

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE RURAL LIFE EXCELSIOR LITERATURE SCIENCE ARTS NEWS

TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

(SINGLE NO. FOUR CENTS.)

VOL. XII. NO. 24.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.,—FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1861.

{WHOLE NO. 596.

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 people of 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.

Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1861, by D. D. T. Moore, in the Office of the Clerk of the District Court for the Northern District of New York.

AGRICULTURAL.

ABOUT WOOL:

PROSPECTS, PRICES, PREPARING FOR MARKET, &c.

The Wool Clip of 1861 is nearly ready for market, and there is no little anxiety among growers as to the prospects. The opinion generally prevails that wool must rule very low this season, and it is by no means confined to dealers and manufacturers. Through this opinion—founded upon the losses of dealers, the war excitement, and consequent depressed state of trade and manufactures—has been almost universal for the past two months, we think there are some indications that the market will open at better prices than have been expected, and improve as the season advances. Recent conversation with dealers proves that they are more confident than a month ago—that, though they think prices must rule low on the start, compared with last year, the prospects are that there will be an advance, especially on coarse and medium wools, during the ensuing twelve months.

Though manufacturing has been temporarily depressed, we believe operations must ere long be resumed to supply the ordinary wants of the country, and the extra demand for soldiers' clothing. And here let us say that those who suppose such miserable clothing as has been provided for some of our volunteer regiments is to be renewed, and supplied to others with impunity, will be mistaken. The flimsy, rotten stuff, made of foreign rags and waste, will not be endured—for both soldiers and people insist that our troops shall be well clothed—and the result will be a large demand for woolen goods, suitable for those who have volunteered to defend our flag and preserve the Union. This will give employment to many manufacturers, and cause an increased demand for a good staple—so much indeed that we should not be surprised if coarse and medium wools were soon worth nearly as much as last autumn. Fine wool must rule lower, compared with last season—probably ten cents less.

An extensive wool dealer with whom we conversed a few days ago, spoke quite discouragingly of the prospects, and disparagingly of wool growers—dwelling particularly upon their carelessness (we think he said wickedness) in preparing wool for market. As one reason for his opinion that prices must rule exceedingly low, (from ten to twenty cents less than last season,) he mentioned the manner in which our volunteers were being uniformed, and cited the fact that orders had been sent to Europe for large quantities of like miserable material for clothing. But we think that argument will not hold good—for if there is any patriotism in the people, and honesty among those who control affairs, the supplying of waste and shoddy clothing to soldiers is about finished. It is too generally and strongly condemned on all hands to be continued with impunity. Aside from the disgraceful injustice of the practice—insulting and abusing our volunteers that a few contractors may make fortunes—it is most suicidal to the best interests of the country, and will not be permitted.*

Two dealers with whom we have more recently discussed the subject of prospects and prices, come nearer our own views. Talking with each separately, we obtained their estimates as to the probable prices of the different grades of wool sold in this market. The first—after we had expressed the opinion that there was no reason why wool should rule more than six to ten cents less than last season (six for coarse and medium, and ten for fine)—dissented, saying that there would be a much greater difference; yet, in subsequently giving us the figures, he came near our comparative price for coarse grades. He named 22 to 28 cents for the same quality that sold last season at 25 to 32, but thought there would be more than ten cents difference in fine wool. In his opinion, prices would advance, however, for the ensuing year;

*Since the above was written we learn that our State Board have refused to pay some \$30,000 to contractors for the poor uniforms furnished volunteers, and that the National Government decidedly protest against supplying regiments with such inferior clothing in future.

and he was so confident of this that if he had \$100,000 to spare, he would invest it in wool. We think this was a candid opinion, and though somewhat privately expressed, we violate no confidence in making it public. The other dealer—a very careful and honorable business man—was less sanguine as to the future. He admitted that much coarse and medium wool would be required to supply ordinary wants and the extra demand for soldiers' clothing, (being satisfied that shoddy, etc., would not be endured by those in authority,)—yet argued that the supply of wool on hand, the scarcity of money, and depression of trade and manufactures, would cause the market to be depressed, as purchasers must be few on the start, eliciting little competition. His estimate for coarse grades was a trifle lower than those above given, while he thought fine wool would rule 15 cents less than last season.

We have thus briefly given the views and figures of dealers here, in order that our wool-growing friends may be enabled to compare notes with them. Of course the most honorable manufacturers and dealers wish to purchase the staple to the best advantage, and will cite their losses last year, the present hard times, etc., as reasons for non-action and low prices. They will not be likely to say much about the new tariff, which is considered quite favorable to manufacturers and wool growers; or hint that the large amount of woolen goods which were imported into the country before the tariff went into operation will soon be exhausted, when prices must advance. Our last Wool Circular from Europe (issued by ABRAM GARFINKEL, Wool Broker, Liverpool), has this significant item:—"Since the alteration of the American Tariff, few Woolen Goods have been exported to the United States, which has caused the manufacturers engaged in this trade to diminish producing to some extent, but those who are making for the Home trade are fully employed, and upon the whole the consumption of Wool is considerable." The same Circular says:—"From the time the present fine weather set in a better disposition has been manifested, causing prices to be better maintained than was expected at the commencement of the present series of Public Sales, which began on the 2d instant and closed this evening, (May 10), consisting of 18,510 bales offered, 15,123 bales being sold. The attendance of buyers, both Home and Continental, was numerous, the latter having purchased freely."

In determining as to the value of wool, and whether to sell at once or wait for an advance, our producers will, of course, be governed by their own judgment and circumstances, after considering the facts and probabilities. We may err, but think prices will advance from the opening of the market, thus reversing the action of last season. Those who can hold this year's clip awhile will not be likely to lose, while the prospect is certainly favorable for an advance. As already indicated, our own impression is that prices will, this season, (or for some months,) rule from six to ten cents per lb. less than last. The market may open much lower than our figures, but we think good wool ought to reach them in a few months. If the market opens at low rates, it is more than probable that money will soon be forthcoming from heavy dealers and manufacturers, causing an advance in prices. Hence we are moved to advise wool growers to take things calmly, and not be anxious to dispose of the present clip at once, unless their circumstances render it necessary.

The subject of *Preparing Wool for Market* was discussed somewhat in the Rural of the 1st inst., but we wish to add a few words in this connection. As our readers are aware, most of the wool through the country has heretofore been purchased by agents of manufacturers and heavy dealers. These agents receive a commission of a certain per cent. on all the wool purchased, and are usually instructed to get up a lot at an average stipulated price for each section. Thus the wool of different sections is known in market as Western New York wool, Ohio wool, Michigan wool, &c., each lot having a distinctive character. The buyer, who works for a commission, rarely discriminates between poor and good lots as he should; and hence, if he pays for certain bad lots 5 to 10 cents per pound more than they are worth, he must purchase some superior lots, in good condition, at much less than their real value, in order to secure his commission and make his average price. Thus, while the manufacturer secures his wool at a stipulated and satisfactory price, and the buyer receives his commission, the most careful and painstaking wool growers are losers and the careless ones gainers—for, as we said two weeks ago, lack of discrimination on the part of buyers encourages carelessness and deception.

But we think this course will not be continued—that dealers have discovered the error of their ways, and have resolved to reform. We are assured by wool buyers that proper discrimination will be made this season, so that those who put up their wool in proper condition will obtain the best prices, while those who are slovenly, or use deception, will not be likely to sell their clips at the market price. This is as it should be, and if dealers will only practice what they proclaim, a long-needed reform will be instituted—one which will prove beneficial to all parties interested. We trust the wool growers of the country will second the efforts of dealers by putting up the present clip in the best manner; and then, if the buyers still pay a premium for careless and slovenly management, by refusing to make proper discrimination between merchantable and unmerchantable wool,

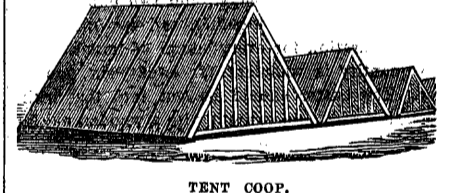
they, as hitherto, will be blamable. If the producers of the staple in this State, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Ohio, Michigan, &c., will generally act upon this suggestion, we think, if dealers are really in earnest, (and their interest evidently accords with their declarations,) that better prices will be obtained, and a better system inaugurated among both parties.

THE POULTRY YARD.

CONSIDERABLE time has elapsed since we last presented our readers with a Chapter on Poultry, and a dozen or more pressing inquiries warn us that further delay will cause a good deal of anxiety, and perhaps some disappointment to our friends. These inquiries we have not space to answer in detail, but will endeavor to give all the information sought in this article.

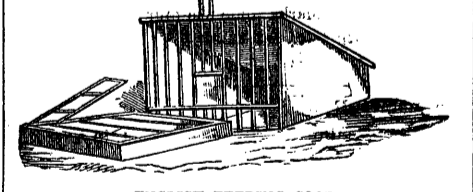
Although there was a good deal of humbug in the Shanghai excitement, yet it was not all evil. Previous to the importation of the large breeds, our common fowls had been neglected, bred without system and care, until they were small, ill-formed, of all colors, sizes and shapes. It is true, occasionally a few Dorkings, or Polands, could be found preserved with tolerable purity; but these were scarce, and the little inquiry for fine fowls gave no encouragement to careful breeding. During the height of the chicken fever, miserable, long-legged Shanghaes obtained unmerited favor; but good birds, with short legs and heavy bodies, though rather large boned, could always be procured. They have much improved the size of the common fowl, and the effects of the cross can be seen in almost every barn-yard, as well as in our markets.

Large fowls are not as mischievous in the garden as small ones, and they can be confined with less trouble, as they are not expert with the wings. A little old hen is a perfect nuisance in a garden. It seems as if fowls learn nothing but mischief after they get to be about two years old, and one or two old ones will spoil a whole brood, and learn them more mischief in an hour than they would acquire in a year without such teachers. Chickens are a great assistance to the gardener, destroying a large number of insects. Place coops in the walks, but be careful that the hen is well secured, or she will bury herself in your choicest beds. The form of these coops is not important, but it is important to have them so constructed as to protect the hen and her family from rain storms, and it is especially necessary that the bottom should be dry. They should, therefore, be placed on high and dry ground.



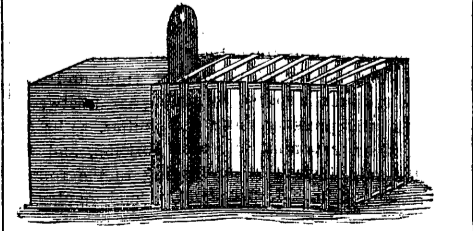
TENT COOP.

The above engraving shows a very good form, quite common, and if the front only is open, affording pretty good protection from the weather. The following is an English style. By this arrangement the chickens, when very young, may be confined in the little front yard, where their food is kept; or by changing the position of the yard, they may be allowed to range within call of the mother.



ENGLISH FEEDING COOP.

We have experienced one difficulty with all these coops, and one which we think will be felt by all who live in or near cities and villages. The mother being confined, and unable to afford protection to her defenceless brood, they become the prey of cats, and every day the number decreases without any known cause, until perhaps by accident or through watchfulness the enemy is discovered. In the country there are other enemies equally and perhaps more destructive, that seize their prey in the night, sometimes destroying both the mother and her family. Cats generally do their work early in the morning, and we have seen them watching until the first chick made its appearance outside of the coop, when it was immediately seized. To protect the brood from such enemies, we made a coop with two apartments,



SAFETY COOP.

as shown in the engraving, one of which is tight, with the exception of a few augur holes for ventilation. Into this the hen will always take her brood for safety during the night. The slide-door is then let down and all is safe until morning.

All fowls will sit, at least we have never kept any that did not under some circumstances show such a desire, although we have kept about all the known breeds. The Poland fowls usually show no disposition to sit until three years old. The Hamburg fowls, called sometimes *Dutch Every-day Layers*, of which there are several varieties, differing mainly in color, are rarely known to sit. These everlasting layers we think will not produce many more eggs, during a year, than other breeds. Although they continue longer, they do not lay as rapidly.



HAMBURGH FOWLS.

The Hamburgs are very beautiful, lively birds, when kept clean, and with a good range, but they suffer in close confinement, and then have a shabby genteel look, that is very disagreeable. Indeed, this is the case with all fancy fowls, and no one should attempt to keep them who has not proper conveniences, plenty of room, and time to devote to their care and admiration. The *Bantams* are pretty, but not profitable. We must defer notice of the different breeds for the present.

From twelve to fifteen fowls may be kept in a house eight or ten feet square, with a yard attached about twice that size, and with profit, as we know by experience. The house must be kept clean, the inside occasionally whitewashed, and the nests frequently changed. The yard should have partial shade from trees or buildings, otherwise shade must be provided. Dig up a few feet of the yard every day for the fowls to work among and dust themselves. After it is all worked over once or twice, remove the surface, and use it in the garden, and give the fowls a load of fresh earth. That removed is worth all the trouble it causes, as manure for the garden. It is unequalled for flower beds. The house, if it has no other floor than the earth—and this is better than boards—should be served in the same manner. Fowls in almost all cases become diseased by neglect. In a week or two we will resume this subject.

BEST MIXTURE OF GRASS SEEDS.

MUCH attention is paid in Europe to the best mixture of grass seeds to obtain the desired end, whether it be for pasture or hay, and also to ascertain which is best for the different varieties of soils. A little attention to this matter in America, we think, would be productive of the best results, and we ask our readers to give us information of any reliable experiments they may have conducted. The *Best Mixture of Grass Seeds* was discussed lately before the East Lothian Agricultural Society of Scotland, at one of their monthly meetings, and we will endeavor to give the chief points in the discussion.

Mr. SHIRIFF, who introduced the subject, complained that they were not as successful now-a-days in raising good grass crops as they were "long ago, before the guano islands were known"—referring, we suppose, chiefly to the liability to failure which is now a predominant complaint in the case of red clover, where the soil is highly cultivated. In his own experience, he had found no mixture that produced perfectly satisfactory results; and with the view of laying before the meeting the practice in different districts, he had obtained information on the subject from various farmers in several of the Scotch counties. The first example he adduced was that of Mr. HOPK, of Fenton Barns, whose young grass was generally better than any other in East Lothian. Mr. HOPK's mixture for pastures and cutting, respectively, per Scotch acre—a measure of land about midway between the imperial and the Irish acre—are as follows:

"For pasture—either for one or two years—14 lbs. red clover, 4 lbs. white do., 2 lbs. alsike do., 2 lbs. yellow do., 2 pecks Italian ray grass, and 1 peck perennial.

"For cutting—12 lbs. red clover, 2 lbs. white do., 2 lbs. alsike, 2 lbs. yellow, 1 peck perennial, or 2 pecks Italian."

Mr. HOPK was inclined to believe that he used too little ray grass, and his allowance of that description of grass seed is much less than that which is recommended by other practical authorities adduced by Mr. SHIRIFF. Thus, Mr. WILSON, of Edington Mains, uses the following proportions per imperial acre:

"For grazing—one or more years—1 bushel Italian

ray grass, (or, instead, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel Italian and $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel perennial), 8 lbs. trefoil, 4 lbs. white clover, 2 lbs. alsike, and 1 lb. of parley.

"For cutting—half a bushel Italian ray grass and 14 lbs. red clover."

Mr. WILSON was acknowledged to be very successful in his grass crops. Others, however, objected to the use of ray-grass. Mr. DURIE said that less ray grass seed was used now than formerly, and that whilst his father sowed a bushel and a half per acre, he never sowed so much as one. He condemned perennial ray grass altogether, characterizing it as "a weed," which "ought not to be sown at all; for no beast would eat it, if it could get any other kind." Instead of perennial, he used annual ray grass, and in this he was supported by Mr. DOUGLAS, who does not believe in perennial, and has "not sown it for the last five years." He considers "the annual a quicker grass, more succulent, and of better quality." The mixture used by Mr. DOUGLAS "for all purposes" is "10 lbs. red clover, 4 lbs. white, 2 lbs. cow grass, 2 lbs. alsike," with $\frac{1}{4}$ pecks annual ray grass and 2 pecks Italian. Mr. DOUGLAS stated one important fact relative to his management of the clover crop which is too frequently overlooked, namely, the importance of top-dressing it; "he had tested it every year at an expense of about 30s. an acre, and every year he had been well repaid."

So much diversity of opinion was expressed by members, that the Club resolved to leave open for further discussion a question so important.

FLINT, in *Grasses and Forage Plants*, gives an interesting chapter on this subject, from which we make a few extracts:

"It is difficult to over-estimate the importance to the farmer of a good selection and proper mixture of grass-seed for the various purposes of cultivation, for mowing, for soiling, for permanent pasturage, or for an alternate crop. Doubtless the varieties of seed usually sown in this country, consisting almost exclusively of timothy and redtop, with a mixture of red clover, are among the best for our purposes, and their exclusive use is, in a measure, sanctioned by the experience and practice of our best farmers; yet it would seem very strange, indeed, if this vast family of plants, consisting of thousands of species and varieties, and including, as already intimated, nearly a sixth part of the whole vegetable kingdom, could furnish no more than two or three truly valuable species.

"When we consider, also, that some species are best adapted to one locality, and others to another, some reaching their fullest and most perfect development on clay soils, and some on lighter loams and sands, we cannot but wonder that the practice of sowing only timothy and redtop on nearly all soils,—clays, loams, and sands, indiscriminately,—both on high and low land, should have become so prevalent.

"It is equally remarkable that while but very few of our grasses, and these for the most part species peculiar to sterile soils, flourish alone, but nearly all do best with a mixture of several species, it should so constantly have been thought judicious to attempt to grow only two prominent species together, with merely an occasional addition of an annual or biennial clover, which soon dies out. When this course is pursued, unless the soil is rich and in good heart, the grass is likely to grow thin and far between, producing but half or two-thirds of a crop; whereas, the addition in the mixture of a larger number of species would have secured a heavier burden, of a better quality. These considerations, it seems to me, indicate the true direction in which the farmer who wishes to 'make two spires of grass grow where one grew before,' without impoverishing the soil, should turn his attention.

"I hold this proposition to be indisputable; that any soil will yield a larger and more nutritious crop if sown with several kinds of nutritious grasses, than when sown with only one or two species. Indeed, it is a fact well established, by careful experiment, that a mixture of only two or three species of grasses and clover will produce a less amount of hay than can be obtained by sowing a larger number of species together. There may be some exceptions to this rule, as in cases where the yield of timothy and redtop, owing to the peculiar fitness of the soil for them, is as great as can stand on the ground on which they grow.

"But it is nevertheless true, that if we sow but one kind of grass, however abundantly the seed may be scattered, or on whatever soil it may be, or under however favorable influences, only a part of the plants will flourish; vacant spaces will occur throughout the piece, which will be filled up after a time by grasses of an inferior quality, weeds, or mosses. This is the case in some degree, also, where only two, or a small number, of species are sown; while, if a mixture made up of a larger number of kinds of seed is used, the plants will cover the entire surface, and produce a far better quality of herbage.

"In sowing such a mixture of several different species, we do but follow nature, who, after all, will generally be found to be the best teacher; for, whenever we cast our eyes over an old, rich, permanent

pasture, we ordinarily see from fifteen to twenty species of grass or forage plants growing in social profusion, and often many more species.

"Especially is this the case where the land is to be left in grass for some years, and eventually to be pastured, as is often done in New England; for it is then desirable to have grasses that reach maturity at different times, as a constant succession of good feed throughout the season may thus more surely be obtained.

HEADS AND HANDS.

MUCH has been sung and said about the pleasures of farming, and all very truly, for there is no occupation so delightful under favorable circumstances, while under others, there is no pursuit so vexatious and wearing to both body and mind.

and this may be true with a proper latitude of interpretation, and a farmer can drive the business of his farm much better than a driver of horses or oxen; and he may get a better "hold" upon prosperity than by holding the plow handles, though all this he should be able and ready to do when occasion requires.

The farmer, with a large farm, cannot afford to labor all day, and every day, in plowing and hoeing, and other manual labor, when a more competent man for the purpose can be hired for ten or twelve dollars a month and "found."

WOOL GROWERS AND BUYERS.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—In your paper of June first, I see a communication from Mr. AMMI WILLARD, wool agent, in which he threatens almost to annihilate the wool growers of the West if they do not reform their habits in putting up their wool for market.

Now, let me say a few words as to the extreme honesty of gentlemen speculators in preparing to buy the wool of the rascally farmers. This I believe is the general practice. They draw from the banks of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut, such amount of money as they want for present use, go to Detroit or Chicago, and exchange that money for western paper at an advance of probably two to five per cent.

of getting the highest price for his native wool. I will cite one circumstance. Last year I contracted and delivered my wool at Flint. The agent of the eastern firm was there, handled and examined every fleece separately, and when through he observed, "This is the best lot of wool I have handled in this place."

I advise Mr. WILLARD, and all others, to carry out his plan. Appoint none but honest, competent men, as agents, who can, at a glance, discriminate and detect all improper management, and pay according to quality and handling, and my word for it, this will raise such a competition among the farmers that there will be a marked improvement at once.

I might cite many circumstances in my own experience for the last twenty years to show the unfairness of wool buyers in endeavoring to get their fine wools at the same price they do the coarse, but will not trouble you further at this time.

SHEEP-SHEARING FESTIVAL.

MR. NICHOLAS CHILSON, of Covington, Wyoming Co., a day or two ago, demonstrated to a large company of friends, a few things connected with the branch of husbandry for which he and his sons are deservedly celebrated.

Table with 3 columns: No., Yearling Ewe, and Weight of sheep—of fleece. It lists various sheep and their corresponding fleece weights.

Other sheep were exhibited and shorn. HOMER COOK, of Pavilion, was there with a two-year-old buck, weighing 145 lbs; weight of fleece, 14 lbs.

WILLIAM C. SNEAD was called to the chair. On motion of Mr. O. BOND, Messrs. GEORGE TOMLINSON, NATHAN BRYAN, and JOHN GORTON, were made a committee on resolutions, who reported the following, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we are highly gratified with this opportunity of witnessing the permanent advancement of Sheep Husbandry as a branch of farming economy.

THOSE PIGS.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I have been looking with some degree of interest for a response to the inquiry of Mr. WILCOX about his lame pigs, and I see in your number of May 11th, communications from two correspondents, containing some very sensible suggestions as to the manner of keeping swine generally, but not very conclusive as to the cause of the difficulty or to the remedy in this particular case.

Last summer I had a pig some four months old, which I believe was affected in the way Mr. WILCOX speaks of. It gradually became lame, until it was unable to stand,—in fact, had apparently lost the use of its limbs.

AGRICULTURE.

MINNESOTA.—SEASON, CROPS, &c.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Notwithstanding the backward spring, our farmers have done an unusual amount of work, succeeding in getting in a much larger amount of small grain than usual, and I venture to say that full one-third more of spring wheat has been sown than last year.

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The all-engrossing subject is the war, and all party feelings are merged in the great struggle to retain intact our Union, Constitution and Laws. And happy am I to live under a Constitution and Laws so well worth fighting for.

ROCHESTER, MINN., June 3, 1861. P. S.—In your issue of May 25th, a subscriber from Rhinebeck, N. Y., says, or is made to say by the types, that E. PALMER, of Minn., in a previous number of your paper, asks "Can sheep be profitably raised on land worth 75 cents per acre?"

ARMY WORM IN SOUTHERN KENTUCKY.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I don't think your vicinity has yet been visited by that great pest, the army worm. They have been very destructive in this section of the country, and the farmers have been making great efforts to keep them from destroying the crops of their plantations.

This worm is something like the caterpillar worm, but smoother, and about an inch in length. It requires all the force that can be mustered to keep them back. The general method is by ditching,—digging a little trench about a foot in depth, and cutting it under on one side, so that the worms cannot readily crawl up.

The wheat crop looks very fine as a general thing, and will soon be ripe. I have never yet seen any of the "midge;" they, I believe, have not made their advent among us, but will, I am fearful, ere long.

Rural Spirit of the Press.

The Art of Butter Making.

N. WINSLOW, in the Maine Farmer, says that the farmer should ascertain the character of his cow's milk separately, fattening for beef those whose milk does not yield good yellow butter.

The Potato Rot.

From an editorial upon this subject, in a recent issue of the Country Gentleman, we make the following extract: Anything that sheds light upon the causes or the cure of the potato rot, is of great importance; and a recent contribution to one of our foreign exchanges (it has been so widely copied that we are uncertain in which of them it first appeared) suggests a means of prevention which has the merit, we think, of novelty at least.

same plot of ground, and planted at one time from the same seed." The remainder of his potatoes were "Flukes," all put in on the new plan, and yielded "an excellent crop, not two in a hundred being bad," while his neighbors, for miles around, without exception, lost their crops.

The same writer states that others have tried his system with equal success. Its simplicity renders it easily tested, and the statements made appear sufficiently probable to be worth the extra trouble involved for the trial.

Feeding Grain to Sheep.

THE effects of feeding certain kinds of grain to sheep, have been set forth in late issues of the RURAL, and our New England friends seem also to be discussing the question. In a recent issue of the New England Farmer, J. R. WALKER of Springfield, Vt., writes:—"Your Henuiker correspondent, N. M., inquires, 'Will oats hurt sheep to feed to them without being ground?'

Several of my neighbors have large and fine flocks of sheep. They feed on unground grain, oats or corn, separate or mixed, in such proportions as they choose, and any one who will examine these flocks will be well repaid for their trouble, and need no further proof that unground oats are not injurious to sheep.

A flock, to be profitable, should be so cared for that they will retain their flesh and vigor; but should they, by neglect, become poor and weak, and while in this condition a large amount of any kind of grain be given them, whether it be unground or ground, it would hurt them, perhaps kill them, as it would a famished man to eat a hearty meal of wholesome food.

Inquiries and Answers.

FATALITY AMONG LAMBS.—Can any of your correspondents inform me, through the columns of the RURAL, what is the matter with my lambs? They seem to be taken with faintness, fall, or lie down naturally, excepting that the neck is stretched out, when they gasp once or twice, struggle a minute or two, and die in ten or fifteen minutes.

THE ARMY WORM IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.—Here, in our American Egypt, where the Union and disunion elements are well represented,—here, where nature has usually been bountiful to the farmer, the farmer looks desponding. Last year the drouth cut short the corn and grass crops, and now, at this writing, many of our wheat fields and meadows present a very desolate appearance, for we are overrun with Army Worms. They, like a devastating army, march through our fields, leaving no green thing behind.

BEANS FOR SHEEP.—HAND DRILLS.—Will some sheep-breeder inform me in the RURAL, the best kind of beans to raise as a field crop for feeding sheep through the winter. Also, where I can get a good hand drill for drilling in carrot, beet, turnip, and parsnip seed, and the price.—WILLIAM BOOKLAND, Danby, N. Y., 1861.

A good hand drill may be obtained, we think, at any agricultural warehouse. E. D. HALLOOK, of this city, manufactures one at a cost of about five dollars.

LIQUID MANURE.—Will you, or some of your readers who have had experience, give the best mode and time of applying liquid manure? Also, suggest as to the crops and soil on which it is most beneficial. Having arranged to save all the liquid manure of my stable and yarded cattle, I wish to ascertain the best method of using it.—SAMUEL HILL, Alden, N. Y., 1861.

LIQUID MANURE is good for all crops that need manure, as will be understood by all who reflect that all manure is taken up by the roots in a liquid form. It is then in the proper condition to be absorbed and digested by the plants.

LIOS ON HORSES, AND MATRIMONY.—In perusing the columns of the RURAL, I saw a number of inquiries and answers, and I should like to inquire of all readers what will kill lice on horses. I have tried oil, but do not succeed. One more inquiry: What will a young man do that wishes to marry, and has four ladies and does not know which one to take?—YOUNG SUBSCRIBER, South Granby, Oswego Co., N. Y.

"Young Subscriber" is the most matter-of-fact individual we have heard from recently, thus coupling those troublesome insects of the genus Pediculus and marriage. He is, assuredly, in a very bad fix. Only think! four young ladies upon his hands, and each so entertaining and attractive that he cannot "make up his mind" which shall be his counsellor and comforter while journeying through this world of sorrow.

Rural Notes and Items.

MORE ABOUT WOOL.—Since writing the article on our first page we have received several Wool Circulars, and read the remarks of many exchanges on prospects of the markets. The opinions expressed are various, but generally confirmatory of our own position—that coarse and medium qualities will be most in demand, while not much fine wool will be wanted for awhile.

—The N. Y. Economist thinks little can be said yet of the new clip of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, "but it is expected that fine fleeces will rule low, and the average price be very much below that of last year," &c. In the same connection it remarks—"Wools will probably open from 26@30c. for the lowest grade to fine Merino; the medium grades may bring a little more, they coming within the quality now in demand. We hear of low medium grades Southern Ohio (new clip) being sold in Columbus at 25@30c. for common to half blood, but the sales have thus far been quite small."

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS, HORSE SHOWS, &c.—The N. Y. State Fair has not been postponed on account of the state of the country, as stated in some of our exchanges, but arrangements are making for holding it at Watertown, Sept. 17-20, as announced. The proposed Trial of Implements has been deferred, and not the Annual Fair.—We notice some discussion as to the propriety of holding large fairs this year, yet believe the only organizations which have decided to omit their usual exhibitions are the United States, the St. Louis Association, and the Indiana State Society.—The Monroe Co. Ag. Society announce a Horse Show to be held (on the Grounds, near this city,) the 27th of June inst., and that the Annual Fair will take place Sept. 28th and 29th.—The Annual Fair of the Dutchess Co. Ag. Society is to be held at Washington Hollow, Sept. 10-12.—The Chautauque Farmers and Mechanics Union's next Horse Show is to be held at Fredonia, on the 20th and 21st of June inst., and the Annual Fair at the same place on the 4th, 5th and 6th of Sept.—The Palmyra (N. Y.) Wool Growers' Association will hold its second annual Sheep Shearing on the Fair Grounds in said village, June 22d, 1861. Premiums will be awarded to the best shearers, and certificates given to the owners of the best sheep.—The Wayne Co. (N. Y.) Ag. Society has decided to hold a Horse Show at Lyons on the 3d and 4th of July—offering over \$600 in premiums.

THE UNIONISTS OF THE SOUTH have already been subjected to much loss and suffering. Quite a number of our subscribers have been obliged to flee north, abandoning their farms and other property. Last week we received several letters from loyalists who had been obliged to leave Fairfax Co., Va., requesting us to change the address of their papers. Among them was a letter containing arrangements from one of our club agents—who, instead of repudiating, most honorably availed himself of the first opportunity to discharge an obligation lately incurred. This is in striking contrast with the course of disunionists, the great mass of whom refuse to pay any Northern debts. Our friend writes:—"You may consider me guilty of a breach of trust, but in the present disturbed state of affairs I was ousted from my home in Fairfax Co., Va., because I would not swear eternal hatred to the Stars and Stripes. I had to leave everything, save what effects I could bring in a lumber wagon, with my wife and two small children. The money for most of the club of names I sent was paid to me before I left, but I was obliged to use it to get back to my native State (New York)."

—Our friends in the North will perceive that it costs more to be loyal to the flag in the border States—far more, in many instances, than this letter indicates—and they ought not only to be thankful that their lines have fallen in pleasant and peaceful places, but ready to aid those who are made to suffer on account of their fealty to the Union and Constitution.

AMERICAN SHORT-HORN HERD BOOK.—The fifth volume of this work, just issued, has been received from the author, Mr. LEWIS F. ALLEN, of Black Rock, N. Y. It contains 492 octavo pages, being smaller than some of the preceding volumes, and "contrary to the expectation of the publisher, presents a less number of cattle breeders, and of pedigrees, than usual." The author says this is not because the number of breeders has decreased, or the number of well bred Short-horns is less—far, on the contrary, both breeders and their herds have increased in numbers—but the former have been less spirited than usual in placing their herds upon record. It is remarked that, though the depression of the times has lessened the demand for blood cattle, the quality of our Short-horns is improving. The volume (from the Steam Press of R. WHEELER & Co., Buffalo,) is well executed, and comprises many fine lithographic portraits, drawn by Mr. J. R. CARR. For the benefit of Short-horn breeders, Agricultural Societies, &c., wishing to procure this volume, we will add that it can only be obtained by addressing the author, as above—the price being \$5, if sent by express, or \$5.40 when forwarded by mail, pre-paid.

CROP PROSPECTS AT THE WEST.—Our Western exchanges very generally speak in the most encouraging terms of the crop prospects, notwithstanding the backward season. Through some of the accounts are doubtless too good to be true, we judge that farmers are likely to reap abundantly. The Milwaukee News of the 29th says:—"There seems to be every indication of as heavy a crop of wheat the present season as in any former year. The yield of 1860 was probably the greatest ever known in the State, and yet we should not be surprised to see it fully equalled the present year. Careful observers who have travelled considerably through the State during the past few weeks, give us positive assurances that the breadth sown is fully one-fourth greater than in any preceding season. Add to this fact that the prospect never looked more favorable for a heavy growth, and we may prophesy another glorious harvest in due time. The late and frequent rains have somewhat retarded the labors of the farmer in respect to planting, but there is yet abundance of time, if only improved. Before our last year's crop can possibly be disposed of, another will be 'upon us.' There are good days in store for Wisconsin, and so we note it."

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—Business for Home Guards.—Here is an item worthy the attention of our readers (in villages and hamlets) whose neighbors have gone to fight for the Union:—"An impromptu meeting of the Home Guard of East Medford, Mass., was organized on Wednesday afternoon, and the members proceeded, well armed with spades, hoes, rakes, seeds, &c., to the gardens of those of their neighbors now serving the country in the Federal army. They soon prepared the soil and planted the beds in good style, much to the joy of the female relatives of the absent troops. This example is worthy of imitation."

IMPROVATION OF AYRSHIRES.—We learn that Messrs. BRODIE, CAMPBELL & Co., of Jefferson and Onondaga counties, have recently imported a very fine lot of Ayrshire cattle—probably the best, or among the best, yet brought to this country. These gentlemen are extensive and reputable importers and breeders of thorough-bred stock—especially Short-horn and Ayrshire cattle, Leicester sheep and Yorkshire swine—and we trust their business will not be materially affected by the present depressed state of the country.

DEATH OF A NOBLEMAN FARMER.—The English Journals announce the death of Right Hon. Lord Berwick. His age was sixty years. This gentleman's attention has been especially directed to the raising of Herford cattle, some of the best of this breed, ever shown, having come from his herd. Some years since, he ordered several fine Black-His-mares from this country, he having had a strong partiality for good roadsters and trotters.

HORTICULTURAL.

NOTES IN THE GARDEN.

It becomes an interesting question at this time what will become of the curculios, for we shall have no plums the present season. The flowers were destroyed. The theory of Dr. Fitch is that the curculio in the absence of fruit deposits its eggs in the bark, so the loss will not be serious.

The Flowering Shrubs now form the most attractive feature in the flower garden. The Thorns are really beautiful, and we wish all our readers could see them, and learn to appreciate them as they deserve.

TREATMENT OF ANNUALS.

ANNUAL flowers are every year becoming more popular, and very deservedly so. What we would do without the endless variety of forms and colors furnished us by the Annuals, we cannot say.

One reason why annuals are becoming more generally grown, is the ease with which they are raised, and the very small amount of trouble their cultivation entails, compared with the other section.

But to grow annuals as they should be grown, and to develop their habit and beauty, the ground for them should be both deep and rich, (as is necessary for all rapid growing plants), and the plants should be treated as individuals requiring generous treatment.

CULTURE OF THE BLACK CURRANT.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I notice in a late number of the RURAL, some inquiries respecting the culture of the Black Currant. Having had some experience with them, I agree with yourself, that the "Black Naples" is the only reliable variety now grown.

I have no doubt that difference in soil, climate, &c., may affect them somewhat, and although I may be able to raise an abundance of my "favorite" here, yet our friend in Maine may be disappointed.

Do not allow them to run too much to brush. Use the knife freely the second or third year, and cultivate well. Do not raise anything else close about them. Give them all the strength of the ground. I observe none have fallen from my bushes except the very small ones on the end of the stems, and I regard that as a benefit, as those left seem to grow much larger.

By the way, I obtained at the same time two hundred strawberry plants, "Early Scarlet" and "Hovey's Seedling." One-half of them died, as I received them so late in the season; the remainder I took good care of, and they will soon reward me with about one bushel of fruit.

Our spring here is backward. Corn is out of the earth a few inches, and looking very well. Wheat has a heavy growth, and fears are entertained that the straw will be too heavy.

REMEDY FOR THE CURRANT WORM. Eds. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—The currant worm crisis has come upon us with all its withering destructiveness, and must necessarily afflict the kind creatures of our households who serve up the currant in so many ways to suit our palates.

Eds. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—The currant worm crisis has come upon us with all its withering destructiveness, and must necessarily afflict the kind creatures of our households who serve up the currant in so many ways to suit our palates. I believe you have given a very truthful description in the RURAL of the 8th inst., of the insect and its habits, but a "lass" for the patent how to head him in and stop his rapacity.

CULTURE OF THE VINE.—NO. II. PREPARATION OF THE SOIL. The preparation of the border may be effected in a variety of ways, according to circumstances, and the end to be accomplished.

1st. To prepare one of eighteen inches in depth. This may be done by "trenching" with a spade; and to commence it, a trench of about eighteen inches in depth, and the same width is made; if the subsoil is gravelly, and not retentive of water, the top soil of the adjoining eighteen inches may be thrown into the bottom of the trench, constantly mingling a little manure with it as it is pulverized and thrown in, omitting that which is technically called drainage.

A good border may be most simply made by the addition of half a foot of rich, well-pulverized soil—the first foot being previously well worked over with plow or spade—manure being spread upon it before the working according to need.

In a well-prepared border of the above depth, if the soil is pretty fine and rather compact by nature, vines will do well for a great number of years. After they begin to give fruit, an autumnal dressing of manure very lightly worked in before winter, and again worked to the depth of four or five inches in early spring, will keep the ground in constant fertility.

A grave error often occurs in the preparation of borders where deep working with its object is not well understood. The fertile soil, with or without

manure, is sometimes put to a great depth below the surface, with a great thickness of unfertile soil above. This is much worse than useless expenditure of care and means. Soil should never be made deeper than can be well "aerated," and its fertility should commence at least from near the surface, unless the surface consists of very open sand or gravel, of which a covering for a border is sometimes advantageously made.

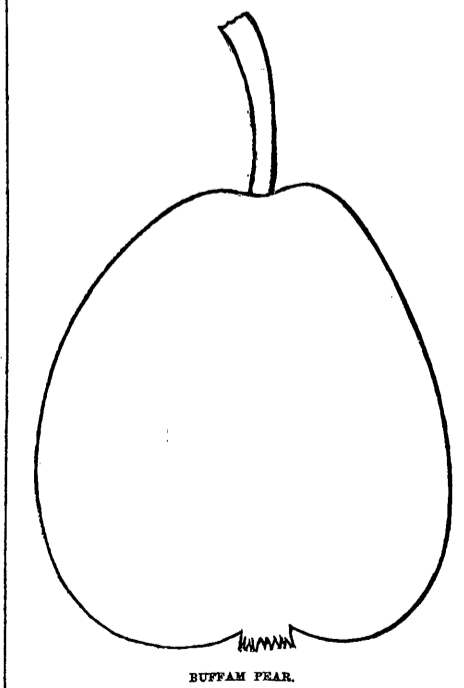
When very deep working is proposed, that is to say, deeper than three feet, a preparatory step is required. Soil, or rather a mixture of earth and manures to serve as soil, or a receptacle for the roots of plants, can not undergo the necessary changes to fit it for entertaining them at a great depth below a compact surface. This preparation must be previously made by repeated workings and aerations before it is put below. We often hear of ground being worked to the depth of five feet. To do this well is no doubt possible, but not easily practicable.

For ordinary garden culture, the depth of eighteen inches, that we have chiefly spoken of as the least that will enable a border to give good results, may be safely relied upon for at least twelve years, and without much deterioration for twice that period.

Buy a pot of ordinary mignonette. This pot will probably contain a tuft composed of many plants, produced from seeds. Pull up all but one; and, as the mignonette is one of the most rustic of plants, which may be treated without any delicacy, the single plant that is left in the middle of the pot may be rigorously trimmed, leaving only one shoot.

THE BUFFAM PEAR.—I have a pear which I think is the Buffam, but I am not certain, owing to a little confusion caused by loss of labels. It is something like the Virgalieu, and the tree makes an erect growth, and where a little crowded I think it would run up like the Lombardy Poplar. Please describe the Buffam, for if mine is of this variety I want to know it. It is an excellent pear, just right for the farmer, hardy and healthy, and can be grown nearly as easily and as cheap as apples.—M. R. P., Jackson Co., Mich.

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The Buffam is a native of Rhode Island, and from its general resemblance to the Doyenne, it is, no doubt, a seedling of that fine sort. It is an orchard pear of the first quality, as it is a very strong, upright grower, bears large, regular crops, and is a very handsome and salable fruit.

inserted in a very slight cavity. Calyx with small segments, and basin of moderate size. Flesh white, buttery, not so juicy as the Doyenne, but sweet, and of excellent flavor. The strong upright reddish-brown shoots, and peculiar brownish-green appearance of the pear, before ripening, distinguish this fruit. September.

CABBAGE LETTUCE AND RADISHES.—Can you tell me the reason why I cannot grow good solid heads of Lettuce as formerly? They now grow loose, and soon run up to seed. Is the difficulty with the seed, or what is the trouble? What is the best way to grow radishes so that they will not be hard, hot and wormy?—SALAD.

The Cabbage Lettuce, to form good heads, must be sown early, so as to make its growth before hot, dry weather. A cool, moist soil is the best, and if a little shaded all the better. Each plant must have sufficient room for its proper development. Good heads can never be obtained when the plants are crowded. Radishes to be tender must make a rapid growth, therefore they should not be planted too early in the season. They should also be grown in a warm, mellow soil. If your ground is heavy, get a little sandy loam from the woods for the radish bed. Of course we cannot express an opinion in regard to your seeds, not having tested them.

FRUIT AND CROPS IN INDIANA.—The prospect for hay is good. Our grape vines, from present appearances, will be loaded with grapes; the peaches and apples are well thinned out by the frost; wheat is coming out in head, and where it is not killed out, looks well. Last week some were plowing corn and some planting corn. So it goes this spring.

The flower is the Double Butternut, (Ranunculus acris plena), sometimes called Golden Button and Bachelor's Button.

Horticultural Notes.

EFFECTS OF WINTER ON GRAPES, &c.—Mr. Downing writes to the Country Gentleman.—"The winter has been a severe one at Newburgh on exposed grape vines. Among the best varieties, Delaware and Concord are the hardest. I-abella, Catawba, Diana, and Rebecca, are much injured, and in a few cases entirely killed. Cherry trees have suffered severely, and some of the older trees I fear will not recover. I never saw them so much injured before."

WILLIAM PARRY, of Cinnaminson, New Jersey, writes to the same journal.—"It requires great vigilance here to secure a moderate yield of plums, from the ravages of the curculio, which have also attacked the few pears that escaped the heavy frost; the Seckel, Bartlett, and others of the most certain bearing kinds, are generally punctured, and will produce but a small quantity of perfect fruit."

"I have had my attention called to another insect somewhat similar and about one-fourth the size of the curculio, darker in color, hard shell, and a long proboscis, prying upon the strawberry buds and blossoms by piercing the stem a little below the calyx, destroying, in some places, from one-half to two-thirds the blossoms and small berries; yet from the large quantity planted, and the increased attention to cultivation, there will be a good supply of the fruit, which is now commencing to ripen."

"Raspberries, of all the leading sorts, have stood the winter well; are filled with fruit buds, and making a vigorous growth of foliage, and give promise of an abundant yield. "Blackberries are doing well. The Dorchester being the earliest and most hardy variety, is now in bloom, and every hill in perfect condition. The New Rochelle, which is relied on for the main crop, has a much better show of fruit than last year, yet the vines in some places have not stood the winter well. The Cut-Leaved, or Rubus lasiniatus, is still later in ripening, perfectly hardy, and is making a fine show of fruit buds."

"The crop of small fruits will go far toward supplying the deficiency in those of larger growth, such as apples, pears, peaches, and plums, all of which will be very scarce here this season."

PACKING FRUIT.—In no art are we more deficient than that of packing fruit so that it may be carried a long distance without injury. Three-fourths of all our summer fruits sent to market any considerable distance is more or less injured. Indeed, much that is brought to cities by growers only a few miles distant is scarcely fit for sale. Occasionally fruits are sent us with a request to exhibit them at our Horticultural Shows, but in most cases the specimens are so injured when received as to be entirely unfit to show. Mr. Kidd, gardener to the Marquis of BROADALBANE, who sends fruit and flowers from the garden near Hampton Court, England, to the High-Land residence of the Marquis, subject to five hundred miles carriage, is so successful in packing that he can send fully ripe tomatoes "without losing a fruit," and bouquets that when received will be as fresh as when first picked. He gives his method of packing fruit as follows:—"I have found no better method in all my experience, which has extended over a period of twenty years, with all kinds of fruit, varying in distance from fifty to five hundred miles. It simply is—box, soft paper, and sweet bran. A box is chosen, in size, according to the quantity to be sent. A layer of bran is put at the bottom; then each bunch of grapes is held by the hand over the center of a sheet of paper; the four corners of the paper are brought up to the stalk, and nicely secured; then laid on its side in the box, and so on, until the first layer is finished. Then fill the whole over with bran, and give the box a gentle shake as you proceed. Begin the second layer as the first, and so on, until the box is completed. Thus, with neat hands, the bloom is preserved, and may be sent to any distance; but, with clumsy hands, quite the contrary, and often an entire failure, as the putting in and the taking out of the box are the most important points to be observed. I have, invariably, packed sixty or eighty bunches of Grapes, and fifty or sixty dozens of Peaches or Apricots in one box, and received letters from employers, to say that they have arrived as safe as if they had been taken from the trees that morning."

FRUIT GROWERS' SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK.—The June meeting of this Society will be held at Syracuse, on the 26th of the present month. The farmers and fruit growers of Central New York we hope will attend this meeting in large numbers, for it is rather discouraging to those who leave their homes and travel hundreds of miles for the purpose of taking part in the discussions, to find that few living within an hour's ride feel sufficient interest in the matter to give it an hour of their time. Some of our Syracuse friends we know will do all in their power to make the meeting pleasant and profitable.

PRODUCTIVENESS OF THE DELAWARE GRAPE.—Mr. CHARLES BOWNING writes to the American Agriculturist that he planted, five years ago, one each of the Rebecca, Raabe, Delaware, Hartford Prolific, Concord, and Elsinburgh grapes, in a continuous row, the cultivation, etc., being the same; and so far the Delaware has yielded more fruit than any one of the others. In September last, we saw these vines on Mr. DOWNING'S place, at Newburgh, all in fine condition, but it will be seen by another article that most varieties have suffered severely from the past hard winter.

FRUITS RECEIVED.—FROM RANSOM NORTHERN, Webster, N. Y., a collection of apples. They had been kept so long as not to be in a fit condition for examination when received, and before we had time to test them several varieties had decayed. No. 1 was Roxbury Russet; 10, 11, and we think 9, Baldwin; 14 Monmouth Pippin. These are all of which we could give a decided opinion. Two and 8 were not Seek-No-Further, nor 13 Canada Renette.

HOW TO MAKE SEEDS GERMINATE.—It is stated by M. Andre Leroy that seeds, naturally protected by a fatty or oily pulp, may be readily made to germinate, by crushing the pulp in potash water, and afterwards rubbing the seeds in sand. Those of magnolias, hollies, yews, and the like, which will often lie in the ground for a couple of years without growing, come up readily after having been thus treated.—Gard. Chronicle.

GRAPE STAKES.—The Farmer and Gardener says small cedar trees of symmetrical form, make excellent stakes or trusses for grape vines. Cut them down, thin out the smaller branches, but carefully preserve the main ones, cutting them to a pyramidal shape. When covered with vines, they are quite ornamental.

Domestic Economy.

CAKES AND COOKIES.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I send you a few recipes which I know to be good, for I have tested most of them:

FRUIT CAKE.—One and one-half lbs. of flour; 1 lb. butter; 4 lbs. raisins; 4 lbs. currants; 1 lb. citron; 12 eggs; 3 ozs. cinnamon and cloves; 1 pint brandy.

SNOWBALL CAKE.—One cup of sugar; 1/2 cup butter; 1 teaspoonful soda; the whites of 3 eggs. Bake in small tins.

NEW YEAR'S CAKE.—Three and one-half lbs. of flour; 1 1/2 lb. sugar; 1/2 lb. butter; 1 teaspoonful soda; 1 pint water. Rub the flour and butter together. Dissolve the sugar in the water. Caraway seed.

JELLY OR ROLL CAKE.—Three eggs; 1 cup sugar; 1 cup flour; 2 spoonfuls cream tartar; 1 do. soda.

CHEAP FRUIT CAKE.—One quart of sifted flour; 1 1/2 cups butter; 1 do. sugar; 1 1/2 lbs. raisins; 1 spoonful soda; 2 do. tartar; spice to taste.

GOLD CAKE.—One cup of sugar; 1/2 cup cream; yolks of 4 eggs; 1 teaspoon cream tartar; 1/2 do. soda; 1 1/2 cup flour.

SILVER CAKE.—The whites of 4 eggs; 1 cup sugar, white; 1/2 do. cream; 1 do. butter; 1 1/2 cups flour; 1 teaspoon cream tartar; 1/2 do. soda.

COOKIES.—One cup of rich sour cream; 1 do. white sugar; 1 teaspoon soda; nutmeg. Lebanon Springs, N. Y. Mrs. C. I. SHAWWAY.

STEAMED PUDDING, PORK CAKE, &c.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Having some nice recipes for your readers which experience has proved to be excellent, I send them herewith:

STEAMED PUDDING.—One quart sour milk; 2 eggs; 1 cup sugar; 1 cup fruit; heaping teaspoonful soda; a little salt, and flour enough to make a stiff batter. Put it in a basin, tie a cloth over tight, and steam two hours.

SOFT GINGER CAKE.—One cup molasses; 1/2 cup hot water; 2 tablespoonfuls butter; 2 tablespoonfuls sour milk; heaping teaspoonful soda; tablespoonful ginger; flour to make a thin batter.

PORK CAKE.—Having noticed in your columns several times, recipes for making pork cake, I find the usual quantity of molasses and sugar used is one cup of molasses and two cups of sugar. If those of your readers who use that quantity will reverse it, they will find a much more moist cake, and I think it a great improvement. SALLIE. Corfu, Gen. Co., N. Y., 1861.

RHUBARB JELLY.—Prepare the plant as for sauce, cutting it up into small pieces, putting it into a pan with a small quantity of water, and boiling it until perfectly soft. Then remove from the fire, drain the liquor through a sieve, and press it through a jelly bag. For every pint of the liquor, weigh one and a half pounds of sugar, which should be boiled separately until nearly ready to form candy, and then mixed with the liquor. Boil together moderately, keeping it well skimmed, until the jelly falls from the skimmer in sheets. It may be removed then from the fire, put in convenient jars for keeping, and suffered to stand one day to cool. The jars should then be covered with paper in the usual manner and set away until wanted wanted for use.

CHEAP BEER.—A very good, palatable, wholesome beer, may be obtained from acorns and hops. It is slightly sparkling, eminently tonic, and a febrifuge. The acorns are steeped in water for fifteen or twenty days, the water being renewed four or five times; they are then transferred to a cask, hops are added, the cask filled up with water, and the bung hole lightly covered, but not stopped, as there is an escape of gas. In fifteen or twenty days the beer is fit to drink, and as fast as it is drawn off, fresh water may be poured on. The cost is less than threepence per gallon. It would supply four or five persons for eight months with a very excellent beverage.—London paper.

NEW WAY OF BOILING FISH.—The addition of a few herbs and vegetables in the water gives a very nice flavor to the fish. Add, according to taste, a little sliced onions, thyme, bayleaf, winter savory, carrots, celery, cloves, mace, using whichever of these ingredients you can procure; it greatly improves skate, fresh haddock, gurnet, &c. Fresh-water fish, which have no particular flavor, are preferable done thus, with the addition of a little vinegar. Choose whatever sauces you please for any of the above fish.

BAKED INDIAN PUDDING.—Here is a recipe for baked Indian pudding, which suits my taste exactly, (the pudding, I mean.) Four quarts sweet milk; 1 pint of meal; 5 eggs; 1 teaspoon of salt. Sweeten and spice to suit the taste. Boil one-third of the milk, and with it scald the meal, then add the cold milk. Beat the eggs and remaining ingredients together, and stir them into the batter. Bake moderately for three hours.—J. J. H., Caton, N. Y., 1861.

TO WHITEN LINEN.—Stains occasioned by fruit, iron rust, and other similar causes, may be removed by applying to the parts injured a weak solution of the chloride of lime—the cloth having been previously well washed—or of soda, oxalic acid, or salts of lemon in water. The parts subjected to this operation should be subsequently well rinsed in soft, clear, warm water, without soap, and be immediately dried in the sun.

MOLD IN LARD.—BLACK CHERRY WINE.—Can some of the numerous readers of the RURAL tell me what to do with my lard, or what ails it? It is getting pink and purple spots of mold all through it, and I cannot account for it. Also, will some one give me a good recipe for making black cherry wine, and oblige—A NEW HOUSEWIFE, Howell, Mich., 1861.

FISH IN OVEN, IN TIN DISH.—A long, square tin dish, like those for baking, may be used for this excellent mode of cooking fish, by which all the flavor and succulence of it is preserved. They may be had of all sizes, and at a very trifling expense.—Soyer's Cookery for the People.

SPONGE FRIED CAKES.—Two teacups of sugar; 4 eggs; 1 cup sweet milk; 1 teaspoonful soda; 1 do. cream tartar. Add spice.—HET PIKE, Medina, N. Y.

Ladies' Department.

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

MARY

BY ANNIE M. BRACE.

MARY! the sweetest name on earth, The dearest household word!

Perchance a gentle mother's name, Who, in thy early youth,

MARY—thy sister, kind, and true, Thy childhood's constant friend,

MARY—the blushing, dark-eyed girl, Who met thee in the street,

Perchance it was the gentle bride, Who, at the holy shrine,

MARY—thou'lt find it far away In Scotia's highland homes,

Upon the vine-clad hills of France, 'Tis MARY, ever true,

Thou'lt find it in Italia's bowers, With every soft breeze blent;

O, ever blent and holy name! Simple, but sweet, 'tis given,

Cambric, N. Y., 1861.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.] A CHAPTER ON MATRIMONY.

I don't know why I can't speak my mind as well as any body, and I do think matrimony is a tremendous humbug.

But, mind you, this matrimony is no one-sided affair; a man might as well undertake to make the acquaintance of the King of the moon, as of a woman before he marries her.

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

THERE is a dear old place, where the birds warble their earliest songs, and sunset shadows linger,

I remember an hour, when a child I stood 'neath the evening sky, moonlight making each tree and flower, with the ancient home-roof itself, more beautiful

The songs are hushed—forms which glided there, have crossed forever the old door stone, and are laid to rest where the May Pink and Myrtle blossom o'er them.

Another home is mine, pleasant, perchance, as that, but the old one is dear as ever, and I am thinking—sadly thinking—who will dwell there?

woods." Who throw up the sash in the cool parlor—look upon the blossoming orchard, and lilac bending with its weight of odor?

THE HEROISM OF PRIVATE LIFE.

The heroism of private life, the slow, unchronicled martyrdoms of the heart, who shall remember? Greater than any knightly dragon slayer of old, is the man who overcomes an unholy passion, sets his foot upon it, and stands serene and strong in virtue.

The young woman who resolutely stays with father and mother in the old home, while brothers and sisters go forth to happy homes of their own; who cheerfully lays upon the altar of filial duty that costliest of human sacrifices, the joy of loving and of being loved—she is a heroine.

The wife who bears her part in the burden of life—even though it be the larger part—bravely, cheerfully, never dreaming that she is a heroine, much less a martyr; who bears with the faults of a husband, not altogether congenial, with loving patience

LADY PHYSICIANS.

As regards the instruction of young women in physiology, I venture to suggest, for the consideration of those ladies who have gone through a systematic course of medical education, with the view to qualify themselves as medical practitioners,

In adopting as their sphere of action the hygiene of female and infantile life, ladies would be in their right social position; and assuredly they could have no higher vocation than that of teaching their own sex the important duties which devolve on them as mothers.

THE ANGEL IN THE HOUSE.—When you are world-weary, and soul-sick, talk with a little child. As the clear, trusting eye is lifted to yours, a thought of the immeasurable distance you have blindly traveled from that sweet trust to your humble atheism, will touch the world-frozen fountain of your tears;

"MY FATHER—MY MOTHER LOVED ME."—Send your little child to bed happy. Whatever cares press, gives it a warm good-night kiss, as it goes to its pillow. The memory of this, in the stormy years which fate may have in store for the little one, will be like Bethlehem's star to the bewildered shepherds.

HUMAN LIFE hath its equinoxes. In the vernal, its flowers open under violent tempests; in the autumnal, it is more exempt from gusts and storms, more regular, serene and temperate;

BEAUTIFUL things are suggestive of a purer and higher life, and fill us with a mingled love and fear. They have a graciously that wins us, and an excellence to which we involuntarily do reverence.

In all societies, it is advisable to associate, if possible, with the highest,—not that the highest are always the best, but because if disgusted there, we can at any time descend; but if we begin with the lowest, to ascend is impossible.

A SMILE is ever the most bright and beautiful with a tear upon it. What is the dawn without its dew? The tear is rendered by the smile precious above the smile itself.

Choice Miscellany.

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

BY KATH CAMERON.

The breath of Summer fans my brow, Her voice is in my ear;

The buds and blossoms fill the air With perfume from each cup—

And oh, in every human heart, However worn and lone,

And thoughts of happy seasons past, And pleasures long since fled,

And so we bless the azure sky, And bird, and tree, and flower,

And oh, in every human heart, However worn and lone,

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

No one, we presume, will deny that "man's mission in this world is to work, and not to dream," still how many persons there are who fail to apprehend this great truth, until bitter experience teaches them that "life is, indeed, a reality," and not a mere "speculative adventure," subject to the caprice of an ardent and lively imagination.

While we have implicit faith in the old maxim that man is an "imitative being," experience also proves that he is an "imaginative being," strongly disposed at times to plume the pinions of his ever growing fancies, and soar away into regions more congenial to his tastes, but alas! not always conducive to his prosperity.

But while we condemn those idle speculations, which are of no practical benefit, let us remember that Nature has not endowed man with glowing fancies and keen sensibilities, merely to gratify the senses, or provoke his ruin. On the contrary, it is not the use but abuse of enjoyments that debases man, and which will sooner or later work his destruction.

To the youth it is also a "beacon star of hope" towards achieving high and noble aspirations,—the alchemist whose magic touch displays a golden future, and unfolds a new revelation of his destiny; and although the skeptic may call them child-dreams, or castles without turret or foundation, they are indeed but beliefs, the realizations of which are destined to give currency to the old adage that, "Nothing great is lightly won," and teach an unbelieving world the power and influence of idealism when exercised in its highest and creative sense.

When we look upon the master pieces of a RAPHAEL and CORREGGIO, or turn to view the glories of an Italian sunset, which Nature, with an invisible hand, has lavished with her choicest and most luxuriant colors, we are struck with the beauty and consistency of the Poet's expression, when he says the work was designed,

And perfected in all its ideal, Before one atom was brought from the world of thought, Into existence real.

Judiciously combined, then, the real and ideal faculties are capable, when leagued together, of proving happy and glorious to their possessor; but we would again caution the person of a speculative mind to beware of day-dreaming, and constructing his "Temples of Fame" in an ideal world. There must be a combination of thought and action in our researches after wisdom, if we would avoid the unhappy conclusion which DOUGLASS JERROLD has so forcibly personified in his reflections upon the visionary, by saying: "What angel purposes did we woo, and what hag-realities did we marry?"

THE WISE MAN has his follies, no less than the fool; but it has been said, that herein lies the difference—the follies of the fool are known to the world, but are hidden from himself; the follies of the wise are known to himself, but hidden from the world. A harmless hilarity, and a buoyant cheerfulness are not unrequited concomitants of genius, and we are never more deceived than when we mistake gravity for greatness, solemnity for science, and pomposity for erudition.

WHAT MONEY WILL NOT BUY.

MONEY is a very useful commodity, and one which an obliging public will accept in exchange for many desirable things. And yet, what seems odd at first, people are often willing to sell for it possessions which money will not buy.

Then it is equally true that money cannot purchase health, although it commands the skill of the physician and the stock of the apothecary. It avails little that it can buy cart-loads of Herrick's sugar-coated pills, or cases of those microscopic ones whose tiny coats, like many larger and darker ones, hide an infinitesimal soul.

Moreover it is difficult for a rich man to buy the truth, although the scriptures recommended such a purchase. He is more liable to be deceived than another. He is caressed by flatterers on the right hand, and fleeced by beggars on the left.

CITY OF CAIRO.

CAIRO stands on the east bank of the Nile, opposite the beautiful island of Roda. The town is about three miles in length, and one and a half in width, and is separated by immense heaps of ruins, and by an aqueduct after the Roman style, into old and new Cairo.

The city is divided into quarters, according to the nationality and religious belief of the inhabitants. These are separated from each other by large wooden gates, which are closed at night and kept by a porter within. Thus the Copts, Jews, Franks, and Turks, inhabit distinct districts of the town.

One thing strikes me as singular in this Eastern city, and that is the crowded state of the streets from morning till night, and the great activity of the people. Broadway is not more frequently blockaded than the principal thoroughfares of Cairo, and it is a common occurrence for donkeys and camels, carriages and carts, together with multitudes of pedestrians, to be jammed in so effectually that escape is made with difficulty.

THE WISE MAN has his follies, no less than the fool; but it has been said, that herein lies the difference—the follies of the fool are known to the world, but are hidden from himself; the follies of the wise are known to himself, but hidden from the world.

Success seems to be that which forms the distinction between confidence and conceit. Nelson, when young, was piqued at not being noticed in a certain paragraph of the newspapers, which detailed an action wherein he had assisted; "but never mind," said he, "I will one day have a gazette of my own."

Sabbath Musings.

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

Now the dusky twilight shadows Steal in silence through my home, Day-time toil once more is ended,

Early stars look through the maples From the sky serenely clear, Sweetly softened by the distance,

Hear the robins in the orchard Just beyond the garden wall, Is there any music sweeter Than the robin's evening call,

As I wander through the garden In the gloaming, well I know, By the incense sweetly rising, Where my favorite flowers grow—

While I bend to breathe their fragrance, Painter robbins the far-off chime; And the robin's plaintive vesper Ceases, and the evening time Grows more holy, till its stillness Seems sublime.

Looking upward with rapt vision, Spirit forms I seem to see Gazing down, with eyes most holy, From their heavenly home on me; And they seem to look upon me Lovingly.

Twilight deepens—I am dreaming Of the "city paved with gold," And I seem to see before me Wide the "pearly gates" unfold, And in spirit scenes of glory I behold.

And I bow me where the angels Vail their faces with their wings, And I hear the glorious anthem Chanted to the "King of Kings." 'Tis a dream, but, oh, the rapture That it brings.

In the east the moon is rising, And my visions flee away, And I hie me to my chamber, Weary with the cares of day; Yet for toll thy heart grows stronger While I pray.

Penfield, N. Y., 1861.

THE RIGHT USE OF THE TONGUE.

In Bunyan's account of his conversion is a paragraph or two which illustrates the profit of the right use of the tongue. Bunyan had become uneasy about himself, had left off swearing, and had nearly made up his mind to leave off dancing.

"But upon a day the good providence of God called me to Bedford to work at my calling; and in one of the streets of the town I came where there were three or four poor women sitting at the door in the sun, talking about the things of God; and being now willing to hear their discourse, I drew near to hear what they said, for I was now a brisk talker of myself in the matters of religion; but I may say I heard but understood not, for they were above, out of my reach. Their talk was about a new birth, the work of God in their hearts.

"And methought they spake as if joy did make them speak; they spake with such plainness of Scripture language, and with such appearance of grace in all they said, that they were to me as if they had found a new world."

What a beautiful picture!—women—three or four of them—poor—sitting at a door—in the sun—talking, not about their hard lot, but about the things of God—close by them John Bunyan, still an unpurged sinner, listening with all his might to what they are saying! We wonder if any artist has thrown that scene upon canvas!

HARMONY OF REDEMPTION IN THE BIBLE.—The very fact that the Bible has but one great subject running through all its histories and prophecies,—that salvation by blood is the focal point in which all its various lines of light converge, is to me one of the strongest evidences that it came from God. When I consider that the writers lived hundreds and thousands of years apart, that they were found in all walks of life, and that they wrote in different languages; I can find no way to account for the unity which pervades it, but by admitting that these various writers were all moved and guided by the same high intelligence. No matter who held the pen, whether Moses in Midian, or David in the mountains of Israel, or Ezekiel lying on the river's bank, or Daniel in the palaces of Babylon, or Paul in a prison at Rome, or John in the solitude of the bleak isle of Patmos, the records are all essentially the same, and blend together as one great whole. Just as the various notes and chords of the musician's oratorio express the one great thought of the composer, so the grand hymn of revelation presents but one central idea; whatever chords in the harp of inspiration are touched by the chosen hands, they ultimately settled upon the key-note, "Salvation through the blood of the Lamb."

FAITH.—When Charles V. imperiously required the Confession of Augsburg to be abandoned, and gave the Protestant leaders only six months more in which to make up their minds finally, the cause of the Reformation was thought hopeless. But Luther exclaimed:—"I saw a sign in the heavens, out of my window at night; the stars, the hosts of heaven, held up in a vault above me; and yet I could see no pillars on which the Master made it to rest. But I had no fear it would fall. Some men look above for the pillars, and would fain touch them with their hands, as if afraid the sky would fall. Poor souls! Is not God always there?"—Dr. Gill.

THIS LIFE.—This life!—what is it? The vision of a day—the pleasure of an hour; then gone, and gone forever! No, not gone forever; for man will live in rapture or in woe, as the result of a few years of life,—a few days spent in time. How fearful the thought! What eternal interests hang upon life's fleeting moments! Joys eternal, or pangs interminable, and all depending on the course we take—the way we live.

Useful, Scientific, &c.

WEAPONS OF WARFARE.

We are almost daily receiving inquiries from subscribers as to the construction and capacities of the various rifles, muskets, cannon, etc., the names of which occur so frequently in the daily press. As many of these weapons are of recent invention, and others are of foreign manufacture, we cannot speak concerning them of our own knowledge, but shall give, from time to time, such matters of interest connected therewith as may come under our observation. We now present descriptions from the *Scientific American* of the Minie and Enfield rifles, and of the Cavalry Grapnel:

THE MINIE RIFLE.—The first rifle in vogue in France was the so-called pillar rifle of Thouvenin, but the invention of Mr. Minie is one that has practically revolutionized the fire-arms of the present day. The improvements made by Mr. Minie are confined almost wholly to the form of the projectile, and have very little reference to that of the gun out of which it is fired.

The ball is of an oblong-conical form, something like an acorn without its cup; but instead of being solid, this cone is hollowed out at the base into a cup-like form. The advantages of this form of projectile are, that it offers less resistance to the air than a round ball would, and that having its center of gravity in its foremost part, it has no tendency to turn over in its flight; but its chief merit, in a military point of view, is that with it the rifle can be loaded as easily as the ordinary smooth-bored gun, the forcing of the ball into the grooves of the barrel being effected by the explosion of the gunpowder, and not by the ramrod.

The form of the rifle proper to these conical missiles differs very little from those used with the old spherical bullet, except that a three-grooved rifle has superseded the old two-grooved gun, and it is still an unsettled question whether four grooves would not be better than three. With this weapon the soldier can make better practice at five hundred, or even one thousand yards, than he could with the old musket at one hundred or two hundred yards.

THE ENFIELD RIFLE.—The Enfield derives its name from the place where it is made, namely, the government armory at Enfield, England, and it is in most respects like the American army-rifle made at Springfield, Mass. The barrel of it is formed of the best charcoal iron; its length is 39 inches; bore, 580th of an inch; it has three grooves, 1-16th of an inch wide and 500th of an inch deep; the pitch of the grooves is 6 feet 6 inches. A hollow conical ball, with a plug of boxwood placed in the base, is used in this rifle. A graduated back sight, set for ranges from 200 to 1,000 yards, is fixed on all the Enfields.

CAVALRY GRAPNEL.—This is a newly-invented weapon of warfare, and is designed to render cavalry superior to infantry. It is an admitted fact in the science of war, that infantry formed into a square or in mass, and standing firm and unbroken, can defeat an equal number of cavalry, each being armed with the ordinary weapons. This fact has been fully demonstrated upon many a well-fought field in the last half century, the most notable of which was that of Waterloo, where the French cavalry repeatedly charged the squares of English infantry, and were uniformly repulsed, the squares standing firm and unbroken.

A man and horse, acting as one, have the strength and speed of several men, and ought, if properly armed, to be competent to the defeat of several men. The grapnel is a new weapon adapted to this superior strength and speed, and cavalry armed with this destructive machine, and well skilled in its use, can easily defeat four times their number of infantry, mowing them down like grass before a scythe. This weapon may also be used by cavalry against cavalry; and even by infantry against infantry it will be found exceedingly destructive.

The grapnel was invented in one of the Northern States, and 100,000 of them have been recently manufactured for a European Government for the arming of cavalry. The present wide-spread rebellion in our own country has caused the inventor to offer them to our Government. They have been submitted to the proper department, and approved of and purchased, and the President will shortly call into the service of the United States a large body of cavalry, to be furnished with the grapnel as an additional arm. With this destructive weapon they will be able to cut in pieces and annihilate four times their own number of the best infantry that ever entered the field.

LIFE IN THE SEA.

BRIMFUL of life at its surface, the sea would be encumbered if the prodigious power of production was not kept somewhat in check by the antagonist power of destruction. Only imagine that every herring has from fifty to seventy thousand eggs! If every egg was to produce a herring, and every herring fifty thousand more, were there not an enormous destruction going on, the ocean would very soon be solidified and putrified. The great cetacea drive them toward the shores, ever and anon diving into their ranks and swallowing up whole shoals. The whiting eat their fry; cod again devour the whiting. Yet, even here, the peril of the sea, an excess of fecundity shows itself in a still more terrible shape. The cod has up to nine million of eggs, and this creature, of such formidable powers of maternity, has nine months of love out of twelve. No wonder that the fishery of this productive fish has created towns and colonies. But even then, what would the power of man be, opposed to such fecundity? He is assisted by others, among which the sturgeon takes chief rank. Then, again, the sturgeon itself is a very fecund fish. This devourer of cod has itself fifteen hundred thousand eggs. Another great devourer is not proportionately re-productive, and that is the shark. Viviparous, he nourishes the young shark in his bosom, his feudal inheritor, who is born terrible and ready armed. Hence are sharks called in many countries sea-dog.—*Blackwood.*

THE HUMAN EAR.—M. Fessel, of Cologne, on testing the new Parisian tuning-fork, observed that he heard differently with his two ears—the note heard with the right ear being somewhat higher than that heard with the left. On examining his musical friends he has not yet found one, even among part-musicians, whose ears are precisely alike in the estimation of the pitch of musical tones. He conjectures that the reason for this difference in hearing is, probably, that the external passage of the ear is set in vibration, like a speaking-trumpet, by the sounds that enter it, and that this vibration modifies the pitch of the entering sound according to the form of the individual ear.



STEPHEN ARNOLD DOUGLAS.

The last issue of the *RURAL* contained the brief telegraphic announcement of the death of **STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS**, and we herewith present our readers with a biographical sketch of his life and times.

STEPHEN ARNOLD DOUGLAS was born at Brandon, Rutland county, Vermont, on the 23d day of April, 1813. That branch of the **DOUGLAS** family from which the subject of our sketch descended, emigrated from Scotland, and settled at New London, Conn., during the earlier period of our Colonial history. One of the two brothers who first came to America, afterwards moved to Maryland, and selected a home on the banks of the Potomac, near the present site of the city of Washington. The descendants of the latter are very numerous, and may be found throughout the Southern States. The other brother remained at New London, and his descendants are scattered over New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and the North-Western States. The father of the statesman, **DR. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS**, was born at Stephentown, Rensselaer Co., New York, but removed, when quite a youth, to Brandon, Vermont. He married **MISS SARAH FISK**, by whom he had two children,—the first a daughter, the second a son. On the 1st of July, 1813, without any previous illness or physical warning, he died suddenly of a disease of the heart. At the very moment of his attack and death, he was playing with his daughter at his knee, and his son **STEPHEN** in his arms.

The grand-mothers, maternal and paternal, of **MR. DOUGLAS**, were both descended from **WILLIAM ARNOLD**, who was an associate of **ROGER WILLIAMS** in founding the Colony of Rhode Island. The son of **WM. ARNOLD** was appointed Governor of that Colony by **CHARLES II.** The descendants of Governor **ARNOLD** are very numerous throughout Rhode Island at the present day.

The early life of **MR. DOUGLAS** was spent upon a farm, with the usual New England advantage of a common school education. He much desired a collegiate education, but finding that the circumstances of his family would not permit this, and that he was likely to be thrown upon the world without either a profession or a trade, by which he could sustain his mother, sister, and himself, he determined upon acquiring some mechanical pursuit, that being the most promising and certain reliance for the future. **JAMES W. SHRAHAM**, speaking of this era in the *"Life of Stephen Douglas,"* says:—"Bidding farewell to his mother and sister, he set off on foot to engage personally in the great combat of life; on that same day he walked fourteen miles, and before night was regularly indentured as an apprentice to a cabinet-maker in Middlebury. He worked at his trade with energy and enthusiasm for about two years, the latter part of the time at a shop in Brandon, and gained great proficiency in the art, displaying remarkable mechanical skill; but in consequence of feeble health, and a frame unable to bear the continued labor of the shop, he was reluctantly compelled to abandon a business in which all his hopes and pride had been centered, and to which he had become sincerely attached. He has often been heard to say, since he has been distinguished in the councils of the nation, that the happiest days of his life had been spent in the workshop, and, had his health and strength been equal to the task, no consideration on earth could have induced him to have abandoned it, either for professional or political pursuits."

After quitting his business, he entered the Academy of his native town, and began a course of classical study, to which he devoted himself for about a year, with all that energy and enthusiasm which were a part of his nature. In the meantime his mother married **GEHAZI GRANGER, Esq.**, and at the close of his first school year, at the earnest solicitation of his mother and step-father, he removed with them to their home in Canandaigua, New York, and at once entered the Academy at that place. He remained at Canandaigua nearly three years, and such was the zeal of his application that he mastered his classical studies, and followed a course of legal instruction under the supervision of the Messrs. **HUBBELL.** At the period of which we write, the laws of New York required a seven year course, four of which were to be passed in the pursuit of classical knowledge, to entitle a student to admission at the bar; but such was the proficiency of **MR. DOUGLAS**, that he was allowed a credit of three years for his classical attainments.

In his boyhood **MR. DOUGLAS** exhibited a strong liking for political controversy, and this taste now had a wider field. The re-election of **JACKSON**, in 1832, and the animated, vigorous and heated discussions constantly occurring, developed and matured this peculiarity of character, until he made the study of the political history of the country a subject of the deepest importance. We are not aware that he made any addresses during that exciting campaign; but it is well known that in debating clubs, and in all gatherings, large or small, he was a most enthusiastic champion of "Old Hickory."

In June, 1833, **MR. DOUGLAS** (being a few months over twenty years of age,) started for that uncertain region then designated as the "The West." Provided with a small sum of money, he left Canandaigua, and first rested at Cleveland, Ohio. Here he made the acquaintance of **HON. SHERLOCK J. ANDREWS**,

who kindly tendered him the use of his library and office until he should pursue his legal studies for the year required by the laws of the State, when he would be entitled to practice. **MR. DOUGLAS** accepted, and at once entered upon his duties as law clerk for **MR. A.**, but in less than a week was prostrated by bilious fever, and was confined to his room for many weary months. It was not until October that he exhibited any signs of permanent recovery, and he was then advised to return home, as, in all probability, he would be again attacked with the fever in the spring, an attack his feeble health and delicate frame would not be able to sustain. Under these circumstances he concluded to change his residence, but he never thought of taking the backward road, and becoming dependent upon his friends at home. A further step into the West was his determination, and he declared "he never would return until he had established a respectable position in his profession."

The closing days of October found him once more on the move, and after some wanderings in sickness and poverty, he reached Illinois, very poor, and taught school for a few months. In 1834, then 21 years old, he opened a law office, and from that time began a career of signal success. In 1835, when 22 years of age, he was elected Attorney General of Illinois, by the Legislature of the State. Resigning this office in December of the same year, he was elected a member of the Legislature by the Democrats of Morgan county. In 1837 **MR. VAN BUREN** appointed him Register of the Land Office at Springfield. In August, 1835, he ran for Congress, but was defeated by five majority in a poll of 36,000 votes. From this time on till 1840, he practiced law; but in that memorable campaign he stamped the State seven months for **VAN BUREN**, much of the time speaking in debate from the same stump with the now President of the United States. In 1841, he was chosen Judge of the Supreme Court, by the Legislature, and in 1842 was elected to Congress, from which time we find him on the larger field of national affairs. He was transferred from the House of Representatives to the Senate, March 4th, 1847.

The late political history of **MR. DOUGLAS** is so familiar that we need not even glance at it. A proof of his surpassing ability, however, we may cite the fact that he was the recipient of more important public trusts while yet a young man, than ever fell to the lot of any other person of whom history speaks. Before he was 35 years of age he held the offices successively of State's Attorney General, Assemblyman, Register of a Land Office, Secretary of State, Judge of the (State) Supreme Court, Member of Congress (House), to which he was thrice elected after being once defeated, and finally entered the Senate of the United States when but 35 years old. He was nominated for the Presidency by the Convention of 1860, commanding a majority of the votes from the beginning, and two-thirds (by the decision of the President,) on the final ballot. He received a large popular vote, exceeding that of any of his competitors, except the successful one, though not his relative proportion of the Electoral ballot.

MR. DOUGLAS was twice married, first in April, 1847, to **MISS MARTHA DENNY MARTIN**, daughter of **COL. ROBERT MARTIN**, of Buckingham county, N. C., by whom he had three children, two of whom are living. She died Jan. 13, 1853. He was again married Nov. 20, 1856, to **MISS ADELE CUTTS**, daughter of **JAMES MADISON CUTTS**, of Washington, D. C.

The last hours of the illustrious Senator are thus described by the *Chicago Tribune* of June 4th:—"A wandering and delirious state accompanied his illness more or less from its inception to its final close. At such times as he was rational last week, he seemed aware of the grave fears entertained in his behalf, and on one occasion said to those about him, that he knew his constitution so much better than they did, he felt confident he should recover from the attack. Doubtless his will and courage, joined to his great physical powers, had much to do with his long continuing to resist a malady before which feeble men would have rapidly succumbed.—Throughout Saturday it was feared he could not survive many hours. As nightfall drew near, without any positive change having taken place in his disease, he yet seemed easier. So passed the night. He had only brief intervals of consciousness after this, but lay in a quiet state, gradually but surely sinking. At times he briefly rallied, but it was not to a clear conception of what was transpiring about him. On one occasion, indeed, it was evident that memory and habit of mind was strong in the dying statesman, and that his thoughts were once more in the Senate Chamber. One of his physicians, **DR. HAY**, was administering a blister. "What are you doing?" asked the patient, "stop, there are twenty against me, the measure is defeated." At an early hour yesterday morning he had an interval of rallying, was rational, conversed briefly with those about him, and then sank gently and quietly until ten minutes past nine A. M., when he breathed his last quietly, and without a struggle."

He has gone. Just attaining the very meridian of his power and usefulness, he solves the problem of time, and eternity opens upon his vision. It is human to err, and **STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS** may have

erred, but a brilliant career of statesmanship, and a long course of patriotic action, gave a hope that he, in connection with the other mighty minds of the land, would find a path by which our country might emerge from the darkness and gloom in which she is now enveloped. The Supreme Ruler has otherwise ordained, and we stand in the presence of Death. Life's fitful fever for him is over, and the Republic mourns the loss of one whose name will be registered among the most brilliant of her statesmen, and the most loyal of her sons.

Rural New-Yorker.

NEWS DEPARTMENT.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JUNE 15, 1861.

THE WAR'S PROGRESS.

FACTS, SCENES, INCIDENTS, ETC.

Some of Our Army Officers.

WITH the new and momentous era upon which we are now entering, public attention turns to the "men of the hour" who are to take command of our armies and thus become charged, in a conspicuous degree, with the responsibilities of conducting this grand struggle to a speedy and satisfactory end. Whether the trial is to bring out its controlling genius,—a Washington, a Napoleon, a Jackson, a Garibaldi, or a second Scott,—remains to be seen.

GENERAL MANSFIELD.—General Jos. K. F. Mansfield, now in command of the forces at Washington, and who is reported as the head of a very important expedition planned for speedy execution, is a native of Connecticut, from whence he entered West Point in 1817, to graduate in 1822, second in his class. This gave him a commission in the engineer corps, and when "Old Zack" went to Mexico, Captain Mansfield was selected as the chief engineer of the army of occupation. His services at the defense of Fort Brown, at Monterey, (where he was severely wounded in storming the enemy's position,) and at Buena Vista, won him brevets and fame. In 1853, he was appointed Inspector General, with the rank of Colonel. He has been promoted to a Generalship within a short time.

GENERAL McLELLAN.—Major-General George B. McClellan commands the military department of the great Northwest, and will probably move down in the direction of the Mississippi River, or Western Virginia, as the war opens. He is a native of Philadelphia, and is under forty years of age. He graduated at West Point with the highest distinction; thence he was transferred to Mexico, under Gen. Scott, where for his valor he was twice brevetted. After the war he was associated with Capt. Marcy in the exploration of the sources of the Red River, and was subsequently transferred to Oregon. He was then appointed on the Crimean commission, which enabled him personally to inspect the military systems of the great European powers,—England, France, Russia, Austria and Prussia. For the last three years he has been the executive head of the Great Illinois Central Railroad. He is at once prudent and resolute.

COLONEL PRENTISS.—Col. B. M. Prentiss, who has the command of the United States forces at Cairo, and is, therefore, likely to be called into action at an early day, is a native of Illinois, or at least, he has lived there from boyhood. He went to the Mexican war as the Lieutenant of an Illinois company, and was selected by the lamented J. J. Hardin as his Adjutant. By Hardin's side he fought in every battle until that gallant chieftain fell, and with his own hands he helped to dress his corpse for the last rites of humanity. During that entire campaign he was the most intimate companion of that lamented officer, and the sash which he wears now at the head of his regiment is the one which Hardin wore on that last fatal field. He was a candidate for Congress in the fifth Illinois district last year.

CAPTAIN LYON.—Captain Nathaniel Lyon, who captured the nucleus of the Missouri secession army, belongs to the Second Regiment of Infantry in the regular service. He was born in the State of Connecticut. He entered the service as Second Lieutenant, July 1, 1841. He has been once brevetted, and he received his Captain's commission August 20, 1847. The way in which he has discharged his duties at St. Louis, shows that he is capable of higher things.

GENERAL McDOWELL.—This officer is a native born citizen of Ohio, has resided in Kentucky, and is a connexion of the celebrated James McDowell, of the Shenandoah region of Virginia. He is about forty years of age, has served in the Mexican war, has the advantages of travel in Europe, and is a great friend of Lieutenant-General Scott. He is a regular officer of the army.

GENERAL HARNEY.—This officer is so well known to the country, that we should hardly think it worth while to sketch the chief points of his career. But his present position in Missouri is too prominent and promising to be passed over in neglect. William B. Harney is a native of Louisiana. From that State he was appointed as Second Lieutenant of First Infantry in the year 1818. From that time to the present,—a period of forty-three years,—he has been in constant service, and has risen by regular gradations to his present distinguished position,—being now the third in rank of officers in the United States army. His only superiors are Gen. Scott and Gen. Wool.—*Jour.*

MAJOR-GENERAL BUTLER.—Major-General Butler, now in command of the Federal forces of Fortress Monroe, was born at Deerfield, New Hampshire, on the 5th of November, 1818. He was the son of John Butler, a seaman of the war of 1812. The father died when Benjamin was a boy, and the mother removed to Lowell, where, being dependent on her own resources, she kept a boarding house. Her son received a liberal education, was sent to the High School, the Academy, and to Waterville College; after which he studied law in the office of William Smith, a Boston lawyer. In 1840 young Benjamin was admitted to the bar, being then in the 23d year of his age. He had political aspirations, and very soon endeavored to make himself prominent, but he was a Democrat, and the Democrats have not often been in power in Massachusetts. However, Butler, in 1852 was elected to the State Legislature. He immediately became the leader of the opposition in the House of Representatives; that opposition was formed by a coalition of regular Democrats and Free Soilers; but it was still in a minority. Yet Butler fought manfully and skillfully against the Whig State administration.

His next important position was that of delegate to the Constitutional Convention, to which he was easily elected from Lowell, and in which he displayed more ability than ever before. In 1854 he was active in his opposition to the American party. He ap-

peared as counsel for Hiss in the famous contempt case in 1856, and also for Burnham in the question whether Burnham's imprisonment for contempt was legal. In 1858, he was mentioned by many of the Democrats as candidate for Governor, but did not succeed in obtaining the nomination until the next year, when he was, however, defeated. In 1860 he was a member of the Democratic Conventions at both Charleston and Baltimore, and espoused the side of the North; but afterwards accepted the nomination of the Breckinridge party. His military history is shorter; (so long ago as 1840 he was a member of a Lowell company, one of those that were attacked in Baltimore last April;) he is of Irish extraction, and was Colonel of an Irish regiment for many years. When Gov. Gardner disbanded the Irish companies, Butler resisted, and after his commission was withdrawn, prosecuted the Adjutant-General for taking the guns from the armory. In 1857 he was elected Brigadier-General. He offered his services to Gov. Andrew, his successful rival in the gubernatorial contest, almost immediately after the capture of Fort Sumter; his patriotism and ability as since displayed, have already made him a Major-General.

Gen. Butler has been distinguished in every sphere of life, in his legal and his political careers by the same traits; by a daring that was never daunted, a perseverance that was never discouraged; by a fertility in expedients, and a promptness of invention that few have rivalled. He generally had the most unpromising cases as a criminal lawyer, but seemed to prefer them, for they gave him a better chance to show his talents, which were quite as much traits of character as intellectual gifts. Energy, confidence, industry, skill; sometimes impudence, always pluck; these are the peculiarities by which he has been distinguished, and which have placed him in his forty-third year in his present position. These are peculiarities quite likely to prove of as good service to a military General in time of war as to a politician or a lawyer; the holding of Baltimore, the letter to Gov. Andrew, the decision that slaves are contraband of war, the whole behavior of General Butler since this war broke out, seem to indicate that these traits have not yet deserted him. The later and doubtless the more brilliant chapters of his history are yet unwritten.

Jefferson Davis in Richmond.

The *Richmond Enquirer* of May 30 contains an account of the journey of Jeff. Davis from Montgomery, and his reception in Richmond, from which we make several extracts. People hereabouts have become so infatuated as to doubt the assertion "that the mantle of Washington falls gracefully upon the shoulders" of this traitor, and if the *Enquirer* fails in converting the North, such failure is entirely owing to the "natural depravity" of the race. The *Enquirer* says:

"President Davis, accompanied by his Aid, Col. Wigfall and lady, and by the Hon. Robert Toombs, of Georgia, left Montgomery by cars on Sunday evening last. They made no special stoppage on the route, and owing to previous severe indisposition of the President, it was desirable that his trip to Richmond should be as private as practicable. At each station his friends endeavored to convey this information to the citizens, but it was really to no purpose. No matter where the cars stopped, even though it was only for wood or for water, throngs of men, women and children, would gather around the cars, asking, in loud shouts, 'Where is President Davis?' 'Jeff. Davis, the old hero!' and he was forced to make his appearance, and frequently to address them. Then we could see handkerchiefs waving, and gay flags and boquets.

When the flute-like voice of Davis arose upon the air, hushed to stillness by the profound respect of his auditors, it was not long before there was an outburst of feeling which gave vent to a tornado of voices; these would break forth in constant succession to the end of his address. Every sentiment he uttered seemed to swell up from his heart, and was received with the wildest enthusiasm. When he concluded, three hearty cheers went up from the multitude. * * * At Goldsboro, while partaking of his supper in the hall of the hotel, the table was thronged with beautiful girls, and many were bedecking him with garlands of flowers, while others fanned him. It was a most interesting occasion. The military had formed into squares to receive him from the cars; guns were fired, and the band struck up inspiring martial airs during the interval of supper.

The whole country is a camp. On every hand we see soldiers—and every day the cars are crowded with them. From appearances, they are the flower of the South. The journey of President Davis from Montgomery to the capital was one continuous ovation. The whole soul of the South is in this war; and the confidence manifested in our President, in the many scenes which transpired on the trip, shows that the mantle of Washington falls gracefully upon his shoulders.

Never were a people more enraptured with their Chief Magistrate than ours are with President Davis, and the trip from Montgomery to Richmond will ever be remembered with delight by all who witnessed it. The eagerness of young and old, and of all classes, to catch a glimpse of him, or take him by the hand, is beyond description. This trip has infused a martial feeling in our people that knows no bounds. * * * At about 5 o'clock, President Davis, accompanied by a cortege on horseback, left his quarters at the Spotwood House, and proceeded to the New Fair Grounds. Here a large number of ladies and gentlemen had assembled, and on his arrival, greeted him with the heartiest demonstrations of pleasure.

On leaving his saddle, the President was surrounded by an eager crowd of soldiers and civilians, whom he indulged in a hand-shaking performance, until the pressure became so great that he was compelled to retire to the balcony of the Executive Department, where, in response to the demands of the assemblage, he delivered the following brief and pertinent speech:

"MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: I am deeply impressed with the kindness of your manifestation. I look upon you as the last best hope of liberty; and in our liberty alone is our Constitutional Government to be preserved. Upon your strong right arm depends the success of our country, and, in asserting the birth-right to which you were born, you are to remember that life and blood are nothing as compared with the immense interests you have at stake. [Cheers.] "It may be that you have not long been trained, and that you have much to learn of the art of war, but I know that there beats in the breasts of Southern sons a determination never to surrender—a determination never to go home but to tell a tale of honor. [Cries of 'never!' and applause.] Though great may be the disparity of numbers, give us a fair field and a free fight, and the Southern banner will float in triumph everywhere. [Cheers.] The country relies upon you. Upon you rest the hope of our people; and I have only to say, my friends, that to the last breath of my life, I am wholly your own. [Tremendous cheers.]"

The Probable Seat of War in Virginia.

The region of country lying between the Potomac river and the Manassas Gap Railroad Junction, or what is usually called Manassas Junction, is a very interesting locality at present, and promises to be so for many weeks to come.

From the Chain Bridge, which is three miles above Georgetown, to Alexandria, a distance of about ten miles, there is a continuous chain of hills half a mile to a mile and a half back from the Potomac.

Arlington Heights are right opposite Georgetown, nearly two miles back from the river. Roach's Spring, which is frequently spoken of, is about two miles distant, south-west of the Long Bridge.

From the Potomac to the heights west, the ascent is somewhat abrupt; but from the heights westward the slope is very gradual. At least ten miles of the London and Hampshire Railroad is within our lines.

THE POSITION OF THE ENEMY.—The main body of the enemy is at Manassas Junction, fifteen to twenty miles from our outposts, but two or three thousand of the rebels are stationed a few miles this side.

But no shrewd military man is of the opinion that the rebel troops will advance a step towards Alexandria and Washington, except to strengthen their position at Manassas Junction by strong outposts.

Federal Movements in Western Virginia.

In our last issue we chronicled the advance of Federal troops in Western Virginia, and the occupation of Parkersburg and Grafton. Since that date the movement has been kept up, and on the 6th inst. the Union forces surprised and broke up a secession camp 2,000 strong at Phillippa.

Col. Kelly's command was close after them, and at the same time Col. Lander's came rushing down the hill. After chasing them a few miles the already exhausted men returned to the evacuated camp to learn the painful fact that their victory, though complete, was dearly bought.

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chivalry could not stand, and they scattered like rats from a burning barn, after firing at random, which did no damage.

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There was a great deal of blood on the ground, and all along the road and in the direction of their flight. Hats, blankets, coats and every description of luggage, was scattered along the road for more than a mile.

Important News from Pensacola.

The Mobile Advertiser of June last contains some rather important items relative to Fort Pickens, which we copy. The Advertiser says:

"We are without the usual letter from our special Pensacola correspondent this morning, but learn from good authority that about two o'clock Thursday morning, the camp in and near Pensacola were aroused from their quiet by the braying bugle and riling drum, which the half-awakened soldiers interpreted into an attack on Pickens, and such shouting and hurrahing was never before heard in that old fashioned city.

Seven hundred Federal troops, sacrifices to bullets and muskets, were landed on Ross Island Wednesday, from a large side-wheel steamer, just arrived. The Federalists are reported active on Santa Rosa.

The telegraph, on Friday, the 6th inst., brought the following:—"Notwithstanding the Southern reports to the contrary, it appears from Col. Adams, in a letter from the Navy Department, dated May 20th, that great preparations had been made for an attack on Fort Pickens, which at that time was hourly expected.

Extracts from the Southern Press.

BLOCKADE OF THE MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI.—The New Orleans Delta of the 30th ult., says:—"We learn from an eye witness that the U. S. man-of-war Brooklyn arrived off Pass L'Outre bar on 2 o'clock yesterday, and came to anchor about one hundred and fifty yards off the stakes. The Brooklyn immediately dispatched a boat to Capt. Duncan, in command at Fort Jackson, informing him that the blockade would take effect from that moment.

MISSISSIPPI WAR FUNDS EXHAUSTED.—There is a candid confession of rebel bankruptcy in the following paragraph from the editorial columns of the Jackson Mississippian, the State paper:

Fort Pickens—HAVE PATIENCE.—To those who are clamorous for Gen. Bragg to order an assault upon Fort Pickens, we (the Mobile Advertiser,) would say:—"General Bragg is an old soldier, and a famously brave and shrewd one, and will not begin work before he is ready, or be provoked into beginning it; and he will not consider himself ready to begin before he is ready to end the work victoriously.

The able engineering officer who superintends its construction, says it cannot withstand the attacking batteries. We have heard no complaints of the delay in the attack, but much natural impatience is felt. Better that the army of the Confederacy should wait six months, if necessary, and make a sure thing of the attack, than make it prematurely and encounter a repulse.

A VIRGINIA OPINION OF GEN. BUTLER.—The Staunton, (Va.) Vindicator is "down" on General Butler. Hear it rave:

"The Puritan upstart from Massachusetts, B. F. Butler, who was placed in the command of a mercenary regiment from that State, has been promoted by President Lincoln to the position of Major-General, and assigned, rumor says, to Fort Monroe. On his arrival at Washington, where he was ordered to report, after being relieved of his command at Baltimore, he made a speech, in which he said his face was "toward the South," and he would never "take a step backward."

This man, in fact, is a brute. He looks like one, acts like one. For such a creature to talk of conquering the South! For such a miserable poltroon to threaten to invade Virginia! For such a specimen of abbreviated and distorted humanity to raise his hireling arm to strike against the rights and homes of gentlemen!

THAT GREAT VICTORY.—The New Orleans papers have received the news of that terrible fight at Hampton, which came off the other day, via Nashville. The Picayune announced the result in stirring capitals, for instance:

SIX HUNDRED LINCOLN TROOPS KILLED AND WOUNDED! SOUTHERN LOSS ONLY FIFTY!

JEFF. DAVIS A FAILURE.—Our Southern friends are beginning to tire of their new plaything, Jefferson Davis, if we may judge by the following from the Louisville (Ky.) Democrat:

"Jeff. Davis is a failure. We expected to see him, at the head of a few thousand men, make a lunge at Washington and take it, before preparation could be made to defend it. He has waited until it's too late. Col. Duncan has been at Harper's Ferry for some time, and he has not attempted the exploit. Beauregard has waited at Charleston until it's given out that he is dead. It all sums up in blustering, marching, counter-marching and spending money. The purse that holds out longest wins at this rate, and we expect that will be about the end of it.

New York State Volunteers.

The following is the list of the Volunteer Regiments complete, with the date of their acceptance, and of their muster into the U. S. service, so far as yet received:

Table with 4 columns: No. of Reg't, Commanded by, Accepted by State, Mustered into U.S. service. Lists regiments 1st through 38th.

These volunteer regiments must not be confounded with a list published some weeks since of the regiments drawn from the unformed militia (like the "New York 7th," or "New York 69th,") of the State. New York has now furnished a total of 50,947 men; the volunteer force numbering 30,400; the State militia 6,497. Those not yet mustered into the United States Service, but performing military duty in State Camps, 14,050.

Spirit of the Hour.

The National Intelligencer says that two hundred Sisters of Charity are ready to enlist in the cause of the sick and wounded of the army, at any moment the Government may signify to them a desire to avail themselves of their services, to take charge of hospitals, ambulance for conveying the sick and wounded, or any post, far or near, where the cause of humanity can be served.

EX-GOV. STEWART, of Missouri, has become the editor and proprietor of the St. Joseph Journal. He handles the pen as though he was used to it. The paper will advocate Union sentiments.

The steamship James Adger, which arrived at New York, from Fortress Monroe, on the 6th inst., brought twenty-nine cases of condemned clothing, consisting of capes, coats and pants, which were not made according to contract, and were rejected.

The number of prizes taken in Hampton Roads since the enforcement of the blockade is about forty, and their aggregate value is estimated at about one million of dollars. The Schooner Haxall, captured by the Minnesota, had a cargo of manufactured tobacco of a superior quality, valued at \$100,000.

The First New Hampshire Regiment, now in Washington, is pronounced the most perfectly equipped body of men that has taken the field in this war. The men of the Granite State, no one can doubt, will be a wall of granite to the Constitution.

LORD LYONS, the British Minister at Washington, instructs his consul at Mobile that after the blockading fleet appears off the harbor, all vessels that attempt to leave will be liable to confiscation, according to the rules of blockade.

LARGE State Loans are in the market for war purposes. New Jersey advertises for \$600,000, Illinois for \$1,000,000, Vermont for \$600,000, Indiana for \$1,200,000, and Pennsylvania for \$3,000,000—a total of \$6,200,000. They are to be 6 per cent. stocks. This is irrespective of \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 which will be asked for soon by New York and Massachusetts.

DOMESTIC NEWS.

Affairs at Washington.

SENATORS and members of the House of Representatives are arriving by every train, and the Capitol is nearly in order for the forthcoming session.

The Government has decided that it will not accept any more contributions of money, and hereafter will obtain all funds necessary for the support of the Government through the regular channel.

The Executive Mansion, all of the Departments, and the schools were closed on the 7th inst., in honor of the late Senator Douglas.

The President has recognized Michael Sonorgaza as Consul from Mexico at San Antonio, Texas, thus continuing the policy of treating secession as a nullity.

It will be recollected that some weeks ago the Government seized the dispatches on file at all the telegraph offices. The examination of these dispatches is now progressing. Some curious developments are being made, for among them is found a dispatch from J. Harvey, our lately appointed Minister to Portugal, notifying the Government of South Carolina of the fitting out of a fleet for the reinforcement of Fort Sumter. It is found that Harvey's dispatch was the first reliable information the rebels had of the magnitude and destination of the expedition.

The explanation made by the friends of Mr. Harvey is as follows:

Mr. Magrath, to whom Mr. Harvey sent the dispatches, has been his friend from boyhood, and a constant correspondent, with whom he communicated unreservedly. Being very anxious that a conflict of arms should be avoided, and believing that the troops were to be moved, he telegraphed to his friend to prevent an attack on Fort Sumter until it could be effected. But when he discovered his mistake, he felt himself in honor bound to communicate that fact just as he had done the other, as otherwise it might have been supposed he intentionally misrepresented the case for the purpose of leading them into trouble.

The N. Y. Commercial says, we are glad to be able, on indisputable authority, to state that the latest dispatches from our diplomatic agents in Europe are in the highest degree satisfactory; so satisfactory, indeed, in view of the events of the last six months, as to be truly gratifying.

From Prussia, our Government receives assurances that no rebellion against so mild and beneficent a Government as that of the United States, will receive any sanction or countenance whatever.

Austria, while dissatisfied with and protesting against the appointment of Mr. Burlingame, gives effectually warm assurances of her interest in the welfare of the Union, and her determination to give no countenance to the rebels.

France is cordially with us, not only in word but in deed, were we in danger of needing her assistance.

Considering how generally an opposite opinion has obtained currency, the most agreeable news of the last dispatches from Mr. Adams, our Minister to England, announces that the British Government is now as well disposed towards us as we can desire. The Ministry have given to Mr. Adams the most friendly and cordial hearing, and rebellion will henceforth find no sympathy at the Court of St. James.

A person recently from Richmond informs the President that business there is dead, troops marching at night without music, and the journals are forbidden to chronicle their secret movements. Terrorism is complete, and the Union men are in jail as hostages for the safety of the secessionists in the hands of the Government. Many of the cannon at Norfolk have been removed by rail, and deposited along the line for fear of falling into the hands of the Federal troops when Norfolk shall be taken.

The Postmaster at Memphis having refused to distribute the mail matter received at his office, the Postmaster General has directed the following order to be issued:

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENT OFFICE. The Post Office at Memphis, Tenn., is discontinued. WASHINGTON, June 6.—The Post Master General orders all Post Masters to forward to the dead letter office at Washington all mail matter which is directed to that office.

The above order has been issued from the Post Office Department, this 6th June, 1861. (Signed) JOHN A. KASSON, 1st Assistant Post Master General.

The District Court met on the 6th inst., for the purpose of taking action respecting the several prize cases which have been brought to their jurisdiction for settlement. Those of the Gen. Knox, from St. Georges, Maine, were first considered. Mr. Corrigan, U. S. District Attorney, did not think there was any evidence of an intention to violate the blockade. The Court decreed their restoration to their owners, but reserved the question of damages and costs for future consideration. The case of the brig Tropic,

with a cargo of tobacco valued at \$25,000, was pending when the Court adjourned.

Commodore Stribling, commanding the East India squadron, reports, on May 27, good health on board the vessels comprising the squadron. He says, to the Secretary of the Navy:—"The opening of Yangtze to British trade will make me hasten my arrival at Shanghai. As soon after my arrival there as I can make the preparations, I intend to go up the Yangtze as far as Nankin in my flagship, taking the Decatur and Saginaw with me. At Nankin I hope to come to an understanding with the Insurgent Chiefs for the free navigation of the river by American ships. The Insurgents have command of both branches of the river, from the vicinity of Chin Kiang to the neighborhood of Hoag Kong, and it is very important to secure their good will, otherwise our ships could not navigate their rivers safely.

The Post Office Department has received a copy of a circular issued by Post Master General Reagan, of the Confederate States of America, instructing Southern Post Masters to retain in their possession, for the benefit of the rebels, all mail bags, locks and keys, marking and rating stamps, and all other property belonging to, or connected with the postal service. They are also required to keep their journals or ledger accounts with the United States for service of the Post Office Department up to and including the 21st of May, exhibiting the final balance in their possession.

The Navy Department, on the 6th inst., received from Lieut. Caven, commanding the steamer Crusader, dispatches dated Key West, May 27th. He says on the 14th the steamer Swanee, late the Pamper, arrived there from New Orleans, under the proclamation of the blockade, as also the order of the Secretary of the Treasury. He denied her a clearance to the ports of the seceded States, and refused to permit her to return to New Orleans. He offered to clear her for New York, which offer was declined. He therefore detained her for the use of the Government, and the Captain relinquished the command. The Swanee belongs to the same company who loaned a steamer to the parties who seized the Star of the West. Lieut. Craven confesses to some degree of satisfaction at being enabled to inflict retribution on that party, for using their own steamer. Lieut. Duncan was placed in command, and sent in search of the bark Mystic, about which much anxiety was felt. He fell in with her at sea, and conducted her into Key West on the 23d. An order having been received from Col. Brown for troops and stores for Fort Pickens, Lieut. Duncan sailed on the Saranac, with 70 soldiers and a full freight of stores of various kinds for that port.

Dispatches from our Ministers abroad give gratifying evidence of a better tone of feeling towards our Government. The united sentiment of the North, the firm, dignified, but temperate tenor of the instructions from the Department of State to our Diplomatic corps, have convinced foreign Cabinets that we have the courage, the spirit, and the resolution, at home, and will defend our rights, honor, and territorial integrity.

Information is received that the Austrian Cabinet have declined to receive our Minister, Mr. Burlingame. His rejection is not to be interpreted into any unfriendliness on the part of the Austrian Court, but is personal to Mr. B., from his agency in procuring the passage of the bill raising the Sardinian Legation to its full mission.

The newly appointed Marshal of Baltimore, Mr. Bonaparte, returned on the 3d inst., and has been instructed by Secretary Cameron to make arrests of all persons plotting against the Government, to seize all arms and munitions in the possession of such persons, or which may have been secreted by them, and to appoint any additional force of deputies sufficient to enable him effectually to guard all the highways leading from the city. Marshal B. will, under these instructions, hold himself accountable to the War Department only.

FOREIGN NEWS.

GREAT BRITAIN.—In England the American question was paramount.

The Times publishes the first part of a lengthy communication on the course of the American war, and has a strong editorial on Seward's letter to the American Ambassador to France, and says it sounds very much like insult, and ridicules his prophetic ideas.

Motley's elaborate article in the Times on the American war, attracts considerable attention. He casts the whole responsibility on the South.

Parliament was to reassemble the evening of the 23d. The Kossuth Hungarian note case was again being argued in the Court of Chancery.

The London Underwriters have fixed the rates on American vessels to from 6 to 8 guineas.

FRANCE.—The French Ambassador to London returned to France, reported with instructions of a conciliatory character.

It is reported that the French Government contemplates a more liberal press law and the repeal of the law of public safety.

It is asserted that the Italian Government has rejected the conditions on which France consented to evacuate Rome. Matters consequently remain in statu quo. But France will recognize the new kingdom before the end of June.

ITALY.—Martino, new Governor of Naples, has issued a proclamation, expressing an intention to govern with energy, and promising an improvement of the public service, calling on the country for support.

A petition, signed by 10,000 Romans, to Napoleon, praying for the withdrawal of French troops, was sent to Paris, notwithstanding the efforts of the police to stop it.

There has been some rioting at Milap, proceeding from religious discussions. Order was restored.

Italy wants a loan of 560,000,000 francs from France. Doubts are entertained as to obtaining it, as the new Kingdom is not acknowledged while French troops remain in Rome.

AUSTRIA.—Nineteen commissioned deputies have been named members of Reichrath. Venetia, therefore, is unrepresented.

SPAIN.—Santana continues to command the military of San Domingo.

HUNGARY.—The collection of taxes by military execution has been suspended, the Diet guaranteeing the amount due till the question of taxes is settled.

RUSSIA.—Prince Orloff, President of the Council of Ministers, is dead.

International Ministers had their first meeting at the French Embassy the 21st.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.—Breadstuffs.—The weather has been favorable to the crops and markets generally dull, with a slight decline. Various circulars report flour declined since Tuesday. Wheat dull, and 2d lower. Red 11@12s 9d. Corn very dull, and fully 1/2 lower. Holders pressing in the market. Mixed 32@32 1/2. Provisions.—Generally steady. Pork quiet. Lard—barely maintained.

SELECTIONS FOR THE TIMES.

Tis as easy to be heroes as to sit the idle slaves
Of a legendary virtue carved upon our fathers' graves.
J. R. Lowell

Through the mills of God grind slowly,
Yet they grind exceeding small;
Though with patience He stands waiting,
With exactness grinds He all.
From the German.

It comes, it comes, or soon or late,
Despite your butcher hordes,—
The hour when right shall shatter might,
Ideas conquer swords.
Burrill.

Miss not the ocean; by the forelock take
That subtle power, the never halting time,
Lest a mere moment's putting off should make
Mischance almost as heavy as a crime.
Wordsworth.

On high soars our eagle, begemmed with the stars,
A dread to our foe, but a dove to our brother;
One talon still clinching the thunder of Mars,
While the olive of peace is held forth in the other.

The Traveler.

[Foreign Correspondence of the Rural New-Yorker.]

FROM PISA TO GENOA.

We left Florence on a bright summer's day, for
though but the 15th day of April, the delicious
prima vera had tempered the atmosphere to the softness
of our balmy air.

Reluctantly we stepped into the carriages. Sadly,
as the train moved off, we looked back at lovely
Florence. Last of all, we saw the Campanile and the
Duomo.

Pissole was the last to bid from our vision, and
we now whirled rapidly through the fertile fields of
the Val d'Arno.

The composer of this elaborate persuasive to tourists,
probably imagined himself a benefactor to the
English race.

The next morning, the arrangements were completed
for our journey. As the first day's post is the
shortest of all, we are not to start till twelve.

"Struck ladies into trouble,
As his sword struck men to death."

He is attired in gay trowsers, with a Roman sash
of many colors, a blue blouse, and a round, black
Roman hat.

The Vettura comes to the door,—a large heavy
carriage, comfortably lined inside like a coach, with
wood seats.

Now the ladies come out, and take their seats inside,
and proceed to the arrangement and division of
feminine appurtenances.

With true Jehu pride, he cracks his whip again,
and we thunder through the streets, people jumping
out of the way in hot haste.

Now follow four hours' drive over a fine road,
most of the time through groves, to Pietra Santa,
where we stop.

towa, with a huge mountain for its background.
The gentlemen go rambling off and return with
beautiful wild flowers.

Pietra Santa has much that would repay us for
a longer stay, but we are off the next morning at nine
o'clock.

The country is in the highest state of cultivation;
and the fresh green of the leaves which have not
long waved in the wind, gives a peculiar living
beauty to the landscape.

These dear Italians, how they love flowers. It always
seems as if the French cultivated flowers, and cared
for them and arranged them so admirably, on account
of the artistic effect they produce.

We pass on through noble groves of olives, and
drive, without stopping, through Massa, with its
bold fortifications.

Just before reaching Spezia, we begin to feel some
of the beauty of this celebrated Corniche road, as
we catch glimpses of the blue Mediterranean.

We arrived at Spezia at three o'clock. The Albergo,
or Hotel de l'Univers, is just on the shore, and
finely situated.

We watched the snowy crests melt into the misty
sky and the shades obscure the castle; the long
greyish line come upon the sea.

We left Spezia at eight—another magnificent day.
We were all in fine spirits, for we were to cross the
Appennines.

From Borghetto, we wind up, the road so hard and
fine that our Rochester friends might well envy it,
through chestnut groves, the scenes becoming more
and more grand.

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and more grand.

And now, as we rise above vegetation, bold, bare,
desolate rocks tell us we are near the mountain pass.
The views down the mountain ranges, while the
hills sloped softly down to the smiling valleys,

From Borghetto, we wind up, the road so hard and
fine that our Rochester friends might well envy it,
through chestnut groves, the scenes becoming more
and more grand.

look, and look, and look again, till eye and brain are
drunk with beauty.

The pass of Bracco is 2,100 feet above the level of
the sea. The shadows, and hues of the different
mountains that we saw in descending, surpassed even
all that Ruskin has described of beauty.

To have lived but one such day, to have breathed,
under God's blue Heaven, such enchanting air,
and beheld such beauty,—sea and sky melting in a
sapphire ring of mist.

The bay of Lestril, though far less celebrated than
that of Spezia, appeared to us more beautiful. The
blue mountains extending round and shutting in the
bay, and casting their shadows like great thoughts in
the clear waters, riveted our gaze.

We pass through immense olive groves, and soon
came to figs also. The road winds up the mountain
almost constantly through avenues of olives and figs,

Had but some dear friends for whom we constantly
longed been with us, to have lent the charm of poetic
feeling and highest receptiveness, it would have been
too perfect a day.

As if in harmony with the delight of Nature, our
Veturino had appeared in a gayer sash and a new
straw hat.

As we began to descend, the views were surpassingly
beautiful. Rapallo lies on the very sea shore; here
we passed to observe the women at their lace work.

We pass along the shore to a little village celebrated
for its coral fisheries, but containing only a few
red-capped men and desolate looking women.

The picturesque ruins of a monastery rise on a bold
promontory—cliffs of hard lucia and groves of
chestnuts succeed, and we proceed to Recco, a hand-
some village with a very curious church, and fine
campanile.

Women are called the "softer sex" because they
are so easily humbugged. Out of one hundred girls,
ninety-five would prefer ostentation to happiness,—a
mere dandy husband to a thrifty mechanic.

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As we looked through the long tunnel, it seemed a
vision. Emerging, we came upon the town of Rota,
where we stopped. Here we alighted, and standing
on the bold projection, looked our fill.

With extreme regret we left this charming town of
Rota, at 3 o'clock. Our road led up and down the
hill sides and along the bays, with white villas and
lofty campaniles sparkling on richly-wooded promon-
tories.

Recco is a pretty little town, with innumerable
picturesque studies for the artist. There was a pretty
bridge, and peasants near it washing their linen, or,
as is the custom, beating the clothes on the stones.

The "sailor lad" has never heard of TENNYSON, but
he recalls to us this most exquisite poem.

And so on we go. The glittering sunlight on the
sea has given place to shadows and softer hues,
while the mountain tops are rosy with a glorious
sunset.

The metal bust men have in them is brass.
HOPE may bud under clouds, but it blows only in
sunshine.

THEY are not reformers who simply abhor evil.
Such men become in the end abhorrent to themselves.

FOLLY is the queen of the world; we all, more or
less, wear her livery, her orders, her crosses, and her
bells.

ANGER wishes a man had but one neck; love but
one heart; grief two ears; and pride, two bended
knees.

NATURE is not always understood; she is sometimes
making poetry, when we think she is only making
weeds.

"DON'T you think, husband, that you are apt to
believe everything you hear?" "No, madam, not
when you talk."

"I HAVE a fresh cold," said a gentleman to an ac-
quaintance. "Why do you have a fresh one? Why
don't you have it cured?"

IF a man is odious in society, he might as well be
in prison. The worst prisons are not of stone; they
are of throbbing hearts, outraged by an infamous
life.

PLEASURE is to a woman what the sun is to the
flower; if moderately enjoyed, it beautifies, it
refreshes, and it improves,—if immoderately, it
withers, deteriorates, and destroys.

Corner for the Young.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.
GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.
I AM composed of 65 letters.
My 23, 26, 29, 27, 8, 23, 44, 25, 23, 34, 20 is one of the United States.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.
HOW WAS IT DONE?
A SHARP youth, having gone to visit a good-natured
country uncle, the latter placed on a table fifteen large, fine
oranges, and fifteen apples.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker.
ARITHMETICAL PROBLEM.
A COLONEL formed his regiment into a square, (that is, an
equal number in rank and file), and found that he had 39
men over; and increasing the number in both rank and file
by one man, he wanted 24 men to complete the square.

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS, &c., IN No. 504.
Answer to Biblical Enigma.—Who so keepeth his mouth
and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles.

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