteen inches deep. Here I planted twelve rows, with six hills in a row. From necessity I planted smaller potatoes, five being about equal to four of the others. Here every odd row had four butts in a hill, and every even row had five butts in a hill. On digging,

36 hills with 4 butts in a hill yielded 125 lbs.

4 oz.

36 hills with 5 butts in a hill yielded 136 lbs.

12 oz.

This would leave a gain per acre by planting five butts in a hill instead of four of 25½ bushels. Take out eight bushels for the extra seed and it leaves, omitting fractions, 17½ bushels clear gain over and above the extra seed.

The way I account for the discrepancy between these experiments is this:—In my first experiment I commenced planting at the best end of the field; and consequently, as we approached the other end, which was poorer, the odd rows were on better soil than the even rows. Had I commenced at the other end the result would doubtless have been more in favor of heavy seeding. Inequality of soil is a great obstacle in the way of trying accurate experiments. In my second experiment, as I used no manure with the mud, this obstacle was avoided.

The only valid objection which can be brought against such heavy seeding as these experiments indicate, is, that the more seed you put in a hill, the smaller will be the potatoes. Whether this objection outweighs the advantage of a larger product, each one must decide for himself. I think I had as many good sized eating potatoes from four butts to a hill as from three; so that the extra product was clear gain, if the gain was in small potatoes.

Sprouts or Eyes.—I wish to say a word about the impropriety of planting small potatoes, or large ones cut in small pieces. The root of the potato sprout or eye extends to the centre of the tuber. Sever the sprout or eye from its root, and you lessen its vigor. In proof of this, pare off the outside of the potato to the depth of one-eighth of an inch, and the inside, if planted, will commonly grow, but it will grow feebly. Plant the paring, and it will grow feebly, just in proportion to its thinness. Cut a potato as you will; the smaller the piece, the more feebly it will grow. As to planting small potatoes, it is contrary to all analogy. When farmers winnowed their wheat in the wind, they kept the but of the heap for seed. Gardeners always prefer the middle head of the parsnip for seed. Thus with all kinds of seeds; the largest, most perfect and best ripened are always preferred.—Should one go counter to the common practice in selecting seeds, his sanity would at once be called in question. Why then should potatoes be an exception to this universal rule?—Correspondent of the New England Farmer.

If anything in the world will make a man feel badly, except pinching his fingers in the crack of a door, it is unquestionably a quarrel. No man ever fails to think less of himself after it than before, it degrades him in the eyes of others, and what is worse, blunts his sensibilities on the one hand, and increases the power of passionate irritability on the other. The truth is, the more peaceably and quietly we get on, the better for our neighbors. In nine cases out of ten, the better course is, if a man cheats you, quit dealing with him; if he abuses you, quit his company; if he slanders you, take care to live so that no one will believe him.





Poetic Gem.

REAPING.

Up, mortal, and act, while the angel of light
Melts the shadows before and behind thee!

The red sun has rolled himself into the blue,
And lifted the mists from the mountain;

To spring comes the budding; to summer the blush;
To autumn the happy fruition;

The Farm.

SPECIALTIES IN FARMING.

WE find a suggestion in one of the agricultural journals that is worth noting, as to the advantage of every cultivator having a specialty

In farming generally and planting, this is not uncommon. Wheat, or tobacco or cotton is made the specialty, and with good results,

But the suggestion is equally applicable to what is called truck farming, when there is disposition to divide the attention among many small crops.

As an instance of success, the Massachusetts Plowman says: "We once knew a thrifty and enterprising farmer who cultivated, generally, about fourteen acres of onions.

DOES DAIRYING PAY?—A Iowa Republican answers this question: "We met Chauncey Borland, Esq., of Pleasant Valley a few days since, and inquired after the success of his dairy this season.

MAXIMS BY HORACE GREELEY

gives the boy the following excellent maxims, as rounds of the ladder to wealth: 1st. Firmly resolve never to owe maxims, as rounds of the ladder to wealth: 2d. Acquire promptly and thoroughly some useful calling. 3d. Resolve not to be a rover: where you have stuck your stake stand by it. 4th. Comport. 5th. Realize that he who earns sixpence a day more than he spends must get rich, while he who spends sixpence a day more than he earns must become poor.

AGRICULTURE IN CALIFORNIA.

THE rapid agricultural development of California fairly rivals the richness of her mineral wealth. Even now she exports large quantities of wheat and wine, and the former can sometimes be profitably taken to the Atlantic cities, as well as the latter.

CHINESE AGRICULTURE.

Our farmers, who think it hardly worth their while to use the heaps of manure which accumulate about their barns and feeding grounds, would not relish the practice of the pains-taking Chinese, as described by a late writer:

The Chinaman does not manure the field, but the plant, with the exception of rice. All animal or vegetable substances are collected carefully and turned into manure.

The Chinaman is also acquainted with the effects of gypsum and lime. No Chinese farmer sows the seeds or cereals before they have been thoroughly soaked in suds and water, and have commenced to germinate.

The Chinese farmer sows the wheat in seed-beds, after it has been well soaked in suds from manure, very close, and transplants them afterwards to the fields.

ALWAYS BUY FAT BEEF AND PORK.—There is nearly twenty per cent. less water in the carcass of a well-fatted animal than in a lean one.

LAND MEASURE.—Every farmer should have a rod measure—a light, stiff pole—just 16 1-2 feet long, for measuring land.

The Stock-Yard.

DIMINUTIVE BREEDS.

DWARF animals are in considerable demand, but how to breed them without subjecting them to cruel hardships is something of a puzzle. The more diminutive the poodle dog, the more it is admired by ladies, and the smaller the pony of symmetrical proportions the larger is the price that it will realize.

DISEASE AND DEATH AMONG CALVES.

ALMOST every spring or summer we hear of deaths among calves. The sight of calves that look puny, unthrifty, or sickly, is one which not infrequently pains the eyes and sympathies of those who have occasion to travel in the rural districts.

some of them from their miserable life of aversion-inflicted starvation and suffering. Those who would avoid this cruelty and miserable economy, and those who would secure animals that will pay, will keep their calves well for the first three or four months; for creatures starved and stunted in their youth will never make as thrifty, healthy, well-formed, and able-bodied cattle, as those which had a better start in life.

BREEDER'S ASSOCIATION.—The Association of Breeders of Thorough-bred Neat Stock had a meeting in Albany, Feb. 14th, for the election of officers, and the result was as follows: President—E. H. HYDE of Stafford, Ct.

DARKNESS FAVORABLE TO FATNESS.—It is a fact that all animals fatten faster in dimly-lighted places than in the full light of day. This is well known in respect to fowls. From experiments made with sheep, conclusions have been reached that in a dark shed, well ventilated and properly warmed, they will make the most mutton from a given amount of food.

The Horse.

HOW TO JUDGE THE CHARACTER OF A HORSE BY OUTWARD APPEARANCES.—Charles L. Tbay-er writes to the Country Gentleman: "I offer the following suggestions, the result of my close observation and long experience. If the color be light-sorrel or chestnut, his feet, legs and face white—these are marks of kindness.

HORSES OVERREACHING—REMEDY.—Make the shoe its natural length, or a trifle longer, with the toe calk of the forward shoe high, and the heel calk low. The hoof will then stand further forward and more removed from the stride of the hind foot, which, being shod with a low toe calk and high heel calk, will strike the ground before it reaches the fore foot.

POULTRY EXHIBITION.—The fourth exhibition of the Worcester County (Mass.) Poultry Club will be held in Washburn Hall, Worcester, on the 26th, 27th and 28th of the present month.





Horticulture.

WHY IS OUT-DOOR CULTURE OF THE VINE A FAILURE?

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY J. S. LIPPINCOTT, HADDONFIELD, N. JERSEY.

YOUR correspondent, R. Robinson Scott, whose communications are suggestive, has favored your readers with his opinion on the possibility of grape growing out of doors. He asserts that it remains an uncertain undertaking, while he admits that the culture under glass is no longer a mystery, or even difficult to any intelligent individual, and may be, and generally is, attended by certain and remunerative results. He seems impressed with the idea that choice of soil, and peculiar pruning and training, are of leading importance; and even appears to believe that the results so far deemed successful in Ohio and Missouri, have been realized by the adoption of peculiar methods; in many instances derived from European practice. He, moreover, speaks of the influence of peculiar atmospheric conditions and insect enemies, as though he deemed them of small moment compared with the conditions of soil, training and pruning.

We do not propose to question the correctness of his opinions, or at least to show that they are entirely erroneous; for we believe that all the causes to which he ascribes the failure of the grape crop, and the eventual abandonment of the vine, have or may have had place. But we desire to show, that while minor evil influences may have marred success, there is one great and wide spread agency to which we are periodically exposed, and on the heels of which certain results always follow so closely, as to induce us to consider them in the relation of cause and consequence.

To render our position more clearly understood, let us glance at the circumstances under which the vine, foreign or native, is placed under glass, in a cold graperly. How is it located as respects soil, exposure,—how trained, pruned &c., different from the vine "out of doors?" Is it warmer in Summer or in Winter than the vine may be out of doors? What are the precise conditions by which these vines are differently circumstanced? Not that of training, not of pruning, not of soil, not of fertilizing, not of freedom from insects. What, then, are the circumstances which under glass are favorable to the more tender foreign vine, and which offer the most marked contrast to the conditions "out of doors" by which the tardier native is periodically injured? What is the all-important requisite of successful grape-growing in the cold graperly, and what is the office of a glass roof? Is it to retain heat by day? Surely not, for the external heat by day is often in excess of the demands of the vine. Is it to retain heat by night? It does answer this valuable purpose to a great extent. Is it to prevent excessive drying of the leaves and tissues, generally by an absorbing atmosphere during our parching Summer? It does subservise this *all important* end, as any experienced grower of the vine under glass will readily understand. And how is this affected by the glass roof, but by confining, measurably, the moisture which the attentive cultivator supplies to the atmosphere of his graperly, and thus preserving a high, or at least a wholesome degree of humidity around the breathing and perspiring vessels of the tender vine? We should not overlook the valuable services of a glass roof, by which we are enabled to shelter our vines from excess of rain-fall,—to supply them with the due proportion of water at each stage of growth, and to dry the atmosphere to the degree best adapted to the perfect maturation of the fruit.—These are, however, minor considerations when compared with the *all important* condition of *humidity* around the vine during its season of vigorous growth.

Having surrounded his vine under glass, with all the conditions necessary to its health and development, he succeeds; but beyond the glass, be it but ten feet, with all other requisites to success attendant, he fails. Then, wherefore? Is it not philosophical to suppose because of unlike conditions?—and wherein are the conditions unlike but in deficiency of atmospheric moisture around by day and by

night, and excessive radiation by night from the out door vine; while as respects the plaut under glass, no extremes of dryness or of temperature are permitted to have place?

Now, we have observed that we are favored with an occasional season when our native grapes from young vines are all that we desire; the leaves are healthy, and persistent; the fruit plump, and fair, and the sap and saccharine richly developed,—rivalling the foreign grape. These seasons of success in grape-growing are unmarked by periods of excessive dryness or absence of a due proportion of atmospheric humidity, and no abnormal decline of temperature by night has occurred in July or in August, and consequently no mildew or "rot," has been developed. The character of the atmosphere, as respects moisture and uniformity of temperature, remained in close approximation to that which experience has shown to be the best adapted to the successful growth of the grape under glass; under which, indeed, other things being favorable, it always succeeds. Unfortunately, we are not favored with a succession of seasons in which these conditions prevail to the degree or extent most congenial to our native vine; and failure of the crop, and injury to the vine, are the result; and if the evil re-appear, as it often does in a series of years, the vital energies of the plant are sapped and a lingering if not a sudden death may follow.

The sceptical inquirer may ask, "Why does the native vine succeed on the Southern shore and on the islands of Lake Erie; on the banks of the Hudson, and on Crooked Lake, and at a few other localities,—not occasionally—but almost uniformly succeed? A pertinent query, surely! True, the cultivation of the native grape is attended with almost uniform success at the above named places; while it is as often a failure at points and over wide districts removed from the influences known to exist at the former, but which are absent from the latter. What are the circumstances to which success is ascribed? Are they superior skill in planting, pruning, training, choice of soil, exposure &c.? No! for in these, the respective districts are not in accord, though all these causes may modify, they do not appear to determine success. What, then, are the influences surrounding the regions where success is generally reached, and which are absent where failure is the rule? We answer, they are manifestly atmospheric; the result of location, by which conditions are attained closely resembling those surrounding the vine in the cold graperly. The presence of a large body of water on the west, south west or north west, of the vineyard, by supplying the air with its just proportion of moisture during the heat of Summer, and by preserving, both directly and indirectly, an equable temperature by day and by night, produces a state of things closely resembling the conditions artificially attained by the attentions of the gardener in his cold graperly, and the grower of grapes out of doors, therefore, generally succeeds at the places named by our querist.

Some readers may be ready to inquire, "How is it possible that moisture by night can answer the same good purpose that a glass roof is known to subservise in the graperly?" We reply that the presence of a due proportion of vapor uncondensed, floating in the air over a vineyard, is a powerful protector against cooling by radiation from the ground, as has been satisfactorily determined by abundant experiment. Vines therefore, immersed in vapor by night are not chilled in midsummer, unless in certain exceptional cases, while frequently entire vineyards not so sheltered, but exposed to excessive cooling for want of a moist atmosphere, as during a season of drought, are utterly ruined. The air near the Northern lakes is also more moist by day, and the cool waters temper the midday heats, and thus the leaves and other tissues of the vine are not exposed to drying and shrivelling, and risk of entire check in growth. Finally, under these circumstances an equable condition of heat and moisture are more nearly attained and preserved; the very conditions demanded by the vine, whether foreign or native—which it enjoys in many European wine districts—which experience shows it needs under glass, where even in this climate it attains perfection, rivalling

the products of Europe. The ill success attending vine culture, out of doors, in the Northern section of the United States East, we believe, after much study, to be almost entirely the result of unpropitious atmospheric conditions, and that these are mainly results of a deficiency of moisture at the season when most needed to check extremes of heat and cold to which we are so frequently exposed during the days and nights of Summer. Moreover, it has seemed to us that the conclusion must be sound, that it will prove absolutely necessary to seek those regions where the circumstances favorable to the grape are ever present, and to avoid those in which they do not prevail,—if we would make the culture of the vine "out of doors" a permanent business.

March, 1867.

WINE CULTURE.

A WRITER in the London Medical Times and Gazette shows that there is no lack of a plentiful supply of wine from France and other countries of Europe, and asserts that there is wine enough in the world for all. From this we learn that there are 2,200,000 proprietors of vineyards in France, 1000 varieties of wine cultivated, 5,435,000 acres of land devoted to vineyards, and a crop in 1864 of 1,320,000,000 gallons of wine, worth \$100,000,000. It is one peculiarity of the vine culture that it has, as it were, its own zone, and intrudes on nothing else. "See," as a Burgundian once said of his country, "the hills nourish the vine, whilst the arable fields below them yield corn for bread, and the meadows on the river banks are pastured by fat bees." If we extend our view from France to the Rhine, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Greece, Spain and Portugal, we find vast quantities of land fitted for viniculture.

In wine countries the value of new wine in good seasons is the value of the cask that holds it. Two wines from the department *l'Herault*, which alone produces twice as much as the whole kingdom of Portugal, are offered for sale in London at a very low rate. The first is sold in casks at the rate of fifteen cents a bottle, and the second at six cents the hottle. One of these is described as "stout, rough, new wine, adapted for family use."

Before long the home supply of wine in the United States will be sufficient to meet all the wants of the inhabitants. The two States of California and Ohio yielded in 1860 upwards of a million of gallons; Kentucky, the third on the list, gave a return of nearly 180,000 gallons; next, Indiana, 88,000, and then New York, 61,000; North Carolina, 54,000; Illinois, 47,000; Connecticut, 46,000; Virginia, 40,000; and Pennsylvania, 38,000.

LUXURIES OF A FRUIT-GARDEN.

FROM a row of currant bushes, about eight rods long, a farmer and his neighbors gathered about two bushels of currants last year. The currant season, from the first picking to the last, was from June 1st to August 15th, two and a half months.

From a row of gooseberry bushes, two rods long, he gathered about a bushel of gooseberries.

From a plat of strawberry vines, four rods long and one rod wide, he gathered nearly three bushels of strawberries. The strawberry season lasted about three weeks, ending about the middle of July.

Then his raspberries came on, and lasted about three weeks. Of these he had about half a bushel. They stood next to the strawberries in point of delicacy.

He has a number of cherry trees. They yielded well last year. His family and friends used a bushel or so, and the children of the neighborhood fed themselves upon them without stint for two weeks.

Soon after the raspberries were gone, his peaches began to ripen. One of the trees ripened its fruit late, and it lasted till October; of these he has had two or more bushels.

All along, since the 1st of August, his apples and pears have been ripening, and have furnished an abundant supply for his family, for the cow and pig, and some to sell or give away

besides. He will have a large quantity of winter apples. He has just gathered from two or three grape vines, as many bushels of fine grapes. Some of these his wife made into marmalade, and some she has preserved in paper, for use hereafter. The best and greater portion of the whole were eaten as dessert, or given to children or friends, all of whom enjoyed them much.

These are some of the enjoyments drawn from a plat of ground, during the season just closed. They were at small cost, but they sweetened many a meal, ministered to health, and added to the comfort of many guests.

Why may not nearly every man have as large a plat of ground and as many comforts? Simply because he is negligent.

LOW HEADS FOR FRUIT TREES.

SOME writer, no matter who, gives the following recommendation for the shape of fruit trees. They are commended to all who raise such trees.

It is said to be much better to grow fruit trees with their heads and branches near the ground, than to have them branching overhead, for various reasons.

1st. The sun, which is, perhaps, in our hot and dry summers, the cause of more disease and destruction in fruit trees than all other diseases together, is kept from almost literally scalding the sap, as it does in long, naked trunks and limbs. The limbs and leaves of a tree should always effectually shade the trunk and keep it cool. The leaves only should have plenty of sun and light; they can bear and profit by it. If trees were suffered to branch out low, say one or two feet from the ground, we should hear much less of "fire blight," "frozen sap blights," black spots, and the like.

2d. The ground is looser, moister and cooler, under a low branching tree than under a high one. Grass and weeds do not grow a hundredth part so rank and readily, and mulching becomes unnecessary.

3d. The wind has not half the power to rack, and twist, and break the tree, and shake off the fruit—a matter of no small consequence.

4th. The trees will be much longer lived, and more prolific, beautiful and profitable.

5th. The trees are more easily rid of destructive insects, the fruit is much less damaged by falling, and the facilities for gathering it are much greater; there is less danger of breaking limbs.

6th. The trees require less pruning, scraping and washing, and the roots are protected from the plow, which is too often made to tear and mutilate them.

These seem to be indisputable facts, sufficient to silence all objections. An apple or cherry tree is nearly twice as valuable for shooting out low, near the ground, especially on the south-west side.

VICAR OF WINKFIELD PEAR.—This pear is sometimes called "Vicar of Wakefield," Goldsmith's celebrated novel being easier remembered than the Rev. Mr. Rham, Vicar of Winkfield, in Berkshire, England, who imported the fruit from France. In the latter country it has been long known as *Le Cure*. The tree is of a pendant habit and is very hardy and productive. The color of the fruit is yellow, with a brownish cheek. The flesh is greenish white.

WINE MAKING IN THE UNITED STATES.—Data derived from the last census shows that in the culture of the vine California has the lead, though some of the best samples of wine have come from Georgia and the Ohio valley. The capacity of the United States for vine culture may be judged from the single fact that California alone has 500,000 acres adapted to vineyards, which the aggregate of European vineyards is supposed not to exceed 12,000,000 acres. The States is about equal to that of the West—200 gallons to the acre. In the South France is claimed, and in California 800. The number of vines now bearing in California is about 4,500,000, the yield amounting to something like a gallon for each vine.

MANAGEMENT OF GRAPEVINES.—George Hushmann, of Herrman, Mo., one of the most intelligent grape cultivators of the Missouri Horticultural Society, gives several requisites for success, founded on experience, of which the following is the most valuable: 1. Complete underdrainage. 2. Moderate hearing—never allowing a vine to be overtaxed with a crop, no matter how robust it may be. 3. Early ripening of the wood of the vine. 4. Carefully avoiding late and severe Summer pruning, which prevents the perfecting of the fruit and destruction of insects, the worst of which are the rose bug, the leaf folder and the white thrip.





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 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 centre, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENCE.

WE have the pleasure to announce to the readers of the FARM AND FIRESIDE that we have engaged the services of a practical agriculturist, a gentleman of talent, who will write letters from the Old World on subjects pertaining to rural affairs as they exist in England, France and Germany. He will also describe the great PARIS EXPOSITION, especially those features of it which more directly interest the intelligent farmer and horticulturist. Our readers may expect some valuable and interesting letters.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

The donation of land voted by Congress to the several loyal States for the maintenance of Agricultural Colleges, is at the rate of thirty thousand acres for each Senator and Representative. The grant to Pennsylvania will be about seven hundred and eighty thousand acres. Under the provisions of the act, the expenses of the management and sale must be paid out of the State Treasury. Ten per cent. of the sum realized may be employed in the purchase of lands and building sites; but the balance of the fund must remain intact, and be invested in reliable securities, yielding not less than five per cent. Such revenue is to be faithfully appropriated to "the endowment and support of at least one College, where, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, the leading object shall be to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

Upon the policy employed in the disposal of this grant will depend its pecuniary value. The Eastern States have adopted the plan of selling their scrip at once; while some of the Western States advocate, in view of an increased revenue in the future, a gradual sale of the land. Some of the Eastern States have realized eighty cents per acre for their scrip, while Ohio received but fifty-four cents an acre for hers. The average, in these instances, would be sixty-seven cents. At such price the seven hundred and eighty thousand acres granted to Pennsylvania would amount to \$522,600. At the lowest rate of interest allowed (five per cent.) this sum would yield \$26,130, which would be quite a handsome yearly revenue to such colleges as are already established.

Europe is far in advance of this country in the estimate placed upon the value of agriculture as a science. There are seventy-five agricultural schools in France, thirty-two in Prussia, thirty-three in Austria, thirty-five in Bavaria, and sixty-eight in Russia. The total number of schools of this character in Europe is three hundred and fifty-two. Of these, twenty-two are "Superior Schools," ranking with the best colleges in this country in the extent and variety of the sciences taught; fifty-four are "Intermediary Schools," which will compare favorably with most American colleges. The Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, has seven hundred acres, and six professors; the Agricultural School at Grignon, near Paris, has seven hundred and fifty acres, and six professors; Brunswick has a Superior School, with thirteen professors; in Saxony there is another with seven thousand three hundred and fifty-five acres and nine professors; and the Institute of Agronomy and Forests, in Wurtemberg, has eight hundred and twenty-five acres under cultivation, five thousand acres of forest, one director, six professors, four functionaries and two tutors. In these colleges the system of instruction is extensive and thorough; embracing algebra, geometry, mechanics, surveying, leveling, stereometry (measuring solid bodies), and linear drawings, in the mathematical sciences; meteorology, mineral chemistry, mineralogy, geology and botany, in the physical sciences; organic chemistry, agriculture, arboriculture, sylviculture, veterinary art, agricultural zoology, and equitation, in what are de-

nominated technological sciences; and rural architecture, forest economy, rural economy, rural law, and farm accounts, in the nological sciences. The practice of sub-dividing the business of teaching among so many professors, each of whom gives his undivided attention to a particular art or science, secures that preeminence in German universities and scholars for which they are distinguished.

Comparing the United States with the advantages presented, and the progress observable in Europe, we must conclude that there exists among us a mere germ of agricultural science; and whether the vitality of this germ is to be blighted by neglect, or developed by effort, will depend upon the comprehensive view we take of our duty and the earnest manner in which we enter upon the discharge of the same. We do not deny that our progress in agriculture, for a decade of years, has been of a bright and encouraging character, but it is a fact, just as evident, that so long as we delay to establish numerous schools in which agricultural science is the specialty, just so long will we be injuring farming interests in particular, and the welfare of the country in general. Let it not, to our shame be said, "that an individual, wishing to pursue the critical investigations of rural economy, must work alone, at every disadvantage, without the smallest hope of compensation, while a thousand envious spirits stand ready to deprive him of any credit that may be due him for a life of self-sacrificing devotion;" or that we "merely tolerate cattle shows because they do not involve a process of thinking!" Experimental truths in husbandry and tillage are of infinitely more value than the new agricultural books, "filled with old saws that have been filed and re-set a thousand times with no improvement or change."

AVERAGE PRODUCT OF GRAIN IN NEW YORK. At the annual meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society, ex-President Gould stated that the average product of Spring wheat in that State, was only seven bushels per acre; that of winter wheat, only thirteen bushels to the acre; corn, twenty-eight bushels; potatoes, ninety-eight bushels, and hay, ninety-one hundredths of a ton to the acre. This statement may surprise many readers, but it is undoubtedly correct. Half a century ago the Empire State raised much larger average crops of cereals than now; but, like all the elder States, she is making unremunerative returns to her agricultural population. Her former rain crops have reduced her potassa and phosphoric acid; the remedy (partially) would be the cultivation of leguminous crops, such as peas, clover, &c. The reduced average products of land in New York and elsewhere, is a strong argument for "rotation of crops."

AN AGED HORSE.—A correspondent of the Turf, Field and Farm, writing from Galesburgh, Michigan, states that a horse owned by the Michigan Central Railroad, died in the early part of January, at the age of forty-four years. The above mentioned horse was probably the oldest in this country. The average longevity of the horse is not twelve years, although instances are recorded of horses living to the great age of forty-seven years. If the owners of horses had half the humanity which every man should possess, our noblest and best friend among animals would live much longer than he does. With proper care, food and medical attention, a horse of ordinary constitution would live five-and-twenty years. Now, they "go to the dogs" in eight or ten years.

A PROFITABLE COW.—James Hardy, of Brunswick, Maine, made, last year, from one cow, of our native breed, three hundred and twenty pounds of butter, and sold two hundred and seventy-five quarts of milk, besides what milk and cream were used in a family of six persons. The cow was fed upon grass and corn-fodder in the Summer season; in the Winter, four quarts of meal per day, and what good English hay she would eat. A dozen such cows would yield quite a pretty little income, at the present prices of dairy products.

The estimated value of farms and farm stock in New York in 1856, was \$25,000,000.

PROVIDE A HOT-BED.

WE know of no thrifty farmer who appreciates fresh Tomatoes, early in July, who will not provide a hot bed for the purpose of forwarding the plants of this and several other articles, such as Egg and Pepper plants. Many other incidental matters may be secured by its aid; such as a few choice annuals, Dahlias from cuttings, &c. The first week of March is the proper time in this latitude. It is prepared by selecting a warm location exposed to the South, if backed by a board fence, or at least within a few feet from one, so much the better. The most convenient mode of construction is movable boards for the frame, which may be keyed together when in use.—The size may vary, but three sashes, three and a half feet wide by seven feet long, will be quite sufficient. This will require a frame eight feet by twelve; allowing a margin at top and bottom and a cross bar between the sashes. The height at the back may be twenty-four inches, sloping to twelve or fifteen at the front.

The spot having been selected, remove about two feet of the soil over a space of fifteen feet by eight. Having secured a quantity of stable litter and leaves, sufficient to form a bank of about three feet in depth, material which is beginning to ferment, commence by spreading this in layers; shaking it out with the fork, so as to have it of equal compactness; the leaves to be spread in layers at intervals. If leaves can not be had, they may be dispensed with, but they facilitate the fermentation and regulate it. As soon as the heap is of proper dimension, place the frame in its position, resting on the manure and cover with the sash, covering with mats or other protection to bring up the heat. As soon as heated thoroughly, cover with a few inches of old hot bed manure, preserved from season to season, or other rich compost and a few inches on top, with light loamy soil, sufficiently rich, yet open—on which to sow the seeds. Allow the whole to remain a few days till the undue heat and steam pass off. Care should be taken in sowing seeds, as they are frequently sown without judgment.

STOCK-RAISING IN ILLINOIS.—Stock-raising in Illinois has grown to enormous proportions. This state furnishes New York with more live stock than all the other states combined. During 1866 the total number of cattle received at New York was 293,882. Of this number, it is stated upon reliable authority, 165,287 were received from Illinois alone. The aggregate value of all this live stock was \$33,223,723 12, and of the shipments from the state were \$18,373,302 62. This exhibit gives a glimpse of the gigantic proportions of Illinois agriculture.

GREASING BOOTS AND BRUTES.—Two things we have learned by long practice and personal experience. One is that snow water will soak through best boot leather when no other water will. The other item is that pure, neat-foot oil, two or three times applied, and well warmed in, will more effectually fence out water, make dry feet, soften and preserve leather better than any other application we have ever tried. The same material is equally efficient and as valuable for greasing the hoofs and boot legs of horses during the slumpy, slushy weather of our winter thaws; applied with a sponge, and well rubbed in, to the legs of a horse, say twice a week, protects him from several ills and inconveniences, making his feet and legs quite as comfortable as we find our own within a dry, well oiled boot. Please experiment and believe.

TO PURCHASERS OF SEEDS.—The importance of using good seeds, for the field and garden, is understood by all persons engaged in farming or horticulture. Yet the market is full of poor seed, generally left on commission, with parties not making the seed business a specialty. We therefore take pleasure in recommending the following named firms, as being first class and reliable:—Messrs. Henry A. Dreer; D. Landreth & Son; Collins, Alderson & Co.; C. B. Rogers; Louis Tourny, and William Hacker, Philadelphia; Messrs. Henderson & Fleming, New York, and B. K. Bliss, Springfield, Mass.

BLACKBERRY CULTURE.

WITHIN reasonable reach of such markets as any of our large cities afford for fruit, blackberry culture may be made to pay, on an average, larger and surer dividends than any other berries in cultivation. Six hundred and fifty dollars have been realized from a single acre in one season. That was an extraordinary exception to the general rule, however.—But every acre set to best kind of blackberries—which we consider the *Kittidinnny*—well attended, and properly cultivated, being brought fairly into bearing, may be made to net \$300 per acre.

It is with the blackberry, however, as with almost all other branches of agricultural industry; clean culture, liberal fertilizing and judicious management pay best. Neglect, slovenliness and scrimping manurial supplies, frequently bring the very best berries into contempt. We saw a fair sample of the slow sort of blackberry culture, quite recently.—There was a field of six acres, perhaps, planted in rows six feet apart; the surface grown into grass that will probably afford first class pasturage in Spring and Summer; and the canes of last season's growth, with a large majority of the superannuated ones, lying all over the surface of the ground like a blown-about brush heap—scarcely one cane in forty standing up for next Summer's service.

It won't do, gentlemen! Such blackberry culture as that, will never pay. Better pursue a better practice, or else abandon the enterprise before yourself and berries all "come to grief" together.

The course of culture that we should have pursued with that blackberry field, or any other, would have been to set the plants eighteen inches apart in the rows; the rows five, instead of six, feet apart; having the soil well enriched, in first rate tilth, and entirely free from grass and weeds. Then, along the lines of rows, at distances say twenty feet apart, set firmly into the ground lengths of cheap two inch hemlock plank, a foot wide, set square across the rows. Then stretch and secure to the edges of these plank-posts, small wires—four in number—the lower one, say eighteen inches from the ground, and the others spaced off a foot apart; making a wire fence, or trellis, if you please, along either side of every row.

Growing up within these wire fences the canes are prevented from falling down and obstructing the passages; and their heads being clipped back with shears, they are induced to more stout, stocky growth, more prolific bearing, and earlier ripening of fruit. The spaces between the rows we would keep well cultivated, and made to pay by planting along the centre a row of either early peas or potatoes, to be followed by cabbages after the berry harvest is over. That is the way to make blackberry culture a first-class paying business. We know this from several years consecutive experience.

PEACH PROSPECTS IN MARYLAND.

Messrs Editors of the Farm and Fireside: In answer to your question about the prospect of the peach crop, the present year, I reply, that in this neighborhood I have examined my own and several large orchards belonging to others, and find the trees well set with fruit buds; and in not a single instance have I found a bud injured by the frost of the past winter. We have had one of the most favorable winters for fruit, thus far, for many years; and if we should have no late frosts, we shall, probably, have an abundance of peaches the coming Summer.

Yours respectfully,

Z. P.

Brick Meeting House, Md., Feb. 28th, 1867.

ATMOSPHERIC INFLUENCE.—The contribution of J. S. LIPPINCOTT, in this issue of the *Farm and Fireside*, showing the atmospheric influence on the Grape, is an article of great value. The author has made the atmosphere a study; and if his ideas are considered with the importance they deserve, beneficial results will follow—not only in the cultivation of the Grape, but other fruits, in all sections of the country. We are pleased to announce Mr. LIPPINCOTT as a regular contributor to our journal.

DEODORIZING INDIA-RUBBER.—India-rubber is useful for an infinity of purposes, but it always has an evil odor. An English inventor proposes to overcome this defect by subjecting the rubber to the action of animal charcoal, which has an affinity for gases and smells. The mode of application varies according to the description of articles. Generally speaking, they are laid in shelves or trays in a hot chamber, with a thin stratum of charcoal beneath and on top, and exposed to a temperature of from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and eighty degrees for from three to six hours, after which they are removed from the charcoal, having sustained no other alteration than being rendered devoid of smell, and incapable of imparting any taste to liquids or other substances they may touch.





Fireside Readings.

THE OLD COUNTRY WIFE.

Wrapt in the golden wof
Of her contented life,
Under the olden roof,
Sits the Old Country Wife,

She sings a defiance,
With glad songs of yore,
To the sorrows of science,
The sad things of lore,—

Ah! little she knows
Of the world and its woes;
Of its follies and fashion,
Of the bleak storms of passion,

Thus calmly her life,
Free from sorrow and strife,
Hath span out its quiet thread;
And thus hath she knit,

Her loved ones of youth,
With their fondness and truth,
Have passed through that farm-house door
On Death's drooping plume,

SHOOTING HOGS IN THE GARDEN.

SOMETHING like a quarter of a century ago,
the then youthful Henry Ward Beecher com-
menced the practice of preaching and horticult-
ure in the then young city of Indianapolis,

"I was too poor to hire much labor, and
therefore my own gardener, and, being an en-
thusiast, I always planned twice as much work
as I could possibly perform well, and so, my
garden was not very trim and clean.

kept them in the street. Governor Noble pre-
sented me with a pair, and in two years I found
myself the owner of a herd of some thirty
"children of the street," and of not good con-
duct.

My slow and wearisome labors were provok-
ingly neutralized by a cunning old sow, who
about twice a week, would get in, in spite of
nails and springs, latches and hinges. The
chills made a night excursion dangerous to me,

UNHAPPY MARRIAGES AMONG MEN OF
GENIUS.

THE rare concurrence of genius with domes-
tic comfort is perfectly awful. Take Dante,
the exile, who left his wife never wishing to
see her more; take Tasso, wifeless; Petrarch,

WEBSTER'S MOST IMPORTANT THOUGHT.

A correspondent of the Rochester American
adds the following to the host of anecdotes of
the great statesman:

When Daniel Webster was Secretary of
State he wrote to one of the proprietors of the
Astor House in New York, saying that he
would reach that house on such a day, and
begged that some of his friends should be in-
vited to dine with him the same evening.

There were about twenty or so at the table,
and Mr. Webster seemed wearied by his travel
and speaking but little, if at all, plunged into
a darksome sort of reverie, not well calculated
to enliven his friends.

This friend consented and spoke aloud to Mr.
Webster, asking him some questions that, in
ordinary circumstances and with ordinary men,
would have led to conversation, but it failed in
the present case.

Again the gentleman, frightened by his fail-

ure, was urged to renew the attempt to draw
him out. He summoned courage and said:
"Mr. Webster, (Mr. Webster looked up out of
his cave,) I want you to tell me what was the
most important thought that ever occupied
your mind."

"No, sir, they all know you—all are your
friends."

Then he looked over the table, and you may
imagine how the tones of his voice would be
on such an occasion, giving answer to such a
question.

"The most important thought that ever oc-
cupied my mind," said he, "was that of my
individual responsibility to God!" Upon
which, for twenty minutes, he spoke to them
there; and when he had finished he got up
from the table and retired to his room, and
they, without a word, went into an adjacent
parlor, and when they had gathered there, some
one exclaimed, "Who ever heard of anything
like that!"

What Mr. Webster said in advocacy of his
sublime thought, I do not know. No one has
ever repeated it, and I presume no one can.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Wood ashes and common salt wet with wa-
ter will stop the cracks of a stove, and prevent
the smoke from escaping.

Stir Poland starch with a common candle,
and it will not stick to the iron, and it will be
much nicer.

Alum or vinegar is good to set colors of red,
green, or yellow.

Salt soda will bleach very white; one spoon-
ful is enough for a kettle of clothes.

Save your suds for garden plants, or for gar-
den yards, when sandy.

Wash your tea trays with cold suds, polish
with a little flour, and rub with a dry cloth.

Frozen potatoes make more starch than fresh
ones; they also make nice cake.

A hot shovel held over varnished furniture
will take out the white spots.

A bit of glue dissolved in skim milk and wa-
ter will restore old crape.

Ribbons of any kind should be washed in
cold soap suds, and not rinsed.

If your flat-irons are rough, rub them with
fine salt, and it will make them smooth.

Oat straw is the best for filling beds; it
should be changed once a year.

If you are buying a carpet for durability,
choose small figures.

A bit of soap rubbed on the hinges of doors
will prevent their creaking.

Scotch snuff put in holes where crickets come
out will destroy them.

A gallon of strong lye put in a barrel of hard
water will make it as soft as rain water.

Half a cranberry on a corn will soon kill it.
Always mend clothing before washing.

A PERIL which threatens our social system, is
an aristocracy of wealth. The respect paid to
money, the indulgence granted to money, the
exclusiveness claimed by money, no matter
how it is obtained or how used, no matter
whether it be or he not accompanied by intelli-
gence or character, is an increasing evil of the
times. The impression is getting to be com-
mon that riches will purchase deference, ser-
vice and exemption from censure, no matter
how their possessors conduct themselves.
Hence the lust of gain, taking every form of
gambling and rash speculation; and hence the
assumption of superiority by many, their pre-
tensions as leaders in society, based on no per-
sonal merit, but only on the fact that they are
owners of large funds, or in the enjoyment of
large incomes. The domination of ignorant
opulence, the demoralizing influence of unin-
structed and vicious wealth, are imminently
dangerous, in a free country, especially. No-
where, therefore, more than in a democracy,
does the fact need to be dwelt upon that the
riches which tempt people to put on airs, spurn
restraints, and yield themselves up to selfish
caprices and impulses, are not necessarily proofs

of true manhood or true womanhood. Mon-
ey is easily won and lost in this land of large
resources; and the winning and losing of it is
often owing to circumstances, rather than to
any qualities of mind or heart deserving re-
spect. Moreover, if he who calls millions his
own will only carefully examine, and see how
much he owes to agencies and opportunities he
neither created nor controlled, and how much
Heaven must do for him before he can manage
a single dollar of his treasures, he will learn
that most of his demands for the deference of
his fellow men are false pretences; that he
claims for himself the regard due to the Provi-
dence which has favored him—meaning to
make of him a steward of its bounty, as well
as confer upon him the means of liberal living.
In a word, wealth should, among us, have per-
sonal worth to back it, and be attended by per-
sonal modesty, before it deserves any distin-
guishing consideration.

THE FUTURE EMPEROR OF FRANCE.

THE young Prince Napoleon Louis Jean
Joseph was born on the 15th of March, 1856,
and is therefore now drawing toward the com-
pletion of his eleventh year. While still in
arms he was placed on the master rolls of the
French Imperial Guards, as a private in the
regiment; for, as it was intended that he
should receive a military education, and after-
wards assume a military command, it was de-
signed, as a compliment to the army that he
should, at least nominally, go through all the
gradations of the service. When old enough
to begin to learn the military exercises, he
was put through them with other youths of his
own age, and in this way he was taught the
bayonet and other drills before he was eight
years old.

By this time, too, he had been made a non-
commissioned officer of his regiment, and he
is now passing step by step through the vari-
ous grades toward the rank of colonel. But
while special attention has been given to his
military training, his education as a citizen has
not been neglected. Besides the ordinary rud-
iments of instruction, he has received lessons
in two or three handicrafts, the last of which
was the setting up of types in the imperial
printing office of Paris. The object of this
may have been simply to extend his sphere of
knowledge, and enlarge his views in after life;
but the ability to earn a living, like an ordi-
nary individual, has before now proved a valu-
able accomplishment for even the heir to a
throne. It will be remembered that a recent
monarch of France, King Louis Phillippe, in
exile in Switzerland, in early life, pursued for
a time the calling of a schoolmaster. The
young Prince Imperial bears the reputation of
being intelligent, good tempered, and very
much attached to his friends and chosen com-
panions.

Many anecdotes illustrating the qualities at-
tributed to him from time to time found their
way into the public journals; but as anecdotes
of royal children are not generally very strik-
ing or very reliable, we need not repeat them
here. In the event of the death of the Empe-
ror Napoleon III. before the Prince Imperial
becomes of age, it is arranged that the govern-
ment of the country shall be carried on for a
time by a regency under the Empress, assisted
by the Prince Napoleon, cousin of the Empe-
ror. The last named Prince represents the
youngest male branch of the Bonaparte family,
being descended from Jerome Bonaparte, who
was for a time King of Westphalia. The
branch from which the present Emperor and
the Prince Imperial descend is that of Louis,
third brother of the first Napoleon, and who
married Hortense, a daughter of the Empress
Josephine by her first husband, M. de Beau-
harnais.

THE SALMON FISHERIES.—In Great Britain it
is calculated that a salmon represents a valu-
equivalent to that of a good-sized sheep, with-
out imposing on any one the trouble of hous-
ing and feeding. Where proper means have
been used to facilitate the propagation of the
salmon the increase has been very marked, the
results in the case of the Scotch and Irish rivers
having been most striking.

TREATMENT OF THE AGED.—A little thoughtful attention, how happy it makes the old! They have outlived most of the friends of their early youth. How lonely their hours! Often their partners in life have long filled silent graves; often their children they have followed to the tomb. They stand solitary, bending on their staff, waiting till the same call shall reach them. How often they must think of absent, lamented faces; of the love which cherished them, and the tears of sympathy that fell with theirs, now all gone! Why should not the young cling around and comfort them, cheering the gloom with songs and happy smiles?



The Field.

VALUABLE EXPERIMENTS WITH POTATOES.

Dr. Hexamer, of New Castle, N. Y., furnishes us again with an account of some very important experiments of his with potatoes, and also with the tally of his crops reduced to bushels per acre for each sort.

RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS.

1. Out of 70 hills of potatoes, peeled so that no eyes were visible, 35 grew. Some produced very large potatoes. The plauted potatoes remained, mostly, hard and firm till digging time.

2. Out of 80 hills, pieces cut without eyes, 15 hills grew. All of these sprouted on the cut surfaces, none through skin. (One large potato, cut in two lengthwise, sprouted on the cut side near, but below the skin, and there was no sprout proceeding from a visible eye.)

3. Out of 100 whole potatoes, 98 grew from the small end, and 2 at the side. With more than half the number of potatoes plauted whole, only one eye grew, the rest remaining dormant.

4. A potato does not always expend all germinating power in one year.

5. Wet rot and dry rot are one and the same disease. Potatoes affected with the rot, will rot dry when they are kept dry, and the same will rot wet when they are kept in a moist place.

YIELD OF POTATOES IN 1866.

The following list is arranged in order of productiveness, and gives the number of years the seed has been planted on the farm, and the amount of assorted, marketable potatoes:

Table with 4 columns: Variety, Years planted, Bu. per acre, Remarks. Lists various potato varieties like Cuzco, Monitor, Pinkeye, etc.

—Agriculturist.

GRASS FIELDS—HOW LONG CAN THEY BE CROPPED WITHOUT MANURING?—This is certainly an important question with us, where so many fields are annually cropped of their burden of grass and no return made to the soil, but the produce carried from the farm and shipped to western markets; after a few years of such cropping we find our fields "running out," as we term it; and no wonder, for, as the old adage has it, "how can we expect to be continually drawing from the spigot if we put nothing in at the bung?"

We have just been reading of a farmer in a Western State who has cut and sold hay from the same fields for fifteen years without returning any manure to his acres. But, it is added, that farmer never fed his fields; he never allowed the aftermath or second crop to be cut or fed off. Therein was the productiveness of his field. By cutting the grass early the second crop obtained a good growth before winter, and being allowed to remain, acted as a mulch and fertilizer to the roots during the cold, and decaying the next year was a good manure for plants.

Few theological definitions could bear the palm from that of a priest who having preached a sermon on miracles, was asked by one of his congregation walking homeward, to explain a little more lucidly what he meant. "Is it a miracle you want to understand," said the priest. "Walk on, thou, forinst me, and I'll think how I can explain it to you." The man walked on, and the priest came behind 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."

would not have produced crops worth harvesting for the half of fifteen years.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

Table of market prices for various goods like Flour, Corn Meal, Beans, etc. in Woonsocket.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1310; Sheep and Lambs, 6014; Swine, 200.

Prices. Beef Cattle—Extra, \$13.50@14.00; first quality, \$12.75@13.25; second quality, \$11.50@12.50; third quality, \$10.00@11.00.

Country Hides, 9@9 1/2¢ per lb. Country Tallow 7 1/2¢ per lb. Brighton Hides, 10@10 1/2¢ per lb; Brighton Tallow, 7 1/2¢ per lb.

There is a larger supply of Beeves in market than there was one week ago, and trade has been very active. Prices remain unchanged from the last quotations.

Stores—Nearly all the small Cattle that are in a fair condition are bought up to slaughter. There is but a few Cattle sold for stores at this season of the year.

Working Oxen—There is a good demand for Working Oxen. We quote sales at \$170, \$175, \$190, \$200, \$210, \$220, \$225, \$230, \$235, \$250@260 per pair.

MILCH COWS—Sales extra \$85@115; ordinary \$60@75. Store Cows \$35@50. Prices of Milch Cows depend altogether upon the fancy of the purchaser. There is a good supply of Cows in market.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—The trade for sheep and lambs has been active, but there was not so large a supply in market as last week. We quote sales at 5 1/2, 5 3/4, 6, 6 1/4, 6 1/2, 7, 7 1/4, 8, 8 1/4, 9 cts per pair.

SWINE—There is a few Store Pigs in market, retailing at 10@12¢ per lb; wholesale at 9 1/2¢ per lb.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

THERE has been much irregularity and depression in the wholesale market during the past week. The demand has been chiefly confined to domestic trade. The business done was only about one-fourth of the amount for the corresponding period last year.

WHEAT has sold slowly, and under the anxiety to realize, the low grades have again declined. They are much depressed at the close, while family brands are quiet, but steady. The stock is reduced, but is still large for the season.

RYE FLOUR has sold freely, and closes firm at \$8@10 per bbl. CORN MEAL has declined and closes heavy. We quote Jersey at \$5 10@5 15, and Brandywine at \$5 40@5 45 afloat.

WHEAT opened steady, but to effect sales holders had to submit to a decline, and there is only a moderate demand at the concession. We quote No. 3 at \$2 05@2 12; No. 2, at \$2 18@2 25; No. 1, \$2 35; white California, \$2 80@3 10; white Canadian, \$3@3 20; white Michigan, \$3 20@3 30; amber State, \$3@3 08.

BARLEY has been more active, chiefly for export, and the stock is materially reduced. It is estimated at 1,500,000 bushels. We quote Western at \$2@2 86c; Canada West, in bond, at \$2@2 36c, and \$1 10@1 12; State, 95c@1 18.

RYE has been more active and has improved slightly. We quote Western at \$1 12@1 18; State \$1 23@1 32.

OATS have been quite active but at variable prices, closing dull at the improvement.

CORN has been pressed on the market, and under less favorable news from Europe has fluctuated materially. Prices have declined, and there is a good inquiry at the concession.

PROVISIONS have improved, though not active. The stock is less than was anticipated. We quote new mess at \$21 38@21 50, and old mess at \$20 50.

BEEF is in moderate supply and prices are firm. BACON has sold freely at full prices.

LARD has been fairly active, but at lower prices. DRESSED HOGS have advanced, and with light arrivals are in good demand.

WHISKEY has been neglected, and is unsettled at the close. COTTON has been inactive and irregular. Early in the week prices were unfavorable. At the close the market is firmer.

RIO COFFEE has advanced a quarter of a cent a pound. The stock is small.

NEW YORK CATTLE MARKET.

NEW YORK, March 4.—BEEF CATTLE—Market opened with considerable firmness but grew weak, and at the close prices declined fully 1c, the market remaining dull and depressed at the decline; prices ranged from 17 1/2¢ for choice down to 13¢.—Receipts 6130 head.

SHEEP—The market closed firm, prices having slightly declined; sales at 7 1/2¢ for common, and 9 1/2¢ for prime. Receipts 17,709 head.

HOGS—Sales slow, with a downward tendency, at 8@8 1/2¢.—Receipts 13,903.

WESTERN PRODUCE PRICES.

CHICAGO, March 6.—Provisions continue firm and prices tend upwards. Mess Pork advanced 12 1/2¢, with cash sales at \$19 25 @19 50. Offerings of bulk meats light, but market strong.—Lard firm but quiet. Dressed hogs unsettled. Flour steady and firm for spring extras. Wheat advanced 1/2¢; market for No. 2 spring closes firm at \$1 92; No. 1 spring sold at \$2 21 regular, and \$2 27 for fresh receipts in elevator. Corn in active speculative demand; sales No. 1 at 78 1/2¢@79 1/2¢, closing firm with few buyers at 79 1/2¢. Oats steady and quiet, closing at 41¢ for No. 2. Receipts to-day, 2,400 hhls. flour, 8,500 centials wheat, 15,000 centials corn, 1,700 centials oats, 4,400 hogs. Shipments—7,000 hhls. flour, 8,000 centials wheat, 1,800 centials corn, 1,800 centials oats.

THE COAL TRADE.

WHILE coal has been reduced \$1 per ton at Pottsville and Schuylkill Haven, from the corresponding prices of last year, this season, the railroad opens her spring rates at a reduction of only 3¢ per ton. The result is, that while all the New York companies are full of orders, the trade here is paralyzed.—Coastwise freights have not yet settled to a uniform rate, and may be quoted at \$2 50@2 75 per ton to Boston. We learn that freights and tolls by the Schuylkill Navigation Company have been fixed, but not yet officially announced, as follows: From Schuylkill Haven to Philadelphia \$1; from Philadelphia to New York \$2 20, total \$3 20. Out of which they allow a drawback on shipments to New York of 20¢ per ton. Anthracite coal on board of vessels at Port Richmond we quote as follows: \$4 50 @5 00 for white ash, and \$4 75@5 25 for red ash, according to quality.—[Philadelphia North American.]

Marriages.

In Woonsocket, Mr. EDWIN F. MOWER to Miss SARAH H. POND, both of Milford.

In Londsde, 16th ult., by Rev. W. W. Sever, GEORGE A. SWAN to CAROLINE S., daughter of JAMES S. PIDGE, all of North Providence. 27th ult., in Christ church, by the same, ORVILLE L. REMICK to MARY S., daughter of JAMES ANDERSON, all of L. 28th ult., by the same, JESSE G. BARBER to CAROLINE D., daughter of THOMAS CLARKE, both of Pawtucket. 3d inst., GEORGE E. EDWARDS of Smithfield, to OLIVIA B., daughter of STEPHEN B. SWAN, of North Providence.

In Slatersville, 18th ult., by Rev. E. A. Buck, Mr. JOHN G. BRYDEN of Douglass, Mass., to Miss HENRIETTA DUNN of N. HOOSAC, N. Y.

In Gloucester, 16th ult., by W. W. Burlingame, Mr. ALBERT H. SMITH to Miss HANNAH C. SWEET, both of Gloucester.

In Springfield, Mass., Mr. W. J. BRADBURY to Miss MARY E. ROXBOROUGH, daughter of A. C. ROXBOROUGH, Esq., of Milford.

At St. John's Rectory, Milville, Mass., on Sunday, 3d inst., by the Rev. George Rumney, HENRY N. HOLBROOK to ELIZA H. TUCKER, both of Blackstone.

In Portsmouth, 12th ult., by Rev. Dr. Geo. W. Chevers, Rector of St. Paul's church, Mr. FRANK HILLIARD, of Portsmouth, to Miss NELLIE L. THAYER, formerly of Woonsocket.

In Pawtucket, 25th ult., Mr. JOSEPH H. GARDNER of Pawtucket, to Miss ELIZA F. COXON of North Providence.

In Frederick, Md., 29th ult., JOHN A. TOMPKINS, formerly of Providence, E. I., to ANNE, daughter of Gen. EDWARD SHIVER of Baltimore.

In River Point, 3d ult., by Rev. J. K. Aldrich, Mr. WILLIAM T. MILLS, of Centerville, to Miss JANE D. MCKAY, of River Point.

Deaths.

In Blackstone, 24th ult., Mrs. DIANNA ALDRICH, wife of Mr. MARVEL ALDRICH, aged 51 years and 11 months.

Drowned in Pawtucket, 21st ult., JAMES SHERRY, only child of JAMES and MARGARET SHERRY, in the 3d year of his age.

In Millville, 4th inst., Mrs. DENOY F., wife of ESTES LAMB, aged 61 years and 10 months.

In Burrillville, Jan. 7th, Mrs. SARAH KEITH, aged 86 years.

In Providence, 29th ult., MARY C., widow of Capt. ROBERT PURKIS, in the 80th year of her age; SARAH LOOKWOOD, eldest daughter of Wm. J. and EMILY W. HARRIS, aged 30.

In Coventry, 2d inst., GRADIAH POTTER, aged 32 years.

In West Dedham, Feb. 24th, Mrs. BETSEY BAKER, 80 years. At the age of 12 she braided for herself a straw bonnet, the first ever braided in the United States.

In Pomfret, Conn., Feb. 16th, Mrs. SUSAN JOHNSON, aged 70. In Smithfield, 27th ult., CAROLINE AUGUSTA, wife of BENJAMIN WEBSTER, in the 35th year of her age.

In Providence, 27th ult., EDWARD BARNES JACKSON, in the 43d year of his age; 4th inst., JAMES COLEMAN BIOGLOW, in the 52d year of his age.

In Johnston, 28th ult., HANNAH HARRIS, widow of Captain Christopher Harris, in the 72d year of her age.

In Seekonk, 4th inst., SARAH BROWN, widow of the late Philimon Brown, in the 87th year of her age.

In Millbury, SUSAN PROAL, wife of Thomas Proal, aged 81. In Webster, Feb. 28, Dr. J. G. HAET, aged 38 years.

In Sonora, California, Jan. 5th, of consumption, GEORGE O. FAY of Holliston, Mass., aged 23 years.

FLOUR OF BONE AS A FERTILIZER.—MR. S. N. HURBARD, Brimfield, Mass., says: "I will acknowledge the receipt of the FLOUR OF BONE from you last spring, which I have tried on Corn, Potatoes, Cabbage, Turnips and Grass and am satisfied that it is a very valuable fertilizer." The PURE UNBURNED, UNADULTERATED FLOUR OF BONE is made solely by the BOSTON MILLING AND MANUFACTURING CO., who guarantee its PURITY. General Agency, 8 Central Street, BOSTON, Mass.

Advertisements.

Massachusetts.

COLLINS, BLISS & CO., PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS. CASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS.

233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston. New England Agents for the

NONPARIEL FRENCH GUANO. It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market. Its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil.

PEICE \$60 PER TON. Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 3m-w-9

New Jersey.

STRAWBERRY, RASPBERRY, AND BLACKBERRY PLANTS. Of the best and most reliable varieties, grown with special care as to purity and strength. No plants sent out but what will give satisfaction, and at as low rates as any. Prices to suit the wholesale trade to suit the retail, and \$16 worth sent for \$10, to suit those who wish family lists. Catalogues free.—Send for one.

THOS. C. ANDREWS, Moorestown, N. J. 2w-p4w-9 March 9, 1867.

The American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption, and therefore organized THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, to do away, as far as possible, with these enormous drains upon the Consumers, and to supply them with these necessities at the smallest possible price.

To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American houses, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on the sales or shipments—and some of the richest retired merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China.

2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas.

3d. The Importer makes a profit of 20 to 50 per cent in many cases.

4th. On its arrival it is sold by the cargo, and the Purchaser sells to the Speculator in lots of 1,000 to 2,000 packages, at an average profit of about 10 per cent.

5th. The Speculator sells to the Wholesale Tea Dealer in lines at a profit of 10 to 15 per cent.

6th. The Wholesale Tea Dealer sells it to the Wholesale Grocer in lots to suit the trade, at a profit of about 10 per cent.

7th. The Wholesale Grocer sells it to the Retail Dealer at a profit of 15 to 25 per cent.

8th. The Retailer sells it to the Consumer for all the profit he can get.

When you have added to these EIGHT profits as many brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay. And now we propose to show why we can sell so very much lower than small dealers.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, one cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a Club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the same upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more. The cost of transportation the members of the club can divide equitably among themselves.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars, we will, if desired, send the goods by Express, to "collect on delivery."

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$50.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show.

All goods sold are warranted to give satisfaction.

PRICE LIST.

YOUNG HYSON (Green), 50c., 90c., \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. GREEN TEAS, 80c., 90c., \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. MIXED, 70c., 80c., 90c., best \$1 per lb. JAPAN, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. OOLONG (Black), 70c., 80c., 90c., best \$1 per lb. IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1 25 per lb. ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 80c., 90c., \$1, \$1 10, best, \$1 20 per lb. GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1 25, best, \$1 50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them.

Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Foo-Chow Blacks and Moyune Greens. English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the finest imported.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,

Nos. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., CORNER OF CHURCH.

Post-Office Box No. 5,645 New-York City.

COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c., 25c., 30c., 35c., best 40c. per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house-keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c. per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866. To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York.

Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubled it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the head in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martha Luther, Washington, Pa.

MARTIN LUTHER.

10 lb Young Hyson, in pound packages... at \$1 25... \$12 50
5 lb Young Hyson... Dallas Jackson... at 1 25... 6 25
2 lb Young Hyson... Henry Herrick... at 1 25... 2 50
2 lb Young Hyson... George Murphy... at 1 25... 2 50
1 lb Young Hyson... E. Dye... at 1 25... 1 25
2 lb Young Hyson... Samuel Decker... at 1 25... 2 50
1 lb Young Hyson... Samuel Amon... at 1 25... 1 25
1 lb Young Hyson... Henry Wheatley... at 1 25... 1 25
7 lb Young Hyson... Morgan Hayes... at 1 25... 8 75
2 lb Young Hyson... John Natten... at 1 25... 2 50
4 lb Young Hyson... Mark Combs... at 1 25... 5 00
2 lb Young Hyson... John Allen... at 1 25... 2 50
8 lb Young Hyson... Miss Stuart... at 1 25... 10 00
2 lb Oolong, best... Miss Stuart... at 1 00... 2 00
2 lb Young Hyson... O. Bayland... at 1 25... 2 50
2 lb Oolong, best... O. Bayland... at 1 00... 2 00
2 lb Young Hyson... J. Richels... at 1 25... 2 50
2 lb Young Hyson... Mr. Guyton... at 1 25... 2 50
2 lb Young Hyson... Edward Murphy... at 1 25... 2 50
2 lb Young Hyson... Mrs. Murphy... at 1 25... 2 50
5 lb Oolong, best... Henry Hull... at 1 00... 5 00
2 lb Oolong, best... Separate package... at 1 00... 2 00
5 lb Oolong Coffee... Separate package... at 25... 1 75

Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 3m-w-9

WE call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.—LARGE DOUBLE STORE. 3m-8



Agricultural Chemistry.

NIGHT SOIL.

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

THERE is no question that manure is the basis of good farming. Show us the farm with the largest piles of manure, and we will show you the farm with the largest crops.

We desire, in this article, to call attention to one source of manure, which is, perhaps, more undervalued than any other, viz: the privy vault. The neglect of this most valuable source of supply arises partly from ignorance of its real worth and partly from the disagreeable odor arising from handling it.

Table listing chemical components and their quantities: Water, Urea, Animal matter, Sulphate of Potash, Soda, Phosphate of Soda, Ammonia, Common Salt, Other Ingredients, Total.

The urea, upon which mainly depends the value of urine, is a white, salt-like substance, and contains nearly fifty per cent. of nitrogen, and is therefore far richer than flesh, blood or any of the fertilizing substances so highly prized for their ammonia.

The solid excrements found in our privies are more highly esteemed and more generally

used, but they are far from being economically preserved or rightly valued. Those in our cities also mostly go into the sea. The Chinese, whom we despise and are scarcely willing to allow a foothold on our shores, can teach us some lessons in saving manure from this source.

GRAFTING WAX—SOLONS—Tallow, rosin and beeswax mixed in equal parts, or with a little more tallow to make the wax softer, are the ingredients of grafting wax.

THE WILD GRASSES OF THE WEST.—A Kansas correspondent of the New York Tribune says that wild grasses improve in quality as one goes West.

LEATHER.—CURING GREEN HIDES.—A great many butchers, wool dealers, &c., are purchasers of hides off the beef in the country towns, and we often get from them inquiries as to the proper and most profitable method of curing the hide and preparing it for the market.

PROTECTION TO ROOFS.—Shingled roofs soon acquire a furze, which operating as a sort of dam in wet weather, retains the water and causes the shingles to rot early; and when dry it is like tinder, on which a spark falling from the chimney will suddenly set the roof on fire.

THIRTY YEARS OF PROSPERITY.—The San Antonio (Texas) Express, speaking of dry seasons and crops, has the following:

"There is a tradition among the old settlers of this frontier that the seasons of prosperity in agriculture are periodical. According to the tradition, there are ten years' drouth out of every forty years.

THE CROPS IN MISSISSIPPI.—A private letter from Camargo, Monroe county, Mississippi, says: "The farmers have not succeeded in getting half enough labor to cultivate their farms, and the prospect is that the next crop will be much shorter than the last."

A FARMER'S TOAST.—At an agricultural dinner the following toast was given: "The game of fortune. Shuffle the cards as you will, spades must win."

Advertising Department.

SOUTH DOWN CO.'S PATENT

Advertisement for Sheep Wash Tobacco, described as the best known remedy for ticks, scab, vermin and foot rot.

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT, should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

- It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers.

JAMES F. LEVIN, 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts. For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & Co., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 3, 1867.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Rhode Island.

MILL RIVER IRO WORKS WOODSOCKET, R. I.

W. A. HENNESSEY, PROPRIETOR. Manufacturer of FLUE and TUBULAR STEAM BOILERS, OIL and WATER TANKS, WATER PIPE and PLATE IRON WORK of every description.

Boilers repaired in a thorough manner at short notice. SHOP AT NORTH END, NEAR HARRIS'S NEW MILL.

Refers by permission to RICE, BARTON & Co., Macbinists and Boiler Makers, Worcester, Mass. BELLOW & WHITCOMB, Engineers, Worcester, Mass. C. W. KIMBALL, Esq., late Master Mechanic U. S. Armory, Springfield, Mass. HON. E. HARRIS, Woonsocket.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I. Feb. 23, 1867.

WHITE FRENCH TURNIP, of the purest kind, raised and sold in small or large lots, by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I. Feb. 23, 1867.

FARMER WANTED.—A faithful and skillful farmer is wanted to take charge of a farm. His wife to understand making butter and the care of poultry. Address Box No. 3, Providence Post Office, Feb. 16, 1867.

BARRETT'S EXTRA EARLY CABBAGE.—The best and largest in the market. Price, 25 cents a paper. Raised and sold by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Providence, Feb. 23, 1867.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Shares' Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potato Diggers, Lufkin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares' 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.

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

EXTRA HEAVY PLOWS, for road work and for breaking up new land, made by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Massachusetts.

RARE AND BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS, SELECT VEGETABLES.

B. K. BLISS, Importer and Dealer in Garden, Field and Flower Seeds,

Would invite attention to his large and well selected assortment of the above, comprising the newest and most approved varieties, both of European and Home Productions, the quality of which cannot be surpassed. For a list of which, see his

ILLUSTRATED SEED CATALOGUE AND GUIDE TO THE FLOWER AND KITCHEN GARDEN.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL EDITION, enlarged and improved, contains 124 pages of closely printed matter, BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED with 100 engravings, also a splendid frontispiece of a group of recent novelties—and a descriptive list of TWO THOUSAND VARIETIES OF GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS, embracing all the NEW VARIETIES worthy of cultivation introduced the past season—with explicit directions for their culture—also a list of ONE HUNDRED and TWENTY-FIVE VARIETIES of FRENCH HYBRID GLADIOLUS, including the leading novelties of the past season, with many other SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS—consisting of AMARYLLIS, TUBEROSES, TIGRIDIAS—LILIES in great variety, &c. To which is added a list of the choicest varieties of GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, RASPBERRIES, and other SMALL FRUITS, BEDDING PLANTS, &c., etc., cultivated at his gardens, with much other useful information upon the subject of gardening generally, which will be found useful to all engaged in the delightful occupation of gardening. A copy of the Catalogue will be mailed to all applicants enclosing TWENTY-FIVE CENTS. Our regular customers supplied without charge. Address B. K. BLISS, Drawer No. 11, P. O., Springfield, Mass. February 23, 1867.

STRIPED LEAVED JAPANESE MAIZE.

The experience of the past season fully confirms all that we stated in reference to this beautiful plant, when introducing it to the public last spring; and we are in receipt of many flattering letters from the leading florists in Europe, all of whom agree that it is the finest plant for decorative purposes that has been introduced for many years. Certificates of Merit and numerous Prizes have been awarded to Exhibitors at the various English and Continental exhibitions, not the least of which was that of the "Royal Horticultural Society's International Show," all grown from seed furnished by us last spring to our European correspondents.

"Cosmos," Agricultural Editor of the Saturday Evening Post, writes us that it is superior to any other for table use, as green corn. Packets containing about 40 seeds, 25 cents. Prices to the Trade, in bulk or in packets, will be given upon application. B. K. BLISS, Springfield, Mass. February 23, 1867.

Pennsylvania.

MENDENHALL'S IMPROVED SELF-ACTING HAND LOOM.

In these days of SHODDY, and high priced goods, every family in the country should have one.

HALF THE COST

of clothing a family can be saved by its use. It is simple and durable, easily understood, and easy to operate. No skill is required to weave with it beyond the simple turning of an easy crank.

FROM 15 TO 35 YARDS CAN BE WOVEN ON IT IN A DAY.

FARMERS! don't sell your wool and buy SHODDY, when with one of these Looms in your house the GIRLS can make all the clothing for the family, and much better quality, at half price.

By late improvements, RAG CARPETS can be woven with the FLY SHUTTLE. For circulars, price list, and samples of cloth woven on the Loom, address with stamp, A. B. GATES & CO., 333 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

Also, Dealers in Cotton Warp, Wool and Flax Filling Yarns, Reeds, Harness and Loom Findings generally. March 2, 1867. p4w-4f

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



Harm

Hireside

A JOURNAL OF

AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE,

AND THE ARTS.

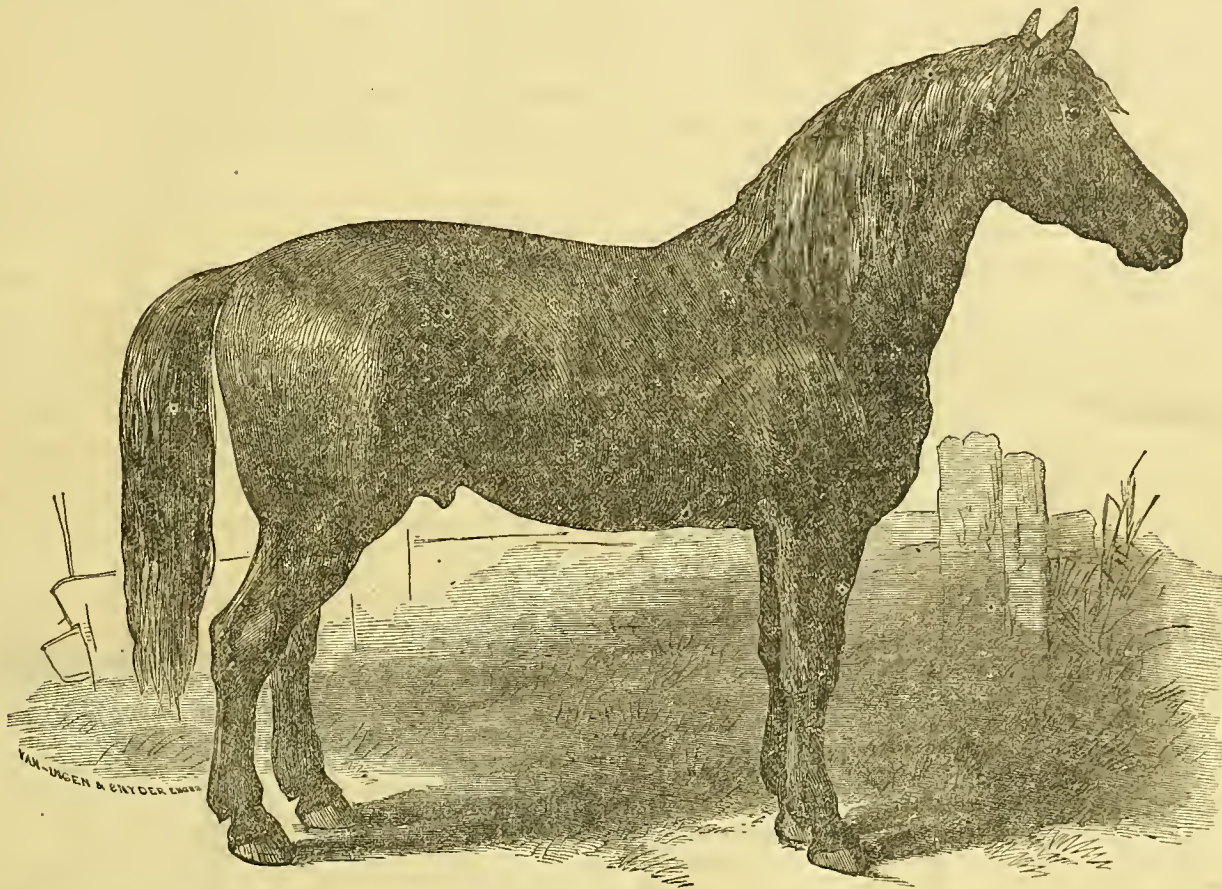
ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

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

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1867.

NO. 10.



THE CONESTOGA HORSE.

We present above as perfect a picture as can be made of as good a specimen of this famous Pennsylvania Horse as the country affords. He is a noble animal, and handsome, too—not symmetrically beautiful, certainly, as a turf animal, or member of a fancy stud; but making utility the standard of good looks, the "CONESTOGA" is unquestionably a very fine-looking animal. The artists—both designer and engraver—have been unusually happy in presenting his serviceable points so clearly.—Any one having a respectable knowledge of our next best friend in the animal family, will be able at a glance to pronounce upon the good qualities of such an animal as our engraving presents. Evidence of endurance, docility, great strength and intelligence, are patent in every prominent feature; showing the animal to be very nearly perfect as a roadster, and unsurpassed as a draught or farm horse.

We have heard those who "talked horse" glibly enough, and who professed to know all of equine ethics and economy that need be known, speak of the "Conestoga" as being of a particular breed or strain, having a genealogical tree, and ancestral line, as the Eclipse, Duroc, Black Hawk animals; and perhaps three-fourths of those who actually own, and have been familiar with Conestoga horses all their lives, believe that they are descended through a long line of ancestors from a famous sire who bore the name of *Conestoga*. This popular opinion is an error—of no very grave importance, certainly, but one that it were as well, perhaps, to correct, in view of the fact that first class "Conestoga" horses can be at any time manufactured in a great many other sections of the United States, at any time, and

just as good horses as were ever born and bred in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania.

The original animals of this name had many makers, and were improved through many equine generations before they came to be known as Conestogas; which, after all, is only colloquial provincialism, attached to the animals from a particular territory; much in the manner that all flour coming into Baltimore, and passing inspection in Howard Street, becomes arbitrarily "Howard Street Flour;" or the coffee sent from six Brazilian provinces to be shipped from Rio de Janeiro, becomes, *per se*, Rio coffee.

The early inhabitants of that region of Pennsylvania lying along the Conestoga river, now within the limits of Lancaster county, having long distances, over rough, rugged roads, to go to mill and market, found that horses something considerably better than the mediocre breed of animals which they had originally obtained from the older settlements in Delaware, were becoming, and unquestionably going to continue for an indefinite period, an arbitrary necessity of their section of country. So the "Conestogas," as the first settlers of that section of Pennsylvania were called, being enterprising, and intelligent beyond their surrounding neighbors—a characteristic, by-the-by, that holds good in their descendants—set about with such means as they had at command, to achieve the animal their wants demanded. As they had no blooded thorough breeds or celebrated English sires, and Flanders dams to resort to, they substituted the best domestic material they had, with such success that in the course of a few years there came into common use not only in Lancaster county, but throughout a large portion of middle and eastern

Pennsylvania, a better class of road and heavy draught farm horses than could have been obtained from the best imported animals.

As, however, the ancestry of the improved "Conestoga" was in nothing superior to the ordinary farm stock of Delaware, and the lower portions of Pennsylvania, other means than mere breeding from the best they had among them had to be resorted to, in order to bring up the equine standard to what they required. These were better housing, feeding and care, and a more thorough system of training for the service required, than our early American farmers elsewhere were in the habit of practicing with their farm horses. So universal became the rule of comfort, cleanliness, kindness, warm stabling, and judicious and liberal feeding with the settlers among whom the Conestoga originated, that the man who failed to follow the prevailing fashion, and in any manner misused, or neglected his horses, inevitably lost caste in the community, and became a moral and social out-law. Much of this commendable spirit of kindness to their cattle has been a characteristic of a large class of Lancaster county farmers ever since, down to the present day.

As time passed, the country became settled westward, its resources became rapidly developed, and intercourse between the then distant points demanded that means of transit more expeditious than the primitive Pennsylvania four and six horse team, and heavy canvas covered wagon, looming up along the road like a first-class sloop of war, should be called into requisition. So public spirit inaugurated turnpikes; Government established post routes, and private enterprise put on mail

and passenger coaches to traverse the country at the rate of eight miles an hour.

"The Conestogas will never do for such speed as these mail routes require," said the Lancasterians, so they set about quickening their gait by breeding their mares with lighter built, imported horses. Faster travellers being the intention, the object was attained, but at the expense of endurance, strength and something of docility.

In the rapid march of progress the iron horse superseded post coaches, and the ancient, lumbering six horse teams; so that the second revised edition of "Conestogas," went out of demand and gradually out of existence; leaving of the earlier, and for all draught and farm purposes, the far better, elder race, fewer in number than the actual wants of the community required.

Although we frequently come upon genuine "Conestogas," in all sections of Pennsylvania, oftenest east of the Alleghenies, and ten times during a hazy day we may come in contact with a noble horse, bearing all the better points of a real Conestoga, dragging a heavily loaded dray through the streets of Philadelphia, New York or Boston; yet the race is gradually disappearing under the influence of a mania—it is little better—for lighter, livelier, higher priced fancy half and quarter breeds; well enough for show on fashionable drives, but incapable of a tithe of the real service rendered by the fine, noble Conestogas, which so many farmers are foolishly discarding. We are glad to learn, however, from a visit to the region where these superior animals originated, that there, in a large majority of instances, the "Conestoga" is still a great favorite with practical, intelligent farmers.

NEVER IDLE.—The good farmer cannot be a loafer, and thrive. Pruning, draining, killing weeds, making walls, getting out muck, preparing the manure heap, cutting bushes and cleaning up around the walls; battening up the cracks of the old barn to keep the cattle and horses from freezing; giving the swine a warm pen; allowing no leaks, if a shingle can be found, and no broken panes for the ornamental work of old hats and rags, if a square of glass can be obtained, are a few of the fair weather jobs which claim his attention during the recess of the harvest seasons. The foul weather jobs are nearly as numerous, and their claims nearly as urgent on the attention of every tidy, thriving farmer.





Horticulture.

RHODE ISLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Society met on Wednesday evening, 6th inst., at their room in Providence, Vice President Patten in the chair. The attendance was large.

Mr. Thomas Hauny, gardener of ex-Governor Jas. Y. Smith, exhibited a splendid azalia in pot and bloom, and received a premium of \$2.

Mr. George Nichols placed upon the table a prunus seuensis abla, in bloom; this is one of the hardy out-door shrubs, the flowers compact and double and as white as the virgin snow; it blooms as freely as the flowering almond, and is a great acquisition to hardy shrubs. The committee awarded it a premium of \$1.

Mr. Charles Wright, gardener to George W. Chapin, Esq., contributed as usual a large collection of cut flowers and potted plants, and was awarded \$3 in premiums.

Mr. Wm. Dexter, of Scituate, presented a dish of R. I. Baldwin apples.

Rev. Sidney Dean presented to the Society's Library, "Henderson's Gardening for Profit," and upon motion a vote of thanks was given to the donor.

Mr. S. F. Peckham distributed among the members a package of California cucumber seeds.

Dr. J. B. Chapin, for the committee on nominations, presented a list of names for the executive, plants and flowers, fruit, and vegetable committees, and upon motion the report was accepted and the committees elected.

The following gentlemen were admitted to membership:

Charles P. Hartsborn, William H. Wood, William Hoffman, Willie A. Arnold, W. C. Simmons, Jr., David Lester, Charles McCoy, J. W. Lewis, C. N. Harrington, Henry C. DeWitt, Edwin Turner, Walter S. Burgess, George L. Nason, Job Dawley, L. H. Eddy, William Mansir, Horace C. Burgess, William O. Rourke, Gorbam Thurber, Amos D. Smith, 3d, John Metcalf, Robert R. Knowles, William M. Rodman, Daniel A. Taylor, Augustus H. Preston, George M. Carpenter, Benjamin F. Thurston, S. P. Wordwell, William T. Bullock, William J. Clark, John W. Nichols, Walter Wilson, John P. Barney, Amos L. Greene, J. S. Simmons, Walter S. Brownell, James R. Grammont.

Mr. C. V. Kennon, moved that a committee of five be appointed to report at the next meeting, upon the subject of building a Horticultural Hall, and supported the resolution with much clearness, upon the manner and mode and necessity of providing for the society a building that will be eminently worthy of Flora and Pomona.

Mr. J. E. Lester referred to the difficulties that usually beset Horticultural Societies. He could see no good reason why this Society should not take immediate steps in the proposed work. Our Philadelphia friends had just erected a noble tribute to Flora; the Boston horticulturists had also built up a worthy monument, the seal of devotion to horticultural interest, and he hoped the good work would go on.

Messrs. Brayton, Patten and others participated in the discussion, and the following committee was appointed, with instructions to report at the next meeting: Messrs. Jas. Y. Smith, Royal C. Taft, Dr. J. B. Chapin, Clifton A. Hall and W. S. Patten.

Upon motion of Mr. D. F. Lymon, it was voted that the society hold an exhibition in June next, and the following appropriations were made:

For Plants and Flowers,	\$150
For Fruit,	75
For Vegetables,	25

Upon motion of Dr. Channing, the Society added Messrs. C. V. Kennon and Charles F. Phillips to the committee for reporting premiums, with instructions to report at the next meeting.

Mr. Brayton moved that the committee on revising the bye-laws, report at the next meeting. Adopted.

The Treasurer, Mr. Godding, was instructed to discontinue and pay all publications subscribed for by the Society except the *Farm and Fireside*.

Adjourned.

HILL CULTURE OF STRAWBERRIES.

A QUANT old friend used to remark to us that "the best way to do a thing was good as any." We have long been satisfied that this would apply to strawberry raising, and that what is termed hill cultivation, in connection with keeping the runners closely cut off, is the most profitable, even for extended market culture. The crop is so much larger and the berries so much finer, that they more than repay the additional labor. Among the largest and most enterprising marketers in the country, is A. M. Purdy, of South Bend, Ind. He says: "We have heretofore strongly advocated the matted row system, but after careful and practical comparisons, we are satisfied that the hill method is the best, one year after another. The fruit average double the size—the crop double, and, on most soils, with less labor. In hills they form such strong, bushy tops that the fruit and blossom are protected from severe late spring frosts. Last spring we had a late frost in May, that nearly ruined our plantations that grew in matted rows, while those grown in hills were but slightly damaged, and yielded a very heavy crop. Another reason is, that the heavy tops mat down around the crown in the winter, and protect it from the action of the frost, while those grown in the matted row form but small tops and are not thus protected. Again, if the ground should be weedy, they are attended to with much less work and care than if allowed to throw out runners. The work can nearly all be done with the hoe and cultivator, while if in matted rows, it has to be done with the fingers, which is very laborious indeed." He adds that the only case in which the matted row method is admissible, is where the land is quite free from weeds and is not liable to severe frost in winter or spring, and while all varieties will do better when in hills, some will not succeed in any other way. As soon as the hills are through bearing, rotted manure or compost is plowed or spaded deep between the rows, and in addition to cutting off all the runners that are starting, the entire top of the plant is taken off close to the crown. This is deemed very essential—preventing the plant from remaining in a dormant state for weeks, and causing new roots to be thrown out immediately, and making a large mass of stool by autumn. The matted or alternate row system here formerly practiced was described in some of our former volumes, and consists in keeping the rows clean after they are set out, and training the runners along the row so that they ultimately form a thick mass in a strip about a foot or a foot and a half wide. Rotted manure is scattered among them before freezing, and they are worked and cultivated with the fork in spring. After fruiting, these rows are again dressed down to about six inches in width, and treated as before for another year's bearing; or else they are allowed to fill with new plants the spaces between the rows, after which the old rows are plowed or shaded in—succession of new plants being thus obtained without the labor of setting out by hand.

When the plants are placed in hills at equal distances each way, the runners may be cut off at little or no cost by means of a sharp wheel attached to the side of the cultivator. A more perfect mode, however, is to do the work by hand with sheep-shears—by the use of which a ready and practiced man will go over from one to two acres a day. This mode may be applied to rows which are cultivated only one way.

THE UTILITY OF FLOWERS.

"Not useless are ye, flowers; though made for pleasure, Blooming o'er fields, and wave by day and night, From every source your sanction bids me treasure Harmless delight."—HOBAC SMITH.

THERE is a class of men who would pare down everything to the mere grade of utility, who think it the height of wisdom to ask, when one manifests an enthusiasm in the culture of flowers, "of what use are they?" With such we have no sympathy. We will not say with the late Henry Coleman, in case such an interrogatory being put to us, that "our first impulse is to look under his hat, and see the length of his ears," but we are always inclined in such cases to thank God that our tastes do not correspond with theirs. "Better" (say these ultra utilitarians) "devote our time to the culture of

things useful and needed to sustain life, than to employ it on things, which, like flowers, are intended only to look at and please the eye." "But why," would we ask, "why should not the eye be pleased? What pleasures more pure, more warming to the heart, more improving to the mind, more chastening to the affections, than those which come through the eye? Where more luminously displayed the perfections of the Creator, than in the star spangled heavens above, and the flower spangled earth beneath?"

"Your voiceless lips, oh flowers, are living preachers. Each cup a pulpit, and each leaf a book, Supplying to my fancy numerous teachers From the loneliest nook."

Nonsense,—sheer nonsense to tell us it is useless to cultivate flowers. They add to the charms of our homes, rendering them more attractive and beautiful, and they multiply and strengthen the domestic ties which bind us to them. We would not advocate the cultivation of flowers to the neglect of more necessary objects. Attending to the one, does not involve neglect of the other. Every man engaged in the culture of the earth, can find time to embellish his premises who has the will to do it, and we pity the family of the man who has not. "Rob the earth of its flowers, the wondrous mechanism of the Almighty, and we should lose the choicest mementoes left us that it was once a paradise."—Breck's *New Book of Flowers*.

TRANSPLANTING IN THE NIGHT.

A FRIEND, in whose powers of observation we have confidence, and who is an exact experimenter, informs us that last Spring and Summer he made the following experiments:—He transplanted ten cherry trees while in blossom, commencing at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and transplanting one each hour, until one in the morning. Those transplanted during daylight shed their blossoms, producing little or no fruit, while those planted during the darker portions maintained their condition fully. He did the same with ten dwarf pear trees, after the fruit was one-third grown. Those transplanted during the day, shed their fruit; those transplanted during the night, perfected their crop, and showed no injury from having been removed. With each of these trees he removed some earth with the roots. We are well aware that when plants are accidentally frozen in green houses, it is customary to render the house dark before applying cold water to thaw them, and that when this is not observed, they are injured, while if entire darkness be secured during the operation, many of them are saved. But the experiment of our friend seems to have but little analogy to this fact, and it is entirely new to us.—*Working Farmer*.

PRUNING PEAR TREES.—In pruning very young pear trees, the object should be to encourage the growth of wood, in proper directions. The form in which the tree is to be trained is to be first decided upon. For walls and espaliers the horizontal disposition of the branches is the best; therefore, if the tree be a maiden plant, it must be headed back to the three buds best situated for producing a horizontal branch on each side, whilst the third, or uppermost, is turned upright. If the tree is a year older, and has been treated as above in the former season, the upright has to be cut one foot, or four courses of bricks higher than it was formerly. Sometimes a little deviation will be found necessary on account of the buds; but generally the upright should be cut immediately above that bud which is nearest the line of brick work along which it is desirable the horizontals should be trained. The buds to produce the latter will of course be situated below that line; it is proper they should be so, in order that the shoots may grow diverging upwards a little way before they take a strictly horizontal direction. These directions with regard to the management of the upright leading shoot are applicable every year until it be finally stopped on reaching the top of the wall or espalier. If the horizontal shoots be weak it will be advisable to shorten them about one-third.

The Michigan Senate has passed a bill appropriating \$20,000 for a building to be used by the State Agricultural College.

The Horse.

DANGER OF A FAST HORSE.—THE Rural New Yorker states the following case, to enforce some sensible advice to farmers, suggested, we presume, by the "display of horses" which is fast becoming the most attractive feature of our agricultural shows:

A well-to-do-farmer of our acquaintance had the misfortune to rear a really fine, fast horse. The action of the animal gave him great delight, and nothing would do but an exhibition of him among the professionals. He put up his money and won. This gave a higher flight to his ambition, and induced a bolder operation. Success again rewarded his venture. He neglected his farm, imperceptibly acquired habits to which he had before been a stranger, and spurred on by past success and the machinations of the crafty, whose aim it is to fleece the green and unwary, placed his farm in jeopardy for the purpose of raising money to stake on the result of a race in which his pet horse was to contend for the prize and the mastery. The professionals had now got the overconfident farmer in the precise position desired, and the result was what they intended it should be, the defeat of the farmer's horse and the ruin of his owner. The animal changed hands and so did the farm. It was all down-hill with the farmer after this. His family was broken up and dispersed, while he, reckless and maddened by disappointment and remorse, found a premature grave.

SWELLED LEGS IN HORSES.—Many horses are subject to swelled legs. In old horses it arises from congestion of the legs, which depends 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 feeding and want of exercise. The horse's leg becomes swollen, hot and painful, and the horse goes lame on the affected limb. 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 advisable 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, and in one case which I examined after death from a different malady, I found that the swelling was produced by the effusion of lymph between the skin and subjacent tissues.—*Dr. Murray in Western Rural*.

THE SCRATCHES.—Jennings, in his book on "The Horse and his Diseases," says of scratches:

"This disease, called also cracked heels, generally arises from neglect, such as allowing the horse to stand in a filthy stall. It is generally confined to the hind feet, and consists in a swelling of the skin, causing in it one or more transverse cracks, which discharge a sanious (thin serous and reddish) matter at times; while in other cases the parts are almost dry, but scurfy.

For treatment, wash well with soap and water; take a shaving, or other soft brush, and make a lather of soap and water, with which mix a small quantity of powdered charcoal; rub this well in the fetlock, and let it dry, after which it can be rubbed off. Two or three applications are generally successful. The colodion and castor oil will also answer a good purpose; a physic ball should first be given.

BACKING IN THE STABLES.—A celebrated veterinarian says that if a person will stand for a few moments with his toes higher than his heels, the pain he will feel in the calves of his legs will explain to him the reason why horses that are tied in stalls, try to find their own level by standing across the stalls, or hacking as far as the halter will permit. In many stables the floors slant considerable so as to throw off the urine, and the horse backs in order to find the ascent on the other side of the gutter.

DANGER FROM TEXAS CATTLE.—It seems that the danger arising from the introduction into northern herds of Texas cattle has been underrated rather than over-rated. Experience in Missouri, Illinois and other States, place it beyond question that the Texas cattle bring with them a deadly and subtle poison which, while innocuous to them, is destructive to cattle raised in the States north of Texas. It has been called the Spanish fever. Although Texas cattle themselves show no symptoms of the disease, they communicate it to others. It is supposed the excretions of the Texas cattle communicate to the grass of the pastures they are fed on a poisonous matter, which is fatal to the Northern cattle that feed after them.





Poetic Gem.

"ONE BY ONE."

They are gathering homeward from every land,
One by one;
As their weary feet touch the shining strand,
One by one;
Their brows are encircled in a golden crown;
Their travel-stained garments are all laid down,
And clothed in white raiment they rest on the mead,
Where the Lamb loveth his children to lead,
One by one.
Before they rest they pass through the strife,
One by one;
Through the waters of death they enter life,
One by one;
To some are the floods of the river still,
As they ford on their way to the heavenly hill;
To others the waves run fiercely wild,
Yet all reach the home of the undefiled,
One by one.
We, too, shall come to that river side,
One by one;
We are nearer its waters each eventide,
One by one.
We can hear the noise and dash of the stream,
Now and again through our life's deep dream;
Sometimes the floods all its banks overflow,
Sometimes in ripples the small waves go,
One by one.
Jesus, Redeemer, we look to Thee,
One by one;
We lift up our voices tremblingly,
One by one;
The waves of the river are dark and cold,
We know not the spot where our feet may hold,
Thou who didst pass through in deep midnight,
Strengthen us, send us Thy staff and Thy light,
One by one.
Plant Thou Thy feet beside as we tread,
One by one;
On Thee let us lean each drooping head,
One by one;
Let but Thy strong arm around us be twined,
We shall cast all our cares and fears to the wind,
Saviour, Redeemer, be Thou in full view,
Smilingly, gladsomely, shall we pass through,
One by one.

Fireside Miscellany.

HOP CULTURE.

The ground intended for the hop yard should be well manured, then ploughed in April, dragged and marked four feet each way; then with a hoe on every other mark each way dig a hole about three inches deep, into which drop a hop root from three to six inches long; then cover with dirt to make it level. The root, if it does well, will throw up a sprout from each joint. Every other bill on the hop row, and next row entire, can be planted to corn or beans, as the hops do not require to be poled the first Summer. Every fall each hill of hops must have two or three shovelfuls of manure put on it, to enrich the ground, and protect the roots from freezing. The following spring the manure must be pitched off from the hills, and the runners, if any, dug out and cut off, to prevent them from spreading all over the ground, and to preserve the hills in their places. There are but few runners the first spring, but a plenty afterwards.

After the runners are removed, the poles can be set, two to each hill, about one foot apart at the bottom, with the top spread far enough apart to prevent the vines from running from one pole to the other, and to make the tops of the poles in the yard an equal distance from each other. The next thing is to plough, commencing in the centre between the rows, and turning the furrows from the bill until you get near enough to each row, then turn and plough the other way; after that reverse the furrow, turning toward the bill; the rest can be done with the cultivator or hoe, keeping the ground clean and mellow.

Put the vines around the poles from right to left, and tie with the yarn ravelled from an old stocking. This is full of kinks and will stretch and not damage the vine as it grows. The hops are generally ready to pick the last of August or first of September. From ten to fifteen hundred pounds is the yield per acre.

THE AMERICAN WATCH COMPANY at Waltham, Mass., makes two hundred and fifty watches a day, and employs seven hundred persons, of whom one-third are women.

CHRISTIANITY was born in the heaven of truth and love; therefore it stoops with a special emphasis of compassion to the lowliest of earth.

DESCRIPTION OF GOOD AND BAD MEATS.

EVERY housekeeper or buyer should be familiar with Dr. Letheby's description of good and bad meats, as follows: Good meat is neither of a pale pinkish nor a deep purple tint. It has a marbled appearance, from the ramification of little veins of intercellular fat, and the fat of the internal organs especially is firm, hard and suety, and is never wet, whereas that of diseased meat is soft and watery. The feel of healthy meat is somewhat elastic, and hardly moistens the finger. Diseased meat is soft and wet. Good meat has but little odor, and this is not disagreeable; whereas diseased meat smells faint and cadaverous. Good meat bears cooking without much shrinking or losing much of its weight; but bad meat shrivels up and boils to pieces; this is due to the larger proportion of watery and gelatinous material, and the absence of fat and true muscular substance in the meat. Under the microscope the fibres should be clear and well defined, and free from infusorial animalcules; whilst that of diseased meat is sodden and tumid, as if it had been soaked in water, the transverse streaks are indistinct and wide apart, and animalcules abound in it. Dr. Letheby's official station requires him to prevent the sale and consumption of unwholesome meat in the city of London. Were it not that facility is offered by the salesmen for the detection of fraud, his subordinates would be very much crippled in their operations, and it is gratifying to be able to acknowledge this fact. To supply more than three millions of people, about six hundred tons of meat are brought to market daily, and nearly six hundred tons of meat unfit for consumption have been condemned and destroyed during the past six years. Much of this would have certainly produced serious disease in the community. Allowing six ounces a day to each person, it represents nearly, 600,000 meals, and at a reduced calculation, "we may fairly say," in the words of the London Lancet, "that nearly half a million persons would be prevented eating diseased meat once by the labors of Dr. Letheby and his inspectors in one year."

ANTIDOTE FOR POISON.—A plain farmer says:—"It is now more than twenty years since I learned that sweet oil would cure the bite of a rattlesnake, not knowing it would cure other kind's of poison of any kind, both on man and beast. I think no farmer should be without a bottle of it in his house. The patient must take a spoonful of it internally, and bathe the wound for an cure. To cure a horse it requires eight times as much as it does for a man. Here let me tell of one of the most extreme cases of snake bites in this neighborhood, Eleven years ago this summer, where the case had been thirty days standing, and the patient had been given up by the physicians, I heard of it, carried the oil and gave him one spoonful, which effected a cure. It is an antidote for arsenic and strychnine. It will cure bloat in cattle by eating too freely of fresh clover; it will cure the sting of bees, spiders or other insects, and will cure persons who have been poisoned by a low running vine, growing in the meadows, called ivy."

SELF EDUCATION.—Costly apparatus and splendid cabinets have no magical power to make scholars. In all circumstances, as a man is, under God, the master of his own fortune, so is he the maker of his own mind. The Creator has constituted the human intellect that it can grow only by its own action. Every man must therefore, in an important sense, educate himself. His books and teachers are but helps; the work is his.

A BEAUTIFUL IDEA.—An Indian philosopher being asked what were, according to his opinion, the two most beautiful things of the universe, answered, "The starry heavens above our heads, and the feeling of duty in our hearts."

PRESERVING MEAT.—A correspondent of the Maine Farmer says "many a housewife may be glad to know, when she has a piece of fresh meat she wishes to keep a few days, that it can be successfully done by placing it in a dish and covering it with buttermilk. I have practised the plan for years."

PETRIFECTION.

TRUE petrification is a process of fossilization in which the original mold or cast of an organic fossil is filled up with a kind of matter differing from the original body. Deposits on the surface of objects are sometimes met with which are commonly called petrifications. A sample of this is the petrified moss at some of the mineral springs in western New York.—The carbonate of lime forms an incrustation around the plant. Another variety is silicious deposits on moss, ferns, and other objects found near the hot springs of Iceland. Partial fossilization sometimes occurs, as in the case of the common clam for instance, which is often found filled with mineral matter while the shell remains intact. A true petrification is where the inorganic structure of the whole animal or plant is replaced by mineral matter. Examples of this are petrified palm trees which are entirely changed in their composition, and yet retain all the fibers and cells in their original form and minuteness, so that, when viewed by the microscope, the species of the tree can be determined. Another common case in point is the echinus, in chalk formations; its shell has been changed to calc spar, while its interior has been filled with flint. The testaceous animal has the power of changing the crystals of carbonate of lime in the construction of its shell, but when life has departed, the laws of crystallization resume their sway and the carbonate assumes its original rhomboidal form. In the beautiful little shell, shaped like a ram's horn, called the ammonite, iron pyrites is sometimes found. It is supposed the sulphur in the animal has united with iron and although the natural form of the bisulphide of iron is cubical, in this substitution process it is forced to take the rhomboidal shape. In fossilization or petrification the organic matter may be replaced by various minerals, such as gypsum, oxide of iron, phosphate of iron, sulphate of baryta, sulphate of strontia, silicate of copper, carbonate of lead, and fluor spar.

HOW COLD AFFECTS US.—AN English journal cites the British Registrar General as authority for the statement that the recent sudden changes in temperature in London killed four hundred and fifty-five persons in one week. The mean temperature at Greenwich fell from 44 degrees in the week ending on the 29th of December last to 25.2 degrees in the first week of the present year, and the effect of the cold is shown in the succeeding week by an increase in the deaths from 1,437 to 1,891. The Registrar says: "Few were directly frozen to death, the majority having vital force enough to struggle against the freezing cold, but not enough to prevent them from succumbing under bronchitis and other affections." The returns show that the power of resisting cold is greatest at the age of full bodily development, and least when the tide of life is ebbing.

Dr. Farr, in discussing the effects of the cold weather of 1855 on the public health, came to the conclusion that the power of cold varies according to definite laws. It was found by investigation that the mortality by cold is twice as great under the age of 20 as the mortality at 20-40, but after that turning point the power of resisting cold decreases every year, and men aged 90, in comparison with men aged 30, suffer from cold in the proportion of 100 to 1. As the general result of five weeks' observation it is stated that the "danger after 30 of dying of cold is doubled every nine years of age;" that is to say, out of an equal population, for one death by cold at 30 there were two at 36, four at 48, eight at 57, and so on.

BRIDGE CROSSING.—"As I was going over the bridge the other day," said a native of Erin, "I met Pat Hewins. Hewins," says I, "how are you?" "Pretty well, thank you, Donnelly," says he. "Donnelly," says I, "that's not my name." "Faith, then, no more is mine Hewins. So with that we looked at each other agin, an' snre enogh, it was nayther of us."

AGE FOR BREEDING.—A correspondent of the Ohio Farmer thinks a sow should not be allowed to breed until at least a year old. He thinks that until the boar and sow reach the age of four or six years their progeny is better than from young hogs.

THE LUCIFER MATCH.

ABOUT twenty years ago chemis'try abolished the tinder box, and the burnt rag that made the tinder went to make paper. Slowly did the invention spread. The use of the match is now so established that machines are invented to prepare the splint. In New York one match manufactory annually cuts up a large raft of timber for matches. The English matches are generally square, and thus thirty thousand splints are cut in a minute. The American matches are round, and the process of shaping being more elaborate, four thousand and five hundred splints are cut in a minute. We will follow a bundle of eighteen hundred of thin splints, each four inches long, through its conversion into three thousand six hundred matches.

Without being separated, each end of the bundle is first dipped into sulphur. When dry, the splints, adhering to each other by means of the sulphur, must be parted by what is called dusting. A boy, sitting on the floor with a bundle before him, strikes the matches with a kind of mallet on the dipped ends till they become thoroughly loosened. They have now to be plunged into a preparation of phosphorus or chlorate of potash, according to the quality of the match. The phosphorus produces the pale, noiseless fire, the chlorate of potash the sharp, crackling illumination. After this application of the more inflammable substance, the matches are separated, and dried in racks. Thoroughly dried, they are gathered up again into bundles of the same quantity, and are taken to the boys who cut them, for the reader will have observed that the bundles have been dipped at each end.—There are few things more remarkable in manufactures than the extraordinary rapidity of this cutting process and that which is connected with it. The boy stands before a bench, the bundle in his right hand, a pile of empty boxes on his left. The matches are to be cut, and the empty boxes filled by this boy. A bundle is opened; he seizes a portion, knowing by long habit the required number with sufficient exactness; puts them rapidly into a sort of frame, knocks the ends evenly together, confines them with a strap which he tightens with his foot, and cuts them in two parts with a knife on a binge, which he brings down with a strong leverage. The halves lie projecting over each end of the frame; he grasps the left portion and thrusts it into a half open box, which slides into an outer case, and he repeats the process with the matches in his right hand. This series of movements is performed with a rapidity almost unexampled; for in this way two hundred thousand matches are cut and two thousand boxes filled in a day by one boy.

AT one of the churches for colored people in Memphis, recently, the minister, having finished the sermon, announced that a collection would be taken up for missionary purposes. The "sasser" was accordingly sent around. When it came back to the pulpit, the preacher proceeded to count the amount, and among the fractional currency, he discovered a ten dollar Confederate bill. He looked at it for some time with evident disgust, and then took a calm look at his congregation over the top of his spectacles. Then clapping the uncurrent bill upon the Bible, with indignant emphasis he exclaimed, "Brederin, I put dis bill right dar on de Bible, and let de Lord take care of dat man!"

SELLING GRAIN BY WEIGHT.—A new practice in the way of dealing in grain, went into effect on the 1st of March, by an arrangement among all the leading grain dealers throughout the country. This is called the cental system, by which all quantities are reckoned by the 100 lbs. In determining the average of wheat a bushel is equal to under this system, the estimates are made on the following basis:

Table with 2 columns: Grain type and weight in lbs. Rows include Wheat, Corn, Rye, Barley, and Oats.

PERHAPS our readers have not heard of the widow who, sitting meditatively by a cheerful fire after her husband's decease, sighed out: "Poor fellow, how he did like a good fire! I hope he has gone where they keep good fires!"

SUCCESS IN STOCK-BREEDING.—Who are the most successful men in breeding stock of any kind? They are those who, in the first place, purchase the best of the kind, of either cattle, horses, sheep, swine, or fowl, that can be obtained. In the next place, they give them the best shelter, food and care, that can be given; and these men are always successful, and make it a profitable business. And just in proportion as you vary from these essential points, will it be a profit or a loss in keeping any kind of stock. The one that makes a profit is the one who gives the best care and attention to his stock. The one who finds it an expense is the one who lets them care for themselves.





The Field.

WHAT CROPS SHALL WE RAISE ?

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

We are creatures of habit, and are inclined to keep on doing what we and our fathers have been accustomed to do. This instinct of our nature is not an unsafe one to follow if not carried too far. We are no advocates of change for the sake of change, and by no means should jump to the conclusion that every change is an improvement. "Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel," was a terrible curse pronounced by Jacob on one of his sons. Still, there is such a thing as getting into the ruts; and farmers, from their isolated condition, are peculiarly liable to this. They do not mingle with their fellow men as do merchants and manufacturers; and their opinions and practices are, therefore, less the result of combined wisdom, than is the case with those more intimately associated. True, farmers read, and we do not doubt their general intelligence, and we rely on them as the foundation of society. Their sober second thoughts give stability to government. They are the wheel horses which hold the coach back when going too fast, and guide it at all times. But this very conservatism, arising from their position, prevents them from making some changes which would be improvements. We desire to call attention to the vast change which the Eastern States have undergone and are rapidly undergoing, by the increase of manufactures in our midst, and the opening of new fields of agriculture in the West and South, which are no sooner opened than the iron horse brings their products to our markets. We well remember when a venerable Judge who had made a competency, considered at that time a fortune, by speculating in Genesee lands, said to one of his contemporaries:—"The young men of the next generation will have no such opportunity to buy up Western lands as we have had." "The West," in his mind, was all located in central and in western New York. What would he think now to rise from his grave and take the cars and travel fifteen hundred miles west, in less time and with less discomfort than he formerly expended in reaching Rochester, and find himself only in the centre of the country, with Leavenworth, Atchison and Omaha City, rivals for the site of the future Capital of the United States? The West has expanded a little in the last half century; and New England, though constantly increasing in population, intelligence and wealth, has territorially dwindled, compared with the whole country. This vast western and north-western territory is a rich agricultural district. The land is level, inviting the plow, and returning large products. The streams are comparatively few and sluggish, giving few facilities for manufactures. New England, then, with her abundant water power, seems manifestly destined for machinery, and the West for agriculture. We cannot compete with the prairies in producing the cereal, and the product of the cereal, beef and pork. These are easily and cheaply transported, and it is folly for us to undertake to raise corn or beef extensively; not that we would give up these products altogether. There is great pleasure in raising our own hog and hominy. No hasty pudding made from Western corn ever tasted quite so well as that made from the small, flinty, yellow kernels of the home farm, and we are certain no Western pork is comparable with the sweet, hard pork, with just a tinge of pink, that we fatten and put up for ourselves; but to make these, as our fathers did, the staple products of the farm, those which we rely upon for sale and conversion into money, seems behind the times. There are other products which the changed condition of our markets renders more profitable. Hay is an article which is too bulky for long transportation, and increased attention should be given to its production. Grass is the natural growth of most New England lands. It springs up indigenously, wherever it finds a vacancy. Our fathers sowed little grass seed, relying mainly and sometimes solely upon the seed that had fallen from previous crops for restocking the land. The hay crop re-

quires comparatively little labor. Our moist climate favors its growth, and the quality and quantity of our hay crop, with a little care, can be doubled and even quadrupled, and the demand for a number of years has been greater than the supply, at highly remunerative prices. We know we have received the maximum from our fathers, "never sell hay; feed it out upon the farm." This was a good precept in its day, and is good now for farmers distant from market, with few facilities for getting manure, with which to keep up their farms; but with manufacturing villages springing up everywhere, and hay at \$30 to \$40 per ton, and privy manure to be had in abundance for the mere hauling, and the refuse of our woolen and other factories thrown into the rivers for the want of a consumer, the precept of our fathers, not to sell hay, needs to be reconsidered. With a top dressing yearly, and early mowing, not allowing the grass to go to seed—a very exhaustive process—our meadows will start a fortnight earlier in the Spring, and be mown twice in a year, and improve rather than deteriorate, under this heavy cropping.

But we did not intend this to be a treatise on the mode of raising hay. We may refer to it again at some future time. We only suggest it now as one of the crops for which the altered times make an increasing demand. We have space only to suggest one other crop, viz. roots. The average crop of wheat in N. E. is liberally estimated at fifteen bushels; rye and buckwheat the same; oats at forty bushels; corn at fifty; potatoes at one hundred; turnips at four hundred; beets at five hundred; and carrots at six hundred. Now, we know that roots cannot be raised without much labor, and that, too, of the back-aching kind, and we would not recommend the farmer of fifty summers to commence raising carrots unless he has young and supple backs at his service to do the weeding; but who can doubt that a crop of fifteen tons of carrots, at \$20 per ton, will pay for all additional labor and leave a margin for profit? Sugar beets and mangel wurzels are raised with less labor, and perhaps more profit. Potatoes are, however, the crop which we particularly wish to recommend among the roots. A prejudice has arisen against this root of late years from its tendency to rot, and consequent uncertainty; but select the right soil and the right seed, and few if any products are more certain or more remunerative. Dry land, abounding in saline elements, such as ashes most cheaply furnish, seems best adapted to this esculent; and some of the new seedlings, such as the Garnet Chili, and Early Goodriebe, derived from Chili, the native home of the potato, are almost, if not altogether, exempt from disease. These varieties will bear manuring, and the average crop can just as well be 200 as 100 bushels. The potato is more easily grown and harvested than corn; is more nutritious than other roots, and the market is always certain and remunerative, and we confidently commend this crop to increased attention.

Some may be astonished that we do not include tobacco among the crops which the altered times demand, but we eschew the weed totally. It is a great exhauster of the land, requires much labor, is exposed to great perils in its production, and when produced, does more harm than good.

March, 1867.

POTATOES.

HAVING raised potatoes sufficient for my own use and commonly some to sell every year for sixty-five years, and having tried various methods and experiments, and made progress, I will state what I have found to be the most productive and remunerative course, viz:

- 1st. To break up sward ground in the fall, early or in the first part of October.
2d. To plant about the twentieth of May or sooner if the weather is warm, or later if not dry; to spread manure on the surface and harrow it in immediately before planting.
3d. To plant in rows three feet and a half apart and in hills two feet apart.
4th. To make but shallow holes for the hills, put but two pieces of a medium sized potato in a hill with a small lump of lime, sufficient to make a spoonful when air slacked.

5th. To hoe the ground well the last of June and throw a spoonful of plaster or a handful of ashes, or a mixture of each. Nothing more will be needed, ordinarily, till harvest time.

By pursuing the above course, I have always had a good yield, and my potatoes for ten years past, have been of a superior quality, the net proceeds fifty per cent. more than formerly by spring ploughing. My man put more lime in the hills last spring than I had before used, and the potatoes are better than I ever saw before, very smooth, of the Orono kind, not a scar or mark upon them, and of a large size.

It is true that I am but a small farmer, or, in fact, not a farmer, being past labor; but I was bred up a farmer and when young cleared up a farm of fifty acres, and managed it with good success: raised two hundred bushels of corn, wheat and rye in 1801 with my own labor or by exchanging.—William Allen, Norridgewock, in Maine Farmer.

CULTIVATION OF OATS.

The frequent failures of the wheat and corn crops should determine farmers to pay more than ordinary attention to the cultivation of oats. The grain being rich in oily matter, and flesh-forming compounds, is excellent food for horses, cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry, and the straw, when it has been properly harvested, is very good fodder. Experiments made in Scotland, have proved that oat-straw is fully equal to hay for animals fattening on roots. If not too ripe when cut, and if saved in good condition, cattle in comfortable sheds, can be kept during Winter in improving condition upon this straw alone. Farmers who winter a large number of cattle, should grow oats extensively.

In the United States, oats are used solely for feeding animals, and for this purpose they are equal to any other grain, combining a very large amount of useful qualities. For horses doing hard work, or where great speed is required, oats are the best food. They are also useful for fattening cattle and hogs. The value of the grain may be estimated by the weight of the kernel, the husk being comparatively useless as food. Late oats seldom come to perfection, as the progress of vegetation is arrested by draught, in some climates, and by frost in others, before the grain has filled, and a light, chaffy sample is the product, which on being ground, yields but a small quantity of meal.

In Ireland, Scotland, and some other European countries, oatmeal constitutes the food of the majority of the laboring classes, and those who live on it are able to undergo great exertion, and bear up against great exposure and hardships. Owing to the small amount of gluten in oatmeal, yeast bread cannot be made with it, and on this account it is eaten boiled or made into thin cakes.

In the United States the crop does not exceed 30 bushels per acre, except in favorable seasons and suitable soils, but 90 bushels have been raised, in some instances, and prize crops of 60 to 72 bushels are not uncommon. From four to eight bushels of common salt per acre, spread immediately before the seed is sown, and lightly harrowed in, has been found very useful for increasing the yield of oats.

The total product of the oat crop of the United States in 1840 was 123,071,341 bushels, in 1850, 146,678,879 bushels, and in 1860, 172,643,185 bushels. In the next census it will probably reach 200,000,000 bushels. According to the last census, New York was the greatest oat growing State, producing 35,175,134 bushels. Pennsylvania was next, producing 27,387,147. Ohio 3d, 15,409,234. Illinois 4th, 15,220,029. Wisconsin 5th, 11,059,270. Virginia 6th, 10,186,720. Iowa 7th, 5,887,645. Indiana 8th, 5,317,831. Kentucky 9th, 4,617,029. New Jersey 10th, 4,539,132. Michigan 11th, 4,036,980. Maryland 12th, 3,959,298. It is a remarkable fact that according as the cultivation of corn increases in the Eastern States, the production of oats declines. In the middle and Western States the increase of the corn crop does not seem to have the effect of retarding the production of oats; there appears to be room for both.

SOWING PLASTER EARLY.—A correspondent of the Rural New Yorker says that for several years past he has been in the practice of sowing plaster on clover in March—in some cases where the snow was three or four inches deep. The results have been more beneficial than when sown in May or June. He has also found early-sown plaster to considerably increase the barley crop. As plaster is but sparingly soluble in water, and must be carried down into the soil in a state of solution in order to be used by the plants, it is obvious that the sowing should be early enough to effect this purpose. If sown late, and dry weather should follow, the plaster would not probably be of much use that year. These views are corroborated by the experience of a number of farmers. It should be borne in mind that plaster is not a universal fertilizer, there being many soils where it has no beneficial effect; therefore, the reader will note the necessity of experimenting on soils where plaster has been hitherto untried, before investing to any extent in it for such use.

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.

TOBACCO.—A proposition has been made to the tobacco growers in the Connecticut valley not to plant any the coming spring, in order that they should get a fair price for the crops of 1865 and 1866, now on hand, and that the crop of 1868 should go off freely, and at higher rates than prevail now.

Household Hints.

HOW TO MAKE CORN BREAD.—We find the following recipes in the Prairie Farmer, for making corn bread, and they are reprinted in the hope that housekeepers will resort more liberally to this most wholesome of all grains for family consumption: "Scald the corn meal in boiling hot water, just as much as will barely wet it, knead the dough with sweet, rich milk, and work it well and put it to bake in a hot oven or stove; it is important that the stove be hot, and the baking done quickly, or the bread will have a dry and insipid taste.—The dough should be formed into what the old Virginians call "Dodgers," 2 1/2 inches long, 1 1/2 wide, 1 1/4 inches thick; or it is excellent baked on a griddle in cakes three inches in diameter. The milk has the effect of browning the crust handsomely."

ANOTHER.—"Stir boiling water into sifted meal till every part is wet; add half as much shorts, a cup of molasses, teaspoonful of salt and skim milk enough to mix; bake in cheap pans—in a brick oven—and if it remains in all night, it is good enough to eat."

FRENCH ROLLS.—Rub an ounce of butter into a pound of flour; mix one egg beaten, a little yeast that is not bitter, and as much milk as will make a dough of a middling stiffness. Beat it well, but do not knead; let it rise and bake on tins.

THE RELIGION OF CHRIST is distinguished from all others by its great fruitfulness and joyfulness in private experience. There have been other religions that had the power of stirring up zeal, intense activity, fanaticism, and of bringing men, by cities and nations, into campaigns of religious effectiveness, such as it was; but none other has been like the Christian in entering into the hearts of the poor, the desolate, the ignorant, the wicked, one by one, and separately, and stirring up there, not simply a new life of purity, but such hopefulness, such joyfulness, as brought all the powers into a very summer of growth and efficiency. All this has been peculiar to the Christian religion.





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 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 centre, and that largest is Agriculture.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

CULTIVATION OF THE CRANBERRY.

WITHIN a few years, the cultivation of the cranberry has increased to a wonderful extent. We have no historical data, but we believe New England is entitled to the credit of first cultivating or propagating this valuable fruit. An old sea captain, who had "roamed the wide world over," settled down on Cape Cod; and, to satisfy his curiosity, re-planted and cultivated some wild vines in his garden. The soil was a light, grisly sand—the drift formation—and his experiment only partially succeeded. The "old salt" knew little of geology; of how the earth was made; how glacial action had kicked and piled it about, but he kept on experimenting until he grew unusual crops of cranberries; and his neighbors, observing his success and thrift, improved on his method, and partially perfected the cultivation of the American cranberry.

To-day we know that the *alluvial formation* is the soil on which the cranberry does best. This formation includes some of the most barren and wet tracts of land in the country. It is sand, quartz-rock, finely ground, like pulverized and granulated sugar; in other instances it is the mud, or alluvium of brooks and rivers; again, it is the *debris* of bogs and swamps, or the deltas of streams or ocean currents. These are all good soils for the cranberry; so are salt meadows, and even some uplands made by the drift of the ocean, centuries ago. All these deposits contain more or less of decayed vegetable and animal matter; skillfully compounded by the Great Architect.

On Cape Cod, people will tell you the very best soil for the cranberry is beach sand; in New Jersey they will say that an alluvial soil, with drift-sand underneath, is best; and in Michigan, on the Lake shores, they successfully grow the cranberry in black mud and peat. All such lands are *natural to this vine*; and in its cultivation, we should follow Nature. She never experiments, but sows her seeds and plants her roots always on the right soil and in the proper place. Some people, who have more money than experience, will have to "go to school" and learn vegetable physiology before they will become successful cultivators of the cranberry. A proper selection of soil, drainage, preparation of the bog or meadow, manner and time of setting out the vines, a knowledge of the insects injurious and destructive to the fruit, are indispensable to success.

We do not propose to write an essay on this important and rapidly increasing branch of industry, but refer to the subject as one worth the attention of all persons owning lands natural and suitable to the cranberry. *There is more money in the business than incredulous people suppose.* No field or farm crop will pay a tenth the profit that this fruit yields. And whether in New England, in the Middle States, or in the West, it will pay to cultivate the cranberry. On most land, where it does best, the land is almost valueless for any other purpose. The cost of the land is small; the expense of preparing the tract, however, is considerable; but the setting of the vines (no after cultivation), and the profit of the crop, make the business the most lucrative in the country.—We have visited many sections of the United States—Cape Cod, New Jersey and the North West—where this business is successfully and profitably followed; but our choice (soil, climate and market consulted), is New Jersey. Large tracts are already in cultivation there—extending from the Delaware river to the sea—and the time is not far distant when her cranberry crop will equal, if not surpass, any of her cereals.

If the reader would extend the usefulness of the *Farm and Fireside*, let him show it to his neighbor, and solicit his subscription.



GAPES IN CHICKENS.—John McKay, of Long Island, states that a sure cure for gapes in chickens is this: When your chicks are about a week old, put about a tablespoonful of powdered sulphur in their feed; mix this in two quarts of feed, doing so two or three times a week, until they get big enough to be out of the way of this disease. This receipt is worth a great deal in saving thousands of chickens yearly. I have known people to lose a hundred a year, and yet laugh at this simple remedy, which is the better because simple. A gentleman in Cincinnati says that his remedy is to put scraps of rusty iron in the water they drink. It cured those that were sick.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE AND THE PATRIOT FOR \$1.00 PER YEAR.

For the sum of FOUR DOLLARS, paid in advance, we will send the FARM AND FIRESIDE and the WOONSOCKET PATRIOT for one year. The subscription price of the latter, alone, is \$2.50. THE PATRIOT is an old established family newspaper, with the largest circulation of any country journal in New England. S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER. Woonsocket, R. I.

MARCH.

This is a month of activity with farmers. The weather is unsettled, the air cold, the winds blustering and the Frost King holds sway in all Northern latitudes. Bryant never wrote more truthfully, or better, than when he said:

"The stormy March is come at last,
With wind, and cloud, and changing skies;
I hear the rushing of the blast,
That through the snowy valley flies."

The weather will not permit much field work in the first half of the month, through New England or the Middle States. Yet it is all-important that we have things ready for active labor as the season advances. The great industrial battle of Spring will soon commence. The music of the blue-bird and robin (not war-like, but inspiring,) is heard at early day dawn; the occasional warm sunshine starts the willows and osiers, and their inflorescence greets the eye along the banks of rivers, brooks and road-sides. All this reminds us of the return of Spring, "for lo! the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

All farmers and gardeners should see that their implements of labor are in good repair. It is poor economy to work with a worn-out plough, with a broken hoe or spade, or a rheumatic wagon or cart. Nor will it do to wait until the planting season arrives, before you go to the wagon builder or the blacksmith, for general repairs. Go now, without further delay. Also, see that gates, fences and stone-walls are repaired; not forgetting your live stock, that need more care and attention in March than at any other period of the year.

A few hours, each day, in the orchard, looking after the aphids, and other insects destructive to fruit, will pay. It is too early to plant out young trees, or to graft; but you can prepare the land where trees are to be set; also secure grafts, *without another day's postponement.* In the fruit garden, make ready for strawberry planting; examine your grape vines; also set out raspberries and blackberries as early as the soil will admit. All trees and shrubs, in the door-yard and on the lawn, should be trimmed up; and those shrubs intended for transplanting, should have immediate attention. Mow from the barn-yard can be hauled out, at once; deposited in heaps or spread on the surface, providing you can use the plough immediately after.

Our almanacs and farm calendars inform us that Spring commences in March; but every intelligent farmer and gardener is guided by the weather, the state of the atmosphere, rather than by his almanac. If the season is cold and backward, have patience, wait a little; and then, as the season advances, with mild and genial temperature, GO-HEAD!

SOW YOUR OATS.—The importance of sowing oats early, is well understood by all progressive farmers. As soon as the ground is sufficiently dry, so that it can be ploughed and harrowed, oats should be got in. Early sown oats are *always heavier*; and when once in, they are out of the way of all other work.—We have known oats to be sown in the last of February (in New Jersey), and the crop was remarkably good. In the New England and Middle States, they can be got in from the last to the middle of March, on dry soils; on wet lands, as early in April as possible.

ELEPHANTINE OXEN.—A gentleman from Bristol, Vermont, informs us that he recently saw at that place a yoke of oxen, seven years old, which weigh over *eight thousand* pounds. They are six feet high, and measure sixteen and a half feet from end of nose to end of tail. They are on exhibition, and will visit various parts of the country. The owner expects to make the pair weigh ten thousand pounds.

NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this Society was held in Boston on the 7th inst. The President, Dr. Loring, presided and made a brief address, congratulating the Society on its past successes and future prospects. The election of officers then took place, resulting as follows:

PRESIDENT.—George B. Loring, of Salem, Mass.
SECRETARY.—Daniel Needham, of Boston.
TREASURER.—J. K. Gage, Fisherville, New Hampshire.

A Vice President and a board of five Trustees from each of the New England States were then chosen, viz.:

RHODE ISLAND.

VICE PRESIDENT—Amasa Sprague, Cranston.
TRUSTEES—Edward D. Pearce, Providence; David Pike, River Point; A. B. Chadsey, Wickford; J. D. W. Perry, Bristol; Thomas B. Buffum, Newport.

CONNECTICUT.

VICE PRESIDENT—E. H. Hyde, Stafford.
TRUSTEES—J. G. Webb, Bejaudin Sumner, Woodstock; H. S. Collins, Collinsville; Burdett Loomis, Windsor Locks; G. C. Hitchcock, New Preston.

MASSACHUSETTS.

VICE PRESIDENT—William Birnie, Springfield.
TRUSTEES—S. H. Howe, Bolton; G. T. Plunkett, Hiusdale; Levi Stockbridge, Amherst; Charles C. Preston, Danvers; S. B. Phinney, Barnstable.

VERMONT.

VICE PRESIDENT—Daniel Kimball, Rutland.
TRUSTEES—George Campbell, Westminster; Henry Clark, Rutland; Ebenezer Bridge, Puffret; U. R. Potter, St. Albans; Thomas Saunders, Brookfield.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

VICE PRESIDENT—Frederick Smyth, Manchester, N. H.
TRUSTEES—Moses Humphrey, Concord; S. W. Buffum, Winchester; Virgil C. Gilman, Nashua; George W. Riddle, Bedford; William T. Eustis, Dover.

MAINE.

VICE PRESIDENT—S. L. Goodale, Saco.
TRUSTEES—Seth Scammon, Scarborough; Columbus Stewart, North Anson; Waldo T. Peirce, Bangor; George W. Ricker, Bath; J. F. Anderson, South Windham.

It was voted to hereafter hold the annual meeting on the first Tuesday of February. It was also voted to apply for a charter.

Gov. Dyer, of Rhode Island, moved that a committee of one from each State be appointed to arrange the time and place of the next Annual Exhibition. Messrs Anderson of Maine, Enstis of New Hampshire, Bridge of Vermont, Dyer of Rhode Island, Webb of Connecticut, Howe of Mass., were appointed that committee. A final adjournment then took place.

THE NEW TARIFF ON WOOL.

ONE of the most important bills passed by the Thirty-Ninth Congress—just closed—is the Tariff on wool and woolsens. We believe it is, substantially, the bill agreed upon by the wool growers and the woolen manufacturers last year. The Bill makes the following classes, or grades.

CLASS 1. Clothing wools—that is to say, Merino, Mestiza, Metz, or Metis wools—or other wools of Merino blood, immediate or remote, down, clothing wools, and wools of like character with any of the preceding, including such as have been heretofore usually imported into the United States from Buenos Ayres, New Zealand, Australia, Cape of Good Hope, Prussia, Great Britain, Canada, and elsewhere; and, also, including all wools not hereinafter described or designated in class 2 and 3.

CLASS 2. Combing wools—that is to say, Leicester, Cotswold, Lincolnshire, down combing wools, Canada long wools, or the like combing wools of English blood, and usually known by terms herein used; also, all hair of alpaca goats and other like animals.

CLASS 3. Carpet wools and other similar wools, such as Donkski, native, South America, Coriova, Valparaiso native, Smyrna, and including all such wools of like character as have been heretofore usually imported into the United States from Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Syria and elsewhere.

The duty on the First class, upon wool valued at thirty-two cents per pound, is ten cents per pound; and in addition, ten cents *ad valorem*. On the Second class, the duty will be the same. On the Third class, three cents per pound, on wools valued at twelve cents; and on those costing over twelve cents, six cents a pound. It is supposed that the Act goes into effect at once—though the bill (if we read correctly) does not state that fact.

For scours in calves, pigs and sheep, a correspondent of the *Maine Farmer* takes a quantity of good oats, boils them one hour, and gives freely of the tea till a cure is effected. From many trials he is satisfied that the remedy is safe and certain.

HIGH PRICE FOR FOWLS.—Mr. John S. Ives, of Salem, Mass., exhibited thirteen Brahma fowls at a recent Fair at Worcester, which were awarded the first premium. The thirteen have since been sold for \$100.

Notes and Queries.

Editors of Farm and Fireside: HAVING heard that Sunflower seeds are excellent for fattening chickens, will you please inform me, through the FARM AND FIRESIDE, if such is the case? W. J. G.

Sunflower seeds are good for fattening nearly all kinds of fowls; but not as a regular food. Given occasionally, with corn and other food, they are valuable.

Editors of the Farm and Fireside: DUCKS.—Wishing to keep a few Ducks of the best breed, I appeal to you for advice. Which is best, the Rouen, or Aylesbury? Also, please inform me how to cultivate Sunflowers. Yours, respectfully, WM. M. GILL. Branchtown, Pa.

For the Middle States, we would recommend the Rouen Duck; they are hardy for that locality; are generally prolific layers, eggs large, and when these ducks are killed for the table, weigh well. Their flesh is of fine flavor—good enough for any epicure. Planting Sunflower seeds scarcely requires advice—plant in rows, three feet apart, with tomatoes or something else between the rows. The seeds of the Sunflower are good for chickens, turkeys, &c.

GARDEN DRAINAGE.—I have a wet garden—soil a black, heavy loam. Some Springs, I cannot plant until late; in fact, not until my neighbors have vegetables up. Will draining my garden benefit it? CONNECTICUT.

Certainly. Put drains in 2½ feet deep—18 to 25 feet apart; and, if properly constructed, you will change the nature (almost) of your soil, and raise crops two or three weeks earlier. A rubble, or flat stone drain will do; but we prefer the horse-shoe tile.

WILL COTTON GROW IN DELAWARE?—I have recently purchased a large tract of land in Sussex county, Delaware; and my son-in-law thinks we can grow cotton, to advantage, on the lower fields. Will you answer this inquiry through the Farm and Fireside? HENRY G. HAINES. Milford, Delaware, March 4, 1867.

If your "large tract" of Delaware land is not located in the Cyprus swamps, cotton MAY BE GROWN; but not to compete with corn and peaches. One of these days, cotton will be successfully grown a good ways North of the old arbitrary cotton line; but both plant and planters must first be educated to a few improved habits.

Messrs. Editors of the Farm and Fireside: CATTLE "OFF THEIR FEED."—Please state through your columns what should be given to cattle "off their feed." We have a yoke of oxen that are off their feed, and we have tried almost everything we have heard of. Yours, respectfully, E. C. H. Cranston, R. I., March 7, 1867.

This question is rather indefinite. The cattle have probably been over-fed or over-worked. In either case, give them a change of food, and a small quantity; say a few carrots, potatoes or turnips. If over-worked, give them rest with the change of food.

Our Book Table.

THE VEGETABLE WORLD: being a History of Plants, with their Botanical descriptions and peculiar Properties. By LOUIS FIGUIER. D. APPLETON & Co., New York.

This is the most valuable contribution to botanical science and plant history, ever issued in this country. The author has a marvelous love of nature, and of the plants and vegetables, which beautify the earth. Like Claudius, Hesiod, and all eminent writers, he looks upon this world as an eternal handwork; as the land of loveliness as well as beneficence—made so, in part, by the wonderful flowers, shrubs and trees scattered over its surface. A previous volume of FIGUIER'S, entitled "The World before the Deluge," created a wide enthusiasm among authors, and this second contribution will be as well received and appreciated.

The present volume is divided into four parts:—

- 1.—The Organography and Physiology of Plants.
- 2.—The Classification of Plants.
- 3.—The Natural Families of Plants.
- 4.—The Geographical Distribution of Plants.

The work is written in graphic, fascinating language; the classification systematic, and the vegetable world thoroughly examined and exhausted in order to render the volume complete. The engravings illustrating the subjects, comprise nearly five hundred; are all drawn from nature, and are executed in the highest style of art. We recommend FIGUIER'S VEGETABLE WORLD to all lovers of plants, flowers and vegetation.

OUR MUTUAL FRIEND, by Charles Dickens. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia. This novel is so well known and appreciated by the admirers of "Boz," and all novel readers, that it would be rather late for us to endorse its peculiar merits. But we wish to say a word for the enterprising publishers, who have lavishly expended money in obtaining proof-sheets of the "Author's American Edition of Dickens"—of which this is the first volume. MESSRS. PETERSON will issue one volume per month, in uniform style, on good paper, clear type and handsome binding—making the entire edition an ornament for the parlor or library. OUR MUTUAL FRIEND, with forty-two illustrations, was issued in February; and for March, we are to have DAVID COPPERFIELD, with twenty-five full page illustrations.

A MANUAL OF SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE. By J. L. Campbell, A. M. Lindsay & Blackiston, Philadelphia. The science of agriculture is demanding more attention in this country than ever before. The burdens imposed on us by the Rebellion, must be lightened by real wealth, which comes mainly from the cultivation of the soil. This volume teaches the rudimentary science of farming; such as the chemistry of plants and soils; the source from which plants derive nourishment; general principles of vegetable physiology; history of manures and special fertilizers, practical remarks on the care of farm stock. This work was issued at the opening of the war; consequently at an unfavorable time for its publication. It deserves a liberal patronage, and should be introduced in all our common schools.

CHRONICLES OF THE GREAT REBELLION.—A. Winsch, Philadelphia.—As a book of reference, this publication is invaluable. It gives a full record and digest of the events of the war—in chronological order—civil, political, naval and military. Every student of history and every writer for the press, will find this volume exactly what they want for daily reference.

THE AMERICAN FARMER'S HORSE BOOK.—By Robert Stewart, M. D., V. S. Embodying the results of twenty years investigation and veterinary practice. C. F. Vent & Co., Cincinnati; Ziegler, McCurdy & Co., Philadelphia.—This is a large and handsome volume. Not having read it, we withhold our views until we can judge it as it deserves.





The Fireside Muse.

THE INDEPENDENT FARMER.

Let sailors sing of the windy deep,
Let soldiers praise their armor,
But in my heart this toast I'll keep—
The Independent Farmer.
When first the rose in robe of green
Unfolds its crimson lining,
And round his cottage-porch is seen
The honeysuckle twining;
When banks of bloom their sweetness yield,
To hees that gather honey,
He drives his team across the field,
Where skies are soft and sunny.

The blackbird clucks behind the plough,
The quail pipes loud and clearly,
Yon orchard hides behind its bough
The home he loves so dearly;
The gray and old barn-doors unfold
His ample store in measure,
More rich than heaps of hoarded gold,
A precious, blessed treasure;
While yonder in the porch there stands
His wife, the lovely charmer,
The sweetest rose on all his lands—
The Independent Farmer.

To him the Spring comes dancingly,
To him the Summer blushes,
The Autumn smiles with mellow ray,
His sleep old Winter hushes;
He cares not how the world may move,
No doubt or fears confound him;
His little flock are linked in love,
And household angels round him;
He trusts to God and loves his wife,
Nor griefs nor ills may harm her,
He's Nature's nobleman in life—
The Independent Farmer.

Fireside Tales.

JACK SPROUT'S CONVERSION.

JACK SPROUT swore a terrible oath. In fact, he swore quite a number of oaths, for he was very angry. It was nothing wonderful for Jack Sprout to swear, even in the presence of his wife, for he was sadly given to a habit of profane language. And yet Jack was a good husband; an indulgent father; an industrious man; an accommodating neighbor; and he possessed many other excellencies of character which might have made him a valuable member of society, had it not been for certain loose habits which had marked his course from childhood. His parents had been careless and profane before him; his father had been a tough, rough customer; so Jack naturally enough came up in the same track. But he was good looking, and kind hearted, and genial and social, and so he had gained for a wife one of the very best maidens of our town, as well as one of the handsomest.

Master Freddy Sprout, aged five years, stood by his mother's side, with a sadly begrimed and tear-streaked face, and his story was, that Solomon Gordon had whipped him with a stick, and the boy's legs still bore a few slight tokens of the castigation. Two other boys had come home with master Freddy, and their testimony corroborated that which the sufferer had given. Freddy, with some of his playmates, had been throwing stones at Mr. Gordon's dog, and one of the missiles hurled by Freddy had hit the animal and caused him to howl with pain. Of course the stone thrown by such a tiny hand could not have inflicted much injury upon the canine brute; but Solomon Gordon loved his dog, and when he saw what had been done, he caught Master Freddy and gave him a thrashing; for, be it known, Solomon Gordon was just such another man as Jack Sprout—warm-hearted, generous, and neighborly; but rough, uneducated, strong-willed and impulsive.

Jack Sprout put on his hat and prepared to sally forth. His lips were pale and tightly compressed, and the huge muscles in his arms worked like bundles of ropes.

"Dear Jack," plead his wife, "don't go out now."

"Let me alone, Abby. No man shall strike a child of mine without having a chance to strike me. I shall go and see Sol. Gordon, and I'll give him such a licking as he won't forget in a hurry!" And Jack closed the sentence with a terrible oath.

"No, no, Jack—don't go. What good will it do? Wait until you are more cool!"

"Pshaw! Go away, Abby. There is not power enough on earth to save Sol. Gordon from a drubbing; and I'll give it to him before the sun goes down!"

And as Jack Sprout looked at that moment he gave awful evidence that he was physically able to make good his word; for a more magnificent structure of frame-work and muscle was not to be found in the town.

"Dear Jack," cried the wife, taking her husband by the arm. "Oh, do listen to me one moment. Freddy is not much hurt; and he ought not to have throw stones at Gordon's dog. You know both Solomon and his wife set everything by the little animal, and he would not bark at the boys if they did not plague him. If you go and find Gordon, as you are now, you will only make matters worse. Oh, I wish you would drop it."

Jack only shook his head, and smiled one of those smiles which are terrible upon the face of an angry man.

"Oh, Jack, if you would only try the effect of kindness upon Solomon! He is a good man at heart—"

Jack interrupted his wife with a decisive sneer.

"Don't laugh at me, Jack. I tell you it would be better to do so than resort to blows. If you were attacked I would not blame you for fighting to protect yourself; but this is not a case that calls for your strength of muscle. There is a higher and nobler strength that you can use now."

"Oho!" uttered Jack, "you are preaching. You are giving me some of your Sunday School lessons. But I don't want 'em. You may experience religion as much as you please; but you mustn't preach the stuff to me."

"Jack," spoke the wife, with stern solemnity, "Have I been any worse since I began to have an interest in religious things?"

"No, Abby—you were good always."
"Then why will you not listen to me? If you will stay with me now—if you will wait until your anger is cooled—and then go and speak kindly to Solomon Gordon, I give you my solemn pledge that you will feel a thousand times better than you will if you—"

But Jack would not hear his wife out. He had sworn that he would thrash Solomon Gordon, and he would keep his word. His temper was at the boiling point, and he was fairly aching to get his hands upon the man who had dared to strike his boy; for Freddy was his pet, and every blow that had been laid upon the child's body had made a mark of fire upon his own heart. So he put his wife away from him and hurried from the house, slamming the door after him.

Away went Jack Sprout with rapid, heavy strides; and had Solomon Gordon fallen in his way just then, he would most assuredly have been severely beaten; for though Solomon was a stout, bold man, yet Jack was a very Hercules.

But Jack was destined to get pretty thoroughly cooled off before he met the object of his wrath. As he approached the bridge that spanned the river just below the falls, he heard loud cries of alarm, and upon hurrying forward he found that a boy had fallen from one of the projecting timbers into the water. He looked over the railing and saw the little fellow just coming to the surface of the foaming, boiling flood—a curly headed boy, just about the age of his own darling Freddy—stretching forth his tiny arms in on agony of despair. It was a terrible place, that seething, roaring pool, where the waters of the great river came pouring down from the high dam; but Jack did not hesitate. He forgot his enemy—forgot everything but the danger of the little one—

and only stopping to kick off his boots, and throw aside his coat, he leaped down into the angry flood. He caught the boy in his arms, and then struck out for the shore. It was a mighty conflict, but the strong man persevered. More than once those who had gathered upon the rocks had reason to fear that neither the man nor the child would come forth alive; but Jack held his own against the mad torrent, and finally reached the shore, where many hands were ready to help him. As for himself, a few minutes rest so far restored him that he was able to walk; and he had sustained no injury save a few trifling bruises. And as for the boy, he had come forth in safety, for Jack had held him high above the water during all the time of his struggle.

And when Jack Sprout had regained his breath, and was able to speak, he looked to see the boy that he had saved, and he saw that it was Andy Gordon, a bright-eyed, curly-haired, red-faced boy, not a year older than was his son Freddy.

"Where's papa?" asked the dripping child.
"He is coming," answered some one in the crowd.

Jack looked up and saw Solomon Gordon coming—Solomon, pale and terror-stricken—and with all possible haste he seized his coat and boots, and hurried away. He could not meet Solomon Gordon then.

"Mercy! What is it, Jack?"

Mrs. Sprout was alarmed. Her husband was dripping wet, his step was tottering, his breathing was labored, and there was a livid mark upon his forehead as though he had received a heavy blow.

"It is nothing, Abby."

"Has Solomon—"

"Pshaw! D'ye think Solomon Gordon could have done this! I have been in the river. A little boy had fallen from the bridge right into the flood beneath the falls. I jumped in and brought him out."

"Alive?"

"Yes, alive and unhurt."

"Oh thank God? Whose child was it, Jack?"

"Don't stop to ask questions now, Abby, but make me a cup of hot, strong tea, while I get on some dry clothes. My soul! I think I had a narrow dodge of it!"

Jack put on dry garments, and when he had rested awhile he drank his tea, and in the course of an hour all traces of exhaustion had passed away.

"I tell you, Abby, I have had a good many tough jobs in my day, but I never had one like that before. A weaker man than I could never have brought out that child alive."

"O, how grand it is, Jack, to use one's strength in such a cause. But whose child was it? Do you know?"

Before Jack could answer, the outer door was unceremoniously opened, and Solomon Gordon entered the apartment. Abby shrank back in alarm when she saw how pale and excited the man looked, and how he trembled, for she did not notice the moist, brimming light that shone in his swollen eyes.

"Jack!" spoke the new comer, in a gasping manner, at the same time holding out both of his hands. He choked and stammered, but presently gained strength to add, "O, my God, what can I say! Jack! Jack!" Here the stout man broke fairly down, and burst into tears.

Jack, almost as much affected as was his visitor, arose and took the extended hand.

"Never mind, Sol. It's all right."

"No, no," cried Gordon. "It isn't right. It never can be right. O, what can I do? Jack, if I could only go back to where I was this morning! My God! I beat your child for a trifling thing, and you have saved mine from a terrible death, saved him almost at the expense of your own life. Kill me, if you will. Beat me, Jack. Do anything you like, only forgive me, so that this saving act of yours shan't be always like a heap of coals upon my head!"

And then with a sudden impulse—under the influence of an emotion such as he had never before experienced, Jack Sprout said:

"Solomon, I tell you it's all right. You have no more reason to thank God that I saved your child than I have. When I went forth from my house, full of wrath and madness, curses were upon my lips and in my heart. I should have sought such revenge as the wild beast seeks. Is it not better that I found your little Andy in the flood? and is it not better that my great strength was used in saving his life? I forgive you, Sol, from the bottom of my heart. And now, I say, it's all right!"

And so was cemented a friendship holy and lasting.

Seemingly slight perturbations in the current of a man's life sometimes work marvelous changes for good or ill.

"Abby," said Jack Sprout—it was late in the evening, and they had been sitting for some time without speaking—"I believe I am converted. Saul of Tarsus, that you read to Fred-

dy about last Sunday, was not more suddenly brought to light than I have been. Really and truly, there is more virtue in kindness than in enmity. It blesses everything and everybody. He who bestows it, is as much blessed as he who receives it."

And then the wife, with her arm placed gently around her husband's neck, gently, kindly said:

"Dear Jack, wouldn't we both be happier if we would try to live by the blessed rules laid down by our Savior? Oh, I know that they were given by One who sought our highest good, and I think we should find joy in trying to square our lives by the golden rule."

And Jack with a kiss, made answer:

"My darling, we will try."

THE BENEFIT OF BEING KNOCKED ABOUT IN THE WORLD.

It is a good thing for a young man to be "knocked about in the world," though his soft-hearted parents may not think so. All youths, or if not all, certainly nineteen-twentieths of the sum total, enter life with a surplusage of self conceit. The sooner they are relieved of it the better. If, in measuring themselves with wiser and older men than themselves, they discover that it is unwarranted, and get rid of it gracefully, of their own accord, well and good; if not, it is desirable, for their own sakes, that it be knocked out of them. A boy who is sent to a large school soon finds his level. His will may have been paramount at home, but school boys are democratic in their ideas, and if arrogant, he is sure to be thrashed into recognition of the golden rule. The world is a great public school, and it soon teaches a new pupil his proper place. If he has the attributes that belong to a leader, he will be installed in the position of a leader; if not, whatever his own opinion of his abilities may be, he will be compelled to fall in with the rank and file. If not destined to greatness, the next best thing to which he can aspire is respectability; but no man can either be truly great or truly respectable who is vain, pompous and overbearing.

By the time the novice has found his legitimate social status, be the same high or low, the probability is that the disagreeable traits of his character will be softened down or worn away. Most likely the process of abrasion will be rough, perhaps very rough, but when it is all over, and he begins to see himself as others see him, and not as reflected in the mirror of self-conceit, he will be thankful that he has run the gauntlet, and arrived, though by a rough road, at self-knowledge. Upon the whole, whatever loving mothers may think to the contrary, it is a good thing for youths to be knocked about in the world; it makes men of them.

OVER-WORKED WOMEN.—An over-worked woman is always a sad sight—sadder, a great deal, than an over-worked man, because she is much more fertile in capacities of suffering than a man. She has so many varieties of headache—sometimes as if Jael were driving the nail that killed Sisera into her temples—sometimes letting her work with half her brain, while the other half throbs as if it would go to pieces—sometimes tightening around the brows as if her cap-band were Luke's iron crow— and then her neuralgias, and her back-aches, and her fits of depression, in which she thinks she is nothing, and those paroxysms which men speak lightly of as hysterical—convulsions, that is all, only not commonly fatal ones—so many trials which belong to her fine and mobile structure, that she is always entitled to pity, when she is placed in conditions which develop her nervous tendencies.—*Dr. O. W. Holmes.*

REMEDIES FOR CHILBLAINS.—Boil some turpentine, and mash them until reduced to a pulp; put them into a tub or large basin, and put the feet into them, almost as hot as can be borne, for a short time before going to bed. Persevere in doing this for a few nights, and the itching and irritation of the chilblains will be cured. Of course this must be before the chilblains are broken.

LOVE OF CHILDREN.—Tell me not of the trim, precisely arranged homes where there are no children: "where," as the good German has it, "the fly traps always hang straight on the wall;" tell me not of the never disturbed nights and days, of the tranquil unanxious hearts, where children are not! I care not for these things. God sends us children for another purpose than merely to keep up the race—to enlarge our hearts, to make us unselfish, and full of kindly sympathies and affections; to give our soul higher aims, and to call out all our faculties; to extend enterprise and exertion; to bring round our firesides bright faces and happy smiles, and loving, tender hearts. My soul blesses the Great Father every day, that he has gladdened the earth with little children.





Horticulture, &c.

Natural History.

Marriages.

Great American Tea Company.

REMARKS ON THE ORIGIN OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

HAIRY WOODPECKER—SAP-SUCKER.

In Woonsocket, March 7th, by Rev. D. M. Crane, Mr. PHILIP E. THAYER to Miss GEORGIANNA F. ARNOLD, both of Woonsocket; 9th inst., by Rev. Robert Murray, Mr. JAMES BENNETT to Miss SARAH GOUBAUD, both of Woonsocket.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption, and therefore organized THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, to do away, as far as possible, with these enormous drains upon the Consumers, and to supply them with these necessities at the smallest possible price.

[Written for the Farm and Fireside.]

THE following extract, I clipped from one of the daily publications of our city; and I insert it here as a matter of some interest, without becoming responsible for the facts, real or supposed, which it may contain, even if that interest should be nothing more than mere curiosity.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside: A SINGULAR freak of this familiar inhabitant of orchards and lawns, may be worthy of record.

The singularly foolish idea, often advanced, that he only attacks decaying trees, or those containing insects or grubs, and of his instinctive ability to detect their locality, should be exploded. The following facts bear upon this point. I have seen them alight upon the trunk of a tree, creep round, listen attentively, and search with eyes and bill without finding the grub beneath the bark. That the numerous holes made by them around apple and other trees is in search of insects, is simply preposterous. The wonder is that any one should have advanced it; especially after the careful observations of Nuttall.*

In Providence, THOMAS H. CARRIQUE to SUSAN S. LUTHER, both of Providence.

In Elmwood, 7th inst., Mr GEORGE B. INMAN, of Slaterville, to Miss ELLEN K. KENT, of Elmwood.

In Centerville, 6th inst., PERRY H. HYDE to JOSIE M. LITTLEFIELD, both of Sterling, Conn.

In Peacedale, 2d inst., Mr. JAMES F. HOLLAND, of Westbury, to Miss MARY T. STEADMAN of Peacedale.

In Central Falls, 7th ult., Mr. JOHN TOWNSEND, of Central Falls, to Mrs. ANN DEAN of Warwick; 12th ult., Mr. FREDERICK C. TAYLOR to PAMELLA C. CHACK, both of Central Falls; 28th ult., Mr. GEORGE BROOME to Miss SARAH C. PHILLIPS, both of Central Falls.

In Bellingham, Mass., by H. G. Grant, Esq., Mr. JOHN VAES MCCOMBS to SALLY A. ADAMS, both of North Bellingham.

In Webster, Mass., 2d inst. Mr. ALBERT REAN to Miss ELIZA BIRD SHELL.

Deaths.

In Providence, 7th instant, Mrs. RUTH H., wife of Rev. THOMAS WILLIAMS, aged 79 years. 8th instant, Dr. THOMAS SWEET, "the original bone setter," aged 35 years. 10th inst., JULIA BLANBING, daughter of Shubael and Lucy Ann Blanning, aged 28 years. 11th instant, SARAH A., wife of WILLIAM H. PECK, in the 37th year of her age. 12th instant, ISAAC TITMANS, Jr., aged 20 years and 9 months. 11th instant, Mr. CHARLES GREEN, aged 74 years. 12th instant, Mr. JOSEPH F. SMITH, aged 55 years, 4 months and 24 days.

In Worcester, Mass., March 1st, GEORGE H. son of WILLIAM C. P. and RUTH D. CLEMENCE, aged 18 years, and 20 days.

In Crompton, 3d instant, FLOA V. daughter of JERRY B. and LOUISE M. FOSTER, in the 5th year of her age.

In Milford, Mass., 7th instant, STEPHEN B. FORD, aged 78.

In Webster, Mass., March 4th, Mrs. ADELIN, wife of GEO. FREEMAN, aged 56 years.

In West Sutton, Mass., March 8th, WILLARD HALL, aged 63 years, 10 months, and 15 days.

In Milbury, Mass., March 6th, INEZ MARIA, only child of ALONZO and LIZZIE A. STOCKWELL, aged 11 months.

Smooth, vigorous trees are oftenest attacked. The soft parenchymatous substance beneath the bark is at certain seasons their principal food.

One of these birds took up its quarters in a deserted hornet's-nest in my orchard, and was so comfortably housed that it remained until Winter. Its depredations upon the tree were extensive. It had removed more than twenty superficial inches of bark, attention to which caused the discovery of its retreat. Had its migratory instinct been overcome by shelter and proximity to food? J. K. E.

*Nuttall's Ornithology, Land Birds, p. 689.

THE ROBIN.

MESSES. EDITORS:—I was astonished to see, in the Farm and Fireside, a word said against the robin. I am a friend to the birds, especially the robin, as they devour innumerable worms and insects. Probably one robin, in a single season, will eat fifty times its own weight of worms and insects, which are destructive to vegetation. I wish there were a thousand on my farm every season, and I would protect them, as far as I could, from all harm. I have told boys that I would rather give twenty-five cents, than have one killed on the farm, which has had a good effect in preserving the lives of these innocent creatures.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending March 15, 1867.]

FAIRM PRODUCTS, FEEL, &c.

Table listing various goods and their prices, including flour, corn meal, rye, saleratus, kerosene oil, cheese, butter, codfish, Java coffee, mackerel, raisins, molasses, Y. H. Tea, Black Tea, Oil, Fluid gal., Candles, Eggs, Lard, Sugar, Hams, Poultry, Shoulders, Sausages, Tripe, Pork, salt.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1408; Sheep and Lambs 4970. PRICES. Beef Cattle—Extra, \$13.50@14.00; first quality, \$12.75@13.25; second quality, \$11.50@12.50; third quality, \$10.00@11.00 per 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

NEW YORK WOOL MARKET.

The last number of the New York Ship List says: "There is more business and prices favor the buyer, though the market is still unsettled. On the high grades of domestic fleece rather better prices have been paid, while the low qualities are unchanged. Foreign is held above the views of buyers. The Secretary of the Treasury has decided that the provisions of the new tariff on wool does not effect goods in bond. The sales are 225,000 lbs domestic fleece at 49¢ per cent for low to choice State and Western including XX Virginia and Ohio at 67 1/2¢@69 1/2¢ and XXX at 70¢; 125,000 lbs super and extra pulled, 55¢@52 1/2¢; 25,000 lbs California, 50¢@52 1/2¢ for good washed, and 50¢ for line washed; 175,000 Texas, 20¢@35¢; 75,000 lbs Mexican, part 22¢@22 1/2¢; 650 bales Cape, part 32¢; 200 do Merino, 30¢@33¢; 100 do Santiago, 30¢; gold; 26 do black wool, 24¢.

Confessing my entire ignorance of the "pretty pea" called "parsley," there is a possibility that the origin of some of the fruits and vegetables named in the extract, may be as much matters of speculation as the grape is held to be by some of the horticultural savans of Europe.

At the last meeting of the "Central Imperial Horticultural Society," held in Paris, France, Doctor Thudicum, of St. Thomas's Hospital, London, made a very important and learned report on the fossil vines, and the wild grape vines of the valley of the Rhine, in Germany; which report, if true, is calculated to upset some of the theories of the origin of this fruit as heretofore existing. On this occasion he exhibited to the Society several specimens of vine leaves impressed upon coal, which had been taken from a coal-mine in Hesse Darmstadt. Other specimens from the same locality contained great numbers of fossil grape husks and seeds. The learned Doctor stated that these deposits were found lying underneath the bassalt; and what may appear most marvelous and startling, to at least one class of philosophers is, that they are estimated to be above one hundred millions of years old; and that these facts, and the peculiar character of the wild vines of the Rhine valley, completely contradicted the almost universal belief, that the vine had come originally from Asia. He gave it his opinion, and believed, that the vine was indigenous to all countries where it now prospered; and invited horticulturists to make experiments with the seeds of wild vines, particularly those of France, as they might obtain results important to horticulture. Whether of any interest or value to American horticulturists, is for them to decide.

Lancaster, Pa. S. S. R.

ORIGIN OF VEGETABLES.

Garlic came from Sicily. Beans blossomed first within sight of embryo mummies in the land of the Sphinx; and the egg plant first laid its glossy treasures under the African sun, and Southern Europe gave us the artichoke and the beet. To Persia we stand indebted for peaches, walnuts, mulberries, and a score of every day luxuries and necessities; to Arabia we owe the cultivation of spinage; and to Southern Europe we must bow in tearful gratitude for horseradish. At Siberia, the victims of modern intemperance may shade their grey locks forever—for, from that cold, unsocial land came rye, the father of that great fire-water river, which floated so many jolly souls on its treacherous tides, and engulfed so much of humanity's treasure. The chestnut, dear to squirrels and young America, first dropped its burs on Italian soil. Who ever dreams, while enjoying his "Bergamotte," his "Flemish Beauty," or his "Jargonelle," that the first pear blossoms opened within sight of the Pyramids? and what fair school girl of the pickle-eating tribe, dreams of, thanking the East Indies for cucumbers?

Parsley, that prettiest of all pretty peas, taking so naturally to our American soil that it seems quite to the manor born, is only a sojourner among us. Its native home is Sardinia, or, rather, there it first secured an acquaintanceship with civilized man. Onions, too, are only naturalized foreigners in America. I had hoped that in poetic justice, research would prove this pathetic bulb to have sprung from the land of Niobe, but no; Egypt stretches forth her withered hand and claims the onion as her own! Maize and potatoes, thank Heaven! can mock us with no foreign pedigree. They are ours to command, to have and to hold, from time's beginnings to its ending, though England and Ireland bluster over "corn" and "praties" till they are hoarse.

THE Taunton (Mass.) Gazette states that a breeding sow kept by Doct. A. Martin was slaughtered on the 23d ultimo, when twenty-one months old, which weighed, dressed, eight hundred and forty pounds. Two liters of pigs raised from this sow were sold for \$108.

RAISING CHICKENS BY HAND.—L. Hildreth, of Massachusetts, says he has successfully practiced for years raising chickens by hand, taking them from the nest as soon as hatched. "I shut up the hen two days, and she is then ready to commence laying again. I feed the young chickens at first with hard boiled eggs and crackers for two or three days, then with fine feed or shorts mixed to dough. After a week I mix a portion of pork scraps broken fine in the dough, and occasionally Indian meal. They have the run of my garden, containing less than a quarter of an acre, and keep my vines and hoed crops generally clean of insects and worms.

A BEAUTIFUL EXPERIMENT.—Fill a wide-mouthed glass jar with water, and cover it over with a piece of foundation, such as is used by ladies in their bonnets (or used to be when they wore them) and cover that with a layer of peas, pressing it down so that the peas will lay in the water. They will then swell and sprout, the roots growing down into the water, their fibres presenting a beautiful appearance. Set this in a window, and vines will grow up which can be conducted to the sill. The whole is very handsome.

A LADY was asked to join one of the divisions of the Daughters of Temperance. She replied, "This is unnecessary, as it is my intention to join one of the sons in the course of a few weeks."

Advertisements.

GREGORY'S SEED CATALOGUE, will be sent gratis to any address. It contains over one hundred and twenty varieties that grow myself, besides many kinds imported from England and France, and procured of the most reliable seedsmen in the United States. Farmers and Gardeners will find in my catalogue many

NEW AND RARE VEGETABLES,

some of which are not to be found on the list of any other seedsmen. I offer an opportunity for all to procure their

BEEF, CARROT, ONION, AND MANY OTHER VARIETIES OF SEED, DIRECTLY FROM THE GROWER.

As the original introducer of the Hubbard Squash, Marblehead Mammoth Cabbage, Boston Curled Lettuce, and many other new vegetables, I invite the patronage of the public.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marblehead, Mass. 3w plw 10

When you have added to these EIGHT profits as many brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay. And now we propose to show why we can sell so very much lower than small dealers.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, one cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the name upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more. The cost of transportation the members of the club can divide equitably among themselves.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars, we will, if desired, send the goods by Express, to "collect on delivery."

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$30.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommended to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show. All goods sold are warranted to give satisfaction.

PRICE LIST:

YOUNG HYSON (Green), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. GREEN TEAS, 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. MIXED, 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 per lb. JAPAN, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. OOLONG (Black), 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 per lb. IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1 25 per lb. ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best, \$1 25 per lb. GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1 25, best, \$1 50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them.

Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Chow Blacks and Moyune Greens. English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the finest imported.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,

NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., corner of CHURCH. Post-Office Box No. 5,643 New-York City. COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, best 40c per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c. per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866. To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York.

Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubted it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa.

MARTIN LUTHER.

Table listing tea orders and prices: 10 lb Young Hyson, in pound packages, \$12 50; 5 lb Young Hyson, Dallas Jackson, 12 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, Henry Herick, 2 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, George Murphy, 2 50; 1 lb Young Hyson, E. Dye, 1 25; 2 lb Young Hyson, Samuel Decker, 2 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, Samuel Amos, 2 50; 1 lb Young Hyson, Henry Wheatley, 1 25; 7 lb Young Hyson, Morgan Hayes, 8 75; 2 lb Young Hyson, Joba Natten, 2 50; 4 lb Young Hyson, Joba Combs, 5 00; 2 lb Young Hyson, John Allen, 2 50; 8 lb Young Hyson, Miss Stuart, 10 00; 2 lb Young Hyson, Miss Stuart, 2 00; 2 lb Young Hyson, O. Bayland, 2 50; 2 lb Oolong, best, O. Bayland, 2 00; 2 lb Young Hyson, J. Riehelm, 2 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, Mr. Guyton, 2 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, Edward Murphy, 2 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, Mrs. Murphy, 2 50; 2 lb Oolong, best, Henry Hull, 1 00; 2 lb Oolong, best, Separate package, 1 00; 5 lb Ground Coffee, Separate package, 25 00.

\$84 00

We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.—LARGE DOUBLE STORE.





The Farm.

PLAIN TALK WITH FARMERS. NUMBER TWO.

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

I HAVE NOT the slightest doubt, that there will be many farmers who may read my plain talk, and say: "Where does he expect we are to find the time to acquire all this knowledge he seems to think necessary for a farmer?" My answer to that is—I know no industrial pursuit that has more leisure time on its hands in which to acquire knowledge, than that of the farmer. Nature requires of him steady and uninterrupted labor only a portion of the year—the rest of it, with only very few exceptions, is his; and, certainly, there are many hours during the long winter evenings, that he might devote to the acquisition of useful knowledge relating to his pursuit. A very fair understanding of the principles upon which Geology, animal and vegetable Physiology, together with Agricultural Chemistry rest, might be acquired in those leisure moments, so as to be of incalculable value in the future. Take the science of Geology, and of what incalculable value have its discoveries been to the agriculturist; throwing great light on the diversity of soils, the cause of their diversity, and the kind of materials by the admixture of which their strength can be improved. Geology will inform him that the entire surface of the globe on which he lives is composed of rock overlaid with a coating of thin material, which is the soil that he tills.—He will further learn that the character of this rock differs in various districts. In some it is sandstone; in others, limestone; in others, slate, or hardened rock of clay. Thus he is furnished with a guide by which to obtain a perfect insight into the character of the soil he tills—for, as a general rule, the soil bears an intimate resemblance to the rocks beneath it; as the loose earth above is mostly derived from the crumbling of the rocks below. Geology further instructs him in this truth, that there is a natural order or mode of arrangement, in which the stratified rocks are observed to rule in the earth's crust. The stratified rocks are those which lie over each other, in separate beds, like leaves. Thus you will find a stratum of limestone, of sand stone and of slate, lying over each other; and you will learn that in whatever part of the country, nay, in whatever part of the world these same rocks are met with, they will always be found in the same relative position.

How much does the Agricultural world owe to Geology in the discovery of that abundant fertilizer, marl? But independent of the practical results to be attained by a knowledge of Geology, to the farmer, there is much, leaving out its technicalities, to interest and absorb his attention. He is astonished when he discovers by its revelations, that the globe which he occupies was the seat of animal and vegetable life through a countless series of years, before man made his appearance upon the surface—that successive races flourished and decayed long before man's creation. And he finds confirmation for all this in the myriad forms of once animated existences, whose remains have been disinterred from their graves in the gypsum quarries, marl beds, and the chalk which enters so exclusively into the formation of the vast masses of mountain limestone.—The earth is, in truth, a charnel house, full of bones, sinews, shells, leaves and prostrate trunks—all remains of animal or vegetable existences that once, ages ago, flourished upon its surface. So that our planet, so preyed upon, rent and shattered by various agencies, has been steadily advancing through countless ages to its present improved estate; developing a plan, the result of forethought and design, grand in its outlines, beautiful in its execution and benign in its results. Reaching far back into the past, it anticipated the wants of ages yet to come, by which the globe has been, step by step, built up as an appropriate home for moral and intellectual beings. While our earth was yet unfit for man's habitation, it was occupied by animals, whose natures were adapted to its condition; and, with a gigantic

vegetation; subsequently submerged; then entombed, and by chemical processes gradually converted into beds of coal, now so useful, while formations of rock-salt, marble, limestone, gypsum and marl were going on, to minister to the comfort, pleasure and prosperity of the coming races of men; furnishing materials for their dwellings, manure for their fields, ornaments for their homes, and savor for their food. The design in the formation of the immense coal beds is one of those instances of the Divine wisdom which may well cause us to wonder and adore. It is no slight proof of the patience and majesty of the procession of the Divine will, that it is only lately that man has been able to understand the object of this great contrivance. Those huge cone-bearing trees; those rich and varied mosses; that flowerless and fruitless vegetation so luxuriant and so immense, for what were they meant?—And, then, those layers of black stone, cropping out from the hill side, what object have they? But, now, the answer comes in the hum of myriads of steam engines, with a power equal to that of millions of men. How sublime the thought that here suggests itself of man's importance, and of a creator's love, when the truth springs forth from such revelations, that all this creative energy and intelligence were exerted to prepare a fit habitation for the "coming man." The flint of your mountains; the red clay of your sea-shores; the marl that fertilizes your fields and makes them wave with a golden harvest, the rich abounding treasures of your coal-fields are but evidences of a Divine forecast, that has thus deposited the remains of animal and vegetable life; which, by gradual transformation, through decomposition, were to minister for all time to the wants of the coming ruler, who was to have "dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth, and over every thing that creepeth on the face of the earth."

Such are the interesting developments that open to the mind of the studious inquirer, the wondrous truths of Geology. Surely such information as this is worth more than that obtained from the "New York Ledger" and kindred sheets that I observe so often in farmers' dwellings. These sensational journals have done more to corrupt the literary taste of the present generation, and spoiled the appetite for more solid and substantial food, than their editors could undo, if they were to live to the age of the patriarchs.

In my next "talk" I will endeavor to point out the advantages to be derived from the study of Vegetable Physiology.

March, 1867.

RAISE SHEEP—EAT MUTTON.

Good mutton, well fattened 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 Cotswold sheep, at least,—Cotswold 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 by the first of July. Their fleeces average from 8 to 14 pounds, with from 16 to 25 per cent. shrink only. Their wool is new, and will be, in the future, worth 30 per cent. more than Merino, which shrinks from 45 to 60 per cent., according to the family and treatment of the flock. Long wool makes strong, excellent and durable 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.

We have now a plenty of sheep in the coun-

try—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 probably gain 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.

RADISHES IN WINTER.—Galigani's Messenger says that radishes may be grown in a very few days in the following manner: Let some good radish seed soak in water 24 hours, then put them in a bag and expose to the sun. In the course of the day germination will commence. The seed must be sown in a well manured hot-bed, and watered from time to time with luke-warm water. By this treatment the radishes will in a very short time acquire a sufficient bulk to be good to eat. If it be required to get good radishes in winter, during the severe cold, an old cask should be sawn into and one half of it be filled with good earth. The radish seed, beginning to sprout as before, must be sown in this half, and the other half be put upon it, and the whole carried into the cellar. Use lukewarm water as before. In the course of five or six days the radishes will be fit to eat.

THE hens of all kinds of gallinaceous fowls sit 21 days; ducks of the usual kind, such as Alesbury, Rouen and others, 28 days; geese 30 to 35 days; Guinea fowls, 28 to 30 days; pea-hens, 28 to 30 days.

Advertising Department.

New Jersey.

STRAWBERRY, RASPBERRY, AND BLACKBERRY PLANTS. Of the best and most reliable varieties, grown with special care as to purity and strength. No plants sent out but what will give satisfaction, and at as low rates as any. Prices to suit the wholesale—prices to suit the retail; and \$16 worth sent for \$10, to suit those who wish family lists. Catalogues free.—Send for one. THOS. C. ANDREWS, Moorestown, N. J. 2w-p4we-9

March 9, 1867.

Rhode Island.

MILL RIVER IRON WORKS

W. A. HENNESSEY, PROPRIETOR. Manufacturer of FLUE and TUBULAR STEAM BOILERS, OIL and WATER TANKS, WATER PIPE and PLATE IRON WORK of every description. Boilers repaired in a thorough manner at short notice. SHOP AT NORTH END, NEAR HARRIS'S NEW MILL. Refers by permission to RICE, BAETON & Co., Machinists and Boiler Makers, Worcester, Mass. BELLOWS & WHITCOMB, Engineers, Worcester, Mass. C. W. KIMBALL, Esq., late Master Mechanic U. S. Army, Springfield, Mass. HON. E. HARRIS, Woonsocket.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I. Feb. 23, 1867.

FARMER WANTED.—A faithful and skillful farmer is wanted to take charge of a farm. His wife to understand making butter and the care of poultry. Address Box No. 3, Providence Post Office. 3w6. February 16, 1867.

BARRETT'S EXTRA EARLY CABBAGE.—The best and largest in the market. Price, 25 cents a paper. Raised and sold by W. E. BARRETT & CO. Providence, Feb. 23, 1867. 4f-7

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.

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

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HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

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W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Shares' Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potato Diggers, Lufkin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

WHITE FRENCH TURNIP, of the purest kind, raised and sold in small or large lots, by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Massachusetts.

COLLINS, BLISS & CO., PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS. OASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS. 233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston. New England Agents for the

NON PARIEL FRENCH GUANO. It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil. PRICE \$60 PER TON. Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 3m-we-9

SOUTH DOWN CO.'S PATENT Sheep Wash Tobacco THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT, should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions. It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines. For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers. Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores. JAMES F. LEVIN, 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts. For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & CO., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1867. 4m-we-9

RARE AND BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS, SELECT VEGETABLES. B. K. BLISS, Importer and Dealer in Garden, Field and Flower Seeds.

Would invite attention to his large and well selected assortment of the above, comprising the newest and most approved varieties, both of European and Home Productions, the quality of which cannot be surpassed. For a list of which, see his ILLUSTRATED SEED CATALOGUE AND GUIDE TO THE FLOWER AND KITCHEN GARDEN.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL EDITION, enlarged and improved, contains 124 pages of closely printed matter, BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED with 100 engravings, also a splendid frontispiece of a group of recent novelties—and a descriptive list of TWO THOUSAND VARIETIES OF GARDEN AND FLOWER SEEDS, embracing all the NEW VARIETIES worthy of cultivation introduced the past season—with explicit directions for their culture—also a list of ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE VARIETIES OF FRENCH HYBRID GLADIOLUS, including the leading novelties of the past season, with many other SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS—consisting of AMARYLLIS, TUBEROSES, TIGRIDIAS—LILIES in great variety, etc. To which is added a list of the choicest varieties of GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, RASPBERRIES, and other SMALL FRUITS, BEDDING PLANTS, etc., etc., cultivated at his gardens, with much other useful information upon the subject of gardening generally, which will be found useful to all engaged in the delightful occupation of gardening. A copy of the Catalogue will be mailed to all applicants enclosing TWENTY-FIVE CENTS. Our regular customers supplied without charge. Address B. K. BLISS, Drawer No. 11, P. O., Springfield, Mass. February 23, 1867. 4w-cc-7

STRIPED LEAVED JAPANESE MAIZE. The experience of the past season fully confirms all that we stated in reference to this beautiful plant, when introducing it to the public last spring; and we are in receipt of many flattering letters from the leading Florists in Europe, all of whom agree that it is the finest plant for decorative purposes that has been introduced for many years. Certificates of Merit and numerous Prizes have been awarded to Exhibitors at the various English and Continental exhibitions, not the least of which was that of the "Royal Horticultural Society's International Show," all grown from seed furnished by us last spring to our European correspondents. "Cosmos," Agricultural Editor of the Saturday Evening Post, writes us that it is superior to any other for table use, as green corn. Packets containing about 40 seeds, 25 cents. Prices to the Trade, in bulk or in packets, will be given upon application. B. K. BLISS, Springfield, Mass. February 23, 1867. 4t-cc-7

Pennsylvania.

MENDENHALL'S IMPROVED SELF-ACTING HAND LOOM. In these days of SHODDY, and high priced goods, every family in the country should have one.

HALF THE COST of clothing a family can be saved by its use. It is simple and durable, easily understood, and easy to operate. No skill is required to weave with it beyond the simple turning of an easy crank. FROM 15 TO 25 YARDS CAN BE WOVEN ON IT IN A DAY. FARMERS!

don't sell your wool and buy SHODDY, when with one of these Looms in your house the GIRLS can make all the clothing for the family, and much better quality, at half price. By late improvements, RAG CARPETS can be woven with the FLY SHUTTLE. For circulars, price list, and samples of cloth woven on the Loom, address with stamp, A. B. GATES & CO., 333 Chestnut St., Philadelphia. Also, Dealers in Cotton Warp, Wool and Flax Filling Yarns, Reeds, Harness and Loom Findings generally. March 2, 1867. p4w-4f

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



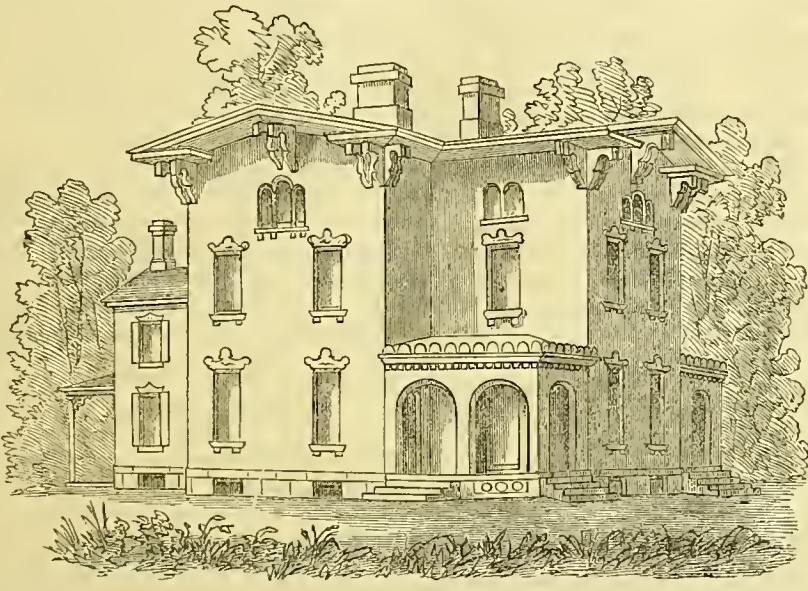
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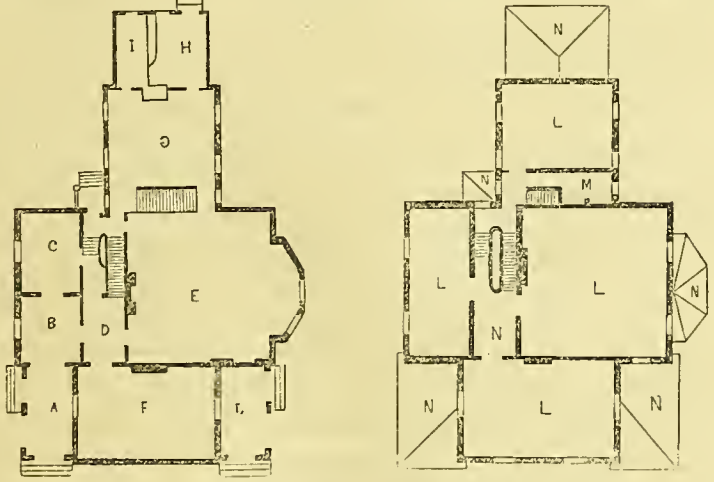
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VOL. 1. WOODSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1867. NO. 11.



COTTAGE IN THE ITALIAN STYLE.



<p>FIRST STORY.</p> <p>A—Porch. B—Vestibule. C—Office. D—Stair Hall.</p>	<p>SECOND STORY.</p> <p>L—Chambers. M—Bath Room. N—Stair Landing.</p>	<p>GROUND PLAN.</p> <p>E—Dining Room. F—Parlor. G—Kitchen. H—Scullery.</p> <p>I—Pantry. J—Porch. N—Roofs.</p>
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COUNTRY HOMES.

It is a common, and a very pernicious error, to suppose that beauty in architecture consists, mainly, if not wholly, in something that is extraneous and superadded. There are those who never think of looking for this quality in mere form in symmetrical proportions or fitness of things. In building, they settle first what they regard as the practical points of shape, size, &c., and then proceed to put on the beauty. The natural result is an excess of ill-selected and ill-placed ornaments. Others, seeing little value in mere decorations, and unconscious of the union which may and ought to subsist between utility and beauty, forego all considerations of taste, and rest satisfied with unadorned ugliness. Of the two we rather prefer the latter.

We shall not be understood as rejecting ornaments. Used under the promptings and guidance of refined and severe taste, it must always add largely to pleasing effect. But let it take and keep its own place. It is at best but a secondary consideration. Not so with

beauty of form, of proportions, and of fitness. This is always attainable, always pleasing, and may add its grace to the simplest cottage, no less than to the proudest palace. A home in which these qualities are conspicuous, can hardly fail to be regarded by its inmates with constantly increasing pleasure and affection; and this is the highest motive for their adoption that can be urged. Nor is the gratification which such structures afford to others to be left out of the account. When a house is to be one of many, as in a village, there is an added obligation to make it comfortable and agreeable. On the ground, too, of profit, it is certain that beauty has the advantage of deformity. Money spent, not in useless parts, idle splendor, meretricious decorations, but in imparting to a house those solid and useful charms to which we have alluded, will seldom fail to augment its market value; and this is a consideration that almost every one appreciates. To make home comfortable should be our constant endeavor. It is there that our heart's most sacred treasures are centered—there that we seek relief from the cares of business.

PLAIN TALK WITH FARMERS. NO. 3.

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

If a general knowledge of Geology is useful to the farmer, still more directly useful is a knowledge of vegetable Physiology.

His whole business is with plants and animals. How important, then, that he should fully understand the laws of their being, the materials that compose them, and the food upon which they best thrive. Let me glance at only a few of the very curious things that a study of vegetable physiology discloses. Let me turn to the vast series of phenomena, exhibiting the intimate connection between the mineral, animal, and vegetable worlds—their mutual relations in the great cycle of changes, the interruption of which would reduce the face of the globe to the condition it was in before man appeared upon the surface. Take into consideration the chief functions of plants and animals, the sources of their good, and the character of their assimilations and excretions. Thrust any plant into the fire, and observe first the crackling and spitting indicating the dissipation of the water filling its pores and sap vessels. Notice then, that it takes fire and burns until nothing is left but a diminutive heap of ashes. Now let the chemist analyze for you these ashes, and they will be found to consist of the mineral substances, which the plant has during its growth abstracted from the earth, and which though minute as compared with the original bulk of the plant, constitute a large amount in the aggregate of a thick and sereed crop. Thus a crop of potatoes abstracts from the soil about two hundred pounds of mineral matter per acre, while a crop of the beet roots, it is said, withdraws about five hundred pounds; and of turnips, still more. Now this large amount of mineral material is derived from the soil of which it has become a constituent part, by that long process of the wearing away of the rocks beneath, or that has been washed down from the mountains into the valleys.

The organic constituents of the plant burnt away by the fire, consist chiefly of carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen—the substance of the ash made by burning was inorganic, or that which constituted the food of the plant, necessary for its vitality. Now whence does the plant derive these? A moment's consideration will explain. Our atmosphere, it has been discovered, consists of a definite mixture of oxygen and nitrogen; in addition, there are present, as unfailing constituents, ammonia in minute quantities and carbonic acid, that gas which gives effervescence to our sparkling wines, but when breathed is so deadly a poison to animal life. Under the benignant influence of the sun's rays, however, this gas is highly favorable to vegetation; and it is from the amount in the atmosphere, that the vast mass of vegetation derives almost entirely its supply of carbon; therefore you will perceive that plants perform a most important function in the animal economy, by removing a deleterious element in the atmosphere, that might otherwise prove injurious to man. According to

Lichig, the atmosphere contains 3085 billion of pounds of carbon, a quantity amounting to more than the weight of all the plants, and all the strata of mineral and brown coal existing on the earth. You will see, as you proceed with your investigations, how close the analogy is between man and the vegetable. There is a circulation of fluids in vegetables, answering to the circulation of blood in the man. There is nutrition and absorption, as there is in the human frame; and as textures and secretions are formed out of the blood of man, so are they formed out of the sap in vegetables.—Man lives by food, so do vegetables; man respire, so does the whole vegetable kingdom. There is vital heat in both. Man requires repose and quiet sleep; the sleep of plants occurs once in twenty-four hours. When darkness comes on, the flowers close, the leaf stalks bend either up or down, so that the flattened surface of the leaf is either elevated or depressed, and the leaves fold themselves together. Some plants, too, like men, are nocturnal in their habits, awake in the night and asleep in the day. And then there is another form of sleep, in which plants resemble a species of the lower animals, that is, sleeping in the winter time. With us, in our climate, almost all plants at the end of autumn become quite torpid until spring.

The distinction, too, of sexes amongst the plants, has been definitely established. The plant, or one part of a plant, is female, and the other male; and there are male and female organs of reproduction. The female organs have the power of forming within them a little substance called the germ. The male organs have the power of forming within them a substance which, when applied to this germ, impregnates or fertilizes it. The result of the impregnation is, that this germ is converted into a seed. This seed is a vegetable in miniature, and if placed in the ground, put into such condition where it can have perfect health, and be supplied with appropriate food, it will become a perfect plant. These organs of reproduction in a plant are always situate in the flower. Sometimes, as in the willows, one tree has male flowers, and male flowers only. In other cases, as in the vegetable marrows, each plant has both male and female flowers. But in the generality of plants, both male and female organs are contained in the same flower. This, for instance, is the case with the common buttercup of your fields. If you examine one of these familiar flowers, you can easily recognize within the five bright yellow leaflike parts, two distinct sets of bodies or organs. Around the center, but not in it, are a number of long stalks with yellow heads; these organs are called stamens, the stalk's filaments, and the head's anthers. These stamens, are the male organs of reproduction in the buttercup. In the inside of the yellow heads or anthers, if you examine closely, you will find a number of minute yellow bodies secreted. They form a fine dust called pollen; this pollen is the fertilizing substance of the male. When the anther is fully ripe it bursts, and the pollen is scattered abroad. Almost buried within the stamens and quite in the center of the flower, with the aid of an ordinary magnifying-glass,



The Western wheat prospect is very encouraging. A very large breadth of ground was sown last Autumn, and, notwithstanding the unfavorable circumstances of early frosts, it stood well and showed firm rooting. The abundance of snow during the present winter, also, is an element of satisfaction in the matter, and unless the warmer seasons of Spring and Summer should develop unforeseen evils, we may reasonably expect to have an excellent crop the present year. Such a result will give great pleasure to the consumers of flour, who are becoming weary of paying two or three times the former price for a barrel of flour.



W. & J. Seeley for myf. woman, m. m. m. m. m.



you can perceive a number of green grains. These are carpels, or to speak more plainly, ovariums or seed vessels. These become impregnated by the pollen, and thus a seed is formed capable of producing its kind. But before the germ is separated from its parent flower, a quantity of matter intended for its future food is stored round it; starch and gluten and albumen all encompass it. Then, when a sufficient amount has been collected, stored up, and the seed rendered perfect, the parent flower dies, the carpel splits, and the seeds are free.

The way in which these seeds are scattered is very curious. Many seeds are furnished with wing-like expansions on each side, which, catching the wind, are wafted to places far distant from that which their parent occupied. Others, as those of the dandelion, are provided with very downy appendages, which the slightest breeze blows from place to place. Other seeds are swallowed by birds, and pass unacted upon, through their digestive organs.—Others again, fall into running streams, and are so conveyed to great distances; and even the sea is engaged in carrying to any near coral reef an ample supply of vegetation. So that calm race, the flowers, all loveliness and tranquility, whose life is beauty, and whose breath is perfume, play no idle part in Nature's work-shop; for to them is in reality committed the task of perpetuating not only vegetable but animal life. Upon their active industry depends the life of every bird that soars in air, of the cattle on a thousand hills, of every insect that crawls in the dust, and of the life of man himself. As England's laureate poet well asks:

"Who is it that could live an hour,
If Nature put not forth her power
About the opening of a flower?"

March, 1867.

Horticulture.

OPEN AIR GRAPE CULTURE—NO FAILURE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY R. ROBINSON SCOTT, PHILADELPHIA.

I ESTIMATE the cultivation of the indigenous grape as one of the most important and interesting topics which your journal proposes to elucidate. I was recently struck with the report of a discussion purporting to be held before the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, in a western New York paper, generally careful in the authenticity of its articles. The report was to the effect that Grape Culture, in this region, in the open air (or vineyard culture) was quite an uncertain undertaking, and in some cases a complete failure. One case in point was quoted. The parties who gave this as their conviction, were not those whom we might designate as uninformed or casual observers. They were, on the contrary, those who claim to be informed specially as to fruit culture in their section.

Now, in view of the extensive interests involved, the large outlay incurred for years past by hopeful and confident amateurs, and the general desire on the part of farmers, and even citizens with city yards or rural lots, to plant grapes, in larger or smaller numbers, we could not pass this decision calmly by, as the settled judgment of even the majority of intelligent cultivators in Eastern Pennsylvania.

I had promised to furnish hints for your paper on such topics, and thought this was one eminently calculated to awaken interest and promote increase of knowledge. Hence, the subject of Grape Culture, as a remunerative business, and its difficulties, was not entered upon in any dogmatic spirit, nor with any preconceived theories or hobbies by which the general subject was to be measured; nor yet with the idea that I possessed any more than my share of knowledge of the subject; but with the single hope that by calm, deliberate inquiry truth might be developed.

But the pursuit of such knowledge is not without its difficulties; first, the printer, or some one else, destroyed the text of my discourse, by dropping an innocent *negative*, and so befogged the critic, and mortified the writer. As I had designed to follow up the topic, I made no formal correction of the error. It becomes me, however, for my own sake, to

make my position clear, and to state definitely that I am not one of those who believe that "Out-door Grape Culture" is a failure, even in this region of our common country; though, from the evidence before me, I cannot deny that the profits are to a certain extent uncertain.

Having stated my deliberate conviction, it is not my desire to occupy one more line of your valuable space. I must, however, add that I have never refused attention to the importance of "atmospheric moisture," as an essential agent in luxuriant growth. I refuse, however, to admit that it is everything, or even more than any of the many essentials to health and luxuriance in the grape. Atmospheric humidity, depending on a just balance between heat and cold, or the absence or presence, in excess, of disturbing currents, has been regarded by me for years as a clue to many vegetable diseases caused by parasitic *fungi*, and diseases of the epidermis and plant tissues; but as our practical men say, of what benefit to us is this theory? How do you propose that we shall remedy these effects, the causes of which are beyond our control? Then the Scientific man has the worst of the argument, and he labors and waits.

Again, I do not believe that the European systems, so deeply grounded in the vine cultivators of our large wine districts, are the causes of the moderate success that has been attained. I believe, on the contrary, that the more closely we approach the "close pruning" system of Europe, the farther we are from success; and that we have only partially succeeded, because necessity has taught the importance of the modification of that practice. And again, even the famous Kelly Island region, so well adapted by its climatic peculiarities, is not without discouragements, if I may credit what I read. But enough of this; I have stated, and I again state, that we may yet hope to see the culture of the indigenous varieties of the grape a success, if the true causes and principles are carefully studied and digested, and the practice based upon them is duly carried out. If we must only plant the vine in favored localities, with steady atmospheric humidity, such as the lake districts, then, indeed, as far as the masses of our people are concerned, the culture is a failure. But we have no such gloomy forebodings; as in the past, so in the future. The grape, carefully planted and skillfully managed on the trellis of the cottager, and in the vineyard of the vigneron, will yield its refreshing fruit by laps-full; at times reduced by an onward atmospheric influence beyond man's control. To secure this end, however, nature must not be too far thwarted—our forests must not be all laid prostrate, nor must greedy man lay too much of a burden on the camel's back.

March, 1867.

THE PRESERVATION OF FRUIT TREES.—The Farmers' Club of the American Institute, of New York, recently held a meeting, at which a discussion took place on the best method of destroying curculio on fruit trees. One of the members stated that if a hole was bored in the body of a tree and filled with sulphur, it would so infect the tree that no insect or worm would live upon it. Upon some doubt being expressed as to its efficacy, he said that he had tried the remedy and spoke from experience. The chairman remarked that, if this be a sure preventive, it was worth millions to the country, and we need never lack a supply of fruit in the future.

FRUIT TREES.—A correspondent of the Scientific American says that fruit trees should be allowed to shoot out their branches near the ground, protecting the trunk and the soil from changes of temperature and the loss of moisture. He thinks it never was intended that fruit should grow out of reach. It is stated that fruit trees, especially apple trees, bear better when the top branches are cut away and the limbs are permitted to grow lower down on the trunk.

In planting trees, vines, or anything else, never expose the roots to the air. Sun-light is almost fatal, even when they are moist. A thin covering is a great help.

PRUNING WHEN TRANSPLANTING.

We consider it important to shorten back all fruit trees, shrubs and vines, when transplanting. It lessens, by reducing the number of buds, the demand for supply on the roots as soon as that laid up in the bud is exhausted, and it gives increased vitality and vigor to the remaining buds, by giving to them the supply that would have been devoted to those removed, had they been left to remain. There is, however, room for study in the practice of heading-in, because of the vigor of growth and power of producing strong, new shoots being much greater in some sorts than others. The peach, for instance, may be cut back to within two feet of the crown, leaving not a limb or twig, and yet the tree in the ensuing fall will be found, under good cultivation, to have made four or five strong shoots, each as many feet long, and with abundant lateral branches. Pursue the same course with the apple, and nine times out of ten the result will be only a few feeble shoots of four to six inches, with a dead tree the following spring. The pear, when worked on the quince, will bear much more severe pruning back than when on the pear stock; and further, some varieties will endure more severe pruning than others. The grape, when cut back two or three buds, grows vigorously; but if left unpruned, it struggles a year or two, produces a few imperfect bunches, and is dead. These are some of the many variations that an observing horticulturist will notice on short practice, and which will soon cause him to feel confidence in transplanting trees at any age, provided he be allowed to prune them back according to their age and habits.—*Horticulturist*.

TO RAISE PANSIES FROM SLIPS.—The soil should be rotted cow manure, and leaf mold: a little sand, if the compost is a little stiff.—When the bed is prepared, it should be watered through a fine hose. The cuttings should be taken from short-jointed, unbloomed shoots, from the center or sides of the plants. Cut close under a joint, and do not use old shoots. Take off the lower leaves. Insert the cuttings in the soil, and press the earth firmly around them, water, shade from the sun, and when they begin to grow, pinch off the tops of the shoots to encourage their making strong and bushy plants. Spring is the best time for propagating.

Fireside Miscellany.

ORIGIN OF THE HUMAN RACE.

A LEARNED German professor, meeting with a parson of the church, remarked that "the Christian teaching as to the divine origin of the human family might do very well for old women and children; but that men of learning know that the human family is merely a development of an inferior animal." "What was that animal?" inquired the parson. "It is perfectly evident," said the professor, "that the origin of the human family is an inferior animal, because the present generation possesses many advantages unknown to our ancestors, such as the use of electricity, of magnetism, the power of steam, &c. If we go back, consequently, a dozen or twenty generations, we must come to a mere animal as the origin of the present race of man." "I am surprised," said the parson, "upon being asked a question, instead of answering it directly, that you only inflate your original proposition. Tell me directly," said he, with more than his wonted animation, "what animal do you maintain to be the primal origin of the human family?" The gaunt and learned professor, evidently taken aback and confused, said, with great hesitation, "The primal origin? Why, sir, the primal origin of the human family is the—is the—yes, sir—is the monkey." "Now, I admit," said the clergyman, with a profound howl, "that you are a perfectly competent judge as to your own paternity, but I deny that you are any judge whatever of mine." The laughter on the part of the by-standers, at the expense of the professor, was so uproarious that the gravity of the parson required him to beat a hasty retreat.

THE SUNNY SIDE.

We advise everybody to live on the sunny side of their houses. The room in which the family spends most of its time should be on the side on which the sun can find its way into it. Let the parlor, if it be seldom used, be on the shady side. We observe that there is not a cottager so ignorant that she will not set her plants, if she has taste enough to grow them, in the east window in the morning, and at noon carry them to a south window, and in the afternoon put them in the west window. But perhaps she is careful to keep her children in the shade, and her precious self, so far as possible, out of the rays of the sun. The plants, in obedience to natural law, are kept healthy, while the children and mother, being kept in the shade, suffer in consequence.

Light is beginning to be considered a great curative agent. The chief advantage in going to the country is to get into the sunshine, and to be in the pure breezes. If we desire merely to keep cool, we should stay in the shady city. People talk of "hot walls" and "burning pavements;" it is much hotter in the country, for the breezes that play there in midday only bring heated air in from out doors. But in the city the breeze brings air in from the shady side of the street, and the lower rooms of a city house are much cooler in midday than the exposed houses of the country.

Parents can do nothing better for their puny, sick boys than to put them on a farm for two or three summers, and let the sun bathe them the livelong day. They will, by such a life, grow rapidly, and become tough, brawny and broad. We have seen this tried to the highest advantage in more than one instance under our advice.

NEVER GIVE UP.

MANY a premature death has occurred in consequence of giving up. The sick person becomes discouraged, thinks he is going to die, and dies. Friends think they have done all they could, death is inevitable, and let disease take its course. There can be no doubt but that in many such cases hope still cherished, and the persevering use of means, might have saved useful life.

So also in the struggles of active life. The first speech of Disraeli in the House of Commons, was a complete failure, his speech it is said being stifled in the derisive laughter of the House. He thus closed: "I shall sit down now, but the time will come when you will hear me." Numbers have sunk into insignificance under a less rebuff. Disraeli was made of sterner stuff. Though it took him seven years to recover from his disaster, he redeemed his promise, and on becoming chancellor of the exchequer, "clad in the same garments he had worn at the time of his renowned failure, delivered to a closely crowded assemblage the most brilliant and the ablest budget speech that had been heard there since the days of William Pitt."

Every one should feel that he is immortal till his work is done. "Try again," is as good for the adult as for the child. If convinced that our cause is wrong, the sooner it is renounced the better. Cease to do evil; but when contending for the right, admit no defeat as final. We learn sometimes more from a failure than a success, and turn it to better account. Such should ever be our aim. Use all honorable means, rely on the ultimate triumph of right, persevere in the effort to deserve success, and failure will never be inscribed on your life work. The irresolute and half-hearted have no good to expect, for that would only be a premium on imbecility.

MANY persons, especially ladies, are ignorant of the proper place in which to drive a nail in a wall when desiring to hang a picture, &c. Examine the wainscoting around the bottom of the wall, and when you find the head of the nail that has secured it to the wall, immediately over it, from the bottom upwards, will be the only place wherein to find a firm footing for the nail.

THEY are going to make a Governor out of a farmer in California. His name is John Bidwell.

THE SEASON IN PARIS.—A Paris letter says: "The forward state of everything in the vegetable kingdom is most remarkable this year. Everywhere, under the influence of a really spring temperature, plants are springing up, fruit and other trees are putting forth their buds, and the meadows already wear a verdant aspect. In the gardens of Paris and the environs, peaches and apricots are in flower; the weeping willows and other trees which adorn the vicinity of the Pont Neuf and the banks of the Seine, adjacent to the capital, are very forward; and lilacs, if the present mild weather continues, will shortly be in full bloom. Even the chestnut trees which have been transplanted to the park of the Universal Exhibition, exhibit the same degree of precocity."





The Fireside Muse.

THE FARMER'S FIRESIDE.

Around the fire, one wintry night,
The farmer's rosy children sat;
The fagot leat its blazing light,
And mirth went round, and harmless chat.

When, hark! a gentle hand they hear
Low tapping at the bolted door,
And thus, to gain their willing ear,
A feeble voice was heard implore:

"Cold blows the blast across the moor,
The sleet drives hissing in the wind;
Yon tollsome mountain lies before,
A dreary, treeless waste behind."

"My eyes are weak and dim with age;
No road, no path, can I descry;
And these poor rags ill stand the rage
Of such a keen, inclement sky."

"So faint I am, these tottering feet
No more my palsied frame can bear;
My freezing heart forgets to beat,
And driftlag saows my tomb prepare."

"Open your hospitable door,
And shield me from the biting blasts;
Cold, cold it blows across the moor,
The weary moor that I have passed."

With hasty steps the farmer ran,
And close beside the fire they place
The poor, half-frozen beggar man,
With shaking limbs, and pale blue face.

The little children flocking came,
And chafed his frozen limbs in theirs;
As busily the good old dame
A comfortable mess prepares.

Their kindness cheered his drooping soul,
And slowly down his wrinkled cheek
The big round tear was seen to roll,
And told the thanks he could not speak.

The children then began to sigh,
And all their merry chat was o'er;
And yet they felt, they knew not why,
More glad than they had felt before.

The Dairy.

HOW TO MAKE BUTTER.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

BY CRAIG BIDDLE, ESQ., PHILADELPHIA.

A cow, considered in reference to this question, is a machine for the manufacture of cream; milk and fat are mere refuse productions, incidental to the operation. To have good cream, we must have a good machine, and must feed it with a material capable of being converted into the article we desire. The same machine which makes "shoddy," turns out the finest broadcloth; the difference of result is produced by the different materials, with which the machine is supplied. It is precisely thus with a cow; you may have the best breed in the world, but if you feed with "shoddy," you can only expect "shoddy" to be produced. No milkman who has any character to support, ever resorts to the gross expedient of watering his milk; he waters his cow, and precisely the same result is produced. A cow fed on swill exclusively, will give a product quite as thin and blue as can be desired, and the labor of pumping is saved.—During the Summer season, when cows are at pasture, butter is almost invariably good; during the Winter, when they are fed in stables, fine butter is the rare exception. This is mere difference of feed. A farmer who lives on the refuse of his farm himself, can with difficulty be persuaded to feed his choicest productions to his cattle. They fare, generally, like himself, and are only supplied with that which cannot be sold. Most writers on these subjects cater to the wants of farmers; and are always endeavoring to recommend cheap mixtures which are to obviate the necessity of expensive feeding. This is absurd. A cow can exist on straw, and can probably enjoy life on straw and turnips; but with such food can do nothing for her owner.

In our climate Indian meal is the perfection of winter food. Plenty of good hay, and a peck of Indian meal every day, mixed with parsnips or carrots cut up in small pieces, if fed to your cow, will give you as fine winter butter as can be produced. Of course, this food can be modified with fair results; but the more you deviate from it, the less satisfactory will be the product. You may substitute for some of the meal, ground oats, or middlings, or chaff; you may substitute turnips for the roots we have mentioned; you may give second class hay, and yet have butter which is marketable. If you wish, however, really fine

butter, don't be seduced from the path we have indicated; resist the flattering notices of oil cake; do not be deluded by cotton seed; scorn turnips and repudiate musty hay.

Having now a good cow, well fed and well taken care of, we are prepared to say a few words in regard to the comparatively unimportant process of converting cream into butter. There is a secret connected with this operation which we now wish to confide to our readers, for upon it the whole success of making fine butter depends. It is cleanliness. Not that cleanliness, the absence of which would be a reproach; not the cleanliness attending most household operations, but cleanliness to a degree of intensity almost hording on the absurd. The churn, the pans and the butter bowl, should be sealed after every use of them, and all towels and straining cloths boiled thoroughly before being used again. In cleaning, use soda in preference to soap. When the milk is brought in, fresh from the cow, the first thing to be done, is to strain it through a cloth or wire sieve, or better, through both. It should then be poured into shallow milk pans and placed in the milk vault. At the end of twelve hours it should be carefully skimmed, as little milk being taken up as possible, and at the expiration of twelve more hours skimmed again; twelve hours later it should be skimmed for the third and last time, even more carefully than before. Should the milk, however, have turned sour before the third skimming, it would be better to omit it. The cream from the various skimmings should be placed in a vessel and stirred thoroughly twice a day until churned; this preserves a uniform consistency throughout. As soon as you have sufficient cream collected, churn—the sooner the better. In no event, keep cream longer than three days. The length of time required to produce butter depends a great deal on the temperature of the milk; if allowed to become very cold it will take some hours. As soon as the butter is formed in small lumps, work the dasher back and forth until the pieces become united into lumps of some size before removing them. As soon as your butter is taken from the churn, work it thoroughly with the spoon in the butter bowl, salting it at the same time to your taste. Let it now remain two hours and work it thoroughly again; by this time the salt will cause the butter milk to run freely. After two hours more, work it thoroughly for the third and last time; form it into shape and print it. The object of such thorough working is to get rid, entirely, of the butter milk; the smallest quantity of which, remaining, makes your butter rancid. Don't wash it out; it is easier, but it injures the flavor of your butter.

There may be cheaper ways of making butter—there may be other ways quite as good as the one we have described—we have only undertaken to tell our readers of one mode; by pursuing which we can guarantee them butter of the very highest quality.

March, 1867.

DAIRY PRODUCTS OF VERMONT.—The quantities of butter and cheese shipped from St. Albans (Vt.) depot during the year 1866 were: Of butter 2,617,195 pounds, and of cheese 862,475. The shipments for 1865 were: Butter 3,035,257 pounds; cheese 1,175,261 pounds. These figures, at the first glance, would indicate a startling decrease in the dairy productions of Franklin county for 1866, compared with the preceding year. But the St. Albans Messenger says the abrogation of the Reciprocity treaty in March completely cut off for the year an importation of butter for shipment which had been quite extensive. In 1864, when Canadian importations were included, the shipments were: Butter, 2,474,854; cheese, 623,210 pounds. Hence it appears that the butter production of Franklin county alone in 1866 was 145,000 pounds in excess of any previous annual production combined with importations from Canada; while the deficiency in cheese is only 40,000 pounds.

A MAN in Massachusetts, who got \$20 return for each of three cows, got \$40 each by sending the milk to a cheese factory.

LIME IN DAIRY SOILS.—During the discussions at Saratoga, last fall, on dairy farming, several of the speakers remarked that the best dairy regions were in those parts of the country where the soil is free from lime; and others asserted that good, long-keeping butter could not be made from limestone lands. This position was disputed by a few of the speakers on that occasion. X. A. Willard stated in his recent able and interesting address before the New York State Agricultural Society at Albany, that the best dairy farms in England were those resting on the oolite formation, which is strictly carbonate of lime, like common limestone, but more easily disintegrated and worked up. We allude to this statement for the purpose of inviting further attention to both sides of this question, as it may yet prove one of much importance to decide.—*Country Gentleman.*

Various Matters.

STRAW AS FOOD.

Be careful of the straw. It is not very long since straw was regarded as worthless upon half of the farms in the country. Of late years a different opinion has prevailed, and it is now generally recognized as an important assistant in the wintering of stock. Mr. Horsfall, a great authority on agricultural matters, says,—"I am satisfied that the most economical use of food rich in albuminous matter, is to feed it with straw or other materials which are deficient in this element." Mr. Mechi, another great authority, says, "I have long since adopted straw as food, and should consider myself foolishly unprofitable to waste it uselessly in open and wet farm-yards." The Rural World says, "Straw when early cut and properly cured, not dried, has somewhat the quality of clover. But, oh, how neglectful are we about the curing of straw, when it is one of the finest employments! There is a fragrance about such straw, and a pale green tint, which makes it a valuable and most pleasant fodder." Straw may be fed with advantage to all kinds of stock. It is excellent to mix with meal or feed with carrots, beets or turnips. If straw was properly economized, hay would be much cheaper.

HOW TO GET WARNING OF EARTHQUAKES IN JAPAN.

EARTHQUAKES have been so prevalent of late in India, that they are now a topic of popular conversation. Many of our readers are, doubtless, unaware of the fact that the Japanese have, for centuries past, been cognizant of a very simple mode of warning against these sudden, often dangerous phenomena. They long ago discovered that the magnet loses its attractive power a short time previous to a shock, and they have in every house a simple apparatus, consisting of a magnet suspended by its own force to an iron bar, over a disc, or hemisphere of bell metal, on which it falls accordingly, and alarms the inmates, who have time to leave the walls before they are shaken. This plan could be easily adapted to a public alarm, we think, the weight of the falling magnet being adequate to ignite a percussion fuse on a loaded cannon. We wonder it has never been tried in civilized countries, where earthquakes have of late been so prevalent. "Magnetic storms" have recently been observed by medical practitioners in Europe to be forerunners of epidemics, cholera especially; and we too, have often noticed that continued earthquakes are the harbingers and attendants of epizootic pests. Is it unreasonable to suppose that concentrated gases of poisonous virulence are discharged on the surface of the earth during these violent convulsions of nature?

ORIGIN OF THE TERM "GRAIN," AS A MEASURE OF WEIGHT.

A grain of corn or wheat, gathered out of the middle of the ear, was the origin of all the weights used in England. Of these grains 32 well-dried were to make one penny weight; but in later times it was thought sufficient to divide the same penny weight into twenty-four equal parts, still called grains—being the least weight now in use—from which the rest are computed.

FISH-CULTURE IN THIS COUNTRY.

Mr. Genio C. Scott writes to Wilkes's Spirit that fish-culture in this country has recently sustained a heavy loss. Four thousand *ora* of the Rhine salmon were shipped to Mr. Seth Green, Mumford, N. Y., by the chief engineer of the Rhine works at Strasburg, as a present from the French Government. These were kept sixteen days in the New York Custom-House and when recovered were entirely spoiled. The product of these *ora* would have stocked two rivers.

Americans are beginning to understand the value of fish-culture. Mr. Seth Green writes that he has on hand "young trout enough to stock all the ponds and streams on Long Island." Mr. Aaron Vail has been nearly or quite as successful. Over a dozen fish nurseries are in operation in the States of Maine and New Hampshire. But although we are only beginning to appreciate this art, it is nevertheless a very old one. Mr. Scott says that it was "either lost, or confined to the Chinese and the monks of an Alpine region for many centuries, until two French fishermen discovered it, and they were forthwith liberally rewarded for the invention by the French Government; and although it is not quite twenty years since fish culture received its first encouragement in France, yet game fishes of luxury there, are as cheap as the coarse fishes are here. In France the laborer, whose wages are not more than half the price commanded in the United States, may enjoy an occasional meal of salmon and green peas; while here, none but the wealthy dream of indulging the expensive luxury."

It's DARK.—The following beautiful sentiments are from Meister Karl's Sketch Book, entitled the "Night of Heaven." It is full of touching tenderness:

"It is dark when the honest and honorable man sees the results of years swept cruelly away by the knavish, heartless adversary. It is dark when he feels the clouds of sorrow gather round and knows that the hopes and happiness in others are fading with his own. But in that hour the memory of past integrity will be a true consolation, and assure him even here on earth of gleams of light in Heaven. It is dark when the dear voice of that sweet child once fondly loved is no more heard around in murmurs. Dark when the pattering feet no more resound without the threshold, or ascend step by step up stairs. Dark when some well known air recalls the strain once oft attuned to childish voice now hushed in death! Darkness; but only the gloom which now heralds the day-spring of immortality, and the infinite light of Heaven."

AN ANECDOTE OF DEAN SWIFT.—The eccentric Dean Swift was walking in the Phoenix Park, in Dublin, when a thunder shower came on, and he took shelter under a tree where a party were sheltering also—two young women and two young men. One of the girls looked very sad, till as the rain fell her tears fell. The Dean inquired the cause, and learned that it was their wedding day, they were on their way to the church, and now her white clothes were wet and she couldn't go. "Never mind, I'll marry you," said the Dean; and he took out his prayer-book, and there and then married them, their witnesses being present. And to make the thing complete, he tore a leaf from his pocket-book, and with his pencil wrote and signed a certificate, which he handed to the bride. It was as follows:

"Under a tree, in stormy weather,
I married this man and woman together.
Let none but Him who rules the thunder
Sever this man and woman asunder."

JONATHAN SWIFT,
Dean of St. Patrick's."

A FOOD PRIZE.—Madame Guericau, sister of the celebrated traveller Lalande, has handed to M. Drouyn de Lhuys, as President of the Society of Acclimatization, a sum of four thousand francs to found a prize in memory of her brother, to be awarded to the traveller who, by his discoveries, shall have done most towards improving the food of the human race.

WHO IS OLD?—A wise man will never rust out. As long as he can move and breathe, he will do something for himself, his neighbor, or for prosperity. Almost to the last hour of his life, Washington was at work. So were Franklin and Young, and Howard and Newton. The vigor of their lives never decayed. No rust marred their spirits. It is a foolish idea to suppose that we must lie down and die because we are old. Who is old? Not the man of energy; not the day-laborer in science, art, or benevolence; but he who suffers his energies to waste away and the springs of life to become motionless; on whose hands the hours drag heavily, to whom all things wear the garb of gloom.



The Field.

POTATO CULTURE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside, BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

FROM the Eastward course of the potato bug, this crop is annually becoming one of more interest to Eastern farmers, upon whom will soon devolve the necessity of raising for Western consumption, inasmuch as our entomologists give the potato bug twenty years to reach the longitude of Philadelphia.

In treating the subject, I propose to divide it into several parts; as, for instance, the preparation of the ground, kind of seed, manure, after culture and digging.

The kind of soil which seems best to suit the potato, is a rolling, mellow soil, inclining to the South; the soil should be deep and mellow, either natural or made so by culture. If planted on level land, they are more liable to rot, and other things being equal, will not make as good potatoes, nor as large a yield as on ground sufficiently rolling to give free vent to water. The best article can only be produced from poorish land, made good by a liberal system of manuring; for while heavy, rich land may produce the largest yield, from a given area, it is at the expense of the quality of the crop.

In order to be less impeded by sod in the preparation of the ground, I usually select the corn ground of the preceding year for potatoes; for it presents no impediment to deep plowing and subsoiling; and, at the same time, furnishes a large amount of undecayed vegetable matter in the form of corn-stalks and roots. The sod turned under the previous year, when plowing for corn, is entirely or nearly decayed; and also furnishes nourishment for the crop. For this crop I would, if possible, subsoil deeply, for my experience has convinced me that no other crop will so well repay a thorough preparation of the ground. Some object to this operation because it doubles the expense of preparing the ground. So it does; but I have often found that it will double the crop also; and it needs but little argument to prove that it is better to double the crop from one acre than to obtain the same amount from two acres, with twice the manure and seed, and nearly the same amount of extra labor in harvesting.

By subsoiling, I do not mean to bring the subsoil to the surface, but merely to stir and loosen it up; for this purpose use a Mapes B. subsoil plow, following a common plow every furrow. Many object to subsoiling, because they keep but one team, and cannot hire one during the busy season, at the time of potato planting. To such I would recommend the plan of plowing the field in narrow lands, for by so doing, a round can be plowed on each land before the team is changed to the subsoil plow; and the same number of rounds may be subsoiled before it is necessary to change back again. It "takes more time," it is true; but we must remember our national question "will it pay?" and not "how much does it cost?" If you have neither time nor teams, it would be better to cultivate but half the ground, as above. For the operation of subsoiling, oxen will be found better than most horses, on account of their patience and steady draft; although I have performed the operation very successfully with horses; but on my ground it tries their patience to the fullest extent—to say nothing of that of the plowman himself.

The Mapes' subsoil plow, if properly used, will, when following the common plow, fully fill up the open furrow with the pulverized subsoil before the next furrow is thrown over; thus thoroughly loosening up the soil to the depth of at least one foot; though in soil free from stone, by turning a furrow eight inches deep, with the common plow, I have found no difficulty in running the subsoil plow from six to eight inches deeper; thus making a loose, mellow soil, to the depth of from fourteen to sixteen inches.

If barnyard manure is to be made use of (of the propriety of which I will treat hereafter), it must, of course, be covered by the common plow, and laid between the surface soil and the lower subsoil; but if artificial

manure is to be used, it should be applied before anything further is done, in order that it may be thoroughly incorporated with the soil. With artificial manure, my opinion is similar to what I have expressed with regard to the preparation of the ground; viz.:—that it is better to concentrate the application of the manure, as well as the labor of preparing the ground.

The next operation will be that of making out the rows, which can be best done by "back furrowing" the whole field; that is, by going "backwards and forwards" across the field, throwing two furrows up together into a high mellow ridge; care must be taken that the earth of the second furrow is not thrown over the crown of the ridge into the preceding furrow; but a little practice will make both team and plowman expert in the operation; thus we will have the whole field or patch marked off into mellow ridges, each of which will leave an open furrow on each side of it; the distance apart of the furrows and their regularity will, of course, depend a great deal on the expertness of driver and team; but after repeated measurement, after my own, and other teams, I find that the furrows do not vary much from thirty inches apart, and the ridges about sixty.

If the potatoes are to be planted in hills, the most expeditious plan to mark out the rows in the other direction will be to attach three or more chains to a stiff pole; placing them the proper distance asunder to correspond with the width of the rows; a man at each end of the pole, by walking across the field, will mark it out much faster than can be done in any other way; and, at the same time, will not disarrange the rows or ridges; the last mark of the preceding "pass" will, of course, serve as a guide for the next "pass." With regard to the proper distance apart, I would say that after a fair trial of greater or less distance, I prefer the rows thirty inches apart; and the hills three feet apart in the rows; or in other words, thirty-six inches by thirty; though the distance must in a great measure depend upon the kind of potatoes under cultivation. For the Cuzco, Early Goodrich, Monitor, the above distance will be found to be much more crowded than Mercers at two feet square; planted thirty-six inches by thirty, the tops of the Cuzco, Goodrich, or Monitors will occupy the whole ground; while those of Mercers, planted two feet square, will not occupy the whole space. The more prolific in tops, the greater distance the hills should be apart.

The next subject must necessarily be the selection of seed, which is also one of much difficulty; for it is impossible, or rather improper for one correspondent to cry up any one variety as the one, to the exclusion of the tastes and fancies of others, and other localities; thus around Boston the Jackson Whites seem to be the standard; when, near New York, the Peach Blow claims its superiority; the Philadelphia market-man sets the highest value on the Mercer; while his friend at St. Louis holds on to the Buekeye, and wonders that the Yankees don't know enough to plant it. In fact, it is but another illustration of the old proverb, "one man's meat," &c.

Each farmer must, of course, humor the market for which he is raising, though a difference in yield may much more than make up a difference in price; thus, in my own experience, while I cannot raise more than one hundred bushels of Mercers per acre, I can raise three hundred and twenty-five of Cuzco, or Monitors, without any extra manure or cultivation; so that for me, even at half price, the Cuzco and Monitor are most profitable; while with others the case may be different.

With regard to planting whole seed or cut seed, large potatoes or small, and other different modes of cutting, I will defer for another article; or I shall pass beyond the bounds proper for one correspondent. I shall say nothing further with regard to the preparation of the seed than that I would drop the sets, and not lay them down as some do, in such a careful manner. I have sometimes seen careful(?) farmers place every set cut side down with the utmost ease; and then turn every third furrow down on them; but not till fifty per cent of the cuttings had been turned by the feet of the

plowman. A little more care in the preparation of the ground, and less in the planting, will tell better on the crop.

The most expeditious plan is to drop the set from a bucket. If the bottom of the furrow is in proper order, it will not roll far from where it strikes the ground, or if in a few cases it does, the foot will readily put it in its place. A ter repeated experiments, the only difference which I can see between laying the sets down and dropping them, is that in the first case the sprouts come through the ground with more regularity, but I never could find any difference in the crop; but I know that twelve hours' work at each method will cause a material difference in the feelings of the back of the operator.

Having placed the sets in the furrows, the next operation is the covering; this I do by horse power in the following manner: six rows at a time. If I have been sufficiently explicit in my description of "back-furrowing," it will readily be understood that between every pair of ridges we leave two furrows separated by a flat piece of soil which has not been disturbed by the marking-out plow; this furnishes a footpath for the horses without disturbing the seed in the furrows. For a coverer, use a piece of scantling six inches square, by sixteen to eighteen feet long; attach a horse to each end, and you will find that they will be able to take three ridges between them, and cover six rows by walking upon those flat spaces; if one passage does not level the ridges down enough, the horses, when they arrive at the end of the row, may be turned back over the scantling and repeat the operation. Some will probably object that this will not cover the seed deep enough. With regard to this, I would say that I would greatly prefer to cover as shallow as possible, and finish the covering by the after working.

As soon as the most forward of the sets show themselves, the field should be well barrowed two or three times, in order to thoroughly destroy any weeds which may have started with the potatoes. Many of our potato growers do not seem to understand (judging from their mode of procedure) the importance of this operation. If it is properly done it will make the labor of after cultivation fully fifty per cent. less, and keep the ground loose and free from weeds. Even if this thorough harrowing does in a great measure keep down the weeds until the tops, by their shade, can fight their own battle, yet the repeated hoe harrowing should by no means be neglected; for no crop will pay better for keeping the soil loose than the one we have under consideration.

After trying various patented implements, I have found nothing better than a common plow drawn by speedy horses, run directly under the row, turning out the potatoes at one operation. After picking up all that are on the surface, a hoe-harrow run once on top of the row will uncover the remainder. If the ground is in good order, and not too wet, Roger's Patent Plow will do its work well; but a few stones or clods will so disarrange its operation that the time lost will more than make up for the use of the common plow.

The time of digging cannot, of course, be fixed in a journal having so wide a circulation as the Farm and Fireside; for the time proper for one locality will not suit another. My rule is to dig as soon as the most forward tops are dead, and, on no account defer it after twenty-five per cent are dead; for as soon as the tops die, the potatoes begin to deteriorate in quality, and if a wet Fall should follow, there is great danger of rot and disease. As I usually follow potatoes with wheat, I, of course, get them up as soon as it will be safe, and not be too late with the wheat crop. March, 1867.

HOVEY'S NEW MINORCA MELON.—A new and fine variety of the true Minorca melon, introduced originally into Canada, and grown and acclimatized there, so that the finest specimens have been produced in the open air in that northern climate, are now attracting universal attention, and have been exhibited at the Provincial Show, carrying off all the prizes. These melons attain the enormous weight of 20 to 30 lbs., and last year a gentleman in Bur-

lington, Vermont, raised six melons from two seeds, the smallest of which weighed 20 lbs., and the largest 26½. They are of a round or roundish oval shape, and yellowish skin, very thickly netted all over; and the flesh, which is very thick, is red, very rich, sweet and delicious. It succeeds under ordinary cultivation, and for the market or for exhibition purposes, is a fine acquisition.

EARLY SEBEC POTATO.—Much attention has been given to the improvement of the potato; several excellent seedlings have been introduced. Among all these, however, the Sebec has proved the most reliable, being earlier than the Goodrich, producing quite as abundantly, and of superior quality. It is similar in general appearance to the Jackson White, and is undoubtedly a seedling from it, as it was found, we believe, in a field where these were grown. It matures fit for the market in from 60 to 65 days.—Hovey's Magazine.

IMPROVED FARMING IMPLEMENTS.—THE New York Evening Post, remarking on the great improvement recently made in farming implements and machinery, gives some observations made in the West by way of illustration. A corn field containing one hundred and sixty acres was plowed, planted, and cultivated without subjecting the farmer to the trouble of going on foot at all. The ground was prepared by the use of a rotary spader, on which the operator rode; was planted by a two-horse machine, the driver seated upon a box; when hoeing time came, a cultivator performed the operation without involving the necessity of pedestrian exercise. When the corn is ripe it is cut and laid in rows by a two-horse machine—thus completing the cycle of machine corn-raising. On the farm of which this corn-field formed a part, there was a field of timothy comprising seven hundred acres. It is the improved farm machinery which has rendered such extensive farming operations possible and profitable at the same time.

UNFERMENTED MANURE.—Many excellent farmers have an idea that manure to be most efficient in raising crops should be well-rotted; but this is a mistake. Manure loses a very heavy per centage of its real value by decomposition. Fresh manure, dripping with animal urine, hauled directly from the stable on the land and plowed under, is worth nearly double that which has decomposed to a saponaceous consistency. When it is convenient for farmers to haul their manure on corn-ground from the stable as fast as it is made, it saves handling it twice, and forwards the work in busy spring time. No fears need be entertained that the atmosphere will carry off the strength of the manure if left on the surface. The only danger to be apprehended by this method, will be in case of the ground being frozen and covered with snow and ice when the manure is applied; if upon sloping land, the virtue of the manure might wash away; but on level land there is no exception to this plan of operation during the entire fall and winter season.—German town Telegraph.

DESTROY CATERPILLAR EGGS NOW.—The Maine Farmer says that during this month the eggs of the apple tree caterpillar—which may be found encircling the ends of the small twigs of trees—can be much more easily and completely destroyed than at any other time of the year. They can be readily seen, and by choosing a warm day for the operation, with a light ladder upon which to ascend the tree, and a small basket in which to put the twigs containing the nests, the work can be performed most satisfactorily.

WEATHER SIGNS.—A rosy sunset presages good weather; a ruddy sunrise, bad weather. A bright yellow sky in the evening indicates wind; a pale yellow, wet. A neutral gray color at evening, is a favorable sign; in the morning, an unfavorable one. The clouds, if soft, undefined, and feathery, betoken fine weather; but if hard, sharp, and definite, foul weather. Deep, unusual hues in the sky indicate wind or storm; more delicate tints bespeak fair weather.

THE FORESTS OF MAINE.—The Maine Farmer calls the attention of the people of that State to the great value of its hemlock forests. The writer assumes that there are five million acres of land in that State covered with hemlock trees; that each acre will yield twenty cords of bark; that the astringent salts or tan in each cord of bark, when extracted, is worth sixteen dollars; making sixteen hundred million dollars, as the value of this single item of the wealth of the forests of the Pine Tree State. He also expresses the belief that this imperishable extract can be delivered in Boston at five dollars, leaving a net profit of eleven dollars per cord on the bark.



FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 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 WEINSTEIN.

VEGETABLE MOLD.

An intelligent correspondent asks our "opinion of forest leaves as a fertilizer?" Had he inquired if carbon, oxygen, hydrogen or ammonia were essential to vegetable and animal existence, he could not have asked a more pertinent or self-evident question. The inquiry covers a wide field; and to reply in detail, we might wander back to the origin of soils, telling him that all soils were formed by the conglomerate debris of rocks; of a mixture of organic or inorganic matter, sand, gravel, clay and the remains of plants and animals. If the earth possessed no mold, vegetation would not flourish to a great extent. We should have Byron's terrific poem on "Darkness" illustrated; and though the sun was not extinguished, and the stars did not

"Wander darkling in the eternal space,
Rayless and pallid, and the icy earth
Swing blind and blackening in the moonless air,"

we should, nevertheless, have a comparatively unproductive earth, and its present population would suffer from famine, and her "cattle on a thousand hills" would have to go without a full feed.

An able writer says:—"Mold is the halfway house between the living and the dead. That tells a great truth—after deducting the poetic license. Vegetable mold covers the whole surface of the earth. It is the mantle that hides her nakedness; that feeds her myriads of plants; that fertilizes her valleys and hill-sides, and is the great friend to the agriculturist. This vast accumulation of mold comes in part from forest leaves that annually fall to the ground, that rot or become decomposed. Of course, the value of all mold depends on its chemical composition, also in the extent to which its substances are retained. When mixed with mere earth of rocks—either by nature or by the plowshare, it makes the soil friable, renders it porous, and promotes fertility. The color of mold, always dark, aids the absorption of solar heat; it also drinks up the dews (the earth's perspiration), and is ever greedy for showers.

Vegetable mold, in its virgin state and strength, overflows with fertility. But it becomes exhausted by constant tillage; just as a man's pockets get drained of cash by frequent purchases. But the farmer who understands his profession, keeps up his stock of vegetable mold by ploughing in green crops; by putting a luxuriant crop of clover under the surface soil, thus renewing the original deposit of mold and carbon. Buckwheat is often "ploughed in" for the purpose of renovating worn-out soils. It is beneficial, as are all green crops; but clover has more nitrogen than huck-wheat, or even rye or wheat straw.

To return to our friend's inquiry, we reply that forest leaves make a capital fertilizer—better than stable manure, or the fertilizers of commerce. The leaves of some plants and trees possess more fertility—after decomposition—than others. A thin, barren soil will only grow stunted plants and trees, frequently small pines, and like species; while heavy, loamy land will produce the oak, hickory and chestnut. The leaves from the latter produce the best mold. Every farmer should collect all the forest leaves possible, put them into the compost heap and use liberally. We shall resume this subject by and by, and give our views on the best method of collecting the wealth of our forest leaves, and how to manufacture vegetable mold.

BACK NUMBERS.—We have complete sets of the *Farm and Fireside*, from the commencement. New subscribers can secure back numbers, or commence at any time.

LITERARY ACTIVITY OF THE YEAR.—During the past year there have appeared 4204 new books and new editions. Religious books and pamphlets, 849; biographical and historical, 194; medical and surgical, 160; poetry and the drama, 232; novels, 390; minor fiction and children's books, 544; travels, topography and geography, 195; annuals and serials, (volumes only), 225; agriculture, horticulture, &c., 64; English philology and education, 196; European and classical philology, and translations, 161; law, 84; naval, military and engineering, 39; science, natural history, &c., 147; trade and commerce, 79; politics and questions of the day, 167; illustrated works, 85; art, architecture, &c., 34; miscellaneous, not classified, 359. Total, 4204.—*The Bookseller*.

PRESERVATION OF THE FORESTS.

THE Michigan Legislature is considering the subject of preserving the splendid forests of that State. They supply so many lumber markets that vast tracts are being stripped, and her scientific men are of the opinion that adverse climatic changes are being thereby induced. The crops are deteriorating in quality, pernicious insects are abundantly developing, the winters are more severe, and the fertilizing rains less frequent. These changes are partly attributable to the denudation of the forests. European experience confirms the idea that the destruction of forests tends to sterility.

It seems somewhat contradictory that while in the populous districts trees are planted and teuded with a sort of reverence, and money lavishly appropriated by the city authorities for the creation and extension of wooded parks, "those breathing places for God's poor," the pioneers of the West are hewing down the forest trees without mercy or discrimination.

It is no wonder that the savans of Michigan have taken the alarm. Argument is no longer necessary to convince even the semi-intelligent classes, of the important part that forest trees perform in the great play of hydro-vegetable harmonics; attracting the rain clouds, breaking the fierceness of the winds, and drinking in with their millions upon millions of leafy lungs, the deleterious gases in the air, and throwing out in their stead, abundant supplies of fresh, invigorating, life-inspiring oxygen, and in scores of other ways contributing to man's health and comfort. They are Nature's silent alchemists, working day and night in the great laboratory of the universe.

It is a pity that our forest sanctuaries are no longer invested with that reverence which was bestowed upon them by the ancients, who believed that each tree had its attendant nymph, and never dared to fell a tree without having first offered up an ejaculatory prayer to the gods to forgive them the sacrilegious act. If such reverence was superstitious, it was also poetical, and saved to them their forest trees. America has been, and is yet, noted for its vast tracts of forests—deep, impenetrable, awe-inspiring forests. In those far Western wilds the poet has sought inspiration for his muse, and the landscape painter bewitching limnings for his canvas. But unless laws are interposed to prevent the destruction of these forests, which destruction is, in our estimation, a wretched piece of vandalism, they will be among the things that were, our soil rendered sterile and its physical surface shorn of its fairest ornament.

NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE Executive Committee of the New England Agricultural Society, have decided that the next Annual Exhibition shall be held in Cranston, near Providence, R. I., on the 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th days of September next. This Exhibition will be in connection with that of the "Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry," from which the invitation to the New England Society came. Col. Amasa Sprague has tendered the free use of his new Trotting Park, in Cranston, for the Exhibition. It embraces an area of seventy-five acres. The buildings, for spectators, officers and animals, are all new, thoroughly built, and well adapted for the purposes required. The building for visitors will seat five thousand persons, with protection from both sun and rain. Those who have seen this Park, affirm that it is not surpassed in the United States.

As this Exhibition will be larger and better than any ever before witnessed in Rhode Island, we trust her citizens in general will aid the enterprise in every manner possible. The reputation of the State demands it.

CALIFORNIA WHEAT.—We are indebted to C. B. Rogers, Philadelphia, for samples of California Spring wheat. It is remarkable for its weight and productiveness—weighing full sixty-five pounds to the bushel; and on the Pacific shore yielding eighty bushels per acre! If it will do half as well as that in the Middle States, it should be sown by all our farmers.

LOUISIANA A WHEAT-GROWING STATE.

ALREADY efforts are being made to reorganize the industrial interest of the South. Nothing is wanted but promptness and perseverance, allied with good judgment and better security to life and property, to inaugurate in that locality an era of prosperity which will far surpass the wildest dreams of the old slavery propagandists. The native resources of the South are abundant, and their proper development will furnish profitable employment, for centuries, to millions of intelligent working men. The people are awakening to a consciousness of this fact; they will no longer receive, in explanation of their poverty, the ridiculous doctrine broached by the politicians, that it arose from being systematically plundered by the North for years.

Judge Robertson, of Louisiana, has recently made an elaborate report upon the resources of that State. Its most interesting feature is the expressed conviction that Louisiana is peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of wheat. He recommends caution in the selection of seeds, stating that the Mediterranean varieties would be most adaptable. The Judge is quite sanguine, and if the golden vision he anticipates opens up to view, the rest of the agricultural world will heartily rejoice, instead of becoming tinctured with jealousy. We subjoin a statistical and prophetic abstract of the report.

"Wheat with us should be planted in September, October or November. It is a beautiful season for preparing the ground. It may then be reaped in the last half of April and May, a time usually selected for making brick, on account of its fair weather. The daily quotations show that Southern flour, raised in Missouri, Tennessee and Virginia, brings from three to five dollars more per barrel than the best New York Genesee flour. Louisiana and Texas flour is far superior to the Tennessee, Virginia or Missouri, owing to the superior dryness, and the fact that it contains more gluten and does not ferment so easily. Southern flour makes better dough and macaroni than Northern or Western flour; it is better adapted for transportation over the sea and keeps better in the tropics. It is, therefore, the flour that is sought after for Brazil, Central America, Mexico, and the West India market, which are at our doors.

A barrel of strictly Southern flour will make twenty pounds more bread than Illinois flour, because, being so much drier, it takes up more water in making up. In addition to this vast superiority of our grain, we have other advantages over the Western States in grain-growing. Our climate advances the crop so rapidly that we can cut our wheat six weeks before a scythe is put into the fields of Illinois; and being so near the gulf, we avoid the delays in shipping and the long transportation, the cost of which consumes nearly one-half of the product in the West. These advantages, the superior quality of the flour, the earlier harvest, and the cheap and easy shipment, enable us absolutely to forestall the West in the foreign demand, which is now about 40,000,000 of bushels annually, and is rapidly increasing, and also in the Atlantic seaboard trade.

Massachusetts, it is calculated, raises not more than one month's supply of flour for her vast population. New York not six months supply for her population, and the other Atlantic States in like proportion. This vast deficit is now supplied by the Western States, and the trade has enriched the West, and has built railroads in every direction to carry toward the East the gold-producing grain. We can, if we choose, have a monopoly of this immense trade, and the time may not be far distant, when, in the dispensation of providence, the West, which contributed so largely to the uprooting of our servile system and the destruction of our property, will find that she has forced us into a rivalry against which she cannot compete, and that she will have to draw not only for supplies of cotton, sugar and rice, but even for breadstuffs from the South."

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—The Trustees of this institution met at Harrisburg, recently, and appointed a committee to procure an experimental and model farm, to contain one hundred acres, in the Eastern part of the State, and one in the Western, in accordance with the law recently passed by the Legislature.

This idea may be a good one, but we hope the principal College, in Center county, will not be ignored by the haste to start new, experimental farms. There is such a thing as putting "too many eggs in one basket."

LARGE TROUT.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Turf, Field and Farm, recently asked the fishing editor of that journal, if brook trout ever grew to the size of "eight pounds?" The editor replied that he once captured a trout in the Androscoogiu river, weighing "nine pounds." Further, he stated that brook trout had been taken weighing "fifteen pounds!"

Now, we cannot quite believe this. Brook trout never grow to that size. There are many varieties of the North American brook trout—four of which ought, long since, to have been classed as distinct species. We have caught, in the ponds and rivers of New England, some very large trout; but they were pond trout—every one of them—dull, dusky brown along the back; sides, muddy olive; some without specks; others, dimly flecked with dull ochre-colored spots, sometimes shading with greenish red.

The genuine brook trout is marked with brilliant vermillion specks; a mottled horn color along the back; sides, silvery white, and nearly pearl white on the belly. It is entirely different from pond trout—this latter species may grow to the weight of "fifteen pounds," but we would rather see them than to take any body's word for it. We know that true brook trout, *S. pontinalis*, rarely reach over three pounds.

NORWEGIAN LABORERS IN TEXAS.

A prominent Norwegian gentleman by the name of Paulsen, now a resident of Northern Texas, left this country for his native land, on the first of this month, for the purpose of securing a number of his countrymen as farm laborers in Texas. He expects to arrive at Galveston with them, about the first of September. The Norwegian laborers are strong, robust, large boned men and women, and generally honest, sober and industrious. They are raised in humble circumstances, obey orders promptly, and are "worked" in Norway, sixteen hours out of the twenty-four.

The contract with the planters for these Norwegian men and women is for two years, and is as follows:—

First year the agency expense (sixty-five dollars in specie, or its equivalent in greenbacks), clothing and food, and thirty dollars in specie to the laborers, men and women the same.

Second year, one hundred dollars and food and clothing for the men, and seventy-five dollars a year and food and clothing for the women.

For mechanics the price is somewhat higher than for field laborers; and such particular servants as can command higher prices at home, must receive a better recompense than above enumerated.

We see in this movement much that will prove advantageous to the "lone star State." The planters will be rewarded by increased crops through the labors of this hardy race, and not have their sensitiveness shocked by an importation of what they used to call "Northern white trash."

PLANT YOUR PEAS.—The latter part of March, in the Middle States, will do to put in peas. They require a low temperature to grow them to perfection; and, the sooner they are planted, after the frost is out and the ground settled, all the better. There are many good early varieties, among them are the Daniel, O'Rourke, Extra Early, and Tom Thumb.—We confess to a preference to the first; and they are generally the first to be had in our city markets. An advantage of the Tom Thumb variety is, that they require no brush or stakes; they grow on a small space—in rows fifteen inches apart—and are suited to nearly all soils.

Our New England friends will not think of planting or sowing peas before next month. Jack Frost don't frighten peas much, yet there is little gained in putting them in until the earth gets warmed up by the Spring sunshine. Fine stable manure is a good fertilizer, and so is bone dust, for every variety of peas. Farmers do not sow as many peas as they should; they are profitable as a field crop.

Hiram Woodruff, the well known horse trainer, died last week, at his residence on Long Island.



The Fireside Muse.

THE HOME OF MY CHILDHOOD.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

BY MRS. ANNA WHITING, ASTORIA, N. Y.

'Twas a wood-brown bouse, near a mountain stream
That sung and danced in the sun's bright gleam;
Near by was a grove, where all day long
Were heard sweet notes of the wild-bird's song.

There was the home of my childhood's hours,
There I sang like the birds, and gathered flowers,
As I wandered free as a wild gazelle,
O'er sunny hill and shadowy dell.

That wood-brown bouse seemed a palace fine,
Draped o'er with many a clambering vine;
Where the morning sun peeped in to see
The family group on bended knee.

The perfumed breeze from the sighing pines
Crept softly through the flower-decked vines,
To kiss the baby's cheek, so fair,
And play with its locks of golden hair.

The sweet, sweet dreams of those early hours,
Were bright and fair as the summer flowers;
But I dreamed not then, in my childish glee,
Of the woes the future held for me.

'Twas there a mother's pure love blest
That little group in the family nest;
And her cheerful smile, and tender care,
And a father's love made earth seem fair.

In that brown house, there was ample room
For the children to play, and the friends to come;
But Death soon came with his icy kiss,
And my mother passed to a world of bliss.

Ere long, my father slept by her side,
And the children were scattered far and wide;
And I am homeless, sad and lone,
While strangers dwell in that dear old home.

Fireside Tale.

"THESE WOMEN."

"THESE WOMEN!"

The young man said it in scorn, in his pride of strength, his force of will, possession of advantage, and power in law; forgetting his innumerable needs; needs to come, if not then felt.

"These women! I wish they'd stay at home where they belong. Shops and stores are no places for them. I never want them round a shop. I wouldn't work with them."

A young woman, hunting for employment, was just closing the door. She heard the first words, "these women!" spoken with such scorn.

These women! Why, are they not God-made? Are they not the mothers, sisters, wives and daughters of the lordly men, and should they not be cared for, for their sake? If not, men suffer as well as they: each sin coming home in vengeance—each and every sin.

The young woman heard it, and turned away more crushed by oppression than she had before been by want.

"These women!" she repeated half-hitterly, realizing a man's burdens pressing upon her, a man's duties and necessities. She had not only bread, and clothes, and shelter to earn for herself, but a family to support, a mother, and young sisters, and brothers—men that were to be!—to provide for. And what was she to do,—woman as she was? She had strong, active muscles, a ready brain, a pliant will, a steady purpose, every element of success, why could she not employ them all in remunerative toil?

Are not these what bring gold to men? Why not to women?

Just because they are women; because of a prejudice, left of the old days of Egyptian darkness only now passing, not yet past, when women were the meanest slaves of men, their meanest task-servants, kept as their dogs, even a soul and immortality denied them.

Did you ask what became of the young woman? I only know she turned away, blushing with shame, tearful with sorrow. The man who made her blush and weep, saw as much as that, and laughed sneeringly—laughed and went on in his work.

Had not that young man a wife? His wife was only his servant, her life an appendage to his: she lived only as he permitted her, following his ways in wifely duty.

But, at last, in a little cradle that rocked before his hearth, there smiled a pretty, blue-eyed child into his face, that stirred his heart most strangely; the keen, flashing eyes softening, and then growing glassy with their tears.

That little, cradled thing, only a girl, and because she was a girl, too,—had opened a fount of tenderness hidden even from himself. There was his face, his lip, and eye, and features; and a woman's nature, a woman's destiny with it.

The strong man looked steadily into the little face, looked and thought what had been done for woman, and what might be, till all womanhood changed for him; looked, and set his teeth, and knit his brows, and pledged his strength to spare her, to shield, and shelter, and nurture her.

Then, the thought crossed his mind, had the women he had scorned ever been as pure and beautiful as the child that moved him so—and what had changed them? Who had laid rude, wronging hands upon them?

Then, lifting his strong arm as if in pledge, he made a silent oath that never harm nor hardship, never scorn nor shame, should blight or sadden one woman's life—his daughter's.—Years and years he kept his oath. He toiled early and late to provide for her a future without wait. But can any man do what he will? Is the future his? Can he spare a fate? Not even his own: much less another's.

The strong man fell a prey to sickness. The muscles shrunk and withered, the blood lay cold in his veins. He could not lift himself. Weak as the weakest woman he lay, dependent for everything upon a woman, his daughter. He had no other child; his wife was dead. The earnings of his strength had been scattered to the winds.

It is hard for a man to be dependent on a woman, any man on any woman, but most of all for the man who has scorned the woman's rule. But, by the great law of retribution, the hour of dependence is sure to all such.

"Mary, is the meal out?" said the sick man.

"Yes, father; why?"

"No matter, child."

"You want some gruel, father, don't you?"

The man turned in his bed, and Mary turned her face away from him, and busied herself about the room.

A minute or two went slowly by, and then the sick man spoke. The girl had not courage. She had so often heard her father say that she should never earn her bread, certainly never earn it in shops and offices, like men, that she did not know how to tell him of the stern necessity that she should do it now—try to do it. She had been sewing slop-work, wearing out her very life over it, without being able to supply her barest wants with her earnings. It would not do. The point of starvation had come; not even meal for gruel in the house. Her father had to propose it.

"Can't you get work in a shop, Mary? You'll earn more."

"Perhaps I could, father; I've thought of it."

"I guess you'll have to, till I get well."

"Shall I go out and look for work now?"

"Perhaps it's as good a time as any."

Mary went. She smiled in her father's face as she left him, saying a pleasant good-bye.

But the father could not smile. His eye was glancing forward to see his cherished child going anxiously from shop to shop, climbing the long, wearying stairs, tremblingly making her way into the great shops where coarse men would stare into her face with rude and curious gaze. He heard the short, unfeeling "no," repeated again and again in answer to the question, "Can you give me work?"

What made him see another face just then, a face he had not seen for twenty years, had never seen but once, a young woman's face, somewhat like his daughter's, but there were tears in the eyes, such as seldom were in hers? And then he heard something like his own voice in a sneer, "These women!"

The spirit of a wronged woman had come to him and hung brooding above him, threatening him in his own daughter. "She'll get no work, poor thing!" he groaned. "She went smiling and hopeful, but she don't know men as I do. She don't know life!"

An hour had at last gone by. It seemed as if it never would be gone.

Who says time flies? Why, sometimes it seems as if it never would get round the little circuit of the clock. Flies! flies! when it

takes so long to carry us through our little span of life?

But time did move, and got through an hour; and then another, more slowly than the first, till it was getting dark, and a tired footfall sounded on the steps.

The door opened, and with a great weight and pain at his heart, almost a despair, knowing well how vain is almost every woman's effort, how poor a woman's chance in every thing, even in toil—a chance that every man would throw from him in disdain—the poor father tried to smile a welcome, tried to say cheerfully, "What success?"

"None, father; I could find nothing to do."

"I feared it."

And then he heard a voice like an echo, saying, "These women!" and he responded, "Aye, these women! God help them! What can they do?"

"I'll go again to-morrow, father," said the daughter.

No answer, for the man knew well that the to-morrow was far away when work by which she might live would be given to woman.—And he had helped to keep it far away.

To-morrow come; the daughter again went forth to find some work by which she might earn bread. She went forth to be again refused, and because she was a woman—nothing else. There was work for men, for boys even—but none for her. She urged her claims.

"We don't employ women;" or "We'd rather have men;" or a blunt and careless "no" met her everywhere.

What would become of her? What become of her father?

So faint, hopeless, and borne down with the heavy questionings why God makes life so hard, she dragged herself to her home, to her father's bed-side, dreading to hear again the question, "What success?" answered as it must be.

She had not to hear it. The dying man riveted his eyes on the poor worn child and muttered, "I knew 'twas no use. Let us die together! O God, let us die together!"

Then the eyes, still riveted, grew dim; breath after breath came quick; and when the poor girl had whispered something about begging a little meal for gruel, a morsel of bread, he did not hear her. He was past want—dead.

And his dying prayer seemed to have been answered. Not many weeks and his unsodden grave was opened to receive his daughter's corpse. She for whom in her woman's lot there had been so little opportunity in this poor life, had entered on the better.—*Watchman and Reflector.*

Miscellany.

THE DEATH OF A CHILD.

It went in the morning—a bright and radiant morning, many went yesterday, more today, and there are dews to be shed for the departures of to-morrow. And can it be wondered that pleasant summer mornings should beguile them into going? Is it a marvel that they do not wait for the hurden and the noon, but follow the lark, and her song over the ruin of the rainbow? That those words so beautiful, they should make so true, "and joy cometh in the morning."

Going in the morning! A glorious morning—when the sky is all in beauty, and the world is all in bliss; ere the dews have gone to heaven, or the stars have gone to God! when the birds are singing, and the cool winds are blowing, and the flowers are out that will be shut at noon, and the clouds that are never rent in rain and the shadows inlaid with crimson, lie away to the west.

We have sometimes seen a little coffin, like a casket for jewels, all alone by itself in a huge hearse melancholy with plumes and gloomy as a frown—and we have thought not so should we accompany those who go a little way in the morning. We have wondered why they did not take the little coffin into the carriage with them, and lay it gently upon their laps, the sleeper there lulled to slumber without a hosom or a cradle. We have wondered what there was for tears in such a going—in the early morning from home to home—like

fair white doves with downy wings emerging from nether night and fluttering for entrance at the windows of heaven. Never has there been a hand wanting to take the wanderer in and shut out darkness and the storm.

Upon these little faces it never seemed to us that death could place his great seal; there is no thought of the charnel house in those young listeners to that invitation whose acceptance we are bound not to forbid; there should be morning songs and not sighs; no tears nor clouds, but bright dew and bright dawns together.

Fold up the white robe; lay aside the forgotten toy; smooth the little unpressed pillow, and gently smile as you think of the garment, of the harp of gold, and of the fair brow with its diadem of light; smile as you think no years can make that memory old. An eternal, guiltless child, waiting about the threshold of Paradise for the coming friends from home. Here the glad lips would quiver with anguish; the bright curls grow grizzly and gray; the young heart weary and old; out there, changeless as the stars, and young as the last new morning.

The poet tells of a green bough rent by the tempest from the tree, and swept rudely along the breast of an angry river, and a mother hild with cries of grief fluttering beside it, for her nest and nestling were there. Ah! better to be wafted away from the earth than thus they should drift around the world in a storm.—*B. F. Taylor.*

CURIOUS FACTS ABOUT WATER.

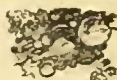
THE extent to which water mingles with bodies, apparently the most solid, is very wonderful. The glittering opal, which beauty wears as an ornament, is only flint and water. Of every 1200 tons of earth which a landlord has in his estate, 400 are water. The snow-capped summits of Snowden and Ben Nevis have many million tons of water in a solidified form. In every plaster of Paris statue, which an Italian carries through our streets for sale, there is one pound of water to four pounds of chalk. The air we breathe contains five grains of water to each cubic foot of its bulk. The potatoes and turnips which are boiled for our dinner have, in their raw state, the one seventy-five per cent. and the other ninety per cent. of water. If a man weighing 140 pounds were squeezed in a hydraulic press, seventy pounds of water would run out, and only thirty-five of dry residue remain. A man is, chemically speaking, forty-five pounds of carbon nitrogen, diffused through five and a-half pailsful of water. In plants we find water thus mingling no less wonderfully. A sun-flower evaporates one and a quarter pints of water a day, and a cabbage about the same quantity. A wheat plant exhales, in 175 days, about 100,000 grains of water. An acre of growing wheat, on this calculation, draws and passes out about ten tons of water per day. The sap of plants is the medium through which this mass of fluid is conveyed. It forms a delicate pump, up which the watery particles run with the rapidity of a swift stream. By the action of the sap various properties may be accumulated to the growing plant. Timber in France is, for instance, dyed by various colors mixed with water, and sprinkled over the roots of the tree. Dahlias are also colored by a similar process.

HOW TO FILL THE ICE HOUSE CHEAPLY.—Although past the season for doing this work, we give the gist of a correspondent's communication on this subject, that our readers may thereby profit in the future:—"A great improvement upon drawing ice from two to four miles, I found, is my method of making it in the ice-house. I bring water in a pipe into the house, and make it fall in spray before a window on the north side during the coldest weather. I have succeeded in making a solid cake of ice 10 by 10 feet and four to six feet thick. *Country Gentleman.*"

PARIS GARDENERS now employ toads in the hot houses to consume insects, and cocks and hens in the gardens to eat the slugs; only to prevent the poultry from scratching up the flowers, they are accommodated, or inconvenienced rather, with list slippers.

THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.—There are times, unquestionably, when pills are good things; but generally, pillows are better. We are of opinion that the former have often got a little credit which fairly belonged to the latter. When a man is ill, the doctor tells him to go to bed and he contented; probably he gives him a little taste of physic; but quiet, a recumbent posture and temporary abstinence are, in very many cases, the successful remedial agents, after all. Giving pills is the way the doctor has of turning the key upon his patient, keeping him at home, establishing healthful bodily functions, and opening his mind to good advice.





THE FARM AND FIRESIDE AND THE PATRIOT FOR \$1.00 PER YEAR.

For the sum of FOUR DOLLARS, paid in advance, we will send the FARM AND FIRESIDE and the WOOSOCKET PATRIOT for one year. The subscription price of the latter, alone, is \$2.50. THE PATRIOT is an old established family newspaper, with the largest circulation of any country journal in New England.

DISEASE OF THE EYES.

THE horse is furnished with what is termed by anatomists, a third eyelid, which is known among horsemen under the name of the haw. Its use is to clear the surface of the eye of any dust or other irritating particles which may lodge on the surface of the eye. It occasionally happens that from chronic inflammation of the eye, small tumors form on the haw; they cause great irritation and impede the movements of the eyelids, especially the upper one. In a case of this kind which came under my treatment, I removed the tumor with the knife, and by a subsequent application of caustic prevented its reproduction.

The little fleshy body, situated at the internal angle of the eye, is termed the caruncula lacrymalis, and, in cases where it becomes enlarged, it will be necessary to reduce it by excising the superfluous part. But the eye is a delicate organ to operate on, and in cases of this kind the assistance of a regularly educated veterinary surgeon is required.

TAMING BEES.—The whole art of "taming bees" is embodied in the following:—

1st. A honey bee filled with "liquid sweets" will not sting of its own accord.

2d. Bees, when frightened, will generally fill themselves with honey, and if given liquid sweets will invariably accept them.

Bees may be frightened thus:

1st. By blowing upon them the smoke of spunk, tobacco or cotton rags.

2d. By confining them to the hive, and rapping the sides of it lightly with a small stick. At first, the bees will try to get out, but finding that impossible, they will then rush to their stores and fill themselves with honey.—See Keepers' Text Book.

Marriages.

- In Londale, 19th inst., by Rev. W. W. Sever, OWEN M. THAYER to ABELLA, daughter of the late STEBBY JENCKS, all of Southfield.
In Providence, 16th inst., GEORGE W. HARVEY to Miss AMEY E. PHILLIPS, both of North Providence.
In Attleboro', 15th inst., Mr. WILLIAM E. DUNHAM to Miss MARY FRANCES CLARK.
In Carolina Mills, 17th inst., Mr. LEANDER W. TUCKER to Miss AMY C. BLANCHARD.
In Hopkinton, Mass., 13th inst., Mr. CHARLES LELAND of Upton, to Mrs. MARTHA FOEBUSH of Hopkinton.
In Milford, Mass., Mr. DEWITT C. GLEASON to HOPESTILL C. HOLBROOK; 12th inst., CHARLES A. DEWEY, Esq., to MARIETTA N. THAYER, both of Milford.
In Danielsonville, Ct., 2nd inst., Mr. ARNOLD ADAMS to Miss CATHERINE FITZGERALD, both of Killingly.
In Thompson, Ct., Feb. 22, Mr. LUCIUS E. TRUESDELL, of Warren, Mass., to Miss SARAH A. MILLS of Thompson; March 7th, Mr. FRANCIS E. BARNETT, of Dudley, Mass., to Miss MARY A. HASCALL, of Thompson.
In Mansfield, Ct., 3d inst., Mr. ISAAC C. BARROWS to Miss AUSTANIA E. JACOBS, both of Mansfield; Feb. 25th, HENRY W. LARKHAM to Miss EMILY J. JOHNSON, both of Mansfield.
In Worcester, 13th inst., by Rev. E. W. Virgin, PETER BRUSO to Miss ALMEDA TANTLER, of Millbury.

Deaths.

- At Walpole, 13th inst., JOHN S. STETSON, only child of Joshua Stetson, aged 23 years.
In Concord, N. H., March 17, Rev. JACOB SANBORN, the well known Methodist clergyman and presiding Elder, aged 79 yrs.
At Waltham, Ct., 17th inst., ANNE ROBBINS EDDY, wife of Prof. Henry A. Balcan, and daughter of the late J. W. Eddy, of Newport.
In Williamstown, Ct., 4th inst., CLARISSA M., wife of John G. Keigwin, aged 34 years.
In Killingly, Ct., 8th inst., SUSAN, wife of Col. Wm. Alexander, aged 71 years; 9th, ROSANA TABOR, aged 71 years.
In Nillelle, March 16, CHLOE COOK, wife of the late George Cook, in her 16th year.
In Pawtucket, 12th inst., Mrs. ANNE BRADFORD, wife of Albert N. Almy, in the 26th year of her age. On the 13th inst., ANNE ETHELBY, daughter of Albert N. and Annie B. Almy, aged 7 months.
In Fruit Hill, 13th inst., Miss ELIZABETH C. MILLAR, aged 57 years.
In South Scituate, 13th inst., suddenly, ALBERT H. KNIGHT, in the 47th year of his age.
In Providence, 14th inst., ALBERT CORLISS, in the 61st year of his age. 14th inst., J. FISHER BILLINGS, formerly of South Walpole, Mass., in his 38th year. 17th inst., JOHN BYWATERS, aged 57 years.
In Foster, 9th inst., FANNY, wife of Elijah S. Robinson, aged 25 years.
In Anthony Village, 18th inst., CELIFDA WALKER, widow of Stephen Walker, aged 64 years.
In Peace Dale, 8th inst., PETER SHERMAN, aged 43 years.
In Newport, 11th inst., RAYMOND P. DUFFEY, aged 66 years. 14th, JOHN BOWMAN, aged 41 years. Mr. Bowman enlisted in Co. G, 4th R. I. V., October 30th, 1861, at the formation of the company, and served his full term of three years.
In Worcester, 15th inst., LEWIS SMITH, aged 63 years. 13th inst., GEORGE S., only son of N. S. and Mary Taft, formerly of Milford, aged 17 years.
In Hopkinton, Mass., 10th inst., Mrs. MAYNARD HAYDEN, aged 64 years.
In Oxford, Mass., 9th inst., MELISSA DENSMORE, aged 23 years.

The Markets.

WOOSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending March 23, 1867.]

Table listing various farm products and their prices, including hay, straw, coal, and various types of flour and grain.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

March 20th, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1565; Sheep and Lambs 6219. Swine, 350. Extra, \$13.50@14.00; first quality, \$12.75@13.25; second quality, \$11.50@12.50; third quality, \$10.00@11.00 per 100 lbs the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.
Country Hides, 9@9 1/2 cts per lb. Country Tallow 7@7 1/2 cts per lb. Brighton Hides, 10@10 1/2 cts per lb; Brighton Tallow, 7 1/2@8 cts per lb.
Dry Sheep Skins, 62c @ \$1. Green Sheep Skins, 62c @ \$1 per skin. Calf Skins, 18 to 20c.
The quality of the Western Cattle, with the exception of a few lots, is not so good as that of last week. The trade has not been very active. There has been some few very extra Cattle sold as high as 14 1/2 cts per lb, but most of the best Beeves brought 13 1/2@14 cts per lb.
Stores—There are but few Stores brought into market at this season of the year. Most of the small Cattle are sold to slaughter, that are in a fair condition.
Working Oxen.—Sales at \$164, \$165, \$175, \$190, \$190, \$200, \$210, \$215, \$225, \$250, \$255, \$270@275 per pair. Working Oxen have sold better for the last few weeks than any other stock in market.
MILCH COWS.—Sales extra \$80@100; ordinary \$50 @ \$75.—Store Cows \$35@50. There is a good supply of Milch Cows in market, and a fair demand.
Sheep and Lambs.—The supply is larger than that of last week. Prices are 1/2 cts per lb lower. We quote sales of lots at 6 1/2, 7, 7 1/2, 8, 8 1/2, 9, 9 1/2 cts per lb.; and \$3.75 to \$4.11 per head.
Swine—Wholesale, 7 cts. per lb; retail, 7 1/2 @ 8 1/2 cts. per lb. Fat Hogs—200 at market; price 8 1/2 cts per lb. There is not much call for Store Pigs, the trade is not very active, and there is but a few in market.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

GENERAL ADVANCE IN PRICES.

Breadstuffs have been excited and active, and prices have materially advanced. The demand has been very general, and a part has been for investment. We notice a material reduction in the stock of flour, which is now estimated to be under three hundred thousand barrels. The daily reduction in the stock is about eight thousand barrels in excess of the receipts. This fact has occasioned the excitement.
Wheat has also been excited, and prices have advanced from fifteen to twenty cents a bushel, closing very strong. The stock is reduced, and is estimated at less than 1,600,000 bushels.
Corn has been active under a speculative demand and more favorable news from Europe. Prices have advanced ten cents a bushel, closing strong. The stock has been reduced to about 2,000,000 bushels, which is one of the causes of the excitement.
Rye has advanced very rapidly, the increase reaching from fifteen to sixteen cents a bushel, and is generally withheld from the market at the close.
Oats have been much excited, and advanced about five cents a bushel.
Pork has been active, and advanced two dollars a barrel on new mess, and a dollar and a half on old mess. The sales of the week, for present and future delivery, reached forty-three thousand barrels.
Lard has improved slightly, and closes strong.

NEW YORK WOOL MARKET.

[From the New York Ship List of the 16th.]

The market is still unsettled, though sellers have the advantage. Business has been upon a basis of the advance previously noted, and not in excess of present wants. There has been a slight improvement in the goods market, and to this extent the demand for wool has improved. The sales include 200,000 lbs. State and Western fleece at 48@75 cents, as extremes; 200 bales pulled, 46@52c; 23,000 lbs super Lamb pulled, 42c; 150 bales Shreds pulled, 44@52c; 100,000 lbs Texas, 26@32c; 200 bales Mestiza, reported 33c; 150 do. 32@44c—the latter price for extreme choice; 75,000 lbs California unwashed spring clip, 26@32c; 75 bales Kalmuc (Russian), on private terms; small parcels Donkool, 32@36 cents (gold); one or two invoices do. to arrive; 18,000 lbs domestic Noils, on private terms, and 25,000 lbs Canada combing, 72 cents. The market closes steady.

NEW YORK LIVE STOCK MARKET.

NEW YORK, March 18.

Beef Cattle—Market 1/2 @ 1/4 c lower; receipts 5348 head. Quotations 13 @ 17 1/2 c, averaging 15 1/2 c; market dull.
Sheep in good demand at 8 @ 9 c; receipts 11,559 head.
Hogs active and 1/2 c higher; live 8 1/2 @ 9 c; receipts 14,238 head.

BOSTON SALE OF STOCKS.—March 19.

Table listing various stocks and their prices, including American Gold, U.S. coupon, and various railroad stocks.

Advertising Department.

Massachusetts.

GREGORY'S SEED CATALOGUE, will be sent gratis to any address. It contains over one hundred and twenty varieties that I grow myself, besides many kinds imported from England and France, and procured of the most reliable seedsmen in the United States. Farmers and Gardeners will find in my catalogue many

NEW AND RARE VEGETABLES,

some of which are not to be found on the list of any other seedsmen.

I offer an opportunity for all to procure their

BEEF, CARROT, ONION, AND MANY OTHER VARIETIES OF SEED, DIRECTLY FROM THE GROWER.

As the original introducer of the Hubbard Squash, Marblehead Mammoth Cabbage, Boston Curled Lettuce, and many other new vegetables, I invite the patronage of the public.
JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marblehead, Mass.
March 16, 1867. 3w p&w 10

Rhode Island.

W. E. BARRETT & CO.,

Manufacturers of

MEAD'S PATENT CONICAL PLOWS,

SHARE'S HORSE HOES, WOOD'S AND WRIGHT'S PLOWS,

GARDEN BARROWS,

CHASE'S TWO HORSE POTATOE DIGGERS,

STORE TRUCKS,

IMPROVED HINGED HARROWS, CULTIVATORS,

ROAD SCRAPERS, OX YOKES, AND PLOW CASTINGS;

And Wholesale Dealers in

Hoes, Shovels, Axes, Scythes, Forks, Snathes, Cradles, Horse Forks, Hand and Horse Rakes, Hay Cutters, Corn Shellers, Vegetable Cutters, Picks, Bars, Canal Barrows, Sugar Mills, Grindstones, Plain or Complete;

And Agents for

KNIFE'S, UNION AND PERRY'S

MOWING MACHINES,

Whitcomb's Patent Horse Rake, and the best Hay Tedder in the market. Prices low and Terms Cash.

OFFICE, 32 CANAL STREET.

March 23, 1867.

PROVIDENCE, R. I. we-tf

W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I.,

Now offer at the LOWEST CASH PRICES.

- 2000 Sacks Prime Red Top.
500 Bags Prime Herd Grass.
500 " Western and Northern Clover.
1500 Bushel Prime R. I. Bent, for Pastures.
200 " Seed Barley.
100 " Spring Rye.
2000 " Bedford Seed Oats.
100 " Early Goodrich Potatoes.
200 " Seed Potatoes.
200 " Late White Peach Potatoes.
100 " Harrison Potatoes.
300 " Seed Peas.
100 " R. I. White Cap Corn.
100 " London Hort. and Concord Pole Beans.
200 " Buckwheat.
200 " Millet and Hungarian.
White Dutch Clover, Orchard Grass, Onion Sets, and a complete assortment of GARDEN SEEDS,

Raised for us with great care. 200 Barrels dry ground Bone for Manure, together with all kinds of Farm Implements and Machinery.
Send for Circular of Mead's Conical Plows and Share's Horse Hoes—and don't forget the number,

32 CANAL STREET, 32.

March 23, 1867.

PROVIDENCE, we-tf

Philadelphia and New York.

RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

THE STANDARD MANURE

FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS.

Manufactured by

POTTS & KLETT, Camden, N. J.

Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUGH, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of this Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is

FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD, IN QUALITY.

and is in fine condition for drilling.

Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the

RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

YARNALL & TRIMBLE,

General Agents for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

418 South Wharves, PHILADELPHIA.

419 Penn. Street, PHILADELPHIA.

March 23, 1867. 3m-ec-11

TEXT-BOOKS ON BOTANY.

By PROF. ASA GRAY, of Harvard University.

THE CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS IN THE NATIONAL PROPAGATING GARDENS AT WASHINGTON IS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF THESE BOOKS.

These books present the latest and most accurate principles and developments of the science, and have been recommended by almost every eminent Botanist in the country.

For comprehensiveness of scope, exactness and clearness of description, accurate and scientific analysis of plants, and beauty of illustrations, they have no equal.

THE SERIES CONSISTS OF

HOW PLANTS GROW.—Containing a POPULAR FLORA, or an arrangement and description of common plants, both wild and cultivated. Illustrated by more than 500 drawings from nature.

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STROTRICAL AND SYSTEMATIC BOTANY AND VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY.—Being a fifth revised edition of the "Botanical Text Book," illustrated by over 1,300 wood cuts, to which is added a full glossary of botanical terms.

MANUAL OF BOTANY, WITH MOSES AND LIVERWORTS.—With 22 plates, illustrating the general cryptogamia.

FLORA OF THE SOUTHERN STATES.—By A. W. Chapman, M. D. The plan of this work is nearly the same as that adopted by Prof. Gray, and presents a systematic arrangement of the Phanerogamous and higher Cryptogamous Plants of all the States south of Kentucky and Virginia, and east of the Mississippi.

Liberal Terms given on books furnished for examination or introduction. Send for Catalogue. Address The Publishers.

J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., 715 & 717 Market Street, PHILADELPHIA.
IVISON, PHINNEY, BLAKE, MAN & CO., PHILADELPHIA, 47 & 49 Green-st., NEW YORK.
March 23, 1867. 1w-ec-11

Great American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS

OF THE

TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption, and therefore organized THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, to do away, as far as possible, with these enormous drains upon the Consumers, and to supply them with these necessaries at the smallest possible price.

To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American houses, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments, and some of the richest retired merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China.

2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas.

3d. The Importer makes a profit of 20 to 50 per cent in many cases.

4th. On its arrival it is sold by the cargo, and the Purchaser sells to the Speculator in invoices of 1,000 to 2,000 packages, at an average profit of about 10 per cent.

5th. The Speculator sells to the Wholesale Tea Dealer in lines at a profit of 10 to 15 per cent.

6th. The Wholesale Tea Dealer sells to the Wholesale Grocer in lots to suit the trade, at a profit of about 10 per cent.

7th. The Wholesale Grocer sells to the Retail Dealer at a profit of 15 to 25 per cent.

8th. The Retailer sells to the Consumer for all the profit he can get.

When you have added to these EIGHT profits as many brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay. And now we propose to show why we can sell so very much lower than small dealers.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, one cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of freight), as though they kept them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the name upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more. The cost of transportation to the members of the club can divide equitably among themselves.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars, we will, if desired, send the goods by Express, to "collect on delivery."

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$20.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show. All goods sold are warranted to give satisfaction.

PRICE LIST:

- YOUNG HYSON (Green), 60c, 80c, \$1, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb.
GREEN TEAS, 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb.
MIXED, 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 per lb.
JAPAN, \$1, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb.
OOLONG (Black), 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 per lb.
IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1.25 per lb.
ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1.10, best, \$1.20 per lb.
GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1.25, best, \$1.50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them.

Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Fochow Blacks and Moyne Greens. English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the finest imported.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,

NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., corner of CHURCH.
Post-Office Box No. 5,643 New-York City.
COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c, 25c, 30c, 32c, best 40c per pound.
Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866.
To the Great American Tea Company,
Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York.
Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubled it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa.

MARTIN LUTHER.
10 lb Young Hyson, in pound packages, at \$1.25, \$12.50
5 lb Young Hyson, Dallas Jackson, at 1.25, 6.50
2 lb Young Hyson, Henry Herick, at 1.25, 3.50
2 lb Young Hyson, George Murphy, at 1.25, 3.50
1 lb Young Hyson, E. Dye, at 1.25, 1.25
2 lb Young Hyson, Samuel Decker, at 1.25, 2.50
1 lb Young Hyson, Samuel Amon, at 1.25, 1.25
1 lb Young Hyson, Henry Venable, at 1.25, 1.25
7 lb Young Hyson, Morgan Hayes, at 1.25, 8.75
2 lb Young Hyson, John Natten, at 1.25, 2.50
4 lb Young Hyson, Mark Combs, at 1.25, 5.00
2 lb Young Hyson, John Allen, at 1.25, 2.50
8 lb Young Hyson, Miss Stuart, at 1.25, 10.00
2 lb Oolong, best, Miss Stuart, at 1.00, 2.00
2 lb Young Hyson, O. Bayland, at 1.25, 2.50
2 lb Oolong, best, O. Bayland, at 1.00, 2.00
2 lb Young Hyson, J. Richlin, at 1.25, 2.50
2 lb Young Hyson, Mr. Gayton, at 1.25, 2.50
2 lb Young Hyson, Edward Murphy, at 1.25, 2.50
2 lb Young Hyson, Henry Murphy, at 1.25, 2.50
2 lb Oolong, best, Henry Hill, at 1.00, 2.00
2 lb Oolong, best, Separate package, at 1.00, 2.00
5 lb Ground Coffee, Separate package, at 25, 1.25

We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.—LARGEST DOUBLE STORE. 3m-8



DEFINITION OF A GENTLEMAN.—A gentleman is but a gentle-man—no more, no less; a diamond polished that was a diamond in the rough; a gentleman is gentle; a gentleman is modest; a gentleman is courteous; a gentleman is slow to take offence, as being one that never gives it; a gentleman is slow to surmise evil, as being one that never thinks it; a gentleman goes armed only in consciousness of right; a gentleman subjects his appetites; a gentleman refines his tastes; a gentleman subdues his feelings; a gentleman controls his speech; and finally, a gentleman deems every other better than himself.—Bishop Doane.





The Stock-Yard.

SWINE, THEIR BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT.

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

It is with pleasure that I take up the pen to write an article for an agricultural paper of my native State, to be read by my acquaintances, friends and kindred. I suppose that I should have selected a more delicate subject for my first, but as I have "swine on the brain" to-day, it is of swine that I shall write.

1st.—BREEDS. As regards breeds of swine, there are at the present time in this country, to my knowledge, seven, and but seven, distinct breeds, viz. :—

YORKSHIRE, a rather large, not coarse, white breed, from Yorkshire, England.

CHESTER Co., or Chester White, a large, rather coarse breed of white hogs, which have originated within a few years in Chester co., Pennsylvania.

ESSEX, a middle sized breed, very beautifully formed, of a satin black color, from Essex, Eng., and comparatively new in this country. They dress white, are good feeders and thrifty, are also much more hardy than some other breeds, and are said, by those who have given them a trial, to be the very best breed for the farmer. I am at present experimenting with them, having recently purchased five thorough breeds for breeding purposes.

SUFFOLK, a small breed, white, beautifully formed, easily kept, not over hardy, but good to cross with larger breeds; always crossing by putting a Suffolk boar with the larger sow.

BERKSHIRES are a medium sized, speckled breed, and are highly prized by some. I have never given them a trial, but think I should prefer the *Essex*.

LINCOLNSHIREs are a white breed, with long, straight bodies, round carcasses, fine skins, and few bristles. They are said to be a very good breed for crossing, and some like them well as a breed.

CHINESE swine are small in limb, round in body, short in the head, covered with very fine speckled bristles, with an exceedingly thin skin. The pure Chinese hog is too delicate and susceptible of cold ever to become a really profitable animal in this country. They are very fine and small, and will fatten readily on a small quantity of food. Their flesh is not the best pork, as it is often too fat and oily. The pigs make excellent roasters at three weeks or a month old, but the sows are bad nursers, and as a breed they are, I think, unprofitable for our farmers.

Much has been said about the profits of swine. As to their profitableness or unprofitableness, no farmer in the Eastern States can afford not to keep them, on account of their labor in manufacturing manure, if for no other reason. Perhaps we sometimes keep too many, and, again, lose money on what we do keep, by neglect or inattention to supply them with working material and feed. No manufacturer, however skilled, can manufacture goods of any kind without proper materials to work with, i. e. stock. Keep the pigs and store hogs at work, and give them plenty of stock to work with, such as muck, loam, straw, old hay, &c. Keep a part of them on the stable manure in the barn cellar or sheds. A successful breeder should have well fenced lots of suitable size for the sows and pigs to run in, with plenty of grass in Summer. It will then be necessary to keep the sow rang, to prevent her rooting up the sward and destroying the feed.

For breeding purposes, I should select my stock from a large litter, and the very best in the litter, having reference, of course, to the breed I wished to propagate, and should breed from parents not akin. In crossing a small with a large breed, let the female be of the large, and the male of the smaller breed. Take much pains with the breeding stock of swine; it will pay better in the end. I prefer my breeding stock to be upwards of one year old, and when you once get a really valuable breeding sow that will raise two good litters of ten to twelve pigs each year, and is gentle and clever, I should keep her as long as she would do well, rather than risk a young one.

As regards the profitableness, or the best method of feeding store hogs, much depends on the circumstances of the feeder, as it is generally better to feed what one has than to buy feed, and a hog will eat almost anything. You should never stint a pig so as to retard his growth; for if you do, you lose all you give him. Unless an animal is gaining every day, its owner is losing by keeping him. Beef scraps are said to be very good for feeding to store hogs when feed must be obtained off the farm. Some of my neighbors consider them the most economical feed to buy, and many tons are annually fed in Windham county. For fattening, I prefer Indian corn and Barley meal mixed in equal quantities, having it ground together; then close up, say for the last two weeks, on clear corn meal, with the exception of an occasional feed of old corn, which has a tendency to harden the pork. But whatever you fatten with, it will be better to commence to fatten early, and one year with another, it will be most profitable to kill early. There may, however, be an occasional exception to this, as to all general rules. Better have the hogs fattened and ready to kill as early as the weather becomes sufficiently cool "to keep the pork fresh," till consumed, say from November 10th to December 1st, sure. Butcher hogs is a job that almost every farmer dreads. Scalding is rather a nice point for those who do not understand it; but it is a very easy matter to have a "good scald" every time, if you only know how. My rule is, for two good hogs, have just eight pails of boiling water; be sure that it boils, and to this add one and a half pails of cold water, and use immediately. If a little powdered rosin, or a little wood ashes be added, all the better. With such a scald, I will warrant a black *Essex* hog to dress white and clean. I have more I wish to say on swine, but rather than make my contribution too long, will, if agreeable, write more at some future time.

March, 1867.

"**COLOREANO FOWLS**."—This new description of fowl is creating quite a sensation in the vicinity of Newton, where the birds first made their appearance some few weeks since. Their chief peculiarity is their color. They are of bright magenta hue, and the pair we inspected were more gorgeous than an Italian sunset. Hen fanciers, we understand, state that these birds are apt to change their color, and that at certain seasons they turn white, while the power of transmitting the brilliancy of their plumage is doubtful. A dollar a piece, however, has been offered for the eggs. A resident of Aburudale proposes at the next hen show to exhibit a pair of Prussian fowls which he warrants will be as blue as State street after a heavy decline in the stock market.—*Boston Journal*.

Mr. W. C. SCHOFIELD of Coventry, Vt., has two Leicester ewes which, for the past three years, have each brought him two lambs each year. He sold the lambs for sixty dollars and the wool for twenty. His four lambs this year weighed 59, 60, 57 and 50 pounds. He has also eight cows, from which he has made, since the first of April, 1200 pounds of butter, and reared four calves. The butter brought him \$490.22. So says the Vermont Farmer.

POULTRY HOUSE.—Eggs, and hens too, will be scarce, if the poultry house is infested with vermin. Pour boiling water over the roofs, and indeed, into every crack of the building, if you can, then wash clean with strong soap suds, and when this is dry, whitewash the whole.

Catch the fowls and rub a little grease under the wing, on the head, and touch various places on the body with it. The fowls will amply repay you for keeping their houses scrupulously clean.

CARE OF COWS.—It is necessary to see that cows are well fed and have a little extra attention. A little corn-cob meal tends to keep up a healthy tone of the system. Even though the hay may be of a poorer quality, they will eat it with a better relish when they are healthy than when poor. It is a miserable economy that pinches the food of domesticated animals.

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 end by end. When a portion is completely masticated it passes to another receptacle and the progress 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. An hungry ox let into a meadow will fill himself in twenty minutes, while a horse would wait at least an 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 beasts, 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, enabling them to sally forth where the food is plenty, and in a short time fill themselves and retire to a place of safety to ruminate their food at their leisure.

PROFITS OF COARSE-WOOLED SHEEP.—A correspondent of the Country Gentleman, in giving some excellent hints in regard to the care of sheep, states indirectly the average number of lambs raised from forty sheep, and the price they bring, also the weight and prices of his fleeces, from which it appears he realizes about \$275 per year from 40 head of coarse-wooled sheep.

PRODUCT OF FOUR COWS.—The Massachusetts Plowman states that a farmer in the western part of that State sent to Boston, during one year, as the product of four cows, butter for which he received \$399.98, besides supplying a family of six persons, and the company the family had during the year, with all the butter and milk they needed.

SNIFFLES IN SHEEP.—Mr. William P. Hayden informs the Maine Farmer that equal parts of garget-root, alum, and tobacco, steeped together, will cure the snuffles or nasty nose in sheep. It should be forced up the nostrils with a syringe.

An old and experienced farmer says that swelled jaws in sheep can be effectually cured by rubbing the inside of the jaws and mouth with a mixture made of alum and salt, equal parts of each.

WOOL FROM AUSTRALIA.—The product of wool in Australia is very large, and hitherto all of it exported has been sent to England. The Australian merchants, however, intend to try an experiment, and are about to send a ship load of wool to New York, to see if a market for that staple can be opened in the United States.

"**DAN RICE**."—This powerful stallion, who took the second premium in the \$1000 purse at the Hartford National Horse Fair last Fall, has been purchased at high figures by Mr. Sprague of Rhode Island. Oliver Marshall, of Boston, offers to match him against any stallion in the country, mile heats three in five, in harness, and trot in Rhode Island.

A SWEET potato brought from Fayal is now on exhibition at the rooms of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society on Tremont street. It was raised on the Azore Islands and weighs thirteen and a quarter pounds, and is thirty inches in circumference.

SHEEP, in Germany, before being sheared, are carefully cleansed. They are soaked and rubbed in vats of very warm water, with potash. After cooling, water is sprinkled over them until the wool is white, and they are then kept in a clean and warm shelter until dry enough for shearing.

Advertising Department.

Massachusetts.

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Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR

TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT,
should be used by all Farmers on
SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

It will not injure the most delicate animal.
It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool.
It kills TICKS on Sheep.
It cures SCAB on Sheep.
It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals.
It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers.

Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores.

JAMES F. LEVIN,

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For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HAWLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & CO., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4m-w-9

COLLINS, BLISS & CO.,

PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

CASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS.

233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston.

New England Agents for the

NON PARIEL FRENCH GUANO.

It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil.

PRICE \$60 PER TON.

Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 3m-w-9

Rhode Island.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I. Feb. 23, 1867.

FARMER WANTED.—A faithful and skillful farmer is wanted to take charge of a farm. His wife to understand making butter and the care of poultry. Address Box No. 3, Providence Post Office. February 16, 1867. 3w-6.

BARRETT'S EXTRA EARLY CABBAGE.—The best and largest in the market. Price, 25 cents a paper. Raised and sold by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Providence, Feb. 23, 1867. 4t-7

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares & 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.

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HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

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In these days of SHODDY, and high priced goods, every family in the country should have one.

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of clothing a family can be saved by its use. It is simple and durable, easily understood, and easy to operate. No skill is required to weave with it beyond the simple turning of an easy crank.

FROM 15 TO 35 YARDS CAN BE WOVEN ON IT IN A DAY.

FARMERS!

don't sell your wool and buy SHODDY, when with one of these Looms in your house the GIBBS can make all the clothing for the family, and much better quality, at half price.

By late improvements, RAG CARPETS can be woven with the FLY SHUTTLE.

For circulars, price list, and samples of cloth woven on the Loom, address with stamp, A. B. GATES & CO., 333 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

Also, Dealers in Cotton Warp, Wool and Flax Filling Yarns, Reeds, Harness and Loom findings generally. March 2, 1867. p4w-4f

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



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 OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

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

VOL. 1. WOONSOCKET, R I., SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1867. NO. 12.

ORNAMENTAL TREES FOR THE LAWN.



THE "WEEPING LARCH."

WHILE we do not propose to devote an undue amount of space to the ornamental department of gardening, desiring rather to promote the family comfort of the farmer by inducing him to give a little more of his attention to the production of choice esculents and healthful fruits—yet the moral effect of neatness and beauty must not be overlooked or undervalued. What is more pleasing to the visitor to the farm homestead, than a neat, though circumscribed lawn; ornamented with a few select and appropriate trees? As the mode of preparing the lawn has already been furnished, let it be decked by such objects of beauty as the "WEEPING LARCH," an illustration of which accompanies this article. In recommending this choice tree, which is by no means commonly met with, we design it as a special attraction to the margin of the lawn; in close approximation to the front of the mansion, which we suppose of modern, attractive style.

The Common Larch, of which there are both American and European varieties, is well known by its bright green, needle-leaves, bursting forth at the advent of the first warm days of May, from what would seem dead twigs to the common eye. The common Larch is remarkable for its erect trunk and symmetrical branches; while the Weeping Larch is quite pendulous, hanging its long rope-like branchlets to the ground, from an erect stock eight to ten feet high. These weeping forms are sports, accidentally produced and perpetuated by budding on the common stock; the bud is inserted near the summit of the stock, and requires a little more skill to ensure success than budding fruit-trees. The tree, when well managed, is one of the most graceful of our Weeping Lawn Trees.

The Field.

"WHAT CROPS SHALL WE RAISE?"

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY W. H. WHITE, SOUTH WINDSOR, CONN.

IN No. 10 of the *Farm and Fireside* we have given an opinion of one of its correspondents on this question. Perhaps—without a perhaps—it is for the best that our farm population is made up of men of various opinions and ideas in relation to what crops shall be raised; were it not so, where would be the profit in farming? Supposing every one should agree, and act upon the idea, that it was best for all to raise a certain set of crops, and those only, where would they find a market? And if no market, or a glutted one, where would be the profit? No, I believe with the majority, that we should raise the crops which our land and soil are best suited for, and can be turned to profit in the shortest possible time. It is a

known and acknowledged fact that the products of the agriculturists are less frequently turned over in their hands than the products of any other occupation. The farmer plants and sows, and makes but one exchange in the year, and often not that; while the merchant, manufacturer, etc., is constantly exchanging from one hand to the other, and from that to his coffer.

The soil of New England, in general, is a hard yet variable one, and having been long injudiciously cultivated, by former generations, the present generation find their ingenuity and energies largely taxed in order to produce paying crops, and keep up the fertility of the soil. Much of the soil is so sterile that it cannot well be tilled, and is suitable only for grazing or wood; other portions are well suited for arable culture, capable, under the hand of skilled labor, of producing good crops of any kind of produce capable of being grown in this climate. Now, should one occupying soil

suitable only for grazing, attempt to raise tobacco, he would in all probability meet with failure; or should the one occupying the best arable soil, occupy it principally for grazing, or raising, with the majority, one set of crops, he would be unapt to succeed in obtaining the greatest profit. Some may object to raising tobacco from principle; might they not as well object to raising, beyond what is needed for domestic use, rye or potatoes? because they, or their products, are made an article of abuse. So we might object to raising many products of the soil, as well as of the loom, and other manufactures that we could well get along without; and many of them we should be the better off without. Tobacco and liquors, abused in their use, are the cause of much evil, especially the latter. Of the two, tobacco is much the least, for who ever heard of any one committing a crime under the influence of tobacco alone?

Land worth only \$25 to \$50 per acre, can be cropped with crops that would pay a better profit at \$40 or \$50, for the products to the acre, than that which will bring \$200 to \$400 per acre, at a much larger product. We all know that the more valuable land will pay a less proportional profit planted to corn than the cheaper; for often the cheaper will produce nearly as many bushels to the acre as the higher priced, the great difference in value being in their location. Roots, potatoes etc., are very justly recommended as valuable crops for the farmer to raise, by your correspondent, and we could wish to see them very generally raised to feed to stock, to give variety and lengthen out our fodder crops. I think that the prejudice against raising potatoes on account of their rotting, is not the only objection why they are raised in less area than formerly. The fact is, the potato has been cultivated in such a negligent, unnatural way in former years, that we are now suffering the penalty in diseased and diminished productions. I can recall the time when, with rather negligent culture, no uncommon product was three or four hundred bushels per acre of good mealy potatoes; now it is rare that as many as two hundred and fifty bushels are produced, with the best culture on the best soil. An instance to illustrate this occurred with one of my neighbors: during the past year he planted one and a half acres in potatoes and obtained four hundred bushels. How was it done? I hear you ask. First, he is one of the most skillful, careful farmers among my acquaintance; he believes that changing seed from one locality and soil to another is beneficial, and that a crop needs a soil stored with plant food on which it may draw. The ground planted had been manured high and set to tobacco for two years previous, and the soil was well filled with manure finely divided, and in excellent condition to impart the necessary pabulum to the potatoes. Now compare this with what the same land would have produced as skillfully cultivated and planted to tobacco. Well manured, it would have grown thirty-seven hundred pounds, while the extra cost of manuring, cultivating, etc., would not have been over \$200 per acre: say for the one and a half acres, \$300. Now for the results; the potatoes could possibly have been peddled out at

eighty cents per bushel, which would give for the four hundred bushels, \$320, as the whole product of the land, setting aside the expense of production, etc. The thirty-seven hundred pounds of tobacco would have sold at the least for twenty-five cents per pound, amounting to \$925, and coming in one lump, it does not "go for shoe strings," or come in dribbles. Deduct the \$300 extra cost of manuring, culture, etc., and we still have \$625, and at the close of the season the soil is in much better condition for grain, grass, or any other crop than the potatoes left it.

One advantage in growing tobacco successfully, results in higher farming, for it can be grown in no way except on proper soil and with high culture; and high culture on one crop begets it on another. As to its being a sure crop, we know from experience in the Connecticut Valley, that it is as sure as any crop we raise. Although the labor is great, and much of it disagreeable, yet the money it brings is as useful and good to us as if produced in a more agreeable way. In conclusion, allow me to say I am no stickler for raising tobacco, never having used it or fancying the use of it in others; but give us any other crop or series of crops that will give the same profit, and we are ready to abandon tobacco. I would add, we plant too many acres to the various hoed crops, sow too many acres to the various cereals, and mow too many acres for the help we have, and the return we make to our soil. It is better to grow on five acres what ten now produce, which I verily believe might be the case, than to go over the ground we do, and get the products we get; and as for abandoning any one crop for fear the West or any other section can furnish it cheaper, I think it poor policy—better improve our culture and thus compete with any section for our home market. The West is already falling off, or seeking new channels for her surplus productions, and as the country grows older, populous cities rise and the surplus that now reaches New England will greatly diminish. Manufactures will rise up, demanding a greater supply of agricultural products, thus diverting a large proportion of products which have heretofore sought Eastern or other markets. It then becomes a wise and prudent people not to abandon, or blindly rush into the production of any one, or staple article of agricultural production, but to endeavor to amend and increase our productions, and to diversify our products and pursuits; for we find that that people are the most surely prosperous whose pursuits are the most diversified. *March, 1867.*

TOP DRESSING.—The Ploughman is in favor of top dressing grass land either directly after the crop is taken off or later in the Fall, if the dressing be barn-yard manure or compost. But if it be plaster, thinks it should be done in a wet time in April.

REMEDY FOR MOLES. Cut apples or potatoes in pieces about the size of a pea, and roll them in strychnine or arsenic. Then make several small holes where the moles run, and drop one or more of the pieces in each hole. In a short time the moles will disappear.

THE TALLOW TREE.—This tree, indigenous to China, has recently been introduced into India, and there are now tens of thousands of trees on the government plantations. The tree fruits abundantly, both in the Dhoons and on the plains, and grows with great rapidity. Many trees raised from seeds planted eight years ago, are now at least two feet in diameter. Dr. Jameson prepared from the seeds of the fruit one hundred pounds of tallow, half of which has been given to the Punjab railway, in order to have its qualities as a lubricant of axles tested. This tallow burns with a clear, inodorous flame, and without smoke. The leaves of the tree are valuable as a dye, and the timber, being white and close-grained, is fitted for printing blocks.





Horticulture.

PEAR CULTURE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

I HAVE tested more than fifty different varieties of pears in different soils and with varied culture, and were I now to set out a pear orchard, I should select the following:—

For Summer Pears, I should choose Beurre Giffard, Dearhorn's Seedling, Bloodgood and Tyson. The Rostiezer, Henry the Fourth, and the Ott are preferred in some localities. The Rostiezer is a very fine early pear, but it is a bad grower. It is difficult to keep the tree in any symmetrical shape. The Bloodgood is also variable in different localities. I have found it always one of the very best early pears. It succeeds admirably on warm, dry soils.

The list of Autumn Pears is very large, and varies so much by difference of culture and soil, that it is sometimes quite difficult to decide which is the best. I should make the following selection:

Belle Lucrative, Bartlett, Louis Bonne de Jersey, Beurre Bose, Figue, Pratt, Seckel, Urbaniste, Duchess d'Angouleme, Flemish Beauty, Beurre Diel, Marie Louise, Onondaga, Merriam, Andrews, Dix, Doyenne, Boussock, Clapp's Favorite, Sheldon, Beurre Superfin, Noveau Poiteau, Soldat Laboureur, Buffum, Des Tongres, Passe Colmar, Howell, Beurre Clairgeau, Doyenne Sieulle, Eycwood.

The above are not all equally good. Many of them succeed well only in favorable situations, and under the best culture. The Andrews, Sheldon, and Flemish Beauty do not keep well, and have a tendency to rot at the core. Clapp's Favorite sometimes shows the same tendency. The Flemish Beauty, Beurre Clairgeau, Beurre Bose, Marie Louise, Andrews, Dix and Tyson require to be double worked on quince stocks. The Dix when on its own stock does not bear till it is fifteen or twenty years old, but double worked on quince, comes into bearing early and produces very fine fruit. There are several other varieties that did well with me, although they have been discarded as unprofitable. The Gansel's Bergamot, when in maturity, is the highest flavored pear in the whole catalogue, and in my garden was always very fine; but it requires very warm, rich soil and very high culture. On cold, moist land it is worthless. The Beurre d'Amalis is a luxuriant grower and very productive, but the fruit is hardly second-rate in quality. It is one of the best early baking pears. The Beurre Capiaumont is also a vigorous grower and productive. It is the most beautiful pear grower, but in quality not first rate. Van Mons Leon le Clerc is also a splendid pear. It resembles the Vicar of Winkfield in shape, but is much larger, and vastly superior in quality. Because the fruit sometimes cracks, and the tree is liable to canker, it has been rejected by most cultivators. I have found it invariably very fine. By the application of salt, potash and lime every Spring, the trees were vigorous and healthy, and the fruit of the very best quality. The Beurre d'Anjou is one of the best, if not the very best, of the late Autumn or early Winter pears.

The following Winter Pears I have found upon trial, to be worthy of cultivation:—Lawrence, Winter Nelis, Glout Morceau, Easter Beurre, Beurre Gris, d'Hiver, Doyenne, d'Alencon, Beurre Langelier, Delices d'Hardenpont, Vicar of Winkfield, Josephine and Beurre d'Aremberg. The Beurre d'Aremberg is variable and does not succeed well unless double worked on quince. The Vicar of Winkfield is valuable for its productiveness, and for its being a fine cooking pear. It is hardly second-rate in quality. The Easter Beurre is one of the best late-keeping pears, but it is difficult to ripen. It must be kept in a very low temperature, as near forty degrees as it is possible to keep it. The Glout Morceau is poor when young, or allowed to over-bear.

Careful pruning is very necessary to the healthy and symmetrical growth of pear trees. This is best done in the Spring, just as the sap begins to flow. It is often desirable to cut in at least one third of the annual growth of young trees. Thinning out the fruit when

first set is often as necessary as in grape culture. Some varieties require this thinning much more than others. In the Passe Colmar, Figue, Glout Morceau, Winter Nelis, Marie Louise and some others, it is absolutely necessary in order to have fair fruit.

Dwarf trees, or those on quince stocks, should be protected against high winds by stalks, trellis, or some support, to prevent their being shaken. When they are thus cared for, the dwarf trees are not only productive, but long-lived. I have trees on the quince stock that have been in bearing more than twenty years, and show no signs of decay or loss of vigor.

In a former communication I intended to say that I seldom had seen pear blight where the wood was well matured and ripened, instead of "when the soil was manured and refined."

Were I to select only five varieties, I should take the following:—Belle Lucrative, Bartlett, Pratt, Urbaniste and Beurre d'Anjou. Were I to select ten varieties, I should choose Beurre Giffard, Belle Lucrative, Bartlett, Pratt, Louise Bonne d'Jersey, Duchess d'Angouleme, Figue, Beurre d'Anjou, Lawrence and Vicar of Winkfield.

Providence, R. I., March, 1867.

PLANT PEAS DEEP.—The theory recently advocated of planting peas very deeply in the earth, in order to prolong the bearing capacity of the vines, has been well tested and found to be correct. A farmer ploughed a furrow beam deep; then scattered the seed peas at the bottom, after which he turned a deep furrow upon them with his plough, covering them to the depth of twelve or fourteen inches. They pushed their way up through the thick mass of earth very soon, and, instead of turning yellow at the bottom, and dying after the first gathering, they blossomed and bore until he was tired of picking the pods. If such a result will uniformly be realized from the plan, pea culture may be more profitable than hitherto.

The Clinton grape derived its title from having been planted in a village in New York, so named. The Seckel pear derived its name from a tree grown on land, below the city of Philadelphia, which belonged to the Loudon Land Company, who sold a lot on which the tree stood, to a great sportsman, called "Dutch Jacob." From him it passed to Seckel, and now belongs to the Girard Estate. This account was given by Bishop White in 1835.

In planting trees, vines, or anything else, never expose the root to the air. Sun-light is almost fatal, even when they are moist. A thin covering is a great help.

The Longworth Wine House in Cincinnati offers premiums to the amount of \$500 for the best wine grape of the country.

The Turf.

THE DEATH OF HIRAM WOODRUFF—THE SPORTS OF THE TURF IN THE UNITED STATES.

The death of Hiram Woodruff removes from the American turf one of the few men who have united with the calling of a horse-trainer and a jockey the reputation of an upright, honorable man. It is conceded by all to whom the Nestor of the trotting course was known, that in his sporting engagements he acted with an integrity and fairness that would not shame the business transactions of a substantial merchant. The customary tricks and deceptions of the sporting fraternity were never practiced by him. When he made a match he intended to win it if he could, and those who lost money upon a horse entered or driven by him, felt satisfied that they had not been made the victims of a fraud.

It is to be regretted that we have not a greater number of men like Hiram Woodruff upon the turf in this country. But, unfortunately, among the horsemen of the United States swindling is the rule and honesty the exception. The reason of this is that our "sports" are for the main part gamblers, politicians and other "fast" men, who go into

horse racing as they do into politics or faro dealing, or the purpose of making money. We have none of that national pride in improving the breed of horses which marks some European nations. The owners of our "fast stock" are principally men who have made fortunes suddenly, and not always by the most unexceptionable means, and the height of whose ambition it is to possess a "two-forty" that can "heat the world." This comprehensive phrase simply means who can out-trot New York; for a horse that can do that need not fear competitors from any other part of the globe. A fast horse, as soon as his qualities are discovered, is at once made a betting machine, and is expected, by fair means or foul, to bring money into his owner's pockets. When he is matched, the struggle is not one for fame, but for gain. The men who gather around the winning post see nothing of the quivering flanks, the swelling veins, the distended nostrils, the flashing eyes of the noble beasts, but fix their gaze upon the dollars involved in the stakes and the bets. A horse is valued only for what he can win, and few of our young men care to cultivate and improve the breed in blood, physique and speed, purely for the love of the animal.

Of course there are honorable exceptions to this rule. Hiram Woodruff took pride in the horse as an animal, and not as a mere machine for betting, and some few others of our sporting fraternity follow his example, while many private citizens of wealth and leisure who never bet or make matches, are owners of animals that are a credit to the nation. Bonner's horses, for instance, are admitted to be the fastest trotters in the world. To such men we are principally indebted for the improvement that has been made in breeding and training during the past thirty or forty years, and which is shown in the increased speed of our trotters. In 1834 there was great excitement in sporting circles because Ned. Forrest made a mile on the Centreville track in 2:31½, and in the match between that horse and Daniel D. Tompkins, for \$10,000, in 1833, on the Hunting Park course, the time ranged from 2:40 to 2:52. Now, with little Flora Temple's 2:19¾ to harness, and Dexter's 2:18 to saddle, such time would be laughed at on the road.

In England and France horse racing is a national sport. There the rules of the turf are stringent and are strictly enforced. The noblemen and men of large wealth who are its patrons covet honor rather than money, and spend fortunes in improving the breed of horses, and keeping up the high character of the sport. Occasionally, of course, some blackleg transaction comes to light there, as well as here; but as a general rule, their races are conducted with the utmost nicety of honor, and the nation takes a pride in them. Trotting finds small favor with Englishmen and Frenchmen, who would look with indifference upon the greatest achievements of Flora Temple and Dexter, as compared with the running in an ordinary race. It would be well if we could infuse into our own sporting circles some of the spirit that animates the turfmen of Europe, so as to secure at once an improvement in the breed of our horses, as well as in that of their owners; but it is idle to expect that we can ever make a "national sport" of horse racing, yachting, or anything else here. The condition of the country and the character of our people render it impracticable. We might with as good prospect of success, attempt to revise the jousts and tournaments of the middle ages, as some of the Southern chivalry did a few years ago, before they drew upon themselves the hard knocks of actual war. We are a practical, dollar-loving people, and the only national sport we shall ever thoroughly enjoy is that of making money. Now and then, when our Yankee yachtsmen accomplish some bold achievement, or when an enterprising Yankee sportsman wrests the laurels from the brows of the foreigners upon their own hoisted turf, a thrill of national pride is felt from Maine to California, and we fancy ourselves a nation of sailors and horsemen. But as a general rule, the people of the United States believe in dollars rather than in glory, and will occupy their time with no sport that does not yield a return of hard cash.—*New York Herald.*

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE AND THE PATRIOT FOR \$4.00 PER YEAR.

For the sum of FOUR DOLLARS, paid in advance, we will send the FARM AND FIRESIDE and the WOONSOCKET PATRIOT for one year. The subscription price of the latter, alone, is \$2.50. THE PATRIOT is an old established family newspaper, with the largest circulation of any country journal in New England. S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, Woonsocket, R. I.

Various Matters.

REVELATIONS OF THE MICROSCOPE.

BRUSH a little of the fuzz from the wing of a butterfly, and let it fall upon a piece of glass. It will be seen on the glass as a fine golden dust. Slide the glass under a microscope, and each particle of the dust will reveal itself as a perfect symmetrical feather. Give your arm a slight prick, so as to draw a small drop of blood; mix the blood with a drop of vinegar and water, and place it upon the glass slide under the microscope. You will discover that the red matter of the blood is formed of innumerable globules or disks, which, though so small as to be separately invisible to the naked eye, appear under the microscope each larger than the letter of this print. Take a drop of water from a stagnat pool or ditch, or sluggish brook, dipping it from the green vegetable matter on the surface. On holding the water to the light, it will look a little milky; but on placing the smallest drop under the microscope, you will find it swarming with hundreds of strange animals that are swimming about in it with the greatest vivacity. These animalcules exist in such multitudes that any effort to conceive of their numbers bewilders the imagination. The invisible universe of created beings is the most wonderful of all the revelations of the microscope. During the whole of a man's existence on the earth, while he has been fighting, taming and studying the lower animals which were visible to his sight, he has been surrounded by these other multitudes of the earth's inhabitants without any suspicion of their existence! In endless variety of form and structure they are bustling through their active lives, pursuing their prey, defending their persons, waging their wars, prosecuting their amours, multiplying their species, and ending their careers; countless hosts at each tick of the clock passing out of existence, and making way for new hosts that are following in endless succession. What other field of creation may yet, by some inconceivable methods, be revealed to our knowledge?

How to "CATCH COLD."—Dr. Thomas, writing on this subject, says: "Nearly every night, from five o'clock to six during the winter months, I had to turn out from a warm room to go through all weathers, lecture for an hour in a theatre heated by a stove and lighted by gas, and then return again to my home. When I felt a fresh cold beginning, I tried in vain to account for it, until I accidentally saw in Copeland's dictionary, that the most fertile cause of a cold was coming from a moist cold air to a hot and dry room. This at once explained to me the reason of my frequent suffering, for I had invariably gone into my hot room straight from the cold. I, of course, soon changed my habit; I dawdled in the hall while taking off my great coat, perambulated the rooms which had no fire in them, went up and down stairs and the like, ere I went to my study, whose temperature was also reduced. Since then I agree with a friend, who says 'that a cold comes from catching hot'; and I am disposed to think there is a strong analogy between a chilblain on a child's toes and a cold in a person's nose, throat and lungs."—*Lancet.*

E. C. C. KELLOGG of Hartford, the inventor of the "lever" gun, has just invented an alarm night bell for druggists, physicians, etc., which can also be used as a burglar alarm. By an arrangement of clock work, when the door bell is pulled an alarm is set off in the room of the sleeper, and the gas turned on and lighted instantly, and without fail. Mr. Kellogg has one of these novel contrivances in operation at his own house, but so arranged that instead of lighting the gas, it uncaps and lights a fluid lamp.

AN INFERNAL MACHINE FOR WAR.—Gen. Daulle, of the French engineers, gives an account of a cannon with divergent tubes to throw musket balls. The number of these tubes will be in proportion to their calibre, so arranged that at a distance of 600 metres the balls will be spread over a space of 15 metres, and at nearly equal distances from each other. The charge of powder propels two balls at once from each tube, the trajectory of which will be the same as that of a large projectile from the same cannon. Thus a field-piece will be capable of holding 16 tubes, and discharging 32 balls at once, which at a distance of 600 metres will strike upon a space occupied by fifty men in two ranks, those in the second rank being liable to be struck by the same balls.



The Fireside Muse.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

A COUNTRY IDYL.

NOT AFTER THE MANNER OF TENNYSON.

I.
Old JANUS opens up the year,
FEBRUARY snaps her fingers;
Next laggard MARCH comes on his way,
Vexed that the snow still lingers.

II.
Fair APRIL, smiling through her tears,
Lingers in capricious showery,
While bonnie MAY comes at her heels
To strew the fields with flowers.

III.
Odorous JUNE wheels into line,
And with the wand of fairy,
Brings Nature's fairest smiles to view,
And hutter to the dairy!

IV.
Thus Spring and Summer pass around
To SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER;
From "Apple-Bees" the swains go home
Quite questionably sober!

V.
To close the circuit of the year
Come NOVEMBER and DECEMBER;
Old Hallowe'en and Christmas Day—
Ab! who does not remember!

VI.
Thus year after year goes round
In country and in village;
And the abundant crops reward
The hand of careful tillage.

VII.
The farmer walks his quiet way,
And daily grows more wealthy;
The children Heaven grants to him
Grow up supremely healthy.

VIII.
'Tis he who leads an envious life,
Esteemed by friends and neighbors;
He earns the daily bread he eats,
And whistles as he labors.

IX.
Out of his untold abundance
He does not stint in giving;
What other life is there, we ask,
So truly worth the living!

F. H. S.

Woonsocket, R. I., March 23, 1867.

The Field.

SEEDS.

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

THE time for sowing seeds is close at hand, and we desire to call attention to the importance of a right selection. To the majority of farmers and gardeners, a carrot seed is a carrot seed, and the only questions asked are "Is it of last year's growth? and of the long orange variety?" We are particular about our stock, and examine carefully pedigrees; but the general impression is, that seeds are not of sufficient importance to demand much thought or care. This is a great mistake. The success, or failure of a crop, depends much upon the seed. We have planted cabbages side by side in the same field, with no perceivable difference in their soil or mode of culture, and one patch has headed well and the other proved worthless. We could only account for the result from the fact that the successful patch had the benefit of starting from Gregory's thorough bred seed, and the other had a nameless origin, but was probably from a degenerate plant. The variety in both patches was the Flat Dutch.

There is cheating in all trades—except the farmer's—but the temptation to cheat is greater in some than in others—whiskey always excepted. The seed business seems more liable than almost any other, to the tricks of trade. It requires great moral firmness to throw away old seed which has been nicely packed and labeled. It is like turning off an old horse. We don't like to part with him merely because he is old, without some equivalent. As the jockey mixes a little arnica with the food of the old horse, to give him breath and plumpness, so the seedsman may mix a little fresh seed with the old, to give it the appearance of life. Age, however, is not the great objection to most of our seeds. Some, as the squash, pumpkin, etc., are all the better for the maturity of years, as they run less to vine and more to fruit; and most seeds will germinate nearly as well when two or three years old as when fresh. There is, of course, a limit to their vitality, and this limit is pretty well defined, and should not be exceeded.

The great trouble with our seeds is, they are not well raised, or thorough bred, to horrow a

ferm from the animal kingdom. The analogy between the vegetable and animal kingdoms is more striking than is generally supposed. As the parent animal impresses its characteristics upon its progeny, so the seed gives character to the future plant; and as it is possible, by a careful study of the laws of breeding, in the course of a number of generations finally to produce a race of animals far superior to the common breed, and that will very surely transmit the superior points, so it is possible, by a careful selection of plants from which to raise seed, and a proper selection of seed when raised, in the course of time, to produce a variety of grain or vegetable that shall excel all its antecedents.

As instances of this improvement in the animal kingdom, we need only refer to the Short Horn cattle and South Down sheep. In the vegetable world, we have just as striking examples in the Stone Mason cabbage and the Stowell sweet corn. The Stone Mason cabbage is the old Flat Dutch carefully propagated from choice specimens, cutting off most of the side shoots, and thus throwing all the energy of the plant into the leading culm, which alone is allowed to produce the seed. Let this process be continued for a few seasons, and the characteristics of the plant become comparatively fixed; or, as we may say, the vegetable becomes thorough bred. Not that it can not degenerate; the tendency to degenerate is manifest alike in the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Let the Durham cattle mix promiscuously with other stock, and their fine points would disappear in less time than it took to produce them. Descent is always easy, but ascent is laborious.

All our fruits and vegetables furnish proof of careful cultivation and selection of seed. The wild parsnips, beets, carrots, etc., are unpalatable, and the wonder is that any one ever thought of converting these tough, unsavory roots into delicious esculents. How soon they will degenerate we also see, by letting them grow among the grasses and weeds, and he self, sown for a few seasons. The parsnips not only become unpalatable, but positively poisonous; still, we have heard it stoutly maintained that the seed of the wild parsnip is as good as that of the cultivated variety. We might as well affirm that smellege seed is as good as that raised from celery, or that a scrub hull is as good to breed from as one of Tborn's thorough-breds.

As an illustration of the right selection of seed, we may be permitted to refer to our individual experience. Years since we were called upon to arbitrate in a case in which it appeared that a farmer, having a quantity of Ruta Baga plants which, instead of producing roots, ran to seed; and thinking it was too had to lose his ground and labor, harvested the seed and sold it to a seedsman in a neighboring town. The consequence was that the vicinity next year was stocked with rootless, long necked, worthless ruta-bagas, and the damage was not easily computed. Such ignorance in this nineteenth century is inexcusable; indeed, no century could plead ignorance as an excuse, for one of the first things taught in the Bible is that God made the herbs (vegetables), yielding seed after their kind. "As ye sow, so shall ye also reap."

In order to be positively sure of our seed we must raise it ourselves. Of the annuals, we may with little trouble, save seed. The biennials require a little more labor. By going into a field of corn and selecting the earliest and plumpest ears from stocks having two ears, we may, in the course of time, originate a variety that will be both early and productive. In like manner, the first fair cucumbers, and the first plump pods of peas etc., of the annuals, should be raised for seed. If time and space do not allow the setting out and careful culture of the biennials, we must purchase of some one in whom we can place confidence; but let no one plant cabbage stumps promiscuously, and save the seed from the latest shoots, and the next year expect a premium crop. It is against the law in such cases made and provided.

LITHARGE mixed with lard is recommended as a cure for chilblains.

Fireside Miscellany.

THE TAXES OF FARMERS.

THE following is very important to farmers, and the decisions have recently been given by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington:

1st. Farmers will not be required to make return of produce consumed in their own immediate families.

2d. The farmers' profits from the sale of live stock are to be found by deducting from the gross receipts for animals sold, the purchase money paid for the same. If animals have been lost during the year by death or robbery, the purchase money paid for such animals may be deducted from the gross income of the farm.

3d. No deductions can be made by the farmer for the value of services rendered by his minor children, whether he actually pays for such services or not. If his adult children work for him and receive compensation for their labor, they are to be regarded as other hired laborers in determining his income.

4th. Money paid for labor, except such as is used or employed in domestic service, or in the production of articles consumed in the family of the producer, may be deducted.

5th. No deduction can be allowed in any case for the cost of unproductive labor. If house servants are employed a portion of the time in productive labor, such as the making of butter and cheese for sale, a proportionate amount of the wages paid them may be deducted.

6th. Expenses for ditching and cleaning new land are plainly expenses for permanent improvement, and not deducted.

7th. The whole amount expended for fertilizers, applied during the year to the farmers' land, may be deducted, but no deduction is allowed for fertilizers produced on the farm. The cost of seed purchased for sowing and planting may be deducted.

8th. If a person sells timber standing, the profits are to be obtained by estimating the value of the land after the removal of the timber, and from the sum thus obtained deducting the estimated value of the land on the first day of January, 1862, or on the day of purchase, if purchased since that date.

9th. Where no repairs have been made by the tax-payer upon any building owned by him during the preceding five years, nothing can be deducted for repairs made during the year for which his income is estimated.

10th. A farmer should make return of all his produce sold within the year, but a mere executory contract for a sale, is not a sale; delivery, either actual or constructive, is essential. The criterion by which to judge whether a sale is complete or not, is to determine whether the vender still retains in that character a right over the property; if the property were lost or destroyed, upon which of the parties, in the absence of any other relation between them than that of the vender and vendee, would the loss fall.

It is a fact that most old women who live in cottages, know better how to rear chickens than any other persons; they are more successful, and this may be traced to the fact that they keep but few fowls, and these fowls are allowed to run freely in the house, to roll in the ashes, to approach the fire, and to pick up the crumbs or eatable morsels they find on the ground, and are nursed with the greatest care and indulgence.

PUNCTUALITY.—A punctual man is rarely a poor man, and never a man of doubtful credit. His small accounts are frequently settled, and he never meets with difficulty in raising money to pay large demands. Small debts neglected ruin credit, and when a man has lost that, he will find himself at the bottom of a hill he cannot ascend.

At the Pittsburg rolling mill, recently, a plate was rolled 12 inches thick, 12½ feet long and 4½ feet broad, and weighing 12½ tons. This is said to be the thickest plate of iron ever rolled in the United States, perhaps in the world, and is to be used as a target in testing heavy ordnance.

A COOL FARMER.

WE have seen and heard of cool proceedings ere this, but the conduct of the Vermont agriculturist was positively "feed." He once sold a load of hay to his neighbor, who, contrary to his expectations, after seeing it weighed, stayed to see it unloaded. But a few forkfuls were off, when a bonneing rock rolled from off the load; then another, and then a third, came bang upon the floor.

"What's this?" queried the buyer in a loud voice.

"Most all herd-grass this year," replied the deaf man.

"But, see here," continued the other, pointing to the boulders which lay arrayed in judgment against the dishonest hay-man, "what does all this mean?"

"Shan't eat nigh so much hay this year as I did last," replied the dealer in herd-grass.

Just as he had finished the last sentence, down thundered a rousing chunk of granite, making a deep indentation in the barn-floor with one of its sharp angles.

"I say, neighbor N." screamed the purchaser of granite, "I want to know what these are?" pointing to the boulders, and the big lump of granite.

Old N. took up a mighty forkful of the herd-grass, gave it a toss into the hay-loft, then leaning upon his fork, ejecting his huge quid of tobacco and replacing it with a fresh one, he took a view of the fragment of a stone wall that lay before him, and with one of the blandest smiles he replied.—"Them's rocks."

WHAT A SPIDER EATS.

IN order to test what a spider could do in the way of eating, we arose about daybreak one morning to supply his fine web with a fly. At first, however, the spider did not come from his retreat, so we peeped among the leaves, and there discovered that an earwig had been caught, and was now being feasted on. The spider at once left the earwig, rolled up the fly, and at once returned to his "first course." This was 5:30 a. m. At 7 a. m., the earwig had been demolished; and the spider, after resting awhile, came down for the fly, which he finished by 9 a. m. A little after nine we supplied him with a daddy-longlegs, which was eaten by noon. At one o'clock a blow-fly was greedily seized; and with an appetite apparently no worse for his previous indulgence, he commenced on the blow-fly. During the day, and toward the evening, a great many midges had been caught in the web. Of these we counted one hundred and twenty, all dead, and fast prisoners in the spider's net. Soon after dark, provided with a lantern, we went in to examine whether the spider was suffering at all from indigestion, or in any other way, from his previous meals; instead, however, of being thus affected, he was employed in rolling up together the various little green midges, which he then took to his retreat and ate.

This process he repeated, carrying up the lot in detachments, until the whole was eaten. A slight rest of about an hour was followed by a most industrious web-making process, and before daybreak another web was ready to be used in the same way. Taking the relative size of the spider and of the creatures it ate, and applying this to a man, it would be somewhat as follows: At daybreak, a small alligator; at 7 a. m., a lamb; at 9 a. m., a young camelopard; at 1 o'clock, a sheep; and during the night, one hundred and twenty larks.—*Chamber's Journal.*

JUDGE—, who is a very able Judge of the Supreme Court of one of the great States of this Union, when he first came to the bar was a very blundering speaker. On one occasion, when he was pleading a case of replevin, involving the right of property to a lot of hogs, he addressed the jury as follows:

"Gentlemen of the jury, there were just twenty-four hogs, gentlemen—exactly twice as many as there are in that jury box!"

The effect can be imagined.

THE Gardener's Montbly says that most of the failures in planting raspberries and blackberries, arise from planting too deep.

JOLLY.—An English paper calls attention to the fact that the slang sense in which the word "jolly" is often used is, after all, not slang. In "John Trapp's Commentary on the Old and New Testaments," published in London two hundred years ago, is to be read, "All was jolly quiet at Ephesus before St. Paul came thither." A century earlier, says a writer in Notes and Queries, the word is thus used by North, in the translation of Plutarch's Lives: "It (the wind, which some call cacias) bloweth a jolly cool wind." So, without knowing it, our fast young men use this convenient word in its most classical sense.





The Farm and Garden.

EARLY VEGETABLES.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY R. O. KENDALL, PHILADELPHIA.

AFTER having dieted through six months of winter, on bread, beef, mutton, pork and potatoes, with turnips occasionally, and now and then a dinner of corned beef and cabbage, early Spring vegetables become necessities, not only of appetite, but of the system.

In the Spring months, after warm weather begins to set in, say from about the middle of March to the first of June, in all these midland regions, from the Alleghenies Eastward to the sea, there is, in both humanity and animals, a greater relaxation of nervous tension; more disarrangement of the circulatory system, and more active efforts of nature to reorganize the animal structure, than at any other season. Hence, our appetite, and craving for early vegetable food. Cattle take greedily to green grass, and humanity, with an equal relish, to all green things that come from vegetable gardens. Nature, through the appetite, teaches both man and brutes, that a diet mainly made up of green vegetable material, at such seasons, is the most proper, and ablest assistant in reorganizing, and rendering vigorous the entire system.

It is the opinion of eminent physiologists, and our ablest physicians, that if, as a rule throughout the United States, we could but hurry on our Spring productions so as to bring to our tables nice, fresh crisp vegetables in variety, from fifteen to thirty days earlier than we are in the habit of having them, there would be a reduction of ten per cent. in our annual bills of mortality; while we should all be twenty per cent. better men, women and children physically, and of course something better morally and mentally—for invalids, and even *grunTERS*, are not apt to be over amiable persons.

Now, if this hypothesis be correct, and it has a rational look, the better status is well worth an earnest effort to attain. Let us see if it is within the reasonable reach of popular practice—accessible to all. A tolerably familiar acquaintance with practical chemistry as applied to plant growth, some philosophy, what common sense I can bring to bear, a little theory, and considerable practical experience, convinces me that it is—or at least to all who hold even a small corner of Mother Earth, and have the energy and ambition to make the trial.

It is not probable that in all instances we shall be able to reach the thirty days' limit; but in a great many localities we can; and, I believe, make the general average fifteen, while New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore, as well as all other easily accessible cities and towns of the Atlantic States, may have their markets, and their citizens their tables, supplied with good, crisp, fresh, and wholesome vegetables, three weeks earlier than has been the custom.

Beginning Northward and Eastward, Rhode Island has, in the islands of her Narragansett Bay, and the region round about Newport, a garden territory with a climate almost Italian, that energized, and Nature's good intentions seconded by human agency well directed, would supply the markets of every city and considerable town within fifty miles of tide water, from Boston to New London, with most sorts of ordinary vegetables, fully three weeks earlier than they are now supplied.

Connecticut has enough of sunny Southern slopes, and warm sheltered nooks, to provide in like manner for every table within her boundaries. New York and Philadelphia would draw their supplies mainly from New Jersey and Delaware; while Baltimore could be amply provided for from the two lower counties of the "Eastern Shore," the detached Virginia territory east of the Chesapeake, from St. Mary's and the "Piney Woods" of Anne Arundel counties, besides having a large surplus to spare to interior markets.

The methods in which this bringing forward the season of Spring vegetables can unquestionably be accomplished, are various; but all tending to the one consummation; all within

the capacity of every man of ordinary common sense and sufficient energy and industry. The first step is to select suitable garden sites, having a shelter from chilly North and Northwest winds, a warm Southern exposure, and kind, genial soil. Then prepare the ground by general fertilizing, under drainage, and faithful Fall plowing. As a rule, such sites thoroughly drained, may be plowed and put in fine tilth fifteen days earlier than the average of all our vegetable gardens and "truck farms" under present conditions. At least ten days can always be gained, and we can very soon bring up the other five, or eight, or ten, by carefully selecting the very best seeds, roots and plants of all the earlier sorts of vegetables to begin with, and then pushing them forward by quick, special fertilizers, and attentive care and culture, saving from everything of the first crop, the fairest, earliest, and best seeds for the next planting.

This is no mere speculative theory. We have been testing the practicability of it, and find the results entirely satisfactory. These ten years, we have had on our table, of our own growing, all the usual Spring vegetables, as—cucumbers, peas, beans, beets, onions, tomatoes, squash, green corn, &c., on an average, three weeks before a single sample of any one of them was to be found in any market in New York or Philadelphia, unless grown under glass. We resorted to no glass or fire heat—no conjuring or witchcraft—nothing beyond just such means as have been briefly glanced at, aided only by an ordinary garden hot bed. Besides, our garden had none of the natural features which are deemed essential for early production—inclining rather away from, than towards the sun, lying low, and the soil originally a cold, wet, tenacious clay.

If we had grown such nice crisp cucumbers, peas, beans, corn, tomatoes etc., to sell, and had them fifteen to twenty days before they made their first appearance in the market, we could have commanded our own prices from first class hotels and restaurants, and legions of customers able to gratify their appetite at any price. What we could have done, any one else, having a suitable patch of ground, and the will and energy, can do.

Allotted space does not admit of entering into particulars, and modes of special culture; but if permitted the opportunity, we shall have hereafter (not in the next world), but at an early day, great pleasure in communicating to the public something more of our experience in growing early vegetables.

March, 1867.

BONE DUST AS A FERTILIZER.

AN intelligent farmer, living in the Western part of Connecticut, writes the following:—

"When entering upon the cultivation of our present farm, we asked our predecessor what fields would give a crop of potatoes without the application of fresh haryard manure, as we feared the application of such in inducing 'the rot.' A five-acre field was named. We carefully platted and cultivated it, and found no rot among the potatoes, but the yield of the whole field did not supply the tables of the farm for the year, so exhausted was the land. In the Autumn we plowed and sowed the same field with rye, applying twenty-five bushels of bone dust to the acre. Such was the immediate effect of the application, that when the rye was grown, a man of ordinary stature would be concealed by the crop in walking through the field. Grass seed was sown with the rye. A good crop of hay was taken the first year it was mowed. But the second year, when turf was well established, sixteen tons of hay were taken from the five acres. After mowing it four years, it was plowed and planted to corn, giving a heavy crop without manure. Such is our experience in the use of bone as manure. Twenty to twenty-five bushels of bone is a good dressing to the acre, and is worth from two to three times the cost of stable manure brought from the city. Bone dust should be applied to and left as near the surface as may be, and be suitably covered. We usually sow broadcast after the harrowing. The second course of the harrow will cover near the surface."

THE PROCESS OF VEGETATION.

ONE of the most remarkable things in the general government of nature, which is continually going on, is the manner in which certain plants accompany man in all his wanderings, and are only found in the path of his footsteps. The nutritious grasses he has voluntarily carried with him round the world. Of these, barley is the most widely spread, being known from the utmost boundary of culture in Lapland down to the elevated plains near the equator. But man has also invariably been compelled to take along with him a whole rabble of weeds, thorns and thistles. These plants seem to attach themselves to the lord of creation and follow him wherever he goes and makes a habitation. They always settle around his house, near his stable, or luxuriate on his dunghill. Travellers can thus trace, as the celebrated Augustin St. Hilaire did in Brazil, by the mere presence of weeds, even in the midst of a desert, the place of abandoned and utterly destroyed settlements. Stranger still is it, that the different races of men have different kinds of weeds following in their wake, so that a careful observer can, in travelling, see at once, by merely noticing the prevailing weeds, whether Europeans or Asiatics, Germans or Slaves, Negroes or Indians, have dwelt at certain places. It was not without good reason, then, that some of our Indian tribes called the common plantain in their language "the white man's footsteps." A simple but distinct vetch marks in like manner, even now, long after the entire abandonment of the land, the former dwelling places of Norwegian colonists in Greenland; and the deadly nightshade has followed the gipsies from India throughout all their wanderings. Bayard Taylor in his "Trip to Colorado," noticing the profusion of sunflowers—not an indigenous growth—says "from Fort Riley to the Rocky Mountains, wherever a wagon has made a rut in the soil, there springs up a rank hedge of this plant. The pig-weed, horse-weed, and *datura stramonium* are also rapidly advancing westward. I found them some distance this side of Fort Ellsworth." So it seems that weeds, like human vices, ever mark the conquest of men over the realms of nature.

Fireside Miscellany.

REASON WHY BEES WORK IN THE DARK.

A LIFE-TIME might be spent in investigating the mysteries hidden in a bee-hive, and still half of the secrets would be undiscovered. The formation of the cell has long been a celebrated problem for the mathematician, whilst the changes which the honey undergoes offer at least an equal interest to the chemist. Every one knows what honey fresh from the comb is like. It is a clear yellow syrup, without a trace of solid sugar in it. Upon straining, however, it gradually assumes a crystalline appearance—it *candies*, as the saying is, and ultimately becomes a solid lump of sugar. It has not been suspected that this change was due to a photographic action; that the same agent which alters the molecular arrangement of the iodine of silver on the excited collodion plate, and determines the formation of camphor and iodine crystals in a bottle, causes the syrup honey to assume a crystalline form. This, however, is the case.

M. Schibler has inclosed honey in stoppered flasks, some of which he has kept in perfect darkness, whilst others have been exposed to the light. The invariable results have been that the sunned portion rapidly crystallizes, whilst that kept in the dark has remained perfectly liquid. We now see why bees are so careful to work in perfect darkness, and why they are so careful to obscure the glass windows which are sometimes placed in their hives. The existence of their young depends on the liquidity of saccharine food presented to them, and if light were allowed access to this the syrup would gradually acquire a more or less solid consistency; it would seal up the cells, and in all probability prove fatal to the hive.—*Quarterly Journal of Science.*

WASTE OF COINS.

THE life of coins is said to be much briefer now than before the introduction of steam for passenger travel. The real cause of the increase of wear in Europe probably arises from the fact that coins are not saved and secreted as they were formerly. Now they are subjected to constant attrition by being carried in pockets and passed from hand to hand. On the average, one hundred old English shillings would not make more than eighty new ones.

The mode of manufacturing coins is opposed to their longevity. The plain disk metal is very soft when placed between the dies. Compression hardens the recessed surfaces, while the raised surfaces are left in a state very near their original softness. Unfortunately, the raised portions of the coin are just those most exposed to attrition. It has been proposed to raise the rim of the coin so as to protect the figures within. This plan might make the denomination of the coin legible for a longer time, but would not diminish the actual wear. Our copper and nickel coins never bear the intrinsic value they represent, so that there is really but a trifling loss by attrition. Gold and silver coins, on the contrary, are originally worth their nominal value, and any plan to better protect them from wear, when they again come into general use in this country, should be favorably entertained by the General Government.

How to DRY BEEF.—The New England Farmer says:—"The best dried beef we ever ate was at the table of E. D. Rust, Esq., now of Brandon, Vt., and was prepared as follows: For 100 pounds of beef make a brine of nine pounds of salt, two pounds of brown sugar, one quart of molasses, two ounces of saltpetre, two ounces of saleratus. Mix them well together in water; then boil and skim. When this is cool, pour it over the meat, being careful to have every particle of it covered with the brine. Let the beef remain in the brine until the seasoning has struck through it, then take it out, wipe it dry and hang it up. Some persons hang it overhead in the kitchen, for a week or two, and then in some place more out of the way. When sufficiently dried it may be inclosed in bags so tight that no insect can enter, and be kept in a cool, dry place. If desired, it can be smoked for a day or two, or longer, as hams are smoked."

ADORN YOUR HOMES.—Some one writes both gracefully and forcibly: "I would be glad to see more parents understand that when they spend money judiciously to improve and adorn the house and the grounds around it, they are in effect paying their children a premium to stay at home as much as possible and enjoy it; but when they spend money unnecessarily in fine clothing and jewelry for their children, they are paying them a premium to spend their time away from home—that is, in places where they can attract the most attention and make the most display."

THE CAPILLARY PRINCIPLE.—Mill stones are split by inserting wedges of dry wood into crevices; on being wetted, the water is taken up by the pores of the wood and the stone is rent asunder. One of the most curious applications of this principle is found in the process of currying leather or rendering it soft and pliable, by filling its pores with oil. This cannot be done directly by merely smearing the surface, but a way is prepared for the oil by wetting the skin with water and then rubbing on oil.

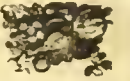
THE ENCREACHING OCEAN.—The New Jersey geological report shows that the Atlantic Ocean is steadily and rather rapidly encroaching upon the land on the coast of that State. At Cape Island, the surf has eaten inwards full a mile in the last ninety years. Along the bay shore of Cape May the marsh wears away at the rate of a rod in two years. One of the beaches upon the coast is mentioned as having moved inward more than one hundred yards in the last thirty years. It is also the opinion of the oldest observers that the tide rises higher upon the eastern New Jersey uplands than formerly.



RESIST THE BEGINNING.—The Arabs have a fable of a miller, who was one day outside," said the camel; "I only want to get my nose in." The nose was let in, inconvenienced by the ungainly companion, in a room certainly not large enough for both. "If you are inconvenienced, you may leave," said the camel; "as for myself, I shall stay where I am." The moral is that when temptation occurs, we must not yield to it. We must not allow so much as its "nose" to come in.—Everything like sin is to be turned away from. He who yields even the smallest

degree will soon be entirely overthrown.





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 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.

NECESSITY OF OBSERVATION.

THE reason why Agriculture as a Science, has not reached a high stand-point, is on account of the lack of systematic observation and experiments; and because much practical information that is thus derived, is withheld from publicity. Science groups facts together, and classifies and arranges them; these facts must be fundamental and the observations correctly taken, or the conclusions will inevitably be wrong. Without careful pains taking, minute observation, and accurate research, science must become worthless. Theory is not substantial enough for the foundation of a science. The mortar of improbability will crumble away, and the building topple at the first assaults of substantiated facts.

A man may think too long and too much. He must see and observe in a proportionate degree, or he will become either morbid or visionary. Said the great DeQuincy: "my disease has been to meditate too much and observe too little." "The wise man's eyes are in his head," says Solomon; "but the fool walketh in darkness." Every man's eyes are supposed to be in his head; but many have eyes, yet see not; and as many more see, yet do not observe. We do not undervalue "the secluded study, the wrapt meditation, and the scholarly enthusiasm of books;" but think that the world would be spared the infliction of much rapid philosophizing and useless wrangling, if her scholars indulged less in books and more in sunshine and fresh air. When Rosa Bonheur desires to sketch a farm yard scene, she does not do it in her cosy studio, relying upon her imagination for truthfulness and effect. In bloomer-costume and cow-boy boots, with her portfolio under her arm, she proceeds to the barn yard and depicts nature as she finds it. The fastidious may say she is not very feminine; but all will acknowledge her to be a skillful artist.

The true history of many inventions would destroy their most readily conceded claims to originality. The dove-tail, the arch and keystone, most of the architectural ornaments, even the capitals of Ionic, Corinthian and composite orders, are imitations of fossil formations. The first and most beautiful designs in calico printing were purloined from patterns found in the old red sandstone coral.

Men have seen things rather than invented them. All of the most intricate movements and combinations in machinery have been suggested by what has been seen in structures that have come from the hand of Infinite skill. A spider's web suggested to Sir Samuel Brown the suspension bridge; from the structure of the shell of a lobster served upon his table, James Watt learned how to construct the iron pipe to carry water under the Clyde, along the uneven river bed; a ship-worm at work taught Brunel how to tunnel the Thames; the pendulum was suggested by the vibrating of a chandelier in a cathedral, etc., etc.

We have been indeed to make these remarks, somewhat disjointed though they are, in order to induce our readers to acquire habits of constant and careful observation. To "nail a lie" floating in the currents of newspaperdom—to explode a theory or unmask a humbug—to give the results of repeated experiments—to narrate what has been observed in this place or in that, or upon this subject or upon that—to do any, or all of these things, is to contribute to the accumulating fund of truthful knowledge. What practical farmer can not give us, now and then, something of the character enumerated, for publication?

While we are justly proud of the array of contributors who aim to elaborate particular subjects, we would like to have a steady influx of little "tit-bits" of information, no matter if they may at first sight seem valueless, or the

writer fearful that he might betray a want of scholarship. It is the tiny, glittering pearls we want. We shall arrange them with pleasure in settings of grammatical purity.

A few advisory friends have hinted to us that our journal is too scientific—too far beyond the grasp of ordinary minds. In this respect we beg leave to differ. We have a better opinion of the intelligence of the mass of our agricultural friends; and if there should be a few to whom our journal seems too technical or high-flown, we will be accomplishing something by cultivating them up to full comprehensiveness. We set out with the design of establishing a reliable and high-toned journal, and as yet see no reason why we should recede from our praiseworthy aim. No journal, even if floundering befogged on an untraversed sea, should hold out any false alluring lights.

A FLOWER-EDITORIAL.

FOR months past the daily journals have been coming to us groaning under editorials, not a few of which were windy diatribes, about reconstruction, the tardiness of Congress, the short-comings of the Tariff, the faultiness of the Internal Revenue Bill, etc. We glance at the headings and are snarfed; they give us at once an inkling of the summary of contents, and we throw aside the paper with a sigh. However, in taking up the Providence Journal of the 21st inst., we found an agreeable exception in an editorial on Hyacinths. We read the delicious little pen sketch, and imagined the aroma of flowers to be about us. It was like a breath of Spring floating into the office—like letting the sails hull by a spice island passed in the "dull sea of reading." After giving the Mythological account of how there sprung a flower of more beautiful hue than Tyrian purple from the blood that dripped from the fatal wound in the forehead of Hyacinthus, as he leaned upon the shoulder of Apollo, the editor proceeds to say:

"With every returning Spring the poetic miracle is renewed. Human skill and ingenuity have multiplied these fragrant flowers, so that now florists number two thousand varieties, whose unfolding beauty it is a pure joy to watch and care for. The sealy bulbs are especially calculated for parlor culture, either in pots or glasses. They are a hardy race; the cold wind coming through the crevices of the windows will not freeze them, the furnace heat will not scorch them, and a little too much water will not drown them. Every one may cultivate them who has a Southern window to let in the sunlight, and a world of patience and perseverance to take care of them.

First, select the bulbs: those directly from Holland, daintily packed, and carefully labelled by the pains-taking Dutch, are the best and surest. Sand and leaf-mold, and loam must then be mingled in the right proportions for the soil, and October or November is the month for planting. Then carefully watering, and hiding them in a cool dark place from the sunlight, wait until the roots have filled the pots. Then bring them in succession gradually to the light, and very carefully nurse the little yellow knobby tips into greenness and development. If you are willing to take the pains, you will have a rich reward, and you may keep your windows filled with a succession of gay flowers from Christmas to May. You will have speedy growth, symmetrical form, rich coloring, and exquisite perfume. Every day will bring a new charm to reward your care. Delicious cerulean blue, softest rose, pale lilac, glowing magenta, pale yellow, snowy white; double corollas, and single corollas with their soft rich petals, and waxen bells, all growing together and harmonizing in their framework of living green."

Commend us to flowers. The universal heart of man blesses them. They are wreathed around the cradle, the altar, and the tomb. The Persian in the East delights in their perfume, and writes his love in nosegays, while the Indian child of the far off West, clasps his hand in glee as he gathers the abundant blossoms—the illuminated Scriptures of the prairies. The Cupid of the ancient Hindoos tipped his arrow with flowers, and with us orange blossoms are the bridal crown of to-day.

If it is impossible for us, with our moderate means, to decorate our walls with pictures from Florentine galleries, let us at least cultivate flowers, where nature is the sculptor of each leaf and climbing tendril, and delicate tracery of frame-work, and where the Sun, the great painter, brings out with the skill of the master, the rich, gorgeous coloring, and that perfection of development which the most gifted artist essays in vain to imitate.

EARLY POTATOES.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

I HAVE practiced for several years the following method of raising early potatoes, which I do not recollect having seen in print, and by which from two to four weeks' time may be gained—no small item in this market, where very early potatoes bring from three to four dollars per bushel.

Cut thin turf in pieces, about three inches square, and place them, *reversed*, in a gentle hot-bed, close together. On each of these place half of a medium sized potato, with the cut side down. Cover them with one inch of fibrous loam, and treat the same as other hot-bed plants. As soon as late frosts are past, transplant, with turf, in drills twelve inches apart.

The last of March, or the first of April is early enough to commence operations, in this latitude.

A cloudy day is preferable, as it prevents them from wilting and starts a rapid growth. Try it, and you will be surprised at the result.

A RHODE ISLANDER.

CONSUMPTION OF WOOL.—In the Monthly Report of the Agricultural Department for February, is a communication from David A. Wells, the United States Special Commissioner of Revenue, correcting an estimate of the annual consumption of wool in this country. There are nearly five thousand "sets of woolen machinery" in the United States; and the estimated consumption of seoured wool is 142,844,317 pounds. That amount of wool is manufactured into cloths and fabrics every year—that is, in prosperous times. As a large number of the woolen mills are now running on "short time," or have only a part of their machinery in operation, we cannot expect that the consumption of wool for 1867 will exceed one hundred million pounds. Yet that amount is enormous; and is an evidence of the extent and capacity of our woolen manufactures.

INTERESTING TO FARMERS.—Among the recent changes in the Internal Revenue Laws is one allowing one thousand dollars, instead of six hundred, to be deducted from income returns. Among the articles placed upon the free list, are the following, all either produced or in common use among the farmers: Canned and preserved vegetables and fruits, fabrics produced on hand looms, apple parers, bee hives, easks, churns, barrels, horse rakes, horse powers, harrows, hay forks, hoes, portable grinding mills, horse blankets, forks, garden engines, hydraulic rams, washing and wringing machines, spinning wheels, and farm wagons and carts. These changes will relieve the farming community of considerable taxation.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.—We are indebted to Senator Anthony for the Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the year 1865. It contains many valuable experiences and suggestions. It would, ultimately, put money in the national treasury if these Agricultural Reports were placed in the hands of every farmer who would read them.

WOOL.—The manufacture of knit woolen goods has been greatly stimulated in this country by the high cost of importation since the war, and it is now estimated that 400 sets of machinery and 40,000 hands are employed in this branch of industry in the United States, producing goods to the value of about \$20,000,000 per year. The New England and Middle States nearly monopolize this business, New York taking the lead with the extensive mills at Cohoes.

IMPROVEMENTS IN MACHINERY.

It appears, from the report of the Commissioner of Patents, that this department of the Government is not only self-sustaining, but profitable, having yielded a surplus, over the expenses during the year, of \$264,125.00. The Patent Office is the great index of American energy and genius. Last year there were nine thousand four hundred and fifty patents issued. Not a few of them were for improvements in agricultural implements. The idea that to increase machinery is to increase the oppressions of the poor, was long ago exploded. It could not stand the logic of events.

The progressive farmer always has an eye to improved machinery connected with his vocation. He knows that it is a mute yet valuable addition to his means, saving much manual labor, and ensuring to him successful competition. He selects only the best, after a thorough trial and investigation; and if he is at the same time a careful farmer, will see that such machinery is kept in good order and carefully stored away when not in use.

AGRICULTURAL NEWS ITEMS.

THE Kentucky Agricultural Society have resolved to invite a National Industrial Congress to meet at Louisville during the present year.

ENGLAND, during 1866, in addition to the eggs produced at home, consumed the enormous number of 438,878,880 imported eggs.—Eggs-actly.

OHIO has 7000 acres planted with grape. The yield in 1866 was 2,500,000 pounds of grapes, and 237,000 gallons of wine.

EVERY week for a month past 200,000 bushels of corn have arrived at Atlanta, Ga.

GRAIN is sold in Milwaukee by the cental system—that is, so much for a hundred pounds.

THEY are going to try black-seed Egyptian cotton, in Texas.

THE Strawberry and peach crops in southern Illinois are expected to be larger than usual this year.

AT Lynchburg, Va., shipping tobacco, which two weeks ago sold from \$7 to \$9, now brings \$12 to \$15.

CHAMPAIGN county, Illinois, claims to excel in pear culture. It is the richest kind of black prairie.

Our Book Table.

THE AMERICAN FRUIT CULTURIST, containing Practical Directions for the Propagation and Culture of Fruit Trees in the Nursery, Orchard and Garden. By JOHN J. THOMAS. New York: WILLIAM WOOD & CO.

This is a neatly bound and printed volume, containing upwards of five hundred pages, and four hundred and eighty illustrations. The descriptions embrace the principal American and Foreign varieties cultivated in the United States, arranged under separate and characteristic heads, thereby readily distinguished and easily remembered. Though not claiming to be a complete work on the pomology of the country, it gives full descriptions of the most valuable and prominent fruits. Being intended as a guide to the practical cultivator, it furnishes all information necessary to the selection of the best varieties of trees for cultivation and their subsequent management.

The multiplicity of books on fruit culture, is an evidence that the cultivation of fruit in this country is progressing rapidly. Five-and-twenty years ago, there were but few publications of this character; and the majority of those were foreign works. Up to the time of Downing's book on the "Fruit Trees of America," we recollect nothing of much value; although Mr. Thomas says "the first edition of the FRUIT CULTURIST, the basis of the present work, was written more than twenty years ago."

The author of this volume is an associate editor of the "Country Gentleman," and is a practical man on pomological matters. Had the author's name been withheld, we should have pronounced his work the experience of a veteran in fruit culture. We freely and cordially endorse the volume, as systematic, honest and practical; a book of great value to all persons engaged in the cultivation of fruit. Price \$3.00.

THE RICH HUSBAND: by Mrs. J. H. RIDDELL. Philadelphia: Peterson & Brothers.

Many of our rural friends tell us they cannot find time to read an agricultural journal—even if as good as the FARM AND FIRESIDE—but they say their wives and daughters manage to economize time sufficient to read novels. Well, then we will recommend "The Rich Husband," (and very few country girls object to that kind!) This volume gives a fresh picture of English society, and is very readable. Welsh and English rural scenery are here word-painted. Price \$2.00.

DAVID COPPERFIELD: by CHARLES DICKENS. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers.

People who "begin life on their own account, and don't like it," will have to do as David Copperfield did, and then "wait for something to turn up," as did Mr. Micawber. But don't wait, reader; secure this second volume of the author's American edition of DICKENS—beautifully gotten up, with twenty-five illustrations from original designs by H. K. Brown. Each volume is sold for \$1.25, which is very cheap.

GRAPES NAMED AFTER LADIES.—The following is taken from a new work entitled "The Market Assistant," by Thomas F. DeVoe: "The Isabella Grape, which thrives best and is most productive in the neighborhood of New York and other places, was introduced by George Gibbs, Esq., of Brooklyn, Long Island, from North Carolina, about the year 1814. His wife, Mrs. Isabella Gibbs, who took a prominent part in its further cultivation, was complimented by having her first name given to this fine, large blue grape. The Diana grape also took its name from Mrs. Diana Crehore, Massachusetts; and the Rebecca from Mrs. Rebecca Peake, of Hudson, New York.





The Fireside Muse.

CHILDISH WISDOM.

'Twas the hour of prayer, and the farmer stood,
With a thankful heart and a lowly mind,
And prayed to the Author of every good,
That the Father of all would be very kind,
And bless his creatures with raiment and food;
That the blessing each day might be renewed;
That every want might find relief,
And plenty for hunger, joy for grief,
Be measured out by the merciful One,
To all who suffer beneath the sun."

The prayer concluded, the godly man
Went forth in peace to inspect his farm
And by his side, delighted, ran,
Glowing with every healthful charm,
A little son, a sprightly boy,
Whose home was love and whose life was joy;
And they rambled o'er the grassy fields,
And the father said, "the harvest yields
A plentiful crop, my son, this year,
My barns are too small for the grain, I fear."

And they wandered on through row upon row
Of plump sheaves, and at length the child,
With earnest look and a rosy glow
On his shining cheek looked up and smiled,
And said, "My father do you not pray
For the poor and needy day by day,
That God, the good, would the hungry feed?"
"I do, my son." "Well, I think as you plead"—
His eyes waxed bright, for his soul shone through it—
"That God, if he had your wheat, would do it."

Fireside Tale.

THE HERDBOY'S DREAM.

BY EMMA M. JOHNSTON.

THE herdboy was out upon the hills, with his herd. The Summer was over, and Autumn's cheek had finished and faded into decay. All the glories of the forest had departed; the leaves that had mellowed into gold, the leaves that had burned into crimson—all alike had withered, and silently, softly sought their graves. The hills looked bleak, for the grass and flowers had said good-by, and faded away. Only the purple heather still bloomed, and the breeze swept over it, as if looking and calling for the things of Summer.

It was very lonely, as well as bleak, out upon the hills; the little village lay in the distance, too far for him to hear the sounds of life which came from it. Everything looked dull and sad; even the sky was mournfully clouded, its blue and gold shadowed by sombre grey. The herd roamed noiselessly about, cropping the heather, or looking with steadfast, wistful eyes far off, as if they saw some hidden Summer, some land of eternal bloom that human eyes might not discern.

The herdboy lay upon his hack, looking up at the changing clouds, and listening to the softly-sighing breeze, as it kept up its hurried search over the hills. His was not a very happy life; he was ragged, and often foot-sore and weary; the herd sometimes proved troublesome, and the man who owned them was not kind. The boy's father was dead, and he lived with his mother in the little German village. They were poor, very poor, and often the boy went without his breakfast. His feet were always bare, and all his good mother's patching could not keep his clothes decent. Yet he was a patient, cheerful boy, and none whistled more gaily, nor blew such a merry blast upon the horn.

As he lay looking upward, he thought of his hard lot, and wondered if life would always be so. He wished very much that he could go to some land where Summer did not fade, nor herds roam. Then he thought of his mother, and he knew he would not wish to leave her; still he wished there was some pleasant country where both might go, and he happy.

Thus thinking, all at once the sky changed and finally melted away; the heather looked covered by a mist, the herd seemed far, far off; his eyelids fell—the herdboy slept.

He slept, yet still he continued to think. And he was wandering after his herd, when suddenly there came a dark rolling river, and all at once the herd plunged in. Then he followed them.

And after he had been some time in this black flowing water, he found himself upon the borders of a beautiful land, and as soon as his feet touched the shore, he thought no more of his herd.

The bank leading up from the river was of

golden sand that glistened in the sun, and there were those standing upon it who raised a glad cry as he approached, and stretched forth white hands to help him upward.

He went with them till he came in sight of the city. The walls about it were of crystal, the gate of gold, encrusted with precious gems, and it swung upon hinges of pearl. One who had white flowing wings guarded it, and he smiled upon the poor herdboy as he passed through.

As soon as the gate opened, the glory of the place burst upon the boy.

There was a throne, and the King sat upon it. The throne was white, like the clouds we sometimes see, and the King looked not like any other, but was grand and great, yet simple as a little child.

Numbers of beautiful ones stood on every hand, all having white wings, and wearing crowns upon their golden hair; while beneath their brows their eyes shone like violets under banks of snow. They held green branches, which they waved softly, and kept up a sound of singing that was like the noise of many waters, and yet so sweet! There were harpers, too, with harps of gold, and they never wearied.

The air was radiant with a sun that did not scorch, and filled with a perfume that did not oppress. And there, lying a little way off, were the greenest fields—such fields as were never before seen, so soft and cool, and clear streams ran through them like healthy veins. All over these fields the white lambs, whiter than snow, lay cropping the golden-hearted lilies, that ever sprang again.

The herdboy gazed and listened: the music was such as fills the heart with tenderest longings.

Then the King stretched forth his hand to the boy, saying: "Welcome! this is thy home. Yonder are my little lambs: thou shalt care for them, and I will care for thee."

Again the herdboy looked at the lambs, and was satisfied, as if he had his heart's desire; for they were very lovely, and not at all like the rude herd he had long tended.

And it seemed that at this moment the music swelled higher, the air grew more fragrant, the light more radiant. The boy felt his heart to swell, and before he was aware he had joined in the song, and was lost in delight.

But suddenly the song waxed lower and lower, and grew faint, and then ceased; the city faded and disappeared; and opening his eyes, the herdboy found himself lying upon the hill, with his face to the sky, and his herd scattered about on every hand.

He arose, for the sun was sinking low, and blowing his horn, the herd came slowly up, and then they wound down the hill and took the path homeward.

That night, as the herdboy's mother sat mending his jacket, he lay before the fire and told her of the beautiful land he had visited.

"Alas, my child!" she said, "there is no such land! There is surely no better land than this."

But he said he had seen it, and, moreover, was to go there, some day.

And not many nights after, as he lay upon his bed, a knock was heard at the door.

When it was opened, the shadowy figure of an old man entered: it was the Angel of Death.

And going to the bed whereon the boy lay, he said: "I am come to take thee to the beautiful land."

Then the poor mother wept, saying: "Leave me not alone, my child!"

But the boy answered: "I pray thee dear mother, let me go."

When the mother saw the child's longing, she bowed her head; and the old man put forth his hand and touched the boy, and he passed away.

Ah! then the poor mother wept, and could not be comforted, because she knew not this land to which her child had gone. She wandered out upon the hills, where the boy had so often trod, and asked the herd if they could tell her where the land lay to which her treasure had gone.

And the herd lowed softly, and looked far

off at the horizon, where the sun was sinking red.

Then the mother said to the heather: "Where can it be that he has gone?"

The heather pointed upwards with her fingers.

The wind was sitting wailing upon the hill-top, and the woman said: "Perhaps thou canst tell me of this land!"

Then the wind arose, and soared high, higher, till it was rolled up in the crimson clouds.

"It must be that way," said the mother, "but alas, it is out of my reach!"

So she sat down upon the hill-top, and the biting frost came and touched her sharply.

Just then the white-haired pastor of the village passed that way, and seeing the lonely woman, he stopped. "Thou art wise," she said; "tell me where this beautiful land is, that I may join my child."

Then the old man, taking pity because of her ignorance, told her of the world beyond, and how it might be reached by Christ, who is the "way and the life." "Go to thy home," said this good man, "and through faith in Christ thou shalt one day see thy boy."

The mother arose, comforted, and went to her home. And through patience and faith she waited, when soon there came to her the Angel of Death.

"Come!" he said, "the land is not so far off, and the boy awaits thee."

Then he took her up, for she was very uneasy; and when she opened her eyes, lo! she saw the beautiful land, and the herdboy standing to greet her.—*Methodist Home Journal.*

Miscellany.

FARMERS.

ADAM was a farmer while yet in Paradise, and after his fall, commanded to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow.

Job, the honest, upright and patient, was a farmer, and his endurance has passed into a proverb.

Socrates was a farmer, and yet wedded to his calling the glory of his immortal philosophy.

St. Luke was a farmer, and divides with Prometheus the honor of subjecting the ox for the use of man.

Cincinnatus was a farmer, and the noblest Roman of them all.

Burns was a farmer, and the Muse found him at the plough, and filled his soul with poetry.

Washington was a farmer, and retired from the highest earthly station to enjoy the quiet of rural life, and present to the world a spectacle of human greatness.

To these names may be added a host of others who sought peace and repose in the cultivation of their mother earth; the enthusiastic Lafayette, the steadfast Pickering, the scholastic Jefferson, the fiery Randolph, all found an Eldorado of consolation from life's cares and troubles, in the green and verdant lawns that surrounded their homesteads.

THE telegraph along the Norwegian coast has been employed recently for the purpose of giving the fishermen notice of the appearance and position of the shoals of herring which are found on that shore, and also communicating other useful information whereby the fishing is more completely and efficiently carried on.

NUTRITION OF SUGAR.—Dutrone calls sugar the most perfect alimentary substance in nature. Dr. Rush says it affords the greatest quantity of nourishment in a given quantity of matter. Sir John Pringle tells us that the plague has never been known to visit any country where sugar composes a material part of the diet of the inhabitants.

A BLUNDERING or willful compositor and proof-reader on the Davenport (Iowa) Gazette recently caused that journal to appear with the following despatch: "The Committee of Ways and Means have decided to put Chase and Butler on the free list." It should have read, "cheese and butter."

A FRANK ADMISION.

BILLY Ross is a great temperance lecturer, and at Rushville, Illinois, was preaching to the young on his favorite theme. He said:—

"Now, boys, when I ask you a question you mustn't be afraid to speak right out and answer me. When you look around and see all these fine houses, farms and cattle, do you ever think who owns them all now? Your fathers own them, do they not?"

"Yes, sir," shouted a hundred voices.

"Well, where will your fathers be in twenty years from now?"

"Dead!" shouted the boys.

"That's right. And who will own all this property then?"

"We will."

"Right. Now, tell me, did you ever, in going along the streets, notice the drunkards lounging around the saloon doors, waiting for somebody to treat them?"

"Yes, sir, lots of them."

"Well, where will they be in twenty years from now?"

"Dead!" exclaimed the boys.

"And who will be the drunkard then?"

"Us boys!"

Billy was thunderstruck for a moment, but recovering himself tried to tell the boys how to escape such a fate.

EXPORTING CHEESE TO NEW MARKETS.

THE English do a large export trade in cheese with Australia, India and China. The cheeses sent out are generally small in size, many of them of the style known as loaf or truckle cheese, weighing from 10 to 15 pounds.

In order to have these cheeses keep during so long a voyage, they are encased in bladders. In addition to the bladders, a composition is used for rubbing over the cheese, so that the air may be thoroughly excluded. The bladders are moistened with this composition, and then carefully pasted over the surface of the cheese. They are then allowed to dry, when the cheese are packed in cases and are ready for shipment. Large profits are realized on these shipments, and we can not see why American dealers do not enter into a trade that would pay them largely.

While in England, the past season, we learned that English dealers were shipping American cheese to various points of Europe, Asia, the Cape, and South America; and it appeared strange that American dealers should be content to let others have a monopoly in these markets.

The American cheese trade has now become an important branch of commerce with Britain, but it ought to be extended into new markets, and with proper enterprise on the part of our dealers might be made to pay them. *Utica Herald.*

FACTS ABOUT RAILROAD SPEED.—A railroad car moves about seventy-four feet, or nearly twice its own length, in a second. At this velocity the locomotive driving wheel, six feet in diameter, makes four revolutions in a second, the piston rod thus traversing the cylinder eight times. If a horse and carriage should approach and cross a track at the rate of six miles an hour, an express train approaching at the moment would move toward it two hundred and fifty-seven feet, while it was in the act of crossing; if the horse moved no faster than a walk, the train would move toward it more than five hundred feet, which fact accounts for the many accidents at such points. When the locomotive whistle is opened at the post eighty rods from the crossing, the train will advance nearly one hundred feet before the sound of the whistle traverses the distance to, and is heard at, the crossing.

A CERTAIN farmer (a pillar of the church) had a fine field of wheat, which, being a little late, was threatened with an early frost. In the emergency he went into his closet and wrestled in prayer with the Lord for its preservation. In his prayer he stated the facts fully, and how the wheat would be affected by the frost, and wound up his petition in these words: "Not, Lord, that I would dictate, but merely recommend and advise."

LEGAL ADVICE.—An old barrister was giving advice to his son, who was just entering upon the practice of his father's profession—"My son," said the counsellor, "if you have a case where the law is clearly on your side, but justice seems to be clearly against you, urge upon the jury the vast importance of sustaining the law. If on the other hand, you are in doubt about the law, but your client's case is founded on justice, insist on the necessity of doing justice, though the heavens fall." "But," asked the son, "how shall I manage a case where law and justice are dead against me?" "In that case," replied the old man, "talk round it!"





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.

Philadelphia Society.

A POTATO CONVENTION.

The Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture held an adjourned meeting on the 22d inst., the object being to discuss the merits of the different varieties of the potato.

Dr. Thompson, Chairman of the Committee on Potatoes, stated that the meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the best mode of cultivating the potato and improving its quality.

Among the specimens exhibited was a seedling Mercer, planted among Monitors, which, it was stated, partook more of the taste of the Monitor than of the Mercer. They boil very white and mealy.

Mr. Thomas J. Edge, of Loudongrove, Chester county, who raised the specimens, stated that they were the product of a seedling raised from the seed-ball taken off a Mercer vine, which owing to the circumstances, must have been fertilized with Monitor pollen. He thought the potato was a hybrid between the Monitor and Mercer, and hoped the Society would give it a name.

Specimens of a seedling potato were sent by Mr. S. Chamber, of West Chester.

A member suggested that they be named the Chambers potato.

Mr. Harrison thought it would be premature to name the potato, as it resembled another kind which he had seen. The presumption is that the potato is a seedling, but it may not be a new variety.

Dr. Ellwyn said it would be important to get a biography of potatoes, for the purpose of ascertaining where they came from and their quality. He was satisfied that potatoes changed their characters with the soil and climate.

Mr. Harrison gave an account of the origin of the various potatoes now grown, during which he said that the Early Goodrich and the Harrison potatoes were the most productive.

Mr. Fort stated that he had obtained the largest crop by cutting the potatoes, and planting in furrows two feet apart.

Mr. James Thornton stated that so far as his experience went, he gave his decided preference to the Early Goodrich, as the best early potato that can be planted.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending March 29, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

Table listing farm products like Hay, Straw, Coal, Oats, Flour, etc. with prices.

GROCERIES, &c.

Table listing groceries like Raisins, Molasses, Y. H. Tea, Black Tea, etc. with prices.

MEATS, &c.

Table listing meats like Beef, Mutton, Veal, Pork, etc. with prices.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

March 20th, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1789; Sheep and Lambs 4788. Swine, 2200.

Country Hides, 9@9 1/2 cts lb. Country Tallow 7@7 1/2 cts lb. Brighton Hides, 10@10 1/2 cts lb. Brighton Tallow, 7 1/2@8 cts lb.

Working Oxen.—Sales at \$185, \$190, \$192, \$210, \$215, \$250, \$275, \$280, \$290, \$310, one extra pair, \$510.

MILK COWS.—Sales extra \$80@100; ordinary \$67@87.50. Store Cows \$35@50. There is but a few good Milch Cows in market.

Sheep and Lambs.—The supply is smaller than that of last week. Trade not very active. We quote sales of lots at 4 1/2, 5 1/2, 6 1/2, 7 1/2, 8 1/2, 9 1/2, 9@9 1/2 cts lb., and 9 to 9 1/2 cts lb.

Swine.—Wholesale, 7@8 cts lb.; retail, 5 1/2@6 1/2 cts lb. There is but a few Store Pigs in the market, and not much of a demand for them. Fat Hogs—2000 at market; prices, 9@9 1/2 per pound.

Marriages.

In Woonsocket, March 21, by Rev. D. M. Crane, Charles E. Keach to Ellen M. Carr, both of Woonsocket.

In Burrillville, 24th instant, Mr. Benjamin Whiteley to Mrs. Alice A. Presbrey, of Pascoag.

In Putnam, on the 13th instant, by Rev. C. Willett, Mr. Vernon T. Wetherell, to Miss Eliza J. Hyde. 19th instant, Mr. Joseph Morse to Mrs. Almira M. Barber, all of Woodstock.

In Holliston, March 12, by Rev. A. F. Herrick, Mr. Edwin D. Pond to Miss Caroline A. Ware, both of Medway.

In Pomfret, March 12th, by Rev. H. F. Hyde, Joseph W. Gardner of Exeter, R. I., to Hannah F. Spencer of Pomfret.

In Danversville, March 15th, Albert C. Wilson of Worcester, Mass., to Miss Jennie C. Bemis, of Danversville. March 14th, Mr. Henry K. James, to Miss Cornelia C. Crandall.

At South Attleboro, Vt., 15th, William Dunham to Mary Francis, daughter of Rev. G. Clark, the officiating clergyman.

Deaths.

In Woonsocket, March 21st, Mrs. Rhoda D., wife of John Bartlett, Esq., aged 67 years.

In Providence, R. I., 24th inst., Mrs. Priscilla Smith Foster, wife of Samuel Foster, died sister of Hon Amos D. Smith and ex-Gov. James Y. Smith; 21st inst., suddenly, Louis F. Prentice, son of Daniel A. and Mary S. Prentice, aged 18 years.

In North Providence, 20th inst., Eliza H., wife of Joseph Brown, Jr., in the 24th year of her age.

In Central Falls, 23d inst., Ardella C., wife of B. E. Borden, Esq., aged 53 years.

In Centredale, 15th inst., Eliza A., wife of Cornelius M. Capron, in the 24th year of her age.

In Pawtucket, Warwick, 25th inst., Hon. Henry Butler, in the 35th year of his age.

In Coventry, 21st inst., Samuel W. Arnold, in the 77th year of his age.

In North Foster, Albert T. Williams, in his 38th year.

In Chepachet, 20th inst., Miss Mary Hawkins, aged 80 years.

In Kingston, R. I., 22d inst., Susan Rebecca, wife of J. Henry Wells, in the 30th year of her age.

In Franklin, Mass., 19th inst., Edward A., only son of Geo. M. and Martha J. Gillmore, aged 3 years, 7 months and 2 days.

In Upton, March 16, Henry A. Whitney, aged 25 years.

In Milford, March 22, Hattie R. Ormes, aged 18 years.

New Advertisements.

Rhode Island.

FARMERS AND GARDENERS' ATTENTION! SUBSTITUTE FOR PERUVIAN GUANO.

BAUGH'S RAW BONE SUPER PHOSPHATE OF LIME, the BEST and CHEAPEST Manufactured Fertilizer in the United States, for Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, Corn, Potatoes, Buckwheat, Tobacco, Hops, Turnips, and all Garden Vegetables, Small fruits, and every Crop and Plant. Particularly recommended to Cultivators of Strawberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, and all small Fruits, as far superior to any other Fertilizer in market.

Pamphlet of 90 pages, "How to Maintain the Fertility of American Farms," giving full information in regard to the use of Manures, &c., sent free, on application to JOSEPH HODGES & CO., Agents, Providence, R. I. J. HODGES, } March 30, 1867. J. W. PIERSONS, }

New York.

New Books! New Books!!

FOR FARMERS, GARDENERS AND LOVERS OF COUNTRY LIFE. Published and For Sale by

ORANGE JUDD & CO., 41 Park Row,.....New York.

GARDENING FOR PROFIT: IN THE MARKET AND FAMILY GARDEN.

BY PETER HENDERSON. A new, finely illustrated work on Market and Family Gardening, and the first ever prepared by a Market Gardener in this country. The author is well known, and he here records his successful experience of eighteen years.

The Louisville (Ky.) Journal says of this work: "We know of no manual on any subject that surpasses this. Every part of it displays the hand of a man thoroughly at home with his subject; it is full of sound, excellent sense, expressed in clear and concise language. We say a great deal when we say that Mr. Henderson is as complete as a writer on gardening as he is a practitioner in his gentle but laborious art."

William Saunders, Esq., of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, writes: "It is the most practically useful work of any on the same subject. In these days of book-writing, it is refreshing to meet a work that has common sense and practical experience for its basis." Hon. Horace Greeley thus speaks of this book in the New York Tribune: "READING FOR BOYS.—This work would probably not be selected by most boys as the book for their money, wherein they would evince their usual greenness. There are marvels of transformation and rapid production recorded therein, which might well shame the dull fancy of the author of ALADDIN or of KALOOALAH. To know that a few rods of good land may well employ and will surely reward the constant labor of a stout man—that there are choice gold-fields all around us for those that 'know how to dig'—that \$1,000 may be wisely and profitably expended in draining, subsoiling, fertilizing, and deeply pulverizing a single acre—that he who would get rich by gardening must pile up manures by the hundreds of tons—that great crops always pay; half crops never—such are a few of the important truths succinctly set forth and tersely enforced in Mr. Henderson's little volume. There is no theory about it—no one who has made himself rich by market-gardening, plainly tells our young men how they can get rich as easily as he did, and without wandering to California or Montana for it either." Price, \$1.50.

GRAPE CULTURIST. NEW EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED. BY ANDREW S. FULLER. Mr. Fuller's work met the general want of a plain and practical treatise on grape culture. As it was based upon established principles, it at once took rank as a standard work. Most of the treatises that have appeared since are nothing more than Fuller modified and diluted. When the structure and mode of growth of the vine is once understood, all systems of training become plain, and none may be followed as readily as another. Mr. Fuller gives this knowledge of the vine most clearly, and illustrates it so plainly that no one can fail to understand it, and for this reason his book has become remarkably popular, and has not been, nor is it likely to be superseded by any other work on the same subject. The teachings of the work are all from actual practice, and the illustrations are mainly from growing vines. To bring this work up to the times in respect to varieties, a considerable portion of the matter has been re-

written. An additional list of varieties, including synonyms, has been given, and important additions have been made throughout the volume. Garden culture is treated as well as that of the vineyard, and the book is equally adapted to the owner of a single vine, or the one who has thousands of vines. Well illustrated. Price, \$1.50.

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL ANNUAL, for 1867. A YEAR BOOK FOR THE GARDENER, THE FRUIT GROWER, AND THE AMATEUR.

It is a beautifully illustrated volume of 163 pages. It contains an Almanac and Calendar for each month, giving hints for work in the various departments, with useful tables, and an article on Growing Grape Vines from cuttings, by William Patrick; How Horseradish is Grown for Market, by P. Henderson; Home Decorations, by A. Bridgeman; The New Apples of 1866, by Dr. J. A. Warder; New or Noteworthy Pears, by P. Barry; Small Fruits in 1866, by A. S. Fuller; Rarer Valuable Evergreens, by T. Meahan, with valuable contributions by other writers. Price, fancy paper covers, 50 cts.; cloth, 75 cts.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ANNUAL, for 1867.

A companion volume to the Horticultural Annual, and containing, besides an Almanac with hints about work for each month, an Essay on Draining, by Col. George E. Warburg, Jr.; articles on the Culture of Sorghum, by Wm. Clough; Some of the Newest and Best Potatoes, by Wm. S. Carpenter; How to Train a Horse, by S. F. Headley; Essential Features of a Good Barn, with Plan, by Dr. F. M. Hexamer; Recent Scientific Progress in Agriculture, by Prof. S. W. Johnson, of Yale College; The Culture of Wheat, by Joseph Harris, and other valuable essays upon subjects of interest to agriculturists. Finely illustrated. Price, fancy paper covers, 50; cloth, 75 cts.

HINTS TO HORSE KEEPERS.

By the late HENRY WILLIAM HERBERT, (Frank Forrester). Beautifully Illustrated.

A COMPLETE MANUAL FOR THE HORSEMAN. This is unquestionably the most comprehensive and valuable work of its size to be found upon the subject treated. The "Hints" are intended to include every subject of interest to those who, for pleasure or business, own or use a horse. Price, \$1.75.

NEW BOOK OF FLOWERS.

By JOSEPH BRECK, PRACTICAL HORTICULTURIST. We have no work which is so safe a guide to the novice in gardening, or that imparts the necessary information in a style so free from technicalities. Not the least interesting part of the work is the author's personal experience, as he tells not only how he succeeded, but the mistakes he committed. Beautifully illustrated. Price, \$1.75.

The Miniature Fruit Garden.

BY THOMAS RIVERS. THE CULTURE OF PYRAMIDAL AND BUSH FRUIT TREES. Directions are given for growing Dwarf Apples, Pears, Cherries and Plums, Figs and Filberts. Nothing is more gratifying than the cultivation of Dwarf Fruit Trees, and this work tells how to do it successfully, in City Yards or extensive Gardens. Price, \$1.00.

Saunders' Domestic Poultry.

BY S. M. SAUNDERS. This is a new edition, revised and enlarged. It contains, with other articles, complete Instructions for Breeding and Fattening Fowls, and Preparing for Exhibition at Poultry Shows. An account of Poultry Breeding on a large scale, as practiced in the neighborhood of Paris, is given in an appendix. Price, paper, 40cts; cloth, 75cts.

PEAT AND ITS USES AS FERTILIZER AND FUEL.

A NEW WORK ON PEAT. By PROF. S. W. JOHNSON, of Yale College. An invaluable work to those having Peat or Muck Swamps, or who wish to know more of this subject, which is now interesting to so many farmers and land owners. It gives a full history of Peat, Muck, etc., telling what they are, where found, and how to estimate their value. Price, \$1.25.

COPELAND'S COUNTRY LIFE.

BY ROBERT MORRIS COPELAND. A COMPENDIUM OF AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE. An elegant octavo volume, bound in beveled boards, and containing 926 pages and 250 engravings. It is adapted not only to those owning large estates, but contains directions for the best arrangement of the smallest Plots, down to the City Yard, the Roof or Window Garden, or the simple Flower Stand. Price, \$5.00.

Massachusetts.

CARROT AND MANOOLD WURTZEL SEED.

I raised the past season a fine lot of Long Red, Yellow Globe, and White Mangold Wurtzel Seed, and will send either variety, post-paid, to any address, for \$1.00 per lb. Also, Long Orange Carrot Seed, of my own growing, for \$1.25 per lb. I here offer an opportunity for all to procure Seed DIRECTLY FROM THE GROWER. JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marlborough, Mass. 5w-ee-12

BY MAIL, PREPAID.

CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS, NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CURRANTS, ROSES, BULBS, &c.

B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest

GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS,

Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted. Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ee-12

Great American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption, and therefore organized THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, to do away, as far as possible, with these enormous drains upon the Consumers, and to supply them with these necessities at the smallest possible price.

To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American houses, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments—and some of the richest retired merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China.

2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas.

3d. The Importer makes a profit of 20 to 50 per cent in many cases.

4th. On its arrival it is sold by the cargo, and the Purchaser sells to the Speculator in invoices of 1,000 to 2,000 packages, at an average profit of about 10 per cent.

5th. The Speculator sells to the Wholesale Tea Dealer in lots at a profit of 10 to 15 per cent.

6th. The Wholesale Tea Dealer sells it to the Wholesale Grocer in lots to suit the trade, at a profit of about 10 per cent.

7th. The Wholesale Grocer sells it to the Retail Dealer at a profit of 15 to 25 per cent.

8th. The Retailer sells it to the Consumer for all the profit he can get.

When you have added these EIGHT profits as many brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay. And now we propose to show why we can sell so very much lower than small dealers.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, our cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the name upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more. The cost of transportation the members of the club can divide equitably among themselves.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars, we will, if desired, send the goods by Express, to "collect on delivery."

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$30.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show. All goods sold are warranted to give satisfaction.

PRICE LIST: YOUNG HYSON (Green), 50c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. GREEN TEAS, 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. MIXED, 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 25 per lb. JAPAN, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. OOLONG (Black), 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 per lb. IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1 25 per lb. ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best, \$1 20 per lb. GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1 25, best, \$1 50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them. Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Fong-Chow and other Choice Greens. English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the finest imported.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO., NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., corner of CHURCH. Post-Office Box No. 5,643 New-York City. COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, best 40c per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c. per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866.

To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York.

Gents: I forwarded you my fourth order and could have doubted it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa.

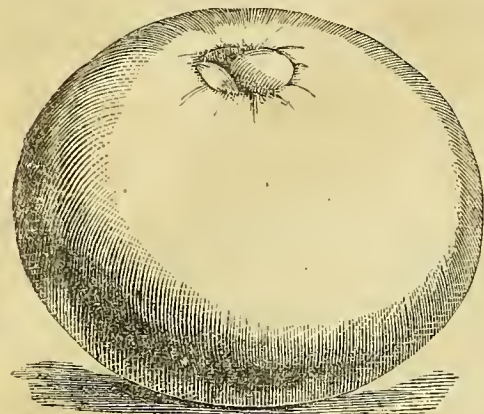
Table listing tea orders with quantities and prices: 10 lb Young Hyson, in pound packages, \$1 25... \$12 50; 5 lb Young Hyson, Dallas Jackson, \$1 25... 6 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, Henry Herrick, \$1 25... 2 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, George Murphy, \$1 25... 2 50; 1 lb Young Hyson, E. Dye, \$1 25... 1 25; 2 lb Young Hyson, Samuel Decker, \$1 25... 2 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, Mrs. Samuel Amos, \$1 25... 2 50; 1 lb Young Hyson, Henry Wheatley, \$1 25... 1 25; 7 lb Young Hyson, Morgan Hayes, \$1 25... 8 75; 2 lb Young Hyson, John Natten, \$1 25... 2 50; 4 lb Young Hyson, Mark Combs, \$1 25... 5 00; 2 lb Young Hyson, John Allen, \$1 25... 2 50; 8 lb Young Hyson, Miss Stuart, \$1 25... 10 00; 2 lb Oolong, best, Mrs. Stuart, \$1 00... 2 00; 2 lb Young Hyson, O. Bayland, \$1 25... 2 50; 2 lb Oolong, best, O. Bayland, \$1 00... 2 00; 2 lb Young Hyson, J. Richlein, \$1 25... 2 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, Mr. Guyton, \$1 25... 2 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, Edward Murphy, \$1 25... 2 50; 2 lb Young Hyson, Mrs. Murphy, \$1 25... 2 50; 2 lb Oolong, best, Henry Hull, \$1 00... 2 00; 2 lb Oolong, best, Separate package, \$1 00... 2 00; 5 lb Ground Coffee, Separate package, \$1 25... 6 25.

We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.—LARGE DOUBLE STORE. 3m-8



Sorrow.—Sorrow sobers us, and makes the mind genial. And in sorrow we love and trust our friends more tenderly, and the dead become dearer to us, and just as the stars shine out in the night, so there are blessed faces that look at us in our grief, though before, their features were fading from our recollection. Let not man dread it too much, because it is good for him, and it will help to make him sure of his being immortal. It is not in the bright happy day, but only in the solemn night, that other worlds are to be seen shining in their long distances. And it is in sorrow—the night of the soul—that we see farthest, and know ourselves natives of infinity and sons and daughters of the Most High.





A SUPERIOR TOMATO.

This is a fair representation of "Maupay's Superior," one of the best tomatoes of recent introduction. It originated with Messrs. Maupay, of Rising Sun village, Pa., and is a cross between the old fashioned Scarlet and the Fejee Island variety. This fruit is of a beautiful deep red color, round in form, and perfectly smooth. This smoothness of the skin is a desirable characteristic, as little or no waste occurs, as in other varieties. Its size is medium, the flesh exceedingly solid, and has but few seeds.

The Magazine of Horticulture, for March, speaks highly of the Maupay Tomato—an authority not to be disputed. We advise the lovers of this fruit to procure a few seeds, or plants (obtained of most respectable seedsmen), and try it the coming season. If the seed cannot be found at seed stores, send to Messrs. Manpay & Hacker, 805 Market street, Philadelphia.

The Stock-Yard.

DISEASES OF HORSES AND CATTLE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside, BY I. MOHNER, CARVERSVILLE, PA.

In looking over a recently published book, purporting to instruct farmers how to treat their domestic animals, in case of sickness and accidents, I was impressed with the belief that it would be about as useful as are the books which are written on law, with the title of "Every man his own Lawyer." Such books may be read, and the reader be left about as ignorant of the principles of law, or of medicine, as if he had never read them, or most certainly of their practice.

Even if such books have been written by men of enlarged experience and skill in their profession, particularly in writing on medical science, they are too brief to give an idea sufficient to practice upon, or to understand the *modus operandi* of medicine.

All intelligent people know that in order to qualify a person for the practice of law, of medicine, or any of the mechanical arts, it is necessary to go through a course of instruction and study for years, before they embark in any of those responsible professions, (although it is no unusual thing for persons professing to be veterinary surgeons, to be palmed upon the community after having taken office instructions for a few weeks); and even then it takes a great deal of experience to enable them to discharge the various branches of their profession with credit to themselves and advantage to their employers.

If such a course of preparation be necessary, which includes the careful reading of the most elaborate and scientific works on Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Surgery, before being qualified for the practice of medicine, what benefit can a person receive from reading one of those small works, that does not contain one hundred per cent. of the information that is necessary to enable the reader to diagnose the different diseases and treat them successfully? But, suppose these books to have been written without a proper knowledge of pathology and of the *modus operandi* of medicines—and their prescriptions to be carried out by men who make no pretensions to any knowledge upon these subjects, and we may easily imagine how disastrous would be the result.

For instance, one of the above class of writers gives the following instructions to farmers for the treatment of pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs) in horses. He says: "the first thing to be done is to bleed largely, or until the horse shows signs of fainting; then give two drachms of tartar emetic and 30 grains of digitalis, at a dose, and repeat every three or six hours; and if no better in twelve hours, repeat the bleeding and continue the medicine." No conscientious veterinary surgeon, who understands the operation of these powerful medicines, would dare to give them in such large and repeated doses, because he knows that they would in most cases prove fatal.

In one of these books alluded to, we are directed to treat cows for inflamed udders (or acute mammitis), by applying a warm drawing poultice, and hasten the formation of puss as fast as possible; and for chronic mammitis, ("caked bag") to apply cold applications.

Both of these recommendations are grossly unscientific and absurd.

By employing warm poultices in acute mammitis we would draw more blood and fluids into the already over-charged vessels of the bag, injuring them as milk secreting vessels, and rendering the cow worthless for dairy purposes. On the contrary, the treatment should be such as science approves and common sense dictates; such treatment as will allay inflammation and remove congestion from the mammary glands. Cooling, evaporating lotions will accomplish this; and if the hardness is not entirely subdued, rubemollient liniments faithfully into the parts, and give internal absorbents.

For chronic mammitis, instead of cold applications, as the writer recommends, in which there is always a cold, sluggish and inactive state of the vessels of the part, the applications should be of a warming and penetrating character, which would greatly assist and excite the vessels to the removal of the obstructions which have been formed in the udder. These external remedies must also be assisted by internal medicines—those best known to medical men to exert a specific influence in promoting absorption from the mammary glands.

March, 1867.

KILLING TICKS ON LAMBS.—All concur that dipping lambs in a decoction of tobacco, strong enough to kill ticks, is the most effectual mode of removing these parasites from the flock. The time of our correspondents dipping them varies from two or three days to two weeks after shearing the dams. We prefer the latter time, so that all ticks on the ewes shall have had time to get (as they will), on the lambs.—*Exchange.*

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 the size of the sheep will increase, but the fineness of the wool will not be retained.

TO DYE SCARLET.—Take one and one half oz. cochineal, one and one half oz. solution of tin, and one oz. of cream of tartar, and dissolve in a brass kettle, with water sufficient to cover one pound of wool. As soon as dissolved put in your wool, or woolen hanks, and boil them one hour. Then take out and rinse well in three or four cold, clear waters. After dyeing the scarlet, the same dye will dye a little more wool a light salmon color.

TO DYE GREEN.—Dissolve one oz. of indigo in six oz. of sulphuric acid, by letting it stand twenty-four hours or longer. Then put this solution in a large iron pot, filled with a strong decoction of red oak and hickory bark, in which has been dissolved half a pound of alum. Put in your three pounds of wool, or woolen hanks, and boil three quarters of an hour. Then rinse well in three or four cold, clear waters. After dyeing your three pounds of wool a deep green, the same dye will dye a little more wool a very light green.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylindrical Plows and Castings; Shares 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.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of MEAD'S PATENT CONICAL PLOWS, SHARE'S HORSE HOES, WOOD'S AND WIGHT'S PLOWS, GARDEN BARROWS, CHASE'S TWO HORSE POTATOE DIGGERS, STORE TRUCKS, IMPROVED HINGED HARROWS, CULTIVATORS, ROAD SCRAPERS, OX YOKES, AND PLOW CASTINGS; And Wholesale Dealers in Hoes, Shovels, Axes, Scythes, Forks, Snathes, Cradles, Horse Forks, Hand and Horse Rakes, Hay Cutters, Corn Shellers, Vegetable Cutters, Picks, Bars, Canal Barrows, Sugar Mills, Grindstones, Plain or Complete; And Agents for KNIFFEN'S, UNION AND PERRY'S MOWING MACHINES, Whitcomb's Patent Horse Rake, and the best Hay Tedder in the market. Prices low and Terms Cash. OFFICE, 32 CANAL STREET, PROVIDENCE, R. I. we-1f

March 23, 1867.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I., Now offer at the LOWEST CASH PRICES,

2000 Sacks Prime Red Top.
500 Bags Prime Herds Grass.
500 " Western and Northern Clover.
1500 Bushel Prime R. I. Bent, for Pastures.
300 " Seed Barley.
100 " Spring Rye.
3000 " Bedford Seed Oats.
100 " Early Goodrich Potatoes.
200 " Sebce Potatoes.
200 " Late White Peach Blows.
100 " " Harrison Potatoes.
300 " Seed Peas.
100 " R. I. White Cap Corn.
100 " London Hort. and Concord Pole Beans.
200 " Buckwheat.
300 " Millet and Hungarian.
White Dutch Clover, Orchard Grass, Onion Sets, and a complete assortment of GARDEN SEEDS,

Raised for us with great care. 200 Barrels dry ground Bone for Manure, together with all kinds of Farm Implements and Machinery. Send for Circular of Mead's Conical Plows and Share's Horse Hoes—and don't forget the number,

32 CANAL STREET, 32.

PROVIDENCE, R. I. we-1f

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

EXTRA HEAVY PLOWS, for road work and for breaking up new land, made by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

WHITE FRENCH TURNIP, of the purest kind, raised and sold in small or large lots, by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

BARRETT'S EXTRA EARLY CABBAGE,—The best and largest in the market. Price, 25 cents a paper. Raised and sold by W. E. BARRETT & CO. Providence, Feb. 23, 1867. tf-7

Massachusetts.

COLLINS, BLISS & CO., PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS. OASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS. 233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston. New England Agents for the

NON PARIEL FRENCH GUANO. It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil.

PRICE \$60 PER TON. Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 3m-we-9

GREGORY'S SEED CATALOGUE will be sent gratis to any address. It contains over one hundred and twenty varieties that I grow myself, besides many kinds imported from England and France, and procured of the most reliable seedsmen in the United States. Farmers and Gardeners will find in my catalogue many

NEW AND RARE VEGETABLES, some of which are not to be found on the list of any other seedsman. I offer an opportunity for all to procure their BEET, CARROT, ONION, AND MANY OTHER VARIETIES OF SEED, DIRECTLY FROM THE GROWER.

As the original introducer of the Hubbard Squash, Marblehead Mammoth Cabbage, Boston Curled Lettuce, and many other new vegetables, I invite the patronage of the public. JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marblehead, Mass. March 16, 1867. 3w-p&w-10

SOUTH DOWN CO.'S PATENT

Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR CKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT, should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures ALL SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers.

Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores.

JAMES F. LEVIN, 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts. For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & Co., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1865. 4m-we-9

Pennsylvania.

RHODES' SUPER. PHOSPHATE. THE STANDARD MANURE FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS.

Manufactured by POTTS & KLETT, Camden, N. J.

Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUGH, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of this Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is

FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD, IN QUALITY, and is in fine condition for drilling.

Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

YARNALL & TRIMBLE, General Agents for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

418 South Wharves, PHILADELPHIA. 419 Penn. Street, March 23, 1867. 3m-ee-II

MENDENHALL'S IMPROVED SELF-ACTING HAND LOOM.

In these days of SHODDY, and high priced goods, every family in the country should have one.

HALF THE COST of clothing a family can be saved by its use. It is simple and durable, easily understood, and easy to operate. No skill is required to weave with it beyond the simple turning of an easy crank. FROM 15 TO 35 YARDS CAN BE WOVEN ON IT IN A DAY.

FARMERS! don't sell your wool and buy SHODDY, when with one of these Looms in your house the GILLS can make all the clothing for the family, and much better quality, at half price. By late improvements, RAG CARPETS can be woven with the FLY SHUTTLE. For circulars, price list, and samples of cloth woven on the Loom, address with stamp, A. B. GATES & CO., 333 Chestnut St., Philadelphia. Also, Dealers in Cotton Warp, Wool and Flax Filling Yarns, Reeds, Harness and Loom findings generally. March 2, 1867. p&w-1f

New York.

J. HICKLING & CO. S. GREAT SALE OF WATCHES.

On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a handsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory!

500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750
500 Magic Cased Gold Watches.....200 to 500
500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled.....100 to 300
1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....250 to 300
1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....200 to 250
3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....150 to 200
5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....100 to 250
5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....50 to 150
5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....75 to 250
5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches.....50 to 250
10,000 Gold Hunting Lepines.....50 to 75
10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....50 to 100
25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....25 to 50
30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....10 to 75
Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partiality shown. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a Watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious! A single certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three and elegant premium for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premium for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us! J. HICKLING & Co., 149 Broadway—Near P. O. City of New York. March 22, 1867. 11

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Shares' Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potato Diggers, Lufkin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.



Farm and Fireside

A JOURNAL OF "AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS."

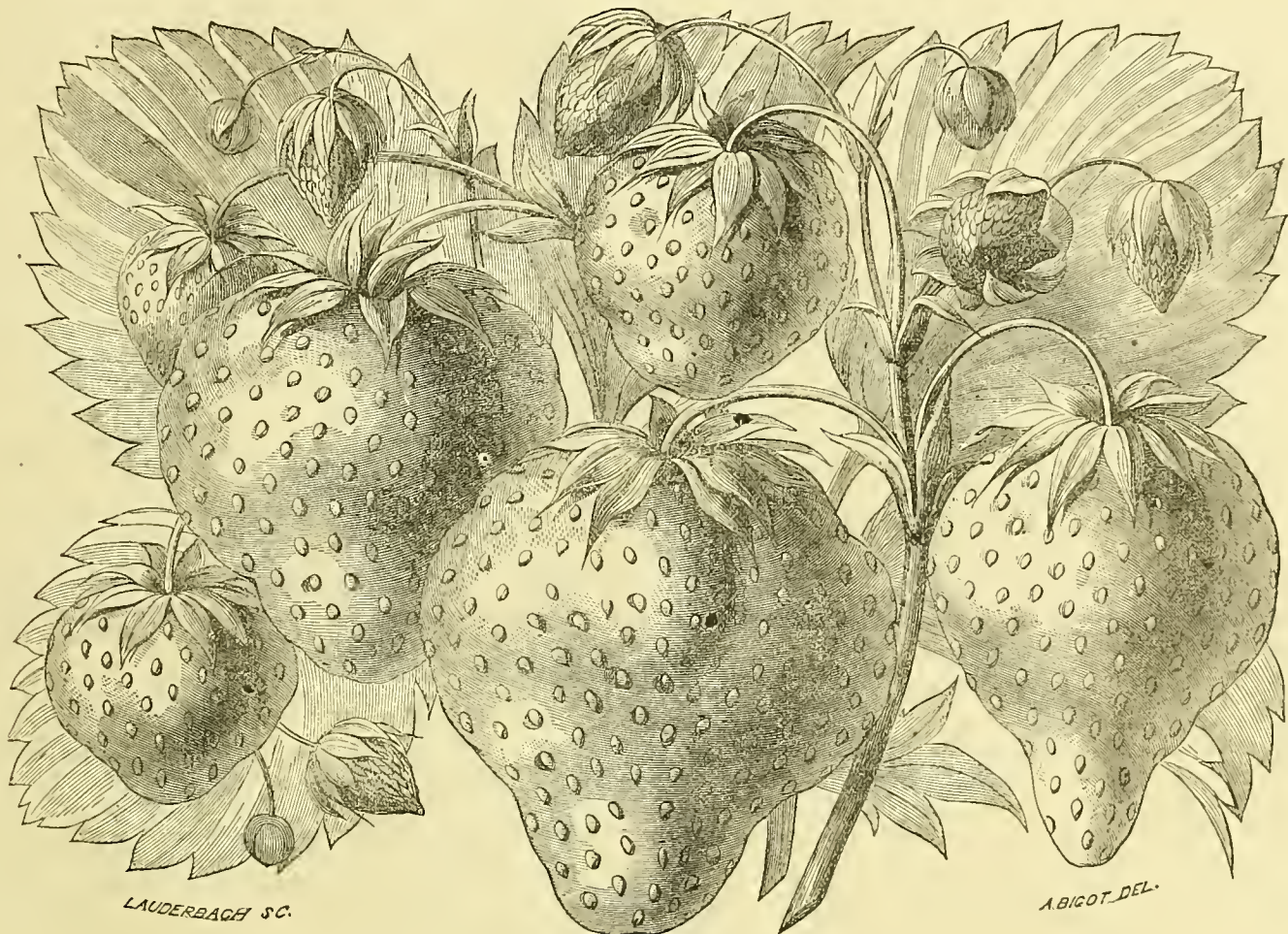
ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

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

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1867.

NO. 13.



THE JUCUNDA.

Horticulture.

THE STRAWBERRY.

To speak of the value of the strawberry to the fruit grower, and the facility with which it may be cultivated by the merest novice in horticulture, would be but a "thrice told tale." We shall content ourselves, therefore, at this time, in view of limited space, to say to farmers and others who desire to promote the comfort and enjoyment of their families, provide a good strawberry bed, of at least half a rood in extent—only the eighth of an acre. How many patches, of much greater extent, are annually lost by being receptacles of weeds and rubbish? If land is scarce, one-sixteenth of an acre will produce ample strawberries for a moderate family, if carefully planted and cultivated. If the planter is a novice, let him choose the Albany; it will grow and produce good crops without any care. If a little skill and attention is to be given to the fruit, let him choose the Hovey and Large Early Scarlet, or Jenny Lind; one will ripen early, the Hovey a little later. Two varieties are sufficient for any farmer; but if more and fancier varieties are desired, get the Russel, French, Fillmore, or even the Agriculturist. All our readers have heard of the Triomphe de Gand; and, more recently, of the JUCUNDA. The last two have been lauded over the entire length and breadth of the land. Their praise is in every fruit-grower's mouth (if not the fruit itself).

The Triomphe de Gand was introduced from Belgium, about twelve years ago; we cultivated it as early as 1856; it was then discarded by Messrs. Hovey, and others, as inferior to older sorts; recently it was revived, and has had extensive culture. It is, in some localities, and with careful treatment, a good and handsome fruit. The JUCUNDA is not yet so fully known, but is, undoubtedly, a valuable variety. It was propagated by J. Knox, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. No plants were sold until 1865—consequently those vines are but just coming into bearing. This variety was formerly cultivated by Mr. Knox under the name of "Seven Hundred." It has been endorsed by several prominent horticulturists as a vine of great promise. The engraving, above, gives a true representation of the JUCUNDA, when cultivated on genial soil, and well cared for.

The best season for planting, we think, is in the latter part of Summer, in a favorable spell of weather. Some cultivators recommend to plant in the very driest time; this may be practicable, as they affirm it is; but the uninformed are not willing to believe it. By planting in Summer, the plants will bear a fair crop the ensuing season. Plants put in in Spring, may bear some fruit the same season; but not as a general rule. Select strong runners, never old plants. The runners should be prepared the Summer previous, by being layered, or stopped, as it is termed, by breaking off the extremity of the runner, after the first joint, and laying a small stone on it, or drawing the soil

up to the young plant. Strawberries are now generally planted in rows, varying from two to three feet wide, according to the ideas of the cultivator. If wide rows are adopted, the plantation may be kept longer in good bearing condition, by keeping the soil clean and well worked, removing the superfluous runners, and keeping the plants more in hills. Some extensive cultivators do not allow a plantation to remain more than three years until renewed; this is a wise method, as the soil is thereby renewed and a rotation of crops carried out.—Fabulous accounts daily meet the eye, of the product per acre of a strawberry plantation; none of these are worth repeating, as the product will depend mainly on the treatment.

CRANBERRY CULTURE.

Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

In your article on the Cultivation of the Cranberry in the issue of March 16th, you say that "in Michigan, on the lake shores, they successfully grow the cranberry on black mud and peat. Such lands are natural to this vine, and in its cultivation we should follow nature."

We would like to know, in New Jersey, if this is so, because we have been informed, by men who have resided for twenty years in that State, that they are only a natural growth. I agree with you that the mud bottom is nature's place for them; but it must be covered with coarse sand, and the land drained. In Michigan the land is mixed with mineral and other fertile matter that would destroy the benefits

of sanding by causing an overgrowth of other plants. The mud in the bogs of that State is washed from a soil which, though sandy, is fertile enough to grow heavy crops of wheat, without manure; and if drained, produces, as a consequence, a heavy growth of grasses and plants that would smother the cranberry vines.

After ten years of experience in improving a natural bog, I know that unless the bog is made dryer by draining, newly planted vines grow so slowly that it takes years (about six years) before the vines produce a full crop. By draining, the same result can be brought about in half the time—say three years. This is difference enough to prevent such men as would enter into cranberry culture from commencing the undertaking. But if this drainage increases the growth of grasses and other plants so much, they would prefer to submit to the slower growth, and leave it wet, as the lesser evil of the two. We know, from our own experience, that it is the wetness of bogs that prevents the growth of trees, bushes and grasses that would otherwise occupy the "Thousand acre Cranberry Bogs" we hear of in that country, the vines of which have here and there a bunch of berries growing upon them, between "wind and water," as the Western men say.

Cranberries grow in very wet places, supported on the sphagnum or water moss; remove the moss, and they would live out a miserable existence. Turf or plow the same place, and plant vines, and they would not grow at all.

A PARIS letter says: The French are wonderful gardeners; their little patches of ground are not idle a minute, and they produce berries three times a year off the same plants. I had excellent strawberries here as late as the third of October. They don't let their fruit trees cover up the ground, but spread them out flat on walls, in the shape of fans. And magnificent fruit they have, too. Grapes are as common here as weeds are at home, and the same white grapes you raise in hot-houses, and pay a dollar a pound or more for, you can get here more than you can eat at one time, for five cents. The pears are very fine, costing about two cents each.





Natural vines in wet places are frequently indebted to this moss for their existence. To follow nature then, you must first grow the moss, and afterwards the cranberry vines.

During the ten years in which I have worked my natural bog, I have endeavored to observe the wants of this vine from its natural growth; and acting upon such observations, I have increased the vines to a large extent, and have gained much experience. It has been drained; some of the mud bottom has been covered with sand; and some of the more sandy ledges have been turfed, plowed and planted.

A mud then, such as we have in New Jersey, and the coarse, clear sand, are requisites, and we may safely drain them to bring the vines into bearing in reasonable time, and to protect the buds and fruit from the late and early frosts.

From these causes, and also from the fact that only a small percentage of our acres are fit for the more profitable culture of this berry, we have confidence in making the necessary heavy outlays in cranberry culture. One thing more; I leveled down a knoll, or a slightly elevated piece of coarse land, and put it upon the surrounding mud bottom, making all of one level, and planting the space in cranberry vines, which have now been in bearing two years.

JAMES A. FENWICK. Pemberton, N. J., April, 1867.

RHODE ISLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday evening, March 27th, at Providence, Vice President Wm. S. Patten in the chair.

The committee appointed to consider the question of a new building, reported that it was inexpedient to make any attempt to build at this time; that the quarters now occupied were probably best adapted for the purposes of the Society at present. The report was accepted.

The committee appointed to revise the by-laws, and particularly to inquire into the expediency of doing away with the plan of numbering contributions, reported that the last collection of by-laws of the Society was the code adopted in 1754, and printed in 1855. Since that time many material alterations have been made, many of which were but imperfectly known.

On motion of Mr. Godding, a vote of thanks was tendered to the Hon. S. S. Foss for gratuitously sending to the Society his journal entitled the Farm and Fireside.

Mr. Bonn, from the committee on that subject, presented the report of the committee appointed to recommend a list of premiums to be awarded at the June exhibition. The report was adopted after sundry amendments had been made.

The following gentlemen were admitted members on the usual terms: Lawrence Towne, J. E. Bongartz, E. W. Billings, Avery Wilkinson, J. L. Sherman, C. E. Boon, W. Jackson, T. M. Rounds, Emilio Castillo, Jno. H. Hart, Albert Garfield, Edward B. Perry, Daniel Angell, Jr., Bailey E. Borden, Alvan F. Stevens, Rev. Isaac Cheesboro, Thos. G. Potter, Joseph H. Paine, Wm. H. Reynolds, Thos. J. Carpenter, Joseph Wm. Rice, Frederick Burgess, Jno. M. Rounds, Wm. J. Andrews, Freeborn Coggeshall, E. H. Manchester.

On motion, the thanks of the Society were presented to Hon. Isaac Newton for donations of reports.

Among the contributions presented were the following:

From C. Wright, gardener to G. W. Chapin, collection of cut flowers; one Azalia in pot; a specimen of Aristolochia Braziliensis, and a new geranium, General Grant. A premium of \$5 awarded.

From W. S. Hogg, florist, a specimen of Rogeira Thursiflora, and a specimen of Deutzia Graeillis, each in full bloom. A premium of \$3 was awarded.

From Thomas Hannay, Madennilla Magnifica; Azalia, Queen Victoria. A premium of \$4 awarded.

The display of plants and flowers was large, and the specimens manifested great luxuriance of growth.

PREMIUMS FOR GRAPE GROWERS.—The Lo worth Wine House at Cincinnati offers three premiums for superiority in grape-growing, as follows: A silver piteher, two goblets and waiter, to cost not less than \$350, as the first premium; a silver cup, to cost not less than \$100, as a second premium; and a silver cup, to cost not less than \$50, as the third premium.

The first premium to be given to the best general wine grapes of the whole country. The second premium is to be given to the best variety of grapes for wine purposes in the State of Ohio, provided it is not awarded to the grape that receives the first premium, in which case it will be given to the second best wine grape in the country. The third premium to be given to the best table grape, for general purposes, in the country. The fruit is to be exhibited at the coming fall consolidated exhibition of the American Wine-Growers' Association of Ohio and Cincinnati Horticultural Society, in quantities of ten lbs. or more, with samples of the vines from the competitors for the first two premiums if practicable.

Various Matters.

THE ROBIN.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

I WAS not astonished to hear a word said against the robin, as Mr. Chase was, in the Farm and Fireside. When he has had the trouble with them that I have had, he will agree with me. I bought a farm ten years ago, and at that time was a great favorite of the robin's; so much so, that I gave a robin-shooter fifty cents not to shoot one on my farm. Now I will give him one dollar to shoot every one that stops with me.

I set out strawberries, and raspberries, and grapes of various kinds. When the cherries and strawberries are gone, the robins take to the raspberries, then the Delaware and Diana grapes, and by that time they are fattened for the Southern sportsmen. C. says that he has seen them pick worms from almost every hill of corn. I never saw them eat any other but the caterpillar, which never did any harm. I never saw them eat the caterpillar, canker worm, curculio, borer and such troublesome worms and insects. The robin is our worst enemy; if he has been so to any others, please let us know through the Farm and Fireside.

J. W. MATHEWSON.

Johnston, R. I., April, 1867.

OUR CABINET OF CURIOUS THINGS.

THERE are many curious things that occur in, or form a part of, the natural world. Many of them seem almost incredible, but we must believe them, because of the unquestionable probability of the naturalist who relates them. For instance, would you believe that there are

TREES WHICH GROW SHIRTS?

Probably not; and yet Humboldt gives the subjoined account of trees of this character. "We saw," says he, "on the slope of the Cerva Dnida, shirt trees fifty feet high. The Indians cut off cylindrical pieces two feet in diameter from which they peel the fibrous bark without making any longitudinal incision. This bark affords them a sort of garment which resembles a sack of very coarse texture, and without a seam. The upper opening serves for the head, and two lateral holes are cut to admit the arms. They have the form of the ponchos and monos of cotton which are so common in New Granada and at Quito." We opine that such shirts will wear well; and if not easily to be washed, a weekly scraping would answer the same healthful purpose. A singular discovery, which is accredited to Mr. Jesse, is that of the antennal

LANGUAGE OF INSECTS.

Bees and other insects are provided, as everybody knows, with feelers or antennae. These are, in fact, most delicate organs of touch, warning of dangers, and serving the insects to hold a sort of conversation with each other, and to communicate their desires and wants. A strong hive of bees will contain thirty-six thousand workers. Each of these, in order to be assured of the presence of their queen, touches her every day with its antennae. Should the queen die, or be removed, the whole colony desert the hive. On the contrary, should the queen be put into a small wire cage at the bottom of the hive, so that her subjects can touch and feed her, they are content, and the business of the hive proceeds as usual. Wasps and ants, and other insects, exercise this antennal power of communication. If a caterpillar is placed near an ants' nest, a curious scene will often arise. A solitary ant will perhaps discover it, and eagerly attempt to drag it away. Not being able to accomplish this, it will go up to another ant, and, by means of its antennal language, bring it to the caterpillar. Perhaps the two are unable to move it. They will then separate and bring up reinforcements out of their community by the same means, until a sufficient number are collected to enable them

to draw the prize to their nest. Appropriate to this, would follow an

INTERESTING BIRD ANECDOTE.

A swallow had slipped its foot into the noose of a cord attached to a spout on one of the colleges in Paris, and by endeavoring to escape, had drawn the knot tight. Its strength being exhausted in vain attempts to fly, it uttered piteous cries, which assembled a vast flock of other swallows from the large basin between the Tuilleries and Pont Neuf. They seemed to crowd and consult together for a little while, and then one of them darted at the string and struck at it with its beak as it flew past; and others, following in quick succession did the same, striking at the same part. After continuing the combined operation for half an hour, they succeeded in severing the cord and freeing their companion, after which followed a congratulatory jubilee. The French naturalist, Dupont de Nemour, who relates this anecdote, was a witness of it. We will close the doors of our cabinet for the present, with something about

THE LONGEVITY OF ANIMALS.

Cuvier considers it probable for whales to live to the age of one thousand years. The dolphin and porpoise attain the age of thirty. A male canary will live twenty years; but only ten years, if mated. Parrots and pelicans are long-lived. An eagle died in Vienna at the age of one hundred and sixty years. When Alexander the Great had conquered Phorus, king of India, he took a large elephant which had fought valiantly for the king, named him Ajax, and dedicating him to the sun, let him go with this inscription: "Alexander, the son of Jupiter, hath dedicated Ajax to the Sun." This elephant was found, with the inscription, three hundred and fifty-six years afterwards. We once heard of a trunk belonging to the same owner for nearly four hundred years. We were incredulous about the matter at the time, but it just now occurs to us that the trunk in question must have been the one belonging to Mr. Elephant Ajax.

THE MONK'S MODEL FARM IN ALGERIA.

The Mois Agricole contains an interesting account of the Trappist Model Farm at Cheragas, in Algeria. In 1843 Marshal Bugeand granted the Trappists one thousand two hundred hectares of land, on which, two years afterwards, three hundred thousand francs were expended by the Order in buildings. The stock of animals on the farm is now magnificent. The Trappist cows each yield sixteen quarts of milk a day, in a country where the native cows do not yield more than goats; and the sheep and pigs are equally fine. A large quantity of honey is also produced at Cheragas. There are in the establishment one hundred and eight monks, of whom twenty-two belong to the choir, and ten are priests. Twenty lay workmen are constantly employed at the convent, and every poor or sick wayfarer is entitled to claim or receive work there. When the Emperor visited the establishment he discovered, to his surprise, that upwards of a dozen of the monks had been soldiers of the Imperial Guard. They explained to him that, after the severe discipline and simple fare of the French army, the Trappist rule, ascetic as it is, did not appear harsh to them.

FOOLS.—The King of Persia once ordered his vizier to make out a list of all the fools in his dominions. He did so, and put his Majesty's name at the head of them. The King asked him why, to which he immediately answered: "Because you entrusted a lac of rupees to men you don't know to buy horses for you a thousand miles off, and who'll never come back." "Aye, but suppose they come back?" "Then I shall erase your name and insert theirs."

ENGRAVING ON GLASS.—A French chemist has for years been very successful in engraving on flint glass by acids. He has now succeeded in preparing an ink with which, using any pen, ineffacable characters may be traced on glass.

OVER one million rats were drowned by the late freshet in Cincinnati.

CANARIES.—Many a person has seen a pet canary or other bird in a state of perturbation, plucking at himself continually, his feathers standing all wrong. In vain is his food changed, and in vain is a saucer of clean water always kept in his cage. If the owner of a pet in such difficulties will take down the cage and look up to the roof thereof, there will most likely be seen a mass of stuff like red rust. That red rust is nothing more or less than myriads of parasites infesting the bird, and for which water is no remedy. By procuring a lighted candle and holding it under every particle of the top of the cage, till all chance of anything being left alive is gone, the remedy is complete. The pet will brighten up after his "house warming."



The Fireside Muse.

A GRAND OLD POEM.

Who shall judge a man from manners?
Who shall know him by his dress?
Paupers may be fit for princes,
Princes fit for something less.
Crumpled shirt and dirty jacket
May beclothe the golden ore
Of the deepest thought and feeling—
Satin vests could do no more.

There are springs of crystal nectar
Ever welling out of stone;
There are purple huds and golden
Hidden, crushed, and overgrown.
God, who counts by souls, not dresses,
Loves and prospers you and me,
While he values thrones the highest
But as pebbles in the sea.

Man, upraised above his fellows,
Oft forgets his fellows then;
Masters, rulers, lords, remember
That your meanest hinds are men;
Men by labor, men by feeling,
Men by thought, and men by frame,
Claiming equal rights to sunshine
In a man's ennobling name.

There are foam-embroidered oceans,
There are little weed-clad hills;
There are feeble, inch-high saplings,
There are cedars on the hills.
God, who counts by souls, not stations,
Loves and prospers you and me;
For to Him all vain distinctions
Are as pebbles in the sea.

Tolling hands alone are builders
Of a nation's wealth or fame;
Titled laziness is pensioned,
Fed and fattened on the same;
By the sweat of others' foreheads,
Living only to rejoice;
While the poor man's outraged freedom
Vainly liffeth up its voice.

Truth and justice are eternal,
Born with loveliness and light,
Secret wrongs shall never prosper
While there is a sunny right;
God, whose world-beard voice is singing
Boundless love to you and me,
Sinks oppression with its titles
As the pebbles in the sea.

Fireside Miscellany.

THE CURE AND THE PEAS.

THERE was once a cure of St. Opportune, who was very different from the conventional ideas of a priest, being tall, thin, and delicate looking; a man with a stoop, though he was still young, and much given to study. He lived in an age which has long passed away, yet he was behind it, for he held most antiquated opinions upon the obedience which is due from wives to their husbands, and seemed to consider that what St. Paul had said upon the subject was to be taken in its strictest sense; that no allowance could be made for the changes which had taken place in the manners and customs of different nations, but that all infringement of the rules laid down by the apostle for the guidance of those in the holy state was sinful.

He found his exhortations treated with unbecoming levity, and thereupon, became, of course, more and more earnest upon the subject, till, at last, he laid rather too much stress upon this one offence, to the overlooking of others. But he did not become unpopular upon this account—rather the reverse; for the men naturally felt great respect for a pastor who pleaded their cause so eloquently, and impressed upon their wives that submission to their will was their first and most solemn duty, while the women of his congregation were glad to have slight attention paid to the confession of other sins of which they were ashamed, and the full vials of clerical wrath poured upon one which they had the consolation of feeling assured was shared by their entire sex.

But that which vexed the good cure was the *bonhomie* with which some of the husbands among his parishioners submitted to the rule of their wives, and the blind infatuation which caused others who were equally tame to fancy that their will was law, and that the very women who led them by their noses were their devoted slaves.

Provoked at these facts especially, he one day addressed his congregation, after the sermon, thus: "My garden has been remarkably fruitful this year, especially in peas. Magnificent peas they are—the best I have yet seen, and I here offer a prize of as many peas as he can carry away with him to any married man

among you who can make it clear to me that he is not under subjection to his wife."

Peas were valuable, the parishioners of St. Opportune were poor, and, as a rule, confident in their marital supremacy, so that there were many applicants for the prize. But the cure, trained by the duties of the confessional, was a keen hand at cross-examination, and under his home thrusts and pertinent questions, claim after claim was upset and the candidates sent away ashamed and discomfited.

At last came a porter, an obstinate, sturdy fellow, who was confident that he at least, had the whip-hand of his wife. The cure questioned him closely, but all his answers were straight-forward and satisfactory. Even upon the rock which had upset the pretensions of many who had seemed in a fair way to land safely, the *cabaret*, he did not split. No, he went to the wine shop or stopped at home, got drunk or kept sober, just as he pleased. His wife had not a word to say to it.

"Well," said the cure, "I am glad that I have one man in my parish who knows how to be master in his own house. Come to-morrow morning and fetch your peas."

So the next day the porter came to the cure's house with a small sack, which he began to fill. "You should have brought a larger one," said the cure.

"Well, now," replied the porter, pausing in the task, "I should have done so, only my wife would not let me."

"Ha!" cried the cure, "let my peas alone, my man!"

THE DATE PALM.

THE Date Palm at an early period of history must have engaged man's attention in an eminent degree. It grows, to begin with, in a tract of country where atmospheric moisture of any kind is so scanty that its leaflets, unlike those of other Palms, are constructed so that at their base they form little receptacles, and thus catch every drop of moisture. It has no branches like other trees, or as the Gingerbread Palm (*Hyphaene thebaica*), with which it is occasionally associated. It has several features in common with man which no explanation could remove from the minds of primitive people. Its body is covered with hair, like the body of man; its head, once cut off, would no more grow again than that of a human being; the male and female are represented by different trees, and it is well known that the female would die an old maid unless some bachelor should take compassion on her. Add to this that the whole population at that time relied upon dates as their staple food, as is still the case in those countries. Moreover, take into consideration that impression produced upon an unimaginative people, when, after travelling for days in dry, dusty, waterless deserts, with nothing in sight but gray drifting sands and skeletons of animals perished on the road, they suddenly entered a grove of Date Palms, affording water, shade, fuel, food and repose. They must have been made of stern material if all this had made no lasting impression upon them. As they lay under the trees and saw the evening breeze gracefully playing with the feathery leaves which formed bold arches over them, gilt by the last rays of the setting sun, and soon to be silvered by the rising moon—a forcible appeal must have been made to the religious element of their composition, and these Palm groves must have appeared to them places peculiarly suited for the purposes of worship. And such indeed was the case. Palm groves, and those of the Date in particular, were deemed peculiarly sacred. As civilization advanced, and regular temples were built, the architect naturally took for his type, what must ever have been associated with his religious feelings—the Palm grove.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

PICTURES UNDER THE SEA.—A Frenchman has obtained clear submarine photographs at a depth of three hundred feet, by means of the electric light thrown through water-tight lens windows upon the objects to be photographed.

MANKIND have been learning for six thousand years, and few have learned yet that their fellow beings are as good as themselves.

THINGS WISE AND OTHERWISE.

WHY do annual flowering plants resemble whales? Because they only come up to blow. The oldest business in the world—the *nurse-ry* business.

Botanists are said to distinguish *dog-wood* by its *bark*.

Mushrooms grow most rapidly in the rain. Is that the reason they are umbrella shaped?

A man weighing one hundred and fifty pounds contains only two and a half pounds of perfectly dry residuum. As the Scriptures tell us that "all flesh is grass," this residuum must be concentrated *hay*.

The Japanese, it is said, have the art of feeding turtles and other crustacea on *aurum potabile*, or some other liquid preparation of gold, which gives them a most gorgeous and gilded appearance. Several of these gold turtles and crabs are to be sent to the Paris Exposition. We have our suspicions as to the veracity of this newspaper squib.

Why can persons occupied in canning fruit stow away more of it than any one else? Because they can.

MILLIONAIRES.—New York boasts of her millionaires, among whom the wealthiest are set down as follows:

Wm. B. Astor is sixty-five years old: worth fifty millions; a round faced, pleasant mannered gentleman; owns two thousand dwellings, and is a lenient landlord.

A. T. Stewart is sixty, thin, nervous, dignified; worth thirty millions, and liberal in cases of hencvolence which appeal to his sympathies.

Commodore Vanderbilt is white haired, red checked, seventy, worth forty millions, drives a fast horse, keeps a fast boat, controls two fast railroad companies with fast men, and gives away his money very lavishly.

August Belmont, twenty million, coarse, stout, and very German.

George Opdyke, five millions, fifty, but looks younger; an agreeable gentleman. James Gordon Bennett, five millions, seventy-three years old, dignified in manners, broad Scotch accent, henevolent to the poor.

DURABILITY OF TIMBER.—In situations so free from moisture that we may practically call them dry, the durability of timber is almost unlimited. The roof of Westminster Hall is more than 450 years old. In Stirling Castle are carvings in oak, well preserved, over 300 years of age. Scotch fir has been found in good condition after a known use of 300 years, and the trusses of the roof of the basilica of St. Paul, Rome, were sound and good after 1000 years of service.—*The Builder*.

A SIGNIFICANT FACT.—Domestic animals that live out in the open air Winter and Summer are freer from colds than those that live in warm stables, and men who are much exposed, and constantly breathe air at low temperature, are less liable to colds and influenza than those who live constantly in warm rooms.

As we stand by the sea-shore and watch the huge tides come in, we retreat, thinking we will be overwhelmed; soon, however, they flow back. So with the waves of trouble in the world; they threaten us, but a firm resistance makes them break at our feet.

A voracious toper used to mourn about not having a regular pair of eyes—one being black and the other light hazel. "It is lucky for you," replied his friend, "for if your eyes had been *matches*, your nose would have set them on fire long ago."

Not less than a thousand people in New York live by fortune telling and other such methods of gaining a livelihood.

"I'M AFRAID you'll come to want," said an old lady to a young gentleman. "I have come to want already," was the reply: "I want your daughter."

Hon. Oakes Ames, with some associates, intend putting up a fertilizer manufactory at Falmouth, Mass., with a capital of one million dollars.

The Stock-Yard.

HOW TO SAVE A RENNET.

LET the calf live as long as you can, at least, until the cow's milk gets fit to save, for, if killed too soon, the rennet has no strength. Let the calf go without food not less than twelve hours, nor more than eighteen hours, before killing. During this time keep it in a clean place, where it cannot get hay, straw or other solid substances to eat and foul the stomach. When killed, take out the stomach, empty it of whatever it may contain—curd or anything else—turn it wrong side out, and carefully pick, scrape or wipe off with a cloth, all dirt or hairs, but *never rinse it*. When cool, rub it thoroughly with salt, spread it on an earthen dish, and set it in a cool dry place to cure, frequently turning it over. Or, it may be stretched on a twig, bent in the form of a bow, or on a crotched stick, and hung in a cool, dry place to cure. The sooner the stomach dries, the better; but, remember that heat spoils it, while cold improves it. If the calf's stomach has a whitish appearance, it is pretty sure to be healthy. If it looks high colored, red or inflamed, or has a spotted appearance, it should be thrown away, as worse than useless—for it will spoil all the rennets that may be soaked with it, and cause the manufacture of a lot of poor cheese. The stomach of a weak, sickly calf should never be saved, for it is almost sure to be unhealthy. It is of the greatest importance that these directions should be closely observed, for in no other way can prime rennets be obtained, and without prime rennets, it is impossible to make fine flavored, or strictly fine cheese.—*Utica Herald*.

HOLLOW HORN—HOLLOW TAIL.—Is hollow tail a disease, or a result of poverty? Is splitting and salting, or cutting off proper, or is it barbarous? This disease sometimes is called the horn ail. Solon Robison, in *Facts for Farmers*, says:—"A cathartic of epsom salts, sulphur or linseed oil combined with ginger, is better than to mutilate the creature. Some of the most cruel acts ever perpetrated by man have been the cutting and searing of sick animals, and dosing them with horrid and hellish medicines. And yet the Old School doctors used to treat their human patients in the same way. It is likely that a thousand animals have been killed by doctoring where one has been cured, and then it probably lived in spite of the medicine. Please try hay, corn, oats, and curry combs—and don't forget clean warm stables and beds of straw."

SALT FOR GAPES.—Every one has had their say about the gapes; now let me tell you how we manage this matter. Formerly we fed the young broods with corn meal dough, losing more or less with the gapes every season. Lately we have salted the dough, and now raise some two hundred chickens per season, without losing one from gapes or any other disease. The chickens are bright, vigorous and healthy, and always commence laying early in the fall. Now we have some forty hens, which give us an abundance of eggs. Farmers should not hesitate to adopt this plan.—*BUCKEYE, in Country Gentleman*.

HOG CHOLERA IN ILLINOIS.—We learn from the Illinois Register that the hog cholera prevails to a considerable extent in various parts of that State. A letter from St. Clair county says that "although the cholera is not as fatal as it was two years ago, yet it causes serious loss. There is hardly a farmer in this district but what loses from one to five a day from this cause. The cholera also prevails among the chickens and turkeys." From Fulton county a similar report; and in other localities, especially where there are "still-fed" hogs, it is quite prevalent.

GARGET IN COWS.—Give a large tablespoonful of sulphate as soon as you perceive any signs of garget. If that does not stop it within forty-eight hours, then give them another dose. Some have practiced this way of curing garget for more than twenty years, and it has never failed to cure. It should be pulverized and given in a mess of bran or meal mash.

A BANK INCIDENT.—Some time since, by the robbery of a trunk from a bank in New York, parties sustained a heavy loss of government bonds. The officers of the bank took the ground that they not only used proper caution in caring for the trunk, but that a theft in the day time from the vault was an utter impossibility. To test the truth of this assertion an expert detective was informed of the statement and requested to test its accuracy. He entered the bank in open day, obtained a trunk from the vault and carried it into the street, and then sent for the Cashier, in order that he might have positive testimony that bank vaults were not so well guarded as they might be.



The Farm and Garden.

PLAIN TALK WITH FARMERS.—NO. 4.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY HON. JAMES W. WALL, NEW JERSEY.

In my last communication I gave the parallel between animal and vegetable life, to show how many points of resemblance there were, and yet their autogonisms are no less singular. For instance: the vegetable produces neutral azotized substances, the animal consumes them. The vegetable decomposes carbonic acid, water and the ammoniacal salts, the animal produces all these. The vegetable disengages oxygen, while the animal absorbs it. The vegetable absorbs heat and electricity, while the animal produces them. In the closing part of my last communication, I spoke of the germination of the seed of the vegetable. Let us now briefly consider the beautiful developments connected with the simple growth of an individual plant. You place an apparently dead grain in the soil; it is Spring. If the soil is sufficiently warm and porous, so as to give access to the oxygen of the air, it will soon begin to swell, and the first effort of vital force begins. The seed coats burst; the upper extremity, known by botanists as the plumule, extends itself upwards. This plumule is the young plant in miniature, and if you examine it with a microscope, you can discern the leaves and buds, though on a very small scale. At the same time the embryo increases downwards, and sends forth what is called the radicle or root in miniature, into the earth. As the plumule rises above the earth, then the miniature leaves appear, called cotyledons, which acquire a green color as soon as they reach the air. These miniature leaves act as lungs, and by them carbonic acid is conveyed downward to the root, and carried by the circulatory process in full progress in the young plant. And soon you may notice the impulses of a new life; and as the radicle sends out its feeders, or spongioles, below, which gather in the sustenance the rains wash down through the soil, the plant thrives and performs the functions for which it was called into being.

Another curious fact developed by vegetable Physiology is, that two plants of a different species, although they must be closely allied, can produce one plant resembling both parents, called a hybrid; and so animals of a different species, but closely allied, may produce offspring resembling both its parents, and blending in it their peculiarities. Such an animal hybrid is called a mule. The hybrid race of vegetables is frequently produced artificially by flower-gardeners. This crossing is accomplished by the introduction of the pollen of one species into the ovary of a different species, although it must be nearly allied to it. This plant may flower, and again produce a fertile seed; but in the third generation, or at most at the fourth or fifth, it will invariably become barren, and its seeds will not grow to perfect plants. The same is true in regard to animals where the same crossing is attempted.

It may be confidently asserted that everything in the material world is not only subordinate, but specially created to minister to the service of man. Vegetables perform two very important functions. As we have seen, a quantity of carbonic acid gas is constantly issuing from man and all animals, into the atmosphere. Now this gas is very poisonous, and if not removed from the air, all the higher animals would very speedily perish. Vegetables have the power of taking this carbonic acid gas from the atmosphere, and of converting the carbon of it, into part of their own structure. Then, while animals and plants are composed of the same elements, we shall afterwards find a great difference to exist between them as to the sources of their elements, or their food. Vegetables can take the elements of which they stand in need, where these elements are subject to chemical laws, that is, from the inorganic world. Thus, guano and farm yard manure contain nitrogen, phosphorus, soda, lime, &c.; and properly prepared soil therefore contains all the elements whose combinations form the different structures of plants. Now where these substances are brought to the roots of plants, which are analo-

gous to the mouths of animals, these roots can take them in, then combine them, so as to form stem, leaves and flowers.

But it is quite different with animals. They cannot convert inorganic matter into their own structures. If the chemical elements of which an animal is composed, are put into its mouth in an inorganic state, they may be swallowed, but they are never turned into its texture, but either poison it, or are excreted. The food of animals must consist of the elements of which they are composed, viz.: in a state of subjection to the laws of life, and not of chemistry; or in other words, of flesh or vegetables before putrefaction. The important function which vegetables serve in converting the inorganic matter placed on the earth's surface into a state of food for animals is thus made apparent.

The science of vegetable Physiology may, in truth, be said to reveal to him who studies it in a proper spirit, the sublime and exalted mission of the whole vegetable economy, which economy singularly enough, though of the earth earthy, symbolizes in the immutable laws of vegetable life, the spiritual ordinance of that which is yet to be in the great Hereafter. It, in truth, makes manifest

"How Creation's soul is thrivance from decay,
And Nature feeds on ruin; the big earth
Summers in rot, and harvests through the frost
To fructify the world; the mortal now
Is pregnant with the Spring flowers of To Come,
And death is seed time of Eternity."

It reveals how the immutable laws of vegetable nature decree that death shall proceed out of life, and life out of death—that the living animal shall draw its vitality from the dead plant, and the living plant from the dead animal—that decomposition must be but the commencement of recombination, and putrefaction only the symbol of renewed production. The brave apostle to the Gentiles, preaches this beautiful truth in that sublime passage, which has so often comforted the stricken mourner, as weeping over the grave of his beloved, he hears with wildly beating heart, that fearful miserer of the last service of the church, "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." "But some will say, how are the dead raised up, and with what body do they come? Thou fool! that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die."

April, 1867.

LIQUID MANURE—ITS VALUE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY J. L. HERVEY, TUFTONBORO, N. H.

It seems to be entirely overlooked by many farmers that in letting their liquid manure run off, they lose the most valuable part. In this connection I shall take the liberty of illustrating the value of liquid manure, by extracts from well known authors.

When it is considered that with every pound of ammonia that escapes, a loss of sixty pounds of corn is sustained—and that with every pound of urine, a pound of wheat might be produced, the indifference with which these liquid excrements are regarded is quite incomprehensible. In most places only the solid excrement, impregnated with liquid, is used; and in many instances the dung heaps containing these are protected neither from rains nor evaporation. The solid excrements contain the unsolvable; the liquids contain all the solvable phosphates; and the latter contain likewise all the potash which existed as organic salts in the plants consumed by the animals.—*Liebig's Organic Chemistry.*

Liquid manure consists in a great degree of urine of various animals, which, during its decomposition, exhales a larger quantity of ammonia than any other species of excrement. Now, all kinds of corn contain hydrogen, and consequently, any manure which yields a ready supply of ammonia must cause a fuller development of those parts of the plants which are of the greatest use to man. Even the kind of animal manure usually employed in this county, owes its efficacy, so far as it is dependent on the ammonia present, to the urine, rather than to the solid excrement of which it is made up; and hence becomes materially deteriorated in this respect, when the more liquid portions are allowed to drain off from it.—*Danby's Lectures on Agriculture.*

The quantity of liquid manure produced by one cow annually, is equal to fertilizing one and a half acres of ground, producing effects as durable as do solid manure; a cord of loam, saturated with urine is equal to a cord of the best solid dung. If the liquid and solid evacuations are kept separate; and the liquid manures soaked up by the use of loam, it has been found that they will manure land in proportion by bulk of seven liquid to six solid, while the actual value is as two to one. One hundred pounds of cow's urine afford twenty-five pounds of the most powerful salts which have ever been used by farmers. The simple statement then, in figures, of the difference in value of the solid and liquid evacuations of a cow, should impress upon all the importance of saving the last in preference to the first.—*Dana's Muck Manual.*

Urine is always a most valuable manure. No farmer should permit it to run to waste, but should so prepare his cattle yard by loam or swamp muck, and by plaster, as to save these invaluable products of his stable. As the urine is commonly mixed with the solid excrement in the barn cellar or cattle yard, it increases the value of this manure, it promotes its decay, and adds its own salts; but if the whole is exposed to the influence of atmospheric agents, it facilitates the actions, and aids in depreciating its value, hence it is generally, wholly lost. The farmers ought to know this, and to be apprized of the fact, that at least one half of their manure is wasted.—*Gray's Elements of Agriculture.*

EXPERIMENTS WITH POTATOES.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

Having been requested by several of my friends and neighbors to publish in your excellent journal a list of the special manures which I use in the cultivation of potatoes, I cheerfully comply with their wishes.

I use as a top-dressing for potatoes, a mixture of fifty-six pounds of sulphate of soda, fifty-six pounds of sulphate of magnesia and fifty-six pounds of salt per acre, sown broadcast as soon as the sets are planted. My potatoes so grown have been abundant in quantity and excellent in quality, and have almost entirely escaped the potato disease.

I have also found muriate of potash an excellent manure for potatoes, sown in the drill at the rate of two hundred pounds per acre. I speak of these as a top dressing; the best manure to plough in before planting, is well rotted stable dung. The following manure will be found to produce good crops of potatoes: Salt, two hundred pounds, muriate of potash, muriate of ammonia and phosphate of lime, one hundred pounds each; spread evenly over the surface, and ploughed in.—This manure has the property of producing a stout good haulm, and the plants retain their foliage longer than when stable manure is employed. With this mixture alone, potatoes have been grown at the rate of three hundred bushels per acre. EXPERIMENTER.
Valley Falls, R. I., April 2, 1867.

THE GRAIN TRADE OF ENGLAND.—A long while ago Great Britain raised enough grain for her own consumption and had also an excess to export. Afterwards, however, the necessity for importing grain became apparent, and in the five years ending with 1835, the imports of grain exceeded the exports by an annual average of 871,110 quarters of 28 pounds each. The excess of importation has gradually increased every year until in 1866 it was 16,241,122 quarters. Great Britain now is dependent upon foreign nations for a large portion of her supply of grain.

THREE pairs of cattle, fattened by Roswell Hubbard of Hatfield, were sold in the Cambridge market, Wednesday, for nearly \$1800. The largest ox lacked but 90 pounds of 3000, and the pairs weighed, each, 5705, 2100 and 4790 pounds. They were the finest cattle in the Cambridge yards, and have not been surpassed by any received this season.

Hon. Andrew D. White of Syracuse, has been chosen President of the New York Agricultural College, known as Cornell University.

The Horse.

EPIZOOTIC AMONG HORSES IN NEW JERSEY.
GASTRITIS MUCOSA.

Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

A FEW years ago the farmers of Massachusetts were terribly frightened by the "cattle disease," and now the farmers of New Jersey are greatly alarmed by a "cattle epidemic"—although the latter seems to attack horses only. Why is it that this disease is not properly classed and its right name given? Simply from three causes: first, farmers are not sufficiently posted in regard to diseases of their stock; second, the cattle doctors are not always acquainted with the disease, and some of them would rather mystify than enlighten us; third, the publishers of cheap veterinary books issue them without regard to their reliability or character, thus injuring the scientific veterinarian, and sacrificing the stock of our farm friends.

So much then, by way of preface, before coming to this new epidemic in New Jersey.—"Epidemic"—*epi*, upon, and *demo*, the people: a disease upon the people! Such is not the case, for the people of that State are not so afflicted. But an epizootic disease has attacked their horses, etc. From the symptoms, as detailed in the New York daily journals of the 25th ult., by Mr. G. W. Stille, it must be the disease mentioned and named by Dr. ROBERT McCLEURE, in his "Diseases in the American Stable, Field and Barn-Yard." Said disease is spoken of on pages 88, 89, 90 & 91, and is there called "Gastritis Mucosa." We make a few extracts in relation to it:

Gastritis Mucosa is a disease very common in the Spring of the year, assuming always an epizootic form, and is closely allied to the epizootic catarrh, sometimes called typhoid influenza. The one disease attacks the lining membrane of the windpipe, the other, the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels, or in other words, the digestive organs, more than the respiratory. Gastritis Mucosa is a fatal disease, if treated by low diet, bleeding, blistering and physic, because it always assumes a low standard of vitality, or great weakness. Hence the horse so affected, and so treated, has no chance for his life whatever.

Symptoms.—The horse has no cough and the breathing is not disturbed. The breath and mouth are not hot nor dry; but often the mouth is so slimy as to look as if the horse was salivated. The legs soon swell, or become rounded, or filled, as they are often called. The swellings are not inflammatory nor painful; they contain lymph or plastic matter from the blood, which disappears as they come, when the strength of the horse gets up again, and the disease subsides. The appetite is entirely suspended from the commencement of the disease.

Treatment.—The first day of the disease give, every four hours, twenty drops of the tincture of aconite root in a little cold water; next day give the tincture of nux vomica in fifteen drops, every four hours till the horse is well, which will be about the sixth or seventh day, and sometimes sooner. If, however, he does not improve, and his appetite become restored, give powdered carbonate of ammonia and gentian root, three drachms of each to a dose, morning, noon and night, in addition to the tincture of nux vomica. These medicines are mixed with cold water, and administered by drenching. Let the horse have as much cold water to drink as he wants. Green, or soft feed, should be given from the first day, if the horse will eat it. Pure air and good ventilation should be insured to all sick horses.

DUPYTEM.

NUMBER OF MILCH COWS.—The number of milch cows in the whole United States, from 1790 to 1860, has remained a constant number, being 27 cows to 100 inhabitants. The proportion of cows in the older States, according to the population, is constantly decreasing, while the western and new States keep up an excess of the proportional number. Massachusetts has 12 cows to the 100 inhabitants. Oregon has 101, or more than one cow to each person. These facts go to show that the dairy business is not likely to be overdone.

THE cheapest transportation is that upon the ocean. Upon the ocean a barrel of flour can be carried more than half way around the globe for what it costs to transport it by railway from Chicago to Philadelphia. A cargo of wheat lately arrived at Philadelphia from San Francisco. It came around Cape Horn, and the freight was about the same as it would have been if the load had been carried by the cars from Chicago. Each mile of railway, with its proportion of rolling stock, is equal in cost to a ship. On the road the wear and tear is rapid; on the ship, slow; and the cost to man the road is greater than the cost to man the ship.





Farm and Fireside.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, APRIL 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.

OUR CURRENCY.

No class of our citizens are exempt from the evils of an inflated and an inconvertible currency; and the depression of business now experienced in all sections of the Republic, is caused, partially, by the inflation of paper money. We shall not speak of the origin, nor of the necessity of the Government to issue the present kind of currency. Its issue was indefensible, except as a public necessity. The extent of that necessity was the inordinate demands of war; and now that strife and bloodshed have terminated, we see no reasonable justification for continuing or perpetuating a currency that destroys the laws of value, that deranges business, that cripples and paralyzes every branch of industry.

The Thirty-Ninth Congress evaded this great financial question—the most important that came before it. It spent and misspent much valuable time on political questions and partisan propositions, but ignored a subject vital to national prosperity and progress. Inflation had more friends in that body than contraction, or the gradual return to specie payment. We regret this, because all classes, all parties, and all industrial pursuits are interested in matters of currency; and, in our opinion, it was the imperative duty of Congress to assist in diminishing the immense volume of paper money.

We would not ask a sudden contraction, for that would probably injure some classes, and might also prove disastrous to certain kinds of industry. But we are quite positive that a continuance of our present currency would be a perpetual injury, a permanent disturbance of the great law of value, an equivalent to general ruin and bankruptcy by and by. To carry along, indefinitely, our burden of paper money; or to keep it afloat ten years, would guarantee a decade of stagnation, would perpetuate the present unreasonable prices, and make speculators and gamblers grow fat. We cannot carry so terrible a load of inconvertible paper money without prolonging our own misery; nor can we continue this exhaustive drain upon our manifold industry without great peril to the Nation itself.

Our agricultural population works harder to earn a dollar than the mechanical, the commercial, or the professional classes. The hard, calloused hand, the brow, weather-beaten face, the bent and crooked back, all testify to this truth. While other classes make hundreds and thousands of dollars by skill, cunning or speculation, the farmer earns his solitary dollar by the sweat of his brow and the strength of his sinews. Besides, the products of his toil, and the farm on which he spends his strength and manhood, are the last to be benefited by inflation. The product of his industry is comparatively small, and the rise on his real estate never approximates to that on the goods and wares of the merchant or manufacturer. For this reason farmers are the least interested in an inflated currency. A fixed, permanent representative of value, in the shape of money, either gold or silver, or a currency exchangeable for them at equal rates, is what our agricultural friends need, and should demand.

ABANDONMENT OF THE CENTAL SYSTEM.—The Boards of Trade of St. Louis, Buffalo, Toledo and Cleveland, have voted to drop the cental system of measuring grain, and return to the old method. It is hinted that the true secret of the desire to get back to the bushel is the fact that the cental is too much in the interest of honest dealers and consumers. We do not believe that, after so short a trial, the merits and demerits of the system have been justly decided upon. It is true that the new system is hard to understand, but time would remedy that, and dealers in grain are not supposed to be more obtuse than other people.



SCIENTIFIC.—To test oil as to its explosive qualities, fill a tumbler three-fourths full of moderately cool water, then pour half a teaspoonful of oil into it, and stir them together; then hold a lighted match over the tumbler, and if it takes fire from the vapor before the flame comes in contact with the oil, then it is dangerous, as good oil will not thus ignite, and indeed will not burn readily when the flaming match has been thrown into it; while that which has been adulterized with benzine will emit a vapor which is nearly as explosive as gunpowder, and the oil will then burn freely. Kerosene ought always to be tested in this way before using.

AN ACTIVE MONTH.

APRIL is a busy month—the season of sowing and planting the hardier seeds and vegetables in the Middle States; and also in the New England States, on naturally dry or thoroughly drained soils. Of course, we expect some rough, windy weather and cool nights, with perhaps an occasional slight frost. But the season is now advanced sufficiently for garden and farm work; and we would impress on our friends the importance of early sowing and planting—provided the season is not unusually backward, or the land too wet.

Sowing oats, Spring wheat and other seeds, should be attended to at once; then the work in the garden, nursery and orchard will follow. The farmer and gardener should keep in mind the first principles of cultivation—a thoroughly drained soil; perfect pulverization in ploughing and harrowing; an equal intermixture of manures or fertilizers with the surface soil. These are essential to success. All soils, intended for field or garden crops, should be ploughed twice (the last time cross-wise), and then harrowed. This will put land in good condition. Next manure liberally; don't be miserly with your land, or it will retaliate in short crops. Land in fine tilth, and generously manured, cannot fail to return remunerative crops, provided the after culture is thorough and correct.

Attend to the garden. People generally, and farmers especially, neglect their esculent garden; but it is of great value to a family, and is half of its support at certain seasons of the year. Asparagus beds require early care; manure should be dug or forked in, and all the decayed vegetation raked off. A shower of old brine, or salt water, will help it, for it is a species of marine plant, and likes an ocean-like stimulant. Rhubarb beds, also want attention; such as spading up the earth and raking off rubbish. Put out onion sets immediately, also sow seed. They will stand cool weather, and if the soil is dry, the earlier set out, or planted, the better. Lettuce may be transplanted from the hot-bed to the open garden at once. It will grow, even if the season is backward; and a dish of lettuce relishes well, besides being conducive to health.

Not much progress can be made in ornamental gardening, thus early; although ornamental trees may be trimmed, shrubbery cropped, and walks and borders repaired. Flower beds can be prepared, ready for warmer days.

Of field crops, not much can be advised before the middle or last of the month. It is impossible to tell when is the proper time, to a day or week, to plant field crops. Latitude does not always settle this matter; yet there is a difference of two or three weeks, in vegetation, between the New England and the Middle States. However, sow your seeds and plant your fields as early as the season and the soil will admit. After an experience of five-and-twenty years, we pronounce in favor of early planting.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.—An eminent lecturer relates the history of the disease from the fourth century to the nineteenth, showing that it arises in the steppes of Russia; that thence it spreads westward, through Poland, Moldavia, Holland, and by importation into England; that it is the most fatal disease that has ever yet seized living beings; that where it arises, ninety per cent. of the cattle affected with it die; that in some cases the collections of cattle all die, and that there is no cure for it; but that its prevention and arrest can be accomplished by the use of carbonic acid, a white crystalline solid recently discovered.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HORTICULTURE for April has been received. It contains more than sixty original articles, a few of which are illustrated, and all of them concise, seasonable and practical. Its typographical appearance is faultless, while the paper upon which it is printed is of the best quality. It is published by J. E. TILTON & Co., Boston, at three dollars per annum.

MR. JOHN DIXON, of Pomfret, Connecticut, informs us that on the 16th of February last, a South Down Ewe belonging to him, dropped a lamb that weighed eleven pounds.

THE CROP PROSPECTS IN THE SOUTH AND WEST.

A correspondent of the Selma Times speaks encouragingly of the prospects for a crop in Central Alabama. The planters have their lands all bedded up and in condition, or very nearly so, to receive the cotton seed when the time comes. The rains had caused a temporary suspension in corn planting. It is feared at Huntsville that the recent frosts have injured the fruit crop of Northern Alabama very seriously, as peaches, plums, &c., were in full bloom.

In North Carolina all the early peaches, apricots, &c., are believed to be killed by the cold. More than the average breadth of wheat has been sown, and its appearance is quite promising.

The people in the Western and Northern portion of Texas are making extensive preparations for farming, and are confidently expecting an abundant harvest.

Maryland farmers are hopeful, as the weather wise in that State have noticed that when a heavy fall of snow occurred about the time of the full moon in February, large crops and an abundance of everything were sure to follow.

The Orange crop in Florida promises far to surpass the yields of former years. The largest groves near St. Augustine will bear nearly one hundred and fifty thousand oranges each.

The editor of the Dayton (Ohio) Journal says that a fruit-grower who returned home on Friday from a journey through portions of Miami, Clarke and Greene counties, states that wherever he had an opportunity he examined the fruit buds, and found them sound in the proportion of at least eight out of ten.

The Cincinnati Gazette says all anxiety about the wheat crop may now be dismissed, as that crop is in good condition and doing well. A Louisville paper says not only in Kentucky, but in Tennessee also, the wheat crop is more extensive than is usually seen, and promises an abundant yield. The Illinois State Journal learns that the wheat in Sangamon and adjoining counties looks finely, better than during the corresponding season for several years past. The winter and spring thus far have been favorable for wheat, and farmers are expecting a large crop.

The Carbondale (Ill.) New Era reports the prospect of a good peach crop in the Southern portion of the State as encouraging.

The Leavenworth Times says that the great snow storms will retard the crops in Kansas.

EUROPE, we must acknowledge, is far ahead of this country in its endeavors to produce and maintain a system of rational and intelligent agriculture. Germany is taking the lead, and has established what are called agricultural Stations, comprising an experimental garden and a complete analytical laboratory. The chemist, provided with assistants, institutes, on the spot, such experiments, and tests such theoretical problems, in reference to agriculture, as would seem most prolific with benefits to the farming community. To instruct the farmer as to the difference between robbing and tilling the land, to teach him to understand and take a lively interest in the practical experiments above alluded to, travelling teachers have been appointed, connected with these agricultural Stations, whose office it is to impart useful knowledge to the masses by lectures and conversations. Thus every one may gradually be prepared to receive and profit by the rich stores of science open to every intelligent farmer.

Our country is so extensive and our farms are so large, which facts, together with the comparative sparseness of the population, render such institutions unnecessary for the present. When one field is exhausted our farmers rely upon another, and the crops find as yet, so much natural sustenance in the soil, as a general thing, that artificial aids are not extensively resorted to. The time will come though, when farming will be carried on only on intelligent and scientific principles; double the crops will be raised on a given area, and infinitely better in quality. Then surely the "days of specie" will be restored "and the sky rain porridge."

THE PEACH TREE BORER.

An exchange warmly advocates the budding of the peach on the plum stock, as a safe guard against the borer. We do not believe in this; neither in the supposition that this process adds to the hardness of the fruit buds. The borer has been known to attack the plum stock, and may attack the peach above the place of union. Dwarf peach trees may be produced by budding on the diminutive mirabelle; but the practice of working the peach on the plum is not favorably regarded by eminent fruit culturists.

Mr. Thomas, in his "American Fruit Culturist," says that the Peach-worm or grub, (*Ageria ciliatosa*), cuts into the bark, (and never far into the wood), just below the surface of the ground. The nectarine and apricot are also subject to its attacks. Its presence is indicated by the exudation of gum at the root, mixed with excrementitious matter resembling sawdust. It is very easily destroyed by scraping away the earth at the foot of the trunk, and following the worm to the end of its hole with a knife, beneath the thin shell of bark, under cover of which it extends its depredations.

The perfect insect of the peach worm is a four-winged moth, resembling a wasp in form, but totally distinct, and in its character and habits closely allied to the butterfly and miller. It deposits from early in Summer till Autumn, at the foot of the tree, its exceedingly minute, whitish eggs, which soon hatch, and the larvæ or worms enter the bark. The next season they encase themselves in a sawdust-like cocoon, in their holes under the bark; and emerging as perfect insects, lay their eggs and perish. Mr. Thomas says that the perfect insect is very rarely seen, but may be secured by watching the pupa develop under a glass or ganze case.

To exclude the insect we recommend heaping air-slacked lime, wood or coal ashes, or even earth, in the Spring, allowing it to remain until Autumn. It is said that to encase the foot of the tree, during the Summer, in stout oiled or painted paper, effectually prevents the deposit of eggs in the bark. To drive nails into the tree or to bore holes in it and impregnate it with sulphur is absurd, having no natural or scientific probabilities to support it. After the grub is once domiciled, there is no way so effectual as the slow process of direct extermination. Capture the rascals in their bark encasements and visit summary vengeance upon them. Early in Spring and early in Summer put your trees under careful surveillance. In extensive peach orchards this may be tedious and laborious, but a daily tenacious discharge of the duty will accomplish much serviceable work.

THE SCIENCE of Entomology is beginning to be appreciated; and the men who used to be considered natural born fools (though fortunately harmless ones, by way of qualification), because they spent their time searching in rotten stumps and quagmires for bugs, are now esteemed for their devotion to science, and have more flattering epithets applied to them. There is a great deal of utility in the researches of these men; of late years their attentions have been more particularly directed to such insects as are supposed to be injurious to trees, plants and crops, thus benefitting the agriculturist to a great extent by their investigations. To learn to distinguish noxious insects, and know how to exterminate them or limit their depredations, is certainly a matter worth paying attention to. Sometimes insects which the farmer supposes to be injurious, are just the reverse; and upon close examination, it will be found that they are an army of scavengers, devouring by wholesale the real enemies of the fruits and crops. Not a few farmers are practical entomologists; what we mean by that is, that though ignorant of scientific nomenclature, they know which insects are to be regarded with favor and which with suspicion. They have learned this by personal observation. We call attention to an illustrated entomological article on our fourth page, and would be pleased to publish others of a similar character.

FRESH herring are abundant in the Norfolk market at twenty-five cents per dozen.





The Fireside Muse.

THE KING OAK.

The forest sward was his palace floor,
The sky was his vaulted roof;
And around his throne his giant court
Stood solemnly aloof.

Young in the past and lawless days
When force was right divine,
And steel-clad fingers gripped the blades
That made a monarch sign.

He had known all the still long summer heats,
The wood-dove sweet to hear,
The insect hum, the fern that reached
The antlers of the deer.

He had known grim winter's frozen blasts,
The rattling branches' sound,
The cold beams of the far-off sun,
The woods in fetters bound.

He had loved the soft-returning Spring,
Under whose gentle spell
The grass sprung up, the leaf came forth,
White blossom and blue bell.

With a kingly joy in winter drear,
With the storm he wrestled high;
But he ever welcomed the herald ray
That shone when Spring drew nigh.

It touched the gloss of velvet moss
Upon the old oak's breast;
It peeped into the squirrel's haunt,
And found the thrush's nest.

It woke the sprites of fern and flower
Whose sleep had lasted long;
Dispersed the cloud, let loose the brook,
And filled the woods with song.

Old oak! long centuries of time
Hast thou beheld depart;
Be they repeated, ere decay
Shall reach thy mighty heart.

Fireside Tale.

THE MINISTER OF MONTCLAIR.

BY LOUISE CHANDLER MOULTON.

It was no use; the letters danced before his eyes, the whole world seemed wavering and uncertain, in those days. He laid his book down, and began to think of the great trouble which was shutting him in. When the black specks first began to dance between him and his paper, months ago, he had not thought about the matter. It was annoying, to be sure, but he must have taxed his eyes too severely. He would work a little less by lamplight—spare them awhile—and he should be all right. So he had spared them more and more, and yet the black specks kept up their elfin dance; and now for weeks the conviction had been growing on him slowly that he was going to be blind. He had not told his wife yet—how could he bear to lay on her shoulders the burden of his awful calamity? O, it was too hard!

And yet was it too hard? Dared he say so? he, God's minister—who had told other sufferers so many times that their chastenings were dealt out to them by a Father's hand, and that they should count all that brought them nearer to Him as joyous, not grievous?

Yet speaking after the manner of this world, his burden seemed greater than he could bear. What could he do—a blind, helpless man? He must give up his work in life—let another take his ministry—sit helpless in the darkness. Heaven only knew for how long. *Could* he be resigned?

Then, suddenly, a flash of hope kindled his sky. There might be help for him. This gathering darkness might be something which science could remove. He would be sure of that, at least, before he told Mary. And then he became feverishly impatient. He must know at once, it seemed to him—he could not wait. He called his wife, and told her, with a manner which he tried hard to make calm, that he was going out of town the next morning on a little business. She wondered that he was so uncommunicative—it was not like him—but she would not trouble him with any questions. She should understand it all some time, she knew—still she thought there was something strange in his way of speaking.

The minister strove hard for the mastery of his own spirit, as the cars whirled him along next morning towards the tribunal at which he was to receive his sentence. He tried to think of something else, but found the effort vain; so he said, over and over, as simply as a child, one form of words:

"Father, whichever way it turns, O give me strength to hear it."

Holding fast to this prayer, as to an anchor, he got out of the cars and went into the streets. What a curious mist seemed to surround all things! The houses looked like a spectral through it—the people he met seemed like ghosts. He had not realized his defective vision so much at home, where it had come on him gradually—and all objects were so familiar. Still, with an effort, he could read the signs on the street corners, and find his way.

He reached, at last, the residence of the distinguished oculist for whose verdict he had come. He found the parlor half filled with people, waiting like himself. He was asked for his name, and sent in a card on which was written, "Rev. William Spencer, Montclair." Then he waited his turn. He dared not think how long the time was, or what suspense he was in. He just kept his simple child's prayer in his heart, and steadied himself with it.

The time came for him, at last, and he followed the boy who summoned him into a little room shaded with green, with green furniture, and on a table a vase of flowers. The stillness, and the cool, scented air refreshed him. He saw dimly, as he saw everything that morning, a tall, slight man, with kind face and quiet manners, who addressed him by name, invited him to sit down, and then inquired into his symptoms with such tact and sympathy that he felt as if he were talking with a friend. At last the doctor asked him to take a seat by the window and have his eyes examined. His heart beat chokingly, and he whispered, under his breath,—

"Thy will, O God, be done; only give me strength."

Dr. Gordon was silent for a moment or two—it seemed ages to Mr. Spencer. Then he said, with the tenderest, and saddest voice, as he felt to the uttermost all the pain he was inflicting,—

"I cannot give you any hope. The malady is incurable. You will not lose your sight entirely, just yet; but it must come."

The minister tried to ask how long it would be before he should be blind; but his tongue seemed to cleave to the roof of his mouth, and he could only gasp.

Dr. Gordon understood; and answered, kindly, that it might be a month, possibly two.

He stood up, then, to go. He knew all hope was over. He paid his fee and went out of the room—out of the house. It seemed to him things had grown darker since he went in. He hardly knew how he found his way to the cars. It was two hours past his dinner time, and he was faint for lack of food, but he did not know it. He got to the station somehow, and waited till it was time for the train to start for Montclair. All the way home he kept whispering over to himself—"One month, possibly two,"—as if it were a lesson on the getting by heart of which his life depended. He heard the conductor call out "Montclair," at last, and got out of the cars mechanically. His wife stood there waiting for him. She had been anxious about him all day.

"O William!" she cried, and then she saw his face and stopped. There was a look on it of one over whom some awful doom is pending—a white, fixed look, that chilled her. She took his arm, and they walked on silently, through the summer afternoon. When they reached home, and she had taken off her bonnet, he spoke at last:—

"Mary, come here and let me look at you. I want to learn your face by heart."

She came and knelt by him, while he took her cheeks between his hands, and studied every lineament.

"Are you going away?" she asked, after a while, for his fixed, silent, mysterious gaze began to torture her.

"Yes, I am going—into the dark."

"To die?" she gasped.

"Yes, to die to everything that makes up a man's life in this world," he answered, bitterly.

"Mary, I am going blind. Think what that means. After a few weeks more, I shall never see you again or our children, or this dear, beautiful world where we have lived and loved each other. The whole creation only an

empty sound forever more! O God! how can I bear it?"

"Is there no hope?" she asked, with a curious calmness, at which she herself was amazed.

"None. It was my errand to town to-day to find out. I have felt it coming on for months, but I hoped against hope, and now—I know. O Mary, to sit in the darkness until my death-day, striving for a sight of your dear faces! It is too bitter; and yet what am I saying? Shall my Father not choose His own way to bring me to the light of Heaven? I must say, I will say, His will be done."

Just then the children came running in—boyish, romping Will; shy, yet merry little May.

"Hush, dears," the mother said, softly, "papa is tired. You had better run out again."

"No, Mary, let them stay," Mr. Spencer interposed, and then he said, so low that his wife's ears just caught the whisper—"I cannot see them too much in this little while—this little while."

O how the days went on after that! Every day the world looked dimmer to the minister's darkened eyes. He spent almost all his time trying to fix the things he loved in his memory.

It was pitiful to see him going round over each well-known, well-loved scene—noting anxiously just how those tree-boughs stood out against the sky, or that hill climbed towards the sunset. He studied every little flower, every fern the children gathered; for all creation seemed to take for him a new beauty and worth. Most of all he studied the dear home faces. His wife grew used to the dim, wistful eyes following her so constantly; but the children wondered why papa liked so well to keep them in sight—why he did not read or study any more.

There came a time at last—one Sunday morning—when the brilliant summer sunshine dawned for him in vain.

"Is it a bright day, dear?" he asked, hearing his wife moving about the room.

"Very bright, William."

"Open the blinds, please, and let the sunshine in at those east windows."

Mary Spencer's heart stood still within her, but she commanded her voice, and answered, steadily—

"They are open, William. The whole room is full of light."

"Mary, I cannot see it—the time has come—I am alone in the darkness."

"Not alone, my love," she cried, in a passion of grief and pity, and tenderness. Then she went and sat down beside him on the bed, and drew his head to her bosom, and comforted him, just as she was wont to comfort her children. After a time her tender caresses, her soothing tones, seemed to have healed a little his bruised, tortured heart. He lifted up his head and kissed her—his first kiss from out the darkness in which he must abide—and then he sent her away. I think every soul, standing face to face with an untried calamity, longs to be for a space alone with its God.

Three hours after that the church-bells rang, and, as usual, the minister and his wife walked out of their dwelling—as usual, save that now he leaned upon her arm. In that hour of seclusion he had made up his mind what to do. They walked up the familiar way; and she left him at the foot of the pulpit stairs, and went back to her own pew in front. He groped up the stairs; and then rising in his place, he spoke to the wondering congregation:

"Brethren, I stand before you as one on whom the Father's hand has fallen heavily. I am blind. I shall never see you again in this world—you, my children—for whose souls I have striven so long, I have looked my last on your kind, familiar faces on this earth—see to it that I miss none of you when my eyes are unsealed again in heaven. Grant, O Father, that of these whom Thou hast given me I may lose none."

There was not a tearless face among those which were lifted toward him, as he stood there, with his sightless eyes raised to heaven, his hands outstretched, as if to bring down on them the blessing for which he prayed. Some of the women sobbed audibly, but the minister was calm. After a moment he said:

"My brethren, as far as is possible, the services will proceed as usual."

Then, in a clear voice, in which there seemed to his listeners' ears some unearthly sweetness, he recited the one hundred and thirteenth psalm, commencing—

"Out of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice."

Afterwards he gave out the first line of a hymn, which the congregation sang. Then he prayed, and some said who heard him that the eyes closed on earth were surely beholding the beautiful vision, for he spoke as a son beloved, whose very soul was full of the glory of the Father's presence.

The sermon which followed was such an one as they had never before heard from his lips. There was in it a power, a fervor, a tenderness which no words of mine can describe. It was the testimony of a living witness, who has found the Lord a very pleasant help in the time of trouble.

When all was over, and he came down the pulpit stairs, his wife stood again at the foot, and he took her arm and went out silently. He seemed to the waiting congregation as one set apart and consecrated by the anointing of a special sorrow, and they dared not break the holy silence round him with common speech.

The next afternoon a committee from the church went to the parsonage. Mrs. Spencer saw them coming, and told her husband.

"It must be," he said, "to ask my advice in the choice of my successor."

"I think they might have waited one day," she cried, with a woman's passionate impatience at any seeming forgetfulness of the claims given him by his years of faithful service.

The delegation had reached the door by that time, and the minister did not answer her. She waited on the men into the study, and left them there; going about her usual task with a heart full of bitterness. It was natural, perhaps, that they should not want a blind minister, but to tell him so now, to make the very first pang of his sorrow sharper by their thanklessness, it was too much.

An hour passed before they went away, and then she heard her husband's voice calling her, and went into the study, prepared to sympathize with his sorrow. She found him sitting where she had left him, with such a look of joy, and peace, and thankfulness upon his face as she had never expected to see it wear again.

"Mary," he said, "there are some kind hearts in this world. My parish want me to stay with them, and insist on raising my salary a hundred dollars a year."

"Want you to stay with them?" she cried, hardly understanding his words.

"Yes, I told them that I could not do them justice, but they would not listen; they believe that my very affliction will give me new power over the hearts of men; that I can do as much good as ever. They would not wait a day, you see, lest we should be anxious about our future."

"And I thought they were coming, in indecent haste, to give you notice to go," Mrs. Spencer cried, penitently. "How I misjudged them! Shall I never learn Christian charity?"

So it was settled that the minister of Montclair should abide with his people.

For three years more his persuasive voice called them to choose the better way; and then his own summons came to go up higher. In those three years he had sown more seed and reaped more harvests than some men in a long life-time. He did his work faithfully, and was ready when the hour came for him to go home. Just at the last, when those who loved him best stood weeping round his bedside, they caught upon his face the radiance of a light not of this world. He put out his hands with a glad cry—

"I see, I see! Out of the dark, into the light!"

And before they could look with awe and wonder into each other's eyes, the glory had begun to fade, the outstretched hands fell heavily and they knew that the blind minister was gone, "past night, past day," where for him there would be no more darkness.

ROYAL COURTESY.—A peer, when dining with Queen Victoria, was challenged by a royal duchess to take wine with her. He politely thanked her, but declined the compliment, stating that he never took wine. The duchess immediately turned to the Queen, and jocularly said:—"Your Majesty, here is Lord—, who declines to take wine at your Majesty's table." Every eye was turned to the Queen, and not a little curiosity was evinced as to the manner in which the abstainer would be dealt with. With a smiling and graceful expression the Queen replied: "There is no compulsion at my table." This may be regarded as an example of true courtesy.



The Farm.

THE WAGES OF FARM LABOR.

Written for the Farm and Fireside, BY ALEX. HYDE, LEE, MASSACHUSETTS.

We hear it often asserted by farmers that wages are so high they cannot afford to hire labor, and so the farm is neglected, except so far as the proprietor and his family can work it. This, it seems to us, is a "penny wise and pound foolish" policy. True, wages are high, but are they comparatively as high as produce? Hon. D. A. Wells, Commissioner of the revenue, estimates the increase of wages of all employes, including farm laborers, since 1860, to be fifty per cent., while prices at wholesale in the same time have risen eighty-five per cent. At retail, the price of the necessities of life must have doubled in the same time. This estimate is doubtless an approximation to the truth, and shows conclusively that the farmer who is unwilling to hire labor at an advance of 50 per cent., while his produce sells at an advance of 100 per cent., does not understand calculating profit and loss. The fact is, the farming interest is at high tide, and the discerning and enterprising farmers see it, and put forth their energies and push the capabilities of the soil to their utmost extent. "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the turn, leads on to fortune." The short-sighted, looking at present outlays, and heedless of future returns, neglect the golden opportunity and either remain stationary, or lose ground, while their more enterprising neighbors are waded far in the advance.

If any one has reason to complain, it is the laborer. Labor never appreciates till after the products of labor appreciate. The present high rates, both of labor and its products, are doubtless due in a measure to our redundant currency, and many have deferred all works of improvement till prices should recede, by a return to a specie basis. The inflation of prices, however, is not all due to the discrepancy between gold and paper, as is manifest from the fact that prices have not receded as paper has come nearer to a par with gold. Whoever examines the prices current in this country for the last half century, will find a gradual but steady increase. Not that there have not been fluctuations, and some ebbing as well as flowing; but on the whole, there has been an advance. We well remember when beef, pork, butter, cheese, hay and grain, were sold, on an average of years, for less than half what they have commanded for the average of the last six years.

The discoveries of the precious metals in Australia and California have stimulated production in all parts of the world. Prices of farm labor have doubled in England as well as in America, and there the currency has remained on a specie basis. The Englishman who formerly received a shilling, or one and six pence for his day's work, now receives two and three shillings. Even sleepy India has felt the impulse, and labor in that distant and lazy country has been stimulated to increased exertion by increased pay. Here let us say, that it is a great blessing to a country when its labor is amply remunerated. The United States are favored in this respect above all other nations. America is the paradise of laborers, and they know it, and consequently have flocked here from all parts of the earth. We may talk in our Fourth of July orations about Liberty attracting the foreign emigrant to our shore. This sounds well, but if the rewards of labor had not been greater here than in other countries, we fear our population would have been much less than it is. Our rapid increase in population and the equally rapid development of our resources, are more due to the high rates of wages than is generally supposed. What a stampede was made for California when it was announced that a laboring man could there earn ten dollars a day. We hope the time is far distant when labor will receive less remuneration here than it does now, and those farmers who are waiting for wages to fall before they commence farm improvements, may have to wait longer than they calculate. There is no prospect of our paper currency being rapidly reduced. The mighty West is opposed to any reduction. New England goes

for a gradual contraction, but the balance of power in our Government is under Western influence. Should our currency be reduced, it does not necessarily follow that wages will decrease. We therefore advise all farmers who have improvements to make, not to delay for a more economical time. When that economical time comes, money will probably be as scarce as labor is plenty. We wish we could say something to disabuse the sentiment, far too common, that there is any antagonism between labor and capital. The interests of the employer and employed are one, and they should feel this cardinal truth, and act accordingly. In making contracts for labor, it is supposed that both parties are benefited. The employer wants intelligent and faithful labor, and the employed wants a just compensation for his services. They are partners, mutually benefiting each other, and any attempt on the part of the capitalist to grind the face of the poor laborer, or any want of faithfulness on the part of the employed, is a vaunting selfishness, sure to overleap itself. The hired man should identify himself with his employer, and work with the same fidelity as though working for himself. In no other way can he hope to rise to the position of a contractor. "He that is faithful in the least will be faithful also in much."

On the other hand, the employer needs to feel a fatherly interest in his workmen, should study their comfort, and furnish every facility for their intellectual and moral advancement. In thus promoting their interests, his own will most effectually be promoted. We are rejoiced at the agitation of the question of the hours and wages of labor, not that we have any faith in "strikes" or legislative enactments, to regulate these matters; but the discussion tends to public enlightenment and a better understanding of the unity of interest between capital and labor. When public opinion becomes enlightened, the honors of labor will become adjusted to our physical capacity, and the workman will receive his just reward without the interference of the legislative power.

April, 1867.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE AND THE PATRIOT FOR \$1.00 PER YEAR.

For the sum of FOUR DOLLARS, paid in advance, we will send the FARM AND FIRESIDE and the WOONSOCKET PATRIOT for one year. The subscription price of the latter, alone, is \$2.50. THE PATRIOT is an old established family newspaper, with the largest circulation of any country journal in New England.

S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, Woonsocket, R. I.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending April 5th, 1867.]

Table with columns for Farm Products, Fuel, &c. and Groceries, &c. listing items like Hay, Straw, Corn, Rye, Flour, etc. with prices.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

April 3d, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1456; Sheep and Lambs 451. Swine, 1400. Prices: Beef Cattle—Extra, \$12.50 to \$13.75; first quality, \$12.50 to \$13.25; second quality, \$11.00 to \$12.00; third quality, \$10.00 to \$11.00. Country Hides, 8 1/2 to 9 cts per lb. Country Tallow 6 1/2 to 7 cts per lb. Brighton Hides, 9 1/2 to 10 cts per lb. Green Sheep Tallow, 7 1/2 to 8 cts per lb. Dry Sheep Skins, 75c to \$1.25. Green Sheep Skins, \$1.25 to \$2.25 per skin. Calf Skins, 18 to 20c per lb. The market for this week is not so active as that of last. The supply from the West is not so large by several hundred head, and the quality is poorer. Prices have fallen off 1/2 of a cent per lb, and trade has been dull. We have not heard of any Beeves being sold for over 1 1/2 cts per pound, and but few at that price. Stores—None at market, except Working Oxen and Milch Cows. Working Oxen.—Sales at \$175, \$171, \$200, \$210, \$215, \$212, \$225, \$234, \$233, \$244, \$255 and \$265 per pair. There is a good supply in market, and the demand is active. MILCH COWS.—Sales extra \$50 to \$75; ordinary \$60 to \$75. Store Cows \$35 to \$50. There is some very nice Milch Cows in market. Cows and Lambs.—The trade is dull and prices not much different from those of last week. We quote sales of lots at 7 1/2, 7 3/4 and 9c per lb. Most of the Western Sheep were taken at a commission. Swine—Wholesale, 8 1/2 to 9 cts per lb.; retail, 10 to 12 cts per lb. There is but a few Store Pigs in the market, and not much of a demand for them. Fat Hogs—1100 at market; prices, 9c to 9 1/2 cts per pound.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

The following are the principal features of the wholesale market during the present week: Cotton has been somewhat irregular, and closes very dull, buyers and sellers differing in their views. We quote middling uplands at 30 1/2 cents, and New Orleans and Texas do. at 31 1/2 cents. The flour market has been variable, and closes less active. Prices are firm. The stock is reduced to about 230,000 barrels. The prospect is that the receipts will be light for some weeks to come. We quote superfine State at \$8.70 to 11.70; shipping Ohio, \$11.55 to \$12.60; St. Louis extras, \$13.85 to \$14.75; California flour, \$15 to \$16.25. Rye flour is easier at \$7.50 to \$8.25. Wheat has been in moderate request, but prices are firm at \$2.45 to \$2.48 for No. 2 Milwaukee; Amber state, \$3.15. Barley closes firm and is in fair demand for export and home use at 95 cents for Canada West, in bond, and \$1.18 to \$1.26 for do. free. Rye is in moderate demand at \$1.35 for western in store. Corn has been much excited, and closes strong at \$1.18 1/2 for mixed in store, and \$1.20 to \$1.20 1/2 for old Western mixed afloat. Oats are firm and active at 66 1/2 to 67 1/2 cts. for old Chicago, and 72c. for state in store. The Pork market has been fairly active, but prices are a shade easier, closing heavy at \$24 for new mess, and \$22.75 for old mess.

Marriages.

In Woonsocket, March 30th, by Rev. D. M. Crane, Mr. Zelek Darling to Miss Sarah Foster, both of Manchester, Mass. In Pawtucket, 28th ult., Mr. James F. Coleman to Miss Eliza C. Potter, both of Pawtucket. In Springfield, Mass., 29th ult., Mr. James Downer to Bridget Sullivan, both of Woonsocket. In North Attleboro, 29th ult., Dr. O. C. Turner to Hattie A. Staunton, both of Attleboro. In Grafton, by Rev. Mr. Biscoe, Emory C. Stone of Shrewsbury, to Susie H. Harrington of G.; March 29th, by Rev. G. Robbins, Edwin A. Howe to Alvesta K. Wood, all of Grafton. In Sutton, March 6th, W. Scott Martin to Orville Mowrey, both of East Douglas.

Deaths.

In Central Falls, 27th ult., Susan Bliss, aged 50 years; 27th, Elizabeth H. Paine, relict of the late Caleb M. Paine, aged 49. In Pawtucket, 27th ult., Susan, wife of Jeremiah Slocum, aged 67 years; 29th ult., Philander Baker, in the 50th year of his age; 29th ult., Mr. Jonathan S. Sidebottom, in the 74th year of his age; 30th ult., Mr. Thomas B. Pratt, in the 26th year of his age. In Coventry, 29th ult., Allerson Stone, Esq., in the 79th year of his age. In Upton, March 16, Henry A. Whitney, aged 25 years. In Milford, March 23, Hattie R. Ormes, aged 18 years. In Phoenix, 27th ult., Ellen J. Hill, daughter of the late James H. Hill, in the 22d year of her age. In Attleboro, 12th ult., George Foster, aged 82 years. 24th, Charlotte, wife of Jonathan Day, aged 73 years. In Killingly, Conn., 15th ult., widow Abecena Perry, aged 91 years. In Mansfield, Conn., Chloe Turner, aged 73 years. In North Woodstock, Conn., 2d instant, Rhoda Brown, aged 78 years.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

FARMERS AND GARDENERS, ATTENTION. SUBSTITUTE FOR PERUVIAN GUANO. BAUGH'S RAW BONE SUPER PHOSPHATE OF LIME, THE BEST AND CHEAPEST MANUFACTURED FERTILIZER IN THE UNITED STATES, FOR WHEAT, RYE, BARLEY, OATS, CORN, POTATOES, RUCK, WHEAT, TOBACCO, HOPS, TURNIPS, AND ALL GARDEN VEGETABLES, SMALL FRUITS, AND EVERY CROP AND PLANT. Particularly recommended to Cultivators of Strawberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, and all small fruits, as far superior to any other fertilizer in market. Also, LODI MANUFACTURING CO.'S POWDERETT. Pamphlet of 90 pages, "How to Maintain the Fertility of American Farms," giving full information in regard to the use of Manures, &c., sent free, on application to JOSEPH HODGES & CO. Agents, Providence, R. I. B. W. PERSONS, } March 30, 1867. } 4w-we-12

Massachusetts.

FRUIT TREES, GRAPES, SMALL FRUITS, ORNAMENTALS, &c. WE have imported from foreign growers, and personally selected at the largest New England and New York Nursery Establishments, the choicest stock which we could find this season, and now offer to purchasers a general assortment of NURSERY STOCK, first class in quality, complete in variety, and extensive in quantity, at very low rates. A descriptive catalogue of 40 pages mailed to applicants. Sample of the collection may be seen at our salesroom, basement of 28 & 30 Water street, Boston. Orders faithfully executed. BENJ. T. WELLS & CO. Importers & Nursery Agents.—OFFICE, 7, WATER ST., BOSTON. April 7, 1867. 4w-we-13

BY MAIL, PREPAID. CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS, NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CURRANTS, ROSES, BULBS, &c. B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY AND SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS, Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted. Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ce-12

CARROT AND MANGOLD WURTZEL SEED. I raised the past season a fine lot of Long Red, Yellow Globe, and White Mangold Wurtzel Seed, and will send either variety, post-paid, to any address, for \$1.00 per lb. Also, Long Orange Carrot Seed, of my own growing, for \$1.25 per lb. I here offer an opportunity for all to procure Seed DIRECTLY FROM THE GROWER. JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marblehead, Mass. 5w-ce-12 March 30, 1867.

New York.

Great American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption, and therefore organized THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, to do away, as far as possible, with these enormous drains upon the Consumers, and to supply them with these necessities at the smallest possible price. To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American Houses, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

- 1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments—and some of the richest refined merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China. 2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas. 3d. The Importer makes a profit of 30 to 50 per cent in many cases. 4th. On its arrival it is sold by the cargo, and the Purchaser sells to the Speculator in invoices of 1,000 to 2,000 packages, at an average profit of about 10 per cent. 5th. The Speculator sells to the Wholesale Tea Dealer in lines at a profit of 10 to 15 per cent. 6th. The Wholesale Tea Dealer sells to the Wholesale Grocer in lots to suit the trade, at a profit of about 10 per cent. 7th. The Wholesale Grocer sells to the Retail Dealer at a profit of 15 to 25 per cent. 8th. The Retailer sells it to the Consumer for all the profit he can get.

When you have added to these EIGHT profits as many brokerages, cartages, storages, coverages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay. And now we propose to show why we can sell so very much lower than small dealers.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, coverages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, one cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the Club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the name upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more. The cost of transportation the members of the club can divide equitably among the members. The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars we will, if desired, send the goods by Express, to collect on delivery.

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$50.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following brands from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Wholesale prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show. All goods sold here warranted of good satisfaction.

PRICE LIST:

- YOUNG HYSON (Green), 80c, 90c, 10c, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb. GREEN TEAS, 80c, 90c, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb. MIXED, 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1.10 per lb. JAPAN, \$1.81 per lb. best \$1.25 per lb. OOLONG (Black), 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1.10 per lb. IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1.25 per lb. ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 80c, 90c, \$1.10, best \$1.20 per lb. GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1.25, best \$1.50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them.

Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Foch Chow Blacks and Young Greens. English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the finest imported.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb. by purchasing their Teas of the THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO., NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., corner of CHURCH. Post-Office Box No. 5413 New-York City. COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, best 40c. per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c. per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866. To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York.

Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubled it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa. MARTIN LUTHER.

- 10 lb Young Hyson, in pound packages, at \$1.25, \$12.50 5 lb Young Hyson, in 1/2 lb packages, at 1.25, 6.25 2 lb Young Hyson, in 1/4 lb packages, at 1.25, 2.50 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/8 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/16 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/32 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/64 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/128 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/256 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/512 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/1024 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/2048 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/4096 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/8192 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/16384 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/32768 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/65536 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, in 1/131072 lb packages, at 1.25, 1.25 1 lb Young Hyson, 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THE "PRYONOTUS NOVINARIUS."



1 Group of Eggs. 2 Pupa.

3 Mature Female. 4 Thorax and Proboscis.

Natural History.

OBSERVATION, AND WHAT MAY BE LEARNED FROM IT.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

BY J. STAUFFER, LANCASTER, PA.

A DISTINGUISHED writer says:—"All the works of our Creator are great, and worthy of our attention and investigation; the lowest in the scale as well as the highest; the most minute and feeble as well as those that exceed in magnitude and might."

In the latter part of May, 1864, I observed a group or circular patch about an inch in diameter, of small cylindrical cells, closely packed, similar to a honey comb; these were attached to the side of a lath supporting a grape vine.

Desiring to study their habits, I suffered them to remain; they continued on the spot that gave them birth. I noticed, also, that they became less in number from day to day, as they increased in size, with quite a number of carcasses of their companions adhering to the lath.

was regaling himself on his unfortunate fellow, another, taking advantage of his unguarded position, would stealthily come up behind him, and maneuver adroitly to overcome the vigilance of the conqueror, who would now raise up one leg and extend it on this side and then on the other, to guard his rear; or turn to the other side, which would expose him to the attack of some other equally greedy villain.

Thus their numbers decreased day after day, and the survivors fattened on the juices extracted from the carcasses of their own brood; as they became more developed they became more skillful and vigilant, and it was truly amusing, and a lesson of patience and tact for a general, to see their wary approaches, the continual activity with their feet and antennae, their cautious and circumspect movements.

Our insect, now quite common about Lancaster, Pa., is very much like the West India wheel-bug in form and appearance; but as to having electric action, I know not. But this I do know, that if they strike their lancet into your flesh, the blood will flow, and no doubt a shock (to the nerves) will follow.

the thumb and finger, across the abdomen.— Thus I became acquainted with the habits of this insect. The result of my observation is not flattering to the social qualities of the young brood, in their blood-thirsty, fratricidal fattening on each other, so that the most crafty, vigilant, and powerful are the survivors.

The parent is evidently at fault when the eggs are placed in a situation that affords no food or provision for the young brood, who are brought forth without parental care or provision made, and are governed solely by appetite, to feed and fatten on each other.

April, 1867.

A BIRD SHOW.—At the annual bird show at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, England, 'on the 9th ult., nearly one thousand one hundred specimens were exhibited, including a jaek-daw, all white; an almost equally singular specimen of the hedge-sparrow genus, all white; and an Australian magpie, which has a tenor voice that, with a little musical culture, might be turned to profit as an exhibition.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

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.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of MEAD'S PATENT CONICAL PLOWS, SHARE'S HORSE HOES, WOOD'S AND WRIGHT'S PLOWS, GARDEN BARROWS, CHASE'S TWO HORSE POTATOE DIGGERS, STORE TRUCKS, IMPROVED HINGED HARROWS, CULTIVATORS, ROAD SCRAPERS, OX YOKES, and PLOW CASTINGS; And Wholesale Dealers in Hoes, Shovels, Axes, Scythes, Forks, Snathes, Cradles, Horse Forks, Hand and Horse Rakes, Hay Cutters, Corn Shellers, Vegetable Cutters, Picks, Bars, Canal Barrows, Sugar Mills, Grindstones, Plain or Complete; And Agents for KNIFFEN'S, UNION AND PERRY'S MOWING MACHINES, Whitcomb's Patent Horse Rake, and the best Hay Tedder in the market. Prices low and Terms Cash. OFFICE, 32 CANAL STREET, PROVIDENCE, R. I. we-1f

W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I., Now offer at the LOWEST CASH PRICES,

- 2000 Sacks Prime Red Top. 500 Bags Prime Herds Grass. 500 " Western and Northern Clover. 1500 Bushel Prime R. I. Bent, for Pastures. 300 " Seed Barley. 100 " Spring Rye. 3000 " Bedford Seed Oats. 100 " Early Goodrich Potatoes. 200 " Schec Potatoes. 200 " Late White Peach Blooms. 100 " Harrison Potatoes. 300 " Seed Peas. 100 " R. I. White Cap Corn. 100 " London Hort. and Concord Pole Beans. 250 " Buckwheat. 200 " Millet and Hungarian. White Dutch Clover, Orchard Grass, Onion Sets, and a complete assortment of GARDEN SEEDS,

Raised for us with great care. 200 Barrels dry ground Bone for Manure, together with all kinds of Farm Implements and Machinery. Send for Circular of Mead's Conical Plows and Share's Horse Hoes—and don't forget the number, 32 CANAL STREET, 32.

March 23, 1867. PROVIDENCE, we-1f

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

EXTRA HEAVY PLOWS, for road work and for breaking up new land, made by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

WHITE FRENCH TURNIP, of the purest kind, raised and sold in small or large lots, by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

BARRETT'S EXTRA EARLY CABBAGE.—The best and largest in the market. Price, 25 cents a paper. Raised and sold by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Providence, Feb. 23, 1867. 1f-7

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Share's Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potato Diggers, Lufkin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Massachusetts.

BY MAIL, PREPAID. CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS, NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CUCUMBERS, ROSES, BULBS, &c.

B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest

GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS,

Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted. Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ee-12

COLLINS, BLISS & CO., PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

CASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS. 233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston. New England Agents for the

NON PARIEL FRENCH GUANO.

It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil.

PRICE \$60 PER TON.

Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 5m-we-9

SOUTH DOWN CO.'S PATENT

Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR CKS; SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT, should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers.

Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores.

JAMES F. LEVIN,

23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts.

For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & CO., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4m-we-9

New York.

J. HICKLING & CO. S GREAT SALE OF WATCHES.

On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a handsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory!

- 500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750 500 Magic Cased Gold Watches..... 200 to 500 500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled..... 100 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches..... 250 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers..... 200 to 250 5,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches..... 150 to 200 5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches..... 100 to 250 5,000 Silver Hunting Levers..... 50 to 150 5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes..... 75 to 250 5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches..... 50 to 250 10,000 Cold Hunting Levers..... 50 to 75 10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches..... 50 to 100 25,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds..... 25 to 50 30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds..... 10 to 75 Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partiality shown.

Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a Watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious! A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three and elegant premium for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premium for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us!

J. HICKLING & CO., Address, 149 Broadway—Near P. O. City of New York. March 22, 1867. 3m



THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



Farm and Fireside

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

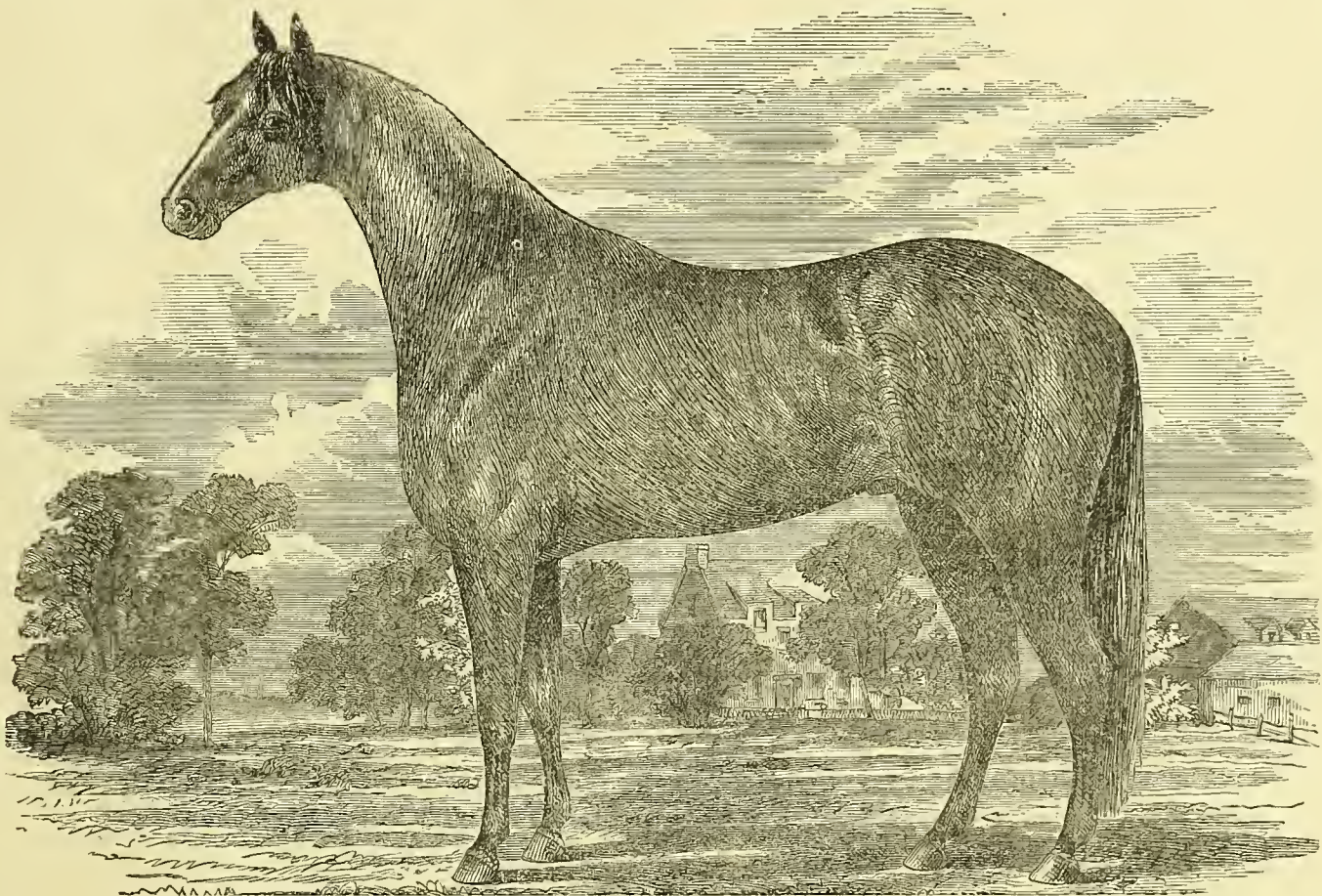
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VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1867.

NO. 14.



THE HIGHLY-BRED TROTTING STALLION, "BELMONT ECLIPSE."

BRED AND OWNED BY WINTHROP W. CHENERY, BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS.

We take pleasure in presenting the above out of the splendid blood stallion "Belmont Eclipse," a fast trotting son of the celebrated imported four mile race horse "Balroenie."

PEDIGREE.

"BELMONT ECLIPSE." Chestnut colt, foaled in 1859. Got by Imp. "Balrownie" (winner of the "Doncaster Stakes," the "Pontefract Gold Cup," and "Caledonian St. Leger," and sire of "Capt. Moore," "Sunshine," "West Roxbury," "Fleet Wing," &c.), out of "Meg Merrilles" by "Leroy," dam by "Black Snake," and he by "Lee Boo," (sire of "Old Squaw," dam of the slashing black gelding "Lancet").—"Balrownie," by "Annandale," out of "Queen Mary" (dam of "Blink Bonny," winner of the "Derby" and "Oaks," in 1857,) by "Gladiator," dam by "Plenipotentiary" (winner of the "Derby," in 1834), out of "Myrrha" by "Whalebone" (winner of the "Derby," in 1810,) by "Waxy" (winner of the "Derby," in 1793,) by "Pot8os" by "Eclipse."—"Annandale," by "Touchstone" (winner of the "St. Leger," in 1834,) out of "Rebecca" (dam of "Alice Hawthorne,") by "Lottery," dam by "Cervantes," out of "Anticipation" by "Benninborough" (winner of the "St. Leger," 1794,) by "King Fergus" by "Eclipse."

"BELMONT ECLIPSE," as will be seen by the above pedigree, unites the *very best racing blood of the English turf*, on the side of his sire, with the blood of one of the *best-bred trotting families in America*, on the side of his dam. He is himself a splendid specimen of the high-bred trotting horse. His color is a rich golden chestnut; he has a clean, neat head; strong, oblique shoulders; short, strong back and loins; very long hind-quarters; powerful, well-let-down hocks; flat, wide, sinewy legs; faultless feet; and has throughout a full share of bone and muscle.

This horse stands 16 hands high, and weighs 1,075 pounds; is good tempered, tractable, and possessed of remarkable speed and endurance. When exhibited at Agricultural Fairs he has, in every instance, taken the first pre-

minum in his class—four first prizes having been awarded to him, including that of the New England Agricultural Society, at their Exhibition held at Concord, N. H., in September, 1865.

"Belmont Eclipse" has never been trained for the trotting course, having been used in the breeding stud every season since he became three years old. He has, however, trotted a mile in 2.37½, and in his exercise can show a 2.30 gait. His get, some of which are coming four years old, all have the trotting quality in an eminent degree, combined with superior form and elegance of style.

The absurd fallacy that the mechanism of the thorough bred horse is such as to preclude the possibility of his acquiring a fast trotting gait, has been thoroughly exploded, and, at the present time, the prevailing idea amongst turfmen and horse breeders is, that a large infusion of thorough or racing blood, is absolutely requisite in breeding first class trotters.

It is not argued that every thorough bred will make a trotter, or sire of trotters, but it is claimed that a class of trotters as fast as "Lady Palmer," and as lasting as "Capt. McGowan," may be bred by making judicious and discriminating selections of breeding stock, both male and female, from those thorough bred families which have plenty of size and bone, and show a disposition to trot; especially those having good knee action, as it will be found that some thorough bred, that show superior trotting action in the hind quarters, do not bend the knee aright in the trot.

FLOUR AND MEAL MAKING.

Written for the Farm and Fireside, BY RICHARD C. KENDALL, PHILADELPHIA.

MODERN mills for grinding grain, though in principle very nearly what they were when the Sons of Midian were millers, have, however, been very greatly improved in quality and capacity. If the Elder Pliny tells us the truth in his day it required two men and three strong oxen a whole summer's day to reduce to flour a Roman bushel of wheat—a measure of about eighty-three pounds.

The Romans, Jews, and all nations of which by historic record any knowledge is transmitted to us, had mills for grinding grain constructed upon the first principle of all modern mills, only the bed-stone was a cone, instead of being flat surfaced, and the "runner" concave, slanting down over the "netber millstone" like a cap, or one bowl turned over another; the grain being fed in by the miller in handfuls, and the runner turned at the rate of one revolution in two minutes, either by manual or animal power applied to levers, inserted into the runner.

Of course, there could be no "fancy brands," extra family, or superfine flour turned out by mills running at so low a velocity. The material was simply *mashed* grain, of which no light bread or cake could be made, with all the lightning in Jerusalem or out of it, and therefore the practice of eating unleavened bread among the ancients, was one of necessity.

In the United States, for a good many years, Cologne or Cocalico millstones from four and a half to five feet in diameter, and driven at the rate of about one hundred and thirty revolutions per minute, were considered the best standard size and velocity for flour making. Science and experiment taught us that a diminished breadth, and increased speed was better. So we went on, reducing the size of millstones gradually by inches and half inches, and driving them at greater velocity, until we have the standard size about thirty-six inches, and the speed from two hundred and twenty to three hundred and fifty turns per minute. In some instances burs are driven as high as four hundred revolutions; but that is an unreasonable and injudicious velocity, as heating of the surface and consequent danger from fire, and bad grinding as well, is the result.

Now, a pair of fairly dressed French burs, three and a half feet in diameter, will do the most grinding and make the best of flour when the runner is driven at the rate of about two hundred and eighty revolutions per minute; as at that rate, if the bed-stone is permanently secured and exactly level, and the runner so nicely balanced that there is not an atom of *dip* or "wabble" to it, no heat will be generated; and if the draught of the furrows is correct and the delivery sufficient, the flour or meal will be discharged quite cool; and unless it does that, there is, something wrong in the grinding. I have seen, in some of our first class flouring establishments, "fancy family flour" discharged from the burs for hours con-

THE TULIP was first obtained from the Turks, and was called *Tulipa*, from the resemblance of its corolla to the Eastern head-dress called *tulipan* or *turban*, and hence comes our name of tulip. Moore alludes to this similarity in *Lalla Rookh*. A sailor having taken some goods to a Dutch merchant, had a herring given him for his breakfast, but seeing what he supposed to be a kind of small onions lying on the counter, the tar took a handful, which he ate with his fish. They proved to have been tulips, of such value that it was estimated a magnificent breakfast might have been given to the heads of the Dutch government for less expense than the tulip bulbs which the sailor took with his herring.





seutively, so hot that it was uncomfortable to hold in the hand. That was "low grinding;" the way to get a harrel of "Extra Family," out of about two hundred and twelve pounds of wheat; but not the way to make flour that will give us the most nutritious, light, and wholesome bread.

In flour making, as in many other arts and useful avocations, good judgment and practical common sense must second science in order to produce satisfactory results. These requisites being too frequently wanting, the utter ignorance of the philosophical principles of milling supplies their place, making much inferior flour from first class grain.

A single field of wheat, of a few acres, the field having a rolling surface, some high, some low, and some intermediate land, may give a half dozen different qualities of wheat; some having more of gluten, some of starch, some of other elements, all alike in appearance, but in grinding readily discovered by the competent miller, who, in flouring such grain, frequently finds it necessary to regulate his hurs five times, it may be, in running off forty hushels. The experienced miller can tell by *touch*, good or had flour, as it comes from the burs, in the dark, with both eyes shut; and his surest test is also the best guide for those who purchase flour, and who are always liable to be deceived by appearances.

Place a thimble full of flour in the palm of the hand and rub it gently with the finger of the other hand. If the flour smooths down under the finger, feeling silky and slippery, it is of inferior quality, though of fancy brand, high-priced and white as the virgin snow-drift. It has been either too low ground, or made from grown, damaged, or perhaps wheat having an unusual per centum of gluten—murdered with dull hurs, and will never make good, light, wholesome bread. But if the flour rubs rough in the palm, feeling like fine sand, and has an orange tint, purchase confidently. It will not disappoint you. Such flour, whatever may be its branded reputation—though in price it may be at the lowest market figure—will make good, light, nutritious bread.

There is a popular prejudice against "Spring wheat," arising from a belief that its flour is of inferior quality, and will not make as good bread as that of winter varieties. This is an error that ought long since to have been corrected. Properly ground, good Spring wheat—as the genuine Odessa, Italian, and French T., will make as good a quality of flour, and the flour as good bread, cakes, and all kinds of pastry, as the average of prime Winter grain. But to grind Spring wheat properly, the miller must be master of his trade, as well as possessed of practical common sense, and considerable ingenuity. As the Spring wheats contain, on an average, about nine per cent. more of gluten than the Winter varieties, and nearly so much less of starch, the pair of hurs and process of grinding that will turn out "Family Extra," from ordinary Winter wheat, will half ruin that made from the best Spring varieties that ever grew.

That wheat which contains the largest amount of gluten grinds the hardest, and soonest induces heat in grinding; and to grind such wheat as it must be, in order to produce the best flour it is capable of yielding, there must be clean, sharp burs; quick draught to the furrows, free delivery, and high velocity, in order to get the material ground and out from under pressure in the least possible time. The same conditions and rules of grinding, apply as well to Winter grains that contain an unusual per centum of gluten; or are grown, shrunken, damp, or foul with "cheat."

In corn milling, three quarters of all the meal made is wantonly man-slaughtered by being rather *smashed* than ground, and rubbed down into fine flour between dull mill-stones, driven at too low velocity. To make good corn meal, such as will make best bread, cakes, and puddings, the mill-stones should be close, solid surfaced; the furrows cut deeper than for wheat, the draught greater, free delivery, running without an atom of "wabble," and both bed-stone and runner must be kept clean dressed, so as to *cut* the corn into graules like sharp sand, rather than *dash* it into a mass of fine flour, as is too universally the custom.

April, 1867.

PLAIN TALK WITH FARMERS.—NO. 5.

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

GEOLOGY, and vegetable physiology, are not the only sciences, in this remarkable age in which we live, that minister to the instruction and wants of the agriculturist. Agricultural chemistry comes in to teach him the nature of the various elementary constituents of bodies, and the laws which regulate their combination in the organic and non-vital world; while animal and vegetable physiology instruct him in the constituents of organic, or vital beings. Chemistry discloses to him the existence of deleterious gases in the atmosphere; while vegetable physiology most beautifully demonstrates how the leaves of the plants are the lungs by which they breathe, and appropriate the carbonic acid of the atmosphere, which is retained and absorbed by them as part of their structure, while the oxygen, so necessary to man's vitality, is excreted into the air by them as useless. So thus by an arrangement, the wisdom of which is apparent, the vegetable and animal kingdoms are made to contribute mutually to each other's support: nay, they are essential to each other's existence. Destroy the animal reign, and the vegetable would speedily perish for want of its proper nutriment. Eradicate the vegetable cover of the earth, and the very air we breathe will lose that element by which life alone continues.

Chemistry reveals how certain elements of the inorganic world contain nitrogen, phosphorus, soda and lime; while vegetable physiology clearly demonstrates how the living organisms of the plant, when these substances in the shape of natural or scientific manures are brought to its roots, through these vegetable mouths drink in the liquid nourishment that the rains wash down, which by Nature's secret process goes to form stem, leaves, and flowers. Vegetable physiology develops for the agriculturist the great truth—that what the blood is to the life of man, so the sap in vegetables is the vital current, the nourishing fluid, which, circulating through their veins and arteries, is necessary for the maintenance and increase of their frames; and as this nourishing fluid is being constantly consumed, and must receive fresh supplies, agricultural chemistry reveals the elements that enter into its formation.

It analyzes the sap of the vegetable, and finds it to consist of all the elements of which the individual plant is composed; while carbon, hydrogen and oxygen materially enter into its formation. Then vegetable physiology most beautifully makes manifest, how plants derive all these gases from the atmosphere; their carbon from its carbonic acid; their hydrogen from its moisture, and their nitrogen from the gleaming lightning, that shedding its lurid glare during the passing thunder shower, gives down this important element, which coming in contact with earth's organic substances, produces that vigor in vegetation which is the sure accompaniment of the Summer shower. So that, in fact, the electric magazines of the skies, aided by earth's substances, are continually engaged in the manufacture of those nitrates of potash, soda and lime, that form such important ingredients in our best manures.

Chemistry has taught the agricultural world the value of substances for manures, which heretofore have been deemed worthless. It has shown why plants grow upon a soil that is well manured, because such manure has added to the soil the elements that enter into the structure of the plants, nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur, potash, soda and magnesia. It has taught the agriculturist, that where the natural manures fail, artificial compounds may be resorted to, giving to the soil and the plants, something in which the first was deficient, and the latter was craving for nourishment. It has taught the characteristic distinction between animal and vegetable manures—that the former contain a much larger proportion of nitrogen than the latter; and instructs you how to best treat animal manure, so as to hold and preserve that nitrogen, or the volatile ammonia which decay evolves from it, and upon which most of its virtue depends. Chemical analysis, perhaps, will show

you that your soil is deficient in sulphur or soda. Guided by this, you apply a top dressing of sulphate of soda to your wheat, and the full grain in the ear almost bends to the earth with its weight. You find that the land you are about to lay down in grass, is deficient in nitrogen. You top dress it with a preparation of nitrate of soda, and a rich luxuriant crop greets the advent of your sweeping scythe.

Already the system of scientific cultivation is being guided and directed materially by the light of chemistry. By taking advantage of varieties produced naturally, by endeavoring to produce others by art, and forming hybrids, an immense number of varieties have been brought into existence; each possessing peculiarities of great interest and importance. On the maritime cliffs of England, there existed a little plant with a fusi-form root, smooth leaves and a flower similar to that of the wild mustard, with a saline taste. By scientific cultivation there have been produced from that insignificant plant, all the broccoli or kales, at least a dozen varieties; all the early savoy, and the whole family of turnips. Now although it is not fair to suppose that cultivation can ever produce from a single plant so many varieties, as have sprung from this *brassica*, much is being done, and more can be done in this direction. Scientific cultivation, aided by chemistry, is now hending all its energies to produce varieties, which shall extract as much as possible from the soil in the shortest possible time; in other words, varieties richest in nutritive matter, and coming speediest to maturity.

April, 1857.

CARROTS AND THEIR CULTURE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY W. H. WHITE, SOUTH WINNSOR, CONN.

It needs no argument to convince the progressive, wide awake farmer of the value of the carrot in feeding to stock; and of its economy as a field crop. Many object to growing root crops on account of the back-aching labor necessary in their production. By taking advantage of improved implements, very much of the most objectionable and back-trying labor may be dispensed with. The seed sower, scuffle hoe and carrot weeder, will greatly aid in dressing out the crop at first; and a large part of the after culture may be performed with the horse shoe or cultivator. Clean, thorough culture, on suitable rich soil, is the great secret in carrot, as well as in all other root culture. As a market crop they are valuable, as well as an excellent feed for horses, milch cows, and other stock. When fed to cows giving milk, in moderate quantities, they cause them to give milk yielding a rich yellow cream, producing butter of the color made when cows are turned on early grass; the quality and quantity being very much better than that produced when the cows are fed with almost any other feed. Carrots contain an acid called pectin, the gelatinous principle of certain vegetables, which, acting upon the contents of the animal's stomach, greatly assists the process of digestion. For this reason they are valuable as feed to horses kept on dry feed or grain, giving a healthy, sleek, shining appearance to the skin and coat, as well as improving their digestion. Often when horses are kept on hay and grain alone, considerable of their food is passed in the whole state; by feeding carrots this difficulty is obviated.

By liberal manuring, on good soil, with well rotted stable manure, and an application of 300 or 400 pounds of superphosphate, together with thorough culture, one thousand to twelve hundred hushels per acre may be grown. With a less liberal manuring and fair culture, six hundred to eight hundred hushels per acre may be grown. The cultivation is a simple process, requiring no particular art or skill above producing good crops of other roots and vegetables. The best soil is a rich loamy one, which should be thoroughly broken up and loosened to the depth of 16 to 18 inches, by thorough plowing and subsoiling, mixing in well rotted manure in liberal quantities. The deep working is necessary to grow smooth, long, taper roots, instead of "fingers and toes," as is often the case in more shallow worked

ground. Harrow and make the soil thoroughly fine; lay off the drills two to two and one half feet apart, for field culture; and eighteen inches for garden culture. Into the drills strew your superphosphate, and cover about two inches, or a little less, with Share's planter; on these ridges drill in the seed half an inch deep. The best seed planter will be found to expedite planting, distributing the seed, and covering more evenly than by hand. About two pounds of seed is required to the acre. The proper time for planting is from the middle of May to the first of June. For garden or early culture, the Early Horn will be found the best. For winter or field culture, use the Long Orange. The Altringham is thought by many to equal the Long Orange. On the whole, I think the Long Orange is as good as any kind we have. As soon as the plants are up, go through with the scuffle hoe, destroying all weeds; you can do it more effectually with the scuffle, than with the common hoe, and thin the plants to from four to six inches apart in the row.

After which keep the cultivator or horse hoe in motion, to keep all weeds down and the ground loose, using the hand hoe as frequently as necessary, thus greatly helping on the growth and vigor of the plants. The harvesting I defer to the appropriate season. Try a small patch, if for no other purpose than to feed to the milk-giving cows, and see what a difference it makes in the litter during winter, when the cows are kept upon dry fodder.

April, 1867.

THE California Agricultural Society requires that a first-premium work horse shall be between fifteen and sixteen hands; quick, lively ears; broad between the eyes; round barrel; short loins; well up in the shoulder; deep chested; square quarters; flat legs; short between the knee and pastern, and hock and pastern; hind legs well under him; speed equal to eight miles an hour on the road, and at least three miles at the plough; with sufficient blood to insure spirit and endurance.

UNWHOLESOME BREAD.—An eminent physician, speaking upon the vital subject of bread-making, advocates the use of unbolted flour. He says that by leaving out the bran we injure the bread, and lose a portion of azote as well as a considerable amount of the phosphates, both of them of the utmost moment, even when bread is but a partial ingredient in the general nutriment, but much more so in the case of hard-working men and women, when it constitutes the principal sustenance. Owing to the absence of the bran, habitual constipation among those who mainly consume such bread ensues. And owing to the partial absence of nitrogen and of the sufficient phosphates, the body is not adequately supported. The result is, that dyspepsia and debility widely prevail.

THE Cincinnati Price Current published last week the annual report of pork packing in the West. It says: The total number of hogs packed, is 2,425,254, against 1,705,955 last season; the general average weight 232 1-7 pounds against 231 3-10 pounds last season, and the yield of leaf lard 29 3/4 pounds against 31 1-7 pounds last season. The shipment of hogs East, over the Baltimore and Ohio, and the Pennsylvania Central Railways, during the season were 612,184 head, against 40,562 head last season. The great increase was over the Pennsylvania Central.

A Chicago man who had not been out of the city for years, fainted away in the pure air of the country. He was only resuscitated by putting a dead fish to his nose, when he slowly revived, exclaiming: "That's good—it smells like home!"

Two correspondents of the Rural American say that a few seeds of the Palma Christi, or castor bean, scattered about their haunts, will destroy ground moles.

AN Association proposes holding a State Agricultural Fair in Baton Rouge, La., during the week beginning Monday, May 6th.

FORGETFULNESS OF STUDIOUS PEOPLE.—Dr. Stuckley once waited upon Sir Isaac Newton a little before dinner time; but he had given orders not to be called down to anybody till his dinner was upon the table. At length a boiled chicken was brought in, and Stuckley waited till it was nearly cold, when being very hungry, he ate it up, and ordered another to be prepared for Sir Isaac, who came down before the second was ready, and seeing the dish and cover of the first, which had been left, lifted up the latter, and turning to the doctor said, "What strange folks we studious people are! I really forgot I had dined."





The Field.

SEED POTATOES.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

It is proper, before going into particulars as to the propriety of planting cut seed, to consider the claims of the different kinds now under cultivation in this locality. Our standard market potato has for many years been the Mercer, but from some unexplained cause, it has for some years, except in favored localities, failed to give a satisfactory yield, though it still seems to keep up its high standard of quality; but as quantity is an important consideration, it seems doomed to surrender its place as potato king to some of its younger rivals, who though not fully known, are making a strong appeal to public favor by their large yields and improved average size.

Of the newer kinds we have the Goodrich Seedlings, the Monitor and the Buckeye. Thus far the Monitor, Peach Blow, and Buckeye, seem to be the most formidable rivals of the Mercer, which, though they do not command as high prices as the latter, make it up in greatly increased yields. Of the Jacksou White, the pride of the Boston market, we know but little, in our locality. The Peach Blow, so highly prized in the New York market, after many trials, has been discarded here, as not being adapted to our heavy soil. For the same, or some other reason, the Buckeye, while it is satisfactory with regard to yield, is not so in respect to quality.

What we seem to need, is a potato which while it shall possess the productiveness of the Goodrich Seedlings, shall have the quality of the Mercer. This we might suppose would be the result of a hybrid of the two, and this idea I have put into practice by the products of a seedling Mercer hybridized by Monitor blossoms. It being only three years from the seed ball, it is of course too soon to know whether it will fulfil the above requirements or not.

Last season I had under cultivation Early Goodrich and Cuzco of the Goodrich Seedlings, the Monitor, raised by Bulkley, the Mercer, the Nova Scotia Mercer from improved seed, and the Early June. The result of my experiment, has been to leave the two latter out of my list for next year, for a want both in quantity and quality. The Monitor and Cuzco have maintained their reputation for productiveness, and the former has more than maintained its boasted quality; while the latter, from the fact that they were not dug until after they had taken second growth, have not come up to their standard. The Monitor has this season proved itself quite as good in quality as the Mercer, but I think it is much more influenced by the season than some other kinds; those raised in a dry season being better than the product of a damp or wet season; and those raised on rolling, loose ground, better than those from heavy, wet soils. The Early Goodrich, from its being essentially an early potato, does not seem to come into competition with other kinds, but compared with them as to yield, it has a decided advantage.

This season their relative productiveness has been: the Cuzco three hundred and fifteen, Monitor three hundred and five, Early Goodrich three hundred and twenty-five, and Mercer seventy-two bushels per acre. Of the lot, the Monitor and Mercer had the same treatment, which was rather better (with regard to manure) than was accorded to the others, and for this some allowance should be made.

No one seems to doubt the productiveness of the Goodrich Seedlings, and nine tenths of those to whom I have put the question, are of the opinion that this productiveness is attributable to the fact that they are new kinds, having been "only a few years from the seed ball." This may or may not be one reason, but certain it is that all new seedlings (as I know to my expense) are not noticeable for productiveness.

In my opinion, we will find the secret in another cause. Goodrich from the first, made use of whole seed, believing that cutting had a tendency to weaken the stock, decrease the yield

and deteriorate the potato. Experiment will demonstrate that in all kinds of potatoes there are two distinct classes of eyes, which in a perfect potato can readily be distinguished from each other. Some kinds of potatoes, of which the Cuzco, Mercer and Pink Eye Rusty Coat may be taken as a type, are not regular throughout their length, the perfect specimens being smaller at one end than the other; the thick or large end is that which, in growing, is attached to the root or stalk, and, for distinction, may be styled the root end. The smaller end contains a close bunch of shallow eyes, which have been styled the blossom eyes. If we divide a potato in three pieces, by two cuts at right angles to its length, we may distinguish them as blossom end, middle and root end. These, if planted in separate rows, at the same time and under the same circumstances, will show different results. The blossom eyes will break through the ground first, and in the course of from four to eight days will be followed by the middle eyes, which in turn will be followed by the sprouts from the root end, after several days have elapsed. I know that in the above I am not advocating a new idea, for it has been known for some time, and some to whom I have mentioned the fact have said "yes I know it and have tried it, but could see no difference in the yield of the three kinds, and do not believe there is any."

Lest there should be those among the readers of the Farm and Fireside who, from the same result have adopted the same reasoning, I would say, try it for three years, keep the three kinds separate every year, and raise seed from each kind for three or four seasons, and there will be some difference, and so great a one, that no one will hesitate which seed to select for future planting. I do not wish to say positively that this is the reason of the productiveness of the Goodrich Seedling; but I do believe that any kind may be increased in productiveness by the continued use of blossom eyes.

One point in the chain of argument I have omitted; if a potato is planted whole, as a general thing, the blossom eyes only will grow. I do not give it as an invariable rule, for it has its exceptions; but it will usually be true, and by planting whole seed, we usually will get sprouts from blossom eyes, which, from some cause, will sprout to the exclusion of the other eyes.

In the old fashioned mode of planting, it was customary to cut the potato into pieces of two eyes each, and of course, the blossom eyes were planted with the others; and when seed for the next season was selected from the pile at large, there was but little if any deterioration; but when the too common plan of saving small or middle sized potatoes for seed, was adopted, a deterioration invariably took place, which, sooner or later, led to a complete change of seed. Now, as the blossom eyes produced the earliest and best potatoes, and the smallest and worst were selected for seed, is it not reasonable to suppose that the benefit to be derived from blossom eyes was lost, and that the seed was from second and third class eyes, and therefore imperfect?

Having said this much in favor of whole seed, my statements will perhaps be thought contradictory, if I now advocate cut seed, and say that I always cut the seed for my main crops, only planting that of my experiment plot whole. My rule is to cut the potatoes into halves or quarters, according to the size of the potato, aiming to have from one quarter to one third of a pound in a hill.

If my argument above is correct, there are undoubtedly more blossom eyes in a large potato than we used in a hill, and hence I have adopted the idea and carried it out in practice, that if I can attain a few blossom eyes in each piece, I am doing as well as if I planted the whole potato.

After several careful experiments, I can detect no difference in the product from whole seed and that cut as above, having used seed from both kinds and kept them separate; I am not yet ready to say positively, but so far I can detect none.

April, 1867.

At this season of the year, take extra care of breeding ewes and lambs.

Various Matters.

THINGS WISE AND OTHERWISE.

In China the physician who kills a patient has to support his family. Quite a number of families would be supported under such a law, in this country.

A subscription is being raised in New York for a monument to the late well-known horse-man, Hiram Woodruff. We can endorse this movement. Mr. Woodruff was one of the few men in this country who essayed to give dignity and character to the turf.

A piece of Lake Superior quartz, weighing 7 ounces, has been smelted at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and found to contain 5 ounces of silver.

A lawsuit is pending in Chicago about five and a half inches of land. Land must be valuable "thereabouts."

A Southern planter, who sometime since tried the experiment of employing monkeys to pick cotton, reported that it was an immense success, but that it required two overseers to watch each monkey and keep him at work.

A horticultural wag of our acquaintance says he is endeavoring to discover a plan to extract the beats from musical compositions. He states that they are worth trying for, as in some cases it only takes two to fill a measure. We compelled the aforesaid wag to "beat" a retreat.

A woman begins to have great antipathy to dates when she finds herself out of date.

The effort to raise salmon transferred from England to the rivers of Australia, has proved entirely successful. The work was done by the Acclimatization Society.

A Missouri blacksmith has prepared a horse-shoe for the Paris Exposition, made of raw ore from the Iron Mountain. Half the shoe is finished, and the other half shows the ore as it is dug from the mine.

One thousand emigrants pass through Columbus, O., on their way West every week.

The dove was the first newspaper carrier, when one morn it went out and fetched a leaf for Noah. It contained a paragraph on the weather, notifying him that the heavy rain had subsided.

A SUBTERRANEAN CITY DISCOVERED IN CENTRAL ASIA.—Foreign journals report that a subterranean city has been discovered in the vicinity of Fort No. 1, on the Sir-Darya river, in Turkistan. Kirghisian settlers having undertaken to furnish bricks to Major Yuni, the Russian commandant of the fort, brought him such curious specimens of the required article that he was led to inquire whence they had procured them. On their taking him to the place, the existence of a subterranean city of vast extent was soon apparent to the astonished Russians. The place seems to have been originally built on the Lake Avel, but by the receding of the water is now at some distance from its shores, and in the course of time has been covered up by sand and alluvial deposits. Whether it belongs to the ancient Parthian, or, comparatively speaking, modern Dshungarian period of Turanian history, has not yet been ascertained. A guard has been stationed on the spot to protect the mysterious city from depredations, until the arrival of further orders from the Government of Orenburg.

LEDGE PLANT.—The Norway spruce is strongly recommended for a hedge plant by several of the Western horticulturists. It does not shade the ground so much as the Osage Orange, is perfectly hardy and a beauty forever. On the grounds of Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y., is a beautiful Norway spruce hedge that will turn any stock, from horses and cattle to a rabbit. In setting a hedge, use plants from two to three feet high, placing them three feet apart in the row. In four years they will form a beautiful compact hedge.

HOLDING UP MILK.—Mr. L. Morton informs the Rural American that when his cows trouble him in this way he reaches his hand up and places the ends of his fingers on the backbone, forward of the hips, and presses down hard for a minute or so, and they will always give down.

WHIMS OF MONOMANIACS.

The whimsical ideas of monomaniacs are innumerable. There was once an English clergyman, the Rev. Simon Brown, who died with the conviction that his rational soul was annihilated by a special fiat of the Divine will. A patient in the "Retreat" at York, England, thought he had no soul, heart or lungs. A soldier, wounded on the field of Austerlitz, was struck with a delirious conviction that he was but an ill-made model of his former self. "You ask how Pere Lambers is," he would say; "he is dead—killed at Austerlitz; that which you now see is a mere machine made in his likeness." Dr. Mead tells us of an Oxford student, who ordered the funeral bell to be rung for him, and went himself to the belfry to instruct the ringers. He returned to his bed only to die. A Bourbon prince thought himself dead, and refused to eat, until his friends invited him to dine with Turenne and other French heroes long since departed. There was a tradesman who thought he was a seven shilling piece, and advertised himself thus: "If my wife presents me for payment, don't change me." Bishop Warburton tells us of a man who thought himself a goose pie; and Dr. Faraday, of Manchester, had a patient who thought he had swallowed the devil. In Paris there lived a man who thought he had, with others, been guillotined, and when Napoleon was Emperor their heads were restored, but in the scramble he had got the wrong one. A newspaper editor fancied he was a paragraph, and as he lay in bed, debated whether he should rise all together, or sentence by sentence.

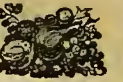
NEATNESS OF ENGLISH DAIRYMEN.—Mr. Willard gave high praise to the English dairymen for the perfect neatness and cleanliness of their dairies. Nothing in English cheese making struck him with so much force and admiration as the cleanliness with which everything is conducted. The milking is very carefully performed in tin pails. The dairy is located out of the reach of bad odors, or anything likely to taint milk. The milk rooms have stone floors, the joints of the flagging cemented, so that no slops or decomposed milk can find an entrance. The utensils and everything about the dairy are kept as clean as the table and crockery of the most fastidious housewife. This feature of cleanliness, the speaker said, he found wherever he went, from the Royal Dairy, at Windsor, and radiating from thence all through England. He believed it was this cleanliness and the untainted condition of the milk, together with the even temperature of the curing rooms, that were the leading causes of the fine flavor which is characteristic of some of the English cheese.

FISH IN COLD WATER.—Waters too salt are adverse to the fattening and thriftiness of fish, probably also to their increase. Witness the pitting of oysters and mussels, the ascent of rivers by fish to deposit their spawn, and a score of other similar facts. Warm seas produce but poor fleshed fish. Maury even tells us that the fish of the sea afford, perhaps, the best indication as to the cold currents in it. The Atlantic cities and towns of America owe their excellent fish markets to the stream of cold water from the north, which runs along the coast. The temperature of the Mediterranean is four or five degrees above the ocean temperature of the same latitude; and the fish there are most indifferent. On the other hand, the temperature along the American coast is several degrees below that of the ocean, and from Maine to Florida, tables are supplied with the most excellent of fish. The sheep's head of this cold current, so much esteemed in Virginia and the Carolinas, loses its flavor, and is considered worthless, when taken on the warm coral banks of the Bahamas. The same is the case with the other fish. In the cold water of that coast they are delicious; in the warm water on the other edge of the Gulf Stream, their flesh is soft and unfit for the table.

A blue tulip, for which vast sums were offered during the tulipomania a century ago, has been produced by a French gardener, and will be on exhibition at the Paris Exposition.

NEWSPAPERS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.—An American missionary thus writes: "The increase of newspapers published here, and in other principal cities of Turkey, and the number of persons who read them, are among the most noticeable signs of the times. In this city, two years ago, it was a rare occurrence to see a newspaper in the hands of the natives passing up and down the Bosphorus or Golden Horn, in the steamers which here take the place of the street cars of Boston and New York. Now it is almost as common a sight as in those cars. Newsboys throng our thoroughfares with their papers—in Turkish, in French, in Greek, in Armenian, &c. Ten daily papers are published at Constantinople.





Horticulture.

PEAR CULTURE—STANDARD TREES.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY R. ROBINSON SCOTT, PHILADELPHIA.

FROM the results arrived at by many experiments extending over a wide extent of country and a period of many years, some of them conducted under the most unfavorable circumstances and with the least possible amount of knowledge of the subject, it appears to be the accepted belief that the Dwarf Pear, or the "pear on quince," is short lived. Several, nay many, of the most skillful fruit growers still value the dwarf tree, and are not prepared to coincide in the unqualified condemnation of their favorites, so that we shall still bear and read of the choice dwarf pear trees of such cultivators as M. P. Wilder, Hovey & Co., Ellwanger & Barry, and others; while less fortunate and careful cultivators talk of them as humbugs, and, with a cunning shake of the head, decline even to discuss what little merit attaches to them.

We turn, then, to the pear on its own stock; and here, too, we find that skill, care and judgment are required to ensure success. It is by no means necessary to wait from seven to fourteen years, after planting a standard pear tree, till fruit is produced. We have known trees of the Seekel to bear in four years, from the bud. On the other hand, strong growers, like the Vicar of Winkfield, and Duchesse d'Angouleme, may be ten years, if left to chance, before even a few fruit are produced, and yet be in a state of vigorous growth. This is the disadvantage with the standard.

The most useful and convenient form of tree is the low pyramid. Select a young, upright stock, regularly branched on all sides, and trim it up to a height of about three feet from the ground, shortening in at the same time the shoots, leaving one leading shoot in the center, slightly shortened. By attention, at the proper season, when the wood is soft, early in Summer, the tree may be preserved in shape merely by pinching with the finger and thumb. Such a tree, if on a well drained loam, or loamy clay, will produce fruit sooner than many are disposed to admit. When planting, we may as well plant choice varieties, adapted to the section of country—varieties well known and fully tested (for there are many such to be had), as spend time, money and labor with sorts which may have one or more qualities to recommend them, or which are highly extolled by a neighbor who "thinks he knows a good pear," but does not know very much about it after all.

We do not think it necessary to say how a tree should be planted. We have been reading in every rural paper, for the last twenty years, how to plant a tree. In every nurseryman's catalogue, scattered broadcast by every tree peddler, there are good and sufficient directions to plant a tree. Is there any portion of the land the tree peddler has not penetrated, where the *Farm and Fireside* has reached? If so, let the unfortunate or fortunate inhabitant inform us at once of the existence and location of the "deserted village."

Do not plant deeper than the collar of the tree; do not let the hole be so small that any of the fibres will reach the sides of it; spread the fibres, if the tree have any—some trees, when planted, have few or none. Cover the roots first with fine soil, gradually sifted in among them; and finally press the soil firmly, and secure the tree from swaying to and fro. Plant such pears as the Bartlett and Seekel; there can be no question about these; next try the Urbaniste, Benre d'Anjou, Louise Bonne de Jersey, St. Michel Archange, Duchesse d'Angouleme (which, though generally grown on the quince, will do well on the pear stock). If more Summer varieties are wanted, take the Beurre Giffard, Rosteizer, Brandywine, Ott and Ananas d'Ete.

If very large winter fruit is wanted, try Beurre Diel, Vicar of Winkfield and Easter Beurre; but we might go over a list of a hundred choice varieties, while you only want a dozen. As in the case of the dwarf sorts, let us recommend twenty-five unmistakable varieties for the several seasons, as follows:

SUMMER.—Beurre Giffard, Brandywine, Rosteizer, Ott, Bartlett, Julienne.

AUTUMN.—Beurre d'Anjou, Beurre Superfin, Buffum, Doyenne Boussoek, Flemish Beauty, Belle Luerative, Louise Bonne de Jersey, St. Michel Archange, Seekel, Urbaniste, Benre Hardy, Beurre Clairgeau.

WINTER.—Sheldon, Beurre Diel, Lawrence, Doyenne d'Aleneon, Glout Moreeau, Easter Beurre, Vicar of Winkfield.

A few words respecting picking and keeping the fruit may not be superfluous. The Summer pears ripen so rapidly and are so soon past maturity that they are frequently found, at the bottom of the tree, quite dry and tasteless. This is especially the case with the early Summer sorts, such as Giffard, Rosteizer and Ott. These should be picked about a week before their season of maturity, or just as soon as the stem will readily part from the twig by using a little force; experience, alone, will teach this point. The Bartlett ripens later, and is so well known that it requires no remark. The Autumn varieties mature at intervals, from the season of the Bartlett till October—the last being the Duchesse d'Angouleme, which we have not included in the list, as it does so much better on the quince. The Buffum, if not carefully watched and ripened in the house, is very deficient in flavor. Belle Luerative also requires attention; these should all be picked from ten days to two weeks before maturity; that is, before being in a fit condition for eating. The Winter varieties, a few of which mature early in December, such as the Sheldon and Lawrence, require no extra care; but the late Winter sorts, such as the Vicar and Easter Beurre, frequently fail to mature their juices, and, to a great extent, disappoint the hopeful amateur. We have heard it stated that from a crop of a vigorous tree of the Vicar, amounting to several bushels, fruiting for several years past, not one pear has been ripened fit for the table; and this is the common experience with the Easter Beurre and others of its season. They are generally picked too soon, or shaken from the tree. They should be carefully picked after the first sharp frost; put in barrels and headed up, leaving them on the side, in a dry place out doors; or in an open shed till severe frost appears; then put them in the cellar and bring them into the house as wanted, ripening them in a moderately warm room.

April, 1867.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

IS IT SO?

"THE PRESERVATION OF FRUIT TREES.—The Farmers' Club of the American Institute, of New York, recently held a meeting, at which a discussion took place on the best method of destroying curculio on fruit trees. One of the members stated that if a hole was bored in the body of the tree and filled with sulphur, it would so infect the tree that no insect or worm would live upon it. Upon some doubt being expressed as to its efficacy, he said that he had tried the remedy and spoke from experience. The chairman remarked that, if this be a sure preventive, it was worth millions to the country, and we need never lack a supply of fruit in the future."

The foregoing extract I cut from the editorial columns of the "Public Ledger," of Philadelphia. I agree with the remark of the chairman, that if this is a sure preventive, it will be "worth millions to the country;" but at the same time I must confess that I have no confidence whatever in the assumed fact.

In connection with this extract, I here insert a question, and remarks thereon, from page 20, Vol. II. of the "Practical Entomologist," published in Philadelphia. "The following is from the proceeding of the New York Farmers' Club, published in the New York Tribune, Oct., 23, 1866:"

"APPLE TREE BORERS.—John Thompson, Jr., Rochester, N. Y., proposes to extirpate borers by boring three or four holes with a large gimlet into the sap wood of the tree; then put into each hole a grain of blue mass, fill up with sulphur, and cork; and finally seal over with wax. The idea is to medicate the sap, so as to make it disagreeable to the insects." He says: "By the use of sulphur I have found a way to check them."

"BLIGHT IN PEAR TREES.—Besides inserting the sulphur, I drove about a dozen cut nails into the body of each tree. I intend to try calomel upon my peach trees."

And why not try jalap too? And rbnbarb? And ipecae? Be careful not to give too large a dose of blue mass or of calomel, or you may salivate your trees. Clearly, Mr. Thompson, Jr., does not read the *Practical Entomologist*. In continuation, we may reasonably ask: If it be true that this kind of treatment would medicate the sap so as to make it disagreeable to the insect, would it not also medicate the juices of the fruit, so as to make it disagreeable to man? And what is the difference whether we have fruit so medicated that it cannot be eaten, or whether we have none at all, unless we might want to embark in a patent pill speculation? But suppose the sulphur and the mass did so affect the tissues of the trees as to prevent the borers from destroying them, how could it possibly affect the curculio, whose approaches are from the outside? When the female eurenlio refuses to deposit her eggs in fruit, because of its medicated condition, you may be sure it will not be fit to put into the stomach of a human being—except perhaps a moiety, as a medicine. The nail remedy is as "old as the hills," and has long since been exploded. If any one, however, has any confidence in the remedies, let them try them.

S. S. R.

Lancaster, Pa., April, 1867.

ABOUT PRUNING.

THE best implement to prune with is the thumb nail and fore finger. This implies that all pruning should be done at early stages in the growth of the tree—done constantly on the new, tender growth—and that the tree should be trained gently and watchfully up from the first bud to its ripe maturity. The next best implement is the pocket knife; and that means that no branches that are useless, superfluous or out of place, should be allowed to grow larger than small twigs. The knife wounds the tree, but it is so slight and so nicely done, that it heals quickly and without much injury to the vitality of the plant. The necessary implements, oftentimes, are the saw, mallet and chisel; they are like the surgeon's knife and saw, tools that must be used to save life and future usefulness, because there is no alternative. He is unskillful and ignorant who trains a tree from the beginning, and finally must resort to these.

The first object in pruning is to give shape to the tree—to grow and distribute properly the bearing wood. This is the sole object during the first years of the tree's growth. To make this wood healthy and hardy it should be grown slowly; hence the pruning should not be severe, but timely and moderate. Another object in pruning, at a later stage in the life of the tree, is to produce fruitfulness. This is best done by pinching or pruning in the middle or latter part of Summer, which checks the woody growth and turns the power of the tree to the development of buds for fruit.

It is a frequent practice with farmers to prune closely early in the spring. With old trees this system tends to produce a thrifty growth of wood, and sometimes is thereby beneficial; young trees treated in this way produce too much wood, and will not bear fruit as readily. The obvious rule, then, is: prune old trees early, to invigorate them and produce new bearing wood; but prune young and thrifty trees in the growing season, to induce fruitfulness.—*Rural New Yorker*.

CHICKEN GUANO FOR APPLE TREES.—It is well known that the Yellow Bellefleur is a very shy bearer in many locations. Mr. Cheeseman says that he has found that a liberal mulch of chicken guano applied about the tree has caused abundant crops of excellent fruit, while other trees planted the same time, not so treated, have borne but little, and of inferior quality.

A USEFUL HINT.—The Gardeners' Monthly cautions its readers who are about transplanting raspberries and blackberries, not to plant them too deep, as most of the failures result from this cause. Raspberries and blackberries will not root out from the cane, as most things will from their stems, the buds have to come from the crown or roots; and several inches of soil to come through is too much for the buds—they will sooner die first.

The Field.

POTATOES AND PUMPKINS.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

I noticed in the *Farm and Fireside* of March 3^d, a statement made by a farmer in Rome, N. Y., as to the yield and quantities of several varieties of potatoes raised by him last year. I think such statements of great value and shall obtain two varieties of said potatoes, the Early Goodrich and the Prince Albert. I think it pays well to change the seed of potatoes, even if it is not carried more than three or four miles. This may seem a simple suggestion to most farmers, but can harm no one, as those who think it of no value will not heed it. We are endowed with organs of speech, and powers of thought and natural capabilities; and it is probable that a child would never speak a word, or utter a human sound, if it never heard a word spoken. So we must learn one from another what we do know. Now, as farming is at the foundation of all other business, why not learn from each other, and so be able to till the soil to the greatest advantage?

I raised last year five varieties of potatoes, the Davis Seedlings, White Snow Ball, (Maine variety), Chenango, Chili, and the early Blue. The Snow Ball and Davis Seedlings yielded the best and rotted the least. The best preventive I ever tried against the rot is dry ashes; a small handful being thrown upon the potatoes, after they are dropped. I have left a row through the field without ashes, and when I dug them, this row would be affected by rot, while the ones which were ashed had scarcely any diseased potatoes among them. I have often sowed ashes on the vines when wet, about the time the blight generally strikes them.

I wish to say a word about pumpkins. Last year I raised about five tons of pumpkins, on about one and a half acres of land, planted among corn. While the vines were small I sowed on a small quantity of plaster three times, early in the morning, when the vines were wet. This kept off the bugs, and added much to the growth of the pumpkins. Had I not used any plaster, I think I should not have raised half as many.

E. CHASE.

Blackstone, Mass., April, 1867.

GRAIN STATISTICS.

It may be interesting for those who believe that agriculture cannot be as favorably prosecuted in the East as it is in the West, to know that while the yield of wheat in Massachusetts averages fifteen bushels per acre, that of Ohio and Iowa is but eight; that while corn averages twenty-nine bushels in Massachusetts, it only amounts to twenty-eight in Iowa and thirty-five in Ohio; that oats averages twenty-three bushels in the former State to twenty-five and twenty-seven in the two latter; that rye averages eleven bushels in Massachusetts, ten in Ohio, and thirteen in Iowa; and that in potatoes, Massachusetts produces ninety bushels to sixty-eight and sixty-seven in her rivals.

While the quantity of grain inspected at Chicago last year is reported at 56,851,669 bushels, the exports of the leading breadstuffs from the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866, were as follows: Wheat, 5,570,103 bushels; wheat flour, 2,183,050 barrels; Indian corn, 13,516,651 bushels; corn meal, 273,275 barrels. An additional illustration is thus furnished of the insignificance of the foreign market for the products of the Western prairies. The Garden City alone concentrates annually a larger quantity of breadstuffs than all the nations of the world, in ordinary seasons, purchase from us.

W. S. Carpenter, of New York, has transmitted to the Paris Exposition, one hundred and fifteen different varieties of Indian corn, each of which has a name. The most remarkable ear in this collection contains 1,290 grains, arranged in twenty-two rows, and is known as the Western Gourd seed.

M. L. Sullivant, is preparing to set four hundred miles of Osage Hedge on his new farm in Livingston Co., Ill., one hundred and twenty miles of which will be set this Spring.

PENNSYLVANIA PRODUCTS.—The three great staples in the production of which Pennsylvania is pre-eminent, are coal, pig iron and petroleum. The product of coal in Pennsylvania during the year, is estimated in round numbers at sixteen million tons, or one-fourth more than in 1860; and its value at the markets of first delivery was at least \$80,000,000. The product of petroleum during the year, is given at nearly ninety millions of gallons, valued at over \$47,200,000. The product of pig iron during the year is given at six hundred and forty-six thousand tons, valued at over \$31,000,000. The aggregate value of coal, petroleum and pig iron, for the year, was \$158,231,243.



FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1867.

AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; with out 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.

SYSTEMATIC FARM ACCOUNTS.

THERE is not sufficient importance attached to the keeping of farm accounts. Many farmers carry on their farming operations, year in and year out, without making any daily or even weekly entries (except of dollars and cents received or paid out), referring to specific operations and their results. They cannot tell how the account stands with their farm. They do not know whether there is more profit in raising hay or corn, potatoes or cabbages, cattle or hogs—or whether anything pays. Even the aggregate of yearly expenses, paid out as money or its equivalent, is not known to some; though the income law, which has been in operation for the last five or six years, has compelled the majority of farmers to keep and prepare some sort of an account to exhibit to the assessor. They were driven to it, either from a conscientious regard for the correctness of their sworn statement, or from cupidity, displayed in their anxiety to present all the deductions admissible under the law.

Merchants, and other business men, keep an accurate account of the details of their business. They take frequent inventories, and keep up such a rigid supervision over the several departments of their business, that they know which are profitable and which are unprofitable. By entering more largely into the former, and relinquishing, or applying the proper correctives, to the latter, their business steadily increases and prospers. This is the reward of their watchfulness—of their systematic method of doing business. To such men the epithets of "sharp" and "shrewd" are not derogatory. Their shrewdness is a legitimate and protective result of their attention and pains-taking.

What is to prevent farmers from being equally as accurate and acquiring similar shrewdness? Why should they not be able to present their balance sheet and minute detail of operations? "It is too complicated," says one. That is a mistake; the only requirements are, observation, ability to write, and a knowledge of the most simple operations in arithmetic. "I cannot spare the time," says another. Under this plea we often neglect profitable things for unprofitable ones. A few minutes spent in an evening in making up estimates, may convince us that many hours of hard labor are being sadly misspent in some particular direction. "It is not important," remarks a third. Above all others, he needs to be undeceived. The answer to the second objection will apply equally as well to him. It is important, in a number of respects, and essential to steady, unfluctuating success.

No man can be considered to have reached the rank of a first-class farmer, who does not keep an accurate account with his farm. We know of one farmer who has kept an accurate account of his farm operations for fifteen years. In his blank book, or diary, he exhibited to us the operations and yield, income and expense, of each separate field; the profits of the orchards; the cost of each stock animal raised; poultry statistics, etc., etc. Of course, a few of these estimates, from their difficult surroundings, were but approximations, but they were near enough for all practical purposes. In this book were also entered memoranda of experiments on various manures and their application; observations upon atmospheric humidity; diagrams for grape arhons, garden beds and young orchards; gleanings from agricultural readings, etc. It was a perfect epitome of individual "haps, mishaps, and experiences."

If thousands of farmers would do this, while they would greatly benefit themselves, intellectually and pecuniarily, they would also materially aid agricultural journals in their laudable endeavor to sift facts from suppositions—

the practical from the theoretical. If too far advanced in years to attempt to follow this advice, be sure to instill habits of watchfulness and correctness in your children. It will be of incalculable benefit to them, no matter what avocation they may eventually conclude to adopt. The men who succeed are those who are honest, punctual, systematic; who are watchful and discriminating in the minutest details of business.

BE SURE OF THE FACTS.

OUR contributor "S. S. R.," in his article headed "Is it so?" in this number of our journal, shows up in a ludicrous light some practices that are in vogue, and which have not even probabilities to recommend them. As we remarked a week or two ago—facts are fundamental things, and if not correctly observed, the conclusions based upon them must be wrong.

More than one pretender has published a volume, the scientific conclusions in which seemed unanswerable, and yet were but based upon asserted facts. One such book, not many years since, occasioned serious alarm for the safety and honor of the Bible and of Christianity. But soon a geologist, then a botanist, and then a physiologist, assailed and utterly demolished the essential facts upon which the conclusions of the book rested. The savans of London and Paris were once confounded by the question: "Why a vessel containing a given amount of water would not be increased in weight if a fish weighing a pound were put into it." While other philosophers were propounding their learned theories, another one, more wary than the rest, tried the experiment for himself, and solved the mystery. He found that the water weighed exactly one pound more with the fish than without it!

Fontenelle gives another illustration. In 1593 the report was spread abroad that a tooth of pure gold had grown in the mouth of a child in Silesia. Horstius, Professor of Medicine in the University of Helmstadt, wrote a learned disquisition upon the matter. Two other savans attempted to explain the miraculous occurrence. Then the learned Libarius followed with his opinion. But during this time a goldsmith was sent for, who discovered that a bit of gold leaf had been skillfully applied to an ordinary tooth! The goldsmith should have come first, and the philosophers last. The inference is, that we must see clearly and carefully in order to philosophize safely and surely. When a singular theory is presented to us, we should examine for ourselves, as far as possible, to ascertain whether the facts upon which it is based are real or pretended.

SALE OF BLOODED STOCK.—Last week Jacob E. Kreybill, of Lancaster County, Pa., a young farmer noted for his attention to imported stock, disposed of some of his Durhams at public sale. The prices of cows ranged from \$61 to \$210, averaging \$116.50 each; the prices of heifers ranged from \$51 to \$202, averaging \$99 each; the hulls brought from \$54 to \$200, averaging \$100 each; the calves brought from \$21 to \$101, averaging \$70 each. One splendid calf, called the Grand Duke, was withdrawn from the sale by the proprietor, after having been bid up to \$350!

PROGRESS OF THE RINDERPEST.—The Secretary of State has received a dispatch from the United States Legation at the Hague, dated March 26th, in which it is stated that the Rinderpest has spread into Belgium and France. The report of its progress in Holland, up to February 20th, shows a decline, though not to much extent. The number of cases during the first six weeks of this year, was 18,000, and the deaths 7,176; slaughtered 4,442—making a total loss of stock of 11,618.

Now is the time to exterminate the caterpillars. The little twigs and ends of limbs on which are placed the belts of caterpillar eggs, should be cut off and effectually destroyed by burning. These little egg belts can easily be seen.

PLANT corn for table use as soon as the weather will permit.

PLANT TREES.

THE genial season has come—the season of hursting huds, emerald grasses and singing birds. It is the season, also, of unusual activity and labor on the farm, in the garden and the nursery. There is no lack of employment for those who "earn their bread by the sweat of the brow." We have ploughing, sowing, manuring, planting and pruning to attend to; also the transplanting of fruit and ornamental trees. The farmer or gardener who overlooks this latter duty, neglects one of the most important duties of his profession. The diversity of soil and climate in this country, gives us remarkable facilities for the cultivation of fruit; and no man who owns a farm, garden, or even a house-lot, should omit setting out fruit trees. They cost but little, require small attention, yet return us delicious and health-giving food, and add considerably to the value and attractiveness of our homes.

Many persons, intelligent ones, too, live on farms or country-seats all their lives, but never set out a tree. They neglect this duty because they think "it takes too long for trees to grow and bear fruit." Prodigious philosophers! Suppose those who "came before us"—our ancestors—entertained the same selfish notions: where would be the luxuriant fruit that now tickles our palate? Where? Not certainly in the blooming orchards, nor in every village or city market. Instead of the abundance of apples, peaches and pears; the profusion of plums, cherries and other delicacies in the way of small fruits, we should "go hungry" for those luxuries; and the noble orchards which beautify our farms and diversify the landscape would become curiosities, and the little garden of the poor man would be a comparative desert, a wild, a solitude to himself and family. This error, mistake, or stupidity in not planting trees because they are slow in coming to maturity, or frail-bearing, is not valid; it is the excuse of the idle man, the apology of the sluggard, and the sulterfuge, evasion and shift of those who live upon the labor of others.

We cannot jump from diaper to broadcloth; we cannot make prize-heef out of juvenile calves; we cannot slide from depravity to righteousness, nor can we raise or propagate tree fruits in a day or a year. But, by proper planting, skillful culture on favorable soils, we can obtain fruit in a comparatively brief time. If we do not live to enjoy the returns for our labor, somebody else will—perhaps your children or grand-children, or maybe a foot-sore and travel-weary haggard may rest beneath the broad, bending branches of your orchard; he may satisfy the growings of hunger on your fruit, and thank the Great Father of all, that you planted, watered, pruned and protected the trees that continued to bloom, blossom and bear good fruit while the grass and the daisy nod over your mouldering ashes.

The profits of orchard, or tree culture, are increasing every year. With good management the fruits of the orchard will often bring more than the productions of the field. Few orchards, if on good soil and properly cared for, will fail to net one hundred dollars per acre—often twice or thrice that amount. The demand for fine fruit is increasing annually, and there is no danger of over-stocking the market. But if there was little marketable value in orchard fruit, it should be cultivated for its health-giving properties—for yourself, your family and your friends. Go on the principle of increasing domestic comfort; of perpetuating good health; of adding something to the pleasure and happiness of those who are dependent upon you. Generosity to posterity, to those who may toil on the same farm, who may sow the same fields, who may gather the harvests after you have gone, and who are at last laid beside you under the same identical soil you have all cultivated, should not be forgotten. We all belong to one great family or brotherhood, of whom God is the Great Father.

Spring is a favorable time to transplant fruit trees in the New England and Middle States. In the South, below thirty six degrees, the Autumn is probably the best period to set out fruit trees. Not so in the North; now is the best time, in our opinion. In selecting trees, avoid purchasing from nurseries of very rich

land, for there the young trees have been advanced too rapidly. They have been pushed ahead "for a market;" are perhaps healthy, but are tender and sappy, and will not thrive afterwards on ordinary soils. Again, look for vigorous trees, with good roots, strong and fibrous; with the wood well hardened, and the bark smooth, clean and healthy-looking. In selecting ground for fruit trees, choose a good, dry soil; if the land is naturally wet, under-drain it, or if it is thin and shallow, sub-soil it. Of situations, parties must judge for themselves. Low land is subject to frosts; as a general advice, put your trees on middling high land, though not at the extreme summit. If adjacent to a pond or large river, all the better. All bodies of water mitigate the severity of Winter, and cool the extreme heat of Summer. In regard to scientific transplanting, and the after culture, they require more space than we can spare. Veteran tree planters require no advice, and amateurs should consult book authority. Remember, however, to PLANT TREES THIS SPRING.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Reports from Washington state that the Hon. ISAAC NEWTON will be removed from the head of this Department. Petitions are said to have been forwarded to the Capitol from numerous Agricultural Societies, asking for a change, and suggesting various gentlemen for the position. Among those mentioned are ex-Governor Hurlbrook of Vermont; J. A. Grinnell of Massachusetts, and Orange Judd of New York. Of course, the applicants are as thick as blackbirds in a cornfield; but which one of the above named applicants would make a more efficient Commissioner than Mr. Newton? We are fearful that "the loaves and fishes" are what some of the applicants are after.

SALE OF STOCK.—The Burlington County (New Jersey) Agricultural Society will hold its first annual sale of farm stock, at the Fair Grounds, Mount Holly, on the eighth of May. Horses, cattle, sheep and other stock will be sold at auction, under the superintendence of the Society, at an expense to the owners of five per cent. Hay, grain and straw will be furnished at cost.

We are favorably impressed with this kind of sale for farm stock. If persons having stock for sale will offer them at these annual gatherings, and the Society manage the business with strict honor and fidelity, we do not see why it cannot be made a success—advantageous alike to the owners of stock and to the Society.

BATHS FOR HORSES.—A veterinarian announces, in the New York journals, that he has established an infirmary "where Turkish baths are administered to horses." This is not a new thing, entirely, for Roman history speaks of bathing establishments for horses. A hot air bath, for some animal diseases, may be beneficial; and the horse deserves the most skillful treatment and the most generous attention in sickness. By and by, some Gothauite will probably open a smoking bazaar for the equine population; then dray and omnibus nags will have a "good time."

EARLY TRANSPLANTING.—The earlier in the season all kinds of trees and shrubs, except evergreens, are transplanted, the more sure are they to grow and do well, because of the necessity of the broken roots being healed and new ones formed, before warm suns and showers hurst the huds and cause the leaves to draw nourishment from them. All newly planted trees should be mulched.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—William Clark, of Northampton, Mass., has offered to give each family in town, who did not possess one, a Concord grape vine, and a committee of the horticultural club has been appointed to ascertain the number of vines needed.

RASPBERRIES that were left unpruned last fall should be at once attended to, and all the old wood and young, slender, weakly shoots cut out. Leave four to six good strong canes to each hill, but head off their tops about one-fourth of their height.

OUR TOBACCO-SMOKERS.—The descendants of the Anglo-Saxons are well-known to be the most inveterate smokers of the human family. While six Aborigines content themselves with sharing the whiff of one pipe, six pipes will scarcely keep one Yankee in steaming operation. At a late analysis of tobacco at the Academy of Science in Paris, it was announced that American tobacco contained eight per cent. of nicotine, a deadly poison; Havana tobacco contained three per cent.; and Chingarora tobacco, grown in the Indies, no nicotine whatever. The natives of the Indies are constant smokers of the Chingarora, and never suffer the ills which follow the use of tobacco of other climes.



The Fireside Muse.

THE PLANTING OF THE APPLE-TREE.

BY W. C. BRYANT.

Come, let us plant the apple-tree!
Cleave the tough greensward with the spade;
Wide let its hollow bed be made,
There gently lay the roots, and there
Sift the dark mould with kindly care,
And press it o'er them tenderly;
As round the sleeping infant's feet,
We softly fold the cradle-sheet,
So plant we the apple-tree.

What plant we in the apple-tree?
Buds, which the breath of summer days
Shall lengthen into leafy sprays;
Boughs, where the thrush with crimson breast
Shall haunt, and sing, and hide her nest.
We plant upon the sunny lea
A shadow for the noontide hour,
A shelter from the summer shower,
When we plant the apple-tree.

What plant we in the apple-tree?
Sweets for a hundred flowery springs,
To load the May-wind's restless wings;
When, from the orchard-row, he pours
Its fragrance through our open doors;
A world of blossoms for the bee—
Flowers for the sick girl's silent room;
For the glad infant sprigs of bloom,
We plant with the apple-tree.

What plant we with the apple-tree?
Fruits that shall swell in sunny June,
And redden in the August noon,
And drop, as gentle airs come by
That fan the blue September sky;
While children, wild with noisy glee,
Shall scent their fragrance as they pass,
And search for them in the tufted grass
At the foot of the apple-tree.

And when above this apple-tree
The winter stars are quivering bright,
And winds go howling through the night,
Girls, whose young eyes o'erflow with mirth,
Shall peel its fruit by cottage hearth:
And guests in prouder homes shall see,
As fair as they in tint and shape,
The fruit of the apple-tree.

Each year shall give this apple-tree
A broader flush of rosy bloom—
A deeper maze of verdurous gloom;
And loosen, when the frost-clouds lower,
The crisp brown leaves in thicker shower.
The years shall come and pass; but we
Shall hear no longer, where we lie,
The Summer's songs, the Autumn's sigh,
In the boughs of the apple-tree.

And time shall waste this apple-tree.
Oh, when its aged branches throw
Thin shadows on the sward below,
Shall fraud, and force, and iron will
Oppress the weak and helpless still?
What shall the tasks of mercy be
Amid the toils, the stripes, the tears
Of those who live when length of years
Is wasting this apple-tree?

"Who planted this old apple-tree?"
The children of that distant day,
Thus to some aged man shall say;
And, gazing on its mossy stem,
The gray-haired man shall answer them;
"A poet of the land was he—
Born in the rude, but good old times;
'Tis said he made some quaint old rhymes
On planting of the apple-tree."

Fireside Tale.

[The subjoined is one of those pretty German legendary stories, which, while intended for the young, convey earnest lessons to older people.]

THE WOODEN CUP.

CHAPTER I.

It was almost midnight; the full moon looked down on the German hills, covered with vine-yards, on the broad fields of corn, on the little village just at the outskirts of the Black Forest, and the old well—the haunted well, just within its shadows.

The old well had long been the village well; but it had long been dry, and had become, so said the villagers, the pathway through which the gnomes who dwelt below the earth, went to and from their abode.

This particular race who frequented the well, came at last to be distinguished from the other gnomes and fairies, so abundant in Germany, and were known by the name of Spirits of the Well. They were kind and obliging. If a poor man lost his money, he need not go near the well, and he would find lying there, perhaps not exactly what he lost, but something that would in some way compensate him for it; and if any one missed his way in the forest by night, he had only to look straight down before his feet, to see a little hopping creature, hardly distinguishable in the dark-

ness, but which, if followed, would guide him aright.

It was almost midnight, as I said, when Crispus, and his brother, and his sister Nellie—three golden-haired, blue-eyed, adventurous children—came creeping across the fields toward the well. They had stolen out of their father's house, after he had shut up his shop, and packed away his hoots and shoes and awls, and gone to his bed, believing the children safe asleep in theirs. They reached the well, and looked down.

"We must wait till the moon rises higher and shines down there," said Crispus; "then we will see the gnomes, and hear them sing perhaps."

As he spoke, the moonlight began slowly to creep down the sides of the stone walls, lower and lower, until it glimmered far down in their depths. As the children gazed, they were startled by a laugh behind them. They looked round; there stood an odd-looking little brown man, no more than a foot high.

"You are bold children," he said, "but you are good. I know you. You never tease the dog or the cat; you like to give carrots to the horse; and I have seen you carry water to the poor, thirsty cow. Such tenderness men sometimes laugh at; but the day will come when these hard-hearted men, who scruple not to inflict pain even on the poor dumb brutes, will cease their laughing and laugh no more forever!"

His eyes kindled like fire when he spoke; but he smiled again benignly, and proceeded in a softer tone:

"If you will get into the bucket and come down into the well with me, I and my brother gnomes will do our best to entertain you; and, moreover, make you a present of whatever you choose."

"O, yes," cried Crispus, eagerly, for the benevolent face of the gnome, added to his own curiosity, banished fear. "Yes, let us go."

His brother and sister hesitated a moment, but assured by his fearlessness, they nodded their heads in assent.

"But the bucket will not hold us all," said Crispus, "and the chain is old and rusty—it might break."

"Never fear!" answered the gnome, and he laughed heartily. "Only get in; you would be safe with me were you held up by nothing but a spider's thread." So they climbed into the tall, iron-bound bucket, and down they went.

It was quite dark when they stopped, with a jog, at the bottom, and the gnome helped them all out; but in another instant they were dazzled with a burst of light like noonday—the little brown man had opened a door in the side of the well, and led his companions into a magnificent hall. The ceilings arched upward higher than the tallest forest trees, the walls seemed made of gold and precious stones, and it was filled with thousands of little men and women, all busily at work.

In one place they were making golden hair. They would take a lump of pure ore, and heat it on their tiny forges, and then draw it out into long, fine, bright curls.

"This will be charming," said one, "when she goes to see her lover in his dreams."

In another place they were making a coach, and harnessing snow white horses to it.

"The king wants a new coach," said they. "We are going to take this one and show it to his coachmaker, when he is asleep to-night, and it will surely be his model."

In another place a few were fixing wings on their shoulders. "There is a poor boy in danger of shipwreck to-night," said one of them; "his mother sits crying; we must fly over the seas, and when the ship goes down, we will seize him by his brown curls, and bring him safe ashore."

So there was no end to the variety of occupations there. The three children were bewildered, but not frightened; for as they passed along, each gnome turned and smiled kindly on them and bade them welcome.

After a while, he who had brought them there said: "It is time for you to go home; but first I will redeem my promise; choose each of you what you will, and it shall be yours."

Crispus's brother spoke first; "I see yonder a great castle, with woods and parks; I would like that or one like it."

"You shall have it," replied the gnome.

The sister spoke next: "I would like that diamond necklace, and that coach and horses."

"You shall have them," answered the gnome.

Lastly Crispus spoke: "Good gnome! you are wiser than I; give me whatever is best for me, whatever will make me happiest."

"You are a sensible boy," quoth the gnome; and with great ceremony he presented to Crispus a little wooden cup.

"What!" exclaimed the boy, "is this all? An empty wooden cup?"

"Not empty," said a voice, "look within."

And behold! Crispus saw a drop like water at the bottom.

"Drink that," said the gnome.

And when he had done so, Crispus said, "I am contented with my present; it is the best, or you would not have given it to me."

Once more now they were all three put into the moonlight. Then the little man took them all on his back, and scampered across the fields to their father's house, and put them safely into their beds. They were very tired, and soon fell asleep; and the next day, the first thing Crispus did was to look at his cup.

"My brother and sister had grand things promised to them," thought he; "I wonder what I am to do with this wretched wooden cup! I will put it in the kitchen; it is no better than other cups."

But as he looked, he saw, as on the previous night, a single clear drop in the bottom, and as before, he drank it.

"I am well satisfied with my cup," exclaimed he; "there is some magic in it—time will show."

Many a long talk did the three children have about their adventure at the well; and in vain did the other two try to drink from the mysterious cup. They might hold it upside down as they pleased, the drop elung to the bottom; they might try to touch it, it disappeared without wetting their fingers. Only Crispus could enjoy it; and the moment he sipped it out, another one filled its place, as bright as ever.

They made several more expeditions to the well, but they saw only the moonlight streaming down into the darkness, and heard only the night breeze stirring the long grass. So at last they gave up going there, and in time ceased talking of the occurrence, and seemed all to have forgotten it except Crispus, whose wooden cup was his remembrance; and oftentimes, when worldly matters were wrong with him; when his old father was peevish, and his customers' feet were hard to fit, (for he had taken up his father's trade), when had debts made their fare and fire scanty, after stitching shoes all day, he had to stitch up the holes in his shabby garments by night—under all these afflictions, often and often would he sip up the little drop in the bottom of the cup, and he as merry and light-hearted as ever.

CHAPTER II.

In a far off country, over the ocean, events were transpiring which were soon to change the fortunes of the cobbler's house. In a magnificent chamber in a great marble palace, an old man lay dying. One thought only had engrossed his whole life—to hoard up riches; but as he lay now under his silken coverings, attended only by strangers and menials, some images came flitting across his memory he had not found time to entertain in his days of health.

"My poor old brother," said he, "I doubt if he be living yet. But he had two boys, and the youngest is my namesake. Yes, he shall have all my money."

And thus the matter was settled; and all his possessions—his ships and merchandise, his houses and lands, his gold and jewels—were all poured, like a fairy gift, into the humble cottage of the poor old cobbler.

"This must be what the gnomes promised you," whispered Crispus to his brother, when the news came. "Now you will take our sister to your grand castle, and then she will have the diamond necklace and ride in the grand coach which they promised to her; while I

must stay and take care of my old father, with only my wooden cup."

With that he sighed, and took up his cup; the drop was very large and bright at the bottom, and he drank it off.

"Never mind," said he; "it is not castles and diamonds that make people happy. Who knows but I may be the merriest of the three, after all?"

So the brother and sister departed to their grand home, and to riches without stint or measure. They found some things, too, which they had not bargained for—lawsuits and losses, vexations and mortifications from abroad, and strife and contentions at home, for poor little Nellie had found a husband who liked better to spend her money than to love her.

"What care I for all this splendor," said she, as she walked over velvet carpets. "I am not half as happy as when I played with the flowers in our homely garden, or sat on my father's work bench while he made the shoes!"

Ah, poor Nellie, you found pleasant things, too, sometimes; and might have enjoyed them, had you not always been pining after something pleasanter still!

"Let us go and see Crispus," said the grand brother one day to her; for he was a gentleman now, and Crispus would scarcely have known him. "Let us see how he and his wife live."

So, after a journey of many days, in great style, with coaches, and footmen and outriders, they arrived at the cobbler's cottage.

Their old father had long been sleeping in the church yard, and Crispus had taken his place, to mend, as he had done, all the shoes in the village.

He had a wife now, and some rosy children, but he had never been able to grow rich; and, though he seldom was troubled about the matter, yet when the grand company arrived that day, he looked at his pine table and bare floors, and wooden chairs and benches, and the brown crockery on the shelves, and their hard beds, and said, "What a fool I was not to take something better from the gnomes." Then he looked at his wife and children; such red, rough hands she had, and such scanty skirts, and that tight little cap on her head, and the blue woolen jacket she wore. "What a fright she must seem to my sister," thought he.

He had but one resource, and he turned to it; it was his wooden cup. He drank off the bright drop, and looked about him.

"Welcome to you," said he to his brother and sister, "Come in; we are poor, but come in! You shall have the best we have got; and we are merry and happy, if we are poor."

Just then his wife came along, with her bright, smiling face, and the little children rang out a merry laugh, which made one laugh to hear it; and Crispus thought he had never seen them look so beautiful. The wooden chairs were soon drawn to the table, and they sat down to a nice supper, prepared by Crispus's wife. What if her hands were red and rough? Hands which make a humble home happy are beautiful, even in the sight of angels.

Thus they spent the time in pleasant talk; and when they were about to depart, the brother said to Crispus, "I cannot offer you anything, for you seem to have all you want."

"Not exactly," said Crispus, "No one has all he wants. But I have what will make up for many deficiencies, and what I would not give away—no, not for all your possessions. I have what the good gnome gave me—the best he had to give—the drop of contentment in the bottom of my little wooden cup."

PURE AIR.—A little sink near a kitchen doorstep, inadvertently formed, has been known, although not exceeding in its dimensions a single square foot, to spread sickness through a whole household. Hence, everything of the kind should be studiously obviated, so that there be no spot about a farm-house which can receive and hold standing water, whether it be the pure rain from the sky, the contents of a wash-basin, the slop-bowl, or the water-pail.

THE effect of wind blowing against a square chimney, it is reported, is twice as great as when it blows against a circular chimney of the same dimensions. The form of the latter diverts the strength of the wind.

PERSONAL INFLUENCE.—Blessed influence of one true loving human soul on another! Not calculable by algebra, not deducible by logic, but mysterious, effectual, mighty as the hidden process by which the tiny seed is quickened, and hursts forth into tall stem and broad leaf, and glowing tasseled flowers. Ideas are often poor ghosts; our eyes cannot discern them; they pass athwart us in thin vapor, and cannot make themselves felt. But sometimes they are made flesh; they touch us with soft hands; they look at us with sad eyes, and speak to us in appealing tones; they are clothed in a living soul, with its conflicts, faith, and love. Their presence is power, they shake us like a passion, we are drawn after them with compulsion.





Seasonable Poetry.

APRIL.

I hear through all the solemn pines
The south wind's pleasant flow,
And see the clouds, like happy things,

Fireside Miscellany.

AGRICULTURAL NEWS ITEMS.

The Little Falls, N. Y., dairymen, find that calves fed on scalded whey, are more thrifty than those fed on whey not scalded.

The Burlington (Vt.) Press says that the farmers around the country are tapping the trees in their sugar orchards.

The Farmers' Club, at Little Falls, N. Y., in a late discussion were nearly unanimous in the opinion that it does not pay to raise roots on a large scale for cattle feeding, at present prices of labor.

Dr. Smith said at a late meeting of the New York Farmers' Club, that on the banks of the Nile there are multitudes of towers some ten feet high, on which are placed doves' houses, solely for the manure, which is gathered and used for melon growing—the finest in the world being raised by this means.

At a recent meeting of the State Convention of fruit-growers, at St. Paul, a very discouraging view was taken of fruit-growing; not even the Duchess of Oldenburg and Transcendent Crab, could get the endorsement of the meeting, both of which had been supposed to be perfectly hardy, and had received the endorsement of careful observers.

It is reported by California papers that Josiah Sturgis, a farmer of Costa Rica Co., in that State, will this year plant one hundred acres of land, in the Diabolo Valley, with locust trees.

It is said that in New Jersey there are about one thousand eight hundred acres of land devoted to the cultivation of the cranberry, and valued at nearly a million and a half of dollars. A large proportion of this land is located in Ocean county.

The well-known farm of Daniel Webster, at Franklin, N. H., is offered for sale. The place contains about 350 acres of land, and the furniture used by Webster can be had with the house if desired.

A man could afford to get fat out in Texas. Fine beeves are selling there at \$14 to \$15; sheep \$1.50 each, and pork 2 1/2 to 5 cents per pound.

Mr. H. H. Potter, of Sauk county, Wisconsin, contributes an article to the Prairie Farmer, stating that he raised on four acres of land, \$4,600 worth of hops, estimating the hops at fifty cents a pound; raised upon a timothy sod.

The tobacco now on hand in the counties of Halifax, Pittsylvania, Franklin and Henry, in Virginia, and Rockingham and Caswell, in North Carolina, is estimated to be worth \$12,000,000. The crop of Pittsylvania alone, is placed at \$3,000,000. These estimates are based on careful researches.

A large number of cattle have died in various parts of Kansas recently, in consequence of the severe weather, and lack of feed; the weather is reported, however to have moderated greatly in that section, within the last few days.

Edwin Hammond, of Middlebury, Vt., recently sold six ewes to go to the West, for \$6,000 apiece.

At the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Horticultural Society, the following list of five varieties of apples was adopted: Red Astrachan, Duchesse of Oldenburgh, Fameuse, Tallman Sweeting, Golden Russet. For a second five: Fall Stripe, St. Lawrence, Perry Russet, Red Romantic, and Willow-twig.

SAMUEL THORNE of Thornedale, Dutchess county, N. Y., has just sold to James C. Sheldon of Geneva, a noted cattle-breeder, forty head of choice Short-Horns, his entire stock, with the exception of two hulls. The price paid was about \$1000 each, and it now makes Mr. Sheldon the largest owner of fine Short Horn stock in the county.

THE two-year-old South Down wether, that took the first prize at the last New York State Fair, was recently killed, and weighed, when dressed, 125 pounds.

STANDARD OF CHARITY.—Men measure their charities by a peculiar standard. A man who has but a dollar in his pocket would give a penny for almost any purpose. If he had a hundred dollars, he might give one; carry it higher, and there comes a falling off. One hundred would be considered too large a sum for him who has ten thousand, while a present of one thousand would be deemed miraculous from a man worth one hundred thousand—yet the proportion is the same throughout, and the poor man's penny, the widow's mite, is more than the rich man's high-sounding and widely-trumpeted benefaction.

At a religious meeting among the blacks, a colored preacher requested that some brother should pray. Thereupon, half-witted Mose commenced a string of words entirely without meaning. At this the pastor raised his head and inquired, "Who dat praying? Dat you, brudder Mose? You let somebody pray dat's better acquainted wid de Lord."

Dr. Boynton mentions five square feet as the smallest possible allowance of space for each sheep in its winter quarters.

THERE is a prospect that the cotton crop of the present year will be much larger than that of 1866, and not much below the average crop raised previous to the war.

BAKED PLUM PUDDING.—One quart milk, six soft crackers, four eggs, half pound of raisins, salt and spicc. Bake from three to four hours. Make a good sauce for this pudding.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE AND THE PATRIOT FOR \$4.00 PER YEAR.

For the sum of FOUR DOLLARS, paid in advance, we will send the FARM AND FIRESIDE and the WOONSOCKET PATRIOT for one year. The subscription price of the latter, alone, is \$2.50. THE PATRIOT is an old established family newspaper, with the largest circulation of any country journal in New England.

Our Book Table.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES, by CHARLES DICKENS. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers.

If there was wanting evidence to prove the increasing popularity of Dickens's novels, we should enumerate the different editions now going through the press by four separate publishing houses. Messrs. Peterson have a priority (in connection with Harper & Brothers) in publishing the author's American edition; but Ticknor & Fields, and also Hurd & Houghton, are printing and publishing the same works in monthly volumes—notwithstanding the Messrs. Peterson and Harper & Brothers paid Mr. Dickens for manuscripts and advance proof sheets of all his works.

The April instalment is "A Tale of Two Cities," the time of the first French Revolution, and a wonderful tale it is; written in Dickens's graphic style; illustrated with sixty-four illustrations by McLenan, and bound in green morocco cloth. The paper in this volume is superior—an improvement on the issues of "Our Mutual Friend" and "David Copperfield." Price \$1.25.

SCHOOLDAY DIALOGUES. Compiled by Alexander Clark, A. M. Philadelphia: J. W. Daughaday & Co.

A three hours' ride by railway was measurably shortened by the perusal of this volume. It is admirably adapted for schools; the selections are judicious, ranging from the humorous to the pathetic; and the general arrangement good. Teachers and educators will find this a work of much value. The compiler is the editor of the "Schoolday Visitor"—the very best monthly for the little folks, published.



A KING ARRESTED.—King Henry VIII. used to walk his rounds by night in and about the city of London. One night on going his rounds with his large walking-staff, to see that the constables did their duty, he was stopped by one of them near London-bridge, who demanded what he did with such a weapon at that time of the night, upon which the King struck him; but the constable, calling the watchman to his assistance, his Majesty was apprehended, and carried to the Poultry Compter. He lay confined till morning, without either fire or candle; but when his rank was made known to the constable, he came trembling with fear, expecting nothing less than to be hanged, but the King applauded him for doing his duty, and made him a handsome present.



The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

(For the week ending April 12, 1867.)

Table listing various farm products and groceries with prices. Includes items like Hay, Straw, Coal, Oats, Flour, Corn Meal, Rye, Sileratus, Kerosene Oil, Butter, Cheese, Java Coffee, Mackerel, Raisins, Molasses, Y. I. Tea, Black Tea, Oil, Flind, Candles, Eggs, and Sugar.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

April 10, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1113; Sheep and Lambs 4017. Swine, 1200. PRICES. Beef Cattle—Extra, \$13.75 to \$14.50; first quality, \$13.00 to \$13.50; second quality, \$11.75 to \$12.50; third quality, \$10.50 to \$11.50 per 100 lbs. the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.) Country Hides, 8 1/2 to 9 1/2 lb. Country Tallow 6 1/2 to 7 1/2 lb. Brighton Hides, 9 1/2 to 10 lb. Brighton Tallow, 7 1/2 to 8 lb. Wool Sheep, \$1 75 to \$2 25. Green Sheep Skins, \$1 25 to \$2 25 per skin. Calf Skins, 13 to 20c per lb. There is a light supply of Cattle this week from all sections, and the quality upon an average is better. Prices have advanced from 1/4 to 1/2 of a cent per pound. Working Oxen.—Sales at \$160, \$170, \$190, \$225, \$255, \$275, \$290, \$300, \$310, and \$250 per pair. MILK COWS.—Sales extra \$10 to \$12; ordinary \$6 to \$7.50. Store Cows \$4 to \$5. Sheep and Lambs.—We quote sales of Sheep at 5, 6, 7, 7 1/2, 8, 9 and 10c per lb. There is a light supply in market, and the prices are higher than last week. Swine.—Wholesale, 8 to 8 1/2 cts per lb. retail, 8 1/2 to 10 cts per lb. There is but a few Store Pigs in the market, and not much of a demand for them. Fat Hogs—700 at market; prices, 9 to 9 1/2 cts per pound.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

There has been a great deal of excitement in the wholesale breadstuffs market during the past week, and prices of flour have advanced from fifty cents to a dollar a barrel. Prices are tending upward at the close. The wheat market has also been excited, and prices have advanced from fifteen to eighteen cents a bushel for Spring, and from ten to fifteen for Winter wheat. The demand has been largely speculative. The stock is materially reduced. Oats have been more active, and advanced from three to four cents a bushel, closing strong at seventy cents for good Western, and seventy-five cents for State. Corn has also been excited, and the transactions have been large both for export and investment. Rye has been in good request, and has advanced from eighteen to twenty cents a bushel, closing strong at \$1.50 for Western in store. Pork has been freely offered, and declined about a dollar a barrel. The stock proved to be larger than was anticipated. Cotton has declined, and closes steady at 25 cents for middling uplands, and 29 cents for New Orleans. Whiskey is more active and improved, Western selling freely at \$2.30 to \$2.51.

Marriages.

In Worcester, April 7th, Lester S. Wilson to Nellie E. Wetherell, both of Woonsocket. In Pawtucket, 4th instant, Mr. Walter S. Gardner to Miss Mary E. Robinson. Mr. James F. Coleman to Miss Eliza C. Potter. In East Providence, 1st instant, Mr. Daniel Wilmarth to Miss Susan M. Mann, both of Attleboro. In Grafton, April 4th, Henry A. Fairbanks to Anna M. Kinners, both of Westborough. March 28th, Cyrus B. Allen of Millbury to Mrs. Mary A. Bigelow of Grafton. April 24, Henry E. Brooks to Miss Irene J. Humes, both of G. In Attleborough, 5th ultimo, by Henry K. W. Allen, Esq., Alfred I. Keats of Wrentham, to Katharine Kruk of Attleborough.

Deaths.

In Providence, March 25th, Col. Joseph Wheelock, formerly proprietor of the "Union Home," Blackstone, aged 82 years. In Worcester, 6th instant, Mrs. Eliza D. Aldrich, wife of Ezekiel Aldrich Esq., formerly of Woonsocket, aged 64 years and 20 days. In Sutton, April 3d, Wm. Henry, son of William and Mary King, aged 27 years. In Bristol, 3d instant, Nathan Bardin, Esq., aged 89 years. In Hampton, Ct., 20th ultimo, Col. Samuel S. Mosely, aged 80 years. In Smithfield, 2d inst., Anrella, widow of Welcome Sayles, in the 55th year of her age; 6th inst., James, son of the late Jonathan Arnold, aged 48 years. In Foster, 25th ult., Alexander Peck, aged 83 years; Solomon Bennett, aged 73. In Valley Falls, 7th inst., Miss Evelina Cook, in the 77th year of her age. In Pawtucket, 30th ult., Mr. Thomas E. Pratt, in the 26th year of his age; 28th ult., Mr. Jonathan S. Sidebottom, in the 54th year of his age. In Upton, 24th ult., Hepzibah W. McFarland, aged 85 years. In Milford, 29th ult., Jeremiah Speedy, aged 27 years; Mrs. Margaret S. Harrington, aged 22 years and 12 days. In Hopkedge, 4th inst., Walter B., son of Thomas Dixon, aged 2 years and 3 months; Mary J. Southwick, aged 33 years and 9 months.

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.

New Advertisements.

Rhode Island.

NEW SEEDLING POTATOE.

COOKE'S RATTLER, a new and very superior Seedling, grown by Joseph J. Cooke, Esq., of Cranston, and now offered for sale as the best LATE KIND in the market. It is a rusty coated, light red, round, great yielding; white and perfect husked, and a splendid Table Potatoc. Price, \$3.00 per hundred. Sold only by W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I.

April 13, 1867. LADIES, ATTENTION!—A SILK DRESS PATTERN, or a SEWING MACHINE, sent free, for one or two days' service, in any town or village. Also, a gift sent free, by addressing with stamp, W. FISK & CO., 17 State Street, BOSTON, MASS. 4w-we-14

New York.

Great American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption, and therefore organized THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, to do away, as far as possible, with these enormous drains upon the Consumers, and to supply them with these necessities at the smallest possible price.

To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American houses, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

- 1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments—and some of the richest retired merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China. 2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas. 3d. The Importer makes a profit of 20 to 50 per cent in many cases. 4th. On its arrival it is sold by the cargo, and the Purchaser sells to the Speculator in invoices of 1,000 to 2,000 packages, at an average profit of about 10 per cent. 5th. The Speculator sells to the Wholesale Tea Dealer in lines at a profit of 10 to 15 per cent. 6th. The Wholesale Tea Dealer sells it to the Wholesale Grocer in lots to suit the trade, at a profit of about 10 per cent. 7th. The Wholesale Grocer sells it to the Retail Dealer at a profit of 15 to 25 per cent. 8th. The Retailer sells it to the Consumer for all the profit he can get.

When you have added to these EIGHT profits as many brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay. And now we propose to show why we can sell so very much lower than small dealers.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, one cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the name upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more. The cost of transportation the members of the club can divide equitably among themselves.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars, we will, if desired, send the goods by Express, to "collect on delivery."

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$30.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show. All goods sold are warranted to give satisfaction.

PRICE LIST:

- YOUNG HYSOON (Green), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. GREEN TEAS, 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. MIXED, 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 per lb. JAPAN, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. OOLONG (Black), 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 per lb. IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1 25 per lb. ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 20 per lb. GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1 25, best \$1 50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them.

Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Foo-Chow Blacks and Moyne Greens. English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the finest imported.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,

NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., corner of CHURCH.

Post-Office Box No. 5,643 New-York City.

COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, best 40c per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c. per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866.

To the Great American Tea Company,

Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York.

Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubled it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa.

MARTIN LUTHER.

- 10 lb Young Hyson, in pound packages, at \$1 25, \$12 50
5 lb Young Hyson, Dallas Jackson, at 1 25, 6 50
2 lb Young Hyson, Henry Herrick, at 1 25, 2 50
2 lb Young Hyson, George Murphy, at 1 25, 2 50
1 lb Young Hyson, E. Dye, at 1 25, 1 25
2 lb Young Hyson, Samuel Decker, at 1 25, 2 50
1 lb Young Hyson, Samuel Amon, at 1 25, 1 25
1 lb Young Hyson, Henry Wheatley, at 1 25, 1 25
7 lb Young Hyson, Morgan Hayes, at 1 25, 8 75
2 lb Young Hyson, John Natten, at 1 25, 2 50
4 lb Young Hyson, Mark Combs, at 1 25, 5 00
2 lb Young Hyson, John Allen, at 1 25, 2 50
8 lb Young Hyson, Miss Stuart, at 1 25, 10 00
2 lb Oolong, best, Miss Stuart, at 1 00, 2 00
2 lb Young Hyson, O. Bayland, at 1 25, 2 50
2 lb Oolong, best, O. Bayland, at 1 00, 2 00
2 lb Young Hyson, J. Richlein, at 1 25, 2 50
2 lb Young Hyson, Mr. Guyton, at 1 25, 2 50
2 lb Young Hyson, Edward Murphy, at 1 25, 2 50
2 lb Young Hyson, Mrs. Murphy, at 1 25, 2 50
5 lb Oolong, best, Henry Hull, at 1 00, 5 00
2 lb Oolong, best, Separate package, at 1 00, 2 00
5 lb Ground Coffee, Separate package, at 25, 1 75

\$4 00 We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.—LARGE DOUBLE STORE. 3m-8



The Apiary.

HOW DO BEES TRACK HONEY?

In the second edition of "The Bee Flora of Germany and Switzerland," its author, Dr. Alefeld, undertakes to show, by very plausible reasoning, that bees, when in quest of honey or pasturage, are guided, not by the sense of smell, but by that of sight.

Little as might be objected to this theory so long as it regards only individual bees in search of honey, there still remains the query, how do other bees become apprised of the discovery, and by what means are they guided to the spot where the blossoming field, or the accessible honey-pot is found? In my view, Dr. Alefeld should have answered this query; and as he has not done so, I submit the following solution:

Every observant bee-keeper is aware that the returning honey-laden bee is bee-sniffed as she drops on the alighting-board, or passes through the crowd at the entrance of her hive, and is at times even very officiously overhauled and pertinaciously detained by the vigilant guards there stationed. Whether or not she gives up to them any portion of her gleanings, matters not. She is examined and diligently watched, and when she re-issues, after storing away her contributions to the common fund, the guards, now on the "qui vive," eagerly brush the dust from their eyes with their front feet, and keenly scrutinize the direction of her flight. Before losing sight of her, one of the guards follows in hot haste; a second pursues in the same airy path, and is rapidly succeeded by a third and fourth; and thus, in due order and succession, they arrive at the place where the first prospecting explorer accidentally discovered the coveted nectar or exposed honey-pot.

This view is sustained by the facts—

1. That the bees of one colony in an apiary will sometimes long frequent a spot, or even rob a hive, before those of a neighboring colony will seem to be conscious of the game, or participate in the spoil. There must consequently be some mode by which the bees of the same colony are conducted to the place frequented. And the explanation I have given seems to be the most simple and natural.

2. That during the gathering season, the bees do not leave their hives in masses in the morning, but separately, one after another, in Indian file, passing on in a sort of "goose march" in the air to their journey's end; and the time of march being once established, bees of other colonies, not yet conversant of the way, may join in the procession to the quarry, and become partakers of the common spoil.—American Bee Journal.

BEES ROBBING PASTURE.—A dairyman once remarked that he did not like the community for dairying, on account of the bees which were pastured, the country keeping bees largely. This was a new thought, and opened the eyes of the by-standers, but it is true nevertheless. The saccharine principle is an important element in herbage. The white clover, which is one of the main reliances of the dairyman, is seriously robbed of its treasure by these roving thieves, at the expense of the sweetness of the milk, and the sugar generally necessary to a cow's benefit. It is a small matter, and overlooked, but has its force.—Cor. Rural World.

PROFITABLE BEES.—A writer in the Rural New Yorker, who had seven swarms of bees last Spring, foots up his profits thus: 9 new swarms at \$5, \$45; 150 pounds white clover honey at 30 cents, \$45; 50 pounds buckwheat honey at 25 cents, \$12.50; total, \$102.50 or nearly \$15 per swarm.

An Ohio farmer says that King birds when they capture a bee, first catch him between the feathers on the top of the head, retain the bee for a short time, and then free him, and the second capture is in the bill and then swallowed. While the bee remains in captivity on the top of the head, it stings into the thick tuft or scalp, thereby losing the sting.

BEES LOST IN SPRING.—Mr. Quimby, in his work on bees, says that to prevent bees leaving the hive in such numbers in the Spring, "a wide board should be set up before it, at least as high as the entrance in the side, to protect it from the sun. But if it grows so warm that the bees leave the hive when thus shaded, it is fair evidence that it will do to let them sally out freely, except in case of a new snow, when they should be confined to the hive.

The hive may be let down on the floor-board, the passage in the side covered with wire cloth, and made dark; raising at night again, a little, for ventilation.

It has been recommended to enclose the whole hive by a large box set over it, and made perfectly dark; with means for ventilation, &c. For large families this would do well enough, as would also some other methods. But I would rather take the chances of letting them all stand in the sun, and issue at pleasure, than to have the warmth of the sun entirely excluded from the medium sized families."

THE EGYPTIAN BEE.—The American Bee Journal says that through the agency of the "Society of Acclimation," at Berlin in Prussia, the variety of the honey bee prevalent in Egypt, has been imported and introduced in Germany. Mr. Vogel of Custrin, in whose charge the imported colony was placed by the Society, has been successful in multiplying stock, and preserving its purity, and several young queens have been sent to England. It is stated that arrangements have been made to bring this variety to this country at an early day. It differs from both the common and the Italian bee in size and making, and is stated to be quite as gentle in temperament as the latter, while the breed is more easily kept pure.

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 to carefully 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 very lightly, and then replace the turf.—Horticulturist.

MASSACHUSETTS' AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—Work on this institution, which is located at Amherst, was resumed last week.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of MEAD'S PATENT CONICAL PLOWS, SHARE'S HORSE HOES, WOOD'S AND WIGHT'S PLOWS, GARDEN BARROWS, CHASE'S TWO HORSE POTATOE DIGGERS, STORE TRUCKS, IMPROVED HINGER HARROWS, CULTIVATORS, ROAD SCRAPERS, OX YOKES, AND FLOW CASTINGS; And Wholesale Dealers in Hoes, Shovels, Axes, Scythes, Forks, Spades, Cradles, Horse Forks, Hand and Horse Rakes, Hay Cutters, Corn Shellers, Vegetable Cutters, Picks, Bars, Canal Barrows, Sugar Mills, Grindstones, Plain or Complete; And Agents for KNIFFEN'S, UNION AND PERRY'S MOWING MACHINES, Whilcomb's Patent Horse Rake, and the best Hay Tedder in the market. Prices low and Terms Cash. OFFICE, 32 CANAL STREET, PROVIDENCE, R. I. March 23, 1867.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Share's Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potato Diggers, Luffkin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Share'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.

FARMERS AND GARDENERS, ATTENTION!

SUBSTITUTE FOR PERUVIAN GUANO. BAUGH'S RAW BONE SUPER PHOSPHATE OF LIME, the BEST and CHEAPEST Manufactured Fertilizer in the United States, for Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, Corn, Potatoes, Buckwheat, Tobacco, Hops, Turnips, and all Garden Vegetables, Small Fruits, and every Crop and Plant. Particularly recommended to Cultivators of Strawberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, and all small Fruits, as far superior to any other Fertilizer in market.

Also, LODI MANUFACTURING CO.'S POINNETTE. Pamphlet of 90 pages, "How to Maintain the Fertility of American Farms," giving full information in regard to the use of Manures, &c., sent free, on application to JOSEPH HORGES & CO., Agents, Providence, R. I. 3w-we-12

W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I., Now offer at the LOWEST CASH PRICES,

- 2000 Sacks Prime Red Top, 500 Bags Western Herd Grass, 500 " Western and Northern Clover, 1500 Bushel Prime R. I. Bent, for Pastures, 300 " Seed Barley, 100 " Spring Rye, 3000 " Bedford Seed Oats, 100 " Early Goodrich Potatoes, 200 " Sebec Potatoes, 100 " Late White Peach Blows, 100 " Harrison Potatoes, 300 " Seed Peas, 100 " R. I. White Cap Corn, 100 " London Hort. and Concord Pole Beans, 200 " Buckwheat, 200 " Millet and Hungarian, White Dutch Clover, Orchard Grass, Onion Sets, and a complete assortment of GARDEN SEEDS,

Raised for us with great care. 200 Barrels dry ground Bone for Manure, together with all kinds of Farm Implements and Machinery. Send for Circular of Mead's Conical Plows and Share's Horse Hoes—and don't forget the number,

32 CANAL STREET, 32.

March 23, 1867. PROVIDENCE, R. I. we-1f

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

BARRETT'S EXTRA EARLY CABBAGE.—The best and largest in the market. Price, 25 cents a paper. Raised and sold by W. E. BARRETT & CO. Providence, Feb. 23, 1867. tf-7

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

EXTRA HEAVY PLOWS, for road work and for breaking up new land, made by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Massachusetts.

FRUIT TREES, GRAPES, SMALL FRUITS, ORNAMENTALS, &c.

WE have imported from foreign growers, and personally selected at the largest New England and New York Nursery Establishments, the choicest stock which we could find this season, and now offer to purchasers a general assortment of NURSERY STOCK,

first class in quality, complete in variety, and extensive in quantity, at very low rates. A descriptive catalogue of 40 pages mailed to applicants. Sample of the collection may be seen at our salesroom, basement of 28 & 30 Water street, Boston. Orders faithfully executed.

BENJ. T. WELLS & CO., Importers & Nursery Agents,—OFFICE, 7, WATER ST., BOSTON. April 7, 1867. 4w-we-13.

SOUTH DOWN CO.'S PATENT

Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

- It will not injure the most delicate animals. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers.

Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores.

JAMES F. LEVIN,

23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts.

For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & CO., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4m-we-9

CARROT AND MANGOLD WURTZEL SEED.

I raised the past season a fine lot of Long Red, Yellow Globe, and White Mangold Wurtzel Seed, and will send either variety, post-paid, to any address, for \$1.00 per lb. Also, Long Orange Carrot Seed, of my own growing, for \$1.25 per lb. I here offer an opportunity for all to procure Seed DIRECTLY FROM THE CROWER.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marlhead, Mass. 5w-ee-12 March 30, 1867.

BY MAIL, PREPAID.

CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS, NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CURRANTS, ROSES, BULBS, &c.

B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest

GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES,

FLOWERING PLANTS,

Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for Planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted. Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ee-12

COLLINS, BLISS & CO., PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

CASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS. 233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston. New England Agents for the

NON PARIEL FRENCH GUANO.

It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil.

PRICE \$60 PER TON. Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 8, 1867. 3m-we-9

Pennsylvania.

MENNENHALL'S IMPROVED SELF-ACTING HAND LOOM.

In these days of SHODDY, and high priced goods, every family in the country should have one.

HALF THE COST

of clothing a family can be saved by its use. It is simple and durable, easily understood, and easy to operate. No skill is required to weave with it beyond the simple turning of an easy crank. FROM 15 TO 35 YARDS CAN BE WOVEN ON IT IN A DAY.

FARMERS!

don't sell your wool and buy SHODDY, when with one of these Looms in your house the GIRLS can make all the clothing for the family, and much better quality, at half price. By late improvements, RAG CARPETS can be woven with the FLY SHUTTLE. For circulars, price list, and samples of cloth woven on the Loom, address with stamp, 333 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

Also, Dealers in Cotton Warp, Wool and Flax Filling Yarns, Reeds, Harness and Loom findings generally. March 2, 1867. p&w-1f

RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

THE STANDARD MANURE FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS.

Manufactured by POTTS & KLETT, Camden, N. J.

Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUGH, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of this Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is

FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD, IN QUALITY, and is in fine condition for drilling.

Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

YARNALL & TRIMBLE,

General Agents for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. 415 South Wharves, PHILADELPHIA. 419 Penn. Street, } March 23, 1867. 3m-ee-11

New York.

J. HICKLING & CO.'S GREAT SALE OF WATCHES.

On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a bandsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory!

- 500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750 500 Magic Cased Gold Watches.....200 to 500 500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled.....100 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....250 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....200 to 250 3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....150 to 200 5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....100 to 250 5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....50 to 150 5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....75 to 250 5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches.....50 to 250 10,000 Gold Hunting Lepines.....50 to 75 10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....50 to 100 25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....25 to 50 30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....10 to 75 Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partially shown. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a Watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious! A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$3, thirty-three and elegant premium for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premium for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us! Address, J. HICKLING & Co., 149 Broadway—Near P. O. City of New York. 3m March 22, 1867.

WHITE FRENCH TURNIP, of the purest kind, raised and sold in small or large lots, by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.



THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



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 OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

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

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1867.

NO. 15.



THE WHITE CHESTER BREED OF SWINE.

ABOUT BUYING COWS.

The White Chester Breed of Swine is not an original, but a "made-up" breed, being a cross between the best native stock of Chester county, Pennsylvania, and a Bedfordshire boar, imported by Captain James Jeffries more than forty years ago. They are "easy feeders," and return a greater weight and value for the food consumed, than any breed known.—When properly cared for, they have been known to gain a pound per day until they were two years old. They have attained a weight of over nine hundred pounds, and five hundred to six hundred pounds is very common. The stock is well distributed over the country, being most familiarly known in some localities as the "Chester County Whites."

The most approved and desirable points of the White Chester breed of swine, are length and depth of carcass, breadth of back, small bone, very small head in comparison with the size of carcass, full ham, shoulders full and well pushed towards the head, leaving little or no neck, heavy jaw, dish face, thin skin, straight hair and straight back. "I have always found," says Paschall Morris, "that a hog with a dish face, short nose, small head, and breadth between the eyes, is right nearly everywhere else, and is an easy and quiet feeder. On the other hand, a long nose, and a long and large head, indicate, in a general way, a hard and uneasy feeder and a great consumer."

While it must be admitted that the good points and properties of the Chester county breed are not so confirmed and established, that like will always beget like, there is yet, taking the best samples, so full a development of nearly perfect figure, quiet habits, and fattening tendencies, as to make a capital groundwork, which some energetic farmer may use as a starting point, as Bakewell, and Ellman, and Webb did with sheep, and bring up the White Chesters to a still higher standard and a more determined type. The hog is often the poor man's main reliance, and if his weight at a given age can be doubled on the same amount of food, a vast benefit will be conferred on the economic interests of the masses, and a large addition to the aggregate wealth of the country.

The most essential thing for a purchaser to know, is what it is that he wants to buy. This may seem a very commonplace observation, but more than half the disappointments in purchasing arise from an ignorance of that fact. A person wishes to buy a horse, or a cow, or a country place: he goes into the market for it, without having for a moment considered, what sort of a horse, or cow, or country place he requires. If he is fortunate enough to fall in with honest people, he may buy a good article; but ten to one, it is not the article he wants. Experience teaches us more to decide between the good and bad, than between what we want, and what we don't want. Every child knows good cake from bad cake; but very few, what sort of cake is good for them. It is that which experience teaches.

In speaking of cows, it is not possible to say what is the best cow, unless we know for what purpose she is wanted, and where she is to be put. Neither nature nor art, or both combined, have been able to unite in one animal the highest excellence for cream, milk and beef; one or the other of these qualities will preponderate, and it is this fact, that makes it necessary that we should decide in advance, for what particular purpose we desire a cow. If we do not desire any one of these qualities in excess, we can then, of course, select an animal that combines them all in the greatest degree.

A breed of cattle, is one that propagates its like. A good, common cow is not so likely to transmit her good qualities as one which is recognised to belong to a distinct breed. It is this power of transmission, which constitutes its peculiarity. You can by judicious crossing, keep up a fine race of animals, as is constantly done by skillful English breeders; but you cannot create a breed. The animals, like the mulatto, will either die out, or return to one or the other of the original types. In our country, where all emigrants who brought cattle at all, of course brought their best, we constantly meet with "common cows" having

the highest degree of excellence. This arises, probably, from a judicious, but accidental cross. If we could rely on perpetuating this stock, it would be all that could be desired; but here, as we have said, the difficulty begins. The offspring is much less likely to take after the mother, than in a stock or breed of fixed qualities.

Opinions, of course, vary very much as to the value of different breeds. Our own object has been to obtain the best quality of milk, combined with a reasonable quantity. For this, in our opinion, no animal equals the Alderney cow. The cattle bearing this name came from the Islands of Alderney, Jersey and Guernsey; and are more properly called "Chanel Island cattle." They, however, pass generally in England, under the name of Alderneys. They are called generally "Jersey cattle" in New England, the importations being mainly from that Island. This change of name does not recommend itself to us, as our proximity to the State of New Jersey, called ordinarily "Jersey," creates a misunderstanding when speaking of the Island of that name.

Of the three Islands, I prefer the "Guernsey Cattle." They are not so deer like, in appearance, but they are larger cattle, with larger teats, and more easily milked, and when dried off can be made to weigh a very fair weight. The Jerseys generally are smaller, more delicate, and are more attractive to the eye of the gentleman than the farmer.

These cattle are beginning to be pretty well known, and are the subject of frequent articles in our agricultural Journals. If I can add anything to what has been said already about them, in the *Farm and Fireside*, I will do so in a future number.

April, 1867.

[Note.—We shall be happy to publish anything from a gentleman so well qualified to write on improved breeds of cattle.—Editors of the *Farm and Fireside*.]

A ROMAN FARM—THE FARM OF CAMPO MORTO.

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

The great farm of Campo Morto, covers the very ground in the territory of Coriolanus and of Antium where the world renowned Coriolanus gained by his sword his glorious surname. This farm consists of seventeen thousand acres; four thousand of which is arable land; a little over five thousand, permanent pastures and meadows, and the balance forest. The arable land is divided into four lots, which are subject each to a different rotation of crops and fallows, according to the nature of the soil. One wheat crop is succeeded by two or three years' fallows, or the wheat crop is followed by oats and beans; or lastly, after the oats harvest in the second year, the ground is sown with Indian corn or beans, after which it is left fallow for one year, and then sown with wheat again. The wheat crop, in general, returns, as I was informed, nine for one; the other grains and beans, about fifteen. The cultivation of the farm requires about sixty-five ploughs, and three hundred and twenty

oxen; two hundred and fifty bullocks are kept fattening for the market, besides above eight hundred cows and calves, and about one hundred buffaloes. One hundred horses are required for the cattle drivers and servants of the farm, who are always mounted, as well as the carts &c., and two hundred and fifty mares and colts to keep up that number. Two thousand sheep graze on the farm. The agents and servants permanently employed amount to one hundred and eighty. About four hundred laborers are engaged from October to June, and about eight hundred in harvest time. The former are paid from twenty to thirty cents a day; the latter, about forty. They come down chiefly from the mountains of the Abruzzi and Sabina. The rent paid to the Chapter of St. Peters, who are the proprietors, amounts to about six thousand a year in our money. The whole produce of the farm is valued at about seventeen thousand dollars. But the expenses attending this great establishment swallow up so much of this sum, that the real profits of the farmer consist in his commercial and banking speculations, which he carries on by means of the produce of the farm.

Harvest commences about the fifteenth of June, and threshing, which immediately follows, is terminated by the tenth of July. From the speed with which the laborers work, one might suppose they were making an assault; and indeed no assault can be more formidable; for those poor workmen, who are accustomed to the pure air of the mountains, instead of the malaria, to which numbers become victims every year. After the first of July, nature seems in a state of decay on the plains: the deserted pasturage is scorched up, and the roots alone of some ligneous plants are the only remains of extinguished vegetation. The trees appear to have undergone the action of fire; the earth becomes dust, and rises in continual whirlwinds; not a living creature is to be seen; no bird interrupts the silence of the fields; the sky is clear and strangely azure; but the distant view of the horizon presents that exquisite harmony of color, which great painters have been able to represent.

April, 1867.

NEW TOMATOES.—Hovey's Magazine names eight new varieties of the tomato, all brought to notice within the past year or two, several of which possess many excellencies. Keyes' Early Prolific, which originated in Worcester, Mass., seems to stand foremost on the list. The plant is dwarf in its habit and can be planted near together. The fruit is of medium size, round, quite smooth, and free from ribs, and of a very brilliant color. The flesh is solid, of the color of a blood orange, and of a brisk flavor, inclining to sweetness. Seeds not half the size of the Tilden, and few in number.

It has been ascertained that well cured hay, weighed in the field, July 20, and then stored in the barn until February 20, had lost 27½ per cent. of its weight. It is, therefore, better to sell hay in the field at \$15 a ton, than from the barn at \$20 in mid-winter.

BET SUGAR.—A company is about being organized in New York, with a large capital, for the purpose of establishing a beet sugar manufactory at the West, where beets are cheaply raised. Such an establishment has just been started at Chatsworth, Illinois. The Prairie Farmer says ninety barrels of sugar were received from this factory, at Springfield, on the 26th of March. It is estimated that by proper attention to this matter, eighty millions of dollars which we annually send away for sugar, might be saved, employment given to thousands of persons, and the national debt earlier cancelled.—

If this estimate is correct, the matter is worthy of serious consideration.

The Field.

SPRING SEEDING.

WE believe it is conceded on all hands that clover is best sown in the Spring, and this is the best Spring you ever saw for putting in red clover and now is just the time to put it in. Red clover, as an alternating crop, is, and is to be, the great regenerator of our soil. As a forage crop, it is unrivalled by any of the class of legumes, to which it belongs, being not strictly one of the grasses. There is nothing better than red clover for a Summer hog pasture; no kind of hay better for cows and horses than clover, properly cured, and no better green crop to plow under for wheat land. A good deal more might be said about red clover, and how nicely it comes in with sheep raising, and we advise all farmers having land suitable for this crop, to pitch right in now and sow lots of red clover.

There are a variety of opinions about the propriety of raising oats as a general farm crop; but many farmers will continue to cultivate oats, and the grain of oats will very properly continue to be a staple feed for horses and sheep, wherever it can be had. The best time to put in oats is as early in the Spring as the ground is fit to be worked, and earlier than farmers generally think best to work land for other Summer crops. Oats may be sown in the mud, if the mud is of a kind that will not turn to brick by the operation.

Now is the time for sowing the seed of Kentucky blue grass in open fields. For a permanent pasture, no grass is more generally esteemed and no cultivated grass that will stand by, like the Kentucky Blue grass. In Northern Ohio this grass never shows the luxuriance which it attains in its best state, in the latitude of Southern Ohio and Kentucky, where it is truly the glory of the field and the wealth of the farmer.—*Ohio Farmer.*

STARTING SWEET POTATO PLANTS.

J. W. C., Lower Pennsneck, Salem county, N. J., who last year grew 170,000 hills of sweet potatoes, gives the readers of the Agriculturist his method of raising the plants for setting:

Select a high piece of ground, sheltered from cold winds by a fence or bushes, and dig a pit fifteen inches deep, five feet wide, and two feet in length for each bushel of tubers—ten bushels requiring a trench five feet wide and twenty feet long. Upon the margins of the pit, set on edge boards, six inches wide, and hold them in place by driving stakes inside of the pit, and banking earth against them on the outside. Fill the pit twelve inches deep with coarse hay or cornstalks, or other litter, and dampen it by the use of one pail of water to every three feet in length of the bed. Upon the litter place four inches of good horse manure, level off well and then put on four inches of light sand soil, and it is ready to receive the seed potatoes.

We differ here in one practice. As to time of planting, some plant immediately, and others wait for the heat to rise in the bed. I prefer to plant the day the bed is made, as there is no delay nor loss of heat in case a cold storm should come. Lay in the whole potatoes as close as may be, without their touching one another, and cover them with light soil about two inches deep. When this is done, the bed will be filled within two inches of the top of the slats on the edges; now cover the whole with hay, allow it to be one foot high on the edges, and four feet high in the center. After the bed has been prepared thus it may be left to itself for a few days, but in three or five days it must be examined; make a hole in the hay and thrust in your arm; if the temperature is more than blood heat, leave holes open here and there in the hay. If the heat increases, turn the hay over and air it; and if this does not moderate the heat sufficiently, remove the hay altogether. If the sun shines hot after the hay has been removed, we put rails across the bed and throw on a little bay, to prevent damage from too great an increase of heat. In eight or ten days after the heat starts, the hay may be left off entirely in the middle of the day, as

the plants will need airing, and to be covered up at night. When the nights become warm, the covering is left off entirely. In this neighborhood we make the beds from the first to the middle of April.

ACTION OF LIME ON SOILS.

THE distinguished chemist Boussingault has just read before the French Academy of Sciences, a paper on the employment of lime in agriculture. It has not yet been published, but M. Barrai gives the following as the substance of it, which we translate from the Journal d'Agriculture Pratique:

Lime introduced into an arable soil sets at liberty a certain quantity of azote in the state of ammonia; the azote elements were before united in insoluble combinations not assimilable to plants; the action of the lime sets them free, and permits a part of the capital buried in the soil to be utilized for the next crop. If this was the whole effect of lime, of which the experiments of Boussingault afford evidence, small doses of it at once ought to be counseled, because the quantity of ammonia produced does not increase in proportion to the quantity of lime used. But as heavy limings produce incontrovertible effects in certain cases, it must consequently be admitted that lime exerts an action of some other kind upon the elements of the mold. Boussingault thinks that certain minerals, such as potash and silica may be liberated in the soil by the lime; that other substances injurious to plants are destroyed or modified by the same agent, and that to these effects is added, moreover, a physical action, changing the constitution of the land. The action of lime is thus excessively complex, and its good effects can only be explained by studying attentively the special circumstances under which they are produced. The grand fact proven by the present researches of this agricultural savant is, that there exists in this mold, as well as in the form of organic matters, a host of substances completely inert for vegetation until the moment when some proper agent renders them assimilable by plants. The continuance of experiments upon the method devised by Boussingault can alone clear up these excessively complex facts, and point out to our agriculturists the most effective process. The discovery of methods which conduce to truth is often the greatest service that can be rendered to science and to art.

CULTIVATION OF SMALL FARMS THE MOST PROFITABLE.

THE Vermont Farmer gives a very interesting report of a discussion by the members of the Farmers' Club held at Brandon, on the comparative merits of farming on large and small farms. Judge June claimed that labor on a farm should be concentrated upon a small piece of land, and not spread over a large tract; to work a little here and a little there, was not profitable. The work was diluted, became weak, and but little was accomplished. Witness the result of concentrated labor near Boston and New York, where every foot is made to produce a large crop. The farmers of England, by concentrating all their labor upon a small piece of land, produce immense crops. It is better for a man to bestow all his labor on two acres than to put the same labor on ten acres. The product of a well cultivated field is worth more by the bushel than a poor crop—weighs more and has more heart. He said the old proverb that that "which was worth doing at all was worth doing well," was true of farming. Stephen Girard was a far seeing man, and by watching the operations of government was enabled to so shape his business as to take advantage of the high tide every time, and amassed an immense fortune. So should our farmers watch the movements of government and the markets, and so shape their stock and crops as to have their dishes right side up every time. Among other things, study to be ready to supply the wants of the community. Every State should raise its own breadstuffs, and thereby in a great measure prevent the hard pressure in the money market. At one time it was all wool, wool, and everybody went to raising wool, and sending their money out West for flour. The consequence was that

the price of wool went down, and many farmers went down too, with wool on their hands and mortgages on their farms.

SUGAR CULTURE IN LOUISIANA.—We copy from the Price Current a list of the sugar plantations of Louisiana, and the products thereof the last year. It has been compiled by our friend, Mr. Young, with his usual care and accuracy, and is believed to be very nearly complete. The estimates for the entire crop range from 40,000 to 42,000 hogsheads. Of the number of acres planted this year, we have no positive information, but it is known to be much greater than last year, and the coming crop estimates range from 80,000 to 100,000 hogsheads. As high as \$200 per arpent has in some instances been paid for seed cane by parties wishing to resume the business of sugar-making. The Price Current's estimate of last year's product of molasses is 65,000 barrels.—*N. Y. Picayune.*

ROTATION OF CROPS.—Never plant twice successively on the same ground. Change your seed every year, and if possible get them from another section of the country.

The Poultry-Yard.

FEEDING POULTRY.

ONIONS are said to be an admirable food for fowls, or rather an adjunct food. If given regularly, it is said that they will prevent the attack of the more ordinary diseases of poultry. Meat is said by some to be an essential food for poultry, especially in winter, when they cannot get the worms they pick up in Summer. Others, again, maintain that the habit of giving meat to poultry is productive of grave evils—the cause of many of the worst forms of disease which affect them. By these authorities it is called unnatural food, inasmuch as the digestive organs of the birds are not fitted to assimilate it. There must, we think, be some mistake in all this; for we know of a surety that fowls devour, when they can get it, and entirely of their own accord, an enormous quantity of animal food; here it is not cooked; the game found in nature's garden is raw. If meat is an unnatural food for poultry, they certainly have a most unnatural appetite for it. Throw in one lump of meat among a lot of fowls; if not literally a bone of contention, it is something vastly like it, so eager are all to get a grab at it. We believe the habit of giving much food in a short space of time to poultry is a bad one. If you notice their habit you will perceive that the process of picking up their food under ordinary, or what we may call the natural condition, is a very slow one. Grain by grain does the meal get taken, and with the aggregate no small amount of sand, small pebbles, and the like, all of which, passing into the crop, assist digestion greatly. But in the "hen's wife" mode of feeding poultry, a great heap is thrown down, and the birds allowed to "peg away" at such a rate that their crops are filled too rapidly, and the process of assimilation is slow, painful and incomplete. No wonder that so many cases of choked crop are met with under this treatment.—*Mark Lane Express.*

To have the poultry-yard profitable, the fowls should not be kept until they are old. There is no objection to preserving a favorite cock, so long as is it active and lively, but hens after three years will not produce as many eggs as those of one or two years. Much, however, is depending on the breed kept, so far as good layers are concerned.

SOME of the early-laying hens will begin to show a desire to incubate, and if early chickens are desired, it is best to humor this propensity and let them sit. See that they have selected a safe warm place, where they will not be disturbed by other hens depositing their eggs to the general food. Eleven to thirteen eggs, as fresh as possible, should be given her, and a date, twenty-one days in advance, should be marked in a conspicuous place on the nest-box.

THE unnatural practice of fattening poultry by cramming is very common in France, and is described as follows: The fowls are closely confined in dark pens, where they cannot move, and get but little air. Aided by the light of a lamp, the poultryman takes three fowls at once, ties them altogether by the feet, and resting them on his knees, forces paste pellets down their throats every twenty-four hours. The finer specimens of poulardes (hens) attain a weight of upwards of eight pounds, the cocks, thirteen pounds; and these weights are sometimes exceeded. Another mode of artificial feeding termed *entonnage*, is by causing the fowls to swallow, by means of a funnel inserted into the mouth, farinaceous substances in a liquid state. In some instances, "vermieres" are established in France for the purpose of breeding maggots from putrid flesh to feed poultry on. It might not be wise for epicures to enquire too particularly into the origin of some of their favorite viands.

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 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 in Winter. Now, in our country, in a gentleman's fowl yard, there is not an egg to be got in cold weather, but the warmth of the poor man's cabin insures him an egg even in the most ungenial season.

It has generally been supposed that there would be a great difficulty in rearing chickens hatched in February and March, on account of the cold; but, with proper accommodations and conveniences, it is found more certain than those hatched in June. Many persons fail in raising chickens for want of a little attention to them at this season of the year.

A correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph says that when he finds a hen on the nest that he does not want to set, he puts her in a large coop where it is light, and puts a rooster in with her. There is no setting done in that coop in the day time, and in two or three days the hen may be let out, and will soon go to laying again.

Miscellany.

THE VIBRATIONS OF SOUND AND COLOR.—The deepest note which the human ear perceives as a continuous sound, it is said, is produced by sixteen vibrations a second; the most acute by forty-eight thousand vibrations. The extremes of color, it is said, are red and violet, the former being given by 458,000,000 vibrations of light per second, and the latter by 727,000,000,000 vibrations.

TRANSPLANTING TREES.—Mark the North side of trees with red chalk before they are taken up, and when set out have the tree put in the ground with its North side to the North, in its natural position. Ignoring this law of nature is the cause of so many transplanted trees dying. If the North side is exposed to the South, the heat of the sun is too great for that side of the tree to bear, and therefore it dries up and decays.

A NEW GAS LIGHT.—An ingenious, but certainly not very inviting mode, of procuring gas for illuminating purposes has been proposed in France. A French chemist estimates that a human corpse of ordinary dimensions, by a process of combustion in retorts, may be made to yield 7500 cubic feet of illuminating gas, at a cost of about \$1.60. This process is certainly making light of death.

The sugar crop of Cuba is estimated at from 15,000 to 20,000 hogsheads larger than last year.

COMBUSTIBLE PAPER.—It is stated by a London newspaper that there is a common reddish-yellow paper which, in some circumstances, is as dangerous as gunpowder. It takes fire by the smallest spark, and burns like tinder. When once lighted, if left alone, it is sure to be consumed completely. All the yellow and buff paper out of which envelopes are made, partakes more or less of the same character. A spark of fire, or the stump of a lighted cigar, falling in a waste basket containing yellow envelopes, with other kinds of paper, would have a good chance of setting the whole on fire, causing a general conflagration. If this is true, people should be cautious and not allow this kind of paper to accumulate in or around their premises.



The Fireside Muse.

ROBIN'S RETURN.

There's not a green blade yet
Whereupon a breeze could play;
The bare brown earth is wet
With the rain of yesterday;

Snow on the mountain side,
Never a leaf on the tree,
Never a spray to hide
A nook where a nest may be;

O, Robin, he can sing
Where not a flower can thrive;
Musical of the Spring,
The blithest thing alive;

The while he caroleth,
Our hearts are lighter grown,
We almost feel the breath
Of violets new-blown;

The Stock-Yard.

A ONE THOUSAND DOLLAR COW.

A CORRESPONDENT in a late number of the Cultivator and Country Gentlemen, gives an account of a remarkable cow owned by Mr. Seammon of Stratham, N. H.

Most of our readers will remember the celebrated Oaks cow—one of the so-called native breed, and bought out of a drove in Massachusetts for a mere trifle.

This is really a most remarkable yield, and will require strong proof to be generally believed. Making the liberal allowance of ten pounds of milk for one of cheese the product of this cow for the year would be 1,454 pounds of cheese, and about three times as much as the average of first class dairies in Oneida or Herkimer counties, and at least twice as much as the average of the best.

Estimating that cheese is worth 18 cents per pound, this cow would give her owner the snug little sum of \$261.72 in cheese per annum, to say nothing of whey for feeding swine, or if the butter be put at 50 cents per pound, we would have her annual product amount to \$305.

A statement is made of Mr. Seammon's management in feeding. The cow gets good hay and generally two quarts of meal per day when she gives milk. In Summer he gives her four quarts of meal per day until July, then decreases to two quarts, and after haying turns her out to grass, and gives no more meal.

DURATION OF AND TIME FOR SLEEP.—Mothers and nurses should endeavor to accustom infants from the time of their birth to sleep in the night preferable to the day, and for this purpose they ought to remove all external impressions that may disturb their rest, such as noise, light, etc., but especially they should not obey every call for taking them up and giving them food at improper times.

tice, we do not understand that she is offered by her owner for sale.

A cow six years old with a record like the above is by no means dear at the figures named, since, if the principle that like begets like holds true, one could hope to get a line of dairy stock that would command the admiration of the world, and fill the owner's pockets with a good supply of greenbacks.—Utica Herald.

RULES FOR COW MANAGEMENT.—Cows should run dry six weeks before calving; if milked closely towards 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.

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, be careful to milk closely the first year, until about six weeks before calving.

Spring cows should come in while they are yet fed on hay, and before they are turned to grass, which will be more likely to prevent caked hag and milk fever.

DISEASED POTATOES—EFFECT ON CATTLE.—John Haynes, Londonderry, N. H., writes N. H. Mirror and Farmer concerning the had effect produced on cattle by feeding them with rotten or partially decayed potatoes. An acquaintance of his fed his cows with them and lost three of the number in a short time.

BEANS FOR SHEEP.—In a late number of the Country Gentleman, Mr. J. Winne, in giving his experience in feeding sheep with beans says:

"They are a feed, however, that must be fed very carefully at beginning, and until the sheep become accustomed to them. An over feed of beans at any time will cloy them sooner than any grain I have ever fed; I always mix them when I commence feeding, with oats, buckwheat or shorts for the first three or four weeks, and gradually lessening the light feed; and although I have been feeding my sheep (the most of them) this Winter over four weeks, and have 1,700 bushels of beans, I am still obliged to mix in some light feed to keep them all right."

POINTS IN A GOOD MILKER.—A correspondent in the Country Gentleman says:

"In selecting a milker, look well to the udder. Before milking it should be wide and broad, not hanging down like a sack; and hard and shiny, nearly destitute of hair, and what there is should be fine, short and bright. After milking, the udder should be soft, and apparently a skin bag. If, after milking, the udder is hard and full, it shows that it is flesh, not milk, that distends it."

THE veterinary editor of Wilke's Spirit of the Times recommends the following for scratches in a horse: Take sulphate of zinc, one drachm, glycerine two ounces; apply every morning.

Various Matters.

RUSSIAN-AMERICA.

THE following is the substance of information in regard to Russian-America, derived from Professor Baird of the Smithsonian Institute:

MEANS OF INFORMATION.—Has had two explorers in that field between one and two years, who returned last Autumn, bringing a collection of specimens of natural history, extending from the British possessions to the shores of the polar sea.

CLIMATE, TEMPERATURE.—The coast from Prince of Wales' Island to the entrance of Behring's Straits, during the Winter months is about the same as at the city of Washington. Little snow, much rain. During the Summer months very foggy.

TIMBER.—Whole country, well up to the northern coast, heavily timbered, chiefly hard pine forests; small trees up to the very shores. Some of the islands heavily timbered with pine forests and dense underbrush; some of them destitute of timber, and covered with grass of luxuriant growth.

The soil on the west coast produces excellent barley and roots, such as radishes, turnips, and esculents, such as lettuce, cabbage, &c.

ANIMALS.—Furred animals, such as sea otter, river otter, sable, furred seal, mink, foxes, black, silver, red, &c., in great numbers. Red deer in the south, reindeer in the north.

FISH.—Herring, salmon, halibut and codfish abound in exhaustless numbers. Behring's sea and northward, great whales are very numerous.

MINERALS.—Surface washings of gold have been discovered on head-waters of streams, on east side of coast range of mountains. Geological developments the same on west slopes.

Native copper has been discovered in various places on the coast, and in the vicinity of Copper river.

Iron ore of excellent quality, and believed to exist in exhaustless quantity, now being smelted and worked by Russian artisans in repairing ships, &c. Coal is found in large quantities, used by the Russians for naval purposes, similar to New Brunswick coal, not equal to Cumberland coal. Recent discoveries have been made of what is believed to be a better quality of coal, not yet tested.

INHABITANTS.—Five or six thousand Russians, and fifty or sixty thousand Indians and Esquimaux. The Esquimaux inhabit the coast on the Northern Sea, are industrious, peaceable, and tractable, and live by hunting and fishing. The Indians inhabit the interior, are peaceable, and live by hunting, fishing and trapping.

THE WOODPECKER'S FORESIGHT.—The woodpecker in California is a storer of acorns. The tree he selects is invariably of the pine tribe. He bores several holes differing in size, at the Fall of the year, and then flies away, in many instances to a long distance, and returns with an acorn, which he immediately sets about adjusting to one of the holes prepared for its reception, which will hold it tightly in its position. But he does not eat the acorn; for, as a rule, he is not a vegetarian. His object in storing away the acorn exhibits acute foresight, and knowledge of results more akin to reason than to instinct. The succeeding Winter the acorn remains intact, but becoming saturated with rain, is predisposed to decay, when it is attacked by maggots, who seem to delight in this special food; it is then that the woodpecker reaps the harvest his wisdom has provided, at a time when, the ground being covered with snow, he would experience a difficulty, otherwise, in obtaining suitable or palatable food. It is a subject of speculation why the red-wood cedar or the sugar-pine is invariably selected; it is not probable that the insect, the most dainty to the woodpecker's taste, frequents only the outside of wet trees; but so it is, that in Calaveras, Mariposa, and other districts of California, trees of this kind may be frequently seen covered all over their trunks with acorns when there is not an oak tree within several miles.—A. B. Barton.

The crops in Texas are looking remarkably well.

A GARDEN OF ACCLIMATION.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Agricultural Report, for February, writes from Little Valley, New York, as follows:—

"I notice in your annual report of 1865 that you recommend the establishment of a government garden of acclimation, from whence the lama, cashmere goat, and improved breeds of domestic fowls might be distributed to different parts of the country. I highly approve this suggestion, and would name several native animal which I think should be among the first to claim attention, viz: the American elk or great wapiti deer, the heaver, the Hudson Bay sable, the mink, and otter. For fifteen years I have been experimenting to ascertain if some of our native wild animals could not be domesticated and become valuable additions to the wealth of the country. I commenced with the elk, and, although attended with some difficulty, for the want of experience in the commencement, the result has been a success, having bred and raised forty elk on my farm. Four years since I commenced experimenting with the mink, and, as with the elk, I found that it required some experience or skill to manage the wild ones taken from the woods until they should rear their first young, but with the second generation the difficulties were overcome, and it proves comparatively easy to raise them in large numbers. The great demand for these furs has nearly annihilated the race. My success with the mink, and the information obtained in relation to the beaver, Hudson Bay sable, and otter, give me great confidence in the ultimate success with these fur bearing animals."

TIMBER AND RAINFALL.

ACCORDING to Rentesch, a German authority, the proportion of forest or woodland required for an agricultural country, in order to secure it a regular and sufficient rainfall without violent storms, is twenty-three per cent. in interior regions, and twenty per cent. near the coast. This estimate relates to Germany. The same writer estimates that five per cent. of timber is sufficient for England. An English authority, Sir Henry James, regards this last estimate too high for England, deeming 2.5 per cent. of timber sufficient. It is probable that the percentage of timber required in Germany is less than would be necessary in the level regions of our own section, as mountains exert an important influence upon the amount of rainfall.

The following interesting account of the influence of timber upon rainfall and springs is taken from Boussingault's Rural Economy:

"The Wolf-spring in the Commune of Sonbey, France, furnishes a remarkable instance of the influence of woods upon fountains. A few years ago this spring did not exist. At the place where it now rises, a small thread of water was observed, after very long rains, but the stream disappeared with the rain. The spot is in the middle of a very steep pasture, inclining to the South. Eighty years ago the owner of the land perceiving that some firs were shooting up in the upper part of it, determined to let them grow, and they soon formed a flourishing grove. As soon as they were well grown, a fine spring appeared in place of the occasional rill, and furnished abundant water in the longest drought. For forty or fifty years this spring was considered the best in Clos-du-Donbs. A few years since, the grove was felled, and the ground turned again to a pasture. The spring disappeared with the wood, and is now as dry as it was ninety years ago."

THE fireside is a school of importance; it is important because it is universal, and because the education it bestows, being woven in the woof of childhood, gives form and color to the whole texture of life.

SCRATCH the green rind of a sapling, or wantonly twist it in the soil, and a scarred or crooked oak will tell of the act for years to come. How forcibly does this figure show the necessity of giving right tendencies to the minds and hearts of the young.





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, APRIL 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.

RICE GROWING ON THE PACIFIC.

No State has made greater progress in agriculture within the past ten years than California. Her grain fields are a marvel even to her own citizens, and her wheat crop promises to be more valuable than her gold productions. The superiority of her wheat has made a demand for it even in the Eastern States, and immense cargoes are received every month in our Atlantic cities. In Europe, California wheat commands a better price than wheat grown in England, France or Russia. This fact is rather flattering to the pioneer farmers on the Pacific, and alike complimentary to American agriculture.

But the Californians are not satisfied with raising the best wheat in the world, and are now turning their attention to the cultivation of rice. The "Farmer," published at San Francisco, says a species of "high land rice" (probably a Japan variety), has been grown at Antioch, and other parts of the State, and urges the importance of rice growing to the agriculturists on the Pacific slopes. We have no doubt of the practicability of this enterprise, and are satisfied that on the table lands, the crop would be a remunerative one. In addition to a favorable soil, they have a Chinese population familiar with the culture of rice; a class that is satisfied with small wages, a mere subsistence—and a promise of having their bones carried back to China. In the rice-fields of our Southern States, it is necessary to flood the crop at certain stages of growth; and so they would have to do in California if they cultivated the same variety. Small crops can be grown any where south of the 35th parallel, provided it is properly irrigated. "Highland Rice," like "Upland Cranberries," we suspect, are profitable crops in the columns of an agricultural journal; but not very remunerative to the practical grower—unless it may be in California.

This idea of growing rice on the big lands of the Pacific territory, impresses us once more with the diversities of our country; of the varieties of its soil; of its multitudinous geological formations; of its different climates and of its wondrous extent and fertility. Here, in the New England and Middle States, we are subject to greater extremes of heat and cold than they are East of the Rocky Mountains. While we have frost, snow and almost Arctic winds, our neighbors on the Pacific have days of genial sunshine, pattering showers and garden luxuries. Again, while we are making ourselves comfortable around anthracite and wood fires, our friends on the Gulf of Mexico are luxuriating on tropical fruits; are sporting sun-shades and palm-leaf hats, and are grateful for the shadow of a building or the shade of the forests. No nation has greater diversity of climate or of productions. In the language of flowery oratory, "God's great ploughshare is running all the year round in these United States—subsoiling and ameliorating our fields and covering them with golden harvests."

THE CURCULIO.—It seems to be the belief of Dr. Trimble, Dr. Asa Fitch, Mr. Walsh, and others familiar with the habits of insects infesting our fruit trees, that the curculio breeds in the cherry, and the great bulk of the eggs so deposited will come to maturity unless artificially destroyed. For this reason cherry trees, standing alone in out-of-the-way places, should be cut down, and all punctured fruit should be destroyed.

CLUBBING WITH THE FARM AND FIRESIDE.—In reply to the numerous inquiries from our friends of the Press, we state that we will club our journal with theirs, at one dollar and fifty cents per annum. Subscriptions to commence with the volume.

MOVE TOWARDS A BETTER LIFE.—Do not keep your boys corn shelling all the long winter evenings. Make your farm a place that your sons and daughters cannot help loving. Cultivate the trees—they are God's messengers. Don't say that you care nothing for looks. You do care, else why did you build that two-story white house, with blinds, and capola into which you never go? Or why did you, years ago, carefully brush your coat and pluck up your shirt collar when you were starting, on a Sunday evening, to visit that good woman who now shares your home? It will cause your wife to be more contented, your children to remain more in the house, and contribute immeasurably to your own happiness. Such is the experience in homes of this character.

SEASONABLE HINTS.

PLANT a few rows of peas at intervals of ten days apart throughout the month. You can thus continue the supply for family use or for the market far into the Summer. Sow radish seed weekly, so that you may have them crisp. If you have celery plants grown, and of sufficient size, set them out. Trim off the old wood from gooseberries and currants; dig in around the bulbs some well-rotted manure.— If you desire to form new beds, insert your cuttings ten or twelve inches apart, in rows two feet apart. The Cherry and White Grape Currants are the best. The Houghton and American Seedling Gooseberries never mildew.

Finish up all the preparatory work in the flower garden. Have plenty of roses, especially the ever-blooming sort; cut back well at planting. The China sorts bloom all Summer. Transplant hardy annuals, but if the nights are still cool, keep the tender ones under glass.— Set out bulbs of Gladiolus and Japan Lilies.— If the soil of the borders is poor, fork in some rich compost.

If you have not pruned your garden fruit trees, and if they really need pruning, attend to it at once. If your trees received from the nursery are shrivelled, bury them, root and branch, until the bark becomes plump. If any have started in the package, cut them back severely. Gions may be cut if the buds have not started. Grafting may be done as soon as the buds begin to swell. Root grafts can now be planted in nursery rows. Old orchards can be rejuvenated by generous cultivation and manuring.

Feed your horses regularly, and work them regularly, allowing them long "noons." Bed cows that are near calving, freely; give roomy stalls; a good sunning daily, and some roots if possible. Encourage milk secretion in new milk heifers by milking thrice a day. Give ewes at weaning time warm sheds and sunny yards. Be on the look out for chilled or feeble lambs.

THE ROBIN IN JUDGMENT.—In nursery legends the absorbing question used to be, "who killed Cook Robin?" The question at present, with us, is whether the robin is more "ornamental than useful"—whether "his room is to be preferred to his company." Mr. J. N. Martin, of Barrington, R. I., writes to us that he agrees with Mr. J. W. Mathewson in considering the robin a nuisance and a pest. Other contributors range themselves pro and con in the issue. Mr. Elisha Slade, of Somerset, Mass., says, in the Agricultural Reports for 1865: "I know that the robin (*Turdus Migratorius*) devours innumerable quantities of flies and their maggots." Our contributor S. S. R., of Lancaster, Pa., has lately turned his attention to insectivorous birds. Can we not engage him, in this trial, as an attorney in behalf of master Robin?

LANGUISHING EVERGREENS.—No body likes to see the evergreens around their dwellings languishing. In such cases it will be found, upon examination, that the ground is too dry and gravelly. Evergreens thrive best in moist, loamy soil, such as is natural to the mountains where they grow. The evil can be obviated by trenching, and working in peat or muck. The American Agriculturist says that the soil should be kept cultivated around all hedges and evergreens for several years after planting, and when well established, should be well enriched with manure.

LARGE SALE OF SHORT-HORNED CATTLE.—James O. Sheldon, of Geneva, N. Y., recently purchased of Samuel Thorne, Dutchess county, N. Y., forty head of Short-Horned cattle, for forty thousand dollars. This is the largest single sale of this breed of cattle that was ever made in this country.

EMPIRE SHEEP FAIR.—The Third Annual Fair of the "New York State Sheep Breeders and Wool Growers' Association," is to be held at Auburn, May 8th and 10th. Premiums are offered on fine Delaine wool lambs; also on long-wooled and middle-wooled sheep. The prizes range from three to forty dollars.

PEACH PROSPECTS.

INFORMATION from Delaware leads us to believe that peach buds, in Kent county, have been partially destroyed. From New Castle county, we have more favorable reports; also from the Eastern shore of Maryland. We know that it is customary for similar reports to originate with unprincipled growers of the peach, about this season of the year. But the above information can be relied upon.

Coleman's Rural World, published at St. Louis, Missouri, tells a gloomy tale of peach prospects in that State; but speaks favorably of the coming crop in Southern Illinois. The following extract is from the above named Journal, April 1st.

The peach buds North of the latitude of St. Louis are generally destroyed. We understand that at Alton there are hopes of a part of a crop. Near the city of St. Louis, and particularly on old trees standing in meadows, one half of the buds are unhurt. Seedlings sustained very little damage.

Young orchards in the vicinity of St. Louis are quite seriously damaged, and will probably produce no perfect fruit, as the Curculio will take what the frost has left. The buds are more than half killed in Southern Illinois.

On the morning of the 14th of March, at our residence, five miles west of St. Louis, the thermometer stood 4° below zero. This degree of cold would not have affected the buds—but for several days of warm weather, about ten days before, which had so expanded the most forward buds, as to render them an easy prey to the frost.

COTTON CROP FOR 1867.—A gentleman of intelligence and observation, recently returned from a tour through South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, informs us that a much larger extent of land has been planted with cotton this Spring, than at any period since 1861. He says thousands of planters who were discouraged by the abolition of Slavery, and thought cotton planting destroyed by freeing the bondmen, have materially changed their views, and have extended their operations in cotton. Instead of freedom injuring the productive industry of the South, the agriculturists there will find it will promote their prosperity, and add immensely to the aggregate wealth and prosperity of the nation.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—The Pennsylvania Legislature has incorporated a society to prevent cruelty to animals. This is a cheerful item to the humane and merciful. Similar societies exist in various States, their object being to enlist the sympathies of people who are cognizant of cruelty to dumb beasts—over-driven horses, over-worked and abused animals of all kinds. Let the wicked and unmerciful owners and workers of horses, mules, cattle, &c., be severely punished. No poor, sorrowful, abused horse will say *neigh* to this!

SALE OF A FAMOUS SHORT HORN.—George P. Plunkett, of Hinsdale, Mass., has purchased of Samuel Thorne of Dutchess county, N. Y., the "6th Duke of Thorndale," for \$5000. This bull stood at the head of a herd of forty which has just been sold at an average price of over \$1000 per animal, and is considered the best Short Horn ever bred in the United States.

IN BLOSSOM.—Peach and Apricot trees were in full blossom in the vicinity of Philadelphia, on the 12th of April. The Spring has been rather backward, but the fruit prospect is good.

THREE VILLAGES IN MAINE have this Spring purchased from one nursery firm in that State, three thousand dollars worth of fruit trees. A commendable interest in fruit tree planting is being developed all over the country.

WASH FOR TREES.—The Horticulturist says that "one pound of potash to six gallons of water is a good wash to apply to trees on whose bodies or limbs are insects, moss, etc."

The California Farmer says that nursery men are doing a good business in that State, as there is a general desire to improve everywhere.

PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The new hall of this society will be completed by the middle of May. It is a magnificent structure, located on South Broad street, Philadelphia, adjoining the Academy of Music. The building is 75 feet wide, and 200 feet in depth. The hall will be one of the finest in the country—well adapted to horticultural displays, also for concerts, particular attention having been given to ventilation and acoustic effect.

The dedication of this building will be in May; and on the 29th of that month, a grand Horticultural Bazaar will be opened for the sale of plants, fruit, flowers and vegetables. This affair will be under the especial care and influence of the ladies of the society, who are earnestly at work to render this one of the most extensive and magnificent Horticultural Fairs ever held in this country. Aid and contributions are solicited from all our floral friends and vegetable producers.

FRUITS OF SECESSION.—In Georgia, in 1866, the value of land was estimated at \$103,112,624, and the total value of all property, real and personal, at \$222,183,787, a decrease since 1860, of \$148,444,135, without taking into consideration the value of the slaves who were emancipated. In 1860 the total value of property, in Georgia, including the slaves, was \$1,008,485,165.

Twenty-five farms have been sold in one section of Alabama, for the low price of \$1 per acre. A failure of crops caused creditors to force sales. One of the sales thus made was a plantation of 600 acres for \$600. Before the war its owner possessed three hundred and fifty slaves and forty horses.

DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—The State of Delaware, with commendable energy, is placing her Agricultural College in a right position. The board of Trustees of the State College, at Newark, have proposed to convey to the State an interest in the buildings, grounds, library etc., on condition that the State shall vest the donation from Congress in said board of trustees. The Legislature accepts the proposal, and thereby establishes the institution in a central locality. The first meeting of this Board will be in July next, when we may anticipate a reorganization of the college, and progress thereafter.

WORK on the farm, when rightly directed, is full of interest, and produces satisfactory results. The farmer is not only a consumer, but he is also a producer, and therefore a benefactor of the human race. The prosperity of this country greatly depends on the development of agriculture. Paralyze this arm and what would be the result? The wheels of the manufacturer would stop, the merchants' doors would be closed, the sails that whiten every avenue of commerce would be furled, and prosperity would be at an end, not to be revived until the revival of that power which creates the wealth of the world, viz., agriculture.

THE QUINCE ON THE THORN.—A correspondent of one of our exchanges describes a specimen of quince grafted on the Thorn as being 12 or 15 feet high, and 6 or 8 inches through the stem, the quinces being at the top and centre of the tree, protected from marauders by their position and the thorny defences of their adopted parent. It is said the Thorn is never attacked by the borer, that dreaded enemy of the fruit grower.

PARING POTATOES.—Many persons, in preparing potatoes for cooking, pare off a thick slice from the surface, instead of digging out the eyes. Prof. Blot, in his lectures on the potato, says this skinning process is all wrong, as the strength of the vegetable lies near the surface—the starch growing less abundant as the center is approximated. The starch, near the surface, contains the nutriment—which is not more than seven or eight per cent.—the balance being mainly water.

GEORGIA papers say that the wheat crop in that State was never more promising.





The Fireside Muse.

SABBATH IN THE COUNTRY.

The creaking wagon's in the shed,
The busy flail is heard no more;
The horse is littered down and fed,
The harness hangs above his head,
The whip behind the door.

His leathern gloves and hooked bill
To-day the woodman throws aside;
The blacksmith's fiery forge is still,
The wooden wheel of the old mill
Sleeps on the mill-dam wide.

The miller's boat is anchored where
Far out the water lilies sleep;
You see their shadows mirrored there,
The broad white flowers reflected clear,
Within the mill pond deep.

The harrow's in the garden shed,
Hoe, rake, and spade are put away;
Unweeded stands the onion bed,
The gardener from his work hath fled;
'Tis holy Sabbath day.

Upon the wall the white cat sleeps,
By which the churn and milk-pans lie;
A drowsy watch the house dog keeps,
And scarcely from his dull eye peeps
Upon the passer-by.

And sweetly over hill and dale,
The silver-sounding church-bells ring;
Across the moor and down the dale
They come and go, and on the gale
Their Sabbath tidings fling.

From where the white-washed "Sunday school"
Peeps out between the poplars dim,
Which ever throw their shadows cool
Far out upon the rusby pool,
You hear the Sabbath hymn.

Fireside Tale.

HOE OUT YOUR ROW.

BY MRS. N. MOONAUUGHY.

THE youngest son stood with his fair bride upon the threshold of the old farm-house. He was the last of four brave boys who had gone forth from that humble roof to work their way up manfully to a place of honor and usefulness in the world. Perhaps there was a little dimness in the old man's eye, and may be a little tremor in the old man's voice, as he spoke the farewell words. But he took from the old side cup-board his parting gift—a bright, new hoe—and as he placed it in the hand of the youth, the accompanying admonition sounded cheerily on his ear, "Hoe out your row."

It was the fourth time a similar presentation had been made in the old homestead.

"Everybody will find his row to hoe in this world, George—and sometimes it's a mighty tough one; but it is only cowards that shirk it. 'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might,' and never forget to look up."

The old man wrung the hand of his son, and stooped down to kiss the cheek of his fair, new daughter; while mother busied herself with the dozen "last things," which every one but a mother forgets. The lingering farewells were all said at last, and the old coach rolled away with the two hopeful, sunny hearts entering life's bright and beautiful Summer.

The old homestead seemed deserted and drear as a last year's nest. The aged pair sat down by their own hearthstone alone, as when they began life together. How these old walls had rung to the sound of childhood's mirth, and childhood's step, and in later years had echoed with the tread of manly feet. Now they must live more in the hurried past.

But to George and Ellen life seemed all one bright future, with the rainbow of hope arching all their plans and projects.

Their Western home was an humble one, and plenty of work for willing hands within it. The young farmer's chief capital was his strong arm and stout heart, and the sound working-day principles he had been taught from childhood. Sometimes he grew discouraged at the prospect of paying for the land he worked—but he was sure to meet with hearty encouragement and words of cheer from Ellen; a glance, too, at the parting gift of his father, as it stood on the mantle in the family room, was as good as a sermon any day. There it stood, ever ready to give encouragement or admonition, as the case might be. Strangers might think it a curious ornament for a chimney-piece, but it was soon regarded as one of the household treasures.

Dust or rust were never suffered to mar its brightness.

"Ellen, it is no use trying," said George, one evening, quite despondingly, as he turned away from some figures he had been making on a scrap of paper, "I can't make out the payment this week, and I may as well give it up."

Ellen looked up cheerfully from her work, and nodded toward the mantle.

"I have hoed and hoed, but this row is too much for me. The wool will pay the next installment, and the crops the next; but where these fifty dollars are to come from, that I need in addition to what I can make out, is more than I can see."

"Sell the cow, George," advised Ellen; "you were offered fifty dollars for her, you know."

"But what can we do for butter, and cream in our coffee, and all that?"

"Do without for a time, dear. A home is a great deal more important to us now than any table luxury. Besides you shall not suffer. These little self-denials, you know, are almost unavoidable, if we would fairly hoe out our row."

George, like a sensible man, took his wife's advice, and the satisfaction he felt, as he paid down the money promptly and took his receipt, far exceeded that which any table enjoyment could afford him.

Ellen ransacked her memory for economical sauces and gravies, to take the place of old Debby's golden butter and yellow cream; and she never forgot to stir a well-beaten egg into the pot of coffee, so improving its richness that George scarcely missed the favorite luxury.

Steadily onward he hoed his row until the place was all his own. The old home had put on a new face out-doors and in. There were shrubs and rose-bushes in abundance in the once tangled and briar-grown dooryard, and a fine young orchard was blossoming on the sunny slope towards the South.

There were files of agricultural papers on the broad shelf of the little library, and a choice selection of miscellaneous books above them. There were little tasteful appointments here and there, about the cheerful sitting-room, but the bright hoe was never displaced by any gem or crystal. The pretty shell-frame pictures might look down upon it, if they chose; it could not be looked out of countenance.

George was respected and known by all his neighbors, and the stranger who shared but for a night the generous hospitality of his broad hearthstone, went away to speak, years after, of the pleasant hours he spent there; and the kindly attentions of the gentle wife, whose wide heart took in every suffering, sorrowing one on earth. The blessing of the Lord was upon the household, and it is that alone "which maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it."

Years sped apace, when one ruddy October, a circular autograph letter went round the circle of brothers, bidding them all come to the golden wedding. And the call gathered them in from their distant homes.

There was a racket of merry, youthful voices, as the grandchildren romped through the old halls; but grandfather's face was brimful of smiles; and grandma's pet and namesake, gentle, dignified Grace, took the reins of government into her hands, so all moved on most harmoniously, relieving mother of all care, and leaving them to chat to their heart's content.

Carrie was the daughter-in-law who lived nearest home, so the care of the feast fell upon her. "Grandma must not stir from her rocking-chair" until all was upon the table. Indeed, it would be hard for her to accomplish much with so many little run-aways under her feet all the time, whose manifold perfections must continually be observed and commented on.

The evening lamp was lighted, and a little fire was burning in the open fire-place, as all were seated in the old home room.

William, the eldest born, stepped forth from the little group, and, advancing to his grey-haired father, said:

"It is twenty-two years since the first of us

went forth from this roof to make his way in the world. As each, in turn, took his departure, you presented to him a bright, new hoe, with the injunction, "Hoe out your row." How well we have followed your directions and the lessons of industry, perseverance, Christian integrity and self-denial, you have always taught, by your words and by your life, it remains for you to judge. As a token that we have not forgotten your teachings, in the name of my brothers and myself, I present this hoe to you," and with a how he laid it down upon the little round stand before him.

The old man dropped his head, and the thin hairs fell about his temples as he simply said, with choking voice:

"God bless the boys!"

"Mother," said Ralph, advancing to her side, "we all know that you would not desire any gifts of jewels and golden ornaments, such as are common on these occasions. But we thought the contents of this little box might add some comforts to your life, which we should delight to bestow, if we were not so widely separated." He placed in her hand a beautiful gilt casket, containing four of the broadest pieces the mint turns out, with a liberal sprinkling of smaller yellow coins from the little grandchildren.

"Now, father," said Dominic Ned, as he walked up to the stand, "I must give you my wedding present;" and he laid before him his beautiful copy of the Testament and Psalms, printed in very large, clear type, so grateful to the failing sight of age. In bright, gilt letters on the side were stamped these words:

"I love Thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold."

"Now, perhaps we had better sing our evening hymn; and after worship, let the little ones tramp off to bed."

The patriarch knelt among his flock, and the prayer, from his full heart, for God's blessing upon them, was as if he had entered within the veil. There were tears on many cheeks when they rose, and a subdued tone ran even in the "good-nights" of the merry children.

Then all drew up about the fire, and told over tales of other days. William told how he had hoed out a pretty bard row in the new place, where he had sought to establish himself as a physician. But after due waiting, the "first patient" came at last, and the second, and so on, until now he was "the old physician" of the place, with two young men in the office with him.

Dominic Ned (otherwise Rev. Edward Kent) detailed some of the "Shady Side" experiences of his first charge; but they were pleasantly relieved by the many "Sunny Side" incidents his wife took care to suggest as he went along.

George and Ralph compared farm-notes, and altogether, the evening passed as only such gatherings, by such a hearth stone, ever can. It is only such training that can produce such results.

If you wish your boys and girls to grow up useful, honorable and happy, teach them faithfully "to hoe out their row."—*Peterson's Magazine*.

Fireside Miscellany.

AT Indianapolis recently, an "intelligent" contraband was told by his employer to take the carriage and call for the young ladies of the family, who were at an evening party, and instructed him to go to the door, ring the bell and inquire for them. About midnight he returned alone, and on inquiry it was ascertained that he had taken the dining room bell, and, driving to a strange house, sat in the carriage and rang his bell, as he had seen the milkmen do. Finally, concluding that no one was at home, he returned.

THE SECRETS OF HEALTH.—The secrets of health are six: First, Keep warm. Second, Eat regularly and slow. Third, Maintain regular daily bodily habits. Fourth, Take early and very light snappers. Fifth, Keep a clean skin. Sixth, Get plenty of sleep at night.—*Hall*.

THINGS WISE AND OTHERWISE.

LEE, Beauregard, Johnston and Longstreet have a new mission—submission.

An exchange calls Russian America a ripe apple ready to fall into the hands of this country. A Seward cede-ling, we suppose.

The sweetest thing in the botanical line is the following definition of flowers: "Floral apostles, that in dewy splendor weep without woe, and bluish without a tinge of shame."

A reporter at an agricultural meeting stated that glycerine had been recommended for the "roofs of houses," to keep them from splitting in cold weather. He ought to have said "hoofs of horses."

A Milwaukee paper tells of a hunter in that city, who killed a cow a few days since, and found a live mud turtle in her stomach. The shell was much eaten by the acid of the stomach, and the turtle lived but a few hours after its release.

There is a whole sermon in the saying of the Persian: "In all thy quarrels leave open the door of reconciliation." We should never forget it.

Artists have adopted different emblems of charity. We wonder none of them ever thought of a piece of Indian rubber, which gives more than any other substance.

Speaking of the Spring fashions, a tailor says there is not much change in gentlemen's pants. There is less than usual in gentlemen's pockets.

Josh Billings has been paying some attention to agricultural matters. He says: "If you want to get a sure crop, and a big yield for the seed, sow wild oats."

Several thousand small stills, each capable of making from one to three barrels of whiskey per day, were made in Cincinnati last year, for the South. "My country, I love the still." The revenue detectives will find something to do down there.

A question for Botanists. Do the "roots" of words produce "flowers of speech?"

Ode to America—The Alabama claims. A rare combination—Dollars and sense.

An oil painting of Flora Temple, among the effects of Hiram Woodruff, was sold at auction for \$305.

A Virginia paper publishes an obituary notice of a horse.

MANNERS AND MORALS.

MANNERS easily and rapidly mature into morals. As childhood advances to manhood, the transition from bad manners to bad morals is almost imperceptible. Vulgar and obscene forms of speech keep vulgar and obscene objects before the mind, engender impure images in the imagination and make unlawful desires prurient. From the prevalent state of the mind, actions proceed, as water rises from a fountain. Hence what was originally only a word or a phrase, becomes a thought, is meretriciously embellished by the imagination, is inflamed into a vicious desire, gains strength and boldness by being always made welcome, until at last, under some urgent temptation, it dares, for once, to put on the visible form of action; it is then ventured upon again, more frequently and less warily, until repetition forges the chains of habit; and then language, imagination, desire, and habit bind their victim in the prison-house of sin. In this way profane language wears away the reverence for things sacred and holy; and a child who has been allowed to follow, and mock, and hoot at an intemperate man in the streets, is far more likely to become intemperate himself than if he had been accustomed to regard him with pity, as a fallen brother, and with sacred abhorrence as one self-brutified or demonized. So, on the other hand, purity and chasteness of language tend to preserve purity and chasteness of thought and of taste; they repel licentious imaginings; they delight in the unswayed and the untainted, and all their tendencies and aptitudes are on the side of virtue.—*Horace Mann*.

LONGFELLOW says that "Sunday is the golden clasp that binds together the volume of the week."

A LONG WILL.—A gentleman in Western Virginia, not largely blessed with this world's goods, recently dictated his will, dividing the articles he possessed among his friends, giving to one his coat, another his shoes, another his hat, &c. The will covered over two sheets of foolscap paper, and the total value of the articles bequeathed did not exceed fifty dollars. The Justice of the Peace was occupied for nearly four hours in drawing up the "last will and testament," and when he had completed the task the dying man thanked him kindly, and assured him he would have paid him for his trouble and labor had not all that he owned been given away by the article just drawn up.





General Miscellany.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

MAPLE orchards are of great value to farmers. More attention should be paid to growing young maples by nursery culture or otherwise. They readily start from the seed.

The Boston Post says Vermont farmers waste manure enough every year to pay for the breadstuffs that the State gets from the West.

A farmer in Vermont thinks milkweed may be made useful for soiling cows. He says the cows eat them eagerly, and he is of the opinion that they increase the milk.

Upwards of 30,000 barrels of flour are shipped from California monthly—paying the Pacific Mail Steamship Company for freight, \$100,000.

A gentleman, residing near Rochester, N. Y., raised carrots at the rate of 1,381 bushels to the acre. He planted them in drills one foot apart, thinned them to four inches in the drills, and cultivated them carefully throughout the season.

It is estimated that there are thirty-two and one-half millions of sheep in the twenty loyal States and two territories. It is supposed that the annual number of lambs will be over twenty four millions.

Mr. Sullivan Fisk, of Compton, C. E., last season raised 525 bushels of Davis Seedling potatoes from one acre of ground. Thirty loads of manure were spread on oat stubble in the Fall, and plowed in. In the Spring, the land was again plowed, harrowed, and furrowed about three inches deep, and three and a half feet apart. Large potatoes were cut into three pieces each, and one piece dropped in a hill, the hills being fifteen inches apart. They were hoed twice in a thorough manner.

Vermont sent 22,968 cattle, 167,013 sheep, and 3360 swine to the Boston markets last year. The Rutland Herald says that Boston gets more for her meat markets from Vermont than from all the other States combined, excepting the Western States.

The Pittsburg Commercial, speaking of the backwardness of the season in that section, says that there is still promise of abundant fruit crops. Similar reports come from many sections of Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Western New York, New Jersey and Delaware.

The Norwich Bulletin says that a fruit grower in that vicinity, last week shipped to New York 16 quarts of strawberries, for which he received \$7 per quart.

Potatoes were selling in Skowhegan, Me., for 85 cents per bushel on Thursday last, for Western markets. In Eastport they were selling for 60 cents last week.

The orange trees of Louisiana are hanging full of blossoms; every branch and twig is crowded to its utmost capacity. If no accident happens by way of frost or drought, the orange trees next Fall will groan under the weight of their golden fruit.

The richest sugar regions in Louisiana have been ruined by the recent floods.

Wheat sold in Cleveland, Ohio, on Wednesday and Thursday, at \$3.50 per bushel, the highest price ever obtained in that city. At the same time corn was held at \$1.06 per bushel, and oats at 64 cents.

GRINDING TOOLS.

MORE than half the wear and tear, breakage, and bother of dull tools, comes from a lack of proper knowledge and practice in grinding. All steel, however highly refined, is composed of individual fibres laid lengthwise in the bar, held firmly together by cohesion, and in almost all farm implements of he cutting kind, the steel portion which forms the edge, is from a section of a bar, laid in and welded to the iron longitudinally; so that it is the side of the bundle of fibres, hammered and ground down, that forms the edge. Hence, by holding on the grindstone all edge-tools, as axes, drawing-knives, knives of reapers, scythes, knives of straw-cutters, &c., in such a manner that the action of the stone is at right angles with the plane of the edge, or, in plainer words, by holding the edge of the tool square across the stone, the direction of

the fibres will be changed, so as to present the ends instead of the side as a cutting edge. By grinding in this manner, a finer, smoother edge is set, the tool is ground in less time, holds an edge a great deal longer, and is far less liable to "nick out" and break. Farmers will do well to bear these hints in mind, and act accordingly always in grinding scythes, cutlery, and knives of reapers and fodder-cutters.

FLOWERS.

In your flower-beds, if the plants sickened last year, change the soil. Renovated earth is renewed health to consumptive flowers. Sow annuals as soon as the ground is warm. Too early sowing and deep covering rots seed very often. This is frequently the cause of one's seed being "bad." Prepare flowers in their Winter quarters for the Summer campaign, by inuring to the air before setting out finally. Set out when all danger of frost is over. Don't set out a plant with a dry ball; but water well in the pot an hour or so before.

Arranging flower beds affords room for a display of taste. Narrow thin beds as a rule, have better effects than thick or heavy ones. Edgings to beds are common. The evergreen Ivy is good—so is Periwinkle. The variegated, large-leaved Periwinkle is a treasure. Daphne encorum is also good—for large beds, Shrubland Pet Rose Geranium is very effective. The old tribe Scarlet Geraniums make splendid American bedders, Lord Palmerston and Stella are two of the best, but yet scarce and high priced. Lanata, Rosamond, Christine, "Really good." Chance and Lallah, are six of the best bedders. The old Harkaway is an enormous bloomer, though for the single flower poor enough; it is one of the best bedders.—Gardener's Monthly.

A BEAUTIFUL SENTIMENT.—Shortly before the departure of the lamented Heber for India, he preached a sermon which contained this beautiful illustration:

"Life bears us on like the stream of a mighty river. Our boat at first glides down the mighty channel—through the playful murmurings of the little brook and the windings of its grassy borders. The trees shed their blossoms over our young heads; the flowers seem to offer themselves to the young hands; we are happy in hope, and grasp eagerly at the beauties around us, but the stream hurries on, and still our hands are empty. Our course in youth and manhood is along a deeper and wider flood, among objects more striking and magnificent. We are animated at the moving pictures and enjoyment and industry all around us; we are excited at some short-lived disappointment. The stream bears us on, and our joys and our griefs are alike left behind us. We may be shipwrecked, but we cannot be delayed; whether rough or smooth, the river hastens on till the roar of the ocean is in our ears, and the tossing of the waves is beneath our feet, and the floods are lifted up around us, and we take our leave of earth and its inhabitants, until of our future voyage there is no witness save the Infinite and Eternal."

ANECDOTE OF HANDEL.—Handel, whose divine compositions seem to have proceeded from a heart glowing with the fire of a seraph, was, notwithstanding, what some would call rather a gross mortal, since he placed no small happiness in eating and drinking. Having received a present of a dozen of superior champagne, he thought the quantity too small to present to his friends, and therefore reserved the delicious nectar for a private use. Some time after, when a party was dining with him, he longed for a glass of his choice champagne, but could not easily think of a device for leaving the company. On a sudden he assumed a musing attitude, and, striking his forehead with his finger, exclaimed, "I have got one thought! I have got one thought!" meaning "thought." The company, imagining that he had gone to commit to paper some divine idea, saw him depart with silent admiration. He turned to his friends, and very soon had a second, third, and fourth thought. A wag, suspecting the frequency of his St. Cecilia's visits, followed Handel to an adjoining room, saw

him enter a closet, embrace his beloved champagne, and swallow repeated doses. The discovery communicated infinite mirth to the company, and Handel's thoughts became proverbial.

Marriages.

In Woonsocket, April 13th, by Rev. Robert Murray, Mr. James D. Jackson to Miss Elizabeth A. Loomis, both of Blackstone; April 15th, by the same, Mr. Thomas J. Dobson to Miss Elizabeth E. French, both of Blackstone. In Providence, 14th inst., by Rev. Heman Lincoln, Mr. Geo. S. Vihbert to Miss Jennie White, all of Providence. In Pawtucket, 14th inst., Mr. Albert LeFevre of Providence, Ill., to Miss Harriet Rachel Whiting of Rehoboth, Mass.; 4th inst., Mr. Walter S. Gardner to Miss Mary E. Robinson, both of Pawtucket. At Anderson Court House, S. C., 31st ult., Mr. Thomas R. Harking, formerly of Pawtucket, to Annie, daughter of Governor Orr of South Carolina. In Webster, Mass., April 3d, by Rev. Mr. Kendall, Mr. William H. Fisk of North Scituate, R. I., to Miss Mary E. Paulk of Dudley; March 29, Albert E. Davis to Miss Abby J. Munyan; April 11th, Francis Edmunds to Miss Anna Barnes. In Millbury, 11th inst., Mr. E. W. Trusk of Leicester, to Miss M. Louisa Cutting of Millbury. In Putnam, Conn., April 6th, Mr. Erastus N. Perrin to Mrs. Cordelia A. Fullenshaw; Mr. James W. Burton to Miss Sarah Harvey, both of Putnam.

Deaths.

In Woonsocket, 11th instant, John Bartlett, aged 68 years. 17th instant, Horace D., only son of Daniel N. and Electa B. Paine, aged 25 years. (Funeral this day at half past one o'clock, P. M., in the Congregational church, Globe side. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. 11th instant, David, only son of Mr. S. A. Aldrich, aged 49 years. In Southfield, 13th instant, Mrs. Dianna Brown, aged 49 years. 17th instant, Horace D., only son of Daniel N. and Electa B. Paine, aged 25 years. (Funeral this day at half past one o'clock, P. M., in the Congregational church, Globe side. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. 11th instant, David, only son of Mr. S. A. Aldrich, aged 49 years. In Smithfield, 13th instant, Mrs. Dianna Brown, aged 49 years. 17th instant, Horace D., only son of Daniel N. and Electa B. Paine, aged 25 years. (Funeral this day at half past one o'clock, P. M., in the Congregational church, Globe side. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. 11th instant, David, only son of Mr. S. A. Aldrich, aged 49 years. In East Douglas, April 11th, Charles Hutchins, Esq., in his 52d year. In Killingly, Conn., March 26th, Eleazer Mollit, aged 71 years. March 18th, Miss Susannah Carpenter, aged 86 years. In Putnam, Conn., March 25th, Carrie Hazzard, daughter of Joseph and Alice Hazzard, aged 21 years. March 20th, wife of Daniel Whitmore, aged 45 years. In Lisbon, C. T., 24th ultimo, Silas Reade, aged 83 years. He was the fifth generation that has lived and died on the same farm—the first settler, Josiah Reade, having purchased the land of Owaneco, the brother of Uncas, in 1695. In Bucksport, Me., 31st ult., Mr. James Buck, father of Rev. E. A. Buck, of Slatersville, aged 79 years, 6 months.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

Table listing various farm products and their prices, including flour, corn, and other goods.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1413; Sheep and Lambs 3000. Swine, 800. PRICES: Beef, Cattle—Extra, \$13.50 to \$14.50; first quality, \$12.00 to \$13.50; second quality, \$11.75 to \$12.00; third quality, \$10.50 to \$11.75. Country Hides, 9 1/2 to 10 cts lb; Country Tallow, 7 1/2 to 8 cts lb. Sheep Skins, 75 to \$1.25 a piece. Working Oxen—Sales at \$225, \$280, \$265, \$250, \$280, \$200, and \$190 per pair. There is a large lot in market, and on account of the stormy weather, prices are not so good. MILK Cows—Sales extra \$10 to \$12.50; ordinary \$6 to \$7.50. Sheep and Lambs.—We quote sales of lots at 7 1/2, 8, 9, 10c per lb; some lambs at \$6.75 per head; 49 corsets at \$11 per lb. There is a large supply in market. Prices same as last week. Swine—Wholesale, \$8 to \$9 cts lb; retail, 8 1/2 to 10 cts lb. Fat Hogs—\$800 at market; prices, 9 1/2 to 10c per pound.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

The excitement in flour has continued, and there has been a further advance of 1 1/2 cents to a dollar a barrel. The advanced prices have checked consumption. The stock has been slightly reduced, and with the moderate arrivals in prospect the tendency is upward at the close. A good business has been done in California and Oregon flour, which is becoming popular with the trade. Rye flour has been in brisk demand at a material advance, and is now largely taken as a substitute for wheat flour. Corn meal has ruled quiet, but the supply is limited. Prices are well sustained. Wheat has fluctuated somewhat, although prices are higher at the close, particularly for white wheat, which has been taken freely. We notice large sales of California and Oregon at \$3.25 to \$3.40, closing at the extreme rates. The stock here is also reduced to about one million bushels round wheat. There is also considerable interior spring wheat which is unsalable. Rye has again advanced, with a large business, and closes strong. The stock is reduced to 220,000 bushels, which is large for the season of the year. Barley has been in fair demand, and sold at irregular prices. Bonded has improved, while free has declined. The stock is reduced to less than 600,000 bushels. Oats have been in brisk demand, and advanced materially. The stock is now about 1,550,000 bushels. This is an unusual supply for this season of the year. Corn has been in active demand, and the market has been excited at times. The market closes buoyant. The stock is reduced to about 1,670,000 bushels. Pork has been offered freely, fluctuated rapidly, and has declined. At the conclusion the demand has been quite spirited. It closes at \$22.80 for mess. Beef has advanced, and the stock is almost exhausted.

New York.

Great American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS

OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption, and therefore organized THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, to do away, as far as possible, with these enormous drains upon the Consumers, and to supply them with these necessities at the smallest possible price.

To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American houses, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

- 1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments—and some of the richest retired merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China.
2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas.
3d. The Importer makes a profit of 30 to 50 per cent in many cases.
4th. On its arrival it is sold by the cargo, and the Purchaser sells to the Speculator in invoices of 1,000 to 2,000 packages, at an average profit of about 10 per cent.
5th. The Speculator sells to the Wholesale Tea Dealer in lots at a profit of 10 to 15 per cent.
6th. The Wholesale Tea Dealer sells it to the Wholesale Grocer in lots to suit the trade, at a profit of about 10 per cent.
7th. The Wholesale Grocer sells it to the Retail Dealer at a profit of 15 to 25 per cent.
8th. The Retailer sells it to the Consumer for all the profit he can get.

When you have added to these EIGHT profits as many brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay. And now we propose to show why we can sell so very much lower than small dealers.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, one cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the name upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more. The cost of transportation of the members of the club can divide equitably among themselves.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars, we will, if desired, send the goods by Express, to "collect on delivery."

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$20.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show. All goods sold are warranted to give satisfaction.

PRICE LIST:

- YOUNG HYSON (Green), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb.
GREEN TEAS, 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb.
MIXED, 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 per lb.
JAPAN, \$1, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb.
OOLOONG (Black), 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 per lb.
IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1.25 per lb.
ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1.10, best \$1.20 per lb.
GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1.25, best, \$1.50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them.

Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and still last a being composed of the best Foo-chow Blacks and Young Greens. English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the finest imported.

Customers can save from 10c to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,

NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., corner of CHURCH. Post-Office Box No. 2,643 New-York City. COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, best 40c per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 20c per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866. To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York.

Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubled it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa.

MARTIN LUTHER.

Table listing various tea orders and their prices, including Young Hyson, Oolong, and other types.

We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.—LARGE DOUBLE STORE.



SNORT DRESSES.—The new short dress is thoroughly feminine. It frees women from all the obstacles to walking and out-door exercise without offending their taste or their scruples. It is simple, compact, requires but little material, few skirts, and those small and narrow, relieves the body of all superfluous weight, and in conjunction with the admirable thick soled walking boots now in vogue, furnishes a costume for the street as neverly perfect as one can expect to get. A generation of short dresses would enable our American women to grow, and nurse their own children, and prove a great step towards a universal millenium.





Fertilizers.

ANIMAL MANURES.

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

WE use the term animal manure in a restricted sense, as including flesh, fish, skin, hair; in short, every thing that exists in a state of animal organization, but excluding animal droppings. The latter are very generally prized and saved; the former are as generally undervalued and neglected. If an animal dies on the farm, the first question in the majority of cases is, not how shall we make the most of the carcass, but where shall we bury it past resurrection? By burying, the owner seems to think he has done his whole duty to the beastly remains, and forgets that by so doing he has robbed his farm. The farm has supported the animal, furnished the carbon and nitrogen for its flesh and the phosphate of lime for its bones, and is at least entitled to the legacy of its carcass when dead. Some farmers are so slovenly as not even to bury their animals, but leave them on the surface of the earth, to be the prey of dogs and carrion birds, and to pollute the air. We have seen many a dead lamb hung up in the crotch of a tree, a speaking advertisement of the thriftlessness of the shepherd; for the lamb says to every passer by, as plainly as a dead lamb can say it: "See what an owner I have! By his carelessness I died, and he does not know enough to make use of me when dead."

Let us consider for a moment, the composition of flesh and blood, and then we shall understand better the waste there is going on all around us. Johnston, a most reliable authority, gives the analysis of dry beef as follows, omitting fractions:

Table with 2 columns: Component and Percentage. Carbon 52, Hydrogen 8, Nitrogen 15, Oxygen 21, Ashes 4, Total 100.

Thus we see that with every hundred pounds of dry horseflesh we lose fifteen pounds of nitrogen, the most valuable ingredient in barn yard manure, of which the flesh contains about seven times as much as the manure. Both lose in drying about 75 per cent. of their weight. Johnston estimates that fourteen pounds of flesh are equal to one hundred pounds of barn yard manure. The skin and hair are still more valuable, as the former contains sixteen times, and the latter thirty two times, as much nitrogen as common manure. The bones, also, are exceedingly rich in organic matter, and are readily sold to the manufacturers of bone dust and phosphates at \$20 per ton, and when properly manipulated and adulterated are resold for 200 per cent. advance.

The loss we are sustaining from the single article of dead horses, to say nothing of other animals and the refuse of our slaughter houses and abattoirs, may be approximately calculated from the following facts. It is estimated that we have in the United States ten millions of horses, and that their average age is ten years. Consequently about one million die each year, and as we do not, like the Parisians, eat horse flesh, these are mostly buried, or worse still, left to "waste their fragrance" in the open air. It is a moderate estimate that each dead horse properly composted, will make five loads of manure, worth \$2 per load. If this computation is correct, we lose annually, by burying our dead horses, ten millions of dollars. By neither burying nor composting we lose an incomputable and an innumerable number of valuable lives, victims to the miasma which arises from the decaying carcasses.

The flesh of animals, as we have seen, is a valuable manure in itself, too rich, indeed, for a direct application to the soil. Hence the necessity of composting it with muck, charcoal dust, soda, etc. By its rapid decay it has the valuable property of hastening fermentation in every thing with which it comes in contact that is capable of deorganization. This singular effect, which the chemists call catalysis, renders flesh a most valuable ingredient in the compost heap. The best mode of preparing the compost is to spread two or three loads of

dry muck on the ground, covering a space ten feet square. On this spread the dead horse, cut up into pieces of ten or a dozen pounds each. Over the whole spread three or four loads more of muck. In six weeks of warm weather the pile will be ready for shoveling over; and if the ammonia exhalations too rankly, spread a barrel of gypsum on the heap as it is worked over. The plaster is a great addition to the value of the compost, whether the flesh is completely decayed or not. After shoveling, a renewed fermentation will take place, and in three or four weeks the compost will be ready for use, and will be found to make roots, grasses and grains grow with wonderful luxuriance. If labor is too expensive for taking so much pains with the compost heap, the dead horses may be thrown directly upon the ground, in some bye place, and covered thoroughly with muck or sods, and thus left for a year, and then shoveled over. In either case, some vigilance must be exercised to keep the dogs from exhuming their favorite food. In shoveling over the pile, the bones may be thrown to one side, and either used under fruit trees, vines, etc., in transplanting, or placed in a hogshead and covered with wood ashes, which, being wet occasionally, will reduce them to a pulpy state, fit for the compost heap.

We speak after much experience with this kind of manure, and know whereof we affirm. For many years our farm has been the recipient of most of the dead horses of the neighboring village, which the owners were glad to give to us for the hauling, and in some cases did their own hauling. Each horse, with one day's labor of a man, can be made to furnish ten dollars worth of manure, provided a muck swamp is within convenient distance. Sods from the road-side will answer nearly as well as muck, and leaf mold from the forest is better than either. All crops are benefitted by the application of such a compost, but as it is particularly rich in nitrogen, the grasses and grains derive special advantage from it. Meadows, covered with a top dressing of it in the Fall, will show a deep green early in the Spring, and in June or July will roll out a swath of grass, so thick bottomed that it reminds one of a fleece of wool.

If dead horses can be transmuted into grains and grasses, why have not our farmers a power more valuable than the fabled philosopher's stone?

The subject of animal manures requires our serious attention; it is an exhibition of carelessness to allow such valuable fertilizers to go to waste.

A CLERGYMAN was lately depicting before a deeply interested audience the alarming increase of intemperance, when he astonished his hearers by exclaiming: "A young woman in my neighborhood died very suddenly last Sabbath, while I was preaching the gospel in a state of intoxication!"

By warmth and judicious feeding, says Mr. Bement, a hen may be made to lay as many eggs in two years as she would under ordinary circumstances in three; and every one knows, that a fowl fatted at two years old; is much more tender and palatable, than one that is older.

The English papers are warning the public against counterfeit sovereigns. The counterfeit sovereign in Mexico has already had warning.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

NEW SEEDLING POTATOE.

COOKE'S RATTLER, a new and very superior seedling, grown by Joseph J. Cooke, Esq., of Cranston, and now offered for sale as the best LATE KIND in the market. It is a rusty coated, light red, round, great yielding; white and perfect inside, and a splendid Table Potatoe. Price, \$3.00 per bushel. Sold only by W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I. April 13, 1867.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. AENOLD, 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.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Now offer at the LOWEST CASH PRICES, 2000 Sacks Prime Red Top, 500 Bags Prime Herds Grass, 500 " Western and Northern Clover, 1500 Bushel Prime R. I. Bent, for Pastures, 500 " Seed Barley, 100 " Spring Kye, 2000 " Bedford Seed Oats, 100 " Early Goodrich Potatoes, 200 " Schec Potatoes, 200 " Late White Peach Blows, 100 " Harrison Potatoes, 100 " Seed Peas, 100 " R. I. White Cap Corn, 100 " London Hort. and Concord Pole Beans, 200 " Buckwheat, 200 " Millet and Hungarian, White Dutch Clover, Orchard Grass, Onion Sets, and a complete assortment of

GARDEN SEEDS, Raised for us with great care. 200 Barrels dry ground Bone for Manure, together with all kinds of Farm Implements and Machinery. Send for Circular of Mead's Conical Plows and Share's Horse Hoes—and don't forget the number,

32 CANAL STREET, 32. PROVIDENCE, we-1f March 23, 1867.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of

MEAD'S PATENT CONICAL PLOWS, SHARE'S HORSE HOES, WOOD'S AND WIGHT'S PLOWS, GARDEN BARROWS, CHASE'S TWO HORSE POTATOE DIGGERS, STORE TRUCKS, IMPROVED HINGER HARROWS, CULTIVATORS, ROAD SCRAPERS, OX YOKES, AND PLOW CASTINGS; And Wholesale Dealers in

Hoes, Shovels, Axes, Seythes, Forks, Snathes, Cradles, Horse Forks, Hand and Horse Rakes, Hay Cutters, Corn Shellers, Vegetable Cutters, Picks, Bars, Canal Barrows, Sugar Mills, Grindstones, Plain or Complete;

And Agents for KNIPPEN'S, UNION AND PERRY'S MOWING MACHINES,

Whitcomb's Patent Horse Rake, and the best Hay Tedder in the market. Prices low and Terms Cash.

OFFICE, 32 CANAL STREET, PROVIDENCE, R. I. we-1f March 23, 1867.

HURBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I. Feb. 23, 1867.

BARRETT'S EXTRA EARLY CABBAGE.—The best and largest in the market. Price, 25 cents a paper. Raised and sold by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Providence, Feb. 23, 1867. ut-7

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

EXTRA HEAVY PLOWS, for road work and for breaking up new land, made by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

WHITE FRENCH TURNIP, of the purest kind, raised and sold in small or large lots, by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I. Feb. 23, 1867.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Share's Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potato Diggers, Lukin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Massachusetts.

LADIES, ATTENTION!—A SILK DRESS PATTERN, or a SEWING MACHINE, sent free, for one or two days' service, in any town or village. Also, a gift sent free, by addressing with stamp, W. FISK & CO., 17 State Street, Boston, Mass. 4w-we-14 April 13, 1867.

FRUIT TREES, GRAPES, SMALL FRUITS, ORNAMENTALS, &c.

WE have imported from foreign growers, and personally selected at the largest New England and New York Nursery Establishments, the choicest stock which we could find this season, and now offer to purchasers a general assortment of

NURSERY STOCK, first class in quality, complete in variety, and extensive in quantity, at very low rates. A descriptive catalogue of 40 pages mailed to applicants. Sample of the collection may be seen at our showroom, basement of 23 & 30 Water street, Boston. Orders faithfully executed. BENJ. T. WELLS & CO. Importers & Nursery Agents,—OFFICE, 7, WATER ST., BOSTON. April 7, 1867. 4w-we-13

BY MAIL, PREPAID.

CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS, NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CURRANTS, ROSES, BULBS, &c.

B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest

GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS,

Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted. Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ee-12

SOUTH DOWNS CO.'S PATENT

Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers. Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores.

JAMES F. LEVIN, 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts. For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & CO., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4m-we-9

COLLINS, BLISS & CO., PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

CASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS. 233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston. New England Agents for the

NON PARIEL FRENCH GUANO.

It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil. PRICE \$60 PER TON.

Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 3m-we-9

CARROT AND MANGOLD WURTZEL SEED.

I raised the past season a fine lot of Long Red, Yellow Globe, and White Mangold Wurtzel Seed, and will send either variety, post-paid, to any address, for \$1.00 per lb. Also, Long Orange Carrot Seed, of my own growing, for \$1.25 per lb. I here offer an opportunity for all to procure Seed DIRECTLY FROM THE GROWER.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marhiedale, Mass. 5w-ee-12 March 30, 1867.

Pennsylvania.

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THE STANDARD MANURE FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS.

Manufactured by POTTS & KLETT, Camden, N. J.

Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUGH, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of this Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is

FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD, IN QUALITY, and is in fine condition for drilling.

Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the

RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

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J. HICKLING & CO'S

GREAT SALE OF WATCHES.

On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a handsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory!

500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750 500 Magic Cased Gold Watches.....200 to 500 500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled.....100 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....250 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....200 to 250 3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....150 to 200 5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....100 to 250 5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....50 to 150 5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....75 to 250 5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches.....50 to 250 10,000 Gold Hunting Levers.....50 to 75 10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....50 to 100 25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....25 to 50 30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....10 to 75 Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partiality shown. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a Watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious! A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three and one cent premium for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premium for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, fully authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us! Address, J. HICKLING & CO., 149 Broadway—Near P. O. City of New York. 3m March 22, 1867.



THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



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 OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

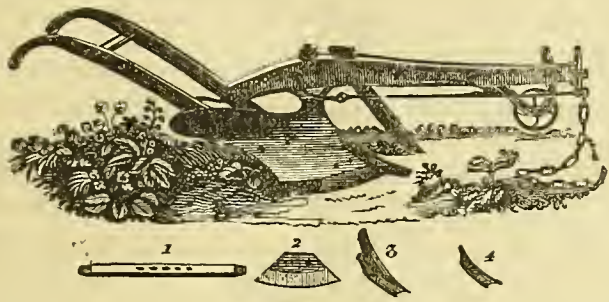
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VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1867.

NO. 16.

[Written for the Farm and Fireside.]
FARM IMPLEMENTS. — ARTICLE FIRST.

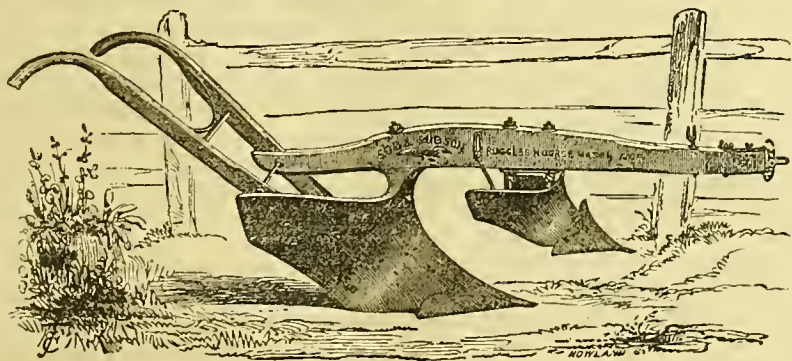


(THE EAGLE PLOUGH.)

In no direction has inventive genius made more rapid strides than in the production of improved agricultural implements. In no other branch of mechanism has common sense so fully fraternized with philosophy, or science seconded so ably the suggestions of practical utility. To such as are living witnesses of agricultural progress, permitted the privilege of being reviewers, looking back over a period of forty years, the march of improvement in all manner of farming implements seems rather the art of some invisible magician, than the bona-fide handiwork of human genius.

There are still among us many thousands who have to-day, vividly in memory, the old awkward wooden "glut," arbitrarily called a plough; having its origin in pre-historic times; little improved during all the ages in which tillers of the soil were obliged to accept it as a necessity, because there was "under the whole heavens" nothing better. Not entirely out of sight in the past are the ancient "reaping hooks"—sickles, for some reason never known, we called them; clumsy cradles, to be laboriously swung by stalwart arms; huge iron hoes, having awful eyes; two sticks tied together with eel-skin thongs, or hempen strings, we called flails, for threshing grain; scythes, hand-rakes, and primitive pitchforks, constituted our best hay making paraphernalia. No horse-power mowers, reapers, rakes, seed drills, subsoilers; but planting potatoes in hills, covering and cultivating with hand-boes; old, antiquated harrows with ponderous frames, like the broadside of a modern mill-flume; no horse hoes, cultivators, planters, and potato-diggers, but all main strength and manual labor; horses, the country gentlemen; men and boys the agricultural drudges. What a reversion of labor! what a rapid revolution in agricultural economy!

Could there be gathered together all our ancient agricultural implements, *outré* and unique in their old fashioned simplicity, each one duplicated by its modern substitute, and all placed side by side on public exhibition, the "show" would be worth a pilgrimage of the width of the continent, to all practical farmers of modern times. Contrasting the awkward old wooden wedge of forty years ago, permit us to place on exhibition two ploughs of modern invention and improved pattern, both of which, if not *the best*, are foremost among the very best of the hundred improved ploughs manufactured and competing for public favor. For all



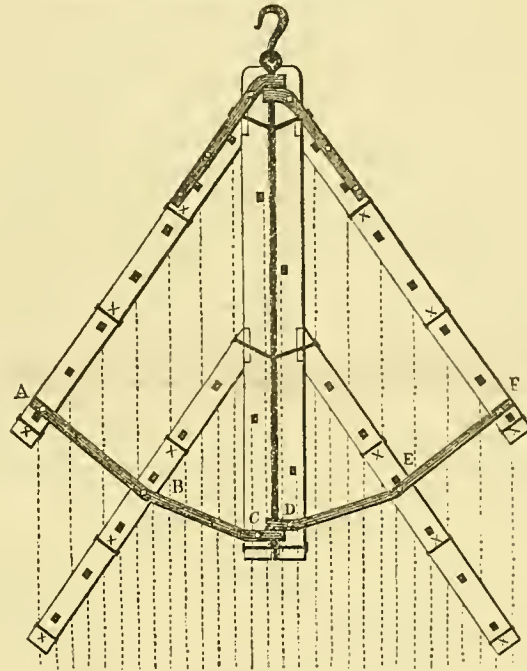
(MICHIGAN SOD AND SUB-SOIL PLOUGH.)

ordinary work, where two horses are required, the EAGLE PLOUGH ought to be among all farmers' first favorites. It is strong, simple, and scientific in principle; durable, not liable to breakage or disarrangement, and of unusual easy draught. There are several sizes of this superior plough manufactured, all of which are eminently *self-sharpeners*, being provided with a detached steel point, twenty inches in length, secured by running up into the interior of the plough, fastened by a single set-bolt, adjustable in length, and reversible by changing sides and ends, as required by the wear of the parts in use. The size represented in the engraving, is the one most proper for all two-horse service.

As a companion plough to the "Eagle," but peculiarly adapted to duties beyond the capacity of this lighter implement, we present to the consideration of the agricultural public, the MICHIGAN SOD AND SUB-SOIL PLOUGH. The very name of this admirable implement indicates its capacity to perform a double service, and its actual performance clearly establishes its claim to all its titles. The cut so fairly represents the meritorious points of the "Michigan-der," that few words in the way of explanation are necessary. We may, however, observe

that the object of the implement is the performance of heavy work, and making at one motion, a deep, disintegrated soil. The sub-share, securely attached to the beam, first turns over a sod furrow from five to six inches deep; the main plough following, going down six to eight inches deeper, looses, lightens, and lifts the sub-soil, turning a portion of it over the surface left by the lesser plough. Though of comparatively light draught, the weight of work performed by the "sod and sub-soil plough," makes a strong force a necessity.

Passing from the plough to its popular companion implement, we shall say that of all the modern modifications of the old-fashioned toothed harrows, we like the GEDDES' FOLDING HARROW better than any other. Its construction combines convenience, lightness, strength and durability. They are made of several sizes, adapted to various requirements, all hinged in the center, so that either side can be folded over upon the other, the draught central and the number of teeth varying from fourteen to thirty.



(GEDDES' FOLDING HARROW.)

Although the universal use of the harrow is "ancient and honorable," having the sanction of the majority of agriculturists in all civilized countries, there are many who do not believe that its use is altogether warranted by sound philosophy, or productive of a condition of the soil most conducive to fertility. Certainly the harrow levels surfaces and breaks up sods, but does it disintegrate, loosen, separate particles, aerate, in the sense supposed generally, and which is an actual necessity of quickening sown seed, and insuring the most vigorous growth of plants? Let us see if we can see about that something that is sensible.

An indispensable element of fertility in most soils is clay. Very well; then by compressing in the hand and manipulating a small quantity of clay soil, containing sufficient humidity to insure the growth of plants, or by stirring it round and round with a stick, as we do mush, we unite instead of separating particles, forming a plastic mass, inimical to fertility. That in degree is precisely what dragging the twenty or thirty teeth of an ordinary harrow back and forth through the surface soil, does on *some soils*. But as the covering of seeds sown by hand, and breaking into a finer condition of comminution clods left by the plough, by some means, is a necessity, the use of the inevitable harrow, until some better implement to supply its place shall become so popular as to be brought into universal use, must be resorted to. The operation, however, ought to terminate in most cases, with once going over and through the ground.

For this service, because of its convenience, we prefer the "Geddes' Folding Harrow."—But in another paper upon implements, intended to follow this, there will be presented a cut and description of a new novelty, that ought to, and one of these days will very likely, supersede entirely the use of all the old-fashioned toothed harrows. We shall describe this, and other improved farm implements, in a course of articles extending through the planting, hay-ing and harvesting seasons.

THE MUSCAT HAMBURG GRAPE.—We have noticed for a few years past, that this grape was attracting more and more attention as an indoor variety, and we now find that it has the endorsement of some of our most experienced growers. Robert Buist, Esq., of Philadelphia, who is so well-known as one of our pioneer nurserymen and fruit-growers, speaks of it in the highest terms. He says it is equally well adapted to a cold or forcing graperie; its fruit is the color of the Black Hamburg, oval in form, and bunches frequently twelve inches by nine. In Muscat flavor it is equal to the Muscat of Alexandria, and is two weeks earlier than the Hamburg. This is surely giving it a character that cannot be overlooked, and must soon bring it into general cultivation.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

IN ONE'S PLACE.—If there be one man before me, who honestly and contentedly believes that, on the whole, he is doing that work to which his powers are best adapted, I wish to congratulate him. My friend, I care not whether your hand be hard or soft; I care not whether you are from the office or the shop; I care not whether you preach the everlasting gospel from the pulpit, or swing the hammer over the blacksmith's anvil; I care not whether you have seen the inside of the college or the outside—whether your work be that of the head or that of the hand—whether the world account you noble or ignoble; if you have found your place, you are a happy man. Let no ambition ever tempt you away from it by so much as a questioning thought.—*Dr. Holland*.



Original Papers.

HIGHWAYS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY ALEX. HYDE, LEE, MASSACHUSETTS.

Good roads are a good thing for all, but especially for farmers, and are a pretty correct index of the thrift of a community. New England farmers, with markets close at their doors, or good roads to transport their produce the short distance requisite to find a market, can poorly appreciate the drawback which long transportation, over corduroy roads, makes upon the profits of Western farming. We once visited some friends in Wisconsin, and had to travel some fifteen miles from the railroad station to reach them. On inquiring at the livery for a horse, and stating the distance and direction we wished to go, we were coolly informed that one horse was not sufficient to carry one person through the sloughs we should be compelled to traverse. We accordingly hired two horses to transport one hundred and sixty pounds fifteen miles, and before we arrived at the end of our journey, (it was in April), concluded our two-horse power was none too much. The sloughs, as they call them in Wisconsin, (in our vernacular, the marshes), we found the surest part of the journey, for they were generally corduroyed, and our horses and vehicle were so sustained by the logs that there was no danger of their sinking out of sight. Our friends we found, with plenty of good land about them, and hay and hominy in abundance, but with little ready cash. They complained that although the crops were good, the transportation was so expensive it did not pay to carry them to market. One friend invited us to come and live where wheat grew luxuriantly and hay could be had for the mowing. "No"—said another—"you had better stay where you can sell, or at least give away, what you raise."

An Eastern owner of a farm in Illinois once inquired of his tenant the price of corn at the nearest R. R. station, and the cost of transportation per bushel; and the reply was, "corn is selling at fifteen cents, and it costs eighteen to get it to market." The owner advised the tenant to sell, but added "be sure and not let the cost of transportation exceed the bill of sale."

We state these facts, to show the value of a near market and good roads. Our roads are good in comparison with those of new countries generally. But is there not a large margin for improvement? In too many places we still find them made of muck or surface soil, full of vegetable matter, first rate to grow potatoes, but making a slough of despond with every rain. Horses as well as men protest against such "road metal," as the English call the material of which a road is made. There is a place for every thing and every thing should be in its place; the place for muck is not in the road, but in the hog pen or barn yard. We have much to learn as a community, in the art of road making. It is an old art, as the old Roman roads, older than the Christian era, and now in good condition, testify; and it would seem we might learn more than we have, by the experience of so many nations and centuries that have gone before us. Every nation goes through pretty much the same experience with its roads, building them at first when and how temporary necessity may demand; and afterwards, as population, wealth and intelligence increases, locating them more conveniently, and building them more permanently. Some of our old roads are so located over hills as to give the impression that our fathers were so ignorant as to suppose that the distance around a hill was greater than over it; or in other words, that the bale of a kettle is longer lying down than standing up. We do not suspect them of any such ignorance. They probably built the steep hill roads to get a hard road bed and to avoid the wet low lands, and it was good policy, if they had not the means to MeAdamize the marshy places; for it is much easier for a horse to pull a load up an ascent

with something substantial for feet and wheels to rest upon, than on a level, where no sure fulcrum can be found for feet; and the friction from the mud or sand is a greater obstacle to be overcome than the gravity of the load.

If we do not wish to take lessons in road building from the Appian Way of Julius Caesar, or the military road over the Alps of the first Napoleon, two most enduring monuments of the energy and skill of these mighty conquerors, we surely can learn something from the civil engineers who have constructed our rail roads; the three great objects aimed at by these engineers are, a direct course, a low grade, and a dry road bed. In securing the first, all abrupt curves are avoided. If necessary to change the course, the momentum of the train is not impeded by a short turn. In the right angle forks of our common roads, the vehicle must in reality be stopped, and then started again in another direction, and thus much force of motion lost. The advantages of a low grade are too obvious to need alluding to, but it would seem that the prophecy "the high places shall be brought low and the valleys exalted," is slow in its fulfillment on our carriage roads. What we wish to call particular attention to is, the dry hard road bed over which the wheels can roll with little friction. This can only be secured by a well turnpiked road, allowing the water to run readily to either side, and a good hard pan or gravel material of which to construct it. Our railroad contractors often take off the surface soil before dumping a load of permanent road bed, but our common road builders frequently use no other material. In many thoroughfares McAdam's principles are the most economical in the long run, costing something in their first adoption, but fully paying for all cost in the greatness and permanency of the benefit. There is one other little matter to which we wish to call attention and that is, the mounds made across some of our hill roads to turn the water into side ditches and thus avoid washings or gulches. These mounds make increased elevation in ascending the hill and in descending, wrench a horse and vehicle greatly by the sudden stoppage. They are entirely unnecessary, if the road is properly turnpiked. The science of road building is yet in its infancy in our country. With the best of material from which to construct our highways, we have comparatively few good roads. We rejoice to know that increased attention is being paid to this subject, and we commend it especially to the attention of the agricultural community.

The Field.

QUANTITY OF SEED PER ACRE.

We give the following for reference:

Grain Drilled.—Wheat, one and a half to two bushels; rye, one and a fourth to one and a half; oats, two and a half to three; barley, two and a half to three; barley and oats, one bushel of oats to two bushels of barley; peas, two to three bushels; huckwheat, half to two-thirds of a bushel; corn, in hills, six to eight quarts; in drills, for fodder, two to three bushels; broadcast for fodder, three to four bushels; broom corn in drills, half to three-fourths of a bushel; beans, one to one and a half bushels.

Grasses.—Timothy, eight to twelve quarts; orchard grass, one and three-fourths to two bushels; red-top, twelve to sixteen quarts; Kentucky blue grass, two bushels; white clover, four to six quarts; red clover, six to eight quarts; millet, half to three-fourths; lucerne, eight to ten pounds.

Vegetable and other Seeds.—Beets, four to five pounds per acre; carrots, two pounds; ruta-haga, three-fourths to one pound; tobacco, two ounces; cotton, two to five bushels; turnip, one to two pounds; onions, three to four pounds.

ENGLAND has about four hundred steam ploughs and cultivators in operation, saving the labor of about twenty-five hundred horses.

The Horse.

BREAKING HORSES.

SOME may object to the term *breaking* as suggestive of the tragical and terrible. Well, that is about what you want to describe when you speak of processes in vogue. Colts run wild till they have attained nearly their full strength and have acquired very positive ideas about personal freedom and the rights of horses! Then all at once the man who has been passing himself off as their *owner*, (a point not conceded by the "party of the other part," takes it into his head that he is in pressing need of their service, and sets himself at once vigorously to work to get it. I will draw a veil over what follows; it is always sad to see brutes contending. I beg leave to add—

First—That colts should be handled and made tame from the very start.

Second—They should be accustomed to the harness and made to draw light loads when two or three years old, but never put to severe business till they are seven or eight.

Third—A broke horse should back as well as draw; should obey the rein promptly, and be made to avoid a slouching gait; should always stop at the word, should be familiar with railroad engines in full blast; and be accustomed to things about his heels; show no repugnance to the country's flag, and accept a military escort with perfect composure. No horse is educated—"broke" if you please—till he has been made familiar with all these things. No horse should ever be sent out to *work* his way in the world till he is incapable of taking fright at anything. I have seen a cavalry horse hold perfectly still, and not even wink, when a bludgeon was swung furiously within two inches of his head.

Fourth—All, except heavy draft horses, should be trained for riding. They should obey the rein, walk, trot or gallop, as desired, and keep the gait they are put on till required to change. There is an ease and regularity of motion observable in circus horses that greatly assists the rider, and makes pastime of what is nearly allied to torture when the animal is in a crude and undisciplined state. Horseback riding should be vastly more common than it is among men and women, boys and girls.

Fifth—Now is the time to break colts and steers, before the busy time comes; it is hard to practice the cardinal virtue in horse-breaking, *patience*, when we are in a hurry.

Sixth—Rarely was a saint, or something of that sort.—H. T. B. in *Rural New Yorker*.

BLOOD SPAVIN IN HORSES.—The following recipe I have never known to fail in curing an actual blood spavin on horses. Take equal parts of alcohol and spirits turpentine, put together in a glass bottle; then take a lump of verdigris, as much as will dissolve in the liquor, and roll it up in a cabbage leaf and roast it in the hot embers, the same as potatoes; then take it out and put it into the liquor; shake well before using; and then take a pail of cold water, dip your hands into it, and rub the spavin thoroughly before using it; then apply the medicine. Put it on once in two days, until you have applied it four or five times; then dress it once in two days with the following oils, and heat them in the same length of time each time: Two ounces oil of spike, one ounce oil of turpentine, one ounce oil of amber, half an ounce oil of origanum, mix together; then wait a few days and if not cured, go through the same process again. If there is any fever it may take off the hair; if so, apply a little soft grease or oil the next day after applying it.—*Rural American*.

LARGE COLTS.—George Foster, of the town of Weare, N. H., has a colt 11 months old that weighs 610 pounds. The colt was sired by the Abdallah horse of Wilton. Arctas Blood, Esq., of the city of Manchester, in the same State, has one by the same horse, coming two this Spring, which weighs 900 pounds. These are large colts, and hard to heat for weight.

BACKING IN THE STABLES.—A celebrated veterinarian says that if a person will stand for a few moments with his toes higher than his heels, the pain he will feel in the calves of his legs will explain to him the reason why horses that are tied in stalls, try to find their own level by standing across the stalls, or backing as far as the halter will permit. In many stables the floors slant considerable so as to throw off the urine, and the horse hacks in order to find the ascent of the other side of the gutter.

CURES FOR POLL EVIL.—J. E. Cole, Steuben Co., N. Y., says he never failed to cure poll evil by first "washing the sore clean with warm soap suds, and then sprinkling on a teaspoonful of saleratus once a day until a cure is effected, which will be speedy."

L. P. W., Troy, Pa., says, "take four quarts of mandrake roots, boil them in water to get a strong decoction, then add one pint of hogs' lard and simmer it down to a salve. This is rubbed on once a day and heated in with a warm shovel. I have tried it for twenty years and never knew it to fail."—*Rural New Yorker*.

Miscellany.

STRENGTH OF THE BEETLE.

This insect has just astonished me by its vast strength of body. Every one who has taken the common beetle in his hand knows that his limbs, if not remarkable for agility, are very powerful; but I was not prepared for so Sampsonian a feat as that I have just witnessed. When the insect was brought to me, having no box immediately at hand, I was at a loss where to put it till I could kill it; but a quart bottle full of milk being on the table, I placed the beetle for the present under that, the hollow at the bottom allowing him room to stand upright. Presently, to my surprise the bottle began to move slowly and glide along the smooth table, propelled by the muscular power of the imprisoned insect and continued for some time to perambulate the surface, to the astonishment of all who witnessed it. The weight of the bottle and contents could not have been less than three pounds and a half, while that of the beetle was about half an ounce so that it really moved a weight 112 times its own. A better notion than figures can convey will be obtained of this fact by supposing a lad of fifteen to be imprisoned under the great bell of St. Paul's which weighs 12,000 pounds and to move it to and fro upon a smooth pavement by pushing within.—*Prof. Goss*.

MR. J. CLAY, of Buxton, Me., who recently visited the West, makes the following estimate for the Maine Farmer of the cost of a prairie farm. One hundred and sixty acres will cost at \$5, the lowest estimate, \$800. To fence this with posts and boards (and it must be fenced to save the crops) will cost \$1 per rod, making for fencing \$640. Then it will cost as much or more, to build a house and barn there as here, say \$1500—making the whole cost \$2,940, before a single furrow of the tough sod is turned.

A DECOCTION of the leaves of common chamomile will destroy every species of insect, and nothing contributes so much to the health of a garden as a number of chamomile plants dispersed through it. No green-house or hot-house should ever be without it, in a green or dried state; either the stalks or flowers will answer. It is a singular fact, that if a plant is drooping and apparently dying, in nine cases out of ten it will recover if you plant chamomile near it.

IN ascending into the air the heat increases five for the first three thousand feet, seven more for the next one thousand five hundred feet, eight for the next one thousand five hundred, and five for each one thousand five hundred feet of ascent after that. This is an average increase of one beat for each one hundred yards of ascent.

PRICES.—A comparison of present prices with those of the beginning of last year, shows that breadstuffs have advanced on an average about thirty-five per cent., while dairy products and beef and pork have declined twenty per cent., and groceries about ten per cent. A comparison of the prices of March, 1866, with those of March, 1865—when the war terminated—exhibited no material change. The manner in which prices have thus kept up, strongly contrasts with the rapid decline which followed the termination of the war of 1812. On Saturday, the day on which peace was announced, sugar sold at \$29 per hundred weight; on the following Monday it was freely offered at \$12.50 per hundred weight. Tea fell from \$2.25 to \$1 per pound. Tin declined from \$80 to \$25 a box. On that day specie sold at 22 per cent. premium; on the next Monday at 2 per cent.—*Boston Commercial*.





The Fireside Muse.

THERE'S WORK ENOUGH TO DO.

The blackbird early leaves its nest,
To meet the smiling morn,
And gathering fragments for its nest
From upland, wood, and lawn;
The busy bee that wings its way
Mid sweets of varied hue,
At every flower would seem to say—
"There's work enough to do."

The cowslip and the spreading vine,
The daisy in the grass,
The snow-drop and the eglantine,
Preach sermons as we pass;
The ant within its cavern deep,
Would hid us labor too,
And smiles upon its tiny heap—
"There's work enough to do."

To have a heart for those who weep,
The sottish drunkard win;
To rescue all the children, deep
In ignorance and sin;
To help the poor, the hungry feed,
To give him coat and shoe,
To see that all can write and read,
"There's work enough to do."

The time is short—the world is wide
And much has to be done;
This wondrous earth, and all its pride,
Will vanish with the sun!
The moments fly on lightning wings,
And life's uncertain too;
We've none to waste on foolish things—
"There's work enough to do."

The planets to their Maker's will,
Move onward in their cars,
For nature's wheel is never still—
Progressive as the stars!
The leaves that flutter in the air,
The Summer breezes too,
One solemn truth to man declare—
"There's work enough to do."

Who then can sleep when all around
Is active, fresh, and free?
Shall man—creation's lord be found
Less busy than the bee?
Our courts and alleys are the field,
If men would search them through,
The best the sweets of labor yield,
And "work enough to do."

General Miscellany.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

FARMERS' GRINDSTONES.

THERE is no tool so essential to the farmer as a good grindstone; and a very correct idea may be formed of the management of the farm, by the appearance of this homely but useful article. If the neighboring saw or edge tool factory, has furnished one of its cast off "hubs," which is hung on a wooden shaft, and suspended in the crotch of a tree, or in a fence corner, you may rest assured that such a farm will not produce four hundred bushels of potatoes, or forty bushels of wheat to the acre. But such cases are rare, nowadays, as this article has kept pace with the wonderful improvements in mowing machines and farming implements generally. The old fashioned, unfinished stone, with square hole and uncertain grit, has been superseded by the finished stone, with self-adjusting shaft, friction rollers and treddle; so that one person can turn the stone, and grind any ordinary tool without assistance.

In olden times, the only grindstones in use came from New Castle, in England, and although very good for some purposes, they were not suitable for farmers' use, the grit being too coarse. The Nova Scotia stones were next introduced, and found to be a great improvement on the New Castle. The Ohio grindstones are very largely used by the farmers and others throughout the West; although our Pennsylvania farmers prefer a good, blue, Nova Scotia stone; but recently a most excellent article has reached us from the shores of Lake Huron, having a fine, sharp grit, leaving a fine edge, and cutting pretty fast.

Hoping these remarks may induce our farmers to give this important tool the attention it deserves, a few hints how to put it in order may not be out of place.

First.—Always keep your grindstone under cover, as exposure to the sun's rays hardens the grit and injures the frame.

Second.—Don't let the stone run in water, or stand in water when not used, as this causes soft places where none exist; but allow the

water to drip from a water pot (an old white lead keg will answer), fixed above the stone, and stop it off when not grinding.

Third.—Clean off all greasy or musty tools before sharpening; as grease or rust chokes up the grit; and always keep the stone perfectly round by razeing it off when necessary; and finally, every farmer should have a good grindstone of his own, always ready for use, and no one should be so improvident as to waste the cost of a stone by running to his neighbors to grind his tools.

Germantown, Pa., April, 1867.

INFLUENCE OF WATER ON THE PRODUCTION OF MILK.

In a communication to the French Academy of Sciences, Mr. Dancel discusses the influence of liquid food and water upon the quantity of milk secreted by herbivorous animals. It is found that by inciting cows to drink large quantities of water, the quantity of milk yielded by them can be increased several quarts per day, without materially injuring its quality; the amount of milk obtained is approximately proportional to the quantity of water drunk. Cows which, when stall-fed with dry fodder, gave only from nine to twelve quarts of milk per day, at once produced from twelve to fourteen quarts daily, when their food was moistened by mixing with it from eighteen to twenty-three quarts of water per day. Besides this water taken with the food, the animals were allowed to drink at the same intervals as before, and their thirst was excited by adding to the fodder a small quantity of salt. The milk produced under the water regimen, after having been carefully analyzed and examined as to its chemical and physical properties, was adjudged to be of good quality; excellent butter was obtained from it.

The precise proportion of water which can thus be given to cows with advantage, is a point not readily determinable, since the appetite for drink differs very considerably in different individuals. But by observing the degree of the appetite for drink, in a number of cows, by taking note of the quantity of water habitually consumed by each of the animals in the course of twenty-four hours, and contrasting this quantity with that of the milk produced, Dancel asserts that any one can see that the yield of milk is directly proportional to the quantity of water absorbed. He asserts, moreover, in as many words, that a cow which does not habitually drink as much as twenty-seven quarts of water per day, and he has met with such, is actually and necessarily a poor milker; she will give only from five and a half to seven quarts of milk per day. But all the cows he has seen which drank as much as fifty quarts of water daily, were excellent milkers, yielding from nineteen to twenty-three quarts or more of milk. In his opinion the quantity of drink consumed by a cow is a valuable test of her worth as a milk producer.

In the main, these experiments do but illustrate with greater precision, facts which have long been familiar to practical men. The nurse, when suckling the human infant, does not naturally consume much more solid food than before, but of liquids she drinks much larger quantities. After a cow has begun to give milk, she drinks far more water than before; the quantity of water consumed increasing, according to Dancel, from between eleven and eighteen quarts per day, or even less, to twenty-seven, thirty-six, or forty-five quarts or more—at least for the breed of cattle upon which he has experimented.

As Dancel justly urges, however, the principle here laid down has hitherto not been sufficiently recognized by men of science, in many of the experiments which have been undertaken for the purpose of comparing the value of different kinds of fodder, and of determining the influences which they severally exert upon the production of milk.

Though presented as a physiological disquisition, and by no means without value from the physiologist's point of view, Dancel's paper will be more likely to attract general attention from its bearing upon the vexed subject of adulteration. If the accuracy of the proposi-

tion be admitted, that by inducing a cow to drink every day twenty odd quarts of water more than her accustomed ration, several additional quarts of milk can be obtained from her, and if the practicability of the operation be accepted or proved, then the question at once arises as to whether or no the method now under discussion will be in any way preferable to the time honored custom of adding a certain amount of water to the milk after it has left the cow. The customary method, at first sight certainly seems to be simpler than the plan now hinted at, of pouring six times the needful quantity of water down the cow's throat; but it is well-nigh certain that the milk thus indirectly "extended," *a la* Dancel, will be superior in quality to milk watered to the same extent after the milk has been taken from the cow. Not only will analysis be likely to exhibit a far closer approximation to the composition of ordinary normal milk, in the former case than in the latter, but we may be sure that milk diluted within the animal, will receive a certain share, at least, of that elaboration and commingling of its ingredients which is as yet inimitable by man, and which so widely distinguishes organized matter from that which is unorganized. The milk of the water-soaked cows must still be regarded as milk—not as adulterated milk. Milk of quality somewhat inferior to the ordinary it may be, in spite of M. Dancel's opinion of the contrary, but it is still the animal secretion, milk, and not a mere mixture of milk and water. Here, as in a host of other cases of so-called adulteration, it would be well if dealers would only adopt some system of just adaptation of price to quality; just as in the Russian markets one may choose between first, second, and third quality eggs, according to the length of his purse and the delicacy of his taste.

CATTLE RAISING IN SWITZERLAND.

LAND for cattle raising in Switzerland is not sold by measurement, but at a value corresponding to the number of cattle it will maintain. Much of the grazing or pasture land in Switzerland is found on the summits of the inferior Alps. In fact, the word "alps" means flat table lands almost always found on the top of these mountains. By long usage, the word has come to be considered as applying to the whole elevation—particularly by foreigners. The Swiss customs regarding the pasturing of cattle upon these "alps" are novel, and may be interesting to our readers.

The cattle are pastured upon the lower pasture until about the first day of June in each year. The "alps" are then ready to receive them, and on a certain day, determined beforehand, and announced through each Canton (or county) they are driven in a body to the different higher pastures. This is always made a time of rejoicing, and the day set apart for a grand fete. As a general thing, the different "alps" are owned by different villages as corporations, and not by individuals. Many of them are walled in by a rude stone fence, though many are left in a perfectly natural state. The number of cattle that each "alp" can maintain varies from fifty to a hundred, perhaps fifty is nearer the average.

On the summits of these alps are buildings in which the "vachers" or cattle-keepers live. These are called "chalets," and are long, low and picturesque in their appearance. The roof is loaded with heavy stones—a very necessary precaution at elevations more than a mile high—and, besides, is often bound down to the rocks by cables. There are, usually, three rooms—one long and narrow, with a passage-way through the middle, with stalls on either side, into which the cattle are driven at night, or during stormy weather—another where the cheese is made, and the third, small, and used for various purposes.

There are usually four "vachers" on each "alp." They remain with the cattle during the whole season—June to October—have the exclusive charge of them, and are accountable for all their increase or product. Once each month the different owners make a visit to the "chalet" and witness the morning and evening

milking of their cows and note the amount. Cheese is made at these "chalets" twice a day and the accumulated amount is weekly sent to the valley below. The life led by these "vachers" is an exceedingly pleasant one, provided they happen to be on a favorable "alp," but in the majority of cases the life is one of considerable danger.

The storms that rage about the summits of these high mountains are often terrific. The mountains are often enveloped by dense clouds charged with electricity and accompanied by terrible winds. During these storms the cattle are sometimes lost and the "vachers" must look them up at great peril to their lives, when as is often the case with the sheep and goats, they have fallen down some precipice and lodged upon some projecting crag. Many of these "alps" are like the roof of a house and can only be tenanted by goats. In these cases boys are hired to watch them, at the ridiculously small sum of two dollars for the season. They literally live with their herds sleeping with them and having no shelter save what they can find under some kindly projecting rock.

The total product of these cattle is immense. In the one item of cheese alone the annual export amounts to many hundred thousand dollars, and this after Switzerland has been supplied. The amount of cheese consumed by the Swiss is very great, it being a staple article of diet, even to the extent of being to them what the potato is to an Irishman. The export of cattle is also quite large, often reaching seventy-four thousand head. The number of cattle fed upon these "alps" and in the lower pastures is nearly one million.

A singular custom is observed in the Catholic church, and is illustrative of the hold the priests still have on the people. Once every season the priests go from alp to alp and "bless" the "vachers" and their herds; on the day that ceremony is performed the milk is made into one large cheese, and is most religiously set aside for the church. On a given day the "vachers" descend with this enormous cheese and meeting at some designated spot, march with them on their shoulders to the church where they deposit them before the altar, receive again the priest's blessing, and then return, assured that they and their flocks are safe from harm.

The Swiss make a kind of cheese from goat's milk which is used in the place of butter and is most delicious. Another kind with a name as unpronounceable as its smell is unbearable, is a great favorite with the common people and is really good when once fairly past one's olfactory.

Very little butter is made in Switzerland—not enough even for domestic use. A small amount is annually imported. What is made is never salted, and that which is imported in a salted condition is not considered fit for the table.

The Swiss have another domestic animal which always seemed to me to be a cross between a calf and a grey-hound. This they facetiously call a pig, but one must have an organ of faith fully developed to believe them. On meeting in the woods one with his long legs and long red hair, one looks instinctively for some friendly tree that he may secure safety from the unknown animal, which however, like the ass in the lion's skin, soon betrays his genus by his voice.

A Good Cow.—Daniel O'Connell once saved a cow thief from hanging, though the fellow was condemned to transportation. He afterwards returned to Ireland, and made himself known to O'Connell, and in requital for his services as counsel, he said he would impart a valuable secret. "If your honor wants to steal a cow go on a dark, rainy night, and take a cow that stands out in the field, and sure ye'll get a good one. The weakly ones, yer honor, always shelter under the hedge if the weather is had."

For every friend a man loses for truth's sake he gains a better.

IMMIGRATION.—It is a suggestive fact that the immigration of millions of foreigners has not, as native laborers once feared, proved a serious competition, reducing the rate of wages. On the contrary, it has advanced great public works which have opened new and wider fields of industry and has pushed the native laborer into the artisan ranks and the sphere of skilled labor, with higher wages, more exercise of mind, and less of muscle than before. When it is remembered that in 1860 there were 4,136,175 foreign residents, and at least 5,000,000 at the present time, or one-seventh of the population, and a still larger proportion of the actual labor of the country, this result must be acknowledged to be convincing evidence of the great resources and vast power of labor absorption possessed by the United States.





Sketches of Travel.

A VISIT TO THE VALLEY OF CHAMOUNI, IN THE SUMMER OF 1854.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY HON. JAMES W. WALL, NEW JERSEY.

THE valley of Chamouni is the area provided by nature for the perfect exhibition of Mont Blanc. Its space, except where occupied by roads, by its two soapy colored rivers, and by the streams that rushing into them, intersect it like net work, is chiefly occupied by small, bright farms, each with its nest-like homestead, dotted sometimes with dark groves of trees, only now and then relieved by alder bushes and the dazzling gleam of the scarlet berries of the mountain ash. We found most excellent quarters at the Royal Union Hotel, and those comforts so refreshing to travellers who have endured the fatigues of so rough a journey as that from Geneva to Chamouni. The next morning, looking directly up to the summit of the Monarch of Mountains, from my chamber windows, I could scarcely realize that it would require eighteen hours of steady climbing, with a night's rest between, to accomplish its ascent. At noon, while looking at some adventurers who had started the day before to reach the lofty summit, I began to have a more perfect realization of the immense height of the mountain. They had just reached the top, having started on their return; but with a telescope of considerable power, you could only discern three dark spots about the size of moles, moving down the snow covered sides of the mountain. The second morning after our arrival, we started for an excursion to the Mer de Glace. It is attained by the ascent of some three thousand feet above the level of the valley, which some three hours' climbing on the part of your trusty mules, enables you to reach. It is exceedingly steep in some parts, but not in the least difficult. A gradual ascent, bordered on each side by masses of rock detached by some strong convulsion from the mountain sides, brings you to the Fountain of Claudine, where, in the opera of Lerida, the heroine has her first interviews with her lover. During our ascent we had, through the open places in the forest, most enchanting views of the valley with its different villages, surrounded by trees and cornfields stretching along the banks of the Arve. On arriving at Montanvert, the scene changes entirely. Instead of a fertile plain, you find yourself on the brink of a precipice, overhanging a scene worthy of the Arctic regions, a large valley of eternal ice and snow. The Mer de Glace is immediately below you, in shape almost a circular basin or amphitheatre, and seems, to my recollection, to be imbued with even more beauty than grandeur; for its floor is formed of sheets of waving ice, which, except that it is broken here and there by the glistening blue of a crevice, has all the freedom of actual motion. The rocks circling it, splintered into fantastic varieties of summit, harmonize remarkably in color with the ice, and are dwarfed by the dizzy heights beyond them; and the Aiguille du Dru, rising in the shape of a cone of pale brown, looks like the spirit of beauty shedding its influences on all beneath it. The Mer de Glace, or Ice Sea, is full fifty-four miles long, and in some places three miles wide. The thickness or depth of the glacier varies according to the surface; the average is from eighty to one hundred feet; but in some places, owing to the hollows in the rocks beneath it, may be as much as four or five hundred. This great Sea of Ice is formed from the two streams that pour forth from different sources in the higher Alps.

The origin of these glaciers is from the accumulation of snows in the upper valleys. In the Spring and Summer these masses become saturated during the day with rain water, or imbibe the moisture of their exterior, which has been liquefied by the rays of the sun. During night or on the approach of Winter, the remnant is frozen into a mass of porous ice, which is again covered by a coating of snow the next Winter, and thus, by degrees,

in the long progress of ages, these glaciers have been formed.

We descended to the level of the glacier after a short rest in the Pavilion of the Montanvert. When you arrive upon it, the appearance is, for all the world, as if by some magic spell, a raging, roaring torrent, rushing headlong in its course, had been arrested in mid career by the breath of the Ice King. Still as the glacier appears to human vision, that vast icy bed is in continual motion, moving downward toward the valley into which it intrudes some considerable distance. It moves on with a steady flow, although no eye sees its motion; but from day to day, and year by year, the secret, silent cause, whatever it may be, produces the certain, sure effect. The avalanche feeds it, and swells its flowing tides; and at night, when the mountain life is almost still, when its countless veins are frozen up, and the murmur of its thousand rills is hushed to rest, the glaciers' great pulse alone beats heavily and slow. Nothing is more curious than the transportation of immense masses of rock into the valley by this constant movement of the glacier; and at the foot of the Mer de Glace, known as the Glacier des Bois, may be seen huge masses of rock that have been thus strangely transported into the valley by the unseen but never ceasing motion.

Where the glacier presses its terrific ploughshare into the valley, it turns up the soil and wrinkles in advance the green sward of the meadows, brings among the fields the blasts of Winter, overthrowing everything in its tremendous progress. It would be impossible fully to describe the sublime wildness of the scenery surrounding the Mer de Glace. Beneath your feet, far up amid the eternal snows—below you, where the heat of the valley has at last checked the progress of the glacier, rise the frozen waves, some as high as twenty or thirty feet. Around on all sides, ten and twelve thousand feet above the sea level, the needle shaped rocks that give such grand effect to the scenery of the valley, are piercing the skies. On the left you have the Aiguille du Dru, behind it the Aiguille Verte, on the right, the Aiguille du Moine and the Aiguille du Bochart, while around extends a rampart of colossal rocks, whose crumbling summits attest the influence of many thousand seasons, and whose sterile grandeur has an imposing effect upon the mind. Our descent from the Montanvert was much more rapid than our ascent, for in two hours we reached, without much fatigue, our hotel. That same evening we visited the source of the Arve, a rapid torrent issuing from a vault of ice under the extremity of the Glacier des Bois, the lower part of the Mer de Glace. This remarkable fountain head of the valley stream, is one of the finest sights in Chamouni. We soon reached the moraines of rock and stone brought down from the mountain in the course of ages by the action of the glacier. Then we clambered over these immense deposits to the edge of the ice which rises like a huge wall, and listened, in the stillness of the evening, to the mighty straining and crushing noise that came from the huge mass above. The Arve here rushes from three low arches at the foot of a dark blue cliff of ice, turbid and foaming; and as the eye peers into the darkness vaults above, the imagination begins to picture the terrible aspect of the interior. We crept as near as the stream would permit, and leaned over the rocky ramparts to gaze and listen. The whole scene around was of the most impressive character. The water here rushes swiftly, and with great noise from its source deep in the heart of the glacier. At times the volume is largely increased, and often the sudden checking of the stream has been the cause of terrible devastation. Some years ago, the arches at the foot of the glacier being worn by the water, fell in, and the fragments becoming frozen, choked up the glacier river. The waters thus impeded accumulated rapidly, until at a point many hundred feet above the former vent, they burst through in a tremendous cataract, and with a deafening roar, tumbled headlong upon the valley, sweeping trees, fences and dwellings before it for miles. If the action of one

glacier could produce such consequences, what might not be the devastation, if the whole four hundred, large and small, should be placed in a similar position. Taking the glaciers as from three to fifteen miles long on the average, one to three miles wide, and from one to nine hundred thick, the calculation has been made, that about thirty millions of cubic fathoms of ice are transported down the mountain ravines every year.

Looking up at the huge arches, lumps of stone, large and small were continually falling, now plunging into the stream, now clattering into the hollows of the moraines, indicating the ceaseless movement of the mighty mass above. It was rather a warm evening; but the vicinity of this huge mass of ice produced a cool, descending current of air, and it became quite chilly. How striking, too, was the contrast in view—a cataract of ice barred apparently by a dam of rocks, a torrent rushing from beneath, a waterfall tumbling in crowds of spray from above. Within a few feet of the frozen mass, grass was growing with fir trees bordering it, until lost behind the bend towards Montanvert. It was in truth Winter frowning in the face of Summer to resent the intrusion into his territory, yet held in check by Summer's warm and glowing breath. Far in the distance, looking upward along the glacier, rose the tall Aiguilles, with their lofty pinnacles tipped with the rosy hues of the sunlight that had long left the valley. It was a scene of beauty, once seen, never to be erased from the tablets of the memory.

Fireside Miscellany.

THE DOUBLE TREE AT CHESTER, MASS.

THE March number of the American Journal of Sciences and Arts contains an interesting account, written by Payson W. Lyman, an Amherst College senior, of the remarkable union of two elm trees. This double tree stands about a mile from the little village of North Chester, in a narrow ravine, near a branch of the Westfield river. Its two parts rise from the ground at a distance of about 30 feet, one of the trunks being 2½ feet in diameter, and nearly 100 feet high, and the other somewhat smaller. At a height of about 14 feet, an arch springs from the larger tree, and extends over to the other, which it reaches four feet from the ground, where it is firmly united and joined in a living connection, through which the sap apparently circulates freely. Its appearance is as though, at some early day of their history, a branch of the larger tree was bent over and grafted into the smaller, and tradition confirms the supposition. More remarkable, if anything than the union of the trees, are the three separate, upright trunks which have grown up from the conjoining arch. These are respectively 14, 11 and 6 inches in diameter, and their aggregate weight is estimated at 4400 pounds. About midway between the two original trees, a beech tree is growing, but before reaching the arch it divides, and includes it in its branches, without touching or in any way supporting it. The entire combination is very curious and interesting to naturalists, but like most of the home wonders, has never attracted very wide attention.

ROAD-MAKING.—The following hints upon this subject we find worthy of consideration; and as in the Spring much time is devoted to repairing and making roads, we give them for the benefit of farmers and others:

"In road-making, one great requisite is the ready and total removal of all water. There cannot be a good road where water stands by the side of it or on it. If the ditches have no ready outlet, the road bed will soak up the moisture more or less by capillary attraction, and thus remain rutted and muddy. It is vain to think of having a good road on a subsoil filled with stagnant water. Even on side hills, if water remains on the upper side, it will injure the road by passing under. Provide then, if possible, for the thorough drainage of your roads, either by surface or covered ditches. See that the road-bed is evenly and slightly

rounded, so that the water can readily find its way to the drains. If the soil is clayey or loamy, give it a few inches of gravel, or even coarse sand, and you will have a fine and pleasant passage-way. If the soil is sandy, it needs an addition of clay to correct it, and this will correct it so that good roads may be had over the lightest sandy soils."

CHANGE OF NAME.—The Entomological Society of Philadelphia has changed its name to the American Entomological Society. This change is one that should have been made before, as it will serve to give national reputation to a most useful Society, the only one of its kind in the United States. Its energies are devoted to the advancement of entomological science throughout our country, to the investigation of the character and habits of insects, which are disseminated through the pages of the Practical Entomologist, a monthly journal issued under its auspices at 50 cents per annum.

MANURE SHOULD BE WELL MIXED WITH THE SOIL.—Prof. Way, in his lectures before the Royal Agricultural Society of England, said his experiments showed that the soil was no idle spectator of what took place in it; that it was not a mere meeting place for the roots of plants and the food they were to grow upon, but that it was actually the stomach of the plant. Or he might go further, and say that nature had actually given to the soil the function and office which in animals is performed by the gastric juice and the chyle—that of preparing and digesting the food of plants. This is perhaps somewhat fanciful, but that it is very advantageous to thoroughly incorporate manure with the soil, no observing farmer can doubt.

STARCH IN POTATOES.—Dr. Nessler, of the Duchy of Baden, has shown by analysis that the nutritive value of potatoes varies with their size, and in favor of increased bulk. Potatoes about two inches in diameter contain 17.2 per cent. of starch, and those about the size of walnuts 14.6 per cent. We infer that full growth is necessary to full development of starch.

THE dry air of Minnesota produces some curious results. Not long ago, a gentleman now living in Minneapolis brought a piece of black walnut from the East which had been used there for years as a stand for a mantle clock, and the clock was covered by an oval glass, the bottom of which fitted into a groove in the stand. The wood had never shrunk, and was supposed to be thoroughly seasoned; but in less than six months in the new atmosphere it had undergone a change which had shivered the glass to atoms.

THE INDUSTRIOUS BEAVER.—The Garden of Plants in Paris now possesses a beaver from Canada, to which comfortable quarters have been assigned on the banks of the rivulet which intersects a part of the menagerie. Desiring of meeting the wishes of the new comer in every possible respect, the administration had provided a hut for it; but the Canadian stranger, having inspected the premises, and not found them to his taste, has pulled them down, and with the materials built up a new mansion in his own way, using his tail both as a trowel and hammer.

BUCKWHEAT CAKES.—Hall's Journal of Health says buckwheat cakes, properly baked, are very healthy and nutritious. They should be put on a soap stone griddle, over a good fire, and turned once only, and the sooner they are eaten after baking the better and healthier they are. When turned over more than once, like wheat cakes, they are spoiled, and instead of being the most nutritious of food, become the most indigestible. Some housewives, not knowing this fact—which is really a chemical one—spoil this favorite food. Soap stone griddles require no grease, and never burn the cakes.

BEAUTIFUL PRAYERS.—The prayers are beautiful that reach the throne of God. The fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much and is beautiful. The prayer of the widow and fatherless, who have no helper save He who heareth the orphan's cry, is indeed beautiful. The prayer of the infant who takes God's promise in his "most implicit grasp," as he does his mother's hand, is beautiful. The prayer of the lowly saint, unlettered and ungrammatical, is beautiful. The prayer of the poor man, when "God heard him and delivered him out of all his trouble," was beautiful. The prayer of the publican, who smote upon his breast, and said, "God be merciful to me, a sinner," was beautiful. The prayer of Stephen, when amid the storm of stones he cried, before he fell asleep, "Lay not this sin to their charge," was beautiful.



FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1867.

AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; with out 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.

ORNAMENTAL TREES.

Nothing improves the lawn, or the front yard to a house in the country, more than a judicious selection of ornamental trees. They are not only an adornment, but a permanent improvement to the rural homestead. Even the cheap house, the plain cottage, rough, unpainted and constructed without architectural taste, are improved by contiguity of shade trees. The landscape is ideal and picturesque only by fruit and forest trees; and the chief charm to country houses, in our estimation, is the ornamental trees which stand grandly around them.

Evergreens, among other varieties, should not be overlooked; and as they thrive in nearly all descriptions of soils, are not liable to failure. Among these we would recommend the Norway Spruce, Austrian Pine, White Pine and Hemlock Spruce. These are all beautiful trees. They grow large, consequently should not be planted nearer than ten feet from the walk or road, else they will require trimming, which destroys their natural grace, fullness and beauty. Among dwarf evergreens, we like the Siberian Arborvitæ, the English Yew, and the Irish Juniper. The best time for transplanting these trees is a mooted question. Some prefer the Fall of the year, while others select the Spring. Thomas Meehan, in his book on Ornamental Trees, says, "Autumn planting is preferable under most circumstances; yet it can be done in any season of the year." He adds:—"I have planted every month for experiment sake. The worst period is just after the tree has burst forth its leaves in Spring." This is true; but there is little danger to success if properly transplanted. We have set out evergreens in April, May, and even in June, and rarely lost a tree. In the Northern States June is regarded as a favorable time. Select smallish trees, plant on dry, or drained land, and with proper transplanting, they will generally live and grow vigorously.

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.

It is announced (not officially), that the Pennsylvania State Fair will be held at Norristown, in September. The grounds have been used for the State Agricultural Society before, and are well adapted for the exhibition. As the selection is not a central location, we regret that the officers of the Society overlooked the claims of Philadelphia. If the object is not to accommodate contributors within the State, the next thing should have been to select a place that would net the largest revenue to the Society. Philadelphia has ample accommodations for an army of agriculturists; and her resident citizens and visitors would patronize the exhibition as liberally as any other section.

The New York State Fair will be held at Buffalo, from the 1st to the 4th of October. Buffalo is an out-side selection; and a great disadvantage is, that temporary buildings will have to be used. Western New York, however, has claims for the exhibition, as it has been several years since the State Fair was held at the point now selected. Besides, the Western portion of the Empire State claims some of the finest herds of improved cattle, sheep and horses, as well as many worthy and eminent breeders of farm stock.

The time of holding the Ohio State Fair will be September 23d to the 26th. The place Dayton, the youngest and one of the most enterprising cities of the Buckeye State. All the principal railroads center at Dayton; consequently the facilities for transporting stock to the Fair grounds are good. This consideration is an important one, and should be remembered by all executive agricultural committees.

THE RHODE ISLAND SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

The stated meeting of the standing committee on the 17th inst., was attended by seventeen members.

The Treasurer made a report, showing a balance of \$62,30 in his hands.

The Secretary reported a list of articles received at the rooms of the Society since the last stated meeting of the Board. Among these was a large number of the Annual Reports of the Agricultural Department, for the years 1864 and 1865, from the Hon. Thomas A. Jenekes. These are for distribution among persons engaged in agricultural and horticultural pursuits. The transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society in the year 1865, and the thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Ohio Mechanics Institute, 1867, received from those Societies, had been added to the library.

The standing sub-committees reported their organization as follows:

On *Mechanic Arts*—Geo. F. Wilson, Chairman; William E. Barrett, Secretary.

On *Fine Arts*—Seth Padelford, Chairman; Joseph Hodges, Secretary.

On *Zoology*—George D. Wilcox, Chairman; Charles N. Hoyt, Secretary.

On *Miscellaneous Subjects*—Henry Staples, Chairman; William Viall, Secretary.

The Executive Committee heretofore appointed for the Cattle Show and Industrial Exhibition, reported progress on the duties assigned them. It has been resolved to hold such an exhibition at Providence in the Autumn, in connexion with the New England Agricultural Society, the programme of which will be completed shortly. In view of this, the Board voted to adjourn to meet at the call of this committee.

Mr. Dyer presented a model of a gate, an improvement on Harrah's patent gate, in this, that the bars that form the gate are horizontal when the gate is closed.

"In-and-in Breeding," the subject proposed for discussion, was discussed at length by E. Dyer, E. A. Lawton, C. Harris, G. F. Wilson, J. B. Francis, John Holden, A. B. Chadsey, Obadiah Brown, William Viall and J. H. Bourne. The diversity of opinion on that subject held by the speakers, was not entirely removed by the discussion. That diversity was manifested by the remarks made, and apparently justified by facts detailed. The general impression seemed to be, that if pursued beyond the second generation, "in-and-in breeding" was decidedly injurious; before that it would be less exceptionable, if accompanied with great care in the selection of animals to breed from.

Twenty-two new members were added to the Society.

The March Report of the Agricultural Department has been received. The stock tables are interesting, and show indications of increased attention to the breeding of farm animals. The fact is daily becoming more apparent that stock-growing is a more profitable branch of agriculture than grain production, especially in localities distant from market. The indications for a good wheat crop are generally favorable. The snows of the past Winter, and the general uniformity of cold weather, prevented winter-killing in a great degree.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.—The challenge put forth by the owner of the great Kentucky mare, Lady Thorn, to trot four races at \$1000 a side each race, against any horse living, at mile heats and two mile heats, in harness, and mile heats and two mile heats to wagon, has been taken by the owner of the renowned trotter Dexter.

The Ohio Wool Dealers' Association, which met at Cleveland, 18th inst., estimated the clip of wool for 1866, at 75,000,000 of pounds. That's "pulling the wool over our eyes," considerably.

MANY people who failed in mining in Nevada have made fortunes in farming.

"BUCKS COUNTY FOWLS."

A DELAWARE correspondent, who is evidently well posted on domestic poultry, says that "after a trial of four years, I have discarded the *Bucks County fowls*, as very unprofitable." As this correspondent fails to inform us why he bred this kind of fowl—whether for eggs, or for the table—we are not inclined to endorse his sweeping conclusion that they are "very unprofitable."

If we were to select a lot of poultry for *good layers*, it would not be the "Bucks County fowl," but the Black Polands, Bolton Grays or the Dominique variety. To raise for market, the "Bucks County fowls" will bear recommendation. They lay large, cinnamon colored eggs—from twelve to sixteen at a litter—but are rather poor sitters. Hence their eggs should be put under some other variety of hen. Our Delaware friend thinks the "chickens are not hardy." On this point, we are not qualified to answer. Much generally depends on the feeding, the locality, and the attention given to young fowls.

For capons, we consider the "Bucks County fowls" very superior. Their great size, voracious appetite, fine flavor of their flesh, qualify them for this purpose. At maturity capons of this breed will weigh from seven to ten pounds each; and we once saw a pair that weighed *over twenty-one pounds!* In the Philadelphia markets they have a good reputation, and we have yet to hear of farm-yard fowls that excel them for the table.

CLIMBING PLANTS.

No class of plants are more interesting and useful in the hands of the tasteful gardener, than the climbers, for covering arbors or fences, shading windows, etc. First in importance among these is that old favorite, the *Convolvulus Major*, or Morning Glory, an annual of easy culture, and consisting of many varieties, differing in color, as rose, purple, striped, etc. The seeds may be sown early in Spring, and support must be provided before the plants show a disposition to climb.

The *COBEA SCANDENS* is one of the most beautiful of the climbers. If grown in a hot-bed and transplanted in May, it will make a growth of from twenty to forty feet, and afford a delightful shade. The flowers are bell-shaped, large and purple. The leaves are fine, and the tendrils, which are very delicate and thread-like, attach themselves to anything within reach. If the plants are set out in a large pot or box, they may be taken up and removed to the house in the Autumn, and will there flower, making a most admirable Winter ornament. The *Coclea* should be planted in a warm situation, if possible.

The *IPOMEA*, or Cypress Vine, is another excellent climbing annual, that, like the preceding, needs a warm situation. The seed may be sown in the open ground during the latter part of May, but it is far better to grow plants in a hot bed, and transplant about the first of June.

THE COMING WEATHER.—French scientific men predict that the Summer of 1867 will be cold and wet like that of 1866, and they base the prediction on the fact that immense masses of ice have broken or are about to break away from the extreme North, producing cold and vapor. These prognostications, however, are not much to be depended upon; for it will be recollected that last Fall, the absence of the usual quantity of small fruits, nuts, &c., and various signs besides, augured a very mild Winter, especially in the West. Everybody's recollection will tell whether it was so or not.

The Executive committee of the New York State Agricultural Society have resolved to hold their next annual exhibition at Buffalo. The trial of implements is to take place at Utica in May.

The Farm and Fireside 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.

SOIL FOR THE FLOWER GARDEN.

THE best soil for the garden is a mellow loam, but almost any fair soil can be made suitable by *draining, deep digging and enriching* with good stable manure, or compost made of stable manure, leaves, sandy loam, etc. If the soil is heavy, sand and ashes may be applied with advantage. The compost or manure, if well mixed with the soil, will mellow it, and work a decided change in its texture in a few years. The thorough preparation of the soil is a very important matter, in fact, the foundation of all good culture, and must not be slighted. We would recommend that the ground should be dug and mellowed thoroughly eighteen inches deep. This may be considered troublesome, but it must be remembered that in the garden everything must be grown in the highest perfection to afford pleasure. If we would obtain flowers such as are described in the journals that treat of gardening, and are figured in colored plates, we must give them the very best of fare. This is the reason why some are disappointed. They read descriptions of choice things, and purchase seeds at a high price, but at the time of flowering they find they are not what they anticipated. The description which induced them to buy was of flowers well grown; they have given theirs no more care than they would a cabbage or a hill of corn: hence the difference.

A FRUIT EL DORADO.

It would seem that the soil and climate of Florida is especially adapted to fruit culture. Sokon Robinson says that a man would be pretty sure of a fortune from a nursery established immediately at St. Augustine, or rather preferably, at Jacksonville; for the country is rapidly settling with people who will want to plant a few oranges, lemons, limes, citrons, shaddockes, guavas, bananas, peaches, and ornamental trees and shrubs, which no one knows, now, where to obtain. Thousands of wild trees have been transplanted from the woods to gardens the present year. In some places tracts of wild oranges have been bought, and the process of converting them into sweet fruit commenced. The common way of starting an orange orchard is to go to the woods and dig up some orange trees, which are found abundant in some localities, and cut off the entire top, and bring home the stump with a few roots to plant. The sprouts start directly, and when large enough can be budded with any variety of the orange family, which is very numerous, including all sorts of oranges, lemons, limes, shaddockes, and citrons. There is no fruit so easy of propagation, for the seeds of each sort produce its like. The buds take readily, and produce fruit in four or five years—from the seed in eight or ten years.

GREAT SALE OF THOROUGH-BRED DEVON STOCK.—Mr. E. S. Penniman's sale of Thorough bred Devon Stock took place at his residence in Woodstock, Conn., April 18, 1867, when he sold his entire herd of Thoroughbreds. The sale was well attended by gentlemen from different parts of New England, and the bidding spirited. Mr. John Dimon, of Pomfret, Conn., was the largest purchaser, he having purchased one half of all the Thoroughbred stock offered for sale, among which were some of the finest Devon Cattle in New England, several of which were "herd-book" premium animals.

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER.—The Senate spent two hours in discussing the nomination of H. L. Capron of Illinois as Commissioner of Agriculture, and postponed it until December next. The opinion was expressed in the debate that the agricultural societies throughout the country should unite on a good man for that place, and that the President should nominate the one agreed on.

MR. PARDEE of Illinois, has found that lime slaked in salt brine, sown broadcast, has kept insects from strawberries.

THE world is crazy for show. There is not one person in a thousand who dares fall haek on his real, simple self, for power to get through the world, and exact enjoyment as he goes along. There is too much living in the eyes of other people. There is no end to the aping, the mimicry, the false airs and the superficial airs. It requires rare courage, we admit, to live to one's enlightened convictions in these days. Unless you consent to join in the general cheat, you are jostled out of reach, there is no room for you among the great mob of pretenders. If a man dares to live within his means, and is resolute in his purpose not to appear more than he really is, let him be applauded. There is something fresh and invigorating in such an example, and we should honor and uphold such a man with all the energy in our power.





The Fireside Muse.

TRAILING ARBUTUS.

Sweet surprise for April!
Met me on a day,
My friend, smiling, laden
With May flowers, ere the May;
Sweeter blossoms never grew,
May and morning, sun and dew.

Whence their breath, like music?
Whence their flush, like dawn?
Whence that soul of Spring time,
Have they softly drawn?
Wherefore should they folded be,
In such tender mystery?

For their old, dear sweetness,
And their beauty rare,
For the shore they grew on,
And the name they bear,
In my loving memory
I hold them, for these and thee.

Fireside Tale.

AN ENGINEER'S STORY.

I AM an engineer. For since—road was laid, I've travelled over it every day, or nearly every day of my life.

For a good while I've had the same engine in charge—the San Francisco—the prettiest engine on the road, and as well managed, if I say it, as the best.

It was a south-western road, running, so we will say, from A. to Z. At A. my good old mother lived; at Z. I had the sweetest little wife under the sun, and baby; and I always had a dollar or two put by for a rainy day. I was an odd kind of a man. Being shut up with the engine, watching with all your eyes and heart and soul, inside and out, don't make a man talkative.

My wife's name was Josephine, and I called her Jo. Some people called me unsocial and couldn't understand how a man could feel friendly without saying ten words an hour. So, though I had a few friends—dear ones, too—I did not have so many acquaintances as most people, and did not care to have. The house that held my wife and baby was the dearest spot on earth to me, except the old house that held my mother, up at A.

I never belonged to a club, or mixed myself up with strangers in any way, and never should, if it hadn't been for Granby. You see Grauby was one of the shareholders, a handsome, showy fellow. I liked to talk with him and we were friends. He often rode from Z to A, and back again, with me, and once he said:

"You ought to belong to the Scientific Club, Gueldeu."

"I never heard of it," said I.

"I am a member," said he. "We meet once a fortnight, and have a jolly good time. We want thinking men like you. We have some among us now. I'll propose you if you like."

I was fond of such things, and I had ideas that I fancied might be worth something. But then an engineer don't have nights or days to himself, and the club would have one evening a fortnight from Jo. I said:

"I'll ask her. If she likes it, yes."

"Ask whom?" said he.

"Jo," said I.

"If every man had asked his wife, every man's wife would have said, 'Can't spare you, my dear, and we should have no club at all,'" said Grauby.

"I shall miss you, Ned; but you do love such things, and then if Granby belongs, they must be superior men."

"No doubt," said I.

"It isn't everybody who could be made a member," said Jo. "Why of course, you must say yes."

So I said yes, and Granby proposed me. Thursday fortnight I went with him to the rooms. The real business of the evening was the supper, and so it was every evening.

I'd always been a temperate man. I actually did not know what effect wine would have on me; but coming to drink more of it

than I ever had before at the club table, I found it put steam on. After so many glasses I wanted to talk; after so many more I did.

I seemed like somebody else, the words were so ready. My little ideas came out, and were listened to. I made sharp hits; I indulged in repartee; I told stories; I even came to puns. I heard somebody say to Grauby:

"By George, that's a man worth knowing. I thought him dull at first." Yet I knew it was better to be quiet Ned Guelden, with his ten words an hour, than the wine made wit I was.

I was sure of it, when three months after I stumbled up stairs to find Jo waiting for me with her baby on her breast.

"You've been deceiving me," said Jo. "I suspected it, but I wasn't sure. A scientific club couldn't smell like a bar-room."

"Which means I do," said I, wavering in the middle of the room like a signal flag at a station and seeing two Joes.

"And look like one," said Jo; and went and looked herself and baby in the spare bedroom.

One club night, as I was dressed to go, Jo stood before me.

"Ned," said she, "do you think a thing so much like a bottled up and strapped down demon as steam is, is fit to put into the hands of a drunken man? And some day, mark my words, the time will come when not only Thursday night, but all the days of the week will be the same. I've often heard you wonder what the feelings of an engineer who has about the same as murdered a train full of people, must be, and you'll know if you don't stop where you are. A steady hand and a clear head have been your blessings all these years. Don't throw them away. Ned, if you don't care for my love, don't ruin yourself."

My little Jo. She spoke from her heart, and I bent over and kissed her.

"Don't be afraid, child. I'll never pain you again."

And I meant it; but at twelve o'clock that night I felt that I had forgotten my promise and my resolution.

I couldn't get home to Jo. I made up my mind to sleep on the club sofa and leave the place for good next day. Already I felt my brain reel as it had never before. In an hour I was in a kind of stupor.

It was morning. A waiter stood ready to brush my coat; I saw a grin on his face; my heart seemed ready to burst; my hand trembled; I looked at my watch; I had only just five minutes to reach the depot!

Jo's words came to my mind. Was I fit to take charge of an engine? I was not fit to answer. I ought to have asked some sober man. As it was, I only caught my hat and rushed away. I was just in time.

The San Francisco glittered in the morning sun. The cars were filling rapidly. From my post I could hear the people talking—bidding each other good-bye, promising to write and come again. Amongst them was an old gentleman I knew by sight—one of the shareholders—he was bidding two timid girls adieu.

"Good-bye, Kitty—good-bye Lue," I heard him say: "don't be nervous. The San Francisco is the safest engine on the line, and Guelden the most careful engineer. I wouldn't be afraid to trust every mortal I love to their keeping. Nothing could happen wrong with the two together."

I said I'd get through it somehow, and Jo shall never talk to me again. After all, it was easy enough. I reeled as I spoke. I heard the signal. We were off.

Five hours from L to D; five hours back. On the last I should be myself again. I knew now. I saw a red flutter, and never guessed what it was until we were past the down train at the wrong place. Two minutes more and we should have had a collision. Somebody told me. I laughed. I heard him say respectfully:

"Of course, Mr. Guelden, you know what you are about."

Then I was alone and wondering whether I should go faster or slower. I did something

and the cars rushed on at a fearful rate. The same man who had spoken to me before was standing near me. I heard some question.

How many miles an hour were we making? I didn't know.

Rattle, rattle, rattle! I was trying now to slacken the speed of the San Francisco. I could not remember what I should do—was it this or that? Faster or slower? I was playing with the engine like a child.

Suddenly there was a horrible roar—a crash! I was flung somewhere. I was in the water. By a miracle I was sobered, not hurt. I gazed the shore. I stood upon the ground between the track and the river's edge, and there gazed at my work.

The engine was in fragments and the cars in splinters; dead and dying, and wounded were strewn around—and men, women and children—old age and tender youth. There were groans and shrieks of despair. The maimed cried out in pain; the unharmed bewailed their dead; and a voice unheard by any other was whispering in my ear "Murder!"

The news had gone to A., and people came thronging down to find their friends. The dead were stretched on the grass. I went with some of the distracted to find their lost ones. Searching for an old man's, I came to a place under the trees, and found five bodies lying there in all their rigid horror—an old woman, a young one, a baby and two tiny children. Is it fancy—was it pure fancy, born of my anguish—they looked like—oh! Heaven! they were my old mother, my wife, my children; all cold and dead.

How did they come on that train?—what chance had brought this about? No one could answer. I groaned, I screamed, I clasped my hands, I tore my hair, I gazed in the good old face of her who gave me birth, on the lovely features of my wife, on my innocent children. I called them by name; there was no answer. There never could be—never would be. And as I comprehended this, onward up the track thundered another train. Its red eye glared on me; I flung myself before it; I felt it crush me to atoms!

"His head is extremely hot," said somebody.

I opened my eyes and saw my wife.

"How do you feel?" said she; "a little better?"

I was so rejoiced and so astonished by the sight of her that I could not speak at first. She repeated the question.

"I must be crushed to pieces," said I, "for the train went over me; but I feel no pain."

"There he goes about that train again," said my wife. "Why, Ned!"

I tried to move—there was nothing the matter with me; I was in my own room, opposite me a crib in which my two children were asleep, beside me a tiny bald head. My wife and children were safe! Was I delirious, or what could it be?

"Jo," cried I, "tell me what has happened!"

"It's nine o'clock," said Jo. "You came home in such a dreadful state from the club that I couldn't wake you. You were not fit to manage steam and risk people's lives. The San Francisco is half-way to A., I suppose, and you have been frightening me to death with a dreadful talk."

And Jo began to cry.

It was a dream; only an awful dream. But I had lived through it as though it were a reality.

"Is there a Bible in the house, Jo?" said I.

"Are we heathens?" asked Jo.

"Give it me this moment, Jo."

She brought it, and I put my hand on it, and took an oath (too solemn to be repeated here) that what had happened never should occur again. It never has. And if the San Francisco ever comes to grief, the verdict will not be, as it has so often, "The engineer was drunk!"

WHETHER your life is to be long or short, let it be a life in earnest—a life that shows religion, not as something among other things, but as absolutely everything.

Miscellany.

A WESTERN WONDER.

The greatest wonder in the State of Iowa, and perhaps any other State, is what is called the "Walled Lake," in Weight county, twelve miles North of the Dubuque and Pacific railway, and about one hundred and fifty miles West of Dubuque city. The lake is from two to three feet higher than the earth's surface. In some places the wall is ten feet high; width at the bottom fifteen feet, and at the top five. Another fact is the size of the stoues used in its construction; the whole of them varying in weight from three tons down to one hundred pounds. There is an abundance of stoues in Weight county; but surrounding the lake to the extent of five or ten miles there are none.

No one can form an idea as to the means employed to bring them to the spot, or who constructed it. Around the entire lake is a belt of woodland, half a mile in width, composed of oak; with this exception the country is a rolling prairie. The trees must have been planted there at the time of the building of the wall. In the Spring of 1856 there was a great storm, and the ice on the lake broke the wall in several places, and the farmers in the vicinity were obliged to repair the damages to prevent inundation. The lake occupies a ground surface of two thousand eight hundred acres; depth of water as great as twenty-five feet. The water is clear and cold; soft, sandy and loamy. It is singular that no one has been able to ascertain where the water comes from, nor where it goes, yet it is always clear and fresh.

THE MOST PERFECT BEAUTY.—That is not the most perfect beauty which, in public, would attract the greatest observation, nor even that which the statuary would admit to be a faultless piece of clay, kneaded up with blood. But that is true beauty, which has not only a substance, but a spirit—a beauty that we must intimately know, justly to appreciate; a beauty lighted up in conversation, where the mind shines, as it were, through its casket; where, in the language of the poet, "the eloquent blood spoke in her cheeks, and so distinctly wrought, that we might almost say her body thought." An order and a mode of beauty which, the more we know, the more we accuse ourselves for not having before discovered those thousand graces which bespeak that their owner has a soul. This is that beauty which never elays, possessing charms as resistless as the fascinating Egyptian, for which Antony paid the "hauble" of the world—a beauty like the rising of his own Italian suns, always enchanting, never the same.

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 fresh roots downwards. Thus clover, like the pea plant, derives its principal food from layers below the arable 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 will no longer thrive. The natural consequence is, that the subsoil is left proportionably 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 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.

WOMAN will be always pure if man will be always true.

WOMEN AS TEACHERS.—In an article on the success which has attended the Female School of Art, the editor of one of our exchanges says: "We would also draw attention to the fact that all the teachers of the Female School of Art are women. We are aware that it is a favorite theory of the majority of people that women, as teachers, are necessarily always inferior to men. If we are to judge by results—the sole popular test now-a-days—we find that, at least in this instance, thoroughly educated and competent women have proved themselves perfectly successful instructors. As elements of success in the teaching of women, when compared with that of men, we think there may be taken into account their greater patience and attention to detail, and their smaller tendency to make favorites in teaching their own sex."





Various Matters.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

The cranberry vine on Cape Cod, Mass., so far as appearances indicate at this early date, are doing well.

Capt. Robert Bayley of Newburyport, Mass., has a fuchsia which has now five hundred and sixty flowers.

It is proposed to grow corn instead of cotton in the Southern States this year, as the only means of self-rescue from famine.

Burnt clay and charcoal in equal proportions make a sure remedy for scours in calves and pigs.

The Agricultural Commissioner, in his March monthly report, just received, has "no doubt of the efficacy of copperas mixed with the salt given to hogs as a destroyer of trichina."

Should all animals except the cow die, the loss could be borne. Should she alone die, you would have mourning.

The most extensive paper making establishments in the world are at Vienna, and the stock used is said to be wholly corn-stalks.

The Monthly Report of the Agricultural Department for February, gives a statement by which it appears that the annual yield of milk in the famous dairies of Ayrshire, Scotland, is 425 gallons per cow.

Last year California imported 52,000,000 lbs. of raw sugar. Now they are going to make beet sugar, and have sent to Europe for seed.

No farm is complete without a good garden. There should be a succession of vegetables that there may be full supplies through the season.

"Ramie" is a new Southern staple, from Java. It will grow in the Southern half of Georgia, will yield five crops a year of eight hundred pounds each.

The Connecticut farmers are turning their attention to the cultivation of sorghum in place of tobacco, the latter being very slow of sale.

There is a general impression among New England farmers that they can raise their wheat much easier than they can buy it.

GREAT SALE OF MULES.—We are informed that Mr. James Buckalew, of Jamesburg, N. J., recently sold a lot of five hundred mules to the Delaware and Raritan Canal Company.

HOW TO HAVE MEALY POTATOES.—It is difficult to get good potatoes, and harder still to get them cooked so that they may come upon the table mealy and fit to eat.

THE HEAD TURNED ROUND.—A crazy man was found at a grindstone sharpening a large butcher knife, and every now and then examining the edge to see if it was keen.

What a queer idea the lunatic had in his head! And what if it were so, that every man when he reached a certain age had his face turned round, and was obliged to spend the rest of his days in looking over his past life.

LOVE'S STRATAGEM.—A funny story is going the rounds in Paris: A lady in the first society was recently obliged to dismiss her nurse on account of an excess of firemen and private soldiers too often repeated.

MANY trees will be purchased this month, and we would give a word of caution against the common practice of ordering large trees. A small, well grown tree with an abundance of small roots, is greatly preferred to a tall, much branched one with its large roots chopped off in the digging.

TWENTY-THREE WHEAT CROPS FROM THE SAME SOIL.—An English country gentleman has been experimenting for twenty-three successive years on the same land, in wheat culture. He has fertilized with farm-yard and with artificial manures, and the average yield per acre in bushels has been thirty-five for the former, and thirty-nine for the latter.

A LITTLE boy in Wisconsin was being put to bed the other night about dark, when he objected to going so early.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE AND THE PATRIOT FOR \$4.00 PER YEAR.

For the sum of FOUR DOLLARS, paid in advance, we will send the FARM AND FIRESIDE and the WOONSOCKET PATRIOT for one year.

Marriages.

In Lonsdale, 23d Inst., in Christ Church, by Rev. W. W. Sever, William Wood to Sarah A., daughter of the late William Jordan.

Deaths.

In Gloucester 19th Inst., Nancy B., wife of Joshua Bowen and daughter of the late Nicholas Bussay, aged 63 years.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

Table listing various farm products and their prices, including Hay, Straw, Coal, Oats, Flour, Corn Meal, Rye, Salserratus, Kerosene Oil, Cheese, Butter, Eggs, Java Coffee, Mackerel, Beef Steak, Beef, Corned, Tongues, Mutton, Veal, Pork, Hams, Poultry, Shoulders, Sausages, Tripe, Pork, salt, Beans, Potatoes, Onions, Raisins, Molasses, Y. H. Tea, Black Tea, Oil, Fluid, Candles, Eggs, Lard, Sugar, etc.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1282; Sheep and Lambs 4207. Swine, 1750. Prices: Beef Cattle—Extra, \$15.00; first quality, \$14.50; second quality, \$13.75; third quality, \$13.00.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

Most staple articles, except corn and cotton, have been quiet during the past week. The former advanced materially, while the latter declined rapidly.

SPROUTS AND EYES.—The root of the potato sprout or eye extends to the center of the tuber. Sever the sprout or eye from its root, and you lessen its vigor. In proof of this, pare off the outside of the potato to the depth of one eighth of an inch, and the inside, if planted, will commonly grow, but it will grow feebly.

New York. Great American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption.

To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American houses, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

- 1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments—and some of the richest retired merchants in this country have made their business fortunes through their houses in China.
2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas.
3d. The Importer makes a profit of 20 to 50 per cent in many cases.
4th. On its arrival it is sold by the cargo, and the Purchaser sells to the Speculator in Invoices of 1,000 to 2,000 packages, at an average profit of 10 per cent.
5th. The Speculator sells to the Wholesale Tea Dealer in lots at a profit of 10 to 15 per cent.
6th. The Wholesale Tea Dealer sells to the Wholesale Grocer in lots to suit the trade, at a profit of about 10 per cent.
7th. The Wholesale Grocer sells to the Retail Dealer at a profit of 15 to 25 per cent.
8th. The Retailer sells to the Consumer for all the profit he can get.

When you have added to these EIGHT profits as many brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, one cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the name upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars, we will, if desired, send the goods by Express, to "collect on delivery."

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$30.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the best of prices will show.

- YOUNG HYSON (Green), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb.
GREEN TEAS, 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb.
MIXED, 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 per lb.
JAPAN, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb.
OOLONG (Black), 70c, 80c, best \$1 per lb.
IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1 25 per lb.
ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best, \$1 20 per lb.
GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1 25, best, \$1 50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them.

Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Foo-chow Blacks and Morung Greens. English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the finest imported.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO., NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., corner of CHURCH. Post-Office Box No. 5,643 New-York City. COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c., 25c., 30c., best 40c. per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-House Keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c. per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders. WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866. To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York.

Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubled it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa.

Table listing various tea and coffee orders and their prices, including Young Hyson, Dallas Jackson, Henry Herrick, George Murphy, F. Dye, Samuel Decker, Samuel Amon, Henry Wheatley, Morgan Hayes, John Natten, Mark Combs, John Allen, Miss Stuart, Miss Stuart, O. Bayland, O. Bayland, R. Richlein, Mr. Guyton, Edward Murphy, Mrs. Murphy, Henry Hull, Separate package, Separate package, etc.

We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.—LARGE DOUBLE STORE.





Sheep Husbandry.

CARE OF SHEEP AND LAMBS.

High prices for wool and mutton are not all that is required in order to make sheep raising profitable; other circumstances go as far in making up the profit as these. Especial care is required, particularly at the lambing season; a little negligence now will take very much from the profits. The ewes, previous to lambing, should be judiciously fed, neither stinted nor pampered, as where such is the case the labors of the flock-master will be comparatively light. The young will come into the world, vigorous and active, requiring little of no care, except such as is afforded by the ewe. Attention should always be given to some few points which experience will teach; but some who lack that experience will, perhaps, be benefited by the following practical suggestions:

The flock should at all times be encouraged to tractability; and especially at this season. Gentleness and kindness, together with the bribe of a few handfuls of oats or corn, scattered among them when visiting their yard, will make their master welcome, and noticing any which may be near you kindly, also, promotes good feeling; by a little attention in small matters you will teach a flock to follow you to any desired place. Ewes with young are often injured by their efforts to escape when being driven into an enclosure; and especially is this so when the flock has not been gently cared for and handled previously. Sheep being well protected by a thick covering of wool, suffer less from the cold than other stock, provided it is not stormy. They require a more free circulation of air than other stock, and for this reason should, in clear and pleasant weather, be allowed the range of a large yard or field during the day. There, if the weather be mild, they will drop their lambs with greater certainty of their doing well, than when confined in pens. The field for their range at this time should be dry and free from ditches and sunken places, where the sheep may be liable to get cast. Cold nights, and rainy weather, they should be sheltered, as a few hours exposure to cold and storm may destroy many young lambs. Their sheds should be roomy and well ventilated; and no more than twenty-five or thirty head should be together in an enclosure, as moving about is apt to injure the lambs, or the dam may be crowded away, and the lamb be unable to suckle.

Keep pens clean, and without too much litter to entangle the lambs. Remove any tags, or any other filth from the udder. An early and good supply of food from the dam is essential for nourishment, and the medicinal effect it has upon the young lamb. It is not best to interfere with the process of parturition generally, as nature will usually afford relief; but sometimes, in case of extreme exhaustion, very gentle assistance in conjunction with the efforts of the animal, will be found to be necessary—it should be of the gentlest kind. If the dam refuses to own her lamb, hold her for the lamb to suckle, and confine them in a small, separate pen; one or two trials will usually be all that is necessary, before the dame will acknowledge her parentage. In case a good ewe loses her lamb, she should be supplied with one from a twin pair. If no lamb be given her the milk should be drawn a few times to prevent inflammation. Abundant nourishment should be provided for the lambs, by giving the ewes good pasture; if this be short, make it up by a daily feed of grain.—W. H. WHITE, in *Rural American*.

DIARRHEA IN SHEEP.

SHEEP are more subject to diarrhea than any of the domestic animals. They are especially apt to suffer from it when their usual diet is changed. When sheep are changed from a dry kind of regimen to an almost exclusively turnip diet, or indeed to any other kind of watery food, diarrhea is produced, which frequently proves fatal if the weather is

cold. It is also a symptom of several blood diseases, as nature endeavors to throw off the virus from the system by means of the intestinal surface. Many medicinal agents are also eliminated from the system in this way, and if salt or any similar substance enters too largely into the composition of the food, it may be removed from the system in this way:

Half a drachm of sulphuric acid to a quart of cold water, divided into three or four doses and given the same number of times daily, is very effectual in checking diarrhea in sheep. When the feces assume a more solid consistency, its administration should be suspended.

B. E. CHASE, of Salem, N. H., gives the following remedy for stretches in sheep, in the *Country Gentleman* of April 4th:

“Red peppers, four good sized ones, cut in small pieces, put into a pint of hot water, and let it stand on the stove twenty or thirty minutes—then strain off the water, and pour it down the sheep's throat as hot as it will do to give it—has cured two sheep this Winter—one very bad, could not stand—gave the second dose in half an hour, which cured her; the other had one dose and was well in less than an hour—have not seen any symptoms of it since.”

DOGS AND SHEEP BELLS.—An experienced breeder of sheep says, that a number of sheep in any flock wearing bells will keep away dogs. He allows ten bell sheep to every hundred. When sheep are alarmed they run together in a compact body, and the ringing of all the bells frightens the dogs. In Great Britain and Ireland bells are used by almost every owner of sheep. They are useful for keeping off dogs and foxes, the latter being very destructive to lambs where this precaution is not taken.—*Canada Farmer*.

SHEEP IN CARROLL Co.—There are many young sheep and some old ones dying, and it appears in our country no cure is known. The sheep become scabby and foul at the nose, which is the forerunner of a fatal disease. I hope some one will suggest a cure, for the benefit of our sheep-raisers.—*Ohio Farmer*.

C. C. B., of St. Albans, Vt., suggests the following as the best method of warming chilled lambs: “Put half a dozen hot bricks in a bushel basket, cover them with fine straw, and put the lamb on the straw.”

“SHEPHERD,” in the *Country Gentleman*, reports the sheep trade in Western Vermont in a flourishing condition. He informs outsiders in want of sheep that they need not come to Vermont thinking to buy good sheep any cheaper than in former times.

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.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I. Feb. 23, 1867.

BARRETT'S EXTRA EARLY CABBAGE—The best and largest in the market. Price, 25 cents a paper. Raised and sold by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Providence, Feb. 23, 1867.

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

EXTRA HEAVY PLOWS, for road work and for breaking up new land, made by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

WHITE FRENCH TURNIP, of the purest kind, raised and sold in small or large lots, by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I. Feb. 23, 1867.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Now offer at the LOWEST CASH PRICES,

- 2000 Sacks Prime Red Top.
- 500 Bags Prime Herds Grass.
- 500 “ Western and Northern Clover.
- 1500 Bushel Prime R. I. Bent, for Pastures.
- 300 “ Seed Barley.
- 100 “ Spring Rye.
- 3000 “ Bedford Seed Oats.
- 100 “ Early Goodrich Potatoes.
- 200 “ “ Sebec Potatoes.
- 200 “ Late White Peach Blows.
- 100 “ “ Harrison Potatoes.
- 300 “ Seed Peas.
- 100 “ R. I. White Cap Corn.
- 100 “ London Hort. and Concord Pole Beans.
- 200 “ Buckwheat.
- 200 “ Millet and Hungarian.

White Dutch Clover, Orchard Grass, Onion Sets, and a complete assortment of GARDEN SEEDS.

Raised for us with great care. 200 Barrels dry ground Bone for Manure, together with all kinds of Farm Implements and Machinery. Send for Circular of Mead's Conical Plows and Share's Horse Hoes—and don't forget the number,

32 CANAL STREET, 32.

PROVIDENCE, R. I. March 23, 1867. we-1f

NEW SEEDLING POTATOE. COOKE'S RATTLER.

a new and very superior Seedling, grown by Joseph J. Cooke, Esq., of Cranston, and now offered for sale as the best LATE KIND in the market. It is a rusty coated, light red, round, great yielding; white and perfect inside, and a splendid Table Potatoe. Price, \$3.00 per bushel. Sold only by

W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I. April 13, 1867. 14f

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares a 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.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of

- MEAD'S PATENT CONICAL PLOWS,
- SHARE'S HORSE HOES, WOOD'S AND WIGHT'S PLOWS,
- GARDEN BARROWS,
- CHASE'S TWO HORSE POTATOE DIGGERS,
- STORE TRUCKS,
- IMPROVED HINGED HARROWS, CULTIVATORS,
- ROAD SCRAPERS, OX YOKES, AND PLOW CASTINGS;

And Wholesale Dealers in Hoes, Shovels, Axes, Scythes, Forks, Snathes, Cradles, Horse Forks, Hand and Horse Rakes, Hay Cutters, Corn Shellers, Vegetable Cutters, Picks, Bars, Canal Barrows, Sugar Mills, Grindstones, Plain or Complete;

And Agents for KNIFFEN'S, UNION AND PERRY'S MOWING MACHINES,

Whitcomb's Patent Horse Rake, and the best Hay Tedder in the market. Prices low and Terms Cash. OFFICE, 32 CANAL STREET, PROVIDENCE, R. I. March 23, 1867. we-1f

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Share's Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potato Diggers, Lufkin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Massachusetts.

LADIES' ATTENTION!—A SILK DRESS PATTERN, or a SEWING MACHINE, sent free, for one or two days' service, in any town or village. Also, a gift sent free, by addressing with stamp, W. FISK & CO., 17 State Street, BOSTON, Mass. April 13, 1867. 4w-we-14

SOUTH DOWN CO.'S PATENT

Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers. Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores.

JAMES F. LEVIN,

23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts. For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HAWLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & Co., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4m-we-9

COLLINS, BLISS & CO., PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

CASH ADVANCES MADE ON ASSIGNMENTS.

233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston. New England Agents for the NONPARIEL FRENCH GUANO.

It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil.

PRICE \$60 PER TON. Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 2m-we-9

FRUIT TREES,

GRAPES, SMALL FRUITS, ORNAMENTALS, &c.

We have imported from foreign growers, and personally selected at the largest New England and New York Nursery Establishments, the choicest stock which we could find this season, and now offer to purchasers a general assortment of NURSERY STOCK.

first class in quality, complete in variety, and extensive in quantity, at very low rates. A descriptive catalogue of 40 pages mailed to applicants. Sample of the collection may be seen at our salesroom, basement of 28 & 30 Water street, Boston. Orders faithfully executed. BENJ. T. WELLS & CO. Importers & Nursery Agents,—OFFICE, 7, WATER ST., BOSTON. April 7, 1867. 4w-we-13.

BY MAIL, PREPAID. CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS.

NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CURRANTS, ROSES, BULBS, &c.

B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest

GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS,

Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted. Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ee-12

CARROT AND MANGOLD WURTZEL SEED.

I raised the past season a fine lot of Long Red, Yellow Globe, and White Mangold Wurtzel Seed, and will send either variety, post-paid, to any address, for \$1.00 per lb. Also, Long Orange Carrot Seed, of my own growing, for \$1.25 per lb. I hereby offer an opportunity for all to procure Seed DIRECTLY FROM THE GROWER. JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marblehead, Mass. March 30, 1867. 5w-ee-12

Pennsylvania.

RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE. THE STANDARD MANURE FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS.

Manufactured by POTTS & KLETT, Camden, N. J. Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUGH, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of this Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is

FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD, IN QUALITY, and is in fine condition for drilling.

Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

YARNALL & TRIMBLE, General Agents for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. 418 South Wharves, } PHILADELPHIA. 419 Penn. Street, } 3m-ee-11

March 23, 1867.

New York.

J. HICKLING & CO. S GREAT SALE OF WATCHES.

On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a handsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory!

- 500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750
- 500 Magic Case Gold Watches.....200 to 500
- 500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled.....100 to 300
- 1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....250 to 300
- 1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....200 to 250
- 3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....150 to 200
- 5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....100 to 250
- 5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....50 to 150
- 5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....75 to 250
- 5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches.....50 to 250
- 10,000 Gold Hunting Lepines.....50 to 75
- 10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....50 to 100
- 25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....25 to 50
- 30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....10 to 75

Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partiality shown. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a Watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious!

A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three and elegant premium for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premium for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us!

J. HICKLING & CO., 149 Broadway—New York City of New York. March 23, 1867. 3m

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



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 OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

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

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1867.

NO. 17.

"BOCCONIA JAPONICA."



ONE of the most rare and beautiful flowers introduced into this country, the present year, is the *BOCCONIA JAPONICA*, a perfectly hardy plant, growing to the height of five to six feet. It looks a little like the old, handsome *Bocconia Cordata*; but surpasses it in point of beauty, robustness, rapid growth, size and even shape and color. It is claimed to be perfectly hardy—requiring no protection in winter—and blossoms from August to September. Its dark green leaves, sinuated and thick, resemble the oak-leaf; are very large, obtuse, cordate in form, sombre green above, glaucous below, or underneath.

The effect of this beautiful plant in the house-yard, or on the lawn, must be fine. Its flowers, surmounting its long spikes, are surpassingly beautiful. A friend, who has seen it growing in Japan, pronounces it ornamental, showy, and even on its native soil commands universal admiration. The seeds of the *Bocconia Japonica* are not yet in the market; but Mr. Henry A. Dreer, of Philadelphia (one of our best seedsmen and florists), has secured a quantity of the seed. So rare a plant must find many admirers in this country.

THERE being little danger now of a "cold snap," it is a good time for those who have not already done so, to set out their tomato plants. Select those well-grown and stocky, plant them firmly, and water and mulch them until they show no symptoms of delicacy.

Written for the Farm and Fireside. NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR MAY.

"He that by the plow would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive."

To the farmer, May is a busy month, and upon his labors in preparing his soil and planting his seed, in a great measure depends his success for the season. In the New England, or Northern states, usually little seed of the hoed crops finds its way into the ground before the first of May. In favorable seasons peas and a few early potatoes are put in, but the bulk of crops have their seed put in from the first to the twenty-fifth of the month. Usually little is gained to the advantage of the crop in planting, till the soil gets warm, and dried enough for the seeds to germinate immediately, and commence a vigorous growth, not to be checked by cold, unfavorable weather. But to defer all planting till the soil is in the best condition will throw the whole into a very crowded state, so that it would be impossible to do the work as thoroughly as it should be. Much work that should have been done in April is frequently deferred, or crowded into May; such as hauling manure, plowing &c. By good planning, procuring sufficient help, and the best implements, the planting of garden and field crops may be rushed through in a few days, but it is best not to do it with such a rush as not to do it thoroughly, for no after care can compensate for neglect in this stage. Let every acre planted be prepared in the best

possible manner by thorough plowing, harrowing, and good manuring, to put the soil in the best possible condition to produce the greatest amount. If it costs twenty-five dollars to grow an acre of corn that will yield thirty bushels of corn worth thirty dollars, and by expending five dollars extra for super-phosphate you can grow forty bushels worth forty dollars, your profit on the acre is doubled, the five dollars extra expended giving, instead of twenty per cent., one hundred per cent. It costs but a fraction more to do the work on an acre which will yield seventy-five bushels of shelled corn, than one which will yield only forty bushels; yet the profit is several times as great; it would then seem a matter of economy to expend fifty dollars in raising one acre which will yield seventy-five bushels, rather than expend fifty in growing two acres that will yield only sixty bushels. This result can be accomplished by a judicious course of thorough culture and good management, and even more. The successful cultivator will seek to direct his labors to act in unison with the efforts Nature puts forth, the soil being the laboratory in which by the aid of the air, sun and rain, the food of plants is prepared, and transmitted upon the call of the plants grown therein. The knowledge how to best turn these results of the willing servants of man to advantage, comprises one great secret of success that the skilled culturist possesses over the unskilled, or uninformed one. The observant and studious, learn to work with Nature, while those of a different turn often find themselves opposing Nature, to their disadvantage. It is then wise to seek information from all available sources; and in the suggestions that follow I shall attempt to bring before the mind of the reader subjects for attention, and also give some practical details, gained from experience and observation.

Accounts.—No person can be said to have a full knowledge of his business who does not keep an account of that business in all its details. A system of farm records and accounts, kept so as to be referred to at any future time, will furnish a fund of information and study that can be gained in no other way. Improvements can be very much more readily entered into when a definite knowledge of previous transactions are correctly understood. This subject of farm records should receive the attention of every farmer; by it he is enabled to know what crops or stock are profitable, and the reverse; and can act in accordance with this knowledge.

Beans—are a valuable crop, cheaply and easily raised, requiring land less fertile than for corn, and do not make large demands on the soil. Where tillage is needed with light drafts on the soil, the bean fills an important place. There are several varieties of the white field bean, each of which have their advocates as a favorite. Plant the last of the month, in soil in good, but not high, condition, in hills two feet apart to two by three, according to the variety, some large growing kinds requiring larger space than smaller.

Bees—when properly managed pay a better profit on the capital employed than any other stock; their habits and care is a study which

in details requires too much space for these notes. Much valuable information may be gained by reading "Quimby's Mystery of the Honey Bee."

Broom Corn.—Prepare the ground by heavy manuring, deep plowing and thorough pulverization. Plant at the same time of Indian corn in rows four feet apart, and two and a half feet apart in the row; dwarf varieties, rows nearer; use plenty of seed and thin to five or six plants to the hill at weeding.

Buildings.—See that they are all kept in good repair and well painted. Painting may be done now or in the Fall. For rough wood work, a cheap paint may be made of water, lime and skimmed milk, colored with dry ground colors to suit the fancy.

Cabbage—are profitable either as a garden or field crop. In the vicinity of ready markets they are made to pay, when skillfully grown and marketed, six hundred dollars or more per acre. Deep soil and abundant manuring are requisites. For early, the plants should have been started in a hot bed; open ground will answer for medium and late crops. Ashes and plaster, or air-slaked lime sprinkled on the young plants, will keep off the fly. Set out the plants when they attain a good size, stroug, stocky plants make the best crop, in hills eighteen inches to two and a half or three feet apart, according to the variety and size of growth. Transplanting is best done in a moist or wet time; but by puddling the roots, and watering, they may be set any day towards night. Varieties are numerous, early and late; for early, Jersey Wakefield, Early and large York, Early Ox Heart, Early Winningstadt, Early Flat Dutch; for late, Marblehead Mammoth, Bergen Drumhead, Premium Dutch, Stone Mason, the Savoys, and Red Dutch, are the most approved varieties in the order named.

Cattle.—See that they are well kept. A daily allowance of grain and a few roots will tend to keep the system up, and gradually accustom them to the change in the season, and from hay to grass. Turn to grass when sufficiently started to give a good bite without too close cropping. Use working oxen with care, as the season is apt to produce languor and weakness. Good keeping on hay and grain, with careful usage, are as good seasoning agents as any.

Corn.—"Plant deep while sluggards sleep, if you would have corn to sell and to keep."

If the ground is wet and cold, little is gained in planting early in the month, as frequently the seed will rot. Planted when the ground is warm it immediately vegetates and grows without "let or hindrance," and gets the advantage of grass and weeds, saving much labor in after culture. Prepare the ground thoroughly by deep plowing and heavy manuring—(see preceding remarks on manuring corn). We in New England plant in hills about three and a half feet apart; cover deep and tread, as the most effectual remedy for bird pulling.

Dairy.—Sell, or fat that cow the cream of whose milk bothered you so last Fall in not making butter; or that other one which went dry four or five months and made white, oily

Any of our violets—white, blue, or yellow—repay transplanting to the garden, or cultivation in the house, if set in soil of loam and leaf-mold, and kept cool and shady, except when near blooming. But the dark, purple English violet, which has been frequently made to bear double flowers, is most generally seen among parlor plants; or the Neapolitan violet, whose flowers are larger and exceedingly fragrant, though of a light color.—These foreign flowers are raised from division of the root, or cuttings taken in June, and covered with a tumbler, and afterward set in a soil of sand, loam, and decayed leaves or other vegetable mold. The pots should be well drained with sherds. They need water often, usually twice a day; but very little at a time; if the water is allowed to remain about their roots they will die. Our native violets should be kept damp always, but not wet.





butter. Keep only *good* ones, for it costs as much to keep one which will produce only fifty dollars, as one that will give one hundred dollars income; while the profit in the latter is fair, the former gives little if any. The labors of the dairy are much lightened when every convenience is provided in the milk room; this should be cool, well ventilated, free from dust and all offensive odors, with pure fresh water convenient. Cleanliness is one of the first essentials in every thing pertaining to milk and the dairy.

Fences.—See that all are in order, or put so, before turning cattle to pasture. It is better to spend a week's time now in putting up fences, than to have your cattle break into the corn field in July, and spoil a field of corn, and be obliged to leave the hay or grain, as a shower is coming up, to turn them out and fix up the fence—to say nothing of the bad effect it has on the cattle, learning them to be uneasy and get unruly.

Flax.—Sow as early as the weather and soil will permit. Prepare the soil *well* and make it as fine and even as possible, to give an even quality.

Garden.—Do not, in your anxiety to get in the field crops, neglect this, the most profitable part of the farm, but give it the attention necessary.

Grass Seed.—may yet be sown, with grain thinly sown, where impracticable to have been done in April.

Grafting.—So simple and useful an operation as this should be more generally understood, and practiced by farmers generally, and then we should see orchards of fine trees and nice fruit more, and scraggy trees and knotty fruit less, common. Spend an hour or two in seeing an expert graft, and then try your hand and see how readily you can do it.

Hired Help.—Remember they are no more than human while you are requiring them to be faithful. The master's bat in the field will do more than many of those who hire out by the month. Use them well, giving commendation for faithfulness, and you will be rewarded by cheerfulness and increased faithfulness.

Horses.—Keep stabled, well groomed, and feed according to the labor required, during work season. See that no galls are occasioned by the ill-fitting harness. The horse is naturally a healthy animal; most of his diseases come by improper treatment.

Hogs.—Keep them growing and at work by supplying them material to make manure.

Manure.—Apply all you have made to the arable soil; and purchase fertilizers to give the crops a start. The greatest benefit is derived from mineral and artificial manures, when applied in conjunction with farm manures.

Meadows.—Keep all stock off, not allowing them to trample over, or graze them; a dressing of flour of bone, super-phosphate, salitre, etc., will repay you with a much increased yield. Bare spots may be scarified, top-dressed and re-seeded to advantage.

Oats.—should have been sown in April; sown now, the yield will be less. Sow early in the month where ground is to be stocked; they will make an excellent fodder crop when cut before full maturity, cured, and stored like hay.

Pasture.—Let the feed get a fair start before turning in the stock, as it is better for both.

Plowing.—Land in moderate fertility will often produce better crops, if well and thoroughly plowed, than land in good heart poorly plowed. Use a good plow, and turn the furrows straight, and of a uniform width and depth.

Potatoes.—should be planted as early as possible, if not already done; plant on dry ground whole tubers a size below that for the table; prepare the ground properly. Saline manures are the best for the potato; fresh farm manure is injurious rather than otherwise.

Sorghum.—Plant in warm, well prepared soil about the fifteenth of the month, in rows four feet apart, and two and a half feet in the

row. Cover lightly, not over half an inch, with fine, light soil. Rank, strong manures are not suitable for this crop. The regular sorgho makes the nicest syrup.

Tools.—Have only the best make, and light; give each hand his tools, and hold him responsible for their good use; if broken, lost, or damaged from carelessness or exposure, charge them to him. Have a place for every one and see that they are in place when not in use, and well cleaned before being put away. H

My Riverdale Farm, April, 1867.

PRUNING BLACKBERRIES.—Persons having cultivated the New Rochelle blackberry, are possessed of sufficient knowledge to understand the fact that the longer they allow the canes to remain unpruned, the lateral branches are proportionably shorter, and the fruit smaller. To obtain the largest-sized berries and the largest quantity too, cut back the leading canes to not exceeding four feet in length, and shorten-in also the lateral branches. This will be found to increase also the breadth of the stool, affording more bearing room, and generally to result in greatly improving the crop. It is not too late yet to shorten-in, where it has been much neglected, as we often see it in some of the gardens, &c.

In July the young wood, which by that time has grown over the tops of the old, bearing canes, should be clipped, especially the lateral branches. It will have the best effect upon next year's crop.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

THE LONG ISLAND RACES.—The first trot of the season on the Fashion Course, on Long Island, occurred on Friday of last week, and attracted a large assemblage of turf men and owners of fast horses. The purse was \$100, mile heats, three in five, in harness, for horses that never trotted for money. There were fourteen entries, five of which started; Hassard's gray gelding, driven by Dan Macc, won in three straight heats in 2.41 $\frac{3}{4}$, 2.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2.37, beating Belle of Roekland, Rapid, Lady Kendall and Income. The latter was withdrawn after the first heat, being out of condition, and was only started to make the race. A match for \$200, mile heats, in harness, between Bud Doble's lake mare, Grace Darling, and J. Copp's black mare, was won by the former in two heats, in 2.48 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2.50.

THE tobacco trade of the country is growing in importance. As an evidence of the fact, the Louisville Courier announces that Robinson and Willett, the well-known extensive manufacturers of that city, are doubling their capacity for producing their favorite brands of tobacco, which are so largely sold to the dealers of Philadelphia and other Northern cities. This establishment, even before the improvement, ranked as the most complete of its kind in the country.

A PLAN has been invented in Washington for letting the farmers know when a storm is coming during harvest, so that they may have time to protect their hay and grain which they may have cut. The telegraph is to give intelligence of the approach of the storm, and a cannon, fired three times at each county seat, is to warn the farmers when to stop mowing and reaping, and to go to raking and covering their crops.

CONTINUE to plant garden corn at intervals of twelve days up to July first. This will insure you a daily supply until October. Stowell's Evergreen corn is a good sweet variety, is a certain grower and produces largely.

It is estimated that the United States will lose \$10,000,000 of internal revenue in Louisiana this year, by the destruction of the cotton and sugar crops by inundations.

He who, being master of the fittest moment to crush an enemy, magnanimously rejects it, is born to be a conqueror.

The Housekeeper.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

BREAD MAKING.

AMONG the thinking and working women of America there is a class whose benevolent feelings have often prompted the question—"how shall we do the most good in the world?" and agitating this question among themselves, they have formed sewing societies, held fairs, and adopted various plans for raising money for philanthropic purposes. Still another and more pertinent question, suggested to woman by the physiologists and sanitary reformers of the age, is, how shall we improve the quality of our bread, so that there shall not be so great a demand for rich pastry and confectionery, thereby promoting the health of our families? To this query the simple and natural answer would be, give more attention to the bread, and less to the pies and cakes, or "*piesan*" cakes," as they are sometimes aptly termed for brevity. There are some, doubtless, who have well-nigh attained perfection in the art of bread making, and invariably place upon their tables the very best of bread. Their success is no secret. They will tell you first, of the care they have *always* taken that their yeast should be fresh and sweet; secondly, of the brisk kneading to which they have subjected it, and, lastly, of the caution requisite in baking, that it shall be neither doughy and under-done, nor burnt and over-done.

Those who make their own yeast will find the following a good rule, inasmuch as it will insure them good bread, without milk or shortening, and at a saving of flour:—Take three or four potatoes of good size and quality, boil and mash them fine, till they are entirely free from lumps; then pour sufficient boiling water to them to make a thick batter, in which put two or three tablespoonsful of sugar, and a liberal sprinkling of salt; boil a few moments, and when cool add some fresh yeast. In a few hours this will be ready for use, and as there are no hops in it, you can use much more of it than of distiller's yeast—even double the quantity—and have your bread ready for the oven in two or three hours after moulding. Excellent bread has been made from such yeast, with water alone for wetting, and as potatoes are cheaper than flour you can well afford to use them liberally and thus save flour; but in warm weather you must make it often, which can be done with very little trouble, by boiling an extra quantity of potatoes when preparing them for dinner.

As there are a diversity of tastes, and to furnish an agreeable and healthful variety of bread for your table, make a part of your bread of unbolted wheat or Graham flour. This kind of bread is recommended by all physiologists as being more healthful than bread made of fine or bolted flour, and those who once become accustomed to its use will hardly be willing to do without it. But many say they cannot make good bread of this kind of flour, and this is sometimes not so much the fault of our housewives as of the flour dealers, who are not particular to sell *freshly* ground flour. Therefore see that your flour is fresh and sweet, which you can readily ascertain by tasting of it when you make your purchases. Some years since, when the unbolted, or Graham flour was not so generally used as at the present time, and when it was often difficult to obtain that which was fresh, many families were in the habit of buying their wheat, and grinding it in hand-mills constructed for family use. Thus they were always sure of having fresh meal. Now, however, there is so great a demand for this kind of flour that it seldom becomes stale in the dealer's hands.

There are so many recipes for making various kinds of bread that there is no necessity of being confined to one kind, nor is it necessary that we learn from a French professor how to prepare palatable and healthful dishes. Upon the tables of our New England Farmers may often be seen very good bread made of rye, or rye and Indian meal, in various proportions. A good rule for the latter kind is this: Four cups of Indian meal, two cups of

rye, two-thirds of a cup of molasses, one quart (wine measure) of cold water, and one small teaspoonful soda, also salt in sufficient quantity. Bake or steam three hours.

Observation and practice will lead us to perfection in the art of cookery. Some valuable hints might be gathered from the women of a former generation, many of whom were remarkable cooks, and their bread, baked in the old fashioned brick oven, was perfectly delicious. In that age the breakfast and supper of the children was brown bread and milk, and they thrived well on this diet. But alas! those days are gone. Our venerable grandmothers are passing away, and we vainly sigh for one taste of their own nice loaves just from the brick oven. We may never regain that keen relish for food which youthful sports and an exemption from care gave to us in former years, but the matrons of to-day can exercise their culinary skill, even as did their mothers before them, that the art of bread making may not eventually be regarded as among the "lost arts."

At our agricultural fairs an opportunity has been afforded women for a display of various kinds of bread, and premiums have been awarded to those who have excelled in this branch of culinary skill. But, while we have noticed, on the tables of these Societies, bread of a superior quality, we have sometimes observed that which was apparently inferior, and we have inferred that the latter class of contributors had become so accustomed to poor bread at home that they did not know or realize what good bread was. When, however, the two kinds of bread were placed side by side upon the tables, an appreciating public could readily note the difference between poor and good bread. MRS. J. S. GEORGE.

Woonsocket, R. I., May, 1867.

JELLY CAKES.—One cup of sugar, one egg, a little salt, one pound of flour, one grated nutmeg, one teaspoonful of soda; add warm milk sufficient to make a stiff dough; roll out like thick pie crust; bake in a quick oven, and when done, spread it thick with some good fruit jelly, and strew some powdered sweet almonds over it.

GINGERBREAD.—Flour, one pound four ozs.; butter, four ounces; pulverized ginger, one and a half tablespoonsful; pulverized cloves, one and a half tablespoonsful; dissolve one tablespoonful of soda in a little warm milk; then add it, and also molasses sufficient to wet up the dough. Bake in a quick oven.

CONGRESS CAKE.—Flour two pounds, sugar half a pound, butter half a pound, cream one teacupful, best brandy half a pint, four eggs, soda one scruple; flavor with orange-flower water; mix into a stiff dough with warm water; form into loaves, and bake in a moderate oven.

BLACK PUDDING.—Six eggs, one teacup of butter, one of sugar, one pint of molasses, one teaspoonful saleratus, a little nutmeg, and flour enough to make a batter; bake in a hot oven half an hour.

WINE SAUCE.—One and a half cups sugar, half a cup of butter, beaten well together; then add a glass of wine, two tablespoonsful of flour, wet with cold water to prevent lumping, then add a teacup of boiling water, and let it stand a few moments on the stove, then pour it in the butter and sugar and beat it up, grate some nutmeg in it and serve hot.

TO KEEP MEAT FRESH.—The following plan is recommended: Cut the meat in slices, pack in a jar in layers, sprinkle with salt and pepper, just enough to make it palatable. Place on the top a thick paper or cloth, with salt half an inch thick. Keep this on all the while. Meat, it is said, can be kept three weeks in the Summer in this way, and the last will be as good as the first.

SAWDUST—ITS USE.—The New England Farmer devotes considerable space to a consideration of sawdust and its uses as a fertilizer, and the manner of treating it preparatory to its application to the land. As a preliminary, it forms a soft and excellent bedding for stock, while it absorbs and retains the larger portion of the urine, which would otherwise run to waste. Besides, it forms a more cleanly bed for stock than most other kinds, and to farmers in the vicinity of sawmills, is easily attainable. Though slow in decomposing, its retentiveness is such as finally to impart to the land on which it is used, increased liveliness and strength, if packed down closely and occasionally watered for some time before being applied to the land. Properly prepared before being used, it may be placed in or used as a top-dressing for meadows in the Spring, though it is probably more effective when turned under.



The Fireside Muse.

THE DREAM CHILD.

Of, in the dreamy twilight hour,
I sit, and in my arms I hold
A little child, whose eyes are blue,
Whose hair is sunny gold.
He looks up in my face, and I
Look fondly, proudly down on him,
And, with sweet tears of happiness,
I feel my eyes grow dim.

The child's so like my heart's best love!
He has the self-same noble face;
In every gesture, every smile,
A likeness, too, I trace.
And oh! how dear, how doubly dear
This makes my baby-boy to me!
I fold him closer to my breast
And kiss him tenderly.

But, as the twilight fades, so fades
The smile, the eyes, the shining hair.
Ah, me! I dreamed—the night brings truth,
I clasp the empty air,
And mem'ry coming back repeats
"Heav'n gives to thee no little one!"
I fold my arms and strive to say
"My God! Thy will be done!"

—GALAXY for May.

The Stock-Yard.

RAISING CALVES.

For the first ten days the young calf is allowed the milk of the cow exclusively. The milk of the newly calved cow, as every dairyman knows, is not fit during the first week for dairy purposes, and is the only suitable nourishment for the delicate digestive organs of its young. For a few days after this period, about two or three quarts of milk at a meal should still be given, gradually adding some other food in the shape of gruel, and at the same time diluting the milk with water, so as to obtain the requisite quantity of fluid. Some recommend whey, where it can be procured. The gruel is made with a mixture of linseed-meal or oil-cake, powdered fine, and meal of various grains, barley, oats, and a little wheat flour. The proportions recommended by Mr. Henry Ruck, in a paper read by him at one of the meetings of the Cirencester Farmers' Club, (England) are as follows:—Into a six gallon bucket pour two gallons of scalding water, stir into this seven pounds of ground linseed cake; then add two gallons of hay tea, which should be fresh and sweet; next add seven pounds of mixed meal; add sufficient cold water to fill the bucket, and well mix together. Two quarts of this gruel, diluted with two quarts of cold water, will be about the right quantity, and of the right temperature, for one calf at one meal. The food should be given at regular hours, and twice a day; morning and evening will be found sufficient. The hay tea, which seems to be an excellent preparation, is made every morning by filling a small tub with good hay, and pouring on scalding water; this should be used in the evening, fresh scalding water added, covered down, and used the following morning. After the first fortnight, when the calf begins to chew the cud, the chief difficulty and danger are over. As the calf begins to eat, the quantity of gruel should be gradually diminished. Solid food should be placed before them, to train and encourage them to eat, which they will very soon learn to do. The best material for this purpose is good sweet hay, with a small supply of crushed corn and crushed oats. In addition to this, mangold wurzel will be found serviceable, and is very much relished by the young animals.—Canada Farmer.

CARE OF SHEEP AND LAMBS.

JONATHAN LAWRENCE, of St. Johnsbury, Vt., in the New England Farmer, says: "I take my lambs from the sheep about the first of September. The sheep have the Fall months to recruit in. When they come to the barn, and are put upon dry feed, I give them roots—rutabagas I like best—at least every other day, at the rate of one bushel to 50 sheep. Changing from green to entirely dry feed induces disease. I give a variety of feed; hay, straw, (poorly threshed) corn fodder, and a little oats, corn, or other grain in meal. I give them salt and sulphur, using about one pound of sul-

phur to one hushel of salt, and have no trouble with ticks. About three weeks before lambing I give them cooked food—potatoes or turnips—with meal mixed; or wet meal without roots, giving it quite wet. This feed will make milk for the lambs when they come.

When the sheep begin to lamb I put two or three in a small pen for a few days, and if the lambs need it, I give them a little cow's new milk until they get smart and strong, when I put them in the yard, leaving the small pen for others. I increase the wet feed after they lamb, and continue it until they can get a good bite of grass. The great error is in stopping the feed when the sheep begin to leave the barn. They will then refuse hay, and their milk will partly dry up; the lambs will get stunted before the grass is good, and they never fully recover from the effects of this neglect. A few dollars' worth of feed and attention at this point will pay ten-fold, besides the satisfaction of seeing thrifty growing lambs and hearty, healthy sheep. I have not lost a sheep by sickness or disease for the last five years."

MAINE WORKING OXEN.

The market reporter of the Boston Weekly Advertiser thus discourses upon store cattle and working oxen from Maine:

The demand which has lately arisen in New York for working oxen from Maine has considerably agitated the hitherto quiet waters of this branch of the market. Years ago, old market men say, the cattle from Maine were generally quite small and inferior. But of late there has been great improvement made by the introduction of some of the best English blood. Durham, Hereford, and Devon bulls, in particular, have been introduced by public spirited individuals and societies, and so great a change effected in the stock of certain localities of the Pine Tree State that its reputation for producing animals suitable for the yoke and for the feeder's stalls has passed the boundaries of New England, and created a demand for this stock in the valley of the Hudson as well as in that of the Connecticut. How much the breeders of hooded cattle in Maine may be indebted to the modern style of reporting the Brighton market, for the wide extension of the well deserved reputation of their improved "store" cattle, it may not become us to express an opinion. Very justly the New York Tribune reporter remarks, that farmers in want of oxen are getting as particular about "style" as are those buying horses. They don't want the homely looking animals at a much less price, though equally good to work. We are very much of that mind, too; for ought not a man to be paid something for having to look at and handle an ungainly pair of cattle during their natural lives? We mentioned a week or two ago the sale of a pair of four-year old steers raised by Mr. Burleigh of Maine, but did not learn the buyer's name at that time. We are now happy to make the record. They were bought by Daniel S. Wood, a farmer of Tewksbury, Mass., for five hundred and ten dollars, and every week we see similar evidences of a growing taste for beautiful oxen. We rejoice that it is so. The sculptor's art has been highly honored. What is the skillful breeder but an artist,—not in cold stone or dead paint, but in living, breathing, conscious, intelligent and plastic nature?

The modern farmer may aspire to more noble honors than ever wreathed the brow or immortalized the names of ancient painters and sculptors. And would it not be well for the agricultural papers of our country to adopt as a motto the sentiment of Webster expressed to the foreman of his farm, when he wrote, "Hereafter let our talk be of oxen?" Not only honor, but money, urges improvement in farm stock.

Mr. McCOMBIE, an experienced grazier and feeder, near Edinburg, says, any one who turns cattle out to grass that have been fed through the winter upon cake, corn, brewers' wash, grains, or potatoes, and kept in hot stables or close strawyards, will be miserably

disappointed in any expectation of profit. The mode of feeding has been unnatural, and before the animal begins to improve three months will have passed. A few weeks feeding of cake or corn may not absolutely ruin a beast for grazing; but the less artificial food they get during the winter, if afterwards to be grazed, the better; and when kept upon the food above specified for several months, they are perfectly unfit for grazing.

BREEDING OF COLTS—FALL VERSUS SPRING.

We have often been asked the question as to whether there are any disadvantages attending the breeding of Fall colts, over and above those attending the same, when foaled in Spring.

The advantage of breeding colts in the Fall of the year, may and does amount to a good deal in the estimation of some breeders, but more, we think, to sporting-men.

First.—Because of the supposed advantage gained in the few months added to the age, but not counted,—over that of the Spring colt. We have said supposed, because it is more apparent than real, when the disparity of constitutions, stamina and longer life, are taken into consideration. And above all, perhaps we should have said, and consequently more free from the various forms of disease which are so intimately connected and developed during the process of training of Fall colts, and which, from the superior stamina of the Spring colt, they in a great measure, if not almost altogether, resist and escape.

Second.—Breeders having many mares, and to more evenly divide the time and labor between the seasons, have mares to colt in the Fall, and others do this because more work can be exacted from the mare, in the season when work on the farm is most wanted to be done. These advantages are just as objectionable as those of the first, because in addition to these, we observe a cold, and peevish sensibility, and greater liability to coughs, chest, or lung disease, thus fully accounting for the shortness of their lives, over those animals foaled in the Spring.

Third.—We are told that a Fall colt has another advantage, not possessed for, or by the colt of the Spring, viz., the early Spring grass being at once available, when the Fall colt is taken from the milk of its mother. This last supposed advantage of the Fall colt, over that of the Spring, may be set aside by side, and compared by the superior milk secured to the Spring colt, by and through this very Spring grass being converted into superior food; whereas, the Fall colt has to manufacture—digest—it for himself, and the milk from dry feed given to the mother, is not equal to that from green feed. Thus the Fall colt is first fed with milk from dry feed, and next has to feed upon, and digest for himself dry feed, which he is not so able to do as his fellow of the Spring. Hence, his large belly, coarse muscular fibre, and the kalikofora of the hone, when laid under the microscope, do not present so fine, or compact a tissue, as the colt of Spring. In the above facts lay the answer, or reason why Fall colts do not stand training—more liable to disease, as spavin, throat affection, and somatically brought together, may be called the colt with a weaker constitution than that of the colt of Spring.

In conclusion, may we not rightfully ask, whether a mother is not more able to carry her young within her womb, during the Fall and Winter months in its embryonic state, than she could carry almost a full grown fetus during the heat and fatigue of animal life in Summer, at least in our climate, for it must be remembered that the more mature the young is within the womb, the greater the drain upon and exhaustion of the mother. These facts have not escaped the notice of the erudite British statisticians, for they declare that animals and children born in the latter part of the Summer, are not likely to be long-lived.

What a lesson does this teach, when such is the result in the Islands constantly tempered by the genial influence of the gulf stream, whilst in this latitude we have such extremes of weather.—Author of Diseases in the American Stable.

Various Matters.

AN EXCITING SPECTACLE.

ONE of the most marvellous sights ever witnessed, is a herd of wild horses, in full and fiery march along the pampas of South America. The tall grass at the approach of thousands of eager and impetuous feet, waves to and fro like the waves of the sea. Grand as a whirlwind, yet in the most regular order, the herd hurries on, their manes flowing like flags and their tails erect like banners. At the head of a vast triangle gallops, as leader, guide and champion, the strongest horse of the herd. Behind him in lines mathematically straight—far more straight and unbroken than a cavalry regiment—and gradually extending till they reach their extreme length, at the base of the triangle the most powerful horses occupy as guard. In the middle as most needing help and shelter, are the foals and their mothers; but still as a portion of the strictly symmetrical lines. This is beautiful, even if—apart from the splendor and energy—there was nothing more than an illustration of the infallible geometry of instinct. The spectacle, however, has other admirers besides the gaucho and the traveler, as they rein in their steeds for a moment to gaze. Above, however, are the loathsome vulture and the voracious eruba; and keeping pace with the mighty cohort of the wilderness, is the pitiless jaguar. Onward—ever onward—that cohort sweeps. But one of the weaklings in the very heart of the triangle stumbles and falls, and then another. Yet their more stalwart brethren pause not, even for an instant, to succor the unfortunates. Concerned only that the line may not waver, they furiously tramp on them as if rejoicing to prepare a repast for the insatiable spoiler. What sin have the weaklings committed? The sin of being weakling—the sin, of all things, which nature and man never pardon; the sin which enrages animals against those of their own kind, and which drives soldiers at cities taken by assault, to expend all their vengeance and madness, not on such as, with stout hands and stout breasts still resist, but on women, little children, on the aged, on the utterly defenceless.

In the early part of the reign of Henry VIII., not a cabbage, turnip, or other edible root grew in England. Two or three centuries before, certainly, the monasteries had gardens with a variety of vegetables; but nearly all the gardens of the laity were destroyed in the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster. Harrison speaks of wheat bread as being chiefly used by the gentry for their own tables; and adds, that the artificer and laborers are "driven to content themselves with horse-corn, heanes, oats, tares and lentils." There is no doubt but that the average duration of human life was at that period only half as long as it is now.

VEGETABLE POEM.—A poetical young gardener, somewhere in the South, while despondent from the effects of the late unseasonable weather, gets off the following:

"Onion garden bed reclining
Beets a youth his aching head;
Cauliflowers! lo, weeds confront me:
Lettuce hence, he sadly said.
Carrots out the stoutest manhood,
Peas my wearied soul doth need;
Bean O! strife for me hereafter,
Else my heart will go to seed."

THE CROP PROSPECTS.—It is generally remarked by travelers that the wheat crop looks splendid all over the West. There was never better promise of an abundant yield; especially is this the case in Northern Indiana, where an unusually great breadth of land has been devoted to staple cereals.

A DAY of innocent amusement may be a Sabbath to the soul. There is not necessarily much difference between a holiday and a holy-day.

GRAFTING WAX.—Doctor Ward gives a recipe for making grafting wax, such as he uses in his own nursery: One part of tallow, two of wax, and four of rosin. The consistency of the wax will be affected by the weather. If too stiff, he would add tallow, if too soft, rosin.—He would use the wax warm, and apply it with a brush; put on in this way it was more durable, and a better protection to the graft. Different methods are suggested for keeping the wax warm during the operation of grafting, such as surrounding the vessel of wax with hot water, or a quilt of batting. Another recipe is to melt together two parts of rosin, two of black pitch, one of white turpentine, one of tallow, and one of beeswax. This is Watson's recipe—it is applied melted, with a brush.





Original Papers.

PLAIN TALK WITH FARMERS.—NO. 6.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY HON. JAMES W. WALL, NEW JERSEY.

In my previous communications I think I have made apparent the necessity that exists for every farmer that takes a pride in his profession to cultivate in a greater or less degree, a knowledge of those sciences that have done, or are doing, so much for agriculture. I have sketched for you in faint, imperfect outline, the high vantage ground your noble profession obtained in ages past, to make still more manifest to you in this high noon of the nineteenth century, that the farming profession lags behind in this country, or follows with a limping step, instead of being in the vanguard of them all. The reason of this is, that you, Virgil's "country kings," the independent yeomanry of the States, who should call no man master, have closed your eyes to the immense influence your intelligence, your numbers, your social position, and your important interests would enable you to wield, if you would only determine to exercise it in a proper manner.

In fact, as far as regards encouragement to the farming interest, we are far behind Continental Europe. Here every interest seeks for protection, clamors for it, and the political hustings are made the theatres upon which needy politicians play their parts as the paid and interested advocates of such interests; but the great agricultural interest is comparatively neglected. The legislation of the past has done comparatively very little for the agricultural interests of the States. This omission has mainly grown out of the neglect and indifference of the classes most injured by it. The past you cannot redeem; but the future is with you—the men of the plough, the men of toil, the cultivators of the soil you own; you can, with the awakened power which has so long slumbered within you, mould and shape, and direct the future legislation of our States as you choose. The hammer of Odin is in your hands, and as the stroke of that of the Teutonic mythology is said to have produced convulsions on the earth's surface, so political power in your grasp, if wielded in a high and holy purpose, will shake terribly that inert, useless legislation which has so long cursed our States. When I think of your numbers in the land, your immense power in every township and district, I honestly believe that by a perfect concentration of action, your strength would be greater than all the industrial pursuits combined. But now your power seems to be like that of the elephant in the menagerie. The politicians use you and abuse you—they pierce you with sharp goads, and ride upon your trunks with impunity. Whereas, if you were only once fully alive to the fact of your real power, how you could crush them at a single blow, or trample them as dust beneath your feet. I have seen enough to enable me to make the observation, and had experience enough of their corrupt machinations to give it weight, when I declare that the injury done by dishonest, plotting politicians in a State can only be compared, to use Swift's words, "to the ravages of swine in well cultivated fields." On the other hand, an honest farmer who, by skillfully draining, manuring and planting, has increased the intrinsic value of an acre of land, is worth more to the country than all the politicians that were ever spawned; for whoever can make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass grow, where only one grew before, deserves better of mankind, and has done more essential service to his country, than all the politicians combined.

In monarchical Prussia, they boast of five Agricultural Academies, whose object it is to instruct practically and scientifically the pupils destined for agriculturists. To these institutions belong nearly nine thousand acres, all under scientific cultivation. Then they have established eighteen private academies where the first rudiments of agricultural science are taught to those who desire to prepare themselves for entrance into the Higher Colleges.

In France, there are numerous schools assisted by the State, where young persons can obtain instruction in agriculture, both practical and theoretical. The principal institution, of the kind, is at Grignon, where one of the old royal palaces, and the domain attached to it, consisting of nearly two thousand acres of arable, pasture, wood and meadow land, have been relinquished by the State. The simple statement of the character of the lectures delivered at this institution will convey a practical idea of its importance. The lectures are upon the following subjects, as I have taken them down from the prospectus of the Institution: 1st, The natural principles of husbandry, and the management of a farm. 2nd, The principles of rural economy as applied to the employment of capital and stock in a farm. 3d, The most approved method of keeping farm accounts. 4th, The construction of farm buildings, roads, and implements used in husbandry. 5th, Vegetable Physiology and Botany. 6th, Horticulture. 7th, Foreign Science. 8th, The general principles of the Veterinary Art. 9th, The laws relating to property. 10th, Geometry as applied to the measurement and survey of land. 11th, Geometrical drawings of farming implements. 12th, Physics as applied to agriculture. 13th, Chemistry as applied to the analysis of soils, manures, &c. 14th, Certain general principles of Mineralogy and Geology. 15th, Domestic medicine as applied to the use of husbandmen.

Indeed, there is scarcely a country in Europe, where the important art of agriculture is not sheltered and encouraged by State patronage. I know I may be met by that enemy of progress, the oft-repeated objection that encouragement of this nature is hostile to the spirit and genius of our institutions, and should be left to the perseverance and energy of private enterprise. I have lived long enough to be fully satisfied with the fallacy of this political postulate. I have lived long enough to feel grieved at the tendency of our State governments to become mere political machines devoted to the business of advancing this or that partizan; for making laws for the benefit of private, or what is infinitely worse, electioneering enterprise. Now, the great object of a republican form of government, I take to be, *the regulation of public affairs, in accordance with the wishes of the people, and in conformity with the real interests of the government.* I believe that theoretically, the aim of all governments should be the conservation of human rights, and the continued preservation of, and protection to, the interests of the common weal; and I know of no better description of those rights than that contained in the Declaration of Independence, in the order of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Now, upon you, the farmers of the country, depends a correction of the evils that have thus grown up in the legislative history of the country. Crafty politicians call you "the bone and sinews of the land," and you are to them all this, for they make you "hewers of wood and drawers of water," to assist in all their schemes. You can cease to occupy this position if you will. You have the numbers, and the local influence if you choose to exert it, and can send men to your legislative halls who will build up permanently the agricultural interests of your country, and open up its soil to more thorough geological research—men who will establish agricultural schools, endowed with State patronage, and promote, by all honorable and judicious means, the cultivation of those sciences that have already done so much for agriculture, by the expansion of its field of operation, and the wondrous increase of its means of usefulness.

May, 1867.

It is said that a barrel of flour can be purchased in Paris, sent to Liverpool by rail and steamer, and thence transported in a sailing vessel to Boston, at less expense than it can be purchased in the latter city.

At one haul of the seine in Albemarle Sound, on Thursday last, 45,000 herrings and 18,000 shad were landed.

The Field.

ONION CULTURE AS A FIELD CROP.

The soil best adapted to the growth and perfect maturing of the onion, is rather a heavy loam, but should not be inclined to bake, or form in heavy crust upon the surface after heavy storms. It is desirable to have the soil in fine tilth, not predisposed to weeds, and in a high state of cultivation. The surface should be quite level, to prevent injury to the growing plants by washing, which is not unfrequently the case during heavy showers. It is well to prepare the ground in Autumn as far as may be, as it gives an opportunity to sow the seed earlier, and the crop is more likely to mature perfectly than after Spring plowing. No pains should be spared to have this work done in good season, and in the best possible manner, before the seed is put in the ground, as it will save labor and expense in the after culture. Fertilizers should be liberally applied, and well mixed with the soil. Perhaps there are none better than barn yard or hog pen manures, well fined; still, if the soil contains considerable vegetable mold, or nitrogenous manures, a good crop may be produced by an application of wood ashes. Should the crop look unpromising, it may be improved, as a general rule, by an application of Peruvian guano, or ashes, as late as July.

The seed should be sown as early in the season as the ground can be made fine, and the work can be done more perfectly in a cool, dry day, than it can in damp, foggy weather. S. E. Harington's convertible sower, distributes the seed evenly, covers it perfectly, and is unquestionably the best machine for sowing onions now in use. The Yellow Danvers, for field culture; still, the early red, or the silver skin are very good for that purpose. If sown in drills fifteen inches apart, five pounds of seed is sufficient for an acre, provided the onions are to be sold by the bushel or barrel; if they are to be bunched, a larger quantity should be used. The common hand rake may be used to advantage, as soon as the plants are fairly up, back and forth diagonally across the rows.

This operation destroys very many small weeds and loosens the soil, while the young plants are but very little injured by the hard usage on account of the large supply of roots peculiar to the onion. Next in order comes the hand weeding, which should be repeated at such times during the entire season as may be necessary to keep the soil in fine tilth and the crop free from weeds. If the crop matures perfectly, and the onions are of a good quality, they may remain some days before harvesting. Care should be taken, however, not to leave them in the ground until a new set of roots have started, for this very much injures their keeping qualities. The pulling may be done very rapidly with a rake or potato hook, after which they should be allowed to remain in the sun a few days, being frequently turned, when tops should be removed, and they are ready for market, or to store in an airy shed or well covered loose cribs in the field.—*N. E. Homestead.*

HOME-MADE SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME.

ABEL CHANDLER, of Concord, gives the following directions through the Country Gentleman for making what he calls "Home-made Superphosphate of Lime:"

If any one doubts the value of phosphoric acid for growing Indian Corn, he had better make a few pounds, then he will be sure it is of good quality, and give it a trial, and if he does not find it to give corn a good start, and push it ahead all through the season, when only applied with the seed, then he may be pretty well assured that his land is rich enough in phosphoric acid already, and does not need any more. It can be very easily made. Put a few bones in a hot fire—the kitchen cooking stove is as good as any—and burn them till upon breaking one it will be of a white or light gray color. After they have become cool,

break them up and grind them on a flat stone or anything else more convenient, only be sure they are ground as fine as flour, if possible. Weigh this fine powder—bone ash—and put it into an earthen-ware bowl or dish, or an old wooden water pail, and add enough cold water to it to make it thoroughly wet; then set it out doors, and for each pound of the dry bone ash, carefully add three-quarters of a pound of sulphuric acid—that is, for four pounds of dry bone ash add three pounds of sulphuric acid—it will foam and steam like slaking lime, and must be continually stirred with a stick till it is done steaming.

If there was not too much water put to the dry bone ash, it will now be about of the consistency of paste; after standing a day or two with frequent stirring, it will become nearly dry enough to handle, and will have become quite hard, unless very often stirred; at any rate there will be many hard lumps in it, which must be ground up fine again, at the same time adding enough dry wood ashes or dry loam, to make it dry enough to handle. It is now ready for use. Put a large tablespoonful in each hill of corn at the time of planting, and if it acts as it has on my corn for four years past, it will cause the corn to come up quicker and better, with a broad, dark green leaf, and push it ahead all through the season, and make it ripen at least ten days earlier than anything else that can be put in the hill—excepting, perhaps, good old manure. It will not injure the seed in the least, even if it is covered with it, for there is neither nitrogen or ammonia, or common salt in it—ammonia to give it a "smell," and salt to make it so strong as to kill the seed if it comes in contact with it.

SAVING AND APPLYING BONE DUST.

"If there is any one practice among American farmers for which they deserve sharp rebuke, it is for permitting such immense quantities of bones to be exported for the improvement of the agriculture of foreign nations. Thousands of tons of bones are collected annually in Chicago, Buffalo, New York, and other populous cities, and shipped to European countries, to fertilize the land for raising turnips, wheat, fat cattle, and sheep. And yet American farmers in stupid quietude look on and say, 'It don't pay to collect bones, and apply them to the soil!'"

It will pay. They have not tested the application of ground bone. There is not a meadow nor a pasture in the land—with very few exceptions—that will not be greatly benefited by a dressing of ground raw bone. Thousands of acres of the best farming land in New England is in a low state of impoverishment, for the want of a liberal dressing of raw ground bone. Such fertilizing matter is the very life of the soil. European farmers understand and appreciate this fact. They know it pays to ship bones from America to enrich their farms."

GROWING TURNIPS WITH CORN.

MR. BARNES of Westmoreland, Onondaga county, N. Y., has a novel way of growing turnips with corn, which we do not remember to have seen described before. He plants his corn three feet four inches apart, each way, which makes four thousand hills to the acre, and manures in the hills with well rotted manure. He uses about ten loads of manure to the acre, and while loading up the manure in the yard, turnip seed is scattered over the load two or three times, or in other words, when a third of the load is put upon the wagon, a few seeds are sprinkled over it, and so on for every third of the load. The manure is then carted to the field and placed in the rows where it is to be used, and the corn planted. He states by this method that about every hill will have its turnip plant, which grows well with the corn, and yields at the rate of one hundred and fifty bushels to the acre of roots, without any detriment to the corn crop. The turnip plants become firmly established by the time the corn is fit to cut, and after that make most of their growth, advancing with great rapidity.—*Utica Herald.*

Nor all the riggers, spinners, and weavers in the country can beat a spider in his work. Its web is a wonder of strength and lightness. See how regular and straight the threads, and how beautifully they are fastened to the cross pieces. They never come undone. A puff of wind, you might suppose, would blow it away. But no; the breeze sweeps through it and over it, and there it hangs, not harmed at all. It is not careless or hurried work, we are sure. The spider takes time to do its work well. It is also a persevering little creature. It does not get easily discouraged. Children try to do a thing once or twice, perhaps three times, and if they do not succeed, they say it is no use, and give up. Not so with the spider. If you sweep its web away again and again, again and again it goes to work and weaves another.



FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 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.

SHOULD FARMERS BE EDUCATED FOR FARMING?

THE intelligent reader may exhibit certain facial expressions—perhaps may smile—while reading the title of this article. He smiles because the question is absurd to him; he knows that every profession should be educated; that no man, no matter how great his natural abilities, can successfully prosecute a business without thoroughly learning its rudiments; without knowing its fundamental principles, then pursuing it with constant research and diligent application. Yet if he goes into the country, to any farming community, and asks the *savant* of the neighborhood the simplest question in agricultural chemistry, vegetable physiology, scientific husbandry or animal physiology, the chances are that he will receive crude, inaccurate or very indefinite information.

If a man "put out his shingle" as an attorney or counselor at law, without legal education or acquirements, we should not be safe in consulting him relative to any great question of law, involving titles to property; the absolute rights of individuals; of titles by succession, marriage or judgment; of executory contracts, or anything in relation to deeds, wills or testaments. If a fellow, itching for money or notoriety, offers his services to the public as a physician, without studying *materia medica*, we would avoid him unless we wished to meet that "lean fellow that beats all conquerors"—wished to close "life's fitful fever" and journey to that land "from whose bourne no traveller returns." Such characters we denounce as charlatans, quacks and impostors, and advise all our friends to avoid them.

What material difference, in *qualification*, is there between the dull, uneducated agriculturist, and the pseudo, spurious disciple of Blackstone? or the false, counterfeit follower of Galen? We can see none. The ignorant farmer may be honest, industrious and a good member of society; but he is laboring in the dark; is attempting to cultivate the soil without knowing anything of geological origin, of organic chemistry, of vegetable physiology, the agencies of heat, light, electricity, the food of plants, and little or nothing of scientific agriculture. And yet he expects to thrive, increase his domain and lay up something for the evening of life. Plodding along, without knowing the rudiments of his occupation, without scientific training, without applying the fundamental principles of progress, he finds agriculture an "up hill business."

If the farmers of this country were as intelligent as they might be; using science as an aid; understanding the relation of the plant to its sources of nourishment; what is necessary to make all soils fertile; what chemical properties are essential to crops, with all labor sharpened with observation and experience, they would become the wealthiest class of the country—the lords of the soil—the true chivalry of our glorious empire of agriculture. But we shall never see all our farmers thus intelligent—most of them will remain fossils—but to those who have a taste for improved husbandry, scientific cultivation of the soil, and who never weary of progress, we say GO AHEAD! You will reap the fruits of your intelligence, add to the aggregate of national prosperity, and leave memories written indelibly in the golden harvests of your homesteads.

The Farm and Fireside 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.

THE PHYSIOLOGY OF SOILS.

It is of more importance that a farmer should understand the physiology of the soil he cultivates than at first sight seems apparent. It is just as necessary to successful farming as a knowledge of the physiology of the human system is necessary to medical success. The physician must prove his proficiency in such knowledge before he is justly entitled to his diploma; and as soon as his diagnosis decides the nature of the disease, he can tell the subsequent symptoms the patient may have, and knows precisely what medicines to prescribe. Soils are as much subject to deterioration as the human frame; they may have diseases for which there are scientific remedies; to neglect attending them may result in the death of sterility.

A scientific farmer examines a soil possessing all the elements of fertility, which nevertheless seems barren. He finds that there is not enough of impalpable powder to exert a *direct* influence upon vegetation by entering into solution with the water and acids, for plants consume only such food as is in a liquid or gaseous form. The farmer is the physician; he prescribes breaking up of the soil and a loosening of the elements which are locked up, as it were, in an insoluble condition. Another is an instance of actual sterility; he shakes his head; it is a bad case; violent remedies are necessary to restoration. His prescription would be something like the following:

"Per acre, lime, fifty bushels; manure, forty loads, with *quam. suf.* of loam and phosphates, composted in the Fall and applied early in the Spring.

Mem.—Under drain, plow deep and twice during the year; diet at intervals with any kind of well decayed manure."

But we have carried the comparison far enough; the farmer should have a correct knowledge of the soil before he presumes to prescribe. In entering upon a farm for cultivation the first investigation should be as to the composition of the various soils of which its surface is composed. These form the basis of all intelligent operations. There are light and heavy soils; clayey, sandy and limy soils; loamy, marly and alluvial soils; vegetable molds and sub-soils. These several soils cannot be expected to perform the same functions, be adapted to the same kind of crops, or equally reward the hand of skillful labor.

From a cursory examination he should glide to a careful, critical examination. There are other important essentials in soils, among which are:

1.—Consistency. Clayey soils have the greatest degree of consistency, sandy soils the least. Both extremes are unfavorable for general vegetation.

2.—Color. Brown and red soils are considered the best, and are termed warm soils; yellow and gray are cold in their nature; black generally indicates peat or deep vegetable mold.

3.—Depth. Deep soil gives the roots of plants a wider range, retains moisture better in seasons of drouth, and is not so readily saturated in rainy weather.

4.—Humidity. Too great moisture is as injurious to soils as extreme dryness.

5.—Position of Surface Soil. Sandy soils are most fertile when flat and situated lower than the surrounding country. On the declivities of hills such soil is of less value, as it is liable to become parched by drouths and washed away by rains. Clayey soils, on the contrary, especially where the subsoil is impermeable, are favorably situated when on a hill-side. Southern and Eastern exposures are favorable to early vegetation.

So we might go on *ad infinitum*—referring to chemical analysis of soils, management of soils, improvement of soils, etc. But these were not comprehended in the design of this article. We simply wished to show the importance of every farmer having a knowledge of the various soils he has under tillage; and that to understand what food is necessary to keep the soil in a healthy condition comes under the province of agricultural physiology.

WOONSOCKET AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At their meeting on the 11th ult., this Society unanimously adopted their new charter procured from the Legislature.

Spencer Mowry, Daniel B. Pond and Arlon Mowry were appointed a committee to draft by-laws.

The Society re-organized for the ensuing year by electing Stephen N. Mason, President; John A. Bennett, John Currier and Daniel B. Pond, Vice Presidents; William H. S. Smith, Secretary; Charles E. Aldrich, Treasurer; and John Currier, Auditor of Accounts.

The President appointed Newell A. Bontell, John Currier and Bradbury C. Hill, a committee to secure from Libbeus Gaskill a lease of the "Race Course," with privilege to purchase the same at a price to be fixed in the lease.

On motion it was agreed that a Fair be held at Woonsocket during the Autumn, and that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the *Farm and Fireside*.

RHODE ISLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—This Society will hold their Twenty-third Summer Exhibition in the City Hall, Providence, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 26th and 27th days of June next. The schedule of premiums embraces grapes, pine apples, peaches, strawberries, plants and flowers, ornamental leaf plants, cut flowers, bouquets, (school children as competitors) and vegetables. A number of articles are also embraced under the head of "President's Premiums." The awards will amount to upwards of three hundred dollars, and contributors will greatly aid the committee by furnishing a list of their articles on or before Monday the 24th of June.

THE earliest tomato plants should be shortened by taking off a few inches of their tops, so soon as they have set their first fruit, which will cause it to ripen more rapidly. Stir the soil frequently and keep it free from weeds. Support the plants with branches or a little trellis, as you would peas, to keep the fruit from the ground. The plants, too, when supported, run less to vines, and are much more fruitful. One dozen plants properly supported will yield more and better fruit than three times that number will when allowed to rest on the ground.

MICHIGAN WOOL EXHIBITION.—The Western States, having a tariff that suits them, are becoming the wool producers for our Eastern manufactories. Within the last decade, the farmers in the North West have increased their flocks to a vast extent; and have also improved the character of their wool. On the 7th, 8th, and 9th of this month, Michigan holds a State exhibition of sheep and wool at Jackson. The premium lists are liberal, and as the railway companies of the State offer to carry stock, wool and attendants free, there will unquestionably be a fine exhibition.

"KING OF THE TURF."—The famous horse *Dexter*, that has trotted a mile in two minutes and eighteen seconds, is challenged by Mr. L. L. Dorsey, of Louisville, Kentucky, who offers to bet \$10,000 that his horse, "Rolla Gold Dust" will beat the little "King of the Turf."

"Gold Dust" is seven years old this Spring, fifteen and a quarter hands high, color brown bay, and last Fall trotted a mile inside of 2.22. He is now in training at Buffalo, New York.

KEEPING down the weeds is not the only good result attained by hoeing. The soil is thereby kept friable and porous; opened to the atmosphere and the fertilizing gases, and a new, fresh, cool surface is presented for the absorption of moisture. Hoe deeply; a mere scratching of the surface is not enough. Do not fail to eradicate every weed.

JOHN GILES, the noted cattle raiser, has removed from South Woodstock, Conn., to South Framingham, Mass., where he will continue to breed the Jersey cattle.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

ACCORDING to Mr. Lawes' estimate, the manure from a ton of wheat straw is worth \$2 68, while that from a ton of clover is worth \$9 61.

The coming wheat crop will be the largest ever grown on this continent.

The strawberry basket trade has been very brisk in Bergen county, N. J.

At the Beet-root sugar manufactory at Stuttgart, in Germany, sixty-five thousand tons of beets are annually converted into sugar.

Bees are destroying the fruit and grape buds in New Albany, Indiana.

The locusts have already begun to hatch in Kansas and another scourge is anticipated.

A cabinet containing distinctive samples of wool is now a feature at the Treasury Department.

The Michigan State Wool-Growers' association will hold a shearing festival at Jackson city on Monday next.

Among the large yields of potatoes recently reported, is one from Canada, to the effect that two peach blows, cut into sets, produced two bushels of large, sound potatoes.

A Wisconsin farmer has a pig which weighed one hundred and ten pounds when sixty-five days old. It was a cross between the Suffolk and Irish Graziar breeds. The rest of the litter were nearly as large.

It is stated that I. S. Diehl has been commissioned by the Agricultural Department to go to Asia to make an investigation upon the subject of Asiatic goats.

Soaking cows' teats for a few minutes in a very strong decoction of white oak bark; also rubber rings that fit tight enough to stay on, are recommended by the New York Rural, to prevent cows leaking their milk.

The price of farm labor has increased about 60 per cent since the outbreak of the rebellion, which is less than the advance in the cost of living, but greater than the advance in the price of farm produce.

Florida produces lemons that weigh over a pound, and are twelve inches in circumference. These mammoth lemons are obtained in East Florida, and on the Southern coast islands, by grafting the lemon cutting on the native sour orange tree. The fruit is equal in flavor to the best West India lemons.

The Annual Shearing Festival of the North Kennebec (Me.) Wool Growers' Association, is announced to take place at Waterville on Tuesday, June 4th.

Mr. Edward Todd, agricultural editor of the New York Times, has been appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture to report on the Agricultural Implements of the Paris Exposition, and will sail for France about the first of June, to fulfil the object of his mission.

The New York State Agricultural Society will hold "a Plow and Harrow trial," at Auburn on Tuesday next.

H. B. Burritt, Wauconda, Ill., writes that he believes horn ail to be generally caused by inaction of the liver, and that he has administered sulphate of iron as a remedy with success. One tablespoonful every day, dissolved in warm water was the amount given. If given in season one or two doses will effect a cure.

Pulverised charcoal given occasionally is a preventive of the putrid affections, to which fowls are very subject.

INCREASE OF LIVE STOCK.—The late report of the Commissioner of Agriculture states that there were on the first of February in all the States, a total of 5,401,263 horses, valued at \$429,271,818; 882,386 mules, valued at \$76,094,954; 11,318,952 cattle and oxen, valued at \$249,351,682; 39,385,386 milch cows and sheep, valued at \$132,774,660; and 24,693,534 hogs, valued at \$134,111,424. These figures, as compared with those of last year, reveal a decided increase in the number of live stock.

A NATIONAL HORSE FAIR is to convene at Trenton, N. J., on the 11th of June.

INFLUENCE OF WIVES.—It was not all a dream which made the wife of Julius Cæsar so anxious that he should not go to the Senate chamber on the fatal Ides of March; and had he complied with her entreaties he might have escaped the dagger of Brutus. Disaster followed disaster in the career of Napoleon, from the time he ceased to feel the balance-wheel of Josephine's influences on his impetuous spirit. Our own Washington, when important questions were submitted to him, often said that he would like to carry the subject to his bed-chamber before forming his decision; and those who knew the clear judgment and elevated purpose of Mrs. Washington, thought all the better of him for wishing to make her his confidential counselor. Indeed, the great majority of men who have acquired a good and great name, were not only married men—but happily married—both paired and matched.



The Fireside Muse.

WORK.

Down and up, and up and down.
Over, and over, and over;
Turn in the little seed, dry and brown.
Turn out the bright red clover.
Work, and the sun your work will share.
And the rain in its time will fall,
For nature she worketh everywhere.
And the grace of God through all.

With hand on the spade and heart in the sky.
Dress the ground and till it;
Turn in the little seed, brown and dry.
Turn out the golden millet;
Work in the house and your house shall be duly fed;
Work, and rest shall be won;
I hold that a man had better be dead
Than alive when his work is done!

Down and up, and up and down.
On the hill top, low in the valley.
Turn in the little seed, dry and brown.
Turn out the rose and lily;
Work with a plan, or without a plan.
And your ends they shall be shaped true.
Work, and learn at first hand like a man
The best way to know what is to do.

Down and up till life shall close.
Ceasing not your praises;
Turn in the wild white winter snows.
Turn out the sweet Spring daisies.
Work, the sun your work will share.
And the rain in its time will fall,
For nature she worketh everywhere.
And the grace of God through all.

Fireside Tale.

THE WRITING ON THE WALL.

BY M. O. JOHNSON.

"You little mischief! What are you up to now? I'll teach you better, you naughty, naughty child?"

It was on the mother's lips to say this; and for a moment, in her heart to act in accordance with it. But a better thought came into her mind and she paused an instant, keeping back the hasty words. It cost her an effort, for she was young, impetuous, high-spirited, a very nice housekeeper; and here was her boy Willie, of two or three years, busily engaged in drawing a "horse and cart," as it seemed to his active fancy, on the parlor wall. To his mother's eye, the delicate, pretty wall paper, with its rose-buds scattered on a white ground, was no improved by the young artist's handiwork. It was provoking, when the girl was sick, and she had all the work to do, and had only left him five minutes, with playthings and a picture book, to keep him out of mischief, to think that he should stray into that one forbid den place, and do a forbidden thing, just where it mattered most. But she conquered her angry feelings, and laying her hand gently on the child's shoulder, with the other she took away his pencil, and said calmly, though gravely:

"Willie, don't you know that was naughty? Mamma told you not to write on the wall."

The boy had raised his little hands, to plead for his pencil, but he dropped them instantly, while a look of surprise and pain swept over his face. His lip quivered as he met his mother's eyes, and the tears rolled down, as he said, earnestly:

"Oh, mamma! Willie did forget. Willie so sorry, mamma!"

Mrs. Lawson felt in her heart that the child's words were true; and, grateful for the better thought that had come to her—the strength that had been given to rule herself, she took her boy in her lap and spoke gently, tenderly, to him, wiping away his tears.

"Willie, dear, you must try to remember. You don't want to do what papa and mamma don't like, and spoil our pretty house, do you?"

Willie looked up in amazement. "Don't you think Willie's hurt be pritty, mamma?" he asked.

Two months had passed away, and an awful shadow brooded over the hitherto happy home. There were anxious vigils, and sad silence, and a wrestling of prayer by Willie's bedside. The doctor came and went with a few words, and a face carrying with it more

of sympathy than of hope or encouragement. Willie had been healthy, and his mother, though young, was careful and judicious; but with no note of warning, by some unseen and unsuspected door, that terrible disease, that only those who have seen it can imagine, croup, had entered. Ah! in that trial time, when prayer swelled up from anguished hearts, and love could scarcely feel weariness, doing all that human love might do, by day or night—in that hour, again and again the recollection of the little scene in the parlor, only two months before, when she had never even fancied such an experience as this, thrilled the mother's soul with thanksgiving. She knew, then, that if she had been unjust or impatient with her child, the remembrance would in this dark hour be her keenest pang; it seemed to her that every hasty word she had spoken to her boy, every impatient feeling even, came back at this time. But the dreaded cup passed, and Willie seemed twice forgiven, when father and mother held him to their grateful hearts, in the glad certainty of recovery.

Afterwards whenever Mrs. Lawson's eye rested on Willie's rude picture, which still remained—for though she, at first, had intended to erase it she had been so busy before Willie's sickness that it was forgotten—it seemed a watchword, a reminder, a talisman that quieted wrong feelings, and brought into her heart love and gratitude.

For years it remained there; and when new paper was needed, Mrs. Lawson herself so carefully removed the strip traced by baby fingers, that it was not torn, and laid it in her drawer as a precious thing. By that time, seven little ones gathered round her fireside, and that picture had been a medium of good to them all, though they knew it not.

There Willie found it when grown to manhood.

It is Christmas Eve. Peace and good-will abide in the comfortable, well-ordered home of the Lawson family. The dark-winged angel has sometimes overshadowed that home, but never borne any away. All are gathered now beside its fire, save one. Willie, the first born, is a painter, studying his profession in the land of beauty and art—sunny Italy. But he is well expected home before this festive season shall return, and a long letter this evening received, and replete with hopeful affection and earnest purpose, seems the thing next best to seeing him.

But scarcely is the letter read, when they are surprised by the arrival of a package containing a Christmas gift, which, to their hearts, must ever be beyond all price. It is a picture, delicate and rich in coloring, graceful in design, of a little child drawing on a wall. Fastened to one corner of the frame, is a tiny note, inscribed simply "Mother."

All gather eagerly around. Now the picture is held in every light, examined and talked about in tones of loving enthusiasm; but "mother" sits silent, till one of the younger children addresses a remark directly to her—"I wonder, mother, why Willie chose this subject? It is beautiful; but it seems a little strange to send us from Italy just what he might find any day in our neighbors' houses."

And then "mother," with eyes a little unsteady, told, for the first time to them, the story of the child's "writing on the wall."

A LADY was once declaring that she could not understand how gentlemen could smoke. "It certainly shortens their lives," said she. "I don't know that," replied the gentleman: "there is my father who smokes every blessed day, and is now seventy years old." "Well," was the reply, "if he had never smoked, he might have been eighty."

A CRITICAL journalist says the reason so many marriages occur immediately after a great war is, that bachelors become so accustomed to strife that they learn to like it, and after the return of peace they enlist in matrimony as the next thing to war.

Natural History.

SOMETHING ABOUT BIRDS.

DR. TRIMBLE having made the subject of birds and insects, as they relate to the garden and orchard, a matter of special study and observation, the following extracts from his address in relation thereto, as reported in the Newark Advertiser, cannot fail to interest all parties, and especially those who would protect the birds, as the fruit-grower's co-workers, notwithstanding they eat some fruit; for it should be remembered that they feed more or less on insects and their larvæ for many months of the year, while it is comparatively a short space of time that they peck at fruits of the different species and various varieties. Would it not be better to employ persons for a few days to keep them away from fruit plots, than to engage in their indiscriminate destruction? So it seems to many who have considered this matter in the light of rural and horticultural economy.

Of the *Baltimore Oriole*, that beautiful bird and charming songster, Dr. Trimble said, "they are becoming numerous, and when they first arrive they feed on leaf-curling caterpillars, so injurious to fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs; also upon the cauler worm, that destructive pest, and later in the season upon the drop-worm. He stated that by the aid of the microscope he had been able to prove positively that the orioles feed upon that terrible enemy of the fruit-grower—the curculio; that a small portion of a head, supposed to be that of a curculio, was found amongst the comminuted contents of the crop of one of these birds, and the microscope enabled him to count the 147 lenses in one of the eyes—the exact number known to make the eye of this particular species of the curculio.

The *Downy Woodpecker* is one of the most valuable birds of our country. It knows where to find, and is busy in searching out, the apple worm—the second in importance of the insect enemies, which, with the curculio are the chief cause of the ruin of the fruit business, especially in our State.

The *Little Chick-a-dee* also feeds upon the apple-worm, but finds it accidentally, and not by boring for it, as does the downy woodpecker.

The *Cedar Bird*, sometimes called the Cherry Bird, (Canker Bird) said the Doctor, is a gross feeder, consuming immense numbers of canker worms and of injurious insects. This bird and the yellow bird, or finch, resemble each other in one respect, both remaining in flocks, till midsummer, and are thus on hand in great numbers when their services are most required; while most other birds are at home attending to their domestic duties. The cedar birds are found in New York and Philadelphia in large flocks in June, after the worms, and if they could be properly protected by closing the parks, so that they should not be frightened away by the people, they would do much towards ridding those cities of these pests. The yellow birds, in immense flocks, are found in wheat fields where the midge is so destructive. They are in pursuit of the larvæ of these flies in the heads of the wheat, while the grain is in the milk; and farmers sometimes have supposed these birds are the cause of the trouble, not knowing that they are their best friends.

The *Warblers* include nearly forty species of small birds, and are exclusively insectivorous, most of which are very beautiful, and many of them sweet singers. In the Spring they feed on plant lice, as found in orchards; in the Fall, as they emigrate to the South, they stop and feed on the late brood of Palmer worms that so infest our elm and maple trees, thus becoming exceedingly fat.

The *Whippoorwill* is a nocturnal bird, and its beak is so formed that it takes in moths as a net takes in fish. The eyes of flies enable them to see all around them, and the muscular force of their wings is so quick that they can dodge the rain drops in a shower; yet the swallow and the house martin feed almost e-

clusively on winged insects, which are taken on the wing by these aerial feeders.

The foregoing are good and substantial reasons why birds should be preserved. Others will be given hereafter. Let these suffice for the present; and there can hardly be a doubt that, when all the reasons for preserving birds are weighed against the few for destroying them, they will be permitted to live, and sing to delight the lovers of Nature, as well as to destroy vermin.

Fireside Miscellany.

THINGS WISE AND OTHERWISE.

Nursing colds, cleaning yards, planting early peas, dress-making, house cleaning and keeping one's temper, are the principal domestic duties of the season.

"One might have heard a pin fall," is a proverbial expression of silence, but it has been eclipsed by the French phrase, "You might have heard the unfolding of a lady's cambric handkerchief."

At an agricultural dinner the following toast was given: "The game of fortune—shuffle the cards as you will, spades must win."

What perfume is most injurious to female beauty? The essence of thyme (time).

"We see," said Swift, in one of his most sarcastic moods, "What God thinks of riches by the people whom he gives them to."

The motto of a new Virginia paper is,— "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty—the price of the Expositor is three dollars a year."

Why is the early grass like a penknife? Because the spring brings out the blades.

SQUIBS ON SOBE TITLES.—"You'll remember me"—When my note is protested.

"In darkness I wander."—Take a lantern and go straight on.

"We met by chance."—At Crosby's Opera House.

Murmurs of the tied—married people's complaints.

To curb a fast young man—bridal him.
Female gymnastics—jumping at an offer.
Favorite airs of mammas having marriageable daughters—millionaires.

A serpentine mathematician—the adder.
The oldest case of lunacy—time out of mind.
A social posy—the dandy lion.

An Irishman says he can see no earthly reason why women should not be allowed to become medical men.

A cigar may draw wisdom from the lips of a philosopher, and stop the mouth of a fool.

Why is an author a queer animal? Because his tail comes out of his head.

Give strict attention to your own affairs—and consider your wife one of them.

A pin has as much head as a great many authors, and a great deal more point.

John Minor Botts recently recovered a horse which was stolen from him during the war: whereupon the New York World remarks:—"If Botts was disconsolate without the horse, how happy was the horse to be free from Botts!"

A GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF CHINA.—A country where the roses have no fragrance and the women no petticoats; where the laborer has no Sabbath and the magistrate no sense of honor; where the roads bear no vehicles and the ships no keels; where old men fly kites; where the needle points to the South, and the sign of being puzzled is to scratch the antipodes on the heel; where the place of honor is on the left hand and the seat of intellect is in the stomach; where to take off your hat is an insolent gesture, and to wear white garments is to put yourself in mourning; which has a literature without an alphabet and a language without a grammar.

In the depths of the sea the waters are still; the heaviest grief is that borne in silence; the deepest love flows through the eye and touch; the purest joy is unspeakable; the most impressive prayer is silent; and the most solemn preacher at a funeral is the silent one whose lips are cold.

WHY DOES INDIAN RUBBER ERASE PENCIL MARKS FROM PAPER?—It is explained thus: The pencil mark consists of carbon rubbed off from the black lead of the pencil; Indian rubber also consists mainly of carbon; and when the carbon of the rubber is brought in close contact with the carbon of the pencil mark in the process of rubbing, the smaller quantity of carbon in the pencil mark is attracted by the larger mass of carbon in the rubber, and thus removed from the paper. Black lead or plumbago, which forms the marking portion of the pencil, is a mineral substance, composed chiefly of carbon, but with a very small proportion of oxide of iron. Indian rubber is a vegetable substance, which exudes from a tree, and is a compound of carbon and hydrogen, in the proportion of ninety parts of the former to ten of the latter.





General Miscellany.

TROUT IN TANKS.

Now that the subject of fish culture is attracting very general attention, almost any facts relating to it are of greater or less value, I send you a short extract from Morris's American Anglers' Book (published in 1865), which I am sure will be of interest to many of your readers.

"A singular evidence of the number of trout that will thrive in a small space can be witnessed at Hallertown, a few miles South of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Owen Desh, who keeps a hotel there, has a trough in his yard which is twenty-four feet long by two wide, with a depth of water not over eighteen inches. In this limited space he generally has from six to eight hundred trout from nine to twelve inches long. He has even kept twelve hundred in the same trough and all in a healthy condition, where they grow rapidly and get fat on a small quantity of curds fed to them once a day. * * * The trough in question contains seventy-two cubic feet of water, and when it has seven hundred and twenty trout in it, there are just ten fish to a cubic foot. This useful aquarium was established many years ago by Mr. Desh's father. Trout seldom die in it. The spring which supplies it, rises in the garden a few yards above, and would flow through a hole an inch and a half square."

It is not every one that can go into trout breeding or feeding on any considerable and systematic scale, if he has the disposition. But there are few Vermont farmers or land owners, who have not on their premises the means for supplying their own tables with fine brook trout, fattened by themselves or their children—to whom (these last, at least), the care of the fish would be a daily recurring and increasing pleasure.

DOVES AS FARM STOCK.—In many portions of France it is said to be the practice of land holders to make it a condition in their leases to tenants that they shall provide a pigeon-house, or dove-cot, and keep it well stocked with these birds. The reason for the condition is that these birds do a great amount of good in eating up the seeds of noxious plants, such as chess, cockle, and the like. They do not live on well grown grain when they can find that which is shriveled, as well as the seeds of weeds and grasses. They are busy workers among the offal of the barn-yard, but do not, like the barn-yard fowls, scratch up gardens and play the mischief generally. It is a general remark among French farmers, that in districts where the pigeon is the most abundant there the wheat fields are the cleanest and the crops the most prolific.

A MAN with a large family was complaining of the difficulty of supporting all of them.—"But," said a friend, "you have some who are big enough to earn something now." "The difficulty is, they are too big to work," was the answer.

THE San Francisco times of the 27th ult., carefully considers the chances of a good wheat crop, and concludes that "California will gather at least an average harvest the present season, ensuring, in view of the breadth of land sown, a large aggregate of cereal products, and consequently a good deal to spare."

TOBACCO FAIR.—The Kentucky State Agricultural Society will hold a Tobacco Fair at Louisville on the 12th and 13th days of June next. Hundreds of hogheads of that staple will be on exhibition in competition for the premiums.

FALSE LIPS, it is stated, are actually worn by some ladies of Philadelphia. They are made of pink india rubber, are attached to the lips in a manner which defies detection, and give a pretty pouting appearance to the mouth.

A NEW WRINKLE IN HORTICULTURE.

At the last meeting of the Agricultural Society of India the Rev. Mr. Firmingham communicated a plan by which the stones of fruit may be reduced or made to disappear, and the pulp be increased in size and improved in flavor. At any time during the cold season select a branch that is to be used afterwards for u-arching. Split up carefully somewhat less than a span long. From both halves of the branch thus split, scoop out cleanly all the pith; then bring the split halves together again, and keep them bandaged till thoroughly united. At the usual time, the beginning of the rains, inarch the branch thus treated upon suitable stock, taking for the place of union the portion of the branch first below where the split was made. Upon a branch of the tree thus produced a similar operation is performed, and so on in succession; the result being that the stone of the fruit becomes less and less, after each successive operation. This process has been applied likewise to the grape vine at Malaga; and plants thereby have been produced which bear the finest fruit, without the slightest vestige of a seed within them.

Our Book Table.

THE OLD PATROON: OR THE GREAT VAN BROEK PROPERTY.—By James A. Maitland: Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers.

A local novel is generally more interesting than one with its scenes, incidents and characters in foreign lands; hence this story of American life—although written by an English author—has peculiar claims upon us. We have read Maitland's "Wanderer," and "The Diary of an old Doctor," but were not satisfied with his style for a popular novelist. This last production, THE OLD PATROON, reads well; refreshes our memory of Kuickerhoeker customs; exhibits the gaudy side of New York fashionable life: the haunts of vice in its great commercial capital, and hits off some other peculiarities of American civilization. We cannot call this a brilliant novel; yet it is full of pathos, satire, and far better than three fourths of modern tales.

SORGHUM AND ITS PRODUCTS. An account of Recent Investigations concerning the value of Sorghum in sugar production, together with a description of a new method of making sugar and refined syrup from the Plant. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

The partial failure of the American sugar crop prior to the late Rebellion, and the almost total extinction of the business through the war, turned the attention of progressive agriculturists to some other plant that would produce sugar. In 1854 the Government imported some Chinese sorghum seeds, which were distributed to various parts of the country for experiment. They were not particularly successful—mainly, perhaps, because we did not understand its culture; nor of the proper method of making syrup and sugar from it. In 1857 an importation of African sorghum, or imphee, lead to further experiments. It has been found to grow well in "the Summer isotherm of seventy degrees;" this line runs through Southern Connecticut, New York, Northern New Jersey, Southern Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Missouri. It has also been found to thrive well down to the cotton and cane regions.

The volume before us treats of Sorghum and its culture, as indicated in its title. From a hasty perusal, we are much pleased with Mr. Stewart's views and investigations. He fairly exhausts the subject, and throws much light and practical information on the culture of this sugar producing plant. We have faith that it can be made a productive crop, as it will grow anywhere, almost, where corn is raised. We recommend the volume to all agriculturists.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE AND THE PATRIOT FOR \$4.00 PER YEAR.

For the sum of FOUR DOLLARS, paid in advance, we will send the FARM AND FIRESIDE and the WOOSOCKET PATRIOT for one year. The subscription price of the latter, alone, is \$2.50. THE PATRIOT is an old established family newspaper, with the largest circulation of any country journal in New England. S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, Woonsocket, R. I.

The peach crop of Illinois promises to be large this season.

Marriages.

In East Douglas, April 25th, by Rev. W. T. Briggs, A. Alger of Woonsocket, to Etta Thayer of East Douglas. In Webster, April 13th, Horace Gay to Louisa M. Heath. In Southbridge, April 13th, Wm. Henry Harrison Cheney to Mary R. Lyon, both of Southbridge. In Worcester, April 30, Frank A. Muzzy of Worcester, to Lizzie M. Joslin of Thompson, Ct.

Deaths.

In Smithfield, near Slatesville, 25th ult., Susan, wife of Joseph Army, in the 70th year of her age. In Burrillville, 23d ult., Stephen E. Bligh, in the 27th year of his age. In Foster, 22d ult., Anthony Shippee, aged 85 years. In Greenville, Margaret Greer, in the 25th year of her age. In Central Falls, 26th ult., Albert E. Adams, in the 31st year of his age. In Clayville, on the 29th ult., Esther Jencks, widow of Joseph Jencks, aged 85 years and 9 months. In Uxbridge, April 22d, Mr. Josiah Cummins, aged 69 years and 6 months. In Pawtucket, 22d ult., Olive Cheney, in the 87th year of her age; 17th ult., Ella I. Thompson, aged 15 years. In Coventry, 27th ult., Mr. James Briggs, in the 73d year of his age. In Milford, April 21st, Henry Coffey, aged 18 years. In Hopkinton, April 23d, Mr. J. Jones Loring, aged 57 years. In Providence, 23d ult., Nathan W. Lazel, in the 32d year of his age; 29th ult., Caroline M., wife of Mr. B. G. Briggs, aged 39 years. In Oxford, April 28th, Charles, son of Edwin S. Ball, aged 13 years. In Danielsonville, 27th ult., Increase Barrows, aged 72 years; 18th ult., Ephraim Keech, aged 69 years; 26th, Melinda M. Brewster, aged 61 years. In Hampton, April 18th, Mrs. Hannah Clark, widow of the late Jonathan Clark, Esq., of Hampton, aged 60 years. In Mansfield, Conn., April 16th, Denison Grant, aged 78 yrs. April 24d, Elizabeth McClean, aged 25 years.

The Markets.

WOOSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending May 3, 1867.]

Table listing various farm products and their prices, including flour, corn, rye, and various oils.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

May 1, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 2048; Sheep and Lambs 6508. Swine, 2550. Prices: Beef Cattle—Extra, \$13.75@14.50; first quality, \$12.00@13.50; second quality, \$12.25@12.75; third quality, \$11.50@12.00 per 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef). Country Hides, 9@9 1/2 cts per lb. Country Tallow 7@7 1/2 cts per lb. Brighton Hides, 10@10 1/2 cts per lb; Brighton Tallow, 8@8 1/2 cts per lb. Sheep Skins, 25@50; Wool Sheep Skins, \$2 @ 2.50. Calf Skins, 20c per lb. There are more cattle in the market than the demand requires, and prices have fallen off full as much as they advanced one week ago. We have not heard of any Beeves being sold for more than 15c per lb. Working Oxen.—Sales at \$7.40, \$2.50, \$2.60, \$2.75, \$2.85, \$3.00, \$3.10, \$3.15 and \$3.40 per pair. There is a good supply in market, and not a very firm demand. Milch Cows.—Sales extra at \$80@110; ordinary \$60@80.—Store Cows \$48@53. Sheep and Lambs.—We quote sales of lots at 3/4, 4, 6, 8, 1/2, 3/4, 5/8, 3/4 cts per lb. Trade is not so active, and the supply larger than last week. Prices have declined 1/2 and 5/8 cts per lb. Swine.—Wholesale, 5 1/2 @ 7 cts per lb.; retail, 7@7 1/2 cts per lb. Fat Hogs—1900 at market; prices, 8@8 1/2 cts per pound.

THE WOOL MARKET.

The wool market, says the Price Current, has been extremely dull, and prices, although nominally unchanged, favor buyers. The stocks are reduced to a very low figure. The auction sale in New York has attracted much of the attention of the trade, and there has been very little business done. The sales command price 20,000 lbs. 1/2 blood, and fine at 60@62c; 3000 lbs. Pennsylvania 1/2 blood, 60c; 2000 lbs. Pennsylvania 1/2 blood, 54c; 2500 Ohio 1/2 blood, 53c; 12,000 lbs. Pennsylvania 1/2 blood, 54c; 22,000 lbs. Pennsylvania 1/2 blood, 52c; 4000 lbs. Ohio fine, heavy, 55c; 400 lbs. extra tub, 60c; 15,000 extra tub, 61c; 3000 lbs tub 57c; 4000 lbs good tub, 55@58c; 3000 lbs Ohio 1/2 blood, 56c; 5000 lbs Ohio 1/2 and 3/4 blood, 55c; 15,000 lbs Merino pulled, 49@51c; 20,000 lbs No. 1 pulled, 46@48c; 10,000 lbs No. 1 pulled, 45c; 4000 lbs Illinois fleece, heavy, 47c; 300 Pennsylvania sheep pelts, \$1.55; 15,000 lbs mixed fleece, on private terms.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

During the past week the flour market has been more active, and there has been a decided reaction in the low grades, and all kinds have improved. Trade and family grades are in small supply and close firm. Low grades close active and higher. Corn in the week has been quiet, but the market was comparatively quiet, but subsequently the war news from Europe and a material advance in gold caused a rapid rise in prices. The high rates asked have checked the demand. Barley has been in fair demand, chiefly for export. At the close it is quiet, but prices are firm. Oats have been in more active demand, and prices rapidly improved, but are easy at the close. Corn has been in active demand, and the market much excited. The request was partly speculative, though brisk for export. The stock has been reduced to less than 950,000 bushels. At the close prices are much easier, and unsettled. Pork has been in fair demand at variable prices. The arrivals have been moderate. Prices are about \$5 a barrel less than at this time last year, while the stock is about the same. The market closes easier. Beef has been in better demand, and with the small stock prices are firm, and the tendency is still upward.

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.

Great American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption, and therefore organized THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, to do away, as far as possible, with these enormous drains upon the Consumers, and to supply them with these necessities at the smallest possible price.

To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American houses, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

- 1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments—and some of the richest retired merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China. 2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas. 3d. The Importer makes a profit of 30 to 50 per cent in many cases. 4th. On its arrival it is sold by the cargo, and the Purchaser sells to the Speculator in invoices of 1,000 to 2,000 packages, at an average profit of about 10 per cent. 5th. The Speculator sells to the Wholesale Tea Dealer in lots at a profit of 10 to 15 per cent. 6th. The Wholesale Tea Dealer sells it to the Wholesale Grocer in lots to suit the trade, at a profit of about 10 per cent. 7th. The Wholesale Grocer sells it to the Retail Dealer at a profit of 15 to 20 per cent. 8th. The Retailer sells it to the Consumer for all the profit he can get. When you have added to these EIGHT profits as many brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay. And now we propose to show why we can sell so very much lower than small dealers.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, one cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the name upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more. The cost of transportation the members of the club can divide equitably among themselves.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars, we will, if desired, send the goods by Express to "collect on delivery."

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$50.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show. All goods sold are warranted to give satisfaction.

PRICE LIST:

- YOUNG HYSON (Green), 80c., 90c., \$1, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb. GREEN TEAS, 80c., 90c., \$1, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb. MIXED, 70c., 80c., 90c., best \$1 per lb. JAPAN, \$1, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb. OOLONG (Green), 70c., 80c., 90c., best \$1 per lb. IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1.25 per lb. ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 80c., 90c., \$1, \$1.10, best, \$1.20 per lb. GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1.25, best, \$1.50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them.

Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Foot-Crow Blacks and Young Green English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the finest imported.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,

NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., corner of CHURCH.

Post-Office Box No. 5,643 New-York City.

COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c., 25c., 30c., 25c., best 40c. per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 70c. per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866. To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York.

Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubled it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa.

MARTIN LUTHER.

Table listing various tea and coffee products and their prices, including Young Hyson, Oolong, and Ground Coffee.

We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.—LARGE DOUBLE STORE. 3m-8

REFLECTION.—It cannot be that earth is man's abiding place. It cannot be that our life is cast up by the ocean of eternity to float a moment upon it's waves and sink into nothingness. Else, why is it that the high and glorious aspirations which leap from the temple of our hearts are forever wandering about unsatisfied? Why is it that the rainbow and cloud come over us with a beauty that is not of earth, and then pass off, and leave us to muse upon their faded loveliness? Why is it that the stars, which hold their "festival around the midnight throne," are set above the grasp of our limited faculties, forever mocking us with their unapproachable glory? And, finally, why is it that brighter forms of human beauty are presented to our view, and then taken from us—leaving the thousand streams of our affection to flow back in Alpine torrents upon our hearts?





Farm and Garden.

MINOR MANURES, &c.

Written for the Farm and Fireside, BY H. KOHLY, MINERAL POINT, MISSOURI.

ALLOW me to point out to my brother farmers a way to make a good and cheap fertilizer worth, if my theory and olfactory nerves do not deceive me, as much as many fertilizers sold in the trade, pound for pound. It is simply wood ashes sprinkled liberally and daily in the hen houses, under the roosts on the floor. The wood ashes should be mixed with burnt bones, broken fine, which is a very easy operation when they are burnt. Every week clean the hen house thoroughly and barrel up the manure out of the rain. Fifty fowls will yield easily a barrel per week, fifty-two barrels every year of a fine compound of potash, phosphate of lime and fixed ammonia—the very things to bring about the formation of valuable nitrates. There need be no expenses for it, at least in the West, where wood is plenty and loads of white bones are to be picked up all over and around every farm. Besides, the fowls relish and are benefited by these broken bones.

Another way to increase your quantity of manure, practicable almost everywhere, is to rake up the pile of wood chips to be found in almost every yard at the close of the Winter. Build a heap with alternate layers of chips and bones, horns and hoofs; set fire to it in the center, like a charcoal pit; cover it with dirt thick enough to have a close combustion for several days, till it dies out. When you open the pit you will have more or less ashes and wood charcoal, both valuable as manure or stimulants; also bone charcoal, a very precious fertilizer which I am surprised not to see more used in this country. In France it is highly valued for all kinds of crops, especially on new or acid lands.

For the last few years every other man has had his own plan for defecating saccharine juices previous to evaporation, or has had a filter of some kind, patented or not; and yet the most of the molasses and maple sugar is brown, black and dirty. This can be avoided entirely, and accomplished in a most perfect way, by treating the said saccharine juices or sap with sub-acetate of lead. This salt has the valuable properties of combining with and precipitating every vegetable matter; gum, chlorophyl, starch, tannic acid, &c., sugar excepted, leaving, in fact, nothing but the sugar in suspension in the water or sap. This is no discovery of my own; it can be found in almost every French elementary book on chemistry. I tried it with perfect success, submitting the sweet liquid afterwards to the sulphuric acid test, without detecting the least trace of lead. If some practical chemist would take hold of it, experiment and report, it might prove useful to an immense number of sorgho and maple sugar manufacturers. I know that parties interested in the sale of patent, magic filters will try to raise a prejudice on account of salts of lead being poisonous; but if the process is proved to be innocuous, truth and science will remain masters of the field.

May, 1867.

HEN MANURE.—This is a most valuable article, and possesses a value almost equal to that of the best guano, even when mixed with half its bulk of garden mold. By mixing the excrement of hens with muck, or well decomposed peat, and saturating the whole with urine, or diluted sulphuric acid, a compound of great energy will be found, and which, when applied to the purposes of vegetable enrichment in the ordinary way, will insure the best and most salutary results on any crop.

AN English farmer recently remarked that he fed his land before it was hungry, rested it before it was weary, and weeded it before it was foul. Seldom, if ever, was so much agricultural wisdom condensed into a single sentence.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.

ON PLANTING GARDEN SEEDS.

In planting various kinds of garden seeds, many persons manifest a great want of judgment in regard to the proper depth that seeds should be covered. The error is more frequently in planting them too deep than otherwise; the depth that seeds should be planted, varies with the kinds, and in some degree with circumstances. Large seeds of strong growing plants, such as peas, beans, corn, &c., should be planted deeper than small seeds of delicate growing kinds like carrot, lettuce, parsley, celery, &c.

To insure speedy vegetation, seeds require a due degree of moisture, heat and air. If the seeds are not covered sufficiently deep, particularly after the warm weather sets in, they lack moisture and fail to vegetate. If planted too deep they do not receive the requisite amount of heat and air, and they either rot, or the young plants exhaust their strength and vigor in forcing their way into the open air.

Such plants as the radish, cabbage, turnip and the like, readily absorb moisture, and if the weather is warm, come up in a few days after planting. Such varieties as the parsnip, carrot, celery, parsley &c., with the most favorable requisites of vegetation, are generally a long time in coming up and must be planted early before warm weather sets in, or they are liable to fail altogether.

As a general rule the seeds of delicate plants should be covered about half an inch deep, more or less, according to the lightness of the soil and the season of planting, as it regards the prospect of moisture. The seeds of beets, several of which are enclosed in a single head, capsule or seed vessel, require considerable moisture to cause them to burst forth, and if not planted early they should be soaked thirty-six hours, the water should be turned off and the seeds kept moist for several days before planting. Such varieties as peas, beans, okra and similar kinds require a covering of earth from one and a half to two and a half inches. With regard to the depth that seeds should be covered, it is a safe rule to cover them with a depth of soil about equal to their own thickness. This cannot always strictly be done, but it should be aimed at as nearly as possible for early planting, and in late planting should be covered deeper.

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 acres of land and twenty-five 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 raising cereals, and fifty-eight 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.

SHEEP should have a greater variety of food than any other domestic animal. Linnaeus found sheep refused only 141 species of plants out of 517 offered them. The first food in the morning should be good soft hay.

It is said that in a single county in a Western State, infested by the potato bug, 500 acres of potatoes had been wholly destroyed, and the owner of one farm estimated that he had 100 bushels of these insects on his grounds.

It is said insects will be less destructive in an orchard well cultivated, than in one that is left to grass.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of MEAD'S PATENT CONICAL PLOWS, SHARE'S HORSE HOES, WOOD'S AND WIGHT'S PLOWS, GARDEN BARROWS, CHASE'S TWO HORSE POTATOE DIGGERS, STORE TRUCKS, IMPROVED HINGED HARROWS, CULTIVATORS, ROAD SCRAPER, OX YOKES, AND PLOW CASTINGS; And Wholesale Dealers in Hoes, Shovels, Axes, Scythes, Forks, Snathes, Cradles, Horse Forks, Hand and Horse Rakes, Hay Cutters, Corn Shellers, Vegetable Cutters, Picks, Bars, Canal Barrows, Sugar Mills, Grindstones, Plain or Complete; And Agents for KNIFFEN'S, UNION AND PERRY'S MOWING MACHINES, Whitcomb's Patent Horse Rake, and the best Hay Tedder in the market. Prices low and Terms Cash. OFFICE, 32 CANAL STREET, PROVIDENCE, R. I. March 23, 1867.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I., Now offer at the LOWEST CASH PRICES, 2000 Sacks Prime Red Top, 500 Bags Prime Herds Grass, 500 " Western and Northern Clover, 1500 Bushel Prime R. I. Bent, for Pastures, 300 " Seed Barley, 100 " Spring Rye, 3000 " Bedford Seed Oats, 100 " Early Goodrich Potatoes, 200 " " Sebec Potatoes, 200 " Late White Peach Blows, 100 " Harrison Potatoes, 300 " Seed Pens, 100 " R. I. White Cap Corn, 100 " London Hort. and Concord Pole Beans, 200 " Buckwheat, 200 " Millet and Hungarian, White Dutch Clover, Orchard Grass, Onion Sets, and a complete assortment of GARDEN SEEDS,

Raised for us with great care. 200 Barrels dry ground Bone for Manure, together with all kinds of Farm Implements and Machinery. Send for Circular of Mead's Conical Plows and Share's Horse Hoes—and don't forget the number,

32 CANAL STREET, 32.

March 23, 1867. PROVIDENCE, R. I. wt-ft

NEW SEEDLING POTATOE. COOKE'S RATTLER,

a new and very superior Seedling, grown by Joseph J. Cooke, Esq. of Cranston, and now offered for sale as the best LATE KIND in the market. It is a rusty coated, light red, round, great yielder; white and perfect inside, and a splendid Table Potatoe. Price, \$3.00 per bushel. Sold only by W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I. April 13, 1867.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares' 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.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Shares' Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potatoe Diggers, Lufkin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

LADIES, ATTENTION!—A SILK DRESS PATTERNS, or a SEWING MACHINE, sent free, for one or two days' service, in any town or village. Also, a gift sent free, by addressing with stamp, W. FISK & CO., 17 State Street, BOSTON, Mass. April 13, 1867. 4w-we-14

WHITE FRENCH TURNIP, of the purest kind, raised and sold in small or large lots, by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

BARRETT'S EXTRA EARLY CABBAGE.—The best and largest in the market. Price, 25 cents a paper. Raised and sold by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Providence, Feb. 23, 1867. tf-7

EXTRA HEAVY PLOWS, for road work and for breaking up new land, made by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Massachusetts.

COLLINS, BLISS & CO., PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

CASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS. 233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston. New England Agents for the NONPARIEL FRENCH GUANO.

It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without hurting or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil.

PRIOR \$60 PER TON. Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 3m-we-9

SOUTH DOWNS CO.'S PATENT

Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers. Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores.

JAMES F. LEVIN, 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts. For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & CO., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4m-we-9

BY MAIL, PREPAID. CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS, NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CURRANTS, ROSES, BULBS, &c.

B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest

GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS,

Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted. Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ee-13

Pennsylvania.

RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE. THE STANDARD MANURE FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS.

Manufactured by POTTS & KLATT, Camden, N. J.

Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUGH, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of this Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is

FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD, IN QUALITY, and is in fine condition for drilling.

Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

YARNALL & TRIMBLE, General Agents for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

418 South Wharves, PHILADELPHIA. 419 Penn. Street, March 23, 1867. 3m-ee-11

New York.

J. HICKLING & CO. GREAT SALE OF WATCHES.

On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a handsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory!

500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750
500 Magic Cased Gold Watches.....200 to \$500
500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled.....100 to 300
1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....250 to 300
1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....200 to 250
3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....150 to 200
5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....100 to 250
5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....50 to 150
5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....75 to 250
5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches.....50 to 250
10,000 Gold Hunting Levers.....50 to 75
10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....50 to 100
25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....25 to 50
30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....10 to 75
Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partiality shown. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a Watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious! A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three and elegant premium for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premium for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us! Address, J. HICKLING & CO., 149 Broadway—Near P. O. City of New York. March 22, 1867. 2m

ROAD SCRAPER, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.



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 OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

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

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1867.

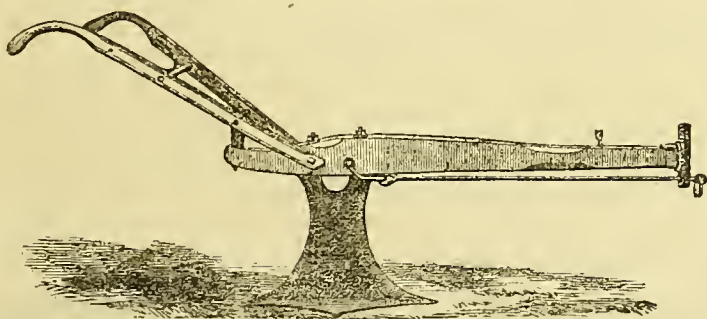
NO. 18.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.
FARM IMPLEMENTS.—ARTICLE SECOND.

SEVERAL years ago, when that man whose eccentric philosophy and sound practical science did more towards promoting a better condition of agriculture than any other man who has ever lived among us—when Professor JAMES J. MAPES first proposed the utility of under-draining dry land, as a preventive against drought:—"Why, the man is absolutely mad!" cried the astonished agricultural savans, and all the rabble echoed the cry: "Yes, surely the man is crazed." Subsequent experiments, and practical experience have proved that the public was rather an agricultural ass, than the professor a mad man.

So, too, when the same stout champion of progressive agriculture presented to the public, and proposed the general use of one of his inventions, the

MAPES' SUB-SOIL PLOUGH,

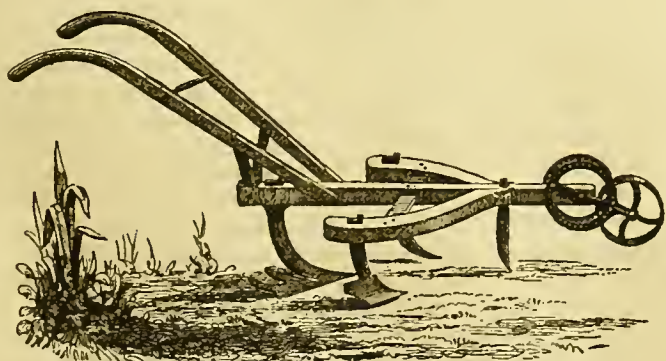


as an implement deserving of consideration, the same appreciating public were ready again with their derogatory remarks. But, by and by, it began to be bruited abroad, a fact that none could contradict, that by the under-draining of his hard, high, dry soil, and the use of his sub-soil mole plough, that the public had been so ready to hoot at as utterly ridiculous, Professor James J. Mapes was actually producing at minimum cost, maximum crops—such as no soil anywhere in this country had ever yielded—of grains, fruits and all sorts of vegetables. Then, that many headed thing, public opinion, again acknowledged its error, and confessed judgment in favor of the successful professor; and gradually there came a score of pretenders before the public, each one claiming to be the inventor of the "Sub-soil Plough." We happen to know, however, that the idea and invention originated with Professor Mapes; and his name will continue to be associated with the efficient implement as its inventor so long as there remains an English combination of letters by which to make the words—MAPES' and Plough.

The office of this useful implement is to operate beneath, without disturbing the surface, as the mole burrows; lifting from a depth of from twelve to twenty inches, upward and outward from the center; promoting fertility by aeration and changing the relative position of particles; performing at the same time the double office of drainer and disintegrator. For working between rows of cabbages, beets, carrots, etc., promoting vigorous growth by loosening the soil underneath, the mole plough is an invaluable implement. We know of a good many instances where pastures having so "run out" that an acre would scarcely graze a single sheep, and meadows so exhausted that half a ton of hay per acre was the yield; the one restored to a luxuriant growth of grass, and the other made to produce two and a half tons of good hay per acre, by simply running the Mapes' Mole Plough twelve inches below the surface, in lines three feet apart, without disturbing the sod, and dressing the surface in the Fall with from five to eight dollars' worth of plaster and super phosphate to the acre.

There are two kinds of the Mapes' Sub-soil Plough, the one represented in the cut, having a cast iron foot, all in one piece, with chilled steel points, the foot so made that it can be readily reversed, bringing a new point into use when the first one becomes worn. The other is of wrought iron and steel, not reversible. Both are simple, strong and durable implements.

KNOX'S HORSE HOE.



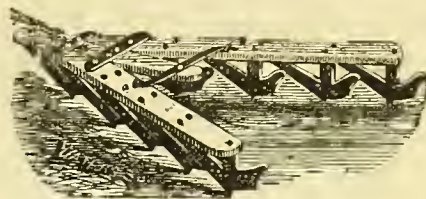
An improved agricultural implement, that in its way has contributed largely towards relieving tedious hand culture, and increasing at a cheaper rate almost all root and vegetable

crops that require hoeing, is the horse hoe, in its varieties and modifications, one of the most practically serviceable being the Knox's Horse Hoe, which is so clearly represented in the engraving as to obviate the necessity of any extended description. It may be well, however, to explain that the central scarifier behind is a sort of flat foot, with an angular cutting edge in front; and being so set as to just skim the surface, acts admirably, shaving off weeds and leaving them to perish on the top of the ground. The two small side ploughs can be readily transposed so as to throw the earth either from or towards the rows of vegetables, as may be desirable.

Improved as the Knox's Hoe has been since its first presentation to the public, it might be still further improved and its serviceable capacity increased by simply hinging the side bars, and so arranging the cross bar that the width between the two ploughs can be increased or lessened, to accommodate the space between rows of vegetables, from four feet down to two.

Returning to the harrow question, there is a new invention—not quite a harrow, coming rapidly into favor—a perfectly practical implement, combining the qualities of both the plough and harrow; performing its work admirably, acting not only as a thorough disintegrator and pulverizer of the soil, in its ordinary light draught; but loaded, so as to go through the ground nearly to the frame; it becomes at the same time both plough and harrow; turning a serial breadths of furrows each way from the center, while as it goes through the ground its many mould boards of cast iron break up all clods, leaving a broad track of perfectly pulverized soil.

THE SHARE'S COULTER HARROW,



as this admirable implement is called, is not nearly so well represented as it deserves, by the engraver; and it may assist the understanding of those to whom the machine is quite new, to remark that the frame is made upon the extension plan, so that it may be quite closed for convenience of carriage; and that the feet, instead of being mere teeth, as in ordinary harrows, are regular little ploughs, so set that when the implement is fully expanded they turn a series of over-lapping furrows, answering in all instances, where the ground is free from stones, stumps and roots, the purpose of a plough, doing five times the amount of work in the same space of time; and following at light draught, after sown grain, covers the seed ten times more effectually than can be done with any of the ordinary toothed harrows.

May, 1867.

THE CURRANT.

OF all the small fruits that grow in the temperate latitudes, the currant is the most reliable and costs the least labor, and for this very reason it seems to be the least appreciated. The various forms in which the currant may be used, its agreeable flavor and healthful qualities, entitle it to higher consideration than it generally receives, and should induce its more universal cultivation. In the first place, being adapted to use when green, it is one of the earliest fruits available. By the time it is half grown, if stewed in a swimming supply of water and sweetened to the taste, its mild, fresh tart forms a refreshing relish upon the breakfast or tea table, and is to the taste, what the first notes of the early Spring birds are to the ear—a prophecy of good things to come. Strawberries are delicious, and red English raspberries are luscious, and the full ripe currants, served up raw, with sugar well moistened with water, stepping in just when these step out, are scarcely less grateful to the palate; and with a little care in leaving the later bunches, the luxury may be continued from four to six weeks. And except in cases of organic disease of the stomach and bowels,—when the seeds must be avoided—they are a most healthful fruit, the acid having the effect to counteract bilious and malarious tendencies, and the expressed juice, properly prepared, makes a harmless and refreshing beverage in most cases of sickness.

There is said to be great difference in different kinds of currants, in respect to yield and quality. Undoubtedly there is some difference in varieties. The white and black currant does not seem to yield as well as the red, and some reds seem, at least, to produce better than others. But much of this difference in the red currant, we apprehend, is owing to cultivation. Ground cannot be too rich for the fruit, nor kept too clean. The mode of propagating is well understood by most people. A hill of old currant bushes taken up, may be divided into a half dozen to a dozen settings, which will produce fruit a year or two earlier than cuttings. But when these cannot be obtained, cuttings of last year's sprouts,—which from old hills should be mostly removed—cut any time before the buds start, and set early in good mellow, rich ground, will take root. The lower end of the cutting should be cut square with a sharp knife. The top should be cut back to a good stray bud. Dig and set the shoot—not force it into the ground. The latter process is liable to tear the bark from the end and prevent its taking root.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*

CHILDHOOD DAYS.—We should constantly bear in mind that children are very sensitive, and can easily be made happy. Let their days pass pleasantly away. Bright memories of childhood tend to refine us. Kingsley, the author of "Alton Locke," &c., says: "There is no pleasure that I have experienced like a child's midsummer holiday. The time, I mean, when two or three of us used to go away up the brook, and take our dinners with us, and come home at night tired, dirty, happy, scratched beyond recognition, with a great nose-gay, three little trout, and one shoe—the other one having been used as a boat, till it had gone down with all hands, out of soundings. How poor our Derby days, our Greenwich dinners, our evening parties, where there are plenty of nice girls, are after that!"—*Michigan Journal of Education.*





Farm and Garden.

FARMERS' HOMES.

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

WE know of no country where the homes of the laboring classes, and especially of the farming community, are equal to those of New England. There is an air of neatness and comfort about them which we look for in vain elsewhere. We find better land and better barns in other countries, but our houses, our homes, as a whole, are superior. This is doubtless the result of a higher civilization, the legitimate fruit of intellectual and moral culture. It may seem vain glorious for us to say so, and we should not venture on the assertion, did not the testimony of foreigners universally strengthen the conviction of our own observations. Lord Morpeth on his visit to America was struck with admiration of the comfortable homes of the farmers of New England. The English system of large landed proprietors farming out their lands to tenants, is not conducive to the cultivation of the home feeling, nor to permanent improvements. The signification of the word farm in Great Britain, is land leased, and a farmer is a mere tenant of the proprietor. Our New England mode of dividing the land into small tracts, each owned in fee simple by the occupant, is far preferable, stimulating not only to the better cultivation of the soil, and the erection of better buildings, but what is of far higher value, to self respect, and the love of home and country. As far as lordships are concerned we are far better off in this country than the English, for we have a hundred landlords to England's one, and the genius of our institutions favors the idea of every man's being not only a landlord, but a nobleman. The New England system of small farms is also far preferable to the Southern mode of large plantations. At the South, with a thousand acres of land, we find one man with many servants, while here, with the same amount of land, we have at least ten men, who by their intelligence and virtue are worthy of the name. As a consequence we have ten houses at the North to one at the South, and villages, schools and churches in like proportion. The Southerner, as he travels North for the first time, is struck with nothing so much as with the multiplicity of villages, farms and school houses, and whoever has traversed the Potomac and Connecticut valleys, must have contrasted the paucity and poverty of the homes in the former, with their multiplicity and comfort in the latter.

But however much reason we have to congratulate ourselves upon our pleasant and comfortable rural homes, there is a margin for still further improvement. The spacious, painted, tidy farm houses, surrounded by lawns and groups of trees, though as we affirm more numerous in New England than in any other land, are not as numerous as we could wish. We also pass many large, well built houses, evidently the homes of thrifty farmers, but with a bleak, desolate air, for the want of a few shade trees, or a green velvet turf around them. We never pass such a house without wishing to stop, and say to the proprietor, that at the expense of a few dollars we can make the market value of his house many hundreds more, and add intrinsically to its worth as a place of abode, if he does not desire to sell it. A few elms and pines, which two men can transplant in a day, will give a cheerful aspect to many a desolate looking home. It is a mistaken idea that we must purchase Norway Spruce, or Scotch Larches with which to adorn our grounds. There are no better ornamental shade trees in the wide world than are to be found in our own forests. We do not sufficiently prize the blessings that are near us, and are apt to overlook the beauty of the objects to which our eyes are accustomed. We remember well the time when we saw no special beauty in the graceful deep-green foliage of the hemlock. The truth is we had been accustomed to see it all around our path,

from childhood, and to hear it spoken of with contempt, and we thought it must be contemptible, but we are grateful that we have outlived such childish notions. We wish also to say in passing, that in building our houses, even the most elegant ones, we need not go to the West Indies for mahogany, nor to Florida for yellow pine. One of the best built houses we ever saw, was made entirely from the wood of our native forests. The floors were constructed with alternate narrow boards of beech and maple, and merely oiled, were as handsome as any carpet could make them. Birch, hutternut, chestnut and oak, all contributed their share in the different rooms and needed no paint to make them beautiful. Why should we paint and grain in imitation of different woods, when we can have the original grain of the wood brought out by oil, in a style no paint can perfectly imitate?

We are glad to notice an improved taste in the matter of rural homes. To the lamented Downing we are greatly indebted for this improvement. Though dead, he yet speaks by his books, and through those whose taste was educated by his genius. Before Downing's day, however, the glaring red house, once so common in the country had very generally given place to the more attractive white one, with its green blinds, and we now have the still more agreeable, light stone colors, which please the eye and harmonize with nature. Instead of the large, square, stone or brick chimney, which formerly claimed its third of the best part of the house, we have more light and graceful structures which answer every purpose, except it be as hallast for the house.

The idea is still too prevalent that it is only the forchanded farmer who can indulge his taste in the construction of his home and its surroundings. There is room for the exercise of taste in building a cottage or even a shanty, as well as in the mansion. Some of the humblest abodes strike the eye of the traveller with pleasure. There is an indescribable something about the premises that leads us to think that it is the home of intelligence and virtue. It may be a porch over the door, a vine climbing by the side of the window, a flower plot in the yard, or a few pine trees tastefully disposed, so as to cheat Winter of its gloom, which suggests the idea of a cozy, comfortable home.

We wish to add only one caution. Do not plant so many trees around the house as to shut out the glorious sunlight. The trees are beautiful and their shade refreshing; but nothing can compensate for the life-giving influences of the sun. We would like the sun to shine into every window of our house. Cheerfulness and health depend much on sunshine. Patients in our hospitals recover more readily on the sunny, than on the shady side of the building. There is no trouble in disposing trees in groups, so that we can have sunshine and shade in due proportion. Place the house some distance from the highway, if possible on an eminence, so as to overlook the surrounding country, and by all means have a grass plot, if not a lawn, in front of it. Nothing is more pleasing to the eye than the green, velvety carpet of grass, with which nature covers and adorns the surface of the earth. Let this grass plot be so enriched, that the grass will start with the first April showers, and will resist the action of the Autumn frosts, till the mantle of green is exchanged for one of snow.

We cannot cherish the home feeling in our children too carefully. Every thing that tends to render home cheerful and pleasant, will also dissuade them from the haunts of vice and evil company. Farmers have sometimes failed in this respect, and no wonder the complaint is heard "we can't keep our children at home, they will go off nights, and seem disgusted with the old homestead." The fault probably is not so much with the children as with the parents. Make the homestead more attractive, interest the children in adorning it with trees and flowers, let the garden and orchard furnish their comforts for the table; if possible, let pictures adorn the walls and music enliven the hours, and above all let cheerfulness be

the presiding genius of the home, not only in its exterior and interior arrangements, but more especially in the hearts of the parents, and our word for it, the children will always leave the parental roof with regret and return to it with pleasure, and a generation will arise whose love of country will be equaled only by their love of home.

May, 1867.

TOBACCO FOR ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

I HAVE found by experience that a strong decoction of tobacco will destroy vermin on either animals or plants. I have used it extensively during many years, for destroying ticks on sheep and lambs; have dipped thousands of them in tobacco water, made by boiling coarse damaged, cheap tobacco, or stems and waste, in water, and have found it an effectual cure for the scab, which disease is caused by the working of an insect or mite in the skin of the sheep. It is a sovereign remedy for the blue lice on cattle and horses.

Tobacco water will destroy the aphid, or plant louse. Gardeners find their green-house plants need to be submitted to a deluging of this wash occasionally, to place them in a condition to become healthy and vigorous. When applied to fruit trees, of course waste tobacco is used; add one pound of copperas to five gallons of the wash. Plug tobacco contains copperas in quantities sufficient to kill any animal, that has not accustomed itself, by slow degrees, to its use.

Almost every tree or plant is infested with an injurious insect, peculiar to itself, which preys upon its substance, and will, if in sufficient numbers, destroy its vitality. The hop, in sections infested with the hop aphid, is frequently either wholly or partially destroyed; when, by one or two thorough applications of tobacco water, by means of a force pump or garden engine, as they commence their work, the whole aphid army might be swept away. When the vine is trained low, upon seven feet stakes and twine, a garden engine is unnecessary, as the wash can be applied as effectually, and with less waste, with a common large hand syringe.

Tobacco smoke will stupefy any animal, and, used in a sufficient quantity, has a fatal effect upon all which plug tobacco will destroy. Indeed, there seems to be but one animal—mammalia—upon which tobacco, in either shape, does not have an immediate fatal effect. However, if that animal would otherwise be infested with insects, even trichinæous in their nature, in the mouth, tobacco will keep them away. Perhaps that is their case.

If a sheep or calf is covered with a rubber or leathern spread, or thick blanket, and a smoke of tobacco is made under this covering, in half an hour or less, every tick and nit will be destroyed. Currant worms may be served in the same manner. This is not only an effective remedy against vermin, but a good use for a most obnoxious weed.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

UNDERDRAINING LAND.—Experiments in underdraining land were made in Scotland last year for the purpose of determining the effect on the temperature of the soil, compared with that in the same vicinity which was not drained. The result was that the draining raised the temperature 1.5 degrees, equal to a removal of the land from one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles South. This is an important consideration connected with compact, heavy soils, whose retentiveness of water renders them cold and comparatively inert with respect to vegetation. Draining land involves considerable expense, but its increased productivity soon repays this, besides assuring increased profits for the future.

A NEW cow-milking appliance has been invented and exhibited in Boston. It is made of rubber and worked by an easy motion of the hand, draws the milk from all the teats at once in a most calf-like manner, making pauses at intervals like a calf swallowing. By its aid a cow can be milked in about two minutes.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

A State Wool-growers' Association is to be organized in Maine on the occasion of the annual "shearing festival," at Waterville, on the 4th of July.

Donald G. Mitchell—"Ike Marvel"—has gone into business as landscape artist, and proposes to prepare designs for the improvement of country property, parks, county seats, etc.

The Germania Beet-sugar Company, at Chatsworth, Ill., have used one sixth of their last year's crop, and made eighty thousand pounds of sugar.

The Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, at its recent meeting at Madison, offered two premiums on cultivated forest trees—one, of one hundred dollars for the best ten acres, and another of fifty dollars for the best five acres—to be planted the coming season, and the awards to be made at three years old, or in 1870.

A correspondent of an exchange thinks he has discovered the cause of smutty corn in the use of muck in composting manure.

A cow belonging to Charles M. Marr, of Union, Maine, dropped a hull calf, April 9th, which weighed 120 lbs.

A gentleman near Rochester, N. Y., has a plantation, some thirteen years old, of the veritable "Big Trees" of California. They are growing finely, but it seems a long time to wait two or three thousand years for the maturity of a tree.

The Western farmers are sowing flaxseed very extensively the present season.

An ointment made of sulphur and lard is capital for itch in horses.

The New York Gazette estimates that one million of eggs are consumed each month in that city. The Fifth Avenue Hotel consumes about one barrel each day, and the Astor House about four thousand each day. A woman in Fulton Market sold 175,000 in ten days.

Maine has fourteen millions acres of uncut timber.

There are, doubtless, says the Galveston (Texas) Civilian and Gazette, more than 5,000,000 head of meat cattle in Texas.

Prof. Breungleser, of Berlin, has, by feeding poultry on certain preparations, succeeded in making hens lay eggs, the shells of which are of any required thickness, and so strongly impregnated with iron as to seem as if cast from that metal. A number are exhibiting at the Paris Exposition.

The Bucolic Department at Washington is just now distributing foreign flower seeds.

The cheese factory at Tully, Onondaga county, N. Y., is making six cheeses a day that weigh ninety pounds each.

Wheat is scarce in Minnesota, and the Governor of the State is about issuing a proclamation urging the non-shipment of any more wheat until after harvest.

CROP PROSPECTS FOR 1867.—The New York Commercial publishes upward of two columns of reports on crop prospects, comprising one hundred and ten accounts from different localities, North and South, all of which, with but four or five exceptions, unite in representing the prospect as being most encouraging for both cereals and fruits. In Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Tennessee, and especially Missouri, a very large yield of wheat is anticipated. The farmers of these and other States devoted a large area to this cereal last Autumn. Owing to a backward Spring, less ground than usual will be devoted to tobacco in Kentucky, while the tobacco growers of Connecticut and Massachusetts are gradually turning their attention to other products. The reports from the Southern States are encouraging. Considerable more territory appears to have been devoted to seed last Fall than is generally supposed. A Chattanooga paper asserts that there will be more wheat harvested in Eastern Tennessee than during any previous year. Prospects were never better in Virginia. The same is true of Georgia. Though there is suffering now, the prospect is that the Southern people will have abundance of food as soon as the harvest is gathered.

CHEERFULNESS AT THE TABLE.—Children in good health, if left to themselves at the table, become, after a few mouthfuls, garrulous and noisy; and if within all reasonable and hearable bounds, it is better to let them alone; they eat less, while the very exhilaration of spirits quickens the circulation of the vital fluids, and energizes digestion and assimilation. The extremes of society curiously meet in this regard. The tables of the rich of England are models of mirth, wit, and bonhomie; it takes hours to get through a repast, and they live long. If anybody will look upon the negroes of a family in Kentucky, while at their meals, they cannot but be impressed with the perfect abandon of jabber and mirth; it seems as if they could talk all day, and they live long.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*





The Fireside Muse.

THE LESSON OF THE WATER-MILL.

Listen to the water-mill
Through the live-long day,
How the clucking of its wheel
Wears the hours away.
Languidly the Autumn wind
Stirs the greenwood leaves;
From the field the reapers sing,
Binding up their sheaves,
And a proverb haunts my mind
As a spell is cast—
"The mill cannot grind
With the water that is past."

Autumn winds revive no more
Leaves that once are shed;
And the sickle cannot reap
Corn once gathered.
And the ruffled stream flows on,
Tranquil, deep, and still,
Never gliding back again
To the water-mill.
Truly speaks the proverb old,
With a meaning vast—
"The mill cannot grind
With the water that is past."

Take the lesson to thyself,
Loving heart, and true!
Golden years are fleeting by,
Youth is passing too.
Learn to make the most of life,
Lose no happy day;
Time will never bring thee back
Chances thrown away.
Leave no tender word unsaid,
Love while love shall last—
"The mill cannot grind
With the water that is past."

Work while the daylight shines,
Man of strength and will!
Never does the streamlet glide
Useless by the mill.
Wait not till to-morrow's sun
Beams upon thy way;
All that thou canst call thine own
Lives in thy "to-day."
Power, and intellect, and health
May not always last—
"The mill cannot grind
With the water that is past."

Oh, the wasted hours of life
That have drifted by!
Oh, the good that might have been,
Lost without a sigh!
Love that we might once have saved
By a single word;
Thoughts conceived, but never penned;
Perishing unheard.
Take the proverb to thine heart,
Take, and hold it fast—
"The mill cannot grind
With the water that is past."

The Field.

THE CORN CROP AND ITS CULTIVATION.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

INASMUCH as one of the correspondents of the *Farm and Fireside* has already given the principal items in the preparation of the ground for this crop, it would seem as if there could be but little left for me to say, and hence I would draw the reader's attention to the after work on the crop, viz: putting in the seed and cultivating.

With regard to plowing for corn, there are many who think that by shallow plowing on a tough sod, they can obtain the best crops of corn, or rather can obtain better crops than by deeper plowing; this is one of the many ideas connected with practical agriculture which depend so much upon local circumstances, such as depth and quantity of the soil &c., which make it impossible for one correspondent to lay down rules for the government of the readers of any one agricultural paper, however small its circulation. Hence, when I say that for all crops I prefer *deep plowing*, I do not wish to be understood as laying it down as a rule for the government of all or any, except those on a similar soil. In a moderately damp season, on a well limed sod, I have raised as good corn by shallow plowing as where this operation was performed to a greater depth; but as I find deep plowing to be most certain to yield me a crop, I always prefer it to a system which I have found precarious.

Much has been written, and perhaps much more will be written, upon the comparative advantages of drill and hill culture, and yet, judging from recent articles, the matter is no nearer a definite decision than it was ten years ago.

From experience and theory, I am satisfied that *theoretically*, drilling is best; but that *in practice* hill culture will yield me the best return both per acre and for labor bestowed on the crop. I say that drilling is theoretically best, because it is evident that it is better to have three stalks evenly distributed over four feet of the row than to have them all in hills four feet apart. But can we attain this result in *practice*? I must answer in the negative; by using sufficient seed and thinning out the plants *myself*, I can come reasonably near to it, but if I have (as I often must do) to trust the thinning out to hired help, I will not come very near the mark desired.

There are other items which in practice I have found to be against drilling for corn; it is more difficult to keep free from weeds; requires more hoeing and hand weeding; it is more tedious to cut, as I find my men will cut three acres of hill corn in the same time they require to cut two and one quarter of drilled corn; and as a last objection, and one which is most always overlooked in casting up the balance, the drilled corn will produce the largest stalks and *look* the best, when probably at the same time it will not produce as much or any more corn than an adjoining field planted in hills. If we could only get the stalks regularly distributed, there is no doubt that drill culture is the best, but for reasons above given I have adopted hill culture after a trial of both, under the same or similar circumstances.

Where hill culture in squares is adopted, the covering will usually be done with hoes, and great care should be taken to cover it evenly and not too deep. Many are of the opinion that it makes but little difference in the *general* result, whether the corn is one or three inches deep. Experiment will convince any one that this idea is a mistaken one, and hoping that some of my readers will try similar experiments, I will give the result of one which I have tried for the two past seasons, which, though only tried with corn, may be applied equally well to wheat, oats, or any plant producing a jointed stem.

In the experiment alluded to, the different rows were all treated alike (except in the depth of planting), and were planted as nearly as possible at the same time with seed from the same portion of the ears. That planted one inch deep came through in eight and three quarter days; the next rows were each one planted half an inch deeper than the preceding one, and the last one was put in *six inches* deep. The last five rows came through in nine and one quarter, ten and one half, eleven and three quarters, twelve and one quarter and thirteen days, respectively. That planted six inches deep came up very pale and unhealthy, and after lingering three days, died. Many will no doubt think that the last three or four were greatly exaggerated cases; so they were, but they were important in carrying out the end I had in view.

Careful examination will show us that after the point of the sprout has reached a distance of one and five-eighth inches from the grain, it commences to form the first fruit; and experiment will demonstrate that if this point is more than half an inch below the settled surface, the stalk will send out a new set of roots from it; the same experiment will demonstrate that while these new roots are being formed, which will generally be about the time the first two leaves are fairly formed, the plant, as far as perceptible growth is concerned, will remain stationary for from one week to ten days, when it will again grow as usual, but will seldom, except from local causes, overtake its less deeply planted companion. Corn planted four and a half inches deep, took two of these stationary spells, but after it recovered, the adjoining corn, planted but two inches deep, was two feet high, which difference not only was preserved, but was materially increased, and the deeply planted was further behind.

My experience is, that upon no account should corn be covered more than from one inch and a half to two inches deep, and of the two, I would prefer the former depth. Many have complained that after coming up properly,

those portions of the field which were expected to do the best will often seem to remain stationary for from one to two weeks, and then resume their growth. May it not be the case that these better portions are in better order and "good covering" unintentionally induced *deeper planting*?

I am well satisfied that we would be amply repaid for a more careful observation of the laws which govern the growth of our cereals, and if not out of place, I may in a future number give the result of my observations upon wheat and oats from their sprouts to a growth of five or six inches.

May, 1867.

The Stock-Yard.

BREEDING AND FEEDING PIGS.

BY THOMAS WOOD, CHESTER CO., PENN.

It is well to increase the quantity and quality of a sow's feed a week or so before pigging, as it tends to increase the flow of milk for the young; but she should be fed sparingly on light food for a day or two after, then as much good nourishing food as she will eat, for no sow can furnish milk enough for the increased demand of a large and growing family with scanty feed, nor even with any amount can she furnish a sufficiency of nourishment for six to ten pigs. Therefore, if you wish the pigs to become properly developed, they must be supplied with milk or other food, as soon as they will eat. A sow should never be allowed to get poor while suckling. Feeding pigs plentifully whilst young, that they may grow up and be properly developed—will pay twenty per cent. better than at an advanced age.

I generally allow my pigs to remain with the sow till two months old, and I think it best to leave one or two on a few days after the others are taken off, to relieve the sow. Care should be taken to have each sow alone before pigging that she may be reconciled to her quarters, and become perfectly quiet and contented. If cold weather, a dry warm shelter, is indispensable; if warm weather, they do very well at liberty in an open lot or field, with but little bedding; when much litter is allowed, the pigs are most likely to get smothered or overlaid, particularly if a fat, lazy old sow.

Hogs, as a general thing, will grow, thrive and fatten well confined, in not too close pens, all their days, if the sty is kept clean and well ventilated, with occasional throwing to them a little charcoal, ashes, old lime, rotten wood, mortar, soda or fresh earth. Such things they seem to need and relish very much; they help to keep their stomachs in tone. But pigs very much enjoy a range of a lot or pasture; it tends to their health and comfort. I have often had hogs to do well on pasture from the middle of May till October, with occasionally a little salt and no feed; but I believe some feed with the pasture during the Summer will pay well, as it will aid in their growth.

For the last eight or ten years I have cooked feed for my hogs. I have a steamer fixed up and can boil and make one or two hogsheds of mush at a time. I cook food as a matter of economy, believing about one fourth the grain is saved thereby. I generally feed of corn two parts and oats one part, ground together, and feed considerably of whole corn, particularly in the Fall, before it gets hard and dry. Feed when cooked, should be allowed to get nearly cold before being given to the pigs. In short let us have the best breeds, the best breeding, and the best feeding, to insure a good stock of any kind.

How to BREAK CATTLE TO LEAD.—Take two animals of about equal size and strength and tie them together with a strong rope by placing one end around the horns of one animal and the other end around the horns of the other, and make them fast, as for leading or tying up, leaving three or four feet of rope between the inner horns, and turn them into a

field free from trees. Let them run and pull and haul till they are tired of it, and will walk side by side and feed together. Then take off the rope and they will ever after lead with the docility of a child, even though the first occasion may be years afterwards. It is much easier than for a man to be jerked around all day by a wild heifer or steer, and more effectual. We have tried it and know.—*Manchester (N. H.) Mirror.*

CORN AND PORK.—Twelve and one-half bushels of corn given to a hog will make him one hundred pounds net larger; hence, corn selling at fifty cents per bushel, and pork at \$6.25 just pays. At \$6.50 or \$7.00 per hundred you get from fifty-two to fifty-six cents per bushel for your corn.

Another point in favor of feeding. If you live ten or fifteen miles from your market, the hauling of two, three, or five hundred bushels of corn costs you considerably more than it does when fed to your hogs. The manure will pay for feeding. If properly cared for, offal will pay you for the killing. It is better to feed than sell both hogs and corn.

STOCK-FEEDING—RAW AND COOKED FOOD.—The question as to which is the most profitable for feeding stock, raw or cooked food, still engages the attention of the agricultural press. The majority of voices are in favor of the cooking process. A Kentucky farmer fed raw corn for a given time to his hogs—weighing them at the time of commencing the experiment, and again when a change was made to cooked food. The result was five and a half to seventeen and a half—a large balance in favor of cooked food after deducting the expense of preparing the latter. Even one-half of the above difference would justify the feeding of the cooked material in preference to that in a raw state.

THE distance at which trees should be set is a matter upon which people often make mistakes. When transplanted into an orchard the trees look small, and it seems like a waste of ground to place them twenty-five or thirty feet apart. But in a few years, if the trees do well, the thing looks differently. We have seen orchards where the condition of the trees would have been improved by removing every other tree. It is necessary to the full health and vigor of the tree, that when it has attained its full size, the rays of the sun may have free entrance to every part of the top. Apple trees, on strong, rich soil, should not be set less than twenty-five feet apart. This will give sixty-nine trees to the acre.

TEST FOR STARCH OR GRAPE SUGARS.—Picric acid, one of the derivatives of phenol, formed by the action of nitric acid on phenic acid, is of a yellow color. A few drops of a solution of picric acid in 250 parts of water is added to a solution of this kind of sugar (glucose) containing a little caustic soda, and heated to 90°. The mixture when boiled assumes a blood-red color, a result from the formation of picramic acid. A solution of cane sugar (sucrose), added to a solution of picric acid, does not produce this change of color.

If a piece of copper be dissolved in ammonia, a solvent will be obtained, not only for lignine, the most important principle of all woody fiber—such as cotton, flax, paper, &c., but also for substances derived from the animal kingdom, such as wool and silk. By the solution of any of these an excellent cement and water proof is said to be formed; and what is equally important, if cotton fabrics be saturated with the solution of wool, they will be enabled to take the dyes—such as lac dye and cochineal—hitherto suited to woolen goods only.

The lumber season has been a good one on the Penobscot waters, notwithstanding the lateness of commencement. The quantity of logs cut is somewhat larger than during the previous Winter; but a greater proportion is on the smaller streams, and the drive will probably be less.

DEPTHS OF THE SEA.—The soundings for the transatlantic cable have enabled comparisons to be made of the different depths of the sea. Generally speaking, they are not of any great depth in the neighborhood of continents; thus the Baltic, between Germany and Sweden, is only 120 feet deep; and the Adriatic, between Venice and Trieste, 130 feet. The greatest depth of the channel between France and England, does not exceed 300 feet, whilst to the southwest of Ireland, where the sea is open, the depth is more than 2000 feet. The seas to the south of Europe are much deeper than those in the interior. In the narrowest part of the Straits of Gibraltar the depth is only 3000 feet, while a little more to the east it is 3000. Dr. Young estimates the average depth of the Atlantic at 25,000 feet, and of the Pacific at 20,000.



Grape Culture.

"AS IN THE PAST SO IN THE FUTURE."*

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY CRITICUS.

OUR new American grape vines have one advocate who is disinterested; one whose hopes lead him to believe we shall find fruit where "we have been seeking these three years, and found none." "Let it alone," says he, as did the dresser of the Vineyard in the parable of the fig-tree; "let it alone this year, also, till I shall dig about it and dung it, and if it bear fruit well, and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down." We, too, have been seeking fruit these three years and have found none; but alas! our vines have given up the ghost, and all the digging needed is to dig them up. And we are not alone; nor is this failure any new thing. Who ever heard of a successful vineyard of Isabellas, or Catawbas, in the interior of the Northern or Middle States, that continued in bearing many years? Or did not thoroughly disappoint the planter, except in very few favored localities extremely exceptional? Ah! but these vineyards, of which so much has been promised, so much expected, are not Catawbas, nor Isabellas; they have passed away to the limbo of forgotten things, and we have now the exquisite Delaware, the choice Diana and Rebecca, to say nothing of the Adirondac and "the refreshing Iona!" Three years ago, all that was said of such varieties, was true my friend, of the earlier named varieties, as they then conducted themselves; but their behavior has changed for the worse; they have become sadly "demoralized." In the light of present experience it will not do to speak of them as in their infancy; nor to expect of them, since they have suffered from contact with the world, what the innocency of their childhood promised.

We, the American people, do not appear to resemble the Bourbons, of whom it was said, "We, on the contrary, are ever learning something new and forgetting every old lesson." How much the rise and growth of the present grape mania resembles every other great movement of the kind that has had place among us, is apparent to those whose recollection extends over a generation only. How many vineyards of the foreign vine were planted, how many thousands of experiments tried in almost every State in the most favored regions of the United States; to end in utter failure! How many hundreds of thousands of dollars sank from want of correct and complete acquaintance with the distinctive peculiarities of the wine climates of Europe, and our country, and wherein they differed. How many years passed in which disappointment succeeded disappointment, before the enthusiastic projectors would believe that the climate was unfavorable, that the extent of temperature, the sudden changes in Summer, were destructive and could never be overcome! How many then entered as wildly into growing the native grape North, South, East and West, regardless of the differences of climate, the heights or exposure, soil or circumstances; planted Catawbas and Isabellas, Powells, Elsinboroughs, Alexanders, &c., to reap what!—Wine by the pipe—to sit under their own vines, where none could make them afraid? No, verily;—but disappointed hopes and empty cellars and pockets. The climate fought against them, and they again succumbed.

Nothing daunted, comes a new generation—Young America will solve the problem. Our fathers did not adapt their varieties to the climate. We will find some hardier kinds, ripening in shorter seasons, more enduring of extremes, less inclined to mildew, less disposed to rot. We will grow our own grapes and drink our own wine; we will supply the foreign market; we can do it and we will! Has it not been prophesied that "we shall export our poetry and wine," and are not the name of prophet and poet still the same—must not the prophecy be fulfilled—and are not we the men to do it? Enthusiast, again you are off

the track. You have not made a reconnaissance of the field of operations. You have judged of the Summer by one swallow; you have brought home but one brick as a specimen of the city you have visited! What guarantee bad we that success in one or two years would ensure us continued favors, or that Bacchus had at length been propitiated by our many sacrifices; alas! unwilling sacrifices, and therefore undeserving of reward!

But you have not tried the experiment to a full issue! Was not he of old rebuked because he would cut down the barren fig tree? And have we yet sought fruit more than three years? Shall we re-plant our vines, for the first planted will know no revival? No, say we, we shall content ourselves with a few trained beside our dwelling, or essay to raise a few grapes on trellises capped with horizontal shelters to protect them from the frost that so often falls "from the keen, cold heaven," on our tender vines, even in mid Summer; or we shall seek some region favored by Heaven with moist, warm air, and tempered days and nights, when our hopes shall not be withered by the West wind or pass away with the Summer clouds. For without a metaphor, in these we may find the causes of our ill success, and while these influences play around us we shall fail to grow vines of any especial value, and our promise of wine will fortunately never be realized. We say that without the favoring circumstances which prevent the Summer extremes, so destructive to our vines, the promises of wine will fortunately never be made good. We say fortunately, for we believe that if the product of our successful vineyards should be thus abused, their failure is rather to be esteemed a blessing than otherwise. Observations made in this and other countries, has taught us that no advantage will result from the general use even of light wines by our citizens. The specious argument that their temperate use will stay the evils of intoxication, is about as absurd as the proposal to prevent the development of brigands and highwaymen by weak training in petty larceny! As virtue will endure no taint, and every evil grows apace by its own inherent tendencies, so temperance will bear no trifling with aught that is alcoholic, and although as fruit we may regret the loss of our grapes, as wine we may prove to be the greater gainers as we have loss thereof. The consolation may be said, by some, to savor itself of sour grapes!

*See Farm and Fireside, page 82—"Open Air Grape Culture."

May, 1867.

TWO LARGE TROUT.—While in Messrs. Andrew Clark & Co's establishment in Maiden Lane, New York, we were shown the photograph of two large trout, killed last season in one of our Northern rivers. As many of our North-west friends are disinclined to believe that the trout grows to a greater size than five or six pounds, we will state the weight of these two, as additional proof to what has been previously said that their impressions on this subject are erroneous. One weighed seven and three-fourth pounds and the other eight and one fourth pounds.—*Field, Turf and Farm.*

NEW MODE OF LABELING TREES.—At a recent meeting of the Society of Arts (Institute of Technology) Boston, the Hon. M. P. Wilder made a statement relative to a new method of labeling trees, accidentally discovered by him. In the use of zinc labels, which were the most durable in character, an indelible ink was used, but not having the ink at hand on one occasion, he wrote upon the zinc with a lead pencil. This writing, although it could be rubbed off when first made, grew more distinct and durable with age, and after several years could not be erased except by scraping.

A NEW YORK naturalist protests against naturalizing the English sparrow in this country. In Europe it is regarded as a nuisance, and it has been estimated to destroy ten million bushels of wheat in France annually.

The Poultry-Yard.

DOMESTIC POULTRY.

THE season for commencing operations in the poultry yard is fairly upon us, and we propose to treat generally on the subject of the management of poultry without reference to breed or description. Birds may now fairly be considered as safe from the influence of the weather, therefore we shall not speak of the management of house raised stock, but of the farm yard and free roving. First of all comes the subject of feed. Poultry should never be over fed; the habit of throwing indiscriminately all kinds of garbage in large quantities, where a limited number of fowls are kept, is highly injurious. In a large farm yard and stable premises they require but little beyond that afforded by their own industrious foraging. A spoiled liver, or other meat from the butcher, boiled and cut from occasionally, is excellent. Then some chopped cabbage or mashed boiled potatoes, with a little corn and wheat screenings, or other grain, and a few pounded bones, lime or oyster shells, with which to cover the eggs, will complete the diet. Feed regularly every morning, and always in the same place. The hens will be found in waiting for their breakfast, and almost before they have finished will run off to the pests for relief.

Where large numbers of poultry are kept the ground must often be renewed to prevent it getting tainted; this requires labor and materials. Now, there is only one material which combines all the requirements for the floor of a poultry home, and with which Providence has supplied us bountifully, namely, earth. It is composed of all the necessary materials to the animal economy of the poultry; it is of a deodorizing nature, and, when tainted with the manure, becomes a valuable fertilizer. In fact, it is often unfortunately forgotten that the manure of poultry (Guano proper) is one of the most valuable manures for the flower gardens, strawberry beds and the green house. Let, therefore, the yards where poultry are necessarily confined, be frequently raked and swept, and fresh earth, gravel and sand sprinkled, or if not, let it be raked, that a new top may be presented in the morning when the fowls leave their roost. Cleanliness is one of the chief necessities to poultry. Clean sand in which they can dust themselves is absolutely necessary, and should be left within range of their quarters.

Ashes for them to dust in should also take the place of the dry earth in Summer, and they should have meat in some form, the most available of which is the pressed cakes or greaves from the tallow manufacturers.

Fowls should always have their liberty at day break, and food should never be allowed to be about in profusion. This rule applies to all descriptions of food. Supply liberally facilities for roosting in hen houses or under cover; the birds will choose their perches, and should not be driven in, or compelled to occupy certain quarters, never forgetting that a mite of wealth on a small scale lies in the manure and sweepings of the hen house and under roosting sheds.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

WILL IT PAY TO KEEP HENS?

C. STEWARD contributes the following to the Maine Farmer:

A lady friend kept, in the year 1864, forty hens, realizing from the sales of eggs and poultry the sum of \$150; in the year following, 1865, she kept fifty hens, the sales of eggs and poultry amounting to \$155. The sale of eggs alone amounted to \$125. Again, in the year 1866, from fifty-seven hens she sold \$150 worth of eggs and poultry. The number of chickens raised was not over forty in each year, and I think not so many, with the exception of one year. These hens ran at large most of the year, and the garden connected with the house was not materially damaged, although but slightly protected. The account given above did not include the use of eggs and poultry in a small family. I think there

are but few flocks of hens that have shown a record like this, in the production of eggs and poultry, with not remarkably high prices for the products sold. Allow me here to say that I really believe a good flock of hens can be made to do even better than this.

I will now give you an account of what a sister of the writer did, in a small way. Living in the village it was not practicable, or at least not admissible, to keep many hens, as they ran at large and had access to the garden at all times, doing but little damage however. The number kept was three. Two of them were of a large breed; the other was part Bolton Gray, and was a small hen. The two large ones laid, one of them, one hundred and thirty, the other, one hundred and fifty eggs; the small one laid one hundred and ninety three. The time included was one year. These biddies had not a comfortable place to winter in, and therefore did not lay much during the winter months. It would be well perhaps to speak of the cost of keeping a hen one year. As near as I can judge (without actual experiment) it will cost about \$1.25 a year, where one has to buy all he gives them. If kept on a farm, it would be natural to suppose they could be kept much cheaper; or at least if allowed to run at large a part of the season.

In regard to the different breeds, or the best breed to keep, there appears to be a good many conflicting opinions. Some prefer one breed, some another; some, a large and some, a small breed. I have kept at least a dozen different breeds within the last ten or fifteen years. The breed I now keep I greatly prefer to any I have had heretofore, and will mention some of their good qualities. They are a hardy breed, and are extra layers. Early hatched pullets will, with good care, lay early in the fall, and continue laying through the winter, providing they have good care, comfortable quarters and a plenty of the right kind of food. They are also good setters and excellent mothers. If they wish to sit, they are not bad to break up; bear confinement well; are superior for the table, and do not scratch nearly as bad as some breeds. I must say they are the most elegant of form and beautiful of plumage, of any of the hen species. I speak of the Game fowls. I shall keep no others unless I find a better breed, which is doubtful.

AN INTELLIGENT HEN.—The Washington (Ga.) Gazette has the following:

Danbury, March 28.—Mr. Editor: I warrant that I have got the most intelligent and peculiar fowl either in Wilkes or Lincoln counties. She is quite a large sized hen, between the common dunghill fowl and the Shanghai. My little daughter can take the hen upon her knees and pat her on the back and say "sing, Betsy" (for that is her name), and she will begin to sing as requested. She will then say, "sing loud, Betsy," and she will then sing at the very top of her voice, which is very loud, for she has an excellent pair of lungs. She will say, "sing soft, Betsy," and she will change from the loud tone to a very soft one. And to cap the climax, in the way of obeying and pleasing the children, my little niece put Betsy in a chair the other day, and began to pat her on the back, saying at the same time, "lay me an egg, Betsy." Betsy saug a very short, soft song, and then stood up in the chair, and to the great delight of the children, there lay in the chair an egg. She will follow my wife all over the house, yard, and garden, just like a pet dog, and will sing or not, as she is directed to do.

JAS. W. BARKSDALE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Waukesha Freeman tells of a hen belonging to him which has a mania for adopting the chickens of her neighbors, and in this way succeeded last Summer in bringing under her care and rearing sixteen chickens. Her course was, upon seeing a strange chicken, to run to it, brood it, then pet it with the daintiest morsels she could find; in this way she seldom failed to win and fasten upon herself the affections of any little wandering chick that came in her way.

GRAFTING RHODODENDRONS.—The best time to graft rhododendrons is towards the end of August, or early in September, when the shoots have ripened. The shoots of stock and scion should be of equal thickness, or as nearly so as possible. It is best performed by what is known as side-grafting,—putting in the grafts near the soil. The head of the stock should be cut off six inches above the union, leaving some leaves on it. To this the graft may be tied.—After grafting, place and keep in a close cold frame until the union is complete, which will be the case in six or eight weeks. Then give air and harden off. In Spring, the part of the stock above the graft may be cut off neatly immediately above the point of union. The grafting may be done in Spring, just at the time growth commences, but success is not so certain in Spring as late in the Summer.



FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1867.

AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; with out 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.

TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS.

TWENTY odd years ago we had a Congress of radicals who thought our territorial boundaries were rather limited, especially in the direction of sundown. They wanted an addition to our vegetable and animal kingdom; they desired more of the atmosphere that surrounds the globe in the North-west; they demanded the sun to shine an hour or so longer, each day, on this great Republic. Those manifest destiny gentlemen had no idea of changing the physical geography of this continent; they simply asked, in the settlement of the North-western boundary question, that we should have possession of a portion of British Columbia, extending to Fifty-four-forty North latitude. If this demand was not acquiesced in, they said fight—in brief, their political war-cry was "Fifty-four-forty, or fight."

The recent purchase of the Russian possessions, running down on the Pacific coast, from somewhere in the vicinity of the North pole to fifty-four-forty North latitude—a territory large enough for an empire—with a population of nearly a hundred thousand Russians, Indians and Esquimaux, and a country producing harley, rye and various esulents, timber, minerals and valuable furred animals, besides salmon, herring, halibut and codfish in inexhaustible quantities, is not to be sneezed at, even if a portion lies within the Arctic zone. This acquisition will gratify "manifest destiny" men in all parts of the nation; and the abandonment of this continent by Russia, simultaneously with the withdrawal of France from Mexico, makes us believe the area of freedom will be still further extended until

"The whole boundless continent is ours"

It will not be many years before Great Britain will sell, or be forced to relinquish to us, her possessions north of the Columbia river; then we shall have all the coast line from the Northern boundary of Mexico to Behring Straits—an immense fishing ground for Brother Jonathan, whether he throws his fly for trout and salmon or harpoons whales, seals or serpents. The Canadas will also drop into our hands in due time, like ripe fruit in mid Autumn. After that we must swallow Mexico—a cathartic that will purge us a little, but will not harm us in the least. Laugh at us, reader, if you like; but these are prophetic facts, and they will be "fixed facts" before this Republic sees its two hundredth birthday. Look at what we have done, in the way of annexation, since 1787—the period when the Constitution (a somewhat forgotten code!) was adopted.

In 1803 we purchased Louisiana and the great Mississippi valley, of France, for \$15,000,000. Napoleon I. was short of cash at that time, and so sold his American possessions, and with the fifteen millions equipped armies that overran Europe and won the Star of Austerlitz. (That was his business). In 1819, Spain felt poor and sold us Florida for \$3,000,000. It was the tail end of this continent then, and is now; but being the land of song and romance, where Narvarz, Ponce de Leon and De Soto sought the fountain of youth, we bought it and got a real bargain. In 1845 we annexed Texas, a territory large enough for half a dozen States; and in 1854 we purchased Arizona from Mexico. So we go on, making territorial acquisitions one of the fundamental principles of Republicanism. We cannot stop annexing contiguous powers, even if we don't require them or want them. Destiny says we must go on and possess, people and develop this entire continent.

The Farm and Fireside 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS SOLICITED.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is rapidly winning its way to appreciation and success. In typographical appearance and press-work we aim to make it faultless, and can be justly proud in those respects; while the original and selected articles are brought under a careful surveillance as regards their reliability, seasonableness and merit.

We feel grateful for the manner in which our friends have responded to our call for such original contributions as come within the scope of our journal; yet we very much desire to increase the resources and influence of the same, in this respect. In view of this we solicit original contributions from all quarters. Surely every farmer has had something taught him by experience that would be acceptable to us and useful to his fellow laborers.

The kind of articles we prefer above all others, are those that are short, succinct, and to the point; embodying facts, detailing observations, narrating experiences, &c. Our journal is devoted to the interests of the farmer, and to him we look not only for pecuniary support, but for assistance in the way of weekly contributions. Do not be deterred from doing so by a fear that you may betray a want of scholarship. We will with pleasure give the articles an acceptable and readable shape. We hope our agricultural friends will respond to this appeal; by so doing they will afford us much pleasure, cultivate their powers of composition, and benefit the busy, practical world in which they live and move.

TRIAL OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

AN exhibition and trial of farm implements commenced on the 7th of May, at Utica, New York. This exhibition is under the auspices of the New York State Agricultural Society. What the result will be, if the trial is honest and impartial, will be seen in the improved agriculture of that State. If improved ploughs, harrows, seed-drills, mowing-machines, reapers and kindred inventions will do more work in a given time, and do it better than the old fashioned implements, then millions of dollars will be saved to the country. Similar exhibitions, or trials of agricultural implements, should be held in every State.

The following are the premiums offered at the New York trial for plows.

- A gold medal is offered by the Society for the best plow in each of the ten classes, as follows: 1st. For a sod plow for stiff soils. 2d. A plow for stubble land in stiff soils. 3d. A sod plow for sandy soils and light loams. 4th. A plow for stubble land, which will cut a furrow twelve inches deep, with three horses, which will raise the lowest soil to the surface of the furrow; for a plow which will turn a furrow of this kind, not less than five inches wide, the Society offers as a prize its large gold medal. 5th. For a Michigan sod and trench plow. 6th. A subsoil plow, in connection with an ordinary plow. 7th. A ditch plow for opening drains. 8th. A machine for excavating ditches for under-draining. 9th. A steel plow for alluvial and ueturous lands. 10th. A swing or side hill plow.

GUINEA FOWLS.—A wise-acre contributes an article to the Country Gentleman on the profit, habits, &c., of the Guinea fowl. Among other crude things, he says "Guineas will never be cross and pugnacious if the eggs are hatched under the Guinea hen. If the eggs are set under a common hen the chicks will always be cross to other fowls, &c." This is first-class nonsense, as every ornithologist or fowl breeder knows. We like Guinea fowls, but they are pugnacious from nature, and will quarrel with all poultry of timid character. If a common hen could hatch chickens from duck's eggs, or chicks from brick-bats, we might believe the contributor of the Country Gentleman—not before.

HEMP may be sown at any time this month. Use 4 to 6 pecks of heavy, bright seed, for broad-cast sowing. Be thorough in keeping the grass down.

ORCHARD CULTURE.

THE orchard should be just as much a subject for cultivation as any other part of the farm. By cultivating an orchard, we do not mean the growing of crops in it; but on the contrary, the giving up of the soil exclusively to the trees, and yearly top-dressing it with muck, leaf-mold, and carbonaceous matter generally.

To select a favorable site, to thoroughly prepare the soil, to purchase none but the best of trees, to plant them in the most careful and approved manner, together with pruning, training and low-branching, are necessary requisites; but the subsequent enriching of the soil at intervals must not be neglected. Fruit trees draw their nourishment from the soil, and it is just as necessary to the perfection of fruit to keep up the supply of nourishing elements in the soil of the orchard as it is necessary in the soil of the field.

In our estimation, the raising of field crops in the orchard is an absurd and injurious fallacy. No man likes to do double physical duty; and to attempt to make a given acre yield a crop of apples and a crop of corn or wheat, in the same year, whilst not directly in opposition to the law in physics that two things cannot occupy the same space at the same time, is an attempt at something almost like it so far as the elements of plant-life are concerned.—It will invariably be a failure, resulting in one or both of the crops falling short in quantity and quality. Why do we assiduously try to keep our strawberry beds free from weeds? Because we are afraid the weeds will rob the strawberries of the elements necessary to fruit perfection. Why then crop our orchards and look for a full yield of ripe, delicious apples? It is folly to expect it. We have changed the direction of the eliminative power. As well might we cram our heads with the "learned lumber of pedantry" by taking out our brains to make room for it.

The trees are barked by the plow or team; they are more liable to be blown over or to lean "deviously." In order to get under the trees with the horses, they are trimmed "up higher;" and when the trunks of apple trees are high and exposed to the scorching rays of the sun, the sap becomes heated and the fruit sickly. Apple trees should not be trained high—the storms have less effect, the rays of the sun will not lay on the trunk, and the fruit will be fairer. In the month of August the apple makes its main growth. Then it is that it most needs that moisture and sap which the field crop is lavishly robbing it of. Your Baldwins and Newton Pippins are both small and dwarfish, and you wonder why so many are drooping and dropping.

We know that this matter of cropping orchards is a mooted question; that while grain crops are generally acknowledged to be injurious, many consider root crops to be beneficial. Probably the reason the latter are beneficial, is because they require so much manure to make them profitable. We would like to hear from some of our correspondents on this question, as our remarks have been made with that view as much as any other.

PROTECTION FOR CHERRIES.—A distinguished fruit grower informs us how he keeps cherry-eating birds from his trees. He has a number of small bird-boxes hung on the trunks or large limbs of his cherry trees. These boxes are occupied, every season, by the little wrens, which are remarkably pugnacious birds. No sooner does the cherry-bird, robin or other fruit-pilferer, come to the trees, than the wren offers them battle; and if not victorious, succeed in driving off the thieves.

This protection, by the wren, may answer in some sections of the Middle States, where it breeds. But in the New England States they are not numerous enough to stand guard over the cherry orchards. Bells, and scare-crows, offer but slight protection from the hold, impertinent fruit brigands.

THE strikes in England have now extended to the farm hands, who are probably the worst paid laborers in Great Britain.

SALE OF ALDERNEYS AND AYLESBURES.—At the sale of James H. Wall, Jr., at Clappville, Mass., last week, the following prices were obtained for Alderney and Ayrshire cattle:—"Jenny" and calf, six years old, \$390, to Moses Ellis, Framingham; "Fannie," six years old, \$210, to Mr. Ellis; "Beauty," three years old, \$225, to John Brooks, Princeton. The above were imported by R. S. Denny. "Nina," two years old, \$85, and "Beauty, 2d," fifteen months old, \$90, to J. D. Wheeler, Grafton; "Beauty," four years old, \$105, and "Jennie, 2d," eleven months old, \$75, to Mr. Ellis; "Fannie 2d," nine months old, \$36, to D. J. Baker. Ayrshires: "Princess" and calf, five years old, \$142.50, to T. W. Wellington; "Grace," five years old, \$147.50, to B. F. Curtis, Auburn; "Countess," six years old, \$110, to G. M. Hunt.

SPEAKING of grape matters on Lake Eric Islands, W. E. Sibley says in Rural New Yorker, that the Winter has been quite favorable, and grape vines were never in better condition at this season. Peaches, also, are all right, and a fruitful year is generally expected.

COLORS FRUIT PLATES.—We return thanks to D. M. Dewey, Rochester, New York, for a variety of beautifully executed lithographs of fruit. That of the Vicar of Winkfield pear, and the Diana Hamburg grape, are exceedingly fine.

Our Book Table.

THE POULTRY BOOK: comprising the breeding and management of profitable and ornamental poultry; their qualities and characteristics; by W. B. TEGETMEIER, F. Z. S., with colored illustrations by HARRISON WEIR, and numerous engravings on wood. London and New York: George Routledge & Sons.

The raising of poultry, as a branch of rural economy, has been carried to great perfection in Europe. Crowned heads, and gentlemen of great wealth, have for many years devoted much attention to the various kinds of domestic fowls; keeping the distinctive breeds pure; getting up national poultry exhibitions; ascertaining which kinds are the most profitable as layers, or for market; and not overlooking the ornamental varieties which add much to the attractiveness of rural homes.

The volume before us is unquestionably the most magnificent hook on poultry ever published. It is a royal 8mo volume, splendidly printed and bound, with life-like illustrations, (oil colors), by Harrison Weir, and is edited by Tegetmeier, poultry editor of "The Field," published in London. An examination of the work fully satisfies us that the Editor has accomplished a "labor of love;" has produced an exhaustive treatise on gallinaceous birds; ample in its details and of the most practical character. In addition to this, many eminent poultry producers of England have contributed valuable articles; together with a treatise on the various diseases of poultry. Although we are indebted to England for this valuable book, it is none the less applicable in this country; from which we can learn a vast store of poultry information. It is far in advance, in ability and illustration, of all its predecessors. Price \$9,—well worth the money. See advertisement in this issue of the Farm and Fireside.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS: By Charles Dickens, with twenty-seven full page illustrations from original designs by John McLenan. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers.

This is the fourth volume of the author's American edition, and reflects credit on the publishers, who generously paid Mr. Dickens for advance proof sheets of his works. Persons desiring a neat, handsome collection of Boz, should purchase this edition. Price \$1.25.

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.

RESPECT FOR MONEY.—It may be a most immoral and unpoetical sentiment, but those are always the best people who have a carefulness, and a wise respect for money. Not per se—not the mere having it or amassing it, but the prudent using of it—making it our servant and not our master. As a test of character, perhaps, £. s. d. is one of the sharpest. A man who is indifferent and inaccurate in money matters, will be rarely found accurate in other matters. He may have large benevolence externally; you will see him throw half a crown to a beggar, and subscribe to every charity list in the Times; but if he forgets to pay you that five shillings he borrowed for cab hire, you may be quite sure that the beggar's half crown and the twenty pounds in the printed subscription will have to come out of somebody else's pocket instead of his own.—Mrs. Craig.





The Fireside Muse.

THE BROOK.

BY GEORGE S. BURLINGH.

The brooklet dancing through the glen,
With willows bending over,
Has blessings for the sons of men,
A boon for every lover:
Of her the poet learns to sing
His tenderest canzonetta;
Here maidens come such love to bring
As makes all love its debtor.

The dusty lad in tattered frock,
The rough and sturdy farmer,
The traveler leaning on the rock,
Have here an equal charmer.
The frolic boys from school and mill,
The gay and rosy misses,
Drink health and pleasure from the rill
In all her rippled kisses.

The violet on the mossy brink,
The bluebirds in the hazels,
Repay with song and sweets the drink
That stings not though it dazzles.
And oh! forgiving every slight
Of wretched souls who leave her,
She bathes away the stains of night
And cools their burning fever.

The whiteness of the simple soul
She welcomes and enhances,
And shames the votaries of the bowl
With pure, inviting glances.
Ho! fill your beakers from the brook—
The white urn of the Naiads;
And life shall take as fresh a look
As to the turf their play adds.

Fireside Tale.

THE BLIND SINGER OF THE CATHEDRAL.

BY F. H. STAUFFER.

A STRANGER stood within the cathedral at Rheims. He was leaning against a pillar, perfectly motionless except occasionally drawing a glove, which he held in one hand, idly through the other. His attitude was expressive of gracefulness, and his face was calculated to make one turn and look at it again, even in casually meeting him on the street. It was a youthful face, and to a certain degree, childish; and yet there was something about the thin lips expressive of will and energy. His forehead was high and white, gleaming out from a mass of raven hair; his eyes were dark, bedewed with a sort of languor; such eyes as always speak the truth, and deepen into a warmer glow when they meet your own. Though richly dressed, there was nothing of the fop about him. He wore no jewelry beyond the small diamond ring that shone upon the ungloved hand.

His eye was drinking in the scene around him. The paintings, the work of the famous artists of the olden time—the massive doric pillars, the richly frescoed ceiling, the tessellated aisles, the narrow pews of polished walnut, the pulpit of porphyry, ornamented with Latin inscriptions and cherub faces—the windows of stained glass, the somber organ with its high fluted front; as he calmly surveyed these, and felt the holy presence that filled the place, a beautiful placidness rested upon his features, and more than one girlish face was turned at furtive moments towards his.

The ceremony was drawing to a close, and the deep, solemn tones of the organ floated through the church. It was a master hand that touched the keys. Music seemed to assume personification in that dim old room. Now the tones were loud, reverberating—then low, soft, flute-like—and ever and anon changing from allegro to andante, in which the improvised indrotrnetories seemed more enchanting than either.

The playing was superb—and yet it was not that which made him bend his head more attentively, and a brighter light to irradiate his face. It was the soprano voice in the choir that was touching his heart with its exquisite sweetness. He seemed to hold his breath lest the smallest intonation should be lost. And a clear, distinct, melodious voice it was. Others had listened to its witchery, and had felt their worship touched by a better inspiration.

It rose and fell in a sort of easy voluptuousness. When it trembled, it was the tremor of pathos, and when it changed to a rigidity, it

was the assurance, the positiveness of faith.

The young man looked up at the choir, and among the array of beauty there, his keen eye detected the singer. Her face was upturned, her eyes were closed, and the light from the window overhead seemed to change into a spiritual radiance as it fell around her.

After the closing of the ceremony, the young man waited at the foot of the narrow stairs, leading from the gallery. The singer was leaning upon her father's arm, and her eyes were still closed.

She was blind!

The young man started at first when this fact dawned upon his mind, but as he took another glance at that sweet face, his heart went out toward her with yet a warmer glow.

It was an oval face, and spiritually fair; the skin was almost transparent, and the velvet lips were tinged with vermilion. Her form was well developed, every motion expressive of grace, and the beauty of her attire consisted in its simplicity alone; almost any other fabric or arrangement would have been at antagonism with that trusting, child-like face. Her dress was of plain calico, unadorned by jewelry, while a shawl of a sort of neutral tint was thrown negligently over her shoulders, partly concealing her full ripe bust, and covering but to the elbow the plump, snowy arm that rested within her father's.

Ernest Harcourt, the young stranger, was seated beside the blind singer of the cathedral. One arm was thrown confidently around his neck, while the face upturned to his was lightened with the new life that had been born in her soul. They were in an artist's studio, and a face, a very prototype of the blind girl's, that rested against the easel, told the story of hours of such communions.

"Miriam, my beloved!" spoke the young man, "you must be my wife. You must come to my home."

"And my father, Ernest? O! I cannot leave him!"

"He shall come too. My home shall be your home and his."

"Ernest, I know I love you. I cannot see your face; I cannot see your eye kindle when you speak; but I can hear your voice and feel your warm caress. There is, too, a spiritual essence about you that draws me toward you, and that tells my instinct, and assures my reason, that you are all that is noble and true. But, *think* of it, Ernest! I—but a poor, ignorant blind girl—a very child!"

"For this do I love you above aught else. You are not ignorant. I have sat at your feet for hours, a quiet, listening pupil. You have revealed to me how beautiful I can make my life. You have turned my aspirations toward all that is noble and grand. Floating idly on the sea of life, a reckless, aimless voyager, did you not come to me and direct me into the beaten channel—becoming to me compass, chart and guide? You are blind! Should I not love you all the more for that? Let my eyes be your eyes. I will be sight unto you, the same as you have been spiritual sight unto me."

"But your family, Ernest. What will your sister say when you bring home a fragile, blind, portionless girl?"

"My sister Ella is a woman, Miriam—kind, loving, appreciating—subject to delicious transports, happy in her organism, and a dreamer of beautiful dreams. Had you not one redeeming quality, she would love you for my sake alone."

"Ella, this is my wife!"

This was all Ernest Harcourt said. The driver was unstrapping the trunks from the boot, and was placing them on the graveled walk. Ernest was standing on the verandah, with his beautiful wife leaning on his arm.

"Welcome home, my sister. I can speak those words with a willing heart to any bride my dear brother would bring to his home."

"Thank you, thank you, Ella; and before many days you shall say it for my sake. O! how kind and sweet your voice is! I wish I could see your face and look into your eyes!"

It was a touching sight to see those two women weeping in each other's arms, just as if that friendship had been a friendship of many years. Ella's face was beautiful, but of a different style from Miriam's. It was full of freshness, and verging as close upon boldness as any face dare verge and yet be thoroughly feminine. It was an intellectual face, classic and prominent in its outline, with tempting lips, black eyes, and hair dark and luxuriant, a vexation to the white fingers that daily essayed to bring it into a semblance of staidness.

And Ella *did* learn to love that sweet girl for herself alone. She was so kind, so beautiful, so trusting! Ella grew better from her companionship; and Miriam guided her in just the same quiet way, seemingly passive and yet positive withal, that she guided Ernest.

The latter was very happy; his aristocratic friends wondered at his choice, but that was nothing to him. He loved his wife, and the warm, gushing manner in which she reciprocated it, was more than life to him.

Often, in the still Summer evenings, her voice would steal out on the air, echoing in the groves and floating among the shrubbery with more witchery than it did along the frescoed dome of the cathedral at Rheims.

Again Ernest Harcourt stood on the verandah, while the stage described a half circle in front of the door. He had been absent for a month, and his sister Ella again met him at the door. There was something very warm in her greeting, and her eyes twinkled with a more than common meaning.

"How is Miriam?" he asked.

"Quite well. She is waiting for you in the parlor."

She led the way into the room. Miriam was sitting on the sofa. The lashes of those closed lids were lying like a shadow upon her fair cheek. Ernest came up to her and took her hand.

"Well," he said, kindly, "how is my little blind wife?"

"Very glad to see her dear husband!"

He started at the significance of the words—but more so when a pair of sweet brown eyes flashed their radiance into his face. They were welling in liquid light—on fire with a freshness come to them after years of dull, heavy darkness.

"Miriam, Miriam, how is this?"

Ernest knelt at her feet; he took her joyfully in his arms and covered her cheeks and lips with kisses.

"All I know is, 'that whereas I was blind, I now see.'"

"Blessed be God for this!" cried Ernest.

"Miriam's blindness was brought upon her through sickness, when she was about seven years old," said Ella. "When I became aware of this, I consulted Dr. M—, the celebrated optician. He examined her eyes and said that he could restore her sight, and he has done so."

"Ernest, do you love me more now?"

Miriam took his hand and looked up into his face.

"No, not more—but I am so happy—happy for your sake, Miriam."

Miscellany.

A VISIT TO SPRAGUE'S STABLES AND RACING COURSE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Turf, Field and Farm thus describes Amasa Sprague's establishment and stock at Cranston, Rhode Island:—

"His place is beautifully situated about four miles from Providence, in the town of Cranston, and of easy access by horse cars. I first visited the barn, which is the handsomest and most perfect edifice of the kind it has ever been my luck to see; it is built entirely of brick, and has everything that can be thought of for the comfort and care of the noble horses it contains. It is finished off inside principally with oak, though some of the wood is grained in imitation of oak. The stables are hand-

some, commodious, well lighted and ventilated, in fact there is nothing that could be improved about them to my eye. Now we come to the trotters, and at the head of them stands the stallion Dan Rice, than whom a nobler looking horse never stood on four feet. He is a large brown horse, very handsome and very fast, as all your readers must know. He weighs at this time in the neighborhood of 1400 lbs., and when in condition last Fall, after the trotting season was over, he weighed 1150 lbs. Next I was introduced to Shiptimher, a large, handsome and powerful hay horse, by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, and one, I think, that will do honor to the noble horse from whom he descends. Then there was a very large, powerful gray mare, whose name I forget, but it matters little, as she will make it known herself before Fall. I did not inquire her sire, but she shows the Messenger blood enough to prove that it has not degenerated in her. Next I was shown a fine looking chestnut mare named Cranston Girl, four years old, out of Geo. M. Patchen and a fine Morgan mare, raised by Mr. S.; she shows power and will doubtless make herself known. The next one was a handsome sorrel, called Morning Star, by Andrew Jackson, four white feet, a very large, powerful horse, and I am inclined to think a hot one to come across.

From the private stables of Mr. S. I went to see those where he keeps his work horses, of which he has some 175, all ranging from 13 to 14,000 lbs. on an average, and I think they can not be equalled as a class by any lot of horses of the kind, belonging to any establishment or city. There are ten matched teams, from four to six horses each, and they must be seen to be realized.

Then there are cattle stables, with as fine a lot of cattle as you but seldom see—hog pens, &c. From thence we visited the engine house, where Mr. S. has two very fine steam engines, so that in case of fire everything is at hand; the horse is as perfectly arranged as that of any of the city fire departments, and everything is at readiness for a call at day or night. From thence we drove over to the track. I can hardly find words sufficient to express what I think of the track. In general, it is the most perfect one of the kind that has been, and I think ever will be made in this country. It is all enclosed by a handsome hoard fence, painted slate color. The track is a mile around, and is to be as perfect as art can make it; the home stretch is magnificent and the bends perfect, and I think any horse, no matter how gaited, that *can't trot fast here, can't trot at all*. It is an exact mile, neither an inch too long nor too short, so that there can never be any complaint made in that way. Of the buildings on the track, I will only say they are unequalled. The grand stand is a model of architecture, being some 350 feet long, all covered with a handsome slated roof, and capable of seating some 5000 persons. In the rear of the seats are the ladies and gents' rooms, comprising dressing rooms, water closets, &c., all to be fitted up with the very finest of modern improvements, and underneath, extending the whole length of the building, is the dining hall, cook rooms, etc., which will be fitted up in a style of unrivalled magnificence. Above the main building rises a sort of tower, where will be the club rooms—all in a style heretofore unthought of in this or, I think, any other country. The other buildings now erected are three stables, of handsome and commodious construction; also, two sheds, exactly resembling them in outside appearance, to drive into. I can only say, in addition, that this is destined to be the most perfect track in the country.

A FRENCHMAN has invented a new stopper for champagne bottles, the intention being to enable a glass of champagne to be drawn from a bottle without injury to what remains in the bottle.

THE lumber, turpentine and rosin trade of Pensacola, Fla., is worth 3,000,000 per annum, and a new railway connection promises to increase the amount.

DISCOVERY OF A SILK PLANT.—The Department of State has received information from the United States consul at Lambayque, Peru, that an important discovery has been recently made in Peru of the silk plant. Preparations are being made to cultivate it upon an extensive scale. The shrub grows three or four feet in height, and the silk is enclosed in a pod, of which each plant gives a great number, and is declared to be superior in fineness and quality to the production of the silk worm. It is a wild perennial, the seeds small, and easily separated from the fibre. The stems of the plant produce a long and very brilliant fibre, superior in strength and heanty to the finest linen thread. Small quantities have been woven in the rude manner of the Indians, and the texture and brilliancy are said to be unsurpassed.



Various Matters.

IMAGINATION.

AN English farmer became possessed with the idea that he had the rinderpest. His family doctor tried to laugh him out of it; this only served to confirm his vagary; he then consulted an old physician of considerable experience in human nature as well as in medicine.

Illness is sometimes imaginary, but in such cases it does no good to deride or scold; so it is sometimes with what is called nervousness; it is useless to make light of it; the feeling of suffering is the same as if it were real, and in such cases sympathy is oftentimes a more efficient remedy than derision or impatient epithet.

The wits of physicians are often called into requisition, and impromptu remedies are sometimes as efficacious as they are amusing. A titled lady once became possessed with the idea that a mouse had ran down her throat while she was sleeping with her mouth open.

A rich old toper imagined that a bottle was attached to his nose, and that if it were broken, it would let all the blood out of his body; hence his whole time was spent in guarding his nasal appendage from harm.

THE RAINING TREE.—The Island of Ferro is one of the largest in the Canary group, and it has received its name on account of its iron bound soil, through which no river or streams flow.

We have received a copy of the "Transactions of the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry" for the year 1866.

ELOQUENT PASSAGE.—The finest thing Geo. D. Prentice ever wrote is this inimitable passage: "It cannot be that earth is man's only abiding place. It cannot be that our life is a bubble east up by the ocean of eternity to float a moment upon its waves, and sink into nothingness.

THE ROMAN BED-TIME.—An immense majority of men in Rome never lighted a candle, unless sometimes at early dawn. And the custom of Rome was the custom also of all nations that lived around the great pond of the Mediterranean.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—Frederick Watts, of Carlisle; H. N. McCallister, of Bellefonte; James Miles, of Girard, Erie county; John Frazier, of the Agricultural College, and Daniel Kane, of Uniontown, have been appointed a committee to establish the three experimental and model farms authorized by the recent Act of Assembly.

OLD TREES.—There are trees in England that are computed to be about two thousand years old. The Totworth Chestnut is said to be not less than eleven hundred years old.

THE peach-growers of Delaware and Maryland, as well as of New Jersey, anticipate full crops, and the shippers of peaches to the New York market have made arrangements with the railroad companies to send seventy-five cars of peaches daily during the season.

THE Agricultural Department is in receipt of information from all sections of the country, that the wheat crop this season will be the finest produced in this country for many years.

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.

CHEERFUL PERSONS.—God bless the cheerful person, man, woman, or child, old or young, illiterate or educated, bandsome or homely. What the sun is to nature—what God is to the stricken heart which knows how to lean on Him, are cheerful persons in the house and by the wayside.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE AND THE PATRIOT FOR \$4.00 PER YEAR.

For the sum of FOUR DOLLARS, paid in advance, we will send the FARM AND FIRESIDE and the WOODSOKET PATRIOT for one year. The subscription price of the latter, alone, is \$2.50.

Marriages.

In Uxbridge, April 23, by Rev. Rushton D. Burr, Edward L. Smith of Burrillville, to Georgia Etta A. Rhodes of Uxbridge. In Grafton, April 30, by Rev. G. Robbins, James A. Richardson of Boston, to S. Emma Prentice of Grafton.

Deaths.

In this town, April 29th, Abner Aldrich, in the 61st year of his age. In Burrillville, 5th inst., Syria Shearman, aged 65 years, 4 months and 12 days. In Milford, May 2d, Miss Eda Chapin, aged 75 years.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

Table listing various farm products and their prices, including flour, corn, wheat, and other commodities.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1326; Sheep and Lambs, 2164. Spring Cattle—Extra, \$14.50@ \$15.00; first quality, \$13.25@ \$14.00; second quality, \$12.50@ \$13.00; third quality, \$11.00@ \$12.00.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

The excitement and activity in breadstuffs continues. Flour has sold freely at an advance of 25 to 50 cents per barrel. The very limited receipts and rapid depletion of the stock creates much apprehension for the future.

BOSTON SALE OF STOCKS.—May 8.

American Gold 126 1/2; United States Coupons, May, 136 1/2; United States 7-30s, 1st series, 106 1/2; United States 5-20s, 1864, 105 1/2; Hartford and Erie RR 7 1/2 5/8; Boston Water Power Co. 32; Boston and Worcester RR 139; Hartford and Erie RR 14 1/2; Copper Falls Mining Co. 22; Franklin 17; Almach b 3 1/2; New York and Boston Air Line RR 6 1/4; Yewabic Copper Co. 15.

Great American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption, and therefore organized THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, to do away, as far as possible, with these enormous drains upon the Consumers, and to supply them with these necessities at the smallest possible price.

To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American houses, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments—and some of the richest refined merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China. 2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay. And now we propose to show why we can sell so very much lower than small dealers.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the name upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars, we will, if desired, send the goods by Express, to "collect on delivery."

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$50.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show. All goods sold are warranted to give satisfaction.

PRICE LIST.

YOUNG HYSOON (Green), 50c., 90c., \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. GREEN TEAS, 80c., 90c., \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. OOLONG (Black), 70c., 80c., 90c., best \$1 per lb.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them. Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Pouch Blacks and Noyune Greens. English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the finest imported.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,

NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., CORNER OF CHURCH.

Post-Office Box No. 5,643 New-York City.

COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND ALIKE.

GROUND COFFEES, 20c., 25c., 30c., 35c., best 40c. per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in their article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c. per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866. To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York. Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubted it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa.

MARTIN LUTHER.

Table listing various tea and coffee products and their prices, including Young Hysoon, Green Teas, Oolong, and other items.

We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.—LARGE DOUBLE STORE.



The Housekeeper.

BUTTER.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY COSMO.

We know one dairyman living within forty miles of Philadelphia, who sells all his butter in town, averaging, at a guess, one hundred pounds per week the year round, always disposing of his stock as fast as he can pass it out to customers, at an advance of five to ten cents per pound above current market rates; simply because purchasers prefer paying extra prices for a superior article, to buying ordinary grease at any price. If that same dairyman were to increase his stock to one thousand, instead of one hundred pounds per week, maintaining the quality at his present standard, he would dispose of it just as readily, only of course the larger quantity would require a longer time in dealing it out.

Now as there are at a moderate calculation, within the limits of the five counties next nearest neighbors to the city, two thousand families who make butter for market, averaging say thirty pounds per dairy, if all of these would but exercise the will to make butter pretty nearly as good as that from the dairy of our model Montgomery County "Country Gentleman,"—they can do it by pursuing the same practice, and its achievement will cost no more, pound for pound, than it does to make "grease." There would be a handsome increase of their profits, and what a glorious butter millennium there would be in Philadelphia.

As we know, from enough instances in every one of the counties named, to establish the fact beyond all dispute, that just as good butter can be made in all the "region round about" Philadelphia as was ever produced in Orange, or any other county anywhere in this world, what is to hinder all other dairy men and women our way from following the lead, and making Pennsylvania East the hutter peer of the "Land of Goshen!" Nothing but the ambition and determination to do so. Our pastures are as rich as those of the Empire, or any other State. Our dairy stock is equal to the average elsewhere, the yield of milk as large, the material as rich in butter elements, and unquestionably there is quite as much intelligence among our dairy men and women as can be found among butter makers anywhere else.

What then, it will be asked, is the reason so large a proportion of the butter made in the near neighborhood, and marketed in Philadelphia, is of so inferior a quality? Let us tell the whole truth in reply, and determine to do better.

"Don't care"—is the mother of mischief in hutter making. No sloven, ever did or will make a pound of good butter. The arbitrary requisites of first class butter are always, first—good cows. Then scrupulous cleanliness in every thing from milk pail to market tub—a clean, cool place for milk—pans bright, sweet, clean, and large enough, so that with six quarts of milk in one, the depth will not exceed four inches. Cream does not rise readily from a great depth. Skim always before the milk gets sour and coagulated; skim as clean as possible, and as clear from milk. Never pour warm water into the churn to make the hutter come quick. It makes grease come first. Work the butter by hand and paddle. All butter workers so far, only break up the "grain" and make *salve*. Some salt butter to sell salt. That is a mistake. Most people imagine that hutter is salted to save it. That is a greater mistake. Butter worked until free from hutter milk will keep always as well without salt as with it. The little salt usually put into butter is not a fifth part sufficient to save it. The office of salt is only to flavor butter. So don't make it half salt. It won't sell well so high seasoned. A dessert spoonful to a pound is plenty. Work the butter over first in small lots, say five pounds. You cannot get the butter milk out of larger batches. Second working, clip, spat, hand

and paddle, in pound lumps. Never wash butter. You will wash ten times more worthlessness into than you wash out. Only wet the hand and paddle in clean water, to prevent sticking.

Observe these rules strictly, and every body can make good butter just as easily as had, and just as cheaply, and obtain the ten to twenty cents per pound more than really good butter will always readily bring than strong salty grease. The inducement ought to be sufficient to bring out a great deal more good hutter.

May, 1867.

How to CORN SHAD.—As there is no greater relish for breakfast than a corned shad, we give the following method of corning them:

The shad should be first cleaned and then thrown into a strong brine, where they should remain about three hours. They should then be taken out and packed in salt, with one ounce of saltpetre to about ten pounds of salt.

DISINFECTING AGENTS.—Either of the following will answer the purpose, while they cost but a trifle:

1. One pint of the liquor of chloride of zinc, in one pail of water, and one pound of charcoal of lime in another pail of water. This is, perhaps, the most effective of anything that can be used, and when thrown upon decayed vegetable matter of any description, will effectually destroy all offensive odor.
2. Three or four pounds of sulphate of iron (copperas) dissolved in a pailful of water will, in many cases, be sufficient to remove all of fensive odors.
3. Chloride of lime is better to scatter about damp places, in yards, in damp cellars, and upon heaps of filth.

BEEF CAKES.—Take the best sirloin of beef, one pound; boil it until soft; boil also a beef tongue until soft. Take one pound of tongue, chop it and the sirloin very fine, with quarter of a pound of suet, and a quarter of a pound of raisins. After you have made them as fine as you can, add pepper and salt to taste, also one teaspoonful of cloves, one teaspoonful of allspice, one onion chopped fine, one table-spoonful of flour. Mix all well together, form into cakes, and fry in butter.

Miscellany.

LARGE ROOT CROPS.—We notice in the Report of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, that the farm connected with the Deer Island House of Industry raised extraordinary root crops. An acre in mangolds produced 73 tons of roots, carefully weighed, and 5 tons in tops, by estimate. This acre was planted with potatoes in 1863, carrots in 1864, onions in 1865, and with mangolds in 1866. The manure, each previous year, had been 20 cords of compost of sea kelp and stable manure. In the Fall of 1865, it was heavily coated with seaweed (*Laminaria*) and the weed plowed in and re-plowed in the Spring of 1866. The seed was sown in drills 30 inches apart. Mr. Paysou, the manager of the farm, estimates the value of mangolds as equal to sugar beets, and the yield as one-third greater. The rotation and the adaptation of marine manures to mangolds, are noticeable points in this statement. On the same farm and with similar treatment, 29 tons of carrots were grown to the acre. Our shore farmers who neglect seaweeds and root crops are not living up to their privileges.

FIRING GUNS BY ELECTRICITY.—The well-known method of firing gunpowder with a platinum wire made red hot by a galvanic current has been applied to guns in France. The only novelty being in carrying two small electric hatteries in the stock, the two connecting wires of which emerge near the breech, and are so arranged as to be connected when a current is required to explode the powder.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

W. E. BARRETT & CO.,
Manufacturers of
MEAD'S PATENT CONICAL PLOWS,
SHARE'S HORSE HOES, WOOD'S AND WIGHT'S PLOWS,
GARDEN BARROWS,
CHASE'S TWO HORSE POTATOE DIGGERS,
STORE TRUCKS,
IMPROVED HINGED HARROWS, CULTIVATORS,
ROAD SCRAPERS, OX YOKES, AND PLOW CASTINGS;
And Wholesale Dealers in
HOES, SHOVELS, AXES, SCYTHES, FORKS, SNATHS, CRADLES, HORSE FORKS, HAND AND HORSE RAKES, HAY CUTTERS, CORN SHELLERS, VEGETABLE CUTTERS, PICKS, BARS, CANAL BARROWS, SUGAR MILLS, GRINDSTONES, Plain or Complete;
And Agents for
KNIFFEN'S, UNION AND PERRY'S
MOWING MACHINES,
Whitcomb's Patent Horse Rake, and the best Hay Tedder in the market. Prices low and Terms Cash.
OFFICE, 32 CANAL STREET,
PROVIDENCE, R. I.
March 23, 1867.

W. E. BARRETT & CO.,
PROVIDENCE, R. I.
Now offer at the LOWEST CASH PRICES,

- 2000 Sacks Prime Red Top.
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- 1500 Bushel Prime R. I. Bent, for Pastures.
- 300 " Seed Barley.
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- White Dutch Clover, Orchard Grass, Onion Sets, and a complete assortment of

Raised for us with great care. 200 Barrels dry ground Bone for Manure, together with all kinds of Farm Implements and Machinery.
Send for Circular of Mead's Conical Plows and Share's Horse Hoes—and don't forget the number,

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PROVIDENCE, R. I. we-if

NEW SEEDLING POTATOE.

COOKE'S RATTLER,
A new and very superior Seedling, grown by Joseph J. Cooke, Esq., of Cranston, and now offered for sale as the best LATE KIND in the market. It is a rusty coated, light red, round, great yielding; white and perfect inside, and a splendid Table Potatoe. Price, \$3.00 per bushel. Sold only by
W. E. BARRETT & CO.,
PROVIDENCE, R. I.
April 13, 1867.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Share'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.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Share's Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potato Diggers, Lufkin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at
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HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, **W. E. BARRETT & CO.,** 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

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April 13, 1867.

WHITE FRENCH TURNIP, of the purest kind, raised and sold in small or large lots, by **W. E. BARRETT & CO.,** Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

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PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.
CASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS.
233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston.
New England Agents for the

NONPARIEL FRENCH GUANO.

It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil.

Price \$60 PER TON.
Send for Circular giving full particulars.
March 9, 1867. 3m-we-9

SOUTH DOWN CO'S PATENT

Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that Infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers. Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores.

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23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts.

For sale by **KENDALL & WHITNEY,** Portland, Me.; **N. S. HARLOW,** Bangor, Me.; **SIMONDS & CO.,** Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4m-we-9

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CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS.

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R. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, FLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest

GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS,

Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted. Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ee-12

Pennsylvania.

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THE STANDARD MANURE FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS.

Manufactured by **POTTS & KLETT,** Camden, N. J.

Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUGH, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of the Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is

FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD, IN QUALITY, and is in fine condition for drilling.

Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the **RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.**

YARNALL & TRIMBLE,

General Agents for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

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419 Penn. Street, }
March 23, 1867. 3m-ee-11

New York.

J. HICKLING & CO'S GREAT SALE OF WATCHES.

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- 500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750
- 500 Magic Cased Gold Watches.....200 to 500
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- 1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....250 to 300
- 1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....200 to 250
- 3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....150 to 200
- 5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....100 to 250
- 5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....50 to 150
- 5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....75 to 250
- 5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches.....50 to 250
- 10,000 Gold Hunting Levers.....50 to 75
- 10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....50 to 100
- 25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....25 to 50
- 30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....10 to 75

Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partiality shown. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a Watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious!

A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three and elegant premium for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premium for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us!
Address, **J. HICKLING & CO.,**
149 Broadway—Near P. O. City of New York. 3m

March 22, 1867.
ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by **W. E. BARRETT & CO.,** 32 Canal Street, Providence.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



Farm and Fireside

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1857, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

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

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1867.

NO. 19.

THE KILMARNOCK WEeping WILLOW.



This is a very graceful weeping lawn tree, with broader foliage than the common weeping willow; and, like the larch, is obtained by budding or grafting on a stock of the requisite height and proportions. Budding is the mode of propagation generally adopted—the strong growing Goat Willow, suitably trained, being the stock generally employed. Many inexperienced budders fail to succeed at first in budding the Willows.

This variety, like the Larch, was introduced from Scotland; the name of the locality is familiar to all admirers of the great Scottish poet, as the place where a much dreaded personification was once seen. We trust the graceful "Kilmarnock Willow" will not harrow up any such form to the fertile imagination. These trees are termed deciduous; that is, they drop their leaves in the Autumn; but are, nevertheless (when well managed), graceful ornamental trees for the lawn and landscape.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

CAULIFLOWERS—THEIR CULTURE.

BUT few of our rural agriculturists are aware of the excellence and value of this delicious vegetable, and fewer still attempt its culture; and many who make the attempt do not succeed from some cause or other. There are none of the Brassica tribe of vegetables which are superior, if equal in delicacy, to this vegetable. Of the same family as Broccoli and Cabbage, it requires nearly the same culture. As it is not so generally known as most of our garden vegetables, and its culture not as generally successful, I propose to give some general rules for culture, preservation, &c.

To begin with, good seed is the first requisite; for if the seed is not from good stock no after culture can compensate for the fault, or give satisfactory results. Where this crop is grown for market it is generally grown as a first crop, to be ready for marketing in June or July; for a garden crop it is generally planted later. As a first or early crop, the seed should be sown in the Fall, and the plants wintered in a cold frame; or be started in a hot bed or

forcing house in January or February, and the plants picked out into boxes or the soil of another hot bed, two or three inches apart, and gradually hardened off, till the weather becomes such as to be safe to plant in the open ground; the plants being so nearly hardy, if properly hardened off they will stand several degrees of frost without injury, and little danger is apprehended in transplanting in this latitude the last of April or early in May—further South earlier. It is necessary to have the plants become well established and firmly rooted before hot, dry weather, in order that they will need copious and frequent watering, as moisture is essential to their well doing. The many failures arise mainly from a non-compliance with the foregoing suggestion. A late crop may however be grown, but with less certainty, by sowing the seed in the open ground during May, and transplanting in July; often, however, the hot, dry weather of August and September causes a failure, or a partial one, unless means for irrigation are had and used.

The cauliflower requires a soil in the highest

possible state of fertility to produce the best results. Thus far I proceed in first sowing the seed for an early crop; the treatment for a late crop being similar in all respects, except treatment of the plants, which I will not notice further at present. Between the first and third week in September, the Fall previous to planting, sow the seed in well prepared beds in drills 8 to 10 inches apart and one-half to one inch apart in the drills; in the course of four or five weeks the plants will be ready to transplant into cold frames, two or three inches apart, where they are to remain during Winter. They will need a little more care in protection than lettuce or cabbage plants, thus wintered. If this trouble is not agreeable, they may be started in a hot bed or forcing house in January or February and hardened off, as above mentioned.

Planting, &c.—As soon as the soil and weather will admit, without indicating more than ten or fifteen degrees of frost to follow, prepare the ground by heavy manuring, and well rotted manure will answer, thorough deep plowing and fining the soil by harrowing, &c. Lay off the rows and hills according to the growth of the variety—some kinds require to be planted 15 by 24, while others require 18 by 30 inches of space. Transplant in every way as you would a cabbage, using care to do the work thoroughly well. The more frequently they are hoed and the ground stirred the better they will head; therefore do not spare using the hoe among them. The early crop will be ready for market in July, or earlier, and requires very careful handling in gathering and marketing. The surplus loose leaves should be pulled off, and if the plants are carefully packed in boxes, they are much more safely and easily marketed, where it is designed to market the crop. The Winter crop for family use should be stored in the cellar, by setting the roots in fresh earth or soil, where sometimes, if not fully developed, they will perfect growth; but the rule is only in the exception; however, they keep much fresher and better with the roots in fresh soil or earth, than otherwise.

A half an acre or so will be found to be a very remunerative crop, when successfully grown early, in the vicinity of market, and marketed: as 5000 to 6000 plants may be grown on half an acre, and they will sell for from \$12 to \$15 per hundred. A few desirable sorts, which you will find described in the descriptive seed catalogues of seed dealers, are: Early Erfurt and Early Paris; for succession crop, Wellington, and perhaps others. I name these as the most general for market crops. As the plants come to maturity, and are obliged to be harvested near together, it is better to have different varieties ripening in succession. Unless harvested as soon as the heads are fully developed they are very liable to run up to seed, and thus their value as a table vegetable is destroyed.

My Riverdale Farm, May, 1867.

It is reported that in some sections of New York State the peach blossoms have been so badly frozen by the cold weather as to cause them to fall from the trees.

BUCKS COUNTY FOWLS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY CRAIG BIDDLE, ESQ., PHILADELPHIA.

The chickens which pass under this designation are not a distinct breed. For many years it has been the effort of the farmers in the vicinity of Philadelphia to supply the market with large and fine poultry. To do this, they have not confined themselves to any one breed. By persisting, year after year, in retaining the largest and best fowls to breed from, they have generally been successful in buying a good stock. When they wish to change it, they obtain from their neighbors a number of eggs, and thus obviate the danger of too close breeding. The fowls are all mongrels, and consequently their qualities are very dissimilar: some are great layers—some good sitters and careful mothers, and in a large stock this is rather desirable, as each one is allowed to do what it is most fitted for.

It has been said that many years ago the large "Malay chicken" was introduced into Bucks county, and by being crossed with the ordinary fowls of the locality, these large chickens originated. This may, or may not be so; but the main reason of their continued good qualities arises from breeding only from the finest specimens.

Persons, therefore, who get a large pair of chickens from Bucks county, expecting to raise from them a breed of chickens with any well marked peculiarities, will be likely to be mistaken. The variety must be kept up by constant selections from the finest specimens.

Americans generally have no fancy for pure breeds of anything. Whether this arises from the fact that the people themselves are a cross of all nations, I will not pretend to say; but the first idea they have in connection with any animal is to improve it—that is, to cross it with some other. There is no place where it is so difficult to get anything, from a horse to a chicken, that can be relied on to be thoroughbred, as in our country. It requires great care and great skill to keep up a stock of anything in its entire purity, and with the best disposition to do so, many people are discouraged by the trouble of it. In chickens, if you have a great variety, it is particularly troublesome. Many breeders let all their fowls go together, except in the Spring of the year, when the breeding season approaches: they are then separated and their progeny warranted pure. This simplifies the matter a great deal; but whether the fowls come up fully to the warrant, I very much doubt.

May, 1867.

PEAT-GAS.—At the Troy Gas Works, New York, the experiment of substituting peat for coal in the manufacture of gas has been tried with success. One hundred and fifteen pounds of dried peat, taken from a bed not more than three feet below the surface, yielded seven hundred and eighty-four feet of gas, or five and eighty one-hundredths of gas to the pound, while from the best coal used at the works the yield of gas does not exceed four feet and forty-one hundredths to the pound. The cost of peat is much less per ton than that of the coal usually employed.

FEEDING FOWLS.—There is nothing gained by feeding your laying hens as though you were fattening them for market. Especially will this remark apply while they are running out. This thing of over-eating is hurtful to anything that eats. It is natural for a fowl to be on the look-out the most of her time, and swallow a grain at a time as it is found, and thrive best living in this manner. Feed fowls a little at a time, and often. Grown fowls should not be fed less than three times per day. I find if I over-feed fowls, they go off in some corner and sit down and chill, if the weather is cold; whereas, had I given them half as much, they would continue moving round, feeling well, and seemingly getting that exercise that their nature requires, by keeping their blood in healthy circulation. By this means the hens are better off, and a great per centage of eggs saved.—Seaver's New Poultry Book.





Field and Farm.

FENCES.

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

THERE are few things more annoying on a farm than poor fences, and costly as is a good fence, it is much more economical than a poor one. Whoever has found his oxen "strayed off" just at the moment when he needed them to get in a load of hay, or after a hard day's work has spent the evening in looking for missing cows, or on rising in the morning has discovered his neighbors' cattle treading down and destroying his piece of premium corn, knows the vexation of spirit which a poor fence causes. It is not merely the loss of time and money which such a fence produces, but the disappointment of one's plans, the suffering of the feelings, the loss of self-respect, and the ill will between neighbors; these are the great evils for which money is no compensation. As far as our observation goes, poor fences are the cause of half the trouble between neighboring farmers, and are certainly a great drawback on the profits of the farm. The subject of fencing therefore demands attentive consideration from all who have a regard to good neighbors and an eye to profit. How and where to construct the fences is the first question with every purchaser of a piece of land. In the first place, let him count the cost. Few are aware how expensive fencing is. If a farm contains an hundred acres, all lying together in the form of a perfect square, the most economical one for fencing, the cost of enclosing it with a board fence at the low price of one dollar per rod, will amount to over five hundred dollars; and if such a farm is divided into four equal lots, by fences running through the center at right angles with each other, the cost will exceed seven hundred and fifty dollars. The purchaser of a quarter section of government land will pay, at government price, two hundred dollars for his one hundred and sixty acres, and the expense of fencing will exceed three times this amount. Allowing that his neighbors will pay for one half of this, still the stubborn fact remains that the fence costs much more than the land, and there are many farms, even in our favored New England, that may be bought to-day for less than the fences have cost. The question how and where to build our fences, is therefore of some importance, and grows more important as fencing material becomes scarce.

Where the land abounds with stone, there is no question but that a stone wall properly constructed, is the cheapest and most economical fence, for in this case we carry out the adage of "killing two birds with one stone." Not only is a permanent fence built, but the land is freed from an incumbrance. There is no reason why a wall should not last for successive generations, but we see no such permanency in most of the walls hitherto built. They are crumbling and sprawling about as though they possessed the power of motion, and were not subject to the general law of the inertia of matter. The trouble is, that most of our walls have been laid on top of the ground, and often in wet places, so that the settling of the stones, and the frost, have speedily demolished what seemed at first a nice piece of work. If this surface soil were first removed, we should have a good material for the compost heap, and a good bed for the wall. Some recommend that a ditch be dug to a depth that the frost will not penetrate, and filled up with small stone as a foundation for the wall. This may be necessary in some places, but generally, if the surface soil be removed and the bottom stones of the wall placed on the hard pan, the foundation will remain sure. Walls should never be built except where a permanent fence is required. On the boundary lines, they serve the double purpose of fences and "ancient land marks," which Solomon cautions us against removing.

The perishable nature of all wooden fences, exposed as they are to the weather, and more or less to the catalytic influence of decaying

vegetable matter in the soil, has led to the desire for a more permanent structure of iron, and it was thought for a time that in iron wire we had found a cheap and permanent substitute for the post and board, and the unsightly crooked rail fences. The experiments thus far have not resulted in favor of the wire. The wire fences, so extensively constructed by the side of our railroads and on our farms, have mostly given place to the old structures of wood. The wires were found soon to become as crooked and as unsightly as Virginia rails, and less serviceable. A cheap and at the same time comely iron fence is so desirable, that we do not feel disposed to abandon further experiment, and hope some Yankee will yet devise a pattern that will give satisfaction, and thus save our timber for more fitting uses. For ornamental grounds, we have iron fences that are all that can be desired, except in cost, but for the present, on our farms, we must be content, when stone arc not found, with rails and boards. The former made of split chestnut, and well laid up from the ground, make an efficient and enduring fence, easily put up and removed and easily repaired. We can testify that chestnut rails will last for half a century, for those that we laid over in our boyhood, looking at that time venerable from age, are still, after the lapse of forty years, doing good service. The objection to rails laid in the usual crooked Virginia fashion is that they occupy too much land, and if laid straight, with mortised posts, are a deformity to the landscape. The latter is an inferior objection in the eyes of most farmers, but is worthy of consideration. No one would like a rail fence in front of his house, and why not? "Because it does not look well." Very true; and when does it begin to look well?—at five, or ten, or fifty rods distance from the house? We never saw a rail fence that laid any claim to beauty, except the beauty of utility, no matter where laid.

The post and board fence is much more comely, occupies less land, and if the parts are placed on stone and braced, is very enduring. The cost of a board fence in most localities is more than that of one constructed of rails, but if the land is valuable, the increased expense may be more than compensated by the land saved.

What we desire especially to call attention to is, the unnecessary amount of fencing on most of our farms. Our fathers seemed, in some instances, to have a mania for cutting up their farms into small lots. Lumber was cheap and fence building served seemingly as pastime to them. The fashion was to surround every house with a fence, whether as a barricade against cattle or Indians, we hardly know. Often three or four fences led from the house and barns to the road, giving a "pent up Utica" appearance to the whole premises. We have a distinct remembrance of the back-aching process of carrying the cocks of hay, on long poles from the large door-yard of our father's premises, as there was no gate to it large enough for a cart to pass through. Why this large front yard should be so sacredly inclosed with an expensive fence, we never knew. Our childish impression was that it was a sort of inner sanctum, which the foot of an ox or a horse should never pollute. We are glad to notice that these barricades around our houses have gone out of fashion, and that the inner division fences of our farms are fast diminishing. They are expensive, occupy more land than is generally supposed, for a plow cannot well run nearer than eighteen inches to them, are very inconvenient in cultivation, and in passing from one part of the farm to another; and, lastly, are unsightly, even in their best state. A farm cut up into small lots always reminds us of the old fashioned bed-quits which our grandmothers used to piece up, and so fond were they of the little triangles, squares and pentagons, that they would sometimes cut up whole cloth into little pieces, and then sew them together again. This sewing doubtless served a good purpose in keeping our mothers and aunts out of mischief, and inducing habits of industry, but it is not worth while to ravel out a stocking and then knit it up again for the

sake of being industrious. If we must cut up our farms into piece work, let us at least imitate our grandmothers in making the lots into squares, and not into trapeziums and other inconvenient forms, such as Euclid never dreamed of, and a common surveyor is puzzled to describe.

May, 1867.

Horticulture.

GARDENING FOR WOMEN.

THERE is nothing better for wives and daughters, physically, than to have the care of a garden—a flower plot, if nothing more. What is pleasanter than to spend a portion of every passing day in working among plants and watching the growth of shrubs, and trees, and plants, and to observe the opening of flowers, from week to week, as the season advances? Then, how much it adds to the enjoyment, to know that your own hands have planted and tilled them, and have pruned and trained them. This is a pleasure that requires no great riches nor profound knowledge. The humble cottage of the laboring poor, not less than their grounds, may be adorned with pot plants, which in due time will become redolent of rich perfume, not less than radiate with beauty; thus ministering to the love of the beautiful in nature.

The wife and daughter who loves home, and would seek ever to make it the best place for husband and brother, is willing to forego some gossiping morning calls, for the sake of having leisure for the cultivation of plants, and shrubs, and flowers. The good housewife is early among her plants and flowers, as is the husband at his place of business. They are both utilitarians, the one it may be in the abstract, and the other in the concrete, each as essential to the enjoyment of the other, as are the real and ideal in human life. The lowest utilitarianism would labor only for the meat that perisheth. Those of higher and nobler views, would labor with no less assiduity for the substantial things of life, but would in addition, seek also those things which elevate and refine the mind and exalt the soul.

The advantages which woman personally derives from stirring the soil, and snuffing the morning air, are freshness and beauty of cheek, and brightness of eye, cheerfulness of temper, vigor of mind, and purity of heart. Consequently she is more cheerful and lovely as a daughter, more dignified and womanly as a sister, and more attractive and confiding as a wife.

Hence the fruits and products of garden culture, as they relate to woman, when viewed objectively, are but small, relatively, as compared with the benefits secured in regard to herself, as the center of social refinement and enjoyment, amid such a world as ours. A husband who revolves round such a center, cannot but be a good neighbor, a useful citizen, a kind father, a loving and confiding companion. Do not, then, mothers and sisters, the latter wives in prospect, neglect the garden.

TREE MIGNONETTE.

A FEW seeds of the large-flowered Mignonette should be sown, and the pot should be kept in a window till the young plants appear. Very little watering is sufficient at first, and a little moss or a piece of paper is a sufficient shade till the seeds have sprouted, just by way of preventing much watering. A North window, or still better one Northeast or Northwest is the best place for the seedlings during the Summer months. They must be thinned at once to three, and after a week or two, only one should be left. A little earthing up is extremely useful, as the young plants seem somehow apt to get twisted round. As soon as one stem is tall enough to require tying, it should be fastened loosely to the stick awaiting it. And from the first every appearance of flower buds should be at once cut out with a pair of sharp-pointed scissors. The little side branches also should be stopped, that is,

pinched at the point, as soon as they begin to make a second pair of leaves. And after three or four months the little shortened branches may be themselves by degrees cut off. The leaves, however, are rather precious at first, as helping greatly to advance the growth and to feed the plant.

On a Summer's evening the plants may be watered thoroughly overhead, with a fine hose or syringe, and if preserved from the frost or damp and kept in a light place, they will begin to be shrubby by next Spring, when perhaps one or two might be let begin to flower. They last for many years when once well trained, and are very useful from their Winter flowering.—*London Gardener's Monthly.*

SULPHURING TREES.

ALL homœopaths are familiar with the extraordinary virtues of sulphur as a remedial agent in all the ailments that human flesh is heir to, but its "sphere of usefulness" (to use a rather cant phrase) is extraordinary still further. Since Claude Bernard has destroyed one of the grand distinctions between the animal and vegetable kingdoms, by showing that all animals produce sugar in their livers as decidedly as if they were beets or sugar-canes, we shall be more ready to share the benefits of our medicaments with our vegetating fellow-creatures. It has long been known that sulphur exercised a most beneficial effect on the health of the grape-vine, and M. Rouband has now discovered that it is equally useful for sick orange trees. During twenty consecutive days he "sulphured" his trees, taking care to perform the operation before sunrise, and he found that all symptoms of the disease gradually disappeared, and the plants manifested new activity of vegetation. The olive tree is equally benefited by this treatment.

It is probable that many other plants, especially those whose maladies are due to the presence of minute worms in the bark (a disease that finds its human analogy in that known in the polite world as *scabies*, for which sulphur constitutes the standard treatment), would be saved from early decay by this remedy; and those florists who would find a serious difficulty in getting up before sunrise to wait upon their plants, may be glad to know that after sunset is a moment equally propitious.

CULTURE OF THE ROSE.—There is no flowering shrub or plant requires manuring so much as the rose, which produces such a large quantity of flowers that the soil within reach of the roots soon becomes exhausted of those ingredients which are necessary for sustaining the health and vigor of the plant. Well-rotted cow manure is best for the rose, and as the plant is a gross feeder, a liberal supply will be required. Moderate root pruning has a very good effect in conjunction with manuring.

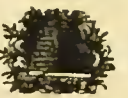
THE BLACK KNOT.—If your trees are infested with this pest, cut them down, and ask your neighbors to do the same. It requires some nerve to do it, but there is no other alternative. A single case may be removed with the knife, but if they are abundant, better attack them at once. You will only be vexed by seeing a new crop in tenfold numbers if you delay the operation, however hard it may be to do it.

AMONG the large vegetables on record grown in California, are the following: A mangel-wurtzel that weighed 118 pounds, a cabbage head of 53 pounds, a turnip of 26 pounds, a sweet potato of 15 pounds, a carrot of 10 pounds, an onion of 47 ounces, and a pumpkin of 260 pounds.

CALIFORNIA is exchanging plants with the Sandwich Islands. A few months ago a collection of California plants was sent to Honolulu, and recently the compliment was returned in the shape of a variety of palms, mangoes, bananas, alligator pear, ratan and lillies and other flowers, sent to San Francisco for free distribution. This is a movement of the agricultural societies.

FARM LANDS IN CALIFORNIA.—Land is plenty and cheap in California. The government offers sixty acres as a gift to every man who will live on and cultivate it for four years, or it will sell him land at \$1 25 per acre and he can live on it or not, as he pleases. There are thousands of acres of fertile soil within a hundred miles of San Francisco, waiting for men to accept them as gifts. The abundance of unoccupied public lands tends to keep down the price of private lands, and the best farming land in the State is not worth more than \$100 per acre. The average value of the cultivated land is about \$20 per acre. Want of facilities for getting to market has delayed the settlement of the agricultural sections of the State, but the construction of railroads will remove this obstacle, and it is believed very soon.





The Fireside Muse.

THE FARMER.

THE farmer is lord of the cattle; The farmer is king of the soil; Though his brow may be darkened by sunlight, His hands may be browned by his toil.

He looks o'er his fields and his orchards, With joy, when his day's work is o'er, For he knows the seed planted in Spring time, In Summer will yield a rich store.

He sees God in nature around him; The flower that blooms on the plain, Though dying in Winter—in Summer Will blossom in beauty again.

The corn that is dropped in the furrow, By sunshine expands into birth— Its rich ears of gold in the Autumn, Add beauty and grandeur to earth.

The grass that is withered and dying, The trees, though now leafless and bare, Will spring into life and new verdure, Which proves immortality there.

The seed that is sown by the wayside, Whether of tares or of wheat, Takes root in the soil that surrounds it, And starts into life while we sleep.

Nothing is lost, or is wasted, That lies 'neath the richly turned sod: The "seed time and harvest shall fail not," If you trust in the promise of God.

"By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou labor," Though weary, faint not, but endure— A crown of the faithful awaits thee, For God and His promise is sure.

General Miscellany.

WASHING WOOL IN GERMANY.

GERMAN wool is equally quoted as the standard for cleanness as well as fineness. It will not be amiss to give some idea of the pains taken in some of the best districts, to wash the wool before shearing. It is taken from a very valuable paper on German Agriculture, in the last Patent Office Report:—

Washing Sheep at Aleruth, in Hungary.—The process of washing is done under the roof, and, accordingly, no sudden or rainy weather can interfere with it. Before the shower bath is administered to the sheep, their dirt and pitch has been dissolved or loosened. For this purpose a soaking vat is put up, which is covered and tightly put together of strong plank or boards. It is filled with hot water, equal to eighty four degrees Fahrenheit; the sheep are then placed in two lines and constantly handled until the yolk and dirt are dissolved, which ordinarily takes from fifteen to twenty minutes. The solvent effects of hot water are increased by adding a few pounds of potash, and also by the lye arising from the natural oily matter of the wool. The sheep, being well soaked, are placed under shelter, where they have to wait their turn of the shower bath, in order that the animal, now so much heated, may not pass immediately from the hot soaking vat into the shower bath, this being from sixty-one to sixty-three degrees Fahrenheit. The water is let upon the sheep through a hole, with a strainer upon the end. It falls with considerable velocity, and is brought to bear upon all parts of the sheep until the wool is of a snowy whiteness. The sheep are then driven to a warm, dry shelter and shorn as soon as the wool is dry, generally about the sixth day. On an average, forty sheep are thus washed in an hour."

A FARMER wrote as follows to a distinguished scientific agriculturist, to whom he felt under obligations for introducing a variety of swine: "Respected sir—I went yesterday to the cattle show. I found several pigs of your species. There was a great variety of hogs, and I was astonished at not seeing you there."

THE inventor of the Bessemer process of converting pig iron directly into steel, enjoys an income of half a million a year.

CHRISTIANITY was born in the heaven of truth and love; therefore it stoops with a special emphasis of compassion to the lowliest of earth.

THE CHAMELEON. ITS CHANGES OF COLOR AND MANNER OF TAKING FOOD.

MR. COUCH, an English naturalist, had excellent opportunities for observing the changes of color and modes of taking food in the chameleon. The one in his possession measured ten inches in length, of which the tail was four and a half inches. Its eyes were black and lively, and the pupil deeply seated in a hole scarcely larger than would be made with a pin. The movement of each eye was independent of the opposite, and they were rarely directed at one object except when the creature was intent on seizing prey. The movements were very slow and deliberate, especially when on the ground. Its color was subject to continual change, but if a creature that rarely retains the same hue for ten minutes together can be said to possess one which may be termed its own, it was dusky brown, or almost black, nearly approaching to the darkness of soot. The light was of more importance to it than the heat, and when basking in the sun, even the mouth was opened to receive the influence. A dingy black was its common color when thus enjoying itself. Both sides did not always adopt the same colors, for while the one towards the light was dark brown the other side would perhaps be light yellow, with white spots. On one occasion when the stick on which it rested was touched gently, without waking it, it became instantly covered all over with minute brown spots. On another, when the color was altogether yellow, a hook was held so as to cast a space on the anterior part of the body, while a candle was held within four inches of the hindmost portion; and then presently the illuminated part changed to a light brown, while the shaded portion remained as before, and when the screen was removed the exact limit of the shade was visible. The general belief in its faculty to live without food or drink, and to subsist wholly upon air was proved to be incorrect. It required water about once in a fortnight, and was very fond of flies. It not only took all that came in its way, but would seize them as fast as children would bring them; and it even became so familiar with the act as to take them repeatedly from the hand. It was thus easy to measure the distance to which it was able to dart its tongue in seizing its prey, which was found to be six inches—or rather more than the length of its body. The fly would adhere to the tongue by means of a tenacious mucous with which it was covered. On the approach of cold weather its activity was greatly lessened, and it slept a greater portion of the time. The sunshine would always reanimate it, but artificial heat produced little effect. Its color was varied, and when at last it was found dead, the general hue of its surface was dark.

MR. NORDENSKIÖLD, the distinguished Swedish geologist, announces a discovery of bituminous gneiss, a real organic substance formed of the remains of plants or animals, imbedded in layers of gneiss and mica schist. He considered infiltration impossible in the case, and the inference is that organic life existed on the earth far back in what has hitherto been considered the azoic age. Thus the savans keep overturning their own foundations.

A FRANK MAN.—The most agreeable of all companions is a simple, frank man, without any high pretensions to an oppressive greatness; one who loves life, and understands the use of it; obliging alike at all hours; above all, of a golden temper, and steadfast as an anchor. For such a one we gladly exchange the greatest genius, the most brilliant wit, the profoundest thinker.

A YANKEE captain was caught in the jaws of a whale, but was finally rescued, badly wounded. On being asked what he thought while in that situation he replied: "I thought he would make about forty barrels."

BEEES IN BRETAGNE, FRANCE.

BEEES occupy a prominent and important position in the household in Bretagne, where they are regarded and treated as members of the family. All interesting occurrences affecting the welfare of the family are formally announced to them. When a child is born, the father, accompanied by the eldest son, (if there be one old enough to walk), arrayed in his best Sunday dress, proceeds to the apiary, and passing from hive to hive, announces the glad tidings, and decorates each hive with a scarlet scarf. When a marriage engagement is made, the fact is announced in like manner, the lady conducting her betrothed to the apiary, and presenting him to each colony. On the wedding day each hive is decorated with crimson trappings; and, on the following morning, the bridal-wreath is suspended on the stock which the owner regards as the best, and is left hanging there till sunset. When this has been done, the young husband feels assured that his wife will prove to be a very frugal and industrious helpmate, and that happiness and prosperity will attend them through life.

But the bees are not expected to take an interest alone in the joyful events of the family. They are also apprised in due form of any mournful occurrences. Every death is announced by a messenger arrayed in black, with crape trailing from his hat and left arm; and every hive also is immediately invested in crape, which remains there so long as the family themselves wear mourning, unless meanwhile some joyous event occur, requiring to be communicated by message, when the crape is removed, and the crimson trappings substituted.

The origin of these singular customs is unknown. Probably they arose from a regard to the great value and importance of bee-culture in the district, especially of Lower Bretagne. The immense plains there covered with blooming heather at the proper season, supply the bees with inexhaustible pasturage, and thousands of hives are seen there every Summer, without the guardianship of any superintendent. Yet robbing or theft is altogether unknown there.—Bee Journal.

CHICORY.

AT no time in the history of this plant, has it played so important a part in commerce as to-day. All the coffee sold ground is adulterated with it, and it gives to ground peas and ground bread crust, which browned, are converted into much of the "East India," "Rio," and other brands of "coffee" found at the grocer's, that flavor so essential to the good reputation of all these several imitations of Mocha. Chicory is a perennial plant in its native localities, growing wild in various parts of Europe. It is hardy, and thrives well upon feeble and light soils. It is cultivated extensively in Europe for cattle food, and especially for its root, which is used as the substitute for coffee. For the purpose of soiling, it is classed as among the most valuable and remunerative crops. The leaves are highly useful for sheep and swine, and are eaten with avidity by neat cattle, although some writers consider that they impart an unpleasant flavor to the milk of cows. In Lombardy and the South of France, chicory constitutes a large proportion of their choicest meadows, and is described as imparting to them a most brilliant aspect by its gorgeous and luxuriant vegetation. The plant grows to a gigantic size, and yields an immense harvest of highly nutritious fodder for both soiling and haying. When intended for grazing or hay, chicory should be sown early in the Spring. The plants are allowed to stand until they attain their perfect growth, but should be cut previous to flowering, and treated in the curing like any other succulent vegetable. Chicory is the plant earnestly recommended many years ago by Arthur Young, to the English farmers, for introduction to their husbandry in reference to its valuable qualities for grazing. We believe, however, that its cultivation in England is

quite limited. Chicory is cultivated in Flanders and Germany for the root, and it is for this culture that it is especially valuable in this country to-day. In this culture it is planted in drills, with the rows a foot or eighteen inches apart, and the plants at thinning being left with a space of about six inches between. About four pounds of seed are required for an acre. In this tillage the land should be plowed or trenches dug, and be rich and mellow. A strong and heavy soil is the most favorable for the production of roots. Chicory requires very similar treatment to the carrot or parsnip. In appearance the root is not unlike the latter vegetable. It commonly grows from one to two feet in height, although its filaments penetrate much deeper. The roots should be taken up in September, when they will have reached the size of a small carrot. They are cut into pieces and dried in a kiln, and are then ready for market. When intended for use they are roasted and ground. The roots of chicory are also used in the manufacture of beer as a substitute for hops. They contain a strong bitter which may be extracted by infusion. The majority of the chicory sold in this country is imported; indeed, it is possible that about all the chicory now being incorporated into the pea mixture in order to impart the "Old Government Java" flavor, is of foreign growth, and we call the attention of our farmers to the fact that the crop will pay well, if properly attended to.

IMITATING AN EMPEROR.

THE following anecdote exhibits the late Emperor of Russia in a new character, as well as records one of the most happy escapes from an awkward position that wit and presence of mind might afford:

Some years ago there was a celebrated comic actor at St. Petersburg, named Martinoff. He had the most extraordinary powers of imitation, and was so great a favorite with the public as sometimes to venture interpolations of his own, instead of following the advice of Hamlet to his players, "to speak no more than is set down for them."

The Emperor had a high chamberlain, or person filling a similar office, named Poloffsky.

Whether for fun or malice, Martinoff, while performing, contrived to let fly some puns against this great man, which were warmly received by the audience.

The consequence was, as soon as the play was over, the actor found himself in the custody of a guard of soldiers, who took him to prison, where he was told he was to be confined for a fortnight.

Not content with this, Poloffsky either told the Emperor himself, or contrived that it should come to his ears, that the player had actually had the presumption to indulge in imitations of his imperial majesty.

On his liberation, Martinoff went to court, to pay his respects as usual, and the Emperor told him of the accusation, which he denied.

"Well," said the Emperor, "if you never did so, let us have an imitation of myself now. We know you can do so if you choose."

This was an awkward and dangerous position for the poor actor, who felt he should get into trouble for falling short or overdoing the character.

Still the autocrat was determined, and there was no escape.

Suddenly a bright thought struck the actor, and drawing himself up, he assumed the exact bearing and manner of the Emperor, and in a voice so like his, that it made every one present start, said:

"Poloffsky, give Martinoff (himself) a thousand silver roubles!"

"Stop!" said the Emperor. "I have heard quite enough. The imitation is admirable, but the entertainment promises to be too expensive. Give him the roubles, Poloffsky; and now mind, sir, let this be the last time you ever dare to mimic me, here or else where."

It is, of course, unnecessary to say that Martinoff was too glad to pocket the money and escape so well.

SAVE THE SOAP SUDS.—"I say now that arc is a wicked waste, neighbor Flandry?" "What! uncle Enoch? Dunno as I quite understand ye." "Why, throwin' out and wastin' that way, all them soap suds the way your gals there is doin'." "What is soap suds worth, uncle Enoch?" "Bout a hundred dollars, what your folks'll make 'tween now and spring. Ourn was worth more'n that last winter." "Why, what in natur do you do with soap suds to make 'em worth that, uncle Enoch?" "We save every mite of our suds and dish water for the garden and truck patch, splashin' it over the ground 'bout once a week all Winter. It's good for gooseberries and currants, and kills a powerful lot of hogs, and beetles, and pesky worms, and fattens the ground more'n a hundred dollars' worth besides."—Saturday Evening Post.



Grape Culture.

SKETCH OF THE HOCKHEIMER VINEYARDS.

The following interesting sketch is taken from the "Transactions of the Rhode Island Society for the encouragement of Domestic Industry in the year 1866":—

NASHAWAUG, WEST KILLINGLY, June 18, 1866.
MY DEAR SIR:—

A long, dull, rainy day in the country offers the opportunity of doing what I long since proposed to you, as a matter of general interest to wine-growers, and as an act of just acknowledgment to the very gentlemanly proprietor of the "Victoria Hockheimer Vineyards." And although more time has elapsed since the exercise of his courtesy, and my recital of it, than I intended or anticipated, and the draft upon my memory may not be as fully met and honored as I could wish, yet you are well aware of this being my first leisure moment, and will sustain my appeal for any omissions or inaccuracies being gently regarded.

On the 20th of October last, accompanied by the Consul General of the United States at Frankfort-on-the-Main, Hon. Wm. Walton Murphy and Dr. Lacy of California, I left Frankfort for Mayence, (about two hours ride per rail-way,) to meet by appointment, Mr. Henry Pabstmann of Mainz, in a visit to Hockheim, on the east bank of the Rhine, and nearly opposite the city of the proprietor's residence. It was intended, (as was afterwards ascertained by our host's generous and delicate hospitality,) that the ladies of our several guests should have been of the party, but only one of them, "homeward bound," accompanied us, and from motives of propriety, declined to interfere with the otherwise strictly male gathering. We met at the vineyard, Mr. Chr. Ad. Kupferberg, an extensively and honorably known merchant of Mayence. The vineyards were about a mile south of the village, and situated most favorably upon the western slope of the hill forming the river bank. At the entrance of the vineyard, large wooden tubs were placed, having east iron fluted rollers over them, for the purpose of crushing the grapes (but not the seed) to pulp, as they were brought in the peculiar wooden vessels, so universal upon the continent for carrying burdens, strapped over the shoulders of the carriers, male and female. As soon as a tub is filled, it is taken immediately to the press to preserve the freshness of flavor and quantity of juice. Entering by steps the enclosure, the vintagers—women neatly dressed and attractive in person—were observed, stooping over the vines, as the grapes were most skillfully cut in bunches and placed carefully in small baskets, (containing perhaps a half-peck) flat and round, to prevent the bruising or crushing of the fruit. Our approach being observed, a peculiar song or shout of welcome greeted us, and girls bearing baskets of the most luscious fruit, came to us, wiping our boots with grape leaves, and offering with cheerful smiles the tempting grapes. A small *douccur* to each was given, that no jealousy or rivalry might be caused; and the same consideration in taking fruit from *all*, was observed, although two or three of them were prettier and more attractive than others. This ceremony over, we came to the vintagers, and were impressed with their appearance of cheerfulness and intelligence. The fruit is most adroitly cut close to the vine, by a long, thin, sharp knife, and handled with extreme care. Any that is defective is not gathered until the best is collected. During the gathering, the vintager's songs lighten the labor, and are peculiar in composition and melody. The overseer constantly discharged a carbine pistol, to keep away the birds, and possibly to remind us of his presence and position, of which we would otherwise have been indifferent. As the baskets were filled, they were emptied into the tub-like appendage on the back of the attendants, and carried to the crushing rollers at the entrance. Great care in selecting the grapes by the vintagers is necessary, as on each vine there may be three different qualities and values of fruit. The first and most rare is the

dried, brown, raisin-like fruit, containing the largest quantity of rich, saccharine matter. The second quality are those bunches which have had the most exposure to the sun. And the third, those having less, and more imperfectly ripened. The purple grape is considered the best for eating. The wine grape is the small, yellowish brown fruit, almost transparent in its perfection. The vines are planted in regular rows, four feet wide and eighteen inches apart. Three buds or shoots are set out, and the two most thrifty selected for cultivation. They are trained upon stakes about four feet high; weeded or dressed five times in a season. Two branches on each vine, of the previous year's growth, are selected for bearing, the others being removed. Mr. Pabstmann's vineyards are monuments to his father's and to his own patient, persevering effort and skill. The soil is prepared four feet deep by trenching successively the whole field, using freely of fertilizers with the soil, (that from the cows being considered the best,) and top dressing six inches with clay. The vines are considered as being at maturity and bearing in the fourth year's growth. They are planted by making holes with an iron rod, nearly as deep as the soil has been prepared.

The manner of placing them so as to ensure the most sunlight is regulated by the overseer or proprietor, who places his stakes at the half hour past meridian, in order to observe the falling of the shadow, and selecting the opposite as the best exposure for the vine. The value of any year's vintage is regulated by the quality of the grape and not by the productiveness. The value of the wine being from five and a half florins per dozen (\$2.33), to seven, eight, and ten florins per bottle, (\$2.97 and \$4.25 per bottle), and this fact shows the absurdity of supposing any given wine to be of uniform value or quality. The poorest of all may be as legitimately "Hockheimer," costing twenty-five cents per bottle, as the Victoria Hockheimer of Mr. Pabstmann worth four and a half and five dollars the bottle. In fact, notwithstanding this gentleman's high reputation for integrity and veracity, he has been (and I think is now), subjected to an onerous expense and difficulty in defending a suit brought against him by the United States Government, through the Collector of San Francisco, for destroying the customs revenue. He shipped to San Francisco, in 1865, ten thousand bottles of his wines, invoiced at 5½ florins per dozen, which was the price at which he had sold large quantities of the same at home,—the wine *not* being the "Victoria Hockheimer," but still Hockheimer wine. He paid seven thousand florins duties and expenses, making the cost of the shipment about twelve thousand florins (\$5000), or fifty cents per bottle. Some sagacious connoisseurs hearing of it, and having probably paid three and four dollars per bottle for his Hockheimer, immediately announced the fact and supposed fraud, and the result has been a most aggravated and expensive litigation to Mr. Pabstmann in making the statement of the facts and defending his reputation, which as he remarked, "was of more value to him than any vintage of his choicest wines." So much for the *connoisseurs* of imported wines!

The average yield of a vineyard is not far from 1500 bottles per German aker or morgew of forty thousand square feet, (equal to about thirty-nine thousand square feet English). The average return of profit on the capital employed is from three to four per cent. annually on the vintages of ten successive years. The pay of the overseer of every ten akers is about twenty-five florins per aker yearly, (about \$100), and no *perquisites*. The women receive twenty-four kreutzers per day (sixteen cents), during the vintage season, and the wages of the laborers in preparing a vineyard from forty to fifty kreutzers per day, (twenty-seven to thirty-four cents). During the fruit growing seasons the Communes support a requisite number of guards, who are on duty day and night, discharging fire-arms to prevent the depredations of birds and robbers. Without this precaution I was assured the yield of the vineyards would not be worth

the gathering. The vintage season is sometimes in September, generally in October, and has been in December, regulated entirely by the character of the seasons and maturity of the fruit. From the first vineyards of our gentlemanly host, we went to a more favorite and celebrated one, called "Victoria" in honor of Queen Victoria, who honored the late Mr. Pabstmann, senior, with her presence and patronage, in commemoration of which, a tasteful stone monument was erected at the time of her visits in 1851 and 1854, by the road side. As we walked we came to one of those primitive customs, to which reference is made in the Bible. Two half-grown boys or young men, with heavy soled boots were crushing the grapes (brought from poorer vineyards), in a large tub, by constant tramping, literally treading out of the wine-press. In the bottom of the tub were square holes through which the pulp was forced into others below, and the process was incessant so long as the supply lasted, or muscle did not fail. This Victoria vineyard is receiving the most careful and scientific treatment from Mr. Pabstmann. New modes of cultivation, preparation of soil, use of different fertilizers, crushing rollers, presses, and everything connected with the highest perfection of production and quantity is receiving his unremitting attention; and, as he remarked, "his ambition was not the accumulation of wealth, but a reputation for skill and success that should challenge competition or rivalry."

Returning by the Duke of Nassau's properties (vineyards), to another of more recent purchase, but of ancient use, which our host was preparing, the mode of preparation was shown to us by trenching and filling as before described. The subsoil was a compact clay-bed, and the roots of the old vines had formed almost a net-work over it as they had sought its moisture but could not penetrate it. An easy walk brought us to the *bachelor* establishment of mine host. And as the expression may not be devoid of interest to many of your fair friends, it may be remarked "in passing" that it is a reproach to their sex that it can be used, as he has a full "physique," is young, intelligent, refined and courteous. Our first inspection was of the press-room where the fresh pulp from the vineyards was constantly being brought. An ingenious machine for separating the pulp from the stems was worked by hand. It was a long cone-like wire screen (like a coal-screen), turning upon a shaft, in an obliquely horizontal position, the small end or bearing being raised and dropped in revolving, by passing over a star-gear, and jostling the stems through the wires, the pulp passing out of the smaller end, being shovelled in at the upper and larger. There were four large four-inch screw lever presses of ordinary form and make. The wine vaults were our next objects of inspection, and we entered them by a stone stair-way some fifteen steps down, and found them large, airy, well arched ventilated apartments of an agreeable temperature. There were two hundred casks, of a capacity each of fifteen hundred bottles; each one marked, numbered and registered with the most exact scrupulousness. Upon a long table were samples of twenty-three of these casks, in fine clear glasses, awaiting our examination and criticism. Here was the place for Hockheimer connoisseurs. As to any ability on our part of tasting, or expressing an opinion it were worse than folly. But we observed Mr. Kupferberg, mine host, and his principal agent and *taster*, referring more frequently to the aroma or fragrance, than to the taste, which they characterized as being "smooth, rough, bottle-taste, etc." No artificial fermentation is adopted; no clarifying except the natural effect of atmosphere, repose, and extreme care in bottling. Mr. Pabstmann related an amusing anecdote of a New York dealer who was in urgent need of some wines. He purchased some of him of ordinary quality, and without waiting for natural effect, put mustard seed into the casks, shipped it home and astonished his friends and Mr. P. by his advertisement of his "sparkling Hockheimer."

Emerging from this subterranean hall of supposed knowledge and qualifications on the part of its visitors, we came to the banquet room where the fruits and flowers expressed most eloquently the loss to our fair friends and our host's intended delicate compliment and extreme disappointment. "The bill of fare" was one of luxuries in fish, meats, game and dessert. Five kinds of his choicest wines, the rarest of others, and cordials, including the most *recherche* of all stimulants, the "Legure" from a French monastery, tempted the temperance proclivities of your correspondent most sorely, and but for coffee, "the deponent further saith not!" Last of the feast, roasted chestnuts and new wine from the press were brought in, as our host informed us that it would be considered a signal breach of etiquette if these were ever omitted in the offering to guests during the vintage season in every wine district.

At the table our national affairs received the liveliest discussion and warmest sympathy, and the German heart, here as everywhere, beat in strongest pulsations of love and loyalty to the principles of our noble Institutions and Republic; and if ever treason appeared deep dyed in infancy it was when its demon-like nature and action was portrayed by foreign lips.

Dinner over, we wended our way to the railway station for Castel, opposite Mayence, with the most delightful reminiscences of a "well spent day." Mr. Pabstmann subsequently informed me that he had purchased the product of the garrison stables of four hundred cavalry horses at the cost of forty kreutzers per day, and was also interested in the formation of a company for collecting the night-soil and sewerage of the city Mayence, in iron tanks for subsequent composting and use. These circumstances prove my comments upon his industry, perseverance and skill, and justify the sincere wish for his most thorough and triumphant success.

Here I must leave Mr. Pabstmann and his Victoria Hockheimer. I shall reserve an account of Mr. Kupferberg and his sparkling Hock and Moselle for the recurrence of other leisure moments, and I shall be less surprised to hear of your effort to avert another rainy day, than I am at my present presumptuous intrusion of so much matter upon your time and attention. Your consolation is, that I shall not probably visit any other vineyards *immediately*; my apology is, pen, ink, and paper available, in the country, during a thirty-six hours South-east storm.

With assurances of esteem, I am,
Very respectfully yours,

ELISHA DYER.

HON. W. R. STAPLES, Secy. R. I. Socy. E. D. I., Providence, R. I.

QUALITY OF GRAPES.—Mr. R. G. Pardee, a successful grape grower, considers the Delaware grape decidedly superior to all others in agreeable richness and flavor, melting pulp, and acceptableness for the table. The Iona he places next on his list, considering it superior to the Diana or Catawba. The Diana comes third in order, followed by the Israella. The latter he considered the most sugary and tender fleshed of the black grapes, ripening about three weeks before the Isabella, superior in flavor to it and to the Hartford Prolific. The fifth on his list is the Concord, although in point of flavor it will not bear criticism. The Rebecca, Anna and Allen's Hybrid he considers delicious white grapes. However, to critically judge the quality of grapes requires a very nice discrimination, and taste and success of culture varies. Other grape-growers would present another list, claiming to be as able to judge as Mr. Pardee.

HON. LEWIS F. ALLEN has published a series of articles in the Buffalo Express, showing up the capabilities of Grand Island and the banks of Niagara river for grape culture. He thinks the earliest varieties of American grapes will grow and ripen anywhere along the river after reaching a point six miles north of Buffalo.

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.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 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.

INDIAN CORN.

The corn crop is by far the most valuable one grown in this country. It is cultivated over a larger extent of territory, thrives well under various degrees of latitude and returns more money to the agricultural community than any other cereal. How important, then, that the land on which it is cultivated be mechanically and chemically prepared—draining and sub-soiling—deep, thoroughly ploughing—abundance of manure; then the seed put in at the right time, in a proper manner, and the after culture timely and thorough.

The Spring has been late, but a seasonable time for corn planting in the Middle and New England States, is from the tenth to the twenty-fifth of the present month. There is nothing gained by planting this crop before the soil is warmed up; before the temperature is sufficient to make the seed germinate rapidly. The source of heat is from the sun; and no soil will absorb much solar heat when saturated with water. Hence, there is nothing gained in planting corn before evaporation has carried off the Spring rains, and the temperature of the soil is sufficient to expand and germinate vegetable seed. But when the season is reasonably advanced, and the land is dry and warm, get in your corn without delay. Late planting makes late harvesting; and as there are only one hundred, to one hundred and twenty days between Spring and Autumn frosts, "delays are dangerous."

We shall not give special directions in planting this crop, as our journal is not an agricultural nursery sheet, (like some of the pious agricultural monthlies), but a paper intended for mature and full-grown farmers; men of experience and judgment; yeomen who understand the practical art of agriculture, but are never too full of knowledge to reject "timely hints." We have said one of the most important things in planting corn is thorough ploughing. No true farmer will dispute this. Corn roots extend over a large surface, and will seek food from all portions of the soil broken by the plough. Again, many seasons are subject to droughts, and that, generally, is at the time when the ears are maturing. A safe-guard against drought, is a well drained soil, sub-soil ploughing and frequent culture of the growing crop.

We prefer the inverted sod, Spring ploughed, if a dry, mellow soil. If a stiff clay land, we should have ploughed it last Fall, so that the Winter frosts could aid in breaking it up; giving it time for the sod to rot and mingle with the soil. Some grass lands are very tenacious—such as the blue grass, on limestone land in the Middle States. On alluvial ploughed land in New England, or on most loose soils which contain considerable organic matter, Spring ploughing answers, and generally need not be broken up much before the time of planting. But remember this great fact, no soil can be made too mellow, nor be kept too mellow during the growth of the crop.

As to the best way to apply manure, there is a great diversity of opinion. It is impossible to give instructions applicable to all sections. A great deal depends on the land cultivated; a fertile soil will do well with surface manuring; more cold, sterile land requires some stimulant in the hills—ashes, poudrette or super-phosphate, in addition to stable manure. In surface manuring, experience teaches these facts. If manure is spread on a light, sandy, or loamy soil, we should turn it in deeper than on a naturally moist or wet soil. Manure decomposes sooner near the surface—also acts on the growing crop

sooner—but whether manure is buried three or six inches below the surface, makes but little difference on naturally warm and well cultivated soil. Corn roots will find all fertilizers, at either depth, long before harvest.

As to modes of planting, we are firmly in favor of having the rows run North and South; laying the land off in two directions, at right angles to each other, and planting where the furrows cross each other. For small varieties of corn, three and a half feet apart for the hills, (for New England and the Northern part of the Middle States), but for the large varieties of corn, four feet is a better width. All corn must be far enough apart to run the plough and cultivator, and to give access of light and heat to the soil. The absorption of the manure and plant-food are thus equalized. Besides, the cultivation of the crop is made more perfect, the soil is broken, stirred and pulverised around every side of the hill by this system of cross-ploughing or cultivating at right angles. Grass and weeds are also more perfectly eradicated than they can be by the plough or horse harrow running in one direction alone.

GEOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF NEBRASKA.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office, has, with the sanction of the Department of the Interior, appointed Dr. S. V. Hayden, professor of geology and mineralogy in the University of Pennsylvania, to make the geological examination of Nebraska, authorized by the second section of the act approved March 2, 1867. Dr. Hayden's party will consist of himself and assistant, who is also a paleontologist, with three collectors and laborers. That part of the State lying south of the Platte river will be examined first, from the fact of its being occupied by the limestones of the terne coal measures. Careful search is to be made for the localities, depth and extent of that valuable mineral. Explorations are also to be extended along the Missouri river to Sioux City, as there is reported to be a bed of coal out-cropping from the rocks of the chalk formation near the Omaha Reserve. The following extract is made from the Commissioner's instructions: "The State being chiefly a farming country, your attention is invited to an examination of its soils, subsoils, and their adaptability to particular crops, and the best method of preserving and increasing their fertility; and as a large portion of Nebraska is deficient in timber, the introduction of suitable forest trees should be the subject of your examination."

Mr. Hayden has been quoted in the writings of Lyell and Dana, the geologists, and was the first to discover the remains of fossil horses on this continent, it having been previously believed that the horse had not existed here in remote times.

"I WENT by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding, and lo! it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down."

It would appear that there were slothful farmers in Scriptural times also. Farms answering to this description can be seen almost anywhere in a day's ride. A slothful farmer is an unjust steward; his moral right to pursue his occupation may be questioned, if he neglects to give it that reasonable attention necessary to success. For the man "void of understanding," we would recommend weekly installments of the Farm and Fireside. Should that fail, his case might be considered hopeless.

FEEDING DISEASED POTATOES.—Opinions seem to differ in reference to feeding diseased potatoes to stock. Some claim that the effects are of the most injurious character, while others deny this to be the case. Wm. B. Merri says, in the Maine Farmer, that he fed four hundred bushels of rotten potatoes to his cattle last Winter, giving them nothing else but wheat straw. He declares them to be in as good flesh as cattle that are fed on hay.

ROTATION OF CROPS.

A CORRESPONDENT inquires of us:—"On what principle is the rotation of crops founded, what are the benefits of such rotation, and which is the best system of rotation?" To answer these questions fully and thoroughly would take up more space and time than is consistent with acknowledged editorial brevity. However, we will answer them in the order named, as briefly and succinctly as we can, so as to render elaborate discussion unnecessary, if possible.

1. Rotation is founded upon the correctly ascertained principle that different classes of crops require different proportions of the various substances which are indigenous to soils, or which abound in the various fertilizers applied with the view of enriching such soils. Thus crops may be made to succeed each other with the least possible injury to the soil, and with the greatest economy in the use of manures. It is believed that the grain crops carry off the largest part of the phosphates; but there will yet remain in the manure considerable quantities of other substances, which the grain crops did not so particularly require, such as potash and soda; of these the root crops, such as turnips and potatoes, are wonderful absorbers; then it is claimed that there is enough lime, etc., left in the soil to warrant a good crop of hay.

2. The benefit is found in the abundant yield of the several species of crops and the saving of manures; or, in other words, the most advantageous consumption by each successive crop of all the means for its growth within its reach. Rotation also tends to husbanding the resources of the soil, and insures the destruction of obnoxious weeds and insects. A field cropped with wheat for successive years becomes worn out for that particular grain, and troublesome weeds, chess and red root, &c., increase in provoking abundance. Pastures left unplowed for a number of years become luxuriant with buttercups and ox-eye daisies. A disproportion of Spring crops facilitates the spread of the wild mustard, &c., and the increase of grubs, wire-worms, etc. Rotation is unmistakably a valuable auxiliary to clean cultivation.

3. The system of rotation is simple, evidently is founded upon natural laws, and requires no additional expenditure or labor; it costs no more to cultivate crops which are made to succeed each other judiciously, than to cultivate those arranged in the worst manner possible. It is impossible for us to state which system of rotation is the best, or to recommend any particular system. That must be determined by experience in each section of country, under the various circumstances of climate, soil, location of soil, and value of crops. The one prominent thing to be remembered is, that there are several distinct classes of crops, considered with reference to the substances which they take from the soil, and that these classes of crops should bear a part in every system of rotation. The principal of these are grain crops, root crops, and grass crops.

NEW YORK SHEEP EXHIBITION.—A correspondent, who visited the Empire State annual Sheep and Wool Fair, at Auburn, last week, informs us that the exhibition was slimly attended—probably on account of the extreme inclemency of the weather. There were two hundred pens erected for stock; but not one half were occupied. However, there were some fine flocks, and many of the leading sheep breeders of the State were present. Among the prominent bucks were "Dew Drop," valued at \$5,000; "Blucher" at \$10,000 and "Kilpatrick," whose owner, it was stated, refused for him \$12,000 in gold! People who own this kind of stock, must have a thorough contempt for common sheep and paper money.

COLONEL JAMES GLEASON, of Pennsylvania, has been appointed general superintendent of the experimental farm by Commissioner Newton of the Agricultural Bureau.

CROP PROSPECTS.

FROM an extensive correspondence, embracing all the New England, the Middle and three of the Southern States, we have flattering indications of more than an average prospect for fruit this year. If buds, blossoms and young fruit are evidences of plenty, we are safe to state that up to the middle of May, the prospect was never more encouraging. The past Winter, with its great quantity of snow, protected the roots of fruit trees; and the late Spring has kept back the flow of sap, and thus prevented the too early inflorescence of the trees. We know it is rather unsafe to predicate fruit crops in May; for there are late frosts, severe winds and storms, and even Summer droughts to intervene before fruit is matured, or ready for market.

From New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland—the two latter the great peach-growing territories of the Middle States, (which supply that section, and also New England), we have reliable information of good prospective crops. The frost of the 3d inst., did some damage, but not material. Strawberries, raspberries, and similar small fruit, were not sufficiently advanced to be injured. Apricots, although of limited culture, promise well. Pears and apples, from all sections, give promise of abundance. The average of our correspondence is five for "good prospects," to one of "indifferent," or "slim chances." On the whole, we conclude the average indications are better than most years, for fruit.

The wheat fields never looked better. Not that every field looks well, but our information is decidedly favorable, extending over a territory comprising fourteen States. The agricultural press at the West, (from which we have no private information), corroborate former reports of the magnificent appearance of Winter wheat. Spring variety, also, looks fair. Barley, rye and oats are mentioned as looking well, although much of it is but just coming up. All these cereals have much to contend with, in the form of insects and weather, before harvest. Consequently, it will not be safe to base our calculations on the aggregate yield of these crops at present. But general indications and prospects are favorable. The high price of grain, the past year, has stimulated farmers to sow more than the usual number of acres; hence it will be safe, unless the Summer is remarkably unpropitious, to promise generous crops of fruits and cereals for 1867.

THE FAIR AT CRANSTON.

THE Fourth Annual Fair of the New England Agricultural Society will be held on the grounds of the Narragansett Park Association, at Cranston, near Providence, on the 3d, 4th, 5th and 6th days of September. Arrangements have been made with the various Railroad Companies to run their cars, containing stock, &c., directly to the Fair grounds. A number of the most celebrated horses in the country will compete for the premiums, which amount to nearly ten thousand dollars. The track is that projected and laid out by Col. Anasa Sprague, and is pronounced by the best of judges to be in all respects superior to any track in the country. Five thousand persons can be seated under cover; the stable room on the grounds is commodious and airy, and an ample supply of pure spring water will be provided for every department.

TAMPA, Florida, must be an excellent place to go to market in. The people recently opened a new meat market, at which the quotations for beef were: Fore quarters, 5 cents a pound; roasts, 7 cents; beefsteak, 9 cents.

A member of the Ocean County (New Jersey), Fruit Grower's Club, says he has experimented with saw-dust as a mulching for peach trees, and finds it valuable. He spreads the saw-dust on the snow, in Winter, and this has a tendency to keep the trees back, out of the way of early frosts.

AMERICA NO PLACE FOR FOOLS.—In a lecture lately delivered before the London Farmers' Club, Mr. James Howard, the well-known manufacturer of implements, of Bedford, England, made the following pointed remarks concerning his experience in a recent visit to the United States: He said he had been profoundly impressed with the happiness, prosperity, energy, intelligence and self-government of the American people. He wondered that so many people were willing to remain in the Old World, without a chance to rise, with hardly a chance to exist. If the United States were crowded as England is, the population would be nearly a thousand millions. In reply, however, to the question whether he thought large and opulent farmers would do well to send their sons to America, he said that the first memoranda he made in his diary, was "that America was no place for fools."





The Fireside Muse.

THE APPLE TREE IN THE LANE.

It stood close by where on leathern hinge
The gate swung back from the grassy lane,
When the cows came home when the dusky eve
Its mantle threw o'er hill and plain;
Its branches, knotty and gnarled by time,
Waved to and fro in the idle breeze,
When the Spring days wore a blushing crown
Of blossoms bright for the apple trees.

Its shadow fell o'er the crystal stream,
That all the long, bright Summer days,
Like a silver thread 'mid the waving grass,
Reflected back the golden rays
Of the noon-day sun, that madly strove
To drink the fount of the brooklet dry,
But the light clouds showered tear-drops down
Till the glad brook laughed as it glided by.

Never were the apples half so sweet,
Golden russets striped with red,
As those that fell on the yielding turf
When shook the branches overhead.
A trysting place for youthful friends
Was the apple tree in the days of yore,
And oft we've sat beneath its shade,
And talked bright dreams of the future o'er.

And when the warm October sun
Shone on the maple's scarlet robe,
We gathered apples sound and fair,
And round as our own mystic globe.
The stately hemlock crowns the hill,
The dark pines rise above the plain—
But the one we prize far more than they,
The apple tree in the pasture lane.

Long years have passed, and cows no more
Come home at night through the grassy lane;
Where the gate swung back on leathern hinge
I stand and gaze on the far off plain.
No more we list to the music low
Of the crystal stream as it ripples on,
And the apple tree in the pasture lane
Is but a dream of the days bygone.

Fireside Tale.

KITTY ELLIOT.

BY M. O. JOHNSON.

"CHARLIE, Charlie! the Swiss Bell-ringers are to perform this evening. I have been longing for you to come home to tell you about it."

With this greeting, little Kitty Elliot, the wife of a year, sprang to meet her husband. She was a pretty lady, with a fairy-like form, tiny hands and feet, a fair complexion, and cheeks just tinged with rose-color, blue eyes, and golden hair, which she still wore as in childhood, in long curls around her neck.

"There is the bill, Charlie," she said, as she tossed it across the dining table. "I heard them when they were here while I was a little girl. Of course I don't recollect much about it, but I know I was pleased. And you see it must be much better now, with their new bells and long practice. Then those dear little children in costumes! They surely will look very pretty indeed. Oh, Charlie! I do long to see and hear them!"

Charlie made no reply. His silence, and the serious expression of his face did not quite suit Kitty, and she asked anxiously, a doubt having for the first time crossed her mind—

"Cannot we go? You know baby always sleeps all the evening, and mother is never better pleased than when she has the care of her."

"All that I know," Charlie answered; "but I know, too, that baby's mother has not been out after sunset since her arrival, and a chilly Autumn evening is not the best time for such experiments. If it were pleasant, the case would be somewhat different; but the wind is east, the atmosphere very damp, and there is every appearance of a storm coming on. It would not be prudent for you, darling!"

"Oh, Charlie! I am perfectly well. It could not do me any harm. I can wrap up as much as you please. Don't be so very particular."

"I think Charlie is right, dear," said Mrs. Elliot. "I would gladly take care of baby, if it were safe for you to go; but you could scarcely avoid taking cold, especially in coming out of a warm hall, after sitting with your thiugs on."

"Wait, Kitty, and think it over by yourself this afternoon," said Charlie. "We won't talk of it any more just now."

Think about it when alone, Kitty certainly did; but as her feelings led her thoughts, her husband found her, when he came home to tea,

still eager to attend the concert, and confident she should not take cold.

The little wife was not without good principles, and a strong affection for her husband, but she was scarcely eighteen, an only and petted daughter, and it was not strange that she was sometimes thoughtless. She would not wilfully persist in wrong when she saw it as such; but at times, as in the present instance, her impulses blinded her judgment.

At tea, she waited for Charlie or his mother to revert to the concert; but they did not, and she again urged the subject, though with some embarrassment and a heightened color. The weather was even more unpleasant than at dinner time.

After trying ineffectually to convince her that she ought not to go, her husband said kindly, but gravely: "Kitty, I have thought the matter all over many times, and though very reluctant to disappoint you, it is my settled conviction that it would be very imprudent for you to go. I shall not command you—I hope never to do that. If you go, I shall attend you, to take care of you so far as I can; but you will go with my serious disapproval, and grieve me very much."

Kitty's only reply was a gush of tears, and she retreated to her chamber. She was not usually so childish; but she was passionately fond of music, and her feelings had been in a state of excitement all the afternoon. This was the first time her husband had crossed her will, and she really was not, as she thought, perfectly well. This Charlie knew; and he wisely checked the impatience that arose in his breast, and exercised towards her the utmost gentleness. Well was it for both husband and wife, that her lot was cast with that of one so strong to rule himself, so thoughtful in his care, so patient with another's weakness.

It was in vain that Kitty said to herself—"I can go well enough; it will not hurt me; and when Charlie sees that it does not, he will be satisfied."

She rocked her babe to sleep, but with less delight than usual, and she sang in trembling tones. She felt an oppression about her heart that she could not throw off. She commenced the "wrapping up" she had spoken of, trying to convince herself, as she went on, of the impossibility of taking cold; but she became more and more uneasy. A consciousness that she was doing wrong, grew still more vivid. Suppose she should take cold? She would not believe it—but it might be possible; suppose she should? She might be very sick—she might die; and what then of her babe—her innocent, helpless babe—her faithful, affectionate husband?

"Have I a right to risk all this?" she asked herself, "for the pleasure of an evening? And even if I escape a cold, this will be the first step in a dangerous path—that of acting in opposition to my husband. Will the enjoyment be worth its cost? Shall I not lessen his confidence in me? I prize that confidence beyond the wealth of worlds; and I know that thus far it has been entire. Can this affection remain unchanged?"

She turned and bent over her sleeping child. As she rested her hand on the little crib, the gleaming gold of her marriage ring caught her eye, and the thought of all her husband's love and kindness, interwoven with every hour since that emblem first encircled her finger, swept over her with a mighty influence. How could she give him so much pain?

As the young mother silently pressed her lips on the infant brow, her resolution was formed. She threw aside her wrappings, and bounded down stairs. Her husband was standing before the fire, with a look of sadness in his face, such as she had never before seen there. She glided to his side, and clasping her arms around his neck, hid her face in his bosom, and whispered—"Charlie, forgive me!—I will stay at home."

He pressed her to his heart, and lifting her face, smoothed back the curls from her brow, and kissed away the tears that glistened on her eyelashes, saying tenderly, though half playfully—"I could not afford to risk losing you, my little beauty."

That night, Kitty's prayer was offered with repentant feeling, and gratitude that she had been withdrawn from what she truly termed "a dangerous path." In after years, the incident was not forgotten, nor its lesson disregarded.—*Arthur's Home Magazine.*

Miscellany.

A SWARM OF BEES ON A MAN'S FACE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London Field gives the following interesting narrative:

In June, 1854, Mr. Simmonds, a farmer residing at Brookland Farm, Weybridge, was dressing in order to attend the rent audit at Woburn House. Before putting on his coat, he perceived from his window an unusually large swarm of bees, filling the air with their cloud and noise. It was, in fact, as he afterwards ascertained, two swarms that had come out of two distinct hives, and had united in the air. He ran out in his shirt sleeves, and without his hat, to see where they would alight. The bees, after making some circles in the air, led him off to the bank of the river Wey. Thinking that the bees might cross the river, and perhaps escape, he adopted a plan not uncommon with bee-masters, namely, that of throwing dust into the air among the bees. This often makes them settle quickly. They did settle quickly, and this more so than he expected, for in a short time the whole of one of the largest swarms he had ever seen, settled upon his head, face and breast. They hung down in front like a great beard to the bottom of his waistcoat. Had he not been well accustomed to bees, and perfectly collected, his situation would have been a very dangerous one; for, had he at all irritated this mass of armed insects, he would no doubt have received a sufficient number of stings to have placed his life in peril. He was obliged to close his eyes slowly and to keep his mouth shut. Then, in order to prevent their entering his nostrils, which they endeavored to do, he slowly thrust one hand through the mass, and with his two fore-fingers managed to keep drawing and pushing them away from his nostrils as they tried to enter, he breathing all the while as softly as possible. This was necessary, as bees are generally irritated by being breathed upon.

He then began to consider what course he should take. He was some distance from his house, and no one near him, or within call. His first thought was to walk slowly into the river Wey, and gently sink his head under the water, and then throw off the swarm. But a moment's consideration dissuaded him from that attempted remedy. He could not have disengaged them all, for many were between his neckcloth and his skin, and still more were crawling down his back. He found that if he walked he could not help disturbing the hanging mass, and that every little agitation, however slight, caused a hum and a hiss from some thousands. He then remembered the account given in Thorley's work on bees of a swarm settling on the face and neck of a servant maid, who escaped unhurt by the care and advice of her master, he, without irritating the swarm, having hived it from off her with a hive well smeared with honey. To avoid agitating the swarm, Mr. Simmonds slowly knelt down on the grass and remained perfectly still. He then found a number of bees were gathering in a mass under the waistband of his trousers, in the hollow of his back, to which spot the others were drawing, indicating that the queen was there. Fearing therefore, that the tightness of the waistband—rendered tighter whenever he breathed—might crush, or at any rate irritate this part of the swarm, he slowly unbuttoned the front of his trousers.

It is not easy to conceive a more helpless condition than that to which Mr. Simmonds was now reduced. He that was the master of forty hives, from which he could usually levy what spoils he pleased, killing his thousands at his pleasure with a brimstone match, was now completely in the power of one detach-

ment of his own army, and was reduced to the most suppliant position. Even to call for help would have been dangerous, as the bees near his mouth would have been undoubtedly irritated, and would have probably entered his mouth. At this moment he heard a railway train on the Chertsey Branch Railway, from which he was about fifty yards. It fortunately happened that the engine driver was known to him, and had a little commission from him to sound his railway whistle if he saw anything wrong among his cows and sheep.

The engine driver seeing Mr. Simmonds on his knees, with one arm extended as if for help, and something odd hanging from his face, sounded his whistle. This was heard by Mr. Simmonds's wife, who, supposing that some cow was ill, sent her son and a farming man out into the fields. They soon found Mr. Simmonds in the predicament above described. In addition to the hanging mass, there was a cloud of bees still flying around him, so that to approach him was not the most agreeable office. However, they came near enough to hear him speak, which he did very gently, merely saying, "bring a bushel hive well rubbed with honey, and some bricks."

While they were gone at the top of their speed for this, he remained perfectly still. The tickling of the bees feet on his face was almost unbearable, and the danger of irritating those that were down his neck and back was imminent.

The most difficult part he had to perform, however, was that before mentioned, of dissuading the bees, with the aid of his two fore-fingers from getting up his nostrils. These bees were not in a good humor, as they were breathed upon, and were also deterred from doing as they pleased, and one bee showed his displeasure by stinging Mr. Simmonds at the fork of his two fore fingers. This was not pleasant of itself; but was a serious occurrence, as it might be the prelude to a more extensive attack. He avoided making any start when he was stung, and continuing to push away as gently as possible those that were near his nostrils. This was the only safe place to breathe from, as it was necessary to keep his mouth perfectly closed. Of course, the few minutes that elapsed before the return of his son and servant seemed a terribly long period to Mr. Simmonds, as during the whole of it he remained as motionless as possible on his knees.

On their arrival, the hive was placed on three bricks, with its mouth downward, and Mr. Simmonds slowly laid himself on his breast on the grass, with his head close to the bive. The honey soon attracted the bees nearest to it, and a slow movement of the bees took place, till at length the whole swarm gradually gathered itself under and within the hive, except a few patches of bees, which, in walking away, Mr. Simmonds easily disengaged from his dress with his hand, and made them join their companions. Mr. Simmonds thus escaped from not only a very disagreeable but a perilous situation. It occupied two hours from the time that the bees alighted on their master to the time of his release.

THE POWER OF A GROWING TREE.—Walton Hall had at one time its own corn mill, and when that inconvenient necessity no longer existed, the mill stone was laid by in an orchard and forgotten. The diameter of this circular stone measured five feet, while its depth averaged seven inches throughout; its central hole had a diameter of eleven inches. By mere accident some bird or squirrel had dropped the fruit of the filbert tree through this hole on the earth, and in 1812 the seedling was seen rising up through that unwonted channel. As its trunk gradually grew through this aperture and increased, its power to raise the ponderous mass of stone was speculated upon by many. Would the filbert tree die in the attempt? Would it burst the mill stone? Or would it lift it? In the end, the little filbert lifted the mill stone, and in 1863 wore it like a erinoline about its trunk, and Mr. Wattertown used to sit upon it under the branching shades.—*English Paper.*

NEW FIRE ARMS.—It is announced that the new French cannon, the construction of which is supposed to be a profound secret, can be fired 40 or 50 times a minute. It carries with accuracy 2000 yards, and is so light that two men can easily lift it. France is partial to breach-loading cannons, but England is discarding them. England is experimenting with needle guns, but her delay in deciding, whilst other European nations are rapidly arming with breech-loaders, is complained of by the London newspapers. The Chassepot rifle, the new weapon adopted for the use of the French army, is said to unite all the best qualities of an offensive weapon—long range, facility of management, great precision and great penetrating power. It can fire 60 rounds without becoming overheated; it discharges 12 balls a minute, and is lighter than the ordinary infantry musket.



The Farm and Garden.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

THE Pongheepsie Eagle says reports from the interior of Dutchess county intimate that the fruit crop will be prolific.

Butter is selling in Buffalo at from twenty-five to twenty-eight cents per pound, and eggs from fifteen to sixteen cents per dozen.

A man in Exeter, Mass., has a hen with two pair of wings.

The Illinois Legislature has passed a law imposing a penalty of \$400 for the bringing of Canada thistle seed into that State.

The Department of Agriculture is now engaged in sending seeds to the South, in accordance with the recent law transferring \$50,000 of the fund for the Freedmen's Bureau to aid in relieving the destitution of seeds of all descriptions in the Southern States.

In Russia horses are chiefly bought and sold at great horse-fairs, which are held annually in various parts of the country.

J. Harris says, in his "Walks and Talks," that while it is true that improved breeds of cattle will not do so well on very little food as will the "natives," it is also true that the "natives" will not stand high feeding as well as the improved breeds.

The wool clip in the United States in 1866, amounted to 137,000,000 pounds. It is estimated that there are in the United States 1600 woolen mills, containing 6000 sets of carding machines, with the capacity of manufacturing 170,000,000 pounds of clean material.

A fatal sheep disease prevails in Iowa. Post mortem examinations reveal parasites in the stomachs of the sheep.

Dr. Ayer, of Lowell, advertises choice Alderney cows for sale. He should keep none but the Ayer-sbire.

AGRICULTURE IN NEW JERSEY.—A writer refers to the wonderful effect of the little volume entitled Ten Acres Enough, written by a Jerseyman, in inducing emigration to that country, and especially to the Western part of New Jersey.

Much of the hitherto neglected lands of New Jersey are being cut up and sold in small tracts, to be devoted chiefly to fruit growing and market gardening, and it is both surprising and gratifying to learn that very fair crops have mostly been obtained from those lands in the shape of vegetables and fruits, after they have been manured and properly cultivated for a short time.

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—The trustees of the Agricultural College at Amherst have voted to erect at once a president's house, at a cost of \$16,000, and the two botanical buildings will cost \$13,000.

NEW HAMPSHIRE has \$3,000,000 invested in horses, \$4,500,000 in cattle, \$5,500,000 in milch cows, \$2,000,000 in sheep, and \$674,000 in swine.

ARE THE SALTS OF MANURE LOST BY FILTRATION?—Prof. Way says, as the result of his patient experiments, that salts of ammonia will not filtrate through clay; but that much of this fertilizer in solution will escape through a silicious sand.

PERMANENT MEADOWS.—The editor of the Cultivator and Country Gentleman recently fell in with a farmer whose practice is to cut the grass on his meadow land and send the product to the New York market.

THE Detroit Post has news from nearly all the State of Michigan concerning the grain and fruit crop, which, with but slight variation, is favorable.

SOOT AS A FERTILIZER.—Every occupant bas soot at command, whose presence in stove-pipes, or chimneys is, not infrequently, the cause of fires, occasioning the loss sometimes of both property and life.

GRASS never looked better at this season than it does now in New Hampshire, and the same is true of all the New England States.

LOSS OF CATTLE BY THE CREVASSES.—It is estimated that not less than five thousand cattle, besides sheep and hogs, have been drowned in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers.

We are surprised to see children wearing shoes with ragged holes at the toes—wasting their parents' money and endangering their health.

Marriages.

In this town, May 1st, by Rev. D. M. Crane, Mr. John M. Metcalf to Miss Lizzie H. Bright, both of Franklin, Mass.

Deaths.

In Slatesville, the 4th inst., Albert M., only child of Albert and Maria E. Hyer, aged 15 years, 11 months and 10 days.

RAIN.—What makes it rain? Rain is caused by two or more elonds of unequal temperature uniting into one.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

Table listing various farm products and their prices, including Hay, Straw, Coal, Oats, Flour, Corn Meal, Rye, Saleratus, Kerosene Oil, Cheese, Butter, Codfish, Java Coffee, Mackerel, etc.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1242; Sheep and Lambs 2454. Swine, 457. Prices: Beef Cattle—Extra, \$14.50 @ \$15.00; first quality, \$13.25 @ \$14.00; second quality, \$12.50 @ \$13.00; third quality, \$11.00 @ \$12.25.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

Flour has continued to arrive very sparingly, and low grades have advanced from fifty to seventy-five cents a barrel, with still an upward tendency. High grades are commanding from \$18 to \$21.50 a barrel, higher prices than have been known heretofore.

Advertisements.

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 24, 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.

Marriages.

In this town, May 1st, by Rev. D. M. Crane, Mr. John M. Metcalf to Miss Lizzie H. Bright, both of Franklin, Mass.

Deaths.

In Slatesville, the 4th inst., Albert M., only child of Albert and Maria E. Hyer, aged 15 years, 11 months and 10 days.

Great American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption.

To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American bones, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

- 1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments—and some of the richest retired merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China. 2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing in our correspondents in China and Japan, one cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club.

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford.

THE COMPANY have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of China. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show.

- YOUNG HYSON (Green), 50c, 60c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. GREEN TEAS, 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. MIXED, 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 10 per lb. JAPAN, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. OOLONG (Black), 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 10 per lb. IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1 25 per lb. ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 20 per lb. GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1 25, best \$1 50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them.

Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Foo-Chow Blacks and Moyne Greens.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO., NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., corner of CHURCH.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, best 40c per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c. per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders. WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866. To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York.

Genls: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubled it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa.

Table listing various tea and coffee products and their prices, including Young Hyson, Oolong, Green Tea, etc.

We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.,—A B O Z DOUBLE STORE.



The Field.

HOED CROPS AND LABOR.

HOED crops are the most costly in labor of any which the farmer grows. Therefore they should be the most profitable. The greatest difficulty which the farmer in this country has to contend with, in order to make his business profitable, is the price of labor. And as he is obliged to bestow a great deal of this on his hoed crops, he should take care, by judicious management and use of the products, to make this outlay of capital remunerative. How to do this should be a subject of much thought.

Corn and potatoes are the two most largely grown and important of this class of products. One rule which will apply to both, which the wise farmer will act upon, is to obtain as large a yield as possible from each acre planted. This will diminish the amount of labor in proportion to the product obtained. Every bushel will therefore cost less than when the yield is small. The next important point is to get the best return for the crop. As corn is the great reliance of the stock feeder in this country, and as manure from stock is essential to grow continued large crops, it is obvious that skillful feeding to stock is the most remunerative disposal that can be made of the corn crop. Hence good breeds, ample shelter, and proper care are indispensable adjuncts. In short, if labor has cost you too much, resolve to plant less ground, but raise more per acre. This can easily be done if you will only set about it. Next, determine that your corn shall produce more pounds of meat per bushel than heretofore. This you can accomplish by a timely and judicious selection of improved breeds of stock, and more skill employed in handling them. No farmer should be satisfied if he cannot improve every year on his past methods. Thought and energy applied to your business will do this.

The potato crop is usually sold for cash, and this produces no manure for the land. For this reason it is a very exhausting crop, and no farmer can persist long in growing it largely without impoverishing his land. On account of their hulk potatoes cannot be grown profitably a great distance from market. On the right sort of land, and near market, they usually produce a good deal of money per acre; and potato growers should devote part of the proceeds of the crop towards the purchasing of manure to renovate the land. Plant less, manure more, and your labor will bring greater profit. Potato growers, being near the lines of transportation, could convey manures to their land cheaply.—Rural New Yorker.

INFLUENCE OF SILICA ON THE "LODGING" OF GRAIN.

YEARS ago it was shown by chemical analysis that the straw of the cereal grasses, and particularly wheat straw, contains a very considerable quantity of silica. Since the plants thus rich in silica are exceedingly hard, stiff and rigid, it was a not unnatural inference that the strength of the wheat plant was likely to be nearly proportional to the amount of silica contained in it. The opinion was, in fact, quite generally received that it is from lack of silica in its stalk that the spear of grain is weak and liable to fall down.

The suggestion has been thrown out that grain might be prevented from lodging by dressing the soil with some one of the soluble preparations of silica, and so furnishing to the growing plant the supposed desideratum in a readily assimilable condition.

The distinguished French agricultural chemist, Pierri, has recently subjected the whole question to the test of experiment. He finds that the ideas and hypotheses above mentioned are not borne out by facts. As the result of numerous analyses, he finds that of the different parts of the wheat plant the leaves contain far more silica than the smooth portions of the stalk, and the stalk much more than the knobs or joints, which prove to be comparatively poor in silica, in spite of their ap-

parent hardness. In equal weights, the leaves contain seven or eight times as much silica as the joints, and four or five times more than the spaces between the joints. The portion of the plant least rich in silica is the lower part of the stalk, at precisely the place where the stiffness and rigidity are most necessary. If, then, silicated manures be offered to the wheat plant, the larger portion of the assimilated silica will accumulate in the leaves and not in the stalk; and, as a consequence of this excessive development of the leaves, it follows naturally that grain highly charged with silica, might fall down and lodge, while grain exposed to similar conditions, but less rich in silica, might stand firm and suffer no harm.

It has long been noticed that, other things being equal, those samples of grain of which the leaves are most highly developed lodge first. This is not surprising, for in this case the foot of the stalk remains shaded, and, as a consequence, soft and feeble, while the energated stalk is forced to carry an excessive load, which presents a great surface to the crushing pressure of rain and wind. On the other hand, it is notorious that the wheat grown upon poor land rarely lodges, and the explanation of this fact is evidently that, in the absence of vigorous leaves, the stalks, besides having no great load to carry, become hardened by the action of sun and air.

The practical lesson suggested by these experiments is that, in order to prevent the lodging of grain, the farmer must, for the present at least, look rather to the improved methods of sowing, by means of which light and air shall always be freely admitted to the stalks, than to any chemical specific which has yet been suggested. In the course of time means may perhaps be found to induce the deposition of strengthening ingredients at those parts of the stalk where strength is most needed, but until that time arrives it will be best to follow the lesson taught by the natural growth of the wheat plant, and not to depart too far from the physical conditions which are essential to its healthy development.

THE New York produce exchange refuses to follow the Western boards of trade in giving up the cental system in the measurement of grain, and proposes a national convention of the authorized bodies to settle the difference.

Miscellany.

CHEERFUL WORK.—One of the most valuable, and one of the most infectious examples which can be set before the young is that of cheerful working. Cheerfulness gives elasticity to the spirit. Spectres fly before it; difficulties cause no despair, for they are encountered with hope, and the mind acquires that happy disposition to improve opportunities which rarely fails of success. The fervent spirit is always a healthy and happy spirit, working cheerfully itself and stimulating others to work. It confers a dignity on even the most ordinary occupations. The most effective work, also, is always the full hearted work, that which passes through the hands or the head of him whose heart is glad.

A CAPTAIN of a vessel, who professed himself a Quaker, being insulted by one of his crew, said: "Friend I will not strike thee, nor kick thee; but (holding a handspike over his head) I will let this billet of wood fall on thee," and let the handspike fall on his head, which knocked him in the scupper. "Now, fricud, if thou art content, go unto thy duty; peradventure the billet falleth again."

THE wings of a guat flap 900,000 times in a minute, to produce the sound that heralds his coming.

THE latter part of a wise man's life is taken up in curing the follies, prejudices and false opinions he had contracted in the former.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of MEAD'S PATENT CONICAL PLOWS, SHARE'S HORSE HOES, WOOD'S AND WIGHT'S PLOWS, GARDEN BARROWS, CHASE'S TWO HORSE POTATOE DIGGERS, STORE TRUCKS, IMPROVED HINGED HARROWS, CULTIVATORS, ROAD SCRAPERS, OX YOKES, AND PLOW CASTINGS; And Wholesale Dealers in Hoes, Shovels, Axes, Scythes, Forks, Spades, Cradles, Horse Forks, Hand and Horse Rakes, Hay Cutters, Corn Shellers, Vegetable Cutters, Picks, Bars, Canal Barrows, Sugar Mills, Grindstones, Plain or Complete; And Agents for KNIFEEN'S, UNION AND PERRY'S MOWING MACHINES, Whitcomb's Patent Horse Rake, and the best Hay Tedder in the market. Prices low and Terms Cash. OFFICE, 32 CANAL STREET, PROVIDENCE, R. I. we-tf March 23, 1867.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I., Now offer at the LOWEST CASH PRICES, 2000 Sacks Prime Red Top, 500 Bags Prime Herds Grass, 500 " Western and Northern Clover, 1500 Bushel Prime R. I. Bent, for Pastures, 300 " Seed Barley, 100 " Spring Rye, 3000 " Bedford Seed Oats, 100 " Early Goodrich Potatoes, 200 " Sebec Potatoes, 200 " Late White Peach Potatoes, 100 " Harrison Potatoes, 300 " Seed Peas, 100 " R. I. White Cap Corn, 100 " Linton Hort. and Concord Pole Beans, 200 " Buckwheat, 200 " Millet and Hungarian, White Dutch Clover, Orchard Grass, Onion Sets, and a complete assortment of GARDEN SEEDS, Raised for us with great care. 900 Barrels dry ground Bone for Manure, together with all kinds of Farm Implements and Machinery. Send for Circular of Mead's Conical Plows and Share's Horse Hoes—and don't forget the number, 32 CANAL STREET, 32, PROVIDENCE, R. I. we-tf March 23, 1867.

NEW SEEDLING POTATOE. COOKE'S RATTLER, a new and very superior Seedling, grown by Joseph J. Cooke, Esq., of Cranston, and now offered for sale as the best LATE KIND in the market. It is a rusty coated, light red, round, great yielder; white and perfect inside, and a splendid Table Potatoe. Price, \$3.00 per bushel. Sold only by W. E. BARRETT & CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I. 14tf April 13, 1867.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Share'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.

W. E. BARRETT & CO., Manufacturers of Mead's Patent Conical Plows, Share's Patent Horse Hoes, Chase's Two Horse Potato Diggers, Lufkin's new Side Hill Plows. Also, dealers in ALL kinds of Farming Tools and Seeds, at 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozen, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

WHITE FRENCH TURNIP, of the purest kind, raised and sold in small or large lots, by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Feb. 23, 1867. 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

PERRY'S NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I. Feb. 23, 1867.

BARRETT'S EXTRA EARLY CABBAGE.—The best and largest in the market. Price, 25 cents a paper. Raised and sold by W. E. BARRETT & CO., Providence, Feb. 23, 1867. tf-7

EXTRA HEAVY PLOWS, for road work and for breaking up new land, made by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Massachusetts.

COLLINS, BLISS & CO., PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS. CASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS. 233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston. New England Agents for the NONPARIEL FRENCH GUANO. It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil. PRICE \$60 PER TON. Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 3m-we-9

SOUTH DOWN CO.'S PATENT

Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS. This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions. It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines. For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice. ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers. Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores. JAMES F. LEVIN, 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts. For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & CO., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4m-we-9

BY MAIL, PREPAID. CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS, NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CURRANTS, ROSES, BULBS, &c. B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS, Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for Planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted. Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ee-12

New York. J. HICKLING & CO. S GREAT SALE OF WATCHES. On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a handsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory! 500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750 500 Magle Cased Gold Watches.....200 to 500 500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled.....100 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....250 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....200 to 250 3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....150 to 200 5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....100 to 250 5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....50 to 150 5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....75 to 250 5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches.....50 to 250 10,000 Gold Hunting Lepines.....50 to 75 10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....50 to 100 25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....25 to 50 30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....10 to 75 Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partiality shown. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious! A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three and eight cent premium for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premium for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us! Address, J. HICKLING & CO., 149 Broadway—New York. City of New York. 3m March 22, 1867.

Pennsylvania.

RHODES' SUPER. PHOSPHATE. THE STANDARD MANURE FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS. Manufactured by POTTS & KLETT, Camden, N. J. Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUGH, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of this Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD, IN QUALITY, and is in fine condition for drilling. Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE. YARNALL & TRIMBLE, General Agents for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. 418 South Wharves, PHILADELPHIA. 419 Penn. Street, March 23, 1867. 3m-ee-11

Road Scrapers, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



Farm and Fireside

A JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

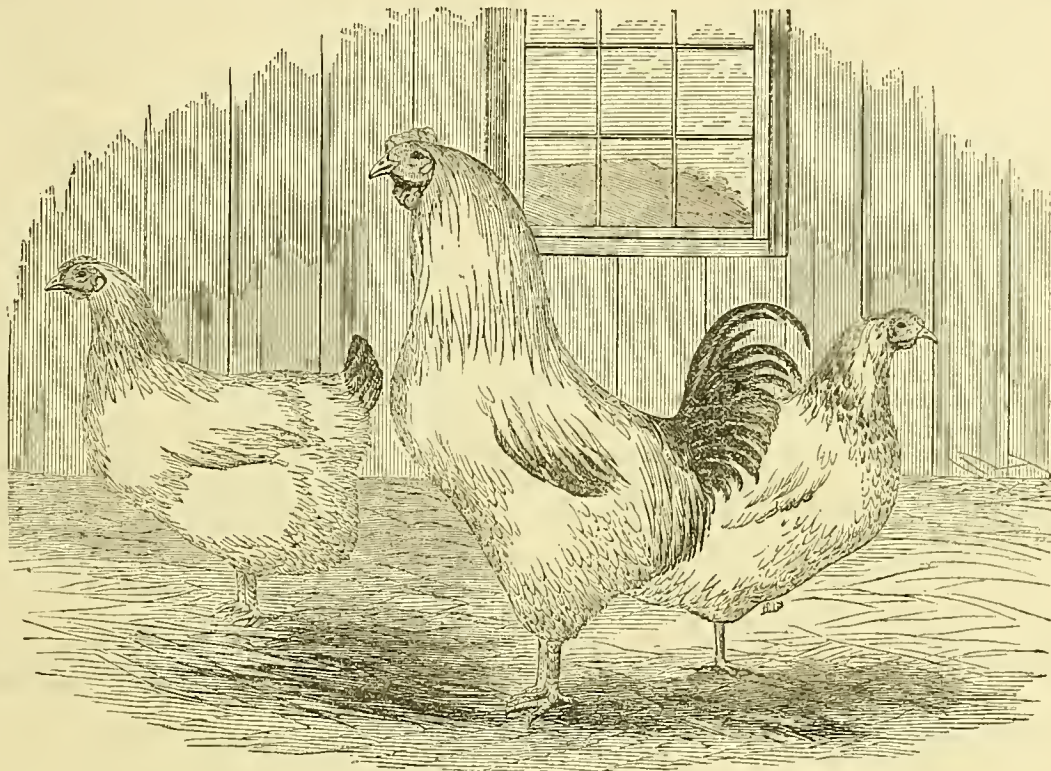
ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

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

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1867.

NO. 20.



BRAHMA FOWLS.

BRED BY H. G. WHITE, SOUTH FRAMINGHAM, MASS.

This breed of fowls is acknowledged to be the best for general purposes. They possess size, beauty and hardiness, and are good layers. Plumage light, legs yellow, eggs large, flesh tender.

ALDERNEY CATTLE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY CRAIG BIDDLE, ESQ., PHILADELPHIA.

The cattle bearing this name come from the islands of Alderney, Guernsey and Jersey. These islands are in the English Channel, very near to the coast of France, much nearer than to England, yet they belong to the latter power. When William the Conqueror gained the crown of England by his victory over King Harold, at Hastings, he was Duke of Normandy, in France, and sovereign of that province. The consequence of his becoming King of England was, that Normandy formed a part of the British Dominions, and these islands on the Norman coast, being part of William's territory, became English property at the same time. They have continued so ever since, although when Normandy was taken by France great efforts were made to obtain them also. They have never lost entirely their original language, or changed certain peculiarities in their mode of government, and in their laws derived from their Norman ancestors. Alderney is the smallest island of the three, not being over eight miles in circumference, and containing little over a thousand inhabitants. Jersey is the largest, containing about thirty-nine thousand acres of land, and sixty thousand inhabitants. Guernsey has about sixteen thousand acres, with a population in 1852 of thirty thousand.

Why the cattle should have taken their name from the smallest of these islands, which does not contain a hundred cows, is not very clear. In some of the Eastern States of our own country, they have been called after the island which exports the largest number of

them, and are known as "Jerseys." This change confounds them with the cattle of New Jersey, and we here retain the original name. Whether the cattle of all these islands are of the same origin is a matter of great discussion, and the islanders themselves are so jealous of the merits of their respective cattle that they would almost believe that there was a different pair from each island put into the Ark, and kept distinct until landed on their island. There is a difference in the cattle of each island, but it is readily accounted for by difference in locality, difference of food and care in breeding.

Jersey, as we have said, is the principal island, and has a very extensive commerce with all parts of the world. Among its exports, cattle form a considerable portion, and are therefore much better known to jobbers than the cattle of the adjacent islands. Great care is taken by the exporters to keep them up to a certain "fancy" standard in their appearance. If a heifer's horns grow wild, which they are sometimes apt to do, they have an instrument for screwing them into a handsome shape. Then there are certain colors more or less fashionable. At one time "mouse" color is the prevailing taste; at another, some other color is in the ascendant. Their beauty has been improved undoubtedly, that is, if a graceful figure, delicate limbs, and very thin skin is beauty in a milch cow. The Guernsey people, not breeding so much for sale, believe that "handsome is as handsome does." They do not breed their animals so fine, nor care so much about points of mere fancy. They have been breeding them too fine in very many cases in Jersey; and they have all the marks of in and in breeding to an injurious extent.

The lines of beauty, in a breed of cattle designed to fatten, may be preserved; but when you take from milking cattle their large bellies and flat sides you depreciate their value. The people of Jersey are beginning to see this themselves; for I read in an article written by a gentleman just returned from that island, that they are now breeding a larger animal.

The peculiarity of this breed of cattle is in the quality of their milk. There have been various analyses of this. The one which I have most convenient was made in France, and, compared with that of the cattle belonging to "the Agricultural Institution at Versailles," which possesses a numerous and magnificent collection of all the important races, both native and foreign. The following is the result:—

Alderneys,	Cows of the Institute,
Butter,.....81.....	32
Azotized matter, .36.....	34
Sugar and salts, .54.....	54
Solid matter, .171.....	120
Water,.....829.....	880
	1000

So that the milk of the Alderney contains 49 parts more of butter than the best cows of the Institute. This analysis was made under the direction of the Institute, with great care, and by chemists who had previously analyzed three hundred different specimens of milk; so that it is doubtless perfectly accurate. This statement is more satisfactory than those which we ordinarily meet with, which give the amount of butter made from certain quantities of the milk of different cows. It is difficult to make these experiments correctly; so much depends on food, treatment, and honesty, that they are

generally of little value. No one, however, can ever have possessed a good Alderney cow without discovering the superiority of the richness of her milk. She may not come up to the wonderful stories that are sometimes told of these cattle, but her cream will make butter richer, quicker, and in larger proportion than any other cattle.

Mr. Coleman, in his "Agriculture," in which he gives the result of his European experience, says that at a farm he visited near Liverpool, they had tested the milk of some breeds in point of richness of cream, with the following result:—

Yorkshire and common cows at 8 per ct.	
Ayreshire,	15 do.
Alderney,.....	25 do.

In the journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, volume 2nd, page 420, we have the result of a comparison with a Kerry cow, tested with a lactometer:—

May, Alderney,.....	25	Kerry,.....	10
June, ".....	20	".....	10
July, ".....	23	".....	—
August, ".....	16	".....	13

3 quarts of Alderney cream gave one pound, eight ounces of butter—of the Kerry, one pound, four and one-half ounces. The falling off in the Alderney was attributed to her having cast her calf, and being old in milk, while the Kerry was fresh.

These cattle are well adapted to this country. They have been bred in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, continuously, since the year 1840. There had been an occasional importation of a single cow before that period, but at that time, through the efforts of the late Nicholas Biddle, they were brought into general notice. He, and after him, Mr. Philip Physick, were the owners of stock which subsequent impor-

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.





tations have not excelled. The climate, with the same care given to an ordinary stock, seems to suit them perfectly. The published statements of their yield, in different parts of our country, far exceeds anything ever claimed for them at home. I have seen a yield of thirty-six quarts a day, sworn to as the product of an Alderney cow in Maryland, and have heard eighteen pounds of butter claimed to have been produced from the milk of one cow in one week. Of such I have no experience. Col. Le Conteur, the most celebrated breeder of Jersey stock on that island, in an essay printed in the transactions of the New York Agricultural Society for 1850, says a cow of his gave nineteen quarts of milk, daily, in May, and made eleven pounds and thirteen ounces of butter a week—that some of the best cows give twenty-six quarts of milk in twenty-four hours, and fourteen pounds of butter a week, but that such are rare. Good cows, he adds, afford twenty quarts of milk, daily, and ten pounds of butter a week, in the Spring and Summer months. Duncan, in his History of Genessee, says the supposed general average that a cow will yield, throughout the year, is one pound of butter, or eight quarts of milk during twenty-four hours. In Summer, many instances have occurred in which cows have yielded fifteen pounds of butter a week.

The cattle from these islands vary, like all others. There are many very good and many quite indifferent. It is therefore not enough that the animal should be an Alderney cow to make her superior to all others; she should have in addition, the marks characteristic of all fine milking stock.

There is no animal which makes a better cross. No dairy farm should be without an Alderney bull. The cross with the good milking stock of the country, makes a most superior animal for dairy purposes. The quality of milk is improved, very often without diminishing the quantity.

The same parties who made the analysis, which I have quoted before, also analyzed the milk of a cow which was a cross with some cattle from "La Vendee," in France. The result was as follows:

GRADE COW.		
Butter,	} Solid matter,	78
Azotized matter,		31
Sugar and salts,		53
Water,		838
		1000

Thus the cross with the Alderney stock, showed only three parts less of butter than the thorough bred; and forty-six parts more than that of other fine stock.

Mr. John R. Penrose, whose farm is in Chester County, Pa., states in Morris' Rural Register, that a grade Alderney of his, from a mother of no merit, gave before she was two years old, eight and a half pounds of butter in seven days. After her second calf, in fourteen milkings she made sixteen pounds and one ounce. She was again tried, and with extra feeding made in seven milkings, or three and a half days, nine pounds, scant one ounce.

I have no doubt that by judicious crossing we can produce here, the very finest stock of dairy cattle. Their milk may not be quite so rich as that from the pure animal, but it can be very much increased in quantity, so as to fully make up the difference. In most cases, the large yield quoted in this country, as from Alderney cattle, is due to a cross on some fine milking stock. The three quarter and seven-eighths bred cattle, are often very handsome, and cannot be told from the thorough-bred. In fact, they will always take the premium over the thorough-breds among judges acquainted with other stock, but of no experience in this. The fancier of "short horns," or "Devous," or "Herefords," will vote for the cow with the roundest form and handsomest shape.

The Alderneys are extremely precocious. I have known them giving milk at one year and two weeks old, and at thirteen and fourteen months old, repeatedly. In fact, it requires great care to prevent their becoming with calf at four or five months old, if allowed to run

with the herd. You cannot make farmers believe this, yet it generally happens. It is not judicious to allow them to calve so young. If they drop their calf when two years old, the milking qualities will be sufficiently developed without interfering injuriously with their growth. I have delayed their calving until three years of age, but found that while I had a much fatter animal, it was obtained at the expense of milking qualities. Somewhat, of course, depends on the calf, it may be so well grown and thrifty, as to justify a little earlier "coming into profit;" or it may from some cause be a little backward, so as to require a month or so of delay; but I think as a general rule two years is about the right age for this locality.

They keep in profit many years. I have generally found it paid to keep on milking them until sixteen years of age. Of course, in this calculation, the value of the calves is taken into consideration.

They rarely run dry, but can be milked from the time they calve till they calve again. It is well, however, for the sake of the calf, to let them go dry a month before calving. This, in cows well kept, is ample. Those who have had a struggle with life to get through the Winter may require a longer time to recuperate. If they are obliged to build up their own system, as well as that of their young, it may be necessary to make no other demands on them. For a fell fed animal, that is, an animal always kept in good condition, which should be the case with milking cattle, a month is quite sufficient. There is no habit more important to impress upon cattle than that of continuous milking. In many cases the fault of a cow going dry, after five or six months milking, lies at the door of the person who milks her. All cows will not milk equally long; but the length to which any cow will give milk can undoubtedly be extended by judicious and persistent milking. An unskillful hand will often dry up a cow by not milking perfectly clean, in an extraordinary short period. The process of nature is too exact to allow anything to be wasted, and what is not demanded of her soon ceases to be supplied.

The French system of very minute divisions of land prevails in the Channel Islands, and the farms vary in size from one acre up to ten or twelve acres of land. The cattle are not allowed to roam like ours, but are "tethered" to a stake driven into the ground, which is moved as necessity requires. The bulls are kept constantly stabled, and are generally slaughtered when three years of age.

I have, I think, touched upon all the points in regard to these cattle likely to interest the readers of the *Farm and Fireside*. I have endeavored neither to exaggerate their merits nor to conceal their faults. Of the cattle from the three islands, I, myself, prefer the Guernsey. They are very much less known than the Jerseys, which are exported every where by professional dealers, who buy the cheapest animals they can. Many of them are utterly worthless, either for milk, cream or beef.—There are fine cattle in Jersey, and very fine cattle have been imported from that island into this country. Perhaps, after all, the difference between the animals from the three islands depends more on the difference between the individuals of the race, than the race itself. That is to say, if one is fortunate enough to have one or two good cows from Jersey, he is apt to think they must have the best cows on that island; on the other hand, if he has Guernsey cows which satisfy him, he thinks that is the true home of the animal. Be it as it may, it is very certain that a good cow from any one of the islands cannot fail to give satisfaction.

Mr. Henry D. Inglis, in his work on the Channel Islands, where he spent two years, says of the Jersey butter, "it is not superior to that of the best English dairies; the superiority of the Guernsey butter I fully admit. I do not know that I have ever seen such butter as is in the Guernsey market." This he does not pretend to account for, as it may be attributed to various causes; the Guernsey people of course give the credit to their cows.

What I have said of these cattle, it is perhaps proper to state, is founded upon a trial of them for twenty-seven years.

May, 1867.

Grape Culture.

WE give additional extracts from the "Transactions of the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry in the year 1866."—

SPARKLING HOCK AND MOSELLE WINES.

NASHAWAUG, WEST KILLINGLY,
July 2nd, 1866.

MY DEAR SIR:—

A day's recreation, preparatory to the enjoyment of the calm, quiet, noiseless (?) celebration of our national holiday, affords me the opportunity of executing my threatened second intrusion upon your attention, by a continuation of the account of the manufacture of the Rhine Wines. And, for variety sake, I shall send you a German translation of a published account of the establishment of Mr. Chr. Adv. Kupferberg of Mayence. I have not vividly in memory the communication upon Mr. Henry Pabstman's Hockheimer vineyards, etc., but in them, I think, I made reference to Mr. Kupferberg, as being one of the most intelligent, courteous, and highly respectable merchants of Mayence.

In his wine vaults, (at the time of my being with him in October, 1865,) he had six hundred thousand bottles of sparkling Hock and Moselle wines, (besides a large quantity in wood,) of various grades and value, but none of an inferior quality. His wines have a most extended and honorable reputation; his business connections being with almost every country, but more particularly with England, where he has established a branch of his house. He had quite an extended correspondence and traffic with the United States, and mentioned the names of many of the New York merchants, as well as those of the other large cities. In referring to the action of the Collector of customs at San Francisco, in reference to Mr. Pabstman's Hockheimer wines, he said he could not but admit that the immense frauds upon our revenue, by the importers of Champagne wines, justified a suspicion as to the importations of wines from other countries, and stated that the amount of claims our government had made upon the manufacturers and importers of Champagne wines, through their agents in this country, present and retrospectively, amounted to the sum of \$1,750,000 for the past six years; the result of which had been the almost total annihilation of the importation of the pure wines of well known and responsible wine growers.

In reference to his own productions, he said his greatest obstacle in the prosecution of his business, was, (as that of his friend and neighbor, Mr. Pabstmann,) in the putting on the different foreign markets for sale and competition, wines produced in the same region of country, which, as the productions of poorly cultivated vineyards, and the most inferior qualities were sold properly perhaps, as the wines of those districts, yet were of so inferior value, as to force from the markets the higher and more costly wines of the same localities, but of the most superior qualities and value.

It was not as amusing as instructive to hear the discussions and experience of these intelligent, responsible manufacturers upon the enormous frauds practiced upon communities everywhere, (but especially in the United States,) in these transactions of inferior wines by unprincipled men, through the easy credulity of pretended connoisseurs and dealers. The knowledge and discrimination necessary to a recognition and appreciation of the higher grades of wines was the result of investigations, and familiarity of causes and effects, which an extended experience and observation could alone acquire.

It was a conviction of the correctness of Prof. Engelbach's (at Giessen,) assertion that there was not a fruit whose flavor could not be counterfeited in the laboratory, nor a flower whose fragrance could not be chemically pro-

duced, and in corroboration of which, we tasted liquors of each peculiar flavor; smelt of perfumes identical with the most familiar flowers, but all of which had never passed the threshold of his laboratory.

On the left bank of the German river Rhine, not far from the health-giving mineral sources of the town of Wiesbaden, in sight of the vineyards of Hockheim, where the celebrated wine grows, there lies the time-honored town of Mayence, rich in recollections that date far back to the Roman epoch, well known by the industry of her citizens, who once counted among their compatriots the benefactor of humanity, John Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press. At present Mayence is the chief seat in Rhine wine, the most important branch of which trade, viz: the manufacture of sparkling Hock, has reached a high degree of development in that very town. Whilst but a few score of years ago the preparation of sparkling wine had been monopolized by the French in the Champagne, it is pleasing to see that industry transplanted now to the vine-covered banks of the Rhine, and to notice the extraordinary impetus which it has acquired in recent times. Among the several larger establishments for the preparation of sparkling wines on the Rhine, that of Mr. Chr. Adv. Kupferberg in Mayence excels pre-eminently.

The establishment is situated on the terrace south of the Rhine. The picturesque view that terrace presents, renders it one of the finest points of the Rhenish region.

Here the wine is first fetched up in casks by means of a large crane, from the depths of the cellars in order to be immediately filled into the bottles, which directly afterwards are corked carefully, tied and closed tightly with wire. The bottles that have been filled are then piled up in large heaps in a horizontal position; fermentation then gradually takes place in the wine, carbonic gas being formed and uniting with the wine. When this fermentation sets in with violence, the wine bursts its prison with a loud report, and woe to the by-standing workman, if he does not wear the customary wire mask at the moments when the fragments of the broken bottle are hurled into his face. The cellars, that almost form a labyrinth doubly vaulted one over the other, are provided everywhere with running water and a systematic ventilation, and almost magically lighted with gas.

We may note here still a few facts worthy of remark. After fermentation of the wine has been completed in the bottles, the dregs settle, promoted through the frequent shaking of the bottles, which are now brought into a more upright position. Then another important operation follows, which is called the disgorging process, and which consists in the expulsion of the sediment through a rapid opening of the bottles. To the wine, thus completely cleared by this manipulation, there is now added, by the help of a cleverly constructed machine, a new ingredient in the shape of liquor, i. e. a union of sugar dissolved in wine with cognac. This addition is made in such a manner as to agree with the taste of the different countries and the requirements of the various climates. The wine, it is true, is now perfectly prepared in the bottle; yet the latter has still to pass through many hands before it is in a fit condition for exportation. The workman, with the aid of a machine which works with great precision, closes the bottles with a cork which bears on the lower side the mark of the wine manufacturer, whilst another workman binds it with strings, and a third one fastens it with wire. Other hands provide the bottles with tinfoil and labels, wrap it up in paper, and complete its outer appearance. For exportation the bottles are lastly stuck into straw envelopes and packed up in boxes.

ELISHA DYER.

The best preventive for mildew in grapes is vigorous pruning and cultivation, and the admission of light and air. Exotic grapes are especially liable to attacks of mildew.

"Axe Grinding" is a term borrowed from one of the most charming stories told by Benjamin Franklin. A little boy going to school was costed by a man carrying an axe. The man calls the boy all kinds of pretty and endearing names, and induces him to enter a yard where there is a grindstone. "Now my pretty little fellow," says he with the axe, "only turn the handle and you'll see something pretty." The boy turns and turns, and the man holds the axe to the stone and pours water over it until the axe is ground. Straightway he turns with stentorian voice and fierce gesture on the boy: "You abandoned little miscreant," he cries, "what do you mean by playing truant from school? You deserve a good thrashing. Get you gone, sirrah, this instant!" "And after this," adds Franklin, "when anybody flattered me I always thought he had an axe to grind."





The Fireside Muse.

UP IN THE BARN.

Old Farmer Joe steps through the doors
As wide to him as gates of Thebes;

Ten tons of timothy up there,
And four of clover in the hay;

A dozen head of cattle stand
Reflective in the leaf-strewn yard;

Cart loads of pumpkins yonder lie—
The horse is feeding in his stall,

At length Old Farmer Joe sits down—
A patch across each of his knees;

"How fast the years do go!" says he;
"It seems, in fact, but yesterday,

David—he calls a clipper now;
And 'Zekiel died in Mexico—

I might have been—I can't tell what!
Who know about it till he tries?

I might have preached, like Parson Jones;
Or got a living at the law;

Far better is it as 'tis;
What future waits him, no man knows;

Content is rich, and somethin' more—
I think I have heard somebody say;

I've plowed and mowed this dear old farm,
Till not a rod but what I know;

And on this same old farm I'll stay,
And raise my cattle and my corn;

And Farmer Joe pulled down his hat,
And stood upon his feet once more;

General Miscellany.

HARDENING AND COLORING THE RIND OF CHEESE.

THERE is a strange fancy among consumers of cheese for bright colors. Many seem to suppose that a highly colored rind is an indication of good cheese, as a natural yellow is of good butter. Color of the rind is no indication of a good cheese, but should rather be regarded as a contrary indication.

"English cheeses have no bandages upon them when they go to market, and in several varieties none are used while curing in the dairy. The Cheddar dairymen use a tempo-

rary bandage upon their cheese while curing. It is a stout linen cloth, which is drawn tightly about the cheese as it comes into the press. Some have eyelet holes worked into the ends of the bandage, and it is secured tightly about the cheese by being laced up.

The Cheddar dairymen use nothing upon the rind of the cheese for the purpose of hardening it. The salting is done in the curd, and the cheese goes to the curing room, and with the exception of bandaging does not, in curing, undergo any process materially different from the practice at American factories.

Small cheeses are sometimes dipped, soon after coming from the press, into scalding brine, for the purpose of making a firm, hard rind.

Dipping the cheese several times into wood ashes lye, we have been told, would give a rind impervious to flies, but we never saw the process put in operation.

The dark color sometimes seen upon English cheese, referred to by our correspondent, is made from a kind of paint of Indian red, or Spanish brown and beer. It is rubbed on with a woolen cloth. As soon as the state of the paint will permit, the edges and sides of the cheese are rubbed hard with a cloth at least once a week.

Dutch cheeses are colored with a preparation of *tournesol*, extracted from a plant that grows wild in France in great abundance (*croton tinctorium*). The paints are ground in a mill, the juice pressed out, and into this old hempen rags are thrown until soaked full, when they are hung up to dry. They are then exposed to the vapor of lime, dissolved in urine, which gives them a violet color.

A color may be obtained from pure annatto cut with potash. We cannot see any good resulting from these preparations. They certainly do not improve the flavor or quality of the cheese. Nor can we see why cheese painted up in this way should command better sales, but it seems they do in some markets, and if the people will have them and are willing to pay for them, we suppose dairymen must conform to the requirements of the trade.

UNDERDRAINING LAND.—Experiments in underdraining land were made in Scotland last year for the purpose of determining the effect on the temperature of the soil, compared with that in the same vicinity which was not drained. The result was that the draining raised the temperature 1.5 degrees, equal to a removal of the land from one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles South.

SHARING IN ROTHSCHILD'S FORTUNE.—During the stormy days of 1848, two stalwart mocoerats entered the bank of the late Baron Anselm Rothschild, at Frankfort. "You have millions," said they to him, "and we have nothing; you must divide with us."

FRUIT in Northern Indiana has been injured by frost. Strawberries, grapes and currants are looking badly.

WANT OF DECISION.

A GREAT deal of labor is lost to the world for the want of a little courage. Every day sends to their graves a number of obscure men, who have only remained in obscurity because their timidity has prevented them from making a first effort, and who, if they had only been induced to begin, would in all probability have gone great lengths in the career of fame.

NAPOLEON IN POVERTY.

THE following original letter, written by the founder of the Napoleonic dynasty to Talma, long before he was Napoleon the First, is published in a London journal:

"Mon Cher Talma—I have fought like a lion for the Republic. But, my good friend Talma, as my reward I am left to die with hunger. I am at the end of all my resources. That miserable fellow Aubry (then Minister of War) leaves me in the mire when he might do something for me. I feel that I have the power of doing more than Geus, Santerre and Rossignot, and yet they cannot find a corner for me in La Vendee or elsewhere, to give me employment. You are happy; your reputation depends upon yourself alone.

A FRIENDLY HORSE.—A few days since, as we were leaving our residence on our usual morning visit to the office, a sorrel horse belonging to us galloped up and caught our arm, and made an attempt to pull us in the direction he wished to go. He then left, and went off in a quick gait towards a pasture on a farm about a quarter of a mile distant from our residence.

THE CROPS IN DELAWARE.

Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

Corn, wheat and peaches are our chief staples; and a good crop of all is the farmer's height of fortune—the failure of all, his extreme bad luck.

The last Winter, and the present Spring, have both been remarkable. During the former, more snow fell, and remained on the ground, than had been known for many years; and the latter has been equally distinguished for its many cold and long continued rain-storms.

Notwithstanding all this, the wheat looks very well, and promises an early and excellent harvest. Of course, this must be restricted to the high land; for on low, springy or marshy places, the water has almost ruined the crop.

The peach crop is also promising; and although at this early day we cannot speak with certainty, we still hope to supply Philadelphia, New York and the Eastern markets with an abundance of this luscious fruit. The exception to the general yield will be found along the Bay shores of the State, where the orchards have been most exposed to the bleak, piercing North Eastern winds.

TIME PASSING.

HAVE you ever seen those marble statues in some public square or garden, which art has so finished with a perennial fountain, that through the lips or through the hands, clear water flows in a perpetual stream, on, on, on forever; and the marble stands there—passive, cold, making no effort to arrest the gliding water?

It is so, just so, that the destiny of nine men out of ten accomplishes itself, slipping away from them, aimless, useless, till it is too late. And we are asked, with all the solemn thoughts which crowd around on approaching eternity, what has been our life, and what do we intend it shall be? Yesterday, last week, last year—they are gone. Yesterday, for example, was such a day as never was before, and never can be again.

BATHS FOR ANIMALS.—Dr. Charles Shepard, one of the founders of the Turkish bath in America, related in a recent speech, some remarkable facts and experiences of the Turkish bath in Europe. In Ireland, for instance, where the bath has made a great progress, there is an estate-owner who has Turkish baths not only for his own family use, but also one for his horses and cattle.



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 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 spider.





The Field.

MANURING CORN IN THE HILL.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

It is very evident that the practice of applying some kind of stimulant to corn in the hill is becoming more appreciated, every year, and is more practiced than it was five or six years ago; but there still is, and probably always will be, a great difference in opinion as to the most economical application when first cost and effect are taken into consideration.

Much in the result will depend upon the kind of corn planted, for on some of the early maturing kinds a dash of artificial manure, in the hill, will produce little or no perceptible effect; but when applied to the Peru corn, or other later maturing kinds, the effect is astonishing; for this kind of corn our season is usually most too short; causing it in many cases to produce too large a percentage of "uubbins," or soft, imperfect corn; while a light dash of some stimulating manure, applied to the hill, just after the corn is up, seems to give it a start which practically lengthens the season for two weeks, or more; and that which otherwise would form uubbins to make mature corn. There is but little doubt but the conflicting statements which we see printed, with regard to the benefit to be derived from hill manuring, may be traced to this fact—that the main benefit of manuring in the hill is to give the corn a start, which gives it more time to harden up and perfect the later ears; and hence when applied to early ripening corn, as the King Phillip, or Yellow Flint, it produces but little effect; but when applied, even in small amounts, to Peru corn, or as it is often styled, Chester county corn, it will often add from ten to fifteen per cent. to the yield of sound corn.

Another open question, in connection with manuring in the hill, is whether the manure should be applied in the hill, under or with the grain, or on top after covering. In my opinion, this must in a great measure depend upon the manure used; for if it contains a large percentage of alkaline salts, it may be so soluble and alkaline as to prevent the germination of the seed. I have made use of manures on top of the growing hill which I should, for the above reason, be very sorry to apply in contact with the seed. Many brands of phosphate contain a large amount of "Dupont's Salt," which will "burn up" the young germ and thus do much more harm than good. A good home made phosphate, without an excess of sulphuric acid, I would not hesitate to apply in contact with the seed; but like the bachelor's ideas on marriage, the dangers are so great that it were far better to apply them only on top of the well covered grain; thus avoiding the whole danger and obtaining the benefit at the same time.

Some strongly recommend common ground plaster as a manure for corn in the hill. Where plaster will produce an effect it may do well for the corn, but I have never yet been able to see that it would produce any effect for me, although I have repeatedly used it, not only on corn, but also on grass, without any visible effect whatever.

As a class, there is probably nothing better than some of our best brands of phosphate applied at the rate of a good handful to two hills of four feet square corn. If applied in this amount it should of course be scattered for some distance around the young corn; but in no case would I put it outside of a ten inch circle, having the corn for its center; my reason for not scattering it more is that I think its main benefit is to be derived from so applying it that it may stimulate the growing plant while it is throwing out its first and second leaves. If you will examine a hill of corn when the stalks have completed their second pair of leaves, it will be found that their roots extend considerably beyond our ten inch circle, and therefore are gathering all the nourishment needed. Careful experiment and observation has convinced me that at no time

can the plant attain more benefit from a small amount of manure than from the time it shoots through the ground until it forms its second leaves.

Some object to manuring corn in the hill because "it is too much like stuffing an animal one week and starving him the next;" and that by this plan we furnish the young plant with highly concentrated food for a short time and then force it to obtain a supply which is scattered over a greater space of soil. This may be the case; but by applying our manure in this way we strengthen the young plant at a very critical period, and make it much more able to forage for itself when it becomes needful to do so, or when the supply of manure is exhausted. I have recommended super-phosphate as a good article for hill manuring; but it is by no means needful to go into the market for our manure; there is nothing better than the manure from our poultry houses, mixed with soil or plaster, and applied in the same manner, but in rather larger amounts than the phosphate of commerce.

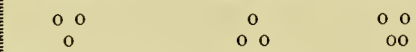
I have also used the following mixture with very good effect, not only upon corn in the hill, but also upon grass and wheat. At any convenient time during the Fall, procure from fifteen to twenty bushels of good lime; place it under shelter until it falls into powder, or becomes "air-slaked," and then mix it with common coarse salt, in the proportion of three of lime to two of salt; and turn it over a few times between the time of mixing and using in the Spring, and you will have an article which, when applied to a field of corn, at the rate of a moderate handful to the hill, will make its mark quite as plainly as any phosphate which I ever used. It is important that it should be mixed at least three or four months before it is used; for its effect is generally understood to be due to a series of chemical changes which can take place but slowly; and hence the mixing in the Fall. I have tried the mixture, when three months old, alongside of a small amount mixed just before it was applied; and while the latter produced no visible effect, the former produced as great results as when the best brand of phosphate was used, at the rate of two handfuls to three hills. I am not chemist enough to understand the changes which take place in the compound; but am farmer enough to see the effect produced by the mixture.

May, 1867.

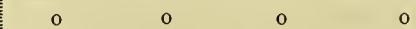
Written for the Farm and Fireside.

CORN DRILLS vs. HILLS.

As corn is one of the most important crops that we cultivate, it should be our chief study how to get the largest possible yield per acre. From experience, in this part of the great American corn-field, we (I mean the farmers) are satisfied that by drilling in our corn we can come nearest the desired result. The same amount of labor bestowed, is more efficient in drill than in hill culture. We will suppose a field prepared for planting, the one half we score for planting in hills; and in the same time we can drill and plaster the other half. *Item:* time gained, rows straight, covered evenly. The first half is yet to be dropped in hills and covered with the hoe. *Item:* time lost, grains zig-zag in the furrow, covered some deep, some shallow, and extra labor for plastering. Now, we are on the same level again, as to time, with this difference: it took more time and labor for the hills, and that in the drills is the larger, because it had the fertilizer in the ground, where it should be, to push it along.—We now go to harrowing: the plants in hills will probably be in this form—



while the drilled will be thus—



We readily see, in the former, that we have to keep our distance from some, in order to escape rooting out others. In the latter we can come up close to all on both sides; and in after culture, with cultivator, horse-hoe, or scraper, it is the same. The surface between the plants

in drills can be covered, weeds choked down and new soil thrown round the plant, all by machine; but in hills, a line of surface will be untouched and uncovered unless you do it with the hoe, by hand. If you choose to put in plenty of seed, and take to pulling, you have the same chance in drills, only let the machine drop plenty of seed, and when fairly started, pull the weakest plants; it will certainly pay. Now we are even again; but the yield (other things being equal) will be much larger in the drilled half, at least such was the result of similarly conducted experiments.—But plant as you choose, have plenty of good seed, put it in carefully, and cultivate till the breaking plants tell you to stop. You may then reasonably expect corn, and, with a favorable season, a good crop. T. G. E.

Aaronsburg, Pa., May, 1867.

ROOT CROPS AMONG CORN.

To grow successfully one hundred bushels of corn on two acres of land, the ground should be plowed in the Fall, in coarse furrows, and left as light as possible without dragging or rolling, and should be old stubble ground. This will give the frost a chance to kill, by freezing the worms which have burrowed for the Winter. In the Spring plow fine, running the furrows always east and west. Mark out, or otherwise, the rows, running them north and south always. Cultivate as often as it will answer to do so—that is, as soon as grass and weeds begin to show much. Plant every other row in the field to cabbage, ruta-bagas, or carrots. This will give a good circulation of air between the rows of corn. Beside the corn crop, a valuable supply of roots is thus grown for Winter feed for cattle and horses. It costs but little more to raise from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five bushels of corn to the acre, than it does to grow ten or twenty as usual. One hundred and twenty-five bushels have been grown to the acre, each alternate row being cabbage. The way to do it is, to keep the soil light and loose, especially if a dry season, as land stirred draws moisture through the night. Never roll the ground for corn crops. A good free circulation of the sun and air is the life of the crop, and with the roots well covered the farmer will be richly paid. A farmer who once adopts the practice of planting his corn in north and south rows, with every other row in small crops—potatoes, cabbage, carrots, ruta-bagas, or parsnips—will never go back to the old way of all corn in the field and potatoes outside, and a few cabbages and other roots in small beds in the gardens. Such practice helps me to starve their stock for want of roots in the Winter, and mortgage them in the Spring to the lice, murrain and crows.

WOOD ASHES FOR MANURE.

We recommend the farmer carefully to save for use in the Spring all the ashes he can collect from the home consumption of fuel during the winter; and where he has opportunity, to procure from other sources a supply, leached or unleached, of this valuable fertilizer. If people knew from experience the worth of this simple manure, there would be no ashes wasted, neither would there be any to sell, except by those who have no soils to improve, or no crops to raise.

To retain all their virtue, it is highly important that ashes should be kept dry; for water will dissolve a large proportion of the most valuable salts, yet even leached ashes need not be thrown away as of no account; for though far inferior in fertilizing qualities to unleached ashes, they are by no means useless. One very important result of the employment of this manure in the growth of cereals is the increased strength and luxuriance of straw thereby promoted—a result due to the presence of silicates, on which so much of the stiffness of the straw depends. Other ingredients, essential to both straw and grain, are furnished by this important fertilizer. Ashes are valuable also for promoting the growth of grass; and Prof. Liebig recommended sowing them broadcast on meadows to increase the hay crop.

ADVANTAGES OF PULVERIZING THE SOIL.

THE effects of pulverization or stirring the soil are numerous.

1. It gives free scope to the roots of vegetables and they become more fibrous in a loose than in a hard soil, by which the months or pores become more numerous, and such food as is in the soil has a better chance of being sought after and taken up by them.

2. It admits the atmospheric air to the spongioles of the roots—without which no plant can make a healthy growth.

3. It increases the capillary attraction or spongelike property of soils, by which their humidity is rendered more uniform; and in a hot season it increases the deposits of dew, and admits it to the roots.

4. It increases the temperature of the soil in the Spring, by admitting the warm air and tepid rain.

5. It increases the supply of organic food. The atmosphere contains carbonic acid, ammonia, and nitric acid,—all most powerful fertilizers and solvents. A loose soil attracts and condenses them. Rain and dew, also, contain them. And when these fertilizing gases are carried into the soil by rain water, they are absorbed and retained by the soil for the use of plants. On the other hand, if the soil is hard, the water runs off the surface, and instead of leaving these gases in the soil, carries off some of the best portions of the soil with it. Thus, what might be a benefit becomes an injury.

6. By means of pulverization, a portion of the atmospheric air is buried in the soil, and it is supposed that ammonia and nitric acid are formed by the mutual decomposition of this air and the moisture of the soil—heat also being devolved by the changes.

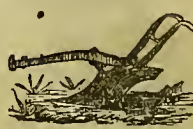
7. Pulverization of the surface of soils serves to retain the moisture in the subsoil, and to prevent it from being penetrated by heat from a warmer, as well as from radiating its heat to a colder atmosphere than itself. These effects are produced by the porosity of the pulverized stratum, which acts as a mulch, especially on heavy soils.

8. Pulverization, also, has the combined effect of several of the preceding causes, accelerates the decomposition of the organic matter in the soil, and the disintegration of the mineral matter; and thus prepares the inert matter of the soil for assimilation by the plants.

WEEDING POTATOES WITH SHEEP.—It may not be known to farmers in general that it is a common practice in some of the potato growing districts to turn flocks of sheep into the potato fields for the purpose of eating down the weeds. The sheep will not touch a potato vine. This pasturing with sheep is very advantageous when the crop is a late planted one, so that the hoeing can not be completed until the haying or harvest is finished. At the growing season it is the planter's aim to keep down the grass and weeds so that they may be covered with dirt by the cultivator and hoe, when these are used. Pasturing with sheep will attain this object. Early planted crops, the cultivation of which is completed in the first half of the Summer, frequently become grassy and weedy before the time of digging—when the size of the tops precludes cultivation. In this stage the sheep are economical weeders. It is hardly necessary to mention that the feed thus given to the sheep makes a double profit, inasmuch as it costs absolutely nothing, while labor is saved and weeds prevented from seeding.

VALUE OF LEACHED ASHES.—The Main Farmer knows a farmer who went into the soap making business some years ago for the purpose of securing the ashes, after having been leached, to apply to his land. He owned a large farm, the soil being chiefly clayey loam, and any one visiting the farm now, who was acquainted with it before its owner began to apply the ashes, would be astonished at the results they have accomplished. He applied them at the rate of from 150 to 200 bushels per acre, to different crops and in every conceivable way.

MILK SICKNESS.—The Medical and Surgical Reporter states that the affection of cattle known as milk sickness, is caused by eating the white snake root, *Eupatorium Ageratoides*. Mr. William Jerry, of Edwardsville, Illinois, in 1860, gathered this plant by mistake for the nettle, and ate it as boiled greens. On the day following he was suddenly seized with violent trembling, prostration and faintness, and on the next day with vomiting, and violent retching. He did not fully recover in five years, and in the meantime tried the plant on domestic animals with similar results. Dr. Amos Sawyer, of Hillsborough, Ill., Mr. R. N. Lee, of Nokomis, Dr. McPheters, of St. Louis, botanist, and Mr. Enno, chemist, all coincide in the opinion that milk sickness is caused by this hitherto unsuspected plant, which animals are said to bke when it is in bloom.



FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1867.

AGRICULTURE feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; with out 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.

INCREASE THE VALUE OF THE PREMIUMS.

It has frequently been made a matter of complaint in connection with Agricultural Fairs, that the premiums offered are not of sufficient value to call out a praise-worthy competition; and that, in some instances, the race course overshadows every other department, receiving abundant preparatory attention, offering tempting prizes, attracting the crowd, and bringing such gatherings into disrepute with the more staid and sober class of people.

There is considerable truth in these complaints, and the proper remedies should be applied. The race course is a legitimate feature, if properly conducted; but the greater extent in which it preponderates, the more it detracts from the general design of an agricultural fair. The premiums offered to induce competition in the various departments of husbandry should be made more enticing—otherwise they will fall short of the effect intended. If the "exchequer" is too meager, it is better to make fewer and lighter awards to the "track," and apply the difference to the object first named. People are not disposed to trouble themselves much about the premiums, or enter as competitors, when the awards are but trifling sums, or cheap diplomas, which are often bestowed either without much discrimination or to the "favorites."

The Illinois State Agricultural Society appears determined not to meet with a failure in these respects. The premium list will meet with the attention it deserves. Seventy-five dollars is offered for the best field of wheat or corn, to be of not less than four acres. Premiums are offered for other crops at a corresponding rate. For the best approved essay on the preparation and management of a stock farm in the State, based upon the author's experience, forty dollars is offered. A like sum is offered for essays on dairy farming, on grain farms and on fruit farms. Also for an essay on plowing as adapted to various crops, twenty-five dollars.

Time is money to farmers as much so as to other business men, nor do they like to have "their labor for their pains" any more than other people. Let the managers of other fairs pattern after the Illinois management, and improve upon it in the value of their premiums. Competition will surely follow, and such competition will just as surely result in materially advancing the agricultural interests of the country.

CULTURE OF STRAWBERRIES.—The "Farmers' Club," an institution of New York city, "made up" principally of theoretical farmers and amateur fruit culturists, originates some queer ideas, besides endorsing all the agricultural hobbies that come before it. Last week this Club arrived at the conclusion that strawberries are "terribly exhausting to the soil"—that they exhaust certain mineral and vegetable properties of the soil, and then cease to be a paying crop. This may be true on some land; but we know fields and garden patches that have grown strawberries for ten or twelve years, and still produce good crops. Agricultural chemistry might show that these strawberry fields and plats would be exhausted unless some fertilizer kept them up to a certain degree of fertility. We do not advise a permanent strawberry bed or plantation; but if weeds and grass are kept out, the vines properly pruned, and some natural or commercial fertilizer applied, strawberries will do well on old ground. We have found a compost of sand and forest mold a good dressing for strawberries; also, some of the super-phosphates.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"J. A. P."—You are in part right, only it is the Black Mulberry (*morus nigra*) that is so extensively cultivated in Europe. It can be propagated by cuttings. North of New York its cultivation is not successful, except in very warm, sheltered situations.

"N. C.," Providence, R. I.—You say you have a large tank filled with urine and sink-drain water, and desire to "fix" the ammonia before applying the mixture to grass and strawberries. This may be done by such absorbents as saw-dust or charcoal dust. Plaster of paris thrown into the tank will cause the formation of sulphate of ammonia, which will not evaporate.

"Constant Reader."—Your query is a singular one. We have heard it stated that cows fed on shorts are never caught chewing bones or old leather.

STRAWBERRY BEDS.—The necessity of renewing strawberry beds every two years has been a drawback to their cultivation with some people. Every season the strawberry plant makes a new set of roots, each higher up than those of the preceding year, which limits its productiveness to one or two seasons. Mr. John Dingwall says, in the Country Gentleman, that he prolongs their productiveness by the following method:

"After the fruit has been gathered, take good, rich compost, and lay it in around the plants, to the depth of one inch or one inch and a half—thus you bring up your soil to meet the wants of the plants, and continue their productiveness for a number of years longer. This I have proven from experience, and have found it very satisfactory. It would be equally advantageous whether grown in hills or in rows."

The suggestion is certainly worthy of attention.

HYPERCRITICAL.—The question is raised as to whether bees do not injure fruit by sapping the blossom. The city council of Madison, Indiana, passed an ordinance last year, excluding bees from the city limits—that is, prohibiting the keeping of them—under the impression that they were injurious to fruit. The great coral reefs are the work of a tiny insect; the clay-fish burrowing in the levees of the Mississippi, causes the fearful crevasse; and bees may carry away a large aggregate of saccharine matter on their thighs. But to pass an ordinance to deny them "the freedom of a city," seems to us to be hypercritical.

One J. PAYNE LOWE, (how much lower than ordinary men we cannot say), has started a monthly farm journal in New York, and has stolen the name of our journal. We admire his taste, but not his dishonesty. The title "FARM AND FIRESIDE," was copy-righted by us in January last.

The Grain Trade of America seems now completely reversed. Formerly the Western States fed the Atlantic seaboard and exported large quantities of grain to Europe and California. Now the United States receives supplies from both Europe and California, and it is actually recorded that European wheat imported into New York is being shipped from that city to the West. Last year Illinois growers had hard work to get forty-five cents a bushel; now they have to pay about seven times that sum for it.

THE SOREW FORK.—This is the name given to a new fork designed for unloading hay and grain. Is light and compact in its arrangement; is made of the best steel; has no springs or delicate appendages to wear out; unloads itself instantly at the desired point, and is operated with the greatest ease. We have seen it in operation and consider it the best invention of the kind yet offered to the public. Francisco M. Ballou has bought the right for Providence county, in this State.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE (rinder pest) is reported to have broken out again in several counties in England.

RECENT FALL OF MANNA IN ASIA MINOR.

A notice of the appearance of a large quantity of manna, near Diarbekir, was published last Summer, and created some controversy regarding the nature of this substance. There can be little doubt that it is a species of lichen, which, like a fungus or toad-stool, springs up in a single night; and thus gives rise to the notion that it falls from the skies.

This manna is ground into flour and baked into bread, and bears the Turkish name of *Kudert-bogh-dasi*, which means "wonder-corn, or grain." Though used as bread, its composition is remarkable; for it contains more than 65 per cent. of oxalate of lime; and has about 25 per cent. of amylaceous, or starch like matter. This substance is evidently the manna of the Hebrews, who gave it the name of *man-hu*, which signifies "what is it?"—from the circumstance of its sudden appearance and their previous want of familiarity with it.

The above supposed fall of manna and the real appearance of that substance on the 6th of July, of last year, is well authenticated in a letter by M. Hardinger to Sir. Roderick Murchison, the distinguished English Geologist.

MINIATURE STEAM ENGINES.

Who says science is not brought down to the level of the common mind, and to the pocket of the least endowed with the pecuniary? Among the recent announcements in a London magazine is "The Little Marvel; a parlor Steam Engine, price one shilling—or, post free, 16 stamps" (32 cents). A steam engine for a shilling sterling! So enormous, it is said, is the demand for this little engine, that all the skilled workmen that can be engaged, not only in England, but on the continent, are employed upon it. The advertisement announcing it has, of course, its usual testimonials from "distinguished men of science," who commend it as a highly instructive scientific toy which no boy in England should be without! And no boy in America, we fancy, would long be without it, could it be purchased for a quarter! Think of it, young America, four steam engines for a dollar! Save your pennies, boys, for who knows how soon every one of you may run his own engine on any road he pleases, heedless of opposition, reckless of collisions or explosions, and regardless of expense and no-body hurt! Who will supply our school-boys with the "Little Marvel," at the low figure named, and embalm himself in the memory of young America?

OUR BOOK TABLE.

AMERICAN POMOLOGY. Apples. By Dr. John A. Warner. 750 pages, 293 illustrations. Price \$3.00. New York: Orange Judd & Co., Publishers.

This is a valuable addition to pomological literature, written by a gentleman who has for years devoted his attention to the subject.—One half of the work is devoted to the discussion of the general subjects of propagation, nursery culture, selection and planting, cultivation of orchards, care of fruit, insects, and the like: the remainder is occupied with descriptions of apples. This differs from any fruit book heretofore published in this country, in its complete classification of apples. The author gives the principal European systems and modestly puts forth his own to be tested by practice. He divides apples into four classes, according to their forms. Each of these classes is sub-divided by other obvious characters, and it would seem that any apple described in the book might be easily identified.

WATCH THE APPLE TREES.—This is just the time for farmers and fruit cultivators to carefully examine their apple trees for the worms that are preparing for a vigorous Summer campaign. A few hours labor now, while the worms are young and small, and just as they are preparing their nests, will be of great advantage to the trees, and will, perhaps, save them from any serious depredations from their voracious enemies.

WEST JERSEY FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

The future of New Jersey, as a fruit producing State, is partially foreshadowed by the Fourth Annual Report of the West Jersey Growers' Association—for a copy of which we are indebted to William Parry of Cinnaminson.

The locality of New Jersey, lying between two of the largest commercial cities of this country, is of great importance, as fruit can be marketed without long transportation, and also commands the markets of New York and Philadelphia. Nature has done much for that State; giving her a soil admirably adapted to small fruit—a sandy loam—which, with peculiar advantages of climate, makes it one of the best fruit sections of the country. Marl, a wonderful fertilizer, is generously distributed through several of its Southern counties; and this has contributed vastly to the fertility and productiveness of the State.

The Report, before us, is worthy of publication in our columns, furnishing information to fruit culturists of considerable value; illustrating the advantages of intelligent and practical culture: exhibiting the skill and industry of a few enterprising gentlemen, and showing the progress made since the organization of this Society. From its statistics we learn that in seven townships, 857 acres were cultivated to strawberries, last year, producing 24,943 bushels, which yielded \$145,164.61. That is a respectable sum for an annual crop, especially as last season was far from an average one. An instance is given of an half acre producing \$690 worth of fruit—cultivated and grown in hills, which is becoming the popular method of cultivation with some varieties. The general method, in New Jersey, as elsewhere, is in beds of from three to four feet in width, with rows of plants one foot apart. The varieties recommended by the Society, for their locality, were the Downer, French, Albany, Agriculturist and Cutter. (Our preference for productiveness, and general marketable quality, is the *Albany*.)

Raspberries do well on nearly all soils, and are becoming a profitable market crop. There are upwards of 150 acres in cultivation in five townships in West Jersey. The average yield last year was 28 bushels to the acre—not large. The varieties are the Doolittle, Blackcap, Purple Cape, and the Philadelphia. Blackberries are given much attention; upwards of 700 acres are in cultivation. Last season the price averaged \$6.12 per bushel; the entire crop of seven townships netted \$63,793.60. The Lawton variety has been the favorite, but is not so early as some others. The New Rochelle, Dorchester and the Kittatinny are favorably spoken of. Of currants, the Red Dutch, Cherry and La Versailles are pronounced hardy, prolific and profitable. Nearly all gooseberries mildew except Houghton's Seedling. Grapes have not met growers' expectations. People wishing to know something about grape failures should read the valuable articles written for the *Farm and Fireside* by our special contributors. They, like ourselves, believe the public has been swindled and led astray long enough by speculative grape-vine cormorants. Our advice is to cultivate native varieties; leaving exotics to gentlemen of wealth and shoddy.

This report concludes with statements relative to apple, pear, peach, cherry and quince culture, as noted by the members of the society; also as regards the ripening, harvesting and storing of fruit. Such publications are valuable and practical.

FARMER'S BOILER.—William A. Hennessey, Woonsocket, is the agent for the sale of Prindle's "Agricultural Caldron and Steamer," for cooking food for stock. It is highly recommended by those who have used it.

The national trial of Agricultural implements, which was to have taken place at Utica, New York, two weeks since, is postponed until Autumn. The ground was too wet to afford a fine trial of ploughs.

A TOAD UNDESSING.—Audubon relates that he once saw a toad undressing himself. He commenced by pressing his elbows hard against his sides and rubbing downwards. After a few smart rubs, his hide began to burst open along his back. He kept on rubbing until he worked all his skin into folds on his sides and hips; then grasping one hind leg with both his hands, he hauled off one leg of his pants the same as anybody would, then stripping off the other hind leg in the same way. He then took his east off skin forward between his forelegs into his mouth and swallowed it; then, by raising and lowering his head, swallowing it as his head came down, he stripped off his skin underneath until it came to his forelegs, then grasping one of those with the opposite hand, by a single motion of the head, and while swallowing, he drew it from the neck and swallowed the whole.





The Fireside Muse.

A DREAM OF SUMMER.

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Bland as the morning breath of June
The southwest breeze play;
And, through its haze, the Winter noon
Seems warm as Summer's day.
The snow-plumed Angel of the North
Has dropped his icy spear;
Again the mossy earth looks forth,
Again the streams gush clear.

The fox his hill-side cell forsakes.
The muskrat leaves his nook,
The blue bird in the meadow brakes
Is singing with the brook.
"Bear up, oh! mother nature!" cry,
Bird, breeze, and streamlet free,
"Our Winter voices prophesy
Of Summer days to thee!"

So, in those winters of the soul,
By bitter blasts and drear,
O'er swept from memory's frozen pole,
Will sunny days appear.
Reviving Hope and Faith, they show
The soul its living powers,
And how beneath the Winter's snow
Lie germs of Summer flowers!

The Night is Mother of the Day.
The Winter of the Spring,
And ever upon old Decay
The greenest mosses cling.
Behind the cloud the starlight lurks,
Through showers the sunbeams fall;
For God, who loveth all His works,
Has left his Hope with all.

Fireside Tale.

THE SECRET ROOM.

BY ARTHUR HAMPTON.

It was midsummer—hot, arid midsummer. Our regiment was stationed at the town of N—. I had grown intensely weary of the idle, inactive life we were leading. The days had become almost insufferably long and dreary; a feeling of ennui and restlessness took possession of me, and I sighed for green meadows, shady laues, and the cool murmur of rivulets. Leave of absence was easily obtained; but, where should I go?

I more forcibly realized than ever before my isolated life. I was *alone* in the world. No kindred to extend to me the kindly hand of greeting—no home to which my steps might turn. I had formed but few friendships among my companions, for I had but little in common with their levity and gayety.

It was at this time that I opportunely received a letter from an old friend of my father's, residing in the wild and romantic district of West Carbury, in the Southern part of Ireland. He wrote, begging me to pay him a visit, saying that nothing would give him greater pleasure than to welcome the son of his highly esteemed friend to his heart and home.

I confess to the weakness of a slight moisture in my eyes upon the perusal of this affectionate epistle. Those who are surrounded by myriads of tried and true friends may smile at this unmanly manifestation; but others in similar circumstances will understand the tide of feeling that rushed to my heart, warming it to the world and my fellow-men.

My preparations were soon completed, and with a buoyancy of spirit, to which I had long been a stranger, I started on my journey. When I reached my destination, I could scarce identify myself with the gloomy, morbid being of a short time back.

As the carriage rolled slowly up the avenue, I had ample opportunity of taking a survey of the premises.

Glenrue was a large rambling mansion, seemingly many centuries old. The right wing only was inhabited, the left being much decayed and covered with the green, clinging ivy. The lawn was closely shaven and adorned with shrubbery.

Mr. Glenn stood in the open doorway, and in a few moments I was folded in his fatherly embrace.

"God bless you, my boy!" he said, in a tone full of emotion, "you are heartily welcome, and we will do everything in our power to contribute to your pleasure during your stay. I will show you to your room, Harold," he con-

tinued, "and leave you to make preparations for dinner. We dine precisely at three, being too unfashionable for your late English dinners."

Alas! If he had foreseen the sorrow and misery that my coming brought, would not his blessing have been turned into a curse, and he sooner seen me fall dead at his feet than to have crossed his threshold? But I am anticipating. My room was cool and commodious, and afforded a fine view of the distant mountains, clearly defined against the deep blue sky. I was not at all addicted to a long and elaborate toilet, and had completed my preparations when Mr. Glenn made his appearance and led the way to the dining-hall.

"My daughters, Harold! I hope you will become good friends," was the rather unceremonious introduction as we entered, and we were soon seated at the hospitable board, all restraint being effectually banished by Mr. Glenn's frank manner and ready conversation. Edith Glenn, the elder of the two sisters, would have been generally termed a beautiful woman. She wore a regal look, with her high white brow, raven hair, and dark, flashing eyes, but there was an expression lingering around the chiselled lips that marred their beauty.

But Maud! how can I describe her? She was different from any woman that I had ever met with. A soft charm, a nameless, undefinable something pervaded her every word and action that was irresistibly attractive. The heavy masses of golden hair, twined around the small, shapely head, seemed almost too heavy for the slight, drooping figure; and the eyes, half hid by their snowy lids and long lashes, reminded me of purple violets.

When we repaired to the drawing-room, Maud seated herself on a low cushion and bent over her embroidery. Edith, taking her stand at the open window, beckoned me to her side with a bright smile.

"What do you think of our scenery, Mr. Ashley? Are not some portions of it grandly sublime?"

"I can readily share your admiration, Miss Glenn, for I have rarely, if ever, seen it equalled," I replied.

"You may wonder at our selecting such a secluded situation, Harold; we have resided here only the last few years. I have proved by experience that the truest happiness is to be found in retirement."

Mr. Glenn's countenance wore a troubled look, and he sighed heavily as he spoke.

"You have quite a rambling building," I remarked. "Have you ever explored the unused left wing? Is there not some weird tale attached to it?"

"I believe there are some reports in regard to it," answered Mr. Glenn, "but I considered them of no importance, and had never sufficient curiosity to penetrate its gloomy recesses."

Conversing upon varied topics, my first evening at Glenrue passed swiftly and pleasantly away. Each coming day was replete with pleasure. We walked, rode, and sailed, and Maud would charm away the evenings by warbling sweet songs, while her white fingers swept the chords of her harp.

I loved Maud Glenn. That my love was returned, I did not doubt. I read it in the drooping of the violet eyes, the varying color of the soft cheek, and the trembling of the little white hand when it chanced to meet my own.

One evening, as we stood together in the recess of one of the large windows, with the moonlight falling upon Maud's golden hair and flooding the room with its pale light, I told her of my love.

She was far too frank and true-hearted for coquetry. She simply laid her hand in mine. I needed no other answer. For a long time we stood there, talking of the future—our future—when suddenly a shadow fell across the moonlight upon the floor. I glanced around and caught a glimpse of Edith gliding from the room. Her face was deadly pale, and her eyes had a strange, wild glitter. I endeavor to reason myself into the belief that it was the effect of my imagination, and in my

new-found happiness the remembrance soon faded from my mind. But when it was *too late*, the circumstance returned with startling distinctness.

Oh! the gloriously happy days that followed! How bright a dream to have so terrible an awakening! But why should I dwell upon this blissful period; it but renders the gloom of the present deeper by contrast.

The fatal day was fast approaching which was to wreck my happiness forever.

Mr. Glenn was a great sportsman, and one fine morning as we lingered over the breakfast table he remarked—

"A glorious day for a hunt, Harold. It would be a good idea to take out our guns and dogs, and devote the whole day to the sport."

I yielded a ready assent, and we were soon equipped and off. We met with excellent success, and returned to Glenrue late that night, after the household had retired, feeling quite fatigued with our long tramp.

Early the next morning I hurried to the drawing-room, expecting to find Maud prepared for our accustomed before breakfast ramble. But the room was empty, and I impatiently seated myself in our favorite recess, thinking each moment to see the flutter of her white dress in the doorway, and hear her sweet tones of welcome. Still she lingered; and leaning my head upon my hands, I fell into a pleasant reverie.

"Awaiting Maud?"

The words were lightly and mockingly spoken. I started up. Edith stood before me, a wild light in her eyes and a bitter smile curling her lip.

"Listen," she continued, "now that my ends are accomplished and my revenge complete, I have a revelation to make."

Her words and looks were totally incomprehensible, and I was about to speak, but she silenced me with a gesture.

"Hear me through," she said, "and witness my triumph. From the first moment that we met I loved you with a love that Maud's cold, gentle nature could never fathom. You would have learned to love me in return, but she stepped between us, and I hated her for it.

While my heart was torn with conflicting emotions, you two were happy; but my time had yet to come. My hate grew deeper day by day, and I felt sooner than she should possess your love I would make any sacrifice. No one ever dreamed, nor did I reveal, that I had explored the unused left wing and made the discovery of a *secret room*. It was a wonderful piece of mechanism. By touching a small spring a door would fly back from the seemingly unbroken surface of wall, revealing a room of small dimensions. It was perfectly *air-tight*, with solid double walls, through which no shriek or groan could penetrate. With the door closed upon a human being, life would become extinct within fifteen hours. Doubtless it had had its scores of victims. My plans were all formed, and yesterday an opportunity was presented to carry them into effect. I tempted Maud to this secret room, and while she was wonderingly surveying it, with her back turned to me, I stole away and touched the spring; the door flew back in its place, and I left her alone to darkness and death. All that night in imagination I heard her shrieks and moans and calls for help. Beheld her heating her hands against the wall, endeavoring to discover the spring, and pictured her despair at finding her attempts all in vain. But there was no pity in my heart, for had she not robbed me of happiness?"

I stood before her as she spoke like some statue, each terrible word falling upon my heart like lead, but without a realizing sense.

"Do you not comprehend? Perhaps it seems incredible. Then come and see."

Like one in a hideous dream, I followed her almost mechanically as she led the way to the left wing. The key was applied to the rusty lock, the door swung back with a grating sound, and we entered.

Onward we went, up the creaking stairs and through the long corridors. At length she paused, and touching an almost concealed spring in the wall, a door flew back.

Extended upon the bare floor, with her long golden hair falling around her like a shroud, lay Maud, *my Maud*, cold and dead. To spring to her side and lift the drooping head to my bosom was the work of a moment. I could not believe that life was really extinct. I essayed to lift the slight form to bear it to the fresh air, but all things swam before my sight, and I found oblivion from my wretchedness in insensibility.

When I recovered consciousness I was lying in bed in my own room, and the family physician of Glenrue bending over me.

"I am glad to find you better, Mr. Ashley," he said, cheerfully. "I hope you will soon entirely recover."

The whole of the terrible past rushed upon my mind with lightning-like rapidity.

"Have I been sick long?" I asked.

"Several weeks," was the reply.

"Doctor," I said, "anything is preferable to this torturing suspense. What of Maud?"

His tones were full of deep sadness, as he replied—

"We can but how submissively to the Divine will, Mr. Ashley, knowing 'He doeth all things well.'"

I had intuitively felt that all hope was over, but the shock of having my worst fears confirmed was a bitter one.

"And Mr. Glenn and—?" My lips could not frame Edith's name, and the words died away.

"Mr. Glenn is also dead. Edith is hopelessly insane and confined in the asylum."

"Insane?" I shudderingly ejaculated.

"I suppose you are not acquainted with Mr. Glenn's early history, for he rarely spoke of it. When young he was a great traveller, and while sojourning in Italy, wedded an Italian lady, very beautiful, but of a fiery, passionate nature. She died insane, leaving one little girl. Mr. Glenn returned to England, and after the expiration of a few years again married. His second wife was frail and delicate, and in a short time he was again a widower with two motherless daughters. Almost broken hearted and weary of the world, he came to Glenrue, hoping to find in solitude some calm for his wounded spirit.

He had long feared the development of this terrible malady in his eldest daughter, but little imagined it would be attended by such a result. Upon the day of that sad occurrence, Mr. Glenn was startled by a loud and piercing shriek. The door or the left wing was found open, and, guided by a second shriek, he hurried to whence he thought the sound proceeded. In that fatal room you were discovered lying insensible by Maud's lifeless body, with Edith bending over you. From her ravings it was comprehended that in a fit of insanity she had immured her sister within a living tomb, and when *all was over*, acquainted you with the awful fact. Mr. Glenn never recovered from the shock. *Her* name was the last upon his lips."

As he concluded, I averted my head, and endeavored to shut out light, sound, and even thought.

My constitution was strong and vigorous, and I recovered rapidly. In a few weeks I turned my back upon the scene of this terrible tragedy, and left Glenrue forever.

EDUCATE YOURSELF.—Learn but one simple fact in science or the arts each day, and then count each day's gain by weeks and years; and you will store up an amount of useful knowledge that will surprise you, not only by its amount, but by the ease with which you will attain it all. Books, periodicals, and papers are cheap and easy to be obtained; and it is your own application that must lay hold of this knowledge that is so freely prescuted to you, and appropriate and supply it to your own use and for your own benefit.

It is not what we eat, but what we digest, that makes us fat; it is not what we make, but what we save, that makes us rich; it is not what we read, but what we remember, that makes us wise.

HOME.—What other Saxou word of four letters suggests stronger or more varied imagery? To the thirsting traveler in the tropics it brings back the trickling of cold water, and the creak of the well sweep at his father's shaded door. The sea-boy shuts it firmly in his heart as he rocks on the giddy mast. The western emigrant hastens to nail the last board on his shanty that he may speak it again to his wife and little ones. It contents the Greenlander as he creeps into his subterranean cell, and the Switzer climbing to his lodge among the cliffs. Why does yonder fair school girl fly with such a fairy foot? She is packing her trunk for HOME. What kindles such exultation on the student's brow as he mounts the rapid car? HOME and vacation. Side by side in the soul of the sick voyager, returning to his native land to die, are two words, HOME and HEAVEN.—Mrs. Sigourney in Educator.



Various Matters.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

So great is the demand for the Osage plant for fencing purposes, that the price has recently risen from two and a half to four dollars per thousand, in the State of Illinois.

In Northern Ohio sheep have wintered poorly. Fodder unusually scarce.

A farmer in Vermont thinks milkweed may be made useful for soiling cows. He says the cows eat them eagerly, and he is of the opinion they increase the milk.

The wheat crop in the valley of the Shenandoah never looked better at this time of the year.

Some farmers sell two crops in the winter. In the fore part it is hay, in the latter part hides.

Upwards of 30,000 barrels of flour are shipped from California monthly—paying the Pacific Mail Steamship Company for freight, \$100,000.

Fruit trees have come forward rapidly under the warm sun of the past few days, and are looking well.

Reports from Maine say that the young grass, wheat and cereals are looking finely, and give great promise of abundance.

Egg plants should not be set out before the end of the present month. If they are, they must be carefully protected at night.

Nothing is gained in earliness of the crop, and much may be lost, as a cool night or two will throw them back two weeks. They are very sensitive in this way, and even when planted on the first of June, cool nights should be guarded against.

A farmer in Iowa destroyed the grub-worms that were destroying his corn, by catching a lot of moles and putting them into the corn field. The moles may be caught by the use of cow's horns with the pith out.

The Maine Farmer understands that it is in contemplation to dike a portion of the immense marshes in Scarborough, so that instead of raising thatch, good English hay may be substituted. It is stated that from fifteen hundred to two thousand acres of land can be thus changed at a trifling expense.

40,000 bushels of wheat were shipped from Liverpool to New York in one week in April.

The National Horse Fair at Springfield, Mass., is to be August 27th, 28th and 29th.

The firm of Barber & Hawley, the largest manufacturers of agricultural implements in Illinois, have failed.

The farmers of New Hampshire are complaining greatly of the scarcity of hay and grain and the dearth of potatoes, which are obtained with difficulty for planting purposes.

There is a great scarcity of fodder for the animals in the eastern townships of Canada, and the cattle are dying by hundreds for want of food.

The crops in Florida were never more promising.

A Boston man has a henery at Barnstable which covers ten acres of ground.

Always set a post fence over a ditch or near good drainage, and the posts, always remaining dry, will last many years longer than those standing in wet subsoil.

The Worcester Co. (Mass.) cheese factory, at Southbridge, turns out ten cheeses per day, each weighing 75 to 80 pounds.

A series of experiments by Captain Joseph Davis of Baldwinville, Mass., has proved that barren apple trees may be made to bear plentifully and an excellent quality of fruit, by girdling them when in full bloom. The bark must be cut away in a strip two inches wide, care being taken not to injure the wood. Trees, treated in this manner, soon heal over, and have the appearance of being grafted.

The cattle plague rages in Holland, necessitating a great destruction of animals. In one district there was such a strong opposition by the peasants, who had a religious objection to the destruction of the cattle, that the soldiers were obliged to fire, by which two men were killed and two more wounded.

The herd of Jersey cattle owned by J. L. Hurd of Concord, Mass., was sold at auction, on the 8th, but the prices obtained were not up to expectation. Belle, a five year old, brought \$425, and a few heifers \$250 apiece, but the average price was not above \$165.

The crops in Georgia never looked more promising than now, especially the cereals. The wheat crop is large and vigorous, and will be ready for the harvest in a few days.

A BACKWARD SEASON.

THE Spring of 1867 is the most backward we have had for several years. The month of May has exhibited but little sunshine. There has been a succession of rainy and cloudy weather. During the first sixteen days of the month five and a half inches of rain fell, and the amount has been considerably increased since the 16th. Planting operations have been much retarded, and farmers are a little discouraged at the prospect. Early planted corn has rotted in the earth, and the fields must be re-planted.

The only encouraging features of such a Spring are, the weather has been very favorable for grass and fruit. From all parts of the country come reports of great promise for each.

Marriages.

- In Woonsocket, 16th inst., by Rev. Robert Murray, Mr. Herman Lange, of New York, to Miss Anna Marty, of Woonsocket. In Coventry, 19th inst., Mr. Elisha B. Sayles, of Pascoag, to Mrs. Mary E. Spink, of Washington, R. I. In New York, 9th inst., Brevet Major Charles T. Greene, U. S. Army, son of Major-General Geo. S. Greene of Rhode Island, to Miss Abby A. Hull, of Jamaica Plain. In West Medway, 11th inst., Mr. Geo. W. Peckham, to Miss Lucia Darling, both of Medway. In Upton, April 14, by Adin Ballou, Marcus M. Darling, of Uxbridge, to Malissa E. West, of Upton. In Oxford, 10th inst., Mr. Orrin B. Chaffee to Miss Sarah Doubty.

Deaths.

- In Smithfield, on the 15th inst., Mr. Alfred Angell, in the 71st year of his age. In Abloh village, Smithfield, 13th inst., Eddie M., son of Mason and Martha Freeman, aged 13 years, 1 month and 16 days. In Lonsdale, on the 8th inst., Annie, daughter of Francis and Mary A. Cutler, aged 19 years. In Olneyville, 19th inst., James Murray, in the 67th year of his age. In North Providence, 12th inst., Martha, wife of James Winterbottom, in the 63d year of his age. In Providence, 17th inst., Harford B. Billings, in the 54th year of his age. 20th inst., Sibusael Hutchins, in the 71st year of his age. In Charlestown, 27th inst., Preserved Davis, in the 38th year of his age. Mr. Davis was employed in drawing the first load of timber used in the erection of the Slater Mill at Pawtucket—the first cotton mill ever erected in America—an event he often alluded to in his later life. In Warren, R. I., on the 14th inst., Capt. Christopher Mason, aged 59 years. In Oxford, 10th inst., Mary Phipps, daughter of Moses Phipps, formerly of Webster. In North Killingly, Ct., 3d inst., Logan Shelly, aged 60 years. In East Killingly, Ct., 12th inst., Betsey, wife of Samuel Taylor, aged 58 years. In New York, May 18, Elbridge Gerry, aged 73 years, son of Elbridge Gerry, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

Table with columns for Farm Products, Groceries, and Meats. Includes items like Flour, Corn Meal, Beans, Potatoes, and various meats with their respective prices.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1333; Sheep and Lambs 5045; Swine, 1500. Prices: Beef Cattle—Extra, \$14.50 to \$15.00; first quality, \$13.25 to \$14.00; second quality, \$12.50 to \$13.00; third quality, \$11.00 to \$12.25. Country Hides, 9@10c per lb. Country Tallow, 6 1/2@7c per lb. Brighton Hides, 10@10 1/2c per lb; Brighton Tallow, 7 1/2@8c per lb. Lamb Skins, 50c each; Wool Sheep Skins, \$2.25 to 2.75. Calf Skins, 20 to 22c per lb. Sheared Sheep Skins, 25c each. The trade has not been very active, and there were but a few cattle except Western ones in market. The quality is not so good as those of last week. Prices have fallen off 1/2c to 1c upon some grades. Working Oxen—Sales at \$175 to \$200 per pair. But a few pairs in market. Not an active demand. Milch Cows—Sales extra at \$90 to \$110; ordinary \$65 to \$80.—Store Cows \$45 to \$53. Sheep and Lambs.—The supply is large. Most of them being Western which were taken direct to the slaughter houses from the cars. We quote sales at from 6 to 9 1/2c per lb. Swine—Wholesale, 8 1/2@9 1/2c per lb; retail, 9 1/2@10c per lb. Fat Hogs—1600 at market; prices, 7 1/4@8 1/4c per pound.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

There has been a reaction in the market for breadstuffs as compared with the previous month. Prices of flour and wheat have rapidly declined; corn has fluctuated violently, and oats have been in active speculative request, and have advanced from four to five cents a bushel. Low grades of flour have been pressed on the market, and there has been almost a panic. Speculative holders have felt a strong disposition to realize, but could only do so by submitting to a large abatement. The large arrivals at the lake ports, and the heavy prospective supply of California flour, have induced the trade to hold off, and the business of the week has been very light. Our present stock of flour is estimated at 150,000 barrels, which is a fair supply. Most grades are from fifty to seventy-five cents lower than last week. The market closes unsettled. Corn meal has been offered more freely, and has declined about twenty-five cents a barrel. Rye flour has declined, but has been quite active. Wheat has declined from six to eight cents a bushel, with a very limited demand from millers. The stock here is estimated to be about 600,000 bushels, and a like amount is known to be on the way to this coast from California, which checks business.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE AND THE PATRIOT FOR \$1.00 PER YEAR.

For the sum of FOUR DOLLARS, paid in advance, we will send the FARM AND FIRESIDE and the WOONSOCKET PATRIOT for one year. The subscription price of the latter, alone, is \$2.50. THE PATRIOT is an old established family newspaper, with the largest circulation of any country journal in New England. S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, Woonsocket, R. I.

Advertisements.

FOR SALE.—AYRSHIRE BULL "JOIN ALDEN," fourteen months old. Color, mahogany and white. Pedigree given. Arnold Mills, Cumberland, R. I. HENRY T. BROWN. May 25, 1867. 2w-20

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 Kniffls, 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. 100 " Scythes, from the best makers. 100 " 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. 1r-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 Milk 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. B. LORING, of Salem, President. WILLIAM SPRAGUE, of So. Kingston, R. I., President. DANIEL NEEDHAM, of Boston, Secretary. WM. R. STAPLES, of Providence, Secretary.

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. 19t

Great American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption, and therefore organized THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, to do away, as far as possible, with these enormous drains upon the Consumers, and to supply them with these necessities at the smallest possible price.

To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American houses, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

- 1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments—and some of the richest refined merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China. 2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas. 3d. The Importer makes a profit of 30 to 50 per cent in many cases. 4th. On its arrival it is sold by the cargo, and the Purchaser sells to the speculator in invoices of 1,000 to 2,500 packages, at an average profit of about 10 per cent. 5th. The Speculator sells to the Wholesale Tea Dealer in lines at a profit of 10 to 15 per cent. 6th. The Wholesale Tea Dealer sells it to the Wholesale Grocer in lots to suit the trade, at a profit of about 10 per cent. 7th. The Wholesale Grocer sells it to the Retail Dealer at a profit of 15 to 25 per cent. 8th. The Retailer sells it to the Consumer for all the profit he can get.

When you have added to these EIGHT profits as many brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay. And now we propose to show why we can sell so very much lower than small dealers.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, our cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the name upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more. The cost of transportation the members of the club can divide equitably among themselves.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars, we will, if desired, send the goods by Express, to "collect on delivery."

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club. Our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$50.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show. All goods sold are warranted to give satisfaction.

PRICE LIST:

- YOUNG HYSON (Green), 50c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. GREEN TEAS, 50c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. MIXED, 70c, 90c, \$1, best \$1 10 per lb. JAPAN, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. OOLONG (Black), 70c, 90c, \$1, best \$1 10 per lb. IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1 25 per lb. ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 90c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 20 per lb. GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1 25, best, \$1 50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them.

Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Pouch Blacks and Moyune Greens. English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the best imported.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO., NOS. 31 and 33 VESEY-ST., corner of CHURCH. Post-Office Box No. 5,643 New-York City. COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GROUND COFFEE, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, best 40c per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866. To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York. Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubled it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa. MARTIN LUTHER.

- 10 lb Young Hyson, in pound packages...at \$1 25...\$12 50 5 lb Young Hyson...Dallas Jackson...at 1 25... 6 50 2 lb Young Hyson...Henry Herrick...at 1 25... 2 50 2 lb Young Hyson...George Murphy...at 1 25... 2 50 1 lb Young Hyson...E. Dyer...at 1 25... 1 25 2 lb Young Hyson...Samuel Decker...at 1 25... 2 50 1 lb Young Hyson...Samuel Amon...at 1 25... 1 25 1 lb Young Hyson...Henry Wheatley...at 1 25... 1 25 7 lb Young Hyson...Morgan Hayes...at 1 25... 8 75 2 lb Young Hyson...John Nathan...at 1 25... 2 50 4 lb Young Hyson...Mark Combs...at 1 25... 5 00 2 lb Young Hyson...John Allen...at 1 25... 2 50 8 lb Young Hyson...Miss Stuart...at 1 25... 10 00 2 lb Oolong, best...Miss Stuart...at 1 00... 2 00 2 lb Young Hyson...O. Bayland...at 1 25... 2 50 2 lb Oolong, best...O. Bayland...at 1 00... 2 00 2 lb Young Hyson...Richela...at 1 25... 2 50 1 lb Young Hyson...Mr. Guyton...at 1 25... 1 25 2 lb Young Hyson...Edward Murphy...at 1 25... 2 50 2 lb Young Hyson...Mrs. Murphy...at 1 25... 2 50 2 lb Oolong, best...Henry Hull...at 1 00... 2 00 2 lb Oolong, best...Separate package...at 1 00... 2 00 5 lb Oolong Coffee...Separate package...at 25... 1 25

We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.—LARGE DOUBLE STORE. \$24 00 3m-8

A CHILD beginning to read becomes delighted with newspapers, because he reads of names and things which are very familiar, and he will make a progress accordingly. A newspaper in one year, is worth a quarter's schooling to a child, and every father must consider that substantial information is connected with this advancement. The mother of a family being one of its heads, and having a more immediate charge of children, should herself be instructed. A mind occupied becomes fortified against the ills of life, and is braced for any emergency. Children amused by reading or study are considerate and more easily governed. How many thoughtless young men have spent their earnings in a tavern, who ought to have been reading. How many parents who never spent twenty dollars for books would gladly have given thousands to reclaim a son or daughter who had fallen into temptation!



Sheep Husbandry.

MANAGEMENT OF LAMBS.

The following extracts are taken from articles contributed by Dr. Randall to the Rural New Yorker:

DOCKING AND CASTRATION.

Mr. Baker docks and castrates lambs at six to ten days old; Brown, Heyne, Rich and Saxton, at four weeks old; D. Clapp, at three weeks; A. H. Clapp and Wright, at three or four weeks, but Clapp does not perform both operations at the same time; Elithorp docks at one or two weeks, and castrates at eight; Gregory docks at washing, and castrates at shearing; Hammond docks at two weeks and castrates at four; the Marshalls dock and castrate at from six to fifteen days; Pitts, at from one to four weeks; Pottle, at from one to three weeks, according to the "strength and vitality" of the animal; Sanford, at two weeks; Wilcox, at one or two weeks, but does not perform the operations together. Our own views as to time, manner, appropriate weather, &c., are given in the Practical Shepherd.

KILLING TICKS ON SHEEP.

All concur that dipping the lambs in a decoction of tobacco, strong enough to kill ticks, is the most effectual mode of removing these parasites from the flock. The time of our correspondents' dipping them varies from two or three days to two weeks after shearing the dams. We prefer the latter time, so that all the ticks on the ewes shall have had time to get (as they will) on the lambs.

WEANING LAMBS.

Baker weans lambs at three months old, making it a point to do so "during the dark of the moon," as they will not bleat as much for their dams in dark as in light nights; Brown, the Clapps, Elithorp, Rich, Saxton and Wilcox, at four months; Hammond, from three and a half to four months; Heyne, from three to four months; the Marshalls, from four to four and a half months; Pottle, from three to three and a half months; Sanford, five months; Wright, from four and a half to five months. We prefer four months, but might shorten or extend the time according to circumstances.

TEGS—PASTURAGE AFTER WEANING.

A LAMB is called a teg after weaning and thenceforth until it is shorn, at the usual time. As the kind of pasturage most suitable for tegs has been the subject of considerable discussion, and consequently doubt, in England, we put the following question to our correspondents: "Do you prefer to put tegs on pasture lands, or on the after-growth of meadows?" Baker prefers, if the season is wet and the feed good, to return them to the pasture they are used to; Brown, the Clapps, Elithorp, Hammond, the Marshalls, Pitts, Saxton and Wilcox, prefer the after-growth of meadows; Pottle prefers pasture if fresh and good; Rich, good pasture; Sanford would prefer good, fresh pasture, but not having it at that season, uses the after-growth of meadows; Wright thinks he would prefer good pastures if fed close and allowed to start up fresh; E. O. Clapp likes to put tegs on stubbles, (especially wheat stubbles), where the land has been seeded down to grass; Pottle objects to this, because "the sharp ends of mown stubbles hurt them."

Our own experience was given in the Practical Shepherd thus:—"The moist, mild climate and constant rain in England, affect pastures very differently from the scorching and often very dry Summers of the United States; and as a general thing I have found good, fresh rowen or after-math on meadows, or the new seeded grass in grain stubbles, better feed for lambs than rested pastures, unless the latter have been seeded the same or the previous year, and the grass on them is tender and fresh." Such is our continued experience, though it might not be so, nor do we feel at all confident it would be so, under the conditions named by Wright; but in our climate, and on heavily stocked farms, those conditions are seldom conveniently attainable.

There is unquestionably force in Pottle's objection to stubbles. Whether they ever produce sore mouth, as some believe, is very doubtful; they certainly have never affected our tegs in that way,—but they cut off wool from their legs and heads, and thus injure their appearance in points where "fashion" is very exacting.

To CURE SHEEP FROM JUMPING.—A correspondent of the Ohio Farmer gives the following curious account of the method adopted by him to prevent his sheep from jumping the fences of his pasture: "I want to tell you about my jumping sheep and how I broke them. I got them in a pen built sufficiently large to hold them. I then caught the ring-leaders, one at a time, and made a small hole in each ear. I then took a cord or string and run through the holes in the ears together, close enough to keep them from working their ears; I then let them out and they are as quiet as any sheep."

L. MUNSON, of Manchester, Vermont, had thirty-four sheep killed in one day by dogs recently.

Miscellany.

FACTS ABOUT COFFEE.

THE coffee trade of Boston is less than one half of what it was ten years ago. We cannot understand this decline, and that while the molasses and sugar sales, and the general grocery trade has so largely increased, the receipts of coffee have so rapidly diminished. The war, and the substitutes now used for coffee, will not account for it all, for the imports had begun to fall off before the commencement of hostilities. The heavy duties imposed on coffee, during and since the war, (when before that period it was a free article,) the depreciation of our currency, and various other causes, perhaps, carried up St. Domingo coffee from 7 1/2 cents per pound in 1858 to 30 and 40 cents in 1864; Java from 13 cents per pound in 1858 to 55 cents in 1864.

The enormous advance in one of the most universal articles of consumption in the country, caused a greatly decreased use of the genuine article, and a substitution of roasted and ground peas, harley, rice, chickory, &c.

St. Domingo coffee is a favorite article in New England families, and twenty years ago used to sell for about six cents per pound at wholesale. Our imports once from the island of Hayti alone used to exceed 70,000 bags per annum, or 20,000 bags more than we now receive from all foreign and coastwise ports combined. We suppose that there has been no diminution in the consumption of nominal coffee in the United States, but on the contrary a great increase, but where ten pounds of the pure coffee berry were used in 1860, not exceeding three or four pounds are used in 1867.

During the war none but the rich used the genuine coffee-berry, the aromatic odor of burnt coffee no longer saluted the nostrils as you opened your neighbor's door, nor were the early slumbers disturbed by the noisy coffee mill of your own domicile. But few families, even now, when the price has somewhat fallen, from the extreme rates of 1864, use pure coffee, but purchase substitutes of all kinds, from the "Hard Times" coffee, at 10 cents a pound, to the pure Java, at 50 or 60 cents.

Boston is one of the largest markets for Java, Mocha and St. Domingo coffee in this country. The cities of New York and Philadelphia are large customers for Java coffee in the Boston market, although the former city is perhaps as large a direct importer as Boston. The Mocha coffee is imported into Salem, Boston and New York, some three or four cargoes being received per annum. Its sale is very limited, and confined mainly to the residents of the great cities.—Boston Traveller.

THE AGRICULTURAL FAIR of Tolland County, Conn., will be held on the 2nd and 3d days of October next.

CHOICE STOCK.—H. G. White, the famous breeder, of South Framingham, Mass., has now on his farm twelve Short Horns, fifty South Down Sheep, and forty Suffolk and Essex Swine. Persons in want of good stock will do well to visit Mr. White.

CULTURE OF THE DAHLIA.—A great many dahlias were killed by frost last Winter. Those persons who have succeeded in saving the tubers, should consider themselves fortunate. Some florists make a practice of sprouting the tubers early in a hot-bed frame, or green-house, and then setting them out in the places where they are to stand. This is the best way to obtain early blooms, but the dahlia is eminently an Autumnal flower, and the finest blooms are generally obtained from those tubers, the sprouting of which has been delayed until June.

THE propnetive power of the droppings of the henry are very great as compared with ordinary barn yard 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.

It is estimated that in the counties of Halifax, Spottsylvania, Franklin, and Henry, in Virginia, and Roekingham and Casswell, in North Carolina, the tobacco now on hand is worth \$12,000,000. The crop of Spottsylvania alone is placed at \$3,000,000. These estimates are based on careful researches of persons interested in the matter.

THE TURE.—A trot between the celebrated Dexter and a hay mare belonging to Mr Alden Goldsmith of Orange county, N. Y., and generally known as the Goldsmith mare, for a purse of \$3000, mile heats, best three in five in harness, came off Wednesday, at Middletown, N. Y. Dexter won in three straight heats in 2. 28 1/2, 2.32 and 2.28.

HOW TO GET RID OF THE WOODCHUCKS.—Get a supply of arsenic from a drug store, and a quantity of small apples, and charge each with a half thimbleful of the poison by cutting out a plug from the apple, and after putting the arsenic in, plug the apple up again, and the dose is ready. Roll these apples into Mr. Chuek's burrows as far as you can send them—half a dozen or so in each hole—and you will soon clear the camp and see no more of your enemy.

A gentleman, residing near Rochester, N. Y., raised carrots at the rate of 1,381 bushels to the acre. He planted them in drills one foot apart, thinned them to four inches in the drills, and cultivated them carefully throughout the season.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares & 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.

BY MAIL, PREPAID. CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS, NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CURRANTS, ROSES, BULBS, &c.

B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest

GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS,

Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted. Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ee-12

SOUTH DOWN CO.'S PATENT

Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers. Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores.

JAMES F. LEVIN,

23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts.

For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & CO., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4m-we-9

COLLINS, BLISS & CO.,

PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

OASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS. 233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston.

New England Agents for the NONPARIEL FRENCH GUANO.

It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil.

PRICE \$60 PER TON.

Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 3m-we-9

Pennsylvania.

RHODES' SUPER. PHOSPHATE. THE STANDARD MANURE

FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS.

Manufactured by POTTS & KLETT, Camden, N. J.

Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUGH, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of this Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is

FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD, IN QUALITY, and is in fine condition for drilling.

Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the

RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

YARNALL & TRIMBLE,

General Agents for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

418 South Wharves, } PHILADELPHIA. 419 Penn. Street, } March 23, 1867. 3m-ee-II

New York.

J. HICKLING & CO'S GREAT SALE OF WATCHES.

On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a handsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory!

500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750
500 Magic Cased Gold Watches.....200 to 500
500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled.....100 to 300
1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....250 to 300
1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....200 to 250
3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....150 to 200
5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....100 to 250
5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....50 to 150
5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....75 to 250
5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches.....50 to 250
10,000 Gold Hunting Lepines.....50 to 75
10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....50 to 100
25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....25 to 50
30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....10 to 75

Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partiality shown. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a Watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious!

A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three and eleven for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us!

Address, J. HICKLING & CO., 149 Broadway—Near P. O. City of New York. 3m

March 22, 1867.

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

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.

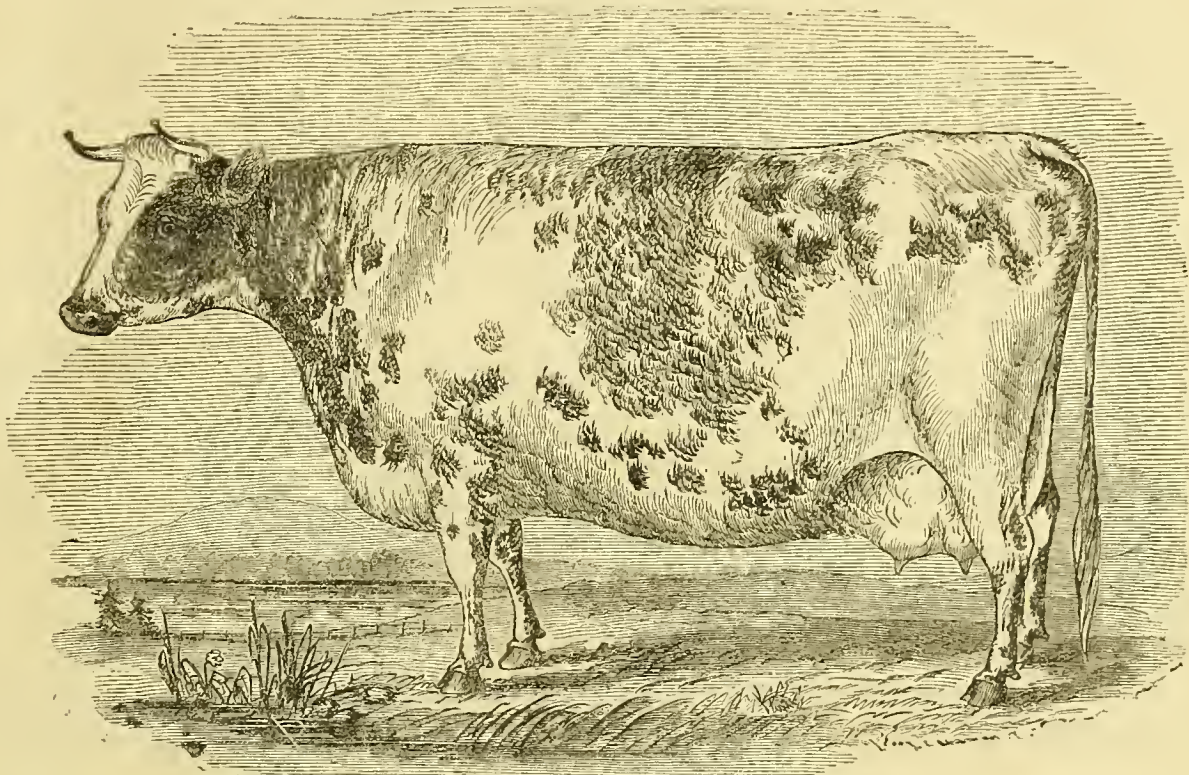
ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND.

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

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1867.

NO. 21.



THE AYRSHIRE BREED OF CATTLE.

This variety of cattle comes within our definition of a *breed*. Almost a hundred years have been required to bring the Ayrshires to perfection, and the originators of that breed had a uniform material from which to establish it, and did not hesitate to employ crosses of the improved breeds to attain their end. The true way to ameliorate our "natives" is by crossing with some of those breeds already approaching perfection. By this means we turn to the best account the want of hereditary qualities, this very defect fitting them especially to receive the impress of the pure race. One single cross of a pure-bred animal would do more towards their improvement than years of selection and breeding among themselves.

The Ayrshires are named from the county in Scotland where they originated and are chiefly bred. It is a high exposed region of cold clay soil, with bleak hill-sides, and vast tracts of moorland, covered with heather, the resort of the grouse and other kinds of game. The climate is mild and damp; grain growing is little practiced, but the attention of the farmer is principally turned towards the dairy as a source of profit. In perfect keeping with this description of land is the hardy little Ayrshire, their breeders having discovered the great secret of success in thoroughly adapting the animal to the locality and climate where it is to live, as well as to the purpose for which it is to be kept. The origin of this breed is, even at the present day, a matter of uncertainty. Little else is known beyond the fact that there was in Scotland a breed that, though bearing little resemblance to the improved Ayrshire of the present day, might have been their progenitors. Mr. Alton, in his treatise on the dairy breed of cows, thus describes the Ayrshire cattle of seventy years ago. "They were of diminutive size, ill-fed, ill-shaped, and they

yielded but a scanty return of milk; they were mostly of a black color, with large stripes of white along the chine or ridge of their backs, about their flanks, and on their faces. Their horns were high and crooked, having deep ringlets at the root, the plainest proof that the cattle were but scantily fed; the chine of their backs stood up high and narrow; their sides were lank, short, and thin; their hides thick, and adhering to the bones; their pile (hair) was coarse and open, and few of them yielded more than three or four Scotch pints (a Scotch pint is two English quarts) of milk per day when in their best plight, or weighed, when fat, more than from twelve or sixteen to twenty stone avoirdupois, sinking offal." (about 200 to 300 pounds the four quarters). From this description it is evident that a long course of selection, and better feeding and keeping must have been resorted to, guided by no ordinary skill and perseverance, to have produced the present class of stock, the true type of a dairy breed. We may well doubt, also, whether these means alone could ever have effected the entire change in appearance and thrift from the old breed without assistance from crosses of foreign blood. The color, the horns, the large bellies, &c., could scarcely have been so entirely changed without some admixture of blood, and tradition points to the Holderness as having been one source of the improvement; whilst the Jerseys are also supposed to have lent their aid to the increase of its dairy qualities. Youatt says: "In many a district the attempt to introduce the Teeswater breed, or to establish a cross from it, had palpably failed, for the soil and the climate suited only the hardihood of the Highlanders; but here was a mild climate, a dairy country: the Highlander was, in a manner out of his place; he had degenerated; and the milking properties

of the Holderness and her capability of ultimately fattening, although slowly, and at a considerable expense, happily amalgamated with his hardihood and disposition to fatten, and there resulted a breed bearing about it the stamp of its progenitors; and, to a very considerable degree, the good qualities of both." But let the cross have been what it may, the result is most satisfactory; and the characteristics imparted by it are now so firmly fixed in the improved breed that they can be depended upon to transmit their properties to their offspring, and this test of a true breed they have now stood for many generations, establishing themselves as a distinct breed. They have deservedly attained the highest position as a dairy animal, and as such have spread into many parts of England, and have been imported into this country.

In the Scotchman's beau ideal of an Ayrshire, the head must be small, light, and bony, the eye bright, and the horn white, with a dark tip, and upturned. The neck must be very thin and light, as indeed the whole fore end must be. The shoulder must lay flat and form a plane with the flat fore-rib and the neck; the point must not project. The loin must be broad and form well on with the wide hips and the capacious pelvis, the whole frame thus forms a true wedge with the point at the shoulder. The rumps are wide and tolerably high, the tail long and slender, the legs straight, the thigh rather thin, and the udder or "vesel," as they term it, must be large and broad, extending well forward, with thin flexible skin, and teats wide apart and short. The ofal is small, and the weight of the whole animal does not average throughout the country over 500 pounds. The colors must be red and white, splashed and blotched, not running into each other, and becoming roan, as in the short-

horns, but with clearly defined edges; the white portion is often flecked with the darker color. Black and white is not uncommon, but is not liked: the darker the red, even becoming deep brown, the more fashionable just now. The skin must be thin and loose, the breed having no great pretensions to handling, and the hair soft and woolly. Everything of the carcass has been sacrificed to the udder and belly, the breeder evidently believing in "no udder, no cow."

Perhaps no breed affords a better illustration of the power of the breeder by care and design to develop a peculiar property in an animal at the expense of all the other qualities. Among the Ayrshire breeders any animal showing a disposition to feed instead of to milk is immediately disposed of, and even those bulls are preferred having the most feminine character about the head. The system of keeping and rearing also conduces to increase their disposition to milk. The heifers usually calve at two and a half to three years old, though some are in milk at two years old. The usual yield of the cow is from thirty to fifty pounds of milk per day, producing in the season about one hundred and fifty pounds of butter, or "her own weight" in cheese, as the phrase is: though we think three hundred and seventy-five to four hundred pounds would be nearer the average. Youatt, in his account of the Ayrshires, gives much greater products as being obtained, and no doubt instances are found of such extraordinary yields.

Though this breed are chiefly celebrated for the dairy, the oxen work kindly, and the steers can be turned off at three years old, weighing seven or eight hundred pounds. They have never been great favorites with the butcher, as the fifth quarter is usually light; their fat is so mingled with flesh that it forms little tallow.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interests of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.





Laws of Health.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
HYGIENE OF THE FARM.—NO. 1.

BY REYNELL OATES, M. D.

The title of your valuable journal, the *Farm and Fireside*, while it seems to render paramount, as its special object, the advancement of that greatest of all national interests, *Agriculture*, seems also to invite communications of a somewhat wider range; and I propose to offer you an occasional article upon subjects which, though not directly connected with the management of the farm, are not, therefore, less vitally important to the well being, moral or physical, of the most precious of all "stock"—the farmer himself, his wife, children and employes. In other words, I wish to approach the *farmer's fireside*, not even excepting the young ones, upon matters that receive by far too little attention there, if I may judge from some years of former professional experience in what the doctors call "country practice." Yet it is not about disease and its treatment that I intend to speak, but about health and its preservation; hoping that all readers will remember that the health of the mind is quite as serious a consideration as health of the body—that neither can be neglected without injuring the other, and that both are as necessary to profitable tillage as plowing, planting, manure or under-drainage.

The ancients, at one time, fixed the seat of the soul in the stomach. That doctrine has gone out of fashion, except, perhaps, with the aldermen; but this organ is still considered as one of the three co-ordinate authorities of the *body corporate*—the brain, heart and stomach—and as completely equal in rank as the Legislature, Judiciary and Executive, in civil government. I trust, then, that no apology will be necessary for beginning with some hints about food; for there are few subjects connected with health on which more obstinate or more dangerous prejudices prevail.

"What! Not eat fat pork!" says Mr. Burly, the farmer, to his delicate daughter or his slender, rapidly growing boy; "it always agrees with me; so, eat it, I say!"

How often have I seen constitutions broken down, sometimes to the early destruction of life, by this insane idea that what is good food for *one*, must be good for *all*! Even the vulgar adage, "what is one man's meat is another man's poison," should teach a better philosophy. A man is not a woman, and a child is neither; how, then, can the same quantity and quality of food be suitable for each? All have the same system of organs it is true, but these organs are not developed in the same relative degree, nor are they applied to precisely the same purposes. They all require the same chemical elements to build up the frame, but they do not require them in the same proportions, nor in the same amount, nor prepared in the same manner. The mother's milk contains nearly every ingredient required by every part of the adult human organization, and although all parts are growing together, it is sufficient for the infant. But some parts are developed more rapidly at first, and others at a later period. Take the bones, for example. These, in their mature condition, require a very large amount of phosphate of lime, to give them proper strength and solidity, yet in the earlier months of infancy they contain comparatively little, and will bend before they will break; while about the end of the first year, they should be firm enough to bear the weight of the body—and the child stands upon its feet. How many a mother has sighed over a pair of bandy legs, from having had the silly pride to test the strength of the young limbs too soon! Now, this demand for phosphate of lime increases rapidly up to the time of weaning, and long afterwards; and nature, to supply this want, changes continually the quality of the milk, up to the time when other food, of a stronger character, is indicated by the growth of the youngster's teeth; so that the infant of ten months would dwindle, if not starve, upon

the food that was so wholesome at the age of a week or two, while, if the younger child were fed upon the later milk, it would inevitably suffer, if not die, from the effects of its unnatural diet. Every nurse who has "brought up a child by the bottle," well knows these facts, and mixes in the proper amount of water with far more honesty than many a dairy man who attends the market.

How do you know then, Mr. Burly, that because fat pork always agrees with you, who are at work all day in the open field, that it will also agree with your delicate daughter, who is all day at work in or about the house or dairy, breathing the fumes of the kitchen or chamber, or stitching away the long winter evening by candle light, without enjoying a tithe of proper sunbath, in half ventilated apartments? The truckster's daughter, if well browned in the garden and field, using her muscles to the extent of their endurance, may stand good, hard-working fare very well, without refusing "anything that comes;" yet your young daughter, or even your boy, though he trudges two miles to school every day, but uses up five, six or seven hours in the school-room, "cudgelling his brains in the gloom"—to say nothing of home lessons, which confine the juvenile parrot by the side of his sister, till bed time—cannot subsist on exactly the same kind of diet exclusively, without suffering, both in bodily strength and mental capacity.

Go, look at the leading lawyer of your court, when he has just finished a difficult case, during a tedious term. See how he "pitches" into the first restaurant for oysters and eggs, if there be any at hand, though, at other times, he cares not much about them. "What is the reason?" you inquire. Why, because oysters, eggs and all salt water fish give food to the brain, and fat pork *does not*, Mr. Burly!

Whatever we use most, wears out soonest and cries for more food; and one part requires but little or none of that of which another demands a large amount. It is now perfectly well known that no animal can live in health upon one kind of food alone—not even upon bread, though it be the staff of life, or milk, though it furnishes some little, at least, of nearly every thing wanting for the full grown man. These articles do not furnish them in all the various proportions required at different ages, and in persons of different sex or occupation. The grass, while it is young and pale green, lives chiefly on what it finds in the air; but when it becomes darker and begins to form seed, its roots hunt out the substance of the soil and manure in far greater amount than at first. A sedentary student in the city would starve, at home, upon the rough fare of a working man. He cannot digest it, and it throws him into a fever or a diarrhoea; yet, after a few weeks active exertion and exposure in hunting, marching, or harvesting, he can flourish upon fat pork and the aboriginal apple pie that we sighed and fought for, "*callida juvenis*," at Westown school, which, "might be thrown over the barn without breaking." On the other hand, when Mr. Burly quits the farm to spend a few weeks with his brother, the rich merchant in town, he is in danger of apoplexy from the luxurious fare. He digests too much of it, and too easily. But if he remain permanently in the city, he finds the diet very suitable to his changed relations, perhaps after a fever or two, a few boils and a "thick head" for a few months; and he then attributes the past difficulties to the change of air, while it is quite equally due to a change of thinking and acting—of sunshine and shadow.

Do as you please, Mr. Editor, with this communication, but if such familiar talk proves agreeable to your patrons, I shall be happy to furnish more of it hereafter, pledging myself that the matter shall be of practical value, to a greater extent, than this introductory and very general article may seem to promise. I detest philosophy on stilts, and shall not overload the various subjects with technicalities often unintelligible to the reader, though it is far easier to be grandiloquent in latinity than comprehensible in vernacular saxonism.

June, 1867.

Horticulture.

HORTICULTURE AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Loudon Times writes an account of the horticultural part of the Paris Exhibition, as follows:

"Interesting among the trees and shrubs is a small and tiny plantation of young evergreens and common oaks, planted to illustrate the ideas and successes of M. Rousseau, of Carpentras, as to the growth of the truffler, and in the center of the plantation stands a little case containing specimens of the large crops he has raised thus. Having observed that the truffler grows naturally in thin oak woods, on a chalky or stiff loamy soil, and on a slope with a southern aspect, he selected a very poor piece of waste land with such characteristics, had it ploughed up as if for a vineyard, and then planted acorns in rows, running North and South, using acorns gathered from trees growing where trufflers were found. In six or seven years he was rewarded with an abundant crop—more than fifty pounds of trufflers an acre per annum.

Beside where those little oaks are planted may be seen, trained on a white wall, two beautiful peach trees, far more so than have ever been seen in England, with all our boasted superiority in horticulture. They are faultless in outline, in training and in sound, fruiting wood, and will not fail to attract even those who take no interest in such matters, from the perfection of the symmetry, the more difficult to attain as on one tree there are at least half a dozen different peaches grafted. Once at those peach trees, the visitor is almost sure to walk along the oblong garden, in which nearly all the fruit trees are planted, and though the exhibition is not so good as it might be in such a great fruit-growing country as this, where even little suburban houses have trees which the best English gardeners would be proud of, yet there is much to see, and much to be learned. Many of the trees are beautifully trained and curiously grafted; in fact, in some spots, if the visitor looks closely, he will probably have an impression that French fruit-growers graft everything into everything else, for they have in many specimens grafted together all the outer points of a whorl of branches, so as to form a living hoop round each set of branches, which are, in those cases, brought from the main stem in regular whorls, like the spokes of a wheel, with dozens of other modes of training which it would take up too much space to describe.

A still more interesting instance of what may be done in grafting may be seen in one of the houses in this garden devoted to the exhibition of cactuses. One group contains seventy plants, all grafted upon other kinds—not merely upon other varieties, observe, but distinct species, so that you can see a cactus, globose in shape, and as big as one's fist, standing supported and nourished by a little kind with a stem no thicker than a pencil; kinds perfectly white, with bristling spines, growing upon others with none at all; kinds with flat, circular bodies, growing upon some with thin triangular ones; and, in fact, such a lot of curiosities in this way as would scarcely be believed by those who have not seen them. One of the enormous round-head cactuses, a globe-like mass twelve inches in diameter and ten inches deep, is in most healthy condition; not, however, standing upon its own basis, but grafted upon three different stems of a totally different cactus—even a different genus—so that the great round mass grows upon and receives its nutriment through three small legs, so to speak, and is in much better health than if growing upon its own roots. This collection, with other contributions to the consecutive shows, will probably remain here all the season, like the more permanent displays.

There are numerous beds filled with choice Spring flowers dotted about. There is a capital group of the various kinds of tea-plants brought from the South of France. Hot-houses in abundance and variety, and *material d'horticulture* of all kinds, are also exhibited,

so that it should be seen by every person interested in horticulture who visits the Exhibition. The great aquariums are not yet finished, though a few fish may already be seen in the fresh-water one; when they are in full working order a novel and highly interesting feature will be added to the garden, which is railed off from the rest of the park, and for entrance to which half a franc is charged, in addition to the fee for entering the Exhibition."

TRANSPLANTING.

TRANSPLANTING is an operation of great importance; the condition of the plant, the state of the soil and of the atmosphere, have much to do with its success, independently of the simple mechanical operation. It is not very easy to instruct the uninitiated as to what the proper condition of the plant should be; experience in this being, as in everything else, the best teacher. Attention to keeping the seed-bed clear of weeds, the "topping" of plants when they get too tall, and careful digging up of them so as to preserve the root fibres, will all greatly assist.

We cannot always get the soil in a proper condition of moisture to receive plants at the time transplanting should be performed, but to make up for the want of moisture, planting should always be delayed until late in the afternoon, unless in cloudy weather. It is also of great importance that the ground be freshly plowed; the moist soil thus brought to the surface will induce the formation of root fibres in one night, after which the plants are comparatively safe; but if they be allowed to wilt before the new roots begin to be emitted, and continued dry weather ensues, then nothing will save them but having recourse to watering, which should always be avoided if possible.

In planting, each man is provided with a boy, who carries the plants in a basket, and whose duty it is to drop the plants on the line at the proper distance before the planter. In planting, a hole is made by the dibbler about the depth of the root; the plant being inserted, the soil is then pressed close to the root, the hole thus made by the displacement of the soil is again filled up by one stroke of the dibbler. In dry weather we still further firm the plant, by each planter returning on his row, and treading the soil around plants firmly with his feet.

I am thus particular in describing a simple matter, knowing well that millions of plants are annually lost by inattention to this firming of the soil. The same rule is applicable to transplanting of all kinds, trees, shrubs, or vegetables. Instead of "puddling" the roots in mud, we prefer to keep the plants dripping wet during the whole time of planting, so that each plant, as it is put in the soil, puddles itself by the particles of soil adhering to the wet root. Besides, the leaves of the plant, being wet, will for some time resist the action of the dry air.—*Gardening for Profit.*

LILIPUTIAN ENEMIES.

UNDER this title, C. F. Sprague describes, in the American Journal of Horticulture, the various species of fungi known as rust, smut, bunt and mildew, which are of the simplest structure. Though the individual plants are so infinitesimally small, they reproduce with such wonderful rapidity, and in such amazing profusion, as to destroy whole crops by their ravages. Their mycelium penetrates the soft tissues of their prey, and on reaching the surface break forth in an eruption, which allows no cure. A piece of glass, on which lie spread thousands of their spores, would exhibit to the eye a faint mist, and yet this mist will increase into a black cloud, which envelops and destroys a field of nodding grain. Experiments of all sorts have been resorted to to prevent the attack of these omnipresent parasites. But their occurrence is mainly due to atmospheric influences. Their spores are everywhere, and can be called into germination by circumstances favorable to their growth, either moisture or drought.

SALTING BUTTER.—It is becoming a complaint, among butter dealers, that farmers are not careful enough as to the kind and quantity of salt they use in preparing butter for market. Some put in too much, others hardly enough, while too many are careless as to the quality used. Ordinary barrel salt is reported to contain so much lime as to cause a soapy texture to the butter, while lacking the preservative power essential to good flavor and protracted keeping. The Ashton salt, imported in sacks of four bushels, combines all the essentials necessary to the preservation of butter,—the salt costing about one-fourth more than that commonly in use. It pays well to be particular in everything relating to butter manufacture—a good article, cleanly made and properly put up, being certain to remunerate the maker for all trouble and expense.



The Fireside Muse.

TWO SUNDAYS.

I.

A baby, alone, in a lowly door,
Which climbing woodbine made still lower,
Sat playing with woodbines in the sun,
The loud church-bells had just begun;
The kitten pounced in the sparkling grass
At stealthy spiders that tried to pass;
The big watch-dog kept a threatening eye
On me, as I lingered, walking by.

The lilies grew high, and she reached up
On tiny tip-toes to each gold cup;
And laughed aloud, and talked, and clapped
Her small brown hands, as the tough stems snapped,
And flowers fell, till the broad heart-stone
Was covered, and only the top-most one
Of the lilies left. In sober glee,
She said to herself, "That's older than me!"

II.

Two strong men, through the lowly door,
With uneven steps, the baby bore;
They had set the bier on the lily-bed;
The lily she left was crushed and dead;
The slow, sad bells had just begun;
The kitten crouched, afraid, in the sun;
And the poor watch-dog in bewildered pain,
Took no notice of me as I joined the train.

General Miscellany.

INJURIOUS ANIMALS AND INSECTS.

THE nurseryman sometimes suffers from the depredations of some of the smaller animals, which cause him great annoyance. The mole, though highly recommended by the naturalists as a harmless beast, who is an aid to horticulture by his insectivorous habits, is nevertheless injurious in his ways; for he often makes his run in the seed bed, or along a row of root grafts, and raising them from their stations breaks their tender rootlets, when the sun and air soon destroy them. Mice, of different kinds, are still more destructive, particularly in the Winter, when they will often girdle young trees near the collar, and do much mischief. They also devour many seeds after they have been committed to the ground, particularly those sown in the Autumn. For both of these animals, the best preventive is to catch them, which may be done with traps. They may also be poisoned. The young trees may be protected from the mice by keeping them clear of rubbish that would shelter these animals, and when snow falls it should be trodden down closely about the trees. Owls and wild cats will do their share in the destruction also, but they will also take the friendly little birds.

Rabbits are also very apt to bite off young shoots, and to hark trees of larger growth in the nursery, as well as those that have been set out in the orchard. Various methods have been suggested to prevent their injuries. Wrapping the stems with strips of rags, or with ropes of hay, was formerly the method practiced by those who wished to save their young trees; the process is tedious and troublesome. A few pieces of corn-stalk have been placed by the stem of the tree and tied to it; this, too, is a troublesome procedure, though, like the others, it is efficacious. A still better plan in this class of preventives, is a half sheet of common brown wrapping paper, made to encircle the stem like an inverted funnel; this need be fastened only at the top by a little thin grafting wax applied with a brush at the instant, or the paper may be tied with some common white cotton string. This envelope keeps off the rabbits, and lasts through the Winter; the string will decay before the growing season returns, so there is no danger of strangulation. All the other wrappings must be removed, or they will injure the trees and afford harbor for insects. It will be observed that all applications of this class are adapted only to trees that have a clean hole without branches, but are not suited for those which are made to branch at or near the ground. Besides, in countries where snow abounds, these little marauders are elevated above the wrappings, and have fair play at the unprotected parts of the tree—on this account another class of preventives has been adopted.

These consist in applications that are obnoxious to rabbits, which, being nice feeders, are

easily disgusted. Whitewash, and whitewash made with tobacco water, soap, whale oil, soap grease, blood, and especially the dead rabbit itself, freshly killed, have all been used with happy results, in that they have driven these animals to seek their food elsewhere. A very good application, and one that may be used on a low-branched tree, as well as to the smooth, clear stem of one that is higher, is blood. This is put on with a swab; a few corn husks tied to a stick answers very well. Dipping this into the vessel of blood, the swab is struck gently against the stem, or the branch, as the case may be, and the fluid is splattered over it. A very little will answer to keep the rabbits away, and the effect will continue all Winter, notwithstanding the rains.

Certain insects also prove injurious in the nursery, among the most numerous are the aphides, which are found upon the roots of some fruits, especially the apple. Others of this disagreeable insect appear upon the foliage; among these one of the most disgusting is the one which causes the black curl on young cherry trees. The pear tree slug, (*Scandria cerasi*), destroys the foliage of many young trees in the nursery; caterpillars also do their share of mischief. A serious trouble in old nursery grounds, especially where manure is used, is the grub of the May-beetles, of which there are several species. These grubs are whitish, nearly as thick as the little finger, with a brownish head. They cut off the young nursery trees at three or four inches below the surface. We have seen two-year old stocks cut in this manner, and the work of destruction was so complete, that the proprietor of the nursery was a long time in attributing it to such an apparently inadequate cause as this sluggish, soft-bodied grub. All of these, with other insects injurious to fruit, will be considered in their appropriate place.—*Warder's American Pomology.*

DO KINGBIRDS EAT BEES?

MR. NATHAN MOSELEY, of Long Island, N. Y., writes as follows:—"I wish to exonerate the Kingbirds from the charge of eating honey bees. Last Summer I set a hive within twelve feet of my house, with a determination to watch the Kingbirds. Three pairs of them built their nests within fifteen rods of the hive. I perceived no sign of the birds eating bees until the middle of June; then my suspicions became very strong that they were eating bees. Accordingly, one afternoon about five o'clock, when the Kingbirds are most busy in capturing food, I shot three of them and cut them open and found nothing to correspond with a honey bee. The insects they had fed on last were not more than half the size of a bee. Judging from the size of their heads and legs, I gave up my ill opinion of the Kingbirds, until the month of September, then a Kingbird took up his feeding-ground within three yards of a raggid swarm. I watched him occasionally for three days and became very much of the opinion that he fed on the bees, so I put him to the test of an examination; but before doing so, I saw him capture what I thought were three honey bees. On cutting him open I found nothing that would compare perfectly with a honey bee; the insect the bird fed on was of a lighter color than a bee, which I think was an ant of a flying species. All the food I found in this bird's maw would not make the bulk of a honey bee. After the examination I said to my wife I would not shoot any more Kingbirds for their being accused of eating bees."

CHEAP PAINT.—An exchange says the cheapest paint, properly so called, is made by mixing ochre or fine sifted clay with crude petroleum. We have seen a coating of this paint that had stood six years and appeared to be about as good as when applied. The cost was about one-third that of common paint. The best and cheapest application of all is that of crude petroleum, without any mixture, the oil used alone penetrating deep into the wood and rendering it permanently durable.

EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH.

EM. BLANCHARD, in a paper read before the French Academy of Sciences, states that the Garden of Plants has just obtained possession of a gigantic crab, which is probably the largest ever known. That circumstance, however, be does not consider sufficient to warrant the conclusion that it belongs to a distinct species. Warm blooded animals, such as mammalia and birds, cease to grow after they have attained a given age; so do those insects whose life is very short; but most animals belonging to other groups, differ from the former in that respect. Reptiles, fish, crustacea, and mollusks, though arrived at an adult age, continue to grow, though very slowly indeed, but still to such a degree that certain individuals will, under favorable circumstances, attain a prodigious size if they live to an extremely advanced age. Old writers have mentioned fish, such as pike, sturgeon, &c., of such large dimensions as we have never witnessed in these species. Making the necessary allowances for occasional exaggeration, it is nevertheless an undeniable fact that in certain rivers, where fishing was not carried on to any great extent, old fish were occasionally caught of extraordinary size. Among crustacea there are several instances. For many years past two American lobsters have been kept at the Garden of Plants, where they attracted much attention by their enormous dimensions, and yet they proved to be of the same kind as the moderately-sized one now met with in the same waters. The crab now at the Museum was brought from Japan by Siebold. It belongs to the *Inachus* genus, generally represented by a very small species, and seems to be exceedingly old. Each of the front legs of this specimen measures one metre and twenty centimetres (four feet and one inch). It has been asserted that in some individuals this length has been found to attain eleven feet, but no specimen of the kind has ever been seen in Europe. The same phenomenon of extraordinary growth has been observed in mollusks, especially in the muscle of the *Mytilidae* family, found on the coast of Russian America, where, being rarely disturbed, it seems to increase in size indefinitely.

AN EXQUISITE STORY BY LAMARTINE.

IN the tribe of Neggedeh, there was a borse whose fame was spread far and near, and a Bedouin of another tribe, by name Daher, desired extremely to possess it. Having offered in vain for it his camels and his whole wealth, he hit at length upon the following device, by which he hoped to gain the object of his desire. He resolved to stain his face with the juice of an herb, to clothe himself in rags, to tie his legs and neck together, so as to appear like a lame beggar. Thus equipped, he went to wait for Naber, the owner of the horse, who he knew was to pass that way. When he saw Naber approaching on his beautiful steed, he cried out in a weak voice: "I am a poor stranger; for three days I have been unable to move from this spot to seek for food. I am dying; help me, and Heaven will reward you." The Bedouin kindly offered to take him upon his horse and carry him home; but the rogue replied: "I cannot rise; I have no strength left."

Naber, touched with pity, dismounted, led his horse to the spot, and, with great difficulty, set the seeming beggar on its back. But no sooner did Daher feel himself in the saddle, than he set spurs to the horse, and galloped off, calling out as he did so: "It is I, Daher; I have got the horse, and am off with him." Naber called after him to stop and listen. Certain of not being pursued, he turned and halted at a short distance from Naber, who was armed with a spear. "You have taken my horse," said the latter. "Since Heaven has willed it, I wish you joy of it, but I do conjure you never to tell any one how you obtained it." "And why not?" said Daher. "Because," said the noble Arab, "another man might be really ill, and men would fear to help him. You would be the cause of many refusing to perform an act of charity, for fear of being duped as I have been." Struck with

shame at these words, Daher was silent for a moment, then springing from the horse, returned it to its owner, embracing him. Naber made him accompany him to his tent, where they spent a few days together, and became fast friends for life.

GRAPE ROOTS IN WATER.

ONE of the most experienced grape culturists in Pennsylvania—J. B. Garber, of Columbia, Pa.—writes as follows about grapes whose roots stood in water:—

"Last year my Catawbas, Isabellas, and many other varieties on dry ground badly mildewed and made a feeble growth; in short, the vines ripened so poorly that they will require a favorable season to recover. Now, the other vines growing in water were not injured in the least by the wet spell, and the most of their roots were under water the year round; the soil is never cultivated, but covered with a sod of grass. The branches and berries were large and of extra quality.

The only black Hamburg vine that I have ever seen growing in the open air and worth the ground, was on a trellis 100 feet long. They bore full crops of fair grapes, though the foliage was slightly injured, perhaps by Summer cold. Now the trellis of these exotic vines stood within two feet of a drain from the house, which was always moist. Another example of the love of vines for moisture is the Great Hampton Court vine in England, as its main root, it is said, has taken exclusive possession of an old drain. I have Concord and other vines growing within three or four feet of a small stream of spring water, which are healthier and show more and better fruit than others growing on trenches and dry ground.

I have been a grape amateur about 50 years, have read all that has been published on grapes, and now, after this long apprenticeship, I confess myself a beginner; this I must say, I know of no books which can be followed with the least prospect of success. I would strongly urge those who have a chance, to plant within a foot or so of a running stream."

A SACACIOUS PONY.—Sir Emerson Tennant gives in "Land and Water" an account of a pony, the property of a milkman, which brings milk to Sir Emerson's door daily. By means of bread, sugar and chestnuts, it has been tamed, and it now moves from door to door of its own accord, preceding the milkman, so that whilst he is settling with the servant at one house, the servants of the next house, warned by the sound of the stoppage of the cart, may be in readiness to take in the milk when the man arrives. At certain doors, where the pony is in the habit of being regaled with bread, apples, &c., it contrives, without upsetting the cart, to raise the knocker with its nose and rap twice.

HOW TO PUT UP BUTTER.—One of the largest dairymen of New York, gives the following method of putting up butter for Fall and Winter use:

Procure good white oak firkins that are perfectly brine-tight, take out the head, first making a small hole, say quarter of an inch in size, then fill it with cold water; let it stand 24 hours before you are ready to use it, then rub, while wet, thoroughly, with fine salt; fill your firkin as soon as possible. Your firkins should be of such a size that one can be readily filled in a week or ten days with sweet butter, to within half an inch of the head, then place over it a clean cloth, and fill the space with coarse salt, put in the head, then fill with strong brine, previously made of coarse salt, and stop it up. Butter packed in this way and kept in a cool place will be as sweet in one year as when first made. I never knew it to fail.

COST OF RAISING WOOL IN OHIO.—Every pound of wool raised in this State requires the investment of three dollars and eighty cents, and the national and local taxes amount to twenty-two and one-half cents per pound. Add the taxes to the interest at 6 per cent., and we have 45½ cents per pound as the actual cost of raising wool in that State.

EVERY DAY RELIGION.—We must come back to our point, which is not to urge all of you to give yourselves 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 lamentable; but the mission I would urge was not of this sort. Dirty rooms, slatternly gowns and children with unwashed faces are witnesses against the sincerity of those who keep others' vineyards and neglect their own. I have no faith in that woman who talks of peace and glory abroad, and uses not soap and water at home. 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 services. To use the apostle's words, "As we have opportunity let us do good to all men."



Field and Farm.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

FARM NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR JUNE.

JUNE is a busy month to the farmer; to his operations in the field and garden during this month in a good measure depends his success with all his hoed crops. If he allows the weeds to get the ascendancy, or fails to cultivate sufficiently, his crops will suffer in consequence, and no after attention can compensate therefor. Thorough cultivation goes far towards making up for what may be wanting in weather and richness of soil; a good stirring of the soil is equivalent in its effects to no small amount of manure; for it admits the air and moisture carrying ammonia, which is absorbed by the soil and is essential to the growth of plants. The soil is aerated and warmed, giving an opportunity for forming new compounds therein, and the liberating of elements necessary to healthy vegetation. As far as practical substitute horse-power for human muscle; good cultivators, horse hoes, &c., will save the labor of one or more men, which in these times of high prices for labor is worth saving and will repay the cost of investment; and no trouble need be apprehended from shirking to perform their part.

Barns and Sheds—should at all times be in order, but especially should they be cleaned and arranged to receive the coming crop. Take time by the forelock and be prepared for all coming operations; work *drove* is one-half easier done than when it *drives*. Clean out all foul stuff scattered in the bottom of bays and mows, and put all scaffolds in order to receive the hay and grain crops. Do up all such jobs rainy or wet days, when there is leisure from other work.

Barn Yards—Make all preparation for the summer manure pile, by hauling in muck, loam, &c., to be trodden over by the cattle, yarded nights, and to be mixed with their droppings.

Beets—Mangel wurzel and sugar beets, if sown early in the month, will furnish excellent winter feed for cattle, cows and pigs, saving hay and grain, also conducing to the health of the stock and giving them a relish.

Butter—made during this month, if properly made and packed, will keep during the year sweet and good. The grass at this season is fresh and sweet, and the butter has a flavor and goodness that it seldom has at any other season; and just now it is the most plenty, and the lowest in market during the season; packed down and held till Fall or Winter, it usually pays. New tubs, for packing in, should be scalded with brine or buttermilk to remove the flavor of the wood, before using. When the tub is full, place a lump of salitre on the top of the butter, as large as a chestnut, for fifty pounds; cover the whole with a laying of dry fine salt and close tight; keep cool.

Cabbage—Plant for the late crop the last of the month. Hoe and cultivate those already set at least once a week—the more they are hoed the better. Plants may be set between the rows of early potatoes or peas, which are to be dug and removed in July. Cabbage are an excellent crop to feed the stock during Winter, if desired for no other purpose. No farmer can have too many, as the manure made from feeding is rich in nitrogen; and they will keep when properly stored till April and May; all kinds of stock are fond of them, and they furnish a cheap and succulent food.

Cheese—This month is a good time for cheese-making; the supply of milk being greater than at a later season, and cheese made now soon cures and is ready for market or family use. Try and improve the quality instead of increasing the quantity. Poor cheese are always a drug in market, while those of superior quality are eagerly sought for, and bought at high prices.

Calves—Attention given them now to keep them growing is better rewarded than any future keeping after being neglected while young; give them a little grain meal, or oil cake, mixed with their allowance of skimmed milk, with good pasture. The first year of an

animal is the most important in forming its constitution, &c. The best cows and oxen do not come from poor and stunted calves.

Corn—planted the first of the month, if not done before, will often mature a crop in favorable seasons. Hoe and cultivate thoroughly, and allow no weeds to be seen in the field. Sow in 3½ foot drills the large sweet varieties for fodder to be fed when the pastures begin to grow short, and also to be cured for Winter use; properly saved, cured and fed it is as good for all stock as common stock hay.

Cows—Keep them in the stable nights, giving plenty of litter, and leaving the doors and windows open, they will be as comfortable there as in the yard. See that they are gently and regularly milked; allow no talking during milking, and be sure they are milked clean and in as short time as possible.

Evergreen trees—may be planted early in June, taking care not to let the roots get dry. Spread the roots well and fill in around them, packing the dirt with the hands at first, filling and treading till the dirt is raised a little above the level of the surface; water to settle the soil around the roots. Keep the weeds down from around all trees; if anything is needed give a mulch of hay or straw to keep the soil from drying out.

Grapes—Proper care should be given in tying up shoots, watching for insects and mildew. For the former, sprinkling with plaster, showering with whale oil soap, or other solution, or hand picking are the most effectual remedy; for mildew, dust with flowers of sulphur freely.

Haying—The season being so late very little, if any grass, will be sufficiently grown to cut this month; get ready for next month.

Hedges—Young hedges require severe pruning to force low branching. Top branches grow without any trouble, but it is impossible to thicken up a neglected hedge near the ground. Full grown hedges will need to be clipped as often as they make sufficient growth.

Millet—sown early in the month makes an excellent soiling crop as well as a good hay, when cut and saved before full maturity.

Potatoes—Keep well cultivated till blossoming, when they are laid by. Use a light one-horse plow turning a light furrow towards the rows and finish off with the hand hoe. Salt and ashes mixed, one of salt to ten or twelve of ashes, make a good top-dressing, a small handful to a hill.

Poultry—pays a good profit when properly cared for. See that their roosts, yards, &c., are kept clean, free from vermin and well supplied with clean water, gravel, broken bones, lime, and plenty and variety of feed, if yarded; when they are allowed to range off the lots they pick a variety and it is less essential to feed the same variety; but they should be supplied with corn, oats and buckwheat. See that the young are kept thriving by judicious feed and care.

Ruta Bagas—should be sown from the middle to the last of the month. Plant in drills 2 to 2½ feet apart and thin to 10 inches in the drill. Make the soil deep, fine and rich with guano, superphosphate, bone dust, &c.

Sheep—Custom demands that they be washed before shearing—a barbarous practice, as usually performed, and should be done away with, and then the shearing could be done earlier and the sheep be better in regard to health as well as furnishing a better fleece; let the work be done carefully as soon as settled warm weather will permit. Note each sheep to see which furnishes the best fleece and reserve ewes of such for breeding, while the culls are to be fattened and sold as mutton. Dock and castrate lambs, if not previously done, and guard against the fly by smearing with tar. See that no sheep are ailing with foot rot; if affected at all apply the proper remedy to the whole flock and turn them on dry high pasture ground.

Sweet Potatoes—a crop which may be successfully grown in many localities where it has been thought otherwise. A warm sandy soil is required; raise ridges, 3 feet apart, 8 to 10 inches high, placing manure in the bottom, and on the top of the ridges set your plants 15

to 18 inches apart the first of the month. Cultivate by hauling the soil up the ridge with a steel rake; give good, clean culture.

Strawberries—Keep the beds clean of weeds, and give a mulching of saw-dust, spent tan or cut straw, to keep the fruit from the dirt. Use care in picking not to tread down or injure the vines.

Swine—Keep them growing by feeding whey, milk and slops, mixed with bran or shorts, and at work making manure. No animal kept on the farm will make a better, or a larger pile of manure than the hog kept in the pen, if supplied with the material; keep him busy by supplying muck, sods, weeds &c. Keep his pen as free of wet as possible by a full supply. Many allow them the range of the orchard and lose one source of large profit.

Tobacco—Prepare the ground and transplant as early in the month as the plants will do; early transplanting is essential to a good crop. A moist damp time is the best for transplanting, although with suitable care it may be done even in a quite dry time.

Tools—See that every needed tool and machine is at hand and in repair and good working order, ready for haying to begin as soon as the grass comes into blossom. Early cut grass makes the best hay; cows give more and better milk kept on it; and all kinds of stock will thrive faster than on hay from more mature grass.

Weeds—grow while we are asleep, and rapidly, if allowed a chance; therefore keep the hoes bright, while you are awake, in keeping them in subjection. Cut thistles with a speed, taking off the crown; allow none to blossom or go to seed. Persistent cutting will eventually kill them. If a plant is not allowed lungs to breathe it cannot live any more than the animal creation. Clean, thorough tillage is what pays.

Ornamental—With all the drive and hurry of work do not forget the suitable adornment of the home and surroundings. You owe it to yourselves and to your children, to make home attractive. It rests the weary body to have attractions to meet the eye when the day's labor is over, and creates associations which cling to one during life.

My Riverdale Farm, May, 1867.

CORN FOR SOILING MILCH COWS.

CORN sowed broadcast or in drills is admirably adapted for producing the requisite food for Summer soiling milch cows. It is nutritious and succulent, and promotes a flow of milk, if not quite equal, at least second only to clover. It is a profitable crop to raise, because an immense quantity can be grown per acre. There need be no loss in growing the crop, since if any part is not wanted for soiling, it may be cut and cured and used for Winter.

No one who keeps a dairy should neglect to grow a patch of sowed corn to meet the probable wants of his herd during the latter part of August and September. If the season proves to be dry, his stock will need it, and by this means he will be able to keep his cows in condition and obtain full returns, while those who have made no provision for extra food must suffer a considerable loss. During the season of 1864, in some sections stock could not have been carried through had it not been for patches of sowed corn which came in play about the time that pastures began to fail. Many who did not put in this crop were forced to feed from meadows, and, as a consequence, were cut short of Winter fodder and obliged to reduce their herds in the Fall.

Sowed corn may be put in from the first to the fifteenth of June. The land should be heavily manured and put in good tith. Old land that has not been fall-plowed should be plowed twice, and the manure thoroughly mingled with the soil. The usual practice is to sow broadcast and harrow in the seed; but we prefer drilling in the seed with a machine, making the rows about two feet apart. This will permit of a cultivator or horse hoe between the rows, which keeps down the weeds and stirs the soil, giving a better crop.

The Western or Dent corn, gives the largest

amount of fodder. Some use three and others four bushels of seed per acre when sowed broadcast. When sod ground is to be employed for sowing the crop it pays well to subsoil. We have grown immense crops by manuring on the sod, turning under, and subsoiling the land. In curing the crop for Winter fodder we cut, tie in bundles and shock up. This is the safest course, since, if the weather is bad there will be difficulty in curing it if left spread out on the ground to dry.

There is an occasional season it is true, when, with an abundance of rain that keeps grass fresh and in vigorous growth, corn for soiling purposes is not needed. But such seasons are the exceptions, and it is poor economy to base operations upon chance. It will be better to make proper provisions for stock, since, if it happens not to be needed, the crop is not lost, but will pay largely as Winter fodder. The extent of ground needed for growing fodder will depend of course upon the manner in which the crop is put in and cultivated, as well as the season. It should not be less than an acre for every ten cows, and it will be no bad management if a larger area than the proportion named be cultivated.—X.

A. Willard.

SURFACE MANURING.

We confess that we cherish the belief that surface manuring is the way to manure. Every farmer aims to enrich his farm. Let us tell him in a few plain words how to do it, and then, after reading this plan, let him think over his past experience in farming and see if it does not corroborate what is said here.

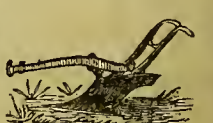
Apply manure chiefly to your tillage lands while in grass. By so doing you produce a strong, stiff sward, filled with grass roots. If these roots are of clover, so much the better. If you succeed in growing a good crop of grass on a poor soil you have done two things—made your land much better and gained a good crop. As soon, or before the soil begins to show signs of failure, plow or manure again. If you plow, you have a wealth of grass roots decaying for the food of growing crops. Re-seed before the land gets exhausted, and do it bountifully. If you scrimp and starve elsewhere, don't do it when seeding to grass. Aim to have a sward as early as possible. To accomplish this you should seed liberally. When the sward is formed you have another crop of manure to plow under. In seeding land it is better not to be confined to one kind of grass. In this manner lands may be managed for centuries without material deterioration.

As a farther argument in favor of surface manuring, we mention that it is nature's way. The soil is on the top of the earth, irrigation deposits its fertilizing elements on the surface. Manure applied to the surface is acted upon by the light, heat and rains—its elements are much more slowly evolved in the earth than on the surface. Every farmer should investigate this subject and make his own conclusions.—*Western Rural*.

WHAT IS PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE?—The New York Observer answers this question in a few words, but very comprehensively, as follows:

Under its influence spring up tasty and convenient dwellings, adorned with shrubs and flowers, and beautiful within with the smiles of happy wives, tidy children in the lap of thoughtful age—broad hearts and acts, as well as words of welcome. Progressive agriculture builds bars and puts gutters on them, builds stables for cattle and raises roots to feed them. It grafts wild apple trees, by the meadow with pippins or greenings; it sets out new orchards and takes care of the old ones. It drains low lands, cuts down bushes, buys a mower, house tools and wagons, keeps good fences and practices soiling. It makes hens lay, chickens live, and prevents swine from rooting up meadows. Progressive agriculture keeps on hand plenty of dry fuel, and brings in the oven wood for the women. It ploughs deeply, sows plentifully, harrows evenly, and prays for the blessings of Heaven.

REMEDY FOR KICKING COWS—Cows, says a cotemporary, seldom kick without some good reason for it. Teats are sometimes chapped or the udder tender; harsh handling hurts them and they kick. Sometimes long and sharp finger nails cut their teats, and sometimes the milker pulls the long hairs on the udder while milking. Shear off the long hairs, cut long finger nails close, bathe chapped teats with warm water, and grease them well with lard, and always treat a cow gently. She will never kick unless something hurts her, or she fears a repetition of former hurts. When handled gently, cows like to be milked. When treated otherwise they will kick and hold up their milk. It is quite as consistent to whip a sick child to stop its crying, as to whip or kick a cow, to prevent kicking while being milked.



FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 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.

HOP CULTURE.

EDITORS FARM AND FIRESIDE:

A few weeks ago an article appeared in your paper, giving an account of the profits of a crop of hops out West. The thought struck me whether they could not be cultivated here with equal profit? Not knowing any one who has ever cultivated them here, I concluded to address you; that others, as well as myself, might be interested in an article of this kind. What I should like to know is: First, the best soil for them; second, the best kind of plants, and the price per thousand; third, when and how to plant: the mode of drying or preserving them, and where the plants can be bought?

If you can answer the above queries, or give me any other information in regard to their cultivation, you will much oblige

A FARMER.

Montgomery County, Pa.

In reply, we would state that the experience of English hop growers is settled on this fact: That the best soil for hops is on limestone land; but that they will produce well on all soils that grow wheat. Lime seems to be essential to the perfect growth of hops; hence a great portion of Pennsylvania is admirably adapted to their cultivation. The roots of the hop penetrate very deep; consequently they never do well on thin, shallow soils. A drought often spoils the crop, and in a climate of extremes, like ours, this should be guarded against by planting in a deep, well pulverized soil. The ground must be kept free of weeds and grass, the hills nearly flat. Good tillage, on suitable land insures good crops.

As to the second inquiry, we cannot answer, not being familiar with distinct kinds, if there are any. Third, in planting hops, the Spring is the best time. They are more certain to grow. Plant in hills, from six to eight feet apart. This will allow from eight to twelve hundred hills to the acre. Fourth, the picking and drying question is of great importance. When a boy, on a farm, we were told that "September winds should never blow on the hops"—meaning that they should be picked before the late storms of that month set in. The proper time to harvest them is when the flower is changed from green to brown, and when the hop emits its fragrant odor. At that period the cuticle of the seed is of a purple color, and the seed itself is hard. Early picking is always the safest, as all hop growers will testify. To dry hops, if grown in large quantities, a hop-house, or kiln, should be constructed. In England, where hop-culture is followed as a business, they have large buildings constructed on purpose, with drying floors, where a certain heat is kept up day and night. These buildings are generally of wood, with sides and floors lined with brick to retain heat. The drying floors, or shelves, are several feet from the ground, and are formed of slats of wood, and these are covered with coarse cloth. The hops are spread evenly on this cloth. The great secret in curing hops is that they must be dried by currents of heated air passing through them, and not by radiation of heat. Such are the operations, stated in brief, of planting and curing hops. We do not know where hop plants are sold.

Not only Pennsylvania, but most of the Middle States, even New England, will produce remunerative crops of the hop. Its cultivation is rapidly increasing—perhaps because of the immense quantity of malt liquor now consumed in the United States.

ALWAYS keep a supply of copper wire on hand, of different sizes, for repairing tools; it is greatly superior to either twine or iron wire.

THE MIDGE, OR WHEAT FLY.

A FEW weeks ago an intelligent farmer, Mr. C. J. Iliestand, of Lancaster county, Penna., observed upon a low part of a field from which the water had subsided after a rain, a yellowish deposit here and there. But not having a magnifying glass, and his natural sight not being good, he could not determine what the yellow substance was. On returning to the spot on the next day, the deposit had disappeared; but on closely examining the smooth surface of the ground, he found it punctured with millions of pin-like holes. Digging half an inch below the surface he unearthed a quantity of the minute yellow particles, and found them to be the larvæ of an insect. He took them to Mr. S. S. Rathvon, a distinguished entomologist of that county, who pronounced them to be the larvæ of the *Cecidomyia tritici*, or destructive wheat fly. Mr. R. experimented with these larvæ and produced the same effect witnessed by Mr. I. Saturating the soil with water brought all the larvæ to the surface; but after the water had subsided, they would all penetrate the soil and go below, leaving the surface like a finely cellulated sponge.

Mr. Rathvon, in a contribution to the Lancaster (Pa.) Examiner, declares that this discovery settles a heretofore mooted question, viz: that the larva of the wheat fly remains a larva in the earth of the field where it was born, from the middle or end of June in one year, until the eighteenth or twentieth of May, at least, in the next year. Now what does this fact suggest to the intelligent farmer? Why, clearly this: that he ought to institute an examination of his wheat fields during the latter part of May, and if he finds these orange-colored larvæ in the soil in any considerable numbers, then let him turn it down with a deep sub-soil plow.

It would be a nice question to determine how these insects can subsist in the larva state, and be subjected to all the various changes of heat and cold, wet and dry, for almost a whole year. This fact would seem to imply that there is no other remedy than the one which we have suggested, because any application that would destroy the larvæ might also destroy the wheat, and unfit the soil for a subsequent crop. If the plowing down seems to be necessary from the presence of these larvæ in the soil, a crop of corn or late potatoes may still be raised upon it. But many of these larvæ do not reach the ground, but remain in the husks of the grain, and are carried to the stack and the grain-mow. According to the experiments of Dr. A. Fitch, they do not die in the grain husks, but, on the contrary, on the application of moisture they revive again.

Mr. R. says that he has on various occasions rubbed infected wheat heads until they were completely divested of their grains, and found that the larger number of the larvæ remained in the chaff. It has long been his opinion that the chaff may pass through a threshing machine and a winnowing mill, and the larvæ or pupæ be still in it, comparatively uninjured. A portion of this chaff is fed to cattle, but a large portion reaches the barn-yard, and is from thence hauled to the fields. When known to be infected it ought to be burnt.

There are contingencies, however, through which the safety of the grain crop is often effected, other than by artificial means. Cold wet weather may so far retard the development of this insect as to prevent its assuming the pupa state, which it must necessarily pass through before it assumes the form of a fly, until it is too late to do much damage to the wheat. The present state of the weather seems to be favorable to that end. But should it appear too late for the wheat in general, it will still find some wheat in a backward condition, in low, shaded situations, that will serve its purpose; or it may deposit its eggs in the glumes of the different grasses, or in the oats, in order to perpetuate its existence, as it does in England and on the continent of Europe, from whence it was first imported into this country.

ARMIES of caterpillars are desolating the forests in some parts of Tennessee.

CALIFORNIA GRAIN MARKET.

WE have recently had our attention called to the productions of California, especially its cereals, and are surprised at the extent of its grain exportation to the Eastern ports of the United States, as well as to various portions of Europe. This is of special importance to us just now, when wheat is commanding enormous prices, and when we spread out fifteen to twenty greenback dollars for a barrel of flour. It also exhibits the vast extent of our grain producing territory—a very respectable tract extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, (leaving out the Rocky mountains and the Apalachian range), and embracing upwards of thirty degrees of latitude. Heretofore we have been dazzled with the auriferous productions of the Pacific Coast; now are more agreeably surprised with its golden harvests of grain.

From reliable statistics at San Francisco, we find that from January 1st to March 1st, 1867, there were received 1,332,000 sacks (100 pounds each) of wheat, which was mainly exported; a small part of it only coming to our Eastern cities, while the balance was exported to Great Britain, China, Japan, Australia, Mexico and the Hawaiian Islands. These receipts are said to be larger than usual; which fact proves that wheat growing in California is vastly on the increase. The quantity of barley, oats, corn and rye foots up to several million sacks. From this statement it is evident that we need not hunger for breadstuffs, but can call on California when famine approaches our doors. If that State exports the immense quantity of grain above mentioned, what must be her aggregate production? She must keep immense stores for seed and consumption, besides supplying her mills to meet the export demand for flour.

OSAGE HEDGING.

THE Prairie Farmer states that owing to the high prices of fencing materials and the difficulty of getting them, it must lead, and is leading, to a general adoption of the hedge for all outside farm enclosures. For this purpose the Osage is the main reliance in the prairie region South and South-west of forty-two degrees North, and in some cases still higher than that. Most of the seed now used is brought from Texas and Arkansas, and is obtained by peeling the orange as we do an apple, passing them through a roller-mill, when the pulp floats off and the seeds sink to the bottom. The seeds are dried and run through a fanning mill, when they are ready for market.

Parties in Kansas contemplate petitioning the Legislature of that State to pass a law making a hedge a legal fence as soon as planted, and holding parties possessing stock, running at large, responsible for any damage done by them to fields inclosed by these incipient hedges. This course, it is supposed, will lead to a general fencing with hedges, and preserve the timber bordering upon and interspersed over the country from the destruction which fencing with it must involve.

DAIRY CAPITAL IN OHIO.—At a late meeting of the Ohio Dairymen's Association, the following statement was made:—The amount of capital invested in the dairy business of Ohio, is estimated at \$264,628,850, of which the cows, at \$50 each, amount to \$34,516,750; the land, at \$50 per acre, \$207,101,100; teams and implements, \$23,011,000. In 1865, the number of milch cows in Ohio was 695,337; the butter product 32,554,835 pounds, and the cheese product, 16,940,213 pounds.

THE Griffin Star, (Ga.) says the demand for corn, in that section, is very emphatic and prices are advancing. It advises the farmers to pay less attention to cotton and more to the production of breadstuffs. When the South becomes self-sustaining as to bread it will be the better able to extend the business of raising cotton if desirable. The Star is right, whether its advice is heeded or not.

GRASSHOPPERS threaten to make sad havoc with the young grain and grass in Kansas.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

THERE is a great scarcity of cattle in the neighborhood of Shelburne, Vermont, most of them having been sold the fore part of Winter; many farmers being unable to keep them on account of having a small crop of hay. Hay brings thirty dollars a ton, and still has an upward tendency.

A San Antonio paper complains of drought in Western Texas. The grazing in that region is suffering from this source—an unusual thing at this season.

At a fox hunt in Belmont county, West Virginia, recently, the hunters returned home at night, leaving the hounds running. The dogs, thus left at large, attacked a pack of sheep, killing and injuring eighty of the flock. The matter was compromised by paying the full value of every sheep killed.

With regard to the comparative fertility of England, France and the United States, it is stated that France obtains fifty per cent. more wheat from the acre than the average crop of the United States, and England one hundred per cent. more. The reason of this is said to be superior cultivation and manuring.

The tobacco crop of Virginia, now coming into market, is one of the largest and best raised for many years past, and is commanding extraordinary prices.

St. Louis consumed last year, in the manufacture of 217,892 barrels of beer, 500,000 bushels of barley, worth a million of dollars.

By careful selection for four years, Mr. Hallett, of England, produced wheat, the heads of which contained three times as many grains as the original head, and that would produce sixty to eighty stalks from each kernel sown.

A Mr. Warren of Hancock county, Maine, uses as a wash for barns, one bushel of lime, four pounds of salt, and two pounds of white vitriol. This stood the weather very well. Paint of any color can be added.

A correspondent in the New England Farmer says that he effectually cures his cows of sucking themselves by smearing the bags and teats with the most offensive grease that can be found about the premises.

Radish or lettuce sowed around the hills of cucumber and other vines is said to be a protection against the striped bug, which prefers this food to the young vines.

There is an Egg Preserving Company in Chicago, with a capital of \$50,000.

Mr. Nathan Mosely, of Goodground, N. J., writes to the New York Farmers' Club that he has shot at different times four king birds which he thought he caught in the very act of catching honey bees, but on examining their crop no bees were found.

A correspondent of the Maine Farmer says that on the Islands which are the home of the Jersey cows, roses bloom through December in the open air, and that in New England they need blanketing as much as a fancy race horse.

A farmer in Oneida county, New York, raised one hundred and fifty bushels of turnips per acre by sowing among his corn. He did not think they affected the yield of corn at all.

New Hampshire has three million dollars invested in horses, four and a half million in cattle, two and a half million in milch cows, two million in sheep, and six hundred and seventy-four thousand in swine.

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.

If a stable is kept clean, cows will go into it of their own accord. If dirty, they have to be driven in.

A Produce exchange has been opened in San Francisco, in view of the growing grain exports.

A Mr. Park of Georgia has specimen heads of Egyptian seven-headed wheat, grown in Essex, England, from seed found in the wrappings of an Egyptian mummy, twenty-six hundred years old.

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 free, 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 the 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 will not 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 wants; to stoop to the plane of his companionship. Happiness has indeed a vast influence for good over a child's mind.



The Fireside Muse.

GONE AWAY.

I see the farm-house red and old,
Above the roof its maples sway;
The hills behind are bleak and cold,
The wind comes up and dies away.

I gaze into each empty room,
And as I gaze a gnawing pain
Is at my heart, at thought of those
Who ne'er will pass the door again.

And strolling down the orchard slope,
(So wide a likeness grief will crave),
Each dead leaf seems a withered hope,
Each mossy hillock looks a grave.

They will not hear me if I call;
They will not see these tears that start;
'Tis Autumn—Autumn with it all—
And worse than Autumn in my heart.

O leaves so dry, and dead, and sere!
I can recall some happier hours,
When Summer's glory linger'd there,
And Summer's beauty touch'd the flowers.

Adown the slope a tender shape
Danced lightly, with her flying curls,
And manhood's deeper tones were blent
With the gay laugh of happy girls.

O stolen meetings at the gate!
O lingerings at the open door!
O moonlight rambles long and late!
My heart can scarce believe them o'er.

And yet the silence strange and still,
The air of sadness and decay,
The moss that grows upon the sill—
Yes, Love and Hope have gone away!

So like, so like a worn-out heart!
Which the last tenant finds too cold,
And leaves for ever more, as they
Have left this homestead, red and old.

Poor empty house! poor lonely heart!
'Twere well if bravely, side by side,
You waited till the hand of Time
Each ruin's mossy wreath supplied.

I lean upon the gate, and sigh;
Some bitter tears will force their way,
And then I bid the place good-by
For many a long and weary day.

I cross the little ice-bound brook,
(In Summer 'tis a noisy stream),
Turn round, to take a last fond look,
And all has faded like a dream.

Fireside Tale.

SEEING TOO MUCH

BY F. L. SARMIENTO.

"Did you notice how Emma swept out of the room then?"

The speaker was a maiden aunt, who had come to pay a "short" visit to the N— family. Her niece, a rather heedless girl, it must be confessed, of some fifteen summers, had just left the room—closing the door somewhat noisily behind her.

"Well no, I cannot say I did," answered Mrs. N—, thus appealed to. "In fact, surrounded by children, as I am all day—one crying here, another squalling there—I do believe that I have become oblivious to noises of all kinds."

"It wasn't the noise so much, Sally, that I spoke of, as the manner. If you had but seen the manner in which Emma slammed that door. Why it went straight to my heart, as though I had been struck."

"But, dear aunt, you are too sensitive."
"No, Sally, I am not sensitive. But I have eyes, I am sorry to say, and I can see with them; and, when that girl slammed that door, I could see that she intended to say, as plain as plain could be, that she hated me and all connected with me."

"Now, dear aunt, that is positively unjust. First of all, Emma has had nothing to make her cross. Nothing, I am sure, has been said to offend her; and, moreover, I do not think that, supposing such were the case, she would vent her spleen in so unlady-like and disagreeable a manner as you imagine."

"Don't care!" muttered the old lady, doggedly. "I've got eyes, and I see what other people don't. And I tell you that Emma is angry at something. Though, laws knows! what I have done that she should get angry with me." And here Aunt Martyn opened the shark-like mouth of her steel-bead bag and drew forth a voluminous pocket-handkerchief.

"I don't know what I've ever done to her, I'm sure! (Sob.) I've always been good and kind to her (sob), goodness knows!"

Annoyed and nervous, Mrs. N— arose and left the room, almost persuaded that Aunt Martyn must be right, although she, herself, had seen nothing. She determined therefore to reprove her daughter, and for that purpose now sought her room. Emma was there, her face beaming good-naturedly. Certainly without the slightest trace of any anger.

"Why were you angry with aunt, just now, Emma?" she asked.

"Angry? Why I wasn't angry, mamma," answered the young girl, in a surprised tone.

"Not angry! Well, you acted as though you were—at least so your aunt thinks."

"Oh bother!" exclaimed Emma, now quite provoked. "Aunt's entirely too touchy. She is all the time imagining things. For my part I wish she had never come to the house. I'm sure there has been nothing but trouble ever since she came. I just wish that she would stay at home."

"Emma," said Mrs. N—, grieved at her daughter's words, "I am surprised at your speaking of any one in such disrespectful tones. Indeed, I'm much afraid your aunt is right when she pronounces you 'wayward.'"

"I wish aunt would mind her own affairs!" cried Emma, now highly excited, for she felt that she had been most unjustly judged by her Aunt Martyn, whom she dearly loved in spite of her words. "I just wish aunt would mind her own affairs!"

"Much comfort have I in my children!" sighed poor Mrs. N—, as she prepared to return to the "sewing-room" again. "Quarrels and disagreeable incidents all the time. It never used to be so; and, indeed, it does really seem, as Emma says, that it has only been so since Aunt Martyn came to the house. She sees everything, and notices fifty things that I would pass over."

So saying, Mrs. N— turned the knob of the door that led into her sanctum, called the "sewing-room;" but scarce had she done so, when a loud screech from Aunt Martyn saluted her ears, intermingled with angry words from her youngest boy, who had been kept home from school on account of a slight cold.

Poor Mrs. N— turned her eyes heavenward, as though to ask, "What now? What new annoyance?"

On entering the room she found her little boy crouched weeping in one corner, while Aunt Martyn held in her hand the evident cause of the commotion—a light parlor-ball.

"There! There! My goodness gracious! If that ball had bounced the other way it would have dashed that mirror all to pieces. How you can worry me so, I don't see!"

"Neddy, Neddy, how can you!" demanded poor Mrs. N—, now nervous and excited, seizing the little fellow and shaking him.

"How can you worry your aunt this way?" Then turning to that formidable personage, she asked, "What was he doing, aunt?"

"Why he was throwing up that ball, and every minute I expected to see it come crashing through the looking-glass, or windows, or something else."

"Why, Neddy, how can you be so naughty?" asked the mother, giving the child another shake. "Have I not told you often not to worry your aunt?"

"I ain't naughty at all," sobbed the little fellow, "I ain't naughty at all. I was just playing with this ball, and it wouldn't break anything, so it wouldn't. And you said I might play with it, too."

"So I did," returned Mrs. N—, now first regarding the facts in their true light. "I'm sure, aunt," she continued, somewhat remonstratingly, "you need not have been worried. It is only a parlor-ball, made light and elastic on purpose, so that it is almost impossible to break anything with it. Sec," and taking it she threw it against one of the window-panes. "It rebounds without doing the least damage."

"I know," was the answer, in a testy tone. "It might answer very well for some people to have children throwing balls and things where looking-glasses and such things are, but I can't

stand it. Fortunately or unfortunately, as the case may be, I've got eyes, and I can't help but see what might happen."

"Yes, and she sees a great many things that mightn't happen, too!" exclaimed Neddy, vehemently.

"You naughty boy! Aint you ashamed to speak so?"

"That child's fairly itching for a whipping, Sally, and it's your duty to give it to him," interposed Aunt Martyn. "I've just been watching him all this blessed morning, and the thousand ways that he has tried to aggravate me would try the patience of a saint. No," she continued, in answer to a look of surprise involuntarily drawn from poor Mrs. N—; "of course you didn't see it, but I've got eyes, Sally, and when I see a thing I know what's meant by it."

"Well, I must confess that I didn't notice the child doing anything wrong; but if you say so, aunt, it must be so. So, Neddy, just you walk up to bed as a punishment for speaking wildly just now, and I don't know whether I will give you any dinner or not. Go, you naughty boy;" and despite the little fellow's tears and protestations, she pushed him out of the room and closed the door upon him.

Mrs. N— was at most times an indulgent mother, but being naturally nervous, was easily influenced by others, when she was, again, too severe. At ordinary times she was content with seeing her children's faults and correcting them, but when Aunt Martyn was about, she saw with her eyes, and acted accordingly.

Time passed, and the hour approached at which Mr. N— came home usually to dine, and true to the appointed time his brisk footstep was heard.

"Where's Neddy?" he asked, as he entered his wife's little sanctum. "Where's Neddy?" "Why, Neddy, I am sorry to say, has annoyed aunt so much that I was forced to punish him by sending him to bed."

"That's quite unusual," said Mr. N—, regretfully, for he always looked forward at the dinner hour to a good romp with the little fellow, as a relaxation from business thoughts and cares. "I am sorry he annoyed aunt," he continued; "what did he do to annoy her?"

"Why, he was playing with his ball, and aunt was afraid that he would break something."

"What, with that little parlor-ball?"

"Yes."

"Humph!" coughed Mr. N—, by no means satisfied. "But where's Emma?" Emma was in bed also. She had felt so deeply what she could not but deem Aunt Martyn's injustice, that she had wept herself sick. A fearful headache was the consequence, and Emma, as the servant expressed it, "didn't want no dinner."

At table one annoyance after the other followed. Faults were discovered that never were thought of before. And all by Aunt Martyn. The rest of the children were detected on the point of, or "just about to commit" a thousand flagrant breaches of etiquette. In the servants were discovered a thousand neglectful doings. Cross words and hasty rejoinders were heard on all sides, while Aunt Martyn assured poor Mrs. N— that to spare the rod was certain to spoil the child, and read her a lecture upon "bringing up" children generally.

"There! there! You'll break that tumbler!" "Why, goodness, aunt, the child wasn't touching the glass," interposed poor Mrs. N—, almost beside herself.

"No. But he was just a-going to. I saw him; I was watching him."

Between the "I wasn't," and "You were," that now followed, Mr. N— arose. For some time he had been moving restlessly in his chair, and now he could sit still no longer.

"Well, this is just about enough of this," exclaimed he. "I'll not bear with it any longer. Why, I would as soon be in Bedlam; and yet it never used to be so."

"No, I suppose not," sobbed Aunt Martyn, opening the everlasting shark's mouth, and searching for her pocket-handkerchief. "No, because you were too wrapped up in your

children to perceive it. But I can see it—thank goodness, I've got eyes."

"And that's the whole cause of the trouble," said Mr. N—, quite sternly. "You see too much. You see things before they happen, and many things that never do happen—so good day. Mrs. N—, until I can enjoy my dinner in peace, I shall dine down town."

That evening, when Mr. N— returned from his place of business, he found that Aunt Martyn had left, "highly offended;" nor was he sorry for it. And as he put on his slippers and drew near the fire that night, while his children gathered happily around him, he could not but exclaim—

"Heaven protect us from any one again that sees too much!" and heartily we echo his prayer.

Fireside Miscellany.

ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.

LADIES who deck their hair with mimic bloom, have, in general, little idea of the way in which these false flowers grow. They wear them, light-hearted, in the gayest scenes, and think not that they are transplanted from the saddest. They put forth their leaves and delicate hues in stifling garrets, in fetid back kitchens, or in hot, over-crowded factories, where the gas-burners are often without glass or shade, and gas stoves are set on the table to heat the tools, while a hundred women and girls from nine years old and upward, bend over their hot-house plants. Some hold the hand-stamp which cuts through sixteen folds at a time of the muslin or silk that is to make the leaves and flowers. Others vein the leaves by pressing them between dies, or paint the petals separately with a brush when the centre is to be left white. Most of them are busy with the finer work of constructing the flowers. They gum and wax, dust for bloom with potato flour, or with blown glass powder frost; they twist paper or silk thread for the stalk, and make the foundation on which the petals stick. Slender wires are run through the blossoms, and a small gaffing iron gives them their curl. All this is strange and fidgety work, especially by gas light with blistered fingers, thumb nails worn to the quick, and the dust of paint and other material inflaming the eyes, and preparing patients for the Ophthalmic Hospital. The blues and carmines try the sight sadly, and the latter causes heaviness in the head. Arsenic green and verdigris blue are seldom used; but enough is left to poison the poor "flower girls" existence.

CARVING A CHARACTER.—Did you ever watch a sculptor slowly fashioning a human countenance? It is not struck out at a single blow. It is painfully and laboriously wrought. A thousand blows rough-cast it. Ten thousand chisel points polish and perfect it—put in the fine touches, and bring out the features and expression. It is a work of time; but at last the full likeness comes out, and stands fixed and unchanging in the solid marble. So does a man carve out his own moral likeness. Every day he adds something to the work. A thousand acts of thought, and will, and effort, shape the feature and expression of the soul. Habits of love, piety and truth—habits of falsehood, passion or goodness, silently mould and fashion it till at length it wears the likeness of God, or the image of a demon.

A SCENE recently took place at a Paris wedding, in which the refining influence of love and French politeness combined to make a very charming picture. The bridegroom, an honest and industrious locksmith, was uneducated, and when called on to sign the register, marked a cross. The bride, on the contrary, although belonging to a poor family, had received an excellent education. Nevertheless, when the pen was passed to her, she signed a cross. The bridesmaid, a former schoolfellow of the bride, having expressed her astonishment, the young wife replied, "Would you have me humiliate my husband? To-morrow I will commence teaching him to read and write."

AGRICULTURE IN CALIFORNIA.—There are now about 4,000,000 acres of land inclosed in California, and about 1,750,000 acres under cultivation. These are far larger areas of occupied and improved land than were ever before reported. Three years ago the amount of land under cultivation was only 1,197,984 acres. Most of the increase since was made last year. A considerable portion of it was in the larger mining counties, which are beginning to claim importance as fruit and wine growing districts. The area planted to wheat was about 500,000 acres, a gain of 200,000 acres in three years. The yield was 12,000,000 bushels, or 7,000,000 more than in 1863. The barley crop also shows a great increase. In 1863 it was about 4,000,000 in 24 counties, including all but 3 or 4 of the strictly agricultural counties. This year it is returned at 14,000,000 bushels in 40 counties.



The Stock-Yard.

MILK AND MILKERS.

In an article on the qualities of milk, &c., Dr. Voelcker says:

"Generally speaking, small races, or small individuals of the larger races, give the richest milk from the same kind of food. Where good quality is the main object, Alderneys or Guernseys unquestionably are the cows that ought to be kept, for they give a richer cream than any other kind in common use in this country; but, of course, Alderneys are not the most profitable stock for cow-keepers in towns, with whom the Yorkshire cow, essentially a short-horn, is the favorite breed, as it surpasses all others for the quantity of milk it yields. The milk, however, compared with that of the Alderney or Ayrshire cow, is more watery and less rich in butter, and therefore not well suited for dairies in which butter and cheese are made. In the Spring of the year and the early part of Summer, milk is more abundant, and the butter made from it of a finer flavor. As soon as the season advances, the supply diminishes, but becomes richer in butter. The influence of food on the quality 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 tells directly on the milk. Nothing, therefore, can be more injudicious than to stint dairy cows in food."

GOOD SHEEP.—We have some remarkable stories from the Spring shearings in Vermont. One Rutland county ram, the "General Lec," whose carcass weighed but 121½ pounds, yielded a fleece of eleven and a half months' growth which weighed 25½ pounds. On the same day there was a shearing at Shelburne, at which prizes were awarded for the best fleeces. Fifteen sheep were sheared, whose average weight of carcass was a little more than 70 pounds, and whose average weight of fleece was 13 pounds, 8 ounces. The lightest fleece of the fifteen weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces, from an animal whose weight was 120 pounds 3 ounces. One animal, weighing 81 pounds, yielded a fleece of 15 pounds, 12½ ounces; another, which weighed 97 pounds, furnished a fleece of 15 pounds, 12½ ounces; and another furnished a fleece of 10 pounds, 15½ ounces, from a carcass which weighed only 56 pounds. Still another carcass, weighing only 63 pounds, yielded 16 pounds, 12 ounces of wool.

DANGERS OF SHEEP SHEARING TOO EARLY IN THE SEASON.—The Ohio Farmer in its report of the meeting of the Michigan Wool Growers' Association, at Jackson, on April 3d, where it was determined to hold a public exhibition on the 7th of May, gives the views of several wool growers on the effect of early shearing, as brought out in the discussion of the subject on that occasion. Mr. Rome, of Ann Arbor, and Mr. Goodyear of Manchester, each claimed that it would be dangerous to valuable sheep to shear them as early as the first Tuesday in May. Mr. Goodyear stated that he had lost, as he thought, two bucks that were worth \$1,000, owing to the early shearing of the Southern Washtenaw Society last year. Though their death was not immediate, they seemed to have been injured so that with the utmost care and attention, they declined in condition steadily during Summer, and seemed to have no strength to recuperate. He imputed their death to having been shorn too early in the season.

PEAS AND PORK.—A writer in the American Stock Journal advocates the raising of peas for fattening pork. Ground or boiled they are deemed excellent for other stock, also, when mixed with cut hay, straw or corn fodder. But the Cauadians rely on peas for pork-making, deeming six bushels of these equivalent to ten bushels of corn, for this purpose. The pea is an excellent decomposer of stiff and damp clayey soils.

QUALITIES OF CATTLE.

AYRESHIRE for cheese; Devons for butter, and Alderneys for cream. These, on the best native stock, will improve. The improved Short horns combine these qualities to a large extent, and are, besides, superior for beef. When we say the Alderneys for cream, we mean the richest cream, not the most, as less milk is given by them than by the Devons, and less butter made from a cow. For the farmer who has but a few cows, the improved Short-horns are the best, as they combine more or less the good qualities. Excellent for milk, they are still more so for beef.—Colman's Rural World.

SELECTING A COW.—It is sometimes the case that the best judges will be deceived. A cow of very unpromising appearance, coarse in the neck, large boned, and second on third rate milk marks generally, will, now and then, turn out to be first-rate, while another with these marks largely developed, fine in the head and neck and promising every way, will prove unsatisfactory. But a failure in this case is rare. Let the head be light, the forehead broad, the horn rather thin and clear, the eye clear and prominent, the neck thin, and the fore-quarters rather light, the back straight, the hind quarters well developed, wide over the loins, the carcass deep, the udder coming forward and well shaped, the skin soft to the touch, the teats well set, not too large nor too small, the tail long and thin, like a whip-lash. Such a cow ought to be a good one.—Ploverman.

POINTS OF A GOOD MILKER.—A correspondent of the Country Gentleman says: "In selecting a milker look well to the udder." Before milking it should be wide and broad, not hanging down like a sack, and hard and shiny, nearly destitute of hair, and what there is should be soft, fine and bright. After milking, the udder should be soft and apparently a skin bag. If, after milking, the udder is hard and full, it shows that it is flesh, not milk, that distends it."

Another correspondent says: "For a cow that leaks her milk badly, place a little elastic gum ring around each teat. You can cut a set out of an old cast-away rubber shoe—cost nothing—no harm to the cow, and will save in a season several dollars' worth of milk."

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

Table listing various goods and their prices, including farm products, fuel, and groceries.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1285; Sheep and Lambs, 3907. Swine, 2; Western cattle, 1154; Eastern cattle, 1; Working oxen and Western cattle, 125. Prices: Best Cattle—Extra, \$14.50@15.00; first quality, \$13.25@14.00; second quality, \$12.50@13.00; third quality, \$11.00@12.25 per 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef).

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

The market for Western and State flour is 10a25c lower; the decrease is most noticeable on the low and medium grades; the demand is only moderate. Sales at \$10.25@11.40 for superfine State; \$11.70@14.10 for extra State; \$13.00@13.15 for low grades of Spring wheat Western extra; \$13.14, 25 for shipping Ohio; \$14.25@15.15 for trade and family brands of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana; and \$15.20@15 for St. Louis extras. California flour is easy. Sales at 15,50@16,50, the inside price for common.

Marriages.

In Woonsocket, May 23d, by Rev. Robert Murray, Mr. John North to Miss Elizabeth Boutley, both of Woonsocket. In Fall River, May 23d, George Hanson to Miss Ruth Hallum, both of Fall River. In Southbridge, May 23d, Orrin J. Aldrich of Webster, to Miss Fanny J. Freeman of S.

Deaths.

In Webster, May 16th, Mrs. Mary Brown, aged 85 years 11 months. In Dudley, May 19th, son of Francis Goddard, aged 11 years. In Providence, May 23d, Mrs. Mary Harlan, a native of Devonshire, England, aged 72 years and 4 months. On the 23d, Mrs. Augusta A. Monroe, aged 21 years, 1 month and 5 days. On the 26th, Caroline F., wife of Consider W. Bart, and daughter of the late Joseph Olney, of North Providence, aged 61 years, 4 months and 4 days. In Grafton, May 26, suddenly, of disease of the heart, Capt. John W. Slocumb, aged 73 years. In Smithfield, May 26th, Amy, widow of the late Rufus Jenckes, in the 91st year of her age.

Advertising Department.

THOROUGH-BRED BULLS FOR SALE.—The subscriber offers to sell the Thorough-bred Jersey Bull "Matchless," 2 years old. Also the Thorough-bred Devon Bull "Lucas," 15 months old. Both Thorough-bred Animals. Full pedigree given. Apply to JOHN DIMON, Pomfret, Conn.

POULTRY FOR SALE.—The subscriber offers to sell one pair Broom-Goose and one pair Rouen Ducks, warranted pure and as good as any in this country. Also one trio "Jersey Blue" Fowls, excellent layers. JOHN DIMON, Pomfret, Conn.

ATTENTION, TOBACCO USERS!

Why destroy your health and waste your money by using Tobacco? One Box of ORTON'S PREPARATION is warranted to destroy the appetite for Tobacco in any person no matter how strong the habit may be. Sent on receipt of one dollar. Address E. Douglass, Prop. Box 1572, Portland, Maine. June 1, 1867.

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 most 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. B. LORING, of Salem, President, DANIEL NEEDHAM, of Boston, Secretary, WILLIAM SPRAGUE, of So. Kingston, R. I., President, WM. R. STAPLES, of Providence, Secretary, of the N. E. Agricultural Socy., 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.

Great American Tea Company.

THE IMMENSE PROFITS OF THE TEA TRADE.

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY became fully convinced, several years ago, that consumers of Tea and Coffee were paying too many and too large profits on these articles of every day consumption, and therefore organized THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, to do away, as far as possible, with these enormous drains upon the Consumers, and to supply them with these necessaries at the smallest possible price.

To give our readers an idea of the profits which have been made in the Tea trade, we will start with the American houses, leaving out of the account entirely the profits of the Chinese factors.

1st. The American House in China or Japan makes large profits on their sales or shipments—and some of the richest required merchants in this country have made their immense fortunes through their houses in China. 2d. The Banker makes large profits upon the foreign exchange used in the purchase of Teas. 3d. The Importer makes a profit of 30 to 50 per cent in many cases. 4th. On its arrival it is sold by the cargo, and the Purchaser sells to the Speculator in invoices of 1,000 to 2,000 packages, at an average profit of about 10 per cent. 5th. The Speculator sells to the Wholesale Tea Dealer in lines at a profit of 10 to 15 per cent. 6th. The Wholesale Tea Dealer sells it to the Wholesale Grocer in lots to suit the trade, at a profit of about 10 per cent. 7th. The Wholesale Grocer sells it to the Retail Dealer at a profit of 15 to 25 per cent. 8th. The Retailer sells it to the Consumer for all the profit he can get.

When you have added to these EIGHT profits as many broker ages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, and add the original cost of the Tea, it will be perceived what the consumer has to pay. And now we propose to show why we can sell so very much lower than small dealers.

We propose to do away with all these various profits and brokerages, cartages, storages, cooperages, and waste, with the exception of a small commission paid for purchasing to our correspondents in China and Japan, one cartage, and a small profit to ourselves—which, on our large sales, will amply pay us.

Through our system of supplying Clubs throughout the country, consumers in all parts of the United States can receive their Teas at the same price (with the small additional expense of transportation) as though they bought them at our Warehouses in this city.

Some parties inquire of us how they shall proceed to get up a club. The answer is simply this: Let each person wishing to join in a club say how much tea or coffee he wants, and select the kind and price from our Price List, as published in the paper or in our circulars. Write the names, kind, and amounts plainly on a list, and when the club is complete send it to us by mail and we will put each party's goods in separate packages, and mark the name upon them, with the cost, so there need be no confusion in their distribution—each party getting exactly what he orders and no more. The cost of transportation the members of the club can divide equitably among themselves.

The funds to pay for the goods ordered can be sent by drafts on New-York, by Post Office money orders, or by Express, as may suit the convenience of the Club. Or if the amount ordered exceeds thirty dollars, we will, if desired, send the goods by Express, to "collect on delivery."

Hereafter we will send a complimentary package to the party getting up the club, our profits are small, but we will be as liberal as we can afford. We send no complimentary package for Clubs less than \$50.

Parties getting their Teas from us may confidently rely upon getting them pure and fresh, as they come direct from the Custom-House stores to our warehouse.

The Company have selected the following kinds from their stock, which they recommend to meet the wants of Clubs. They are sold at Cargo Prices, the same as the Company sell them in New-York, as the list of prices will show. All goods sold are warranted to give satisfaction.

PRICE LIST: YOUNG HYSON (Green), 50c, 60c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. GREEN TEA, 50c, 60c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. MIXED, 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 25 per lb. JAPAN, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 25 per lb. OOLONG (Black), 70c, 80c, 90c, best \$1 per lb. IMPERIAL (Green), best \$1 25 per lb. ENGLISH BREAKFAST (Black), 80c, 90c, \$1, \$1 10, best \$1 20 per lb. GUNPOWDER (Green), \$1 25, best, \$1 50.

These Teas are chosen for their intrinsic worth, keeping in mind health, economy, and a high degree of pleasure in drinking them. Our Blacks and Green Mixed Teas will give universal satisfaction, and suit all tastes, being composed of the best Fochow Blacks and Moyune Greens. English Breakfast is not recommended, excepting to those who have acquired a taste for that kind of Tea, although it is the finest imported.

Customers can save from 50c. to \$1 per lb by purchasing their Teas of the

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO., NOS. 31 and 33 VESLEY-ST., corner of CHURCH. Post-Office Box No. 5,643 New-York City. COFFEES ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

GREEN COPPER, 30c, 35c, 40c, 45c, best 40c. per pound. Hotels, Saloons, Boarding-house keepers, and families who use large quantities of Coffee, can economize in that article by using our French Breakfast and Dinner Coffee, which we sell at the low price of 30c. per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction.

Club Orders. WASHINGTON, Pa., Nov. 10, 1866.

To the Great American Tea Company, Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., New-York. Gents: I forward you my fourth order and could have doubled it if I had collected any, as your Teas take the lead in the market, we feel it a saving of \$1 per pound. Please accept my thanks for the complimentary package. Address by Express, Martin Luther, Washington, Pa.

MARTIN LUTHER. 10 lb Young Hyson, in pound packages... \$1 25... \$12 50. 5 lb Young Hyson... Dallas Jackson... 1 25... 6 50. 2 lb Young Hyson... Henry Herrick... 1 25... 2 50. 2 lb Young Hyson... George Murphy... 1 25... 2 50. 2 lb Young Hyson... L. Lye... 1 25... 2 50. 2 lb Young Hyson... Samuel Decker... 1 25... 2 50. 1 lb Young Hyson... Samuel Amon... 1 25... 1 25. 1 lb Young Hyson... Henry Wheatley... 1 25... 1 25. 7 lb Young Hyson... Morgan Hayes... 1 25... 3 75. 2 lb Young Hyson... John Natten... 1 25... 3 50. 4 lb Young Hyson... Mark Combs... 1 25... 5 00. 2 lb Young Hyson... John Allen... 1 25... 5 00. 5 lb Young Hyson... Miss Stuart... 1 25... 10 00. 3 lb Oolong, best... Miss Stuart... 1 00... 2 00. 3 lb Young Hyson... O. Bayland... 1 25... 2 00. 2 lb Oolong, best... O. Bayland... 1 00... 2 00. 2 lb Young Hyson... J. Richlein... 1 25... 2 50. 2 lb Young Hyson... Mr. Guyton... 1 25... 2 50. 2 lb Young Hyson... Edward Murphy... 1 25... 2 50. 5 lb Oolong, best... Henry Hull... 1 00... 5 00. 2 lb Oolong, best... Separate package... 1 00... 2 00. 5 lb Ground Coffee... Separate package... 25... 1 75.

We call special notice to the fact that our Vesey-st. Store is at Nos. 31 and 33 Vesey-st., corner of Church-st.—LARGE DOUBLE STORE.

JOY OF FAITHFULNESS.—You know how preachers often speak of the joys of this life. I think they are apt to undervalue them. They make light of success, of riches, of comfort, of the joys of a happy home. I love these joys, and daily would thank God, by a constant cheerfulness, for what to them I have received or won. And yet they may be estimated too high. But the joys of goodness, of charity, of love to man and love to God, that faith which never wavers,—no man ever exaggerated these, or can; as no painter can ever portray the sparkle of a star, or paint the varied beauty of a rose, or the sweet fragrance in a lily's cup; for man's imagination cannot come up to the fact, and his speech delays behind. All this joy comes to men and women from personal faithfulness to God's higher law.—Selected.





Farming Miscellany.

ASPARAGUS.

Written for the Farm and Fireside, BY COSMO.

This is an excellent early vegetable that most people are fond of, and all who are not so, ought to cultivate a fondness for it, and cultivate asparagus for every day eating, so long as it remains in season. Coming as it does among the very earliest of our Spring vegetables, and possessing mild medicinal properties, acting as an aperient and alterative, no other early vegetable is so wholesome and worthy of first-class cultivation. Every family having a half acre homestead, ought to have in a corner of it an asparagus bed to supply home consumption, and every market farmer ought to cultivate five times more of this vegetable, and bestow upon it four times more attention than has been the practice heretofore. A large increase in quantity, and improvement in quality, are absolute necessities, and will pay the producer largely for all extra outlays.

A new system of asparagus cultivation that will cheapen production, increase the yield, and greatly improve the quality of the material, has lately been inaugurated, and should become general. The seeds are sown early in May, in rich, warm, finely pulverized soil, and being thinned to about ten inches apart, and kept free from weeds, are permitted to grow until the plants begin to turn yellow in the Fall, when the tops are cut off two or three inches from the ground, and the roots transferred to the permanent bed, which has been deeply dug, liberally manured underneath, and the soil in the finest possible state of comminution. The roots are set in so deep as to cover the crown about an inch, in rows two feet apart, the plants having a space between them of eighteen inches in the rows.

The planting having been accomplished, mulch all over the bed evenly, about four inches deep, with fine straw, or refuse hay litter, or, what is better than either, forest leaves, and having thus put the young asparagus comfortably to bed, and blanketed it secure from frost bites, leave it to its long Winter nap.

In the Spring, as soon as the earliest vegetation begins to start, remove the mulching, rake over the surface carefully, and dress with some fine, active fertilizer, free from seeds of grass and weeds. We have found, in our asparagus practice of twenty-five years, the following composition to be the most efficient dressing of which we have any knowledge:—Three parts wood ashes, two parts plaster, two of refuse salt, and one of finely pulverized hen guano; the whole thoroughly incorporated and sown by hand in a belt along each row, enough to fairly cover the surface—the exact quantity is not essential.

The plants should be sparingly cut the first Spring, but the second, and afterwards, on up to the sixth season, you can cut in as liberally as you will—remembering to have the fifth year a new bed for the succession.

Asparagus propagated in this manner is much more vigorous and prolific, as well as better flavored, and more tender and delicate than that produced from old roots, as has been the universal practice.

June, 1867:

RAISING PEAR TREES.

DR. VAN MONS, of Belgium, has written a letter to a correspondent of the Magazine of Horticulture, in which he describes a new mode of obtaining pear trees, which, if reliable, will result in increasing the number of trees indefinitely. We suggest to all who are transplanting pear trees, to make experiments according to the process described below, as it will cost little or nothing to do so.

But if the fact be as he describes, why have not hundreds of us who have been digging up pear trees for the last twenty years, leaving portions of their roots in the ground, found them springing up and making fine trees? Let us try it. The Doctor says: "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 stocks, 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. If I had sooner known this method, I should not have lost a single one of my new varieties of pears, for roots could have been taken from all the kinds in my large plantation at the time of its destruction. 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 can not be too small, but should not be larger than the finger. The wounds at the large ends of the roots should be covered with the same composition to protect them, as in grafting. They must be set obliquely."

CARE OF FARMING IMPLEMENTS.—Want of care, on the part of farmers, in cleaning and housing implements, adds materially to the cost of their farm operations, and, of course, impairs their cash balance at the end of the year. In the report of the trial of reapers and mowers at Auburn last season, occurs this timely and suggestive passage on the carelessness of many farmers with respect to their implements:—"It is unjust to the maker, whose reputation suffers in consequence; it is unjust to the agricultural interests, because the rapid deterioration in value of the machine lessens the real economy in its use; it is unjust to the consumer, because everything that enhances the cost of production necessarily adds to the price of the product." With reference to machines and their treatment, the report continues:—"As soon as the last work is done, the journals and bearings should be wiped, and all dust removed from the exterior, and the machine should be placed under cover, in a level position, where no part is subjected to strain. We are surprised that such advice should be needed, but as it clearly is, we can assure our readers that they will profit greatly by taking heed to it." When one sees valuable machines exposed to the weather for months, as they are in many instances, this rebuke of the practice cannot be regarded as untimely or impertinent.

WET WEATHER.—We don't insist on the appointment of a new "clerk of the weather," but his intemperance in the distribution of the pluvius fluid, for a fortnight past, suggests late planting, grumbling farmers, over-work, and possibly late crops for Jack Frost to nibble at. So great a quantity of rain has not fallen, in Spring, for many years; and in many parts of the country half the corn is not yet planted. Even much that was planted comes up pale and sickly. There is this consolation—grass never looked better, and the caterpillars and the grubworms have been partially destroyed by the long continued storms. Our grain and orchard crops may come out "all right," yet.

Kind words are looked upon like jewels on the breast, never to be forgotten, and perhaps, to cheer by their memory a long, sad life; while words of cruelty, or carelessness, are like swords in the bosom, wounding, and leaving scars which will be borne to the grave by their victim. Do you think there is any bruised heart which bears the mark of such a wound from you? If it is a living one which you have wounded, hasten to heal; for life is short—tomorrow may be too late.

To Purify a Sink.—In hot weather it is almost impossible to prevent sinks becoming foul unless some chemical preparation is used. One pound of copperas dissolved in four gallons of water, poured over a sink three or four times, will completely destroy the offensive odor.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

FOR SALE.—AYRSHIRE BULL "JOHN ALDEN," fourteen months old. Color, mahogany and white. Pedigree given. Arnold Mills, Cumberland, R. I. May 25, 1867. HENRY T. BROWN.

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 Kniflins, 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

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares & 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.

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. B. LORING, of Salem, President, DANIEL NEEDHAM, of Boston, Secretary, of the N. E. Agricultural Socy. 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. 1917

Massachusetts.

BY MAIL, PREPAID. CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS, NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CURRANTS, ROSES, BULBS, &c.

B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest

GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS, Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted. Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ee-12

SOUTH DOWNS CO.'S PATENT

Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers. Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores.

JAMES F. LEVIN, 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts. For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HAELOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & CO., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4m-we-9

COLLINS, BLISS & CO.,

PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS. CASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS.

233 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston.

New England Agents for the

NON PARIEL FRENCH GUANO.

It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil.

PRIOR \$60 PER TON, Send for Circular giving full particulars: March 9, 1867. 3m-we-9

New York.

J. HICKLING & CO'S GREAT SALE OF WATCHES.

On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a handsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory!

- 500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750 500 Magic Cased Gold Watches.....200 to 500 500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled.....100 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....250 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....200 to 250 3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....150 to 200 5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....100 to 250 5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....50 to 150 6,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....75 to 250 5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches.....50 to 250 10,000 Gold Hunting Levers.....50 to 75 10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....50 to 100 25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....25 to 50 30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....10 to 75 Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partiality shown. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a Watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious!

A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three and elegant premium for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premium for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us!

Address, J. HICKLING & Co., 149 Broadway—Near P. O. City of New York. 3m

March 23, 1867.

Pennsylvania.

RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

THE STANDARD MANURE FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS.

Manufactured by PORTS & KLETT, Camden, N. J.

Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUGH, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of this Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is

FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD IN QUALITY, and is in the condition for drilling.

Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

YARNALL & TIMBLE, General Agents for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

418 South Wharves, PHILADELPHIA. 419 Penn. Street, 3m-ee-11

March 23, 1867. ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

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.

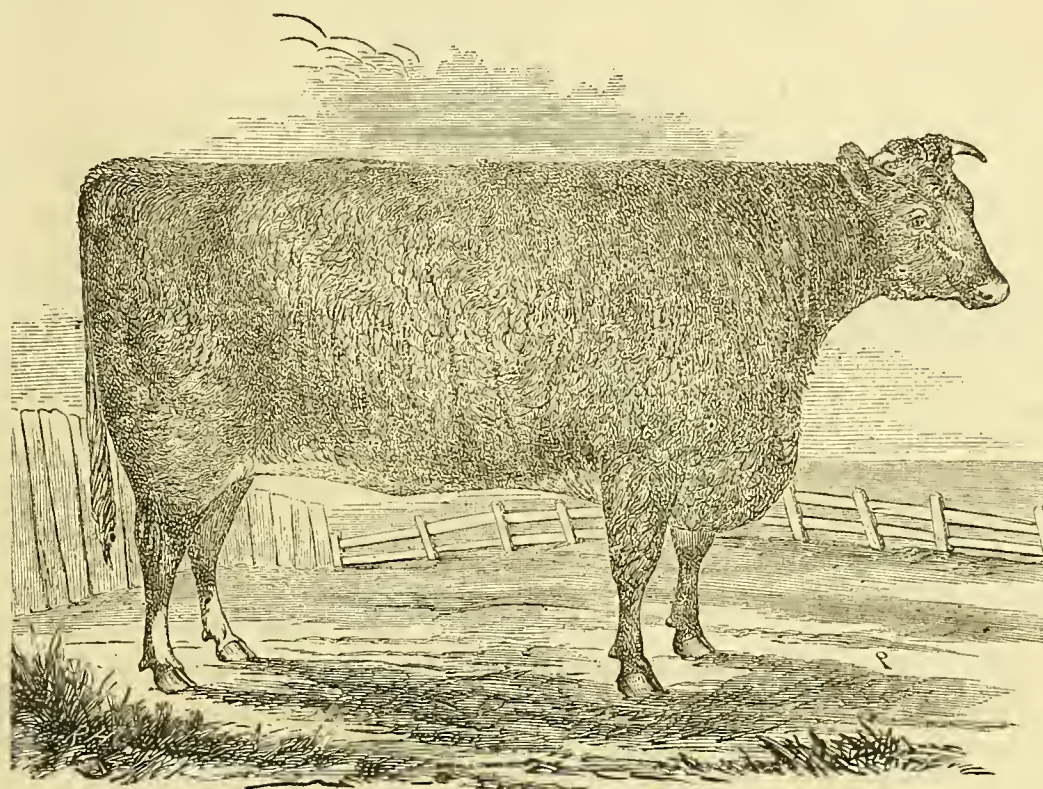
ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR RHODE ISLAND.

S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, 5 CENTS.

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1867.

NO. 22.



SHORT HORNED HEIFER "LADY SUSAN, 2ND," AT 20 MONTHS OLD. PROPERTY OF H. G. WHITE, SOUTH FRAMINGHAM, MASS.

THE race of short-horns, 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. In our own country the importations of this breed have been in the ratio of a hundred to one over that of any other, and its especial adaptation to the rich grazing districts of the West gives it a prominence above them all.

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.

As regards color the latitude is very great,

from deep blood-red through all the intermediate shades and mixtures to pure white, but any other colors, as brown, black, or dun, are never met with in thorough-breeds. Fashion has vindicated the rich red and purple roan as the most desirable colors, and after them red. White is sometimes objected to, under the impression that it is apt to spread through a herd and overpower the other colors; but this fear is more common in this country than in England, where white hulls are often used. Red and white, in blotches, with defined edges not running into roan, is disliked, and the term "patehy" is applied to it. This discrimination, however, as regards color, is entirely arbitrary, animals of equal excellence and breeding being found of all these colors.

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-breeds 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 hull 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.

Numerous experiments have been tried in England in crossing the short-horns, with various results, but generally with advantage to the race upon which the short-horn has been put. Even with the Devons the result has been satisfactory; though this is somewhat at variance with our preconceived notions of breeding, which do not lead us to expect much where two such opposite and distinctly marked races, both of great antiquity, are brought together. We give below an instance taken from a communication of Charles H. Bolton to the British Farmer's Magazine. After describing a heifer of this cross that had just been killed and slaughtered, he says: "I have seen many excellent beasts bred from improved short-horns and long-horned cows. Indeed, I never knew any one of these hulls put to any cow where the produce was not superior to the

dam. But the cross which I advocate and with which I am best acquainted is that with the Devon cow. I have uniformly remarked that each succeeding cross was attended with a proportionate improvement in size, quality of flesh, [?] and aptitude to fatten. In every instance they have shown themselves superior milkers, and stand to the pail till within six or eight weeks of calving, and several instances have come to my knowledge where they have never been dry since they first calved."

The steers are thrifty and lay on flesh rapidly and evenly, and are ready to turn off at two and a half or three years old. They are hardy as their native parent, and bear transportation and driving admirably, shrinking less than the thorough-breeds. The greater proportion of the cattle now brought from Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, and from even further West, to supply the New York and Philadelphia markets, are crosses of this character, whilst the butcher is rarely disappointed in the fifth quarter.

So much importance has long been attached to the descent and genealogy of this high-bred race that a herd book, or authentic register of the breed from their earliest existence, or at least from the date of the earliest registers kept by the first importers of the breed, was started in 1822, by Mr. George Coates, in England, and has been continued by his successor in the enterprise, Mr. Henry Strafford, up to the present time. It now numbers fourteen large octavo volumes, and records the pedigrees of 19,176 bulls, together with a much larger number of cows and their produce. America, France, and Austria, have now their own "herd book," founded on the English or parent one, to which most of the pedigrees refer in their original descent. Our own now numbers five volumes, and is published at short intervals as the constantly increasing herds seem to demand.

CURIOUS PROPERTY OF IRON.—In 1850, Mr. Marsh, an able chemist of the royal arsenal, England, discovered that it is invariable with iron which has remained a considerable time under water, when reduced to small grains or an impalpable powder, to become red-hot, and ignite any substance with which it comes in contact. This he found by scraping some corroded metal from a gun, which ignited the paper containing it, and burnt a hole in his pocket. The knowledge of this fact is of immense importance, as it may account for many spontaneous fires and explosions, the origin of which has not been traced. A piece of rusty iron, brought in contact with a bale of cotton in a warehouse or on slipboard, may occasion extensive conflagration and the loss of many lives. The tendency of moistened particles of iron to ignite was discovered by the French chemist, Lemary, as far back as 1670.



Rhode Island Soc. Eng. Domestic Industry

The Stock-Yard.

SHEEP DISEASES.

We copy the following report of a talk upon this subject at a late meeting of wool growers in Michigan, from the *Prairie Farmer*.

Mr. C. E. Stewart being called upon, stated that he had lost quite a number of sheep for two years past, mostly ram lambs. Last year paid but little attention to it; this Spring had paid much attention to examining the cases, and practicing upon them. Last year his sheep commenced dying after they had been on grass about four weeks. Thought at the time the trouble was with their kidneys. The symptoms observed were falling out of the flock, stopping by a fence in a drooping, weak condition; would revive and then be worse. They were inclined to drink heartily just before death took place. Examinations showed the vital organs healthy; but found in the small intestines innumerable small worms, resembling hair in plastering mortar. Found linseed oil and turpentine in doses of two ounces recommended for worms; gave it to four sheep, and they died in twenty minutes; reduced the dose one-half, and gave it to more of the flock—no more died.

This year the same symptoms appeared before I turned them out; got the preparation again, gave it to one, it died in five minutes; found very few worms, but the liver was seriously affected; very rotten and brittle; little blood in the animal, and that of poor quality. Consulted family physician, and concluded the trouble was what is known in England as the "rot," but did not in all respects answer the description; gave toulis, also whiskey, gentian, &c; they had no effect except for a short time. Found salt recommended, tried it vigorously—tablespoonful at a dose—have now lost none since commencing to give it. Have noticed the following symptoms: Ears and nose cold, eyes and skin pale white, like a dead animal's skin. Wool does not seem to be affected, as it is bright and oily when removed from a dead sheep. Would caution every body against the turpentine and oil remedy. Mr. Martin had noticed the attacks in his flock among the yearlings; tried to keep them up, by high feeding, but they commenced dying April 1st, lost all the two-year-olds. Found a swelling under the lower jaw, a spongy, watery mass, that when lanced discharged a clear liquid, freely. On examining sheep that died, found this watery substance extending over the whole body, between the skin and flesh; examined brain, found nothing unnatural.

Mr. Thompson of Ohio was one of the unfortunates; had lost valuable sheep, found the presence of grubs in the head, thought that was the trouble. By the advice of a neighbor, tried tobacco juice and turpentine, (injected into the nose a tablespoonful each,) on the balance of flock; lost no more.

BEEF CATTLE SHOULD BE FAT.—Farmers sell too many of their beef cattle when they are in merely ordinary 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 generally denominated a good beef animal. Those of our readers who have followed this often repeated advice in our live stock market reports are witnesses to its soundness. Do not be in a hurry to market, under ordinary circumstances, until cattle are really fat. The same applies to all other market animals.

A Herkimer County, N. Y., dairyman estimates that 45 cows require 100 tons of hay to winter them through.

BREEDING SOWS.

EVERY farmer is aware of the great liability to loss in getting a litter of pigs through the first two weeks of their lives. The sow not unfrequently devours them as soon as dropped, or if not, they are more or less liable to be killed by the mother lying down, before the little grunters have acquired sense or strength enough to avoid the danger. The *Agricultural Review* gives some sensible advice in regard to the management of breeders, from which we extract the following; suggesting further that the litter should, after two or three weeks, be allowed considerable liberty. It does them good to frolic on the grass, and learn to stick their little shoe-hammers in the ground.

"The food of the sows should be varied and moderately salt; abundant enough to keep them thriving, yet not sufficient to fatten. It is well to give them charcoal occasionally and a trifle of sulphur. The slops of the house are good feed. All this tends to keep the appetite in a healthy state, and to destroy the tendency of the swine to devour their young. They should not be closely confined—a small yard, at least, should be attached to their sleeping pens for them to go into at will. Change of quarters, especially when near the time of giving birth to their young, is apt to work injury, and should be carefully made if necessary. They should be supplied with a great abundance of straw or other suitable bedding, and allowed to work it down somewhat fine and compact, and into a bed of their own liking. In Winter time it requires a warm pen, and ample hedging and care to raise the young pigs. If poles are placed around the sides of the pen high enough from the floor to give room for the pigs underneath, it will frequently save them from being lain on and killed, as the sow cannot press close enough to the wall to injure them, and she is not so apt to kill them in other positions as in this one.

During the first week in the age of the pigs the mother should be disturbed as little as possible. Especially strangers should not approach her. Give her warm drink, and but a small quantity of food. If she is doing well and is quiet, and takes care of her young, "let well enough alone." After a week's time you can feed more, and when the pigs begin to come to the trough and eat, you will have ample space to dispose of all the spare meal and buttermilk your premises afford."

FEED FOR HORSES.—Barley for horses, I think, is about the poorest feed that can be 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 into work, it will soon wear off. I have 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 would 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.—*Maine Farmer*.

CATTLE RAISING IN FLORIDA.—It is stated, by those cognizant of the facts, that a considerable portion of the population of Florida is of a migratory character. They are herdsmen, and pay particular attention to the raising of cattle. The savannas there afford a wide range of rich grass ground, and when one section is pretty well fed down the herds are removed to a new location, and so on till the beasts are ready for market. There is a tinge of the patriarchal about this system, and, considering the salubrity of the climate—a perpetual Spring and Summer—the life of a herdsman must be dreamy rather than exciting.

There are in store at Chicago, 2,056,000 bushels of grain.

Horticulture.

PLANTING ORCHARDS AND FRUIT GARDENS.

THE increasing demand for every kind of fruit is encouraging many persons to lay out and plant new orchards and fruit gardens. In the vicinity of large cities the raising of small fruits has been found very profitable, as berries of all kinds have been in great demand for the last few years, and as raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants, etc., come into bearing in a very short time after planting, there can be no objection on account of the length of time that these fruits take before they make any return for the outlay.

Persons who plant orchards and fruit gardens now, have many advantages which the pioneers of horticulture were not favored with. The experience of several years has pointed out the varieties of fruit best suited to various localities, and improved varieties have been introduced which are greatly superior to the old.

We sometimes hear a man object to planting orchards or gardens because the prime of his life is past, and he thinks he may not live to eat the fruit of his labor. The rapidity with which currants, gooseberries, raspberries, grape vines and dwarf pears come into bearing should completely upset these objections. The strawberry, raspberry and blackberry yield some fruit the first year after being planted, and a full crop the second year. The Concord grape vine bears well the third year, and dwarf pears sometimes bear a fair crop the fourth year from planting. It is a good plan to plant standard Bartletts, Seckels and Louise Bonne de Jerseys, among the dwarf pears, as they will be about coming into bearing when the dwarf varieties have declined.—*Western Rural*.

GARDEN HERBS.

CORIANDER.—Coriander seeds are often used in flavoring confections and medicines. They are delicately aromatic, more so than most seeds used for like purposes. The leaves of the plants are often used for flavoring culinary preparations.

DILL.—The small green leaves of the plant, which resemble asparagus when grown, as the seeds, are used for flavoring pickles. Gather the plant when it is in full bloom with its small yellow flowers, which is in the Middle States, generally in the month of July.

HOARHOUND.—This is principally used to flavor expectorant candies, and to make a tea, which is given in colds, as an expectorant and sudorific. The various communities of Shakers gather and prepare great quantities for sale. It is often found in a fresh state on the stands in the markets.

LAVENDER.—This is a very agreeable garden herb, and its fragrance is readily perceptible in the evening if we are walking near a bed of it. Large quantities of the oil are extracted by manufacturers, and sold in this condition, or made into an essence by dissolving it in alcohol. The essence, or a tea made either from the fresh, or dried and pressed leaf, is a good carminative for flatulency and pain in the stomach, especially in children.

SAGE.—The common green sage is the best among several kinds. Its warm aromatic flavor and pungency commend it as a condiment for meats, and particularly sausage, turkey stuffings, &c. A strong tea made of it makes an excellent gargle for some kinds of sore throat, and a good wash for canker sore mouth. As an adjunct it is usual to add to the tea, for gargling purposes, but not when used as a drink, a quantity of alum, and sometimes honey.

THYME.—This is one of the most agreeable of all the garden herbs. Both its odor and flavor commend it as a charming condiment for soups, and also for stuffings and sauces.—It is usually gathered green in the autumn and hung up to dry. As soon as it is dry, however, and before it is crisp enough to crumble, the leaves and small stems should be stripped off and pressed, which any body possessing

ordinary ingenuity can do in a style good enough for home consumption. This plan of pressing the more aromatic herbs should be the general practice, instead of allowing them to hang in the garret and store room until the flavoring and odorous principles are mostly evaporated.

SAVORY.—This herb is in such common use that we need not speak of it, only to say that there are two varieties, summer savory, as it is called, and a winter variety.

UNCULTIVATED OR WILD PLANTS.—**BLOOD-ROOT.**—The *Sanguinaria Canadensis* blooms early, with a pale, pretty flower, which grows on a crooked stem, like the violet, and is often used by children to "fight roosters" with, as they term the operation of hooking the flowers together, and pulling them until one breaks off and leaves the other the victorious "rooster." This plant is called bloodroot, because when the stalk or root is broken, there exudes copiously a blood red juice which has an acid, pungent taste. It is only used in medicine, as an expectorant and sedative, in coughs and colds, and as an emetic and expectorant in croup. The root may be gathered in the latter part of summer or autumn. It is the only part used, and is generally made into a tincture with proof spirits, although the dried root is sometimes used in the form of powder.

TRANSPLANTING ANNUALS.

ANNUAL flowers are generally sown too thickly, and the tufts or patches may be much improved by thinning out the plants to proper distances, and those which are taken up may be planted into bare spots, where they will have room to develop into their proper size. The German Asters are hardy and bear transplanting well; they have also the very desirable properties of being very beautiful and remaining in bloom for a long time. Portulacas bear transplanting well, and are a very showy flower, which bears a succession of bloom until late in the Fall. The numerous varieties of the Petunia bear transplanting well, and are so hardy that they bear a severe frost before they cease to bloom. There are some annuals which do not bear transplanting well. Among these are the Canary Tuft, Morning Glory, Scarlet Runner, Lupine Poppy, etc. Even these, when taken up when they are small, with a ball of earth surrounding the roots, and set out in moist soil, will do well. The operation must be performed with a transplanting trowel, or anything that will take up the plants without damaging the roots.

FRENCH METHOD OF RAISING TOMATOES.—As soon as a cluster of flowers is visible, the stem is topped down to the cluster, so that the flowers terminate the stem. The effect is, that the sap is immediately impelled into the two buds next below the cluster, which soon push strongly and produce another cluster of flowers each. When these are visible, the branch to which they belong is also topped down to their level; and this is done five times successively. By this means, the plants become stout, dwarf bushes, not above eighteen inches high. In order to prevent their falling over, sticks or strings are stretched horizontally along the rows, so as to keep the plants erect. In addition to this, all the laterals that have no flowers, and after the fifth topping, all laterals, whatsoever, are nipped off. In this way the ripe sap is directed into the fruit, which acquires a beauty, size and excellence unattainable by other means.

FRUIT IN LOUISIANA.—The *Planters' Banner* of the 13th ult. says:—"The peaches prove to have been damaged by the March frosts more than we at first supposed. In most places they have been badly ruined. The crop will be very short. Plums were also injured considerably. The oranges on our trees have not suffered at all. Figs and grapes not injured. In fact, most of the harm fell on plums and peaches."

A PAPER published at Saigon, a city and river port of Assam, Farther India, reports some extraordinary items of natural history from the land of the Assamites. Among other wonders it says they have there a certain fish, called ca-ong in the language of the country, which has distinguished itself to that degree that the king has bestowed upon it the proud title of "Nam hai dui hong gnau," which, as everybody knows, means "Great General of the South Sea." It appears that this laudable fish is in the habit of quietly paddling round the ships near the coast until somebody tumbles overboard. He then seizes him instantly, and, instead of eating him, gently carries him in his mouth to the shore. It is about thirty-five feet long, possesses front teeth like an elephant, very large eyes, a black skin very smooth, a tail like a lobster, and two wings on the back.



The Fireside Muse.

JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN.

Jerusalem the Golden, I languish for one gleam Of all thy glory folden In distance and in dream!

Jerusalem the Golden, Methinks each flower that blows, And every bird n' singing, Of the same secret knows!

Jerusalem the Golden, When sun sets in the west, It seems the gate of glory, Thou city of the hest!

Jerusalem the Golden! Where loftily they sing, O'er pain and sorrows olden For ever triumphing!

Jerusalem the Golden! There all our birds that flew— Our flowers but half unfolden, Our pearls that turned to dew—

Jerusalem the Golden! I toll on day by day; Heart-sore each night with longing I stretch my hands and pray,

The Field.

DO WE MOW TOO MUCH LAND?

WILLARD, in one of his agricultural letters from Europe, a short time ago, discussed this question, and says that when in England, the past season, among the dairy farms, we found this question studied and reduced to a better system than with us.

WE learn from the West that the grass on the plains is not sufficient for pasture. It is six weeks later than usual.

WASTE SUBSTANCES AS MANURES.

REFUSE CHARCOAL.—The refuse charcoal obtained from the rectifiers of spirits, from the railroads where wood is burned in locomotives, from old charcoal beds, etc., is a very useful material in the garden.

ROAD SAND.—The sand obtained from turnpikes, or roads macadamized with any sort of stones like granite, hard blue stones, very difficult to break and pulverize, has a peculiar value. The grinding of such rocks or stones 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 roads—produces a compound which is found to be highly acceptable to trees and plants.

SEEDING LAND TO GRASS.—A farmer of Herkimer county, N. Y., talking at a recent farmer's discussion, said he thought that farmers often sow too much seed. Had tried heavy seeding, putting on double the quantity usually sown, and did not get a good crop of grass; would sow from eight to ten quarts of timothy, and two to four quarts of clover per acre, then hush and roll the land.

PRESERVING POTATOES.—A correspondent of the Scientific American says that he has tried the following method of keeping potatoes for 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.

GRAPES IN CALIFORNIA.—A Mr. Keller, of Los Angeles, estimates the wine yield of that country in 1866, at 1,190,000 gallons. The yield per acre in grapes is about 12,000 pounds, and the value about \$190 per acre.

Various Matters.

CORAL JEWELRY.

The Paris correspondent of an English paper directs the attention of sight-seers in the Exhibition to the brilliant display of coral jewelry from the establishment of an eminent London Jeweller. His cases contain specimens of every variety of natural coral, as well as of every ornament into which it has been wrought by art.

This account may surprise readers who have never associated any idea of beauty with the manufactured forms of coral. It is no wonder, for taste and skill are not too plentiful in the world, and the jewels of this material which we commonly see are coarse, clumsily cut, and are dear at any price.

To secure a different result several things are needed. Of the varieties of coral known to commerce the number, we believe, is fifteen. There are several which are totally unfit to be worked into the higher forms of ornament. A discriminating choice of material is the first step. The second is the determination of the form. For this an artistic taste is needed, which does not make part of the stock of every goldsmith.

Under certain conditions coral is an excellent material for art. Its beautiful color, the solidity of its tissue, its resistance to atmospheric action, and the fine and soft polish which it readily assumes combine to recommend it. But while human artists can work it into forms more convenient for our use, they can never hope to attain the skill of the little workmen under the water. Natural coral has brought before now twenty times its weight in gold. We believe that there is present among the collection in the cabinet of Yale College a specimen which is unsurpassed in this country.

THE APPLE TREE BORER.

A SURE REMEDY AGAINST HIS ATTACKS.

I say in the heading of this article, "a sure remedy against his attacks." Yes, and I believe the only certain and reliable remedy. The apple borer is the larvæ or grub of a certain very beautiful bug or beetle, which deposits its eggs at or near the surface of the ground, on the trunk of the tree, during the months of May and June. I think each bug lays from fifteen to thirty eggs, or else they lay different clusters of them; but it is no matter—they lay enough of them any way. These eggs hatch out in a week or two, a nice, plump, little borer—yellowish white, with a yellowish red head—very small and trifling at first, but he immediately begins to fulfil his destiny by eating his way through the bark of the tree, which it takes him from six weeks to two months to accomplish—not usually going straight through, but reaching the wood about half an inch from the starting point; at this time he is from an eighth to a quarter of an inch in length. He now commences to feed on the liber and adjacent wood, and grows apace until cold weather commences, when he usually eats his own way downwards below the surface of the soil, and there hibernates during the winter. (At least I think he hibernates.)

The next spring, as soon as hard freezing is over, he goes to work vigorously, still feeding on the liber or inner bark; by fall he will have attained a length of 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch, when he always—I believe—works his way below the surface of the soil and apparently feeds but little until spring. With the commencement of warm weather he is again vigorously at work, and as he has attained considerable size, it takes considerable to supply his commissary department during the coming summer. Dur-

ing this third and last summer of his life is the time when he does the most of the damage.

In a tree one or two inches in diameter, one borer will eat all around until it comes within a quarter of an inch of girdling it. In larger trees, there are usually from one to five to a tree, if any; one borer in a tree three or four inches in diameter does not generally injure it fatally without he cuts clear around it, which is not often the case; but when there are more they almost always cut within about a quarter of an inch of each other's burrows, which generally proves fatal.

We have now followed a specimen until he has reached the third and last fall of his growth, at which time he is a full inch or more in length, and of the thickness of a goose quill; between this time and the first of the following May, our borer cuts, a hole directly through the trunk of the tree, a few inches above the surface of the soil, within all but a shaving of the bark on the opposite side; then drawing himself hack a little, he goes into the chrysalis state, from which, in the course of a few weeks, he emerges a perfect bug.

Now, having followed him through his changeful life, and knowing something of his habits, 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 be readily 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 damage at that time, we would never receive any serious injury from them. Now it is no great task to do this; a man will clear the litter and soil around a thousand trees in a day, and can take the borers out in another day. I will agree to do both jobs carefully in one day's time.—Prairie Farmer.

THE AMERICAN FARMER'S HORSE BOOK. By Robert Stewart, M.D., V.S.

This is a handsomely bound, abundantly illustrated work of six hundred pages, written by a veterinarian of twenty years' practice. In addition to the subjects usually treated of in similar works, it contains a full description of the causes and nature of several diseases peculiar to the American horse; original and effective modes of treating some diseases heretofore considered incurable; and an extensive treatise on stock raising and stock management. The work will be a valuable acquisition to the farmer's library.

Geo. W. Hudson is canvassing agent for the State of Rhode Island and will call upon our friends to subscribe.

A HINT.—Those who keep their wagons and carriages in good order, should place a wrench on every nut at least once a month. This will save nuts, save bolts and prevent rattling and wear and tear. There is a great deal depending upon looking after the running-gears of vehicles as well as the harness. For want of a little attention accidents have happened and damage been sustained, therefore take the hint.

We take pleasure in calling the attention of purchasers to the advertisement of John Giles, South Framingham, Mass., who offers for sale the pick of his fine herd of Alderney cows and heifers, and also Suffolk pigs that are not surpassed in the country. To see them will be to buy them.



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.—Talk of agricultural improvement, of the difficulty of getting the laborers to take to a new implement, or adopt an improved method! What makes you see its advantages and adopt it? Your mind. If that alone be left uncultivated around you—at every point, at every town, in every field, in every hedge, in every ditch, in your house, in your dairy, in your stable, in your barn, everywhere, and at every time, by day and night, winter, spring, summer and autumn,—the neglect that has been allowed to sow itself, the moral weed crop, will meet your eye to baffle and torment you with the feeling so truthfully expressed when you say that you "have not a single mind you can depend upon." No wonder; you have never tried to make one.





Field and Farm.

POTATOES.

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

THE season for planting potatoes has returned, and a few thoughts on this most important of our esculent roots cannot be untimely. The potato (*Solanum Tuberosum*) is a native of America, and is one of the richest contributions that our land has made to the food of man. It was introduced into England by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1586, but was very slow in making its way to popular favor. In books of gardening, published a century after their introduction, they are spoken of slightly, as fit only for poor people. Evelyn, writing in 1699, says: "plant potatoes in your worst ground," and the "Complete Gardener," published in 1719, makes no mention of the potato as among the products of the garden. It was near the middle of the eighteenth century that their virtues began to be appreciated. The primitive mode of raising them was on the same ground year after year, gathering a few tubers in the Autumn for Winter use, and covering the balance with litter that they might stock the land for another season. With poor seed originally, and such cultivation, no wonder they were considered "inferior to radishes," and were slow to assume their proper position among the esculents. How the peasantry of Great Britain lived before the introduction of potatoes and cabbages is a puzzle, as these two articles now constitute a large fraction of their diet. It is only by the Anglo Saxon race that the potato even now is much valued as an article of food. It is seldom seen on a French table, and the South of Europe is still in ignorance of its great importance.

Till within thirty years the potato was considered the most healthy and certain of crops, and five hundred bushels per acre was no uncommon yield. The potato rot then suddenly made its appearance, causing a famine in Ireland, and consternation wherever the potato was extensively raised. For a time it seemed that the favorite root was destined to run out, but thanks to a kind Providence, and the persevering efforts of a few skillful originators of new varieties, the disease seems to have reached its crisis and is on the wane. The cause of the rot is to this day a disputed point, but the best authorities agree in ascribing it to the continued propagation, year after year, by cuttings. The fact that the new varieties raised from seed are generally healthy, favors this idea. Possibly the theory of the late Mr. Knight, the distinguished horticulturist of England is true, who maintains that the life of all fruits and vegetables is bounded, and that the cion, grafted from one tree into another, will not live longer than the prescribed limit for the life of the tree from which the cion was taken, and so with all vegetation propagated by cuttings. If this theory is true some fruits and vegetables must be long lived, but whether true or not, varieties do seem to run out, as the Virgalieu pear and the Carter potato bear witness, and it is safer to plant potatoes that are freshly started from the seed.

We are under great obligations to the late Rev. C. E. Goodrich of Utica, who has done more than any other man in this country to investigate the potato disease and to restore the tuber to its original health. For the last sixteen years of his life, Mr. Goodrich prosecuted his experiments with enthusiasm, and with the sole object of preserving this valuable esculent to the world. In this time he originated fifteen thousand seedlings, but as he said "only a painfully small proportion of good sorts." At an expense of two hundred dollars, he procured a few potatoes from Chili, the native home of the tuber, and from them, as a base, he originated new seedlings, and one out of a thousand proved good. Of these the Early Goodrich and the Garnet Chili are the most widely disseminated, though the Calico, the Gleason and Harrison are excellent potatoes, free from rot, and flourish wherever tried, whether on the Atlantic seaboard or in

the States West of the Mississippi. Mr. Goodrich was a most accurate observer, and a most conscientious and benevolent man, and had his life been spared, he would have made still more valuable additions to the cause of science and humanity. That he was not a mere speculator is manifest from the fact that during the period of his investigations, his annual expenses exceeded his income from his sales. Mr. Goodrich's observations led him to conclude that the potato grows old and feeble with time, and that the true mode of renovating it is by reproduction from seed, and not by cross breeding, as others maintain. He estimates the life of a variety to be about half a century, varying somewhat with the climate and soil. It is hoped that the mantle of Mr. Goodrich will fall on some worthy successor, as it is highly important, if his theory of the decay of varieties from age is correct, that choice new sorts should be originated, and we see no reason why still further improvements may not be made in this esculent. We suggest to experimenters in this line, that more regard be had to the form of the potato. Why can not deep eyes and large excrescences be eradicated and a smooth, round or oblong potato be developed? By the census of 1860 the amount of this crop grown in the United States was 110,571,201 bushels, worth at present prices about one hundred millions of dollars, an amount sufficient to justify no little care in originating and selecting varieties and in their cultivation.

The potato is indigenous to the table lands of the Andes, and loves a climate that is uniform, neither too warm nor too cold, neither too wet nor too dry. A sandy loam is the favorite place for its bed. A clay soil, in a wet season, is specially unfavorable to the health of the potato. It envelops the tuber too closely, diminishes the action of the air, light and heat. For years we applied no manure directly to the potato crop, as the rapid growth of the soft vascular tissues, when grown on manure, seemed to render it peculiarly liable to disease, but with the new, healthy varieties, we feel quite safe in using manure again, and of course obtain a greatly increased product. For seed, we prefer medium-sized, smooth potatoes, planting in drills three feet apart, dropping the pieces with two or three eyes in each, at intervals of ten or twelve inches, and if the work is done as soon as the ground is light and dry, we are reasonably sure of a good return. The ash of the potato shows a large per cent. of saline matter which is most cheaply furnished the growing tubers by wood ashes. We have found it an excellent plan, after the potatoes are cut, to place them in a barrel, and spread over them a quart or two of plaster, and giving the barrel a little shake, the gypsum will be found well plastered on the moist face of each piece. If a little fine salt is mixed with the plaster it will be an improvement.

The cultivation of the potato in a meadow soil is exceedingly simple. If the weeds show themselves before the potatoes appear, a brush harrow run lengthwise with the drills will wipe off the tender sprouts and save much hand labor. The cultivator run between the drills, as soon after each heavy shower as the ground is dry, keeps the land light, and Share's double mould board cultivator, with the teeth taken out, will hill up better than the hoe. Dig in a dry time and place immediately in a cool, dark cellar, and if there is any appearance, or even apprehension of rot, sprinkle a little fine lime over the bin. We have found this an excellent antidote to the decay, and it also prevents the unpleasant effluvia from the potatoes penetrating through the house.

As for varieties we know nothing superior to the Early Goodrich for Summer and Fall use, and the Garnet Chili for Winter and Spring. In health, productiveness and quality, the three leading characteristics of a good potato, they excel all others we have tried. The Colebrook seedling is a smooth, well formed potato of excellent quality, evidently originating from the old Land Lake, but by no means as healthy or productive as Mr. Goodrich's seedlings.

Among the edible vegetable productions of our country potatoes rank the fourth—corn, wheat and oats only outranking them, and whoever contributes a good new variety, or throws new light on their cultivation, we hail as a public benefactor.

June, 1867.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
HAS MAN MODIFIED THE CLIMATE OF THE UNITED STATES?

BY J. S. LIPPINCOTT, N. J.

IT is obvious to the common understanding that the face of the Northern United States, in the present day, must differ widely from that it exhibited when first known to the European adventurer. We are told it then abounded in wood; that one almost unbroken forest extended from the Northern frontiers of Canada over the entire New England and Middle States, portions of the Western and far into the South, forming the most extended body of timber on the globe. Many of us have seen the remnants of this mighty forest, have roamed among its massive pines and hemlocks, its giant oaks, its sycamores, its poplars, and its beeches, and listened to the wail of the forest "the forest primeval"—a mournful requiem over their fellows, who enduring unseathed the tempests of centuries, have fallen at length by the ruthless hand of destroying man. So great and extensive has been this wasteful removal of the timber trees, it would seem to have been realized, as of old, that "a man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees." Were we permitted to translate the ancient text, we would have preferred to call him infamous who should so lay waste the heritage of the Creator, destroying the good gifts which were designed to bless our race. Ignorance may not be the parent of every evil, but it is truly the source of untold mischief, and entails as certain punishment as if it were a sin recognized by our moral code. Unfortunately, the moral sense of the community has not yet perceived wherein it greatly errs, in its under estimate of the value of a comprehension of, and obedience to, the physical laws of the Creator. By many it may be considered unreasonable that it should so do while scarcely cognizant of their existence and even ignoring many of the moral laws, obedience to which deeply concern not only our temporal but our eternal welfare. But Providence "has worked by means since first He formed the world," and still employs physical agencies to do his behests, and governs these agents by laws as fixed as fate; yet so easily understood in their general applications by those who will but inquire aright, that he is indeed inexcusable who neglects them, and his punishment for disobedience inevitable. So surely and promptly does the reward of this neglect of the Creator in his works follow the error, it would almost seem that He esteemed the disregard of His labors and His laws a contumacious of His goodness and His wisdom. As His chastenings are ever tempered by mercy, we may safely regard our sufferings as incentives to enquiry, that we might learn His ways and escape the consequences of ignorance.

Sooner or later the truth is forced upon man, and he discovers that he cannot arrest or control, with all his ingenuity, the certain march of causes which are at work around him, that he must succumb in the warfare with nature; and that his only safety lies in working with her; studying her plans, and laying his own parallel therewith.

These remarks appear to us a natural preface to the consideration of the causes which have been at work for a few generations modifying our climate, and rendering it unfitted for the regular production of many more tender fruits which were once readily and abundantly grown.

That such changes have been brought about, no reflecting or well informed pomologist will deny; then wherefore have they resulted, and how can the attendant evils be remedied; and are these results general, and if not, where are the favored districts yet boasting their primitive fruitfulness? The question why has the destruction of our forests rendered our fruit trees bar-

ren, over a wide portion of the interior, is in itself a very interesting question, even were it shown that the injury done is now beyond repair.

It has been frequently asserted that man has effected few changes in nature, especially that the destruction of forests, the drying up of marshes, the opening of wide tracts to the sunshine, have not modified our climate, because the records of the meteorologist do not exhibit satisfactory evidence of such changes. That because we have now and then a season of severe cold precisely as known to our great-grand fathers, we have not become warmer, and because we suffer from an occasional "heated term," we have not become cooler. But that a change has taken place is obvious to the pomologist, if not derivable from the records of the meteorologists; while the common opinion of men unites in the belief that the climate, as respects heat and cold, has been modified, and that though no sensible change has been made in the mean annual temperature, such a modification in the distribution of heat among the seasons has been produced as greatly to influence vegetation. Historians of the States earliest settled inform us that the seasons and the weather were uniform and regular during the first years of the arrival of the colonists, but that the seasons are now totally altered, and the weather infinitely more changeable. Observations longest continued in the United States, on which reliance is placed to dispute these conclusions, have been made in cities where the influences of the surroundings had already been long at work; and where the shelter of many buildings from the earliest days may have marked the results of thermometrical deductions. Early thermometers also were doubtless of inferior accuracy, and their results unfitted for comparison with those of our day.

But, be this as it may, we believe that inquiries into the changes that have taken place in our climate, have been made in the wrong direction; that the modifications, to which we believe we have been subjected, are not due to temperature alone, but to exposure to storms and to the drying influences of unchecked currents of air. It is not of as much importance to determine whether the mean temperature of a year, or of a season has been modified, as it is to ascertain whether we are now more liable to visitations of extremes of temperature at periods when these extremes may prove detrimental to our products, agricultural or pomological.

The removal of forests, has in the opinion of close observers of unquestioned authority, caused many changes which have affected the well being of man. Among these may be cited, diminution in the rain-fall; drying up of springs and streams, increased aridity of the air of a district; greater prevalence of droughts during Summer, and consequent evils to vegetation; and, in many instances the conversion of wide districts, once fertile and teeming with life, into trackless deserts. Consequences so momentous to posterity demand timely consideration on our part, lest we also curse the land and convert our fair heritage into a wilderness.

June, 1867.

GAS LIME AS A FERTILIZER.—An officer of the Edinburg Gas Company, writing to The Scottish farmer concerning gas lime as a fertilizer, says:

"I believe that waste gas lime is equal in efficiency to fresh lime for most of the purposes aimed at in its use in farm lands. I sold all the lime thus produced at the gas works in Forfarshire, for 16 years, to several farmers, who uniformly expressed their satisfaction therewith. One very useful application of it was its mixture with the large pile of weeds and tangled roots of grass cleared off the fields annually. On being composted in this way, the lime gradually killed all the vitality of these weeds, and returned them to the land in the way of manure. It also served the purpose of opening up stiff clay soils, being first spread over the surface, and then plowed down."

AMERICAN BEE PLANT.—This plant, introduced about 1859, or '60 and quite extensively used in New York and Illinois, has proved to be the best honey producing plant ever known. We see it stated in the *Prairie Farmer* that while this plant is in bloom the bees discard huckwheat and all other flowers for it. The honey stored from this plant is pronounced the most palatable and the finest in every respect by experienced persons. It is of easy culture, and has a fine appearance in the flower garden. It is a strong grower and much blancher like the common mustard plant, though its flowers are a bright purple, and are in bloom from midsummer until the frosts of autumn destroy it. It will grow on any soil, although it flourishes best on a rich one, and is sown in drills, or if the ground is clean, broadcast. To insure its early blooming it is best to sow in autumn.



FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 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.

FRUIT CROPS.

NOTWITHSTANDING the cold, wet and backward Spring, we are receiving information from various sections of the country that the crop of small fruits promises to be very large. In Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey, the strawberry harvest is abundant—far ahead of last year's production. Several correspondents in New Jersey write us that the only complaint is the strawberry crop is so large that "prices will not be remunerative." We doubt this, provided the berries are within reasonable distances of a market. Heretofore, in years past, the demand has exceeded the supply. Everybody, rich or poor, in town or city, is fond of this delicious fruit, and no fears need be entertained of an over-supply.

The report in regard to raspberries and blackberries is not uniformly favorable; but the present indications are that the crop will be ample. In some parts of the country the canes suffered from the severity of the Winter. This will teach many fruit-growers the importance of winter-protection for the more tender varieties. This is easily done by covering the stems, when prostrate, with a thin coating of earth, straw, &c. Pruning the raspberry and blackberry is not thoroughly understood as yet.

It is early to judge of the cranberry crop, but we have favorable reports from Cape Cod to New Jersey. In New England, our correspondents write hopefully; in New Jersey, more positively. The vines are looking fine and healthy, and where the cultivated tracts were flooded through the Winter, the prospect is good. At least five thousand acres of new bogs will come into bearing this year, from districts already heard from through our special correspondents.

Of peaches, we have received contradictory reports within the past fortnight. The blossoms, and even the young fruit, were partially injured by high winds and cold rains on the bay shores of Delaware; but from most parts of that State, as also from Maryland and New Jersey, we have encouraging reports. There are chronic falsehoods circulated every year by peach speculators to affect the market value of this crop. Indeed, of late years, this class of fruit gamblers have had complete control of the market. But their stories are off-set this year by the fact that peach shippers have contracted for double the amount of freight cars over the railroads diverging from the great peach-growing districts! This is strong evidence that an unusual crop of peaches is anticipated. To corroborate this is another "fixed fact." At a meeting of the peach-growers of Delaware, held at Dover, 23d ult., it was "estimated that the number of baskets of peaches to be shipped from the State, this year, will be from a million to a million and a half!"

OUR BIRD FRIENDS.

HALF a century ago, when fruit-culture had scarcely a record among rural arts; when the heart of philanthropy was not as large as it now is; when the lacteous fluid of human kindness was generously watered, and when the charms of the country were but dimly appreciated, TOM HOOD asked

"What churl would for their songs begrudge
Fruit to the blackbird and the thrushes?"

HOOD was a poet, not an entomologist, yet he knew that birds subsisted on fruits and insects. He knew, also, that there were clownish and ignorant farmers in England who exhibited their barbarity by the wholesale destruction of harmless and innoxious birds—those little friends that visited his garden; that huilt their dwellings in his orchard, and that cheered his heart with their free-and-easy songs. Hence, his satirical "hit" at the churls who poisoned

their wheat fields and wasted gunpowder on the feathered tribe.

To-day, Entomology teaches us that all the predacious birds are insectivorous; that while they eat, as mere dessert, some of our fruits, they chiefly subsist on noxious insects. The observing horticulturist will tell you this, and the scientific farmer will corroborate it. The ablest writer on ornithology, Audubon, who spent five-and-twenty years among birds, travelling from Maine to Oregon, from the great Northern lakes to the Gulf, adds his testimony in favor of our bird friends. Later writers on natural history have offered many eloquent pleas on the same side, demonstrating to a certainty that nearly all the birds which frequent our orchards, gardens and farms, are instrumental of good, are in fact, laborers and co-workers in agriculture and horticulture.

Now and then we find an intelligent man—one among a hundred illiterate ones—who takes the opposite side of this question, and elaborates an argument against the birds; but he always selects the most voracious fruit brigand of the feathered family, and his deduction, or hypothesis, is that they are all alike; that robin and catbird, wren and cherrybird, sparrow and kingbird, and the whole tribe of songsters are first-class thieves. He might as well add they are all of the same species, all of one identical variety, and the little titmouse wren is a young turkey-buzzard! If such men possess so great a knowledge of ornithology, what are their acquirements in horticulture, agriculture and entomology?

We have followed the plough for twenty years, and cultivated fruit fifteen more, and have carefully studied the habits of insectivorous birds, and of insects injurious to vegetation. Our opinion is, that without those birds we should not raise half as much fruit as we do now; and that if they were exterminated we should bid good-bye to fruit, and farewell to many grain crops. We have armies of cankerworms, curculios, caterpillars, wheat midges, &c., now, often losing a great part of our crops; but destroy the birds and count the sacrifice. The experiment of killing all birds was tried in a section of France, fifty years ago, and the result was a vast increase of fruit destroying insects and sadly diminished crops.

We love birds—like them for their melody—encourage them for their beneficent acts, and write this plea for their special benefit. The season is near at hand when strawberries and cherries ripen in our garden, and we hereby extend a cordial invitation to our bird friends to come and see us, to partake of our fruit. We don't raise it for greed or profit, nor are we so despicably mean as to "begrudge for their songs" a few cherries or strawberries to the poor birds. To those who intend to use fire-arms against our feathered proteges, we remind them of Solomon's words: "God delights not in the life of the fool."

LEGUMINOUS PLANTS.

Too little attention is given to the culture of leguminous plants—that numerous class which have their seeds enclosed in "pods." All the bean and pea family belong to this sort of "bivalve species," and are profitable crops on most soils. It is not the amount of money netted from these crops alone, but their profit as food to different kinds of farm stock. All leguminous plants abound in nitrogen, and hence are valuable for their great nutritive properties. Stock fed on ground peas or beans will fatten much faster than on ground corn, wheat or barley. The feeders of prize beef and mutton, in England, understand this, and justly attribute their success and profit to the liberal use of leguminous food for animals intended for market. The vines of these plants contain considerable nitrogen—more than clover—and are highly esteemed by sheep and cattle. Yet many farmers waste these vines, or wholly fail to gather them for Winter use.

In the Southern States, both beans and peas are frequently used as organic fertilizers; they are ploughed under, as a green crop, at a certain period of growth. When this crop decays it produces ammonia—the value of which

every farmer understands. Clover is generally regarded as the best green crop to plough into the soil; but Southern planters have assured us that peas and beans are vastly superior to clover. Experience taught them this, and we firmly believe their deductions are correct. Both as forage and manure all leguminous plants are valuable.

But we write this article more to remind our farm friends of the importance of planting an extra quantity of beans this year. It is not too late, even now, to extend your field crop in this line. The cold Spring has delayed corn planting, and probably not so many acres are planted as would have been if the season had been earlier and more favorable. Beans will grow on all soils, but the best is a warm, sandy loam of moderate fertility. If the soil is too rich, they run luxuriantly to vines, with short product of seed. Even a very thin, poor soil will grow a fair crop, such as gravelly side-hills and old plains. Many farmers in the New England States plant among corn; but we are decidedly opposed to it. Better cultivate in a field by themselves, for corn needs all the food found in ordinary soils. Deep and thorough plowing is essential in this crop, as the roots will penetrate a well broken soil to a considerable depth. Besides, beans like mineral substances, and stretch out their roots for particles of lime, potassa, phosphoric acids, etc. Plant more beans, then, especially if you want to produce some extra beef or mutton next Fall or Winter. Farmers who have had no experience in feeding ground beans to fattening stock should try it at once. It is evidently worth trying.

"WHAT IS SILICA?"

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Steuben county, New York, asks us to give a definition of "Silica." We cheerfully comply, but may not give a scientific answer; nor one that every agricultural savant will endorse. Silica is a common mineral—the purest and sharpest sand—which has acid properties, and is formed by the chemical union of two atoms of oxygen. Sometimes this is called "silicic acid," because it combines readily with potash, soda, lime, alumina, iron, &c. In one hundred parts of pure, sharp sand, there are about fifty parts of oxygen—balance silicon, which is the elementary base. Now every farmer knows, or ought to know, that pure sand is insoluble in water; yet more than sixty per cent. of the ash of the stems of wheat, rye, oats, barley, &c., is pure flint sand—otherwise silica.

A knowledge of the composition of soils, of the constituents of plants, and of the source of fertility, and the cause of barrenness in land, would be of immense value to every farmer. It would also vastly tend to increase our agricultural products, add to individual prosperity and swell the aggregate of national wealth. Yet three-fourths of those engaged in farming, in this country, do not patronize agricultural journals, nor ever read a book relating to agriculture, horticulture, etc.! When we consider these facts—they are humiliating facts—it surprises us that farmers thrive at all. No other class or profession "go it blind" like the generality of farmers.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE in England breaks out anew, now and then. The last attack was confined to three mid-land counties, and but few animals were lost. The total number of cattle reported to have been attacked in Great Britain, since the rinderpest made its appearance, is 253,902; and 52,704 healthy cattle have been slaughtered to prevent the spread of the disease.

PICKING STRAWBERRIES.—In gathering strawberries or other small fruit, don't pick them when wet with dew or rain. Fruit gathered in this way will mould; and if sent a considerable distance to market will always arrive in a bad condition. Remember this.

FREQUENT mowing makes the green, smooth lawn. Common farm scythes are hardly fit for lawn use; short, broad scythes are best.

OUR BOOK TABLE.

THE RECTOR'S WIFE; or The Valley of a Hundred Fires. By the author of "Margaret and her Bridesmaids," "Lords and Ladies," "Queen of the County." T. B. Peterson & Brothers. Philadelphia.

The most pleasing novels are those that detail the pleasures, sorrows and incidents of social life—not the artificial, painted life of the city, but real existence by men and women in the country, where virtue is rewarded and crime despised. The volume before us is of this class, and tells, in a pleasing way, of "The Rector's Wife"; pictures a residence in Wales, and portrays the ups and downs of a simple country life. The moral tone of the book is high, and, as a work of fiction, will find many appreciating readers.

AUNT MARGARET'S TROUBLE. By a New Writer. T. B. Peterson & Brothers. Philadelphia.

This "New Writer" is the daughter of Charles Dickens, and, judging from her first published volume, has inherited much of her father's descriptive talent—especially in the touching, pathetic scenes of humble life in England. Everybody will want to read a story written by a child of "Boz"—the most popular of living authors.

APPLE-TREE APHIS.—One of the worst enemies to the apple orchard is the *aphis mali*, an insect that invades almost every orchard and depredates upon both old and young trees. They live chiefly on the fresh juicy bark, and can be found in May and June. They are nearly the color of the apple-tree bark and about a tenth of an inch in length. They are, like most pests, very prolific; and generally hatch out two broods in a season. We believe half of the diminished yield of fruit, for years past, has been caused by the Aphis.

A good remedy, perhaps the best, is strong soap-suds. If mixed half of soap and half of water, it will not be too strong. Now is a proper time to apply the wash, when the young lice are in the larva state. Every person having apple orchards should examine their trees. Don't neglect it, and if you find the rascals, treat them to a baptism of soap-suds, thoroughly laid on. Besides being a remedy for lice it is a first-class fertilizer for all trees.

ASK YOUR NEIGHBOR.—We are daily receiving letters from subscribers who cordially endorse the *Farm and Fireside*, and wish it "abundant success." To all friendly associates in the great field of agriculture we return thanks; and suggest that every reader of our journal extend an invitation to his neighbor to subscribe. We believe we are making a first-class agricultural and horticultural paper, but desire to make it better and more valuable in the future. Now Messrs farmers, gardeners, fruit-growers and stock-raisers, give us your influence—ask your neighbor to subscribe—thus extending our circulation and advancing your own profession. Any person sending us a yearly subscriber (\$2), can retain fifty cents, or twenty-five per cent. on all subscriptions obtained. Ask your neighbor to subscribe.

AGRICULTURAL PAPERS are springing up abundantly. The latest we notice, is "The Farmer's Home Journal," a weekly published at Lexington, Kentucky, by Miller & Marrs, \$3 per annum. It is in quarto form, neat in appearance, and deserves success.

A Wisconsin farmer writes to the New York Farmers Club, that if the spread of the Canada thistle is not checked in its progress it will be but a short time before the producers of wheat will be driven from the great wheat fields of the West as Adam was driven from the garden in the East.

A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer* says the high price of flour, to some extent, is due to the very large amount of wheat drawn from the surplus for seeding. He thinks the wheat crop will be immense this year.

THE SQUASH BUG.—The squash bug makes its appearance in May and June. The first indication we have of their having commenced their depredation, is here and there a withered leaf, which is a sure sign of their first appearance. As soon as this is noticed, go into the patch and turn over the injured leaf, and you will find a small, whitish, hairy bug, eating the leaf, of an offensive smell. Grasp them with the hand and kill them; no matter if your hand is stained. Then turn over all the leaves, and here and there you will find clusters of eggs—small, brown, not larger than the head of a pin. Take an old case knife, and scrape them off, and in a short time all will be killed. Also near the roots of the plants, you will find a large black bug, or often two of them, adhering together—kill them, and by a little attention, the plants can be soon rid of the bugs.



The Fireside Muse.

SQUANDERED LIVES.

BY BAYARD TAYLOR.

The fisherman wades in the surges;
The sailor sails over the seas;
The soldier steps bravely to battle;
The woodman lays axe to the tree.

They are each of the breed of the heroes,
The manhood attempted in strife;
Strong hands, that go lightly to labor,
True hearts, that take comfort in life.

In each is the seed to replenish
The world with the vigor it needs—
The centre of honest affections,
The impulse to generous deeds.

But the shark drinks the blood of the fisher;
The sailor is dropped in the sea;
The soldier lies cold by his cannon;
The woodman is crushed by his tree.

Each prodigal life that is wasted
In manly achievement unseen,
But lengthens the days of the coward,
And strengthens the crafty and mean.

The blood of the noblest is lavished
That the selfish a profit may find;
God sees the lives that are squandered,
And wets his wisdom are blind.

Fireside Tale.

RICH MOUNTAIN.

YOUNG HART AND THE LAUREL.

BY WM. HENRY WOOD.

RICH MOUNTAIN is famous as the scene of the first decisive battle in West Virginia. The battle was fought by General McClellan for the Union, and General Garnett commanding the Rebels, in the early part of the war.

Rich Mountain is in Randolph county, eight miles from Beverly, the county seat; and is reached by the Parkersburg and Staunton Turnpike. It is sixty miles from Gleuville, and about the same distance from Clarksburg, where McClellan was at the time he determined to make the hazardous attack.

The Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike, winding round the heads of the ravines, passes over the summit of the mountain. It is two miles to the top, by the turupike. It is long, high, and narrow, and covered with heavy timber; save the summit, a small area of level ground, cleared and cultivated as a farm by an elderly gentleman named Joseph Hart—and a narrow strip up the south side of the mountain, which is covered with a dense growth of laurel. The soil of this mountain is rich, of a black color, different from other mountains in Virginia, and from this it has derived its name.

The topography of the mountain is admirably adapted for the erection of strong military defences. General Garnett held it with a force of about five thousand men, and had thrown up works which were impregnable on either side where the road crossed the mountain.

General McClellan advanced by the Staunton and Parkersburg Pike, intending to make the attack early in the morning upon the works where they crossed the road. The mountain was steep and rugged everywhere else, making reconnoissance dangerous, and, as he supposed, impossible, except in force, and he had concluded to risk a battle directly on the road. Had he done so, subsequent examination of the enemy's defences at that point showed that no earthly power could have saved him from certain destruction.

Now old Joseph Hart, who lived on the mountain, was a Union man, and had made himself thoroughly acquainted with the Rebel General's position and fortifications. He had somehow got information of the coming of the Federal forces, and was certain that the attack from that direction would prove disastrous to the assailing party. He dreaded this, and determined to get word to McClellan of the situation of affairs on the mountain before he arrived at the foot, when it would be too late. He could not go himself, that would excite suspicion, and he would be stopped at the Rebel outposts. His little son Henry, a lad of uncommon energy and courage, born on the mountain, and acquainted with all its dark

gorges and ravines, was selected for the dangerous mission. His years forbade suspicion, and he passed the Rebel lines without difficulty, leaving the mountain by an unaccustomed route. After travelling all night and part of the following day, he came to the advanced guard of the Federal forces, informed them of the object of his journey, and was taken under guard to head-quarters. Even his extreme youth did not screen him from suspicion here. It was believed he was there for no other purpose than to decoy into ambush. At first, the manner of McClellan was cold and severe, and his questions hard and rigorous. Henry, nothing daunted, related all his father had told him of Garnett's position on the mountain; the strength of his force, the nature of his works, and the impossibility of successfully attacking him on the road. The Federal General listened attentively with increased interest, as Henry advanced, with his simple story, occasionally interrupting him with—"Tell the truth, my boy."

At each interruption Henry would earnestly, but respectfully reply—"I am telling the truth."

"But," says the General, "do you know if you do not you will be shot?"

"I am willing to be shot if what I have said is not all true," was the firm answer.

"Well," questioned the General, now satisfied Henry was a true boy, "well, if I can't go up the mountain and attack the Rebels on the road, by what way can I go up?"

Henry, who was quick to see a change in the General's mind, said he knew of a way up the side, striking the road on the top of the mountain, and leaving the road at the base. There was no track that way, and the mountain was high and steep; but there were few trees growing, and no logs lying down to be in the way of going up. He had travelled up and down there often, over the tops of the laurel, looking for his father's sheep in the ravines. The laurel was very thick, and grew together so closely and so strong that a man could walk over their tops.

This statement of Henry's re-awakened the suspicions of McClellan, who said sharply, "Do you say a man can walk on the tops of the laurel?"

"Yes, sir," persisted Henry.

"Do you think my army can go up the mountain over the tops of the laurel?" continued General McClellan.

"No, sir," was the prompt answer, "but I have, and a man could, with care, and with nothing to carry."

"But, my boy, don't you see I have got a great many men, and horses, and wagons, and cannon, and how do you think I can get upon the mountain with all these if the laurel is so thick?"

"The trees are small and low; so small at the bottom that you can cut them down with a knife or hatchet, without making any noise, and the men on the mountain will not know what you are doing or where you are coming," was the brave response of Henry, who, it was plain, would soon be the leader of the gallant little army which was to decide on the heights of Rich Mountain the destiny of West Virginia.

The Federal commander, content with this plain and manifestly honest narrative, changed his orders, abandoned the easy route on the pike to the mountain, and soon the army of the Union was in motion in the direction pointed out by Henry. Leaving the main road at the foot of the mountain, they wound round ravines, and over ugly gorges, to the spot indicated by their fearless little guide. Here the army halted, while the General with his staff and Henry, proceeded to examine the way up the mountain. The laurel was there as Henry had stated; a small bush or tree standing thickly together with the spreading tops firmly interlocked and dove-tailed, forming a complete and continuous roof over the ground from the base to the summit of the great mountain. The quick eye of McClellan saw at a glance the feasibility of Henry's plan, and though it was past midnight when the army arrived at this point, a thousand men were soon busy cutting away the superincum-

bent laurel, with knives and hatchets. Silence reigned throughout the work, save the sharp click of the small blades which were dexterously plied, and the rustle of the falling laurel. Before daybreak, long rows of laurel lined either side of the way up the rugged steep, and the ascent began. The horses were tied to the trees below. The artillery horses were taken from their carriages. One by one, the heavy cannon were moved up the mountain by the strong arms of the soldiers and left in position where they could be easily and rapidly moved forward, when the time for action should arrive. Light was dimly breaking in the east when the army commenced the march up the mountain by companies; many falling but rapidly recovering their places, and patiently pushing on; and when the enemy were looking for the coming of the army of the Union far down the main road over their impregnable breast-works, the Yankee cannon were booming in their rear, both at an unexpected moment and from an unexpected quarter. The rebels were thunderstruck, as well as struck by shell and canister.

The result is matter of history. They made a feeble resistance and fled precipitately down the mountain, hotly pursued by the triumphant Yankees, to Cheat River, where the brave rebel General Garnett was killed. Two hundred men were killed on the mountain, and lie buried by the roadside, with no other sign of the place of their interment than a long line of indentations, caused by the gradual sinking of the earth, where the bodies repose.

Henry Hart is now four years older, or thereabouts, than he was then, and is quietly and contentedly working on his father's farm. Do you not think he deserves to be breveted a Major General in the army of the Union, to date from the morning of the capture of Rich Mountain?

Miscellany.

IMAGINATION IN ELEPHANTS.—A writer in the London Spectator asserts that the elephant is a highly imaginative animal, and quotes the Ceylon engineers, who say that when they survey ways through the forests, and plant wooden tracing-pegs to mark the levels taken during the day, their tracing-pegs are generally removed during the night by elephants, who are uneasy till they understand these novel symptoms of human agency. It is clear, then, that the elephants are rendered uneasy, troubled in their imaginations, by these curious marks of special and unexplained human interest in their dwelling place. Indeed it is a recognized and generally very successful way to escape a vicious elephant to throw down anything complicated in his path, which, in his caution, he will examine so carefully before he proceeds as to give his chase time to escape. Colonel Hardy, in 1820, saved himself from a vicious "rogue" elephant by throwing down his dressing case which the creature in question wanted to force open and examine minutely instrument by instrument. Another peculiarity of the animal is that the herds will never mingle. When suspicious of danger they throw out pickets, which are stationed after careful reconnoitering by the leader of the herd. Whenever a herd of elephants is at bay, it always follows one leader, and if that leader is slain, follows the next, and so on till the last is left in isolation.

A BLIND MAN had been sitting one day and pleasantly chatting with some visitors for an hour, when one of them wished the company good morning, and left the room. "What white teeth that lady has!" said the sarcastic blind man. "How can you possibly tell that?" said a friend. "Because," was the ready answer, "for the last half hour she has done nothing but laugh."

DU CHAILLU says that among the dogs of the native tribes in Central Africa, hydrophobia is absolutely unknown. Hence, he infers that the popular notion is erroneous, that heat is the cause of this terrible disease.

WE FADE AS A LEAF.—As the trials of life thicken, and the dreams of other days fade, one by one, in the deep vista of disappointed hope, the heart grows weary of the struggle, and we begin to realize our insignificance. Those who have climbed to the pinnacle of fame or revel in luxury and wealth, go to the grave at last with the poor mendicant who begs pennies by the way side, and like him are soon forgotten. Generation after generation, says an eloquent modern writer, have felt as we feel, and their fellows were as active in life as we are now. They passed away as a vapor, while nature wore the same aspect of beauty as when her Creator commanded her to be. And so likewise shall it be when we are gone. The heavens will be as bright over our grave as they are now around our path; the world will have the same attraction for offspring yet unborn that she had once for ourselves, and that she has now for our children. Yet a little while, and all this will have happened! Days will continue to move on, and laughter and song be heard in the very chamber in which we died; and the eye that mourned for us will be dried and will glisten with joy; and even our children will cease to think of us, and will not remember to list our name.

IN England a magneto-electric light of great power and intensity has just been discovered. At the distance of a quarter of a mile, it casts the shadows of the flames of street lamps upon a wall. It takes photographs better than the sun, darkening photographic paper as effectually in twenty seconds as the sun's rays would in a minute. It is proposed to apply it to the purpose of illuminating cities.

AN AFRICAN LIEBIG.—"I say, Sambo, does you know what makes de corn grow so fast when you put the manure on it?" "No, I don't hardly." "Now, I'll just tell ye. When de corn begins to smell de maure, it don't like de fumery, so hurries out of the ground and sits up as high as possible, so as not to breathe the bad air."

OSTRICH FEATHERS.—To clean white ostrich feathers, take four ounces of white soap, cut small, dissolved in four pints of water, rather hot, in a large basin; make the solution into a lather. Introduce the feathers, and rub well with the hands for five or six minutes. After this soaping, wash in clean water, as hot as the hand can bear. Shake until dry.

SAGE TEA IN PROFUSE SWEATING.—An old remedy for excessive sweating is again brought to public notice in the shape of cold sage tea. It is made by taking a large tea-spoonful of chopped sage leaves, and boiling them in six ounces of water for two or three minutes. The decoction is then left to stand and cool, and is strained and sweetened to the taste. This remedy has been used with benefit in the calligative sweating, as it is called, of pulmonary consumption.

STYLE.—The latest style of bonnet has just made its appearance. It is called the "Revenue Cutter," and consists of a two-cent internal revenue stamp, worn on the head, and tied under each ear with a horse hair. It presents a very pretty appearance at a distance, and must be very comfortable at this season of the year.

BEAUTIFUL SENTIMENT.—When the Hindoo priest is about to baptize an infant, he utters the following beautiful sentiment: "Little babe, thou enterest the world weeping, while all around smile; contrive so to live, that you may depart in smiles while all around you weep."

SOME crusty old bachelor slanders the female sex, by saying the reason that George Peabody is so wealthy, is because he never had a wife.

PEAS are excellent food for sheep. One-fourth of a pint of split peas given to lambs when weaned, or a pint daily to fatten sheep, are recommended as the proper quantities.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interest of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.





General Miscellany.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

Mississippi expects a fine wheat crop and a fair yield of cotton. Labor is scarce and high in that State.

Three thousand acres in the neighborhood of Kankakee, Ill., are planted with flax this year. Farmers regard this crop more favorably than they used to.

Oliver Dahymple, of St. Paul, has a farm near Hastings, Minn., of which 2,000 acres are under cultivation, including 1,700 sown to wheat. One year ago the farm was an unbroken prairie. The probable crop of wheat will exceed 34,000 bushels.

The French trade in eggs is becoming enormous. From one merchant alone, at Redon, seven thousand dozen were sent to England within eight days, last month.

The losses by the overflow on the Missouri river bottom are stated to be \$20,000,000.

A Wisconsin man says he finds calves do as well when fed on bean soup as when given milk. The soup is made as for family use, with about a tablespoonful of salt for each quart of soup.

Losses of cattle by cold and want of food have been great in Texas and parts of Nebraska, reaching to a tenth of all the stock. Much of this could have been avoided by care and foresight.

Fifteen hundred head of cattle in Monroe county, Missouri, have recently been sold to traders at 9 1/2 to 6 1/2 cents per pound, to be delivered during the Summer.

The Sandwich Islands promise to supply the Pacific coast with sugar. They are in the Pacific to us, what Cuba is in the Atlantic. The number of acres planted with cane is 16,266, the capital in the business is \$2,000,000.

It takes 250 bushels of potatoes to make a ton of starch.

Advices from Algiers announce the reappearance of locusts. General Marmier has placed at the disposal of the local authorities a detachment of soldiers to assist in their destruction.

A farmer in Smyrna, Del., is reported to have sold his strawberry crop of four acres for \$4000, the purchaser to do the picking.

Nearly one-half the members of the Connecticut Legislature, or 104, are farmers.

A flock of 200 sheep and lambs gambol on the green lawns in the Central Park, New York, attended by an old shepherd and two dogs.

Armies of caterpillars are desolating the forests in some parts of Tennessee.

A San Antonio paper complains of drouth in Western Texas. The grazing in that region is suffering from this source—an unusual thing at this season.

The Canadian owner of "Melton," the celebrated trotting horse, has sold him to a lady of Kalamazoo, Michigan, for eight thousand five hundred dollars in gold. The duty paid at the frontier was \$1700.

The total amount of beet sugar produced in the world is reported to be about 2,800,000 tons annually. France is the chief grower of beet sugar, and a small amount is raised in the United States.

The weight of the flour in a barrel is supposed to be 196 pounds. The Buffalo Board of Trade has adopted a resolution requiring 200 pounds in each barrel, to conform with the Central system of weights and measures.

The highest income returned in Chicago is that of Cyrus H. McCormick, \$169,760; the next that of Peter Schuttler, \$112,625. These two are the only ones exceeding \$100,000. McCormick made his money on reapers, and Schuttler on farm wagons.

J. W. Griswold, of Wetherfield, Ct., informs the New-York Horticulturist that he has preserved his trees from the canker worm by piling coal ashes around their trunks.

Geo. Campbell of West Westminster, Vt., has recently sold two lots of Merinos to go to Australia and New Zealand.

Good milk cows sell in New Orleans for \$250 each; milk is twenty cents a quart; strawberries \$2 a quart; and turkeys \$5 a pair.

Marriages.

In Woonsocket, 18th ult., by Rev. John Boyden, Mr. Frank S. North, of Pittsford, Vt., to Miss Naomi B. Harris, of Smithfield, R. I.; 30th ult., by Rev. D. M. Crane, Mr. John O. Bellows, of Providence, to Miss Sarah T. Tower, of Cumberland; by Rev. J. Boyden, Mr. John D. Dunbar, of Keene, N. H., to Miss Caroline Augusta Whittag, of Blackstone; Mr. George S. Case to Mrs. Almira Youngs, both of Smithfield.

In Bellingham, May 30th, by Rev. J. T. Massey, Mr. Joba Davis, near to Miss C. Maria Kullard, ill of R. I. In Loudsade, May 11th, by Rev. H. Watrous, Mr. Thomas M. Sly to Lydia H. Carpenter, both of Loudsade; 30th ult., Mr. Studely E. Waterman to Miss Eliza Kirby, both of Woonsocket; 4th inst., in Christ Church, by Rev. W. W. Sever, John G. Edwards, of Woonsocket, to Mary, daughter of the late William Jordan, of Loudsade.

In Central Falls, 4th inst., by Rev. Frederic Denison, of Westerly, R. I., Mr. Cyril B. Manchester to Miss Lucie M. Lawton, both of Central Falls. In Wilkinsonville, June 1st, by Rev. Samuel S. Spear, Mr. Cheney R. Lathe, of Grafton, to Miss Celia B. Hall, daughter of Edwin C. and Priscilla Hall, of Sutton.

In St. Paul's Church, Manhattan, Kansas, May 1st, by Rev. James H. Leitch, Capt. Henry Roth, formerly of Woonsocket, to Lucie, daughter of the late Rev. N. C. Preston, formerly of Philadelphia, Penn.

Deaths.

In Smithfield, May 15th, Mary Evans, aged 75. In Slatersville, 4th inst., Ruth Slater, widow of John Slater, in the 84th year of her age. Funeral at her late residence in Slatersville on Friday, the 7th inst., at 9 a. m.

In Central Falls, 20th ult., Jane, wife of Joseph Carter, aged 58 years. In Cumberland, 28th ult., Mary A., wife of George H. Bellows, aged 39 years and 6 months. In Pawtucket, 28th ult., Olive, widow of Edward Whittmore, aged 79 years.

In Johnston, 22d ult., Hon. Laban C. Wade, in the 59th year of his age. In North Attleboro', Mass., 25th ult., Maria, wife of David A. Barker, in the 38th year of her age.

In North Killigly, 17th ult., Silas Tucker, aged 73 years. In South Killigly, 20th ult., Charles Bellows, aged 30 years. In East Killigly, on the 24th ult., Danforth Chase, aged 75 years and 10 months.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

[For the week ending June 7, 1867.]

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.

Hay \$ ton.....\$50 Wood cord.....\$6a2 50 Straw \$ ton.....\$20 Beans \$ quart.....15c Coal \$ ton.....\$10 50a12 50 Potatoes.....1.10 Oats \$ bush.....\$1 00 Onions.....1.00

GROCERIES, &c.

Flour.....\$16, 18a19 20 Raisins.....22a25c Corn Meal.....\$1 25 Molasses \$ gal.....60a95c Rye.....\$1 50 Y. H. Tea.....\$1 20 Saleratus.....10a15c Black Tea.....\$1 00a1 10 Kerosene.....\$1 00 Oil \$ gal.....\$1 00 Cheese \$ lb.....24c Fluid \$ gal.....\$1 00 Butter \$ lb.....40a55c Candles \$ lb.....25a45c Codfish.....8c Eggs lb doz.....20c Java Coffee \$ lb.....25a30c Lard \$ lb.....16a17c 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

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

June 5, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 644; Sheep and Lambs 2898. Swine, 2300. Western cattle, 493; Eastern cattle, 6; Working oxen and Northern cattle, 155. PRICES. Beef Cattle—Extra, \$15.50@16.00; first quality, \$14.50@15.25; second quality, \$13.75@14.25; third quality, \$12.00@13.25 @ 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef.)

Country Hides, 9@10c \$ lb. Country Tallow 6 1/2@7c \$ lb. Brighton Hides, 10@11c. \$ lb. Brighton Tallow, 7 1/2@8c \$ lb. Lamb Skins, 50c each; Wool Sheep Skins, \$2 25@2 75. Calf Skins, 20 @ 22c \$ lb. Sheared Sheep Skins, 25c each. The trade for hides and tallow continues to be very dull. The trade was not very active yesterday, and butchers bought sparingly. Many of the Western Cattle were taken at a commission.

Working Oxen—Sales at \$215 to \$270 per pair. But a few pairs in market. Not an active demand. Milch Cows—Sales extra at \$55a115; ordinary \$65@80.—Store Cows \$45a55. Sheep and Lambs.—The supply is large. Most of them being Western which were taken direct to the slaughter houses from the cars. We quote sales at from 4 to 7c \$ lb. Swine.—Wholesale, 12c @ 13c \$ lb. retail, 12@15 cents \$ lb. Fat Hogs—3000 at market; prices, 7 1/2@8c. per pound.

Advertising Department.

LADIES' ATTENTION!—A Silk Dress Pattern or a Sewing Machine sent free, for one or two days' service in any town or village. Also, a gift sent free, by addressing with stamp 17 State St., Boston, Mass., June 8, 1867. W. FISK & CO. 8w-we-22

SUFFOLK SWINE FOR SALE.—One Imported BOAR, 2 years old, very fine and large, sure stock getter, bred at the pens of Queen Victoria, Windsor, England. One yearling Sow—from parents bred as above—has bred once and is now bred and ready to set, fine and handsome. SUFFOLK PIGS, 6 and 8 weeks old, matched not akin. H. G. WHITE, South Framlingham, Mass., June 8, 1867. 1w-22

BERKSHIRE SWINE FOR SALE.—Three Sows, 7 months old; three Sows, 5 months old; also, 3 Boars, 6 months old, not akin to the above Sows. This stock is bred from the best sources, and in part from Imports a year since from Queen Victoria's pens, at Windsor, England. H. G. WHITE, South Framlingham, Mass., June 8, 1867. 1w-22

VALUABLE REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR SALE.—The undersigned, having made arrangements to leave town in August next, offers at private sale his valuable Farm, comprising about 65 acres, situated in East Douglas, Mass. The improvements thereon are a two-story frame Dwelling, House, with Wash House, Milk Shed, Wood House, a Shed 80 feet long, and Workshop attached; a Barn 36 by 50 feet, with cellar underneath, and other necessary out-buildings. The House is arranged for two families, and there are granaries on the second floor of the Shed. There is running spring water in the kitchen, buttry and wash-room, also on the second floor of the dwelling, and at two places at the barn, beside a well of water near the door. There is a hearing Orchard on the premises. The land is conveniently laid out in fields, with good stone walls, and in a high state of cultivation, having been recently heavily manured. It is on the main road leading from East Douglas to Worcester, about half a mile from the former place, and convenient to mills, churches, schools, &c.

The above will be sold together, or in part with buildings, to suit purchasers, and with or without the crops. Persons wishing to view the property, can do so by calling on the undersigned, residing thereon. The location is one of the most desirable ones in that section of the country, adjacent to the village, about 30 rods from the Muddy river, on high ground, healthy, and affording a delightful view of scenery.

He will also dispose of his personal property, consisting of one extra Cow, 5 years old; a % of Shorthorn; a Breech Wagon, nearly new; one light Express Wagon, iron-tired; one light Ox Wagon; Smith's, with Wash House, Harrows, and a variety of other Farming Implements needless to mention. CHARLES FAIRFIELD, East Douglas, Mass., June 7, 1867. 2w-22

Rhode Island.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares a 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.

FOURTH ANNUAL FAIR OF THE NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

IN CONJUNCTION 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 24, 25, 26 and 27, 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 Mill 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 date. GEO. B. LORING, of Salem, President, DANIEL NEEDHAM, of Boston, Secretary, of the N. E. Agricultural Soc'y.

WILLIAM SPRAGUE, of So. Kingstow, 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. 1w-22

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 Knives, 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 Whitecomb'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 will be filled promptly. PROVIDENCE, R. I. May 25, 1867. 1w-22

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO.'S AXES, now acknowledged to be the best in market, are for sale in lots of by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I. Feb. 23, 1867.

Connecticut.

THOROUGH-BRED BULLS FOR SALE.—The subscriber offers to sell the Thorough-Bred Jersey Bull "Matches," 9 years old. Also the Thorough-Bred Devon Bull "Uncle," 15 months old. Both Thorough-Bred Animals, Full Pedigrees given. Apply to JOHN DIMON, Pomfret, Conn. June 1, 1867. 2w-we-21

POULTRY FOR SALE.—The subscriber offers to sell one pair Bremen Geese and one pair Rouen Ducks, waterfowl pure and as good as any in this country. Also one "Jersey Blue" Fowls, excellent layers. JOHN DIMON, Pomfret, Conn. June 1, 1867. 2w-we-21

Maine.

ATTENTION, TOBACCO USERS! Why destroy your health and waste your money by using Tobacco? One Box of ORTON'S PREPARATION is warranted to destroy the appetite for Tobacco in any person no matter how strong the habit may be. Sent on receipt of one dollar. Address E. Douglass, 230, Box 1572, Portland, Maine. June 1, 1867. 2w-we-21

Massachusetts.

ALDERNEY COWS AND HEIFERS.—The subscriber offers for sale several of his choice herd of Alderneys, comprising Cows in milk and some soon to calve. Also, a few Yearlings served by first-class Bull. I warrant them all.

SUFFOLK SWINE.—I offer for sale splendid Prince Albert Suffolk Swine. Bred Imported, and sows from imported stock. JOHN GILES, South Framlingham, Mass., June 8, 1867. 3w-we-22

THE INDELIBLE PENCIL CO.,

(NORTHAMPTON, MASS.) MANUFACTURERS OF THE IMPROVED PATENT INDELIBLE PENCIL

for marking clothing, &c., have now ready for sale their new HORTICULTURAL PENCIL,

For writing on wood. Invaluable for marking durable TREES and GARDEN TAGS or LABELS, or marking TOOLS, &c. PRICES: Horticultural, single, 75 cents; two for \$1.00; per doz. \$5.00. Clothing Pencil, single, 50 cents; three for \$1.00; per doz. \$3.00. Sent prepaid by mail or express on receipt of price.

A LIBERAL DISCOUNT MADE TO DEALERS. EVERY PENCIL WARRANTED. June 8, 1867. 4w-we-22

SOUTH DOWN CO.'S PATENT

Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions.

It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice. ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers.

Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores. JAMES F. LEVIN, 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts.

For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & CO., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4w-we-9

COLLINS, BLISS & CO.,

PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS. CASH ADVANCES MADE ON CONSIGNMENTS. 223 State Street, and 130 Central Street, Boston. New England Agents for the NON PARIEL FRENCH GUANO.

It is claimed that this Fertilizer is superior to any in the market, its virtues and merits over others being to prevent all insects and worms from destroying crops of plants, without burning or injuring those of the most delicate nature. It is much stronger than the Peruvian, thereby requiring a less quantity to permanently enrich the soil.

PRIOR \$60 PER TON. Send for Circular giving full particulars. March 9, 1867. 2w-we-9

New York.

J. HICKLING & CO'S GREAT SALE OF WATCHES.

On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a handsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory!

500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$25 to \$75 500 Marble Case Gold Watches.....\$10 to \$20 500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled.....\$10 to \$20 1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....\$20 to \$30 1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....\$20 to \$30 3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....\$15 to \$20 5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....\$10 to \$15 5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....\$5 to \$7 5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....\$5 to \$7 5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches.....\$5 to \$7 10,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....\$5 to \$7 10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....\$5 to \$10 25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....\$5 to \$10 30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....\$5 to \$10

Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partially shoddy. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a Watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen, that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in ever by the most fastidious!

A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents. Five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three for \$5. A premium for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premiums for \$10, one hundred and more superb Watch for \$15. Agents for those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimate business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us!

J. HICKLING & CO., 149 Broadway—Near P. O. City of New York. March 22, 1867. 3w

RISE IN BREADSTUFFS IN CANADA.—A Toronto correspondent of the New York Times says: "There has been an extraordinary rise in all kinds of provisions lately. Flour which sold at \$6.30 per barrel in December, is now selling at \$10.50 to \$11.00. Fall wheat was then \$1.45; it is now \$2.30a 2.50. As a matter of course, the bakers have raised their prices, and the loaf is now selling at twenty cents, just twice what it brought in the beginning of the winter. Everything has gone up. Wood is enormously high for fuel; provender is also high, and in some parts of the Province there is such great scarcity that cattle are actually dying of starvation. Seed grain, too, is scarce, and it is with the greatest difficulty that the crops have been put in by certain portions of the Lower Canadians."



Farming Miscellany.

DECOMPOSITION AND REPRODUCTION.

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

The first laws of organic nature might be expressed in the sentence, "eat or be eaten," and this would seem to make the world one vast slaughter house, one universal scene of rapacity and injustice. Animals and plants die that animals and plants may live—death proceeds out of life, and life out of death. Life is only vital action sustained by decomposition. The living animal draws its vitality from the dead plant and the living plant from the dead animal. Decomposition is but the commencement of recomposition, and putrefaction but the symbol of renewed production. Does not history reveal to us the same law in the political world? Has not the dissolution of old forms of government been but the preparation for new phases of humanity? Dynasties may die out, and forms of humanity be changed, but the great law of progress, of reconstruction from decay, still urges humanity on, and the ruins of States and Empires become like the falling of the leaves in Autumn, manuring the soil and preparing it for the growth of richer vegetation and more abundant harvests. The causes of death in animals are either such as depress or suspend the vital actions of the organs of circulation, or which obstruct the access of air to the blood at the lungs. Plants, like animals, invariably die, and in all probability their death is also produced either by the failure of the circulation of the sap, or by the impediments to the aeration of it at the leaves. The movement of the sap, in all probability, depends upon vital affinities, and as cold has the power of destroying these, the injurious effect of frost on vegetation may be easily comprehended. Death, too, may take place in the vegetable from the sap not being able to obtain a supply of new matter to compensate for that which is continually depositing in its structure. Plants, too, have their diseases as well as animals. But as the animal and vegetable existences sink into the earth from whence they were taken, as dissolution mingles the elements of their structure with the dust, they become again the agencies for fresh vitality. "That which thou sowest is not quickened except it die" is the apostolic assurance—thus

"Creation's soul is thrivance from decay,
And Nature feeds on ruin: the big earth
Summers in rot, and harvests through the frost
To fructify the world: the mortal now
Is pregnant with the Spring flowers of To-come,
And death is seed time of Eternity."

June, 1867.

REFUSE MATTERS OF FACTORIES AS FERTILIZERS.—"The Journal of Agriculture," of Rhenish, Prussia, states that the refuse matters of the potash factory of Deutz are being used to great advantage as fertilizers. Dr. Camrodt writes that he used 70 cwt. of this refuse per acre, at a cost of about one dollar, and harvested an increased crop of 30 cwt. per acre over the yield of lands upon which it was not used, making a clear profit of about \$20 per acre. Thousands of tons of this refuse accumulate around the western asheries, where black salt and pearlash are manufactured from wood ashes, and from analysis and experiment it is considered a valuable and economical fertilizer at \$2.50 per ton. It is applied to the soil in the fall, and has a tendency to keep the ground mellow and well pulverized. Gypsum, rich in potash, also accumulates in these factories, and is found to be especially adapted to grass and clover, in many instances doubling the crops. The richest of all such matters, however, is said to be the refuse in making beet sugar. The *dirty water*, as the lye was called in the infancy of beet-sugar manufacture, was formerly conducted into ponds and rivers, killing the fish and poisoning the air far around, but by experiment the material proves to be worth almost as much as a fertilizer as the sugar produces in the market.

A farmer near Manhattan, Kansas, is putting in 640 acres of corn, this Spring.

SEED CORN—HOW TO SELECT IT.

A SEASON never goes by without more or less complaint about seed corn not coming up. This is owing to several causes, such as damaged seed, shiftless planting, followed by wet, cold weather. But failure is oftener the result of poor seed than from either of the other causes named. There is no grain the vegetative powers of which are so liable to injury as corn. A very slight freeze before the grain arrives at maturity in the field, a slight heating in the crib, or exposure to alternations of wet and frost, most effectually destroys its germ. Farmers rely too much upon corn cribs for their seed corn, instead of selecting it at the proper time in the Fall. It will be remembered that very little corn escaped the frost last Fall without damage. It is not safe to judge seed corn alone by its external appearance. The only safe criterion to go by in selecting seed corn, is the appearance of the chit. Every ear intended for seed should be broken near the center. When thus broken, if the skin of the chit is blistered, or wrinkled, reject it. If the skin is smooth and clear—not discolored, not one kernel in a hundred will fail to grow. This has been our practice in the selection of seed corn for many years past, and without a single failure in getting a full stand even when selected from the crib.

The true way, and the safest to secure good seed corn is, to select from the field as soon as the corn is out of the dough state and fairly hard. Select the most perfectly ripened ears, braid them together with a portion of the husks, and hang them up in a dry place, there to remain till planting time. Seed corn saved in this way seldom, if ever fails to come, when properly planted.—*Iowa Homestead.*

CLOVER SEED.—We believe, says The Rural New Yorker, that a crop of clover seed taken from the land exhausts the soil more than the crop which is cut for hay. Any seed crop, it is well known, is more exhaustive than a mere fodder crop. One strong reason for cutting timothy for hay early, is to remove it from the soil before it has abstracted those elements which form the seed. It impoverishes the soil much less than if cut later. The first growth of clover is not disposed to seed much; hence it is not so exhaustive as other grasses if cut late. But the second crop, which bears the seed, is injurious to the land—at least the taking it away is. Unless remuneration is paid to the soil, it will pay better to let the second growth of clover rot on the land, or feed it off.

INSECTS ON ROSES.—The aphid or green fly, and the rose-slug are the two greatest pests of this queen of plants. Of late years they have become truly formidable. They eat out the succulent part of the leaves, causing the bush to look unsightly, and of course destroying the health of the plant, and preventing its natural inflorescence.

Ohio farmers are complaining of the extraordinary mortality among the lambs of their Vermont stock. One farmer in Knox county lost twenty-three out of twenty-six lambs from his full-blooded ewes. No adequate cause seems to exist, and at present the subject is a mystery.

Advertising Department.

Pennsylvania.

ECONOMY—PROMPTNESS—RELIABILITY!

AMERICAN CONCRETE PAINT AND ROOFING COMPANY.

643 NORTH THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

Roofs of every kind covered or repaired thoroughly. All leaks, wet and dampness in roofs, &c., prevented. Iron Fronts, Railings, Posts and Fences long preserved. All work done well, and warranted. The paint is unequalled by anything of the kind now known.

JOSEPH LEEDS, Actuary.
EMORY D. HOBART, Superintendent of Work.
May 25, 1867. 3m-20

BAROMETERS! BAROMETERS!! BAROMETERS!!!

TIMBY'S PATENT PORTABLE BAROMETERS,

the best in the market, can be sent by express, and are warranted accurate. A few for sale at the office of the FARM AND FIRESIDE, 402 Locust Street, Philadelphia.
April 6, 1867. pe-13-4f

FARMERS' GRINDSTONES,

OF THE BEST QUALITY;

Ready for use, with self-adjusting Shafts, Treddles, &c.
Huron Grindstones, Scythe Stones, &c., for sale by

J. E. MITCHELL, 310 York Avenue,

PHILADELPHIA.

April 27, 1867. 3m-pe-16

INSURE YOUR LIVE STOCK.



E. N. KELLOGG, President. GEO. D. JEWETT, Vice Pres't.

\$100,000 DEPOSITED WITH THE COMPTROLLER AS SECURITY FOR POLICY HOLDERS.

Policies issued on all kinds of live stock, against DEATH and THEFT. For further particulars, address Branch Office, Hartford Live Stock Insurance Co.

F. & E. A. CORBIN, Managers,
430 Walnut Street, PHILADELPHIA. 4m-pe-19

DISEASES IN THE AMERICAN STABLE, FIELD AND FARM-YARD.

By ROBT. McCLURE, V. S.

For sale at the office of the FARM AND FIRESIDE, 402 Locust Street, Philadelphia. Price, \$5 by mail, prepaid.
March 2, 1867. 8-4f

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 1/2 less than that of lead, and wears longer than lead.

The Company's WHITE LEAD is the whitest and MOST DURABLE Lead known. Also, VARNISHES and JAPANS.—100 lbs. will paint as much as 250 lbs. of lead, and wear longer.
Feb. 23, 1867. eow-pe-ly-7

COLLINS, ALDERSON & CO.,

SEED GROWERS AND IMPORTERS.

Also, Dealers in

HORTICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,
PLANTS, TREES, ROOTS, &c.

We have made arrangements to be constantly supplied, in the season, with the choicest Flowering Plants, Shrubs, Roots, &c. Also, with Fruit and Ornamental Trees.

OUR NEW DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE FOR 1867,

Designed to furnish directions for the cultivation of the

FARM AND GARDEN,

Hot-Bed Management, &c., sent FREE to all applicants.

WAREHOUSE, No. 1111 and 1113 Market Street,

PHILADELPHIA PA.

STEPHEN G. COLLINS; WILLIAM CHARLES ALDERSON.

ROBERT DOWNS.

Philadelphia, March 9, 1867. 3m-9-p

RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

THE STANDARD MANURE

FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS.

Manufactured by

POTTS & KLETT, Camden, N. J.

Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUGH, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of this Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is

FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD, IN QUALITY,

and is in fine condition for drilling.

Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the

RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.

YARNALL & TRIMBLE,

General Agents for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

418 South Wharves, } PHILADELPHIA.

419 Penn. Street, } PHILADELPHIA.

March 23, 1867. 3m-ee-11

628. HOOP SKIRTS. 628.

WM. T. HOPKINS,

Manufacturer of First-Class HOOP SKIRTS,

and dealer in

NEW YORK AND EASTERN-MADE SKIRTS.

Wholesale and Retail at Manufactory,

No. 623 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

May 11, 1867. 4w-pe-18

MORO PHILLIPS'S GENUINE IMPROVED

SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME.

STANDARD GUARANTEED.

For sale at Manufacturer's Depots,

No. 27 North Front Street, Philadelphia,

AND

No. 95 South Street, Baltimore,

And by Dealers in general throughout the Country.

Philadelphia, February 24, 1867. 4f-4

50 PER CENT SAVED BY USING

B. T. BABBITT'S STAR YEAST POWDER.

Light Biscuit, or any kind of Cake may be made with this Yeast Powder in fifteen minutes. No shortening required when sweet milk is used.

I will send a sample package free by mail, on receipt of fifteen cents to pay postage.
Nos. 64 to 74 Washington street, New York.
HENRY C. KELLOGG, sole Agent for Philadelphia.
March 3, 1867. 3m-pe-8

THE LAMB

FAMILY KNITTING MACHINE.

THE MOST USEFUL AND MOST PROFITABLE INVENTION OF THE TIME!

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.

It knits the single, double, plain and fancy-ribbed flat web, producing all varieties of Fancy Knit Goods in use, such as Afghans, Shawls, Nubias, Hoods, Sacks, Breakfast Capes, Jackets, Garibaldi's, Sontags, Undersleeves, Children's Cloaks, Cradle Blankets, Little Boys' Suits, Comforters, Smoking and Skating Caps, Snow Shoes, Stockings, Leggins, Neck Ties, Scarfs, Sashes, Slippers, Suspenders, Furses, Lamp Wicks, Mats, Tides, Watch and Curtain Cords, Gloves, Mittens, &c.

OFFICE AND SALESROOM,
36 North Eighth St., PHILADELPHIA
May 4, 1867. 3m-pe-17

PERUVIAN GUANO SUBSTITUTE



BAUGH'S RAW BONE
SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME.

BAUGH & SONS,

Sole Proprietors & Manufacturers,

DELAWARE RIVER CHEMICAL WORKS,

Philadelphia, U. S. A.

FOR WHEAT, RYE, BARLEY, CORN, OATS, POTATOES, TOBACCO, BUCKWHEAT, SORGHUM, TURNIPS, HOPS, GARDEN VEGETABLES, AND EVERY CROP AND PLANT.

Especially recommended to the growers of
STRAWBERRIES, RASPBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES,
AND ALL SMALL FRUITS.

More than 13 years of regular use upon all description of Crops grown in the Middle and Southern States, has given a high degree of popularity to this MANURE, which places its application now, entirely beyond a mere experiment.

BAUGH'S RAW BONE

SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME!

Is eminently a success as a Substitute for Peruvian Guano and Stable Manure—and is offered to the Agriculturists of the Northern and Eastern States as a fertilizer that will cheaply restore to the Soil, those essentials which have been drained from it by constant cropping and light manuring.

It is very prompt in its action—is lasting in effect to a degree unattained by any commercial manure in the market and is afforded at a much less cost than BOUGHT Stable Manure, or Peruvian Guano. The Labor involved in its use is far less than that of applying stable manure, while there is no risk from the introduction of noxious weeds.

Farmers are recommended to purchase of the dealer located in their neighborhood. In sections where no dealer is yet established, the Phosphate may be procured directly from the undersigned. A Priced Circular will be sent to all who apply.

Our NEW PAMPHLET, "How to Maintain the Fertility of American Farms,"—90 pages, giving full information in regard to the use of manure, &c., will be furnished gratis on application.

BAUGH & SONS,

Office No. 20 S. Delaware Avenue,

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BAUGH BROTHERS & CO.,

General Wholesale Agents,

No. 181 Pearl Street, corner of Cedar,

NEW YORK.

GEORGE DUGDALE,

Wholesale Agent for Maryland and Virginia,

97 & 105 Smith's Wharf,

BALTIMORE. 3m-9-pe

March 9, 1867.

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.

Price Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address on application, with particulars. FURNISHED FREE on application to

J. C. GASKILL, Sup't.,
Pemberton, New Jersey.
March 9, 1867. 4f-pe-9

Massachusetts.

BY MAIL, PREPAID.

CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS,

NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CURRANTS, ROSES, BULBS, &c.

B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest

GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS,

Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for

cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for Planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted.

Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 3m-ee-12

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.

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.

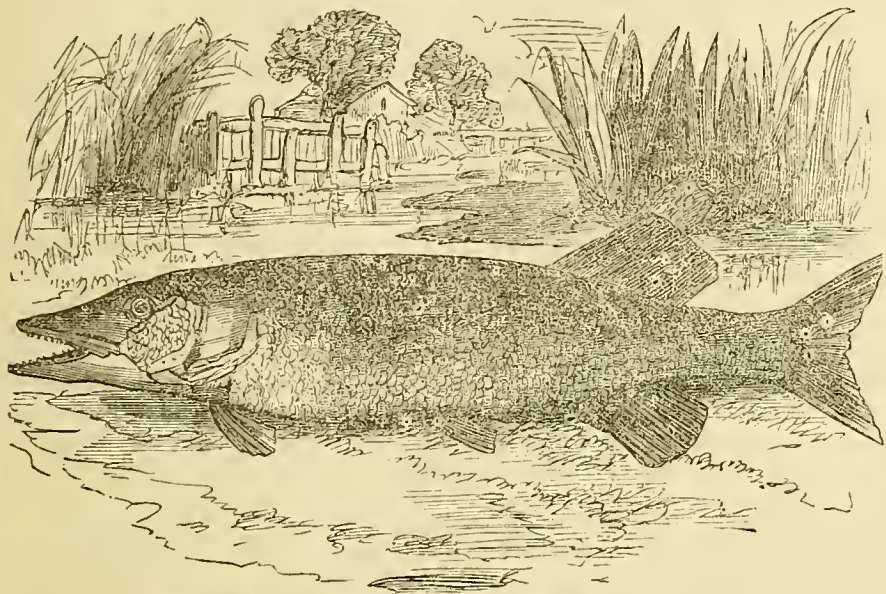
S. S. FOSS, PUBLISHER, MAIN STREET. TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS.

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1867.

NO. 23.

DRAWN AND ENGRAVED FOR THE FARM AND FIRESIDE.



FISH, AND FISHING.

THE ESOCIDAE SPECIES.

Two hundred and seventy-four years ago, in the last days of Queen Elizabeth of England, was born that glorious angling enthusiast, IZAAK WALTON—the forefather of game fishing, the archbishop of rural sports, the prose-poet of green fields and babbling brooks, and the author of a volume so redolent of the country that almost everybody, even at this day, is familiar with it. Walton's *Complete Angler* is remembered among the books that charmed our boyhood days; a time long before we had ever cast a line for trout, pike or salmon; a score of years before William Henry Herbert or Thaddeus Norris had written their fascinating books on Fish and Fishing.

The angling pastoral of Walton, the valuable treatise of Frank Forrester, the companionable book of Norris, and the productions of less notable writers on game fish, are ever fresh in our memory. In fact, we like fishing; and though we never got bewitched like Washington Irving, who said he "always booked himself instead of the fish," we confess there are no rural sports that please us so much as rambling along brooks that tumble down the mountains, that glide through sleepy meadows, or ripple in the depths of the primal forest. Rare sport, also, to troll for pike and pickerel along the shores of sedgy lakes and ponds, pursuing and taking, in artistic and sportsman-like manner, such noble game as is represented at the head of this article.

The ESOCIDAE family is quite numerous. It consists of the great Pike of Europe, the Mascalonge of our Northern lakes, the common Pickerel of New England, the black Pickerel of Pennsylvania, and the white Pickerel of the Ohio, the Wabash, and other Western waters. Of all these species, the first two are the largest, and are regarded as the type of this family. Their habits, haunts, and manner of feeding are nearly identical; as food there is but little difference. In some ponds and lakes, wing to a peculiarity of the water, and of their food, they are much superior. Bodies of water that are still and stagnat, with mud bottoms, pro-

duce coarse, soft, and indifferent fish for food.

In Europe the Pike is a magnificent fish, often attains the weight of twenty to thirty pounds, and lives to a great age. They are the boldest, fiercest and most voracious of the fresh-water fish; and offer more sport than any species, excepting the salmon. The Mascalonge belongs entirely to the North-Western waters of the United States, frequenting the great lakes and the river St. Lawrence. They grow to an enormous size, forty to fifty pounds, and from three to four feet in length. They take any kind of bait, in spinning or trolling, and surpass in boldness and voracity all our game fish. He devours fish of every variety, young water-fowls, reptiles, &c. Frank Forrester calls him the "fresh-water tyrant," as he attacks almost every living thing that comes in his way.

The common Pickerel is a frequenter of all our ponds in the Middle, New England and Western States. In size it rarely exceeds five pounds, though we captured one a trifle over that weight last Summer, at Brown's Mills, in New Jersey. Generally it weighs from one to three pounds, even when well grown. We have heard fishermen tell of capturing eight and nine pound pickerel! but always consider these fish stories—and rather large ones at that. There are but few professional anglers who cannot, in a pinch, tell big stories. The common Pickerel is a favorite fish, strongly resembling the others of the Esocidae family: is a good biter and affords much sport to all anglers. In clear, flowing ponds and lakes its color is an olive green, with bluish reflections, the sides and belly greenish yellow. In more sluggish, turbid ponds its color is much darker and the flesh poorer. There are many ways of fishing for Pickerel, but we prefer for bait the small minnow, a single hook, grass line, and a little bamboo cane rod. Then, in May or June, on a cloudy day, we can enjoy ourselves, and generally fill our basket.

The importations of wool in January, 1867, amounted to 8,415 hales, against 3,270 in January, 1866.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR BARNS THE CAUSE OF DISEASE.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY B. M'CLURE, PHILADELPHIA.

If with the acquisition of prosperity and wealth we have a desire for show, as a substantial evidence of financial success, surely no less should we strive to gain a knowledge of those laws, the violation of which never fail to produce or entail bodily or mental misery on man or beast as a consequence of the ignorance or the improper knowledge of them. "With all thy getting, get wisdom," was no less true of three thousand years ago than it is to-day. The subject of "barns," as they are called in the United States, has been ably considered in an article published in a late number of the *Country Gentleman*, by X. A. Willard, A. M., of Little Falls, N. Y. As the article is not at hand, we will confine what is to be said to our own views of the utility, &c., of barns.

First—is a barn, such as is seen on almost every farm, an absolute necessity to the farmer? We say not; because a different and a less costly kind of building would suit his purpose, and, moreover, would insure and protect the health of the animals confined within. Is it economy to construct buildings to protect hay and straw that can be as well protected with their own material, properly used and applied upon a well built stack or rick out of doors? Whereas, when hay and straw fill the barn to the rafters, as is generally the case, how are the animals to enjoy good health when thus deprived of that great preservative, *pure air*. This fact, of itself, should condemn the further building of barns and the use to which they are at present universally applied. Webster defines the word barn as "a covered building for securing grain, hay, etc.," and adds "in the Northern States of America the farmers use barns also for stabling their horses and cattle." This, amongst intelligent farmers, should not be the case. If farmers will have barns, then in the name of intelligence, if not for humanity's sake, use them for the storage of the products of the soil; but do not fill them with animals requiring air for a perfect existence, and then rush into print, and want to know "why it is my cattle are so affected by disease and death?"

Second—is a barn so constructed economical, independent of it being the cause of sickness and death in animals? We say no, it is not; because if the same amount of money was used in erecting a hollow square of one story buildings, with angular roofs, and those intended for horses and cattle to have no ceiling or interruption above, and between the rafters and the animals. This would be fulfilling the axiom, "a place for everything, and everything in its place." Nor is this all; for when a barn takes fire all is generally lost, and horses and hay, farm implements and everything are gone, the blackened mass serving as a warning, if not an emphatic utterance against putting "every egg into one basket."

Lastly—we would say to farmers owning what are called "grand barns," stack your hay outside, and thatch and rope it completely,

securing it against injury, and leave the animals the whole air of the barn; or else build a stable for your horses—a building for the cows—an open shed for the neat cattle—a place for carriage and carts, and other implements, and complete the whole by adding a small boiler house for steaming feed for the horses, cows and pigs in Winter. This is what we would truthfully call complete farm buildings. If show is an object, it can be easily effected, and to a much better purpose than by building a big barn to be gazed at for miles around, and not unfrequently referred to as an evidence of the wealthy farmer; but no one to ask—is he intelligent? or to question his judiciousness.

June, 1867.

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 nurseryman should beware of keeping his trees too long on his hands; 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 the 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.*

Very heavy rains have fallen throughout the West during the past two weeks, and farmers are becoming quite discouraged with the wet and cold weather. Vegetation was never known to be so far behind at this season.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interest of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.



Various Matters.

Reported for the Farm and Fireside.

PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING AGRICULTURE.

This Society held its monthly meeting on the 5th inst., Craig Biddle in the Chair.

Specimens of eggs were exhibited, of small size, the result of breeding fowls "in and in."

The Chairman of the Committee to prepare a memorial to the Legislature for an act providing for the appointment of an Inspector of artificial fertilizers, reported that the bill was not acted upon.

Dr. McClure stated that various complaints had been made in regard to the neglect on the part of the Society in *not notifying* persons of their election as members of the Society; nor of furnishing them with certificates of membership.

No report, as yet, from the Committee on Potatoes. The Chairman hopes to report the coming Fall, or next.

C. J. Hoffman, H. Simons, G. M. Wade and Professor Rogers were elected members of the Society.

Dr. Emerson read an essay upon lime and its various uses. He said that, chemically considered, lime is the oxide of a metal called *calcium*, discovered by Sir Humphrey Davy. When water is added to freshly burned lime, it is absorbed with great avidity, swelling in bulk to nearly double its original dimensions; in this state lime acquires the name of hydrate. The lime should be applied to land when it is in condition for whitewashing, for it is only whilst it remains in this state of impalpable powder that it is capable of being quickly dissolved by rain water, and thus rapidly and effectually diffused through the soil. Recently slacked lime, if suffered to remain exposed to the air, soon attracts carbonic acid and becomes an almost insoluble ebalk, and will require months and even years of atmospheric influences to effect that amount of solution which, in a freshly-slacked condition, might have been secured by a single shower of rain. As to the quantity to be used, the Doctor suggested that, for plant food, one hundred pounds per acre, applied in its most soluble condition, might suffice to furnish all the lime required for the sustenance of several crops.

After the transaction of some further business the Society adjourned.

THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.—

According to the census of 1860 the organized States and territories contained 31,443,321 inhabitants; of whom 488,070 were free colored, and 3,953,760 were slaves of African descent. In addition to the above it is estimated that there were 350,000 Indians, retaining their tribal character. The tabular view of the progressive population of the United States from 1790 to 1900, which was made by William Derby, has been verified with singular correctness. This view estimates the annual increase at three per cent. of the entire population. Estimating the present population upon this basis, the aggregate would be 37,170,958. The war would cause some unusual diminution of our annual gains, but the increase by immigration has been large, and probably will compensate for the losses by war. The total population in 1870 is estimated at 40,517,700.

THE PROFITS OF THE TURF.—According to the English papers, some large fortunes have just been made on the turf in England. Mr. Chaplin, the owner of the Hermit, wins, it is said, £10,000, besides £50,000 from Sir Joseph Hawley on a bet that The Hermit would beat The Palmer the first time they met, and £5,000 that the Hermit would beat Marksman. Captain Machell, Mr. Chaplin's ally, is understood to have won £93,000. Daley, Hermit's jockey, also comes in for good pickings—£3,000 from Captain Machell and £5,000 from Mr. Chaplin.

We acknowledge the receipt of some remarkably fine strawberries, of the *French* variety, raised by Thomas C. Andrews, Moorestown, New Jersey.

DR. JOHNSON held that early debt is ruin. His words on the subject are weighty and worthy of being held in remembrance. "Do not," he said accustom yourself to consider debts only as an inconvenience; you will find it a calamity. Poverty takes away so many means of doing good, and produces so much inability to resist evil, both natural and moral, that it is by all virtuous means to be avoided. Let it be your first care, then, not to be in any man's debt. Resolve not to be poor; whatever you have, spend less. Poverty is a great enemy to human happiness; it certainly destroys liberty, and it makes some virtues impracticable and others extremely difficult. Frugality is not only the basis of quiet, but of beneficence. No man can help others that wants help himself."

HOW TO RAISE PLUMS.

MANY people, in fact most people, think it a very difficult matter to raise plums. As usually cultivated, it is of little use to plant plum trees. The young plums all fall a prey to the curculio. This is the experience of all who plant a few trees. And but few persons plant more than five or six or eight or ten trees—they think these will afford enough fruit for the family. But the family never see any of the ripe plums. The curculio wants all these few trees produce.

Now there is a secret about plum raising. We have discovered it in traveling over the country. We never visited a larger plum orchard in all our life that we did not find plenty of the fruit. And we never visited any place with eight or ten trees and found a good crop of this fruit. Now these facts set us to thinking; and the result of our thoughts is this: that it is very easy to have all the plums you want to eat and to sell. The secret connected with plum raising is to plant plenty of trees, so as to give fruit to the curculio and to yourself also. If you will plant fifty or a hundred or two hundred trees, you will have fruit enough for everybody. Every such orchard that we ever visited had plenty of ripe fruit. Some even complained that the curculio did not thin out the fruit enough—that the trees were over-loaded.

So we say to our readers, if you plant plums at all, plant fifty or one hundred trees—then you will be sure to have all the fruit you want. It sells for five to ten dollars a bushel in the St. Louis market, and is one of the most profitable crops raised.—*Rural World*.

THE GUTTA-PERCHA TREE.

SUMATRA, a large island in the Indian Ocean, has large forests of the gutta-percha tree (*Isandiro gutta*). "Gutta" is the native name for gum, and "percha" is the Malayan name of a forest tree. The virtues and uses of this tree have not been long known to us. Previous to 1844 its very name had not been heard in England. About that time an English Physician was walking through a forest when he saw a woodman at work. Observing that the handle of his axe was of a substance quite unknown to him, he inquired what it was made of, and was told that it was the juice or gum of a tree, which could be molded into any form by merely dipping it in hot water, after which, when cold again, it became quite hard. On examining the tree the physician found the juice lying in straight lines down the trunk, and that by cutting small holes in the trunk, it freely flowed out, of a whitish color. On hardening it became darker in appearance. In the first instance about two hundred-weight were sent to England as an experiment; its utility was soon discovered, and now several hundred tons are imported every year.

Gutta-percha is largely used for soles of shoes, piping, bottles, and other purposes where durability is required. It is also turned to account for finer and more ornamental work, some indeed, of considerable beauty. But its highest use is in the coating it forms to electric cables. Little did the worthy physician imagine that in a short time it would be well known throughout the land, and regarded as one of the most valuable substances possessed by man. Besides the juice, the tree yields a pleasant fruit, a valuable oil, and a drug for the chemist. Its flowers are used by the natives of the Indian peninsula for food, and its wood is a good timber.

INSURANCE FOR LIVE STOCK.—Persons owning valuable horses or cattle should have them insured against loss by death or theft. Messrs Corbin, 430 Walnut street, this city, are agents of the "Hartford Live Stock Insurance Company"—one of the most responsible institutions of the kind in this country.

TO DYE BROWN.—To dye wooleu brown, steep the goods in an infusion of green walnut peels, or steep butternut and black cherry bark together and you have a pretty brown.

GRASS AND HAY AS FOOD FOR STOCK.

It is well known that grass varies considerably in its composition according to its age, and also according to the variety. When grass first springs up, its principal constituent is water, the amount of solid matter being comparatively trifling. As it becomes older, its ingredients change, sugar and soluble matter at first increasing and afterwards giving way to the formation of woody substance.

The following table affords a view of the composition of rye-grass before and after ripening

	18th June.	23d June.	13th July.
Water.....	81.23	76.19	69.00.
Solid matter.....	18.77	23.81	31.00.

If sugar is an important element in the food of animals, then it should be an object with the farmer to cut grass for the purpose of hay-making, at that period, when the largest amount of matter soluble in water is contained in it. This is at an earlier period of its growth, than when it has shot out in seed, for then woody matter predominates, a substance which is insoluble in water, and therefore less calculated to serve as food to animals, than substances which are capable of assuming a soluble condition. This is the first point for consideration in the production of hay, since it ought to be the object of the farmer to preserve the hay for Winter use, in a condition resembling grass in its highest state of perfection.

The second consideration in hay-making is to dry the grass under such circumstances as to retain the soluble portion in all its integrity. In order to ascertain whether hay, by the processes and exposure which it undergoes, loses any of its soluble constituents, experiments were made by M. Boussingault, at Bechelbroun, by which it was demonstrated that 100 parts of hay are equivalent to 387 1-2 of grass. A very large proportion of the soluble matter of the grass disappeared in the conversion of grass into hay. The result of the hay-making in this particular instance was to approximate the soft, tender and juicy grass of woody matter, by washing out or decomposing its sugar and other soluble constituents.

These facts explain the reason why cattle consume a larger quantity of hay than is equivalent to the relative quantity of grass. should be able to retain the same condition on 25 pounds of hay, if the latter suffered no deterioration in drying. The experiments alluded to show that a cow thriving on 100 to 120 pounds of grass per day, required as an equivalent 25 pounds of hay and 9 pounds of barley or malt, affording evidence of the imperfection of the process of hay-making.

The principal cause of the deterioration of hay is the water which exists in it, either from its incomplete removal in the process of drying, or by its absorption from the atmosphere. Water existing in hay from either of these causes will induce fermentation, a process by which the sugar will be destroyed.

The amount of soluble matter capable of being taken up by cold water amounts to 5 per cent. or about a third of all the soluble matter in the hay. We may therefore form some estimate of the injury done by every shower of rain which drenches the grass after it has been partially dried for hay. It is not only the loss of the sugar and salts that makes hay so much less acceptable to stock than grass. The bleaching which it undergoes deprives it of the green coloring matter, and causes it to present somewhat of the appearance of straw. The coloring matter is composed of a particular kind of wax, which becomes diminished in proportion to the exposure of the grass to the sun, in the process of drying, or by the evaporation of rain-water which is absorbed during wet weather at the time of harvesting. There is scarcely any operation on the farm that requires more judgment than that of hay-making, for upon the quality of the hay in a great measure depends the condition of the animals which are fed upon it. Some varieties of grass have more nutriment in them than others, and in seeding down land a judicious selection of varieties should be made.—*Western Rural*.

CROP PROSPECTS.

THE Pennsylvania papers concur in the opinion that the coming wheat crop will probably be the largest ever harvested in that State. In Wisconsin an excellent crop is expected. The Rockingham (Va.) *Union* says the growing crop of wheat is extraordinarily fine, and the other grains very promising, while the yield of fruit will probably be greater than ever before known in that section.

The wheat crop has commenced in Georgia.

South Carolina planters report that the recent rains have seriously injured the cotton crop. The first consignment of new wheat has reached Charleston for shipment to New York.

A Janesville (Wis.) dispatch says that the late wet weather has produced a wonderful effect upon the Spring sown wheat in southern Wisconsin. Great expectations of an excellent crop are generally entertained. Wheat is coming forward faster than for some weeks. Corn is generally planted.

PROSPECTS IN CALIFORNIA.—The San Francisco *Bulletin* reports a continuance of favorable reports concerning the agricultural prospects this season. It says:

"It seems to be conceded that this year's harvest will be the most abundant ever known in California. Except in a very few instances the fruit crop appears also to be very promising.

In regard to the prospect for the corn crop at the West, the *Chicago Tribune* remarks:

"The weather during the past month has been wet and cold, and in the southern part of this State, and in Iowa, Indiana and Kentucky a large area of ground will have to be replanted. The season is far advanced, but should the weather for the next two weeks continue warm and clear, the injury inflicted can be easily repaired. In 1865 the Spring opened up very much like this year, and corn was planted as late as the 10th or 12th of June. Nevertheless, the season for ripening was so exceedingly auspicious that the crop of that year was never excelled for quality or quantity. There is no cause at present for serious fears or forebodings. It is seldom that two partial failures of the corn crop occur in succession, and the instances in which wheat and corn both suffer are very rare. This country is very large and it is not safe to bet against the prospects of any crop, until the season is much further advanced, and even then it is a hazardous business.

Acres of grass in some parts of Vermont have been destroyed by grub worms. They eat the roots and give to the ground the appearance of having been burned over.

The season is an extremely backward one in Northern Vermont and New Hampshire, and farmers have not yet finished their planting.

KANSAS.—The Kansas City Advertiser says the wheat crop looks finely in all portions of the State. Where the Fall wheat was destroyed by grasshoppers Spring wheat was substituted, and is in fine condition.

NEBRASKA.—Papers South of the Platte, where the grasshopper plague was threatened, announce that the recent storm has cleaned the pest out wherever it prevailed. The Nemcha (Nebraska) Courier states that the great number of blackbirds, plovers and other varieties, are gulping down the young grasshoppers by wholesale quantities.

THE Boston *Journal* reports a dandelion growing in that city which measures seven feet in circumference, covering a space of over two feet in diameter. The leaves, some sixty in number, are sixteen inches long, by three inches wide. The flower stems are thirty-six in number, being two feet and a half high.

PURCHASE OF AYRSHIRES.—Joseph Hodges, of Barrington Centre, R. I., has purchased of C. J. Hayes, of Unadilla, N. Y., six cows from his fine herd of thoroughbred Ayrshires, including the imported cows "Jean Armour" and "Susan." Mr. Hodges also purchased a young bull sired by the celebrated hull "Baldie."





The Fireside Muse.

THE BEAUTIFUL SPRING.

Sing, sing, sing,
A song to the beautiful Spring,
For she touches the land
With her beautiful hand;

Ring, ring, ring,
The marvelous chimes of the Spring,
And a musical voice
Shall answer rejoice,

Wake, wake, wake,
Your many-voiced harmonies take,
And dwell on the love
Of the Father above,

General Miscellany.

DEAD LIONS.

MORE than half a century has elapsed since the British legions, commanded by Wellington, battled with the French veterans under Marshal Soult, for possession of the ancient town of Toulouse.

Last year, an English traveller, whilst enjoying a Summer ramble through the southern provinces of la belle France, paid a visit to the resting place of his gallant countrymen, who fell in the great battle of Toulouse.

On his return to England, our traveller set about making arrangements for having the necessary repairs executed, but his pious labors were cut short in a most unexpected manner.

PALACE OF THE TUILERIES, Jan. 20, 1867. SIR—I learn with regret that the tombs of the English officers, killed at the battle of Toulouse, are in a state of dilapidation.

Taking into consideration the deep reverence which the present ruler of France professes for the memory of his illustrious uncle, and the jealousy with which he guards all that pertains to the glory of the First Empire, it will be generally accorded that in thus claiming as a privilege the task of preserving the ashes of British foemen who fell upon French soil, Napoleon III. has displayed the magnanimity of a true soldier.

The tombs of Toulouse commemorate the

time when a British army stood encamped in the heart of France, with the "halo of twenty victories playing round their bayonets." The crumbling stones of those monuments tell of the long line of disasters which fell upon the French arms from that bright May morning of fatal 1813, when Wellington, Commander-in-Chief of the British army, and Generalissimo of the Spanish forces, crossed the Douro at the head of his legions, driving King Joseph and his 60,000 French veterans in precipitate retreat before him.

There never was a greater fallacy than that "dead men tell no tales." These dead men of Toulouse evidence that in the space of a few months the British army destroyed Joseph's kingdom—that vast fabric which Napoleon constructed at the cost of five years of toil and bloodshed; and they tell how the armies of France, which so long in the pride of irresistible strength had oppressed the Peninsula, were driven, like chaff before the wind, into their own territories, as plainly as the sea-shells indicate how far the storm-vexed waves encroached upon the shore.

These braves who are now sleeping the long sleep, could tell how Ross charged at Sauroure; how awful was the slaughter when the famous light brigade trapped Rielle's division in the defiles of Echallar; how the forlorn hope forded the crimson Urumea to assault the grim walls of St. Sebastian; how the passage of the Biadossa was forced; how the dizzy heights of La Rhoue and Bayouette were stormed, and finally, how in a six weeks' campaign Soult was driven from Bayonne to Toulouse, and Wellington had conquered the whole country between the Pyrenees and the Garonne.

There is no more glorious page in British history than that inscribed with the records of the Peninsular campaign; on the other hand, there are few which occasion more unpleasant reminiscences to those who have the glory of France at heart, and yet Napoleon III. can afford to say: "Soldiers who fall upon a foreign soil are the property of that country, and it is the duty of all to honor their memory."

THE MOISTURE IN THE AIR.—One of the most curious and interesting of the recent discoveries of science is, that it is to the presence of a very small proportion of watery vapor in our atmosphere—less than one half of one per cent.—that much of the beneficent effect of the heat is due. The rays of heat sent forth from the earth after it has been warmed by the sun would soon be lost in space but for the wonderful absorbent properties of these molecules of aqueous vapor, which act with many thousand times the power of the atoms of oxygen and nitrogen of which the air is composed.

THE fisheries on the James river, according to the Richmond papers, are yielding an unusual harvest. The fish have been less vexed and thinned out during the last few years than usual and have had time to increase and multiply. Herring and shad are immensely abundant and are said to be flooding the markets at remarkably low prices:

WENDELL PHILLIPS says—"The best education in the world is that got by struggling to get a living."

A MONARCH OF REPUBLICAN TASTES.

THE royal gentleman who at present shares with M. Bismarck the government of Prussia is a true Brandenburg. He unites with an implicit faith in the doctrine of "divine right" the simplest personal habits and an unaffected dislike for all luxury and show.

The King, according to M. Croset, has the tastes of an old soldier. It is well known that he does not live in the palace at Berlin, preferring to retain the residence which he occupied when prince. His private rooms in this residence are not large, and are very simply furnished. He has fitted up his bedchamber as nearly like a tent as circumstances will allow. An iron bedstead, wooden chairs, and the plainest toilet conveniences, are all the furniture. His table is quite as modest, and he rarely makes any change in the bill of fare.

At Baden-Baden the king occupies a suite of rooms on the first floor of the Maison Mesmer, which he rents by the season. As an instance of his indifference to some points of royal etiquette it may be mentioned that he has authorized his landlord to let the rooms during his absence, on condition that the rent shall be given to the poor of Baden. So that Mr. Smith, of New York, if he will pay for the privilege, can sleep in the vacant bed of William III. of Prussia.

An eye witness describes an incident in the king's life at Baden-Baden which sets his character in a pleasant light. He was walking at Ilfezeim with a party of ladies. A swarm of little flower-girls, in the dress of the Black Foresters, besieged him to buy their nosegays. In a few seconds his buttonholes and hands were full, and he was perplexed to know how to dispose of his fragrant riches. M. Bismarck came to the rescue, and raised the siege by giving to each of the little girls a Frederic d'or.

THE METEORS AND THE WEATHER.—Last November they had a shower of meteors in England, which accounted, according to the weather philosophers, for the hot weather which prevailed about the same time.

This spring they have had very cold weather in England, as we have here; and now the same or another set of weather philosophers assert that this is caused by the earth having got back into the same plane with the orbit of the meteorites.

It is scarcely fair thus to accuse these poor wandering stars, which have no means of setting themselves right before the public of a planet which must appear to them a star of the first magnitude. Formerly the man in the moon was blamed for bad weather, but the poor fellow has not been much talked of since Lord Rosse's telescope was brought to bear on him, and since Professor Draper began to photograph his abode.

ARAB HORSES FOR NAPOLEON.—Napoleon, the Emperor of France, has been presented with four Arab horses by the Viceroy of Egypt. The two finest animals are each five years old, one a chestnut and the other a bright bay, and they are of the Persian breed. The third one of the lot is a bright brown, and is the purest type of the Nedje, the true courser of the desert.

In the beginning of the Luxembourg troubles, a lady of high standing at the Prussian court asked Count Bismarck on a special occasion, "what do you think will happen this Summer?" "We shall play sixty-six," (a German game at cards,) answered Bismarck. "What will be the stake?" inquired the lady. "One Napoleon," returned the minister.

WHEN TO CUT OAK BARK.

OAK BARK contains more tannin when cut in Spring, by four and a half times, than when cut in Winter; it is also more plentiful in young trees than in old ones. About 40,000 tons of oak bark is said to be imported into England annually, from the Netherlands, Germany, and ports in the Mediterranean. The quantity of English oak bark used we have no mode of ascertaining. Our own tanners pay very little attention to the period when oak or hemlock is cut. We believe that as a rule, however, this work is done at a season when the bark will easily peel, which would be in June, or about that time. Sir H. Davy says that 8½ pounds of oak bark are equal to 2½ pounds of galls, 3 pounds of sumac, 7½ pounds of bark of Leicester willow, 11 pounds of the bark of Spanish chestnut, 18 pounds of elm bark, and 21 pounds of common willow bark.

FACTS IN FRUIT CULTURE.

Doctor Trimble, of Newark, New Jersey, who has paid great attention to fruit culture, gives the following as his views—the result of many years experience.

- 1. That the most successful way to conquer the curculio is to gather the fruit as it falls and feed it to stock or destroy it, as it is by this fallen fruit that the curculio propagates its species.
2. That the fruit of the apple tree can be protected from the apple tree moth by wrapping around each tree two or three times a rope made of straw. The moths will harbor in this rope and can then be destroyed.
3. That the only way to kill the peach tree borer is to cut him out with a knife, not once only in a season, but to follow him up every two weeks until exterminated.

THE dairy pastures of a Montgomery co., Pa., dairyman are highly commended. They are seeded with one part orchard grass, one part herds grass and two parts clover; are top-dressed with barn yard manure every Fall, are not pastured closely, and are plowed up after three years.

A STORY is told of a soldier who, about one hundred and fifty years ago, was frozen in Siberia. The last expression he made was "It is ex——." He then froze as stiff as marble. In the Summer of 1860 some French physicians found him, after having lain frozen for one hundred and fifty years. They gradually thawed him and upon animation being restored, he ended the sentence with, "ceedingly cold."

MR. MAITLAND, of New York, has recently sold eleven cows and heifers from his herd of Alderneys at prices ranging from \$200 to 500 each.

A LITTLE BOY who was asking his mother how many Gods there were, was instantly answered by his younger brother:—"why one, to be sure." "But how do you know that?" inquired the other. "Because," he replied, "God fills every place, and there is no room for any other."

THE celebrated Doctor South on an occasion preached before the corporation of tailors. He took for his text the appropriate words—"A remnant shall be saved."

A COUNTRY editor describing the honnets now in fashion says:—"They have a downward slant that reminds one of a vicious cow with a hoard across her eyes."

FROM 1840 to 1860 the amount of wool raised in the States and Territories increased from 35,802,114 pounds to 60,364,913, pounds. Of the amount produced in 1860, New England contributed 6,578,064 pounds; the Middle States, 15,093,058; the Western States, 25,231,810; and the Pacific States, 3,489,350. The most notable increase was in California, which in 1850 produced only 5,520 pounds, while ten years later the product was 2,633,109 pounds, an enormous gain, which has caused wool-growers to confidently predict that California will soon be the largest wool producing State in the Union. Indeed, three years ago it was estimated that there were nearly three million head of sheep in the State. Taking all the States and Territories the amount raised in 1860 was nearly two pounds to each inhabitant.—U. S. Economist.





Field and Farm.

THE CORN CROP.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,
BY ALEX. HYDE, LEE, MASSACHUSETTS.

THOUGH not advocates for the extensive cultivation of maize in the Eastern States, we should be very sorry not to see a patch of corn on every sizable farm. Enough of this cereal should be raised to furnish meal for table purposes, and a little surplus to finish the fattening of the pork. We have never seen any Western corn that would make as good hoiled pudding and "Johnny cake," as the yellow flint corn of the East, and we certainly never ate any Western pork that could equal the home-made article. This may be mere prejudice, a partiality that has grown with our growth, but if so, we never expect to see the prejudice eradicated, and we hope never to see the corn crop entirely abandoned at the East. On the five and ten acre system of farming there is not much room for corn, nor much margin for profit in its cultivation, but even in this one-horse mode, a little space devoted to this cereal will prove a great source of comfort. We cannot indeed raise it for fuel, as our Western neighbors talk of doing, but it may be as profitable for us to raise it for the table, as for them to use in the grate or stove. It is a mistaken idea that we do not raise as much corn per acre at the East as is raised on the fertile prairies. The Hoosier laughs at our small corn fields and small stalks, and thinks we must harvest our crop in our overcoat pockets, and when we tell him we sometimes get over one hundred bushels of shelled corn from an acre, he smiles incredulously, but statistics prove that the average yield of corn per acre in Vermont is five bushels more than in Illinois. When we come to the market value of the crop, the advantage is still more in favor of the East. The following table taken from the report of Commissioner Newton, and compiled from the returns of four years, shows how the value of an acre of corn diminishes as we go West:

States.	Average value of an acre of corn.
Vermont.....	\$48.80
Ohio.....	20.20
Indiana.....	17.96
Illinois.....	14.47

We must by no means infer that the average profit at the East is greater than at the West. In cheapness and fertility of land, the amount of labor expended, and value of fertilizers, they have greatly the advantage of us, and we do not expect to compete, on our rocky hill-sides, with the Western bottom lands in supplying the markets of the world. All that we contend for is, that we should raise enough for domestic use, and when we consider the value of the stover, we are satisfied that the profit of an acre of corn with us will compare favorably with what it is in the Mississippi valley.

Corn is a gross feeder, and there is no danger of surfeiting it with its proper aliment. There are few crops to which we can apply coarse manure with so great success. If the sod is not a rich one, we prefer to plow in the coarse manure, as this will serve to sustain the crop the latter part of the season, when the ears are filling and the greatest drafts are made on the deposits in the soil. To give it an early start, a slight dressing of well rotted compost harrowed in answers a good purpose. If the manure heap is not sufficiently large for this double coat, then a small handful of guano and plaster well mixed and dropped in the bill will cause the shoots to start with quickness and vigor. As guano is mainly the deposit of birds, we may as well make our own from the hen or pigeon roost, and the domestic article has in one respect greatly the advantage over the imported—we know we are not using brick dust. Corn loves a dry, silicious loam, and it is vain to expect a remunerating crop in cold, wet, clay soils. Though a coarse feeder, it is particularly grateful for fine tilth, and there is little danger of an excessive use either of the harrow or the cultivator. The latter should be run between the rows, as soon after every heavy rain as the land will crumble. Many seem to suppose that the sole object of

cultivating and hoeing is to root out the weeds. This is only one object. A crust forms on the surface of plowed land after a rain which retards the free passage of heat and air. This crust is most cheaply and effectually broken up by the cultivator. As most of our farm hands are Irishmen, unaccustomed to the corn crop in their native land, they must be instructed in hoeing to pulverize the dirt they bring about the young shoots, to make broad flat hills, and to push as well as draw their hoes. Many of them act as though a hoe was an instrument they had never seen, and as a general rule they are less skillful in the corn than in the potato patch. After the first hoeing a handful of dry wood ashes, scattered on each hill, will greatly aid in furnishing the inorganic matter with which all grains abound. The practice of sowing pumpkin seeds indiscriminately through the corn ground cannot be too severely condemned. All vines, being of a rampant growth, are exhausters, and two such drafts as corn and pumpkins make on one little hill are more than can generally be honored. Besides the vines run over the corn, pulling it down and excluding light and air. If the land is rich and no other convenient place is found for the pumpkins, plant them only on the outside rows so that the vines may run into the meadows or over the fences. As they seldom run much till after the grass is mowed they will do comparatively little damage on these outside rows, and as, with a luxuriant growth of corn, few pumpkins will be found, except on the borders, even when planted over the entire ground, this is manifestly the place for them.

Early maturity is one great desideratum of the corn crop in New England. To secure this we must not only plant early, but select for seed the earliest ripened ears. This can best be done by passing through the field as the corn begins to glaze, and selecting the full plump ears whose husks are turning yellow. By selecting from stalks on which two ears grow, and doing this for a succession of seasons, we shall obtain a variety whose fixed characteristics will be early maturity and abundant yield.

As to the process of harvesting, there is no question but that cutting up by the roots is the most economical for New England. After the stalks begin to dry little nourishment is drawn from the soil, and the stacks will furnish the ears all the requisite support just as well standing in small stacks as on the hill. In our long cold winters the stover is no inconsiderable object in raising corn. If cut up, as it always should be, and sprinkled with meal, it is most grateful to cows, and causes a great flow of milk. Hay has ruled so high of late years that corn fodder is more highly prized. We rejoice to see the practice of sowing corn for fodder increasing in popular favor. The present late, wet Spring will prevent the planting of some corn, but any time in June will answer to sow it for fodder, and six or eight tons of stalks per acre will be found no small remuneration for the loss of the corn, and this large yield will be found to exhaust the land less than the production of the cereal. For sowed corn the rows should be two feet apart and the kernels not over one inch from each other. No hoeing is necessary as the cultivator will do the work most effectually. For sowing, sweet corn is far preferable to the common varieties, and the Stowell Evergreen is No. 1. It grows larger and cattle evidently prefer it. We have noticed that our cows, fed on the sweet corn for a time, will smell daintily of the common sort, and look up, plainly inquiring, "Have you not something better to offer us?" Sowed corn is somewhat difficult to cure, and probably the most economical time to feed it out is when the pastures fail in the droughts of August and September.

June, 1867.

Mr. Asa Strong, of Northampton, Mass., who has kept a table of the dates of the full blooming of apple trees for the last thirty-five years, says that only in two years during that time have they blossomed so late as this year—1837 and 1850.

FORKING BARNYARD MANURE OVER.—This is essential to rotting well. When corn stalks, straw and ordure of animals are all trod down firmly during the winter and spring, the air is effectually excluded, and the material will not rot until it has been forked over, were it to remain there for a year or more. If it is loosened up so that the air can circulate among it, the entire mass will decay in a few weeks so that it will be easy to pitch and spread it.—Now, the most expeditious manner of pitching manure up clean from the bottom is to do the greater portion of it with a horse fork. Set up three long poles as for pitching hay on a round stack, and make a hole down to the bottom of the manure first; then thrust the tines of the horse fork under the manure, and turn it up in large rolls, and tear it to pieces with hand forks. Horse forks are of great service where the manure is very long. After it has rotted, a man, or two men, can pitch much faster by hand. If barnyard manure remains in the yard all summer, it should always be forked over to facilitate the decay of corn stalks and coarse straw. But it should be protected from rain. Some farmers pitch long manure in the wagon with horse forks. But I never could perceive that the practice would pay, because a horse fork will not hold as much as a horse is capable of elevating. It is easy for any one to try the experiment, which will soon satisfy all anticipations or doubts on this subject.—*North British Agriculturist.*

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, that unless the season is very wet, the gas tar acts upon a grain of corn as it does when applied to roots and leaves to preserve them, by preventing the access of moisture. The coating of tar interferes with the absorption by 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 apparently 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. This is carried down by 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.*

PLASTER AND ASHES ON BARLEY.—A correspondent of the *Canada Farmer*, remarking on the sowing and management of barley, says:—"I have experimented more or less on sowing plaster and unleached ashes on barley, after it was about two inches out of the ground, sowing broadcast, and following after with the roller to press it down. It is my opinion that if there are any wire-worms attacking it at the time, the roller alone will drive them down a peg or two, but the ashes and plaster will set them back further yet." As barley is very late this year, time will be afforded to test the efficacy of this treatment where wire-worms are found at work on this grain.

AGE AT WHICH GARDEN SEEDS MAY BE SAFELY PLANTED.—Henderson's *Gardening for Profit*, gives the following in regard to the time which garden seeds may be kept without fear of failing to germinate: Those only safe for two years are beans, peas, peppers, carrots, egg-plant, okra, salsify, thyme, sage, and rhubarb. Those safe for three years: Asparagus, endive, lettuce, parsley, spinach and radish. For four years: Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, celery and turnip.

Those possessing the greatest vitality, the term ranging from five to ten years, are: The beet, cucumber, melon, pumpkin, squash and tomato. He says, with the exception of parsnips, onions and leeks, "I would just as confidently sow two years old as when freshly gathered."

Every seed contains three principles, the organ of nourishment, the nascent plant or plumule, and the nascent root or radicle.

RAISING TURNIPS.—Four bushels of Swedish turnips are worth as much, or more than a bushel of corn for feeding to young cattle or sheep during the foddering season, as every one who has experienced knows. They have been reported at fifty cents a bushel all winter in the markets. After our slovenly manner of cultivating them, two or three hundred bushels to an acre are often realized, while according to reports to agricultural societies, eight hundred and a thousand bushels are often raised upon an acre in New York and elsewhere, by those skilled in the old country methods of cultivation. Should we try as hard for a crop of turnips as for a crop of corn, no doubt can be entertained that four or five hundred bushels upon an acre could be easily raised, and they are certainly a sure crop, as they can be planted over, or transplanted any time before the middle of July, and then make a fair crop.

Let those who have not faith enough in the turnip to devote much attention to it, sow some seed upon the manure heaps, from which they manure their corn in the hill, and learn how easily they may raise this root, and how profitable it is in comparison with corn.

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 roots 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 will 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 fibres ramifying through the subsoil convey food to the plant.—**LIEBIG.**

FODDER FOR STOCK.—It is probable that considerable land designed for corn the present Spring will fail to be planted on account of the prevalence of wet weather. In such cases it would be a good plan to sow corn for fodder purposes. Good land will produce a heavy burthen of this kind of food for cattle. It is especially good for dairy stock, and may be fed in a green or in a dry state. The sweet variety is considered the best, as it is richer and eaten more readily than any other. What is not used in a green state may be cut and dried for winter use. It may be fed whole, or cut up and mixed with something else, as circumstances shall dictate.

PLOWING EARLY AND LATE.—Do not plough ground early in the season when it is to be ploughed once. If the soil is to be ploughed the second time, in the month of May, or in the latter part of April it may be ploughed in March. But, when land is to be broken up only once in the Spring, it will be better for the soil and far better for the crop, to defer ploughing until the growing season has commenced and the ground become thoroughly warmed by the sun and gentle rains. When heavy ground is ploughed very early in the Spring, during the fall of heavy rains, it becomes thoroughly saturated with water, which causes it to run together like mortar, when it settles down, soon becoming quite as compact as before it was ploughed.

The capital invested in agriculture in England amounts to £3,311,000,000, returning a profit of 13 per cent; the capital invested in manufactures is £218,000,000, and the annual profit 120 per cent.

MANURING.—Professor Way, who has devoted a great deal of time to a study of the operations of fertilizers, says his experiments show that the salt of ammonia will not filtrate through clay, but that much of this fertilizer in solution will escape through a silicious sand. This might induce a belief that a sandy soil contains no aluminous earth; a sandy soil rarely contains less than ten per cent. of alumina, which is sufficient to enable the soil to hold its organic matter until it is absorbed by the roots of growing plants. A sandy soil that will not form a crust after a shower undoubtedly loses some of its nascent ammonia, which passes off from the loose surface in the form of gas, but when in solution the soil retains it for the use of plants. Any discoveries connected with manures can be considered of importance to the agricultural world.





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 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.

PROPAGATION OF FISH.

WE notice in an article in the New York Evening Post, that four of the New England States—Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut—are discussing the ways and means of protecting shad and propagating salmon in the Connecticut river. The subject is now before the Connecticut legislature in the shape of a report from a commission appointed last year to study and suggest plans for the preservation of shad, and how to restock the river with salmon, for which the Connecticut was once famous. The report, which embraces an interesting history of the river fisheries, past and present, recommends the passage of stringent laws to prevent the wholesale slaughter of shad by means of gill nets and stake nets at the mouth of the river. If Connecticut will enact and enforce such laws, that State will perform its part in the co-operative movement, leaving to the other States the work which they have already agreed to do, to wit, the opening of fishways in the dams, while New Hampshire will assume the care of re-stocking the river at its source with impregnated shad and salmon spawn. New York city is interested in the project, inasmuch as Connecticut river shad are considered far superior to Hudson river shad, both in size and flavor, selling readily in the markets for seventy-five cents or one dollar. Increased supplies at much lower prices are much to be desired there.

Fish-culture, which is carried on with great success in other countries, is, as yet, only experimental in the United States. Our natural fisheries, like our primeval forests, are not yet exhausted, though the rapid diminution in the supply of the choicer varieties of river fish, and the constantly increasing prices are directing attention to the subject. In Connecticut and Massachusetts, ponds and streams here and there have been very successfully stocked with trout, but we do not hear of any effectual attempts to restock exhausted rivers with salmon. The experiments in England and Scotland have been very successful, and salmon spawn taken to Australia two years ago begin to show productive returns. It is quite as easy to cultivate this "crop" as any other, and the production is enormous.

France was first in successful fish culture, and the facility of production and the consequent cheap rates at which fish can be furnished in the markets bring this kind of food within the means of all classes in that country. Next to meat, it is the most healthful and nutritive food that can be furnished, and the high prices of all kinds of meat in our markets should stimulate the production of fish in such quantities as to furnish the people with a cheap and substantial substitute for beef and mutton. A pound of salmon affords nearly the same amount of nutriment as a pound of beef; and when it is proved that salmon can be "raised" nearly as easily as the peas which are its pleasant companion dish, choice fish will be as common and as cheap in market as any article of animal food.

RUTA BAGA, OR SWEDISH TURNIPS should be sown the middle or last of this month. All land intended for their cultivation should be deeply and thoroughly ploughed. This is essential for large crops. Land should be well manured. An experience with bone-dust and super-phosphate, leads us to recommend both for turnips.

RAISE GRASS.—In order to do this successfully, we must keep our mowing fields secure from the trampling and feeding of stock of all kinds, especially in the early spring. When we sow our wheat, rye, oats or barley, our efforts should be as much directed to securing a good grass crop to follow these, as to the reaping a great crop of the above cereals. Let us then sow a plenty of the best grass seed, and see to it that the present crop is so put in as not to choke out the tender plants the first season. An overgrowth of straw is to be guarded against, if possible. It is one of the greatest causes of failure in the grain crop, as well as in the grass crop that follows. All strong green manures should be discarded in laying ground down to grass with grain. Such manures should be used upon the hoed crop or else composted with an equal hulk of muck before using.

VALUE OF DOGS.

A FACETIOUS cotemporary shows up the value of dogs in this way:—"Tray is our friend. He sticks to us, and also stuck to neighbor Jones's leg the other day. He once bit us. That friendship made a great impression on us—the impression of his teeth is there yet! But dogs can't help doing these things. It is a defect of natural disposition. It runs in their family, to be dogs. Their ancestors were dogs before them. The dog is very useful. He is good to eat beef. He is great on wagging his tail. In short, he's a great wag."

So, we conclude, is the author of the above paragraph. But he should remember this fact—the most faithful friend of man is the dog. Although a brute, he possesses more gratitude and affection than three-fourths of the human family. Men like Youatt, Mayhew, Hutchinson and William Henry Herbert, understood the dog, and valued him as a friend and servant. Every Summer comes up the cry of "mad dog," and city councilmen and hydrophobic eowards demand a sacrifice of this persecuted race. If they were understood, their nature, character and constitution better known, and good care taken of them by their owners, we should have less hydrophobia and no wholesale hutchery of our truest friends and companions—the dogs.

Oliver Goldsmith, the most charming and companionable of poets, wrote an "Elegy on a Mad Dog," in which is this couplet:—

"The dog, to gain some private ends,
Went mad, and bit the man."

That was a cruel libel on dogs in general, and that dog in particular. Goldsmith well knew that the canine race had no "private ends" (except their tails) to avenge—and then only in the "dog days!" But the poet consoled his readers by adding the melancholy fact:—

"The man recovered from the bite,
The dog it was that died."

We suspect Goldsmith was hungry, possibly very dry, perhaps needed a clean shirt, and more than probable some ready cash, when he ascended Parnassus in pursuit of a mad dog. Miserable, sorrowful, misanthropic poet—poor, unfortunate, friendless dog!

TWELVE THOUSAND ACRES OF ROSES.—The rose fields of Adrianople extend over 12,000 acres, and supply the most important source of wealth in the district. The season for picking the roses is from the latter part of April to the early part of June; and at sunrise the plains look like a vast garden full of life and fragrance, with hundreds of Bulgarian boys and girls gathering the flowers into baskets and sacks, the air impregnated with the delicious scent, and the scene culveived by songs, dancing and music. It is estimated that the rose districts of Adrianople produced in the season of 1866 about 12,000 draehms of attar of roses. The oil is extracted from the petals by the ordinary process of distillation. The attar is bought up for foreign markets, to which it passes through Constantinople and Smyrna, where it is generally despatched to undergo the process of adulteration with sandalwood and other oils. It is said that in London the Adrianople attar finds a readier sale when it is adulterated than when it is genuine.

THE WHEAT HARVEST is close at hand, and the prospect for an immense crop—perhaps the largest ever grown in this country—has had a tendency to reduce the price in all our leading grain markets. This crop is so far advanced that no fears are entertained of even a partial failure. In the Southern States, within the wheat growing belt, we have cheering reports. From the West, which furnishes the major part of our breadstuffs, comes the good news of abundance, with indications of a superior quality. We may expect, the coming Winter, to eat cheaper bread than for two or three years past. With this prospect of a large wheat crop, with downward tendency in price, will follow a decline in all kinds of merchandise. This will not be regretted, especially by the laboring classes.

The potato blight has appeared in Ireland, and whole fields are affected by the disease.

SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

THE Senior Editor of the "Country Gentleman" is travelling South. He notes great improvement in agriculture in New Jersey and Maryland. His last letter describes the two farms of Ross Winans, near Baltimore, on the Patapsco river. These farms comprise over seven hundred acres, on which he applies \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of manures and fertilizers annually. He keeps 220 cows, sells the milk to dealers—his yearly sales reaching \$50,000. On these farms he cuts eighteen hundred tons of hay! enough to fill forty-five barns of forty tons each. We must call Mr. Winans the King farmer of Maryland. He made his great fortune in building railroads in Russia.

Professor L. J. Campbell, of Washington College, Virginia, contributes an article to "The Farmer," published at Richmond, on the "Mineral Resources of Virginia." He thinks the immense quantity of barytes, found in the valley counties, of great value as a fertilizer; though not so valuable as the Nova Scotia plaster. The latter contains forty-six per cent. of sulphuric acid; but the Virginia barytes has but thirty-four per cent. Both of these fertilizers have a beneficial effect on the growth of plants, as they absorb the carbonate of ammonia contained in the air, and in rain-water, and fix it in the soil.

A correspondent of the "Ohio Farmer" writes rather discouragingly of the wool crop for 1867. He says: "I think sheep will shear one pound less wool this year than last, judging from the shearing done this Spring." He also estimates that Ohio has one million less sheep this year than last. Said correspondent may be strictly honest in his views, but further confirmation of his opinion is required. We believe the aggregate of the wool crop for 1867 will be larger than for several years past. Ohio wool is now selling at 45 to 60 cents.

The "Iowa Homestead" recommends the application of sorghum to the trunks of apple trees, to prevent the ascent of insects. It is said that sorghum does not dry up like tar, and is also much cheaper and better. The remedy may be a valuable one, but it will cost too much to sweeten all our orchards with sorghum—especially as the application is recommended to be applied daily.

An epistolary fight is going on in the "Rural New Yorker," about the value of different kinds of grapes. One writer tests Catawba acid with Beaume's hydrometer, and finds it stands at ten degrees—meaning, probably, ten pounds of acid to one thousand pounds of juice. The same contributor condemns the Delaware grape, and says: "it is like a petted girl, decked out in extravagance, but has proven to be unworthy the name—grapes, wine, &c., have a woody, leafy taste." An interesting fight—but only to grape speculators.

Young people are very enthusiastic and poetical; so are young publishers, generally. The "New England Homestead" boasts of its great success, although but two months old. Wait until you "get out of the woods," boys. Papers that crow too early—like chickens—die a premature death.

HAY-MAKING.—Large quantities of clover and other varieties of grass will come to maturity in June, in the Middle States; also on some warm soils in New England. We therefore urge the necessity of early cutting—especially clover, for if left until the blossoms turn brown, it will be of little value. We know that opinions differ as to the proper time to mow grass; some intelligent farmers prefer to let their grass stand until going out of blossom. This may do with Herd's grass or Timothy, but not clover. We are strongly in favor of cutting all grass early, being satisfied that hay made then is far more nutritious and valuable.

A florist in Rochester, N. Y., has now in bloom a field of tulips containing 20,000 specimens, of 300 varieties. They are a splendid sight.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

The Shenandoah Valley (Va.) farmers have recovered from the effects of the war to some extent, and now have growing the largest and finest wheat crop ever raised in that section.

The young farmers of Carroll Co., Ill., propose a premium of \$25 for the slowest mule, to be awarded at the time of the County Fair.

Many of the Southern people are eluding, it is said, from cotton to stock raising, as being more certain and profitable.

The Illinois Legislature passed an act designed to prevent the spread of the Canada thistle in the State.

The Fair of the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society is to be held at Nashua, September 10, 11, and 12.

The annual fair of the Indiana State Agricultural Society, will be held at Terre Haute, commencing September 30th.

Col. James Gleason, of Germantown, Pa., has been appointed Superintendent of the Experimental Government Farm, near Washington, D. C.

A correspondent of the Boston Advertiser says he cured a Cotswold buck of grub in the head by blowing tobacco smoke into its nostrils.

A farm with shade and fruit trees set around the house, will sell from \$200 to \$1000 more than if there were none; while the girls will have more beaux, and the boys less likely to get the mitten.

The local Agricultural Society of Norfolk Co., England, has an annual income of over \$7,000.

The cheese factory system meets with much favor in Canada. A number of new factories are to be established this Spring.

The cranberry vines on Cape Cod, Mass., so far as appearances indicate at this early date, are doing well. There are over a thousand acres set with vines on the Cape.

The Windsor county (Vt.) farmers, at their recent club, were all agreed that thousands of tons of hay were injured, rendered almost as bad as straw, by being cut too late, and they proved their position by uncontrovertible facts. All agree, also, to commence haying earlier than usual this year. Mr. Tucker of Royalton declared that every forkful of his hay should be in his barn by the fourth of July.

The native grape vines promise well in Boston and its vicinity, a heavy crop is set on the vines, which are now growing rapidly.

A small lot of tobacco was sold in Lynchburg last Friday, which was sixteen years old, being the crop of 1851. It was entirely sound and sweet.

Planters in portions of Georgia have been compelled to dismiss their hands and turn over their stock for want of bread and bacon.

The promise of a bountiful wheat harvest is one of the most cheering signs of the times. Whatever evils may be in store for us, scarcity of flour will not be among the number, and in a few weeks the high prices which have made the United States importers rather than exporters of breadstuffs, will probably be sensibly reduced.

The cotton crop of Alabama for 1866, as near as can be ascertained, was 329,415 bales. Over half of the crop was produced in Marengo, Greene, Dallas, Wilcox, Lowndes, Pike, Montgomery and Barbour counties. The cotton crop of the state in 1859 was over nine hundred thousand bales.

STIR THE SOIL.—The value of keeping all soils well stirred, among cultivated crops, is not half understood by the great mass of our farmers. Don't let the land become hard and baked, but run your plough and cultivator through your crops, and use the hand-hoe thoroughly. The benefits derived from working the soil—keeping it mellow—admitting the air, &c., must not be overlooked if you wish good crops. Stir the soil.

B. D. Godfrey, Esq., of Milford, Mass., has sold an interest in his celebrated stallion, "George M. Patchen, Jr.," at the rate of seventeen thousand dollars. We gave an illustration of this horse in our first number.





The Fireside Muse.

THE COUNTRY COUPLE.

Do you remember, Mary dear,
As you pass through the porch,
A good old country couple in
The first pew of the church?

He walks on crutches as he comes
Adown the dusty way;
She wears a queer old bonnet; he
A coat of homespun gray.

She always brings with her a sprig
Of lavender or sage.
They read the church responses in
The broken tones of age.

'Tis said their early life was like
Some strange and wild romance;
His heart the eagle's courage shared,
His eye the eagle's glance.

And she—ah, who could dream it now?
Was beautiful and fair;
With radiant eyes and ruby lips,
And sunny waves of hair.

She stood amid the maiden throng,
The lovely and the good,
As 'mid the beauties of the East
The Jewish Esther stood.

They loved as few e'er love on earth,—
You smile and look away;
You're thinking of her bonnet, and
His coat of homespun gray.

They loved as few e'er love on earth,
With undivided heart;
But there are spirits stern and cold—
And they were forced to part.

The maiden sighed for him she loved,
And grew as slight, as pale,
As beautiful as shadows make
The lily of the vale.

She sighed by day, and wept by night,
You should not be so gay;
You're thinking of her bonnet, and
His coat of homespun gray.

But, one night, when the flowery bells
Swung on each airy stalk,
A form, as noiseless as the breeze,
Passed down the garden walk.

Passed down the garden-walk—but paused
Before the open gate;
She knew who, 'mid the linden trees,
Had promised he would wait.

They hastened through the dewy fields,
And, with the rising sun,
A bridal ring gleamed on her hand;
Those two fond hearts were one!

They have known joys and griefs since first
They were so wildly wed;
The cherished forms God gave them, all
Are numbered with the dead.

And now they live alone, and watch
The swift years glide away;
She wears that queer old bonnet, he
That coat of homespun gray.

And sometimes, as I watch them in
Their wide old-fashioned pew,
I think how time will deal with me—
How it may deal with you.

A few short years, and we no more
Shall thus be young and gay;
You'll wear some queer old bonnet; I
Some coat of homespun gray.

But O! whatever trials come,
Whatever sorrows fall,
Though grace and joy with youth depart,
Yet love shall live through all.

Fireside Tale.

"I'LL MAKE IT DO."

"I'll make it do," said Mrs. Prentiss, as she laid her pattern this way and that, over her cloth, trying to get an overcoat for Willie out of papa's old one.

"I don't see how you're going to do it," said her neighbor, Mrs. Ellis, who had come in for a social afternoon.

"Wait a few minutes," replied Mrs. Prentiss, "and I'll show you. I can piece the under sides of the sleeves so nicely you wouldn't know it if you didn't look else, and piece the facings; and—let me see!--James always wears his coat sleeves pretty thoroughly; but I can get the pockets, certainly, out of them. There," she added, after a few minutes use of her scissors, "haven't I done it? Wait till it is all sewed and pressed, and see if it isn't almost as good as new!"

"Well, I will say," replied Mrs. Ellis, frankly, "that I never saw a woman that would make a little go so far as you do, for comfort

and looks, too. I wish I had half your faculty."

No doubt a good deal lay in Mrs. Prentiss' native "faculty," but which faculty had been developed and strengthened, and grown by patient contrivance and hearty action. The wife-ly and motherly love, that was as the very well spring of life with her, flowed into her routine of household duties, quickening her perception of ways and means, and prompting her to a thoughtful care and cheerful industry.—James Prentiss was a carpenter, a man of good principles and considerable ability, a genial disposition and pleasing address. He had married young; and there were those who wondered at his choice of quiet Susan Palmer, "good and sensible, no doubt, but not to be compared with a dozen other girls in the village, any of whom James Prentiss might have had for the asking—poor, too; and old Jacob Mill would have been willing enough to give him his only child, and round thousands with her."—And when the little ones gathered fast around his fireside, many a one prophesied that "James Prentiss would be a poor man all his days!"

But somehow he never grew any poorer.—Work was steady, for those who once tried him liked to employ him again, and speak a word in his favor to others. Luxuries might not have been found in his home, but daily bread was there, (in the sense of every needed comfort,) and the more months there were, the more bread came. Little hands and feet never went cold, for warm stockings and mittens grew in mother's nimble fingers, in long winter evenings. A little fairy that lived in mother's work-basket, turned old cloaks, dresses, and flannel shirts, into miniature editions of the same, clean and whole, warm and pretty, too.

A story that grandma had told the children, in which the steam from the tea-kettle took form, as a genius, lingered in their memories; and now and then father was informed, with due gravity, when he came home at night, that a little elfin face had peered out from the misty wreaths that went floating upwards.—But with due allowance for the active fancy of childhood, certain it is that quite unpromising materials were transformed, through that stove into very inviting dinners. The cold potatoes and corn beef left yesterday, went into the spider, and with a little hot water, a little butter and pepper, came out excellent mince-meat; so with salt-fish; the remnant of a roast joint went into an iron pot, and therefrom was poured a nice soup; a few surplus spoonfuls of hoiled rice, served for next day's breakfast, in the shape of hot griddle-cakes; and stale bits of bread and biscuit found their way into the oven, in company with an egg, some sugar and milk, and reappearing a delicious pudding.

A guest might come in unexpectedly; but in Mrs. Prentiss' mind, what she could "make do" for her husband and children, she could "make do" for her company, and with the hearty welcome, pleasant conversation and consciousness that they were not making trouble, her friends were quite as likely to enjoy their visit, as if she sat down with them, tired, worried and nervous from extra toil.

Not far off lived another family, with about equal means, but presenting quite a contrast in comfort and appearance. Strange as it may seem, however, the very expression Mrs. Prentiss used, "I'll make it do," and whose spirit seemed the good fairy of the house, was as frequently on Mrs. Greyson's lips, but seemed there only to do mischief.

Mrs. Prentiss, though she wore mostly print dresses, always looked neat and lady-like, and even tasteful. Her hair was always smooth and glossy, her hoots whole and nicely faced, her checked apron, when soiled, changed for a clean one, and her snowy linen collar never forgotten. Her children, too, though allowed perfect freedom of out-door play, were taught cleanliness and care. But Mrs. Greyson, if her shoe-lacing gave way when she was about fastening it in the morning, would tie it up in a huge knot, with "I'll make it do," twist up her hair hastily, half combed, and hurry down stairs, without a collar, and with a dress bearing the marks of yesterday's cookery. For she

would dash into her work, and if a spoonful of soup or gravy splashed upon her dress, as was not seldom, it stayed there till washing day came round—"made to do."

Patches of flour kept it company, and sometimes a rent that had been very small at the beginning, was let go till it widened fearfully. The children, both as to clothes and manners, experienced the ill effects of her "making do" system; even school and lessons being neglected, if she fancied she wanted their help at home, or if a mood of idleness on their part appealed to her mood of indolent indulgence—as if an irregular, dilatory attendance, and half learned lessons, could be made to do, in place of a real school culture. Many a serious fault was passed by unnoticed, or met by a hasty, injudicious punishment, because the mother would not take the time, or make the effort requisite to correct the evil effectually, with gentle firmness. And ah! a little form lay quiet and cold beneath the churchyard grass, that might still have nestled warm and bright in her bosom, but for the terrible cold that found its way through a hole in the little shoe, that was "made to do" unpatched, when Ellie was sent out-doors to play, "to get out of the way," a chilly, damp March morning.

Mrs. Greyson sometimes made bitter complaints, and often harbored bitter thoughts of her husband, because as she said, "he stayed at home as little as he well could; he didn't care to talk to her, or seemed to think no more of her company than if she was a cat or a dog—no, not so much;" and perhaps she was not wholly mistaken; but if she would have taken the advice that Mrs. Prentiss had delicately offered more than once, she might have made a difference—who knows?

Well, time passed on, bringing no change for the better, but rather worse with the Greysons; James Prentiss, meanwhile, supporting his family well, educating his children, and laying by, every year, "something for the rainy day."

"Ten years to-day since I was married," thought gentle little Mrs. Prentiss, as her eyes opened on a beautiful June morning. "Ten happy years! How full of blessings have they been! My kind husband—my darling children! God forever bless them!" And she sprang up, though it was not yet five o'clock, and ere long was tripping cheerfully about her neat kitchen, getting a plain, but excellent breakfast.

"Well, Susie, what do you think?" said her husband, as they sat at the table;—"I've a mind to make this a holiday, and take you and the children to ride." His eyes twinkled roguishly, as he added, "I'm sure we can afford it as well as anybody."

Susie did not dispute this assertion, and she was well pleased with the proposition. The children, were of course, wild with delight.

It was still early when the breakfast things were cleared away, and Mr. Prentiss drove to the door in a light carryall, drawn by a spirited bay horse, but well-trained and gentle. The children were all dressed, baby springing and crowing in his mother's arms, and they were on their way without delay. Down the village street, along by the river's bank, past pleasant homestead farms, through helts of woodland, over hills, and into quiet, shady glens—all in one delightful ever-to-be remembered ride,—Song of birds, and hum of honey-bees, low of cattle, brook-music, and best of all, children's voices, mingling in real harmony. Mr. Prentiss took a large circuit, returning by a different road, and, about a mile from home, stopped at a neat, well-built, pretty cottage, painted white, with green blinds, standing a little back from the street, with a space for a garden in front, and two or three linden trees, not very large as yet, but already beginning to cast a pleasant shade. A little brook rippled along near by, and in the distance, on one side, rose wooded hills, while on the other lay the village.

Mr. Prentiss asked his wife to go into the cottage and look it over, and she, knowing that he had been at work on it recently, consented without much surprise, and went in, followed by the children. The rooms were of medium size, sunny and pleasant, well arranged for comfort, convenience and economy. Mrs.

Prentiss' expressions of pleasure, as she went from room to room, seemed to gratify her husband very much. After going over the cottage, as they stood at the parlor window to enjoy again the beautiful prospect, he passed his arm around her and asked—"Susie, dear, should you like to live here?"

"Of course I should," she replied in a quiet tone, not fully taking his meaning. "The lady who comes here ought to be contented. Is it engaged yet, James?"

"I rather think so," he answered, smiling, "at least, Susie, if it suits you to live here."

"What do you mean, James?" questioned Mrs. Prentiss, in amazement.

"Just this, dear," was replied. "This place is ours. For ten years you have been a kind, industrious wife. What I have earned, you have saved. You have made my home comfortable and happy—nursed me when sick, and in health have cheered, and encouraged, and helped me, always. With you I have been able to do what I could not have, had you been a different woman. You thought I was working for Mr. Leonard; so I was, and myself, too, though I did not know it at first. When the cottage was half done he took a notion to go out West, where his son is, to buy some land and settle down. He has never been quite contented here since Joe left. He wanted to sell and I concluded to buy, as I knew the place would suit you. And as it was so near our wedding-day, and I knew just what arrangements you would like in the house, I thought I would keep it for a surprise. It is the first thing I have ever kept secret from you, Susie, even for a time, since we were married. You put up with a good many inconveniences in our hired house, such as I hope you won't find here. Darling, can you 'make this do?'"

"Yes," Susie said, suddenly; it was an effort to restrain the tears of grateful affection that were springing to her eyes. "I'll engage to do that so long as I live, if you'll make me do for you. I only wish I was good enough for such a husband as you are."

"Make you do!" her husband said, as he drew her face to his own. "My darling!" And—well, the children are out frolicking on the grass, and perhaps will soil their best clothes; and, reader, you may come or stay, as you wish, but I'm going to look after them.

A TRAVELLER stopped at a public house in Maine for the purpose of getting dinner, knocked but received no answer. Going in he found a little white headed man in the embrace of his wife, who had his head under her arm, while with the other she was giving her lord a pounding. Wishing to put an end to the fight, our traveller knocked on the table, and called out in a loud voice, "Hallo, there! who keeps this house?" The husband, though much out of breath, answered, "Stranger, that's what we are trying to decide!"

QUESTION OF TASTE.—The question whether a boa-constrictor ought to be fed live rabbits has turned up in London, and the serpent has a party in his favor, who claim that if he prefers them alive his taste ought to be gratified.

They add that a boa has as much right to live as a rabbit; but if one of the boa's partisans should meet his friend in the woods we doubt if his faith would not be shaken. If he escaped alive it would probably be with a prejudice in favor of rabbits.

As a man binds a tender sapling to a stake, that the wind may not wrench it, or throws out an anchor into the boiling sea, that the ship may be held by it, so trust we bind our wavering hearts to the support of the Word of God, and stay the storm-tossed ship of our souls with the anchor of hope, that they may not sink.

On a very pretty girl's saying to Leigh Hunt, "I am very sad, you see," he replied, "Oh! so; you belong to the other Jewish sect—y'eb' is very fair, I see!"

WHAT IS TO HAPPEN IN TIME.—Philosophers tell us that the moon must be drawing slowly nearer the earth, and the two bodies, in the far distant future, will come together. The solid crust of the earth will be broken up by the shock, an immense quantity of heat will be generated by the destruction of the moon's motion, and the two bodies will fuse together into one molten globe. As the new and enlarged earth is cooled upon its surface, a second series of geological deposits will be constituted, accompanied perhaps, by strange and inconceivable forms of animal and vegetable life. At the same time, the earth is winding its way inward towards the sun, and must ultimately fall, an inconsiderable pebble, into the fast glowing mass. The same fate awaits all the planets, and our solar system must one day be but a single globe.





Miscellany.

RHODE ISLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—This Society will hold their 23d Summer Exhibition at the City Hall, Providence, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 26th and 27th.

All persons, whether professional gardeners or amateurs, are invited to offer for exhibition fruits, flowers, plants and vegetables. Music will be furnished each evening by the American Brass Band.

John A. Smith, Esq., of Waterford sends us a bunch of Victoria Hamburg grapes, the largest and first we have ever seen. They were grown in his hot-house.

The time for holding the National Horse Fair at Springfield, Mass., is fixed for August 27th, 28th and 29th.

Marriages.

In this town, 11th inst., by Rev. J. Boyden, Mr. George S. Read to Miss Lavilla N. Allen, daughter of the late Amos Allen of Franklin, Mass.

Deaths.

In Smithfield, 5th inst., Mary M., wife of James Winsor, in the 34th year of her age. In Pawtucket, 5th inst., Calch S. Hunt, in the 75th year of his age.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

Table listing market prices for various goods including flour, corn, and meats. Columns include item names and prices per unit.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1556; Sheep and Lambs 4108; Swine, 2352; Western cattle, 1938; Eastern cattle, 12; Working oxen and Northern cattle, 200.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

Nearly all articles of merchandise are lower, and this has given an impulse to trade. Prices of wheat and flour have declined almost to an exporting point.

Advertisements.

Massachusetts.

EXTRA FAMILY COWS FOR SALE.—One Cow 5 years old; color red; blood, Jersey and Durham; new milk, and now giving over 19 quarts a day; superior for butter; without a fault, and very desirable for a family cow.

RELIABLE! CHEAPEST! BEST! OON'T PAY \$1. SAVE 50 CENTS. KINGSLEY'S WONDROUS HAIR REVIVER CHANGES GRAY HAIR, Promotes its growth. Prevents its falling. Keeps it moist. Be sure and try it.

ESSEX SWINE FOR SALE.—One Sow, 10 months old, One Sow, 6 months old, One Sow, 5 months old, One Sow, 10 months old.

VALUABLE REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR SALE.—The undersigned, having made arrangements to leave town in August next, offers at private sale his valuable farm, comprising about 65 acres, situated in East Douglas, Mass.

SOUTH DOWN CO'S PATENT Sheep Wash Tobacco THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.



It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals.

ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers. Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores.

BERKSHIRE SWINE FOR SALE.—Three Sows, 7 months old; three Sows, 5 months old; also, 3 Boars, 6 months old, not skin to the above Sows.

SUFFOLK SWINE FOR SALE.—One imported BOAR, 2 years old, very fine and large, sure stock getter, bred at the pens of Queen Victoria, Windsor, England.

ALDERNEY COWS AND HEIFERS.—The subscriber offers for sale several of his choice herd of Alderneys, comprising Cows in milk and some soon to calve. Also, a few Yearlings served by first-class Bull. I warrant them all.

THE INDELIBLE PENCIL CO. (NORTHAMPTON, MASS.) MANUFACTURERS OF THE IMPROVED PATENT INDELIBLE PENCIL for marking clothing, &c., have now ready for sale their new HORTICULTURAL PENCIL, For writing on wood. Invaluable for making durable TREE and GARDEN TAGS or LABELS, or marking TOOLS, &c.

Connecticut.

THOROUGH-BRED BULLS FOR SALE.—The subscriber offers to sell the Thorough-bred Jersey Bull "Matchless," 12 years old. Also the Thorough-bred Devon Bull "Uenus," 15 months old. Both Thorough-bred Animals. Full Pedigrees given.

POULTRY FOR SALE.—The subscriber offers to sell one pair Bremen Geese and one pair Rouen Ducks, warranted pure and as good as any in this country. Also one trio "Jersey Blue" fowls, excellent layers.

Rhode Island.

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 Milk Trains for fast time in the world.

WILLIAM SPRAGUE, of So. Kingston, R. I., President. DANIEL NEEDHAM, of Boston, Secretary.

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 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 bay, 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 is pronounced by the best judges to be in all respects superior to any track in the country.

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting of part of Conical, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares' 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 NEW, FIRST PREMIUM, LOCK HAY CUTTERS, the best in use, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

HUBBARD, BLAKE & CO'S AXES, now acknowledged the best in market, are for sale in lots or by single dozens, by the Manufacturers' Agents, W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

ROAD SCRAPERS, made of old Car Wheels, for sale by W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

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 Kniflins, 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 Whitecomb'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 " Seythes, from the best makers. 200 " Snaths, new and old patents. 200 " Hay Forks, Batchelor & Sons' make. 100 Revolving Horse Rakes, and all kinds of first class Farming Tools and Seeds. Send in your orders early and they will be filled promptly.

PROVIDENCE, R. I. May 25, 1867. 1f-20

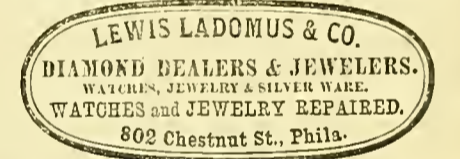
Pennsylvania.



NEW CROP, OF OUR OWN GROWTH, WILL BE READY JULY FIRST. ROBERT BUIST, JR., SEED AND AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE, Nos. 922 & 924 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa. June 15th, 1867. 1m.

TURNIP SEED. 10,000 Pounds of Imported Swede or Ruta Baga Turnip Seed. 10,000 Pounds American Purple Top and White Flat Dutch Turnip Seed. TO FARMERS, One, or more pounds, sent by mail, on receipt of 75 cents per pound. For sale at the Seed Store of C. B. ROGERS, June 15th-1m No. 133 Market Street, Philadelphia.

BAROMETERS! BAROMETERS!! BAROMETERS!!! TIMBY'S PATENT PORTABLE BAROMETERS, the best in the market, can be sent by express, and are warranted accurate. A few for sale at the office of the FARM AND FIRESIDE, 402 Locust Street, Philadelphia. April 6, 1867. pe-13-1f



Have always on hand a splendid assortment of Diamonds at less than usual prices. GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES. Of all styles and prices, suitable for Ladies', Gentlemen's and Boy's wear. ALL WATCHES WARRANTED. JEWELRY of the newest and most fashionable designs. SILVER WARE in great variety; a large stock of Silver Ware made expressly for Bridal Gifts. Plated Ware of the best quality. Watches repaired and warranted. Country trade solicited. All orders promptly attended to. Diamonds and all precious stones bought for cash; also gold and silver. June 15th, 1867. 3m

628. HOOP SKIRTS. 628. WM. T. HOPKINS, Manufacturer of First-Class HOOP SKIRTS, and dealer in NEW YORK AND EASTERN-MADE SKIRTS. Wholesale and Retail in Manufacturing, No. 628 ABOB STREET, PHILADELPHIA. May 11, 1867. 6m-pe-18

New York.

J. HICKLING & CO'S GREAT SALE OF WATCHES.

On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a handsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory! 500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750 500 Gold Cased Gold Watches.....200 to 500 500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled.....100 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....250 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....200 to 250 3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....150 to 250 5,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....100 to 250 5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....50 to 150 5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....75 to 250 5,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....50 to 250 10,000 Gold Hunting Lepines.....50 to 75 10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....50 to 100 25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....25 to 60 30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....10 to 75 Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$750. No partiality shown. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a certificate entitling you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious! A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three and eleven for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premium for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us! Address, J. HICKLING & CO., 149 Broadway—Near P. O. City of New York. March 23, 1867. 3m

BULLETS FOR SPELLING BOOKS.—A correspondent writing from Memphis, April 20th, says:—"While I was waiting for the cars in a store in Corinth, Miss., last week, an old gentleman came in and inquired, "Do you buy lead?" Receiving an affirmative reply, he said, "My little contrabands have been picking up bullets on the battle-field and have sent them in by me to buy spelling books." One had six pounds, the other ten; they had run them into little bars. To me this little incident seemed very suggestive. After the gentleman left with his spelling books, the merchant told me that the man had always been very kind to his "niggers," and that they all stayed with him after their emancipation. The colored school was very prosperous, and the citizens, old or new, on visiting it were enthusiastic in its support."



Farming Miscellany.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.
SMALL FRUITS IN NEW JERSEY.

As there is no subject claiming more attention in agricultural and horticultural communities than the cultivation of small fruits, of the various kinds, I will write, briefly, of several of them—commencing with them in their order of perfecting fruit.

Strawberries, a delicious fruit that a few years ago were only seen along the road-side, in the pasture or the hill-top, and occasionally in the gardeu, now occupy a prominent place not only in the amateurs' plot of ground, the poor man's house-lot, but are raised by the market gardeuer on five, ten, twenty and even thirty acres. In different neighborhoods there are different modes of culture; some recommending one way, some another; and what does well in one locality does not seem to answer for all—the same may be said of varieties. While at Hammouton, Vineland and Burlington they grow Wilson's Albany, almost to the exclusion of all others, at Moorestown, Cinnaminson and other places in West Jersey, they nearly discard it. Strawberries are grown chiefly in hills—so at Vineland—a mode which I shall not adopt until I have more demonstrative proof of its superiority. In the neighborhood of Burlington they plant in rows, five feet apart, and plant early market corn in the same rows. At Cinnaminson and Moorestown the mode of preparing the soil, preparatory to setting out the plants, is as follows: As soon in the Spring as the ground is in suitable condition for working, (never plough or work when too wet) plough deep; manure broadcast, with well rotted manure; pulverize the soil well by harrowing; mark the rows from five to six feet deep; plough a shallow "double" into the furrow; by this method you have soft, mellow ground to plant. Avoid ridging, which is injurious, except on low ground. Set the plants with their roots well in the ground, from ten to twenty inches apart, according to varieties planted. While Wilson's Albany will not make beds more than four feet wide when planted ten inches apart, the Downer, Prolific, Ida, French, Cutter and the Agriculturist will make good beds when the rows are six feet apart, and the plants set twenty inches in the row.

As the ground has been manured broadcast, potatoes of the earlier varieties are planted between the rows. By a slight application of some of the best fertilizers you may expect more than half a crop—enough to pay the cost of manure and working or cultivating the strawberries, which, if proper culture is given, you will have a well set field, with no cost except the first cost of plants.

In many instances I have known the potatoes to more than pay for all. The potatoes should be dug early, so as to give the ground to the young runners.

WEST JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT OF WESTERN STOCK.—At the "Turf Congress" held a few days ago at St. Louis, Captain Ford, president of the Laclede Association, made some remarks showing the need for an improvement of the breed of horses in the West. He said that the war had demonstrated that the western horse was unfit for any military service, and especially for cavalry, the charges of which had proved beyond doubt the immense superiority of southern horses. During the war he had sent to the field one hundred and ninety thousand horses. The greatest part of them, after a service of some fifty or ninety days, were sent back broken down and unfit for use. In establishing the Laclede Association, nearly every gentleman in St. Louis had been an ardent and efficient supporter of the movement. Its good effects were already to be seen in the great improvement of stock. But a short time ago it was necessary for the purpose of racing to bring horses from Canada. Now this association can run races of their own, and in two years their stables will be stocked with upwards of two hundred of the best bred horses in the world.

HALF AN ACRE ENOUGH.—A shoemaker over in Jersey bought a half acre lot. He was fond of fruit and read the papers. The soil was wet clay, and he selected fruit suited to the climate. He built a house and put his land in a condition to produce fruit. He had no manure but the droppings of street cattle. In his leisure, he brought from the woods, bark, rotten wood, moss, and leaf mould, which he mixed with soil three feet deep. This was done by degrees, and as fast as the ground was prepared he plauted fruit. He became so interested and successful that he retired from the cobbler's hench. I was a near neighbor, and knew him intimately. His half acre supported himself and wife comfortably, almost in elegance.—She had no servant, and had plenty of time to cultivate flowers. Strangers inquired about their beautiful home. Isabella grapes and common currants formed the hulk of his fruit.—With a better selection, his income would have been larger. Others have had the same success on small pieces of ground. One I knew, who supported his family on one acre. Half was grapes, the crop of which in one season sold for \$800, and he had no labor bills to pay. If concentration will give success, let us know it and practice it.—DR. PECK, in *Y. Y. Tribune*.

STARVATION OF STOCK.—The monthly report of the Department of Agriculture for April says the loss of stock from actual starvation and exposure the past winter has been extraordinary. In Texas the loss has been heavy, one-tenth of the stock dying. In the Territories similar losses are reported. In Nebraska and Arkansas many perished. In Minnesota fodder was short and stock died. It has been a severe winter in all North America, and the aggregate loss of stock from exposure and want of feed is immense. This might have been avoided by foresight and industry.

PINE TREE WOOL.—At a factory in Breslau pine-tree wool is now spun and woven into a kind of flannel, which is largely used as blankets in hospitals, barracks and prisons, in that city and in Vienna, with manifest advantage, pine-wool drives away all disagreeable and noxious insects from the localities in which it is used. It can be used as stuffing for chairs, sofas, and mattresses in the same way as horse-hair; and some qualities are woven into a kind of cloth of which garments of many kinds can be made. It is said to be favorable to health as well as to cleanliness. The waste liquor from the pine-vats yields a valuable medicine, and from the waste fibre gas is manufactured to light the factory.

QUICK ACTING COMPOSTS.—Materials are within easy reach of most people that, judiciously compounded, will make first rate fertilizers for the garden, for field crops in the hill, for the lawn or for the top dressing mowing lands or grain. There are some which every one has on his own place, others he must buy. Almost any man can afford to pay for good hardwood ashes as many cents a bushel as hay is worth dollars a ton. There are other things, like gypsum and lime, that it will always pay to have on hand. Soap suds, chamber lye, and many articles of household waste, are often lost, which might, if collected, make many dollars' worth of rich fertilizers in the course of the year.

SEEDLING AND GRAFTED TREES.—In an account of the farm of W. C. Flagg, of Altou, Ill., published in the Farmer's Advocate, an examination of the apple orchard was made after forty years from the date of its planting, the result showing forty per cent. of seedlings and grafted seeds living, there being no difference in longevity. Pryer's Red, Kirkbridge White, and Newtown Pippin were the three sorts of which the largest percentage was alive.

A hogshead of leaf tobacco, raised in Ballard county, Kentucky, was sold in Covington, a few days since, at \$166 per 100 pounds.

It is said that 400 steam cultivators are at work in England, displacing 2,500 horses.

Advertising Department.

Pennsylvania.

ECONOMY—PROMPTNESS—RELIABILITY!
AMERICAN CONCRETE PAINT AND ROOFING COMPANY.
543 NORTH THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

Roofs of every kind covered or repaired thoroughly. All leaks, wet and dampness in roofs, &c., prevented. Iron Fronts, Railings, Posts and Fences long preserved. All work done well, and warranted. The paint is unequalled by anything of the kind now known.

JOSEPH LEEDS, Actuary.
EMORY D. HOBART, Superintendent of Work.
May 25, 1867. 3m-20

FARMER'S GRINDSTONES,
OF THE BEST QUALITY;
Ready for use, with self-adjusting Shafts, Treddles, &c.
Huron Grindstones, Scythe Stones, &c., for sale by
J. E. MITCHELL, 310 York Avenue,
PHILADELPHIA.
April 27, 1867. 3m-pe-16

INSURE YOUR LIVE STOCK



E. N. KELLOGG, President. GEO. D. JEWETT, Vice Pres't.
\$100,000 DEPOSITED WITH THE COMPTROLLER AS SECURITY FOR POLICY HOLDERS.
Policies issued on all kinds of live stock, against DEATH and THEFT. For further particulars, address Branch Office, Hartford Live Stock Insurance Co.
F. & E. A. CORBIN, Managers,
430 Walnut Street, PHILADELPHIA.
May 18, 1867. 4m-pe-19

DISEASES IN THE AMERICAN STABLE, FIELD AND FARM-YARD.
By ROBT. McCLEURE, V. S.
For sale at the office of the FARM AND FIRESIDE, 402 Locust Street, Philadelphia. Price, \$5 by mail, prepaid.
March 2, 1867. 54f

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 BUILDINGS.
PECORA DARK COLORS costs 1/2 less than that of lead, and wears longer than lead.
The Company's WHITE LEAD is the WHITEST and MOST DURABLE Lead known. Also, VARNISHES and JAPANS.—100 lbs. will paint as much as 250 lbs. of lead, and wear longer.
Feb. 23, 1867. 6ow-pe-1y-7

COLLINS, ALDERSON & CO.,
SEED GROWERS AND IMPORTERS.
Also, Dealers in
HORTICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,
PLANTS, TREES, ROOTS, &c.
We have made arrangements to be constantly supplied, in the season, with the choicest Flowering Plants, Shrubs, Roots, &c. Also, with Fruit and Ornamental Trees.
OUR NEW DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE FOR 1867,
Designed to furnish directions for the cultivation of the
FARM AND GARDEN,
Hot-Bed Management, &c., sent FREE to all applicants.
WAREHOUSE, No. 1311 and 1313 Market Street,
PHILADELPHIA PA.

STEPHEN G. COLLINS; WILLIAM CHARLES ALDERSON.
ROBBET BOWNS.
Philadelphia, March 9, 1867. 3m-9-p

RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.
THE STANDARD MANURE
FOR SOLUBLE PHOSPHORIC ACID. VALUABLE FOR
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CROPS.

Manufactured by
POTTS & KLETT, Camden, N. J.
Endorsed and recommended by Dr. EVAN PUOLI, late President of the Pennsylvania Farm School. The character of this Manure is now so fully established, it is unnecessary to say more than that it is
FULLY UP TO THE STANDARD, IN QUALITY,
and is in fine condition for drilling.
Farmers, when purchasing, would do well to get the
RHODES' SUPER PHOSPHATE.
YARNALL & TRIMBLE,
General Agents for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.
418 South Wharves, PHILADELPHIA.
419 Penn. Street,
March 23, 1867. 3m-ce-11

MORO PHILLIPS'S GENUINE IMPROVED
SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME.
STANDARD GUARANTEED.
For sale at Manufacturer's Depots,
No. 27 North Front Street, Philadelphia,
AND
No. 95 South Street, Baltimore,
And by Dealers in general throughout the Country.
Philadelphia, February 24, 1867. 4f-4

50 PER CENT SAVED BY USING
T. BABBITT'S STAR YEAST POWDER.
Light Biscuit, or any kind of Cake may be made with this Yeast Powder, in fifteen minutes. No shortening required when sweet milk is used.
I will send a sample package free by mail, on receipt of five-cent cents to pay postage.
Nos. 64 to 74 Washington street, New York.
HENRY C. KELLOGG, sole Agent for Philadelphia.
March 2, 1867. 3m-pe-8

THE LAMB FAMILY KNITTING MACHINE.
THE MOST USEFUL AND MOST PROFITABLE INVENTION OF THE TIME!

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.
It knits the single, double, plain and fancy-ribbed flat web, producing all varieties of Fancy Knit Goods in use, such as Afghans, Shawls, Nubias, Hoods, Sacks, Breakfast Capes, Jackets, Garibaldies, Sontags, Undersleeves, Children's Cloaks, Cradle Blankets, Little Boys' Suits, Comforters, Smoking and Skating Caps, Snow Shoes, Stockings, Leggings, Neck Ties, Scarfs, Sashes, Slippers, Suspensers, Fursts, Lamp Wicks, Mats, Fiddles, Watch and Chain Cords, Gloves, Mittens, &c.
OFFICE AND SALESROOM,
36 North Eighth St., PHILADELPHIA
3m-pe-17.
May 4, 1867.

PERUVIAN GUANO SUBSTITUTE



BAUGH'S RAW BONE
SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME.
BAUGH & SONS,
Sole Proprietors & Manufacturers,
DELAWARE RIVER CHEMICAL WORKS,
Philadelphia, U. S. A.

FOR WHEAT, RYE, BARLEY, CORN, OATS, POTATOES, TOMATOES, BUCKWHEAT, SORGHUM, TURNIPS, HOPS, GARDEN VEGETABLES, AND EVERY CROP AND PLANT.

Especially recommended to the growers of
STRAWBERRIES, RASPBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES,
AND ALL SMALL FRUITS.

More than 13 years of regular use upon all description of Crops grown in the Middle and Southern States, has given a high degree of popularity to this MANURE, which places its application now, entirely beyond a mere experiment.

BAUGH'S RAW BONE SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME!

Is eminently a success as a Substitute for Peruvian Guano and Stable Manure—and is offered to the Agriculturists of the Northern and Eastern States as a fertilizer that will cheaply restore to the Soil, those essentials which have been drained from it by constant cropping and light manuring.

It is very prompt in its action—is lasting in effect to a degree unattained by any commercial manure in the market and is afforded at a much less cost than BOSTON Stable Manure, or Peruvian Guano. The labor involved in its use is far less than that of applying stable manure, while there is no risk from the introduction of noxious weeds.

Farmers are recommended to purchase of the dealer located in their neighborhood. In sections where no dealer is yet established, the Phosphate may be procured directly from the undersigned. A Priced Circular will be sent to all who apply.

Our NEW PAMPHLET, "How to Maintain the Fertility of American Farms,"—90 pages, giving full information in regard to the use of manure, &c., will be furnished gratis on application.

BAUGH & SONS,
Office No. 20 S. Delaware Avenue,
PHILADELPHIA.
BAUGH BROTHERS & CO.,
General Wholesale Agents,
No. 181 Pearl Street, corner of Cedar,
NEW YORK.
GEORGE DUGDALE,
Wholesale Agent for Maryland and Virginia,
97 & 105 Smith's Wharf,
BALTIMORE.
March 9, 1867. 3m-9-pe

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 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. 4f-pe-9

Massachusetts.

BY MAIL, PREPAID.
CHOICE FLOWER AND GARDEN SEEDS,
NEW STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES, CURRANTS, ROSES, BULBS, &c.
B. M. WATSON'S OLD COLONY NURSERY and SEED ESTABLISHMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS., is now sending out by mail prepaid, packed with great care in gutta percha silk, so as to reach any part of the Union in perfect safety, a complete assortment of the finest
GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, NEW LARGE CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS,
Bulbs, Lilies, &c., &c. Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Evergreens, Hedge Plants, &c., will be sent by freight paid to Boston. Also, the True Cape Cod Cranberry, for cultivation in wet land, or in upland and Gardens, where it produces at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre; with directions for cultivation. Priced Descriptive Catalogues will be sent to any address. Now is the best time for planting. The best way to obtain good Fruits and Flowers, and Seeds, is to send direct to the Grower. Send for a Catalogue. Wholesale Catalogues to the trade. Agents wanted.
Plymouth, Mass., March 30, 1867. 2m-ce-12

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.

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.

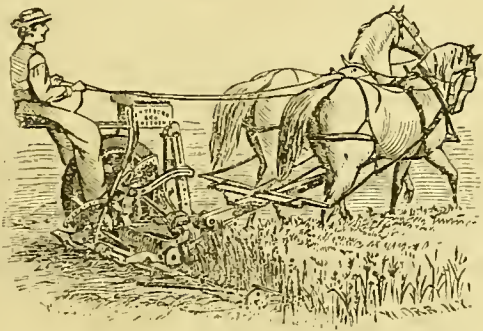
VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1867.

NO. 24.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.
FARM IMPLEMENTS.—ARTICLE THIRD.

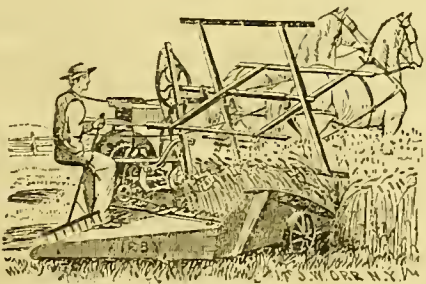
No season brings so much hard labor as haying and harvesting. It comes, too, in the hot, sultry days of mid-Summer; when the human system is generally weakened and debilitated, and when many of us feel more like harvesting our energies, than expending them in mowing, reaping, raking and pitching. But the period of hay-making, and grain-harvesting, cannot be put off to a more "convenient time;" and if we wish our barns filled, and our granaries replenished, we take off our coats, grind up our scythes, or "rig up" the mowing machines and "go in"—no matter about the hot sun, the long days, the hard work or the memory of olden times when a bottle of rare Jamaica rum, or old apple-jack was hid under the bushes, or fence-corners at the other end of the lot! We farm it on temperance principles now, and don't allow snakes or rebellious drinks to get in, or under our hats. Consequently, our hay and grain are cut and harvested in better condition than in "days lang syne."



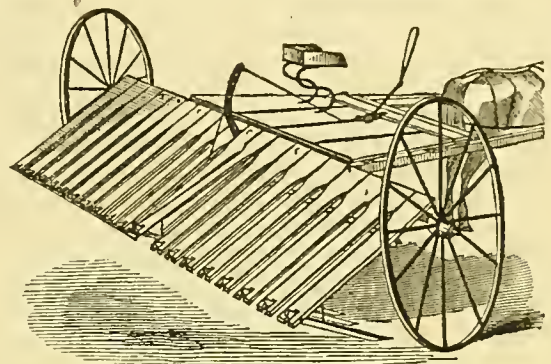
The increase in our crops of hay and grain, and the high price of labor, have made a necessity for improved machinery with which to cut and secure these crops. When we were boys, there were no such inventions as mowing-machines, nor horse-reapers; all the hay and grain were then cut with hand-scythes, sickles and cradles. Many a day have we sweat and toiled with a dull scythe, (we always hit *something* about eleven o'clock A. M!) and called to mind Bloomfield's description of haying in "The Farmer's Boy,"—

"Hark! where the sweeping scythe now rips along,
Each sturdy mower, emulous and strong,
Whose writhing form meridian heat defies,
Bends o'er his work, and every sinew tries."

But we hear very little of "the sweeping scythe" now-a-days, except in New England, where the land is rough and rocky, where farms are small, and their owners do not feel warranted in purchasing mowing machines. This is the case with too many New England farmers; yet every Summer witnesses the introduction of horse-mowers among the more energetic class. It is certainly time for all farmers to be relieved from the old drudgery of hard and continual muscular exertion—such as mowing by hand, and cutting grain with the sickle and cradle. Farm implements must keep pace with other departments of mechanical ingenuity; else your boys will get "tired of farming," and try something less laborious and more profitable.

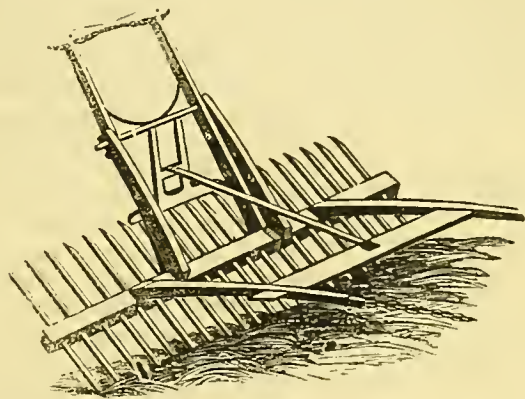


We do not intend to praise any distinctive mowing-machine—there are twenty odd patents—most of them are good machines; one or more of which should be on every farm in the country. With one of these, and a pair of horses, ten acres of heavy grass can be easily cut in a day. This accomplishes the labor of ten men, which at the present price of labor, in haying and harvest time, would amount to \$25 or \$30. The economy of mowing-machines is not their greatest merit; for with their aid grass can be cut more seasonably and expeditiously. What is now wanted, among small farmers, is a one horse mower—we mean one of light draft, that will not over-task the animal. There are numerous "one horse mowers" manufactured, but we have never seen one that is entirely adapted to a single horse. They are all too heavy, and impose a cruel task on ordinary sized horses. The same remarks, almost, may be applied to many of the "combined mowers and reapers." To cut grass, the motion of the knives or sickles, must be greater than to cut grain. If this is applied in the same machine to the long sickle and heavy gearing of a six-foot reaper, the strain on the



machine is very great, and it soon gives out; whereas, in mowing, the gearing is much lighter, and the sickle or knife shorter—generally four feet. At the West, they use six feet combined reapers and mowers, drawn by four horses. We doubt the economy of four-horse machines. To those who can afford it, we advise a mowing-machine *per se*, and a reaper perfect in itself. Independent, in themselves, they will last longer and be of more profit in the end.

Hand rakes are but little used, for any purpose, except in the Eastern States. The horse rake, of which there are many kinds, is a great help to the farmer. The "steel-tooth," is not used so much as formerly, as it tears up the soil—but is a serviceable machine. The one here represented is "Delau's patent," used both for hay and grain. It combines speed in action, with capacity to perform the work effectually. It is adapted to all surfaces, however irregular; passes freely over stones and stumps, gathers the hay in windrows at the will of the operator. It is good on one account—it does not brush off the leaves of clover. The teeth being of wood pass lightly over the surface, not scratching up the roots of the grass like the steel-tooth machines. Held down by its own weight alone, each tooth acts entirely independent, rising or falling without at all impeding or interfering with the action of the others. The driver has a comfortable seat, and with a lever has perfect control of the operations of the machine. The teeth being attached to the axle, it acts freely, and the labor of discharging the load is performed by the horse.

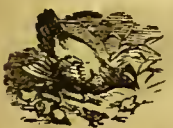


A revolving rake is much used—like the one represented above—and for cheapness and durability it is a favorite with many farmers. The advantage of horse-rakes, is not alone in raking the hay into windrows—hay can be "hunched up," from the windrows, a great saving of hard labor, as with these machines, the windrows are thrown or raked into heaps, of eighty to one hundred pounds, ready to be placed in cocks, or loaded on the cart or wagon.

The cutting of grass with mowers, and grain with reapers, began some five-and-twenty years ago. The machines of to-day, are vastly superior to those first introduced. The improvements in mowers are not so marked as that of reapers. While mowing machines are nearly of the same pattern as when originally manufactured, the reapers or harvesters are quite different. The first harvester we remember to have seen, drew the heads of the grain within a cylinder filled with teeth, so as to thresh it as the machine moved forward. This was found to waste the grain—hence it was abandoned. "Self-rakers" have been added to the reapers, and even "binders" are in use at the West, where grain crops are the chief reliance of the farmer.

We might continue this article to a great length—to the size of an octavo volume—and give an account of threshing machines, horse hay-forks, and other inventions to ameliorate the labors of agriculture. They all indicate the progress of that great art, which has been the civilizer of the world. The noblest lessons of history are written on our harvest fields—on the green meadows undulating with fragrant clover, red-top and timothy; on the level plains and sloping hill-sides golden with rye, barley and wheat—the staff of life to the great family of man.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interest of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.





The Field.

THE PROPER TIME TO CUT WHEAT.

Written for the Farm and Fireside,

BY THOMAS J. EDGE, LONDONGROVE, PA.

MANY are of the opinion that the only loss which the farmer sustains by allowing his wheat to stand until "dead ripe," is from shelling off. Experiment will demonstrate that this loss, though quite a serious one, is not the greatest one which we sustain by the above practice. When anything is said about the proper time for cutting grain, it is a very common thing to be told that "it is useless to fix this or that time, or stage of growth, for we must cut it when we can." But is this an argument which can be sustained? Can we not cut as near the proper time as possible, when that time is found before the grain is ripe, as well as when it is fixed at the period at which it is fully ripe?

The relative degree of ripeness at the time of cutting has much to do in governing the proportion of flour, bran and gluten. Experiment has fully demonstrated that grain cut from ten to fourteen days before it is fully ripe will yield more flour in proportion to the bran and that the flour will be richer in gluten. In an experiment tried in Yorkshire, England, three equal plots were cut, one twenty days before fully ripe, one ten days before ripe, and the third when fully ripe. The grain from that first cut yielded, of flour, seventy-four and one-half per cent; of middlings seven per cent; and of bran eighteen per cent. The second sample, cut ten days before fully ripe, gave of flour seventy-nine; middlings five and a half, and bran thirteen per cent. The third sample, cut when ripe, gave of flour seventy-two per cent., middlings seven per cent., and of bran sixteen per cent.

The comparative yield of the three different patches was in the proportions of the numbers one hundred and sixty-six, two hundred and twenty, and two hundred and nine;—the largest amount being in favor of the plot cut ten days before fully ripe; but the plot cut first gave the least weight of grain.

From this experiment it would seem that there is a gain of eleven pounds in about every two hundred; or say sixteen in every three hundred; or, in other words, in every five bushels of wheat, over three pounds per bushel. In addition to this, we have a gain to the miller of seven pounds of flour in every one hundred pounds of wheat; twenty one to every three hundred pounds, or over four to every bushel, making a gain to miller and farmer, and through them to the public at large, of about seven pounds per bushel; or say one bushel in every ten—quite an important item at present prices.

At a late public meeting at Brighton, Frederick Hallett, the originator of Hallett's Pedigree wheat, stated that "the difference between wheat cut from ten to fourteen days before it was ripe, and that cut fully ripe, was so great, that, taking the flour of the latter as a standard, the miller could better afford to grind the former for nothing, than the latter for the usual toll."

While my experience will not warrant me in going as far as our English farmer, just quoted, I must say that there is enough to be gained to make the matter worthy of the attention of every practical farmer, and I have seen cases where I am satisfied that enough was lost by over ripening to pay the whole expense of putting the crop into the barn.

From the results of a large number of careful experiments, I deduce the following as a summary of the benefits to be derived from cutting wheat from ten to fourteen days before fully ripe—viz: gain in weight of gross produce, thirteen per cent.; in quality and value, three and one-half per cent.; in weight of straw, five per cent. In addition to this we have straw which for feeding purposes is better, and have chaff fully twenty-five per cent. better for mixed feed for working horses or cattle.

As a drawback to early cutting we must take into consideration the fact that the grain being

cut green must remain longer in the field before being removed to the barn, in order that it may be properly dried. It is also somewhat heavier to handle, and harder to thrash; but we may estimate that the extra quality of the straw alone will pay for this extra trouble or expense, and will leave the increased value of the grain for profit.

It is an accepted rule among English farmers, that in favorable seasons the straw commences to ripen from the root, or lower end; while in an unfavorable season it ripens the upper joints first; and that in the latter case the grain cannot be cut too soon after it is demonstrated that the upper joint of straw is ripe. In a favorable season, when the straw ripens in the usual and natural way, the rule is to cut when the two lower joints of the straw are ripe, and the ripening is just showing itself above the second joint or knob.

In former times, when the sickle or cradle was the main dependence, there was some excuse for not taking advantage of the best time; but now, with our modern machinery, we have no excuse except unfavorable weather at the proper time for cutting; this we are always liable to, and have no remedy for but to cut as near "the proper time" as possible.

Of late years early cutting has proved of great advantage from the fact that in a great measure it is our only remedy for the ravages of the midge. In such cases it is my rule to cut as soon as it is safe to do so; being of the opinion that our only chance is to get the grain barded as soon as possible. Last harvest a limited experiment of my own tended to convince me that by cutting early I saved at least five pounds per bushel on the plot experimented on.

June, 1867.

AVERAGE CROP OF CEREALS IN ENGLAND.

The *Mark Lane Express* publishes the following estimate of the average yearly crops of cereals in England for the past years:

"Rather more than three millions of acres are sown with wheat—the average yield of wheat per acre is twenty-nine bushels; and the total yield of wheat, therefore, has averaged eleven million six hundred and fifty-eight thousand quarters. Nearly two million acres are sown with barley, averaging thirty-seven and three-quarter bushels each; total average yield, nearly nine million quarters. A million and a half acres are sown with oats, producing forty-six and a half bushels each; total average yield, same as barley. Half a million acres are devoted to the production of beans, and nearly as many to peas, producing on an average nearly two million quarters of beans, and a million odd quarters of peas. The average crop of wheat in the whole United Kingdom is probably about sixteen million quarters annually; but, reckoning the consumption of each individual at a sack of flour a year, twenty-two million and a half quarters of wheat are needed for the supply of our thirty millions of people, leaving six or seven millions of quarters to be supplied by importation."

The closing remark of the *Express* is eminently deserving of attention by the farmers of the West, both as an inducement to the more extensive growth of wheat and as an important hint in economies for future consideration in the management of their prairie farms:

"There is reason to believe that the breadth of land devoted to wheat culture is decreasing in England year by year; and so it should. Our agriculturists ought to devote themselves more to the production of stock. The land in the midlands and west of England is properly pastured; and a deficiency of corn can be much more easily and satisfactorily supplied from abroad than a deficiency of meat. Small pasture farms yield more per acre to the landlord than broad sweeps of arable land."

Solon Robinson, in the agricultural columns of the *Tribune*, says: "Clover is to farming what faith is to religion. One may go through the whole list of manures and good works, but must come to clover and faith at last."

The Stock-Yard.

DISEASES OF SHEEP.

The following communication from Hon. Elisha Dyer, of Rhode Island, appears in the *Rutland (Vt.) Herald*:

PROVIDENCE, May 1st, 1867.

My attention was attracted by the following paragraph in the "Providence Journal" of this morning. "The sheep raisers of Vermont are having a bad season. The lambs do not thrive, and rot prevails among the sheep."

If your Spring has been as cold and unpropitious as ours, I do not wonder at the ill-condition of the lambs. As to the rot, I feel it an imperative duty to communicate to your sheep raisers, the accompanying statement of an interesting series of experiments and remedies, made by one of the most scientific and skillful English physicians I ever had the pleasure of being acquainted with, a gentleman of a thoroughly analytical mind, and philanthropic impulses. His Winter residence is in London, but from the middle of May to the last of November, in each year, he is the resident English physician at Hambourg Springs, Germany. His statement to me, in the Summer of 1865, while with my family, (we were for several months also residents of Hambourg), was as follows, viz:

Among the great variety of subjects connected with the agricultural pursuits and prosperity of England my attention has been directed to the cause and cure of the "foot-rot" in sheep. More than one thousand of these animals have been examined at the butchers' shambles, and in every case the mucous membrane was found to be inflamed, and with suppuration, the lining sloughing off. The liver was full of the animalcules called "flukes," and the feet in a most decayed condition. Twenty-two of the most diseased sheep were purchased by my brother, (who is a landed proprietor) in Lincolnshire for a half crown each, (fifty cents) so thoroughly valueless were they from disease, and brought to me for treatment. I had prepared several pens, clean and dry, and subjected them in rotation, to the following treatment for five days:

In pen No. 1, the sheep were first placed, fed with oatmeal gruel with strong solutions of common table salt. The evacuations were filled with the animalculae, and the diseased parts of the mucous membrane. This was for the first day, then they were removed to

Pen No. 2, where they were fed with "steamed oats," soaked in a strong solution of salt and water, and allowed to drink freely of linseed tea with limewater. The evacuations were of the same character but much less in quantity and of a mitigated appearance. The next day the same animals were removed to *Pen No. 3*, and were there fed upon "steamed barley" as being more nutritious, with the same solutions of salt and limewater. The animals were fast improving, as the evacuations were of a decidedly improved character.

In Pen No. 4. For the fourth day's treatment, dry barley, soaked in salt and lime water, was given. The "flukes" had all disappeared and the sheep were in a greatly improved condition.

In pen No. 5. The last day's treatment was with the same dry food as before, with short grasses, and drink of the lime and salt water, and the sheep apparently well.

The experiments were made with five sheep at a time. The pens built on a side hill for dryness, thoroughly cleansed each day, and the animals' feet washed daily in cold water.

In a few weeks they all recovered, and were in such condition that they sold £1.10 to £1.15 per head (\$7.50 to \$8.75.)

It is the opinion of this gentleman, that the cattle plague, cholera in swine and the greatest portion of the disease to which animals are liable is attributable to improper food, (as grasses, &c.) and changes of climate. The invariable antidotes and remedies are lime and salt. It is also his opinion that the vegetable kingdom is as prolific of disease as the animal, which

could be detected in any thoroughly scientific investigation of grasses, roots, fruits, &c., and the extent of which would be a matter of surprise in its development. He would here, as before, use lime and salt as the remedies.

HEALTH OF HOGS.

The refuse of the dairy makes very nutritious food for young swine, on account of the phosphoric and sulphuric acids they contain, which acids are very important in building up the frame of the hog. Summer steck running at large with a good degree of liberty, may be fed freely with sour milk and whey, and they will generally provide themselves with whatever is necessary to modify the effects of the feeding. But if confined in a pen or close yard, they will suffer from acidity of the stomach, an ailment which hogs are much subject to, unless care is taken to furnish them with the necessary corrections. A little powdered chalk mixed with the food is recommended for this purpose, or almost any alkaline substance occasionally added, will answer the purpose.

The hog having a very thick skin, it is liable to become feverish and diseased by the closing of the pores, and this produces other diseases. Sulphur tends to cool and purify the blood and keep open the pores of the skin, and should frequently be given. When the skin is dry and feverish, and sulphur does not afford relief, a little antimony (white powder) will generally prove effectual. When running at large, the hog will frequently be seen helping himself to charcoal. When confined in a pen, a separate box or trough should be kept supplied with coal ashes and salt. The swine has the name of being a naturally filthy animal. In this he is slandered. No brute will take more pains to keep his bed clean than he. When he wallows in the mire it is to relieve a fevered, uncomfortable condition of the skin, resulting from a want of those substances taken inwardly, which would keep his hide in good condition, and which he would take without urging if he could find them. In brief, the hog is a very sensible animal, in his way, and when confined, his master should endeavor to learn what he wants from his own mouth.

HIS COWS ALWAYS DO WELL.

In a letter to the *New York Farmers' Club*, Mr. J. L. Humphrey of New Bedford, gives the following account of the management by which his cows are exempt from caked bag, and other diseases which afflict many dairies:—

I never have any trouble in that direction, 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 always come 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 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.

FOOT-ROT IN COWS.—An ointment made of lard and red precipitate, in the proportion of one to four, mixed and applied to the sore, will prove effectual. Apply to the parts affected, and rub in well twice or three times, and a cure will be the result.

NINEVEH was fourteen miles long, and forty-six miles round, with a wall one hundred feet high, and thick enough for three chariots abreast. Babylon was fifty miles within the walls, which were seventy-five feet thick and one hundred feet high, with one hundred brazen gates. The Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, was four hundred and twenty feet to the support of the roof. It was one hundred years in building. The largest of the pyramids was four hundred and eighty-one feet in height and eight hundred and fifty-three feet on the sides. The stones are sixty feet in length, and the layers are two hundred and eight. It employed three hundred and twenty thousand men in building the labyrinth in Egypt, and it contains three hundred chambers and twelve halls.





The Fireside Muse.

THERE IS NO DEATH.

There is no death! The stars go down
To rise upon some fairer shore:
And bright in Heaven's jeweled crown
They shine forever more.

There is no death! The dust we tread
Shall change beneath the Summer showers
To golden grain or mellow fruit,
Or rainbow-tinted flowers.

The granite rocks disorganize
To feed the hungry moss they bear,
The fairest leaves drink daily life
From out the viewless air.

There is no death! The leaves may fall,
The flowers may fade and pass away—
They only wait through Wintry hours
The coming of the May.

There is no death! An angel form
Walks o'er the earth with silent tread,
He bears our best loved things away,
And then we call them "dead."

He leaves our hearts all desolate—
He plucks our fairest, sweetest flowers,
Transplanted into bliss they now
Adorn immortal bowers.

The bird-like voice, whose joyous tones
Made glad this scene of sin and strife
Sings now in everlasting song
Amid the trees of life.

And where he sees a smile too bright
Or heart too pure for taint or vice,
He bears it to that world of Light
To dwell in Paradise.

Born into that undying life,
They leave us but to come again;
With joy we welcome them—the same,
Except in sin and pain.

And ever near us, though unseea,
The dear immortal spirits tread;
For all the boundless Universe
Is life—there is no death!

General Miscellany.

FARMERS' WIVES.

THOMAS LACKLAND, in his new work entitled "Homespun; or Five-and-twenty Years Ago," gives the following pen-sketch of Farmers' wives:

In the country, woman is made too much a mere drudge. It may sound all very romantic and sweet to your ears, dear madam, to hear the talk of the Arcadian life such a sister must lead, away from large towns and their frivolous influences—but it is not such a life as you allow your imagination to dish up before you. Think what it is for a woman—a wife—to milk cows, to suckle calves and sometimes to feed the pigs; to attend regularly on the ducks and chickens, besides performing various other chores not altogether in harmony with her feminine nature. Then, again, the same tasks, always hard, follow one another in a continuous round from morning till night, one day upon another; and she must be different from the rest of her sex who can help offering silent thanksgiving when God draws the curtain of night for the world to lay its head on its pillow and go to sleep.

The English country ladies—we have all heard about their fresh robustness, their rosy health, and their overflow of animal spirits.

We wish one-half as good news could be told of the country ladies of America, with their anxious, care-worn countenances, as if all the interests of the farm devolved—as they often do—upon themselves. In a good many cases they are a deal "smarter" than the men, and take the management out of their hands. They can reckon up the cost and value of a hog or a "critter," without even going near the slate that hangs inside the pantry; whereas their husbands would be studying like industrious Champollions, all the sundry chalk marks about the house and shed, in hopes of getting at what they wanted. If many of our farmers are asked by a travelling drover what they will take for such or such a "beef critter" they will show in a moment their disinclination (if not their inability) to sell without first consulting "mother."

In this, among other ways, the woman in the country becomes gradually unfeminine—loses a certain degree of that bloomy freshness which so charmingly sets off female character,

mixes in with the roughness, and hardness, and drudgery, and even the dirt of farm work and farm life; and, in the lapse of time, unconsciously parts with some of those attractive qualities which should be found as elements in the character of every loveable female.

HOW OLD JAKE WON THE CHEESE.

SOME years since I was employed as warehouse clerk in a large shipping house in New Orleans, and while in that capacity, the following funny scene occurred:

One day a vessel came in, consigned to the house, having on board a large lot of cheese from New York. During the voyage some of them had become damaged by bilge water, (the ship having proved leaky,) consequently the owners refused to receive them; they were therefore sent to the consignees of the ship, to be stowed until the case could be adjusted. I discovered a few days afterwards, that as to perfume they were decidedly too fragrant to remain in the warehouse in the middle of June, and reported the same to my employers, from whom I received orders to have them overhauled, and send all that were passable to Beard & Calhoun's auction mart, (then in the old Camp street Theater), to be disposed of for the benefit of the underwriters, and the rest to the swamp. I got a gang of black boys to work on them, and when they stirred 'em up, "Be the bones of Moll Kelley's quart pot! but the smell was elegant intirely." I kept a respectable distance, believe me, for strong niggers and strong cheese, on a hot June day, just haugs all commou essences, including a certain "varmint" we read about.

Presently the boys turned out an immense fellow, about three feet six inches "across the stump," from which the box had rotted; in the center a space about ten inches was very much decayed, and appeared to be about the consistency of mush, of a bluish tint—caused by the bilge water. The boys had just set it up on its edge on a bale of gunny-bags, when I noticed over the way a big darkey (then on sale) from Charleston, South Carolina, who was notorious for his butting propensities, having given most of the niggers in that vicinity a taste of his quality in that line. I had seen him and another fellow, the night previous, practicing; they would stand, one on each side of a hydrant, some ten yards distant, and run at each other with their heads lowered, and clapping their hands upon the hydrant they would butt like veteran rams. A thought struck me that I might cure him of his bragging and butting, and at the same time have some fun, so I told the boys to keep dark, and called "Old Jake" over.

"They tell me you are a great fellow for butting, Jake."

"I is some, Massa, dat a fae—I done butt de wool 'tirely orf ob old Peter's head lass night, and Massa Nichols was gwine to gib me goss! I kin jiss bang de head orf any nigger in dese parts, myself—I kin!"

"Well, Jake, I've got a little job in that line for you, when you haven't anything else to do."

"I se on hand for all dem kind ob jobs, myself—I is."

"Well, you see that large cheese back there?"

"I dus dat! I dus myself."

"Now if you can butt a dent in it you shall have it."

"Golly, Massa! you foolin' dis nigger?"

"No, I'm not, Jake—just try me."

"Wot! you gib me hull of dat cheese if I butt a dent in 'um?"

"Yes."

"De Lor! I'll bust 'em wide open, I will myself. Jess stand back dar, you Orleans niggers, and clear de track for Ole Souf Carlina, 'cuse I se a comin' myself—I is."

And Old Jake started back some fifty feet and went it at a good quick run, and the next instant I heard a dull, heavy sound, a kind of *squash*, and Old Jake's head disappeared from sight, with the top just visible on the other side, as he rose with his new fashioned neck-lace, the soft rotten cheese oozing down all around him, as it settled down, so that just his eyes were visible. From the center of it

Jake's voice was scarcely audible and half smothered, as he vainly tried to remove the immense cheese.

"O-o-o-o! er de Lor! Mass—took 'um orf. O-o-o-o! bress de Lor! Lif 'um up! Gor-a-mighty! I——"

Meanwhile I was nearly dead, myself, having laid back on a cotton bale holding myself together to keep from bursting, while the boys stood round Old Jake, paying him off.

"De Lor! how de nigger's bres smell! You doesn't clean your teef, Old Jake!"

"I say, you didn't make more dan four times dat han, did you, old hoss?"

"Well, you is a nasty nigger dat a fae!"

"Well, you is de biggest *king* of Welsh Rabbit—you is!"

"Whar you git you bar greese?"

And thus the boys run Old Jake—now half smothered—when I took compassion on him, and told them to take it off. Jake didn't stay to claim his prize, but put out growling.

"Gor-a-mighty! I done got sole dat time. I se a case ob yellow feber—I is, myself!"

Old Jake was never known to do any more butting in that vicinity after that.

BOYHOOD'S PLEASURES AND PENALTIES.—

A youngster came home after having a glorious time in the puddles, his face all aglow and his boots full of water. The punishment of staying in the house for the remainder of the day did not seem very hard; but as his little heart warmed up with the recollection of the triumphs of the morning, when he had waded deeper than any of his playmates dared to, he could bear the restraint no longer, and went to his mother, saying: "Please, mother, whip me, and let me go out again!" Human nature could not resist such an appeal, and though the mother's heart had some misgivings as to the propriety of indulging her son, he was allowed his liberty, and received a caress instead of a flogging. Boys are boys the world over, and take to vices with more gusto than is commendable, as the following evidences:

"Charlie, my dear," said a loving mother to a hopeful son, just budded into breeches. "Charlie, my dear, come here and get some caudy." "I guess I won't miud it now, mother," replied Charlie, "I've got in some tobacco."

A BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT.—I was reading the other day, that on the shores of the Adriatic Sea the wives of the fishermen, whose husbands have gone far off upon the deep, are in the habit, at eventide, of going down to the seashore, and singing, as female voices only can, the first stanza of a beautiful hymn; after they have sung it they will listen till they hear, borne by the wind across the desert sea, the second stanza sung by their gallant husbands, as they are tossed by the gale upon the waves, and both are happy. Perhaps, if we listen, we, too, might hear on this desert world of ours some whisper borne from afar, to remind us that there is a heaven and a home; and when we sing the hymn upon the shores of earth, perhaps we shall hear its echo breaking in the music upon the sands of time, and cheering the hearts of those that are pilgrims and strangers, and look for a city that hath foundation.—Dr. John Cummings.

BUSINESS AND PLEASURE.—A stray contractor from down South was lately inspecting a horse power in operation, when he broke out thus: "Mister, I have seen heaps of things in my life, but I never saw anything whar a horse could do his own work and ride hisself, too."

A LITTLE GIRL, recently called as a witness in a police court, being asked "what becomes of little girls who tell falsehoods," innocently replied that they were "sent to bed."

QUILT thinks it rather remarkable that while several thousand feet are required to make one rood, a single foot, properly applied, is often sufficient to make one evil.

EIGHT million dollars worth of flour have come from California this year.

BUCKWHEAT.

THE season has been so unfavorable for preparing the soil for Spring crops that much land still remains unoccupied, the soil being too wet for the reception of the seed. When the season becomes too far advanced for sowing or planting cereals or forage crops, buckwheat is generally brought into requisition, being well adapted for a late crop. This crop generally succeeds better when sown late than early, being liable to be damaged by the intense heat of Summer when sown early. It succeeds better when sown about the end of June or the beginning of July than at an earlier period. It is sometimes sown late in July, and if the Fall is favorable, the crop turns out well.

Buckwheat is not only valuable as a bread-stuff, but it is of great importance for feeding the domestic animals—sheep particularly. In Pennsylvania and New York it is extensively used for fattening sheep in Winter, and it has been found so well adapted for this purpose that the crop increased enormously since 1850, the returns standing as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Location, 1850, 1860. Rows: New York, bus.; Pennsylvania, bus.

It is probable that from 1860 to the present year the increase has been in proportion to that of the last decade.

The quantity of seed sown is generally about a bushel per acre, but half a bushel spread evenly, will, in most soils, be amply sufficient. It is sown sometimes for the purpose of clearing land of weeds, and also for preparing the soil for other crops. It is frequently sown for the purpose of being plowed in as a green manure for the wheat crop. Though not equal to clover, it is yet beneficial to lands deficient in organic matter. It should be plowed under when beginning to blossom.

Light soils are supposed to be best adapted for this grain, but it does well on any except the heaviest. The plowing and harrowing of the land in midsummer, when the weeds are in full growth, and the exposure of their stems and roots to the sun, have probably as powerful an effect in cleaning the land, as the overshadowing foliage of the buckwheat plant, although the latter generally gets credit for all the good that is done.

The underground grain and the fresh straw have an extraordinary effect upon swine. If allowed to feed in a recently-harvested buckwheat field, their heads and ears are attacked with an eruption, accompanied by intense itching, while the animals exhibit all the symptoms of intoxication. In some cases death ensues, in others the animals recover. When the grain is fed whole, in large quantities, the husks are passed by the animals undigested, and their bowels become disordered. But if ground and cooked, the mush has no bad effect, and is very good fattening food. Some farmers grind buckwheat and oats together as food for horses, and find the mixture to be very nutritious.

The acreable produce of this crop varies from 10 to 40 bushels per acre, 20 being about the average. The produce depends greatly on the state of the weather while the plants are in blossom. The legal weight of a bushel of buckwheat is 42 pounds in some States and 48 in others.

When wheat flour is scarce and dear, that of buckwheat is a valuable substitute, and buckwheat cakes are extensively patronized in city and country. If the hull or outer covering is removed or shelled off before grinding, the flour is as white and delicate in appearance as that of rye. There is a striking identity between the composition of the grain of buckwheat and rye; also in the constitution of the ashes when both plants have been grown on the same quality of soil.—Western Rural.

EPICRAMIC.—Every crusty old bachelor avails himself of the right to make the fair sex a target for his squibs. We subjoin one that is new to us:

Men dying, make their wills, but wives
Escape a work so sad;
Why should they make what all their lives
The gentle dames have had?

SHEEP SHEARING BY MACHINERY.—The difficulty of clipping the wool from the loose, uneven and moving surface of a live sheep's hide, even by the use of hand shears, has induced a very general opinion that this laborious part of the wool-grower's business can never be done by machinery. Neither do we see exactly how a machine can take off the jacket and the fashionable neck-gearing of an American Merino, but Dr. Boynton tells us that he has seen it done. The machine is the invention of Mr. R. T. Smith, Nashua, N. H., and though it is not yet perfected, the Dr. expresses himself highly pleased with its operation at the two trials that he has witnessed the present season. He saw it take the wool from the neck of as wrinkly a buck as is generally found in any flock of Merinos, making hardly a scratch. He predicts for it perfect success.



Field and Farm.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

CELERY.—APIUM GRAVEOLENS.

CELERY is a plant much raised by market gardeners for Fall and Winter marketing; also in private gardens for family use. The valuable part is its enlarged and succulent petioles, stems of the radical leaves, which, after being blanched by covering with earth, become tender, mild and spicy, and an agreeable and very popular salad for Winter use throughout the country. In the common mode of cultivating this vegetable very much useless labor is expended, and too generally with unsatisfactory results. Most cultivators make it an essential in growing this crop to dig out trenches, enrich the under soil and set the plants in the bottom of these trenches; all this labor of digging trenches is useless, and worse than useless, as a much better and largely superior crop and article may be grown planted on the level surface. Others think it necessary to start the plants in a hot-bed in Mareb, or earlier, but as the plant succeeds and blanches the best in a cool and moist atmosphere, plants that will come forward and produce an equally good, if not better crop, may be grown by sowing the seed in the open ground as soon in the Spring as it can be worked, say during the month of April. The hot and dry weather of mid-Summer is very unfavorable to the well doing and perfecting of the plant; it requiring the more cool and moist weather of the later season; for this reason early planting is less desirable than later; also the early matured plant being less relished and saleable, when grown for sale.

Varieties.—Catalogues of seedsmen give us a list of some fifteen or more varieties, each with some special quality claimed as a recommendation; some of these are described as large growing, others medium to dwarf, &c. For all purposes we have found that some of the dwarf varieties are the most valuable, as occupying less space than the mammoth, and at the same time furnishing an edible heart equal to the large, the extra growth being unfit for use, generally, being only an elongation of the outer leaves; while in the dwarf nearly every part is blanched and becomes fit to eat. As the most desirable dwarf varieties I would name Incomparable Dwarf, Dwarf Red, similar to the last in all respects, except color; Boston Market, a rather more robust variety than the Incomparable. Seymour's Superb is one of the best of the large growing varieties, and requires more space. The seed catalogues will give a description of the growth and qualities of these and many other varieties, so that I would refer all desirous of further information to them. Washburn, Bliss, and some others give us very extended catalogues as well as many valuable hints for the Flower and Kitchen garden, with description of growth and qualities of vegetables, &c.

Culture.—First, in regard to soil, it should be such as is not subject to drouth in common seasons. The seed-bed should be rich and mellow, free from stones, sticks or other like objections, and specially prepared by thorough deep pulverizing of the soil and mixing in well fined, partly decayed stable manure; that which has been prepared and kept under cover is the best; fine the surface to the greatest possible extent with the steel toothed garden rake and make it level; sow the seed thinly, quite so, in rows 8 to 10 inches apart; the beds should be of convenient width to weed handy; after the seed is sown roll the bed with a garden roll, or spat it even, to have a smooth compact surface; give all the after cultivation necessary to keep perfectly clear of weeds, and stir the soil to keep the plants healthy and growing. We have found that much stronger roots are produced if the plants are sheared, or topped, once or twice previous to transplanting. The ground for transplanting into should be rich, freshly prepared and well worked. Lay off the rows three feet apart for the dwarf varieties, having the surface as near level as practicable, with a convenient marker, and set the plants six inches apart along the rows.

Much depends upon the care and skill used in transplanting, in having it done well, so that the roots are properly inserted in the soil and well firmed, so that they, the roots, may take hold at once, and the plant not suffer from long wilting or drouth. Moist or damp weather is best for transplanting, and July is the best time, unless an early crop is desired, when it may be done earlier, but often that set in July will catch up and mature as early as that set three or four weeks earlier. Give sufficient cultivation with the cultivator or hoe, or both, to keep the soil loose, free of weeds, and the plants well growing. About the middle or latter part of August commence the earthing up process; this earthing up is necessary, as before intimated, to the proper blanching and rendering it eatable; be careful in earthing up to keep the stems together, so that no soil will get into the center to injure the plant. This earthing up is done from time to time as the plants grow, the dirt being taken from between the rows and hauled each way against the plants; the last, or finishing earthing is done with the spade, banking clear to the top of the plants. Four or five weeks are needed to thoroughly blanch the stems so as to give the crisp tender quality so desirable in a good article. The earthing up should always be done when the plants are free from wet of dew or rain.

My Riverdale Farm, June, 1867.

ON CUTTING GRASS FOR HAY.

GRASS cut in the blossom will make more milk than if allowed to stand later. Cut a little before blossoming, it will make more than when in the blossom; and the cows prefer it, which is by no means an unimportant consideration, since their tastes should always be consulted. Grass cut somewhat green, and properly cured, is next to fresh green grass in palatable and nutritive qualities, and so a sensible and practical farmer writes me: "The time of cutting grass depends upon the use we wish to make of it. If for working oxen and horses, I would let it stand till a little out of the blossom; but if to feed out to new milch cows in the Winter, I would prefer to cut it very green. It is then worth for the making of milk in the Winter almost double that cut later." Every farmer knows the milk-producing properties of *roven*, which is generally cut before it blossoms.

No operation on the farm is of greater importance to the dairyman than the cutting of his grass and the manner of curing hay, and in this respect the practice over the country generally is susceptible of very great improvement. The chief object is to preserve the sweetness and succulence of grass in its natural state, so far as it is possible; and this object cannot be gained by exposing it too long to the scorching suns and the drenching rains to which we are liable in this climate. We generally try to make our hay too much.

As to the best modes of curing clover, my own experience and observation accord with that of several practical farmers who write me as follows: "My method of curing clover is this: What is mowed in the morning I leave in the swath, to be turned over early in the afternoon. At about four o'clock, or while it is still warm, I put it into small cocks with a fork, and, if the weather is favorable, it may be housed on the fourth or fifth day, the cocks being turned over on the morning of the day it is to be carted. By so doing, all the heads and leaves are saved, and these are worth more than the stems. This has been my method for the last ten years. For new milch cows in the Winter I think there is nothing better. It will make them give as great a flow of milk as any hay, unless it be good rowen." Another says: "When the weather bids fair to be good, I mow it after the dew is off, and cock it up after being wilted, using the fork instead of rolling with the rake, and let it remain several days, when it is fit to put into the barn." And another: "I mow my clover in the forenoon, and towards night of the same day I take forks and pitch it into cocks and let it stand till it cures. The day I cart it, I turn the cocks over, so as to air the lower part. I then put it into

the mow with all the leaves and heads on, and it is as nice and green as green tea. I think it worth for milch cows and sheep as much per ton as English hay. And still another: "I have found no better hay for farm stock than good clover, cut in season. For milch cows it is much better than timothy. The rowen crop is better than any other for calves."—*Flint on Grasses.*

IS IT PROFITABLE TO GROW ROOT CROPS?

SINCE labor has become so expensive, many of our farmers question whether there is much or any profit in growing root crops. Their cultivation makes a heavy draft upon the working capital of the farmer, and hence the culture of roots has never been so popular in this country as among European nations where labor is cheaper.

With labor at \$30 per month and board, it may not be advisable to enter into extensive culture of roots for cattle feeding. Still, roots may be grown on a moderate scale with most farmers, and be made to pay in various ways.

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. Those who have raised them in this way claim that they are of no detriment to the corn, as their growth is chiefly made after the corn has attained its full size. 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. When fed to milch cows they make a large quantity of milk, but they do not keep so well as other roots, and should be fed out in the early part of Winter. This, of course, renders them less valuable than the ruta-baga and other varieties of turnips that are later keepers.

For late keeping there is no root, perhaps, that surpasses the mangold. While in England, last season, we saw immense heaps containing thousands of bushels that were being opened in July, and the mangolds came out fresh and brittle and were highly relished by stock. In England they are stored in long heaps, covered with straw and earth.

When cattle are kept on the soiling system, mangolds can be grown to good purpose, since a quantity of succulent food can be stored up that may be used early in Spring, before the usual forage crops are ready. The mangold requires a rich, deep soil, and heavy manuring. They are sown in drills, wide enough apart to admit of being cultivated with a horse hoe. The yellow globe mangold, with good cultivation, gives immense crops, and for cattle feeding is believed to be one of the most profitable roots to be grown in this country. The mangold is not so well adapted to feeding in early Winter as the turnip and carrot, as they are apt to scour the cows. When kept later, they mature and ripen, and are then very nutritious.

Carrots make most excellent food for all kinds of stock, but they are more difficult, or at least more expensive to grow, than either the turnip or mangold. They succeed well on a deep clay loam. They are of exceedingly slow growth during the early part of the season, and such soils as are adapted to them are apt to throw up a vigorous growth of weeds, before the rows of carrots can be well marked out, making the early weeding tedious.

On very weedy lands it is a question whether the crop can be made to pay with us, even when labor is cheap, but upon land which has been for two years in hoed crops, with good culture and all weeds kept down, many farmers contend they may be grown at a good profit now. They will often yield at the rate

of 600 to 800 bushels per acre. We have grown large crops by pursuing the following method of culture: On land which was plowed in the Fall, plow again deeply, about the middle of May. Then, about the first of June, cart on a good coat of well rotted manure, spread and plow in. Plow again the middle of June, harrow and get in good order, and drill in rows two feet apart. The repeated plowings kill and check the weeds, so that but little trouble is had in the first weeding, which should be attended to as soon as the plants can be seen. Thin out the plants in the rows, so they will stand about five inches apart, and the after culture may be done with the horse hoe. The carrot makes a superior feed for horses, in connection with oats, and with oats at 80 cents per bushel, carrots will pay as a horse feed.

With rather a doubtful prospect for the Spring grain crops, on account of the cold, wet, backward Summer, we believe that farmers will make a good investment by growing a crop of roots to meet the requirements of their stock. They afford food peculiarly suited to the constitution and habits of neat stock and promote their health. They serve to make up a variety of food which animals need, and on this account are often more valuable than grains.—*Utica Herald.*

CUTTING HAY EARLY.

It is now better understood than formerly that some kinds of hay should be cut early, especially for cows. But in the declaration of new doctrines we are disposed to go to the extreme. Because some grass cut in June or early July makes better hay, it is not to be assumed that all grass will. Clover, orchard grass and timothy attain their growth and mature rapidly and early, and very soon, if not cut, lose their good quality; and this is true also of some other kinds of grass growing on rich and warm uplands, and on any highly cultivated land. But there is a great deal of meadow which affords a very superior quality of hay, though cut late in August. This is the case with much of the bottom lands, or river meadows, where the grass does not attain half its growth by the fourth of July, and, if cut so early, would want its superior quality. It dries up rapidly, the juices being only partially developed, and it lacks nutriment. Any one who has had occasion to mow a strip of such grass in the early part of July and to cut the grass adjoining this strip four weeks later, will be struck with observing the difference, not only in quantity, but in the quality of the two cuttings. There is also a great deal of upland natural meadow, where the grass is of slow growth and late, and where the quality of it for hay improves nearly as long as it continues to grow, retaining its good color and rich aroma quite late in the season. In seasons of low temperature, such meadows will furnish an excellent quality of hay, cut as late as the first of September.—*Country Gentleman.*

A VALUABLE MILK FARM.—Mr. Ross, Wiggins of Baltimore, now over seventy years of age, purchased in 1861, a farm of about seven hundred acres, along the banks of the Patapsco river, and about six miles from Baltimore. His land cost him \$50,000; he added buildings at a cost of \$20,000; his fencing cost him \$3,000, and he manured at an outlay of \$67,000—making the total cost of his estate \$120,000. During the year ending on the first of May last, his sales of milk amounted to \$37,630.71; of cows and calves, in the same period, he sold \$11,986 worth, and had fifteen or twenty more animals on hand than at the commencement of the year. He however purchased \$9,098 worth of cows and heifers during the year. At the close of the year he had on hand two hundred and twenty tons of hay, and his total product of hay for the year was estimated at eighteen hundred tons—a great average per acre. His system of manuring tends to build up and nourish his land, and not to impoverish it. His milk is sold to the small grocers in Baltimore, at thirty cents a gallon.

INFLAMMATION OF THE UDDER.—One of the troubles to which cows are subject during the early season of their milk, is caked bag, or inflammation of the udder. In most cases, two or three thorough bathings in cold water will allay the inflammation, and effect a cure. If you would make a sure thing of it, prepare a quart or two of good lively hop-yeast, about the consistency of pancake batter, and daub the udder thoroughly with this, rubbing it in with the hand, working it quite up on the sides where it comes in contact with the legs and unites with the body, letting as much of it adhere as possible. It will act more continuously than a mere wash, and generally reduce the inflammation in twenty-four hours. If not, repeat it.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*





FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 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.

CAREFUL EXPERIMENTING.

In developing new ideas, and in testing the truthfulness of freshly promulgated theories, we are too apt not to sufficiently take into consideration all the attendant circumstances. Sometimes that is accredited to experiment which may be the result of the purest accident; and one man may fail to produce the results his neighbor did, though following precisely the same rule and routine. To the want of taking all the circumstances into consideration may be attributed the contradictory opinions in reference to certain processes.

Farmer A. experiments with a newly advertised fertilizer. Last year his grain looked sickly, grew up sparsely, and headed badly. This year he applies the fertilizer in question, and he is jubilant over the result, the yield being abundant in quantity and superior in quality. Of course it was the artificial stimulant that did it! But stop, farmer A., we have a few inquiries to make:

"Neighbor B.'s field looks as well as your own. How did it look last year?"

"Wretched, sir; worse than mine."

"Did he apply, this year, the fertilizer you had so highly?"

"He did not," replies farmer A., a shadow of misgiving passing over his face, as he already anticipates the final query.

"If his field, in which the artificial stimulant was not used, presents as fine a yield as that of yours, in which it was used, what right have you to attribute the flattering appearance of yours to the fertilizer in question? May not the quality of the seed, the time of planting, the favorableness of the season, or a dozen other different agencies have contributed to the encouraging result?"

Those results are most surely to be relied upon that follow a succession of experiments, that are made when all other circumstances are equally favorable, and that are founded on observations that suggested their practicability. We will give a case in point:

Mr. Henderson, author of "Gardening for Profit," paid considerable attention to the insect which attacks the roots of the cabbage family, causing the destructive disease known as the "club root." One locality was free from the pest, while another quite adjacent wilted under it. Suspecting that the difference existed in the soil, he examined that of the former, and found it abounding in granulated particles of oyster shells, a deposit washed up from the river shore. This discovery suggested to him, and quite naturally so, that in all probability the insect was a fastidious one, and had an especial aversion to limy substances. He applied bone dust liberally to an affected lot of ground, and the next crop was free from the disease, while an adjoining one, which had not been thus treated, was not.

Subsequent experiments convinced him that the insect cannot exist to an injurious extent in a soil impregnated with lime. The fact that the adjacent tract was planted at the same time, and other circumstances made as much alike in both cases as possible, with the exception of liming, was strong corroborative testimony. Of the latter, more was adduced in the fact that he could raise successive crops by applying the same remedy. This was contrary to an experience of twenty years; each alternate year the pest had developed, because the insect deposits its eggs in the soil the first year and attacks the roots in its larva condition the second year.

We give this as an instance of the process by which some men arrive at definite results, and benefit the world so much. Observations correctly made are the starting point; next there is a careful, pains-taking reasoning from cause to effect, to be followed by discriminating experiments, which prove the course of reasoning to be either false or truthful. We repeat it: experimental farming requires a fair allowance of good judgment. If more of this quality was possessed and exercised, some things in farming operations would seem less contradictory, and less time would be lost in exploring theories as nebulous as they are preposterous.

A COLD SUMMER.

THE unusually wet and cold Spring—the most backward since 1837—is succeeded by a cool, cloudy, wet June. Such weather is certainly remarkable; and many farmers who cultivate moist, late land, begin to despond of making a corn crop this year. It will be remembered that a French agricultural writer, of much distinction, predicted, in January, that we should have a cold Summer in 1867. We wrote a paragraph in reference to this meteorologist's prediction, in April; yet did not consider it of much importance, for scientific men are not infallible, nor are they generally more correct in weather wisdom than farmers who are practical meteorologists.

Without giving the French savant the credit of prophesy, we are admonished by the remarkable character of the season to acknowledge that he made a tolerable correct guess this time. We are also admonished of this fact, that unless the balance of the season is more propitious, a very large section of the country, especially New England and the North-West, will not raise half a corn crop. The planting in those sections was retarded by cold weather and an unusual rain-fall throughout April and May; in fact, many thousands of acres were not planted until the advent of June. Now, without a very favorable Summer, and the absence of frost in early Autumn, an average corn crop cannot be produced this season.

We do not wish to discourage our farm friends, but, on the contrary, desire to remind them of the best thing to be done to avert a failure in a season like the present. Good culture always increases a corn crop, even in the most favorable of seasons; but now, the art of perfect culture, as far as practicable, must be adopted. As often as the ground is dry and friable, keep your one horse ploughs, cultivators and hand-hoes in operation. By this extra attention to the crop you keep the soil in good order, giving it a chance to absorb the extra rains, and also permitting the solar heat to penetrate the surface and warm it up. Frequent rains form a hard crust on many soils, which reflect the heat instead of absorbing it. The only remedy for this is to cultivate often and give the young corn the best possible chance. With a season of an average low temperature, like the present, we cannot expect fair crops without extra labor. Even if the Summer turns out hot, your extra tillage will be repaid by increased production.

CHEESE FACTORIES.—The rapidity of increase in cheese factories, in some of the States, is remarkable. New York takes the lead, as in most improvements in agriculture, and has now nearly four hundred cheese factories in operation—using the milk of more than one hundred and seventy thousand cows. Ohio comes next, having upwards of sixty factories, and consuming the milk of forty-two thousand cows. Massachusetts claims a dozen factories, to which thirty-seven thousand cows contribute their milk—proving that the Bay State factories are larger than those of Ohio. The great State of Pennsylvania, which is one of the largest and best grazing States in the Union, has only five cheese factories—towards which less than one thousand cows contribute their milk. With as good grazing land as can be found between the Atlantic coast and the Rocky Mountains, Pennsylvania does not produce half her own butter or cheese.

SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

THE Prairie Farmer, of Chicago, is represented at the Paris Exposition by one of its Editors, Mr. W. W. Corbett, who is writing home an interesting series of letters, descriptive of agricultural machinery and other matters, as witnessed at the grand carnival of nations.

Potato bugs have commenced their ravages in the North Western States. The Wisconsin Farmer, of Madison, says "the bugs pounce on the vines as soon as out of the ground, and make short work of them." This exhibits the wicked character of Wisconsin bugs; out this way they are more considerate—if not reasonable—for they rarely disturb potato vines until about the time they are in blossom. A sprinkling of ground plaster or sulphur is a remedy for these rascals.

The Southern Ruralist, of Greensburg, Louisiana, invites us to copy its prospectus, stating, "we will pay you in vines or seeds—our only currency." Gentlemen, you are liberal—prodigal in poverty, perhaps. Send us a seed of *Jonah's gourd*, and we'll see how it looks.

The cultivation of the olive, and its manufacture into oil is strongly recommended by the California Farmer, of San Francisco. The Editor is excessively fond of the genuine Spanish olive oil, (Eastern Editors are slippery enough without it!) and predicts that the time is coming when olives will be extensively grown on our Pacific shores. As the olive yields its crop biennially, we are fearful that our California friend will never see an annual harvest of olives in the Golden State.

A correspondent of the Rural New Yorker, of Rochester, predicts this year a prolific one for the cut-worm, on account of the cold, backward season. As a remedy for the cut-worm he says late ploughing of greensward, for corn, is desirable. The grass thus turned under, (near the time of planting), affords food for the cut-worm until the corn plants are beyond their reach. He also recommends the use of a heavy roller over the land before the crop is planted. This is all excellent advice, but is too late to be applicable for this season.

The agricultural Editor of the Saturday Evening Post, Philadelphia, is visiting the "new settlements" in New Jersey. Among other matters, he talks sensibly to all who have laud- fever on the brain. Hear what he says:—

"Don't let your ambition to become a large landed proprietor lead you into the purchase of more territory than you can pay for, improve and properly cultivate; having in mind always these facts, that one acre thoroughly cultivated is better than three slovenly man-slaughtered; and that in farming unimproved acres pay no dividends."

The Magazine of Horticulture, Boston, has a capital article on Farm Embellishment. The author urges the importance of neat buildings, shrubbery, and a reasonably sized lawn. From one to two acres, with smooth grass, shade trees, both deciduous and evergreen, add much to the attractiveness of all rural homes. New England farmers have better taste in these matters than our agriculturists in the Middle and Western States. A farm with lawn, shade trees, &c., always commands a better price, to say nothing of the pleasantness and attractiveness of these embellishments.

The cultivation of Small Fruits has made greater progress in the last ten years than it ever made before in this country. Attention is just now being especially turned in this direction. The Massachusetts Ploughman of the 15th inst. devotes a leader to the subject, urging farmers at least to cultivate enough of the small fruits to supply their own families and those of a few of their neighbors. Such a course will end, if the experiment is properly conducted, in their devoting more time and ground to the object; because small fruits offer as wide, and promising, and safe a field for

enterprise and thrift, as any other branch of soil cultivation.

HOE! EVERY ONE THAT THIRSTETH!—The New England Farmer insists upon a frequent hoeing of the corn crop; it not only eradicates the weeds, but tends to warm, moisten and manure the soil. The cultivation admits the water to the plants, stimulating their roots, carrying freely with it the ammonia, so that it touches the minerals in the soil and dissolves an acceptable portion of them. Tillage is as essential as manure; it was the main stay in ancient farming; the Romans made Sterculius a god because he discovered that the droppings of animals had the same effect upon the soil as to hoe it.

THE COTTON CROP.—Speculators in cotton begin to croak from the planting of the seed to the period of gathering the crop. Before the Rebellion, when cotton buyers and speculators controlled the market, we heard a great deal of this talk; recently these interested gentlemen have uttered the old cry, and would make us believe that a small area is planted, and that the crop prospect is unfavorable. A Georgia correspondent predicts a crop of 500,000 bales for that State. A Charleston journal speaks enthusiastically of the prospect in a majority of the sea-board counties. From Alabama, we hear grumblings from the country press because "so much land is planted with cotton." Louisiana papers say the growing crop looks healthy, but is full two weeks late. From these facts we conclude that free labor has not murdered King Cotton; that its culture is by no means abandoned, and that the crop of 1867 will be much larger than that of last year. The steady decline of cotton goods at the North is an evidence of no failure in this great staple of Southern prosperity.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

Cattle are becoming so scarce in the Northern States that it is encouraging to read in a late Jacksonville (Fla.) Union, that such immense herds of cattle are roaming at will through the wilds of that State and Georgia, as to prove a serious inconvenience to the railroad trains which traverse those sections.

A correspondent of the American Agriculturist says that rats dislike coal tar very much, and that he is in the habit of daubing it about their holes and runs, with good results. Coal tar mixed with sand to the consistency of thick mortar, is an effectual stopper to rat-holes.

The Cuban sugar crop will be ten per cent. short of an average.

The Prairie du Chien Union says 20,000 bushels of wheat arrive there daily, and there must be more wheat in Minnesota and Iowa than speculators say.

Through the whole South the earliest vegetables and the first spring chickens are brought into the towns by the freedmen. "And they save their money to buy them a farm, to lead a different life."

Horace Greeley says that he lost \$1200 by the Fawks' steam plow failure in Illinois, but he still expresses the belief that within ten years, land will be plowed twenty inches deep at a cost of \$1 per acre.

In regard to killing Canada thistles by plowing and hoeing, a correspondent of the New York Farmers' Club says he has a piece of land that has been hoed 15 years, and there are ten thistles now to one where he commenced. He succeeds better in mowing them when in blossom.

A piece of roofing slate, any thin flat stone, even a single, placed under canteloupes, water-melons, &c., will prevent the ground from extracting the flavor from the lower part of the melon, and also considerably hasten its ripening.

A Cow swallowed a moccasin snake, near Petersburg, Va., a few days since, and died in a few minutes.

The cultivation of Carolina rice is to be commenced in India, where experiments have proved that it can be successfully grown.

ELEGANCE DOES NOT MAKE A HOME.—I never saw a garment too fine for man or maid; there was never a chair too good for a cobbler, a cooper or king to sit in, never a house too fine to shelter the human head. These elements about us—the gorgeous sky, the imperial sun, are not too good for the human race. Elegance fits man. But do we not value these tools of housekeeping a little more than they are worth, and sometimes mortgage a house for the mahogany we would bring into it? I had rather eat my dinner off the head of a barrel, or dress after the fashion of John the Baptist in the wilderness, or sit on a block all my life, than to consume all of myself before I got to a home, and take so much pains with the outside that the inside was hollow as an empty nut.





The Fireside Muse.

A ROSE OF JUNE.

There never was a fairer May,
A sweeter month of flowers,
For well I marked it every day,
Its sunshine and its showers.
I saw the wind-flowers speck with white
The woodlands and the hills,
I saw the garden-plots grow bright
With golden daffodils;
And round the bloomy apple-trees
That brushed my lattice-pane
I heard the humming honey-bees
Sing many a soft refrain.

Yet—"wax and wane with speed," I cried,
"Oh, mellow moon of May,
And usher in the summer-tide
I long for every day!
For when the honey-suckles shed
Their sweetness through the air,
And when the roses white and red
Go climbing every where—
A bud of hope will bloom at last,
And you shall see, O Moon,
Upon my happy, happy breast
The fairest rose of June!"

And so the young May-moon grew old,
For seasons wax and wane,
And heed the happiness they hold
As little as the pain.
One morning when the east was red
With promise of the day,
I looked, and lo! upon my bed
The dainty blossom lay;
A rose of June beyond compare—
For ah! what roses blow
With dimpled cheeks, and golden hair,
And violet eyes below?

And never yet was rose of June
That blossomed all the year;
But mine (ah, you shall see it, Moon!)
As lovely will appear
When Winter wraps the frozen fields
In burial robes of white,
As when the radiant Summer yields
Her treasures of delight.
Nay, more—when all the flowers are dead,
And all the seasons o'er,
My rose will lift a fearless head,
In amaranthine bloom arrayed,
Beyond the shining shore!

Fireside Reading.

HOW I CAME TO BUY A FARM.

BY BAYARD TAYLOR.

In the first place it runs in the blood. If there is any law I believe in, it is that of the hereditary transmission of traits, qualities, capacities and passions. My father is a farmer, my grandfather was, and his father before him, and his again, to the seventh ancestor, who came over in one of William Penn's vessels, and immediately set about reducing the superfluous sylvanisms of the Apostle's *Sylvania*. If I could brush away the clouds which hang about this portion of the genealogical tree, I have no doubt that I should find its trunk striking through cottages or country halls for some centuries further; and that "Roger" (of 1614) the son of Thomas, the son of "Roger," who wore the judicial ermine upon his escutcheon, had his favorite country-house in the neighborhood of London.

The child that tumbled into a newly plowed furrow never forgets the smell of the fresh earth. He thrives upon it as the hutter's boy thrives upon the stream of blood, but a healthier apple-red comes into his cheeks, and his growing muse is subdued in more innocent pastimes. Almost my first recollections is that of a swamp, into which I went hare-legged at morning, and out of which I came, when driven by hunger, with long stockings of black mud and a mask of the same. If the child was missed from the house, the first thing that suggested itself was to climb upon a mound which overlooked the swamp. Somewhere, among the tufts of the rushes and the blade leaves of the calamus, a little brown ball was sure to be seen moving, now dipping out of sight, now rising again, like a bit of drift on the rippling green. It was my head. The treasures I there collected were black terrapins with orange spots, baby frogs the size of a chestnut, thrush's eggs, and stems of purple phlox.

I cannot say that my boyish experience of farming was altogether attractive. I had a constitutional horror of dirty hands, and my first employment—picking stones and weeding

corn—were rather a torture to this superfine taste. But almost every field had its walnut tree, and many of the last year's nuts retained their flavor in the Spring; melons were planted among the corn, and the meadow which lay between never exhausted its store of wonders. Besides, there were eggs to hide at Easter, cherries and strawberries in May; fruits all Summer; fishing parties by torch-light; lobelia and sumac to be gathered, dried and sold for pocket money; and in the Fall, chestnuts, persimmons, wild grapes, cider, and the grand "butchering," after frost came—so that all the pleasures I knew were those incidental to a farmer's life. The books I read came from the village library, and the task of helping to "fodder" on the dark Winter evenings was lightened by the anticipation of sitting down to Gibbon's Rome, or Thaddeus of Warsaw, afterwards. To be sure I sometimes envied the storekeeper's boy, whom I had once seen shoveling sugar out of a hoghead, and who now and then stealthily dipped his hand into the raisin box; but it is not the nature of any child to be perfectly satisfied with his lot.

A life of three years in a small country-store effectually cured me of such folly. When I returned to the homestead as a youth, I first felt the delight and the refreshment of labor in the open air. I was then able to take the plow-handle, and I still remember the pride I felt when my furrows were pronounced even and well turned. Although it was already decided that I should not make farming the business of my life, I thrust into my plans a slender wedge of hope that I might one day own a bit of ground, for the luxury of having, if not the profit of cultivating it. The aroma of the sweet soil had tintured my blood; the black mud of the swamp still stuck to my feet.

It happened that, adjoining my father's property, there was an old farm, which was fast relapsing into a state of nature. Thirty or forty years had passed since the plow had touched any part of it. The owner, who had lived upon another estate, had always declined to sell—perhaps for the reason that no purchaser could be found to offer an encouraging price. Left thus to herself, nature played all sorts of wild and picturesque pranks with the property. Two heaps of stones were all that marked the site of house and barn; half a dozen ragged plum and peach trees hovered around the outskirts of the vanished garden, the melancholy survivors of all its bloom and fruitage; and a mixture of tall sedge grass, sumach and black-berry bushes covered the fields. The hawthorn hedges which lined the lane had disappeared, but some clumps of privet still held their ground, and the wild grape and the scarlet-berried celastrus elambered all over the tall sassafras and tulip trees.

Along the road which bounded this farm on the east, stood a grove of magnificent oaks, more than a hundred feet in height. Standing too closely to admit of lateral boughs near the earth, their trunks rose like a crowded colonnade clear against the sky, and the sunset, burning through, took more gorgeous hues of orange and angry crimson. Knowing that if the farm were sold, those glorious trees would be the first to fall, and that the sunset would thereby for me lose half its splendor, I gradually came to contemplate them with the interest which an uncertain, suspended fate inspires. At the foot of the oaks, on the border of the field, there was an old, guarded mother pine, surrounded by her brood of young ones, always springing up in the same direction, and from the fact that the seeds were scattered by the northwest winds, seemed to be running off down the slope, as if full fledged and eager to make their way into the world. The old pine had an awful interest to me as a boy. More than once huge black snakes had been seen hanging from its boughs, and the farm hands would tell mysterious stories of an old mother serpent as long as a fence-rail, and as swift as a horse. In fact my brother and I, on our way to the peach trees, which still produced some bitter flavored fruit, had more than once seen snakes in our path. On a certain occasion, as my memory runs, I chased

the snake while he ran away. His story is that he chased and I ran—and the question remains unsettled to this day.

In another wood of chestnuts, beyond the field, the finest yellow violets were to be found. The azaleas blossomed in their season, and the ivory Indian pipe sprang up under the beech trees. Sometimes we extended our rambles to the end of the farm, and looked down into the secluded dells which it covered—such glimpses were like the discovery of unknown lands. How far off the other people lived! How strange it must be to dwell continually down in that hollow with no other house in sight. But when I build a house, I thought, I shall build it upon the ridge, with a high steeple, from the top of which I can see far and wide. That deserted farm was to me like the Euxuria of Hartley Coleridge, but my day dreams were far less ambitious than his. If I had known then what I learned afterwards, that a tradition of buried treasure still lingers about the garden, I should no doubt have dug up millions in imagination, roofed my house with gold, and made the steeple thereof five hundred feet high.

At last came the launch into the world—a slide, a plunge, a shudder, and the ship rides the waves. Absence, occupation, travel, substituted realities for dreams, and the farm, if not forgotten, became a very subordinate object in the catalogue of things to be attached. Whenever I visited the homestead, however, I saw the sunset through its grating of forest, and remembered the fate that still hung suspended over the trees. Fifty years of neglect had given the place a had name among the farmers, while Nature, as if delighted to recover possession, had gone on adorning it in her own matchless way. I looked on the spot with an instructed eye, and sighed, as I counted up my scanty earnings, at the reflection that years must elapse before I could venture to think of possessing it. My wish, nevertheless, was heard and remembered.

In July, 1853, I was on the Island of Loo Choo. Returning to the flag-ship of the squadron, one evening, after a long tramp over the hills to the south of Napa Kiang, in a successful search for the ruins of the ancient fortress of Tima Gusku. I was summoned by the officer of the deck to receive a package which had been sent on board from one of the other vessels. Letters from home, after an interval of six months without any news! I immediately asked permission to burn a lamp on the orlop-deck, and read until midnight, forgetting the tramp of the sentry and the sound of the sleepers in their hammocks around me. Opening letter after letter, and devouring, piece by piece, the banquet of news they contained, the most startling as well as the most important communication was—the old farm was mine! Its former owner had died, the property was sold, and had been purchased in my name. I went on deck. The midwatch had just relieved the first; the night was pitch dark, only now and then a wave burst into a flash of white fire. But as I looked westward, over the stern rail, I saw the giant oaks, rising black against the crimson sunset, and knew that they were waiting for me—that I shall surely see them again.

Five months afterwards I approached home, after an absence of nearly two years and a half. It was Christmas Eve—a clear, sharp Winter night. The bare earth was hard frozen; the sun was down, a quarter-moon shone overhead, and the keen, northwest winds blew in my face. I had known no Winters for three years and the braeing stimulus of the cold was almost as novel as it was refreshing. Presently I recognized the boundaries of my property—yes, I actually possessed a portion of the earth's surface! After all, I thought possession—at least so far as nature is concerned—means simply protection. The moonlit wilderness is not more beautiful to me than it was before; but I have the right, secured by legal documents, to preserve its beauty. I need not implore the woodmen to spare those trees; I'll spare them myself. This is the only difference in my relation to the property. So

long as any portion of the landscape, which pleases me, is not disturbed, I possess it quite as much as this.

During these reflections, I had reached the foot of the ridge. A giant tulip tree, the honey of whose blossoms I had many a time pilfered in my boyhood, crowned the slope, dropping its long boughs, as if weary of stretching them in welcome. Behind it stood the oaks, side by side, far along the road. As I reached the first tree, the wind, which had fallen, gradually swelled, humming through the bare branches, until a deep organ bass filled the wood. It was a hoarse, yet graceful chorus of welcome—inarticulate, yet intelligible. "Welcome, welcome home!" went booming through the trees, "welcome our master and our preserver! See, with all the voice we can catch from the winds, we utter our joy; for now there is an end to fear and suspense; he who knows us and loves us spreads over us the shelter of his care. Long shall we flourish on the hill; long shall our grateful shadows cover his path. We shall hail his coming afar; our topmost boughs will spy him across the valleys, and whisper it to the fraternal woods. We are old; we never change; we shall never cease to remember and to welcome our master!"

So the trees were the first to recognize me. Listening to their deep resonant voices, (which I would not have exchanged for the dry rattle of a hundred league long forest of tropical palms.) I was conscious of a new sensation which nothing but the actual sight of my own property could have suggested. I felt like a tired swimmer, when he first touches ground—like a rudderless ship, drifting at the will of the storm, when her best bower takes firm hold—like a winged seed, when after floating from bush to bush, and from field to field, it drops at last upon a handful of mellow soil and strikes root. My life had now a *point d'appui*, and standing upon these acres of real estate, it seemed an easier thing to move the world. A million in bank stock or railroad bonds could not have given me the same positive, tangible sense of property.

When I walked over my fields, (yes—actually my fields) the next day, this sensation returned in almost ridiculous excess. "You will of course cut down that ugly old tree?" said some one. It impressed me very much as if I had been told—"that chapter in your book is inferior to the others—tear it out!" or, "your little finger is crooked—have it amputated!" Why, even the sedge grass and sumacs—how beautiful they were! Could I ever make up my mind to destroy them? As for the cedars, the hawthorne, the pivet, the tangled masses of climbing smilax—no, by the bones of Belshazzar, they shall stand. "This field will not be worth much for grain." Well—what if it isn't? "Everything is wild and neglected—it wants cleaning sadly." Everything is grand, beautiful, charming; there is nothing like it! So ran the course of remark and counter remark. I did not suffer my equanimity to be disturbed; was I not sole owner, appeller, and disposer of all? Nor did the trees appear to be sensible of the least fear. They leaned their heads against one another in a sort of happy complacent calm, as if whispering—"It's all right; let us enjoy the sunshine; he'll take care of us!"

Yes, one cannot properly be considered as a member of the Brotherhood of Man, an inhabitant of the earth, until he possesses a portion of her surface. As the sailors say, he *stays*, he don't *live*. The Agrarians, Communists, Levelers, and Flais of all kinds are replenished from the ranks of the non-owners of real estate. Banks break; stocks and scrips of all kinds go up and down on the financial see-saw; but a fee simple of solid earth is *there!* You see it and you feel it; you walk over it. It is yours, and your children's and their progeny's—unless mortgaged and sold through foreclosure—until the Millennium.

And this is how I came to buy a farm.

—Sorr, that needs more top-dressing—Ladies' heads.

LEARNING A TRADE.—It was a wise law of the ancient Jews that sons of even the wealthiest men should be made to serve an apprenticeship at some useful occupation, so that in case of the reverse of fortune they might have something to 'fall back upon.' The same law still exists in Turkey, where every man, even the Sultan himself, must learn a trade. How fortunate would it be now had it been a law in this country! 'Would to God I had a trade!' is the cry of thousands of returned soldiers, North and South, who find themselves ruined in pocket, with no immediate prospect of gaining a livelihood. It should teach parents that whatever else they may give their sons, they should give them a trade. And let us in future be spared the pain of seeing so many stout, able-bodied young men out of employment, and seeking situations where the pen only can be used.



Various Matters.

WRITE FOR THE FARM AND FIRESIDE.

Is there no writing talent among the farmers and horticulturists of Rhode Island? We have published the *Farm and Fireside* nearly six months, yet during this time we have received but three or four communications from writers living in this State. This ought not to be. There are intelligent agriculturists and horticulturists in Rhode Island, and they ought to communicate their thoughts and experiences for the benefit of others. The *Farm and Fireside* is the only agricultural journal in Rhode Island, and the tillers of the soil ought to make it the medium of their communications. We earnestly desire them to do so. There are many persons who can give us facts and experiences of great value. No attempt need be made at "fine writing." Give us practical information, in plain language.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

The Memphis Post calls public attention again to the fact that the United States own a large tract of mineral land in North Alabama. Any one, under the provisions of the homestead law, can obtain a home in this tract for nothing.

The tobacco crop in North Carolina is unpromising, owing to the unfavorable weather and the damage done by the fly, and some of the lands have been planted with other crops. Ohio advices state that the fruit trees are loaded down with more fruit than they can bring to perfection, and a larger supply is anticipated than has been had for years.

A disease known as the milk fever, has broken out among the cows in Michigan. It attacks new milch cows and proves fatal in eight hours.

The annual fair of the Northampton county (Pa.) Agricultural Society will be held on their grounds, at Nazareth, on Tuesday, October 14th.

One man in Chester county (Pa.) has planted eighty acres of potatoes this season.

The Agricultural College buildings at Amherst, Mass., will be finished by September 1st.

It is reported that a farmer near Erie, Pa., bought several barrels of spoiled sausages for the purpose of using them as manure, and put a link into each hill of corn. Before the next day, every dog that lived in a radius of four or five miles of the field, had been there digging sausages. The corn came up a little quicker than the farmer bargained for.

Western Ireland is suffering severe famine and general destitution in consequence of a hard winter and failure of the crops.

Last year California imported 52,000,000 lbs. of raw sugar. Now they are going to make beet sugar, and have sent to Europe for seed.

Three hundred and fifty-one thousand pounds of loose tobacco was sold in Lynchburg last week, besides 311 hogsheads averaging at least 1000 pounds each.

The farmers appear very uneasy about rust in the wheat. There have been indications of it. The heads of the wheat are also rather inferior.—*Charlottesville (Va.) Chronicle.*

The Shenandoah Herald fears that the clover crop of that county will be a short one, and reports corn backward, owing to the want of rain.

The trees in the woods near Newmarket, Va., in Shenandoah county, have been stripped of their foliage by countless numbers of caterpillars.

A large Eastern manufacturing company has sent out an agent to buy 500,000 pounds of wool in Missouri. Sacks furnished, and good prices paid.

The yearly product of butter in Massachusetts is said to be about 9,000,000 pounds; worth, this year, at the farmer's door, the round sum of \$3,000,000.

There are in the United States four hundred and eighty-six cheese factories, of which New York State has the enormously disproportionate number of three hundred and seventy-two,

and all the rest of the country, including Canada, but one hundred and fourteen. Massachusetts has but ten and Pennsylvania five; Ohio has fifty-two, but Oneida county, New York, alone has fifty-nine factories.

Raising early vegetables pays in the vicinity of Boston. An Arlington gardener brought in twelve hundred full grown cucumbers the other day and readily sold them for \$13 per hundred.

Lands suitable for grape-growing, along the lake shore West of Cleveland, readily bring two hundred dollars per acre. The soil in that region consists mostly of a heavy clay, and contains iron and sulphur, the latter a very serviceable ingredient in the cultivation of the vine.

The New York market is literally glutted with strawberries from Jersey, and the wholesale price is down to 12 and 15 cents a quart. There is an immense crop of strawberries this year.

The crop of grass, in New Jersey, will be very large this season. Mowing commenced last week, and, in some parts of the State, there will be double the crop of last year.

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.

CROP PROSPECTS.

Gen. Marston of New Hampshire has just returned from the South, and reports crops as excellent everywhere that he has been. They are better in Georgia than they have been for ten years.

The crops in Iowa are coming forward rapidly and look finely. The corn crop, which at one time it was feared would prove a failure, is now most promising. The fruit crop will be the heaviest known for years.

Of the Western harvest, the Chicago Republican says: "The uniformity of the favorable tone of these reports with reference to the prospective harvest is somewhat remarkable. Spring grain uniformly looks well. All the varieties of fruit promise abundantly, except cherries. With one or two exceptions, winter grain, when spoken of at all, receives favorable mention. There is manifest no tone of discouragement concerning the corn crop. Though late, it is starting finely, under the influence of the June heat; and there is plenty of time for it to grow and produce a heavy harvest, if the season is favorable.

In the more Western sections of the State the potato crop is seriously endangered by the presence of the new potato bug, which seems to be moving Eastward slowly, but steadily, devastating the crop wherever it appears.

The growing crops in Wisconsin are in excellent condition. Corn is reported as very fine in nearly all parts of the State, and vegetation is making up for lost time.

In North Carolina the wheat crop is unusually promising, but there are unfavorable reports about the tobacco crop.

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 best to dispose of them on account of age. This will depend somewhat on the breed of the animals, and the usage they have received. 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 never worn out so long as there was room on her horns for a new wrinkle!

ENGLAND imports more cotton from India than from the United States. During the five years preceding the war in this country the average yearly value of cotton imported into England from India was \$19,313,880. In the five succeeding years the average rose to \$129,423,230. The quantity imported during the year 1866 is the largest known, amounting to 1,847,770 bales, worth upwards of \$165,000,000.

CHANGE OF SEEDS.

From the "Report of an Agricultural Tour in Europe," by John H. Klippart, Esq., recently submitted to the Ohio State Board of Agriculture, and published in the late annual report of that body, we extract the following:

I made many inquiries and collected quite a number of items, facts, or at least supposed facts, in relation to the change of farm crop seeds, but as it would require entirely too much space to give the details of a tenth part of them, I must content myself by giving a simple statement of the conclusions I arrived at, based, of course, upon the statements detailed to me. It appears that any farm crop, as wheat, for example, may be much improved by culture on a farm with appropriate soil; but there is a limit to the improvement of this variety, which I will designate as variety A. ou this farm, which I will designate as farm No. 1. After the limit of improvement has been attained on No. 1 it will then, for a series of years, remain stationary, and after that, even with the best culture, will deteriorate. But if, when it has attained its limit on No. 1, and is then transferred to a farm No. 2, with equally good or better soil, it appears to be susceptible of still further improvement, until it reaches the limit of No. 2, then it will improve again on farm No. 3, etc. Whilst the variety A is deteriorating on farm No. 1, the variety B, under proper treatment from farm No. 2 or 3, will improve by the side of it. Hence, the German farmers have adopted a system of seed exchanges and are anxious to obtain seeds from foreign countries. They seem to have given this subject a great deal of attention, and take into account the kind of soil, meteorology, and level above the sea where the seeds were grown, and I am inclined to think they make it a point to obtain good seeds from elevated regions grown on an inferior soil. The exchanges are conducted mostly by the local agricultural societies. The Sonderhausen agricultural association have made many experiments in the exchange of seeds, and now recommend, as the result of their experience, that "seeds from a good rich soil, to a cold and indifferent one is profitable, and vice versa!"

BENEFIT OF ADVERTISING IN THE FARM AND FIRESIDE.—Mr. John Gites, of South Framingham, Mass., two weeks ago advertised several head of Jersey cattle. He informs us that this little advertisement was the means of selling all of them. Joseph G. Ray, Esq., of Franklin, Mass., bought five. This reminds us to say that Mr. Ray recently sold a Jersey cow, with calf by her side, for six hundred dollars. She was twelve years old. Five years previously he bought her of Mr. Giles.

RADISHES.—If any of our readers who cannot raise radishes on account of worms, or unsuitable soil, will strew common wheat bran, one inch thick, on any good soil, and hoe it in, and then plant their seed, they may eat as good radishes as anybody can raise.

At a recent sale of Alderney cattle near Baltimore, Indiana, sixteen cows and heifers were sold at an average price of \$224.75 per head. The highest price was \$380 for a four year old cow. Five bull calves sold at an average of \$75 each. The highest price was \$85 and the lowest \$65.

SMALL FARMS, it appears, are wanted in Virginia. At a meeting on Friday, of farmers, landowners and capitalists at Alexandria, it was unanimously resolved "that the great need of this State is that the lands of Virginia should be divided into smaller farms than those in which they are now held, in order to promote the settlement among us of real owners of the soil, who will thus have a direct interest in the future welfare and prosperity of the State."

SALE OF THOROUGH-BRED HORSES.—The large sale of thorough-bred horses, and improved cattle, owned by R. A. Alexander, of Woodburn, Kentucky, came off, on the 13th inst. The prices averaged very low, for stock of so much celebrity.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

(For the week ending June 21, 1867.)

FARM PRODUCTS, FUEL, &c.		WOOD &c.	
Hay per ton.....	\$15	Wood per cord.....	\$48 50
Straw per ton.....	\$12	Beans per quart.....	15c
Coal per ton.....	\$10 00	Potatoes.....	1.10
Oats per bush.....	\$1 00	Onions.....	1.00
GROCERIES, &c.			
Flour.....	\$16, 15a19 20	Raisins.....	22a25c
Corn Meal.....	\$1 25	Molasses per gal.....	62a55c
Rye.....	\$1 50	Y. H. Tea.....	\$1 20
Saleratus.....	10a15c	Black Tea.....	80ca1 10
Kerosene Oil.....	64c	Oil per gal.....	1 00
Cheese per lb.....	24c	Fluid per gal.....	1 00
Butter per lb.....	35a39c	Candles per lb.....	25a35c
Codfish per lb.....	25c	Eggs per doz.....	30c
Java Coffee per lb.....	25a30c	Lard per lb.....	15a18c
Mackerel, new.....	10a12c	Sugar per lb.....	14a18c
MEATS, &c.			
Beef Steak.....	25a30c	Lard.....	16a18c
Beef, corned.....	12a16c	Poultry.....	20a25c
Tongues, clear.....	25c	Shoulders.....	18c
Mutton.....	16a20c	Sausages.....	20c
Veal.....	16a20c	Tripe.....	12c
Pork, fresh.....	16a20c	Pork, salt.....	18c

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

June 19, 1867.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 129; Sheep and Lambs 4123. Swine, 1659. Western cattle, 1052; Eastern cattle, 40; Working oxen and Northern cattle, 125.
 PRICES. Beef Cattle—Extra, \$15.00@15.50; first quality, \$14.25@14.75; second quality, \$13.50@14.00; third quality, \$11.50@12.50 per 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef).
 Country Hides, 9 1/2 @ 10c per lb. Country Tallow 8 1/2 @ 7 1/2c per lb. Brighton Hides, 10 @ 11c. per lb. Brighton Tallow, 7 1/2 @ 8 1/2c per lb.
 Lamb Skins, 50c each; Wool Sheep Skins, \$2 55 @ 2 75.
 Calf Skins, 20 @ 22c per lb. Sheared Sheep Skins, 25c each. The trade for hides and tallow continues to be very dull. The supply of Bees is not so large as that of last week, and the quality is poorer. Prices have not been very active, from our last quotations, and trade has not been very active. Working Oxen—Sales at \$175 to \$350 per pair. But a few pairs in market. Not an active demand. Milch Cows—Sales extra at \$85a115; ordinary \$60@80.—Store Cows \$45a55.
 Sheep and Lambs.—The trade is dull. Most of the Western Sheep were taken at a commission. We quote sales of lots at from 5 1/2 to 7 1/2c, per lb; one lot at 8 1/2c; 31 Sheep and Lambs at \$3.50 per head.
 Swine—Wholesale, 9 1/2 @ cents per lb.; retail, 10 @ 13c per lb. Fat Hogs—55 @ market; prices, 7 1/2 @ 8c per lb.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

PANIC IN FLOUR AND HEAVY DECLINE IN PROVISIONS. We have had considerable excitement and depression in the breadstuffs and provision market during the week. Prices have declined rapidly. In most kinds of flour we have had somewhat of a panic. In provisions the falling off has been very great and rapid. All grades of flour have declined rapidly. That not fresh ground has been pressed on the market at very irregular rates. The current prices at the close show a decline of from 50 to 75 cents a barrel as compared with last week, with a strong disposition to realize. Wheat has been very irregular. Spring has declined 5 to 10 cents a bushel, and, at the close, common qualities are very heavy and unsalable. California wheat has fluctuated, declining rapidly early in the week. Since then, under a more active demand, it has recovered and closes tame at the improvement. Barley has been offered freely, and with a limited demand has declined about five cents a bushel, and closes tame. Oats have been quite active, declining rapidly up to Thursday, when with a more active demand prices improved two or three cents. Since then they have yielded slightly and closed flat at the advance. Rye has declined materially, but at the concession there is more doing at the close. Corn has been in very active request and has fluctuated rapidly, influenced by the rapid decline and large receipts at Chicago, variable news from Europe, and sudden fluctuations in freights. At the close the market is very tame. Pork has been pressing offered, and has declined \$1 50 per barrel.

Marriages.

In Slatersville, 12th Inst., by Rev. F. A. Buck, Mr. Lenner Marble, of Somerset, Mass., to Miss Susan M. Trafton, of Dighton, Mass.
 In Uxbridge, June 6, by Rev. Mr. Burr, Mr. Owen A. Burlingame, of Harmony, N. J., to Miss Mary L. Adams, of Canterbury, Conn.
 In Milford, Mr. Smith Bowen and Susie R., daughter of F. A. Sawyer of Shrewsbury, both of Worcester.
 In Grafton, June 15, Archibald B. Hudson to Mrs. Delia Sumner, both of Grafton.
 In Thompson, Conn., June 7th, by Rev. W. A. Worthington, Mr. Merrill A. Woodard, of Thompson, to Miss Ella F. Berry of Killingly.
 In Springfield, Mass., 11th Inst., Albert M. Tinkham, of Attleboro', Mass., and S. Prunie, youngest daughter of Horace Jenks of Springfield.

Deaths.

In Smithfield, 7th Inst., Louisa H., infant daughter of John A. and Lois B. Farum, died 1 year, 9 months and 16 days.
 At Chestnut Hill, Blackstone, May 14th, Mrs. Phila Young, aged 87 years and 8 months.
 In Exeter, R. I., June 14th, Mary Hawley, wife of Othoniel Sherman, in the 72 year of her age.
 In Worcester, June 16th, Charles P. Briggs, son of Horace V. and Augusta P. Briggs, aged 17 months and 16 days.
 In West Medway, 6th Inst., Lieut. Charles H. Daniels, aged 34 years.
 In Mendon, June 9, Clarissa Jane, wife of Chas. C. P. Hastings, aged 23 years.
 In Sutton, May 12, Ellen E. Putnam, daughter of Walter and Mary Putnam, aged 17 years.

Special Notices.

MOTHER BAILEYS QUIETING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN.—Allays all Pain, Cures Wind Colic, Convulsions, Griping, &c. Large Bottles only 25 cents. Sold by Druggists. (4w-24) GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., Boston.

New Advertisements.

BELLS!

MENEELY'S WEST TROY BELL FOUNDRY, (ESTABLISHED IN 1826.) Bells for Churches, Academies, Factories, &c., made of genuine Bell-metal (Copper and Tin) moulded with Improved Patented Moulding, 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.

Prof. Turner, of Illinois, advises bee-keepers to have at hand several dry stalks of mullen with the long coils or seed tops entire, and when the bees are swarming, have ready three or four of the stalks tied together on the top of a long pole, and when the swarm is all out, before they begin to light elsewhere, run this decoy up among them as they fly and they will all pitch toward it and light on it at once, thinking that it really is a cluster of bees and a part of their swarm. This pole or decoy should be usually kept out of sight at all times except when in use, lest it should lose its effect from becoming too well known. Pieces of the same, however, laid round in branches of trees, where it would be convenient for them to light, will usually determine them to light there rather than on any other part of the same tree, or on one very near to it.





Farming Miscellany.

DELAWARE FARMING—POSITION, CLIMATE, AND SOIL.

Written for the Farm and Fireside.

BY J. ALEXANDER FULTON, DOVER, DELAWARE.

DELAWARE, after Rhode Island, is the smallest State in the Union, but, at the same time one of the most favored. Its geographical position between 38 deg., 34 min. and 39 deg., 49 min. North latitude, marks the temperate character of its climate. But this is still further modified and ameliorated by the influence of the great bodies of water with which it is nearly surrounded. On the Eastern side it has a water boundary of one hundred miles, its entire length composed first, of the Atlantic ocean, then, of the Delaware bay, and, lastly, of the Delaware river. While on the South and West the proximity of the Atlantic ocean and Chesapeake bay confers all the advantages which an insular or peninsular position can possess. And for commercial advantages its relative position cannot be excelled. Having both water and railroad facilities, it is in close, easy and cheap communication with all the great cities of the Eastern and Middle States. Half a day will, at any time, take a passenger from the capital of the State and land him in Norfolk, Washington, Baltimore, or New York; while a three hours' ride will bring him to the beautiful city of Philadelphia.

From its fortunate position its climate is remarkably fine and healthy; much more moderate than many other places in the same parallel of latitude. This is owing, no doubt, to the Atlantic ocean, and the Delaware and Chesapeake bays. There are only two months in the year which are regarded as severe and unfit for out-door work. These are January and February. It is true, however, that in some years the cold, disagreeable weather is prolonged into, and sometimes through, the month of March; while it is equally true that in other years even February is comparatively mild and pleasant.

The soil is a sandy loam, varied sometimes by clay. It is light and porous, easily tilled, and when well cultivated, quite productive. It produces wheat, corn, and oats; sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, and sorghum; beets, melons, and cantelopes; apples, peaches, pears, and cherries; plums, apricots, and nectarines; blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, and grapes. All fruits, suitable to the latitude, do well; but it is the peach that has taken the lead of all others, and within a few years become a staple production and leading interest in the State. In the county of Kent, especially, this is so marked that few farms are without peach orchards, and those that are will not continue to be so long; for every Spring and Fall new orchards are set out, and the nursery business itself is quite an important one. The orchards generally contain from one to five thousand trees; few below one thousand, but many above five. I have myself been in orchards of ninety acres without a partition fence or missing tree so far as I was able to observe. And I know one gentleman within ten miles of Dover, who has six hundred acres in peaches.

In subsequent numbers I will speak of their cultivation in detail. June, 1867.

THE army worm is doing great damage to the forests in portions of Augusta. This worm was very destructive North last year, and is but continuing its march. It moves in armies, sweeping every green leaf and sprig before it, and if warm weather succeeds its passage it destroys the trees.—Sturton Virginian

THE strawberry culturists at Hammonton, N. J. who are extensively engaged in that occupation, are now engaged in sending large quantities of that delicious fruit to New York, where they realize a big price for them. It is said that the crop throughout South Jersey is the most promising that has been raised for many years past.

Advertising Department.

Pennsylvania.

ECONOMY—PROMPTNESS—RELIABILITY!

AMERICAN CONCRETE PAINT AND ROOFING COMPANY, 543 NORTH THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

Roofs of every kind covered or repaired thoroughly. All leaks, wet and dampness in roofs, &c., prevented. Iron Fronts, Railings, Posts and Fences long preserved. All work done well, and warranted. The paint is unequalled by anything of the kind now known. JOSEPH LEEDS, Actuary. EMORY D. HOBART, Superintendent of Work. May 25, 1867. 3m-20

50 PER CENT SAVED BY USING

T. BABBITT'S STAR YEAST POWDER. Light Biscuit, or any kind of Cake may be made with this Yeast Powder, in fifteen minutes. No shortening required when sweet milk is used. I will send a sample package free by mail, on receipt of five cents to pay postage. Nos. 64 to 74 Washington street, New York. HENRY C. KELLOGG, sole Agent for Philadelphia. June 1, 1867. 3m-21

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 1/3 less than that of lead, and wears longer than lead. The Company's WHITE LEAD is the whitest and most DURABLE Lead known. Also, VARNISHES and JAPANS.—100 lbs. will paint as much as 250 lbs. of lead, and wear longer. Feb. 23, 1867. 3m-17

BAROMETERS! BAROMETERS!! BAROMETERS!!!

TIMBY'S PATENT PORTABLE BAROMETERS, the best in the market, can be sent by express, and are warranted accurate. A few for sale at the office of the FARM AND FIRESIDE, 402 Locust Street, Philadelphia. April 6, 1867. pe-13-1f

LEWIS LADOMUS & CO. DIAMOND DEALERS & JEWELERS. WATCHES, JEWELRY & SILVER WARE. WATCHES AND JEWELRY REPAIRED. 802 Chestnut St., Phila.

Have always on hand a splendid assortment of Diamonds at less than usual prices. GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES. Of all styles and prices, suitable for Ladies, Gentlemen's and Boy's wear. ALL WATCHES WARRANTED. JEWELRY of the newest and most fashionable designs. SILVER WARE in great variety; a large stock of Silver Ware made expressly for Bridal Gifts. Plated Ware of the best quality. Watches repaired and warranted. Country trade solicited. All orders promptly attended to. Diamonds and all precious stones bought for cash; also gold and silver. June 15th, 1867. 3m

628. HOOP SKIRTS. 628.

W. M. HOPKINS, Manufacturer of First-Class HOOP SKIRTS, and dealer in NEW YORK AND EASTERN-MADE SKIRTS. Wholesale and Retail at Manufacturing. No. 628 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA. May 11, 1867. 6m-pe-18

BUIST'S GENUINE TURNIP SEEDS. NEW CROP, OF OUR OWN GROWTH, WILL BE READY JULY FIRST. ROBERT BUIST, Jr., SEED AND AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE, Nos. 922 & 924 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa. June 15th, 1867. 1m

INSURE YOUR LIVE STOCK. HARTFORD LIVE STOCK INSURANCE CO. HARTFORD, CT.

HARTFORD LIVE STOCK INSURANCE CO. HARTFORD, CT. E. N. KELLOGG, President. GEO. D. JEWETT, Vice Pres't. \$1,000,000 DEPOSITED WITH THE COMPTROLLER AS SECURITY FOR POLICY HOLDERS. Policies issued on all kinds of live stock, against DEATH and THEFT. For further particulars, address Branch Office, Hartford Live Stock Insurance Co. F. & E. A. CORBIN, Managers, 430 Walnut Street, PHILADELPHIA. May 18, 1867. 4m-pe-19

FARMER'S GRINDSTONES, OF THE BEST QUALITY; Ready for use, with self-adjusting Shafts, Treadles, &c. Huron Grindstones, Scythe Stones, &c., for sale by J. E. MITCHELL, 310 York Avenue, PHILADELPHIA. April 27, 1867. 3m-pe-16

DISEASES IN THE AMERICAN STABLE, FIELD AND FARM-YARD. BY ROBT. MCCLUEZ, V. S. For sale at the office of the FARM AND FIRESIDE, 402 Locust Street, Philadelphia. Price, \$5 by mail, prepaid. March 2, 1867. 8-1f

MORO PHILLIPS'S GENUINE IMPROVED SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME. STANDARD GUARANTEED. For sale at Manufacturer's Depots, No. 27 North Front Street, Philadelphia, AND No. 95 South Street, Baltimore, And by Dealers in general throughout the Country. Philadelphia, February 2d, 1867.

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. 1f-pe-9

Massachusetts. LADIES' ATTENTION!—A Silk Dress Pattern or a Sewing Machine sent free, for one or two days' service, in any town or village. Also, a gift sent free, by addressing with stamp W. PISK & CO., 17 State St., Boston, Mass., June 8, 1867. 8w-we-23

THE INDELIBLE PENCIL CO. (NORTHAMPTON, MASS.) MANUFACTURERS OF THE IMPROVED PATENT INDELIBLE PENCIL for marking clothing, &c., have now ready for sale their new HORTICULTURAL PENCIL, For writing on wood. Invaluable for making durable TREES and GARDEN TAGS or LABELS, or marking TOOLS, &c. PRICES: Horticultural, single, 75 cents; two for \$1.00; per doz. \$5.00. Clothing Pencil, single, 50 cents; three for \$1.00 per doz. \$3.00. Sent prepaid by mail or express on receipt of price. A LIBERAL DISCOUNT MADE TO DEALERS. EVERY PENCIL WARRANTED. June 8, 1867. 4w-we-22

RELIABLE! CHEAPEST! BEST DON'T PAY \$1. SAVED 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-is-23

SOUTH DOWN CO.'S PATENT Sheep Wash Tobacco THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS. This pure preparation has been successfully used for years, and never fails to produce the desired effect when used according to directions. It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines. For FOOT-ROT it is a sure cure, used as a poultice. ONE POUND of this Extract will make TWELVE GALLONS of Wash, and contains the strength of EIGHT POUNDS of TOBACCO, as prepared by farmers. Sold by all Druggists and Country and Agricultural Stores. JAMES F. LEVIN, 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts. For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & Co., Fitzwilliam, N. H. March 9, 1866. 4m-we-9

Rhode Island. AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—A. S. ARNOLD, dealer in Agricultural Tools, consisting in part of Conics, Wright's and Cylinder Plows and Castings; Shares' Patent Harrows and Horse Hoes, Cultivators, Seed Sowers, Hay Cutters, Oxen and Railroad Barrows, Shovels, Spades, Forks, Iron Bars, &c. Holder's Block, Main Street, Woonsocket, R. I. MAYNARD'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I. Feb. 23, 1867. 3m

Rhode Island. 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. B. LORING, of Salem, President, DANIEL NEEDHAM, of Boston, Secretary, WILLIAM SPRAGUE, of So. Kingston, R. I., President, WM. R. STAPLES, of Providence, Secretary, of the N. E. Agricultural Socy. of the R. I. Society.

THE NARRAGANSETT PARK, which has been projected and laid out by Col. AMASA SPEAGUE, 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. 19f

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 Kniflins, 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. 1f-20

New York. J. HICKLING & CO. GREAT SALE OF WATCHES. On the popular one price plan, giving every patron a handsome and reliable watch for the low price of Ten Dollars! Without regard to value, and not to be paid for unless perfectly satisfactory! 500 Solid Gold Hunting Watches.....\$250 to \$750 500 Magic Cased Gold Watches.....200 to 600 500 Ladies' Watches, Enamelled.....100 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting Chronometer Watches.....250 to 300 1,000 Gold Hunting English Levers.....200 to 250 3,000 Gold Hunting Duplex Watches.....150 to 200 3,000 Gold Hunting American Watches.....100 to 50 5,000 Silver Hunting Levers.....50 to 150 5,000 Silver Hunting Duplexes.....75 to 250 5,000 Gold Ladies' Watches.....50 to 250 10,000 Gold Hunting Lepines.....50 to 75 10,000 Miscellaneous Silver Watches.....50 to 100 25,000 Hunting Silver Watches.....25 to 50 30,000 Assorted Watches, all kinds.....10 to 75 Every patron obtains a Watch by this arrangement, costing but \$10, while it may be worth \$50. No partiality shown. Messrs J. Hickling & Co.'s Great American Watch Co., New York City, wish to immediately dispose of the above magnificent Stock. Certificates, naming articles, are placed in sealed envelopes. Holders are entitled to the articles named on their certificates, upon payment of Ten Dollars, whether it be a Watch worth \$750 or one worth less. The return of any of our certificates entitles you to the article named thereon, upon payment, irrespective of its worth, and as no article valued less than \$10 is named on any certificate, it will at once be seen that this is no lottery, but a straight-forward, legitimate transaction, which may be participated in even by the most fastidious! A single Certificate will be sent by mail, post paid, upon receipt of 25 cents, five for \$1, eleven for \$2, thirty-three and elegant premium for \$5, sixty-six and more valuable premium for \$10, one hundred and most superb Watch for \$15. To Agents, or those wishing employment, this is a rare opportunity. It is a legitimately conducted business, duly authorized by the Government, and open to the most careful scrutiny. Try us! J. HICKLING & Co., 149 Broadway—Near P. O. City of New York. 3m



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.

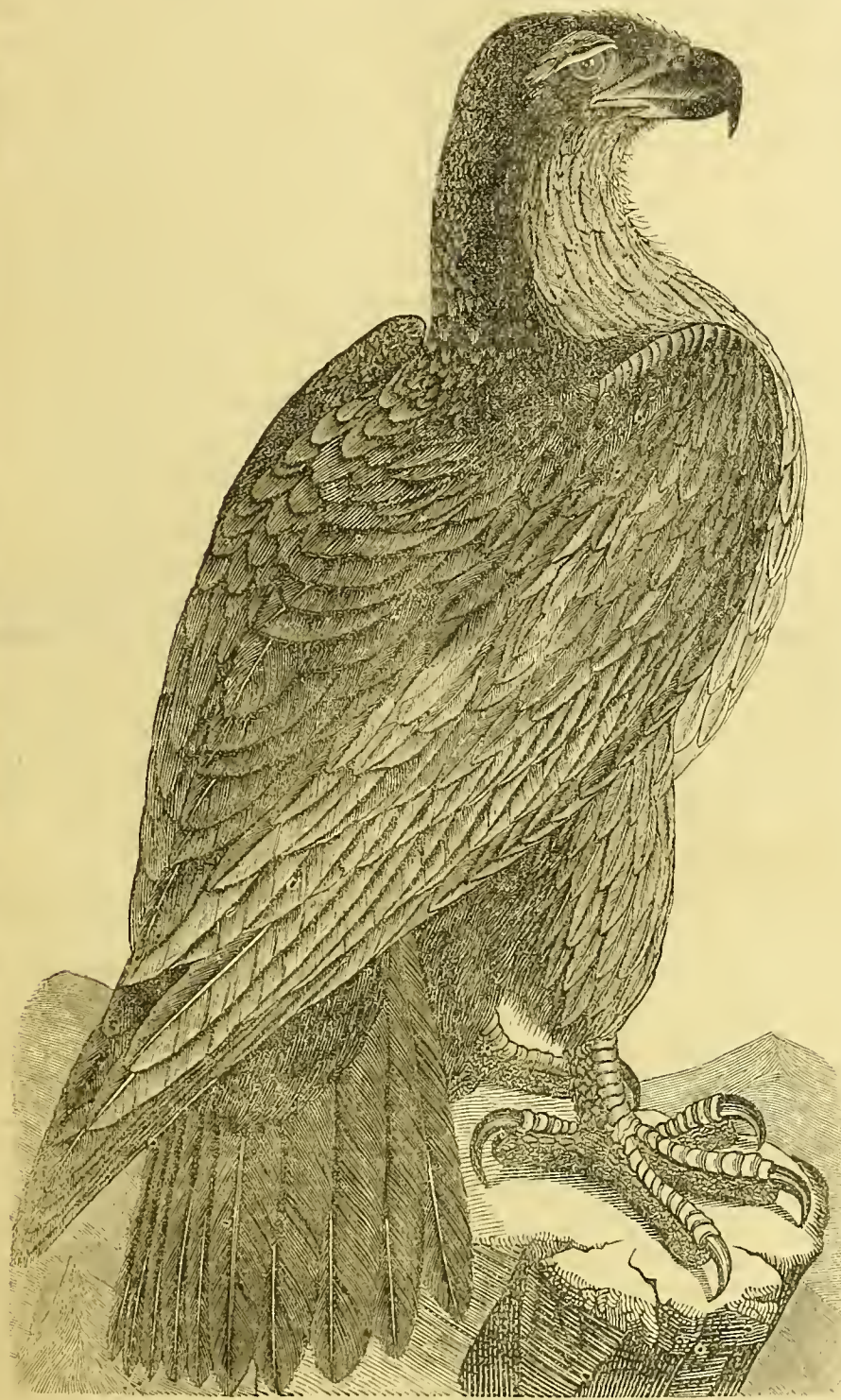
ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1867, BY S. S. FOSS, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF RHODE ISLAND.

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

VOL. 1.

WOONSOCKET, R. I., SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1867.

NO. 25.



THE WASHINGTON EAGLE.*

We insert, to-day, a large and beautifully executed engraving of the prince of North American birds of prey, and the noblest of the noble tribe of Eagles which have been, from time immemorial, the types of empire, and at one time, even of divinity. The bird of Jupiter, son of Saturn, who wielded the electric bolts of the father of the gods of Olympus, the prophetic inspirer of the Roman auger; the bird that hovered over the march of CÆSAR to universal dominion and closed its wings upon his banner-staff, which has been and still con-

* So named by AUDUBON. The only specimen shot by that celebrated ornithologist, is now at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. Our engraving was drawn from that rare specimen.—EDS. FARM AND FIRESIDE.

tinues to be, in some shape or other, the emblem of political power and nationality—sometimes appropriately deformed with a double head, where tyranny puts a straight-jacket on the popular mind, as in Austria; sometimes, also, with an approach to its pristine dignity, as when surmounting the war-flags of that great imitator of CÆSAR, NAPOLEON, and still nodding, in dreamy nepotism, on those of his last biographer, Napoleon III. Sometimes, disguised as a huzzard, ornamenting the ensigns of an American nominating convention; or sitting, like a kite, at the head of the editorial columns of some petty, partisan newspaper, as the representative, forsooth, of the universal dominion of the Press! There are

many kinds of eagles in the world, of various tastes and habits; so that from among them, all principalities, great or small, noble or selfish, frank or diplomatic, may choose a proper bearing for their respective seals and coins.

It is by no means remarkable, then, that our immediate ancestors of the "days that tried men's souls," when casting about for a suitable badge of nationality, should have selected a bird decorated already with so many historic honors. Young America at that time little thought of the destiny which now so plainly indicates that she is to become the Rome of the future. Therefore, in selecting from among the various eagles, the choice naturally fell upon the species with which the colonists had been most familiar, and which was at the same time the largest known in the little belt of country along the Atlantic coast, then constituting the entire domain of the United States.

When Franklin (we believe it *was* Franklin) objected that the Bald Eagle was not an exclusive resident, that his manners were by no means dignified, nor his morals unexceptionable; and suggested the "wild turkey as a good, honest, sensible (?) and perfectly indigenous bird," the immortal fathers frowned upon the proposition; for nations have little respect for that which has neither teeth nor talons.

And so the Bald Eagle became, and has ever since continued, our national emblem; though he is a pirate by profession, without a pirate's courage among his fellows; who watches the harmless fish-hawk pursuing his mercantile speculations among the finny tribe; and when the hawk is returning with his hard-earned cargo, to feed his mate and little ones, the cowardly tyrant rises above him by mere strength of wing, and, swooping down upon the unfortunate trader, startles him with a terrific scream; then, as the hawk drops his load, the eagle seizes the prey before it reaches the water, without even the warrant of a *guarda costa*; for fish are not subject to duty when imported on American bottoms. It is said, too, that when our banner bearer is very hungry he will regale himself upon filth and carrion, like a turkey-buzzard or a Bramin kite, thus degrading himself beneath the level of all respectable eagledom!

And shall this thief, pirate and wrecker continue to receive imperial honors at the hands of "the greatest nation in all creation?" Forbid it, Justice! Forbid it, Manhood! Let him be deposed at once, and let mantle and scepter descend to his far nobler successor, the "Big War Eagle" of the Western Indians, or the WASHINGTON EAGLE of Audubon, who was the first of civilized mankind to meet with and vanquish it, in the depths of its native wilderness.

We give our readers the life-like portrait of this very rare bird, from the specimen presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences by that most amiable, enthusiastic and much regretted naturalist, who, led by Indian legends, pursued the search for years, and when blessed at last with the view of the genuine monarch of the American skies, "towering in his pride of place," ventured to publish its existence and give it a noble name. His reward

was the ridicule of the less adventurous, and even a loss of full faith in his scientific trustfulness—like the distrust in democratic institutions once felt by the proud bearers of European eagles. At length, after years of toil and suffering, he met the unflinching lord of the lonely woods face to face, and brought him to the ground, thus convincing all cavilers. So we, by facts, have at length compelled the faith of all mankind in the permanence of popular government.

This bird is most worthy of the distinction. Let him surmount the banners of "reconstructed" America! The largest—the grandest of his tribe—he measures from three to four feet in height, and ten feet from tip to tip in expanse of pinion. With an eye of fire, and a rapidity and strength of motion entirely eclipsing that of his half rival, he shuns even the path and haunts of the hunter, but regards him without fear when met. Sparing the familiars of the civilized homestead, he asks of Providence no aid in the pursuit of prey, but satisfies his wants boldly, from wave or wilderness. Widely continental, as we shall shortly be, but "seeking no foreign alliances," he soars in proud content in the blue vault above, or sits in fearless independence upon the snowy pinnacle of some Rocky Mountain peak, or under the shadow of untrodden woods, alone and peculiar in habit, strength and thought, as we, among the nations. He is the *true* American Eagle, and alone deserving to sit as the original of Drake's magnificent picture:

"Majestic monarch of the cloud,
Who rear'st aloft thy regal form,
To hear the tempest trumping loud,
To see the lightning-lances driven
When strive the warriors of the storm,
And rolls the thunder-drum of heaven!
Child of the sun! to thee 'tis given
To guard the banner of the free,
To hover in the sulphur-smoke,
To ward away the battle-stroke,
And bid its blendings shine afar,
Like rainbows o'er the tide of war,
The harbingers of victory!"

LUXEMBURG, about which Europe has lately been in so great a turmoil, has, for one of the favorite amusements of its inhabitants, cat races. Each worthy burgher takes his eat in a bag two miles from town, and at a given signal they all shake their bags, the eats leap out scared to death, and run home as fast as they can go. The first eat that reaches the town gates is the winner.

ORIGIN OF THE TERM "GRAIN," AS A MEASURE OF WEIGHT.—A grain of corn or wheat, gathered out of the middle of the ear, was the origin of all the weights used in England. Of these grains 32 well-dried were to make one penny-weight; but in later times it was thought sufficient to divide the same penny-weight into 24 equal parts, still called grains—being the least weight now in use—from which the rest are computed.

THE Prairie Farmer states that Dr. Hull has adopted the plan of planting plum trees at stated intervals in his orchards of peach, cherry, &c., as nearly all the curculios can be caught upon them so long as there is any fruit to sting.

THE FARM AND FIRESIDE is devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Stock-Raising, Rural Architecture, Market Intelligence, Literature and the Arts. It has a corps of agricultural writers of reputation, and the aim of the Publisher will be to make a journal eminently practical, and of every-day value to its readers. The Literary Department is intended to instruct and amuse the farmer's better half and his children. Nothing will be published offensive to good morals. In all its columns this journal will advocate the best interest of the farm and fireside. Terms—\$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copy 5 cents.





The Stock-Yard.

NEAT CATTLE.

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

I PROPOSE giving you two or three chapters on "Neat Cattle." I shall not give you *theory* simply, (as I fear too many agricultural writers of the present time do), but the real, practical truth, such as I have myself bought of that rather expensive, but, nevertheless, certain teacher, Experience. I like to see every writer understand the subject of which he writes; and if he knows nothing of farming, why write on agricultural subjects? Is it merely because he loves the country, and rural scenes and subjects? I fear too much has been written on agricultural subjects—such as stock of different kinds, &c., &c.—by men who know as little about such things practically, as a school boy. Hence the present great objection to book and newspaper farming by the masses. "Many of your teachings are false, and lead us into expensive mistakes," says uncle Peter Prosperous. But my preface is already too long; so now for the story.

DAIRY COWS.—Select and keep the *very best only*. A good cow, well kept, is profitable. Poor cows are unprofitable. My own experience in selecting cows for dairying or furnishing milk to sell, is to select good wedge-shaped animals, heavy hind quarters and tapering towards the head, with light heads, long faces, and usually small wax-colored horns; also, slim necks, small tails, capacious udders, running well forward, milk veins large, teats good size, rather long and set well apart. I care not for breed or color. It is all humbug for *dairy profit*. (*Breeding Stock* is another story.) I think it would generally pay as well for large farmers, say those who keep from 20 to 30 cows, to raise some five to eight or so of their best heifer calves each year, from their very best cows, and from a bull which you know to be from a good milking family. By so doing, and by selecting the best only to keep from the heifers you raise, (when they have their first calf,) you will in a few years have a better herd, and a better paying herd of cows than you will be able to buy. As to color, I care but little about it, so long as a cow has a good yellow skin, a striped hoof and a wax-colored horn. If her hair is soft and silky, I care but little about the color of it. I have noticed but little, if any, difference in the quality of milk, between "Old Brindle" and "Little Red," while the "Roan Cow" makes as good a calf as either, and holds her milk as late in the Fall. The boys think "Old Topsy," the *brown* cow, will beat the whole flock; but for the "season through," I should as readily bet on "Annie Laurie," the *pie* cow. So you see that color is all a fancy, save in the color of the teats. I should prefer colored to white, as being less likely to chap or crack.

As to the profits of a cow, much depends on the milker. Some men are rank poison to stock any way; and such should never attempt to milk. A good milker will always treat the cow gently and pleasantly, milk fast and tell or listen to no stories while milking, and be sure to get the last drop in the udder every time. I consider a cow in her prime (all things considered) from five to ten years old. Some cows hold out much better than others, as with men and horses; and are really as young to all intents and purposes at twelve years, as others are at nine or ten. Never keep a cow through the Winter after she gets to going down hill, or kill a superior cow on account of her age, if her teeth are good, and she is all right, without any signs of deterioration. Cows should be milked regularly, and by steady milkers.

FEEDING COWS AND STORE CATTLE.—**SUMMER FEED.**—If you have plenty of good pasture, with good living water, that is all sufficient, save salting them regularly, once each week, if you are located back from the sea or salt water. Perhaps a better way still for salting, would be to have a salting trough under cover,

and accessible to the stock every day. Be sure to have plenty of fodder-corn for the cows, as soon as the pasture feed begins to fail. If you have old cows that are good for milk, that you are intending to turn for beef in the Fall, and dairy products are pretty high, it will pay to give them two quarts or so of milk daily through the Summer.

WINTER FEEDING.—Winter no more stock than you can feed liberally, but have nothing wasted. Let them eat the fodder clean. Cut the corn-fodder that you feed in the barn, and most of the hog meadow hay; but feed an occasional foddering uncut for variety. Have as many varieties of fodder in the barn as practicable, as all cattle like a change, which is really essential for their health. Feed regularly and liberally. No man can afford to pinch or starve his cattle. Keep no more cattle in Winter, here, in these our Northern States, than you can house comfortably. If you have no barn, you should have no cattle. It does not pay to subject them to slow torture at the stack. In my next I will give you my views on Soiling, Stall Feeding, &c., &c.

June, 1867.

COOKING FOOD FOR STOCK.

It renders mouldy hay, straw and corn-stalks perfectly sweet and palatable. Animals seem to relish straw taken from a stack, which has been wet and hadly 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 natural 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.*

BEST HORSES FOR FARM USE.—The hardest work on the farm for horses is breaking up sod, which certainly is not one-eighth of the whole work. Light horses, weighing 1,100 or 1,200, are best for most of the other work; they are best on the road, and before the harrow, (not before the mower and reaper, we think.) At cross-plowing and harrowing a coach horse will do one-fourth more than a

heavy draft horse. Besides, it costs much more to keep the heavy horse, and on sandy, or wet soil, he sinks so much as to worry him. For all uses which the farmer has for horses, the medium sized or coach horses are the best.—*Cor. Rural New Yorker.*

RAISING CALVES.

Of all domesticated animals, perhaps calves require the most attention, in order to make them profitable; but yet how shamefully are they neglected in a great many instances. It is amusing to note the course some people take in raising calves. In too many cases, the farmer thinks it won't pay to spend his time in looking after such matters, and they are placed in charge of boys; and morning and evening these youngsters may be seen provided with a pail, and armed with a stout stick with which to belabor the poor animals if they manifest too much eagerness for their scanty meal; or, if they show a dislike for the mess that is in all probability entirely unsuited to their tender age, they are at once pronounced sulky, and the starvation remedy is adopted, and the poor brutes are left to the scorching sun for the next twelve hours.

And thus they go on, with perhaps a surplus one day and starvation the next, for a few weeks, when they are turned out to take their chance. In the Winter they take their chance again at the straw stack. If they die, as is not unusual, the owner at once concludes that stock raising does not pay; or if he happens to have patronized an agricultural society that keeps first-class stock, he, of course, pronounces the whole thing a humbug, and reckons they will get no more of his money. If they manage to live through the Winter, it will take all Summer to get ready to grow again. If tough enough, they may stand it another Winter, and then fill the ranks of the bony cows and unruly steers which are the pests of highways. In looking around us at this season, we see the sad effects of such treatment in the appearance of hundreds of poor animals on many of our farms.

That the profitable raising of calves on dairy farms will be attended with some considerable trouble, there is no doubt; but on ordinary farms, where, as on the great majority of farms in this country, only a limited number of cows is kept for the purpose of making butter, there exists no difficulty in the profitable raising of good calves.

The course I recommend is the following: Take the calf from the cow when two or three days old, and teach it to drink new milk. I know that some good farmers are in favor of taking the calf away as soon as dropped; but having tried both ways, I am in favor of leaving the calf with the cow for a day or two, which I think decidedly better for the cow. All will admit that for some time after calving, the cow requires extra care and nourishment, from which she is more likely to derive benefit while she remains contented, with the calf by her side, than if her young is taken away from her, and she is further weakened by bawling herself nearly to death, before she has in some measure regained her strength. And as regards the calf, I find less trouble in teaching it to drink when two or three days old than if attempted sooner.

As soon as it will drink milk readily, or when 10 or 12 days old, part skim milk may be added, first warming it sufficiently, with the addition of a small handful of sifted meal, stirring it while drinking; the skim milk may be gradually increased and the new milk diminished until it is about 3 weeks old, when the whole feed may consist of skim milk.—The meal should also be gradually increased, as it is useless to expect a calf to thrive on skim milk alone; any kind of meal, or a mixture of different kinds will answer the purpose. A little sweet hay should now be given.

When the calf is about 4 weeks old, a little sour milk may be added, and gradually increased until the whole feed may consist of sour milk. Some calves drink it readily the first time, others require considerable coaxing, but by adding a little at a time, and increasing

it gradually, they will soon drink it. It must be borne in mind that all changes should be gradual, as there is much danger of bringing on the scours.

Feed milk regularly, twice a day until four months old, when once a day will be sufficient, or, if necessary, they may be weaned entirely; but continue to feed liberally with meal, as every peck fed the first year will be equal to a bushel at any subsequent time. The feeding of the calves should not be left entirely to the boys, but they should be carefully watched, as it is very important that calves should be well fed and cared for during the first year of their lives, if we would make them profitable in the end.—*Correspondent of the Canada Farmer.*

Farming Miscellany.

CULTIVATION OF HOPS.

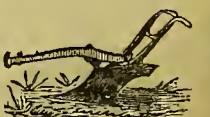
PROFESSOR JOHN WILSON, in his report on the agricultural exhibition held at Vienna last year, mentions that, along with the samples of Hungarian hops, was shown a plan of the method of cultivation carried out at Belle, adapted for all other districts where wood suitable for hop-poles is scarce. Wooden pegs or short stakes are driven into the ground, at such distances apart as it is intended to plant the vines; and at longer distances—usually about 20 to 25 yards—light poles are erected with a height of from 12 to 15 feet above the surface, so that there are parallel lines all over the ground of short stakes or pegs placed at certain distances, and projecting about 8 to 12 inches in height, while parallel rows of poles, from 12 to 15 feet high, cross these at right angles, and at from 20 to 25 yards apart. A stout wire is stretched horizontally from pole to pole all over the ground, while vertical wires or light ropes, made of any suitable material, are attached to the pegs and carried up and fastened to the horizontal wires, thus offering a steady support to the hop vines during the period of growth. At harvest time the ropes are detached and carried to the picking stage with the vines, and the field cleared for the usual tillage operations without the expense of shifting, stacking and resetting the poles. This plan has been carried out during several seasons at Belle, and has been introduced into Wurtemburg, Baden, Bavaria and other hop-producing countries, with satisfactory results.

FARM PROVERBS.

1. Use diligence, industry, integrity, and proper improvement of time to make farming pay.
2. Choose a farm with a soil either naturally dry or drained, not too level nor yet steep, well fenced in proper-sized fields, not too large.
3. Good, snug buildings, with dry, if not clean, yards and cellars, especially barn and stabling.
4. Economy in accumulating, saving, and properly using all manures and fertilizers possible, no matter how rich your land may be naturally.
5. A good and tolerably fast team; better smart than large.
6. Your farming implements well made, of good material, not too heavy.
7. Have work done in season.
8. Always sow good, clean seeds.
9. Do not harvest before your crop is fit to harvest.
10. Do not keep more live stock on your farm than you can keep well.
11. House all things as much as possible—animals, utensils, and crops.
12. Sell when you can get a fair price, and do not store for rats and speculators.

BRETS for Summer use should be sown as early as the weather will permit, but such heets are not fit for Winter use. For such use, delay sowing till some time in June. Then sow in a rich, moist soil, and give them a rapid growth, and they will be much surer to cook tender and be freer from woody fibre, than if sown earlier.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH, EYES AND EARS.—In the Paris Exposition the Americans, in the department of dentistry, are beyond all competition. The display of artificial teeth, the perfect imitation of nature in gums and palate are wonderful. But the French are equally great in artificial eyes and ears. The eyes are life itself. They not only supply an eye that is lost, but cover a shrunken or injured eye-ball with a shell that perfectly matches the other eye. The ears of delicately rosy gutta-percha are very pretty. If one has an ear cut off, bitten off, frozen off, or eaten away, here is a light and elegant substitute. It is said that ladies with large ears cover them up with their hair, natural or acquired, and annex these pretty little artificial ears, of course with handsome ear-rings.





The Fireside Muse.

THE FARMER-BOY.

As the sun rises he goes to the field,—
Breakfast is had by the light of a candle,—
With a rake of his own and a fork so small,
His boyish strength can bend its handle.
With him the grown men go to their toll:
Merry and mighty they swing their steel;
The nodding clover falls before,
And stricken carls 'neath their conqu'ring heel.
Waiting till damp swaths grow as they go,
Watching the sheen of the whistling blades,
He scatters the clots of glistening grass,
And bids the sun to its cool, green shades.
Through the bright hours of early morn,
His brown face glowing with healthy flushes,
He toils till the mowers drop their scythes,
And pause for lunch in some shadowing bushes.
Gay as the sparrow that chirps near by,
He eats his share of the wholesome food;
And drinks from the jug a long sweet draught
Of water fresh from the spring in the wood.
Up again in the mowers' track,
Striving to catch the one who leads him,
He fills the air with a verdant cloud
That follows him, drowns him, and precedes him.
Shrilly the locust makes his plaint;
Screams the fierce king-fisher seeking the brook,
The lambs on the distant hill-side bleat,
And a cat-bird mews in his shady nook.
But the farmer-boy follows his fragrant way,
Heedless of voices not strange to his ear,
And scatters the grass, and wonders, the while,
If humble-bees' nests are plenty this year.
But bark! from the hill where the white flocks feed,
Comes back an echo he's listened for long;
The dinner-horn sounds, and the mowers cease,
And gladly he joins the hungry throng.
Back from the house he rides in the cart,
Gee-ing and haw-ing the sluggish team,
As they pause to pant and cool their sides
Midway in a shallow, babbling stream.
The field is reached and the work begins;
One man "pitches," another man "stows,"
While the farmer-boy handles his little rake,
And gathers the scattered locks as he goes.
High on the load to the barn he rides,
Climbs to the mow and is soon at work,
Treading the upheaved masses down,
And stowing them close with his trusty fork.
Back to the field again and again,
Working fast; for a cloud 's in the West
That threatens rain no long time hence,
And father reckons this hay his best.
Thus all day long, o'er shaven knolls,
Spreading the hay or "raking after;"
Riding the cart to the brown old barn,
And stowing its load 'neath the lofty rafter.
The farmer-boy toils till his hands grow hard,
And his cheeks are roughened with various weather;
But his heart is light, and Peace and he
Sleep through the quiet night together.

S. B. O.

General Miscellany.

THE FARM LABORER.

We favor our readers with another racy pen-sketch from Lackland's new hook:

Much of the farmer's help at the present time is made up of Irish laborers—the unadulterated, unqualified bog-trotters of their native land. Yet they have not altogether crowded Yankee laborers out of the field; they have hardly more than stepped into the vacancies created by the western fever that has carried so many off. Our farmers can do no better than to hire them. Now and then one turns up a prize, but the bulk of them would as soon plant their potatoes in pits on the day they handle their wages and leave, as on the day they first landed. In harnessing a horse they would as soon throw the breeching over his head as over that part of his body ornamented with his tail.

The life of the native hired man, drudging and wearisome as it looks to the careless observer, is still full of hope and buoyancy. He is not the friendless, melancholy, pitiful creature you may take him for. While he sits there in the chimney corner of the old kitchen, telling stories to the boys in a low tone, so as not to be overheard, the honest blaze of the fire shining out over his bronzed face, he is as much a king and lord as the man of the acres who hires him. He keeps no cares on his mind, but can take his candle and go off to bed in his stocking feet with the certainty of

sleeping as soundly as the house-dog before the fire. Possibly he thinks of home; but it only makes him more determined and resolute to work out, some how, a home of his own.

The hired man's life with our Northern farmers is but an apprenticeship. Some of them emerge from it to pass to the dignity of proprietorship; while a great many more continue in the harness, tugging at the traces, and dragging out a solitary existence to the end of their days. They lie about here and there, jobbing as the opportunity offers; laboring one season in this place and another season in that; now laying by a trifle, and now saving scarce a penny; good-natured and trustful, generally; as dry and smoky as the soot that collects about their favorite chimney-corners; troubling themselves nowise with care or ambition; as full of gossip as old ladies over their fragrant Oolong decoctions and addicted to a garrulousness that, to all the children where they go, is as delightful as a new story-hook. Bachelors they live, and bachelors they die; and, as a matter of course, living but half their natural days.

Odd sticks in the bundle they are, incapable of being either tied up or assorted. Needful to the farmer, yet profitless, so far as results reach, to themselves. A happy, hard-working, necessary, favorite class of men.

HAY MAKING.

There is annually so much good grass mercilessly manslaughtered in making it into hay, that it becomes the duty of every publisher, editor and agricultural writer in the land, happening to have a better practical knowledge of hay making, to begin with the hay season, preaching as earnestly as they can at every opportunity, better principles, until a radical reform in much of our hay making practice shall have been achieved.

As clover usually comes first in the routine of haying, and the season for putting mowers afield is close at hand, let us bear in mind that the best standing condition of clover is when the plant itself is fully developed and the heads in full, but early bloom, before any considerable proportion of them have assumed the slightest tinge of brown. Then instead of being roasted, broiled and baked, in the scorching sun until it is as black as Japan tea, as is too frequently the case with clover hay, the best plan is to cut after the dew is off in the morning, cure, spread or in the swath, as much as can be done in five or six hours of clear, drying weather, then, twenty-four hours more in small cocks, sheltering from dew and rain, and haul in and put away with the leaves still green, wilted but not in the least crisped or blackened by the sun.

The other grasses are best cut when the stalks and foliage have attained full growth and the seeds are entirely developed, but still in a milky state. Like clover, they should be cocked after a few hours' sun curing, finished off in the cock, cured but not in the least crisped, and hauled in while still green in color, elastic and possessed of all the inviting aroma of "new mown hay." If the foundation of bays and stacks are made well up clear of the ground, affording full and free ventilation underneath, and then in stacking or stowing away a layer of clean, dry straw, say six inches in depth, is placed every two feet between the courses of hay, there will be no danger of clover or any other kind of grass heating, moulding or rotting, though put away a great deal greener than is the general practice, and infinitely better hay will be the result.—Cosmo, in Saturday Evening Post.

The Convention of farmers at Alexandria, Va., passed resolutions to urge upon the land owners of Virginia the advantage to themselves and to the State, of subdividing their lands into tracts of such size as will meet the demands of the market, to gather information of the location, soil and character of the lands so offered for sale and the prices of the same, and also to establish agencies in the leading cities of the United States and in foreign countries where it may be deemed necessary.

THE DOUBLE COCOA NUT OF THE SEYCHELLES ISLAND.

Found only in two small Islands lying 300 miles northeast of Madagascar. The old French found the large nuts floating on the sea. They called it "Coeo de mer," as not knowing any tree which bore them, they supposed it to be a product of the Ocean. In Islands where polygamy prevailed, the nuts, for their restorative properties brought most fabulous prices. In 1742 these Islands were discovered. Large forests of these trees were then found. One hundred years it requires for its full growth,—no one knows how long they last. The common cocoa nut bends to every gale, but this stands erect under all the most terrible hurricanes of the tropics.

At thirty years of age the female blossom appear. It is merely the germ of the nut, and very minute. The female tree never grows by 20 feet, so large as the male. The male flower is an enormous catkin 3 feet long, by three feet wide. A single catkin produces a succession of stamens for eight or ten years. The weight of the fruit is enormous. Eleven nuts have been counted on one stalk, each nut 40 lbs. Four or five is the average number on a stalk. It is ten years after the flowers open, before the fruit matures; four years before the embryo fruit reaches its full size. The nut is about 18 inches long, heart shape, with two separate compartments enveloped like the cocoa-nut in fibre.

The base of the trunk is of a bulbous form. This bulb fits into a natural bowl, about 2 1/2 feet in diameter, and 18 inches deep, narrowing towards the bottom. The bowl is perforated with hundreds of small holes, through which the roots penetrate to the earth. The bowl is of the same substance as the nut, and is believed never rots or wears out. Fire, and the enormous price of the nuts, which for their sake, causes many a fine tree to be cut down, will soon cause this remarkable palm to be entirely extinct.

SUMMER PRUNING.

We have long been in favor of the Summer pruning of fruit trees, of all sizes. Full twenty years ago we were convinced of its good results. It is advantageous in two ways. First, by shortening in the rapidly growing branches it produces fruit spurs for the following year, and brings the trees into any desired form. Second, when larger limbs are removed, the wound instead of leaving a bare, protruding and decaying stump, beautifully heals up, making a sound amputation.

The period when the pruning should be done is one of prime importance. We see June recommended, while the trees are in their full first growth. Without having experimented, and looking to the condition of the trees, in this month, it does not meet our assent.

We do not believe that it is advisable to prune before the first growth of the season is completed, because of the immaturity of the wood, which must produce in the second growth less vigorous shoots, besides losing, to a large extent, the yield of fruit the succeeding year, which is sure to follow judicious shortening in a later period.

In our judgment "Summer pruning" should take place between the fifteenth of July and tenth of August—a period when the sap is quiescent and nature is resting awhile from her labors. We speak from our own knowledge of the value of midsummer pruning of trees, large or small.

The wool clip in the United States in 1866, amounted to 136,000,000 pounds. It is estimated that there are in the United States 1,600 woolen mills, containing 6,000 sets of carding machines, with the capacity of manufacturing 170,000,000 pounds of clean material.

"Do you believe in the appearance of spirits, father?" asked a rather fast young man of his indulgent sire. "No, Tom, but I believe in their disappearance, since I missed my bottle of bourbon last night," said the old gentleman.

WHEAT HARVESTING.

To the Editors of the Farm and Fireside:

As harvest time draws near, I will give you my views about cutting wheat—hoping other farmers will send in their experience.

The time of wheat-harvest must be determined by the condition of the grain. I believe in cutting before the crop is fully ripe. As soon as the grains have passed "the milky state"—that is, as soon as the inner part has become firm, but is still soft enough to yield to the thumb-nail, when pressed into it; the crop is then at its greatest value. The straw is then of a greenish yellow, and there is still a green tinge about the head. If wheat, in this state, is allowed to stand two or three days, the straw and head assume a brown appearance—the grain is dead ripe. If delayed after this period, both grain and straw are less valuable. A portion of the starch of the grain has been converted into bran; and, according to the testimony of the best millers, it will not make as much, or so good flour as that which is cut earlier. This is my experience in growing wheat for thirty-five years. Cut wheat just before it is fully ripe, and you will have the best of grain; more albuminous matter, more nutritious bread, and also save from five to ten per cent, (often more,) than in allowing your wheat to become dead ripe.

Avoid exposure to rains; it has an injurious effect on both grain and straw. The dark color of much flour is owing to allowing the grain to remain too long in the field. At the same time, repeated wetting and drying destroys the appearance and value of the straw. All wheat should be stacked or sheltered as soon as it is sufficiently dry—otherwise expect moulding and heating of the grain. R. W. G.

Towanda, Pa.

PERUVIAN BARK.

The greatest boon which the vegetable world has supplied to man, for the cure of periodical fevers and other painful diseases, is found in the Peruvian, once called Jesuit's bark. No other febrifuge is comparable to this one. Until of late years the only home of the tree or shrub—called botanically Cinchona—which yields it, is in the mountainous regions of South America, and chiefly in Peru, Quito and Bolivia. Now, however, a congenial home has been found for the cinchona on the mountains of Central Asia. The geographical range of this tree in America is from nine degrees south latitude to ten degrees north, following in this distance the great mountain chain of the Andes, and for the most part on the eastern slopes of the second range of the Cordilleras. The trees which furnish the bark of commerce grow at various elevations upon the Andes, seldom at less than 4000 feet above the sea, and, of course, at a less temperature than that of the tropical plains below. The active principles of the Peruvian bark are the alkaloids quinia or quinine, and cinchonine or cinchonone. The first of these is the one obtained in the largest proportion, and the most generally used.

Through the efforts of the Dutch in Java and the English in India, large plantations of cinchona have grown up from trees and seeds brought from South America. The product of the bark, in quinine and cinchonine, is equal to that obtained from the Bolivian trees. The mountainous regions of Java and those of India and Ceylon, at elevations varying from 5000 to 7450 feet above the sea, are selected for the cultivation of the cinchona tree. The question is, therefore, now settled of the productiveness of the transplanted trees, and of the trade in Peruvian bark being opened in new quarters. We may add, in conclusion, that a request was made of our Government, at the last meeting of the American Medical Association, to have the Cinchona tree planted in some part of the United States, in which it might be grown with success. Such spots could be found at a certain elevation in the Rocky Mountains, far South. A moderate temperature and a moist air, in low latitudes, are prime conditions for the growth of the Cinchona.



NEGLECTS DESTROY FARM PROFITS.—By neglecting to lock the stable door, the horse was stolen; by leaving a lot of old rubbish in the barn yard, one colt broke his leg, and another got a nail in his foot; by neglecting to spend half an hour in battenning up the sheepfold, a pair of twin lambs froze to death; by carelessly tying the bull, the ox was gored and died; by neglecting to kill the ticks on the sheep, and lice on the cattle, the sheep became poor, shed their wool, gave no milk, and the lambs died, and a fine stock of cattle, in fine condition when they came to stall, lost all their flesh before Spring; some were helped up by the tail and survived, while others were snaked off by the neck, a sort of retributive justice to their owners; always attached in some way to human transgression.—Vermont Farmer.



Field and Garden.

OUR BEST GARDEN VEGETABLES.

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

In our age of the world we are blessed with a great variety of useful garden plants. In proof of this we have only to name our beets, carrots, celery, cucumbers, endives, onions, parsnips, peas, radishes, lettuce, &c. But the use of some of these is of but short duration, while others are only occasionally used in our Winter seasons, and then rather as a rarity or mere change of food, than for any great inherent excellencies which they present as a food for man.

But our best garden vegetables are those that make, in various ways, a very palatable, wholesome and nutritious food for us the entire year. And the four garden vegetables that do this to the best advantage consist of the potato, cabbage, beans and tomatoes. And our reasons for this opinion are briefly these, viz: Potatoes supply in a very great measure the place of bread, while beans, in their turn, supply the place of meat—our two most essential articles of human food. This is so evidently and confessedly true of the potato that it would only be a waste of time for me to adduce any proof of it. And if you need any proof of the beans supplying the place of meat, here it is—read it carefully. Von Thier, the great German agriculturist, says:

"Leguminous plants contain a large quantity of what Einhoff calls 'vegeto animal.' This substance has a very great affinity to animal matter, and is quite as nutritious as gluten, as it constitutes the predominating ingredient in vegetables, and they are more nourishing than cereals. It has long been known that lentils, peas and beans not only satisfy hunger, but are more easy of digestion, and have a greater tendency to strengthen the human frame than other vegetable products. To the healthy laborer they supply the place of animal food, and yield that nutriment of which rye and potatoes are incapable. With us they are absolute necessities to those who work hard, and especially to sailors; neither landmen nor sailors are contented unless they can have a meal of legumes at least twice a week. Both experience and chemical analysis tend to prove that legumes are the most nourishing part of the vegetable kingdom."—*Thier's Principles of Practical Agriculture*, (p. 433).

The legumes or pod-bearing plants, as we all know, include beans, peas, lentils, &c., but of these the bean is the most productive and valuable for drying for Winter use, both shelled and in the pod.

So cabbage, both in its fresh and sweet, in its salted and sour form, as *Sauer Krout*, is an excellent and very wholesome table food, a good preventive as well as a cure for the disease called scurvy; and hence cabbage is highly prized as a food among all sailors and others who spend their time on the sea. And I am sure I need say nothing to convince you of the value, and nutritiousness and wholesomeness of tomatoes, since they are used now with great relish by every family in our land, both in their fresh state as they are plucked from the vine, and also as they are now stored away and saved in excellent order in air-tight cans for Winter use and until tomatoes grow and ripen for us again.

And for these reasons every man who owns a garden or an out-lot should every year raise himself a plentiful supply of potatoes, beans, cabbages and tomatoes for his own family use the year round. A moderate supply of all the other garden vegetables already named will also be very useful in their season. And to these, he should, by all means, add a plentiful supply of currants, and a moderate supply of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, and cranberries if he can—those rich and delicious small fruits of our Spring, Summer and Fall seasons that will occupy but little ground, and amply repay him for all the manure and labor he bestows upon them to make their plants strong, healthy and productive.

For currants, both in their green and in their rose-red, ripe state, make a delicious pie, and also a very dainty and pleasant dish when ripe and coated over with cream and sugar. And the strawberry stands still higher in the estimation of many, while the well-ripened raspberry, blackberry, gooseberry and cranberry are very little behind our currants and strawberries in point of culinary excellence. And so he should not forget raising himself full supplies of grapes to be used and eaten just as these other small fruits are. And now when we consider the refreshing coolness of the juices of these small fruits and their rich and delicious flavor of nicely intermixed sweet and sour, and also their nutritiousness and great health-producing qualities during our excessively hot and oppressive Summer and Autumnal weather, and also how easily and cheaply they can be raised, is it not astonishing that our people will supply themselves so poorly and scantily with these luscious and invaluable productions of nature? Surely the man who neglects the culture of these things in his garden and out-lots acts very unwisely for his own good as well as that of his family.

June, 1867.

TALK ON WORK, HEAT AND HEALTH.

WORKERS in the fields—strong men and sturdy boys, toiling beneath a blazing sun, and exposed to rain and chill—let's have a talk together about work and health. Not a fussy talk, like a set of fidgety nervous fellows, afraid to stand up square lest some of the inside works give out; but just a word of practical common sense. (Common sense, by the way, is rather uncommon.)

There's a good deal of work to be done in the six months ahead that can't be got round, or pushed aside, unless you like sheriffs and red flags. If the old farm is to be kept, and to gain in value, this work ahead must be met and done up. For three months we shall have some awful hot days, with burning sun and sultry air, "muggy," as they used to say "down East." Thunder storms will come up sudden, wetting you to the skin, and with raw winds that check perspiration sooner than is healthy; and a damp, chill day now and then, in between these scorchers, to say nothing of fogs and dews. But this work is to be put through, hlow high or low, and it's a good plan to start and go on in such fashion as to hold out strong and come through sound and bright.

It may be well to "take an account of stock," as merchants say,—we mean stock of bone and muscle, and nerve, and will-power. Every sensible man knows about what he can do, and not break or weaken his powers; settle that, and then don't over-do. Many a man (and more boys) just wrecks himself needlessly in ten minutes, and is never the man again he was before. When you feel you are up to your highest mark, stop; and stop before you get there, save in rare emergencies. It's well to feel that you have a reserve force, and could "let out another link."

Look out for the sun. He's a fiery fellow, and sometime when your system may lack positiveness from overwork, he'll send a hot shaft right through you. Don't be careless or foolhardy, that's all. The "boys in blue" all say that the best soldiers took no useless risks, and were therefore fresh and right when the sharp work was to be done.

If you have a feeling come over you that the heat is going through, take to the shade without any foolish shame, for the hardest sometimes falter, and far better one hour's care than mouths or years of weakness from sun-stroke—*coup de soleil*, as the French say. Keep a firm will, for that has great power over the body, and keep the system in a positive condition, with an overplus of vital force to meet and master heat, or cold, or work, by rational care in your habits: but, when you feel that the vital forces are too weak, or too much taxed, yield for the moment and recuperate.

Don't drink too much, no matter what it is, but rather a little, often, and slow, rinsing the mouth well. Be careful about ice-water. Some ginger and sugar or molasses is good in your

water. Home-brewed ale of the best sort may help. As for spirits, it's too fiery, in whatever shape, gets up too much fever, too high pressure and makes the hoiler hurst. We've worked in hay fields when sealing wax would be soft as putty, and stowed away hay under the barn roof where it was hotter than any spot on this earth, and went through it without the ardent.

Beware of getting hot and tired and standing in a chill draft of air, especially if it comes on your hack. That heat and work has lessened your vitality, and put you in negative condition, so that outer forces control you easier, perspiration is checked and sad mischief done before you think. Keep your face to the wind when you stop to rest, for the resistant vital forces emanate from the front more than the rear, and he is a wise as well as a brave man who faces exposure as well as danger.

Don't holt a hearty meal in hot haste and rush out to your work, but get a little rested, then eat moderately, yet enough, and go to work fresh. Dyspepsia and its kindred horrors come often from eating full meals with the system overtaxed and heated, and no vital power left for digestion. Keep cool; the more to be done the more need of self-possession, that you may be master of the situation.

Don't eat heaps of meat and drink gallow of rank coffee and strong tea with a blind notion that you must have hearty food. Your bread or beans, pound for pound, has more nutriment than your beef, and the water don't clog up the system like this black coffee, or rack the nerves like strong tea.

Meat has more stimulus than bread, and a share of this is well, but not in excess. Eat meat, vegetables, fruits, &c., and drink moderately. Keep the system open and all evacuations easy and natural, and save fevers and congestions. Take less meat in very hot weather. Judge for yourselves, but keep all firm, and trim, and cool, and open, in the internal department, and you'll be fit for a good, long pull.

Bathe often, but never when hot or tired. At night a hand-bath all over, if not too tired, and in the morning you are fresh, and it is always safe. It helps greatly through the heated season.

All this, and much more in the same way that you will all think of, can be done, and avoided, sensibly, quietly, and without fidgeting, and, rely on it, will help through all the exposure, make work a welcome task, and land most of you, strong in body and clear in mind, on the cool edge of next winter's snow banks.

PLOWING IN GREEN CROPS.

THE careful farmer, who understands the science of his business, will not only prepare the soil so as to give it the highest capacity for absorbing ammonia and carbonic acid from the air, but he will furnish those indispensable articles of plant food for the use of his growing crops, from every available source. A very effectual method of doing this is the plowing in of green crops. Growing vegetables contain a larger proportion of nitrogenized elements than is found in them after they have fully matured and ripened. These, when turned under in the green state, are rapidly converted into carbonic acid, water and ammonia, and these being disengaged under the earth, are absorbed by the soil, and held subject to the demands of the subsequent crop. The farmer, whose stubble field last Fall, was covered with a heavy crop of ragweed, which he suffered to ripen and stand exposed to the storms of the Winter and Spring, has but a faint idea of how much his corn crop of this Summer will lose by his neglecting to turn his ragweed under while it was in bloom.

Clover is the crop commonly used for turning under, and, if plowed in when in the vigor of its growth, is probably the best; but almost any thick coat of growing vegetation will serve a good purpose, if deeply turned under. There is an inconvenience, or perhaps two of them, attending the use of clover as a green dressing for fallows. If we turn under the first crop it

will require to be done about the middle of June—a time when the corn crop demands all the force usually available on the farm. If the second crop he used it furnishes less green material than the first, and is dryer, harder and decomposes more slowly, and furnishes proportionally less ammonia to the soil.

If the farmer, however, manages to spare the labor from the corn field to plow in the June crop of clover, his naked field must be exposed to the direct rays of the sun without any protection, during the long, hot months of Summer. The damages from this exposure will nearly offset the advantages of the green dressing.

From this cause, a Fall crop, if it be not weeds, should always be preferred for plowing in, whether the ground is to be sowed in wheat or planted in corn the next Spring.

In plowing in green crops, care should be taken to have the vegetable matter well covered. Indeed the crop should be turned under so deep that if corn be raised on it the following year, the vegetable matter will not be disturbed by the cultivator.

ALSIKE OR SWEDISH CLOVER.

WE desire to call the attention of the farmers and bee-keepers to this new variety of clover. Probably but very few have seen it, and perhaps have not even heard of it. In the Agricultural Report for 1865 we have an account of the origin, etc., of this clover, translated from the "Hand Book of Swedish Agriculture." "Alsike Clover (*trifolium hybridum*) is a pale red perennial species of clover, which mixed with grass, is cultivated with great advantage on permanent grass land, whether for pasturage or mowing. This species of clover thrives best on marly clay, with a somewhat moist bottom. Alsike clover has obtained its name from the parish of Alsike, in Upland, where it was first discovered, and where it grows in greatest abundance in every field ditch. Besides this, it is found wild with us from Skaue up to Helmsland, and also in Norway and Finland, where on fallow land, we have seen it growing luxuriantly. This species of clover is consequently native to our country, and proves itself, both here and in the border countries, to be a hardy plant, especially adapted to cultivation in our rigorous climate."

Mr. Samuel Wager of Washington, D. C., claims the credit of having first brought to notice in this country the Alsike clover. He has had a few years' experience with it, and has given some account of it in the Bee Journal. He says "he has no doubt the Swedish clover when once tested will rapidly win its way to public favor." He also says whether it is equally satisfied with every kind of soil, or on what kind it will best thrive is not yet ascertained there. But this he knows from his own experience "that on lime slate land, when the abundance of small stones still remaining on the surface prevents close mowing, an acre of growing Alsike is worth more for hay than three acres of red clover on similar soil, and is greatly superior to it in quality as feed for cows." Hon. Isaac Newton, Commissioner of Agriculture, has tested this variety of clover at the "experimental farm" in Washington, and is fully convinced of its superiority over any other variety in the United States."

Two reasons are given by Western papers for the comparative scarcity of wheat in some sections there, which explains the mystery. High prices induced close selling in the fall, is one of them. The other is found in the unlooked-for volume of the wave of immigration which has rolled over that region during the last half-year. This was wholly unexpected and consequently unprovided for. A recurrence of this scarcity is not likely soon to occur again.

By the introduction of the soiling system, Hon. Josiah Quincy increased his crop of hay from 20 tons to over 300 tons. On 100 acres he had not an interior fence. He believed the value of the manure from a cow to be equal to the value of her milk.

BLACK KNOT.—The editor of the *Practical Entomologist*, B. D. Walsb, in investigating the subject of black knot, has arrived at the conclusion, from his own investigations, and those of others, that the fungus which forms the black knot on the plum is entirely different from that which infests the cherry. He adduces observations showing that there are more than one kind of fungus growing on the cherry; one kind originating on the wild cherry, and spreading to the cultivated cherry, and another kind growing on the choke cherry. Therefore, he infers that plum growers need not fear the black knot on their neighbors' cherry trees, and for the same reason cherry growers need not be alarmed at seeing the black knot on their neighbors' plum trees, as the disease only spreads from the plum to the plum, and from the cherry to the cherry.



FARM AND FIRESIDE.

G. W. AND S. S. FOSS, EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 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.

CULTIVATION OF CORN.

In many sections of the country there is no improvement in the cultivation of corn—a crop twice the value of any other cereal, and which, in 1866, yielded 867,946,295 bushels; the cash value being \$591,666,293. Enormous as these figures are, and important as this crop is to the American people, we make but small progress in improved culture. The old style of hilling up, when cultivating, exists in many sections, especially in the Middle and Eastern States. This fashion of making conical hills originated, perhaps, with the Indians; they had no implements suitable to cultivate the plant, and so scratched or heaped the earth around it. Improved implements in agriculture generally introduce improved culture; and, instead of following aboriginal customs we should study the natural habits of the plant, and if we do this we shall find that corn wants a flat surface of soil to grow in. On light, loamy soil this is inevitably true. If you "hill up," as is frequently the case, you are aiding the drought; for this hilling up increases the aërication and destroys moisture. Again, in hoeing time, by adding fresh earth on top of the high, conical hill, you invite fresh roots from the parent stalk, which is a detriment to those first formed. These hills also shed the rain from showers, which corn generally wants in mid-Summer.

The advantage of level culture is also proved by the fact that corn roots extend over a large surface—reaching out for food from one row to the roots of the next row. While the leaves are drinking oxygen, the roots are stretching out their delicate tendrils for the mineral elements of the soil. Then, it is self-evident that they can reach such food more easily on a level surface than from hills and ridges. "Hilling up corn" is thought to be beneficial on wet or moist land; but corn should not be planted on such soils. But even on land of this description, we would not tolerate hills. Some farmers advocate the hilling system because it is supposed it prevents it from being blown down by high winds. Experience satisfies us that hills are not safeguards. Strong, well-developed roots, on level surface, will hold up the stalks against ordinary storms much better than if in hills.

In cultivating, use a light plough or cultivator—running through both ways. If the ground is wet and heavy, wait. Nothing is gained by ploughing or hoeing a wet soil. You cannot kill weeds then, nor can the soil be made mellow and friable. In dry weather, keep ploughs, cultivators and even hand-hoes in operation. We believe in cultivating corn at least three times; keeping the surface stirred and free from weeds and grass. By this means the air and solar heat penetrate the soil as deeply as it is ploughed or broken up; the roots extend in all directions, feeding on the carbonic acid carried into the soil and on the soluble minerals which abound in fertility. When to cease cultivating corn, we never learned; believing that as long as there are weeds and grass to be eradicated, we ought to keep the soil mellow and friable. Corn, as we learn by analysis, requires food until the last of September; yet great care must be taken not to injure the roots by cultivation the latter part of the season. Better and more thorough cultivation is what the corn plant requires. Cultivation does not create fertility; but it adds immensely to the production of this cereal.

* Agricultural Report for April.

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.

THE CROPS.

WE continue to receive favorable reports from our correspondents in all sections of the country, relative to the growing crops. Wheat, which furnishes our hungry millions with bread, seems to engross the attention of all classes, and the crop now ready for the harvest must be immense. No solicitude need be felt in regard to this important cereal—there will be enough to supply us with flour at reasonable prices, and with a large surplus for exportation. This is "good news" for everybody; because for two successive years this crop has been light; again, because much of prosperity, individual and national, depends on a good wheat crop. There are probably some sections where unfavorable conditions of the soil, or of the weather may have blasted the prospects of the husbandman; but take the country together, North, East, South and West, we can safely count on a large and bountiful crop.

The reports of oats, barley and rye are also favorable. Corn is very late, but with hot, dry weather in July and August, we may have an average crop. Grass, in nearly all the Middle and Northern States, will net a larger return of hay than for several years past. Potatoes look remarkably well. Fruit, from present advices, will be rather more than an average crop. The weather is said to have been somewhat unfavorable to cotton, especially the early part of the season; but reports from the great cotton-growing districts enable us to predict a crop of about three million bales. This will materially improve the prospects of the South, and become the basis of renewed prosperity. Looking at the aggregate of all crops, at this period, we must acknowledge that the agricultural prospects are propitious.

FRUIT PROSPECTS.

THE pleasant prospect of a large crop of cherries in this vicinity has been cut off. For some cause the cherries have blasted, and on a majority of the trees which have come under our observation, but little fruit worth eating remains.

The large promise of apples and pears will not be realized in this section of country.—There will be, perhaps, about an average crop.

Of Strawberries, which are now in the lusciousness of their prime, there is an abundance, and prices are lower than the average for several years.

Concerning grapes, it is too early to give a safe opinion, but they look promising.

THE CATTLE DISEASE is again increasing its ravages in England; upwards of one hundred animals were attacked last week. The London Times says that "notwithstanding the legal precautions to prevent its spreading, the plague is on the increase."

Our Government has instructed collectors of Customs to enforce stringently the law prohibiting the importation of cattle from Europe, for the present.

SHEEP IN TEXAS.—A correspondent of a rural exchange says the sheep business is overdone in Texas. He states that good flocks of sheep can be purchased for one dollar per head. Wool low, with dull sales.

THE newspapers of South Carolina and Georgia state that the Sea Island cotton crop will be a very profitable one.

THE weevil has made its appearance in the wheat fields of Virginia, and its ravages are very destructive.

SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

IN an interesting article on forage plants, the "Farmers' Home Journal," of Lexington, Kentucky, states the origin of Blue Grass—so celebrated in the grazing sections of the Southwest. Heretofore we have never found a satisfactory account of the origin of this grass; although we had concluded it was not indigenous, but was of English origin. The Journal says: "in the party accompanying Daniel Boone to Kentucky, in 1769, was an Englishman and his wife. The latter had tied up in the corner of her handkerchief some seed which she had brought from England. Loitering at Boonsboro', the wife planted these seed (which were Blue Grass seed) in their garden. It increased so rapidly that she pulled it up and threw it into a neighboring lot; there it took root and flourished." Such is the asserted origin of this celebrated forage grass.

A correspondent of the "American Farmer," of Rochester, N. Y., says garget, or inflammation of the udder, can be cured in twenty-four hours by administering half a teaspoonful of tincture of iron in a little ground feed. This disease is often treated with warm poultices, but rarely effectively. Try the tincture of iron.

The "Wisconsin Farmer," of Madison, recommends soiling cows in Summer, as the lands in that State are light and porous, not forming a good grazing sod. Soiling cattle has generally been confined to the Eastern States, especially near cities, where milk is the principal object. If grazing on the open prairies of the West and Northwest is not profitable, we fear that soiling will not pay on an extensive scale. Cows, like all domestic animals, want exercise as well as natural food.

The "Utica Herald," in an article on the cheese market, represents business dull, with prices inclining downward. The average price of factory cheese at Little Falls, N. Y., is 11 to 14 cents. This is about half what it is retailed at throughout the country. Who makes the large profit? If first-class factory cheese can be sold in the interior of New York for 14 cents a pound, there is no reason for selling it at 25 to 28 cts.—about the average price at retail.

"Colman's Rural World," of St. Louis, says the past year was a severe one for bees—probably the worst for twenty years. The season was too cold and wet for the bees to make or store much honey. The Italian bees were more successful than the native.

A correspondent of the "Iowa Homestead," Des Moines, addresses a long letter to the wool growers of Iowa. He says the wool of that State sells at a very low price; not because of its inferior quality, but "on account of its being so poorly prepared for market." He says it is imperfectly washed, the fleeces are badly packed and not properly baled. Present prices of wool in Iowa, 30 to 35 cents a pound.

The "Country Gentleman," Albany, has an article on the "Effects of Winter" on fruit in Western New York. The fruit buds of the plum, cherry, and some of the more delicate pears, were killed or greatly injured. Of blackberries, it pronounces the Kittatiny and New Rochelle, the most hardy—the former standing the extreme severity of last Winter remarkably well.

Brother Tneker, of the "Country Gentleman," Albany, N. Y., winds up his sketch of a trip to Ohio and Kentucky with an account of J. T. Warder's farm near Springfield, the former State. This farm comprises 600 acres. Blue grass flourishes there, affording the finest pasturage imaginable. The only rotation followed is turning the sod, planting one crop of corn, then seeding down to grass. The average yield of corn is sixty bushels per acre; wheat twenty bushels, though occasionally reaching thirty-five. Mr. Warder makes a specialty of mules, frequently wintering from two hundred to three hundred and fifty head. These are

fed principally on corn and corn fodder. The mules are sold when three years of age—the price last year averaging \$150 each.

The "Maine Farmer" urges that in plow trials the kind of soil which is to be used in the trials should be announced before hand. A rocky upland soil and a rough meadow are different things, and demand different treatment. The same implement should not be expected to perform all kinds of work. A correspondent of the "Rural New Yorker," now at the Paris Exposition, writes that "the Americans cannot compete with the English either in plows, teams or plowmen—all necessary elements in a plowing match. This will be perfectly understood and acknowledged by all who have seen England, and taken the least notice of plowing there, but will not be by those who have not. I do not contend that the time and force expended by the English plowman is any more remunerative than with us, but when you come to the doing of a nice job, such as is expected at a plowing match, we cannot come up to their ordinary work. However bitter this pill may be to some of our "crack" plowmen, plowmakers and horsemen, they had better take it and it will do them a vast deal of good."

The "New England Farmer" urges the harvesting of small grains before fully ripe. Some years ago attention was directed to this subject by experiments made by John Hannam of North Dighton, England. It is claimed that there is a gain in weight of gross produce, 13 1-5 per cent.; in weight of equal measures, nearly 1-2 per cent.; in weight of equal number of grains, nearly 2 1-5 per cent.; in quality and value, 3 1-4 per cent.; in weight of straw, more than 5 per cent. In the harvest which will soon take place, there will be opportunity for every farmer to test the question for himself, by cutting a portion of his grain at that moment when the kernel or berry is fully formed, but so soft that when he squeezes it between his thumb nails he can reduce it to a pulp, and notice a slightly milky juice in the mashed mass. Then leave a portion of the grain standing ten or twelve days later, and upon threshing, cleaning up, grinding and using, carefully compare the results.

DEATH OF COMMISSIONER NEWTON.—The agricultural interest of this nation has lost one of its best friends and advocates. HON. ISAAC NEWTON, Commissioner of Agriculture, died at Washington, on the 19th inst. Mr. Newton was born in Burlington county, New Jersey, March 31st, 1800. He was engaged in agricultural pursuits nearly all his life, and was a progressive farmer, taking great delight in the improvement of cattle and a better cultivation of the soil. In 1861, President Lincoln appointed him Chief Clerk, and soon afterwards Commissioner of the Bureau of Agriculture—a position which he filled with credit to himself and the nation. Many small politicians, who disgrace a seat in Congress, and sundry agricultural pimps and panders, who wished Mr. Newton's position, endeavored to remove him from office. Death has superseded and made void the labors of his enemies.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.—We learn that Judge Watts, Mr. McAllister and Judge Miles, a sub-committee of the trustees of the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, are now examining the various farms offered that Board, upon which to locate—East and West—model or experimental farms, in connection with the parent institution. This sub-committee have visited about twenty-five different points; the decision will be made known during the coming Fall—probably at the State Society's Exhibition at Pittsburg.

THE New York Central Railroad is preparing to carry beef to market in cars lined with cork, a non-conductor of heat. The atmosphere is forced through the car from chambers at both ends, keeping up a constant circulation of cold air. The advantages of carrying beef in preference to live stock, to market, if the beef can be kept pure, are apparent.

DECLIVITY OF RIVERS.—A very slight declivity suffices to give the running motion to water. Three inches per mile, in a smooth, straight channel, gives a velocity of about three miles an hour. The Ganges, which gathers the waters of the Himalaya Mountains, the loftiest in the world, is, at 1,800 miles from its mouth, only about 800 feet above the level of the sea, and to fall these 800 feet in the long course the water requires more than a month. The great river Magdalena, in South America, running for 1,000 miles between two ridges of the Andes, falls only 500 feet in all that distance; above the commencement of the 1,000 miles, it is seen descending in cataracts from the mountains. The Rio de la Plata has so gentle a descent that, 1,500 miles from its mouth, large ships are seen which have sailed against the current all the way by the force of the wind alone.





Fireside Tale.

THE COOPER'S COW TRADE.

JOSEPHUS ALLEN was a cooper. He had a little shop in the outskirts of the village, where he shaved and thumped away, early and late. A more honest man never lived—or, at least, he was as honest as need be. He owned a respectable dwelling and a few acres of land, and he kept a pig, and some hens, and a cow; this hute property being under the especial care of Mrs. Allen. It was generally acknowledged that nobody's pig was so sleek and fat as Mrs. Allen's, nobody's eggs were so large or so sure to be fresh, and nobody's butter was so sweet and so yellow. "This is Mrs. Josephus Allen's butter." "Mrs. Allen brought these eggs in." Let the shop-keeper thus announce, and the things were bought immediately. And Josephus himself occupied a place equally firm in the confidence of his fellows. His word was as good as his bond, and his work in demand.

One Spring Josephus met with a sad misfortune. His cow broke the floor of the barn and broke her leg—broke it so badly that mending was out of the question. What should he do for another cow?

"You must go and buy one," said his wife. "But cows must be high this season."

"Never mind, a cow we must have. You ought to get a good one for fifteen dollars—a good milch cow."

"Ah—hnt the fifteen dollars, Mrs. Allen."

"I can let you have ten of it—ten dollars that I have laid up from the sale of butter and eggs."

Thus furnished with the "sinews of trade," Josephus started forth in search of a cow, and after tramping a whole day without finding what he sought, he finally brought up at Mr. John Potman's. He had seen many just such cows as he wanted, but they were not to be bought. He had thus far avoided Mr. Potman because he had no very good opinion of that individual's honesty. In fact, he knew that John Potman cheated when he could. But he concluded to take a look at Potman's stock, trusting that he knew enough about cows to take care of himself.

John Potman was a farmer, and did considerable business in buying and selling cattle, and he also loaned money to needy men at exorbitant rates of interest. He took no mortgages for security. When he loaned money, he wanted a right out-hill of sale of some good property, and thus did much stock, in horses, oxen and cows, fall into his hands. It was in the morning when Josephus called upon Mr. Potman, and when he had made known his want, he was informed that he had come just in the "nick of time."

"I've got just the animal you want," said the stock trader; "a fine, large cow, healthy and strong, kind and gentle; an easy milker; with a calf three weeks old. I took her only a few weeks ago for a debt; come and look at her."

Josephus followed Mr. Potman to the barn, where the cow was pointed out. She appeared to be all that had been represented. She had a large, good frame; was of a light red color, and was in respectable flesh. The udder was ample, and when Josephus tried the teats he found that they yielded the milk freely.

"How much milk does she give?" asked Josephus.

"I haven't had a chance to find out exactly," replied Potman. "I've only had her a few days, and the calf has run with her all this time; but the man I got her of told me she would give, on an average, twelve quarts at a milking in the height of feed. If I had not already more stock than I can feed, I would not sell her at any price. Just look at that calf. Isn't it a beauty?"

Josephus was inclined to the opinion that this was the cow he wanted.

"She cannot be very old," he said, looking at the rings on her horns, where the growth of each year is marked.

"The man said she was eight years old," re-

plied Potman, "and I should not call her much younger. I guess she is eight."

Josephus walked round the cow several times, and finally asked her price.

"I ought to have twenty dollars, Mr. Allen. She's worth it—every cent."

Josephus shook his head. He could not pay so much money. Then followed a long discussion upon the value of such an animal; and finally Potman grew generous. He let the cow go for fifteen dollars, though with seemingly painful reluctance. Josephus paid the money, and drove the cow home. He did not want the calf, so that very night he sold it to a neighbor, who wanted it to mate one that he already owned.

On the following morning the cow was milked and turned into the pasture. The quantity of milk given on this morning was remarkably small, but then it was not to be wondered at. The cow probably missed her calf, and had eaten nothing. At night, however, after cropping the tender grass all day, she would be sure to give a good account of herself.

During that afternoon Amos Bean dropped in at the cooper's shop. Amos was a neighbor and a very warm friend. He was a farmer in a small way, sometimes working at house-building. He soon learned that Josephus had purchased a cow of John Potman.

"I don't understand," said Amos. "Potman is buying good cows. I heard him say only two days ago, that he wanted four good milkers for his dairy. What did you pay him?"

"Fifteen dollars."

"Cheap enough, at this season, for a good cow. However, it may be all right."

In the evening the cow came home from the pasture with about as lank an udder as she carried away in the morning, and not over a quart of milk could be obtained from her. Mrs. Allen was horror-stricken, while Josephus stood aghast.

What could it mean? The pasture was one of the best in the country, and the grass was green and tender.

Just then Amos came along again. He had feared something wrong from the first. He instituted a thorough examination, and pretty soon an exclamation of astonishment signified that he had found the "mice."

"Look here!" said he, pulling open the cow's mouth.

Josephus looked and found that the animal was almost toothless! The front teeth were all gone!

"But," he gasped, "it can't be her age. Her horns don't show it."

"Don't they?" echoed Amos, "Look a little closer. The upper rings have been scraped down, and the surface colored! The cat is out. The cow has been a good milker; but she's got bravely over it now. She must be along towards twenty years old; and I guess that for some years she has been fed on swill."

Josephus was quite beside himself with pain and mortification.

"By the jumping Jonathan!" he swore, "I will go back to John Potman directly. I'll make him take the cow and return my money, and I'll tell him just what I think of him."

"Don't do any such, thing," said Amos. "Potman would only laugh at you. It was what he would call a fair trade; and if you got cheated he would say it was your own fault. I know him well. If there's any way in which we can come up with the old rascal, I'll study it out. Just keep quiet until to-morrow, and let me think the matter over. Don't say a word to anybody."

Josephus promised that he would obey the instructions of his friend, and Amos then went away.

The poor cooper did not sleep a wink all that night. The loss of money was something to one in his situation; but that was as nothing compared with the outrage which he felt had been put upon him. His wife, too, worried a great deal; for she supposed the purchase money of the cow was almost a dead

loss; and she also supposed that her husband would be well laughed at for allowing himself to be cheated.

On the following morning Amos Bean came and announced that he had thought of a plan by which Mr. Potman could be corrected.

"I owe the old skinflint a punishment," said he, "and if you will trust your cow in my hands, I think I'll pay him off for both you and myself. In the mean time you may take one of my cows and use her until we can make arrangements for getting another one."

Josephus did not stop to ask many questions. He allowed Amos to take the antiquated animal away, and in return he brought back a cow belonging to his friend.

Amos Bean put the old cow into a close stall where she could not be seen by the passers-by, and one of his first manipulative operations was to saw off the tips of her horns, and darken what was left with a mixture of potash, after which he rubbed them down with a little French polish. A hottle of dyestuff, carefully applied, changed the cow's color from a light red to a beautiful brindie.

One afternoon Bean saw John Potman in the store, and he went in and purchased a piece of tobacco. After passing the time of day with the skinflint, he started to go out, turning as though he had forgotten something.

"Ah—look here, Stanley," said he, addressing the storekeeper, "if Seth Folsom comes in here, I wish you'd tell him he can see that cow this evening. I've got one that will suit him exactly." And with this Amos left the store. He had gone but a few steps, however, when he heard his name pronounced.

"Mr. Bean. Ah—stop a moment. You spoke of a cow."

It was John Potman. Amos had expected this, for he knew that the old rascal still wanted two or three good milkers.

"Yes, sir," said Bean.

"What have you got?"

"A cow that has been left with me by a friend who wants money."

"What is she?"

"Come and see yourself."

"Where is she?"

"She will be in my yard at sundown this evening."

"I'll come and look at her."

That evening when Amos drove his cattle up from the pasture, he turned the old cow out into the yard with them. A handsomer brindie, in the fading daylight, was never seen; her horns were dark and glossy; and her hag was so full that the milk ran out at the teats in streams. In a little while Mr. Potman came. He looked at the cow and was favorably impressed. He looked at the distended udder, and nodded with satisfaction.

"How old is she?" he asked.

"I think she is eight this Spring," replied Amos.

"What is the price?"

"Twenty-five dollars."

"It is too much."

"Very well—I didn't ask you to buy."

"But—I should like just such a cow, if I could get her at a fair price. Let's have a look at her month."

Potman made several attempts to look into her mouth, but was forced to give it up as a bad job.

"I guess you'll find it all right," said Amos, as he drew up a stool and commenced to milk the aged animal.

Mr. Potman stood by and saw the cow milked. He saw a large wooden pail filled to the brim, and then a small tin pail filled besides. It was the largest quantity of milk he had ever seen from one cow at one milking.

"Does she usually give as much as that?"

"I don't think I ever milked less from her at an evening's milking," replied Amos, as he arose and knicked the stool back.

"But twenty-five dollars is rather high, Mr. Bean."

"Well—what of it? You ain't got to pay for her. I can't think Seth Folsom will grumble at the price. If he does, he isn't the man I take him for."

Amos had turned to go into the house, when Potman called him back.

"Is twenty-five dollars the least you'll take for that cow?"

"Yes, sir!"

"And can I have her for that?"

"I said so."

"Then she is mine."

And John Potman gave Bean twenty-five dollars, and drove home the cow. After tea, Amos went to the village and gave Josephus the money he had obtained for the cow.

"But," said the cooper, opening his eyes with wonder, "I can't take all this."

"It's all yours," returned Amos. "It's just what Potman paid me for the cow; I told him I was selling it for a friend."

By nine o'clock the story had leaked out in Stanley's store; and before the villagers had separated for the night, it had been pretty generally circulated. It was as good as a holiday; for the people knew Potman's deceitful, nig-gardly character, and it was refreshing to know that for once he had been forced to put on the tight hood.

The following day was a rainy one, and at night, when Mr. Potman's cows came in from pasture he fancied that his new purchase had changed color most marvelously. She was drabbled all over, as though soused in a vat of old coffee, and the dark liquid was dripping from her hair. Her hag was as lank as a dish cloth, with hardly milk enough in it to pay for the milking. With an oath, and a vigorous assault, Potman managed to see just enough into the cow's mouth to satisfy him that the front teeth were all gone! He examined the horns and found that they had been fixed!

"———! It's THE OLD COW!" I dare not write the opening remarks of John Potman on that occasion. They were awfully, terribly, frightfully profane.

A few days afterwards, Potman met Amos Bean in the street.

"Bean," said he, trying to smile as he spoke, "you are a coon!—you did that well! But, tell me one thing; I know how you changed her color, but I don't know how you managed to get that enormous hag of milk into her that night; will you tell me?"

"Certainly," replied Amos. "It was all very simple. She'd been fed on barley pudding and oatmeal gruel, and hadn't been milked for five days!"

On his way home John Potman rubbed his ear as though something had bitten it.

THE LION IN HIS OLD AGE.—When a young lion reaches the age of two years, he is able to pull down a horse or ox; and so he continues to grow and increase in strength till he reaches his eighth year. Then his talons, teeth, and mane are perfect, and he grows no more. For twenty years after he arrives at maturity, his talons and fangs show no signs of decay; but after that he grows feeble, his teeth fall him, and he grows "cuhhish." He is no longer a match for the tremendous buffalo, he prowls around the cattle kraals, and snatches a lamb or kid just as he did when he set out with his parents nearly thirty years before. A woman or child might share the same fate. His strength and sight now decline more and more, till the mighty lion grows lean and mangy, and crawls about from place to place, eating any offal he can pick up, and despising not even so small an animal as the field mouse; and he starves and dies, or is fallen on and slaughtered by a few cowardly hyenas, or is discovered unable to move beneath a tree, and knocked on the head by some wandering Jew.—*South African Paper.*

A Good sort of a man in Maine was recently asked to subscribe for a chandelier for the church. "Now"—said he—"what's the use of a chandelier? After you get it you can't get any one to play on it."

"LANDLORD," said a seedy pedagogue, somewhat given to strong libations, "I would like a quantum of spirits, a modicum of molasses, in conjunction with a little water; but deal largely in spirits, thou man of mixtures."

THE SEARCH AFTER DR. LIVINGSTONE.—The British Government propose to send out a search party to ascertain the fate of Dr. Livingstone. It will be a small one, consisting only of four Englishmen, including the leader, Mr. E. D. Young, of Zambesi reputation, and all will be men already acclimatized in similar regions. They will ascend to Lake Nyassa by the Zamhesi and the Shire, and they will soon reach the head of Lake Nyassa, near which the disaster is said to have occurred. There ascertaining the truth or falsehood of the death of the great traveller, they will be back again at the month of the Zamhesi by the month of November. Thus, at little risk and small cost, the painful suspense at which the public mind is now held on this subject will be relieved, and we shall know whether Livingstone was killed, or has passed onward to Cazamhe and the Lake Tanganyika.



The Fireside Muse.

HAY-MAKER'S SONG.

Come on to the scented clover fields,
At early dawn away:
The earth her generous bounty yields—

There's wealth within the sleney arm
That drives the ringing steel,
There's music in the laborer's heart

When the sun is up in the cloudless sky,
And the West wind gently blows,
'Tis then the sturdy husbandman

When the storm king sits on the Western hills,
And frowns o'er the smiling plain,
And the hollow voice of the distant rills,

Various Matters.

OUR BOOK TABLE.

BLEAK HOUSE, By Charles Dickens. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia.

This is the fifth volume of the "Green Cloth Edition" of the great novelist's works. It has 37 original illustrations by H. K. Browne, and the mechanical execution is good. Cheap at \$1.25.

THE POSTHUMOUS PAPERS OF THE PICKWICK CLUB. By Charles Dickens. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia.

This is the commencement of an entire new edition of DICKENS, to be called "The People's Edition." Each volume will be printed on fine paper, with large, clear type, and with Cruikshank's original illustrations—making handsome volumes of nearly one thousand pages.

MUCH NEEDED BOOK.—Hon. Lewis F. Allen, of Black Rock, N. Y., has nearly ready for the press a volume on "American Cattle." It will give an account of the most valued breeds in this country; also of popular breeds in Europe.

FAMILY COURTESIES.—The laws of politeness should be observed not only between intimate friends, but between members of the same family; and those households are the most peaceful and happy where the courtesies of good society are observed.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

ORCHARDS grown from root grafts are short lived, and never can be profitable. Plant only stock-grafted trees.

AZALEAS.—The Horticulturist says these plants bloom much better if planted out of doors in the full sun, than if kept in shade during the Summer, as they often are.

28,554 acres of public lands were disposed of during the month of May.

A Chicago paper says that the estimate of from fifteen to twenty millions pounds as the yield of the Northwestern wool crop is excessive. The clip is lighter on the same number of sheep than last year.

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

The potato bug is destroying the growing potato crop in some parts of Iowa and in Rock-river region of Illinois. The pestiferous insects swarm over the potato fields like locusts, and literally destroy the plants.

Cows sometimes get a surfeit of grass, especially in wet, warm weather, when the grass is succulent and rich. This feed distends the bowels uncomfortably. An armful of dry hay once a day will serve to absorb some of this moisture, and benefit the cow in several respects.

An Illinois farmer sold his entire crop of strawberries off forty acres of land, delivered to parties in Chicago, the other day, for \$50,000.

The Ohio wool growers are making up their minds to a decline in prices this season in consequence of a large clip, the heavy decline in all classes of manufactured goods and the general caution in business.

The Markets.

WOONSOCKET RETAIL MARKET.

Table listing various farm products and their prices, including Hay, Straw, Coal, Oats, Flour, Corn Meal, Rye, Saleratus, Kerosene Oil, Cheese, Butter, Coddish, Java Coffee, Mackerel, Raisins, Molasses, Y. H. Tea, Black Tea, Oil, Fluid gal., Candles, Eggs, Lard, Sugar, Hams, Poultry, Shoulders, Sausages, Tripes, Pork, salt.

BRIGHTON CATTLE MARKET.

At market for the current week: Cattle, 1345; Sheep and Lambs 3425. Swine, 950. Western cattle, 1141; Eastern cattle, 4; Working oxen and Northern cattle, 150. Cattle left over from last week, 50. PROCS. Beef Cattle—Extra, \$14.75@ \$15.00; first quality, \$14.25@ \$14.75; second quality, \$13.50@ \$14.00; third quality, \$11.50@ \$13.50. 100 lbs (the total weight of hides, tallow and dressed beef). Country Hides, 9 1/2 @ 10 cts. lb. Country Tallow 6 1/2 @ 7 1/2 cts. lb. Brighton Hides, 10 @ 10 1/2 cts. lb.; Brighton Tallow, 7 1/2 @ 8 1/2 cts. lb. Lamb Skins, 50c each; Wool Sheep Skins, \$2.25 @ 2.75. Calf Skins, 20 @ 22 cts. lb. Sheared Sheep Skins, 25c each. The supply of Beaves in market this week is not quite so good upon all descriptions as of late, with an upward tendency. Very nice lots in, which sold for 13c, 30 per cent. shrink. Prices remain nearly the same as last week, but the trade is quicker. Working Oxen—Sales at \$200 to \$325 per pair. But a few pairs in market. Not an active demand. Milch Cows—Sales extra at \$85@120; ordinary \$65 @ \$80.—Store Cows \$47@55. Sheep and Lambs.—The trade is dull. Most of the Western Sheep were taken to slaughter. We quote sales of lots at from 4 1/2 to 7c, per lb.; sales of Lambs at \$3.50, \$4.50, \$5, \$6 @ \$6.50 per head. Swine—Wholesale, 8 cents @ lb.; retail, 8 @ 10 cents @ lb. Fat Hogs—1800 at market; prices, 7 @ 7 1/2 cts. per lb.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK WHOLESALE MARKET.

The market for the past week has been characterized by remarkable and violent fluctuations in breadstuffs and provisions—the prices of breadstuffs touching a shipping point, which caused a sudden reaction and a brisk local and speculative trade upon all descriptions of flour, with an upward tendency. The same may be said of pork, which closes with a rise. FLOUR—We have had a very excited and variable flour market. Up to Thursday quite a panic had prevailed, prices declining from 50 to 75 cents per barrel. Since then we have had more steadiness and an active local and speculative inquiry; nearly all the decline has been recovered at the close, the later arrivals stimulating the demand, and the less favorable accounts of the Southern crop of wheat inducing a speculative inquiry. California flour has been particularly active since Wednesday. Since then it has advanced from 50 to 75 cents a barrel. It closes very strong. Rye flour has fluctuated rapidly, declining early in the week 50 cents. Since then most of the decline has been recovered. CORN MEAL has been freely offered at a decline of about 25 cents a barrel—the common qualities at full rates on good market, closing firm. WHEAT early in the week was presingly offered. The decline of July 15 and 20 cents a bushel was submitted to after Thursday morning, when a firmer feeling prevailed, advices from the West of the material reaction there stimulating the inquiry here and the appearance of exporters in the market for the interior further contributing to the reaction. Since then the market has advanced 25 cents a bushel and closing with a strong and upward tendency, especially for Spring. RYE has been freely offered at a decline of about 20 cents a bushel, and closes heavy, with liberal offerings. OATS have been active, the demand being largely speculative. Prices have advanced from seven to eight cents a bushel. CORN has been in active request but at very variable rates.

RHODE ISLAND SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.—The stated meeting of the Standing Committee of this Society was held at Providence, on the 19th inst.

The Standing sub-Committee on the Fine Arts asked for an appropriation of one thousand dollars to enable them to carry out their part of the proposed Industrial Exhibition of the Society in that city, in September next, which was assented to by the Board.

The Executive Committee, having charge of the Exhibition, reported that they had arranged with the several railroad corporations for a reduction of freight on stock for the cattle show, and on passengers' fares, which will soon be published in the Premium List now nearly ready for publication. The premiums offered will exceed \$10,000.

INFLUENCE OF TIMBER ON FRUIT.—Proofs are accumulating as to the beneficial influence of forest trees in the preservation of the more susceptible fruits from the rigors of our Northern and Western Winters. We have noted this frequently in years gone by—a fact corroborated by an Illinoisan in a letter of recent date to the "Institute Farmers' Club." He writes from the Southern section of the State, and says:—"Here, on the edge of the timber belt, peaches have not failed for nine years." On the open prairies they are killed almost annually—the present year proving no exception.

Marriages.

In this town, June 19th, by Rev. D. M. Crane, Mr. George H. Thayer to Miss L. Bernette Hadly, both of Blackstone; in Boston, June 20th, by the same, Mr. Joseph P. Gould, of Boston, to Miss Marianna Wales, of Franklin. Near Slatesville, June 20, at the residence of the bride, by Rev. E. A. Buck, Mr. Wm. H. Sandford to Miss Julia A. Comstock, both of S. In Lonsdale, by Rev. W. W. Sever, William Hervey to Mrs. Sarah L. Eldridge, both of Providence; 25th inst., by the same, George H. DeWolf to Lucy S. Howard, both of Lonsdale. In Pascoag, June 16th, by Rev. M. Phillips, Mr. Robert C. McCormick to Miss Senora A. Blanchard, both of Georgetown; 19th inst., Mr. Frank J. Oatley, of Providence, to Miss Eleanor A. Daggett, of West Glocester. In North Providence, 5th inst., by Rev. Mr. Richardson, Mr. Horace Jencks to Miss Hannah Gertrude Bennett, both of North Providence. In Whitinsville, June 19th, by Rev. L. P. Clark, Francis Eugene Taft, of Northbridge, to Emma Jane Smith, of Whitinsville. In Providence, 20th inst., Gilbert P. Whitman, of Pawtucket, to Annie H., only daughter of Lyman Arnold, Esq., of Smithfield. In Thompson, Ct., June 7th, Merrill A. Wordan, of Thompson, to Ella F. Perry, of Killingly. In Putnam, Ct., June 9th, Andrew F. Moriarty to Mrs. Caroline A. Baxter, both of Thompson.

Deaths.

At his residence in Central Falls, on the 19th inst., Moses H. Beede, in the 73d year of his age, an approved Minister of the Society of Friends. In Providence, June 24th, of apoplexy, Dr. Samuel Boyd Tohey, aged 62 yrs. In Mendon, June 15th, Chas. E. Brown, aged 31 years. In East Medway, June 13th, Elizabeth Blake, aged 92 years. In Millbury, June 23d, Oliver Rice, aged 73 years; on the same day, Thaniel Cutting, aged 62 years. In Thompson, Ct., June 6, Federal C. Sprague, aged 76 yrs.

Special Notices.

MOTHER BAILEY'S QUIETING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN.—Allays all Pain, Cures Wind Colic, Convulsions, Griping, &c. Large Bottles only 25 cents. Sold by Druggists. (4w-24) GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., Boston.

Advertisements.

Pennsylvania.

TURNIP SEED! TURNIP SEED! NEW CROP OF JULY 1st, 1867. Grown on our own Seed Farm, FROM SELECTED STOCK AND WARRANTED. ALSO IMPORTED SEED, OF BEST QUALITY, and in great variety. SEND FOR PRICE LIST—GRATIS.

STEPHEN G. COLLINS, WM. CHAS. ANDERSON, ROBERT DOWNS, COLLINS ANDERSON & CO., Seed Warehouse, 1111 and 1113 Market St., PHILADELPHIA, PA. June 29, 1867.

TURNIP SEED. 10,000 Pounds of Imported Swede or Ruta Raga Turnip Seed. 10,000 Pounds American Purple Top and White Flat Dutch Turnip Seed. TO FARMERS, One, or more pounds, sent by mail, on receipt of 75 cents per pound. For sale at the Seed Store of C. B. ROGERS, June 15th—1m No. 133 Market Street, Philadelphia.

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, Tildies, 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-p-17.

New York.

BELLS!

MENEELY'S WEST TROY BELL FOUNDRY. (ESTABLISHED IN 1825.) 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.

Rhode Island.

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. B. LORING, of Salem, President, DANIEL NEEDHAM, of Boston, Secretary, WILLIAM SPRAGUE, of So. Kingston, R. I., President, WM. R. STAPLES, of Providence, Secretary, of the N. E. Agricultural Soc'y., 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. 194

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 Knives, 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 Rakes. 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 will be filled promptly. May 25, 1867. PROVIDENCE, R. I. 19-20



Farming Miscellany.

CULTIVATION OF THE STRAWBERRY.

THE discoveries of scientific and practical men in the past few years have excited a large amount of attention from that class of our farmers whose labor is given principally to the cultivation of smaller fruits.

Strawberries are best grown in beds four feet wide. This secures convenience in gathering and allows opportunity for cultivation.

It is of great importance to keep them free from weeds in the Summer. A neglect of a few weeks in this matter will often make it impossible to make it worth while to preserve the beds.

INCREASE YOUR WINTER FODDER.—Now is the time to sow corn in drills, or broadcast, if you intend to have extra feed for your cattle.

It can be applied to the bed at any time, during the Spring, Summer, or Fall months, but

some of the most successful growers have given a preference to the period following the bearing season.—"West Jersey Pioneer."

STORM SIGNAL IN HARVEST TIME.

The following plan, to aid in preventing injury to grain and hay crops from storms during harvest, is offered for the consideration of farmers, the press, and the public generally:

When a storm commences in any part of the country, and is travelling in a certain direction, the first telegraph station over which it passes is to send the news immediately to all the telegraph stations at county seats, hundreds of miles in advance, in the direction that the storm is travelling.

At each county seat a cannon is to be kept ready by the officials at the court-house, and as soon as the news is received of a coming storm it is to be fired three times—at intervals of one minute if a hurricane is approaching;

As a good-sized cannon can be heard distinctly from fifteen to twenty miles in all directions, or over a space of from thirty to forty miles square, by fixing one at each county seat, the farmers over the whole country, for hundreds of miles, would be warned in time to get their grain or hay under cover, or in a situation to shut out the rain.

The storm which commenced in North Carolina on Saturday, June 1, and travelled North about twenty miles per hour, sweeping over several States, perhaps as far as New York, if it had occurred in the midst of harvest, with the grain or hay cut down in large quantities, the damage would have been very great, amounting to millions of dollars, all of which could be saved at a trifling cost by the general adoption of this simple plan.

All newspapers in favor of this plan will please publish it, and every farmer should examine it carefully, and if approved of, he should write to the county clerk or other county official of his county in its favor.

WASHINGTON, D. C. A. WATSON.

IMMIGRATION A SOURCE OF WEALTH.—A contemporary journal takes this view of the immense number of immigrants now coming to this country from Europe.

DON'T NEGLECT THE GARDEN.—A contemporary says: "It pays in every way; the vegetable department in a sanitary view, by furnishing the kind of vegetable acid the system needs at this season of the year.

LOCUSTS are in myriads in Kansas this year. To protect his wheat a farmer has a locust trap which he finds effectual.

Locusts are in myriads in Kansas this year. To protect his wheat a farmer has a locust trap which he finds effectual.

Advertising Department.

Rhode Island.

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

MAUPAY'S SUPERIOR TOMATO SEED can be had of W. E. BARRETT & CO., 32 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.

Pennsylvania.

ECONOMY—PROMPTNESS—RELIABILITY! AMERICAN CONCRETE PAINT AND ROOFING COMPANY. 543 NORTH THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

50 PER CENT SAVED BY USING T. BABBITT'S STAR YEAST POWDER. Light Biscuit, or any kind of Cake may be made with this Yeast Powder in fifteen minutes.

PECORA LEAD AND COLOR CO. No. 150 North 4th Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA. Best PAINT known for Houses, Iron Fronts, Tin Roofs, and Plap Walls, RAILROAD CARS and BRIDGES.

BAROMETERS! BAROMETERS!! BAROMETERS!!! TIMBY'S PATENT PORTABLE BAROMETERS, the best in the market, can be sent by express, and are warranted accurate.

LEWIS LADOMUS & CO. DIAMOND DEALERS & JEWELERS. WATCHES, JEWELRY & SILVER WARE. WATCHES AND JEWELRY REPAIRED. 802 Chestnut St., Phila.

Have always on hand a splendid assortment of Diamonds at less than usual prices. GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES, Of all styles and prices, suitable for Ladies', Gentlemen's and Boy's wear.

628. HOOP SKIRTS. 628. WM. T. HOPKINS, Manufacturer of First-Class HOOP SKIRTS, and dealer in NEW YORK AND EASTERN-MADE SKIRTS.

BUIST'S GENUINE TURNIP SEEDS. NEW CROP, OF OUR OWN GROWTH, WILL BE READY JULY FIRST. ROBERT BUIST, Jr., SEED AND AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE, Nos. 922 & 924 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

INSURE YOUR LIVE STOCK. HARTFORD LIVE STOCK INSURANCE CO. HARTFORD, CT.

HARTFORD LIVE STOCK INSURANCE CO. HARTFORD, CT. E. N. KELLOGG, President. GEO. D. JEWETT, Vice Pres't. \$100,000 DEPOSITED WITH THE COMPTROLLER AS SECURITY FOR POLICY HOLDERS.

MORO PHILLIPS'S GENUINE IMPROVED SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME. STANDARD GUARANTEED. For sale at Manufacturer's Depots, No. 27 North Front Street, Philadelphia, AND No. 95 South Street, Baltimore.

FARMER'S GRINDSTONES, OF THE BEST QUALITY; Ready for use, with self-adjusting Shafts, Treddles, &c. Huron Grindstones, Scythe Stones, &c., for sale by J. E. MITCHELL, 310 York Avenue, PHILADELPHIA.

New Jersey. PENBERTON MARL COMPANY. This company is now prepared to furnish their GREEN SAND MARL, in quantities of from four tons, (one car load), upwards.

Massachusetts. LADIES, ATTENTION!—A Silk Dress Pattern or a Sewing Machine sent free, for one or two days' service, in any town or village.

THE INDELIBLE PENCIL CO. (NORTHAMPTON, MASS.) MANUFACTURERS OF THE IMPROVED PATENT INDELIBLE PENCIL

For marking clothing, &c., have now ready for sale their new HORTICULTURAL PENCIL, For writing on wood. Invaluable for making durable TREE and GARDEN TAGS or LABELS, or marking TOOLS, &c.

A LIBERAL DISCOUNT MADE TO DEALERS. EVERY PENCIL WARRANTED. June 8, 1867. 4w-we-22

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.

SOUTH DOWN CO.'S PATENT Sheep Wash Tobacco

THE BEST KNOWN REMEDY FOR TICKS, SCAB, VERMIN AND FOOT ROT should be used by all Farmers on SHEEP, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

It will not injure the most delicate animal. It will improve the Quality and Quantity of Wool. It kills TICKS on Sheep. It cures SCAB on Sheep. It cures all SKIN DISEASES on Animals. It kills all VERMIN that infest Animals, Trees, Plants and Vines.

JAMES F. LEVIN, 23 Central Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts. For sale by KENDALL & WHITNEY, Portland, Me.; N. S. HARBLOW, Bangor, Me.; SIMONDS & CO., Fitzwilliam, N. H.

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.

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.

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.

