

RURAL NEW-YORKER

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"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,
AN ORIGINAL WEEKLY
AGRICULTURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY JOURNAL.
CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE,
With an Able Corps of Assistants and Contributors.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER is designed to be unsurpassed in Value, Purity, Usefulness and Variety of Contents, and unique and beautiful in Appearance. Its Conductor devotes his personal attention to the supervision of its various departments, and earnestly labors to render the RURAL an eminently Reliable Guide on all the important Practical, Scientific and other Subjects intimately connected with the business of those whose interests it zealously advocates. AS A FAMILY JOURNAL it is eminently instructive and entertaining—being so conducted that it can be safely taken to the Hearts and Homes of peasant intelligence, taste and discrimination. It embraces more Agricultural, Horticultural, Scientific, Educational, Literary and News Matter, interspersed with appropriate and beautiful Engravings, than any other Journal—rendering it the most complete AGRICULTURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY Newspaper in America.

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AGRICULTURAL.

SPRING-TIME REFLECTIONS.

MANURES, AND THE MANNER OF APPLICATION.

THE warm, sunny hours with which we have recently been favored, are only the advent harbingers of blessings in store for the sons and daughters of earth. All greet them with joy, and to none can they prove more welcome than to the farmer, who, after a season of repose and comparative inactivity, holds himself in readiness for the campaign which is so soon to open. These glorious Spring days teem with prophecies the realization of which sober Autumn may witness—they bud with promise, but whether we partake of the fruit is, in great measure, the result of our own endeavor. He who presides over all, and in whose hands are our destinies, has said, that seed-time and harvest should not fail, yet these are conditions to which man must not only subscribe, but he must bring heart and soul to the work if he would enjoy the bounties with which Providence rewards the earnest laborer.

In successful farming we may consider it an axiom that to be fed by the soil, the agriculturist must feed it in return. In many portions of our country, young as it is, we can already perceive the baneful effects of constant cropping, without giving back to the land any of the elements of fertility removed. It was thought by our fathers that a soil naturally so rich as marked various States in the Confederacy, was inexhaustible. Indeed, it is so argued with reference to certain tracts of our Western prairies at the present day, and yet a generation has hardly disappeared before these ideas have given place to sterility, and "worn-out lands" have become the patrimony of their children. This condition of affairs will inevitably result where the rule is from the farm, and those who would avoid such disastrous consequences will be obliged to reverse the order, putting prominently into their creed and their action the better guiding principle, to the soil. We must collect and prepare every material calculated to renew the energies and preserve the constituents of our heritage, and as we "would freely receive, freely give."

The use of special fertilizers for keeping up the condition of our estate, may be well enough when every source to which we can turn for plant-food upon our own domain has been invaded, its supplies devoted to their legitimate purposes, and that in the manner best calculated to yield the greatest profit from the materials used and the labor expended. This latter is the point to which we wish now to direct the attention of our readers. Very many have large quantities of manure, but the mode of application is such that not a tithe of the benefit is obtained therefrom which might be received, and what is gained seldom comes just when wanted.

Manures may be divided into two general classes, liquid and solid. In one or the other of these forms they are given to the soil. But few experiments with liquid fertilizers have been made by American farmers. The population of our country is not sufficiently dense, and land is too plenty and too cheap to make it pay, except in gardens near large cities, where a ready market and good prices can be obtained for vegetable productions. In a liquid state we have a more speedy exhibit of its properties, and where it can be used with pecuniary advantage, the profits are quickly transferred to the credit of the producer.

The solid form is the one in which our farmers feed their lands. The principal reasons for this mode of application, in addition to those already advanced, are the ease with which it may be handled, and the high rates of labor. In certain portions of Europe, where help can be obtained for a meagre outlay of capital, liquid manures are held in very great estimation, and with justice. But the condition of the manure when applied by the majority of our farmers, is not proper. We hear a great deal

about fertilizers which are long, short, green, or partially decayed, and but very little concerning those which are well rotted, and finely pulverized. Now, this latter state is just what the producer should desire. He cannot afford to wait for the profits of an investment any better than those pursuing other callings, and yet were we to judge from the deposits made by many tillers of the soil, we would readily conclude they were sowing for their posterity to reap. When the materials for enriching land are comminuted; a less quantity is needed, this can be directly applied, and the results are speedily apparent to both eye and pocket.

Let the crop be what it may, the necessary pabulum ought to be found in the soil just as soon as growing vegetation requires it, and it should be in proper condition for absorption by the roots. In every stage of growth organic food is an essential to the development of the plant, and, therefore, it must be present at the date of planting. Mineral elements are more vigorously drawn upon at certain periods than at others, and as many of these fertilizers undergo important changes in the soil before they are fitted for plant-food, it is best they should be incorporated with the soil previous to the deposit of the seed. For example, bone dust, when given to wheat lands, oftentimes exhibits greater proof of its virtue two or three years following its application than during other periods. Unfermented manures are frequently put upon corn with the idea of benefiting the crop on the ground, but this method is, probably, as often a failure as a success, after crops receiving the more decided effects.

As regards the peculiar mechanical operations connected with the application of fertilizers, the RURAL has already published the views of practical and experienced agriculturists. There is the same diversity of opinion upon this topic that marks all other subjects, and the various modes,—surface-manuring, plowing under, thorough incorporation with the soil, etc.—have defenders and opposers. We are of the opinion that a rule to be followed without exception, cannot be given for this portion of farm operations. CAMPBELL'S Agriculture contains a paragraph or two upon this branch of our subject which we cannot refrain from condensing and giving to our readers. All kinds of manure, according to Prof. C., should be as thoroughly incorporated with the soil as possible. Heavy manures, as lime or plaster, he would apply to the surface after breaking up, then stir the soil, and their weight gradually sinks them during cultivation. Soluble ingredients, such as the alkaline salts in ashes, are soon carried down by rains. Fermented manures should be speedily covered, or mingled with the soil, because their ammonia is in a volatile form, and unless composted soon escapes. The tendency of volatile matters is to the surface, and when thus passing through the soil they are arrested and absorbed. This fact is especially distinguishable upon porous soils.

As regards top-dressing, Prof. C. considers it favorable to grass and clover crops in the winter and spring. Organic manures have their soluble ingredients carried down into the soil by rain, and the roots find their food at the very beginning of their spring growth. The unrotted portions of the manure remaining upon the surface are soon covered by the leaves, and decaying, form a rich, warm mold about the roots. Top-dressed corn will do well if newly gathered manure be used, containing uric acid, and other matters readily soluble. During Autumn and Winter, manures may always be applied to the surface without serious loss, and often with decided advantage. At all events, if they are to be exposed to the washings of rain, it is better it should be done upon the field than around the barn.

The subject we have thus somewhat hastily treated, is one of vital import to all those whose interests are connected with the soil, and we hope that the labors and experiments of the busy period so soon to open will be conducive to "progress and improvement" in our system of agriculture.

H. T. B. VISITS JOHN JOHNSTON.

On the shore of a beautiful lake—you're badly mistaken if you think I am going to write a romance—lives JOHN JOHNSTON, the Farmer. He was born seventy years ago, in the south of Scotland.

"Blood will tell," undoubtedly, for Mr. JOHNSTON reproduces the remarkable case of his grandfather and his father, in behalf of Agriculture and Agricultural Improvement. Several years of his early life were spent with his grandfather, who rented a large farm, and conducted it with marked ability; here he took his first lessons in draining land, high feeding, and progressive farming generally—lessons he has shown no disposition to forget.

After renting and managing a farm on his own account for a few years, Mr. JOHNSTON removed with his family to America, in 1820. He came near purchasing a farm at Rochester, N. Y., but missed that chance, as many others, to their subsequent regret, have done, and purchased three miles from Geneva, N. Y., on the eastern shore of Seneca Lake, where he has ever since resided.

Mr. JOHNSTON'S "worldly goods" now consisted of \$1,200, which he paid out for one hundred and twelve acres of land, partly cleared, nearly destitute of buildings, and no way implicated in fancy farming. He was now forced to run in debt for his outfit to the amount of some twelve hundred dollars. This, with the cost of his improvements, it may be well

imagined, gave him some "lineal stress," and taxed his energies to the utmost. His "theory" of farming was now to be put to a severe test. Others might indulge their fancy—he must have "farming pay." He had been forewarned by a prominent citizen that "nobody can make money by farming in these parts—the only way to do that is by the 'rise' of land,"—a theory unfortunately prevailing in many new countries.

Mr. JOHNSTON was now fairly in the field. The success which attended his efforts in his prominent position before the agricultural public, as the advocate of "high farming," justify the personal details. His history throws light upon a problem of vital importance to thousands who wish to know how a farmer in moderate circumstances can pay off his debts, rise to competence, and—if such a thing should seem to be necessary—to affluence.

First—He was industrious. When he went to see a Geneva banker, he found him in bed. However, he gives it as his mature and deliberate opinion, that those who would do the most work, should work ten hours a day, take their rest regularly, and plenty of it—an opinion in which I most heartily concur. Impaired energy, incurable disease, premature death, follow attempts to do too much.

Second—He did his work well—plowed deep for those times, and turned the sod well over.

Third—He saved his manure, and applied it—which all farmers did not do in those days, if indeed they do now. Observing that one of his acquaintances neglected to cart out his manure for several years, Mr. JOHNSTON told him "one day, that for a moderate sum he would take his manure off out of his way, and clean up his yards handsomely." The owner of the manure considered it, said he thought the price asked was reasonable, and he would be glad to give it, but was afraid his neighbors would laugh at him. Mr. JOHNSTON waited a little longer, and so did the manure; he then said to his acquaintance, "Really, that manure is a very great annoyance to you, I will not only take it out of your way, but I will pay you \$50 for it." The owner now began to think that if Mr. JOHNSTON could afford to pay fifty dollars for it, and draw it, it must have some positive value, and he could afford to cart it out on his own land. Accordingly he commenced drawing it at once.

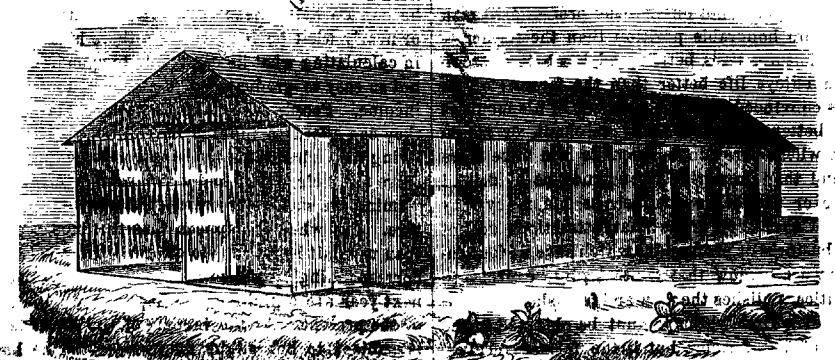
Fourth—Mr. JOHNSTON pulled his stumps. At the cost of about 18 cents apiece, he removed some two thousand stumps, believing that it would cost more to work round them and lose the land they occupied, than to remove them. He employed a machine for that purpose.

Fifth—We now come to what makes Mr. JOHNSTON'S experience particularly valuable to American farmers. While he was still under the necessity of husbanding his resources, and could not afford to misapply a dollar, he commenced tile draining, and continued it from year to year, till he expended more than five thousand dollars, and laid more than fifty miles of drains. No sooner had he purchased a farm than he sent to Scotland for model tile; these he took to sundry brick makers, who were unable to copy; he then applied to a manufacturer of earthen ware at Waterloo, N. Y., who said he could make the tile, if Mr. JOHNSTON could afford to pay his price. Three thousand tile were engaged, at \$24 per thousand, which was cheap enough, as they had to be molded by hand. Mr. JOHNSTON used these with satisfactory results. He then told the manufacturer that he would pay him \$16 per thousand for ten thousand. The manufacturer took time to consider, and subsequently informed Mr. JOHNSTON that he would furnish the tile, as he had invented a machine for molding them. Mr. JOHNSTON afterwards agreed to take all the tile he could make, at (I think) \$12 per thousand. This was the origin of tile making in America,—there are now five establishments in full blast in Mr. J.'s vicinity. Mr. JOHNSTON'S services as the pioneer tile drainer of America are highly appreciated. It is not long since several eminent agricultural gentlemen of this State,—including Col. L. G. MOORE, ERASTUS CORNING, JAMES S. WADSWORTH, HORACE GREELY, LUTHER TUCKER, D. D. T. MOORE,—presented Mr. JOHNSTON with a magnificent service of plate as a token of their appreciation. I will not say Mr. JOHNSTON is proud of it, but I will say, he has a right to be!

Sixth—Mr. JOHNSTON, by a liberal application of lime, salt, and plaster to his land, has done much to demonstrate their value. He first applied lime to a half acre of wheat,—thought he could discover a difference in the fall, but in the spring, soon after the snow left, he could see where the lime was put very distinctly; took many friends to see it during the season, and when he harvested it, found that his limed land gave him twice as much wheat as the other. Encouraged by this experiment, he borrowed money of a friend and purchased a whole lime kiln at nine cents per bushel, and applied it at the rate of eighty bushels per acre. Such a liming will last, he thinks, five or six years. His soil is clay loam, and is not benefited by ashes; but he is a decided advocate of salt, which he applies at the rate of 300 or 400 pounds per acre. He also makes a free use of plaster upon his grass ground.

Seventh—Mr. JOHNSTON'S advocacy of high feeding is well known. He feeds large quantities of oil meal—sometimes as many as fifty tons in a winter—buys coarse grain, but never sells any. In this way he makes abundance of good manure for the farm, and has the best animals for market.

Mr. JOHNSTON claims to be no theorist; he recom-



TOBACCO HOUSE WITHOUT DOORS AND BOARDING, AC., TO SHOW THE MANNER OF HANGING THE TOBACCO.

mends what he has tried, tells what he knows, practices what he teaches. It may be proper to observe that he not only made his farm support itself, but pay for the improvements; and for several additions to it, which from time to time he made.

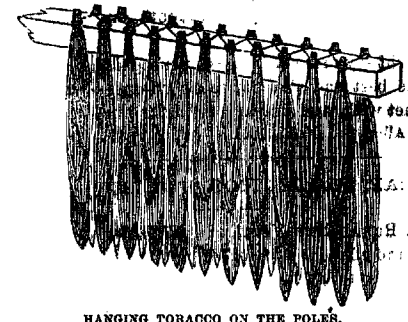
I may mention here, that Mr. JOHNSTON sat up a threshing machine about 1822, believed to be the first threshing machine in America.

I cannot, in justice to Agriculture, second to no earthly interest, close this notice of one of its most enlightened, enthusiastic and efficient promoters, without claiming for him the respect due to eminent services. Whether judged by his zeal in a good cause, his energy of character and force of will, or by the results of his labors, he is entitled to rank among the distinguished of mankind. Not claiming the discovery of new principles or processes, he has seized with a vigorous understanding, and a determined purpose, upon cardinal points in husbandry, and while American farmers denied, doubted, or delayed, he pushed boldly on, reducing theory to practice, and forcing acquiescence by the logic of facts. His celebrity has imposed upon him a large correspondence from every section of our Confederacy, (the South included,) which he conducts with admirable promptness and patience. He gives advice, and answers questions, in all departments of practical life. Active and healthy, we trust he may long be spared to his family, his friends and his country.—H. T. B.

CULTURE OF TOBACCO.—CURING.

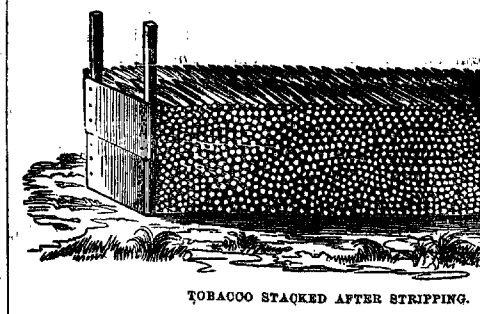
ACCORDING to promise we conclude the article commenced last week on the Culture of Tobacco, and its value as a farm crop.

After wilting, draw to the house, which should be twenty-four feet wide, fifteen feet high, so as to have three tiers, one above the other. A building of this width and height, thirty-five feet long, will store an acre, or the run of tobacco. The girls on the side of the building should be five feet apart; a row of posts through the middle is necessary to put girls in, to hold the poles that the plants are tied to. The best poles are made of basswood sawed one and one-half by four inches, and twelve feet long.



HANGING TOBACCO ON THE POLES.

The plants are handed to a man who, standing on a movable platform made by a light plank, receives them, and beginning at the top tier he winds a piece of prepared twine around the stalk, fastening the first plant to the pole; the second plant is placed on the other side of the pole, and a single turn is made around the stalk; then again the third stalk is put on the same side of the first, the twine passed around, and the next on the other side, and so on to the end of the pole, where the twine is made fast. About thirty or thirty-six are hung on a pole, one-half on each side. If this twine gives way, it is manifest that they will all be let loose. The poles are put on the girls



TOBACCO STACKED AFTER STRIPPING.

about fourteen inches apart. In this way the whole building is filled. Skill is now demanded to regulate the ventilation until the crop is cured, which is determined by examining the stem in the leaf, which should be hard, up to the main stalk. Then in damp weather the tobacco can be taken down and laid in piles, with the tips together to keep it from drying,

and so secure this, cover over with boards. The next thing is the removal of the leaves from the stalks, taking this time to separate the broken leaves from the unbroken ones. They are then made into parcels of 16 or 18, called "hands," and are fastened by winding a leaf around them. The "hands" tips on tips, the square ends out. This preserves the moisture. The pile should be kept covered with boards, and the sides also covered, leaving the wound ends against the ends of the box, press with a lever or screw until 400 pounds is in, then fasten on the top. The tobacco now goes through the sweating process, and will lose about ten per cent. in weight before it is for use.

This tobacco is known in the market as "seed leaf," and is principally used for wrappers for cigars; the refuse is exported. A crop handled in the manner described, and with skill, will sell in New York city at from twelve to fifteen cents a pound; but from want of proper care and skill, the crop of this county does not bring an average price of over eight cents.

Cost of Crop.

The plants are worth per acre	\$ 2 50
Manure, 10 cords, say	20 00
Fitting ground and marking	4 50
Planting and setting	5 00
Cultivating and first hoeing	2 00
Cultivating and second hoeing	1 50
Topping, and killing worms, say	1 00
Suckering, first and second times	2 00
Suckering, third time	4 00
Harvesting and hanging (four men and team one day)	6 00
Stripping one tun	20 00
Five packing boxes	5 00
Labor of packing	1 50
Twine, for hanging	1 00
	\$86 00

A tun, at 13 1/2 cents, is worth \$270; deduct 10 per cent. for shrinkage, and 1 1/2 cents per pound for transportation and commission, in all \$52, leaves \$218 as net proceeds. The cost being taken from this, \$66, and we have \$152 for use of land and buildings.

This is the best statement that can fairly be made for this crop. If the price be put at the average our growers get, viz., eight cents per pound, we have for the crop, 1,800 pounds, after shrinking, \$144. Deduct \$66 for cost, and \$22.50 for commissions and transportation, in all \$88.50, which deducted from the amount received, leaves \$55.50, as the ordinary profit per acre.

EDUCATION FOR THE FARMER.

THIS subject has commanded the attention of many minds; it has occupied the columns of newspapers, the pages of books, and the valuable time of clubs, conversational meetings, and audiences at fairs; yet it is a question still open for solution. I do not know that I can add anything to what has been said, but shall we maintain silence on a subject of such momentous importance, so vital to the interest of farmers, and of our country? Because the truths of Christianity were once set forth by our SAVIOR, elucidated by the Apostles, and frequently preached to the people since that time, shall they be neglected now? The voice of the whole Christian world answers, "No,—let them be held up to our view continually,—let them be set forth distinctly,—let them be applied practically,—or we shall forget them." The tongue of man was given him to speak, his ears to hear, and his mind to perceive the truth. Let these faculties be exercised.

If it be of vital importance that truths so well known should be frequently enunciated to make them valuable to us, is it not also important that a subject affecting so directly the welfare of the farmer as much as education does, should be constantly talked about? We may be ready to acknowledge truth, but unless it be kept before our minds, other truths are impressed thereon, and we become occupied with them. If a just idea be set forth plainly, and urged upon our attention, we not only acknowledge its truth, but we are made ready to carry it into execution. From a want of interchange of thought, men become

indifferent about intellectual matters, and at last lose faith in the potency of ideas.

This train of thought was awakened in my mind by the question of a young man of intelligence, who has labored steadily for some time on the farm. "What use can a farmer make of an education?"

The youth gets a notion that the professional man holds a more honorable position than the farmer,—has more leisure, lives better, and has better associates, and enjoys life better than the farmer; or, he becomes convinced that the exercise of his faculties will be better rewarded as a merchant, or manufacturer, where shrewdness seems to him to be more in demand than in agriculture; hence he is drifted into one or the other channel, as his fancy may dictate.

Nor need the farmer be behind hand in intellectual matters of a different character. Books are plentiful and cheap, papers easily to be had, libraries abundant, lectures plentiful, and social intercourse much favored by ease of intercommunication by rail, steamboat, or private conveyance.

In any business, if the man is merely a worker, a plodder, a copyist, his life is dull, uninteresting, and monotonous, as cold, selfish, and sordid as is the ignorant, slavish farmer.

Are we not convinced of what the quality and essence of a farmer's education should be? Do we not plainly see what must be its direction? Can we as easily point out the means to be employed? Let us ponder, let us strive.

WORKING FOR WAGES—TAKING LAND.

TAKING a farm to work on shares seems to be considered the next best thing to owning one. Hiring out by the day, month or year, is accounted comparatively vulgar, and, with native Americans, is fast becoming obsolete.

Whatever may be said in favor of taking land, there are certain reasons why it is better for men of small capital to engage by the month or year at a fixed rate of wages. Those who have only their labor to invest in farming, or whose means are so limited that they cannot afford to run the risk of bad seasons or failures of crops from any cause, have a much safer, surer dependence in the equal, steady, moderate gains arising from selling their work at a fair price per month or year, than in the more capricious—sometimes larger, sometimes smaller—returns resulting from a division of the products of the farm.

labor, and sometimes a considerable portion of the gains of former years. To those who depend for a support on a share of what they raise on other men's farms, such seasons are especially disastrous, while the hired laborer is not sensibly, if at all, affected by them.

Again, nothing contributes more to the formation of a habit of reckless, extravagant expenditure, than an irregular income. Those who know what their income is, know what they can afford to spend; and, if they have fixed rules of economy, and are determined to save a certain sum each year, they can regulate their expenses accordingly, and gradually, by moderate but sure and steady gains, accumulate for themselves a respectable little capital wherewith to engage in business on their own account.

South Livonia, N. Y., 1861.

ABOUT CHEESE-MAKING.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER.—In looking over the columns of your paper, I notice an inquiry, by some young gentleman who, perhaps, is just about to enter into matrimonial responsibilities, wanting to know the process of making cheese.

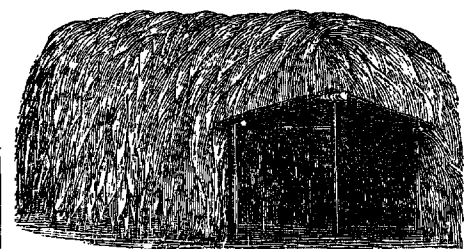
Let, A good selection of cows is necessary. 2d, One of the best cheese vats must be had. 3d, Adjustable cheese hoops. 4th, A good press. Having procured these implements, we proceed to the process of making cheese.

In the first place, we strain the night's milk into the milk vat, then pour cold water into the water vat, sufficient to abstract the animal heat from the milk. In the morning we skim the cream off the milk, and build a fire in the heater before we commence milking, then we strain in the morning's milk, and heat to from 85° to 90°, after which add rennet enough to coagulate the milk sufficiently to commence work in from 30 to 50 minutes. Now the curd should be broken up fine. For this purpose we use a curd knife, which we consider preferable to our hands.

I might say more of interest, perhaps, but consider this the best and shortest mode of operation I have ever met with, and tried. STEPHEN THOMAS. Scio, Alleg. Co., N. Y., 1861.

CHEAP PROTECTION FOR ANIMALS.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER.—We saw, recently, so cheap and efficient a means of protection for domestic animals, that we cannot refrain giving it to the readers of the practical in the RURAL NEW-YORKER. Protection is all important, and the how, as here sketched, is within the reach of all.



Here we present an engraving of the said shelter,—you see it is wind and almost frost-proof, and, after all, nothing but a straw-stack well piled over and around a cattle shed. The amount of suffering such a structure would save the prairie farmer's herds, we leave for his conjecture, premising that we are well satisfied with the operation of ours, of similar architecture, both for cattle and swine. W. E. G. Amboy, Lee Co., Ill., 1861.

As intimately connected with the foregoing, we give a brief article from a correspondent of the Prairie Farmer, on "Good Shelter for Stock." It is as follows:

Proportioned to the number of cattle, procure two pieces of scantling, (say 6 inches by 8—20 feet long.) With a two-inch auger bore a hole, a foot or eighteen inches from each end, and one in the middle. Then procure six posts, (either round or square), 7 feet 6 inches long. Make round tenons suitable for the auger holes, and set the posts in the ground in a line east and west—three in front and the other three

about eight feet in the rear of the first; put on the plates, and steady the posts by ramming the earth well around them. Lay rails or poles across the plates about a foot apart, over the entire frame. Now lay on corn stalks so as to form a ridge just midway between the plates, (18 inches high,) the entire length of the shelter, then begin to form the cover by laying on more stalks so that the shuck end shall lay on the ridge first made, till the entire length of the shelter has been gone over, putting the stalks first on the south side, and then on the north; now lay on another ridge lengthwise the shelter, over these; first put on the rails, and on this ridge put on a second cover of stalks, being careful to have them meet well on the ridge, the north side being finished up last that snow and rain may pass over.

Shelters of this kind are more readily put up than any kind I have ever tried, and form a secure protection from leaking rain or snow as there is little danger of the top being blown off by violent winds. For calves, sheep, or fattening hogs, shelters four or five feet would be abundantly high. Corn stalks put up in this way keep as nicely for provender as if carefully stored away in ricks for late use, and may be used for food, when shelters are no longer needed for the season.

THE RATS ON SECESSION.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER.—In No. 5 of your present volume, I find an article taken from the American Agriculturist, on blowing up rat-holes with powder, to drive away the rats. Now, for one, I would like to have the plan rat-fied, or changed for something better. There are several ways to drive them off, but I am sure I would not be justifiable in driving them from my premises to those of my neighbors. They will be sure to go. There are some of my neighbors who drive them from their barns by taking a drum and beating on it a few evenings in succession; but they are sure to be a nuisance to some one. I will give my plan of destroying them by wholesale, which may be a benefit to some of my brother farmers. I make a hole in my granary, or wherever I wish to lead them into, of convenient size, with a slide that I can shut by fall, a string leading outside of the barn. I then bait them, and let them have free access a few nights. When I think they are about all in, I slip up and draw the slide, then I get S&X to hold a good strong bag over the hole, draw the slide, when a little thumping from the inside will soon have them all into the bag, where you can dispose of them as you see fit. If you do not get them all, try again. If any have a better plan, I would like to see the rat-fication in the RURAL. O. P. F. Owego, Tioga Co., N. Y., 1861.

Rural Spirit of the Press.

Pressing the Sorghum. Mr. H. G. BULKLEY, of Kalamazoo, Mich., states that by slightly steaming the cane of Sorghum before it is pressed, all the juice can be easily extracted with a common set of pressure rollers, which must greatly increase the production. As the pressing of this cane constituted the chief difficulty with farmers in obtaining syrup from it, this discovery is of great importance to them.

How to Make Water-Tight Ponds.

THE great Illinois stock farmer, Mr. STRAWN, gives in the Prairie Farmer his mode of making water-basins, as follows:—"After excavating the basin he fences it in, and uses it as a yard to feed his cattle and hogs in. The bottom thus becomes well puddled by the trampling of their feet, making it almost water-tight. He has basins thus prepared that have not been empty of water but once in 12 years."

Hard Crust Formed in Plowing.

It is well known that when land has been plowed for many years at a uniform depth, a hard crust is formed at the bottom of the furrow. The Country Gentleman says:—"We lately had occasion to inspect a piece of ground that had been plowed and was soon flooded by a creek, and all the loose or plowed soil washed completely away, leaving this under crust, untouched, and showing every mark and scratch of the plow as it passed over. The crust had been made so compact by the whole weight of the plow, and that of the turning sod superadded, that the flood made not the slightest impression upon it, although the soil was naturally quite uniform down to a depth of two or three feet."

Carrying the Whip.

THERE is more in the movements of the driver of an ox-team, and in carrying the whip, than most farmers think, says the Ohio Farmer. Oxen, however quick in their movements, or upright their gait in the yoke, soon become dull, and get the practice of "shoving" or "hauling," in consequence of the driver lagging along, or, as is often the practice, going ahead of his team, and from time to time stepping back and whipping them. A driver of an ox-team should walk directly opposite the yoke, walk straight, and carry his whip as upright as a soldier would his gun. Use a whip-stock with a short lash, and touch the cattle only with the lash, and never strike them on the nose or over the eyes."

Seed Corn—Early Germination.

THE Bureau Co., (Ill.) Republican says that Dr. CHAMBERLIN of that county has been experimenting with seed corn, in the view of hastening germination, and has made several discoveries which are made public. The Republican says: "Last year Dr. CHAMBERLIN of this place made some practical experiments, and demonstrated that nearly half the time may be saved in germinating the seed by the use of chloride of lime. Not satisfied with the success of last year, he is again experimenting. In his office he has four boxes; in the first is corn planted without soaking, and the seed not germinated; and in the second, the seed was soaked in warm water, which has just commenced to germinate; in the third is seed soaked in a solution of lime, and green blades are just peeping from the ground; in the fourth is seed soaked in a solution of chloride of lime and coppers, in equal parts, and the blades are now nearly three inches above the ground. All the seeds were planted at the same time, in the same quality of soil, and taken from the same ear. The boxes have all had an equal share of heat and light, neither allowed any advantage over the other. "This experiment should attract the attention of farmers. We conclude from four to six weeks may be saved by the use of chloride of lime and coppers, which is a matter of no ordinary moment, when we reflect that a delay in the germination of the seed of two weeks, frequently places the crop within the reach of the frost in the fall. Another fact of some importance may also be mentioned. The coppers used in soaking will prevent the birds, squirrels,

worms, &c., from eating the seed. Dr. CHAMBERLIN assures us that one pound of chloride of lime and one pound of coppers, in water, will soak enough seed for twenty acres. The cost will not be over twenty-five cents. Every farmer could afford to make the experiment, even if he should fail to derive any benefit from it."

Turning Stock to Grass Early.

A RECENT issue of the American Farmer has an article on this subject, from R. W. DOWNMAN, of Fauquier County, Virginia, given in response to a solicitation on the part of the Editor. We extract as follows:

Talking with graziers, I find the opinion to be general in this county, (which annually fattens for market upwards of twenty thousand hogs,) that the earlier cattle are turned to grass the better. When I commenced grazing, four years ago, I found this to be the general practice, and I followed it without making any experiment myself, but I am informed by one of my neighbors—Mr. Charles J. Stovin—who has grazed for thirty years past, on an average, two hundred head of cattle annually—that he has seen the experiment tried. Two lots of cattle, equal in all respects, and which had been wintered alike, were selected in the spring, and one lot turned to grass ten days earlier than the other. The first lot took a start of the other and maintained it through the season, being ready for market one month sooner than the second lot.

There can be no doubt whatever as to the fact that, in our county at least, the sooner we can get them to grass in the spring the better. The grass at that season is tender, and has the quality of purging the cattle, loosening their hides, and causing them to shed off. It thus prepares their systems to take on fat rapidly as soon as the pasturage becomes stronger and more mature. Later in the season it seems to lose this quality in a measure. I have known men to turn their cattle on their meadows for eight or ten days, early in the spring, so as to give them a start against the regular pasture becoming fit to turn on.

This is one of the finest grazing sections in the country. The land seems to be naturally adapted to grass, running into sod very quickly after a fallow. One of my neighbors—Mr. J. J. Hunton, of Woodstock—has a field of one hundred acres of green-sward, upon which he fattens from eighty to ninety head of cattle every year; and in a good grass season I have seen portions of the field from which a good swath of grass might have been cut when the cattle were taken off in July. On the rest of his estate he fattens about two hundred head. On the adjoining estate of Airley, Mr. Charles J. Stovin fattens about two hundred and seventy-five head. He has a field of about one hundred and fifty acres, on which this spring he turned one hundred cattle and ninety sheep, and kept them there until the first of June, when a portion of them were moved off.

There are sods in this county nearly fifty years old, and so firm and strong that, to quote the language of our representative, the Hon. Wm. Smith, "a bullock of a thousand weight may walk over them after a week's rain without soiling his hoofs more than a lady would soil her delicate satin slipper by crossing a Turkey carpet." This may sound like hyperbole, but unto all that doubt, I say "come and see."

Inquiries and Answers.

FLEAS ON DOGS.—As you publish something in your paper for "all the world, and the rest of mankind" also, will you tell me what to do to kill the fleas on my dog? He scratches at them good, yet they do not seem to mind it much. They do not seem to be much in favor of secession,—perhaps they do not know it is fashionable, and as they do not choose to go of their own accord, I would like to oust them.—PETE, Dryden, N. Y., 1861.

ENGLISH DAIRY CHEESE.—Will some of the RURAL'S numerous readers give me the rules for making what is called English Dairy Cheese, and oblige—P. T. HAZELTINE, Mascoutah, Dane Co., Wis., 1861.

In answer to the inquiry of Mr. HAZELTINE, we cannot probably do better than give an article written on the subject by "P.," and published in our last volume. The writer passed a goodly portion of his time in the dairy region of this State last summer, and took much pains to learn all the "art and mystery" of cheese making. The method is as follows:

"This cheese is a single meal, or, in other words, the milk is run up or set directly from the cow, both night and morning, no artificial heat being used in any part of the process. The milk is colored to a butter color by annatto, rubbed down in milk and added before the rennet. The preparation of the rennet, and the quantity used, is the same as in other good dairies. The milk stands an hour after the rennet has been put in. The curd is then cut up in the usual way, and worked moderately as it begins to settle. The whey is gradually withdrawn, and as soon as it begins to harden, so as to hold together, it is put into a cloth and sink, and gently worked and pressed till the whey is well out. It is then broken up again, salted at the rate of an ounce of salt to three pounds of curd, and put into the hoop or vat, and moderate pressure put on. The hoops are 13 or 14 inches by 5 or 6 inches deep, but the cheese when pressed should not be over 4½ inches thick. The manipulations are much as in other dairies, except that when the cheese is turned the first and second times, it is well rubbed with salt, and stands in the press three days. In one dairy, instead of rubbing on the salt, after standing in the press for twelve hours, the cheese was put into a strong brine for twelve hours, taken out, wiped dry, and put back in the hoops or vat, and pressed two days longer. No grease is used upon the cheese, and they are cured in a cool, damp room, if possible. They get a very hard rind, are sent to market in bulk, about the 1st of November, and handle as safely as so many pieces of plank. They weigh, usually, when taken from the press, about 25 pounds, and when cured, 20 to 21 pounds. The cheese is expensive to make and handle, as compared with the larger and two meal cheese. It is, however, rich, mild, and easily cured, and much sought after in the cities, among the English population, in the same manner as the Limburgh cheese is the favorite kind with the Germans. Neither, however, have any superiority over some of our best American cheese that is well cured."

WARTS ON THE EYES OF HORSES.—I wish to inquire, through your valuable paper, of your numerous contributors, what will remove a wart from a horse's eye? I have a valuable horse that has a wart about half an inch from the corner of his eye, nearly as large as a quarter of a dollar, and it seems to be inclined to spread. If some one will tell me what will remove it, they will much oblige a subscriber.—W. W., Tioga Co., N. Y., 1861.

These excrescences, arising from the outlying covering of the skin, are sometimes very annoying to horses, especially when occurring about the eye. Treatment.—A wart having a broad base, Dr. DADD says, should be treated in the following manner: Take a common suture needle, and arm it with a double ligature; each ligature is to be composed of three threads of saddle's twine, well waxed; pass the needle right through the centre of the wart, close down to the skin; tie each half separately, with a surgeon's knot, as tight as possible; cut the ends off pretty close to the knot, and in the course of a short time the whole will drop off. A wart having a small crumpled pedicle may be removed in the same way, by tying a single ligature round its base. If the exposed surfaces should not heal readily, moisten them occasionally with tincture of aloes and myrrh; and if they show a disposition to ulcerate, sprinkle them with powdered charcoal and bloodroot, equal parts.

To GET RID OF SORELEGS.—I noticed an inquiry in the RURAL on this subject. I have found unbleached ashes the most effectual for the purpose. Sow annually at the rate of two bushels per acre, for two or three years in succession, and the sore leg will entirely disappear.—J. M., Hamilton, C. W.

Rural Notes and Items.

A WORD TO RURALISTS.—Now that the political excitement is likely to subside, for want of proper nutriment, we not only look for a restoration of confidence, but a return to such habits of thought and action as will insure the increased prosperity of the People and Country. The agitation waxes at a favorable time for Ruralists, for the season of their greatest activity is approaching,—but whether the trouble ceases or not, it is alike the duty and interest of our friends to pursue their calling with industry and skill. For whoever is President or whatever party administers the Government, that avocation which feeds all and clothes all, must be intelligently and energetically pursued, as it is the real foundation of the sustenance and prosperity of both People and Nation. Every Producer is a Patriot—and there is at present great need of a demonstration of love of kindred and country on the Farm, and in the Shop and Factory. If the bar-room and corner grocery political brawlers (self-elected statesmen)—as well as many party editors and speech-makers—of all sections, were obliged to go to work in Garden, Field or Factory, the political troubles of the country would be forgotten in three months, and an era of unexampled peace and prosperity most successfully inaugurated. We think RURAL readers will concede thus much. Would that the political doctors might prescribe so safe a remedy, and their patients (which we cannot expect to reach,) take the medicine!

A word, in this connection, about the Agricultural Press, which has not been greatly favored during the Presidential campaign and the late "troubled times." Though we have no special cause of complaint—this Journal having rode out the storm unharmed—we would suggest that the present is a good time to substitute Rural Newspapers for some of those which have so long been at the top of the wave. The Agricultural Press deserves well of the public, and we hold it to be the duty of the industrial, producing classes, to give it ardent support and encouragement—a substantial recognition of its general usefulness and earnest advocacy of the cause of Improvement in Agriculture and kindred Arts and Sciences.

WONDERFUL WISDOM AND BENEVOLENCE.—One W. of Yates Co., lectures us, condemns a correspondent, and proposes to benefit our readers vastly, (for a valuable consideration,) in this wise:

How many strange and foolish theories are started and palmed off upon your numerous readers for "valuable information" which are as worthless as the useless nostrums they recommend. It, perhaps, to a certain extent, may be laudable, but there are cases where ignorance is so glaring, and the consequences of following such directions are so pre-eminently dangerous, that I have sometimes thought the free admission to your columns of all sorts of articles, would not really disadvantage the farming interest. Now, I assume that it is a disease—not a habit, and being a disease, it can be cured by the application of the proper remedy. I can cure it, but am in honor bound not to make a public disclosure; but if I do not, the money shall be returned. I will return him cured for \$10, or for the same will instruct him so that he can apply it himself, and it is worth as simple and common sense that it is matter of surprise that our veterinarians have not seen it before. I will impart all the information requisite for a complete cure for the above sum, accompanied with a pledge of honor not to impart it to others without the same pledge, by addressing W., box —, N. Y., enclosing the money. If the disease is not disclosed and the remedy not an effectual one, the money shall be returned. That is refreshing. On reading the first sentence, thought we must at once engage the writer to edit the RURAL. The next, though less clear, made us feel bad for our readers; while the third induced us to pity the ignorance of J. H. S., as much as the fourth caused wonder at the profound wisdom of W. But the remark about a secret and sure remedy, and being "in honor bound not to make a public disclosure," with the generous offer to impart knowledge so valuable for the paltry trifle of ten dollars and a pledge of honor, &c.,—together with the surprise expressed that our Veterinarians are all ignorant of the cure, (leaving the reader to infer that unless he invested an X at once, the great secret might be lost to the world,)—increased our admiration of W.'s profundity and benevolence. And on reading the conclusion—about sending \$10 to an anonymous address, and the assurance that, if the remedy did not prove effectual, the money would be refunded—our emotions were inexpressible. But, seriously—though we have a foretime been favored with various communications attempting to advertise free gratis, the above is the greatest dodge of all. Of course we would not insert such a proposition in our advertising columns, as we reject all such matters; and if the writer really supposed it would be given, with the assurance, he must be a greater curiosity than the whole of Barnum's Museum—a marvel of assurance or veridancy. But the richest part of the whole is that the letter (which contained the name of the writer, though separate from the article, and marked private,) was not even post paid! The P. M. at the place where it was mailed, noticing the address, and being a friend of ours, kindly put on a stamp, and sent along the precious document!

FARMER'S CLUB OF LITTLE FALLS.—We are indebted to PHILIP REED, Esq., Treasurer, for a pamphlet containing the annual address delivered at the Fair of this Club, on the 12th of October last, by Hon. L. CHANDLER BALE, also, the Annual Report of the Secretary and Treasurer. The address is an able one, and contains many valuable suggestions. The Reports of the officers are interesting, and show that the Club made considerable progress in advancing its objects during the year 1860. Successful Fair Grounds were obtained and improved, and a permanent exhibition held. The Club already has a library of 125 volumes, and holds frequent meetings for lectures, discussions, &c. It has a balance of about \$80 in the treasury. The recent annual election resulted as follows: President—S. S. LANSING, Manheim. Vice President—A. Wilcox, Little Falls. Secretary—X. A. Willard, Little Falls. Co-Secretary—A. W. Eaton, Little Falls. Treasurer—P. Reed, Little Falls. Directors—R. D. Brown, W. M. Door, Asa Wilcox, S. S. Whitman, A. Reed, W. A. Fester.

CARRINGTON'S DRAINING FLOW.—A Subscriber, who inquires relative to "an implement for making underdrains without the use of tile or other material, by applying sufficient power to force it the required depth, and form an opening for the escape of water,"—saying he has seen a notice of such an one from A. B. DICKINSON, in some paper—informed that the article alluded to is, probably, Carrington's Drain Flow. It was illustrated and described, and also advertised, in the RURAL of March 31, 1860, to which we refer our correspondent and others, for particulars. The plow is strongly recommended by Mr. DICKINSON and other practical farmers.

WHERE ARE THE FAMOUS STALLIONS?—A correspondent from Erie Co., this State, wishing to know "where some of those horses—Patchen, Messenger, Toronto Chief, Bashaw, Jupiter, or Abdallah—will stand this coming spring." He adds that he has several mares, old and young, which it is desirable to try with full blood horses, if within reasonable distance and terms. Cannot answer, but presume the owners of some of the horses named will be likely to impart the information at proper time, through our advertising department. Neither can we yet say where a Spanish Jack is to be kept, about which the same correspondent inquires.

"JAPANESE WHEAT" A SPECIES OF MILLET.—We are indebted to JOHN HINER, P. M., Columbiana, Ohio, for a few grains of what was sent him, from St. Louis, in response to an order for Japanese Wheat. It is simply a variety of Millet—a small, round seed, resembling our wheat about as much as a turtle's egg does a goose egg. It is evidently an unimproved humbug—and probably the same article sold at St. Louis a year or two ago under the name of Hungarian Grass!

FINN WOOL.—We are in receipt of a very excellent sample of Finnish Merino wool, from the flock of Mr. M. S. ABRELL, of Orwell, Vt. An Orleans Co. (N. Y.) correspondent informs us that Mr. A. has been engaged in breeding sheep and growing fine wool for a number of years, and has sent a number of bucks to that county, the stock of which has proved to be decidedly fine. The sample of wool before us is certainly of superior quality.

READER, if you wish to Do Good and receive GOOD PAY therefor, read what is printed under head of "The Publisher to the Public," on page 88,—not omitting the offer of Extra Gifts for Clubs formed before April. As the period of competition is limited, early action is important. The times are improving; form new clubs and thus secure valuable prizes.

HORTICULTURAL.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

In previous numbers we have given general rules to be observed in planting seeds, and also pointed out some errors to be avoided. We purpose in this and future numbers to give directions somewhat more specific for the management of 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, &c.

For the front of the house, there is nothing so appropriate and beautiful as well-kept grass, with a few flowering shrubs, and if large enough, evergreen trees and others that only attain a small size, like the Mountain Ash.

In making the lawn, thoroughness is particularly necessary, for we do this for a permanent work. Any error or neglect in this respect cannot be remedied without destroying what we have done and commencing anew.

THE PEACH BUDS.—We have continued our observations in regard to the condition of the peach buds, and find them injured in Western New York, more than at first we were disposed to believe.

ground upon the gravel. This should be replaced with gravel.

We have not time to give a list of the most desirable shrubs for the lawn, but will do so next week, together with directions for making borders, &c.

DETERIORATION OF FRUIT TREES.

The causes of the deterioration of tree fruits are, the excessive cropping of the orchards by grain-growing farmers with but a scanty supply of manures, which robs the surface soil of the fertilizing elements obtained from the manures, the atmosphere and the rains and snows, that give thrift to the trees and mellowness to their fruits.

Pruning.—Farmers do not prune their fruit trees to remove too great a crop, nor do they scrape off the moss and rough bark to save the trees from becoming "bark bound," nor wash them with solutions to ward off insects and "sun stroke," and so their fruits dwindle into insignificance.

The Causes of the scarcity of Fruits are deterioration and ruin of old orchards by neglect. Fruit trees have not been planted in a corresponding ratio with the increase of our population; the losses caused by the death of many trees after planting, owing to the unprepared state of the soil, an improper method of planting and cropping the lands close to the trees immediately after they are planted;

How is such a change to be effected? It may be effected by imparting information to farmers in a plain and sociable style as to the best way to produce tree fruits profitably. Tell them how to renovate a neglected orchard, and how to prepare the soil for a young orchard; how and when to plant the trees, and how to treat them when planted; what varieties are best suited for different soils and localities.

I say to every farmer in the land, plant out young orchards, or renovate your old ones. They will make you rich, the country rich, and exalt the national character. We have quadrupled our production of grain within the last quarter of a century; let us now turn our attention to the culture of tree fruits, and we will soon be enabled to export as much of them as we do now of grain, and when you are old and leaping upon your staff, your descendants will flock around you to get a feast of fruits from the parental orchard.

Horticultural Notes.

THE ENGLISH WALNUT.—Can you give any information or experience in regard to grafting the shell bark, or hickory nut, onto the English walnut tree in this climate?—S. FORBES, Penn Yan, N. Y., 1861.

locality, and but very little fruit may be expected from the Isabella except from buds closely connected with the old vine. The above announcement, I am well aware, will be received with some hesitation and much regret; but so far as my examination of the fruit buds is concerned, I am constrained to admit the fact.—H. N. LANGWORTHY, Greece, near Rochester, March, 1861.

TO SAVE TREES FROM MICE, &c.—To prevent mice or other vermin from eating the bark of trees, take, in the fall, soil from the privy vault, and thin it with water. Then take a broom and give your trees a good washing, which will not only keep the mice from eating the bark, but will do considerable benefit to the trees by taking off all the moss and rust, and leaving the bark clear and clean when washed off by rain in the spring.

Beware of Poisonous Mushrooms.—At a recent coroner's inquest at Ipswich, England, the jury gave verdict of "Death caused by eating poisonous mushrooms," and recommended that great caution be exercised by persons eating this article. Dr. A. S. Taylor, in his work on Medical Jurisprudence, says "there does not appear to be any satisfactory rules for distinguishing the wholesome mushrooms from those which are poisonous, and in some persons even edible mushrooms will produce disorder of the stomach and bowels."

Solanum Capsicastrum.—This is a neat little plant, chiefly valuable for producing in abundance its pretty little fruit in autumn and winter. The berries are bright scarlet, glossy and round, about the size of a cherry. It requires similar treatment to the capucium. Sow the seeds in a hot-bed in March, or in the house in April. Prick out the seedlings singly and plant in a large pot, when necessary. Rich sandy loam will suit it well. In the autumn it will be covered with its bright scarlet berries.

Apologetic.—In consequence of the pressure upon our columns of important political news—which all are anxious to read in the present crisis of the country—we are compelled to resign a portion of the space devoted to Horticultural matter. This will account for the non-appearance of several matters prepared for this number, for which our friends may be looking.

Inquiries and Answers.

GROWING CRANBERRIES.—By reading an article in the last volume of the Rural, by E. STRAUSS, of Bay City, Mich., I was induced to get a few cranberry plants to try my luck in that line. I went thirty miles into Canada, to a wild marsh, and got about two hundred plants, and set them out about the first of May.

Some of our readers have had much more experience with the cranberry than we have, and we leave this question with them. We have always planted in the spring. There is no difficulty in transplanting. No plant roots more freely than the cranberry.

FLOWER FOR NAME.—I enclose you a flower and some leaves, and will be thankful if you will favor me with information regarding its name, how and where it can be obtained, and whether the flower belongs to the moss-like leaves I send with it? There are two other colors, white and pink, and being a great admirer of flowers, would like to obtain some of this kind, but am entirely ignorant of its name and nature, or whether I must obtain the seed or the root. Please enlighten me.—Mrs. E. G. S., East Randolph, N. Y.

BAEREN PLUM TREE.—I do not wish to trouble you with inquiries, but as you always seem willing to answer them for the benefit of my fellow-readers, I will make a few for the first time. Can a barren plum tree be made to bear fruit? If so, what kind of treatment would it require? Would the liberal use of the pruning-knife be of any benefit? We have a fine tree which is about six years of age, but it has never yet borne fruit. It appears to be a healthy one in every respect.—YOUNG SUBSCRIBER.

WILLOW FOR HEDGES.—A subscriber wishes to know whether Osier Willow will make good hedging for field fences, and if so, where can the willows be got? Will the willow grow from cuttings? If so, what kind of soil they be cut, and how planted? Is the bunch willow, that grows along streams, Osier?—E. H. N., N. Y.

SOME OF THE BASKET WILLOWS, or Osiers, may make a good fence if properly cut back; but their chief value for basket-making is their tall, slender growth, which would be an objection for hedge-making. The common yellow willow, we believe, is the one used at the West. Cuttings of willow, stuck in the ground in the spring of the year, will grow.

THE ENGLISH WALNUT, &c.—Can you give any information or experience in regard to grafting the shell bark, or hickory nut, onto the English walnut tree in this climate?—S. FORBES, Penn Yan, N. Y., 1861.

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Political Intelligence.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S INAUGURAL.

Fellow Citizens of the United States:

In compliance with a custom as old as the Government itself, I appear before you to address you briefly, and take in your presence the oath prescribed by the Constitution of the United States to be taken by the President before he enters on the execution of his office.

I do not consider it necessary at present for me to discuss those matters of administration about which there is no special anxiety. Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican administration, their property and peace and permanent security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while stood as a plain and open day to their inspection.

"Resolved, That the maintenance, inviolate, of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions, according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend, and we denounce the lawless invasion, by armed force, of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter under what pretext, as the gravest of crimes."

There is much controversy about the delivering up of fugitives from service or labor. The clause I now read is as plainly written in the Constitution as any other of its provisions.

It is scarcely questioned that this provision was intended by those who made it for the reclaiming of what we call fugitive slaves, and the intention of the law given, is the law. All members of Congress swear to support the whole Constitution, to this provision as much as any other.

Now, if they would make the effort in good temper, could they not, with nearly equal unanimity, frame and pass a law by means of which to keep good that unanimous oath? There is some difference of opinion whether this clause should be enforced by National or State authorities. But surely that distinction is not a very material one.

Again, in any law upon the subject, ought not all the safeguards of liberty known in civilized and humane jurisprudence to be introduced, so that a free man be not in any case surrendered as a slave? And might it not be well at the same time to provide by law for the enforcement of that clause of the Constitution which guarantees that "the citizens of each State shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States?"

It is seventy-two years since the first inauguration of a President under our national constitution. During that period fifteen different and greatly distinguished citizens have in succession administered the executive branch of the government. They have conducted it through every peril, and generally with great success.

A disruption of the Federal Union, heretofore only menaced, is now formally attempted. I hold that in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution, the Union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments. It is safe to assert that no government ever had a provision in its organic laws for its own termination. Continue to execute all the express provisions of our national Constitution, and the Union will endure forever, it being impossible to destroy it, except by some action not provided for in the instrument itself.

Again, if the United States be not a Government proper, but an association of States in the nature of a league or confederacy, it is a contract, which may be made by less than all the parties who made it. One party to a contract may violate, break it, so to speak, but does it not require all to lawfully rescind it? Descending from these general principles, we find the proposition that, by legal contemplation, the Union is perpetual, confirmed by the history of the Union itself.

The Union is much older than the Constitution. It was formed in fact by the articles of association in 1774. It was matured and continued in the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It was further matured, and the faith of all the then thirteen States expressly pledged and engaged that it should be perpetual, by the articles of confederation in 1778, and finally, in 1787, one of the declared objects for ordaining and establishing the Constitution was to form a more perfect Union. But if the destruction of the Union by one, or a part only, of the States be lawfully possible, the Union is less than before, the Constitution having lost the vital element of perpetuity.

It follows from these views that no State upon its own mere motion can lawfully get out of the Union, that resolves or ordinances to that effect are legally void, and that acts of violence within any State or States against the authority of the United States are insurrectionary and revolutionary according to circumstances. I, therefore, consider that, in view of the Constitution and the laws, the Union is not broken, and, to the extent of my ability, I shall take care, as the Constitution itself expressly enjoins upon me, that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the States. Doing this, I deem it to be only a simple duty on my part. I shall perfectly perform it so far as is practicable, unless my rightful masters, the American people, shall withhold the requisite authority, or in some authoritative manner direct the contrary.

I trust this will not be regarded as a menace, but only as the declared purpose of the Union that it will constitutionally defend and maintain itself. In doing this there need be no bloodshed or violence, and there shall be none unless it is forced upon the national authority.

The power confided to me will be used to hold, occupy and possess the property and places belonging to the Government, and collect the duties and imposts; but beyond what may be necessary for these objects, there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among the people anywhere.

among the people that object, while strict legal right may exist for the Government to enforce the exercise of these offices. The attempt to do so would be so irritating, and so nearly impracticable withal, that I deem it better to forego, for the time, the uses of such offices.

The mails, unless molested, will continue to be furnished in all parts of the Union. So far as possible the people everywhere shall have that sense of perfect security which is most favorable to calm thought and reflection. The course here indicated will be followed, unless current events and experience shall show a modification or change to be proper, and in every case and exigency my best discretion will be exercised, according to the circumstances actually existing, and with a view and a hope of a peaceful solution of national troubles, and the restoration of fraternal sympathies and affections.

That there are persons in one section or another who seek to destroy the Union at all events, and are glad of any pretext to do it, I will neither affirm nor deny. But if there be such, I need address no word to them. To those, however, who really love the Union, may I not speak before entering upon so grave a matter as the destruction of our national fabric with all its benefits, its memories, and its hopes?

I would it not be well to ascertain why we do it? Will you indeed so deprecate a step, while any portion of the hills you fly from are no real existence? Will you, while the certain hills you fly to are greater than all the real ones you can form? Will you risk the commission of so fearful a mistake? All profess to be content in the Union if all constitutional rights can be maintained. Is it true, then, that any right plainly written in the Constitution has been denied? I think not. Happily the human mind is so constituted that no party can reach to the audacity of doing this. Think if you can of a single instance in which a plainly written provision of the Constitution has ever been denied.

If by the mere force of numbers, a majority should deprive a minority of any clearly written Constitutional right, it might, in a moral point of view, justify revolution,—it certainly would if such right were a vital one,—but such is not our case. All the vital rights of minorities and of individuals are so plainly assured to them by affirmations and negations, guarantees and prohibitions, in the Constitution, that controversies never arise concerning them; but no organic law can ever be found with a provision specifically applicable to every question which may occur in practical administration,—no foresight can anticipate nor any document of reasonable length contain express provisions for all possible questions.

Small fugitives from labor be surrendered by National or State authorities? The Constitution does not expressly say. Must Congress protect Slavery in the Territories? The Constitution does not expressly say. From questions of this class spring all our Constitutional controversies, and we divide upon them into majorities and minorities. If the minority will not acquiesce, the majority must, or the Government must cease. There is no alternative for containing the Government within the limits of the one side or the other. If a minority in such cases will acquiesce rather than acquiesce, they make a precedent, which, in turn, will ruin and divide them, for a minority of their own will secede from them whenever a majority require to be controlled by such a minority. For instance, why won't any portion of a new confederacy a year or two hence arbitrarily secede again precisely as portions of the present Union claim to secede from it? All who cherish disunion sentiments are now being educated to the exact temper of doing this. Is there such a perfect identity of interest among the States to compose a new Union, so to produce harmony and prevent renewed secession?

Plainly the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy. A majority held in restraint by constitutional check and limitation, and always changing easily with deliberate changes of popular opinions and sentiments, is the only true sovereign of a free people. Whoever rejects it does of necessity fly to anarchy or despotism. Unanimity is impossible.—The rule of a minority, as a permanent arrangement, is wholly inadmissible, so that rejecting the majority principle, anarchy or despotism in some form or other, is all that is left.

I do not forget the position assumed by some, that constitutional questions are to be decided by the Supreme Court, nor do I deny that such decisions must be binding in every case upon parties to a suit as to the object of that suit. While they are also entitled to very high respect and consideration in all parallel cases by all other departments of the Government; and while it is obviously possible that such decision may be erroneous in any given case, still the evil effects following it being limited to that particular case, with the chance that it may be overruled, and thus a safety, from its precedent for other cases, better borne than could the evils of a different practice. At the same time the candid citizen must confess that if the policy of the government upon a vital question, affecting the whole people, is to be irrevocably fixed by decisions of the Supreme Court, the instant they are made, in ordinary litigations between parties in personal actions, the people will have ceased to be their own, unless having to that extent practically resigned their government into the hands of that deservedly eminent tribunal. Nor is there in this view any assault upon the Court or the Judges. It is a duty, from what we are told, to be done by the candid citizen, to decide cases properly brought before them, and it is no fault of theirs if others seek to turn their decisions to political purposes.

One section of our country believes slavery is right and ought to be extended; while the other believes it is wrong and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute. The fugitive slave clause of the Constitution, and the law for the suppression of the foreign slave trade, are each as well enforced, perhaps, as any law can be in a community where the morals of the people impede the execution of the law itself. The great body of the people abide by every legal obligation, in both cases, and a few break over in each. This, I think, cannot be perfectly cured, and it would be worse in both cases after the separation of the sections than before. The foreign slave trade, now imperfectly suppressed, would be ultimately revived without restriction in one section, while fugitive slaves, now only partially surrendered, would not be surrendered at all by the other.

Physically speaking, we cannot separate. We cannot remove our respective sections from each other, nor build an impassable wall between them. A husband and wife may be divided, divorced, and go out from the presence and beyond the reach of each other, but the different portions of our country cannot do this. They cannot but remain face to face, and intercourse, either amicable or hostile, must continue between them. It is possible, then, to make that intercourse more advantageous, or more satisfactory, after separation than before? Can aliens make treaties easier than friends can make laws? Can treaties be more faithfully enforced between aliens than laws can among a friendly people? Suppose you go to a lawyer and say, "You cannot fight always; and whenever you much loss on both sides, and no gain on either, you cease fighting, then the identical questions, to terms of intercourse are again upon you. This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it.

I cannot be ignorant of the fact that many worthy and patriotic citizens are desirous of having the National Constitution amended. While I make no recommendation of amendment, and fully recognize the full authority of the people over the whole subject, to be exercised in either of the modes prescribed in the instrument itself, I should, under existing circumstances, favor rather than oppose a fair opportunity being afforded the people to act upon it. I will venture to add that to me the Convention mode seems preferable, in that it leaves amendments to originate with the people themselves, instead of only permitting them to take or reject propositions originated by others, and especially chosen for the purpose, and which might not precisely suit, as they would wish to accept or refuse.

I understand a proposed amendment to the Constitution—which amendment, however, I have not seen—has passed Congress, to the effect that the Federal Government shall never interfere with the domestic institutions of States, including that of persons held to service. To avoid misconstruction of what I have said, I depart from my purpose not to speak of particular amendments, so far as to say that holding such a provision as implied constitutional law, I have no objection to its being made express and irrevocable.

The Chief Magistrate derives all his authority from the people, and they have conferred none upon him to fix the terms for the separation of the States. The

[Concluded on page 82.]

Ladies' Department.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

BURIED HOPES.

BY MARGARET ELLIOTT.

Went for the buried hopes! Slipped away from the tightening clasp of hands that held them with eager grasp...

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

THE BEAUTIFUL.

God has given us ten thousand aids to worship Him. Everywhere, has He scattered tokens of His love, power, and beauty, as suggestive influences to draw our souls out and upward toward Him...

The Alps, gemmed with a brilliant coronet of snow and ice, and robed in clouds of purple and roseate hue, stand in their eternal vastness and solitude...

Flowers, too, spring up in our pathway everywhere, like sweet messengers of mercy, and never are they so precious and beautiful as when culled by the hand of sorrowing affection for the graves of the loved and lost.

All do not feel the power of beauty alike. To some, sublimity is the principal element; while another will forget the grandeur of Niagara itself, in admiration of the exquisite flower that grows upon its banks.

Infancy and childhood, in its fairest forms, is, perhaps, the most beautiful example of perfect grace and loveliness given us from heaven.

We be to the hearts whose obtuse or cold nature shuts in their souls from an appreciation of the beautiful. It is the most blessed and powerful aid we possess by nature, in our aspirations after immortality.

HOME LIFE.—Even as the sunbeam is composed of millions of minute rays, the home light must be constituted of little tenderesses, kindly looks, sweet laughter, gentle words, loving counsels.

taste, and high moral and intellectual culture. The young Christian is often led to the indulgence of this habit, under the false plea that it does no harm.

WOMAN AND HOME.

THERE is a bundle of delights bound up in the sweet word home. The word is typical of comfort, love, sympathy, and all the other qualities that constitute the delights of social life.

A good mother is worth an army of acquaintances, and a true-hearted, noble-minded sister, is more precious than the "dear five hundred friends."

Those who have played round the same door-step, basked in the same mother's smile, in whose veins the same blood flows, are bound by a sacred tie that can never be broken.

There is little beauty in the lives of those women who are drawn into the gay circles of fashionable life, whose arena is public display, whose nursery in her true glory; in the inner sanctuary of home life.

A MOTHER'S LOVE.

MANY a mother lives whose gray hairs have no beauty in the eyes of her children, and claim no reverence from those for whose welfare she would cheerfully pour out her heart's blood.

There is none in all this cold and hollow world, no fount of deep, strong, deathless love, save that within a mother's heart.

How to be handsome.—It is perfectly natural for all women to be handsome. If they are not so, the fault lies in their birth, or in their training, or in both.

FAILINGS.—The finest composition of human nature, as well as the finest china, may have flaws in it, though the pattern may be of the highest value.

Choice Miscellany.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

THE GULF STREAM.

BY MRS. A. L. PORTER.

THERE is a mighty river ever sweeping From where the tropic skies bend o'er the sea; On, on, forever on, its course still keeping, Timeless as time—a wondrous mystery.

And never is its swift, warm current falling, When mightiest streams move slightly and slow, When melting snows their channels broad are filling, Its banks it never was known to overflow.

Upon the borders of that stately river No city rears its domes—no towers gray From o'er its waves—the din of trade and labor Reaches not there—not the sound of childhood's play.

Not through the green banks where summer flowers are blooming Above its waves, where trees their shadows throw, From mid whose bosoms joyous birds notes are blending, And timing to the water's measured flow.

No, through the great Atlantic's melting zones, Steadfast and calm the swift stream flows on; Through banks of grand, majestic oceanic ranges, Sublimely grand, majestic oceanic ranges.

Sounded may be thy fame, "Father of Waters;" To the "Fair Rhine" may be captured thousands strong; By Arno roam—where dwell Italia's daughters—Or for the classic Tiber raise a song;

By Ganges, sacred stream, may Nilgripes wander; Stand where dark Ganges waves are swelling free; By the rapid Nile, on Egypt's pastures wander; Till through the straits of the Red Sea.

A type sublime thou seemest, Ocean river, In thy proud grandeur, winding through the sea, Of the unvarying Nile, the high Nile— That through the sea of life holds on its way.

Careless alike, if Power blooms or praises, Where Duty's voice is heard, quick to obey, That fearless, through life's dark, bewildering mazes, Steadfast, and strong in right, pursues its way.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

PENCILINGS.

LIFE'S PROBLEM.—The brief winter day is fading, and here I sit by the window, thinking, thinking, till my brain is weary. The problem of life! Shall it be forever unsolved? Am I in my lot and place in the great Creator's plan?

Failed. Father above, look from Thy Throne and let the answer be deeply graven upon my soul, "What wilt thou have me to do?" Ah, my heart, looking up to the Holy One, is there no shrinking from duty, no hiding thine eyes from where God's finger-pointeth? Thou hast asked for thy life-work, but went there not up with that petition the wish that it might lie in some field of thine own choosing?

Are thy days dark,—dost gloom press with leaden weight upon thy heart? Tell on,—thou shalt soon reach the sunny side of the hill. When trouble comes, do not lie down and let her trample thee in the dust, but rise up and face her, dressed in peace. If there is no bright side, look upon that which is the least dark. Dissolve at once and forever all partnership with Despondency, and take Hope and Trust for thy bosom friends.

Not one of the countless voyagers On life's mysterious main Hath laid down his burden of sorrows Who hath lived and loved in vain.

DREAMLAND.—It is very bright and beautiful, filled with sunlight and music. Its landscapes are lovely, its skies bright, and not a note of discord is heard in all its sunny realm.

There is none in all this cold and hollow world, no fount of deep, strong, deathless love, save that within a mother's heart.

EVERY man complains of his memory, but no man complains of his judgment.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

PARENTAL INSTRUCTION.

How interwoven with the hearts, thoughts, and destinies of millions of the human race, are the precepts inculcated in early youth. The heart is then capable of being fashioned, as the potter molds his clay; and as the child is then taught to love the good and eschew the evil, or the contrary, so, generally, will be their paths through life.

Parents, then, cannot be too careful in every thing that relates to their children, or in any of the duties and responsibilities devolving upon them. They should act consistently at all times, and then their instructions be deeply implanted in the heart.

Nor should either parent take the part of the child, when corrected by the other in a proper manner. This is sometimes done, but such a parent can have no idea of the injury thus committed, or how often done so, it would never be repeated.

Children should be taught to be obedient, to respect the aged, and deport themselves properly, but herein they have, been and are still retrograding.

WINTER IN THE COUNTRY.

All this time you have been toying with your toilet, and now that it is finished, you take a more prospective view of the outer world. You live in the country, of course; and you see your cattle in their cheerful or cheerless precincts (but perhaps they maintain the stoical mein and stand all weathers.)

Jingle, jingle, jingle. Here's a sleigh. Your enterprising friend and neighbor, Roberts, pioneers the merry cavalcade that before the day is gone shall make music wherever they go, with cloaks and shawls, and furs, and blankets, and buffalo skins, and warm hearts, and bright eyes, and song, and shout, and laugh, and happiness, and love, and sleigh-bells.

Your breakfast bell rings. Your wife puts her arm in yours at the bottom of the stair. Ah, where summer blooms all the years in two loving hearts, what if on the brow of both it snowed? The sweet soul ("the dear girl") you will call her, whose "spheres" has been your smile, only, and her children's happiness for many a year, has been up and down, busy with home, for two hours, and how rosy your children's faces look, as with glad appetites they sit around you and you see the beautiful Aurora streaming up over the snow of your age from the dream of your childhood that has stolen away into their bright eyes and bird-nest hearts.

LOVE OF CHILDREN.—"I love God and little children," says a German writer; as if there were some connection between the two, as there certainly is. And the late Washington Irving, in a notice of the poet Campbell, speaks of the love of children as "an infallible sign of a gentle and amiable nature."

Sabbath Musings.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

UNREST.

'Tis ever with us; we are ever seeking for some unobscured good. Ever reaching forward to the future, while off with thankless, unrepentant hearts, we take reprovingly our daily gifts, murmuring that but a motley of Heaven's blessings should be our portion. And even when we murmur at our fate, a wiser One than we, who sees our need by daylight, drawseth near, and on our sad, weak, aching hearts, layeth some burden, grievous to be borne, that shall, by trial, as the gold is purified, we too may come forth brighter, purer, holier; our faith made clear, our love renewed.

Look ahead upon the various scenes that life is teeming with, and say, if, with a single item of humanity, thou wouldst exchange thy lot. Each heart its sorrows lieth, each heart its joys.

Wisdom infinite allots to all, each's some, as a smooth sheet of good and evil. Joy may not predominate, yet we, revealing in the gifts, forget the Giver. Sorrow may not reign, only sufficient here to us is given that we may see how vain, how weak, how trifling all these earthly scenes, and, knowing this, may learn to prize the rest that cometh to earth's weary ones.

And, with weak, powerless hands to mark our outward conduct, let us, with humble, loving, care, please—please—on the altars of our hearts, which shall arise, in prayer and praise, up to the Great White Throne. Trusting the many precious promises.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

GOING HOME.

First, I looked upon the face of a dead girl, in whose living form was enshrined all that is pure and lovely. She was a very marvel of truth and beauty, such beauty as the artist loves to gaze on, and as he drinks in the divine meaning, feels himself nearer God; but while he gazes, turns away in despair at his own creations, sees them grow dimmer and dimmer, until at last they almost fade from the sight, and he feels that no REMBRANT dyes can vie with that life's rose current, tingling the cheek in shades that come and go as the sun's setting beams play upon the cloud; that none but the Great Master can create a thing so fair.

Next, I gazed upon the pale brow of a youth stretched upon his bier, who had but just tasted his first draughts of Fame, and they were sweet, oh how sweet. He had grasped what to him was over-much a charmed cup, and he could not lose the deeper draughts. They had already given his eye a more radiant lustre, set ambition's signet upon his brow, and upon his lips a firm resolve. Yes, he would be Fame's forever. But ere he had drained the cup to its dregs, and mingled the bitter with the sweet, our Father called, and he, too, went home.

Another, in the ghastliness of death, was one in full maturity of womanhood, the watchword of whose life had been "Onward." She had wrought her tasks deep and well, and hers was a destiny that charmed the world. They said, too, that her heart was as great as her intellect; but now the wreaths of laurel that had bound her brow lay withered and dead. She had passed to a land that is always sunny and beautiful, with Amaranthine bowers, where no death-chills penetrate, and laurels are green forever.

There are a hero of many battles lay confined with his martial cloak around him, and by his side his trusty sword, as much prized as if it had been Damascus. He had fought for his country and a name. Long years before he had dreamed that "it was much to be a warrior, more a conqueror," and his dreams had lived. To him the charm of life was found only in the flash of serried steel, and the last word that died upon his lips was "victory." But death was the conqueror, and the veteran sleeps with his fathers. Such is life.

What shadows we are, What shadows we pursue. Rochester, N. Y., 1861. M. V. T.

TWO WAYS OF PREACHING.—A young minister once, in a sermon addressed to a fashionable audience, attacked their pride and extravagance as seen in their dresses, ribbons, ruffles, jewels, &c. In the evening, talking with the old minister for whom he had preached, "Father D.," said he, "why do you not preach against the pride and vanity of this people for dressing so extravagantly?" "Ah! my son," said Father D., "while you are trimming off the top and branches of the tree, I am endeavoring to cut it up by the roots, and then the whole top dies of itself."

BREATH OF RELIGION.—Religion should influence its professor in all the relations of life. Whatever he does, he should do it better for being a Christian. Religion should make one a better student, a better servant, a better master, a better parent, a better child, a better man in all respects. The pious but eccentric Rowland Hill, remarked, "That he would not give a farthing for that man's religion whose cat and dog were not the better for it."

SENSUALITY.—The wicked and sensual part of the world are only concerned to find some and room enough to wallow in; if they can but have it, whence they have it, troubles not their thoughts; saying grace is no part of their meal; they feed and grovel like swine under an oak, filling themselves with the mast, but never so much as looking up either to the boughs that bore, or the hands that shook it down.—South.

The Educator.

(Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.) DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

It is a fact now acknowledged by all who are acquainted with educational matters at the present day, that the schools of our cities and large towns are superior to those in the rural districts.

It cannot be expected that the rural districts will possess all the appliances necessary for giving an advanced course of instruction at present, if it would be desirable at any time; but there is no good reason why, in all the rural districts, which is the most important of all, our country schools should be inferior to those of large towns.

The great want of all our schools is, that of trained teachers. The doctrine which holds that any person possessing proper intellectual and moral qualifications is prepared to instruct the young, is false.

This want of training several States have aimed to meet in the establishment of Normal Schools. These schools aim to be professional, and all young persons, before entering upon the profession of teaching, should, if possible, avail themselves of the advantages there offered for the study of the Science of Education and the Art of Teaching, especially the latter, for teaching is an art.

For those who cannot avail themselves of these advantages, and those who may wish to teach only for a short time, the want should be met as fully as possible, in the establishment of Institutes, sufficiently frequent, and of sufficient duration to admit of several weeks' training under experienced teachers.

With a band of teachers thus drilled, good and attractive schoolhouses, and with a reasonable attention from parents, under the supervision of officers qualified to conduct these Institutes, and to counsel and instruct the teachers, our country schools would soon rival those which, in the efficiency of their instruction, are considered the best in the world.

SCHOOL MATTERS OF NEW YORK.

In our issue of February 16th we gave condensations of such portions of the State Superintendent's Report to the Legislature as our space permitted, and now publish those matters of general interest which the condition of our columns compelled us to omit at that period.

SCHOOL FINANCES.—The Superintendent presents the following summary of the financial reports of the public schools for the year ending Sept. 30, 1860:

Table with columns: Receipts, Cities, Rur. Dist. Balance on hand, Oct. 1, 1859, Amount received of State Apportionment, Proceeds of Gospel and School Lands, Amount raised by district taxes, Amount raised by rate bills, Amount received from all other sources.

Payments. For teachers' wages, For libraries, For school apparatus, For colored schools, For expenses of school houses, viz.: sites, building, hiring, purchasing, repairing, and insuring; fences, out-houses, furniture, &c., For all other incidental expenses, Amount on hand, Oct. 1, 1860.

If the amount remaining on hand, October 1st, 1860, (at the close of the school year), be deducted, it will give as the actual payments for school purposes during the twelve months preceding, in the cities, of \$1,731,134.60, and in the rural districts, \$1,953,112.35; or a total in the State of \$3,744,246.95.

APPORTIONMENT OF SCHOOL MONEY FOR 1861.—From the following statement we can learn the amount of school money and its apportionment for the current year:

Table with columns: Money Apportioned, etc. From common school fund, From United States deposit fund, From State school tax, Balance in treasury.

The above account is apportioned as follows, viz.: For the payment of school commissioners' salaries, For district quotas, as per table, For pupil " " for Indians, For libraries, as per table, For libraries for Indians, Balance for contingent apportionments.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS AND THEIR DUTIES.—Superintendent VAN DYCK offers some wholesome suggestions to this class of individuals. The Commissioners were chosen for the various districts into which the State is divided at the last general election, and entered upon their duties January 1st, 1861.

Upon the character or efficiency of the officers recently chosen, I am impelled, in view of the past, to suggest that the Legislature should make provision in some manner for enforcing the faithful discharge of the duties pertaining to the office under consideration.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.—The Teachers' Institutes, held in the various counties during the last autumn, under the auspices of the school commissioners, were not as numerous as those of the preceding year, although the appropriation by the State, for instruction and contingent expenses, was materially increased at the last Legislative session.

NORMAL SCHOOL.—The number of pupils in this department of public instruction during the past year was 321, and of its graduates during the same period, 73, of whom 32 were males and 41 females.

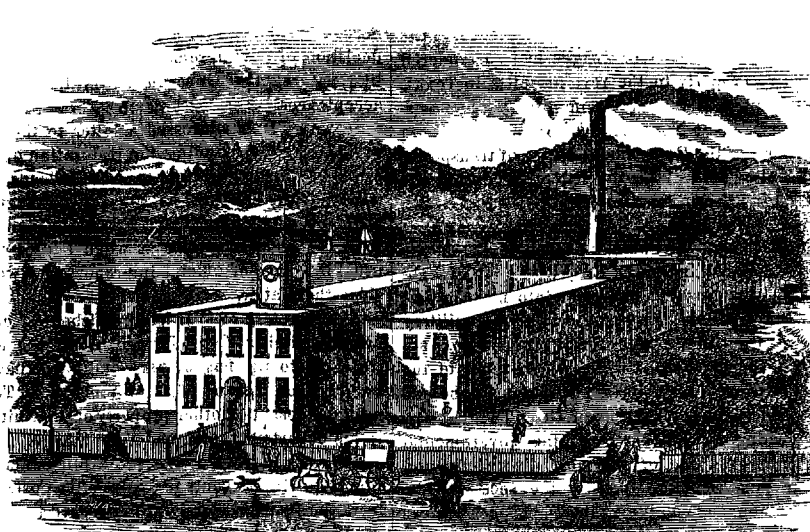
THE KIND OF TEACHERS WE WANT.—A great deficiency in the character of the instruction imparted in our Common Schools has been its lack of adaptation to the ordinary business avocations of the community. In comparatively few instances is any effort made to convey knowledge not embraced within the limits of the most elementary branches.

Useful, Scientific, &c.

THE AMERICAN WATCH.

We believe in American industrial institutions, and that it is the especial duty of Americans to excel "all the world and the rest of mankind" in the arts of Production and Manufacture—that we should avail ourselves to the fullest extent of the great natural advantages of our soil and climate, and the inventive genius, skill, and industry of the people, to become, more than any other, a Nation which shall, so far as possible, produce both the necessities and luxuries of life.

These thoughts, founded upon views long entertained, are expressed as introductory to what we purpose saying and quoting, voluntarily, relative to the manufacture of The American Watch. This business is conducted by THE AMERICAN WATCH CO., (represented by APPLETON, TRACY & CO., Waltham, and ROBBINS & APPLETON, New York City.) a fine view of whose extensive Manufactory is given above.



THE AMERICAN WATCH COMPANY'S MANUFACTORY, WALTHAM, MASS.

have become celebrated as time-keepers, and are fast supplanting those of foreign manufacture. We know whereof we affirm in this respect, from personal knowledge, and the testimony of friends upon whose judgment the utmost reliance can be placed.

Among the many tributes to the value of the American Watch, and the enterprise of its manufacturers, we have seen nothing better expressed than an article in Harper's Weekly, descriptive of a visit to the establishment at Waltham.

GOVERNOR BANKS, of Massachusetts, recommends in his last Message, that the dome of the Boston State House be gilded. That dome is the most conspicuous object as you approach the city; and it is seen from all the neighboring heights, as the dome of St. Peter's is seen from the villas about Rome.

Now if, some winter morning, when you wish to get a little nearer to the secret of that thrift and character, you take one of the trains that are incessantly departing westward from Boston, after crossing the Back Bay, and gliding through the gardens of Brookline and Brighton, skirting the valley of the Charles River, you will find yourself in the pretty village of West Newton.

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Of all the manufactures, that of watches must be the most exquisite and delicate. But why should Europe make our watches? asks common sense and the genius of American enterprise.

There are some two hundred and forty or fifty hands employed, of which about a third are women, and only about a dozen in all are foreigners, mainly Englishmen; and the work is almost exclusively done by machinery; but machinery so delicate and beautiful that, when your mind has become a little excited by observing the innumerable, and to you, inexplicable processes of the different shops, you feel as if you had seen the human brain in full play, thinking out watches.

The fineness of the work is bewildering. Here are screws of which a hundred and fifty thousand make a pound. They are kept in little glass phials, like those of the Homeopathic medicine cases. And here are shavings of metal so fine that five thousand must be laid side by side to make an inch; and here are measures that will indicate the ten-thousandth part of an inch.

The precision of the work by machinery methodizes the whole business. The Company may have turned out about forty or fifty thousand watches, and these are all divided into different classes, sizes, &c. For instance, there may be a thousand or five thousand "foundations" out and shaped to-day. They are all exactly of the same size; each line in one corresponds with the same in all the others.

Wondering and charmed you follow on through the different work-shops of the cheerful and airy factory—for it is open everywhere to the sun, there is no deleterious dust from any of the processes. There is one room—the salamander room—in which the enamel for the dial is set in a fervid furnace, and the heat is not less than a hundred degrees of Fahrenheit.

And there is one pleasant impression—the pleasantest of all—that you bring away. While the infinite variety of machinery seems almost self-intelligent, the workmen and women impress you with the heartiest respect; and when, as you pause in the office, you are shown the beautiful watch that was recently given by the citizens of Waltham to the wife of Governor Banks, you are irresistibly reminded that he came out of a factory in this very town to be Speaker in Congress and Governor of his State; and reflect that, as you have just seen the making of watches that mark the time of day, so, among the makers, you have seen the men whose intelligence and ability mark the time of our civilization and progress—a time in which the welfare of society is getting to be more and more established upon the only permanently sure basis, the self-respect and intelligence of labor.

There are the spires of Waltham—the pretty white town of West Newton—and, what here are the steep tiers of dark brick houses rising to the State House. You observe that Boston has not yet its gilt crown on; but remembering what you have seen—reflecting that now it is shown that we can furnish ourselves with the best watches so much more cheaply than when we import them—you will stop at the foot of the State House steps long enough to say, 'You deserve a crown, because these things have been done under your eye and by your spirit.'

Then, if you choose, you may rise and invite Beacon street to give three cheers for the twentieth century!

CURIOUS HORSES.

We have now on exhibition in London four "African Horses," of which we read in the handbill that they are of perfect symmetry, well matched, and all of a dark-brown color, the tallest being 31 inches high. The owner had the honor of exhibiting them to her most gracious majesty, who expressed herself much pleased with them.

WONDERS OF CHEMISTRY.

SCIENCE is full of wonder, but chemistry is the science of wonders. The following from Lyon Playfair will awaken curiosity:

The horseshoe nails dropped in the streets during the daily traffic reappear in the form of swords and guns. The clippings of the traveling tinker are mixed with the parings of horses' hoofs from the smithy, or the cast-off woollen garments of the poorest inhabitants of a sister isle, and soon afterward, in the form of dyes of brightest blue, grace the dress of courtly dames. The main ingredient of the ink with which I now write was possibly once part of the broken hoop of an old beer barrel.

RECORD OF THE WEATHER AT WASHINGTON.

The method of recording and predicting the weather, pursued each day at the Smithsonian Institute, is peculiarly simple. They have a map of the United States hung upon a board, with pins stuck through at the points where the observers of the Institute are stationed. Daily reports are received from many of these points. Each morning an assistant hangs a grain of corn on the pins to indicate the state of the weather—black if raining, green if snowing, brown if cloudy, and white if clear.

USING ZINC IN CONTACT WITH PLASTER AND IRON.

A report of a committee appointed by the Central Society of Architects, in Paris, recommends "that where zinc is used, it should be applied with great care, as certain precautions, very simple, but never to be overlooked, are indispensable. Thus—contact with plaster, which contains a destructive salt, is to be avoided; also, contact with iron, which is very injurious and liable to cause a rapid oxidation. Eave-gutters should always be supported by galvanized brackets, and no gutter or sheet zinc should be laid on oak boards."

The Young Naturalist.

REASON AND INSTINCT.

Eds. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Philosophers teach us that the main difference between beings governed by reason and those governed by instinct is, the former in all their undertakings make mistakes, and they perfect nothing but by trials and experiments, while the latter never make mistakes in any of their calculations, and are, consequently, susceptible of no improvement. To illustrate—they say, that the youngest parent bird is taught by instinct how to provide for her young, and to use the signs and sounds for communicating to their young, as well as the old bird that has reared many broods.

Now, then, I do not rightly understand the rule, or else I have witnessed an exception. It has been a question among metaphysicians, "which is the mother of the chicken;" &c. I will not attempt to discuss this question, but will relate the case above referred to.

About two years ago last August, as I was one morning passing through the barnyard, I observed an old hen sitting right where I wished to pass. A few feet from her sat a half-grown pullet, one she had reared the same season. As I approached, she showed little inclination to move out of my way. With my foot I assisted the old hen from her sitting posture, and immediately three little chicks ran from under her; at the same time, the pullet arose and two chicks ran from under her, also. The clucking of the old hen called the chickens all to herself, in spite of the efforts made by the pullet to restrain them. Chickens will follow the hen that clucks,—the pullet didn't know how to cluck!

I passed on and thought no more of it, until a few days after, as I was passing near the same spot, I saw the same hen and pullet sitting a few feet apart, as before. With a good deal of busting and squalling, the old hen got up, and one solitary chicken ran from under her, while four sprightly little fellows ran from under the pullet, and as they moved off, the whole five little chicks ran after the pullet, and even the old hen, rather than be left alone, followed her important young assistant, which by this time had learned to cluck as fast as any old hen in the yard. But I think if she had made the same noise in other circumstances, I should have mistaken her meaning, yet the little chicks seemed to understand her quite well.

Time passed on. The pullet improved daily in clucking, and, strangest of all, she soon learned to practice all the airs assumed by maternal hens. She would bristle her feathers, spread her wings, and squall vociferously, if any stranger came too near her adopted protegee.

Now it seems to me that instinct failed to perform her work, and the young hen was under the necessity of looking to reason for a guide. Probably the old hen had commenced laying before she had weaned her former brood, and when she felt like sitting had driven some other hen from her nest, appropriating the eggs to herself just as they were ready to hatch. But I cannot imagine what caused the pullet to desire sharing the family cares with her mother.

Java, Ohio, Feb., 1861. W. B. C.

A FEW FACTS FOR "S. M."

MRSSA. EDITORS:—In looking over the columns of the RURAL a few weeks ago, I saw an article on "S. M.," in which he says, "Give us pure, unadulterated wine, for mercy's sake, and let us hurl our most severe denunciations at the drugged wines, and brandies, &c." If "S. M." will look out and read the following Scripture references, he will find that God has hurled his denunciations and woes at wine and wine drinkers—pure unadulterated wine, too, and not drugged wines or brandies.

Again, "S. M." says, "I fear this denouncing the use of wine, is not hitting at the right place." It is hitting at the very stepping stone of debaucheries. Every man or woman who manufactures wine for a beverage, is supporting and extending a system which is proving the ruin of our noblest brothers. They are nourishing a viper around their own hearthstones, which will eventually coil its slimy folds around the manliest form and ruin the noblest soul. No one can be in favor of the Temperance Reform, or a supporter of it, who countenances in the least the drinking of wine. Again, "some noted writer has said that man needs some stimulant, let that be what it will; and if that is the case, strong drink will be resorted to in the absence of wine." Another noted writer has also said that "there is only one stimulant that never fails, and never intoxicates—Duty." A man who has a clear conscience and a clean heart, needs no wine to drown ill deeds.

REFERENCE.—Prov. XX, 1; XXXI, 4; XXI, 17; XXXIII, 29, 30, 31, 32. Isa. VII, 22; XXIV, 9; XXVIII, 1, 7. Jer. XXIII, 9; XXV, 27, 28. Num. IV, 8. Dan. I, 8; V, 1, 2, 3, 4. Lev. X, 9. Judg. XIII, 4. Hos. III, 2. Luke I, 15. Rom. XIV, 21. Eph. V, 18. 1 Tim. III, 3, 8. 1 Pet. IV, 3. Alfred University, N. Y., 1861. MINNIS MINTWOOD.

THE "SPECTRE OF THE BROOKEN."—D. S. writes from the Isle of Wight, describing a sight of this phenomenon, which he obtained on the highdowns behind Bonchurch—"A dense fog was setting in from the sea, and pouring along the flanks of the downs, above which the wreaths of mist were piled up like a wall immediately in front of us. Behind us an almost level sun was shining brilliantly across the summit of the downs, right upon the wall of fog. The refraction of the sun's rays through the mist, produced a beautiful iris, of an oval form, the colors faint, but perfectly distinct. While we were looking with admiration on this, we became conscious of dark spectral forms of colossal dimensions, in the center of the halo. On raising our arms and lifting our hats, our movements were mimicked by the images, and we at once perceived that the appearances we were gazing on were no more than our own shadows, projected by the sun at our backs on the fog-wall, and there received as the images of a magic lantern on the white sheet. After watching these singular phenomena for some minutes, as they and the surrounding halo alternately faded away or increased in distinctness with the decrease or increase of the density of the mist, the fog reached our position, and, of course, the spectres were lost altogether."

TRIFLES NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH.—A friend called on Michael Angelo, who was finishing a statue. Some time afterwards he called again; the sculptor was still at his work. His friend, looking at the figure, exclaimed: "You have been idle since I saw you last!" "By no means," replied the sculptor; "I have retouched this part, and brought out this muscle; I have given more expression to this lip, and more energy to this limb." "Well, well," said his friend, "but all these are trifles." "It may be so," replied Angelo; "but recollect that trifles make perfection, and that perfection is no trifles."

STARS OF MY COUNTRY'S SKY.

BY LYDIA R. BIGOURNEY.

Are ye all there? all ye all there, Stars of my country's sky? Are ye all there? are ye all there In our shining homes on high? "Count 'em! Count 'em!" was their answer, As they gazed on my view, In glorious perihelion, Amid their fields of blue.

The Story-Teller.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

EDITH RAYMOND.

A LOVE STORY

BY KATE CAMERON.

[Concluded from page 76, last number.] Just as I wished, my father was the first to enter the room; an introduction was hardly necessary, and in a few moments the two persons dearest to me on earth were apparently most interested in one another. I was very happy, and would have risen and re-arranged my toilet, had not an occasional paroxysm of pain warned me that for one day, at least, I must remain perfectly quiet.

with me through the day; but said he would come in again towards evening, and then he left. At five o'clock he called, but for a moment, he said. He hoped I was now quite well; the next day we would go out together, and visit some of the places of interest in the city. He trusted I did not doubt his love for me, and thus "striving to make assurance doubly sure," he again went away.

left him for my own room, which I resolved to keep until PAUL should leave town. The next day, a small package was handed me; on opening it, I found an elegantly bound Prayer Book, far more costly than the one which, at his own request, I had given to PAUL, accompanied by a pencilled note:

ping at home. They sailed on a bright morning. BERTHA smiled amid her tears as she parted from her mother, but she bade father and me a cheerful good-bye. PAUL said but little—but when I gaily remarked, "Think of me in Florence," he answered, with a touch of sadness, "I shall never forget you, EDITH!" Had he already repented? But that was no concern of mine. For a long while we were all lonely. It was mama's first real trial, the parting from her darling child; but she consoled herself with her preparations for the summer's pleasures. We left New York the same day, traveling in opposite directions.

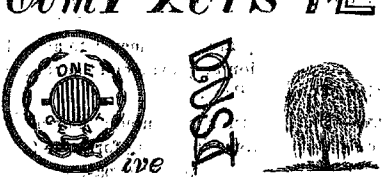
Corner for the Young.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker. AGRICULTURAL ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 40 letters. My 23, 37, 39, 10, 2, 15 is a well-known kind of hay. My 8, 14, 17, 37 is very fond of manure. My 8, 15, 16, 33, 1, 23, 34, 34, 12, 25 is one great cause of poor farming. My 38, 11, 4, 35 is what most fast young men sow in their youth. My 29, 31, 22, 14, 7 is what every farmer ought to have plenty of.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.

Com PXCIS AE



Answer in two weeks

ALGEBRAICAL PROBLEM.

A FORTNER going to market to buy turkeys, met with four flocks. In the second were six more than three times the square root of double the number; in the first, the third contained three times as many as the first and second; the fourth contained six more than the square of one-third the number in the third, and the whole number was 1,938. How many were there in each flock? H. L. Marshall, Calhoun Co., Mich., 1861.

"BITE BIGGER, BILLY."

A GREAT friend of the children, Mrs. GILDESLAVE, of Buffalo, contributes the following beautiful and touching incident to the Boys' and Girls' Department of the American Agriculturist: "Walking down the street, we saw two very ragged boys with bare toes, red and shining, and tattered clothes, upon which the soil of long wear lay thick and dingy. They were few and far between—only jackets and trousers, and these solitary garments were very unneighborly, and objected to a union, however strongly the autumn wind hinted at the comfort of such an arrangement. One of the boys was jubilant over a half-withered bunch of flowers some person had cast away. 'I say, Billy, warn't somebody real good to drop these here posies just where I could find 'em, and they're so poopy and nice? Look sharp, Billy, and may be you'll find something bincy—Oh, jolly, Billy, if here ain't most half a peach, and 'tain't mucharty, neither. Cuz you hain't got no peach, you may bite first. Bite bigger, Billy, may be we'll find another 'fore long.'

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS, &c., IN No. 580.

Answer to Miscellaneous Enigma:—Hugh Swinton Legare. Answer to Illustrated Rebus:—The RURAL in circulation reaches nearly 100,000. Answer to Poetical Enigma:—The letter Y. Answer to Algebraical Enigma:—x (5 ± y), and ± x/y.

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