

TWO DOLLARS A YEAR. "PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT." (SINGLE NO. FOUR CENTS.)

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER, THE LEADING AMERICAN WEEKLY RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER. CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE, With an Able Corps of Assistants and Contributors. CHAS. D. BRADON, Western Corresponding Editor.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER is designed to be unsurpassed in Value, Purity, Usefulness and Variety of Contents, and unique and beautiful in Appearance. The 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 resolutely 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.

AGRICULTURAL.

THE POTATO CROP.

The potato is an important crop in this section of the country, and the leading one with many farmers who cultivate light lands, which, since the prevalence of the rot, has been found peculiarly adapted to the growth of this esculent. As such lands are not usually rich and will not give a good yield without manure, and after a crop or two become so much exhausted as to render their further culture unprofitable without the use of some fertilizer, it becomes a question of no small interest what manure can be used most economically. The cheapest and most available of all manures for the potato in such lands is a good clover sod turned under; and if a crop of potatoes is grown only once in three or four years, land by this system will keep in very good heart for a long time. Those who have, however, but little land, are tempted to grow a crop of potatoes oftener than this, and hence we have reports of thirty, fifty, seventy-five, and a hundred bushels to the acre, while no one should be satisfied with less than two hundred bushels, and double this amount may be grown with good culture. Unfermented manure, if applied in large quantities, is apt to produce rot. Ashes are excellent for the potato, and a handful scattered at the time of planting around each set will give a good account at harvest, as any one may ascertain who will take the trouble to try the experiment. But, potato growers need more manure than they can readily obtain in the ordinary course of farming, and in some sections guano of different kinds has been used pretty freely. Wishing to ascertain whether this manure could be used profitably in growing potatoes, and if so, the best variety, we instituted a series of experiments, which for two years were conducted with all possible care, to insure a correct result.

EFFECTS OF GUANO.

The guano was weighed out at the rate of 350 pounds to the acre, and applied in rows, the potatoes being planted in rows 60 feet long, two feet apart, with sets of two or three eyes one foot apart in the rows. The result was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Guano type, Bush. 45 lbs. 10 rows without guano, 7 bush. 45 lbs. 10 Sombro guano, 8 " 30 " 10 American guano, 8 " 30 " 10 Peruvian guano, 9 " 40 " 10 without guano, 8 " 30 "

The ground was very uniform, a light loam, but at one corner of the piece, occupied by the last ten rows, there had been an old drain to carry off the waste water from an adjoining house, and here the crop was better.

The experiment was repeated with about the same result:

Table with 2 columns: Guano type, Bush. 45 lbs. 10 rows no guano, 7 bush. 45 lbs. 10 Sombro guano, 8 " 30 " 10 American guano, 8 " 30 " 10 Peruvian guano, 9 " 40 "

The increase by the Sombro Guano over that unmanured, is at the rate of 9 bushels to the acre, while the cost of the guano, at \$30 per ton, would be little less than \$5; not a very cheap way of making ing potatoes, as they would cost 55 cents a bushel, besides all extra trouble. The increase by the use of American Guano was 30 bushels to the acre, while the guano which produced this increase, at \$40 per ton, would cost about \$7, or some 23 cents per bushel. We paid higher than this for what we used, and cannot state its present price; therefore we take the lowest figure in our estimate. The increase where the Peruvian Guano was used over the unmanured lots was at the rate of 72 bushels to the acre. For the guano we paid \$60 per ton, and the quantity used to produce this result would cost \$10, or about 14 cents per bushel. This is, of course, without adding cost of transportation, applying, digging, marketing, &c. From these figures our readers may learn somewhat of the advantages to be gained by the use of the different guanos, and govern themselves accordingly. In the last number of the Irish Farmer's Gazette, we find the following experiment reported by a

correspondent:—"Wishing to find a good substitute for that heavy and very expensive substance, 'Town Manure,' of which there is a large quantity applied in this locality, I was induced to institute the experiment recorded below on a crop of potatoes. The experiment was conducted with the most minute attention and care, and under my own immediate inspection.

Table with 4 columns: Manure applied per acre, Cost of Manure, including cartage 6 1/2 miles, Weight of potatoes per acre, Value of potatoes at 4s. per cwt. 45 tons Town Manure, 11 0 0, 5 1 2 8, 20 6 3; 7 cwt. Phospho Peruvian Guano, 4 0 0, 6 15 3 4, 27 3 2; 8 cwt. do do, 3 8 8, 6 0 0 0, 29 0 0; 11 cwt. Ritchie's Bone Manure, 4 0 0, 5 18 3 14, 23 15 6

The roots were all sound, being of that variety called 'Skerry Blues,' but those grown on the town manure were much inferior, both in size and quality, to those grown on either of the other manures. It appears a singular circumstance that the addition of one cwt. of guano should raise the produce more than 1 1/2 tons. This confirms an opinion I have held for some time—which is, that farmers apply a quantity of guano inadequate to grow a full crop, and leave a residue in the soil, and that therefore arise the many complaints we hear of the after crops being deficient when guano has been exclusively applied to the green crops. I have no doubt but that the addition of another cwt. would have raised the produce still higher. The crop was planted on the 20th of April, 1861, and raised on the 20th of October. The soil, a light clay loam on reddish clay subsoil."

DISTANCE OF PLANTING, &c.

Farmers, as a general rule, plant their potatoes too far apart to secure a maximum crop. We would use a horse only one way, as we are satisfied that the extra crop will more than pay for the hand labor required. A variety with short haulms should be selected, other things being equal, in preference to those with long, straggling tops. We give the results of experiments made to test the effects of planting at different distances, cut and uncut seed, &c. Five rows, 60 feet long and 2 feet apart, with sets of two good eyes 1 foot apart in the rows, produced 5 bushels 25 pounds, or at the rate of about 400 bushels to the acre. Five rows of same length and distance apart, planted with sets of one-fourth of a potato cut lengthwise, two feet apart in the rows, produced 3 bushels and 25 pounds, or at the rate of 230 bushels to the acre. Five rows the same, planted with whole potatoes, 1 foot apart, yielded 5 bushels 10 pounds, or about 370 bushels to the acre. Five rows with whole potatoes, 2 feet apart in the rows, gave 4 bushels 15 pounds, or about 300 bushels to the acre.

Five rows of hills, 60 feet long and 3 feet apart each way, with two sets containing two good eyes in each hill, produced 4 bushels 45 pounds, or at the rate of 230 bushels to the acre. Five rows of hills, same as before, planted with 3 sets in a hill, made by cutting a medium-sized potato into three parts, 5 bushels 25 pounds, or about at the rate of 260 bushels to the acre. Five rows of hills, with two half potatoes in the hill, yielded 5 bushels 11 pounds, about 248 bushels to the acre. Five rows of hills with one set in each hill, containing three good eyes, gave 3 bushels 7 pounds, or about 150 bushels to the acre.

Occasionally dug up sets to examine them, and found that from a whole potato, as a general rule, only from two to four of the strongest eyes grew, the others remaining dormant, the eyes obtaining the first start appearing to have exhausted the nutriment in the potato before those slower in growing had got ready to claim their share. The same potato cut in two, three, or even four pieces, would give about the same number of shoots to each set, though the smaller the sets the weaker were the shoots. To these rules there were some exceptions; for occasionally most of the eyes in a whole potato would commence growth about the same time, and a good many small shoots would be the result, while sometimes a very small set would give one or two strong shoots.

The soil on which these experiments were conducted is a yellowish chestnut loam, rather poor from constant cropping, and 350 pounds of Peruvian Guano to the acre were used. Davis' Seedling was the variety.

LIABILITY OF POTATOES TO ROT.

In selecting varieties of potatoes for planting, early maturity is a point of no small importance. Several varieties that we now cultivate require the whole of a favorable season and a warm soil to bring them to perfection. This is the case with the Peach Blow, and for this reason we have never recommended it very highly. Late ripening potatoes will always be found more subject to rot than those that mature early. We find the following experiment by one of the most successful market gardeners near Chicago, reported in the Prairie Farmer, and it accords with our experience:

"Last season I planted five varieties of potatoes for experiment, viz., Mercer, Early York, Prince Albert, Peach Blow, and Rohan. Nothing critical was expected except to establish the succession in which they ripened, and their comparative yield. They were planted on lands two rods wide and

twenty rods long, containing one-fourth of an acre each, upon a reclaimed slough from which three years previously had been grubbed willows, aspen, and other semi-aquatic trees,—soil black mold, resting upon stiff clay. The first crop potatoes, the second peas, the third the five varieties of potatoes, as stated before. It was drained by an open ditch leading into a deep ravine. The potatoes were planted on the surface, and covered with a plow, and thoroughly worked. They ripened,—Early York first, Mercers second, Prince Albert third, Rohan fourth, and Peach Blow last. They were planted the last days of May, and dug in October. The yield was,—of Mercers, twenty-three bushels; Early York, twenty-seven bushels; Prince Albert, eighteen bushels; Peach Blow, seven bushels; and Rohan, fifty-eight bushels. About the middle of July the headland next the ditch was plowed up, thereby destroying the dead furrows and preventing the escape of water into the ditch, consequently when the extreme wet weather came in the latter part of the season, about one-half of the lands were submerged alike, excepting that of the Rohans, which only pointed on the lower side, and had besides another ditch lying immediately on the side of them. Those vines that were submerged were killed immediately, and the Prince Alberts and Peach Blows commenced rotting at once. The Mercers and Early Yorks did not suffer so much, owing to their being nearly ripe, neither did the Rohans, on account of the side ditch. And now I am coming to the sequel,—the potatoes in this case were affected just in proportion to their maturity, without any reference to their supposed hardiness. If they had been planted at different seasons, so that they would have matured at the same time, they would have been affected alike, notwithstanding the supposed tendency that some kinds have to be affected more than others. Upon another piece of well drained land upon which I had the four first named varieties planted at a much later season, the Prince Alberts and Peach Blows were not worth digging.

"In every other instance that has come under my notice this season, the vines have been checked just in proportion to the wetness of the soil, and the potatoes have resisted the attacks of decay in proportion to their maturity. Early planted potatoes that matured before the unfavorable weather, were good; so were later planted ones on sandy soil, and my experience is that the critical time for potatoes is, from the time they are coming into blossom until they are half grown."

WESTERN EDITORIAL NOTES.

THERE have been two arrivals on my table the past week, which I deem it my duty, as a Western man, to notice. The first is the first number of THE JOURNAL OF THE ILLINOIS STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Since the announcement that the Society had determined upon such a publication, there have been ominous shakes of the head in certain quarters, concerning the policy, propriety, and legitimate character of such an enterprise. There have been some pretty frank expressions of disapproval. It has been urged that it would injure the interests of the agricultural press of the State; and with this belief, much righteous indignation has been expressed. But

1. The State Society has a right to publish such a Journal if it chooses—just as much as to offer premiums for big bombs and great guns—for fast nags and coffee and cotton. The "object" of the Society being "the promotion of Agriculture, Horticulture, Manufactures, Mechanic and Household Arts," why is not the publication of such a journal "legitimate"?

2. If, enjoying better facilities for procuring information of great value to the agricultural public, it makes a better paper than can be done by private enterprise, it ought to be sustained, as should all enterprises giving the greatest good to the greatest number.

3. If it is not more valuable than papers published by private enterprise, it will not injure them.

4. It occupies a field of its own, and if judiciously conducted, with the dignity and courtesy which characterizes this first issue, it cannot fail to acquire and dispense a class of information of great value and interest. It cannot fail to be useful.

The more I think of it, the more I regard it as the most judicious and timely act of the present administration!

GLEANINGS FROM THE WEEK. A FARMER'S CONVENTION.

A proposition to call "A Farmer's Convention," in 1862, was reported upon favorably by a committee to whom it was referred; but the committee asked further time, and will report finally the 25th of February, when the Board meets to determine the location of the next Fair. What the special object of this proposed Convention is I am not advised— or whether it has any especial object. But such a Convention, convened with the right spirit, and set at work systematically, may effect needed reforms—may become a power in the State. SOMETHING TO SCOLD ABOUT.

The Board has offered a series of prizes for Essays on different subjects connected with agriculture—a

single prize of \$20, which should have been \$100; another of \$15, which should also have been \$100, and nine prizes of \$10 each, which should have been at least double that figure. Especially should the Board have been liberal for once, in this class of prizes, inasmuch as it would have an important and direct bearing upon the value and usefulness of the Journal in which these Essays are to appear. Twenty dollars are offered for the best crop of Indian corn of not less than five acres, and yet only \$10 are offered for the "best approved essay on orchards in Illinois, embracing the selection of trees, location, preparation of soil, planting, culture, and after management of trees and fruit, with means used to protect against insects and birds;" and only \$15 for the "best approved essay on insects injurious to vegetation in Illinois, with suggestions as to the means for their destruction!"

Now, I modestly assert that this is ridiculous. Why? Because the people of this State grow poorer annually, because they devote so much of their attention to corn, to the neglect of other branches of husbandry. And here they are paid a larger premium for continuing this losing business than the man who devotes his energies to the discovery, description and destruction of insect enemies, which tax industry hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, by their depredations! To grow a good crop of corn is desirable; and the farmer has an immediate and corresponding reward for his effort. But to know something of the natural enemies of our crops is more important and desirable; and the naturalist who pursues his studies reaps no material reward as a product of his labor—no remuneration corresponding with his patient persistent effort. It is all wrong; and the assertion will apply to the action of other than the Illinois State Agricultural Society.

THE FARM COMMITTEE ABOLISHED.

Heretofore, a visiting committee has been appointed annually to visit farms and nurseries entered for premiums. This committee has been compelled to travel over this large State, at a heavy expense of time to the members, and of cash to the Society, and the information collected and the good done thereby has not always been commensurate with this expenditure.

The Board has now abolished this committee; and while it still offers premiums for the best farms, nurseries, market gardens, &c., it proposes to base the awards upon certain verified statements to be furnished by the competitors.

This I regard an important and valuable reform; for an intelligent award will be quite as likely to be made in this case as the other, if the committee adhere to the formula of statement required. There are few farmers any where, who cannot show their farms better in almost any other way than with pen and ink; and no award ought to be made in any case without the aid of such a statement. Facts and figures in detail ought to have greater weight than a special cleaning up for the reception of the committee.

CURRENT VS. STRAWBERRY WINE.

The committee have made another distinction in their offers of premiums, against which it is my duty to protest. They offer \$10 for the best three bottles of currant wine produced in this State, and \$2 for the best two bottles of strawberry wine.

Facts that have come to my notice recently lead me to believe that this is a grave error. I called upon a commission man in this city the other day, who showed me samples of strawberry wine from Hoosierdom which would have made any veteran connoisseur's eyes sparkle.

The manufacturer of this wine planted 17,000 strawberries last year. He grows large quantities of the fruit, but does not send it to market—will not sell it in market. He manufactures wine from it; and from one half acre of strawberries he sold \$600 worth of strawberry wine the past season, and at the time of writing had a half barrel left. This is his own statement, copied by me from his own letter; and I am assured he is a truth telling man.

Other wine manufacturers in the State have expressed great faith in the strawberry as a wine producing fruit—its exquisite fragrance and flavor, and the large amount of juice which it yields, being commendations in its favor. It seems to me, therefore, that the strawberry should be elevated to a position equal with the currant at least.

EXAMINE PATENT OFFICE SEEDS.

A paper on "the Grain Weevil," from the pen of B. D. WALSH, suggests the importance of cautioning your readers in reference to the disposal of seeds that are now being distributed by the Patent Office through the agency of members of Congress. WALSH says: "When we consider that three of our most noxious insects—the Hessian fly, the wheat midge and the bark louse—are not indigenous to America, but imported from Europe, it seems singular that so little care should be exercised by the authorities of the Patent Office in distributing imported seed. Strange or singular it may seem!—but this practice will continue as long as charlatans and plagiarists are pensioned by government to collect seeds abroad. Examine the seed carefully for insects before using it, are words of caution which should be heeded. We have opened bags of imported wheat, distributed by the Patent Office, alive with the most destructive of the European grain weevil.

CHINESE SUGAR CANE.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER.—The cultivation and manufacture of the sugar canes of the North, for table and culinary purposes, is no longer considered as an experiment, but a decided success. Ohio, without over estimating, made over 3,000,000 gallons of sirup the past season, which, where properly manufactured, rivals the best golden sirups both in quality and price.

Having been engaged in the growing and manufacturing of Sorghum since first introduced by government, and having kept a record for the past two seasons of the different lots of cane worked for myself and others,—of the character and quantity of ground planted, how planted and tended, how rich the juice when expressed, and how much sirup it made,—and comparing notes with those at the Ohio Sorghum Convention, who had kept similar records, the writer feels confident that the farmer growing the cane, and the manufacturer of sirup for a neighborhood, by carrying out the following directions, which I will give in as few and plain words as possible, can scarcely fail.

CULTURE.—Select a rich piece of ground. A deep, sandy, limestone upland soil is the best. If you use clay soil, manure it well. Bottom lands produce more stalks and juice, but I think not quite so rich.

Plow deep and pulverize well. Select pure seed, put it in a milk strainer, and pour on hot water until the seed is wet. Roll the wet seed up in papers, place the packages where the seed will be kept warm, and keep the packages damp until sprouted. This will make your cane come up at least a week earlier, besides sprouted seed, it is thought by many, is not so liable to rot in the ground.

Plant your cane the first thing, or just before you plant your corn. If your ground is clean, plant in drills, the rows four feet apart,—some think on account of winds it does better marked out east and west. Put from one to two seeds in a place, and from twelve to eighteen inches apart. Should the ground be foul with weed seeds, for ease in tending, plant in check-rows, three and one-half feet each way. Leave from four to six main stalks in a hill. Do not sucker the cane, as it retards its growth, until new suckers are formed; besides the suckers are as good for sirup as the main stalks. Till the ground thoroughly, keeping it free from weeds and grass. Keep the ground nearly level, not hilling up too much around the canes.

When your cane is about eighteen inches high, do not stir the ground any more (except to remove weeds,) as it keeps the cane green and retards the forming of saccharine matter too long.

HARVESTING.—About ten days before the cane is ready to work, strip off the leaves. This lets in the sun's rays and ripens the stalk, besides it dries up the sheath or lower part of the leaf. When the seed has formed a dough, or turned to a brown color, cut off the two upper joints. Cut up your cane and tie it in bundles, with a band of leaves, both at the butts and tops. This saves the grower a great deal of labor in loading and unloading, saves the manufacturer in handling, saves enough of your cane from wasting to pay for the extra labor, besides it looks much neater. If not ready to work, stand it on end in a barn or shed, where it may remain for several weeks without taking injury, but rather found to improve.

The past two seasons I found the cane richer, and yielding a better article of sirup the last of the season than the first, excepting where it had been frozen. The leaves and seed, if thoroughly cured and tied in bundles, make the best of sheep and horse feed.

HYBRIDIZING.—Be careful that there is not anything near your cane that will mix with it, as Broom or Chocolate corn. I have seen it growing with perfect Broom corn tops, excepting the center whisp was thick and woody to the top. The nature of the cane is so changed that it is not fit for either brooms or sirup. The seed ripens much earlier when hybridized, and farmers not knowing the difference have procured and planted it all over the country.

In 1860 I furnished my neighbors with pure seed, and from 130 wagon loads of cane I made 1,738 gallons of good, merchantable sirup. That season, as there was not much of the cane ripened before the frost, they procured their seed for the next year from other sources. The consequence was that the cane was much of it so badly mixed that from 207 loads I only made 1,400 gallons, making an average of one-half less than the previous year. In some instances the cane was so poor that it would not yield over a gallon of sirup to the load; but where persons were careful to have good seed, the yield in quantity and quality was good.

MANUFACTURING OF SIRUP.—Place your mill on an elevation a little higher than your evaporator, so that you can run the juice from the mill to the juice tank through a spout. If you have no suitable location of this kind, make a cistern near the mill, and with a good pump attached to a gum or lead pipe you can take the juice where you want it. Place a coarse wire strainer under the mouth of the mill, to remove the pieces of stalks and leaves, and a fine four sieve under the mouth of the pump to remove the small specks of stalks. As the object is to make good sirup, the two most necessary things for the operator to have are a good

evaporator, whether patent or home made, and good, seasoned furnace wood. The wood should be about three feet long, split fine, and of a kind that will make a quick blaze. Boil as rapidly as possible, having a thin surface of juice. The evaporator should be wider than the furnace, so that a strip of the bottom of the pan about four inches wide will be exposed to the cold air. This causes the skimmings to flow to that part of the pan, and prevents its again boiling back into the juice, which imparts much of that strong flavor usually found in sirups boiled in deep pans, or iron kettles.

With a very little experience the operator will know from the appearance of the sirup while boiling when it is thick enough, without the aid of a thermometer. A saccharometer will be of great convenience for testing the quality of different lots of cane, and at different parts of the season.

SUGAR.—Not having much experience in the manufacture of Sorgho Sugar, I will give the statement made by Mr. DAY, of Mansfield, Ohio, who exhibited at the Ohio Sorghum Convention a number of beautiful samples of sugar made by different persons in the Northern part of this State.

The sirup should be boiled to about 235° Fahrenheit, or a very little thicker than table sirup. Then, without letting it get cold, put it in a warm place until crystallized, which will often take place in 24 hours. After it has formed crude sugar put it in a strong linen bag, and press the mass until dry. A cheese or similar press may be used for that purpose.

EVAPORATORS.—There are a number of patent evaporators that will make a good article of sirup, and some succeed very well in making a small quantity in a simple home made pan, consisting of a plain sheet of iron nailed to the bottom of wooden sides. I worked in that way for two or three years, but found that I was not realizing in quality and quantity of sirup for the amount of labor performed and fuel burned.

In 1860 I purchased one of Cook's Evaporators. On this one pan, with only one place for firing, I averaged six gallons an hour through the season. Being pleased with the working of the evaporator, this year I purchased an additional one, one man being able to work both.

The pan has transverse channels running through it. The cold juice runs in at the end over the fire, and travels backwards and forwards over the fire, (always leaving the skimmings at the outer end of the channels,) and coming out at the back end of the pan, ready for the table, and as clear as honey.

I prefer copper pans, as they are more durable, and clean much easier. Copper will not corrode in making sirup.

MILLS.—A wooden mill can be constructed for the least money; but as it will not express more than one-half the juice, use economy, and procure a good iron mill. There is less difference in mills than evaporators, many of the manufacturers using nearly the same patterns. It requires a severe pressure to press the cane dry, and the main point in selecting a mill is to have strength of bearings and shaft, with good set screws for adjusting the rolls.

DEFECATORS.—Sirup made without any defecators will be the whitest, but will have an acid taste. Quick lime, slaked, or made into a creamy paste, is the best defecator. Stir a little into the cold juice until it will not change the color of Litmus paper. If you have no Litmus paper at hand, the leaf of the common red cabbage is just as good.

COST OF SIRUP.—From the writer's experience of several years he is satisfied that if properly managed, the Chinese or Imphee Cane will yield on an average 250 gallons of merchantable sirup to the acre. And counting the rent of the land at \$4 per acre, and the necessary labor at \$1 per day, and giving the manufacturer one-half for making the other half, it will then cost the grower but 20 cents per gallon.

BAGASSE.—The pressed stalks we remove from the mill with a cart to a large pile on the outside, so that the stock will run over it in the winter, and the winter rains soak it thoroughly.

In the spring I plow up my potato patch, harrow it, and mark it out in rows 18 inches or 2 feet apart. I then cut up the potatoes, leaving one eye on a piece. These I drop one foot apart, and barely cover with earth.

I then haul out the bagasse, and cover the whole patch evenly about six inches deep. They require no other care. In digging time remove the stalks from the hill, and pick up the potatoes. The cane stalks seem to have a different effect on the potatoes from straw. For two years I have raised potatoes in that way, and found my crop doubled both years over the old way. The potatoes were dry and mealy, and kept perfectly sound until new potatoes the next season, without any signs of decay. The next spring the bagasse was entirely rotted, leaving the soil light and loamy. MATTHEW LONG, Beech, Licking Co., Ohio, 1862.

The Bee-Keeper

Fear of Bee Stings.

MANY persons who would like to keep bees, are deterred from fear of their stings, having imbibed the erroneous idea that the bee-keeper must be annoyed constantly by the poisonous shaft wisely given for the protection of this industrious insect, and not for the injury of its keeper. To show how groundless are these fears, we give the following from Mr. BRUCKISH:

The objection that, on account of their tendency to sting, it is risky and often dangerous to keep bees, is without foundation. The puncture, as is well known, is the wound caused by the sting, and is accompanied by swelling. The swelling is the result of an acid similar to that distilled from the ant-hills, and contained in the vesicle at the root of the sting, from which it is poured into the wound. The bees of Germany, it is true, are often quite malicious, but those here in the South are really of a good-natured character. One may manage them for days, may produce artificial swarms, take away their honey—in short, may undertake any operation with them without being stung. But suppose they were even worse than those in Germany, it would not form any really serious objection. To avoid their stings, however, the bees should neither be pressed nor squeezed; they should not be breathed on, nor should there be any jarring about their hives; and all rapid movements in front of the hives, and quick motions of the hands, must be avoided. It is said that bees are irritated by the disagreeable sweat of man; but the writer has never noticed it. This would certainly be bad, as the labor required in the management of bees cannot, at all seasons, be performed without causing perspiration; especially is this the case when living natural swarms during the

hottest part of the day. A quiet and fearless treatment of bees is indispensable. Smoke is the most effective and seldom failing means of keeping them in due restraint. The old bee-masters always employed their eathenware smoking pot, sometimes increasing its effect by a small bellows attached to it. It was by using this implement, protecting their hands with gloves and their faces with a bee-cap, that bee-keepers formerly ventured to approach their bees, performing all their operations under this oppressive shield, though they had to perspire profusely under the bee-cap, and could not see distinctly.

The Rev. Mr. Dzierzon and his followers have banished the bee-cap and the glove. Instead of the smoking pot, they make use of a burning cigar, or a little lighted stick of decaying linden or maple wood, the smoke of which can easily be blown by the mouth to whatever spot required; it being enough to blow a little smoke occasionally among the bees. Where no such decayed or decaying wood can be got, a bunch of rags is used. The glowing end of such a lint-stick must be dipped in water, or buried in the ground after use, so as to avoid any danger of fire. The smoke benumbs the bees; yet if enraged by a violent shock, by many being crushed, or by a hive being upset, the strongest smoke will avail little, and the bee-keeper has no alternative but a speedy retreat, to allow the bees to become calm and quiet. The Italian bee does not exhibit such violence of temper; she stings only when pressed or irritated in the highest degree. The mild character of this bee, not to mention its superior industry, renders the introduction and extension of this race important, as the fear of being stung, though often groundless, deters many from engaging in the enterprise of bee-raising. In the progress of his management, the bee-raiser will have acquired so much skill and practice that, even in an extensive apiary of one hundred hives, he can readily discover and catch every bee disposed to sting. He distinguishes it by the peculiar sound it emits when buzzing about him, and strikes it to the ground with the palm of his hand. Among hundreds of humming bees he will soon recognize the tones of that one, more or less distant, which is disposed to sting. Sometimes the pain resulting from the sting is quite severe, but generally produces little inconvenience, and gradually the human system becomes accustomed to the virus, and no bad results follow the infliction. On being stung, the sting should be immediately extracted, and the wound anointed with spittle, wet loam, olive oil, sal-ammoniac, alcohol, or vinegar, whichever is most conveniently at hand. The pulp of a pear may also be pressed on the wound—an experiment tried by the Rev. Mr. Fischer, of Kaaden, Bohemia, who after being stung by three bees on the point of a finger, immediately took a pear from one of his trees, laid open its flesh or pulp and pressed his finger against it. The pain almost instantly ceased, and no swelling ensued. It might be inferred from this that other fruits may prove equally serviceable. Nobody could have betrayed more fear than the writer as a new hand; but now he looks upon the sting of bees with indifference, as will every practical bee-keeper; and the subject has been treated of here in such detail only because most persons attach so great importance to it.

To Keep Ants from Hives. ANTS are very annoying to many bee-keepers. Mr. BALDRIDGE says: "When hives are properly constructed, ants cannot get into them to propagate their young. They frequently, however, get into hives in consequence of not being properly constructed, and do much injury, as they annoy the bees, injure the hive by eating into the wood, and will eat the honey if accessible. It is very little trouble to drive and keep the ants away from the hive, although much trouble has been experienced by many, for the simple reason that they knew no remedy. To drive the ants away from the hive, or out of their retreat, direct upon them a small quantity of the smoke of wood or tobacco. Each one will usually shudder a number of their young, and "secede" instantly! To keep the ants away from the hive, apply, as soon as they have mostly disappeared, thinly in places where they frequent, with the feather part of a quill, the spirits of turpentine; they will not be seen again, in general, during the remainder of that season; but should they return, repeat the application. This preventive is very simple as well as efficacious; try it."

Wintering Bees in the Cellar. ED. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—In a late number of the RURAL I notice an inquiry about wintering bees in the cellar, how to prevent their coming out of the hive, &c. I will give my method, and I have found by experience that it is a good one. Bore six or eight holes in the bottom board with a gimlet or small bit, then stop the mouth of the hive, and place it upon strips of boards so that the air can circulate up through the hive. Where the hives have a chamber in them it is necessary to have the holes open into it. I consider a dry cellar one of the best places in which to winter bees. G. GRAVES, Newport, N. Y., 1862.

Rural Spirit of the Press.

Root Cutters and Cleaners. A WRITER in the Country Gentleman says:—"When potatoes are fed whole, or other roots are cut coarsely, the animal is obliged to hold its head so high to keep the root in contact with its teeth, that gravitation alone will pass it to the gullet, and ordinarily it will pass thence unmasticated, if not too large; but if cut properly and mixed with cut stalks, straw or hay, as they always should be, they will be eaten with the head down, as in eating grass, and consequently be more thoroughly masticated and mixed with other food, and all danger from choking is wholly avoided; hence the preventive that I have used for five years, and recommended to others to use, is, to cut up the vegetables as finely as possible with a good root-cutter and cleaner."

Timothy Grass in Southern Ohio. WM. D. KELLY writes thus to the Ohio Farmer:—"I have had about one hundred acres in grass on my farm, for the last twenty years, and testing its value in dollars and cents by a close calculation of weight, find Timothy to be the most profitable of all grasses. My cattle prefer it to any other grown in this climate. I find that every kind of stock that feeds on grass, works after the Timothy more than the other grasses, and they pull it up and destroy it, and other grasses and weeds take its place. I can cut my grass with a mowing machine, for fifty cents per acre; a good yield will average two tons per acre. Baling it costs \$1.50 per ton; the whole cost of preparing one acre of Timothy grass for market,

is \$5.50 per acre. My crop of hay has sold, for the last three or four years, at the rate of \$15 and \$16 per ton; two tons per acre shows a profit of \$24 per acre."

Screwing on Nuts. We have sometimes known nuts on threshing machines, circular saws, &c., to be found so tight that no wrench would remove them. This was because they had been held in the hand till they became warm, and being then applied to very cold screws in winter, they contracted by cooling after being on, and thus held the screw with an immovable grasp. Always avoid putting a warm nut on a cold screw; and to remove it, apply a large heated iron in contact with the nut, so as to heat and expand it, and it will loosen at once—or a cloth wet with boiling water will accomplish the same purpose. So says the Country Gentleman.

Sorghum in Wisconsin. THE Wisconsin Farmer says:—"We have favorable reports of the sorghum crops of the past season. The opening of the war and the certainty of advanced prices had the effect to stimulate the farmers, and the result appears to have been an increased supply of sorghum molasses. As appears by the statistical returns, the number of acres planted in 1860 was 318,85-100, yielding a product of 51,135½ gallons of molasses and 3,493 pounds of sugar. Last year the crop must have been considerably larger than this, though we have not sufficient data for a safe estimate. We have never believed that sorghum would come to be a great staple crop in our State, but the success which has attended its cultivation on a small scale should be an encouragement to more of our farmers to cultivate it for their own use. Next season we shall expect a much larger crop than ever before."

An Interesting Dairy Statement. THE following statement was furnished to the Albany Cultivator by Mr. ALBERT YALE, of Guilford, Chenango Co., N. Y.

Statement of the proceeds of the Dairy of Albert Yale, for 1861. The number of cows I have milked this season was 10, the same as last year. My memorandum shows that the first tub was filled March 16. My cows calved, mostly, in the month of March.

Total amount of butter made, lbs.	2,786
Amount sold	2,505
Leaving amount used in family and on hand	480

Amount of sales of dairy, 2,305 lbs., at 23 cts.	\$530.15
Amount used in family, 480 lbs., at 23 cts.	110.40
Eight deacon skins at 50 cts. sold	4.00
Three calves, raised on skim milk	17.50
Value of pork raised, deducting cost and corn	59.95
	\$721.10

Making the average to each cow	\$72.11
Number of pounds to each cow	279½

You will notice above that there are 11 calves accounted for, and but 10 cows. One cow had two calves. To farmers that are keeping a dairy, I would say in the first place, put your hay EARLY, and get it in in good order. This is part of the great secret in bringing your cows through the winter in proper condition to be profitable the next summer. Then give them enough of this and no more. When I see a farmer forcing his cows to eat straw one half of the time, and the other half, daisies, weeds or dry woody stuff called hay, with a shower of full ripe seeds falling from it at each forkful, and no grain to offset, I mark that man as one who will never get rich from his dairy alone. The proper place for the straw is under the cow. Give her a good soft bed, and keep her clean. Never compel a cow to eat straw. When the fall rains begin, I put my cows in the stable through each storm. During the winter months they are most of the time in the stable, and are let out twice a day for water.

Another point. If dairymen would take more pains in selecting their cows, and breed them to some thorough-bred bull, of the best milking families, and feed them better, it would not be necessary to keep but one-half the number of the general average of cows to make the same amount of butter. During the fall and early winter I prefer to feed roots; but after they are well dried off, commence with one pint of meal to each cow, until within about one month of calving, and then increase to one or two quarts once a day; after calving, two quarts at a time, twice a day. Keep them on this feed until they have been to grass eight or ten days, when I decrease the feed gradually each day.

Inquiries and Answers.

SENDING RED CLOVER AND TIMOTHY.—Will some of the RURAL's subscribers inform me through the paper how much red clover and timothy will take to sow an acre, requires ground—one-third to be timothy?—TELLER, Rolling Ground, Crawford Co., Wis., 1862.

CURE.—I have a three year old colt which has what I suppose to be a curb. The gambri joint on the outside is considerably enlarged. Now what I want to know is, whether the blemish can be removed, or any further enlargement prevented. Will the RURAL, or some one of its numerous patrons, please answer, and oblige.—AN OLD SUBSCRIBER, Wayne, Mich.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY—INFORMATION WANTED.—I have hired a farm of 200 acres, for which I pay a certain sum yearly. It is adapted to raising grain; also, for pasturing, being principally of a gravel (course) and much inclined to be rather heavy, if not thoroughly cultivated. Some parts covered with boulders, weighing from 100 pounds to 2 and 3 tons, which makes it hard and difficult tilling, and would not pay me for removing. It is stocked with cattle at present, and is capable of keeping from 30 to 40 head of cattle, 30 sheep, and a span of horses. I have thought of trying sheep husbandry in place of raising cattle and growing grain. I would inquire of those who have had experience in raising cattle and sheep which is the best expense and will take to sow an acre, requires the least hard labor of the two, according to the capital invested? Steers, from 2 to 3 years of age, range from \$25 to \$35 per head, according to quality. Cows from \$30 to \$40, ditto. Early lambs, say coming in February, are worth in August and September \$1.50 and \$2.00 per head. Mutton sheep, according to size and quality, \$3.00 and \$4.00 per head. I don't expect to correct an answer as though a person could see the farm and was acquainted with its adaptability for such purposes; nor do I want the advice of a person who is wholly ignorant of farming, thinking he is conferring a great favor. We have too many such in some papers. But I want the actual experience of persons who have tested the thing.—PLOWBOY.

HUNGARIAN GRASS.—In answer to an inquiry in No. 4, January 26th, of the RURAL, concerning the culture of Hungarian grass, I give my experience of last year. I had four acres of old sod ground, rather a stiff clay soil, that I plowed in the last week of May. I sowed it the 12th of June—it should have been sown on the 1st. Thirty pounds to the acre is a good seeding for hay. If you want it to seed, twenty pounds would be enough. It being very dry when I sowed it, it did not come up for ten days after sowing. I commenced cutting it the 30th of August, the seed then being in the milk. I let a portion of it stand about two weeks for seed, then cut and cured in the same manner as any hay. It yielded about two tons per acre; I think it was rather under the average. It will do well on any kind of soil, the stronger and richer the better. I think it better than clover for horses, and equal to timothy, if you do not allow it to go to seed. If it seeds, you should thresh it out before feeding it to horses, for they eat very hearty of it, and as it is very full of seed, there is danger of its hurting them. I thrashed out of a hundred and fifty weight of hay, half a bushel of clean seed. Sheep and cattle are very fond of it. I think there might be two crops grown in a season by sowing early.—M. E. S., Schoolcraft, Mich.

Doings of Agricultural Societies.

MINNESOTA STATE AG. SOCIETY.—At the late annual meeting of this Society, held at St. Paul, the following Board of Officers was elected for 1862: President—WM. L. AMES, of St. Paul. Vice Presidents (one for each Senatorial District)—1st, Diet, H. Acker; 2d, H. L. Thomas; 3d, R. M. Richardson; 4th, John E. Putnam; 5th, Asa Keith; 6th, S. Bennett; 7th, H. Sprague; 8th, R. A. Mott; 9th, O. Densmore; 10th, F. Stowell; 11th, E. B. Jewett; 12th, J. V. Daniels; 13th, A. Adams; 14th, A. H. Butler; 15th, S. Botwick; 16th, G. S. Ruble; 17th, N. Dane; 18th, M. D. McMullen; 19th, Samuel Shantlebury; 20th, J. Flanders; 21st, A. Chmldin. Secretary—J. A. Wheelock. Treasurer—J. W. Selly. Executive Committee—J. H. Stevens, McLeod; Jared Benson, Anoka; A. Chambers, Steele; J. H. Baker, Blue Earth; R. H. Bennett, Washington; W. L. Wilson, Ramsey; W. G. Le Due, Dakota; William R. Smith, Hennepin. W. L. Ames and J. A. Wheelock, ex-officio.

CATTARAUGUS CO. AG. SOCIETY.—At the late annual meeting of this Society, the following persons were elected officers for 1862: President—SAMUEL W. JOHNSON, Ellipticville. Vice President—Lorenzo Stratton, Little Valley. Secretary—Horace S. Hunley, Little Valley. Treasurer—George M. Pith, Little Valley. Directors—Nathaniel Manley, Mansfield; Isaac Reed, East Otto; S. T. Kelsey, Great Valley; Horace Cross, Ogo; Joseph Smith, Mansfield; Halsey Safford, East Otto.

WINFIELD UNION SOCIETY.—The following gentlemen were chosen officers for 1862: President—ISAAC L. MOORE, Vice President—Peter B. Crandall. Secretary—Russell Hutton. Treasurer—Hiram Brown. Directors—J. B. Murray, Plainfield; A. L. Fish, Litchfield. Town Secretaries—A. R. Goodier, Litchfield; D. G. Young, Columbia; Wm. H. Hays, Bridge-water; Alonzo Vosburg, Richfield; William Collins, Plainfield; J. W. Warner, Winfield; L. R. Bliss, Exeter; Wm. Knights, Paris. The Treasurer's report was read and showed a balance on hand of \$222.13.

The ladies connected with the Winfield Union Ag. Society met at the house of S. W. DAY, and the meeting being called to order, elected the following officers of the Ladies' Department for the ensuing year: President—Mrs. J. H. CLARK. Vice President—Mrs. T. T. Morgan. Sec'y—Mrs. N. D. Taylor.

THE COLUMBUS TOWN AG. SOCIETY (Chenango Co., N. Y.) has elected officers for 1862 as follows: President—ISAAC N. HOLT. Vice Presidents—Charles Williams and Stephen Spaulding. Secretary—Mathew Ludington. Treasurer—Wm. H. Purdie. Directors—Charles Holmes, Henry Holmes, Elliot Sherman, J. Medbury, Jr., G. B. Palmer, Nelson W. Matterson, Charles E. West, Elijah Sexton, Nathan Clark, Ezekiah Myers, Oliver Myers, Jefferson Spurr.

Rural Notes and Items.

CULTURE OF COTTON AND SORGHO IN THE FREE STATES.—The Commissioner of Patents, in a recent circular, says the cultivation of Cotton in the middle portions of the Free States is attracting general attention. To prevent failures in its cultivation, it is proper to remark that it is a principle in vegetable physiology that tropical plants can never be acclimated in the North, except by a repeated reproduction of new varieties from seeds. The attempt to grow Sea Island Cotton, such as is now brought from Hilton Head, would prove a failure in any portion of the Free States. The only variety capable of successful cultivation in those sections now seeking its introduction, is the Green Seed Cotton. Such is now being raised extensively in Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and portions of Kentucky, and which produces a white fiber. Seed should be obtained from those localities. The modifications of soil and climate will influence the size of the plant, the length and fineness of the fiber, and the product of the crop. No reasonable doubt is entertained of the success of the culture in all mild portions of the Middle States, and efforts are now making by this division to procure the proper seed for distribution.

The Commissioner further says the results of the cultivation of Sorgho the past year settled the question of its entire practical success, and that one of the difficulties presenting itself is the want of pure seed. To meet this want, this division has ordered seed from France for distribution the ensuing spring. It must be borne in mind, however, that the same causes which have produced deterioration here, exist there, and well grounded apprehensions are entertained that seed thus imported may not be free from suspicion. Farmers interested should secure pure seed from among themselves, when it is possible, as the season is so far advanced that direct importation from Africa or China would be impracticable.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.—Congress having declined to make an appropriation to facilitate the arrangements of the U. S. Commissioners for the World's Fair, including the chartering of a vessel to convey American products to London, as recommended by the President, the Commissioners are unable to proceed further in the business, and announce that the authority of the commission has therefore closed. They have apprised the commissioners appointed by the British Government that there will be no general participation on the part of the citizens of this country on that occasion, but they have thought it very improper at the same time, and recommended to the consideration of the Royal Commissioners such works of industry and art as have received the authentication of the commissioners, and may, to a limited extent, be presented for exhibition through individual exertion. American contributors are therefore thrown upon their own resources in sending works of industry, invention, and art to the Exhibition.

THE VALUE OF SORGHUM appreciates daily. Analyses of different samples of crude sirups received from different parts of the West, now in progress in this city (Chicago), show them to contain over fifty per centum of cane sugar—a result entirely unlooked for by the sugar refiners. In addition to the cane sugar, there was a large per centum of grape sugar. Much of this may have been converted from cane sugar by the imperfect process of manufacture which it obtains. These results are going to induce the erection of large works in different parts of the country for the manufacture of the sirup, so as to insure the crystallization of the cane sugar. Experienced sugar men say that if the analyses continue to furnish as favorable testimony of the sugar producing qualities of this plant, all that will be needed to produce our own sugar as well as sirup, is the application of knowledge in its manufacture.—C. D. B.

WEATHER, PRICES OF PRODUCE, &c., IN IOWA.—Mr. JOSIAH PAGE, of Iowa county, Iowa, writing us under date of Feb. 16, says:—"We had no sleighting until the 6th of Jan.; since then it has been very good. Snow is now 18 inches deep. Wheat sells at 40 to 60 cts.; pork sold from \$1.50 to \$2.20, averaging about \$2.00; corn 20c; butter 10c; eggs 5c; turkeys 20 to 30 cts. each; chickens 6c; cows \$10 to \$15; oxen \$40 to \$60 per yoke; horses \$75 to \$100 each. Prairie land is \$3 to \$5 an acre. It can be bought by paying from one-fourth to one-half down, with a long credit for the balance, and in quantities from 40 acres upward. This section is as healthy as any part of the U. S. The water is good, and timber more plenty than in many portions of the West. Money is scarce, owing to the low prices of produce."

LARGE OX AND SHEEP.—In the RURAL of Feb. 8th, we gave an account of a monstrous ox, fattened by Hon. J. SANDERSON, of Bernardston, Mass. He has since been slaughtered in New York, and a New England exchange says "the dressed animal weighed 2,473 lbs., or 164 lbs. more than the celebrated ox 'Union,' and exceeded any ox ever slaughtered in this or any other country." The same paper adds:—"Two sheep raised by Dea. BUFFUM, of Winchester, N. H., were slaughtered also in New York, and the muttons—one weighing 216 and the other 208 lbs.—are to be sent as presents to President LINCOLN and Secretary SEWARD. Roasting pieces from the big Sanderson ox are also going as presents to other official gentlemen."

ABOUT COFFEE.—A "Young Ruralist" in Southern Illinois wishes us to request Mr. HUFFMAN to advertise his coffee seed in the RURAL, for the benefit of himself and many other "Egyptians." We doubt whether our friend would be benefited if the request were made and complied with, for we do not believe genuine coffee can be successfully grown in this country, even in favored Egypt. We more than suspect that the article grown by Mr. HUFFMAN is decidedly inferior to the coffee of commerce, and not equal to the "Union Coffee" (composed of coffee and rye) manufactured by our friend VAN ZANDT. "Prove all things, and hold fast that which is good."

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Books for Schools and Families—Beadie & Co. Trees Seeds—Schroeder & Co. Corn-Droppers—Thos. B. McConaghey. Implements, Machinery, Seeds, &c.—Paschal Morris. Farm and Garden Implements—John Vanderbit. Farm for Sale—C. H. Rogers. Apple Trees for Sale—C. H. Rogers. Delinquent Writings Station New Jersey. Warm for Sale—W. R. Hunt. Italian Beer—M. Quinby. Fallow Seminary—John P. Griffin. Apple Seedling, &c.—J. J. Billings. To Printers and Publishers.

The News Condenser.

—The Rhode Island Legislature has voted a sword to Gen. Burnside.
—The iron-clad British frigate Warrior is a failure as a sailing vessel.
—Four hundred and eleven females hold postoffices in the United States.
—Mrs. Nancy Smith has been elected Mayor or Mayoress of Oskaloosa, Iowa.
—The Partisans are about to erect a crystal palace on the plan of that at Sydenham.
—The rebel Gen. Buckner's mother died recently at her residence in Union Co., Ark.
—Geo. Nutter, of Bramstead, N. H., was teasing a horse, and the horse bit his nose off.
—The tobacco trade, the Louisville Journal thinks, will be transferred to the Middle States.
—The mails will go to Clarksville, Tenn., and so to Nashville. They will follow the flag.
—The King of Prussia is in a state of health which excites much uneasiness among his friends.
—Four canal steamers, two steam tugs, and thirty canal boats, are now being built at Buffalo.
—About \$300,000 were paid out in New York on Wednesday week as interest on the war loan.
—The famous Gauley Bridge, burned by Wise in his flight from Western Virginia, has been rebuilt.
—At Richmond, the rebels celebrated Washington's birthday by a mock inauguration of Jeff. Davis.
—Some of the Irishmen captured at Fort Donelson wanted to join Col. Mulligan's regiment at Chicago.
—The Richmond Dispatch admits that the aggregate force of the rebels now in the field is but 200,000.
—Ericsson's bomb-proof battery is off; it is, supposed to watch the Merrimack, should she venture out.
—The rebels promised to spend the winter at the North. About 15,000 of them are keeping their pledge.
—A rebel schooner laden with tobacco was seized by the frigate Santee, near Galveston, a few days since.
—The rebels accuse the Union workmen in rebel arsenals with purposely rendering the ammunition imperfect.
—An anonymous American abroad has sent the U. S. Treasury \$1,000 to help pay the expenses of the war.
—Four brothers are in the 9th Illinois cavalry regiment, as colonel, surgeon, assistant-surgeon, and quartermaster.
—There has not been snow sufficient at any time in Barnstable Co., Mass., the present winter, for good sleighing.
—Out of some sixty or seventy newspapers published in Texas a year ago, only some ten or twelve are now living.
—A single firm in St. Louis sold twelve thousand flag-large sized ones—for the Washington's birthday celebration.
—The Baptist Bible House property in New York was sold on Saturday week, under foreclosure of mortgage, for \$60,000.
—The manufacturing business in Massachusetts is still moderately active, with the exception, perhaps, of the shoe trade.
—Col. McCook, who was wounded at the battle of Mill Spring, has nearly recovered, and has returned to his regiment.
—The amount of cotton secured by the Government agents at Hilton Head and that region, is said to be about \$2,000,000 worth.
—Two million visiting cards passed through the Paris post-office on the first three days of the year, besides the ordinary letters.
—The Illinois Constitutional Convention has voted unanimously to submit the instrument framed by them to the people.
—The Utica Orphan Asylum has recently entered into the occupation of a new and convenient edifice, which cost \$26,000.
—A writer in the Boston Traveller says the production of capital in the loyal States exceeds the consumption \$400,000,000 annually.
—The Mississippi flotilla, ready to leave Cairo, consists of 129 gunboats and 38 mortar boats. The gunboats aggregate 209 guns.
—In Portsmouth, N. H., live 90 men, whose ages range from 75 to 95; 53 women who are above 80, and 7 above 90 years old.
—Prince Kung, the Regent of China, has decided to send to France, for European education, a cousin of the young Emperor.
—The resolution impeaching the Governor, Secretary of State, and Auditor of Kansas, has passed the Legislature of that State.
—It is said that the Sandwich Islands are to be sold to Great Britain. The same offer was made to us some years ago, but we refused it.
—A proposition has been made in England to consolidate the Great Western, Grand Trunk, and Buffalo and Lake Huron Railways.
—The New York Price Current of Monday week says that, within the past six weeks, the price of cotton has fallen eleven cents per pound.
—The Minnesota State Senate had recently before them Mrs. Swishmill, to present a bill and make a speech for "women's rights!"
—The restrictions on the travel of foreigners in the Russian Empire have been almost all abolished by the order of the Czar Alexander II.
—Yancey sailed from England as a passenger in the West India mail steamer Seine, which left Southampton on the 3d ult., for St. Thomas.
—An agricultural laborer died lately in Devonshire, England, aged one hundred years. A son who attended the funeral was seventy-five years old.
—The steamer North Star was burned at the wharf in Cleveland, on Thursday week. Loss about \$75,000. Insured for one-third her value.
—A number of Prussian savans are to be sent to Athens to make archaeological excavations there, and direct their especial attention to the Acropolis.
—There are two hundred and thirteen joint stock companies in Massachusetts, under the general law, of which fifty-nine are located in Boston.
—The Convention to frame a Constitution for the State of Deseret, held at Salt Lake City, adjourned on the 23d ult., having completed their work.
—Russia is drawing supplies of cotton from Khiva and Bokhara, and the cultivation of the staple in those countries has been very largely extended.
—The ship Amelia, which sailed from Philadelphia for Liverpool on Saturday week, had on board 2,166 barrels of flour and 11,164 bushels of grain.
—A new revolution commenced in Honduras on the 11th ult. The first victim was the President—Don Santos Guardiola—who was assassinated at his own door.
—A woman was frozen to death on the Minnesota prairie last week, near Hastings. A search revealed her buried in the snow within a few rods of her residence.
—The Army Board on uniform propose to do away with epaulettes, sashes, plumes, &c., and leave the designation of rank to simple shoulder straps and sword belts.
—A babe of six months and a child of four years, fastened in a cabin near Chittenango, N. Y., while the parents were away, were burned to death, with the building, recently.

HORTICULTURAL.

VEGETATION OF SEEDS.

If fine seeds are planted too deep, they either rot in the damp, cold earth, for the want of the warmth necessary to their germination, or after germination perish before the tender shoots can reach the sun and air, so that which was designed for their support and nourishment proves their grave.

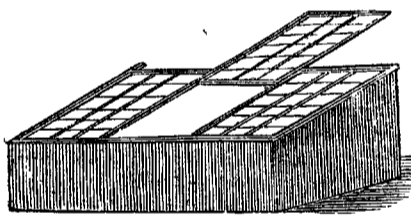
If the soil is a stiff clay, it is often too cold at the time the seeds are planted to effect their germination, for it must be understood that warmth and moisture are necessary to the germination of seeds. Neither of these will do alone. Seeds may be kept in a warm, dry room, in dry sand or earth, and they will not grow. They may be placed in damp earth, and kept in a low temperature, and they will most likely rot, though some seeds will remain dormant a long time under these circumstances. But place them in moist earth, in a warm room, and they will commence growth at once.

If seeds are sown in rough, lumpy ground, a portion will be buried under the clods and never grow, and many that start will not find a fit soil for their tender roots, and perish. A few may escape these difficulties, and flourish.

All of the above cases show good reason for failure, but there is one cause of failure in which the reason is not so apparent. The soil, we will suppose, is well prepared, fine as it can be made, and of that loamy or sandy character best fitted for small seeds. We will suppose, too, that the seeds were sown on the surface with a little earth sifted over them, and that this was not done until the season was so far advanced as to furnish the warmth necessary to secure vegetation. Under these very favorable circumstances many seeds will grow, and if the weather is both warm and showery, very few will fail. But if, as is very common at the season of the year when we plant our seeds, we have a succession of cold rain storms, many will perish. A night's frost will ruin many more. If, however, the weather should prove warm and without showers, the surface will become very dry, and the seeds having so slight a covering will be dried up and perish as soon as they germinate, and before the roots attain sufficient size and strength to go down where the soil is more moist.

HOT-BEDS AND COLD-FRAMES.

It is to overcome these evils that Hot-Beds are useful. By being protected on the sides and ends with boards, and covered with glass, they confine the moisture which arises from the earth in mist, and thus the atmosphere is kept humid and the surface moist, and the plants are not subjected to the changes of temperature, as a uniform state can be maintained, no matter what the weather may be. The bottom heat of the hot-bed warms the soil, and enables the grower to put in his seed early, and obtain plants of good size before the soil outside is warm enough to receive the seed. The principal advantages of the Hot-Bed, however, can be secured by what is called a Cold-Frame.



This is simply a hot-bed frame, with sash, as shown in the engraving, placed upon a bed of fine, mellow earth, in some sheltered place in the garden. By the exclusion of air, and the admission of sun, the earth becomes warm, and the moisture is confined, as in the hot-bed.

After the frame is secured in its place, a couple of inches of fine earth should be placed inside, and the frame closed up for a day or two before the seeds are planted. As the cold-frame depends upon the sun for its warmth, it must not be started as soon as the hot-bed, and in this latitude the latter part of April is early enough. Plants will then be large enough for transplanting to the open ground as soon as danger from frost is over, and as a general thing they will be hardier, and better able to endure the shock of transplanting, than if grown in a hot-bed. A frame of this kind any one can manage. Watering occasionally, will be necessary, and air must be given on bright, warm days.

These frames when so small as to be conveniently moved by the hand, are called hand-glasses. A simple frame or box, with a couple of lights of glass on the top, will answer a very good purpose, though when small it would be better to have the front of glass. A very good hand-glass is made of a square frame with a light of glass at each side and on the top. These contrivances, though so simple as to be made by any one handy with tools, are exceedingly useful, as they prevent the drying of the surface of the ground, and afford the plants shelter from sudden changes of temperature, cold storms and frosty nights.

SEED BED.

When these conveniences are not to be had, make a bed of light, mellow soil, in a sheltered situation in the garden, and as soon as the weather becomes settled and the ground warm, sow the seeds, covering them with a little fine earth, and if very small, sift it upon them. Some one has given as a rule that seeds should be covered twice the depth of their own diameter, that is, that a seed one-sixteenth of an inch through should be covered one-eighth of an inch. Perhaps this is as near correct as any general rule can be. If the weather proves very dry after sowing, it is well to cover the beds of small seeds with damp moss, or what is better, with evergreen boughs.

TRANSPLANTING.

After the plants in these beds have obtained their second leaves and made an inch or two of growth, they should be removed to the garden beds or border. This should be done on a dull showery day, if possible; if not, the plants may require shading after removal until they become established. Remove them with the transplanting trowel, and disturb the roots as little as possible. If the plants are not too thick, this is not difficult, and in sowing it is well to have this in view, and sow evenly and thin. As soon as the young plants come up, if too thick, a portion should be removed.

A few plants, with long tap-roots, will not bear

removal well. The Larkspurs are the most difficult, and the Poppies and Scabious, and the Bartonias aurea, it is best to sow where they are to flower. Still, there are but few plants but can be removed when young.

CULTURE OF CELERY.

WE continue this subject from our last issue. Several correspondents will find the information they seek furnished in these articles. Another season we hope to be better prepared to express an opinion as to the three or four best varieties. The large kinds are most popular in many markets, but the dwarf sorts are the best, and most profitable for family use. Turner's Incomparable Dwarf White is one of the best we have ever grown. One reason why many amateurs fail to grow celery, is that they dig deep trenches, throw out all the good soil, and then add a little manure, to be mixed with the sub-soil at the bottom of the trench. The consequence is the plants are starved, and never worth blanching. If trenches are made they should be dug deep, and the surface soil be returned, enriched with four or five inches of good rotten manure. Those, however, who grow celery for their own use, will do best to plant upon the surface, first making the soil very rich and deep, and giving plenty of water during the season.

EARTHING.—Where it may be required to have celery early, the earthing must be commenced accordingly; but, generally speaking, too much hurry in this case is not good. One of the reasons why celery is spongy and insipid, is owing to the soil having been in contact with it too long. While the temperature continues warm, and growth is proceeding rapidly, three to four weeks is quite enough to prepare for use; so that according to the time it may be wanted, the earthing may be commenced to correspond. There is no difficulty in producing it ready for table by the beginning of August, by a little earlier sowing and extra painstaking; but more commonly it is considered quite early enough at the beginning of September. The old notion that this vegetable is not good until it has been nipped by the frost, belongs to bygone days, and it is time that we got rid of such ideas; be assured, that if the frost acts upon it, the flavor will be injured, and the crystals destroyed. When commencing to blanch, go over and break out all outside offshoots or decayed base-leaves; loosen up each side of the row, keeping clear of the roots; break up the soil well; lift the leaves up into a perpendicular position, and while holding them so with one hand, fill in and around with the other about six inches of earth, taking care that it does not fall down into the heart; and always choose a dry day for this operation. After proceeding thus along the whole length, stretch a line about eighteen inches from the row on each side, give a cut outside the line, and lift up enough soil to make an equal surface with that placed to the plants. This process will make what was previously a trench into a bank, with the double row of plants in the center. As growth progresses, this operation will have to be repeated. A practiced eye requires no guide as to how often, or how much ought to be done, and no definite rule can be given; for where there is great luxuriance, more depth and often repeated earthing will be necessary; but if we take a medium average, once a week will be a general requirement for three or four weeks. Some persons do not earth at all until they intend to do it finally; but, excepting for the latest crops, or that which is wanted for spring use, this practice is open to much objection. In the first place, the stalks have by this time grown outward to a horizontal position, and become solid, so that they will break or split at the bottom, which brings on rotteness, and disfigures the form of the head. The soil also is more subject to fall down into the center with the great depth which is put on; and as the stalks have hitherto had light and air, the leaflets are more numerous and situated closer to the base, and consequently they have to be covered up. These often rot, and always prevent the young heart-leaves from ascending straight, the result of which is distorted form and crooked stalks.

With regard to that portion of the crop which is required for winter and early spring use, an exception to this is advisable; for, as stated above, if the soil remains too long in contact, the quality is injured. Therefore, in this case, do not earth up any further than merely to give an upright position to the stalks; and when it is to be done, finish at one or two operations. The best time to commence earthing this late portion, is a little before frosty nights begin to occur.

PROTECTION IN WINTER.—Although celery is very hardy in a natural or poorly grown state, it is soon injured by frost when gorged with luxuriance, or blanched; therefore, as we have it in cultivation, winter protection is necessary. It is also soon rotted or rendered insipid if kept too warm, on which account a temperature that is only a few degrees above the freezing point is best. Avoid close, damp cellars; for in such places it is almost sure to decay. Often as this plan has been tried, there have been few cases of success. The best method which has come under my own observation is as follows:—Choose a piece of ground where the water can pass off freely, and bed the heads in rows of about six in each, and in an upright position. Commence by raising a bank against which the first row shall rest; lift each head, and preserve the roots carefully, which may be done by cutting down one side of the row in which it has grown, and afterwards putting the spade under each plant. Before lifting, tie a piece of bast or twine around the upper part, which will prevent the stalks from breaking, and also facilitate the process. Remove all decayed leaves, and fix carefully against the bank almost close together; raise up in front enough soil to cover nearly to the top, leaving only a portion of the top leaves exposed. The next row may be a few inches asunder, and so on. Afterwards leave all uncovered until wet or frost sets in, when a coping of boards or shutters should be fixed over. Where there is not this convenience, a quantity of pea-stakes may be laid over the top; but whatever be used, a coating of litter, pea haulm, or other like material, will be required to keep out the frost. It may also be left to winter in the ridges; but in this way a great quantity of covering is necessary, and which afterwards requires much labor to remove. The first is most economical, and is equally safe.

CULTURE OF THE TOMATO.

ENDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER.—As the season for garden operations is coming on apace, I submit this article on the cultivation of the tomato, which, if worthy of a place in your columns, may induce some of the growers to take a little pains the coming spring, and if satisfied with the result of one trial,

induce them to abandon the common practice of letting the vines lie on the ground, thereby losing a considerable portion of the fruit by its lying in contact with the soil, causing decay and unequal ripening, and still another portion by the breaking of stems in the persistent efforts to keep them "the other side up" to expose the fruit to the influence of sun and air. To those who practice this ripening process, I would recommend the following, which has been my practice for several years, and which to me has been very satisfactory:

First make a trellis by nailing five slats on two by four scantling, four and a half feet long, setting the same at an angle of about fifty-five degrees in a sunny situation facing the south, leaving it three and a half feet high. When set, secure in that position by stakes driven in the ground back of the trellis, and nailed to the top of the scantling. Set the plants as early as the weather will permit, along the trellis two and a half feet apart, with sufficient space between them and the trellis to admit of a wide board being set on edge. This serves to keep off cold winds, and increases the temperature of the air and soil very perceptibly on sunny days, which lasts through the night, thereby forwarding the plants amazingly. Water as much as the plants require until the first fruits set have obtained half their size, then water sparingly, as too rapid growth is not desirable. Pinch off the top of the plant one joint above the first fruit that sets. This causes the side shoots to push vigorously and spread more evenly on the trellis. When the vines have attained the height of the trellis, permit them to grow and hang over the top, as it is necessary to have the vine growing to bring its fruit to the highest perfection, although the leaves may be thinned out over the ripening fruit. In this way I have always succeeded in filling trellises three and a half feet high by thirty feet or more long, so that they would appear from a little distance like a perfect mass of fruit, which, in ordinary seasons, will nearly all ripen, and on the tops hanging over the trellis will be found an abundance of green specimens for pickling. Grown in this way they are no mean ornament to a garden, besides the pleasure of picking well ripened fruit free from dirt and always finding the vines in a position "which makes the heart of the cultivator rejoice," and best exposing the fruit to the sun and air. One trial with tomatoes grown in this way will, I think, convince most people that it pays for the extra trouble. H. C. HEATH.

Rochester, N. Y., March, 1862. We have long recommended a system of culture for the tomato similar to that practiced by Mr. HEATH. No plant will pay better for good culture or bear pruning better than the tomato. It may be grown almost as large, and be as regularly trained, as the grape vine.

Inquiries and Answers.

THE NURSERY.—Will you please inform me through the RURAL the best treatise on nursery growing, and oblige—A Subscriber, Eaton Rapids, 1862.

MR. BARRY'S Fruit Book gives more information than any work we are acquainted with.

MAKING SEEDS GROW.—What is the reason so many of our seeds do not grow? We have no trouble after we get the plants, but many kinds fall altogether, and of others perhaps only a few seeds come up. Now, if you can tell us how to sow seeds so that they will be sure to come up and make plants, you will confer a great blessing on several of your lady readers in this section.—C. F., Harrison Co., Ohio.

We cannot give the desired information in a few lines, and therefore deal with this subject at large in another column.

THE FANBY.—I wish to give you a little of my experience with the Fanby last season, and obtain some information. I procured seed, grew the plants early, in a frame, and was sorely disappointed at the result. The flowers were small and insignificant, and had a poor dried up look, but, to my surprise in the autumn the same plants produced flowers of a much better character. Indeed, I could hardly believe they were produced by the same roots. Now, if these plants only produce good flowers in the autumn, would it not be better to grow them later in the season, so as to have them right for blooming in September and October? Also, will my plants die, or survive the winter, and flower next summer?—AMATEUR.

The pansy likes a cool situation, and the flowers are never good when exposed to our hot midsummer sun. The better way, therefore, is to grow plants as early as possible, so as to get good flowers in the spring, and plant in a cool, moist place, as on the north side of a fence or building, or in a place somewhat shaded by trees. In such a place, fair blooms may be secured nearly the whole summer, but if the plants are cut down nearly to the ground in July, in the fall they will flower most profusely. Your plants will doubtless give you a fine display early in the spring.

PLANTS FOR NAME.—Will you please give me the name of the shrub a branch of which I inclose? It was given me as an evergreen, and doubtless would be in a more congenial climate, but here it turns brown, as you will see by the specimen. The tender shoots sometimes get killed, but it recovers in the spring, and makes a very neat shrub, with pretty flowers.—W. T. S., Near Detroit, Mich., 1862.

The specimen inclosed with the above is a branch of the Mahonia aquifolium, a very pretty evergreen shrub, growing some three feet in height. The leaves are glossy green in summer, often tinged with a purple shade. The flowers, which appear in June, are small, yellow, and borne in clusters, as shown in the engraving.

The foliage becomes brown in the winter, unless the plant is screened by trees, or protected by straw or snow.

We have received a collection of grasses, &c., very fine specimens, from a lady subscriber at Hooper, N. Y., which we will name in a future number.

PLANTING BULBS.—(R. O. J., Sandusky, O.)—You should have put out Tulips in the autumn, and then would have had a good show of flowers the coming spring. This is the proper time for setting out all kinds of hardy bulbs.

OYSTER SHELL LIME.—(W. N., New Jersey.)—To make lime of oyster shells, it is only necessary to burn them, and this can be done in any way most convenient or economical. It requires but little heat to accomplish the object.

Horticultural Notes.

ORCHARD PRODUCTS.—According to the census of 1850, that of 1860 not being yet published, the aggregate of the orchard products of Massachusetts was more than \$600,000, while that of New York exceeded \$2,000,000. That a larger part of this is the income of the apple orchards we may infer, when, during the last rather unfavorable year (1861), nearly 150,000 barrels of apples were purchased in Western New York, at a cost of \$450,000, including transportation, by two extensive fruit dealers in Boston, and forwarded here. The orchard crops of Maine were valued at \$350,000, and it is well known that other fruits constitute but a very small part of the large aggregate of that State. Undoubtedly all these aggregates were more than doubled by the census of 1860. The pear crop and the grape crop are quite insignificant compared with that of the apple, yet, while these have engaged so much attention, the apple has been comparatively neglected. Throughout the great West, there is a deep interest in orchard planting. With a fertile soil, a quick growth, and a brisk demand, apple culture forms a prominent and profitable source of income to the intelligent cultivators. Thousands, we should perhaps say millions, of trees are annually planted, and the older orchards yield good crops. Illinois returns in 1860 an aggregate of more than \$400,000 in orchard products, and Ohio about \$700,000, and this notwithstanding some local causes which materially abridge the product. In the exposed and almost treeless plains of the West, our severe winters often seriously damage the trees; and many young orchards have been partially destroyed; but these casualties do not diminish the zeal of the planters, and at the present moment there are numerous young orchards which, ere many years, must add greatly to the already large and valuable crop. The soil is good, the climate favorable, and with careful planting and judicious treatment, Western orchards must become a source of large income.

We wish we could record the same zeal among our New England cultivators. That there are many thriving old orchards and a goodly number of more recent formation, we are ready to admit, but neither are in any comparison to the intelligence, the skill of our people, or the favorable climate, and the demand for their products. In the bearing years of the Baldwin, our markets are well supplied with the very best fruit; but when these fail, the stock runs short, the price goes up, and but for the Western New York orchards, good apples would reach a price which few could afford to pay. Indeed, it is to this source that we now look for our annual stock with the same certainty that we look to the great West for our wheat and corn.—Hovey's Magazine.

TREES FOR PROTECTION IN THE WEST.—We have just received the first number of the Journal of the Illinois State Agricultural Society, which is to be published monthly, and contains the proceedings of the Society and such other matters as will be of interest to the farmers of that State. In this number, we find a good article on orcharding in Illinois, by J. T. LITTLE, of Dixon, which contains the following paragraph on the protection of orchard trees:—"A belt of timber around the orchard should be commenced simultaneously with the orchard. The Silver Maple is a rapid-growing, round-headed tree, perfectly hardy, and does not sucker. By planting two-year-old trees of it, a good wind-breaker can be obtained at a small price, which will add much to the beauty and value of the farm. The Gray Willow grows very rapidly, and is perfectly hardy. Where this cannot be had, the Cottonwood may be planted, and will make a good protection. It is not so clean and desirable a tree as the Silver Maple, and is objectionable on account of its suckering. But the most effectual, as well as beautiful protection, is a belt or belts of evergreens, composed of the Norway Spruce, or Arbor Vitae, with Scotch or Austrian pines intermixed among them. The time is soon coming when evergreens will be afforded at a price that will enable every farmer to protect his orchard and beautify his home with them, and in cultivating these, he will also be cultivating in his family a taste for the beautiful."

FRUIT BOXES.—A Mr. GILBERT, of New York, makes a fruit box, suitable for strawberries, raspberries, &c., which is highly spoken of by some of our fruit growers, though we have never seen it. It is described as being made of but two pieces; the corners, instead of being joined, are bent, thus combining extreme lightness with strength, durability, and cheapness. One of these boxes holding a pint weighs but two ounces, and, being square, there can be enough to contain a bushel packed in a crate of the size of fourteen by twenty-two inches, and only a foot in depth. D. CHADRYNE, of Corfu, Genesee Co., writes us that he has invented a box that he thinks will meet the wants of fruit growers, and which he thus describes:—"The boxes can be made of any size required, from one-third of a quart to one quart, owing to the market for which they are intended. To construct them on the plan which I propose, they will be very light, taking from eight to twelve of them for a pound, according to size, and of a square form, with sufficient flare from bottom to top to pack deep into each other when empty. I think I can make them at a cost of not over three cents each, providing there was sufficient demand for them to make their manufacture an object. The wood is to be steamed and cut out very thin, and openings made to admit air to the fruit."

THE FINEST NEW ROSES.—The Rev. W. F. Radclyffe, one of the best amateur cultivators of roses, recommends the following as the finest of the newer varieties:—1st. Eugene Appert, Empereur de Maroc, Comtesse Cecile Chabrillan, Dr. Bretonneau, Stephanie Beauharnois, Georges Dupont, George Peabody, Souvenir d'Elize, Celine Forester, Octavie Fontaine, Marie Thierly, Monsieur Jard, Reine de la Cite, and Francis Arago. 2d. Later novelties, viz.: Mad. Furado, Triumph d'Amiens, Washington, La Boule d'Or, M. Melaine Parmentier, Duc de Cases, Gloire de Stapheny, Senateur Valise, Mad. Louise Carique, M. Chas. Crapet, Belle de Bourg La Reine, M. Bonnaire, Victor Verdier, and L'Elegant. These are all, he says, good roses.

FRUITS RECEIVED.—From B. G. & E. BUELL, Little Prairie, Michigan, very large and highly-colored specimens of the Northern Spy apple. —From J. H. OSBURN, Henrietta, N. Y., the Martin, or McLellan apple.

New Advertisements.

ADVERTISING TERMS, in Advance.—THIRTY-FIVE CENTS A LINE, each insertion. A price and a half for extra display, or 62 cents per line of space. SPECIAL NOTICES (following reading matter, leaded), Sixty Cents a Line.

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FALLEY SEMINARY, FULTON, N. Y., offers Board, Washing, Fuel and Room furnished, except sheets and pillow cases, for \$20.00 a term of 14 weeks, which opens March 27th, 1862. For Circulars address JOHN P. GRIFFIN, Principal.

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APPLE TREES FOR SALE.—30,000 large, upright, thrifty Apple Trees, 4 years old, and in excellent condition for transplanting, for sale at a low price, as they must be removed from the premises before the first of May next. For particulars apply to THOMAS SMITH, Frances St., Rochester, or address Falmouth, Feb. 27, 1862. C. H. ROGERS, Falmouth, N. Y.

FARM FOR SALE.—About 35 acres of land lying on the canal 1 1/2 miles south of Patsy, Monroe Co. The soil is a sandy loam, and well watered. House newly new and large enough for a small family. There is a young orchard on the premises. Price, \$2500; \$600 down and the balance on long time. For further particulars address Feb. 27, 1862. [624-41] C. H. ROGERS, Falmouth, N. Y.

THE CELEBRATED TROTTER STALLION NEW JERSEY. By George M. Patchen, out of Patsy Anthony, by Imp. Prim, will stand the ensuing season at the stables of JOSEPH HALL, Esq., Rochester, N. Y., at \$50.00. For further particulars, see hand-bills hereafter. 624-41

FOR SALE, at the Old Ridge Nurseries, 50,000 Apple Seedlings, 50,000 Apple Grafts, 20,000 Pear Seedlings, 50,000 Pear Grafts, and 50,000 Cherry Grafts. Address L. J. BILLINGS, Webster, Monroe Co., N. Y.

FOR SALE, ITALIAN BEES.—The Queens or full colonies. A large number of common Bees, glass honey-boxes, books on bee-culture, &c. Circular with prices sent on application. Address M. QUINBY, 614 Broadway, N. Y.

FARMERS, NOTICE THIS!—Case-Dropper, patented March 27th, 1860. I am a farmer myself, and can recommend, and will warrant, these Droppers to give satisfaction. They can be set to drop any number of grains desired. They will also drop other seeds. They are light and durable, weighing only one pound and a quarter. They are just the thing in a windy day. Every farmer should have one—will pay for themselves in one season, in saving seed and time. I will send one Dropper, free of cost, to any person that will send me two dollars. Please order soon, that I may have time to supply the demand. Address the inventor, THOS. B. McCONAUGHY, Newark, Delaware.

THREE SEEDS.—SCHROEDER & CO.'S Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Tree and Shrub Seeds and Plants, is now ready for distribution. Prices as follows: Norway Spruce, per lb. \$0.50 per packet..... 5 Austrian Pine do 1.00 do 10 Scotch Pine do 1.00 do 10 Swiss stone Pine do 1.00 do 10 Italian stone Pine do 2.00 do 10 Red Cedar do 1.00 do 10 White do do 2.00 do 20 Dwarf do do 2.00 do 10 Silver Fir do 1.00 do 10 English Juniper do 1.00 do 10 Red Cedar do 1.00 do 10 On receipt of \$1.00 will send, post-paid, one pair of the United States 15 hardy varieties of Ornamental Tree and Shrub Seeds. SCHROEDER & CO., 79 State St., Rochester, N. Y.

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Ladies' Department.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.] JOYS OF HOME. A Winter Evening.

BY F. R. BENTLEY.

Now, while the wintry landscape drear Defers the wish to roam, Let's take a glass of home-made cheer And sing the joys of home.

Cheshire, N. Y., 1862.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.] LETTERS FROM HILDALE FARM.

LETTER THE FOURTH.

Jan. 10th.—My good JENNIE, 'tis all desolation here at Hildaale. Desolation without and despair within.

But this grief is not all—troubles never come single handed. There are living graves, over which the green grass never grows.

He is a writer of considerable note—the author of a widely circulated work on Agriculture—a paid contributor to one or two leading newspapers.

PLEASURE IS A ROSE, near which there ever grows the thorn of evil. It is wisdom's work so carefully to cull the rose as to avoid the thorn.

Ludlowville, Tomp. Co., N. Y., 1862. MINNIE.

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

THERE is one argument in favor of the superiority of the masculine to the feminine race, which I wonder the advocates of that theory never thought of.

Now, in this respect, we women will allow that men are greatly in advance of us. We wonder that the gallant "X," who discoursed so eloquently in one of the RURALS not long ago, about the uselessness of modern young ladies, did not say, as a closing argument, that young ladies were not enterprising enough to trade aprons and collars whenever they meet.

Seriously, if women were given to trading, would not men, with their usual acuteness in spying our faults and descending on them, see in it only another evidence of our weakness and fickleness.

FEMALE PATRIOTISM.

THE fame of Spartan mothers, says the Louisville Journal, is to be rivalled by the firmness, devotion, and loyalty of the mothers of America.

"COL. JOHN M. SHACKLEFORD:—I send my son to you, my eldest child, with the full confidence that you will care for, guide, and protect him as you would your own son.

"My boy has been as tenderly cared for, and his morals as strictly guarded, as a girl's. He is young, unsophisticated, and innocent as the most refined female.

A MOTHER'S KISS.

A DAY or two since, a ragged and dirty looking boy, fourteen years of age, pleaded guilty, in the Superior Criminal Court, to having fired a building.

ANSWER THEM.—Bide patiently the endless questionings of your children. Do not roughly crush the rising spirit of free inquiry with an impatient word or frown.

PATCH-WORK QUILTS.—There is a charm about patch-work quilts, says Jennie June, for which every woman has a weakness.

Choice Miscellany.

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

BY KATR WOODLAND.

My little daughter, three years old, Sat combing her father's hair, Her own, in curls of flaxen hue,

They were both on the floor—the hale, strong man, And the little child of three;

"Now let me comb your whiskers, pa," At length the maiden said.

"Well, pull it out," he answered her, And lifted up his chin;

He laughed, and called her "little puss," "And yet her words were true."

"It seems as though 'twere yesterday I was a child at play, Much like my little daughter here,

Carlton, N. Y., 1862.

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

THE history of Christianity affords but few more illustrious instances of the power of religion to exalt the degraded, than is found in the life of the Bedford Tinker.

Just as BUNYAN was verging upon manhood, the war broke out between CHARLES the Second and his Parliament. It was not to be expected that a youth of his temperament would be a careless spectator of such a contest.

Doubtless, the contests through which he passed had much to do in preparing him for the part that he was to perform in after life.

He united with the Baptist Society at Bedford in 1655, and soon became a preacher of the Gospel. He was very popular among the members of his own denomination.

Perhaps no work in the English language is more extensively read than the "Pilgrim's Progress." It is found alike in the homes of the wealthy and the cottages of the poor.

"Manner and matter, too, were all my own; Nor was it unto any mortal known Till I had done it; nor did any then By books, by wits, by tongues, or hand, or pen, Add five words to it, or write half a line Thereof; the whole and every whit is mine."

Notwithstanding the explicitness of this language, it is not long since a writer in a Quarterly

attempted to prove that BUNYAN was greatly indebted to SPENCER'S "Faery Queen." But the writer utterly failed to establish his position.

DOMESTIC SKETCH.

ONE market day we saw a wagon loaded with wheat coming into town—nothing strange in that, certainly.

Well, we followed the pair, in and through, until the wheat was sold, the money paid, and then for the trade.

MARRIAGE.

LOVE is the master-passion of life, but its sweets must be gathered with a gentle hand.

"Like perfect music unto noble deeds;"

but the harmony, to be preserved, must touch the heart and purify the senses. Therefore, the sacred institution of marriage has been ordained to strengthen and dignify the union.

To quote the words of one of the most eloquent of our prose writers, Jeremy Taylor, "Marriage, like the useful bee, builds a house, and gathers sweetness from every flower, and sends out colonies, and feeds the world, and obeys kings, and keeps order, and exercises many virtues, and promotes the interest of mankind, and is that state of good things to which God hath designed the present constitution of the world."

THE POWER OF A CHARMING MANNER.—We raise in our own opinion in such a presence; we feel ourselves appreciated, our powers are quickened, we are at ease, and show ourselves at our best.

ALL places of resort, wherever they are, and whatever their name may be, are to be measured and judged by this rule:—"Evil communications corrupt good manners."

Most men work for the present, a few for the future. The wise work for both—for the future in the present, and for the present in the future.

Sabbath Musings.

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

THERE is a life of purpose high, Which flashes like the sunlight; It scorns the sordid dreams of earth; It gives the holiest instincts birth;

LOOKING UNTO JESUS.

AN old writer has very justly and forcibly remarked, "As it will raise our endeavor high to look on the highest pattern, so it will lay our thoughts low concerning ourselves."

"Looking unto Jesus" should be indeed the Christian's motto. In Him he sees the only authoritative standard of devotion; in His life the only full practical interpretation of the rule of duty.

The true Christian aim is not to outshine others, to eclipse their brightness, but to shine in the light of Jesus. Shall the sand grains vie with one another, when all their brightness is but the reflection of the sun?

FEEDING FROM AN EMPTY SPOON.—A young minister, somewhat self-conceited, was curious to know what was thought of the first sermon he preached.

It would, perhaps, surprise some of us to find how many empty spoons are put to the lips of our Sunday-school children, even where the provision is abundant enough to satisfy the largest desire.

THE DYING STARS.—Like these drooping, dying stars, our loved ones go away from our sight. The stars of our hopes, our ambitions, our prayers, whose light shines ever before us, leading on and up, they suddenly fade from the firmament of our hearts, and their place is empty and dark.

CHRIST BEFORE PILATE.—The whole process more resembled the examination of a sacrifice, that it might be evinced to be without blemish, than the trial of a criminal for condemnation; and it is unprecedented in the annals of mankind for a person condemned to so dreadful a death, to have been at the very time pronounced innocent and righteous.

SUNDAY JOY AND REST.—We need to have a clear distinction drawn between cheerfulness, joy, the very gaiety of love and hope in religious things, and that solemnity that shuts down over worship like night and darkness.

A PERSON regenerate is to be embroidered with all the graces; he is to have the silver spangles of holiness, the angels' glory shining in him; he should have upon him the reflex of Christ's beauty. The new creature must be a new paradise set full of the heavenly plants.

Rural New-Yorker.

NEWS DEPARTMENT.



"Its white was made of Northern snows
Where first the English Pilgrims trod
That ice-girt Rock, from whence arose
Their grateful hearts to God.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., MARCH 1, 1862.

THE WAR'S PROGRESS.

FACTS, SCENES, INCIDENTS, ETC.

The Deserted Rebel Forts at Bowling Green.

The streets of Bowling Green run southwest from the river for about a mile, and at right angles for about three-fourths of a mile, being intercepted on the southeast by a range of prominent hills, familiarly known by the citizens as College Hills.

On the northeastern boundary of the city is another prominent peak, known as "Mount Airy," the residence of Warner L. Underwood, Esq., a member of the Kentucky Legislature. This point is east of the river. To the north of the town, and beyond Barren river, is "Baker's Hill," a knob encircled by the horse-shoe bend in the river, and around which the turnpike on the one side and railroad on the other, wind, and thence run north, intersecting three miles from the city and two miles from "Baker's Hill."

Upon the "College" range of hills, to the southeast of the city, are two lunette or crescent-shaped embankments, and a bastion fort, the latter for ten guns. The building mentioned before has been made the basis of this work. The earth has been thrown up against the heavy stone walls of the old foundation, and strongly sodded. The bastions have been made as follows, and in some instances are what are called double bastions:—Strong and heavy woodwork has been laid, with logs at right angles, and bound by shrub and brushwood, and filled with earth and stones. The whole bastion is then covered with earth and sodded. The gorge is wide and deep—the hill steep and rugged, and the position naturally very strong. The guns mainly looked to the east and southeast. Two heavy ones are intended to bear upon the southwestern approaches.

The lunette works on two of the other hills of this range mounted nine guns, mostly 9 and 12-pounders. On Mount Airy a lunette fort was embrasured for six guns, bearing north, "Baker's Hill," on the north, five guns in a lunette fort; and "Price's Hill," northeast of the city, with a crescent-shaped embankment of three guns, were also erected to command the northern approach by rail or turnpike; "Welch Hill" was crowned by a lunette breastwork, from which three guns frowned upon a broad valley to the northwest. On "Judge Underwood's Hill," west of the city, a bastion fort for thirteen guns formed the only defenses of the west and southwest. All these works were incomplete, and the guns mounted upon them of small caliber.

It was while holding this position, with about 10,000 men, that on the night of the 7th ult., Gen. Hardee received the information of the attack on Fort Henry. He held the position until Sunday, when the fall of the fort was confirmed, and the dismantling of forts at Bowling Green was begun. The artillery at Bowling Green was sent south by rail, whether to Clarksville or Nashville, the person who gave the foregoing information, and who took occasion to escape in the confusion, cannot state. He states positively that the cannon were removed, and the troops retreated. It was upon the statement of this gentleman, and another who escaped on Friday, the 7th, that Gen. Buell determined to advance.

Points of Interest.

NASHVILLE, threatened by 100,000 loyal troops, is now the center to which the eyes of the North are turned, and we doubt not our readers will be pleased to peruse the following description which we extract from Lippincott's Gazette, published in 1855: Nashville, a handsome and flourishing city, Capital of the State of Tennessee, and of Davidson Co., is situated on the left bank of the Cumberland River, 200 miles from its mouth, 230 miles E. N. E. of Memphis, 206 miles S. W. of Lexington, in Kentucky, and 684 miles from Washington. Latitude 36° 9' North, longitude 86° 49' West; elevation above the sea, 460 feet. It is the most wealthy and populous city of Tennessee, and is distinguished for its enterprising spirit, literary taste, and polished society. Many of the private residences are built on a scale of palatial magnitude and splendor, and the public buildings exhibit a corresponding character. The new Capitol, which stands on a commanding eminence, 175 feet above the river, is one of the most noble, magnificent, and costly structures in America. The material is of a fine limestone, which was quarried on the spot, and nearly resembles marble. The dimensions are 240 feet by 135, and the estimated cost \$1,000,000. It is built,

as it is stated, entirely of stone and iron, without any wood about it, except the plank on which the copper roofing is fastened; the floor and inner walls are of dressed stone. The foundation of the Capitol was laid in 1845. A lunatic asylum, on a large scale, has recently been erected in the vicinity. The State Penitentiary at this place is 310 feet by 50, containing 200 cells. The University of Nashville was founded in 1806. The Medical College connected with the University was opened in 1861; it occupies a capacious building, and has about 100 students. There are also a number of female seminaries, the largest of which is attended by above 300 pupils. About 12 newspapers are published here, 5 or 6 of which are dailies. Nashville contains 3 banks, with a total capital of \$5,181,500, and about 14 churches. The mineral cabinet of the late Dr. Troost contains the largest private collection in the United States. The Cumberland river is crossed by a magnificent wire suspension bridge, recently built at a cost of \$100,000. The city is lighted with gas, and supplied with water raised from the Cumberland river. Nashville has expended large sums in the construction of macadamized turnpikes, 8 of which radiate in different directions. The river is navigable during high water by large steamboats from its mouth to this point, and a number of splendid packets are owned here. The shipping of the port, June 30, 1852, amounted to an aggregate of 4,083 tons, enrolled and licensed, all of which were employed in steam navigation. During the year, 5 steamboats, with an aggregate burthen of 4794 tons were admeasured. This city is the center of an active trade, and the seat of manufactures of various kinds. Nashville is the terminus of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, 150 miles long, which was finished in 1852, at an expense of about \$3,000,000. The road is built in a very substantial manner, and completes the connection with Charleston and Savannah. The construction of this railroad has greatly enhanced the value of property, and has given a vigorous impulse to the prosperity and improvement of the place. Other railroads have been commenced, which will connect this city with Louisville, Memphis, New Orleans, &c. Population in 1845, 12,000; in 1853, about 20,000.

FLORENCE.—This town, which the Federal gun boats visited in their dashing exploit up the Tennessee, after the capture of Fort Henry, is at the head of navigation, three hundred miles from Paducah, and contains about 2,000 inhabitants. It is the capital of Lauderdale county, Alabama, and is situated at the foot of Muscle Shoals, nearly opposite Tuscumbia, and 250 miles northwest of Montgomery, the whilom capital of the Confederacy. It is about 300 miles from the mouth of the river. The river here is about half a mile wide, and is crossed by a fine bridge. The route of the Memphis and Charleston railroad is within a short distance of this place. It has several public buildings, including three large brick churches.

The most important fact in connection with the town, is, however, that it is the principal shipping point for the produce of the country and the adjacent parts of Tennessee. The amount of cotton raised in the vicinity is very large. Lauderdale county produces from 10,000 to 12,000 bales of ginned cotton of 400 pounds. Franklin county, on the other side of the river, produces over 15,000 bales. Cotton is also produced to some extent in Tennessee, on the line of the river. There are two large cotton factories on Cypress creek, three miles from the place, having a capital of \$45,000 each. Shoal creek, nine miles distant, also gives motion to a cotton factory which cost \$60,000.

Battles Lost and Won.

A CORRESPONDENT of the N. Y. Times has collated an approximately accurate list of the warlike encounters of last year, and this year so far. He says:

While making our "preparations," we have fought the following battles of the rebellion, giving to the rebels the battles of Wilson's Creek, Belmont, and Sumter:

- UNION VICTORIES, 1861.
June 2—Phillips.
June 17—Boonville.
July 6—Brier Forks (Sigel's victory).
July 11—Defeat of Pegram by McClellan.
July 18—Carrick's Ford (death of Garnet, rebel.)
Aug. 28—Batters Forts.
Sept. 10—Bout of Floyd, Ganley Bridge.
Oct. 6—Second defeat of rebels at Batters.
Oct. 8—Santa Rosa Island.
Oct. 11—Repulse of Southwest Pass.
Oct. 23—Charge of Fremont's Guard.
Oct. 27—Romney (Kelly wounded).
Nov. 7—Port Royal.
Dec. 18—Camp Alleghany, Virginia.
Dec. 18—1,300 rebels captured by Pope in Missouri.
Dec. 18—Dranesville.

- 1862.
Second rebel repulse at Santa Rosa.
Humphrey Marshall's rout.
Capture of rebel batteries in South Carolina.
Mill Spring (Zollicoffer killed.)
Fort Henry.
Roanoke Island.
Fort Donelson.

In addition to the foregoing, we must add the capture of Edenton, Elizabeth City, and Winton, in North Carolina; the occupation of Clarksville and Nashville, Tenn.; the defeat of the rebel army under Price, and their expulsion from Missouri.

- REBEL VICTORIES, 1861.
April 12—Sumter.
June 10—Big Bethel.
July 21—Bull Run.
Sept. 20—Lexington.
Oct. 25—Massacre of Ball's Bluff.
Nov. 7—Belmont.
Wilson's Creek.
1862, NONE.

RECAPITULATION.—Union victories, 22; Rebel victories, 7; ratio, 3 to 1.

There is one section of the above list, and the most remarkable one, too, the accuracy of which the most mendacious rebel will not dispute—the list of battles for the present year. That, at all events, is undoubtedly correct and complete. Not a single success have the rebels achieved in 1862, while on our side are at least four victories worthy of the name. These, too, are but the beginning of their defeats. We have but begun to fight. Even our preparations for fighting are not yet completed, but are going on with energy, and on a scale which will not be satisfied with small triumphs, nor indeed with anything less than the utter and final extinction of this rebellion. The rebellion, on the other hand, is already beginning to stagger. The vitality and the passion of it are dying out. Pierced through as it now is with many arrows, we shall soon see the whites of its eyes, and its ghost will pass down among the other evil spirits in limbo.

In almost every skirmish we have been successful, as might be readily inferred when we consider that almost all of the above battles were fought successfully by our troops with the rebels acting on the defensive, behind works of various kinds, while in skirmishes we meet them in "fair fight." We are too prone to look for nothing but victories, and consequently, unlike the rebels, we magnify every defeat.

BRIG-GEN. BURNSIDE AND HIS FIELD OF OPERATIONS.



AMBROSE E. BURNSIDE.

We take pleasure in laying before our readers the portrait of Brigadier-General AMBROSE EVERETT BURNSIDE, U. S. Army, one of our most gallant officers, and refer our readers to the RURAL of Jan. 18th, present volume, for an extended biographical sketch. In connection with his portrait, however, we give some incidents of his career, which exhibit the characteristics of the man. Some six or seven years since, he invented a rifle of peculiar merit, and, resigning his rank in the army, (which was that of Lieutenant,) devoted his whole time to his invention. At that period it was intended to arm the United States army with some improved weapon, and several inventors competed for the prize. Among others, BURNSIDE'S rifle was the subject of many tests, and, in the opinion of good judges, was the best of the many pieces offered to the War Department. The inventor had reason to believe that it would be the one chosen; he had, it is said, assurances to that effect from JOHN B. FLOYD, then

to bring his weapon to perfection. He was a ruined man. He returned to New York without occupation, without money, and with heavy debts pressing for payment.

Harper's Weekly states it to be a fact that, a few days after the discovery of FLOYD'S treachery, he walked up to a hostile battery, entered a Jew clothing-store, and sold his uniform and sword for something like thirty dollars; handing this, and some twenty dollars more, to his wife, he kept half as much for himself, and went to the West in search of employment. There he had the good luck to meet with the President of the Illinois Central, who, at once struck with the remarkable merit of the man, offered him a post in that Company's service, by the side of the present General McCLELLAN. He served the Illinois Central until the outbreak of the war; and we hope that we may be forgiven for adding that, until recently—when a fortunate legacy



BURNSIDE'S FIELD OF OPERATIONS.

Secretary of War; and was thus induced to incur heavy outlays to bring his weapon to perfection. But the fact was that FLOYD had already made a secret bargain with another inventor, to decide in favor of his rifle, on the condition that he, FLOYD, was to participate in the profits of the invention. This appalling discovery was made by Major BURNSIDE after he had incurred very heavy expenses

raised General BURNSIDE to a position of affluence—by the practice of the most rigid economy, he was able to pay over two-thirds of his salary monthly to the creditors to whom he had become indebted in consequence of the treachery of JOHN B. FLOYD.

General BURNSIDE is a remarkably handsome man, and very winning in his manners. He is popular with every one, and has many friends at the

South. In January, 1861, when only a few persons here foresaw the issue of war, he warned the leading men of New Orleans, on the occasion of a visit there, of the consequences of their mad folly. "You are going to involve us in a war," he said, "and you will be beaten. One Northern man can whip two of your people." They didn't like it, but BURNSIDE'S eye warned them that he was a man with whom it would not be pleasant to quarrel.

We cannot conclude this little sketch without adding that, as in all well-ordered stories, the rogue FLOYD made nothing by his rascality. JEFF DAVIS, then chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, found him out, and was so disgusted that he introduced—solely for the purpose of heading off FLOYD—a bill to prohibit the purchase of patented arms for the United States army. He explained the motive of the bill privately to the leaders of both Houses, and it became a law, greatly to FLOYD'S discomfiture, as may be imagined. We do not envy Brigadier-General FLOYD if, in the course of the war, he should happen to meet his old acquaintance, the gallant Brigadier-General BURNSIDE.

Our map shows that portion of the Atlantic to which BURNSIDE is now directing public attention. Fortress Monroe, at the North, is in the command of General JOHN E. WOOL. Norfolk is held by the rebel HUGER. Sewall's Point runs up north of Norfolk, toward Fortress Monroe, and defends the entrance to that city. The great Sounds, Pamlico and Albemarle, are finely delineated, and Roanoke Island, an account of the capture of which was given in last week's RURAL, occupies an important strategic position between them.

Gen. BURNSIDE possesses so much of the "go-ahead" in his composition, and having been largely re-enforced, we may look for stirring times in his command. Our readers will be enabled to fully trace his movements, by using the map for reference.

The Republic not a Failure.

From a fine article in the Presbyterian Quarterly Review for January we extract the following as a response to the hasty and ungenerous outcry of English aristocrats that the Republic has failed:

"The twenty millions of the North this day are as obedient to the law as any twenty millions on earth, and need far less force to keep them in order than the inhabitants of the British Isles. What means this trash then about the republican bubble being burst because certain slaveholders have rebelled against a Government that was only too mild and gentle towards them? We should like to hear the laugh of derision that would break from Massachusetts to California, over the mountains of Pennsylvania and the prairies of Illinois, at the suggestion that, republicanism being a failure, we had better set up some English cockney as our King! The bubble burst, indeed! Does not New York stand shoulder to shoulder with Indiana? Is not Vermont side by side with Oregon? Is not Michigan encamped close by Pennsylvania? Does not Northern State hold back its contingent? Do they not volunteer from mountain and plain, valley and stream, city and village? What solitary State is backward? Name it! Such an army of volunteers never sprang on foot in eight months since the world began. And if Congress wants an army as large as that of Xerxes, they have only to say the word, The bubble burst! Why, twenty millions of people are moved by a single impulse.

Not one of them can raise his eyes to our American flag without having them dimmed with moisture, and not a sister whose countenance does not beam with joy that her brother is going into the very midst of danger. There is no thought or feeling upon us but an infinite spontaneity of patriotism. In Philadelphia every soldier that passes through the city—and they come by tens of thousands—is fed without money and without price, not by the Government, but by the free hands and hearts of loving countrymen. And all over the North the busy hands of women are sewing and knitting for our soldiers, garments by the thousand being given without thought of reward. The very atmosphere is radiant with patriotism; the children fill the air with strains of our national songs; every banner is a sacrament; heavy rifled cannon are looked upon as something endeared to us; and our great naval castles are our pride and joy. Never was every form of authority more implicitly obeyed. From our young General-in-Chief to the humblest corporal, from the President to the policeman pacing the streets, the power of law, military and civil, is recognized, and the only strife is as to who can most thoroughly yield himself up a sacrifice for his country. We tell the London Times, we inform Bulwer Lytton, that Greece, at the battle of Marathon, or when Leonidas fell at the Pass of Thermopylae, was not so united, so disinterested, or so obedient to the laws as America is now.

Items and Incidents.

SLIDELL and Mason went up like a rocket and came down like a stick. They dazzled the general eye for a brief moment, threw out a shower of sickly coruscations, whirred and whizzed and frisked consequentially—burnt themselves out, and dropped down into nether darkness. Nobody noticed their arrival in England. John Bull, having struck off their fetters, turned them contemptuously adrift, like a pair of scurvy vagabonds.

In Zollicoffer's entrenchments, among Maj.-Gen. George B. Crittenden's private baggage, Lieut.-Col. Kise, of the 10th Indiana, found a breastplate which the General either wore on the battle field and found too weighty to carry further, or else intended to put on and in the frenzy of his fear forgot to make use of it. It is made of common sheet iron, of four thicknesses, riveted together, is about eighteen inches in length and fourteen inches broad. Lieut.-Col. Kise has deposited it in the State Library at Indianapolis.

OLD CLASSMATES AT THE FORT DONELSON FIGHT.—The Chicago Tribune recognizes among the rebel prisoners Orderly-Sergeant Stanley M. Warner, of the Texas 7th. This gentleman, says the Tribune, is a graduate of Norwich University, and a classmate of Lieut.-Col. Ransom, of the Illinois 11th. By one of those remarkable circumstances which mark eventful life, the Texas 7th and the Illinois 11th were pitted against each other outside of the entrenchments at Fort Donelson. These two regiments almost annihilated each other, suffering far greater loss than any other on either side. Those old classmates and friends were opposed to each other in deadly strife. One of them received an ugly, but not dangerous wound in the shoulder, and the other was taken prisoner. Such is life. For eight years past Mr. Warner has edited the Tyler (Texas) Reporter.

THE GUNBOAT TUSCARORA.—The following are the dimensions of the U. S. vessel Tuscarora, which has been keeping watch and ward, over the pirate

Nashville at Southampton. The hull is in length on gun-deck 200 feet 9 inches; extreme beam 33 feet; depth of hold 15 feet 10 inches; displacement 1475 tons at load draft of 13 feet; tonnage 997. She is barque rigged, spreads 9800 square feet of canvas, is armed with 11-inch pivot guns, rifled, and a battery of 32-pounders. Her machinery is of 1000 horse power, consisting of two horizontal direct acting engines; cylinders 50 inches diameter, 30 inches stroke; four bladed propeller, 12 feet 9 inches diameter, of brass. Three boilers, having in all 50 feet of frontage, 14 furnaces, and eight thousand square feet of surface. The engines have surface condensers, returning fresh water to the boilers. The whole machinery is of the most substantial character, and highly finished.

BATTLES IN JANUARY.—In the various battles and skirmishes that took place during the month of January this year between the Union and rebel forces, the following is the aggregate of the killed, wounded and missing:

Table with 2 columns: Union, Rebel. Rows: Killed, Wounded, Missing, Total.

ARMY LETTERS.—Owing to the careless manner in which thousands of letters are addressed to soldiers in the army, many of them never reach their anxious expectants, and we therefore publish the following suggestions which, if properly followed, cannot fail of being effective:

- 1st. Address every soldier by his rank. The "Esq.s" and "Mrs." are left at home.
2d. If the soldier addressed be a member of a company, direct to the care of the Captain, by name, designating the company by its letter.
3d. Put on the number of the regiment in plain figures.
4th. It is better to give the State written in full.
5th. Never put on the name of a camp. This is the most fruitful cause of the miscarriage of army letters.

A NEAT LETTER.—A letter has been addressed to Commodore Foote by John A. McClelland, Brigadier-General commanding First Division near Fort Henry. It was written the day after the capture of the fort, and reads as follows:

"DEAR SIR: As an acknowledgment of the consummate skill with which you brought your gunboats into action yesterday, and of the address and bravery displayed by yourself and your command, I have taken the liberty of giving the late Fort Henry the new and more appropriate name of 'Fort Foote.' Please pardon the liberty I have taken without first securing your concurrence, as I am hardly disposed to do, considering the liberty which you took in capturing the fort yesterday without my co-operation."

COM. FOOTE preached in the Presbyterian Church on Sunday week, at Cairo, Illinois, in the absence of the Pastor, from the text "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me." The audience were much affected in hearing the same voice which so lately rang out in command, at the capture of Fort Henry, expounding the word of God.

GUNS CAPTURED.—The victorious Union forces have captured the following cannon in the recent brilliant achievements: At Mill Spring, 15; at Roanoke, 54, including two 100-pounders, and a number of rifled 92's; at Fort Henry, 27, including several large rifled; at Fort Donelson, 65, many largest and best,—making in all 161 cannon. The number of small arms captured is immense—12,000 at Fort Donelson alone. We are rapidly recovering the property stolen by Floyd, and there is a fair prospect of catching the thief ere long, notwithstanding his cowardly running, and slippery qualities generally.

An Amnesty to Prisoners of State.

The following Executive Order in relation to State Prisoners was issued from the War Department on the 14th ult.:

No. 1.—The breaking out of a formidable insurrection, based on a conflict of political ideas, being an event without precedent in the United States, was necessarily attended with great confusion and perplexity to the public mind. Disloyalty, before unsuspected, suddenly became bold, and treason astonished the world by bringing at once into the field forces superior in numbers to the standing army of the United States. Every department of the Government was paralyzed by treason. Defection appeared in the Senate, in the House of Representatives, in the Cabinet, in the Federal Courts; Ministers and Consuls from foreign countries entered the insurrectionary councils; it appeared in the land and naval forces; commanding and other officers in the army and in the navy betrayed the councils or deserted their posts for commands in the insurgent forces; treason was flagrant in the revenue and the Post Office, as well as in the territorial governments and in the Indian reserves.

Not only governors, judges, legislators and municipal officers in the States, but even States rushed one after another, with apparent unanimity, into rebellion. The Capital was besieged and its connection with all the States cut off. Even in the portions of the country which were most loyal, political combinations and secret societies were formed furthering the cause of disunion, while from motives of disloyalty or curiosity, or from excited passions or reverted sympathies, individuals were found furnishing men, money, materials of war and supplies to the insurgent military and naval forces.

Armies, ships, fortifications, navy yards, arsenals, military posts and garrisons, wherever necessary, were betrayed or abandoned to the insurgents. Congress had not anticipated and so had not provided for the emergency; the municipal authorities were powerless and inactive. The judicial machinery seemed as if it had been designed not to sustain the Government, but to embarrass and betray it.

Foreign intervention, openly invited and industriously instigated by the abettors of the insurrection, became imminent, and has only been prevented by the practice of strict and impartial justice with the most perfect moderation in our intercourse with other nations. The public mind was alarmed and apprehensive, though fortunately not distracted or disheartened. It seemed to be doubtful whether the Federal Government, which one year before had been thought a model worthy of universal acceptance, had indeed the ability to defend and maintain itself.

upon conditions compatible, as was thought, with the public safety. In the meantime a favorable change of public opinion has occurred. The line between loyalty and disloyalty is plainly defined. The whole structure of the Government is firm and stable. Apprehension of public danger, and facilities for treasonable practices, have diminished with the passions which prompted heedless persons to adopt them. The insurrection is believed to have culminated, and to be declining.

The President, in view of these facts, and anxious to favor a return to the normal course of the Administration, so far as a regard for the public welfare will allow, directs that all political prisoners now held in military custody, be released on the subscribing to a parole, enjoining them to render no aid or comfort to the enemies in hostility to the United States.

The Secretary of War will, however, in his discretion, except from the effect of this order all persons detained as spies in the service of the insurgents, or others whose release at the present moment may be deemed incompatible with the public safety.

To all persons who are released, and shall keep their parole, the President grants an amnesty for past offences of treason or disloyalty which they may have committed. Extraordinary arrests will hereafter be made under the direction of the military authorities alone. By order of the President.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Official Report of the Battle of Somerset.

The official report of this action is now made public, and we extract therefrom so much as is of public interest:

A number of flags were taken on the field of battle and in the intrenchments. The enemy's loss, as far as known, is as follows: Brigadier-General Zollicoffer, Lieutenant Ballie Peyton, and one hundred and ninety officers and non-commissioned officers and privates killed.

Lieut.-Col. W. B. Carter, 20th Tennessee; Lieut. J. W. Allen, 15th Mississippi; Lieut. Allen; Morse, 15th Alabama; five officers of the medical staff, and eighty-one non-commissioned officers and privates taken prisoners.

Lieut. J. E. Patterson, 20th Tennessee, and A. J. Knapp, 15th Mississippi, and sixty-six non-commissioned officers and privates wounded; making one hundred and ninety-two killed, eighty-nine prisoners not wounded, and sixty-eight wounded. A total of killed, wounded, and prisoners, of three hundred and forty-nine.

Our loss is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Commissioned Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates. Rows: Killed, Wounded.

One commissioned officer and thirty-eight men were killed, and fourteen officers, including Lieut. Bart. 18th United States Infantry, A. D. C., and one hundred and ninety-four non-commissioned officers and privates wounded.

A complete list of our killed and wounded, and of the prisoners, is herewith attached. GEORGE H. THOMAS, Brigadier-General U. S. A. Commanding.

Expedition up the Tennessee—Official Report.

SHORTLY after the surrender of Fort Henry, Flag-Officer FOOTE ordered an expedition up the Tennessee river for purposes of observation. This was completely performed by the officer in command, Lieutenant S. L. PHELPS, and his report possesses such cheering intelligence that we give it entire:

U. S. GEN. A. H. FOOTE, U. S. N., Commanding Naval Forces Western Division. TENNESSEE RIVER, Feb. 10th, 1862.

SIR.—Soon after the surrender of Fort Henry, on the 6th inst., I proceeded, in obedience to your order, up the Tennessee river, with the Taylor, Lieutenant Commanding Gwin; Lexington, Lieutenant Commanding Shirk, and this vessel, forming a division of the flotilla, and arrived after dark at the railroad crossing, twenty-five miles above the fort, having on the way destroyed a small amount of camp equipment, abandoned by the fleeing rebels. The draw of the bridge was found closed, and the machinery for turning it disabled. About a mile and a half above were several rebel transport steamers escaping up stream. A party was landed, and in an hour I had the satisfaction to see the draw open. The Taylor being the slowest of the gunboats, Lieutenant Commanding Gwin landed a force to destroy a portion of the railroad track, and to secure such military stores as might be found, while I directed Lieutenant Commanding Shirk to follow me with all speed in chase of the fleeing boats. In five hours this boat succeeded in forcing the rebels to abandon and burn those of their boats loaded with military stores. The first one fired (Samuel Orr), had on board a quantity of submarine mines, which very soon exploded; the second one was freighted with powder, cannon shot, grape, balls, &c. Fearing an explosion from the fired boats,—there were two together,—I had stopped at a distance of a thousand yards, but even there our sky lights were broken by the concussion, the light upper deck was raised bodily, doors were forced open, and looks and fastenings everywhere broken. The whole river, for half a mile round about, was completely beaten up by the falling fragments, and the shower of shot, grape, balls, &c. The house of a reported Union man was blown to pieces, and it is suspected that there was design in landing the boats in front of the doomed one. The Lexington having fallen behind, and being without a pilot on board, I concluded to wait for both of the boats to come up. Joined by them, we proceeded up the river. Lieutenant Commanding Gwin had destroyed some of the trestle work at the end of the bridge, burning with it a lot of camp equipment. J. N. Brown, formerly a lieutenant in the navy, and signing himself C. S. N., had fled with such precipitation as to leave his papers behind. These Lieutenant Commanding Gwin brought away, and I sent them to you, as they give an official history of the rebel floating preparations on the Mississippi, Cumberland and Tennessee. Lieutenant Brown had charge of the construction of gunboats.

At night on the 7th, we arrived at a landing in Hardin county, Tennessee, known as Cerro Gordo, where we found the steamer Eastport, being converted to a gunboat. Armed boat crews were immediately sent on board, and search made for means of destruction that might have been devised. She had been scuttled, and the section pipe broken. These leaks were soon stopped. A number of rifle shots were fired at our vessel, but a couple of shells dispersed the rebels. On examination, I found that there were large quantities of timber and lumber prepared for fitting up the Eastport; that the vessel itself—some two hundred and eighty feet long—was in excellent condition, and already half finished; considerable of the plating designed for her was lying on the bank, and everything at hand to complete her. I therefore directed Lieutenant Commanding Gwin to remain with the Taylor to guard the prize, and to load the lumber, &c., while the Lexington and Conestoga should proceed still higher up.

Soon after daylight on the 8th, we passed Eastport, Miss., and at Chickasaw, further up, near the State line, seized two steamers, the Sallie Wood and Muscle—the former laid up and the latter freighted with iron destined for Richmond, and for rebel use. We then proceeded up the river, entering the State of Alabama, and ascending to Florence at the foot of the Muscle shoals. On coming in sight of the town, three steamers were discovered, which were immediately set on fire by the rebels. Some shots were fired from the opposite side of the river below.

A force was landed, and considerable quantities of supplies, marked Fort Henry, were secured from the burning wrecks. Some had been landed and stored. These I seized, and such as we could bring away on board our vessels, and destroying the remainder. No flats or other craft could be found. I found also more of the iron and plating intended for the Eastport.

A deputation of citizens of Florence waited upon me, first desiring that they might be made able to quiet the fears of their wives and daughters with assurances from me that they would not be molested; and secondly, praying that I would not destroy their railroad bridge. As for the first, I told them we were neither ruffians nor savages, and that we were there to protect from violence and to enforce the law; and, with reference to the second, that if the bridge were away, we could ascend no higher, and that it could possess no military importance, so far as I saw, as it simply connected Florence itself with the rail road on the south bank of the river.

We had seized three of their steamers, one half finished gunboat, and had forced the rebels to burn six others loaded with supplies, and their loss, with that of the freight, is a heavy blow to the enemy. Two boats are still known to be on the Tennessee, and are doubtless hidden in some of the creeks, where we shall be able to find them when there is time for the search. We returned on the night of the 8th, to where the Eastport lay. The crew of the Taylor had already got on board the prize an immense amount of lumber, &c. The crews of the three boats set to work to finish the undertaking, so far as they were able, and probably 250,000 feet of the best quality of shingles, building lumber, all the iron, machinery, spikes, siding, nails, &c., belonging to the rebel gunboat, and I caused the mill to be destroyed, where the lumber had been sawed.

Lieutenant Commanding Gwin had, in our absence, enlisted some twenty-five Tennesseans, who gave information of the encampment of Colonel Drew's rebel regiment, at Savana, Tennessee. A portion of the six hundred or seven hundred men were known to be "pressed" men, and all were badly armed. After consultation with Lieutenants Commanding Gwin and Shirk, I determined to make a land attack upon the encampment. Lieutenant Commanding Shirk, with thirty riflemen, came on board the Conestoga, leaving his vessel to guard the Eastport, and accompanied by the Taylor, we proceeded up to that place prepared to land one hundred and thirty riflemen and a 12-pound rifled howitzer. Lieutenant Commanding Gwin took command of this force when landed, but had the mortification to find the camp deserted.

The rebels had fled at one o'clock in the night, leaving considerable quantities of arms, clothing, shoes, camp utensils, provisions, implements, &c., all of which were secured or destroyed, and their winter quarters of log huts were burned. I seized also a large mail bag, and sent you the letters giving me a lively information. The gunboats were then dropped down to a point where arms, gathered under the rebel "press law," had been stored, and an armed party under Second Master Goudy, of the Taylor, succeeded in seizing about seventy rifles and fowling pieces. Returning to Cerro Gordo, we took the Eastport, Sallie Wood, and Muscle, in tow, and came down the river to the railroad crossing. The Muscle sprang a leak, and all efforts failed to prevent her sinking, and we were forced to abandon her, and with her a considerable quantity of fine lumber. We are having trouble in getting through the draw of the bridge here.

Now come to me, to me, most interesting portion of the report, one which has already been long, but I trust you will find some for this in the fact that it embraces a history of labor and movements, day and night, from the 6th to the 10th of the month, all of which details I deem it proper to give you. We have met with the most gratifying proofs of loyalty everywhere across Tennessee, and in the portions of Mississippi and Alabama we visited. Most affecting instances greeted us almost hourly. Men, women, and children, several times gathered in crowds of hundreds, shouted their welcome, and hailed their national flag with an enthusiasm there was no mistaking; it was genuine and heartfelt. The people braved everything to get to the river bank, where a sight of their flag might once more be enjoyed, and they have experienced, as they related, every possible form of persecution. Tears flowed freely down the cheeks of men as well as women, and there were those who had fought under the stars and stripes at Moultrie, who in this manner testified to their joy. This display of feeling, and sense of gladness at our success, and the hopes it created in the breasts of so many people in the heart of the confederacy, astonished us not a little, and I assure you, sir, I would not have failed to witness it for any consideration. I trust it has given us all a higher sense of the sacred character of our present duties. I was assured at Savana that of the several hundred troops there, more than one-half had gone to attack in time, would have hailed us as deliverers, and gladly enlisted with the national force.

In Tennessee, the people generally, in their enthusiasm, braved secessionists, and spoke their views freely; but in Mississippi and Alabama what was said was regarded as treason. If we dared express ourselves freely, you would hear such a shout of greeting your coming as you never heard. "We know that there are many Unionists among us, but a reign of terror makes us afraid of our shadows." We were told, too, "Bring us a small organized force, with arms and ammunition for us, and we can maintain our position, and put down rebellion in our midst." There were, it is true, whole communities, who, on our approach, fled to the woods, but these were where there was less of the loyal element, and where the fleeing steamers in advance had spread tales of our coming with fire-brands burning, destroying, ravaging and plundering.

The crews of these vessels have had a very laborious time, but have evinced a spirit in their work highly creditable to them. Lieutenants Commanding Gwin and Shirk have been untiring, and I owe to them and to their officers many obligations for our entire success. I am, respectfully,

Your obedient servant, S. L. PHELPS, Lieutenant Commanding, U. S. N.

Address to the People of Georgia.

The following extraordinary paper, bearing the signatures of HOWELL COBB, R. TOOMBS, M. J. CRAWFORD, and THOMAS R. COBB, has been extensively circulated throughout the State of Georgia. We lay it before our readers without further comment than the mere query:—Does it read like an emanation from men whose rights have been withheld, and who are now battling for redress, or the expiring wail of an unholy rebellion?

FELLOW CITIZENS:—In a few days the Provisional Government of the Confederate States will live only in history. With it we shall deliver up the trust we have endeavored to use for your benefit, to those more directly selected by yourselves. The public record of our acts is familiar to you, and requires no further explanation at our hands. Of those matters which policy has required to be secret, it would be improper now to speak. This address, therefore, will have no personal reference. We are well assured that there exists no necessity for us to arouse your patriotism, nor to inspire your confidence. We rejoice with you in the unanimity of our State in its resolution and its hopes. And we are proud with you that Georgia has been "illustrated," and we doubt not will be illustrated again by her sons in our holy struggle. The first campaign is over; each party rests in place, while the winter's snow descends an armistice from on high. The results in the field are familiar to you, and we will not recount them. To some important facts we call your attention:

First, The moderation of our own government and the fanatical madness of our enemies have dispersed all differences of opinion among our people and united them forever in the war of independence. In a few Border States a waning opposition is giving way before the stern logic of daily developing facts. The world's history does not give a parallel instance of a revolution based upon such unanimity among the people.

Second, Our enemy has exhibited an energy, a persistence, and an amount of resources which we had hardly expected, and a disregard of Constitution and Laws which we can hardly credit. The result of both, however, is, that power which is the

characteristic element of despotism, and renders it as formidable to its enemies as it is destructive to its subjects, must fall.

Third, An immense army has been organized for our destruction, which is being disciplined to the unthinking stolidity of regulars. With the exclusive possession of the sea, our enemy is enabled to throw upon the shores of every State the nucleus of an army. And the threat is made, and doubtless the attempt will follow in early spring, to crush us with a giant's grasp by a simultaneous movement along our entire border.

Fourth, With whatever alacrity our people may rush to arms, and with whatever energy our government may use its resources, we cannot expect to cope with our enemy either in numbers, equipments, or munitions of war. To provide against these odds we must look to desperate courage, unflinching daring, and universal self-sacrifice.

Fifth, The prospect of foreign interference is at least a remote one, and should not be relied on. If it comes, let it be only auxiliary to our own preparations for freedom. To our God and ourselves alone we should look.

These are stern facts, perhaps some of them are unpalatable. But we are deceived in you if you would have us to conceal them in order to deceive you. The only question for us and you is, as a nation and individually, what have we to do? We answer:

First, As a nation we should be united, forbearing to one another, frowning upon all factious opposition, and giving a trustful and generous confidence to those selected as our leaders in the camp and the council chamber.

Second, We should excite every nerve and strain every muscle of the body politic to maintain our financial and military healthfulness; and, by rapid, aggressive action, make our enemies feel, at their own firesides, the horrors of a war brought on by themselves.

The most important matter for you, however, is your individual duty. What can you do? The foot of the oppressor is on the soil of Georgia. He comes with lust in his eye, poverty in his purse, and hell in his heart. He comes a robber and a murderer. How shall you meet him? With the sword at the threshold! With death for him or for yourself! But more than this. Let every woman have a torch, every child a firebrand. Let the loved homes of your youth be made ashes, and the fields of our heritage be made desolate. Let blackness and ruin mark your departing steps, if depart you must; and let a desert more terrible than Sahara welcome the Vandals. Let every city be leveled by the flame, and every village be lost in ashes. Let your faithful slaves share your fortune and your crust. Trust wife and children to the sure refuge and protection of God, preferring even for these loved ones the charnel house as a home than loathsome vassalage to a nation already sunk below the contempt of the civilized world. This may be your terrible choice; and determine at once and without dissent, as honor and patriotism and duty to God require.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—Lull not yourselves into a fatal security. Be prepared for every contingency. This is our only hope for a sure and honorable peace. If our enemy was to-day convinced that the least herein indicated would welcome him in any quarter of this Confederacy, we know his base character well enough to feel assured he would never come. Let, then, the smoke of your homes, fired by woman's hands, tell the approaching foe that over sword and bayonet they will rush only to fire and ruin.

We have faith in God, and faith in you. He is blind to every indication of Providence who has not seen an Almighty hand controlling the events of the past year. The wind, the wave, the cloud, the mist, the sunshine, and the storm, have all ministered to our necessities, and frequently succored us in our distresses. We need it unnecessary to recount the numerous instances which have called forth our gratitude. We would join you in thanksgiving and praise. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Nor would we condemn your confident look to your armies, when they can meet with a foe not too greatly their superior in numbers. The year past tells a story of heroism and success, of which our nation will never be ashamed. These considerations, however, should only stimulate us to greater deeds and nobler efforts. An occasional reverse we must expect—such as has depressed us within the last few days. This is only temporary. We have no fears of the result—the final issue. You and we may have to sacrifice our lives and fortunes in the holy cause; but our honor will be saved, untarnished, and our children's children will rise up to call us "blessed."

Department of Missouri.

GEN. HALLECK telegraphed to Gen. McClellan on the 1st inst.—Price and his army have been driven from his stronghold at Cross Hollow, leaving his sick and wounded, and such stores as he could not destroy. He burned his extensive barracks at that place, to prevent our troops from occupying them. Curtis says most of our provisions for the last ten days have been taken from the enemy.

Gen. Halleck has issued the following order to the Army of the West:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT MISSOURI, February 23, 1862.

The Major-General commanding the Department desires to impress upon all officers the importance of preserving good order and discipline among their troops, and as the armies of the West advance into Tennessee and the Southern States, let us show to our fellow-citizens of these States that we come merely to crush out the rebellion, and restore to them the peace and benefits of the Constitution and the Union, of which they have been deprived by selfish and unprincipled leaders. They have been told that we come to oppress and plunder. By our acts we will undeceive. We will prove to them that we come to restore, not to violate, the constitution and the laws. In restoring to them the glorious flag of the Union, we desire that they should enjoy under its folds the same protection of life and property as in former days.

Soldiers! let no excess on your part tarnish the glory of our arms.

The orders heretofore issued from this Department in regard to pillaging, marauding, and the destruction of private property and stealing, and the concealment of slaves, must be strictly enforced. It does not belong to the military to decide upon the relation of master and slave. Such questions must be settled by the civil courts. No fugitive slave will, therefore, be admitted within our lines or camps, except when specially ordered by the general commanding. Women and children, merchants, farmers, mechanics, and all persons not in arms, are regarded as non-combatants, and are not to be molested, either in their persons or property. If, however, they assist and aid the enemy, they become belligerents, and will be treated as such. As they violate the laws of war, they will be made to suffer the penalties of such violation. Military stores and public property of the enemy must be surrendered, and any attempt to conceal such property by fraudulent transfer, or otherwise, will be punished, but no private property will be touched unless by order of the general commanding.

Whenever it becomes necessary, forced contributions for supplies and subsistence for our troops will be made. Such levies will be made as light as possible, and be so distributed as to produce no distress among the people. All property so taken must be accepted fully, and accounted for as heretofore directed. These orders will be read at the head of every regiment, and all officers are commanded to strictly enforce them. By command of MAJOR-GENERAL HALLECK.

W. H. McLean, Adjutant-General.

The following was sent from Western Headquarters to Gen. McClellan:

Gen. Curtis has taken possession of Fayetteville, Ark., capturing a number of prisoners, stores, baggage, &c. The enemy burned part of the town. They had crossed Boston mountains in great confusion. We are now in possession of all their strongholds. Forty-two officers and men, of the 5th Missouri cavalry, were poisoned at Mudrow by eating poisoned food left by the rebels. The gallant Capt. Dalferd died, and Lieut.-Col. Van Dutch and Capt. Schennard have suffered much, but are recovering.

The indignation of our soldiers is very great, but they have been restrained from retaliating on prisoners of war.

H. W. HALLECK. Gen. Halleck, in a general order issued on the 1st inst., states that where any considerable number of prisoners are captured, officers should be separated from privates as quick as possible. Complete lists should be formed as soon as possible, stating the name, rank and regiment of each person. One copy of the list should be sent to headquarters, and another furnished to the officer in charge of the prisoners; as a general rule, officers will not be given paroles until reaching the depot, and then only by authority of the General commanding the division. Medical officers will not be separated from privates, but be required to attend to their own sick and wounded. For this purpose they will be given special paroles. In the case of the sick and wounded, no distinction will be made between friend and foe. Presents from friends of the sick and wounded will be distributed to all alike. Prisoners will be rationed the same as our own troops.

Commanding officers of the departments will receive articles of clothing and comfort which may be sent to prisoners by friends, and permit prisoners to receive from and transmit to friends open letters, which must be inspected by the proper officer. Money sent by friends should not be delivered to prisoners except in small quantities. An account should be kept of sent funds, and they should be disbursed upon orders from the prisoners to whom they belong. When a prisoner is exchanged or released, he will be paid the balance due him.

Chaplains will be allowed free intercourse with prisoners, to give them religious instruction. Their friends will be permitted to visit them only when the commanding officer may deem it safe and proper, and then under such regulations as he may adopt.

Gen. Halleck, in a general order, states that sufficient information has been received, that the rebels, in evacuating Mudtown, Ark., poisoned the provisions they were obliged to abandon, and that forty-two officers and men were poisoned by eating the same. He says:—"We cannot retaliate by adopting the same barbarous mode of warfare, nor can we retaliate by punishing the innocent for the guilty. The laws of war forbid this. But the same code authorizes us to retaliate upon the guilty parties. Persons guilty of such acts, when captured, will not be treated as ordinary prisoners of war, nor will they be shot, but suffer the ignominious punishment of being hung as felons. Officers of troops guilty of such acts, although not themselves the advisers or abettors of the crime, will, when captured, be put in irons and conveyed as criminals to these headquarters. The laws of war make it their duty to prevent such barbarities. If they neglect that duty they must suffer the consequences."

The following dispatch was received from Com. Foote, dated Cairo, March 1st:

Lieutenant-Commanding Phelps, sent with a flag of truce to-day to Columbus, Mo., at the moment returned, and reports that Columbus is being evacuated. He saw the rebels burning their quarters, and removing their heavy guns on the bluff, but the guns in the water-batteries remain intact. He also saw a large force of cavalry drawn up ostentatiously on the bluffs; but no infantry was to be seen, as heretofore. The encampment seen in an armed reconnaissance a few days since, has been removed. Large fires were visible in the town of Columbus and upon the river below, indicating the destruction of the town, military stores and equipments, &c.

Gen. A. H. FOOTE. The Memphis papers say that Gen. Polk has issued orders that the track of the Memphis and Ohio Railroad should be torn up, preparatory to the evacuation of Columbus and the demolition of the fortifications. The Columbus forces are to fall back to Island No. 10, about 45 miles below Columbus, which it is said completely commands the river, and can be fortified with heavy guns and made impregnable against any river attack.

Dispatches were received at the Navy Department on the 1st, from Com. Foote, enclosing a report from Lieut. Gwin, in which he says he returned to Cairo on the 23d ult., after having gone up the Tennessee river in the gunboat Taylor, as high as Eastport, Miss. He is happy to state that he met with an increased Union sentiment in South Tennessee and North Alabama. He saw few Missisippians in McNary, Wayne, Decatur, and a portion of Hardman, all of which border upon the river. The Union sentiment is strong, and those who do not express themselves openly, are only prevented by their fears of the military tyranny and coercion which is practiced by the marauding bands of guerrilla companies of cavalry.

Learning that a large quantity of wheat and flour was stored in Clifton, Tenn., intended, of course, to be shipped South, a large portion of it having been bought for a firm in Memphis, on his down trip he landed there and took on board about 1,000 sacks and 100 barrels of flour, and some 6,000 bushels of wheat. He also considered it his duty to take possession of the above, to prevent its being seized by the rebels or disposed of in the rebel country.

The glorious success of our armies at Forts Henry and Donelson, he says, has been most beneficial to the Union cause throughout South and West Tennessee and Alabama. The Union men can now begin to express their loyal sentiments without fear of being mobbed. He has warned the inhabitants of the different towns along the banks of the river, that he will hold the secessionists and their property responsible for any outrages in their communities on Unionists, and had enlisted 17 men and brought down a number of refugees.

The following table exhibits the losses of the division under Gen. McClelland engaged at the battle of Fort Donelson:

Table with 2 columns: Killed, Wounded. Rows: Eighth Illinois, Ninth Illinois, Eleventh Illinois, Twelfth Illinois, Seventeenth Illinois, Eighteenth Illinois, Twentieth Illinois, Twenty-first Illinois, Twenty-second Illinois, Twenty-third Illinois, Twenty-fourth Illinois, Twenty-fifth Illinois, Twenty-sixth Illinois, Twenty-seventh Illinois, Twenty-eighth Illinois, Twenty-ninth Illinois, Thirtieth Illinois, Thirty-first Illinois, Thirty-second Illinois, Thirty-third Illinois, Thirty-fourth Illinois, Thirty-fifth Illinois, Thirty-sixth Illinois, Thirty-seventh Illinois, Thirty-eighth Illinois, Thirty-ninth Illinois, Fortieth Illinois, Forty-first Illinois, Forty-second Illinois, Forty-third Illinois, Forty-fourth Illinois, Forty-fifth Illinois, Forty-sixth Illinois, Forty-seventh Illinois, Forty-eighth Illinois, Forty-ninth Illinois, Fiftieth Illinois, Taylor's Battery.

Total. 401 1,615

Prisoners taken and sent off by the river before the surrender of the fort 260

The rebel loss, as stated by the rebels themselves, was 300 to 400 killed, and 1,200 to 1,500 wounded. The number of rebel prisoners captured with the fort was 13,300. Within a day or two, 1,000 more prisoners were taken, who came down the river, not knowing that the fort was surrendered.

Commodore Foote issued the following proclamation to the inhabitants of Clarksville:

At the suggestion of Hon. Cave Johnson, Judge Wisdom, and the Mayor of the city, I hereby announce that all peaceably disposed persons, that neither in their persons or property shall they suffer

THE COMING BATTLE.

BY ANNIE M. BEACH.

The hour is approaching when this mighty army must do something—that hour will call for calmness.—Letter from the Potomac.

We are waiting for the tidings of a battle bravely fought, We are waiting for the tidings of a victory dearly bought; But that hour will call for calmness, for calmness and for prayer,

For the dear ones from our fireside gone will stand in battle there.

They will tell us of the bomb shells, and the traitor's distant gun. They will tell us of the moment when the field is lost or won. But, oh! for every soldier who falls upon that day, Will they tell us of the hearts that break by the fireside far away?

Will they tell us of the dead young hopes and the quenching of the light?

That has made the present beautiful and the future fair and bright?

Will they tell us of fond, waiting eyes that shall look on life no more,

As they saw it in the dawning-in of that fearful coming hour?

They will tell us that our proud flag flies where the brave and youthful lie.

Will they tell us of the hearts at home that broke, but could not die?

They will note the deeds of daring done. Will they tell us of the tears

That will still flow on with fond regret through the long and lonely years?

When we see the vacant places which the loved ones fill no more,

As we gather round our firesides when the daily cares are o'er, Let us lift our hearts to Heaven, and the God of battles pray, That He go before His people on that proud but fearful day.

Let us pray that Truth may triumph, and Oppression's demon power

From our land be crushed forever by the firmness of that hour; And, oh! whatever the tidings from the field by valor won, That He give us strength to calmly say, "Father, Thy will be done."

Cambria, N. Y., 1862.

The Story-Teller.

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

THINKING BETTER OF IT.

BY F. H. STAUFFER.

JOHN BRENT sat in his counting-house. His face wore a worried look. At times he drummed idly with his fingers upon the desk; at others, he half vacantly turned back and forth the leaves of the ledger that lay before him. The civil war had broken out, and his business was very much depressed.

A few customers had repudiated their bills—many had forsaken him—while others bought so sparingly that it was not much of an object to wait upon them. Then, too, he had received several letters from his tenants, stating that, in view of the war and the want of employment, they were unable to pay the rents they had contracted to pay, or which he contemplated demanding for the opening year.

He was a man well to do in the world, and the times had not driven him to any straits, or materially affected his position. Still, he was fond of making money, and loved the excitement of business, and this sudden stagnation fretted him. While under this despondent mood, a young man entered the office. He was a sprightly, intelligent looking fellow. He approached the merchant quietly, holding his hat in his hand.

"Good morning, Master WENTWORTH," said the merchant, moodily.

"Mr. MORGAN sent me over," said the young man, "to see if you would not let him have eight hundred dollars for a few days. He was disappointed in certain quarters, and finds himself short this morning."

"Tell Mr. MORGAN," said the merchant, gruffly, "that I cannot possibly accommodate him. I am sick and tired of his applications."

"They have not been so frequent," suggested the lad.

"Sufficiently so for me, sir. Has he no one else to run to when he is short?"

"He has heretofore always found a friend in you, Mr. BRENT—and in every instance I am sure that your kindness has been properly appreciated. Has he not always fulfilled his promises promptly? Did you not on one occasion receive a similar favor at his hands?"

"Master WENTWORTH, that will do. I am not in a mood to be catechized. My own affairs are at loose ends, and I have my own sources of worryment. I cannot let Mr. MORGAN have the money."

"I do not wish you to be offended at me, Mr. BRENT. I do not wish to dictate to you, or argue beyond the privilege of my years. The esteem in which I hold my employer, and my desire not to have him misrepresented, is my excuse. Shall I report to him this conversation?"

"You are at liberty to report what you please. Mr. MORGAN must look elsewhere."

The young man departed and Mr. BRENT walked slowly up and down the room, with his hands behind his back. The occurrence just described had added to his worryment. He felt out of humor with himself, and, as a consequence, with everybody else.

When he went home in the evening he carried his ill humor with him, and influenced all who came in contact with him. He put his younger children pettishly aside—had no kind smile for his oldest daughter, who had placed his easy chair, wrapper and slippers so cozily by the fire—and spoke harshly to his wife. The latter looked up in wonderment, but said nothing. She sensibly concluded that business matters had ruffled his temper, and that it would soon wear off.

When he returned to the store the next day, he was still out of humor, but with himself alone. He felt ashamed of the manner in which he had treated Mr. MORGAN. He had the money in bank, had no especial urgent use for it, and a dash of the pen would have been sufficient. What would Mr. MORGAN think of him? Had he done right? The matter worried him; he fretted under the accusations of his conscience. Perhaps Mr. MORGAN had been refused in other quarters, and was sorely pressed. What if it should drive him to the wall? Would he not be to blame? Why did he add insult to the refusal? In what manner could he make reparation? He was just debating whether he should not yet offer to accommodate his friend, and apologize for his conduct, when a gentleman entered the office.

"Good morning, Mr. BRENT."

"The same to you, CARSON. Take a chair."

"Why—no—I have hardly time. Are you pressed for funds to-day?"

"Not at all, CARSON."

"Well—I am glad of it. You know I promised

to lift that note at noon. It is for twenty-eight hundred dollars. I could do so now, only I hold a note against Mr. MORGAN, and he is unable to pay it to-day."

"For how much is the note you hold against MORGAN?" asked JOHN BRENT, quickly.

"For eight hundred dollars."

"Then I will take it in part payment."

"You will? Good. Here is his note, and my own check for two thousand dollars. That entitles me to that little 'scrip.'"

"Here it is," said the merchant, opening his desk and handing his friend the redeemed note.

That afternoon Mr. MORGAN entered the office of Mr. CARSON. There was a painful expression on his face, and a restlessness in his movements.

"Mr. CARSON, I cannot pay you that note to-day. I would do so willingly—but God knows I can't."

"I have disposed of it, Mr. MORGAN."

"You have? You did not throw it into bank?"

"No—I did not. JOHN BRENT is my creditor. I paid part of my indebtedness to him with it, this morning."

"I am sorry," said Mr. MORGAN.

"Why?" asked the other, in surprise. "He is indulgent. Are you not good friends?"

"I cannot say that we are. There is at least a misunderstanding between us. I wanted to borrow of him yesterday, and he refused me point blank, and very unkindly, too."

"That is strange, MORGAN. There must be a mistake somewhere. It was something unusual with him."

"It was. I cannot comprehend it. I am sensitive about going to him now."

"I do not see why you should be. Believe me, the matter can be righted. He asked for the note, and took it so willingly that it does not in the least correspond with the conduct you attribute to him."

Mr. MORGAN posted off to JOHN BRENT. The latter received him kindly.

"You have been to see Mr. CARSON?" he asked.

"I have."

"He told you of the transfer?"

"Yes—that is what brought me here."

"You need not give yourself any trouble about the note, Mr. MORGAN. You can pay it whenever it suits you to pay it. If you are further pressed, I will aid you. I owe you an apology. I have been most heartily ashamed of my conduct; it has been a source of much worryment to me. But when your clerk applied, my mind was exercised by losses and perplexities in business, and I acted under the pressure of the moment. You will excuse my hasty, unkind reply?"

"Most willingly, Mr. BRENT. You have taken a load off my mind, and you have my heartfelt thanks. I will lift that note at an early day."

"Give yourself no trouble about it, Mr. MORGAN."

JOHN BRENT was in a capital humor for the remainder of the day. He was pleased with himself. He had made reparation in the best manner he could, and his business prospects did not appear so gloomy after all. When at home that evening, his wife said to him:

"My dear—you remember old MOSES AMES, living in Harmony Court?"

"Yes—what of him?"

"His wife was here yesterday. She says her husband cannot pay the rent for this quarter, and probably not for the next. You won't eject them?"

"Hardly; what is their plea?"

"Want of steady employment. Half of the bookbinders are in the same fix. He will pay you when his sens send their first wages home."

"Has he any boys in the army?"

"Three."

"Three! Good for old AMES. Tell his wife they shall live rent free during the war, no matter how long it lasts."

That was just like JOHN BRENT. His wife came and stood by his side.

"You would not have given me that reply yesterday evening," she said. "I did not dare to ask you. What was the matter?"

"O, nothing—only that I had made a fool of myself."

And JOHN BRENT related to his wife the affair with MORGAN.

Mount Joy, Pa., 1862.

A PICTURE OF HOME.

BY TIMOTHY TITCOMB.

I RECALL a home long since left behind in the journey of life, and its memory floats back over me with a shower of emotions and thoughts towards whose precious fall my heart opens itself greedily, like a thirsty flower. It is a home among the mountains—humble and homely—but priceless in its associations. The waterfall again sings in my ears, as it used to through those dreamy, mysterious nights. The rose at the gate, the patch of tansy under the window, the neighboring orchard, the old elm, the grand machinery of storms and showers, the little smiddy under the hill that flamed with strange light through the dull winter evenings, the wood-pile at the door, the ghostly white birches on the hill, and the dim blue haze on the retiring mountains—all these come back to me with an appeal that touches my heart and moistens my eyes. I sit again in the doorway at summer nightfall, eating my bread and milk, looking off upon the darkening landscape, and listening to the shouts of boys on the hillside calling or diving home the reluctant herds. I watch again the devious ways of the dusky night hawk along the twilight sky, and listen to his measured note, and the breezy boom that accompanies his headlong plunge towards the earth.

Even the old barn, crazy in every timber and gaping at every joint, has charms for me. I try again the breathless leap from the great beams in the hay. I sit again on the threshold of the widely open doors—open to the soft south wind of spring—and watch the cattle, whose faces look half human to me, as they sun themselves, and peacefully ruminate, while drop by drop the melting snow on the roof drills holes through the wasting drifts beneath the eaves. The first little lambs of the season tottle by the side of their dams, and utter their feeble bleatings, while the flock nibble at the hay rick, or a pair of rival weathers try the strength of their skulls in an encounter, half in earnest and half in play. The proud old roosters crow upon the dung-hill throne, and some delighted member of his silly family leaves her nest, and tells to her mates and to me that there is one more egg in the world. The old horse whinnies in his stall and calls to me for food. I look up to the roof, and think of last year's swallows—soon to return again—and catch a glimpse of angular sky through the diamond shaped opening that gave them ingress and egress. How, I know not, and care not, but that old barn is a part

of myself—it has entered into my life and given me growth and wealth.

But I look into the house again where the life abides, which has appropriated these things, and find among them its home. The hour of evening has come, the lamps are lighted, and the good man in middle life—though very old he seems to me—takes down the Bible and reads a chapter from its hallowed pages. A sweet woman sits at his side, with my sleepy head upon her knees, and brothers and sisters are grouped reverently around me. I do not understand the words, but I have been told they are the words of God, and I believe it. The chapter ends and we all kneel down, and the good man prays. I fall asleep with my head in the chair, and the next morning I remember nothing how I went to bed. After breakfast the Bible is taken down, and the good man prays again; and again is the worship repeated through all the days of many golden years. The pleasant converse of the fireside, the simple songs of home, the words of encouragement as I bend over my school task, the kiss as I lie down to rest, the patient bearing with the freaks of my restless nature, the gentle counsels mingled with reproofs and approval, the sympathy that meets and assuages every sorrow and sweetens every little success—all these return to me amidst the responsibilities which press upon me now, and I feel as if I had once lived in Heaven, and straying had lost my way.

Well, the good man grow old and weary and fell asleep at last with blessings on his lips for me. Some of those who called him father, lie side by side in the same calm sleep. The others are scattered and dwell in new homes, and the old house and orchard have passed into the hands of strangers, who have learned, or are learning to look upon them as I do now. Lost, ruined, forever left behind, that home is mine to-day, as truly as it ever was, for have I not brought it away with me and shown it to you? It was the home of my boyhood. In it I found my first mental food, and by it was my young soul fashioned. To me, through weary years and many sorrows, it has been a perennial fountain of delight and purifying influences, simply because it was my home, and was and is part of me. The rose at the gate blooms for me now. The landscape comes when I summon it, and I hear the voices that call me from lips which memory makes immortal.

—Springfield Republican.

Wit and Humor.

WAR WIT.

THE Fourth New Hampshire Regiment has just completed a heavy job of shoveling at Fort Royal. A few days since, on inspection, Col. Whipple discovered one of the soldier's guns in not the best order. Said the Colonel, "Don't appear on inspection again with your gun in such a condition."

"Colonel, I know the gun ain't just right, but I have got the brightest shovel over in the intrenchment you ever saw," replied the soldier. The Colonel saw the point, acknowledged the corn by a graceful bow, and passed down the line.

THE NEW REBEL FLAG.—We are told that the new rag which the rebels propose to dignify by the name of flag, consists of a blue union on a red field—the union containing four stars in the form of a square. Failing to render the old Union "blue," the rebels have determined to make a blue one for themselves. The "red field" was superfluous—there have been several already since they rebelled. As for the four stars, we will make them see four thousand before we get through with them.

FOOTMAN.—A gentleman yesterday asked another, why our troops in Kentucky were able to do so much, while the Potomac army was kept idle. He replied, because they had a good Foote to go with them.

Another wag said he was glad to hear that the wounded Commodore was doing well, and not in any need of an L. E. G.

A third observed that for the rebels to go on foot was unpleasant in bad weather; but how much worse it must be to go with a Foote behind them! Truly, remarked a fourth, footing a bill is frequently difficult, but to be a rebel and have yourself Footed, is dreadful.

THE rebels at Roanoke Island must have realized the truth of the Scriptural declaration that "the wisdom of the Wise is foolishness."

Corner for the Young.

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

I AM composed of 14 letters. My 12, 2, 9 is a river in Siberia. My 11, 5, 9, 14, 6 is a sea on the coast of China. My 11, 12, 2, 9 is a desert in Asia. My 6, 3, 14, 12 is a river in Italy. My 11, 12, 13, 10, 14, 1, is a cape on the coast of Italy. My 2, 12, 10, 14 is a city on the Rhine. My 7, 1, 8, 11, 5 is a river in Austria. My 3, 12, 11, 4 is a Cape on the coast of Portugal. My 12, 7, 6, 5, 4, is a city on the Missouri river. My 8, 9, 7, 1 is a town in New York. My whole is the name of a distinguished statesman. Oakfield, N. Y., 1862. E. H.

Answer in two weeks.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker. MORE OF GRANDFATHER'S RIDDLES.

SEEKING "Grandfather's Riddle" in the RURAL, not long since, I thought I would send three, written by my grandfather (JOSEPH BURROUGHS) many years since:

NUMBER ONE. There is a thing beneath the sun Which cannot walk, but yet can run; So weak it is, it can't oppose The slightest touch, or smallest blow; Yet by its strength it doth subdue Unnumbered men, and strong ones, too.

NUMBER TWO. Most people believe, for their words plainly show it, A thing which, if right, we all shortly shall know it; But if they are wrong in this notion they've got, We never shall know whether they're wrong or not.

NUMBER THREE. I'm like a hoop, yet am not a hoop, yet am twice at once in a hoop. B. R.

Answer in two weeks.

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS, &c., IN No. 632.

Answer to Illustrated Riddle.—I once saw a combat between an alligator and a bear, and the alligator (awl-eye-gaiter) was defeated.

Answer to Acrostical Enigma.—Robert Peel.

Domestic Economy.

REMEDIES FOR QUINSY, AGAIN.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Seeing an inquiry in your journal for a remedy for quinsy, I will give my experience. I have been troubled with quinsy, more or less, for fifteen years, and tried everything I could think or hear of had my tonsils removed, but all without avail, until about a year ago, when a Scotch gentleman told me to take an egg, beat it, take rosin and pound fine; mix them together thick enough to make a poultice, apply to the throat, change until the soreness is removed—which will generally be in about twenty-four hours. I think this a certain cure.—Mrs. G. M. CARPENTER.

In answer to E. M. K., for a remedy for quinsy, I send you the following:—My wife has been afflicted with the quinsy for a number of years, and the best remedy that has been tried is to take a thin slice of fat pork, strew on some black pepper, and bind it on the part affected. It will draw the soreness out, and if applied in time, it will prevent it from gathering and breaking. In many instances it has effected a cure so that persons have not had it for a number of years.—A. G. B., Mystic Bridge, 1862.

SEEKING AN INQUIRY in the RURAL for a cure for quinsy, I send you what is said to be a certain remedy, if applied in its early stages:—One spoonful of honey; one of camphor gum; one of rosin; put all in a cup, simmer well together over a moderate fire, stirring while so doing. When cold, spread the salve on a cloth and apply to the part affected.—J. M. Wood, Hall's Corners, N. Y., 1862.

MR. EDITOR:—In answer to the inquiry for a remedy for quinsy, in the RURAL of Jan. 25th, I would say that all sufferers from that disease may find an efficient remedy near at hand. Take one gill of white beans and boil them in soft water till done, when mash them fine to a poultice and bind them on the throat warm. If the quinsy gathers and breaks, let me know it, for it will be the first failure in my knowledge for over twenty years.—J. J. Hoag, Veteran, Chem. Co., N. Y., 1862.

A BATCH OF CAKES.

WATER POUND CAKE.—One cup of butter; 3 of sugar; 4 of water; 4 of flour; 6 eggs; ½ teaspoon of soda; 1 of cream tartar.

DELICATE CAKE.—Three cups of flour; 2 of sugar; ½ of sweet milk; ½ of butter; whites of six eggs; 1 teaspoon of cream tartar; ½ of soda.

SNOW CAKE.—Two cups of sugar; 1 of cream; whites of six eggs; ½ teaspoon of soda; ½ of cream tartar; 3 tablespoons of melted butter; 3 cups of flour.

FRUIT CAKE.—One pound of flour; ½ of butter; 1 of sugar; 4 of raisins; 2 of currants; ½ of citron; 1 cup of molasses; 8 eggs; 1 teaspoon of soda; spices to your taste. EMMA.

Sweden, Monroe Co., N. Y., 1862.

HOW TO MAKE A SET OF VERY PRETTY COLLARS AND CUFFS.—Procure a piece of muslin, cambric, or fine linen; cut out your collar and cuffs from any pattern you have by you. Having done this, procure a piece of colored jaconet, or muslin. Choose one with some pretty small flower in peach, blue or pink, or even green. We have seen both prints and muslin with flowers sprinkled over the pattern. Choose these, and cut out the flowers and tack them in a row round your collar and cuffs; get some white braid, and then stitch the braid round the flowers with ingrain cotton, (of the color your flowers may chance to be.) This style is new, pretty, and useful. The colored flowers can be introduced in embroidery patterns, and look well. Care should be taken that the flowers of print muslin will bear washing.

Another way to put flowers on the collars and cuffs, is to tack on your flower and button-hole stitch it round with white or colored cotton, and then cut away the muslin or linen from underneath the flowers. If ladies are not able to procure good ingrain cotton, they may use fine colored worsted.

BLUING FOR CLOTHES.—On page 55, current volume of RURAL, is a recipe under the above head, which I deem it my duty, as an elderly housewife, to caution those who are inexperienced against using. It has been my experience, and that of others with whom I am acquainted, that it is one of the best recipes possible for bluing a man or woman with a small wardrobe and short purse. It will destroy clothes quite as fast as it will blue them. There is nothing better that I have found than the old fashioned indigo bluing.—Mrs. JANE C. OVERTON, Illinois, 1862.

COLD FISH.—By the following plan a good dish may be made from any kind of cold fish:—Free the fish from the bone, and cut into small pieces. Season this with onions and parsley chopped, and salt and pepper. Beat two eggs well with a tablespoonful of catsup. Mix the whole together with the fish, and put it in a baking-dish with two or three small slices of bacon over it. Bake before the fire in a Dutch oven. Serve with melted butter or oyster sauce.

CORN CAKE FOR BREAKFAST.—Mix at night one quart of corn meal with water enough to make a thin batter, adding a tablespoonful of yeast, and salt to suit the taste. In the morning, stir in two eggs and a small teaspoonful of soda, and with a spoon beat it long and hard. Butter a tin pan, pour the mixture into it, and bake immediately about half an hour in a moderately heated oven.

CORN GRIDDLE CAKES.—Make your batter of sour or butter milk, and a little thicker than when wheat flour is used. A handful of wheat flour should be stirred in, or they will break in pieces while being turned. Cakes, half of white flour and half cornmeal, are more easily digested than wheat alone.

PUFF PASTE.—The art of making puff paste consists in keeping the dough firm and cool at the same time that it is thoroughly kneaded; if it becomes at all warm and sticky, it will never be light; it should be skillfully handled, and made in a cool place; also baked in a moderately quick oven.

FRIED RICE.—Any cold rice left from dinner, or prepared for that purpose, may be made out with the hands or a spoon into cakes about an inch thick, dipped in an egg-and-flour batter, and fried a handsome brown in the frying-pan, with a small piece of butter.

DUMPLINGS.—In boiling dumplings, or any kind of paste, the cover should never be removed, nor the water allowed to cease to boil until the paste is done, when it should be taken off before it becomes soaked and heavy.

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